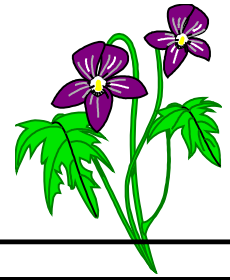


Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

October 2006



Next Meeting Date:

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2006, 1:00 p.m.

Native Plant Seed Swap & Stump the Experts Session

Bring seeds to share, native plants to discuss and/or identify & a Pot Luck Dish.

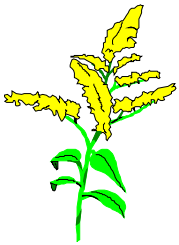
At the Home of John Larkin - 86419 Mockingbird Hill Road (north of Folsom) - phone number: 796-5597

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:

*The U.S. Fish & Wildlife "Wild Things Festival" at Big Branch in Lacombe on October 14, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Driving instructions to Big Branch:** To get to the visitor Center take Interstate 12 to exit 74. Go south on LA Hwy. 434 and drive 2 miles. Look for the signs on the right. **We need Volunteers to man our Booth.** Call Al & Yvonne if you can help.*

From the President's Corner



Greetings to All,

For the better part of my life, as I remember it, we could remember our summers, winters, etc. pretty much as they had happened previously. But, I don't think Mother Nature liked it that way. For the past five years, or so, we have had less rain and milder winters. When I drive on the south shore I see many landscape plants that do not stand weather below 32 degrees. Can't help thinking that when we get what we used to think of as our normal winters many of these plants will be devastated.

In my attempt to keep up with the seasonal happenings, I noticed we had a pretty hard freeze about thirty years ago and our next hard freeze happened exactly twenty years later on the same day of the year. There were plenty of plants killed in both of these events, but most of them were exotics, very few were native to our area. Our annual rainfall has been about 20 inches less than it used to be, which also contributes to the demise of exotics. My point is that we should stick to the plants that won't call it quits when we do get a hard freeze.

My grandson says many insects and spiders are more plentiful than when we have a hard freeze, including [Brown Recluse Spiders](#). I was bitten by a Brown Recluse about five weeks ago and my foot and ankle are still swollen. Please remember that they like to hide in shoes.

A few of our native and naturalized plants don't seem to be very affected by droughts, case in point are our Verbena rigida, sunflowers and centipede grass, all are doing pretty well.

I have already placed an order with the Forestry Department to make sure that I get the trees that I want. On the order are 500 Longleaf Pines, 100 Bald Cypress (Taxodium distinchum) and also 50-100 Native Mayhaws (Crataegus aestivalis). Anyone who is interested in any of these trees should let me know because I'll have plenty left over.

Did you ever notice how hard it is to get started writing, what you should be writing and how hard it is to stop? This is where I stop.

John Larkin

Tree Facts: Trees Reduce Soil Erosion

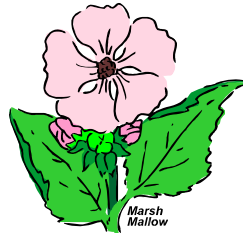
- ♦ Tree roots help hold soil in place and prevent loss of top soil and pollution in water bodies.
- ♦ In the U.S. 600 million tons of soil erodes from development sites each year.
- ♦ In Louisiana 5.1 million tons of sediment erodes from construction sites each year.

Accessing Links

For those of you who receive the email version of the newsletter and have a Broadband / Cable / DSL Internet connection you can access the links from the newsletter by pressing the ctrl key and left clicking on the blue, underlined words. This will launch the website automatically. Those with a dial up connection must be connected to the Internet while they are reading the newsletter for the links to work. Try it: (ctrl + click) on our website, the [FNPS](#) , to follow the link.

