

Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

September 2006



Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday, September 19, 2006, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Presentation by the Nature Conservancy about their properties and native habitats.

The meeting will be held at the [Covington Branch](#) of the **St. Tammany Public Library** - 310 W. 21st Ave., Covington, LA 70433, (985) 893-6280.

It will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. because time is limited as the library closes at 8:00 p.m. The library charges a janitorial fee for food and since time is short, we will not have food at this meeting.

From the President's Corner

Greetings to All,

I suppose you have noticed that the weather this year was not as usual, some of the usual plants never did bloom, some were not blooming at their usual time and some bloomed more profusely.



- Verbena rigida bloomed quite well before the grass cutters cut them down and they bloomed later on, too.
- Salvia lyrata didn't bloom as much and prunella vulgaris hardly bloomed at all.
- Hibiscus aculeatus, Pineland Hibiscus, bloomed from late May to September.
- One of my Hibiscus lasiocarpus bloomed a pretty pink, instead of the usual white.
- In my collection of Hibiscus syriacus, some are single, some semi-double and some doubles. The ones on the purple side turned pink this year. If anyone knows why they changed colors, please let me know. But they bloomed for quite a while.
- Don't know if most of you are familiar with Hibiscus moscheutos, Rose Mallow, Swamp Mallow. It is native to our swamps. I found it in my Encyclopedia of Gardening, together with a picture, which shows it to be a very pretty pink. This is the Hibiscus that a lot of the fancy Hibiscus were developed from. Anyway, I saw it in bloom on Airline Highway. Hope I can find it again.

Our theme for the newsletter this year will be **Preserving Native Plants Through Propagation**. I am asking each club member to send a propagation tip to the editors of the newsletter. As a group, the FNPS knows so much about native plants and this knowledge needs to be passed on before we're gone. Sit down today and write about how you propagate your favorite native plants.

John Larkin

June - September Native Blooms

Achillea millefolium – Yarrow
Bidens alba - Common Beggartick
Bidens aristosa – Sticktight
Bidens pilosa – Shepherd’s Needle
Clematis crispa – Leather Flower
Clematis virginiana – Virgin’s Bower
Coreopsis tinctoria
Coreopsis tripteris – Tall Coreopsis
Callicarpa americana - American Beautyberry fruit
Elephantopus carolinianus - Elephant’s Foot
Euonymus americanus - Strawberry Bush fruit
Eupatorium fistulosum – Joe-pye Weed
Eupatorium perfoliatum, E. rotundifolium & E. rugosum – white clustered flowers
Euphorbia corollata – Flowering Spurge
Euphorbia pubentissima – False Flowering Spurge
Gentiana saponaria - Bottle Gentian, Soapwort Gentian
Habenaria ciliaris – Yellow Fringed Orchid
Helenium amarum - Bitterweed
Helianthus angustifolius - Swamp Sunflower
Helianthus tomentosus – Sunflower
Heterotheca mariana – Golden Aster
Hibiscus aculeatus – Pineland Hibiscus
Hypoxis hirsuta – Yellow Star Grass
Liatris squarrosa, L. squarrulosa & L. pycnostachya -

Blazing Star
Lobelia siphilitica - Big Blue Lobelia
Malus angustifolia - Crabapple fruit
Oenothera biennis – Evening Primrose
Passiflora incarnata – Passion Flower
Rhexia alifanus – Meadow Beauty
Rhexia mariana- Pale Meadow Beauty
Ruellia caroliniensis & R. nudifolia - Wild Petunia
Rudbeckia amplexicaulis – Claspingleaf Cone-flower; R. hirta, Black-eyed Susan; R. maxima – Giant Cone-flower & R. fulgida – Bracted Cone-flower
Solidago – Golden Rods (four varieties)
Verbena rigida – Stiff Verbena
Verbena tenuisecta – Moss Verbena
Vernonia missurica – Ironweed
Viburnum dentatum - Arrowleaf Viburnum fruit
Xyris iridifolia - Yellow-Eyed Grass

Hummingbird Plants

Impatiens capensis - Spotted Jewelweed
Lobelia cardinalis - Cardinal Flower
Malvaviscus arboreus drummondii – Small Turk’s Cap
Physostegia virginiana – Obedient Plant
Stachys floridana (invasive) - Tuberous Hedge-nettle

Plant Sightings

- ☸ Yvonne & Al saw 2 patches of Ruellia nudiflora (the other Wild Petunia) along Hwy 190 west of Covington High School.
- ☸ They also want to report a stand of Habenaria repens (Water-spider Orchid) that encircles their pond.

