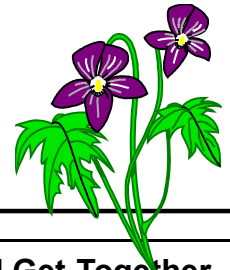


Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

November, 2007



Next Meeting Date: Sunday, November 18, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. - Seasonal Get-Together

The main course will be provided, but side dishes and special goodies would be appreciated.

Since we won't have a December or January meeting, bring an inexpensive "white elephant" gift if you want to participate in the gift exchange.

***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 Folsom stoplight.) You will 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.

The FNPS' Next Public Appearance will be at the Master Gardener Spring Plant Show on March 15-16, 2008. Get those native plant seeds in pots and survey your yard for natives that can be divided and shared. We will need at least 75 native plants and we should have about 200 native trees for our booth.

From the President's Corner

Salutations to All,

As Mother Nature turns another colorful page, I revel at the beauty of our native plants. Even though the asters bloomed late this year, they made up for it with an outstanding show. The shorter, Fall Aster (*Aster ericoides*) and the very tall, Showy Lavender Aster (*Aster praealtus*) can be seen in gardens and along roadsides all over the parish. When paired with the gold sunflowers (*Helianthus spp.*), Goldenrods (*Solidago*), or the golden leaves of the [*Sassafras albidum*](#), Hickory (*Carya spp.*) and Eastern Redbud ([*Cercis canadensis*](#)), it's a sight that would make an LSU fan want to shout, "Go Tigers!"

The cooler temperatures of fall are also the best time to divide perennials, irises and bulbs. It is also a good time to transplant trees and shrubs and is the best time to collect and plant most wildflower seeds. In the natural cycle, many seeds mature and disperse in late summer, fall and winter.

The FNPS continues to be in demand. Recently we were contacted by Rue McNeill of Northlake Nature Center in Mandeville. She would like the FNPS to adopt the center's 30' X 70' pre-Katrina wildflower garden. Because of the recent success of our 3 hour Master Gardener class, we contacted Rusty Batty, Master Gardener coordinator, to see if they would be interested in a joint venture. We could provide a design, expertise, seeds and plant material and they could implement the design and do the planting. Any suggestions and/or volunteers for this project would be welcomed and everyone is urged to collect seeds and pot up natives.

In addition to our seasonal celebration, the November meeting is also the time when new officers are nominated and elected. For the past 2 years, most of the planning and implementation of the club's mission has been done by a handful of people and we are getting tired and need help.

Yvonne Bordelon

The Offices are as follows:

President Emeritus – John Larkin

President – Yvonne Bordelon

Vice-President/Program Chairman – BADLY NEEDED to assist the president with program planning, obtaining speakers and running the booth at the festivals.

Recording Committee – Business Secretary – Al Bordelon, Plant Recording Chairman – A.J. Bailey, at least 2 more plant recorders are needed to fill in when A.J. is absent.

Treasurer – David Scherer

Newsletter Editors – Al and Yvonne Bordelon

Newsletter Publishers – Candyce and David Scherer

Hospitality Chairperson – Candyce Scherer

Website Maintenance – Yvonne Bordelon

“If all mankind were to disappear, the world would regenerate back to the rich state of equilibrium that existed ten thousand years ago. If insects were to vanish, the environment would collapse into chaos.” ~ [Edward O. Wilson](#), *Harvard Biologist, Pulitzer Prize winning author*

