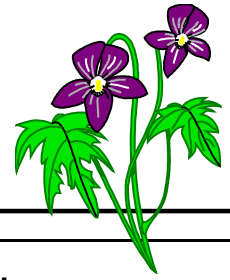


Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

February, 2008



Next Meeting Date: Sunday, February 17, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

Bring plants or cuttings for identification or show and tell. Also bring any plants that you want to donate to the Northlake Nature Center wildflower project or the FNPS booth at the MG Spring Show and a pot luck dish.

At the Home of John Larkin - 86419 Mockingbird Hill Road (north of Folsom) - phone number: 796-5597

Directions: From Folsom, head north on Hwy. 25 for 4 ½ miles (start your odometer at the 2nd Folsom stoplight.) You will pass Jenkins Lumber. Turn left on Mocking Bird Hill Road (if you cross the little bridge on Hwy 25, you've missed the turn.)

Drive on Mocking Bird Hill Road for 4/10 of a mile, past the Blackwell Cemetery. John's house is on the left.

The FNPS' Next Public Appearance will be at the Master Gardener Spring Plant Show on March 15-16, 2008. Get those native plant seeds in pots and survey your yard for natives that can be divided and shared. We will need at least 75 native plants and we should have about 200 native trees for our booth.

From the President's Corner

Salutations to All,

It's hard to believe that Mardi Gras, 2008 is over and that Easter and the Master Gardener Plant Show are drawing near. I hope that all of you have used the cool winter weather to plant many trees, shrubs and perennials. If you haven't, it's still not too late for you to get some in the ground before the warm spring weather arrives. Al and I were happy to see the great turn out at the January working meeting. We were able to pot about 130 trees and package lots of seeds. The happy volunteers took home 4 or more seedlings to plant in their own gardens.

Even though 7 wonderful FNPS members have already volunteered, we will still need about 10 more volunteers to help run the booth at the Master Gardener Spring Plant Show on March 15-16 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Set up for the show is scheduled for after 1:00 p.m. on Friday, March 14th. Please email or call either Al & Yvonne or Candyce & David or sign up at the next meeting, if you can volunteer for a two hour period.

Our project at Northlake Nature Center is coming along well. Rue tells me that the seedlings are up and growing like weeds...ah... native plants. At the February meeting, we'll schedule another work day to plant some wildflower plants and finish mulching the paths. It should look nice for the Bird Fest in April. Be on the look out for bags of pine straw and leaves that your neighbors so foolishly throw away. We need more to finish the project.

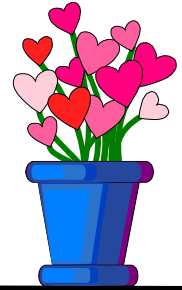
This winter has been a little colder than last year, but many of the early blooming native flowers are budding out. Look for *Acer drummondii* (**Swamp Red Maple**), *Chaptalia tomentosa* (**Sunbonnet**), *Lamium amplexicaule* (**Henbit**), *Ranunculus fascicularis* (**Early Buttercup**), *Vaccinium* spp. (**Huckleberry / Wild Blueberry**), *Viola primulifolia* (**White Violet**) and *V. rosacea* (**Lavender/Purple Violet**).

Towards the end of February or the beginning of March, make sure that your hummingbird feeders are clean and filled with fresh sugar-water solution because the male Ruby-throated hummingbirds will be arriving in south Louisiana around that time. Within a couple of weeks after the males' arrival, the females will also return. We miss the little jewels because we were not lucky enough to host a winter hummingbird this year. We hope your gardens are filled with blooms and the humming, fluttering or buzzing of birds, butterflies and bees.

Yvonne Bordelon



*No flowers, no bees;
 No bees, no flowers.
 Blooming and buzzing,
 Buzzing and blooming;
 Married and still in Love.*
 - Mike Garofalo



December - February Native Blooms

Acer drummondii, **Swamp Red Maple**

Bidens aristosa, **Sticktight**

Bidens pilosa, **Shepherd's**

Needle

Chaptalia tomentosa, **Sunbonnet**

Crataegus opaca, **Mayhaw**

Gelsemium sempervirens,

Carolina Jessamine

Hamamelis virginiana, **Witch**

Hazel

Houstonia patens, **Bluets**

Ilex decidua, **Deciduous Holly** (berries)

I. opaca, **American Holly** (berries)



I. vomitoria, **Yaupon Holly** (berries)

Lamium amplexicaule, **Henbit**

Lirodendron tulipifera, **Tulip Poplar**

Lonicera sempervirens, **Coral Honeysuckle**

Prunus angustifolia, **Chickasaw Plum**

Ranunculus fascicularis, **Early Buttercup**

Sassafras albidum

Senecio glabellus, **Yellow Top**

Taraxacum officinale, **Dandelion**

Taxodium distichum, **Bald Cypress**

Vaccinium spp., **Huckleberry / Wild Blueberry**

Viola primulifolia, **White Violet**; *V. rosacea*,

Lavender/Purple Violet

The Latin Quarter

More word games to exercise the brain and keep the mind sharp. See if you can guess the common names by reading the meaning of the botanical names below. All of the following are small to medium trees. The answers (the common names) can be found on page 3.

