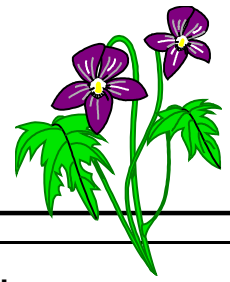


Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

February, 2009



Next Meeting Date: Sunday, February 15, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

We will be finalizing the plans for the Spring Plant Show booth and our new president, Jim Russell, will have an educational activity in store for you. **We will be meeting at a new place:**

The Folsom Branch Public Library – 82393 Railroad Ave., Folsom, LA 70437, **Telephone:** (985) 796-9728

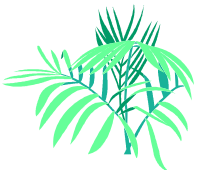
Driving Directions: Take Hwy 190 north through Covington. At the intersection of Hwy 190 and Hwy 25, go north on Hwy 25 for approximately 10 miles to Folsom. In Folsom, go one block past the second traffic light and turn left onto Rosa Cryer. Go one block and turn right onto Railroad Ave. The branch is located on the left.

The FNPS' Next Public Appearance will be at the Master Gardener Spring Plant Show on March 21-22, 2009. Get those native plant seeds in pots and survey your yard for natives that can be divided and shared. We will need at least 75-100 native plants in addition to the 100-200 native trees for our booth.

From the President's Corner

Greetings and salutations to all you indigenous flora aficionados, and to all you native plant lovers, too.

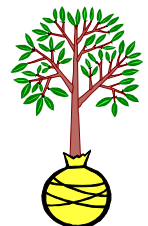
I am happy to meet all of you as the new president of the Folsom Native Plant Society Social Aid and Pleasure Club. I guess the additional nomenclature shows that I am from New Orleans (Harahan), born, raised, and educated here. My dad started me in the love of plants at a very early age, and in Scouts and college the badges and courses in my unofficial minor of botanical ecology fueled my need for them and nature.



One of my big interests in plants is the pteridophytes, the ferns and fern allies. So, you can expect a bit more about them in the newsletters. Another interest is the eradication of invasive exotic plants. Exotic dancers are ok to keep around the area. My sense of humor can be, well, different and unexpected.

Briefly, I am a psychologist for the VA clinic in Hammond and bleed purple and gold as well as blue and silver of UNO. My wife, Sheila Corrigan, honored and blessed me in marriage nine years ago. She is the VA psychologist in Slidell. We have differences in training in the large world of problems with our beloved veterans but between the two of us we have covered the known body of information. Sheila knows it all and I know the rest. I have two grown daughters and three grand children by the older. They live in Juneau now because their dad is a new officer in the Coast Guard. I have assisted Sheila in raising her three children, now all teens. I love most kinds of music. I do not know what bored is.

I hope to keep the group fun, interesting, energizing, somewhat educational, and easy to socialize in. Good topics for the future can be water gardening, a new and growing area of interest internationally and with us begun by Al and Yvonne Bordelon, landscaping with underused native plants, and gardening with native plants with the ecosystem in mind. If anybody has other ideas, I am more than open to listen. Still another idea is motivating folks to rescue plants and seeds about to be bulldozed. I would like to have folks make



presentations on plants I call Good Neighbors, plants from areas close to us but not quite native to St. Tammany or even Louisiana. A good example is Walter's Viburnum, *Viburnum obovatum*. Birds love it for the fruit and for the cover throughout the year. Pure white flowers blanket it in really early spring. It does sucker from roots but these are easily controlled. It is almost but not quite evergreen.

With age and trying to keep many patients identified in my growingly feeble brain, remembering faces and names of folks is getting tougher and at times impossible. Please be patient if I ask you several times who you are. NEVER be embarrassed to ask questions or show the rest of us what is interesting to you. Laugh and enjoy life with the rest of us while saving some of the best for the future.

Well, time is running short and so I leave you with the blessings of the New Year.

I said I am into ferns, and so here is an announcement concerning them. For hundreds of years the only known epiphytic (growing on trees) fern within Louisiana state boundaries was the Resurrection Fern, *Pleopeltis polypoides*. This is the one that dries up, only to become magnificent in its covering of oak trees and other hard woods after a rain. Unexpectedly, I have growing now for three years on a live oak tree a cultivated variety of the Japanese Tongue Fern, *Pyrossia lingua*. It never successfully spores in this area so it grows slowly by spreading its little feet through the bark. It loves cold weather. Well, the fern is not native but the live oak tree is. I had a basket of it I placed at the foot of the tree some years ago. I forgot about it pretty much until last summer, and there it is. It is a kind and gentle visitor.