November Native Blooms

Ambrosia trifida and *A. artemisiifolia* – Ragweeds
[Aster adnatus](#) – Chain-leaf Aster
A. ericoides – Fall Aster
A. lateriflorus – White
[A. praealtus](#) – Very showy lavender Aster
[Baccharis halimifolia](#) – Groundsel Tree, Everlasting
Bidens alba - Common Beggartick
Bidens aristosa – Sticktight
Bidens pilosa – Shepherd’s Needle
Coreopsis tripteris – Tall Coreopsis
Callicarpa americana - American Beautyberry fruit
Elephantopus carolinianus - Elephant’s Foot
Eupatorium capillifolium – [Cypress-weed](#)
Euonymus americanus - Strawberry Bush fruit
Eupatorium coelestinum – Mist Flower
Eupatorium fistulosum – Joe-pye Weed
Eupatorium perfoliatum – Boneset, *E. rotundifolium* & *E. rugosum* – white flower clusters
Hedeoma pulegioides – [American False Pennyroyal](#)
Helianthus angustifolius - Swamp Sunflower
Helianthus tomentosus – Sunflower
Heterotheca mariana – Golden Aster
Hypoxis hirsuta – Yellow Star Grass
Hyptis alata – Clustered Bushmint
Malus angustifolia - Crabapple fruit
Monarda punctata – Horsemint
Muhlenbergia filipes – Pink Muhlenbergia
Pycnanthemum tenuifolium (Narrowleaf Mountain Mint – white leaf bracts)
Pycnanthemum incanum (Hoary Mt. Mint whiter leaf bracts)
Rhexia alifanus – Meadow Beauty

Rhexia mariana - Pale Meadow Beauty
Salvia azuera – Blue Sage
Solidago – Goldenrods (four varieties)
Spilanthes americana – Creeping Spilanthes
Trichostema dichotomum – Blue Curls
Verbena rigida - Stiff Verbena
Vernonia missurica, *V. altissima* – Ironweed
[Viburnum dentatum](#) - Arrowleaf Viburnum fruit
Xyris iridifolia - Yellow-Eyed Grass

Hummingbird Plants

Hibiscus coccineus – Texas Star Hibiscus
Ipomoea coccinea – Red Morning Glory
Ipomoea quamoclit – Cypress Vine
Lobelia cardinalis - Cardinal Flower
Lobelia siphilitica - Big Blue Lobelia
Malvaviscus arboreus drummondii – Small Turk’s Cap
[Spigelia marilandica](#) - Indian Pink

Butterfly Common Host Plants

Aristolochia spp. – Pipevine (Pipevine Swallowtail)
Asclepias spp. – Milkweed (Monarch, Queen)
Aster spp. – Many Varieties of Aster (Pearl Crescent)
Cassia fasciculata – Partridge Pea (Sulphurs)
Cirsium spp. – Thistle (Painted Ladies)
Helianthus angustifolius - Swamp Sunflower, *H. tomentosus* (Silvery Checkerspot)
Hibiscus spp. – Mallows & Hibiscus (Checkered Skipper, Gray Hairstreak)
Passiflora incarnata – Passion Flower (Gulf Fritillary)
Passiflora lutea – Yellow Passion Flower

The Latin Quarter

More word games to exercise the brain and keep the mind sharp. See if you can guess the common names by reading the meaning of the botanical names below. All of the following native plants bloom in the fall. The answers (the common names) can be found on page 5.

1. **Aster** = A star; an allusion in the form of a flower **ericoides** = Resembling Erica or heath.
 2. **Aster** = same as 1 **praealtus** = Very tall
 3. **Baccharis** = Deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs and herbs named in honor of Bacchus, god of wine.
halimifolia = with leaves, like the tree purslane (with silvery ovate and obovate leaves) used in seaside planting in Britain.
 4. **Helianthus** = Sunflower, from the Greek, helios, the sun; anthos, a flower. **angustifolius** = Having narrow leaves.
 5. **Helianthus** = same as 4 **tomentosus** = Densely wooly; with matted hair.
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October Meeting Highlights

The answer to the mystery plant question was **Big Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)**. The genus, *Lobelia* refers to a large genus of herbs and sub-shrubs named for Mathias de l'Obel and the epithet, *siphilitica*, hints at its historical use as a cure for syphilis. Members of the *Lobelia* family attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Anne Montgomery answered the question correctly and won the door prize. The second door prize for the sign-in sheet was won by Lynn Johnson.

Tiffany McFalls, Instructor of Biological Sciences – SLU, gave an interesting and informative presentation on the [Lake Pontchartrain Basin Research Program's](#) efforts and research in the Manchac Swamp area at their Turtle Cove Research Station.