October Native Blooms

Agalinis fasciculata – Pink Foxglove
Ambrosia trifida and A. artemisii – Ragweeds
Ascyrum hypericoides – St. Andrew's Cross
Aster adnatus – Chain-leaf Aster
A. ericoides – Fall Aster
A. lateriflorus – White
A. praealtus – Very showy lavender Aster
Baccharis halimifolia – Groundsel Trees, Everlasting
Bidens aristosa – Sticktight
Bidens pilosa – Shepherd's Needle (naturalized)
Bigelowia nudata - Rayless Goldenrod
Carphephorus odoratissima – Vanilla Plant
Callicarpa americana - American Beautyberry (fruit)
Elephantopus carolinianus - Elephant's Foot
Euonymus americanus - Strawberry Bush (fruit)
Eupatorium coelestinum – Mist Flower
Eupatorium fistulosum – Joe-pye Weed
Eupatorium incarnatum – Pink Eupatorium (rare)
Eupatorium perfoliatum, E. rotundifolium & E. rugosum – white clustered flowers
Euphorbia corollata – Flowering Spurge
Euphorbia pubentissima – False Flowering Spurge
Gentiana saponaria - Bottle Gentian, Soapwort
Gentian
Hedeoma pulegioides – [American False Pennyroyal](#)
Helenium amarum - Bitterweed
Helianthus angustifolius - Swamp Sunflower
Helianthus tomentosus – Sunflower
Heterotheca mariana – Golden Aster
Hibiscus aculeatus – Pineland Hibiscus
Ipomoea coccinea – Red Morning Glory
Ipomoea quamoclit – Cypress Vine



Kosteletzkya virginica – Salt Marsh Mallow
Liatris squarrosa, L. squarrulosa & L. pycnostachya – Blazing Star
Ludwigia alternifolia – Seedbox
Malus angustifolia - Crabapple (fruit)
Monarda punctata – Horsemint
Muhlenbergia fistipes – Pink Muhlenbergia
Passiflora incarnata – Passion Flower
Passiflora lutea – Yellow Passion Flower
Pontederia cordata – Pickerel-weed
Pycnanthemum tenuifolium (Narrowleaf Mountain Mint – white leaf bracts)
Pycnanthemum incanum (Hoary Mt. Mint whiter leaf bracts)
Rhexia alifanum – Meadow Beauty
Rhexia mariana- Pale Meadow Beauty
Rhexia virginica – Common Meadow Beauty
Salvia azuera – Blue Sage
Solidago – Golden Rods (four varieties)
Spilanthes americana – Creeping Spilanthes
Trichostema dichotomum – Blue Curls
Verbena rigida – Stiff Verbena
Verbena tenuisecta – Moss Verbena
Vernonia missurica – Ironweed
Viburnum dentatum – Arrow-leaf Viburnum, Arrow-wood (fruit)
Xyris iridifolia - Yellow-Eyed Grass

Hummingbird Plants

Impatiens capensis - Spotted Jewelweed
Lobelia cardinalis – Cardinal Flower
Lobelia siphilitica - Big Blue Lobelia
Macranthera flammea – Flame Flower (very rare, but found in [TNC St. Tammany Preserves](#))
Malvaviscus arboreus drummondii – Small Turk's Cap

Plant Sightings and Rescues

- ☼ Temae reported a wide variety of native flowers blooming along Ramsay Road and on the [Lake Ramsay Nature Conservancy Preserve](#) .
- ☼ Martin Morgan reports that on the south side La 22, right before you cross the Tchefuncte River into Madisonville, there is a stand of *Kosteletzkyia virginica* (Salt Marsh Mallow) in the marsh that is really impressive, covering at least an acre or two in full bloom. Don't go late in the day since the flowers close up.
- ☼ **Rescue Alert!!!** In Covington, along Hwy. 21 on either side of the entrance to Flower Estates are hundreds of wildflowers (including some possibly rare species of milkweed) that will soon be destroyed to build another strip mall. Besides the milkweed, there are also some beautiful large lavender asters with yellow centers, unusual mountain mint, Hypericum (St. John's Wort family), Vaccinium and many more. Jim Russell and Al & Yvonne Bordelon spent most of Sunday morning (until the Saint's game came on & Al dragged Yvonne away) digging up some of these precious treasures. We plan to go out there again after the next big rain when the ground isn't so much like rock. Everyone is encouraged to go save some of our native plant heritage ASAP before the bulldozers & trucks come back.
- ☼ Jim spotted a Rattlesnake Fern (*Botrychium virginianum*) near Flower estates. Al & Yvonne also have one growing beside their road through the woods. They also found one Sharp Winged Monkey Flower (*Mimulus alatus*) on a sandy shore along the Tchefuncte River.
- ☼ Also on Hwy. 21 before and after the Tchefuncte River bridge, all along both sides of the road are big stands of Shepherd's Needle (*Bidens pilosa*), a naturalized plant. We saw several Gulf Fritillary butterflies flitting from flower to flower.