FNPS Continues Its Tree Restoration Project

In August, Yvonne & Al hooked the trailer to the van and drove down to Galliano, LA to pick up some Live Oak and Red Mulberry trees that the NRCS Plant Materials Center was giving away. These trees were being grown for various planting projects that were cancelled or indefinitely postponed due to the hurricanes. Mr. Michael D. Massimi (Invasive Species Coordinator) and Dr. Richard Neill coordinated this tree give-away. We are going to distribute the trees to public agencies and private individuals that will use them to restore habitats that were hard hit by the storms. The Donations of a Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) and a Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra*) have already been accepted by the cities of Folsom, Abita Springs, Covington, Mandeville, Madisonville and Slidell.

The small Forestry Dept. trees that were potted by club members in February will be distributed to interested individuals and groups as well as to new members of the FNPS.

Tree Facts: The Benefits of Trees

- ♦ In a forest area only 10% of rainwater leaves the site.
- ♦ Just 10% impervious area (like concrete) doubles the amount of water leaving the site.
- ♦ A 30% tree canopy can reduce city storm water by 14%.
- ♦ American Forests estimates that the nation’s trees are worth \$400 billion per year in storm water management alone.

May Meeting Highlights

May brought many wildflowers and about a dozen members to John's house for information as well as food and refreshments. The mystery plant with the strange seed pod that was featured in our April newsletter was Leather Flower (*Clematis crispa*). Temae won the drawing for a gift from the club that she can spend anywhere she pleases. Incidentally, the *Clematis crispa* plant in the photograph bloomed again in August.

Yvonne passed around printed copies of our new FNPS Website. Emily Canter worked until the wee hours of the morning putting on the finishing touches and uploading it to the Internet. It is truly a beautiful site and everyone should be proud of how the world is viewing our club and our beautiful St. Tammany Parish. Yvonne will help Emily update and edit the site in the coming months.

Yvonne gave a brief talk about propagating native plants. She discussed the methods of making cuttings and seed gathering and storage. She and Al also provided labels, envelopes & seeds from several native plants to any members of the club who wanted them. Jim discussed a method of root pruning that he discovered to be effective when transplanting such trees as TITi (*Cyrillia racemiflora*) among others. We're hoping that he'll write this up so that we can put it with the other native plant propagation tips that we have collected for posting on the FNPS website. If you haven't visited it yet go to your local library as soon as you can & ask the librarian (they're always helpful) to call up <http://folsomnps.org> for you.

Several people noted the discovery of unusual plants that were never in their area before Hurricane Katrina. Also noted were fall blooming plants that were blooming in the spring such as Mist Flower (*Eupatorium coelestinum* L.) and Goldenrod (*Solidago*). Members who brought plants gave a "show and tell" about the things they brought. Future meeting dates were discussed and we decided to have a planning meeting on the weekend of Aug. 26-27, 2006 in which we would line up volunteers and work on the "booth" for Mizell's Hummingbird and Butterfly Festival on September 9th. Some ideas for newsletter articles & Website postings were discussed.

August 27 Planning Meeting Highlights

Our planning meeting was a success. We have enough volunteers to cover all of the time slots for the FNPS booth at Mizell's Festival on Sept. 9th and we have 2 new members, Margaret Hebert and her daughter, Kristen Stanley. Our booth includes 2 photo displays, various handouts and copies of newsletters, FNPS business cards and wildflower seeds (for the kids). Anyone who joins from now through December will not have to renew until January, 2008. New members will also have their pick of the remaining Forestry Department trees at John's.