At the presentation we learned many things about cypress swamps in general and the area between Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Marepas in particular. Some common plants in a cypress swamp include: Bull Tongue, Salt Marsh Mallow, Iris, Button bush and Cattails (eaten by nutria). Our coastal wetlands are in trouble because the mean sea level is rising at a rapid rate as the land is sinking. This means that every 30 minutes Louisiana loses an area the size of a football field, which is 120 yards by 50 yards. Cypress trees have to be 200 hundred years old in order for the wood to become rot resistant & termite resistant. We should certify where cypress is cut, because presently the Corps allows 50,000 acres per cypress cut permit and many times companies illegally cut and air lift thousands of young cypress which are ground into mulch.



Clear-cut logging impairs water quality and the water pollution turns up synthetic estrogen which has been linked to cancer and which can negatively impact the reproductive capabilities of fish. Some young male Bluegills are becoming “girlie” fish. Turtle Cove Research Station was formerly a hunting camp and is being renovated because of the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. Weather radar picks up night migration of the large flocks of birds that use the swamps of the Pontchartrain Basin as crucial stopping points before crossing the Gulf of Mexico. Nutria destroy many acres of wetland vegetation each year because they have few predators. Only very large alligators eat nutria.

Cypress trees should not be cut if they are non-sustainable. Cypress trees need nutrients, sediments & fresh water to reproduce. There must be dry periods when the soil is exposed for Cypress seeds to sprout. Salt water intrusion kills Cypress trees, but work is being done to develop a salt water resistant Cypress tree.

Free boat tours of the [Turtle Cove](#) area for small or large groups can be arranged. An SLU boat trip from Turtle Cove is being planned for the future. Perhaps this could be scheduled for one of our spring meetings. Anyone who is interested should contact Al & Yvonne or David and Candyce.

We received a copy of the award winning DVD, Manchac Swamp - Manmade Disaster in Search of Resolutions, from Tiffany McFalls. It will be available for checkout by club members.



Members are urged to take advantage of the cool fall and winter weather to plant native trees, especially Cypress and some of the trees that are used by pollinators that are listed in the chart on page 4. Also please continue to collect wildflower and native plant seeds for our FNPS “seed bank”. Because of the recent [decline in honey bees](#) and some of our native pollinators, it is very important that we keep a stock of seeds on hand in case it becomes necessary to replant areas here in St. Tammany.

Plant Sightings

Angle Pod or Angular Pod Milkvine (*Matelea gonocarpus*), which is a member of the Dogbane Family (*Apocynaceae*) is growing in several spots on Al & Yvonne’s property. The leaves are heart shaped and exude milky sap when torn. The angular pods filled with the fly-away milkweed like seeds are on the plant now. Members of the milkweed family are host plants of the Monarch butterfly.

Food for Thought, and for Bees by Rod Downie

Bees require large quantities of pollen and nectar to eat, to feed their young, and to store food for the winter. A single hive of bees must have access to huge numbers of flowers. Have you ever wondered where all those hungry bees go for food when the meadows aren't full of wildflowers? Where do bees go for a takeout lunch for a few thousand, early in the year, after having so few flowering plants all winter?

We see Red Maples as one of our first signs of spring, but the millions of tiny flowers on most of our trees go unnoticed by humans. But the hungry bees know where lunch is served in late winter and early spring. Walk out under the Black Gums (also called Tupelo or "Bee Gums") in March and listen carefully. Those trees are really buzzing with bees while we're still wearing our jackets. Bees actually get the largest portion of their food in late winter and springtime from native trees, shrubs and vines.

One of the reasons for this article is that November is the best time to plant trees, shrubs and woody vines in the south. Planted now woody plants have all winter and spring to establish healthy roots in moist soils before the stress of summer. So if you're interested in providing food for bees, we have some suggestions for your selection of trees, shrubs and vines, and now is the time to plant.