Native Plant Propagation Tips - Part 1

by Yvonne Bordelon

Propagating native plants from seeds is, in most cases, the easiest and most environmentally friendly method. If it is done correctly, you do not have to damage or disturb the parent plant so it can go on growing without stress. A rule of thumb is to collect only 1/10 (one-tenth) of the seeds so that there are enough left to reseed and perpetuate the stand. Collect only from plants that you find growing abundantly. Areas destined for development or destruction are ideal collection sites if you have the landowners permission.

Seeds should be collected when they are ripe and before they drop to the ground. They should be cleaned and thoroughly dried before they are stored. This will reduce molding and insect damage. Paper or cloth containers are best, but plastic can be used once the seeds are totally dry. A constant temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit or less and 50% or less humidity is ideal.

For more information about Seed Collecting go to Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Articles / Gardening with Natives / Guidelines for Seed Collecting (http://www.wildflower.org/?nd=articles_grd) where you will find many excellent online and printable versions of articles about native plant gardening.

Fall is the time to harvest and plant many natives such as Liatris, Amsonia, Baptisia, Lobelia, Helianthus, Rhexia, Hibiscus and many more. So put on your boots, grab your paper or cloth bags and clippers and go out to collect seeds to multiply our beloved wildflowers. I've included a few tips for planting specific plants below.

Propagating Baptisia species from seed –

One of our members has some Blue False Indigo (*Baptisia australis*) seeds that she harvested from her plants. We found instructions for propagating Baptisia on the Brooklyn Botanic Garden site (http://www.bbg.org/gar2/topics/wildflower/1996sp_newnative.html) that will work for any of the Baptisias:

Propagation of Baptisia species is easy. In summer, pick the woody pods just as they begin to split open and remove the round brown seeds inside. Fill a cup with water heated almost to boiling, pour in the fresh seeds and soak overnight. To ensure full absorption, make sure the water covers the seeds. In the morning strain out and sow the seeds outdoors in a sterile commercial seed mix. Cold stratification is not necessary. To avoid crown rot or damping off, top off the seed mix with 1/2 inch of sharp sand or vermiculite; this keeps vulnerable young sprouting stems from rotting off due to excess moisture at the soil surface. Germination begins in two to three weeks with lingering sprouting thereafter.

Propagating Blue Star ([Amsonia](#)) from seed –

Fresh seed germinates more readily. Optimum temperature range is 55-60 degrees F, so plant in the fall, when the seeds are freshest. Sow the seeds on the surface of a peat / sand compost mix and do not exclude light. Keep the soil moist. Be patient, the seeds need our natural winter chilling period, then warming period and are slow to germinate. In my search on the Internet for seed planting instructions I found that gardeners in the UK love this plant. They sell the seeds commercially over there & give detailed instructions on how to propagate them at [Thompson & Morgan](#) .

Propagating [White Spider Lily](#) (*Hymenocallis caroliniana*, *H. occidentalis*) from seed –

Collect the large, green, fleshy seeds in summer, before they fall into the water. But don't worry if you miss that window of opportunity because they float and can be dipped out with a fish net. Prepare some 1-2 gallon pots with potting soil and push 3-4 seeds about ½ in. below the soil line of each pot. Place the pot along the edge of a pond or create a bog for the pots so that they stay moist. In a month or 2 you'll see sprouts and when the plants are 2-3 years old you'll have blooms. The pot can be placed in a pond or water garden and will grow and bloom for years.

