

---

Newsletter of the Louisiana Native Plant Society  
Volume 1, Number 1 Winter 1983

---

### Cards and Letters

We want your ideas, information, praise, and criticisms. Please let us know what you want in your paper.

### The Trading Post

We reserve this section for requests for plants and seeds, or literature concerning native plants...If you have plants to give, sell, or trade; or desire such-please write your requests in care of this paper.

### LIVING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

#### "A Successful Transplant"

Wild things, whether they be plant or animal, evoke in those of us who love nature a sense of awe and inspiration. We hold dear our rapidly dwindling wilderness and its plants and animals. These priceless treasures are disappearing, many to the point of extinction. We have become convinced that our only hope to protect such wildlife

is through private conservation. This holds especially true for plants. Most of us have at least a small plot of ground in which we can cultivate a few of our native plants. These little plants grow and thrive with only a minimum of care if they are "happy" with their adopted home.

Taking a native plant from its home ground and moving it to another area should be a very serious undertaking. There are several steps to consider before moving a plant. We need to observe and study its environment: the soil (moisture content, texture, chemistry) light, and root structure. By imitating a plant's surroundings, one can expect a very successful transplant.

Let us consider the soil first. Is it sandy, rich loam and humus, or dear old Louisiana gumbo clay? If your soil doesn't match the kind your plant prefers, it can easily be amended by digging in compost, sand, or peat, or in some cases completely replacing existing soil with that from the plant's environment. Some plants are more exacting than others. I learned this to be true

while trying to grow the little birdsfoot violet (viola pedata L.). Such a dainty little flower grows in the most miserable soil imaginable. I, thinking how much better it would enjoy the home I had so painstakingly provided, set it out, only to watch it languish and die. Moral: Some plants like growing in the hard, dry soil of roadsides and rocky ledges.

Back to the soil. A given plant may like the soil of a dry-packed roadside or a boggy marsh. It may prefer a rich humus-type soil in the woods. One should learn to observe very closely the area surrounding the plant in order to duplicate it as nearly as possible. Many of us enjoy our little mini-bogs, prairies, and woodlands; our native guests do also. They reward us year after year with their beauty.

Two other crucial observances are light requirements and root structure. Most plants are very exacting in their light requirements. Move a plant from a sunny location to the shade, and it will become spindly and dwarfed. On the other hand, if you take a fragile woodland plant and place it in the hot sun, it will wilt and die immediately. Observation and common sense will tell what type of light a plant needs.

Root structures of plants vary from long single taproots, as in the oak trees, to fibrous masses of roots, like the azaleas, to bulbs, corms, and tubers. Plants with long taproots are harder to transplant than the shallow

rooted plants. Ideally a plant should be moved in its dormant season and when it is of small size; however, plants can be moved at all times of the year if great care is taken. I have successfully moved dogwoods in the hot summer months. In such cases one should get all roots and as much surrounding soil as possible, then keep it moist enough to allow new roots to develop.

Hopefully this information will help those who are venturing into the world of wildflowers. Remember, we are to enjoy our native plants in the wild first, moving them only if their lives are in jeopardy by encroaching civilization.

Delois (Dee) Bishop

#### Upcoming Events/Activities

Our president, Richard Johnson, has called a meeting at BRIARWOOD. Its primary purpose is to generate interest in the Louisiana Native Plant Society on a statewide basis. All L.N.P.S. members and friends are urged to come and bring a covered dish that morning. Invited guests will arrive for the 1:00 dinner which we have prepared, and discussion will be held for the purpose of forming new chapters.

Submit names of interested persons to Richard or Jessie Johnson. We need representation!

Rt. 1, Box 195  
Saline, LA 71070  
Briarwood, the Caroline

Dormon Nature Preserve, is located on La. Highway 9, 2 miles south of Saline or 19 miles north of Campti, La.

March 20- The Lafayette Natural History Museum will open a major exhibit on Wildflowers of Louisiana. In conjunction with that exhibit will be an educational workshop on FRIDAY, MARCH 25. The workshop will interest persons in the public planting of wildflowers on state and federal highways. If you have the time, knowledge, and enthusiasm to contribute to this project, contact: Mrs. Becky Moss or Mrs. Sarah Beacham  
Phone: (318) 261-8350  
637 Girard Park Dr.  
Lafayette, Louisiana 70503

April 16(Saturday)- Field trip to DeSoto Parish!! A luncheon meeting was held by the activities planning committee at the home of Mrs. Dessie Mae Worley on January 21. Attending were Raymond McDaniel, chairman, Dessie Mae, Karlene DeFatta, and Menzie Campbell. Mark your calendar now; details are forthcoming!

