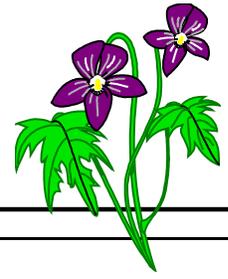


# Folsom Native Plant Society

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

March, 2007



## Next Meeting Date: Sunday, March 11, 2007, 1:00 p.m.

Temae has a family emergency so she will be unable to host the March meeting. Please bring examples of some of the native plants that are blooming in your area or that you need help in identifying. Also bring a pot luck dish.

**Meeting Place: at the home of John Larkin** - 86419 Mockingbird Hill Road (north of Folsom) - phone number: 796-5597 - Directions: From Folsom, head north on Hwy. 25 for 4 ½ miles (start your odometer at the Folsom stoplight by the Texaco station.) You will pass Jenkins Lumber. Turn left on Mocking Bird Hill Road (if you cross the little bridge on Hwy 25, you've missed the turn.) Drive on Mocking Bird Hill Road for 4/10 of a mile, past the Blackwell Cemetery. John's house is on the left.

**The FNPS' Next Public Appearance will be at the Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale on March 17-18, 2007.** We will need 16 volunteers & about 50 native plants and 25-30 native trees for our booth. A native plant will be given away every 30 minutes and new members who join at the show will receive 1 native tree and 2 native plants.

## From the President's Corner

Salutations to One and All,

Spring is upon us as evidenced by the lovely blooms in our forests and fields. I hope that all of you are enjoying the sites & smells of spring. Watch for the white blooms of the Hawthornes ([Mayhaw](#) (*Crataegus opaca* & *C. aestivalis*) and [Parsley Hawthorne](#) (*Crataegus marshallii*), the Plums (Chickasaw ([Prunus angustifolia](#) ) and [Mexican](#) (*Prunus mexicana*), Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia* and [Flowering Dogwood](#) (*Cornus florida*). Later in March you will be greeted by the pinkish-white blossoms of our [Southern Crabapple](#) (*Malus angustifolia*), the high climbing, introduced, white [Cherokee Rose](#) (*Rosa laevigata*) and the unusual, hairy white blooms of the [Fringe Tree](#) (*Chionanthus virginica*). While you are out enjoying spring, don't forget to look down because you'll find some beauties right at your feet like the [Blueets](#) (*Houstonia patens* & *H. caerulea*), our smallest wildflower as well as all the members of the Viola family (Violets). Also, don't forget to put up your hummingbird feeders as the male ruby-throats will be arriving in early March and the females will soon follow.

There is still time to plant native trees and shrubs but you must get these plants in the ground before the warm weather sets in and they must be watered well during the dry spells. At our last meeting John reminded us about a plant incompatibility problem called Cedar-Apple rust that occurs when members of the apple family are planted near Cedar trees. Check your local library for the February, 2007, [Louisiana Gardener](#) which has a good article on Cedar-Apple rust.

Our website's popularity is growing. We have recently added Photo [Gallery 3](#) and [Gallery 4](#) to it. We are planning to also add a People and Events Photo Gallery. If you do not want your photo or name to appear on the FNPS website, please contact Al & Yvonne ASAP. If we don't hear from you we'll assume that it's okay to post all the group shots that we have selected.

Representatives of the FNPS have recently published in another venue. An article by Al and Yvonne, entitled "What Do Wildflowers Have to do with it?" appeared in the February issue of "The Northshore Conifer", St. Tammany's new political and business publication. You can find free copies at coffee shops all over the parish.

We are finalizing plans for our booth at the Master Gardener Spring Show on March 17-18, 2007. We will have a volunteer schedule sign up sheet at the next meeting and we hope that we'll have enough volunteers for both days. We hope to see everyone at the March 11 meeting. Temae had originally planned to host it, but will be unable to because of a family illness, so we will take advantage of John's generous and gracious hospitality and meet at his house at 1:00 p.m.