Some people have asked me how I find different native plants. The answer is to get out of your house, get out of the car, and enter their world. You often don't have to go far, and often small discoveries are under foot, even in your yard. You simply have to look. So, get out and enjoy the wonders of nature. Relax the restrictions on your senses, sharpen your focus a bit, and there is something you may have missed for years, or is new. Last year I investigated a ditch along LA 59 south of I-12, looking for autumnal seeds for a small sunflower relative. This lot is between two concrete store areas and soon will be lost. Going through the edge of the woods, I noticed something that was different, out of bloom but still with seeds and growth pattern often seen in the blueberry group. It was a fetterbush, aka dog hobble, aka hobble bush, etc, *Leucothoe Racemosa*. This is the only time I have seen it in the wild and it is very seldom in the trade. I root pruned it, and dug some up to be potted for the Master Gardener Show in March. Two summers ago, I kept looking at what seemed to be iron weed, *Vernonia altissima*, in a lot on Sharp Road and LA 59. Suddenly, while waiting for the light to change, I realized these plants were different! They were Vanilla-plant, *Trilisa odoratissima*, the specific name meaning the most fragrant in the essence of vanilla. At work, taking the time to look at the back of the clinic site resulted in seeing two native foxgloves, *Agalinus* spp. Even if you only see old friends, this is good. Gardening and enjoying nature have been found to assist in relaxation to the point of lowering blood pressure, keeping joints and muscles working, and maintaining brain function. No joke here.

Going to southeast central Florida to visit Sheila's folks in Stuart every year or so is great. Florida is blessed with a huge number of ecological niches and a vast number of native plants. Floridians years ago voted to tax themselves to buy and maintain native areas throughout the state. There are state parks, National Parks, National and state forests, native preserves, private gardens open to the public, and so on. Even some counties have raised the money to buy up their own areas, and they are well kept with an eye for the preservation of the real Florida. The Real Florida happens to be the name of one of the best pamphlets about Florida, showing many of these areas. Anyway, I would drop off Sheila and her mum at a mall, and I would head for the dunes, grasslands, and trees. Using a cane for balance and mounting my back pack loaded with water, I traversed an amazing number of systems within a couple of hours of each other. Some are sites with world-threatened plants and animals. In two of them, not that the maker of the tracks likely being endangered, I found among the many other spoor the footprints of a large cat. Hopefully not the Florida panther, but probably bobcats. The people are as varied and warm as the plants and sun. They are really trying to find the balance between native and developed. They are fighting a huge number of invasive exotic plants and animals, though. Walking on the sand dunes and pine forests and wet areas helped my sciatica immensely. I recommend Florida to anybody. Heck, I even love the theme parks.

March 21st and 22nd marks the annual Covington Master Gardener Show, the biggest public showing of the FNPS for the year. We need volunteers to help man the booth both days, even if for short periods, and to help take things down. If anyone can help Al load the plants at his house, unload them at the Center, and help set up on Friday the 20th, that would be greatly appreciated. You don't have to be an expert to help. Just come and learn with the rest of us. Last year several vendors, such as Mizell's, sold native plants. Come out and make the free enterprise system work for those selling them.



Jim

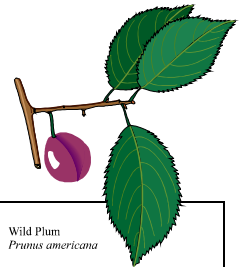
December - February Native Blooms

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**

Liriodendron 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

Membership Renewal Information

New members who joined from September to December 2008, are paid up for 2009. For everyone else, the 2009 renewals were due in January.



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 2009

President Emeritus: John Larkin

President: Jim Russell

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

Newsletter Distributors: 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. 15, 2008 at Folsom Library – FNPS Meeting

March 21-22, 2009 – Booth at the Master Gardener Spring Show – Volunteers are needed.

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

Please note:

Next Meeting:

Sunday, February 15, 2009

1:00 P.M

At: **The Folsom Branch Public Library**