

Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

March 2013



There will not be a meeting in March.

Please Stop by the FNPS Booth at the Spring Plant Show.

Date: **Friday, March 15 & Saturday, March 16, 2013**

Place: **Covington Fairgrounds**

Directions: *The Fairgrounds can be accessed from either Collins Blvd (Hwy 190) or Columbia Blvd. Follow the Plant Show signs.*

From the President's Corner

Greetings All,

The February meeting at Hummingbird Hill Habitat was enjoyable and educational. We learned more about sustainable plants, both native and imported. A couple of members of the free "Pest Control Squad" showed up - two cold, but friendly non-venomous snakes. We warmed up the little rat snake that was by the large red mulberry (*Morus rubra*) tree and then released it. A long black racer was catching some rays in its favorite spot by the pond. Some of the humans were worried about it because it was so still, but I'm happy to report that it was hunting for mice or lizards by the pump house a couple of days ago. Thanks again to all who came and helped package the seeds for the FNPS Booth at the Spring Plant Show which will be held on March 15-16, 2013.

Our educational booth at the show helps to spread the word about the benefits and beauty of native plants in the landscape. New and renewing FNPS members may choose three of the native trees and plants that we will have available at the show. Our newsletters will continue to spread the word to our members throughout the year. The Spring Plant Show is also a great opportunity to make new plant friends. Visitors to the booth will be offered free seed packets and encouraged to enter a series of free drawings to win native plants. We will offer informational leaflets about native plants through the seasons, and answer some specific questions about the native plants found on the North Shore.

The 5 varieties of tree seedlings that we ordered from the Forestry Department have been potted and most are budding out. A membership form and information about the trees is provided below. We hope to see you there. *Yvonne L. Bordelon*

Sustainable Native Trees

It is better to wait until fall or winter when the weather is cool and damp to transplant trees and/or shrubs. If you do choose to plant in spring, then extra care must be taken to ensure that the plants are well hydrated, especially during the heat of summer.

New and returning members who pay their dues by the end of the show will be able to choose three free plants from the following five trees and the many other native plants which will be available at the show.

Crabapple (*Malus spp.*)

Our native crabapple will grow in upland and lowland conditions. Crabapple trees are beautiful small trees that bloom with lovely pale pink blossoms in the spring. The flowers are followed by fruit of varying color and size, depending on the type of crabapple. Southern crabapples (*Malus angustifolia*) are about the size of a small plum and are yellow when ripe. The fruit can be collected in late summer and in the fall, depending on the zone you live in. They make great jelly and preserves. The fruit is also eaten by many different animals, so crabapples are good trees to plant for wildlife.

Mature Size: 20' x 15' max

How to grow: Full sun, well-drained acid soil. Do not plant near cedar trees.

Parts used: Fruits.

Uses: Fruit, jelly, preserves, cider, wildlife value, fragrant spring flowers and fall color.

Mulberry (*Morus spp.*)

Red mulberry (*Morus rubra*) is native to the United States, but the black mulberry (*Morus nigra*) has naturalized over much of the Southeastern United States since it was imported in an attempt to start a silk trade here. The female trees of both species have delicious berries, and other parts of the plants are edible too. Female mulberry trees are bird magnets, and will attract a variety of birds to your yard. Like blackberries, mulberries start out red and turn purple when ripe. One drawback is that the purple juice of the fruit will stain things, so the tree should not be located near a house, driveway, etc. A good method for harvesting ripe mulberries is to lay a piece of plastic on the ground under the tree and shake the limbs. The ripe berries fall off easily. They can be used for sauces, jellies, jams, tarts, pies or can be eaten raw. Mulberry trees are found in rich soil, open woods, & fencerows.

Mature Size: 70' x 40'

How to grow: Thrives in fertile, acid to alkaline, moist soil with full sun to partial shade.

Parts used: Fruit, new shoots & leaves.

Uses: Fresh fruit, jelly, cold drink & cooked vegetable. Fall color and attracts wildlife.

Mayhaw (*Crataegus aestivalis* or *C. opaca*)

The mayhaw is one of the many native hawthorn trees. Its edible red fruit (pomme) is prized by jelly makers. In the wild it grows near water where it will form small thickets. This deciduous tree is also at home on higher land.

Mature Size: 20-30' X 20-30' max

How to grow: Plant in full sun to partial shade. Grow in moderately wet highland, acid soils, but will tolerate most growing conditions. Do not plant near cedars.

Parts used: Fruits.

Uses: Fruit, jelly, wildlife value including birds and pollinators.

Mayhaw Jelly Recipe

3 lb. mayhaws

4 cups water

¼ cup lemon juice

7 ½ cups sugar

1 pouch liquid pectin

Wash and crush fruit; add water; bring to a boil and simmer for 10 min. Extract juice. Measure out 4 cups. Add lemon juice and sugar. Follow standard procedure for making jelly with liquid pectin.

Rough-leaf Dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*)

This native, deciduous flowering tree can grow in low, wet, clay soils and on dry limestone hillsides. The bloom is a viburnum-like cluster of small white flowers. White fruit follows. Unlike the flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), rough-leaf can tolerate stressful environments.

Mature Size: 30 x 20' max

How to grow: Full sun to shade in wetlands and on dry limestone hills.

Uses: Flowers and fruit used by pollinators and other wildlife. Attractive purple fall color and will tolerate environmental stress.

Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)

This native deciduous, large shrub or small tree usually occurs in low, marshy sites. It has an open, wide crown with many branches. Butterflies and pollinators use its globe-like, creamy-white flowers. The seeds are eaten by water fowl.

Mature Size: 15 x 12' max

How to grow: Plant in full sun to partial shade. Grow in wet, marshy to moist soils in full sun to part shade.

It's a good understory tree/shrub for naturalistic settings.

Uses: Wildlife value including butterflies, water fowl and pollinators

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 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 2013

President: Yvonne Bordelon

Vice President: Kraig Stutes

Treasurer: David Scherer

Recorder: A.J. Bailey

Newsletter: Nick Blady nblady77@gmail.com

Publishers: Candyce & David Scherer

Hospitality Coordinator: Deborah Nolan

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

FNPS Meeting Dates

March 15-16, 2013 Spring Garden Show at Covington Fairgrounds - **No Meeting in March**

Sunday, April 21, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. – Place – A.J. Bailey's house, Plant Swap.

Sunday, May 19, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. Place – Kraig Stutes' house, Mandeville Pottery Hill Site Tour.

Check the **FNPS Facebook page** for other native plant dates and news.



Folsom Native Plant Society
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