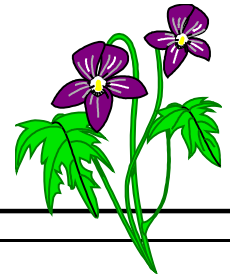


Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

May, 2007



Next Meeting Date: Sunday, May 20, 2007, 1:00 p.m.

Program: Propagation Stations – Members will present 3 different methods of propagating native plants to small groups as we rotate to each station. If you have extra seeds, please bring them. More information is given below. 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 old stoplight by the Texaco.) You'll 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.

From the President's Corner

Salutations to All,

I begin by relaying a message from our President Emeritus, John Larkin. Actually it is sort of a homework assignment. John implores each member to write down the name of at least one native plant that has been successfully propagated by methods other than seeds. He also wants you to note the time of the year and the process that you used to successfully propagate this native plant. In keeping with our purpose "focusing primarily on our native wildflowers, which are fast disappearing", we hope to compile these propagation methods into a printed booklet. Each member will receive a copy and the document will also be posted on our website, on the Propagation Page, at a later date. So let's pool our knowledge and participate in this worthwhile venture so that the next generation will benefit from our experiences. You can bring hand written copies to the next meeting or email your propagation tip to us at fnpsinfo@aol.com.

In a similar vein, everyone is encouraged to spend the summer break harvesting wildflower seeds to propagate for yourself and to share with the club. We especially need hummer & butterfly plants like: Texas Star Hibiscus (*Hibiscus coccineus*), Swamp Mallow (*H. moscheutos*) and other native hibiscus, Cypress Vine (*Ipomoea quamoclit*), Red / orange Morning Glory (*Ipomoea coccinea*), Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta* or *R. fulgida*), Purple Cone-flower (*Echinacea* spp.), *Coreopsis* spp., Texas Sage (*Salvia coccinea*), Lyre-leaf Sage (*Salvia lyrata*), Self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) or Spotted Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*).

Our May meeting / propagation workshop should be both fun and informative. We will divide into 3 small groups and will have 3 different Stations, each conducted by a member and each featuring a different propagation technique.

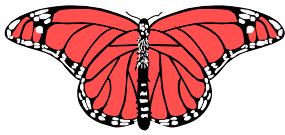
Station 1 - Jim R. and John L. will assist the groups in the technique of "root pruning" the many young redbuds in John's yard. In the fall these will be ready to transplant into pots to be given out to members and at our booth.

Station 2 - A.J. will demonstrate how to make cuttings and also how to do air-layering.

Station 3 - Yvonne and Al will provide hands-on instructions in planting seeds. Each member will choose from the various seeds available and will plant one pot to take home.

To keep up with Louisiana native plants during our summer break you may want to join the new LNPS Google Group at: <http://groups.google.com/group/LNPS?hl=en> . You can receive emails, or just go on-line to read about native plants, learn about activities and view photos.

May blooms to look for include flowers in many shades of blue and purple like Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*), Pickeral Reed (*Pontederia cordata*), Wild Petunias (*Ruellia caroliniensis* and *R. nudifolia*), Stiff-leaved Verbena (*Verbena rigida*), Passion Vine (*Passiflora incarnata*), Rough Skullcap (*Scutellaria integrifolia*), Stoke's Aster (*Stokesia laevis*), Self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and Venus Looking glass (*Triodanis perfoliata*). Also take notice of the fading flowers and tiny, *smooth* seed pods of our native wisteria (*Wisteria frutescens*) which is more well-behaved than its oriental cousin.



Yvonne Bordelon

"Only when the last tree has died and the last river has been poisoned and the last fish has been caught will we realize that we cannot eat money."

19th century Cree Indian saying

"The best friend of earth and man is the tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources on the earth."

Frank Lloyd Wright

Tree Facts: Trees Provide Wildlife Habitat

- Songbird populations are declining dramatically.
 - Birds need trees for cover, nesting, and as a food source.
 - Other wildlife and creatures need trees to survive in urban areas.
-

PLANT RESCUE ALERT!!!

