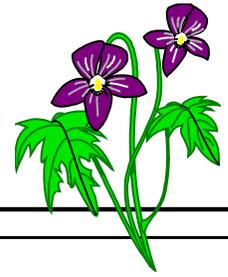


Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

April, 2009



Next Meeting Date: Sunday, May 24, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

The Lee Road Branch Public Library 79213 Hwy 40, Covington, LA 70435 **Telephone:** (985) 893-6284 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. Branch is the first building on left after passing Lee Road Junior High School.

Program will focus on summer care for the native plants, especially those fairly recently transplanted. Bring show and tell plants or plants that need identifying or ones to share.

FROM "THE PREZ", JIM RUSSEL

Greetings and solicitations to one and all!

Our next meeting will be Sunday, May 24 2009 at 1:00 at the Lee Branch Library. Go up Lee Road until you come to a stop sign. Go straight for one more block. The library is the next building past the school on the left.

The topic for the meeting will focus on summer care for the native plants, especially those fairly recently transplanted. Remember, if you have extra seedlings, cuttings, seeds, etc, please bring them along to share or swap with others.

As always, if you have questions about plant care or identity, bring in what you can of the plant and we'll try to help. There's a good chance the answer will be we don't know, but we will try.

Tips for native plants in our summers

I define summer from May 1 to October 15. Our summers are long, very humid with either too much rain or drought, intense sun, and very little nocturnal cooling. Bugs abound.

Use lots of mulch – but do not use cypress mulch. Our cypress forests are not allowed to regrow because of the American addiction to cypress mulch. The machines go through the wetlands with no thought what their huge, deep trenches from the tires damage.

St. Tammany and other parts of the north shore have pine trees. Millions of 'em. Each pine makes zillions of needles that last a year, and then drop. Instead of raking them up and putting them into the community garbage dump, spread them around your beds up to several inches. Same thing for grass clippings and small remnants of trimming bushes and trees. You would be replacing the local nutrients taken out by the flora that grew there, not adding to land fills, and trapping carbon that would be released into the atmosphere if you would burn the stuff.

Fertilization is often abandoned with native plants, especially as they take hold and get larger. If you do fertilize, you don't need much. Compost and leaf litter worked into the soil usually does fine, and they contribute to the larger ecology in that spot by encouraging tons of microorganisms and tiny but visible fauna and flora that actually are the foundation of an ecosystem.

Water gardening – what an idea! - Trapping and using water on-site, rather than trying to get rid of it as fast as possible and then spending more money immediately after to water the lawn or gardens. True, probably water gardening will not make a very big difference in water use, but every little bit helps. And it also helps to change the mentality of wasting so much. Trap water with contours of dirt or cement pieces, don't see low, wet areas as wasted space but as different canvasses on which to make creative new garden spots, using our own wetlands plants – and folks, we got lots of nice ones, for sun and for shade, shrubs and trees, graminoids

(plants that look like grass, including the grasses) and ferns. By looking at your land's ups and downs that it naturally has, you can probably add more micro niches into its ecology than you realized. That means more plants and more fantastic little gardens and magical areas.

Don't use bug killers unless necessary, and then use as directed on the manufacturer's container (more is not better), use as little as possible, and try to spot treat rather than go for spraying the entire area. A few bad bugs are fine and actually add to the biodiversity up and down the food chain in that section. Do you like lady bugs and daddy longlegs, frogs and toads? Those predators gotta eat other bugs and crawly or slimy things.

Use mulch as weed control, or placing black plastic on spots that have problematic trouble makers. A few weeds, especially if native, are no problem usually and add to the ecosystem. Invasive exotics are another story. If you use herbicides, again, mix according to instructions and no more, try to use chemicals that break down quickly into more benign substances, and use as little as possible in as little possible space as necessary. To kill off tough invasives such as privet, cut the bush or tree to a more manageable size, and then spray as directed. I find that painting the stump with a liquid chemical made for that purpose helps immensely. I also use it on root suckers coming up and at the end of a branch I prune on trees that then sprout out a ton more, like crepe myrtle. This liquid is much easier to find at feed stores than a big box.

Fungus is less of a problem for the natives than for non-natives and often can be treated by taking off the affected limb. Again, if chemicals are needed, use as directed and as little as possible.

Compost happens. Such things as: grass clippings, salad scraps, coffee grinds, and the like, along with some shredded paper, plus a little time, makes for great a soil additive. Contrary to what sales people tell you, you don't need fancy chemicals or special bins, at least in the Deep South. In drought, wet it a bit. In the winter, the decomposition is warm and you can stick cutting starts or semi-sensitive plants into it.

Little piles of brush provide extra cover for small animals, and if big and loose enough, can serve as safe places for birds.

Stay hydrated and cool. Use sun screen, a hat, and sunglasses that block UV rays. Follow all safety instructions on chemicals and tools.

