

Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

April 2013



Next Meeting Date: Sunday, April 21, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

Place: **A.J. Bailey's Home**, 82517 Owen Sharp Rd, Bush, LA 70431

From the south, you take Hwy. 190 north to Hwy. 437. Turn right onto N. Lee Rd (Hwy

437) for 7.2 miles. Turn right onto LA-40 E for 5.5 miles. Turn right on Owen Sharp

Rd. Destination is first driveway on right.

From the President's Corner

Greetings All,

If luck holds, this lovely spring weather is here to stay. What a roller-coaster ride the weather has been this year. Even some of the native plants were caught unawares. Hopefully there will be no lasting damage, but time will tell. Try to give all the plants with freeze damage a month or more to recover before you prune.

As usual, our booth at the North Shore Plant Show was well received by the public. We gave away over 250 plants and now welcome 57 (new and returning) members.

The April meeting at A.J.'s will be a plant and/or seed swap. Come even if you don't have anything to swap because we need to find good homes for some of the leftover trees from the show. Bring any plants or seeds that you are willing to trade, and please label them with at least a common name.

We look forward to seeing you there. Bring a covered dish if you desire, but don't feel obligated to do so. Your bright smiling face and the desire to learn about native plants will suffice. *Yvonne L. Bordelon*

Spring is the time of the year when even the non-gardener wants to be outside enjoying the flowers. However some of us feel a little guilty when we forsake housework to spend time planting and weeding.

In case you need encouragement to put the broom in the corner for a while, here are my Top 10 Reasons why we should all work in the garden as long as we want.



10. Gardening is good exercise.
9. It's fun to watch things grow and bloom.
8. Digging in the earth gives you peace of mind.
7. We won't have spring for long and the hot summer is for staying inside.
6. It is educational and you discover new things.
5. You get to play in the dirt, even though you are grown-up.
4. Sustainable gardening is Green and Green is a good thing.
3. You make the world a more beautiful place.
2. You gain a sense of accomplishment.
1. When you are gardening, you don't have to do housework.

Year of the Hummingbird



2013 should be called the year of the hummingbird. This spring, the ruby throated hummingbirds are back in record numbers and are emptying the feeders rapidly. I believe that this spring the hummingbird numbers in my habitat are almost equivalent to those before Katrina.

Because of the increase in hummingbirds, I am planting more groups of hummingbird and butterfly plants. The experts say that each of the right kind of flowering plant is equivalent to 5 or so feeders. The good thing about the plants is that they keep blooming and you don't have to clean or fill them. I'm using native plants as well as introduced ones that are hardy and low-maintenance. A general rule of thumb is that plants with tubular shaped nectar-rich flowers will attract and sustain hummingbirds. Most salvias fit the bill, with *Salvia coccinea*, *S. lyrata*, *S. leucantha*, *S. elegans* and *S. guaranitica* being my favorites. Annual vines include small red morning glory, *Ipomoea coccinea* and *I. hederifolia* as well as Cypress vine, *Ipomoea quamoclit*.

If you'd like to learn more about gardening for hummingbirds and butterflies, our own Walter Clifton is giving a presentation on April 24, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at the Abita Springs library. His property, Hummingbird Haven, has long been an example of what hummingbird and butterfly gardeners should emulate.

Native Plant News

Dr. Charles Allen recently relayed good news about the status of the yellow Lady Slipper Orchids (*Cypripedium* spp.) at Fort Polk. According to him, last year Lady Slipper blooms were way down with only one observed in flower. On April 8, he and Sandy conducted an annual check and visited $\frac{1}{4}$ of the known Fort Polk populations. They found the plants had recovered from the drought of 2011 and there were six stems in flower. His hopes are high and he looks forward to checking the rest of the populations later in the week.

Operation Milkweed contacted us about the three kinds of milkweed (*Asclepias*) that we ordered. Unfortunately, the only seeds to germinate were those of *Asclepias incarnata*. The seedling plugs should arrive sometime in late April or May.

On another front, beginning in February 2013, *Louisiana Gardener* magazine has been featuring more articles about native plants and sustainable gardening. There has been quite a bit of positive feedback about the articles. This trend will continue for the rest of the year, with at least one of the "Hot Plants" articles each month and many more feature articles being about natives.

A kind fellow gardener contacted the FNPS recently about donating her collection of *Garden Gate* magazines to our club. If anyone is interested in these excellent magazines, please contact Yvonne and we'll make arrangements to pick them up.

Book Corner

Check out these good books about gardening in the south and sustainable gardening. All are available at the St. Tammany Parish Library.

Harrison, Marie. **Gardening in the Coastal South**. Pineapple Press, 2003.

Kraus, Helen and Anne Spafford. **Rain Gardening in the South**, Ecologically Designed Gardens for Drought, Deluge, and Everything in Between. Eno Publishers, 2009.

Smith, Charles W.G. **The Weather-Resilient Garden** A defensive approach to planning & landscaping. (100 weather-tough plants for all hardiness zones). Storey, 2004.

Folsom Native Plant Society MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION

It's time to pay your FNPS dues. Please complete the following and return with your check.

There are two types of membership, family and student. You will receive the FNPS Newsletter by one of two methods, email and snail mail.

<u>Type Membership</u>	<u>Newsletter</u>	<u>Dues</u>	<u>Check One</u>
Family	Mail	\$18.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Email	12.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	Mail	\$ 9.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Email	6.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name: _____

Folsom Native Plant Society Facebook Page –
<http://www.facebook.com/FolsomNativePlantSociety>

Statement of Purpose: The purpose of our group is to protect, perpetuate, and propagate the abundant native plants of St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, and adjacent areas, focusing primarily on our native wildflowers, which are fast disappearing; and to discourage pollution of our water and ground so basic to their survival.

Our Board for 2013

President: Yvonne Bordelon

Vice President: Kraig Stutes

Treasurer: David Scherer

Recorder: A.J. Bailey

Newsletter: Nick Blady nblady77@gmail.com

Publishers: Candyce & David Scherer

Hospitality Coordinator: Candyce Scherer & Deborah Nolan

FNSP Website: (<http://folsomnps.org>) Yvonne Bordelon

FNPS Meeting Dates

Sunday, April 21, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. – Place – A.J. Bailey's house, Plant Swap

Sunday, May 19, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. Place – Kraig Stutes' house, Pottery Hill Site Tour

We will be off for the summer, but meetings will resume in September. Keep up with LA native plant dates and news by checking the [FNPS Facebook page](#).



Folsom Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 1055
Folsom, LA 70437