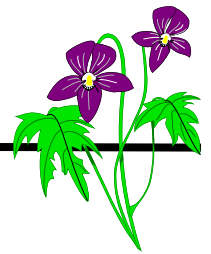


Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

September 2011



From the President's Corner

Hi Everyone. Just when it could not get any hotter or dryer and we finished taking out a second mortgage to pay the water bill, a four day deluge arrived in the form of tropical storm Lee. I journeyed down to the parish barn to pick up sandbags to stop the flashflood action originating from our steep tin roof. After the cardio workout of placing 25 wet 40# sandbags under the overwhelmed gutters, I sat on the porch in a rocker and enjoyed the wet, cooling weather. At our Sept 25th meeting we can discuss how this odd summer weather has affected our natives. I did not have very many blooms this summer and I noticed the roadsides lacked color also. We will be meeting at the Clifton's in Abita where we will be able to see what natives are in fall bloom. We will meet at noon and enjoy our potluck lunch on Walter's deck. We will do a show and tell and then we will enjoy a power point presentation (Olga's revamped on hummingbirds) in Walter's den if there is time. Hope you all had a great summer, aj

Fall Wildflower Walk at Barataria Preserve

Aspiring plant geeks - come out wherever you are!

Learn an eye for what's in bloom
and some basic botany from a local expert.

The Fall Wildflower Walk through the swamp
is set for 9 a.m.- 11 a.m. Saturday, October 8.

Free but space limited so reservations required; call 689-3690.

Barataria Preserve Visitor Center of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and
Preserve. 6588 Barataria Blvd., Marrero near Crown Point

Aleutia Scott, Barataria Interpretive Supervisor
Jean Lafitte National Historic Park & Preserve

P.S. I just got here in May, and am working on learning all of the plants out here in the swamp. I grew up in northern Florida, and many are the same. I just moved here from San Francisco, where I was active with the CA native plant society. Maybe we could go botanizing together sometime if anyone is interested in coming out to Barataria.

National Park Service. 6588 Barataria Blvd., Marrero, LA 70072 www.nps.gov/jela

Next Meeting Date: Sunday, September 25, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.

*At the long-time home of Walter Clifton, **Hummer's Haven**,
[22315 Main St](#), Abita Springs, LA 70420 (985) 892-1468*

*From the circle in the middle of Abita Springs, you take Hwy. 59 north.
One block at Main Street (Hwy 735), turn right. Go 5 blocks to 22315 Main
Street, corner of Pine Street. Or from the circle, you take Level St. 6 blocks
to Pine St. and turn right. Hummer's Haven is across Main St.*

Starting From Seed

By Yvonne L. Bordelon

In my opinion, starting native plants from seed is the best option for a number of reasons. For one thing, collecting seeds as opposed to plants from a native stand is the least invasive method, as long as you harvest only 10-15% of the seeds. Starting from seeds is also economical and you will be able to grow large numbers of plants instead of just one or two as with cuttings or transplants.



The first step is to gather the seeds from a wild stand (no endangered plants) or from your own yard. Be sure to collect the seeds when the pods are dry and mature, but before they fall to the ground. I put them in a labeled paper bag and hang them inside in a cool, dry place for a few weeks, then shell the large seeds and store them in old labeled medicine bottles. For smaller, dust-like seeds such as Cardinal Flower (*Cardinalis lobelia*) or Beardstongue (*Penstemon tenuis*), I leave them in the little capsules until I am ready to plant them.

Fall is the best time to plant the seeds of most spring or summer flowering perennials. If you think about it, you are just following the cycle of nature. Fall is the time when many seeds ripen.

In order to get the best germination rate, I plant my native seeds as I would my prized vegetable or herb seeds. I get the best fine milled potting soil with plenty of peat that will retain moisture. Because I have a lot going on and sometimes don't water everything well, to hedge my bet, I add soil polymers. I usually plant them in 3-4 inch pots placed in a flat that holds water and I place the flats where they receive morning sun.