Spend the time during the heat of the day or at night looking up information on line or in books about natives, placement, uses, etc. Go to still natural areas and take notes on what grows where, under what conditions, with what other plants. Look up our website (<http://folsomnps.org>) with its information and links. Plan ahead for the fall – it seems to never come, and then suddenly it's late October/November, the start of planting season. Get ready early.

Mark out things to do on your property, like what should be moved or even removed, what could be added and how to prepare for the additions. I like to start root pruning seedlings, root suckers, and transplants early as possible. To do this, cut with a sharp shovel. Go around the edge of the root line if you can, usually that is along the edge of where the branches extend to (also called the drip line). Sometimes it will have to be smaller. With the shovel, make a circle by going around the root circle as deeply as you can. WATER right away, or even before and after. Later in the summer, once or more often, repeat the process to keep the roots inside the new root ball and to keep roots from other plants away. Watch for dehydration. Mulch well.

Root Pruning

Speaking of root pruning, I am beginning to notice that many of the plants that live in a slough, swale, marsh, or swamp have very shallow roots but very extensive horizontal root systems. Rescuing these is a real problem because of this. I am starting to use root pruning more, and having more success than simply cutting the roots around the plant, quickly wetting it, and transplanting it right away. This is the approach I used with the Fetterbush (*Leucothoe racemosa*). I don't have time to root prune my root suckers of the passion flower (*Passiflora incarnata*) because by the time they come up, they are in a place that needs to be mowed. With them, watering before and after digging them up and IMMEDIATELY transplanting into a pot helps. I place the pot in a shady spot with a plastic, clear bag with holes cut out, and propped up with sticks to provide a mini-greenhouse. Watch out because the pot dries faster than you would think. It needs air ventilation or else fungus sets in. Success rate has gone from about 25% to about 60%.

Keep a sharp eye out for invasives such as Chinese Tallow, the privets, Alligator Weed, Japanese Climbing Fern, and the like. Eradicate them.

Plants Identified at the April Meeting

Swamp Red Bay	<i>Persea palustris</i>	Walter's Viburnum	<i>Viburnum obovatum</i>
Red Buckeye	<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	Artemisia	
Fetterbush	<i>Lyonia lucida</i>	Louisiana Blue Phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>
Lead Plant	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	Black Gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>
Blueberry		Black locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
Bald Cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Parsley Hawthorne	<i>Crataegus marshallii</i>
Southern Crabapple	<i>Malus angustifolia</i>	Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>
Bradford Pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Virginia Sweet Spire	<i>Itea virginica</i>
Common Pear	<i>Pyrus communis</i>	Mayhaw	<i>Crataegus opaca</i>
Maypop	<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>	Rough Skullcap	<i>Scintillaria integrifolia</i>
Swamp Bay	<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Yellow Baptesia	
Sumac		Milkweed	
Violet Wood Sorrel	<i>Oxalis violacea</i>	Wild Poinsettia	<i>Euphorbia cyathophora</i>
Goldenrod		Baccharis	
Strawberry Bush	<i>Euonymus americana</i>	Mountain Mint	<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>
Wahoo	<i>Euonymus atropurpurea</i>	Royal Fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>
Arrowwood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Butterfly Gaura	<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i>
Mexican Primrose	<i>Oenothera speciosa</i>	Golden Tickseed	<i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i>
Tuber Vervain	<i>Verbena rigida</i>	Scarlet Sage	<i>Salvia coccinia</i>
Silverbell	<i>Halesia</i>	Mealycup Sage	<i>Salvia farinacea</i>
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Scarlet Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon murrayanus</i>
Elm			
Anise			

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 Sweetspire
[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, Mexican Primrose
Oxalis rubra, *O. violacea* Violet Wood Sorrel
Phlox divaricata, Blue Phlox
Ranunculus fascicularis, Early Buttercup
Rudbeckia fulgida, Bracted Cone-flower; *R. amplexicaulis*, *R. hirta*, Black-eyed Susan and *R. maxima*, Giant Cone-flower
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](#), Tuberos 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

Questions??????

Other topics we can bring up at the meeting include: what is a usually easy and common plant that you just cannot grow, and what is a usually unusual and tough plant that you grew well, usually out of complete ignorance?

Does anyone want to have a meeting at their place during the summer? Usually we hibernate in the summer because with vacations, etc. attendance is very variable. I've noticed it is variable anyway. The hardest part would be getting the word out, and in this case, the computer will be used more than snail mail. The host should be notified as per RSVP politeness to plan more effectively. Topics could be simply walking or mosey-ing around to admire the property, come up with plant ID or ideas on what to put where, or listen to a speaker if somebody has a friend who can talk a bit. Maybe a small group could work on someone's garden or help setting up a garden in a park or school. From experience, though, planting shrubs or bushes would work out better than wild flower/forbs. These would not be official meetings.

