

Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

March 2015



Next Meeting Date: Sunday, March 29, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

At the home of Jim Russell, 61 Parc Place, Mandeville, LA 70471.

From I-12, head south on LA-59 S 1.2 miles. Turn right onto Sharp Rd. at the red light.

Drive down Sharp Rd for 1.5 miles. Turn right onto Parc Place for 0.3 miles. Jim lives at the end of the street.

From the President's Corner

Hi Everyone,

This month's meeting will be at Jim Russell's house in Mandeville. We will be going on a guided tour of his many-faceted yard. Some of the natives that you will see are Louisiana spikemoss, green and gold groundcover, both parsley haw and mayhaw and red buckeye. The show-and-tell will help sharpen your identification skills.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we were unable to attend the Tangipahoa Master Gardener Spring Garden Day. We will discuss our fall plans for the Folsom show and we want to purchase a pop-up tent with club funds so that we will have shelter when we attend events. The Madisonville plant show is a spring possibility also.

Our April meeting will be at Yvonne's house and an identification tour and more is on the menu.

Thanks,

aj



Penstemon tenuis flowers put on a show in spring

Native Plant of the Month - *Penstemon tenuis*

By Yvonne L. Bordelon

Some of you are participating in an experiment of sorts. At the last meeting some of the tiny, dust-like seeds of native *Penstemon tenuis* were planted by participants. We hope that your babies are up and are doing well. I have provided some information about this great plant below.

This outstanding native perennial of Gulf Coast prairies and marshes in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas is adorned with a large spike of bell-like purple flowers from March through June. The lovely blooms make excellent cut flowers.

Common Names:

Brazos Penstemon, Brazos Beardtongue, Gulf Penstemon, Gulf Beardtongue, Gulf Coast Penstemon, Gulf Coast Beardtongue, Sharp-sepal Penstemon, Sharp-sepal Beardtongue

Growing Conditions:

Gulf Coast Penstemon grows well in moist perennial beds and borders in sun or part-shade. Soils include clay, clay loam, mediou loam, sandy loam and sandy. It can reseed freely in good soil. Propagate by seed collected in summer.



Clip the seed pods when they turn brown and store them intact in paper bags in a dry room. Fall is a good time to plant beardtongue. I have had success using good potting soil in 4 inch pots. When you are ready to plant, just pop the seed capsule open and sprinkle the tiny, dust-like seeds on the top of the soil. In a week or two you should see the tiny seedlings. Once they have at least two sets of true leaves, you can separate them into individual pots.

Benefits:

It is a showy ornamental with a pleasing color and long lasting blooms which are perfect for the perennial garden. Wildlife, including bees, insects and butterflies use the nectar. The flowers also attract hummingbirds and, according to the Pollinator Program at the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, it is of special value to native bees.

For more information visit Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center native plant database:

http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=PETE3

Last Call for 2015 Dues

March is the month when Candyce goes through the membership roster to check for payment of dues. If you haven't paid for 2015, here's the form.

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: _____

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



Amsonia

Amsonia tabernaemontana is an under-used blue flowering perennial. Blooms appear in April and May. It is easy to start from seed.

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 yborde72@gmail.com

Publishers: Candyce & David Scherer

Hospitality Coordinator: Jenny Geesey

FNPS Website: (<http://folsomnps.org>) Yvonne Bordelon

Dates to Remember

2015 Meeting Tentative Dates/Places:

March 29 – Jim Russell

April 19 – Yvonne Bordelon near Covington

May 17 – Walter Clifton

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