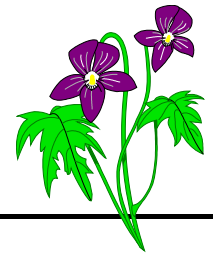


# Folsom Native Plant Society

[folsomnps.org](http://folsomnps.org)

January 2010



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## *From the Past President's Corner – Jim Russell*

I like going into the wilds of our surrounding parish, or what passes for wild these days. Northlake Nature Center, woods and wetlands behind me, river banks, wildlife refuges, the magnificent ravines and waterfalls of the Tunica Hills area of Louisiana and Mississippi, state wildlife areas, Nature Conservancy – let's spend some more time outside when weather permits.

Call a few folks and go together, whatever. Get out the house! Even on your own property, you can be amazed at what you miss by simply going about your business and not really looking at, listening too, breathing in what nature gives over the changing seasons and years. Reporting on these experiences are really interesting whether in the newsletter or talking with the group at the meetings. (See page 2 for some places to go.) For flowering plants now, other than the maples, I haven't seen anything. Red buckeyes are getting ready, though.

- James Russell

## *From the New President's Corner – AJ Bailey*

Happy New Year and fast thawing to everyone. FNPS starts the year with activities designed to keep all members busy and warm. On Sunday January 24, 2010 we will begin our new year with the annual tree planting project. New members please join us for the festivities. The purpose of this activity is to plant forestry seedlings into pots of all sizes. 1, 2, 3, and 5 gallon plastic flower pots are brought by the members to the meeting. The soil will be provided by the club for the trees. After planting the 200 trees, we will send the little guys home with members to be fostered until the plant show, March 20 and 21 at the Bobby Fletcher Pavilion. We will bring the trees to be used as give-a-ways in our show booth. This event is our biggest public awareness campaign. It allows us to reach a large audience and inform them of the importance of Louisiana natives and their ever decreasing populations. So please bring your pots and take some foster trees home for a few months. This is an excellent way to get to know these natives first hand.

This meeting will begin at noon and end as soon as the trees are planted, as it is A SAINTS FOOTBALL DAY. We will not have a plant id session or refreshments. We will get you and your new charges home on time for the football festivities. We will have a regular meeting in February to answer all questions about the booth at the plant show.

I look forward to serving as President this year and thanks Jim for all of your hard work this past year. You have left some big shoes to fill.

RECAP: Tree planting, bring lots of pots, we will dish dirt, adopt a few trees, Saints football, and a great start to our outreach program for the year 2010. Happy New Year!

Any questions please call AJ Bailey 373-5512 or email Candyce and David.

Temae and Al and John, please continue to feel better. You are in my prayers.

- AJ Bailey

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**Next Meeting Date: Sunday, January 24, 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. The January meeting is a working meeting, potting plants to giveaway at the Spring Garden Show.***

# PLACES TO GO

## [Abita Creek Flatwoods Preserve](#)

At this preserve, you can view pine-dominated wetland communities, including longleaf pine savanna, longleaf flatwoods, bayhead, slash pine/pond cypress woodland and riparian forest. You can also see the carnivorous pitcher plants, wildflowers, grasses and sedges from a boardwalk that runs through portions of the preserve. The boardwalk provides interpretive information about the flora, habitat types and their management.

Twenty-four species of plants considered rare, threatened or endangered by the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program have been located on the tract thus far, and many more are likely to be found. The most notable discovery to date has been the Louisiana Quilwort, a federally endangered species.

### **Location**

Northeast of Abita Springs about 5 miles on LA Highway 435, the [Pitcher Plant Boardwalk Trail](#) is located about one mile west of Money Hill. The entrance is across from Green Street.

## [Charter Oak Preserve](#)

Charter Oak Preserve is located along the slopes of the Pearl River in St. Tammany Parish. At this preserve you can see the buckwheat tree, which occurs nowhere else naturally in Louisiana. The Nature Conservancy selected this site because of its diversity of evergreen shrubs and the buckwheat tree.