*** The site along Hwy. 21 in front of Flower Estates, including the woods, will soon become a road and parking lot. Jim marked many natives including **Spider Milkweed** ([Asclepias viridis](#)) before the bush hog came through to cut the grass. Look for scattered clumps of shredded orange surveyor's tape. |

*** The grassy area adjacent to the Winn Dixie parking lot (the end near the Family Dollar Store) on the corner of Hwy 190 by-pass & Hwy 25/Hwy 190 has dozens of [Scutellaria integrifolia](#), **Rough Skullcap** in bloom that are constantly being crushed by the 18 wheelers that park there. Also in danger are Longleaf Milkweed ([Asclepias longifolia](#)), Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*), various types of St. John's Wort (*Hypericum*) and Sneezeweed (*Helenium flexuosum*).



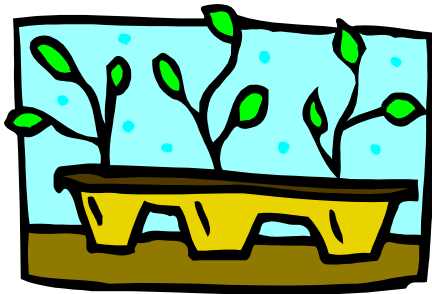
May Native Blooms

[Asclepias longifolia](#), Longleaf Milkweed
[Arisaema triphyllum](#), Jack-in-the-pulpit
Baptisia leucophaea, Nodding Indigo
Bidens aristosa, Sticktight
Bidens pilosa, Shepherd's Needle
Coreopsis lanceolata, Coreopsis
[Clematis crispa](#), Leather-flower, Clematis
Erigeron philadelphicus, Daisy Fleabane
Eryngium prostratum, Creeping eryngo
Erythrina herbacea, Coral Bean, Mamou
Helenium flexuosum, Sneezeweed
[Hydrangea quercifolia](#), Oak-leaved Hydrangea
Illicium floridanum, Florida Anise
Iris brevicaulis, Zig-zag-stemmed
Itea virginica, Virginia Sweetpire
[Lonicera sempervirens](#), Coral Honeysuckle
Monarda fistulosa, Wild Bergamot
Nymphaea odorata, Water Lily, white
Passiflora incarnata Maypop, Passion Flower
Penstemon spp.
[Physostegia virginiana](#), Obedient Plant
[Pontederia cordata](#), Pickerel-weed

Prunella vulgaris, Self-heal
Oenothera speciosa, Showy evening Primrose
Oxallis rubra, *O. violacea* Violet Wood Sorrel
Phlox divaricata, Blue Phlox
Ranunculus fascicularis, Early Buttercup
Rudbeckia fulgida, Bracted Cone-flower; *R. amplexicaulis* and *R. hirta*, Black-eyed Susan
Ruellia caroliniensis and [R. nudiflora](#), Wild Petunias
Salvia lyrata, Lyre-leaved Sage
Sarracenia alata, Yellow Pitcher-plant
[Scutellaria integrifolia](#), Rough Skullcap
Sisyrinchium atlanticum, *S. capillare*, Blue eyed grass
[Spigelia marilandica](#), Indian Pink
Spiranthes spp., Ladies' tresses orchid
[Stachys floridana](#), Tuberous Hedge-nettle (invasive)
[Stokesia laevis](#), Stokes' Aster
Taraxacum officinale, Dandelion
Tradescantia virginiana, Spiderwort
Triodanis perfoliata, Venus' Looking-glass
Verbena rigida, Stiff verbena
[Viburnum dentatum](#), Arrowwood

Propagation Tips from Jim Russell

Jim gave us a quick and dirty primer on propagation. His favorite tool is a serrated fisherman's



knife and he also uses a butter knife to dig out large roots like the spider milkweed. Purple passion-flower and wahoo cuttings from the root or stem can be saved by making a mini-greenhouse from clear water or cola bottles. Using a pot with notches cut into it and pinning branches to the ground for several months until they have roots is another good method for green wood or more mature wood branches like on Walter's Viburnum, Darrow's huckleberry, wild blueberry and Florida Hobblebush (*Agarista populifolia*). Marking plants in the woods with home depot flags or surveyor's tape and

root pruning is effective, too.

