# Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

May 2013

## Next Meeting Date: Sunday, May 19, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

Place: Kraig Stutes Home, 539 Albert, Mandeville, LA 70448

**Directions:** Get on I-12 East. Take exit 65 toward Mandeville, merge onto LA-59 S. Turn left onto US-190 E/Florida St. 0.8 mi. Turn right onto Albert St. Destination will be on the left on the corner of

Albert and Livingston. Please park on Livingston St. (See attached map pdf.)

#### From the President's Corner

Greetings All,

Spring of 2013 has been unusual to say the least, rainy and cold then warm and dry and back again. I wonder what this summer will be like? Plants that are blooming in my yard include Indian pink (*Spigelia marilandica*), daisy fleabane (*erigeron annuus*), Louisiana blue star (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*), skullcap (*Scutelliari integrifolia*), white water lilies (*Nymphaea odorata*), giant coneflower (*Rudbeckia maxima*) and the last of the Louisiana irises, zigzag (*Iris brevicaulis*).

We hope to receive a flat of 36 swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) plants from Operation Milkweed before the May 19th meeting. That should be enough so that everyone attending can take a plant home as a summer vacation project. (Sorry, still the teacher at heart.)

Today I saw a clutch of red and black Lubber grasshopper (Devil's Horse) nymphs. For the next few weeks the hungry little lubbers will be hatching out in numbers of 50 or more. These little insects can eat an entire plant in a few hours. They have practically no predators and grow into enormous grasshoppers that even alligators won't eat. In summer, thousands of Devil's Horses can cover roads and land in south Louisiana.

The May meeting will be held at Kraig Stutes' home in Mandeville. We will also tour the Pottery Hill site nearby. Kraig says that he is thinking about throwing a bunch of chicken on the grill for the meeting - nothing fancy. Anyone who wants to throw something else on the grill is welcome. As usual, bring a covered side dish or dessert if you desire. We may need a few extra chairs, so if you have a folding chair that you could bring, please bring it.

As for the tour of Pottery Hill, there are trails at the site, but still a lot of poison ivy. You will need to dress with this in mind, especially if you are allergic to it. Mosquito repellent may also be a good idea.

This is our last meeting before summer vacation. We'll see your bright, shining faces again in September. I hope that you have a good summer and that you will observe and record both unusual weather and native plant occurrences.  $y_{\text{Nonne}} \mathcal{L}$  Bordelon

## Louisiana Gardener Magazine

Congratulations to our own A.J. Bailey who has joined the ranks of Louisiana Gardener magazine writers. Look for her first article in the July/August issue of the magazine.

## Question from John Cleary:

"I need to find a native groundcover which spreads, is less than 4" high (the shorter, the better), and requires no mowing. [Is there a southern version of the north's thyme?] Does anyone know of such a ground cover? It does not have to appear grass-like." Please contact John if you can help.

## Some Milkweeds (Asclepias) Native to Louisiana

By Yvonne L. Bordelon

In Wildflowers of Louisiana and Adjoining States (p. 142-145), Clair Brown details 7 species of Asclepias (milkweed) that occur naturally; and Timme (in Wildflowers of Mississippi p. 55) lists another, A. longifolia, that I know is native to St. Tammany Parish.

Most native milkweeds are not available in nurseries. In Best Native Plants for Southern Gardens, Gil Nelson lists online mail order vendors which carry small numbers of native Asclepias species seeds.

#### They are:

Butterfly Encounters - <a href="http://www.buterflyencounters.com/">http://www.buterflyencounters.com/</a>
Easyliving Native Perennial Wildflower - <a href="http://www.easywildflowers.com/">http://www.milkweedflowers.com/</a>
Milkweed Farm - <a href="http://www.milkweedfarm.com/">http://www.milkweedflowers.com/</a>
Prairie Moon Nursery - <a href="http://www.prairiemoon.com/">http://www.prairiemoon.com/</a>

Most milkweeds (with the exception of A. tuberosa) exude milky sap when a leaf or stem is cut. All of the following milkweeds are perennials that are native to Louisiana. The links will take you to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower profile page for each species.

Asclepias incarnata, (Swamp Milkweed) - stems up to 6 feet tall. Pink to red flower clusters occur from July to October. Fruit is a smooth follicle 4-5 inches long. It grows in swampy places. http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\_plant=ASIN

A. lanceolata, (Red Milkweed) - stems 4-5 feet tall. Dull red flower clusters bloom from May to August. Fruit is erect. It grows in fresh to brackish marshes and wet sites in pinelands. <a href="http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\_plant=ASLA2">http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\_plant=ASLA2</a>

A. longifolia (Longleaf Milkweed) - stems 18-24 inches tall. Clusters of white with rose-colored tipped flowers bloom from May through June. Fruit follicle is long with a pointed tip. It grows in pinewoods, savannas and bogs. http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\_plant=ASLO

A. rubra, (Red Milkweed) - stems 4 to 6 inches long. Red (with tinges of yellow-orange) flowers bloom from May to September. Fruit follicles are erect and smooth. It grows in bogs, marshes and wet pineland sites. <a href="http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\_plant=ASRU">http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\_plant=ASRU</a>

A. tuberosa (Butterfly-weed or Orange Milkweed) - hairy stems 2-3 feet tall. Sap is clear. Bright orange or yellow flat-topped flower clusters bloom from May into July. Widespread in drier upland soil, but absent in the alluvial floodplain. It is drought tolerant.

http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\_plant=ASTU

A. variegata (White-flowered Milkweed) - solitary or small clumps of stems, 30-36 inches tall. Bright white flower clusters with small purple area blooms from May to June. It grows in mixed woods, occasional to locally abundant. <a href="http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\_plant=ASVA">http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\_plant=ASVA</a>

A. viridiflora (Green-flowered Milkweed) - simple stems 24-30 inches tall. Yellowish green flower clusters occur along stems from April to August. It grows in pinelands and is not abundant. http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\_plant=ASVI

A. viridis (Spider Milkweed) - stems 2-3 feet tall. Greenish flower clusters with purplish hoods bloom from March to September. Common and grows in prairie, fresh marshes and mixed woods, pinelands. http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\_plant=ASVI2

# 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>	Check One	
Family	Mail	\$18.00		
	Email	12.00		
Student	Mail	\$ 9.00		
	Email	6.00		
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: Candyce Scherer & Deborah Nolan

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

# **FNPS Meeting Dates**

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

We will be off for the summer, but meetings will resume in September. Keep up with LA native plant dates and news by checking

the FNPS Facebook page.



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