The LSU-Shreveport Pioneer Heritage Center is undertaking a project to incorporate native plant cures and home remedies in their interpretation of a doctor's office. Funds are available at this time for the actual display cases. They will need displays of leaves, seeds, and roots of native plants which were and may still be used as home remedies, so that school children and others can recognize them.

The specimens should be gathered for display, ident-

ified as to common and generic names, medical qualities, and what the dosage was for use.

Persons interested in this effort should contact Sam Touchstone, a native herbalist who is interested in our organization. He will be in attendance at the L.N.P.S. meeting Jan. 27.

Plant sale: The date is unknown, but the event is practically a certainty. Pot up all those spare seeds and plants around the house for our first fund raising event THIS SPRING. Prepare!

\*Please note that regular monthly meetings for the 1983 for the Shreveport chapter of L.N.P.S. will be the fourth Thursday of every month through October. November and December dates will be announced.

\* \*

Secretary Elinor Herd reminds us that dues are payable on a yearly basis: \$10 per person or \$15 per family.

\* \* \*

# Wild dogwoods available

By JACK PRICE

**BLANCHARD** — Dogwood trees (Cornus Florida) are still abundant in our area but their population is being rapidly reduced by land clearing. You will find dogwoods growing on hardwood hills and creek bottoms of mixed pine and hardwood. They do not like swampy conditions where water stands throughout the year.

Small gray green balls start forming on the twig tips in winter after dogwoods have shed their leaves. These small balls have four seams and grow in size during the winter months; in late March or early April the balls open as flowers.

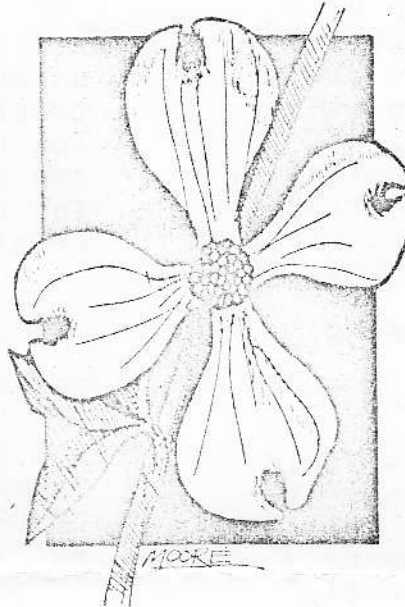
The small balls are one way to identify dogwood trees in winter; they also tell you if the tree is old enough to produce flowers. Buds will be about ¼ inch in size in late March and as the weather warms the buds unfold into a white mass of beauty. Leaves develop very rapidly after flowers open to produce a striking contrast of white flowers and green foliage. A small green ball (immature seeds) remains after the flowers shed about mid April.

Flowers of the dogwood appear to be four white petals with small yellow centers. The showy white of the flowers is not petals but is bracts attached to the backside of the flower. Bracts as a rule are white, about two inches long, and one inch wide making the overall diameter about four inches.

Bracts are rounded at the outward ends with a notch in the center about 3/16 inch deep. The four bracts surround the golden yellow flowers which are approximately ¼ inch in size. The actual flowers are often overlooked because of the colorful bracts. A few dogwood trees in our area have a slight pink cast to the bracts.

Leaves are opposite on the stems, elliptical to broad oval, heavy veined, dark green on the top side and a lighter green on the bottom.

## Wildflower



Dogwood bloom  
... trees dwindle

ber. Select small trees (2 to 3 feet) with straight healthy trunks. Plant in a semi-shaded area of your garden. You will need to water your trees often in the first two years during dry spells.

Leaves vary in size from two to six inches and turn bright red in the fall. Some twigs are swollen at the tips during the winter. This condition will not produce flowers the following year but will produce additional leaves and branches. The swollen twig tips are slick to the touch, light brown with a slight show of green. Twigs which produce flowers do not swell as a rule.

Young dogwood trees have slick light green to greenish brown bark. As the tree ages the bark becomes rough on the trunk and older limbs and divides into rough squares. Mature seeds are scarlet red in the fall and covered with a fleshy pulp which is very bitter but squirrels and birds like to eat the seeds.

It is best to transplant dogwood trees during November or Decem-

This copyrighted article is reproduced with the permission of Mr. Jack Price, writer/naturalist/nurseryman, and Mr. Raymond McDaniel, editor of The Shreveport Times.