Several of the members stressed the importance of passing on our knowledge to others, especially to young people and children. It was suggested that we approach various schools to see if members could start wildflower garden projects. One of our new members, Kristen, has already received permission to start a garden with the Kindergarten class at her daughter's school so the club members will provide her project with native plants. Anyone else with school contacts is encouraged to approach the administration with ideas for teaching the children about native plants. Some of us have backgrounds in education and could create wildflower units or lesson plans for teachers to use. Our website could also be a valuable teaching tool.

Plant List of Most of the Natives that were Shared at the May Meeting

Yvonne & Al Bordelon:

Seeds: *Lobelia cardinalis* (Cardinal Flower)
Ipomoea quamoclit (Cypress Vine)
Ipomoea coccinea (Red-morning glory)
Dolichos lablab (Hyacinth Bean) non-native

Luffa aegyptiaca (Luffa Gourd) tropical
Erythrina hebacea (Coral Bean)
Prunella vulgaris (Self-heal)

Jim Russell:

Rudbeckia maxima (Giant Cone-flower)
Silphium perfoliatum (Cup Plant)
Silkium?
Pinckneya bracteata (Fevertree)

Selaginella ludoviciana (Spike Moss)
Hypericum (Bushy St. John's Wort) with club shaped formation of leaves
Cuphea native

Vaccinium darrowii (Darrow's Blueberry)
Desmanthus illinoensis (Illinois Bundleflower)
Pycnanthemum tenuifolium (Narrowleaf Mountain Mint – white leaf bracts)
Pycnanthemum incanum (Hoary Mt. Mint whiter leaf bracts)
Frog bit
Impatiens capensis (Spotted Jewelweed)
Eryngium prostratum (Creeping Eryngium)

Malvaceae (Hibiscus family)
Monarda fistulosa (Wild Lavender, Bee Balm)
Monarda punctata (Horsemint)
Clematis crispa (Leather Flower)
Malvaviscus arboreus var. drumondii (Sultan's Turban)
Small unknown plant with yellow flowers
Ground cover – prostrate member of pea family, probably exotic with round leaves
Rushes & sedges with beautiful heads

Temae Theriot

Red Clover
Wood Sage
Bacopa spp. (Blue Water-Hyssop) drawing on p. 6

Mystery Plant –The Jury's still out

Woodrow Morgan

Lonicera sempervirens (Coral Honeysuckle)
Russian Olive (Introduced)

FNPS Website

Our website is up and running. Emily Canter has done a wonderful job creating this beautiful site. John's carefully compiled plant lists with descriptions and observations have been scanned, edited & posted on the web site. Yvonne and Al plan to transcribe more sections of old newsletters to include informative articles about propagation, preservation and gardening with native plants. We are also planning to expand our Plant Gallery and Seasonal Guide to St. Tammany's Native Plants list. Anyone who has photos (either digital or prints) of plants that could be used on the website is asked to send us a copy. You can tell which ones are needed by checking the Seasonal Guide to St. Tammany's Native Plants to see if they are listed or linked to a photo. We have some of the club's (John's) collection of photos and are working to scan, edit and upload them.

In another computer related matter, our FNPS Yahoo Group message board is having difficulties. Since it was open to anyone, some unscrupulous people have joined and have posted links to a couple of, shall we say, "wild" websites that have nothing to do with wildflowers. Our monitor is no longer able to supervise the group so we may have to close it down. It has not been used much in the past, but a new one, with a more restricted membership that is connected to our website, might be well received. We will need a monitor who is willing to spend a couple of hours a week to do the needed maintenance that a more restricted group requires.

NATIVE PLANTS JUST KEEP GIVING

By David Campbell

Anyone who considers the many advantages of native plants, such as: easy maintenance, no chemicals, little or no watering necessary (except in extreme circumstances) and the fact that it's a very educational and rewarding thing to do, will not want to overlook the host of native and visiting birds, butterflies and insects that also visit "natural" or "native" gardens. And some of these might just surprise you.