*Yvonne Bordelon*

*Trees are the best monuments that a man can erect to his own memory.*

*They speak his praises without flattery, and they are blessings to children yet unborn.*

- Lord Orrery, 1749

### Tree Facts: Trees Filter Storm Water Pollution

- ♦ In urban areas pollution from vehicles is washed off of parking lots, streets and driveways.
- ♦ Chemicals in fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides are washed into drainage systems and local streams/lakes.
- ♦ Faulty sewer systems and septic tanks pollute local waterways.

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## March Native Blooms

*Acer drummondii*, [Swamp Red Maple \(seeds\)](#)

[Amelanchier aborea](#), Service Berry

*Bidens aristosa*, Sticktight

*Bidens pilosa*, Shepherd's Needle

*Cercis canaensis*, Redbud

[Chaptalia tomentosa](#), Sunbonnet

*Cornus florida*, Flowering Dogwood

Hawthornes - *Crataegus opaca* & *C. aestivalis*,

Mayhaw, *C. marshallii*, Parsley Hawthorne

*Gelsemium sempervirens*, Carolina Jessamine

[Houstonia patens](#), *H. caerulea*, Bluets

*Ilex decidua*, Deciduous Holly (berries)

*I. opaca*, American Holly (berries)

*I. vomitoria*, Yaupon Holly (berries)

*Illicium floridanum*, Florida Anise

[Iris virginica](#), Southern Blue Flag

*Lamium amplexicaule*, Henbit

*Liriodendron tulipifera*, Tulip Poplar

*Lonicera sempervirens*, Coral Honeysuckle

*Oxallis rubra*, *O. violacea* Violet Wood Sorrel, *O. stricta* Yellow Wood Sorrel

*Phlox divaricata*, Blue Phlox

*Prunus angustifolia*, Chickasaw Plum

*Pyrus angustifolia*, Southern Crabapple

*Ranunculus fascicularis*, Early Buttercup

*Rhododendron canescens*, Native Honeysuckle

Azalea, [R. austrinum](#), Flame Azalea

*Salvia lyrata*, Lyre-leaved Sage

[Sassafras albidum](#)

*Senecio glabellus*, Yellow Top

*Taraxacum officinale*, Dandelion

*Taxodium distichum*, Bald Cypress

[Trillium foetidissimum](#), Mississippi Wake-robin (Red Trillium)

[Vaccinium spp.](#), Huckleberry / Wild Blueberry

*Viola primulifolia*, White Violet; *V. rosacea*,

Lavender/Purple Violet, [V. palmata](#), Early Blue Violet

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## Native Plant Propagation Tips - Part 4

by Yvonne Bordelon

### Transplanting Bare Rooted Tree Seedlings –

General Information – Do not let the roots dry out, place them in moist sand, soil or leaf mold in the shade. Better yet, plant the larger ones out immediately or pot them in pots large enough to cover their root system. Place the potted trees in the shade until they have gotten over the transplant shock and new growth is seen. Water well during dry spells. It's best to wait until the cool weather in the fall or winter to plant out the ones that have been potted.

### Longleaf Pines – Excerpt from: [Longleaf Pine](#) - Pinaceae -- Pine family by W. D. Boyer

Longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), whose species name means "of the marsh," has been locally referred to as longstraw, yellow, southern yellow, swamp, hard or heart, pitch, and Georgia pine. In presettlement times, this premier timber and naval stores tree grew in extensive pure stands throughout the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains. At one time the longleaf pine forest may have occupied as much as 24 million ha (60 million acres), although by 1985 less than 1.6 million ha (4 million acres) remained.

**Vegetative Reproduction-** Longleaf pine seedlings, if top killed, can sprout from the root collar. Sprouting ability decreases sharply when seedlings begin height growth. In one study, almost 40 percent of seedlings cut off at the ground line during grass stage had living sprouts a year later. Only 14 percent of seedlings up to 1.37 m (4.5 ft) in height so treated developed sprouts, however, and those larger than this did not sprout at all (14).

**Sapling and Pole Stages to Maturity -** Once height growth has begun, the species can grow as well as the other major southern pines on many sites originally occupied by longleaf, and often exceeds them in growth. The critical element in the growth of longleaf pine stands is the duration of the grass stage. Reduction of competing ground cover in grass stage seedling stands can have a large impact on growth and future volume yields.