Mizell's Butterfly & Hummingbird Festival Highlights

The FNPS rocked at Mizell's! Our booth was a big hit. As a result of the booth at the festival and our website we can now welcome 15 new members into our organization.

We have also been invited to bring our booth to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife – **Wild Things Festival at Big Branch** in Lacombe on October 14, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Anyone who can help should call or email Al & Yvonne. **Driving instructions to Big Branch:** To get to the visitor Center take Interstate 12 to exit 74. Go south on LA Hwy. 434 and drive 2 miles. Look for the signs on the right.

September Meeting Highlights

We had a good turn out (around 25 people) for our first meeting after the summer break. Four new members signed up and 4 current members renewed. Our club now has over 50 members. Our 2 door prizes, which included a signed copy of Latimore Smith's, [Rare Plants of Louisiana](#), a 5 X 7 Native Plant photo and a butterfly candle were won by Pam Martin and Mary Ann McClellan. Our all-call for native plant seeds was answered by several members and we now should have enough seed packets to give out at the Wild Things Festival on Oct. 14. Some are so special that we will only share them with members at the seed swap meeting on Oct. 22. Any seed packets that are left over after the Wild Things Festival will also be shared at the next meeting.

Seeds that were shared by members include:

Bonnie Johnson – Button Bush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) & for the swap: White Texas Star Hibiscus (*Hibiscus coccineus* 'Alba')

Mary Ann McClellan – Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) & the imported, Chaste Tree (*Vitex Agnus Castus*)

Stephanie Fried – Red Texas Star Hibiscus (*Hibiscus coccineus*) & Black Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)

Betty Doize' – Red Morning glory (*Ipomoea coccineus*), Cypress Vine (*Ipomoea quamoclit*), the introduced, Mexican Flame Vine (*Senecio confusus*) and for the swap: Texas Blue Star (*Amsonia ciliata* var. *texana*).

Our speakers, Latimore Smith (Director of Science and Stewardship with the Nature Conservancy, LA Field Office) and Nelwyn McInnis (Florida Parishes Program Manager of TNC) enthralled and entertained us with a PowerPoint Presentation about the Longleaf Pine forests that once covered southeastern LA and the native plants that grow in the three Nature Conservancy Preserves in St. Tammany Parish. The only place that 19 rare plant species are found in Louisiana is in TNC's St. Tammany Preserves. Controlled burning is an important and natural part of managing the Longleaf Pine Savanna Habitats. It restores native habitats while conserving and increasing biodiversity. [Cogon grass](#) is an invasive, exotic grass that has become a big problem in the Pine Savannas. If left unchecked, Cogon grass will choke out and destroy the native plants in the Savannas. Please add this to your list of invasive plants to seek out and eradicate.

Our speakers gave us so much information that we'd need to see it again to absorb it all. But alas, our time was too short and before we knew it the librarians were chasing us out of the door. Next time we get such good speakers we'll have to start earlier.

FNPS Website

We have added a new Gardening Section to the Education page of the website. So many people at Mizell's asked questions about gardening and landscaping with native plants that we worked on that part first. We used several articles that were taken from the FNPS newsletters from the 1990's through 2003 and added related links. We have a few more gardening articles to edit and then we will be working on articles for the Propagation Section. The club photographs have been scanned, but must be edited and thumbnails must be created before they are ready for Gallery 3.

Membership Renewal Information

In the next month or so, we will be implementing a new membership renewal alert system. If you get a hard 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).

_____ \$18.00 Mail

_____ \$12.00 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 2006

President: John Larkin

Vice President: Yvonne Bordelon

Treasurer: David Scherer

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

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

Please note:

Next Meeting:

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2006

1:00 P.M

At the Home of John Larkin