At this very time of the year when we are in the midst of the Hummingbird & Butterfly "extravaganzas" at Mizell's Nursery in Folsom, let's look at just one of these wonderful visitors to our "native" gardens. O.K., if you know what this mystery insect is, then you've probably seen one. But in my 35 years living "in the woods" I'd never seen this particular creature. For the last two years I've had an opening in front of my house and I planted a butterfly and hummingbird garden. One day there I thought I was observing a tiny hummingbird, but then I noticed it wasn't flying quite like one. Or looked quite like any I'd ever seen.

So: what has a small hummingbird like body and head, but with clear dragon fly wings, a shrimp like tail (with a white belt at its waist!) and two large black antennae coming out of its head? What I was observing was a SNOWBERRY CLEARWING HUMMINGBIRD MOTH (Hemaris diffinus). They just didn't work in the shrimp part in its name!

Maybe you've seen such creatures or other unusual visitors in your native garden. This just shows one of the many benefits of gardening with nature. A good website with great photos and information about all the stages of the different kinds of hummingbird moths is http://www.birds-n-garden.com/snowberry_clearwing_hummingbird_moths.html .



Post Katrina Environmental Alert

By Al & Yvonne Bordelon

We have recently discovered a parish program which was initiated by our Council President, Kevin Davis, and is being carried out under the supervision of the USDA NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service). Many of you have seen the helicopter pulling large amounts of storm debris out of local area rivers. What you may not know is that local streams and riparian areas have also been targeted for debris removal. What they do during this process is cut a 15 foot swath beside the waterway (healthy as well as broken trees & shrubs are destroyed) and bring heavy equipment in to remove downed trees and debris. St. Tammany parish is unique in its handling of the debris. Instead of just placing the obstruction on the banks of the waterway as other parishes are doing, St. Tammany's parish council has ordered that it is to be carried back to a truck to be hauled away.

Many of the rivers and creeks that are being targeted are protected under the Scenic Rivers Act, but because of a Federal Emergency Executive Order, most of those protections do not apply. According to the LDWF, the permit that they are working under requires them to move only storm debris, not natural fallen trees. They also must replant the "road" that they created beside the waterway with switch grass seed and block it off so that it can not be used as a four wheeler track. The problem is that the heavy equipment that is used to haul the debris great distances causes a lot of damage to the adjoining forests resulting in increased soil erosion before the grass has a chance to become established.

If one of these crews shows up on your land (no matter what they say) you DO have the right to call the NRCS at the Madisonville EOC (985-845-1736) or in Franklinton (985-839-5687) and negotiate about the severity of the work to be done. A NRCS supervisor is supposed to monitor the crew's work each day and they are supposed to stop work until you have a chance to contact and speak with the NRCS overseers. Again, the permit allows them to remove ONLY storm debris, not de-snag the rivers, and the access road that they cut beside the waterway is to be seeded & blocked off when they finish.

Another problem has been ongoing since pre-Katrina for some of our members in the Folsom area. It is the parish practice of bush hogging the roadsides in late summer before all the wildflowers like the Blazing Stars (*Liatris squarrosa*, *L. squarulosa* & *L. pycnostachya*) have had a chance to reseed. According to reports in these cases, the ditches are not being cleared of debris. All that is being accomplished is the destruction of the wildflowers on the roadsides. Hopefully this practice is just the result of ignorance on the part of the highway crews, but perhaps if we contact the proper authorities as a group and make them aware of the tourism, habitat, etc. benefits of these beautiful blooms, that this cutting schedule can be changed. Money may also be saved if this summer mowing time is removed from the schedule. It was done in Texas, why can't it be done in St. Tammany?

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

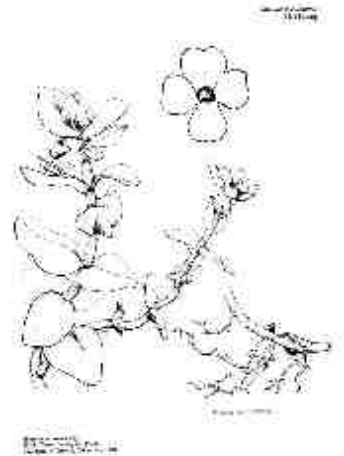
Treasurer: David Scherer

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:

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

6:30 P.M

At the Covington Branch St. Tammany Parish Library

310 W. 21st Ave., Covington, LA 70433