

# Folsom Native Plant Society

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

March 2010



*From the President's Corner*

*A. J. Bailey*

Hi everyone, welcome to the ides of March. It has been a very inclement winter and I know we all look forward to a warm not so wet spring. I noticed at our last meeting it is now time for an update. Our club has more information and knowledge to share than most other organizations. Our members have more experience and a willingness to share their knowledge with everyone at all levels of plant interest. Folsom Native Plant Society members have a great passion for all things living in our area. Please come to a meeting and let these folks share their life experiences. What better legacy can we give John and our founding members than a thriving, growing, and moving into the future club. Please join us at our March meeting. Bring your ideas and suggestions! What do you want to contribute and take home from our meetings? New members you are needed. The March meeting will be a discussion of our booth at the Master Gardener Plant Show. We will also have a plant and weed ID discussion. Take a chance get involved! You will not regret it I promise. Thanks for the opportunity to serve as your president. I will do my best to facilitate and make our future meetings meet your needs. Please make these needs known.

On a lighter note, due to the large amount of precipitation in my yard I am looking for a native rice crop for this year. The potatoes have floated off and I would like a replacement crop for spring!

Thanks and happy planting.

aj

## **IN MEMORY OF JOHN LARKIN:**

John was easy to have as a friend. He gave more than he asked for. He was a gentle, quiet, soft-spoken man who loved wildflowers and plants. That alone set him apart. He spent most of his adult life studying plants, their growing habits, how to propagate them and speaking of his appreciation for their beauty. He was an advocate of their preservation. I first met John over 20 years ago at a Folsom Native Plant meeting at the Folsom Library just as the group was beginning to form and meet on a regular basis. He had previously served as the President of the Louisiana Fern Society. He knew a lot about ferns as well as wildflowers. As President and driving force of the Folsom Native Plant Society he became a mentor for many of us. He presided over every meeting, wrote our newsletter each month with enormous amounts of information, humor and detail and he always had tidbits of advice on so many plant related matters that he alone had discovered. He wanted to share this with us. To my knowledge he never missed a meeting. In fact, those meetings seemed to become the focus of his life. He always brought wonderful lemon squares that his wife, Muriel, would fix each and every month for all of us to share. Muriel sometimes came to meetings as well. They had their challenges late in life but John never complained. I doubt John ever knew how much he taught all of us here in Folsom because he was humble and very patient, but I do remember so many of his teachings. He was the type of elder that one remembers with fondness and appreciation. I am blessed to have known John Larkin and I will miss him.

Mary Ann McClellan, Second Secretary FNPS

**IN MEMORIAM:** John Larkin, the first President of Folsom Native Plant Society, died. He was our guiding light for many years. Our deepest sympathies go out to Muriel and his whole family.

# PLACES To Go To See Native Plants

## [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.

## [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](#).

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## **Northshore Spring Garden Show**

The annual Northshore Spring Garden Show will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. March 20 - 21, 2010, at the [St. Tammany Parish](#) Fairgrounds in Covington. The event, which is sponsored by the St. Tammany Master Gardeners, will include a plant sale with more than 35 vendors under the covered Bobby Fletcher Sr. Agriculture Center Barn. There will be sales of plant and garden supplies, a plant health clinic, children's activity booth and general horticultural information provided by the Master Gardeners. There is a \$3 per person gate fee, but children 12 & under are admitted for free. Proceeds will be used toward an agriculture / horticulture scholarship.

Correction to the Dr. Charles Allen article, Charles Allen article: "[nativeventures.net/index.php](#)" should be "[nativeventures.net/index.php](#)".

### Louisiana Native Plant Society Trips & Events

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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

**Next Meeting Date: Sunday, March 14, 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 Folsom Native Plant Society will give away at the Northshore Spring Garden Show four different types of native trees and four types of native wildflowers.

### WILDFLOWER SEEDS

**Black-eyed Susan** (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

Annual / short lived perennial. Height: 1-3 ft. Full sun to partial shade. Butterfly nectar plant. Deer resistant. Self-seeds readily.

**Coreopsis** (*Coreopsis tinctoria*)

Annual. Height: 1-2 ft. Full sun to partial shade. Butterfly nectar plant.

**Indian Blanket** (*Gaillardia pulchella*)

Annual. Height: 1-2 ft. Full sun to partial shade. Deer resistant. Birds like the seed. Will grow in poor sandy soil.

**Purple Coneflower** (*Echinacea purpurea*)

Perennial. Height: 2 ft. Full sun to partial shade. Attracts butterflies. Works well as a cut flower. Birds eat the seeds. Can plant in spring or fall.

### FLOWERING TREES

**Catalpa** (*Catalpa bignonioides*)

Height: 40 ft. Tolerates moist soils. Showy flowers start when the tree is about 7 years old. Sometimes called "Indian Bean" because of the long slender seed pods. Very large leaves.

**Southern Crabapple** (*Malus angustifolia*)

Fragrant pink blossoms attract hummingbirds. Fruit is valuable for wildlife.

**Mayhaw** (*Crataegus opaca*)

Tolerates moist soils. Fruit makes a tart and flavorful jelly.

**Dogwood** (*Cornus florida*)

White flower bracts in spring, red fall foliage. Birds enjoy winter berries. Full sun or understory.

## 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**