BOSSIER PARISH NATURE STUDYCENTER

On May 20, 1969 Walter B. Jacobs donated 84 acres of land to Cypress-Black Bayou Recreation and Water Conservation District (CWB). The act of donation stipulated that the land be used for Nature Study, thus laying the basis for a nature study center. In 1970, on the suggestion of Jim Robbins, Donn Thompson agreed that CWB would build and maintain the facility and Bossier Parish School System (BPSB) would staff and equip it. Operation would be directed by the local school system and coordinated with CWB. These plans were presented to BPSB the first of 1975.

The facility now has 4.5 miles of chip trails, a 1400 foot concrete trail for the handicapped, and a 4000 square foot building. The building has a 60-student classroom and three well-equipped laboratories. The facility is barrier-free for the benefit of physically handicapped persons.

For all parish children in the fifth and seventh grades, instruction at the Center is a part of their curriculum. Other instruction is for all levels including college research. For additional information and free admission contact: Jim Robbins  
Naturalist/Coordinator of  
Environmental Studies  
Bossier Parish Nature Study  
Center  
Linton Road  
Benton, La. 71006  
Phone: (318) 965-0679

Question and Answers

This is your column, folks. Take a minute to jot down on a postcard, the back of a used envelope, a piece torn off the corner of a brown paper bag; or, if you must, typed neatly, double spaced and footnoted, your question about a plant, native to Louisiana. Or, if you feel personally that it isn't very polite to ask questions, then, by all means, write us your answer instead: a helpful tip, a source, a solution to problems relating to our native plants. Send to:

Question and Answer  
The Editor  
166 Rustic Way  
Shreveport, LA. 71106

Q: I lost my clipping from The Shreveport Times about seeding the state's roadsides this year so that 1984 World's Fair visitors can enjoy stretches of color. That's all very good, I'm sure, but how can I help whoever is doing it so I can enjoy roadside wildflowers every year?

A: You can write a letter to Paul Handy, state Secretary of the Dept. of Transportation and Development, expressing your support. Write to the Highway Departments of Oklahoma and Texas, asking them to send you literature about their highly developed highway programs of wildflower propagation and care and send copies as hints to Paul. For more info, write Sarah Beacham, president of the Lafayette Natural History Museum assn. and/or call the

museum director, Beverly Latimer, (318) 261-8350 or talk to her when you visit the exhibit on La.'s native flowers. March 20-July.

A: Native huckleberries (blueberries) have lovely pink blossoms in early spring, attractive foliage almost year 'round, fall color lingering through mid-winter, and bright green twigs in late winter.

Q: What native shrub can I plant for year 'round color?

#### Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park

This 160 acre tract of pine-oak-hickory forest is maintained as a preserve for nature study and enjoyment of the out-of doors. To this end, nature walks, hiking, photography, painting, writing, plant, bird, and other wild-life studies are encouraged. In order to preserve the natural beauty of the park, molesting of native plants and animals and the presence of domestic animals are not allowed within the park.

A variety of teaching and hiking trails allows visitors a choice in both walking time and in scenery. Besides a gently rolling terrain and an abundance of plant and animal life, the park boasts two beautiful natural streams known as Shettleworth and Fordney Creeks. Both

young and old can enjoy a part of the natural world and learn something about the interrelationships of living and non-living things, including man's place in the ecological community.

Besides family or individual outings at Walter Jacobs Park, groups may arrange for lectures, slide shows, and naturalist-led nature walks by contacting the naturalist of the park in advance of the planned visit.

This facility, which was dedicated May 8, 1976, is situated off the Blanchard-Furrh Road, 3 miles west of the town of Blanchard.

#### Teaching Trails:

Adai	(1 mile)
Audubon	( $\frac{1}{2}$ mile)
Quachita	( $\frac{3}{4}$ mile)
Ozark	( $\frac{1}{2}$ mile)
Yatasi	( $\frac{1}{2}$ mile)

#### Hiking Trail:

Caddo	(2 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile)
-------	------------------------

Walter B. Jacobs Park is open to the public free of charge, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Wednesday through Saturday and 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Sunday. The facility is closed Mondays, Tuesdays, and holidays. For additional information call the Interpretive Building at 929-2806. Naturalist- Mr. Larry Raymond.

