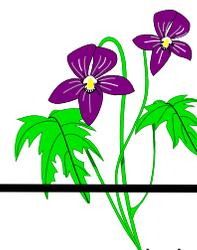


Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

May 2011



From the President's Corner

Hi Everyone, It is hard to believe May is here. It looks like August, smells like August, and the drought makes it feel like August, but it is only May. We will have to make notes on how this unusual weather affects our local fauna and flora. I have noticed that the blooms of the skullcaps and sages are not lasting. They are drying up after only a day or two. The size of plants is shorter because they are not actively growing in the drought stricken places. My native blueberries and dewberries are all dried up and falling off prematurely. Please share your observations at our next meeting. We met last month at the Clifton's in preparation for Olga Day. Members cleaned and planted and enjoyed the peace and serenity of Hummer's Haven. We are going to do mint and sage families at the May meeting. Also, I would like to do the small garden in front of the library with some new native plants of the small stature. I know the timing is not great but, we will keep it watered. Please bring any plants you have to share. This will be our last meeting for the summer so bring your samples and questions. Parched and still planting,

aj



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

This member of the mint family is a native perennial that can be found in moist habitats. Hummingbirds drink the nectar from its pale pink, long flower clusters. When the stems of this 36-40 inch plant are bent, they stay that way. 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. (Never guessed in April.)

Next Meeting Date: Sunday, May 22, 2011 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



**Hummer's Haven:
Members helping Walter with spring cleaning.**



Louisiana's native plants topic of summer course

Native plants course offered this summer - Southeastern Louisiana University biologist Rick Miller examines a sumac plant in the woods located near the university. Miller will conduct a course this summer on Louisiana native plants.



HAMMOND - The native plants of Louisiana will be the topic of a Southeastern Louisiana University course this summer session that is open to students and members of the community.

"Our focus will be on learning about the exciting local Louisiana flora," said Rick E. Miller, associate professor of biological sciences and instructor for the course. "The course will include frequent field trips to habitats in our area as well as lectures and lab activities."

The class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. in the Biology Building from June 7 to July 26.

"We meet early to beat the heat for our field trips," Miller explained.

Although an upper level biology course, he said the course may be taken as an elective by Southeastern students or for enjoyment by community members who can enroll through Southeastern's Special Program for Adults. Louisiana residents 60 years of age and older can take up to three credit hours per semester tuition free.

Application deadline for the summer session is June 1. For information on the process, contact the Office of Admissions at 985-549-5636 or 1-800-222-7358 or visit the Web site, selu.edu.

"This is a very popular course and in the past we've attracted students with varying backgrounds," Miller said. "We try to immerse them into our fascinating world of Louisiana's native plants."

He said field trips involve learning the characteristics and names of 25 new plants on each excursion as he lectures on important plant families and an overview of flowering plant systematics. Labs cover the different parts of plants, especially flowers, use of herbarium specimens for identification and examining representative specimens of plant families.

For additional information, contact Miller at 985-549-5556 or via email at rickmiller@selu.edu.

Contact Nick Blady, nblady77@gmail.com, if interested in carpooling.

The purpose of the Folsom Native Plant Society 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.

Dates to Remember

May FNPS Meeting - Sunday, May 22,
1 pm, at Lee Road Library

No meetings in June, July & August

Hummingbird Festival

Sep 10, Misells in Folsom, LA

Sep FNPS Meeting - Sunday, Sep 18,
1 pm, at Abita Springs Library

Our Board for 2011

President: A.J. Bailey

Vice President/Program Chairman: Rod Downie

Treasurer: David Scherer

Plant List Recorder: A.J. Bailey

Newsletter: Nick Blady nblady77@gmail.com

Publishers: Candyce & David Scherer

Hospitality Coordinator: Candyce Scherer

FNPS Website: (<http://folsomnps.org>) Emily Canter

& Yvonne Bordelon

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Not sure what Rod did,
but I am glad I am not him.