People who study and work with bees report that the top choices of our coastal bees are Red Maple, Black Gum, Gallberry and palmettos. Here's a list of favorite trees, shrubs and vines for bees consolidated from reports by Gulf Coast Ag Centers and Universities, then narrowed down to plants indigenous to the Florida parishes of Southeastern Louisiana.

| Tree, Shrub or Vine | Nectar/Pollen | Blooming Period |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
| Maple (<i>Acer spp.</i>) | N, P | Feb., Mar. |
| Black Gum (<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>) | N | Mar. |
| Gallberry (<i>Ilex glabra</i>) | N | March to May |
| Elm (<i>Ulnus spp.</i>) | P | Jan., Feb. |
| Fruit tree blooms | N, P | Feb., Mar. |
| Willow (<i>Salix sp.</i>) | N, P | Feb., Mar. |
| Rattan Vine (<i>Berchemia sp.</i>) | N | April, May |
| Pepper Vine (<i>Ampelopsis arborea</i>) | N | May to July |
| Palmetto (<i>Sabal minor</i>) | N | April, May |
| Saw Palmetto (<i>Serenoa repens</i>)* | N | April, May |
| Sourwood (<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>) | N | June, July |
| Fetterbush (<i>Lyonia lucida</i>) | N | Feb. to April |
| Buckwheat Tree (<i>Cliftonia monophylla</i>)** | N | Feb. to April |
| Buttonbush (<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>) | N | Mar. to July |
| Chinquapin (<i>Castanea pumila</i>) | N | Mar. to June |
| American Holly (<i>Ilex opaca</i>) | N | Mar., April |
| Yaupon (<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>) | N | Mar., April |
| American Redbud (<i>Cercis canadensis</i>) | N | Mar., April |
| Cherry Laurel (<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>) | N | Mar., April |
| Tuliptree (<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>) | N | April, May |
| Southern Magnolia (<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>) | N | April-July |
| Sweetbay Magnolia (<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>) | N | April-July |

* Rare in LA, reported only in Orleans and St Tammany parishes

** Rare in LA, reported only in St Tammany and Washington parishes

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

This native perennial herb grows to about 3 feet tall. Leaves are linear-lanceolate and stems are square. Flowers consist of several globose heads in an interrupted spike. The corolla is yellow, strongly arched, distinctly purple-spotted, hence the Latin epithet, *punctata*. It blooms from July to October and is in the Mint family. It is attractive to bees and butterflies. If you know the answer, write the name of the plant and your name on a slip of paper at the November meeting to be eligible for the door prize drawing.

Answers to Latin Quarter

1. *Aster ericoides* – Fall Aster
2. *Aster praealtus* – Showy Lavender Aster
3. *Baccharis halimifolia* – Groundsel Trees, Everlasting
4. *Helianthus angustifolius* – Swamp or Narrow-leaf Sunflower
5. *Helianthus tomentosus* – Resindot Sunflower

Free Oak and Persimmon Trees Available

The National Wild Turkey Federation's (NWTF) "Operation Oak" enables Louisiana landowners to receive hardwood tree seedlings with an application to the NWTF. For more information, contact either John Pitre at john.pitre@la.usda.gov or Joe Koloski (NWTF Senior Regional Biologist) with any questions or go to the LA Native Plant Society Google Group site (<http://groups.google.com/group/LNPS?hl=en>) to download the application form.

Membership Renewal Information

Dues for 2008 are due by January, 2008. We are working on a method to alert members as to when it's time to pay membership dues. Basic rule of thumb: New members, who joined from September to December, 2007, are paid up until December 31, 2008. Everyone else, unless you paid your dues recently, will need to send them in by January, 2008 to be up-to-date.



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

Program Chairman: Needed

Treasurer: David Scherer

Plant Recording Committee Chairman: A.J. Bailey

Business Secretary: Al Bordelon

Newsletter: Al & Yvonne Bordelon

ybordelon@bellsouth.net

Hospitality Coordinator: Candyce Scherer

New Member Mentor: Temae Theriot

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

Dates to Remember

Nov. 18, 1:00 p.m. at John's – FNPS Mtg. Holiday Get Together and election of officers

Sunday, January 27, 2008 – Tentative date, Place TBA – FNPS Working Meeting to pot tree seedlings and package seeds for the Master Gardener Spring Show.

Sunday, Feb. 17, 2008 at John's – FNPS Meeting

March 15-16, 2008 – Booth at the Master Gardener Spring Show

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

Please note:

Next Meeting:

Sunday, November 18, 2007

1:00 P.M

At John Larkin's House