

Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

February 2011



From the President's Corner

Hi Everyone. This past month has been a good time to window garden and look at seed catalogs. Hibernation doesn't sound like such a bad idea! Spring seems so far away. The wild ones are eating us out of house and home. These are a few of the thoughts running through our minds at this time of year. At our last meeting, Rod Downie mentioned that this is an excellent time for a walk in the woods to identify trees and shrubs by their bare branched and bark. Candyce mentioned it is a great time to start weed removal because the ground is soft and the seedlings are small. If you have a tip or a tree branch to share, please bring them to the next meeting. We need to share our knowledge and spread it around. The trees seedlings have been planted and are ready for the Plant Show. May 14th will be Olga Day. Everyone is invited to Walter and Olga's for a celebration of Olga's life. We will discuss this more at the meeting. Jim brought a treasure trove of native plants to share with the group and we all left well fed and arms full orphan plants needing a new homes. Please come and join us~ Still in hibernation, aj

Tribute to the Three

by Yvonne Bordelon

Henry David Thoreau once wrote, "When a farmer cleans out his ditches, I mourn the loss of many a flower which he calls a weed." *Journal, April 10, 1853*

Today, I write a tribute to three other weed lovers, who like Thoreau, often drank the "tonic of wildness". We have lost Al Bordelon, Olga Clifton and Temae Theriot, but they will not soon be forgotten. Their legacy is here, among the remaining members of the Folsom Plant Society and hopefully, in future members. We hold the wealth of knowledge that they passed on to us in our hearts and in our minds.

We cannot let this precious information stop here. They would want us to continue to pass-along both native plants and the love of the wildflowers that grow in our yards and in the fields and forests of Louisiana.

Remember what they gave us. Where would we have been without Al's enthusiasm and creative spirit? How many of us would have learned so much about hummingbird and other plants that attract birds, if not for Olga? And without Temae, fellow bibliophile and one of the original founders of the Folsom Native Plant Society, we probably would not exist today.

We are sad, but we must carry on so that the next generation will also hold our native flora and fauna so dear.

This is a call to arms, in their honor, to preserve, protect and reconstruct native habitats. Each of us has the power to reach out, like they did, and pass-along a little of our knowledge each day.

As Al would say, "Let's not drop the ball."

Now get out there, team, and teach, teach, teach! "The Three" are counting on us.

Next Meeting Date: Sunday, February 27, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

**The [Lee Road Branch Public Library](#) 79213 Hwy 40, Covington, LA 70435 (985) 893-6284
From the south, you take Hwy. 190 north into Covington. At second red light past overpass turn right on Hwy 437 (Lee Road). Go 8 miles to an all-way stop at Hwy 40 and Lee Road. Proceed through stop. Lee Road Branch Library is the first building on the left after passing Lee Road Junior High School**

Camp Salmen Nature Park

Located off Hwy 190 on scenic Bayou Liberty near Slidell, Louisiana, Camp Salmen is historically significant for many reasons:

- It consists of land originally awarded as land grants by Spanish governor Estevan Miro in 1785 and 1787
- It hosted a trading post in the Bayou Liberty region which was probably built in the early years of the 1800s
- It is the site of a major ferry across Bayou Liberty which operated from the early 1800s into the early 1900s
- The Salmen Brick and Lumber Co. acquired the property in 1901, and conducted timbering operations there for many years before donating the property to the Boy Scouts in 1924
- The scouts used the property for nearly 60 years as its regional camp reservation for the Greater New Orleans Area

Illuminating the property's heritage is a 200-year-old French Creole-style building, which was probably built in the first decade of the 1800s and served as the major trading post in the Bayou Liberty region for over a century. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2006. An enduring scout culture—one which developed from the collective experiences of tens of thousands of young scouts—endures in the shadows of this building, nicknamed Salmen Lodge by the scouts. Dominating the property, however, is a rich ecological endowment of native landscapes and an unusually diverse community of plants and animals, which make the Camp Salmen Nature Park a living museum.

While the St. Tammany Parish Government will own, operate and maintain the [Camp Salmen Nature Park](#), the Tammany Trace Foundation serves as the primary focal point for support for the project. It soon began construction of a multi-purpose trail system that would eventually include 31 miles of hard surface trails linking the cities of Covington, Abita Springs, Mandeville, Lacombe, and Slidell.

Edward Blake, renowned director of the Crosby Arboretum in Picayune, MS, designed the Camp Salmen Nature Park Interpretive Journeys trail system to provide visitors a unique opportunity to observe the park's rich biological diversity. The pathway system includes over six miles of walking trails, boardwalks and scenic overlooks. Interpretive signs will help visitors understand the habitats observed and the need to conserve the rich ecological endowment that continues to rebound after commercial timbering ceased on the property in the 1920s.

The purpose of the pathway system is to:

- foster an appreciation of local Louisiana landscapes often overlooked by the casual observer, and
- promote a conservation ethic through the preservation of native habitats and their communities of plants and animals

Habitat Restoration & Management

One of the long-term goals of the Camp Salmen Nature Park project is to restore the property's unique ecological treasure through a comprehensive landscape management program. For many reasons, as a living museum, the former camp property does not presently contain the full collection of plants and animals that can flourish there. Some areas of the property were cleared for human use and the resulting landscape is much simpler. As the land is again changed for human purposes, a one-of-a-kind opportunity exists to broaden the plant collection by diversifying its living communities.



The property was mapped as six Landscape Management Zones with each zone having differing management goals to further differentiate its living vegetative structures. A current inventory of the property's landform reveals a diversity of small-scale landscape features that are often covered by aggressive, invasive plants that thrive on the land's repeated disturbances.

An invasive species control program, along with on-site propagation of native plants common to each zone, will take place as part of the management plan. Additionally, two naturalistic garden exhibits will be composed of native flowering plants that attract a wide variety of birds and butterflies. A prescribed burning program is another planned restoration technique that fosters the proliferation of a vanishing pine savannah community. In combination with the burns, longleaf pine planting will occur along selective areas within the more open savannah landscapes. Lastly, an existing pitcher plant bog community fragments and other savannah species will be conserved and allowed to flourish by enriching them with bog sods.