**Rooting Habit-** Longleaf pine develop massive taproots that, in mature trees, may extend to a depth of 2.4 to 3.7 m (8 to 12 ft) or more. A hardpan can arrest downward growth of the taproot. If the hardpan is close to the surface, wind firmness of the tree is reduced. Longleaf pines develop extensive lateral root systems. Most lateral roots are within 0.3 m (1 ft), and nearly all within 0.6 m (2 ft), of the surface (29).

**Reaction to Competition-** Longleaf pine is intolerant of competition, whether for light or for moisture and nutrients. The species will grow best in the complete absence of all competition, including that from other members of the species.

**Mayhaw (*Crataegus aestivalis*)** – excerpt from: [Gardenguides.com](http://Gardenguides.com)



**General Characteristics -** General: It is a spiny tree that grows to forty feet high and fifteen inches DBH. Leaves are narrow, broadest above or near the middle, dark green and shiny, serrated, seldom lobed and smooth. Flowers are white, produced singly or in two or three flowered clusters. Fruits are broadest above the middle or rounded, and red in color.

**Required Growing Conditions -** May hawthorn grows on the outer coastal plain from North Carolina to Mississippi. For current distribution, please consult the plant profile page for this species on the PLANTS Web site.

**Adaptation:** Although it will succeed in partial shade and different soil types, it grows best in full sunlight, well-drained loamy soils. May hawthorn will tolerate wet soils becoming drought tolerant once established. It is wind tolerant making it a good tree species in shelterbelt planting. It is also tolerant of atmospheric pollution and performs well in urban settings. It is commonly found in river swamps, pond areas, and stream banks.

**Cultivation and Care -** Propagation from Seed or Grafting: May hawthorn can be propagated by either seeds or grafting. Successful propagation using seeds requires acid scarification followed by warm stratification and prechilling. Seeds, whose numbers per pound (lb.) varies with species, are planted early in the fall, in drill rows eight to twelve inches apart and covered with 1/4 inch of soil. Seedlings must not be kept in the nursery longer than a year.

Containerized trees should be planted when they are no more than eight feet tall, in the fall or early spring. Balled and burlapped trees should be planted in early spring.

**General Upkeep and Control -** Pruning should be done in the winter or early spring in order to maintain a clear shoot leader on young trees and/or remove the weakest branches to allow more light to pass through. Suckers or stems arising from the roots should be removed when they become noticeable.

**Pest and Potential Problems -** Although pests and diseases seldom affect *Crataegus aestivalis* it is susceptible to fire-blight, cedar-hawthorn rust, cedar-quince rust, leaf blight and fruit rot, and leaf spot.

**Bald Cypress** – [Taxodium distichum](#) Excerpt from [NC State Fact Sheet](#)

**Hardiness Zones:** 4-9

**Habit:** Deciduous

**Growth Rate:** Moderate

**Site Requirements:** Sun; grows in variety of soils (wet, dry, compacted)

**Texture:** Fine

**Form:** Pyramidal when young; horizontal branches

**Height:** 50 to 100'

**Width:** 20 to 30'

**Leaf:** Small leaves spirally around stem; sage green in summer; russet, soft brown to orangish brown fall color

**Flower/Fruit:** 1 to 2" cones

**Comments:** Native; good street tree; light shade; easy fall cleanup; reddish brown, fibrous bark; cypress knees produced when grown in or near water; large taproot; heat, drought tolerant; seeds eaten by birds

## Book Review

by Yvonne Bordelon

McPherson, Stewart. [Pitcher Plants of the Americas](#). McDonald and Woodward, 2007.

As the author states, this book was prepared not as a horticultural guide or a botanical synopsis, but “to help increase the general awareness of pitcher plants as a group of unusual, fascinating and attractive flowering plants; provide a broad understanding of their biology, ecology and natural history; and allow readers to become aware of their conservation status and the fact that some species, in particular, are in need of strategies and actions to protect and preserve them.”

