

Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

February 2014



Next Meeting Date: Sunday, February 16, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

A.J.'s Firehouse, Highway 40,

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. Turn right. Continue on LA-40 W/LA-437 for 4 miles. The destination will be on the right.

From the President's Corner

Hi Everyone,

The weather has prevented outdoor activities recently so armchair gardening is at the top of the list. While we are confined, it is a good time to go to our website and see all of the hard work Yvonne has done. There are month-to-month bloom lists and pictures that are spectacular for identifying surprises in your yards.

As usual, the February meeting will start with a potluck lunch at 1 P.M. (Mirliton bread pudding, brought by new member Joe Lapin, was a highlight of the January meeting.) We will meet at the firehouse again to finish our seed envelopes for the plant show. Our tree seedlings are in and we need pots that are 8-9 inches tall. Contact David and Candyce if you can help. If you have any seeds to share, please bring them to the meeting. We will have a signup sheet for our booth at the plant sale.

Some suggested topics of study for 2014 are:

1. A Primer on Pruning Native Plants
2. Native Plants that attract and sustain honey bees.

If you have any other topics that you'd like to learn more about, please bring them up at the next meeting. We hope to see you there.

Thanks aj

Red Buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*)
leaves unfurl.

How important is the
chill factor when using
native plants from other
areas? By Yvonne Bordelon

Many wildlife gardeners
wonder if the seeds of
native plants that are
collected from other USDA
hardiness zones will
produce plants that flower
and fruit successfully in
their gardens. I recently
read an article by Vincent
Vizachero which discussed



the significance of the “chilling requirements” of various native plants . A plant’s chilling requirement tells you the approximate number of hours during the winter the plant needs the temperature to range between 32 and 45 degrees Fahrenheit.

Plants regulate their winter survival and budding and blooming by responding to the number of chilling hours. Research also shows that plants require a certain number of warming days before budding begins. These factors work together so that the plant responds appropriately to its environment and doesn’t bloom too early (subjecting it to early frost damage) or too late (failing to set fruit.)

Chilling hours can be a hidden factor in the success or failure of native plants. The safest way to ensure blooming or fruiting success is to be aware of the average chilling hours you can expect in your garden, and choose native plants accordingly. Check the provenance of plants and seeds. Choosing native plants that require the appropriate number of chilling hours, even though they come from different hardiness zones, may be a better practice.

getchill.net offers a handy online tool using Wunderground.com weather stations to calculate the number of chilling hours near you and/or at locations where you are considering purchasing native plants. The Wunderground.com station id for Covington, La is KLACOVIN10.

Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) will soon show it's lovely yellow blooms in the fields and forests of Louisiana. Pollinators, including hummingbirds, are attracted to the nectar-rich flowers.



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, P.O. Box 1055, Folsom, LA 70437

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 2014

President: A.J. Bailey
Vice President/Program Chairman: Kraig Stutes
Treasurer: David Scherer
Plant List Recorder: Yvonne Bordelon
Newsletter: Yvonne Bordelon yborde@aol.com
Publishers: Candyce & David Scherer
Hospitality Coordinator: Jenny Geesey
FNPS Website:(<http://folsomnps.org>) Yvonne Bordelon

Dates to Remember

Feb. FNPS Meeting – Feb.16, 2014 1:00 p.m.
Place: Firehouse on Hwy 40

March – Spring Plant Show, Covington
Fairgrounds

April FNPS Meeting - Apr. 27, 2014
Plant Swap at Archbishop Hannan HS

May FNPS Meeting – May 18, 2014
Place: Markey Barré, Tangipahoa Parish

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