

Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

November 2012



Next Meeting Date: Sunday, November 18, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.

At the home of Jim Russell, 61 Parc Place, Mandeville, LA 70471

From I-12, head south on LA-59 S 1.2 miles. Turn right onto Sharp Rd at the red light.

Drive down Sharp Rd for 1.5 miles. Turn right onto Parc Pl for 0.3 miles. James lives at the end of the street.

From the President's Corner

Greetings All,

I hope your Halloween was all treats with no tricks. The cool weather here in the south is welcome, but I can't help thinking about the people in the northeast. At least when hurricanes go through down here, we don't have to deal with freezing temperatures as well as no electricity. I was glad that FEMA responded so quickly this time.

The sunflowers and mistflowers really put on a show this fall. However, most of the large purple asters did not bloom in my yard this year. I don't even see the plants, so I'm looking for seeds to get them started again.

The October meeting was enjoyed by all. As always, A.J. was a gracious hostess and we learned a great deal about sustainable gardening by viewing her place. Many of us left with plants, seeds and/or cuttings. Jim Russell brought many cuttings and plants that he identified and discussed.

The November meeting will be hosted by James Russell. It's always informative to tour his habitat. Jim is so knowledgeable about native plants and especially ferns. His home in Mandeville has a slightly different terrain than A.J.'s in Bush. We hope to see you all there. Feel free to bring a covered dish, if you desire. *Yvonne L. Bordelon*

Questions about Native Plants

One of our members asked about pruning and preparation of native hibiscus for winter.

"What about prepping Natives for winter? Should any pruning be done to get the native Hibiscus, especially my Texas Star, ready for winter? Does it freeze all the way back or can trimming back get it to have a head start for next year?"

Most native hibiscus plants are considered herbaceous perennials. This means that they die back to the roots when it freezes in winter. If we have a mild winter, with no freezes some part of the stems may remain. In early spring, if you want to tidy things up, you can cut the dead, brittle stalks off. When it warms up, new growth will appear either way.

What is a Lasagna Gardening?

A Lasagna Garden is a garden in which the soil is prepared without tilling. It's all about layering.

First (Bottom) Layer - Lay 2-3 sections of wet newspaper to kill the grass.

Second Layer - Leaves or hay

Third Layer - compost or aged manure

Fourth Layer - more leaves or hay

Fifth Layer - Coffee grounds and/or compost

Sixth Layer - Top Soil

Seventh Layer (Top) - aged manure



It's best to start the layering months ahead, in the fall for a spring garden. This style of gardening is raised so a frame can be built to hold the rich soil in. If you don't want to build a frame, then edging with a shovel when you put down the newspaper layer will help to keep the grass out.

When it's time to plant the garden, just turn over and mix the soil by hand. This will help preserve the microbes and earthworms so that the soil will remain fertile in the years to come. After you put the plants in, be sure to mulch with leaves or other materials that you have on-site. As the plants grow, side dress with well-rotted manure or some other organic fertilizer.

Book Corner

Sometimes old gardening techniques are worth revisiting. That is definitely the case with the informative books by Louise Riotte. Her books about companion planting were first published in the 1970's and early 1980's, but because of the resurgence of organic and sustainable gardening, are still viable today. So much so, that two of them have been revised and updated and are available in print again.

Louise Riotte's, **Carrots Love Tomatoes, Secrets of Companion Planting for Successful Gardening** is a dictionary of various vegetables, herbs, wild plants, grasses and grains, fruit, nuts and ornamental trees and shrubs and the plants that they grow well with. Subjects such as pest control, inter-cropping, poisonous plants and special garden designs are also discussed.

Riotte's **Roses Love Garlic Companion Planting and other Secrets of Flowers** covers flower lore, queen of flowers, trees and shrubs, vines, which plants grow where, companion planting with flowers and herbs, attracting creatures, growing wildflowers from seeds, dyeing with plants, fragrances and traditional remedies from plants.

I learn something new every time I pick one of them up. Anyone who wants to learn more about sustainable gardening should obtain one or both of these informative books. Here's a link to a good chart: https://www.earlmay.com/media/cms/companionplantschart_25D154AE91635.jpg

November's Quiz

Here is a little quiz to test your knowledge of four useful native plants. What would the following plants add to the sustainable landscape or garden?

- 1) Which of the following is NOT a Native nut bearing tree?
 - a) Almond
 - b) Pecan
 - c) Black Walnut
 - d) Hickory Nut
 - e) none of the above
- 2) Which of the following are invasive imported plants that threaten native habitats?
 - a) Bush Killer Vine
 - b) Privet
 - c) Tallow Tree
 - d) All of the Above
 - e) None of the Above
- 3) Hummingbirds are attracted by which of the native vines below?
 - a) Passion Flower Vine
 - b) Coral Honeysuckle
 - c) Trumpet Vine
 - d) a and b
 - e) b and c
- 4) Which natives are good at attracting pollinators to the garden?
 - a) Goldenrod, Solidago
 - b) Helianthus
 - c) Liatris
 - d) All of the Above
 - e) None of the Above



Answers to Last month's quiz:

1. D, Wild Plum attracts pollinators and wildlife, has edible fruit and colorful leaves in Fall.
2. A, Devil's Walking Stick is a small tree with a spiny trunk that attracts pollinators, birds and wildlife with its flowers and fruit.
3. D, Purple Coneflower is a hard perennial with attractive flowers, which is used as a medicinal herb. Its flowers and seeds are used by pollinators, butterflies and songbirds
4. D, Monardas are herbs that can be used in tea and good companion plants to grow with tomatoes. Pollinator insects, butterflies and hummingbirds use the flowers.
5. D, Passion Flower Vine is the host plant for the Gulf Fritillary and Zebra Long-wing Butterflies. It is also a perennial vine with beautiful flowers and edible fruit that will add vertical space to the garden.

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 2012

President: Yvonne Bordelon
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>) Yvonne Bordelon

Answers: 1- a, 2-d, 3-e, 4-d

FNPS Meeting Dates

Sunday Nov 18, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. Place: Jim Russel's home, See p. 1 for directions.

Sunday, December 16, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. Celebration, food and fun, Place: TBA

Sunday, January 20, 2013, TBA

Sunday, February 17, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. - Seed packaging and Habitat tour at Yvonne Bordelon's house.

Check the FNPS Facebook page for other native plant dates and news.



Folsom Native Plant Society
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