1. **Crataegus**= Greek for Hawthorne from kratos, strength **opaca**=shaded or darkened, referring to the matte texture of the leaves..
2. **Ilex** = Holly, from the Latin name for the Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*) **vomitoria**= Emetic; causing vomiting
3. **Prunus** = Latin for Plum, Cherry. **angustifolia** = having narrow leaves.
4. **Nyssa** = Tupelo, sourgum, named for Nysa or Nyssa, one of the water nymphs. **sylvatica** = Growing in woods, forest-loving, wild.

November Meeting Highlights



The answer to the plant question was Spotted Horsemint, *Monarda punctata*. Walter Clifton answered correctly and won the door prize drawing. Everyone enjoyed the annual holiday get-together at John's house. Jim and A.J. brought some leaves, plants and packages of seeds for show and tell and to share. Officers for 2008 were elected and are as follows:

President Emeritus – John Larkin

President – Yvonne Bordelon

Program Chairman – Rod Downie

Recording Committee – Business Recorder – Al Bordelon, Plant Recording Chairman – A.J. Bailey, Committee: Jim Russell and Candyce Scherer volunteered to help

Treasurer – David Scherer

Newsletter Editors – Al and Yvonne Bordelon

Newsletter Publishers – Candyce and David Scherer

Hospitality Chairperson – Candyce Scherer

Website Maintenance – Yvonne Bordelon

Olga brought a letter asking for comments about a government planting project on a highway median of LA 21 near Bogalusa that many members planned to respond to because of the mostly non-native plant materials that were being used.

Plants Presented and Shared

Louisiana spike Moss (Club Moss)

Monarda punctata, Spotted Horsemint

Gaura lindheimeri, Whirling Butterflies

Ilex cassine, Dahoon Holly

Selaginella ludoviciana, Louisiana Clubmoss

Vaccinium elliotii, Elliot's Blueberry

Illicium parvifolium, Yellow anise

Trilisa odoratissima

Stokesia laevis, Stokes Aster

Persea burbonia/palustris

Amorpha fruticosa, Leadplant

Saccharum giganteum, Native Grass

Aristolochia, Giant Dutchmans Pipe (Introduced)

Celosia, Flamingo feather

Red Buckeye seeds

Vernonia, Ironweed

And many, many packages of seeds from Jim

Answers to Latin Quarter

1. *Crataegus opaca* – May Haw
2. *Ilex vomitoria* – Yaupon Holly
3. *Prunus angustifolia* – Chickasaw Plum
4. *Nyssa sylvatica* – Black Gum

Ecological, Sustainable Gardening to Attract Wildlife and Humans By Yvonne Bordelon

Step 1 – Change Your Paradigms, Say No to Lawns

To use Edwin Starr's lyrics to the song, "War", (with a new twist) we say, "LAWNS, huh, yeah, what are they good for? Absolutely NOTHIN'!" (except maybe croquet or badminton). Labor intensive, manicured, exotic turf lawns became the rage during the late 1800's after Frank J. Scott's book, *The Art of Beautifying Suburban Home Grounds* became the bible for American homeowners. Today, more and more homeowners are opting for sustainable and ecological gardens that are low maintenance and in which native and food bearing perennial plants replace exotic turf grass lawns.

There are a number of ways in which lawn size can be reduced that will provide many positive landscape features to the home grounds. Introducing more perennials by adding islands consisting of groups of flowering or fruiting native trees and shrubs will provide shade from the summer sun, wind breaks from the winter wind, leaves for mulch and food production for humans and wildlife alike. Using native ground covers, ferns or mosses especially in shady areas where turf grass is hard to grow and cut will decrease the need for the lawn mower which

will save the homeowner time and money and will reduce harmful emissions into our soil, air and waterways. Another alternative is to plant wildflower meadow areas that only need to be cut once a year (in late winter after the seeds have ripened). Replacing the traditional lawn in your backyard or side yard with a native bunch grass (such as poverty oat grass, *Danthonia spicata* or junegrass, *Koeleria macrantha*), low-growing, buffalo grass (*Buchloe dactyloides*) or native flowering perennials, herbs or vegetable plants will also increase the biodiversity and enrich the soil, while decreasing the amount of maintenance.

Step 2 – Decide what changes should be made and make a list.