When retrieving milkweed, it is, as described by Yvonne Bordelon, as tedious as archeological digging. Use small, sharp instruments and carefully take the dirt out by hand. Dig all around the plant, working toward the rhizome. Some of them are well over 12 inches long. The usual caveats are in order, e.g., take as much of the original dirt as possible, keep moist IMMEDIATELY and bring a lot of water for yourself. Be patient. Last fall, I retrieved a dozen or so of the rhizomes, and all but one made it. All died down from the dig, of course, but came back in the spring.

Recommended Reading

Jim recently sent us a very informative article entitled, “**Going Native With Plants: a new-old direction for water conservation**” by Jodi Torpey which appeared in the Christian Science Monitor about communities all over the United States that are using native plants to correct many of the ecological and financial problems that we face today. We have included excerpts of the solutions that

could be used here in St. Tammany Parish. The full version of the April 18, 2007 article can be found on-line at: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0418/p13s01-sten.html> .

Native plants are emerging as the new heroes in a growing struggle to deal with climate change. In communities that consistently have too little water, drought-tolerant mesquite trees, buffalo grass, and colorful Texas red sage provide attractive landscaping that doesn't require watering. Native plants also come to the rescue in areas with the opposite problem, storms that dump heavy rainfall and overwhelm the infrastructure for dealing with storm water. There, plants such as marsh milkweed, cardinal flower, bloodroot, and great blue lobelia can soak up the excess before it can run off.

Native plants are trees, shrubs, and wildflowers that grow in a specific region where they have evolved over time, adapting to the prevalent environmental conditions. Because of this, they can conserve water resources more efficiently than nonnative plants, which are naturally adapted to other climates.

In Denver, where the water-conserving landscape movement known as xeriscaping was launched in 1981, one of the first efforts in the city's sustainability program saw the Mile High Youth Corps replanting large areas of lawn with flower beds of drought-tolerant native plants at Denver's City and County Building and in front of three area recreation centers.

These conservation gardens and the many others that followed are one part of Denver's sweeping environmental initiative called Greenprint Denver (www.greenprintdenver.org).

The program's goals include conserving water, reducing greenhouse emissions, using renewable energy, reducing waste, promoting mass transit, and increasing the amount of "green" housing that's affordable.

"Greenprint Denver sets an action agenda for sustainable development," Mayor John Hickenlooper says. "Every agency of the city government has to pass through the filter of Greenprint." All agencies from parks and recreation to waste management must consider and follow policies and practices that encourage environmental health, economic opportunity, and smart growth strategies.

Native plants ease storm-water runoff

In Kansas City, Mo., where rain often causes flooding, native plants are providing a creative solution to managing storm water. The 10,000 Rain Gardens project is a communitywide environmental initiative designed to improve the quality of water flowing into streams, rivers, and lakes. (See www.rainkc.com and www.kcmo.org/mayor.nsf/web/raingarden?opendocument.)

Rain gardens are strategically placed in low spots in the landscape and designed to catch and hold rainwater, preventing it from running off the site. (Runoff causes flooding and is also responsible for polluting waterways with fertilizers and pesticides.) When planted with water-loving native plants, a rain garden becomes a beautiful and functional landscape addition that captures water before it can cause problems.

Young environmentalists

Meanwhile, at the Highlands Center for Natural History in Prescott, Ariz., native plants are helping to educate the next generation of scientists, conservationists, and architects. The center (www.highlandscenter.org) is committed to helping children and adults become wise caretakers of the land.

Conservation concepts are woven into every program at the Lynx Creek Site, an 80-acre classroom without walls that it operates in the Prescott National Forest. Executive director Nichole

Trushell has modeled the center's learning philosophy on her own experience. She says roaming in the woods inspired her to become a botanist.

In addition to the outdoor experiential learning, the campus itself is a model for ecofriendly green building concepts and conservation. A new learning center generates the electricity it needs by using solar panels and a battery backup system. The center's butterfly roof has its low point in the center to direct rainwater at two points toward native plantings.

A maintenance building sheds rainwater into collection tanks, which is then used to enhance constructed wetlands that treat the center's waste water.

In the future, the center will plant an arboretum to showcase the native plants it offers during its biannual public plant sales. The arboretum will also serve as a living demonstration of how native plants help conserve water in the landscape.