Come and experience nature at Walter Jacobs Nature Park. See the hardwoods standing tall and naked, silhouetted against the sky. Some still retain their leaves, brown and shriveled, stubbornly refusing to fall until forced to drop by spring's new leaves. Bird and mammal nests stand out in the tops of the trees as important reminders of the interrelatedness of plants and animals. Partridge-berry(Mitchella repens) carpets the forest floor in some places, with an occasional bright red berry breaking the pattern of green leaves against the brown pine needles.

In the meadow, lichen hangs from the branches of cedar elm (Ulmus crassifolia), and resurrection fern(Polypodium polypodioides) grows in dense mats on the trunks of post oaks. White-throated and fox sparrows noisily advertise their presence as they scratch among the leaves of the forest floor looking for seeds to eat. Yellow-bellied sapsuckers drill out a melody into the trunks and limbs of trees looking for sap or insects.

Globular and oblong, gelatinous egg masses in the puddles tell us that for some of the park's salamanders, winter is a time for reproduction. Iris leaves protruding from the water in low areas of the park remind us, too, that soon it will be time for plants to reproduce in a myriad of flower shapes, sizes, and colors.

Larry Raymond, naturalist

Walter Jacobs Park

SOURCES:

"Native Plants and Seeds".  
Copies of the 36-page booklet  
are available for \$3.00 from:

Soil Conservation of America  
7515 Northeast Ankeny Road  
Ankeny IOWA 50021-9764

The alphabetized material is  
organized by states.

\* \*

"Poisonous Plants of the South-  
ern United States". Pub-  
lication #2021.

This publication, available  
from the LSU Cooperative Ex-  
tension Service free of  
charge, includes an extensive  
list for the conscientious  
native plant enthusiast.

\* \*

"Southern Fruit-Producing  
Woody Plants used by Wild-  
life" by Lowell K. Halls.  
General Technical Report  
#SO-16:

Mail to:

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Southern Forest Experiment  
Station  
T-10210 Postal Service Bldg.  
701 Loyola Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
70113

A paperback edition, this  
offering is a storehouse of  
information on well-distrib-  
uted woody trees and shrubs.  
Highlights include a map  
with general locations,  
nutrient contents, and prop-  
agation procedures. Send  
for your complimentary  
copy soon.

EDITOR'S VIEW

"A Winter Walk"

or

"Pleasures and Perils of the  
Fourth Season"

Enjoying your native plants in  
winter means coming to terms  
with nature, a relatively easy  
task in Louisiana. Yet many  
native plant enthusiasts  
think of winter as a dead time  
outdoors.

Below ground things are stir-  
ring. Fall litter is working  
its way down into our red clay,  
and along with winter rains,  
enriching as it goes. Peren-  
nials, aided by the cold, are  
undergoing changes that will  
equip them for a new cycle of  
growth. And always there is  
the anticipation of seeds!

Aboveground, winter is a time  
of special beauty. Berries  
sparkle on dogwood, coralberry,  
the various hollies and haw-  
thorns, and winter huckleberry.  
The grasses that tan in winter  
stand out in brilliant con-  
trast to the green backdrop of  
pine, cedar, and cherry laurel.  
Leaves linger long on the  
sugar maple, hornbeam, and  
some of our oaks, but the bare  
silhouettes of our deciduous  
trees are most striking, I  
think, for the bird-watching  
is especially good. The peel-  
ing bark of river birch, syc-  
amore, and hop hornbeam is now  
highly visible. To be close to  
the skin of the land, first  
you might want to pack a note-  
book, small spade, and a few  
plastic bags. If you aren't  
too burdened by now, consider  
your camera. The things that  
you see now will not be visible  
in the same way for another  
whole year. But the best thing  
to take along is someone to  
share the pleasure.

Now for the perils:

Being outdoors at this time of year may be a chilling experience. Dressing in layers helps by trapping your body heat. And...

A good place to explore is near running water, which acts as a heat reservoir, but remember that water is irresistible to children, so prepare!

\*Make a resolution to walk along the same path at different times of the year. Stop! Look! Listen! Enjoy! When you venture forth, take a sense of discovery and excitement to guarantee rich rewards at any season.

Teresa Thrash

Contributors to this First Edition of our newsletter are acknowledged and greatly appreciated:

Amy Burgess  
Dee Bishop  
Jack Price  
Richard Speairs  
Karlene DeFatta  
Raymond McDaniel  
Jim Robbins  
Larry Raymond

Address all inquiries to:

Teresa Thrash, Editor  
166 Rustic Way  
Shreveport, Louisiana 71106  
(318) 687-8532