Some people may want to add beds for flowers, perennials, shrubs, etc. Others may want to screen out noise or obscure a view or grow healthy, organic vegetables, fruits & herbs. Still others may want to add a water feature and plants to attract butterflies, birds & wildlife. Most people would like to enjoy their yard more and would like to make their yard more useful by designing a low-maintenance landscape by reducing lawn size and replacing it with easy-care natives, perennials, shrubs, trees, groundcovers and mulches.

Step 3 - Learn about plants that are native to your area.

Contact Native Plant Societies, like the Folsom Native Plant Society (<http://folsomnps.org>) & Other Organizations. Check out native plant books and guides from the library. Visit native plant Internet Sites. Visit Preserves, Arboretums, Wildlife Management Areas and other native habitats.

Step 4 - Sketch out a map showing original plantings.

Use tracing paper to experiment with changes you'd like to make. Start small, work with one area at a time. Make a plan that includes biodiversity, layering, multi-function and sustainability to produce a haven for both wildlife and humans. Focus on perennials and mimic nature in the design.

Step 5 – Apply Landscaping Techniques to work up a plan

Organize the yard according to how it will be used. Use nature as a guide & let animals and nature work for you. Look around your neighborhood for ideas. Make it low maintenance. Be sure to incorporate drainage techniques that conserve rain / storm water on-site. Have your soil tested and enrich the soil by layering leaves and other organic matter in areas where the soil is poor.

Step 6 – Choose Plants

Native plants grown from local ecotypes perform better in your yard. Notice what native plants grow in locations similar to yours. Choose plants that have colorful leaves, flowers, fruit or nuts during each season of the year. Plant at least 3 of each of the smaller plants and group plants in odd numbers (3, 5, 7, 9, etc). Choose plants that are multi-functional (shade, food, soil enriching, wildlife attracting, etc.) For example, a Black Cherry tree will provide shade and beautiful bark and wood as well as fruit to make jelly (or Cherry Bounce if you have a recipe). The sour black fruit is relished by many species of birds and the leaves are eaten by Tiger Swallowtail butterfly larvae.

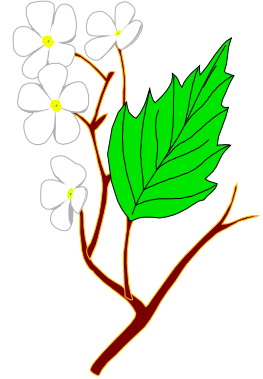
After all, it's not just about native gardening anymore. Today, with diminishing food supplies, droughts and the decline of pollinators it's about using natives in the landscape along with food crops and earth friendly gardening practices to create an ecologically balanced, sustainable home grounds for both humans and wildlife.

Guess the Mystery Plant and your name will go into the Door Prize Drawing.

This small tree with thorny branches is widely distributed in low, wet woods and in "slashes". Clusters of white flowers appear in February to March and the fruit ripens from May to June. The fruit makes delicious jelly. The flowers attract bees and the fruit is eaten by wildlife and birds, especially many members of the Thrush family. It is a member of the Rose family. If you know the answer, write the name of the plant and your name on a slip of paper at the February meeting to be eligible for the door prize drawing.

Membership Renewal Information

Dues for 2008 are due by January, 2008. We are working on a method to alert members as to when it's time to pay membership dues. Basic rule of thumb: New members, who joined from September to December, 2007, are paid up until December 31, 2008. Everyone else (unless you paid your dues recently) will need to send them in by January, 2008 to be up-to-date.



Folsom Native Plant Society Membership Renewal / Application

It's time to pay your FNPS dues. Please complete the following and return with your check for either \$18.00 per family (if you wish to receive the newsletter by regular mail) or \$12.00 per family (if you wish to receive it by e-mail). Special student rates are available: \$9.00 for the printed newsletter & \$6.00 for the email version.

Regular Membership
_____ \$18.00 Mail

Student School Name: _____
_____ \$9.00 Mail

_____ \$12.00 e-mail

_____ \$6.00 e-mail

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

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

Folsom Native Plant Society Statement of Purpose:

The purpose of our group is to protect, perpetuate, and propagate the abundant native plants of Northwest 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 2008

President Emeritus: John Larkin

President: Yvonne Bordelon

Program Chairman: Rod Downie

Treasurer: David Scherer

Plant Recording Committee Chairman: A.J. Bailey

Business Recorder: Al Bordelon

Newsletter: Al & Yvonne Bordelon

ylbordelon@bellsouth.net Publishers: Candyce & David Scherer

Hospitality Coordinator: Candyce Scherer

New Member Mentor: Temae Theriot

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

Dates to Remember

Sunday, Feb. 17, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at John's
– FNPS Meeting

March 15-16, 2008 – Booth at the Master
Gardener Spring Show – We need
volunteers.

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

Please note:

Next Meeting:

Sunday, February 17, 2008

1:00 P.M

At John Larkin's House