If we can get someone to work the newsletter after this one – Yvonne is stepping down as newsletter magnate – maybe we could work on the occasional summer letter. This could be a vehicle for sending in questions via e-mail that the letter would try to cover, or show a suggestion at the next get together.

Also, if someone has things on a wish list (come on, we all do), the letters could publish them. Anyone who can help then would use the information provided to contact the wisher, and things could get worked out.

Rescue Worries

If an immediate rescue opportunity arises, take it, even in the heat of summer and day and whatever. The plant has a better chance of surviving and passing along local genes than it would being bulldozed and cemented over. Get permission first, though. Place any cuttings and seedlings immediately into moisture. I use at times native sphagnum moss that grows in back of my house that house been dampened. Works great. Keep misting everything, though.

Great Big Thanks

I would like to thank Yvonne Bordelon for doing such a fine job writing, editing, and doing whatever to give us our newsletter for such a long time. I am sure I am joined by all the others in expressing boundless appreciation. If not, any complainers are the next newsletter editors.

The best way to reach me is through my private e-mail: Swamprabbit8b@yahoo.com. The 8b is for our official USDA level but I think 8b is for winter and for summer we should in level 9. Wadya'll think?

Interesting Article

Here is an article from InterNaf (International Ataxia Foundation) support line about how a woman in British Columbia is a heroine for native plants and living with them, and fighting against greed and non-enforcement of laws.

An Anmore woman who helped craft the village's tree retention bylaw a couple of years ago now looks out the window of her home and sees a clearcut.

Elaine Willis lives on Sunnyside Road, where her older rancher-style home sits in the middle of a new, seven-lot subdivision called Chartwell Green. She used to be surrounded by a thick wall of trees — it was one of the reasons why she moved to the site from Coquitlam several years ago. Willis, who suffers from chronic illnesses, credits the natural setting for significantly improving her health.

Since at least one of the lots across from her house was stripped of trees recently, she wonders whether her health will deteriorate once again.

The cutting started just over a week ago at a rate Willis describes as "alarming" since the properties had already been selectively logged two years ago. About 20% of the trees, mostly mature hemlock, Willis said, were left in place.

The developer received a tree-cutting permit but when Willis obtained a copy of the document, she discovered that three of the lots had been approved for a clearcut and that the supporting documents for the tree-cutting application were out-of-date and did not provide information on the size and species of each tree, as required under the village's bylaw.

Willis also found the developer miscalculated the number of trees that would need to remain or be replanted on the properties. The bylaw states that properties of one acre or more must have at least 20% of the lots covered with existing or replanted trees; the developer determined just 20% of the number of trees (or two trees on a lot that previously had 10) had to remain. The bylaw requires replanting at a three-to-one ratio.

Willis convinced the village to issue a stop-work order until the proper information, as well as a replanting plan, could be submitted and she's not stopping there.

Willis wants the village council to start using a certified arborist to review tree-cutting applications, just as it uses a contract planner to review development proposals.

Howard Carley, the village's chief administration officer, said staff are still researching the tree retention bylaw to

determine what happened and whether the proper information was originally submitted by the developer.

"We're still working on that but my plan is to have a report for council on April 14," he said.

The report will also include recommendations on how to handle future tree-cutting applications. One option is to hire an arborist but Carley said staff are also looking at other options, including having the village's planner, chief administrative officer and public works officer review applications.

Source: spayne@tricitynews.com

Mystery Plant (from Clair Brown's Book)

I am a vine in the Grape family. Animals and birds, but not humans, eat my plentiful fruit. My flowers are nothing to look at. Folks often confuse me with poison ivy but I do not have three leaflets on my complex leaves. I give some autumn color. My common name is not very accurate as I grow faster than creeping. Who am I?

At the meeting, we will have paper that you can right down your name and guess to the mystery plant. All those who are correct will have a chance at winning a prize.

Membership Renewal Information

New members who joined from September to December 2008, are paid up for 2009. For everyone else, the 2009 renewals were due in January.

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 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 2009

President Emeritus: John Larkin

President: Jim Russell swamprabbit8b@yahoo.com

Program Chairman: Rod Downie

Treasurer: David Scherer

Plant Recording Committee Chairman: A.J. Bailey

Business Recorder: Al Bordelon

Newsletter: Al & Yvonne Bordelon

ylbordelon@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Distributors: Candyce & David Scherer

Hospitality Coordinator: Candyce Scherer

New Member Mentor: Temae Theriot

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

Dates to Remember

Sunday, May 24, 2009, 1:00 p.m. at Lee Road Library – FNPS Meeting

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

Please note:

Next Meeting:

Sunday, May 24, 2009

1:00 P.M

At: **The Lee Road Branch Public Library**