I am very liberal with my plantings. For dust-like seeds, I cover the top of the soil of each pot and just press the seed in. For bean or pea sized seeds, I put about 5, one in each corner and one in the middle. They can always be divided and transplanted into larger pots later if they are crowded, but you lose time if you have to plant more from seed. Keep in mind the fact that self harvested seeds usually do not have more than a 50% germination rate at best.

For more information about starting native plants from seed, check out my online article, [Saving Native and Other Plant Seeds](#) .

Mizel's Butterfly & Hummingbird Festival

was held on Saturday, September 10. It was a beautiful day with fall-like weather. Our own Walter Clifton & Donata Henry were guest speakers on Hummingbirds and Butterflies, while Linda Beall showed her expertise banding hummers. There was even a petting zoo for children.

PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

WOODY PLANTS

10-12 OCTOBER 2011

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

The Louisiana State University Herbarium is offering a woody plant identification [workshop](#) on OCTOBER 10-12, 2011. It will consist of a field study of native and exotic TREES, SHRUBS, AND VINES of wetland and upland habitats.

This region, due to its location in the humid, subtropical to temperate climatic zone, is rich in woody plants. Much of the area is dominated by forest with a significant shrub understory and many species of woody vines (lianas). Due to different soil and moisture regimes, several forest communities are present, with bottomland hard forests being the most expansive. Participants will learn vegetative and reproductive features of woody plants. Most of the workshop will be devoted to field study by visiting several different habitats having a diversity of woody plants. A limited amount of time will be spent identifying plants through the use of traditional keys.

Prior experience in plant taxonomy or botany **is not a requirement**.

THE INSTRUCTIONAL TEAM

Dr. Lowell Urbatsch, Director of the LSU Herbarium and Professor of Biology. Ph.D.,

Mr. Timothy Jones, LSU graduate student, Biological Sciences Department.

Mr. Christopher Reid, rare native plant specialist, LSU graduate student, Biological Sciences Dept.

Funds from this workshop will support development of the Louisiana State University Herbarium that promotes the study of native and exotic plants and maintains a permanent reference collection documenting the historical distribution and composition of the plant flora. Funds will also be used to support student research and dissertation projects. To learn more about the LSU Herbarium visit our website:

<http://www.herbarium.lsu.edu/plants/>

Celebrate the Fall Equinox

by joining our Fall into Phenology citizen science campaign.

Choose any day between Sept 17 - 26, find a plant, write down what it is doing, and report what you see at www.budburst.org/fall. It's that easy!

As a botanic garden colleague, celebrating the Fall Equinox with Project BudBurst's new field campaign – Fall Into Phenology – is a great way to engage visitors with your collections and highlight the role of plants in our lives.

But, don't let our name fool you! We want observations all year long. Fall is a great time to watch leaves changing color and falling, fruits ripening, and even see some late-flowering plants blooming. Wildflowers such as Soft green eyes and California poppy are in full bloom in parts of California in September. In New England, leaf peepers are enjoying colorful changes on red maples and aspens in the Rockies turn gold before shedding their leaves.

Be part of this inaugural campaign. Simply make an observation yourself, or encourage your visitors to participate. It's as easy as grabbing our new Single Report form, observing a plant, and telling us what your plant was doing on the day you observed it! Help us reach our goal of 500 reported observations during this campaign by encouraging your staff and visitors to participate. That's an average of only 10 observations per state. Together, we can learn more about how plants respond to changes in their environment.

Visit www.budburst.org/fall to learn more and to participate!

Enjoy the season, and Fall into Phenology with Project BudBurst!

The Project BudBurst team <mailto:budburstweb@neoninc.org>

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.

UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

September 24th, 2011 - 8am

"WALK IN THE WOODS"

Fall Session

with Master Gardener Rod Downie

On a hike through the diverse ecosystems at the 400 acre Northlake Nature Center in Mandeville Rod will share his enthusiasm and love of nature, teaching identification of native tree species. The Fall Session of this four season program will highlight seasonal features such as mature fruit, fruit remnants and fall color.

Space is limited

Free to Members, Non-members-\$5.00 donation

Become a Member today!

Call [985-626-1238](tel:985-626-1238) for details or email info@northlakenature.org