**This preserve is not open for public visitation.**

## [Talisheek Pine Wetlands Preserve](#)

Talisheek Pine Wetlands Preserve supports the largest tract of intact pine wetland in southeast Louisiana. Numerous rare plant and animal species have been detected thus far including the federally threatened gopher tortoise and state-rare mud salamander. Additional inventories will undoubtedly uncover more surprises at this exceptional site.

**This preserve is not open for public visitation.**

## [Lake Ramsay Preserve](#)

This site was selected by The Nature Conservancy in order to preserve the last remaining pine savanna habitats in the Florida Parishes. These savannas are known for their diversity, including several carnivorous plants, numerous rare plant species and a spectacular variety of orchids. A trail system allows visitors to view this unique habitat.

This site is being cooperatively managed with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, which owns the adjacent 796-acre [Lake Ramsey Wildlife Management Area](#). In addition to the longleaf pine savannah, the WMA supports other valuable natural plant communities including: bayhead forest, small river floodplains forest, and an upland sandy stream (Tchefuncte River).

### **Location**

Northwest of Covington, take Highway 190W turning on Penn Mill Road then to the [Horse Branch Creek Trailhead](#).

## [White Kitchen Preserve](#)

White Kitchen possesses one of the last remaining, intact, overflow swamp systems in the Southeast and supports a major rookery of water birds, as well as a bald eagle's nest that has been used for more than 80 years. The highlight of this preserve is the unique boardwalk, built with the support of Chevron, that enables land-loving tourist to walk out over the marsh to view this phenomenon of nature. The preserve can also be visited via swamp boat tours in the surrounding areas that tour the Pearl River basin. This highly diverse basin consist of cypress-tupelo swamp is integrated with fresh marsh, surrounded by a ridge that supports a lush stand of loblolly pine-hardwood forest and a major rookery.

### **Location**

The Pearl River basin in Slidell. Entrance is located at the LA Highway Department Rest Area at the [junction](#) of US Highway 90 and Highway 190. **This site is rough since Katrina.**

You could look long and hard but you would not likely find a friendlier group than the Louisiana Native Plant Society. One of their members is Dr. Charles Allen, a man who is internationally known for his work on grasses in particular and native plants generally for this area. He is as approachable and friendly as he is knowledgeable, although I bet he would be the type of college professor who seems kindly and easy-going at first until you see your grade on the first test. He has three books out; two are understandable for the layman or at least me. The Edible Plants of the Gulf South and Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines of Louisiana are often used by many of us and referred to in our meetings. Grasses of Louisiana is written for advanced students – I have it and I wish my brain were young enough to learn the terminology to benefit from this work. Every book begins with several pages of one-liner witticisms. He also sells seeds for native plants and is active in the native prairie restoration out of Eunice, LA. His contact is [nativevetures.net/index.php](http://nativevetures.net/index.php). BTW, when talking with him, he usually does not use common terms although he knows them all. He has a list of outdoor classes for the next month or so on his website. The Louisiana Native Plant Society can be found online at [lnps.org](http://lnps.org).

#### LNPS Trips & Events

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January 23, 2010	Cajun Prairie Society: Transplanting in Eunice Prairie. Eunice, LA.
February 5-7, 2010	Louisiana Native Plant Society annual meeting. Pollock, LA.
February 27, 2010	Edible/Useful Plants walk and Chinese Food Cooking Class.
March 6, 2010	Edible and Useful Plants talk. Lafayette Parish Library, Lafayette, LA.
March 18-20, 2010	52nd annual Caddo Conference, Tyler, Texas
March 20-21, 2010	Northshore Garden Show. Covington, LA.
April 8-11, 2010	Bogs, Birds, Baygalls, Butterflies, etc. Allen Acres/Fort Polk Area

- James Russell

## 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. Also you can 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	
	Email	12.00	
Student	Mail	\$ 9.00	
	Email	6.00	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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