The text is presented in accessible language that any layman can understand and the outstanding photographic illustrations make this book a delight to read. Mr. McPherson’s style of writing is both informative and interesting. Charts and diagrams explain the major carnivorous plant families as well as the anatomical structure of individual species. The information on the life cycle of each family, Sarracenia, which is native to our area, in particular, is invaluable for anyone who is trying to cultivate pitcher plants. The two chapters: Habitat Loss and the Threat of Extinction and Cultivation and Horticulture are particularly valuable for Native Plant Societies like ours. An extensive bibliography promotes further study on the subject.

I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in native plants. Stewart McPherson does a wonderful job of giving us in depth insight into the little known world of our American Pitcher Plants.

## February Meeting Highlights

The meeting was called to order and John read the purpose. Our new members, Warren Lund and Pam Haik introduced themselves and were welcomed into the club. The answer to the Door Prize Question was Red Maple (*Acer Rubra*) and the prize was won by Margaret Breaud.

As a result of an inquiry from a Southeastern student, the board has decided to enact special student membership rates (\$9.00 for a printed newsletter and \$6.00 for the email version).

The FNPS web site has been updated with the addition of Gallery 3 and Gallery 4 (112 new photos) in the [Plant Gallery](#). Both the online and printed versions of the [Seasonal Guide to St. Tammany’s Native Plants](#) have been updated with links to the new photos in the Plant Gallery.

We will plant a tree in Muriel Larkin’s honor. Sparkman Wyatt will contact Kathy Bell, the principal of Folsom Elementary School, to see if we can plant the tree on the school nature trail.

The members broke up into two groups with one group going out to pot 10 Longleaf pines, 15 Mayhaws & 15 Bald Cypress and the second group staying in the pool house to package 10 different varieties of seeds. Some members were very enthusiastic about the trees that John gave away, so enthusiastic that he only had a few left.

## Seeds that were Packaged

Aster praealtus, Blue Aster  
Balduina uniflora, Ooneflower  
Cephalanthus occidentalis, Buttonbush  
Helianthus angustifolius  
Hibiscus coccineus, Texas Star Hibiscus

Ipomoea coccinea, Red Morning Glory  
Liatris pycnostachya, Blazing Star  
Prunella vulgaris, Selfheal  
Rudbeckia, Black-eyed Susan  
Vernonia altissima, Ironweed

## Guess the Mystery Plant and your name will go into the Door Prize Drawing.

This native plant is one of the smallest of our wildflowers. The pale blue flowers of this tiny perennial appear in masses in early spring. It is a member of the Madder family.

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## Membership Renewal Information

Dues for 2007 were due in January, 2007. If you get a printed copy, Postal Service newsletter, check your address label or, if you get an email version, check the number after your last name in the To: box. If you see 06, your membership is paid through December, 2006. If you see 07, you're paid through 12/2007. If you see 05 you are way behind & need to send in the form below ASAP.

### 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

\_\_\_\_\_ \$12.00 e-mail

Student School Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$9.00 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 2007**

**President Emeritus:** John Larkin

**President:** Yvonne Bordelon

**Treasurer:** David Scherer

**Recording Committee Chairman:** A.J. Bailey

**Newsletter:** Al & Yvonne Bordelon

[ylbordelon@bellsouth.net](mailto:ylbordelon@bellsouth.net)

**Hospitality Coordinator:** Candyce Scherer

**New Member Mentor:** Temae Theriot

**FNSP Website:** ( <http://folsomnps.org> ) Emily Canter & Yvonne Bordelon

## **Dates to Remember**

March 10, 2007 – **Spring Garden Day** at the Hammond Research Station, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Seminars, Plant Sale, Exhibits

March 17-18, 2007 – **Master Gardener Spring Plant Show** at the Fair Grounds in Covington, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

March 30-April 1 - **Annual CCC** (Columbia-Catahoula-Copenhagen) tours talks food etc. contact Charles Allen [native@camtel.net](mailto:native@camtel.net)

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

Please note:

Next Meeting:

Sunday, March 11, 2007

1:00 P.M

At the Home of John Larkin