Whether saving irrigation water, improving water quality, or teaching lessons in conservation, native plants are doing their part to help the environment, just as nature originally intended.

April Meeting Highlights

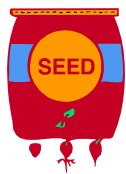
The April meeting began as usual with eating, conversing and making a guess for the mystery plant drawing. John then read our Purpose and we welcomed new members, Al and Jean Thibodeaux, and guest, Sally Rosenblum. David announced that we have \$1800.00 in the treasury and 24 new members (as a result of the Master Gardener Spring Show) and 2 more joined or re-joined at the meeting bringing the grand total up to 71 FNPS members. A.J. said that the Master Gardeners thought that our native plant give away idea helped to keep the show lively and they want us to come back next year.

The answer to the mystery plant question was Indian Pink (*Spigelia marilandica*). We had 2 winners: Marion and A.J. Laura brought an Indian Pink for the swap and that was added to the give away.

Ms. Ollie's first grade class is caring for the Live Oak and Red Mulberry that we planted at Folsom Elementary. Marion is looking into planting a tree for Lois Gagliano at the Folsom Catholic Church. The Earth Day Assembly presentation was postponed because of some field testing that conflicted with the planning of the program.

The website has been helpful to many people, including a scout master who was planning a field trip to Lake Ramsay and Abita Creek Flatwoods Preserves. We received a nice thank-you email after recommending some guide books. We put a "hit counter" on our website on Feb. 27, 2007 and to date the FNPS website has been visited 1036 times, which averages out to about 15 hits per day.

Our next public appearance will be at Mizell's Festival which is usually the Saturday after Labor Day (Sept. 8, 2007) so we will need to have a planning meeting in August (either Aug. 18 or 25) as we did last year. We will have a volunteer sign up list at the May meeting. We'll send out a notice to everyone in late July when plans are confirmed. In the mean time COLLECT NATIVE PLANT SEEDS for the FNPS seed packets that are such good advertising for our club.



Halfway through our meeting a large, beautiful Speckled King Snake visited us. Al courageously captured and calmed the savage beast, so that all could observe it before its release. The meeting continued albeit with some chair shifting.

We discussed a theme for next year as well as possible speakers. Theme suggestions included: Annuals, Perennials or Monocots (grasses, sedges, Irises, etc.). Possible speakers mentioned were Linda Chance, Mark Pastorek, Bill Fontenot and Dr. Charles Allen. We'll vote on next year's theme at the May meeting so if you have any more ideas to add to the pot, please let us know.

April Plants that were Swapped:

Many beauties were shared and swapped. Here's a list of most of them:

Penstemon tenuis – Sharpsepal Beardtongue	Yellow fall crapapple (Malus)
Monarda punctata – Spotted Horsemint	Parsley haw (Crataegus marshallii)
Hypericum – St. Andrew's Cross	White violet (Viola)
Baptisia sphaerocarpa – Yellow False Indigo	Hickory nut
Hibiscus coccineus – Texas Star Hibiscus	Sassafras
Gelsemium sempervirens – Carolina Jessamine	Orange flowered morning glory (Ipomoea coccinea)
Amelanchier arborea – Service Berry	Blue eyed grass
Liatris pycnostachya – Blazing Star	Verbena rigida
Scutellaria spp. – Dark Blue Skullcap	Clematis crispa
Ipomoea quamoclit – Cypress Vine	Jewel weed
Viola langloisii - Langlois Violet	Coreopsis tinctoria
Chionanthus virginicus – Fringe Tree	Ardisia (introduced)
Ruellia nudiflora – Violet Wild Petunia	Firecracker vine (Manettia cordifolia) (introduced)
Florida Hobblebush (Agarista populifolia)	LA iris (blue)
Indian Pink (Spigelia marilandica)	Flowering Dogwood (cornus florida)
Phlox pilosa	Silverbell (Halesia diptera)
Wahoo, Strawberry Bush (Euonymus americanus)	Trees from the Booth:
Passion Flower (Passiflora incarnata)	Pinus palustris – Longleaf Pine
Poppy Mallow (Callirhoe)	Quercus nigra – Water Oak
Partridge Berry (Mitchella repens)	Quercus alba – White Oak
Devil's walking stick (Arallia spinosa)	

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

This native perennial is common in the pineland of the Florida Parishes where it occurs in compact clumps. The fluffy flowers vary in color from whitish, faint lavender, to deep blue-violet and blooms from May into September. It is a monotypic genus (it has only one species). It is in the Sunflower family. If you know the answer, write the name of the plant and your name on a slip of paper at the May meeting to be eligible for the door prize drawing.

Protecting Our Scenic Rivers -- an editorial comment

Just when we thought that the post-Katrina horrors were coming to an end another catastrophe hits. Our parish council, in a misguided effort to improve drainage, has caused severe, possibly irreparable, damage to the Tchefuncte River from north of the Hwy 190 bridge to the power lines that go through River Forest Subdivision. While land owners tried to prevent the heavy equipment from destroying the riparian areas, the many government agencies involved dropped the ball and allowed the private contractors to roll through with bobcats and track-hoes ripping through almost everything in their path. Our little part of the Tchefuncte was the least affected, mostly because of the rugged terrain, but also because the sub-contractor had a heart. However other riparian areas were laid bare in a 25-30 foot (100 feet wide at one spot) swath along the river. In many places the track-hoe destroyed large areas of the bank, uprooting living trees and shrubs and blocking drainage areas in order to get to a few bits of Katrina debris. Some of the native plants that were lost include mature Wild Olives ([Osmanthus americanus](#)), 10 foot tall native azaleas (Rhododendron canescens), Southern Magnolias (Magnolia grandiflora), ancient female American Hollies (Ilex opaca), many native shrubs such as Arrow-wood Viburnum (Viburnum dentatum) and countless native wildflowers. It will take years for the river and the forest to repair itself. However, after Al complained to NRCS

headquarters in Alexandria, a biologist and engineer arrived and we gave them a tour of the damage. The result was a cease and desist order and the NRCS assures us that they will do everything possible to repair the worst damage.

The question everyone is asking is, "Where were the government inspectors that were supposed to stop the contractors when they first did things not allowed in the permit?" Another question deals with the parish's emergency order which infringed upon the rights of land owners to deny the heavy equipment access to their property. It finally took the efforts of a small group of land owners, working independently, to bring this horrendous mistake to the attention of the powers that be. The framework of checks and balances was in place, but it failed at many different levels and this widespread damage is the result.

As protectors of St. Tammany's native plants and the water and ground so basic to their survival, perhaps the FNPS should help form a coalition of concerned citizens to watch the river all the way from Folsom (or Washington Parish, if possible) to Lake Pontchartrain. We already have 8 families who live along the Tchefuncte River from Folsom to Tchefuncta Estates who are on alert. We cannot sit back and think that the government agencies will take care of all things. We must be ever vigilant so that such destruction does not happen again.

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

Student School Name: _____
_____ \$9.00 Mail

_____ \$12.00 e-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
Hospitality Coordinator: Candyce Scherer
New Member Mentor: Temae Theriot
FNSP Website: (<http://folsomnps.org>)
Emily Canter & Yvonne Bordelon

Dates to Remember

May 25-27, 2007: Florida Parish Trip. [For more info](#) contact [Charles Allen](#), [Rick Webb](#), [Betty Miley](#) or [Tracy Banowitz](#)

May 18, 2007, 10:00 a.m. Gardening a la Louisiana with Betty Miley (using native herbs & plants for a healthier environment), Covington Branch Library, Registration Requested (893-6280)

June 14-17

Annual BBBB (Bogs, Birds, Butterflies etc plus this year Broadleaved Barbara's Buttons) in the Fort Polk area. Charles Allen native@camtel.net, [DOWNLOAD DETAILS \(MS Word\)](#)

July 18-21, 2007: Cullowhee Native Plant Conference. [MORE INFO](#)

August 25, 2007: Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society summer/fall meeting. For more info contact [Jim Foret](#) or [C. Allen](#).

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

Please note:

Next Meeting:

Sunday, May 20, 2007

1:00 P.M

At the Home of John Larkin