



fall 1984  
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## The LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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### AUGUST MEETING ENJOYED BY ALL

All who participated in the August meeting and field trip of the LNPS thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The field trip was to a hillside bog in the Kisatchie National Forest. There were many things to be seen, and Nelwyn Gilmore keyed out some of the more common natives present: Gaillardia aestivalis, Lycopodium carolinianum, Rhexia petiolata, Euthamia pulverulenta, Liatris squarrosa, and Liatris pycnostachya.

### DON'T MISS JULY/AUGUST LA. CONSERVATIONIST!

The July/August issue of the Louisiana Conservationist contains a fascinating article entitled "Louisiana's Fascinating Bogs". Written and photographed by Alan J. Rebertus and Nancy G. Barker, it deals with both bog ecology, and the causes of bogs declining and eventually disappearing. Anyone who went on our August field trip and saw a hillside bog for the first time will find this story especially interesting. The Louisiana Conservationist is available for free, one copy to each household. For your copy, write to:

Louisiana Conservationist  
400 Royal Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

### DEADLINE FOR WINTER NEWSLETTER!!!!

All articles, information, etc. to be included in the winter newsletter must be received by me no later than January 31, 1985. Chapters need to get on the ball with their chapter news and send it in!!!! The address: David Heikamp, 717 Giuffrias, Metairie, La., 70001.



## RUSTON CHAPTER NEWS

The Ruston Chapter of the LNPS, led by Chapter President, Nelwyn Gilmore, recently participated in the Ruston Peach Festival Flower Show. The show, sponsored by the Lincoln Federated Garden Clubs Council, was held Friday, June 22nd. The Ruston people put up an unusual and exuberant display that took up two large tables as well as some floor space in front.

The display was put together with flowers obtained during a collecting trip the weekend before, as well as plants from members' gardens and flowers and leaves picked the day before the exhibit. The final display was created through the cooperative effort of all members of the Ruston Chapter. To Elizabeth Thomas, however, must go special thanks for arranging the disparate elements into a lovely display!

## RUSTON CHAPTER PLANS

The Ruston Chapter made a trip recently to the hills of Copenhagen, La., located along the Ouachita River. Many attractive species were found. If you missed this one, another trip is planned for May to collect plant material for the exhibit at the 1985 Ruston Peach Festival. Anyone interested should contact Nelwyn Gilmore for more information: Nelwyn Gilmore, Rt. 1, Box 316, Ruston, La. 71270.

## PLANTSEARCH

One of our Texas members is looking for Rubus rosaefolius var. coronarius, or Easter Rose or Brier Rose. Anyone that has a plant to spare or knows where one may be had, can write to: Mrs. Paul A. Kane, 1001 McIlvaine St., San Antonio, Texas 78201.

Coreopsis nudata FOUND IN LA.  
by David Heikamp

On a recent trip to a St. Tammany Parish bog, Julia Sanders and her husband, Dr. Sanders, took me to a spot where they had located the beautiful Pink Coreopsis several years ago. Growing in a shallow ditch, alongside a dirt road, we found them. Standing in a few inches of water, there were still a few smallish late season flowers to be found, as well as a few seeds still clinging to the plants. A couple of plants were brought back, as the site is situated between a dump, and a tree farm. As of this writing, in late September, all three plants are doing well and have increased considerably in size. Seeds were also collected, and hopefully we will hear from Julia on their progress in a later newsletter.



## SEED EXCHANGE LIST FOR 1984/1985

INSTRUCTIONS: Below is a list of available seeds for winter 1984/spring 1985. Price is 25¢ per packet. Number of seeds per packet varies with scarcity of seed. Please note with your order what you want done in case a particular species is sold out: refund, substitute, or donate to the society. Orders will be filled as they are received, some seeds are in short supply. Good luck!

1. Rudbeckia hirta, Black Eyed Susan (strain w/ red splotches)
2. Pentstemon digitalis
3. Arisaema triphyllum Jack-in-the-Pulpit
4. Rudbeckia hirta
5. Queen Anne's Lace
6. Baptisia australis, Blue False Indigo
7. Rudbeckia sp. Purple Cone Flower
8. Centrosema virginianum, Butterfly Pea
9. Campsis radicans, Gold Trumpet Vine
10. Rudbeckia maxima
11. Clematis texensis, Texas Red Clematis
12. White Flowered Yarrow
13. Coreopsis grandiflora
14. Liatris sp.
15. Gaillardia sp. Indian Blanket
16. Hibiscus sp., bright pink flowers
17. Penstemon tubiflora
18. Penstemon sp., from Arkansas, tiny flowers
19. Blue Waterleaf
20. Acacia sp., Huisache
21. Hibiscus sp., large flowered pink mallow
22. Clematis pitcherii
23. Penstemon sp., pinkish flower, Keithville area
24. Clematis glaucophylla, red flowers, collected eastern Mississippi

SEND REQUESTS TO:

Mr. John Larkin  
1907 Metairie Ct. Pkwy.  
Metairie, La. 70001

## THE AMERICAN PLANT LIFE SOCIETY SEEKS SEEDS

With the death this past year of Dr. Hamilton Traub, the American Plant Life Society, formerly the American Amaryllis Society, is attempting to increase its membership in order to insure its viability. One avenue is that of initiating a seed exchange. With that in mind, the APLS is asking for donations of seeds for a seed exchange program that it has started. Seeds of the following families are requested: Amaryllidaceae, Hypoxidaceae, Alliaceae, Liliaceae, Agavaceae, Tecophillicaceae and Iridaceae. Anyone that can help, or is interested in membership in the APLS, should write to:

R. Mitchell Beauchamp  
1843 East 16th Street  
National City, California 92050



A NOTE ON SEED COLLECTION OF INDIAN PINK,

SPIGELIA MARILANDICA

In late June the editor received the following from member Beulah Bergeron of Alexandria: .

I may be the last person to know about the exploding seed pods of Indian Pink (Spigelia marilandica). This discovery is so interesting to me I want to share it with others.

Last week I decided to pick some of the mature pods while green, as I have never been able to collect seed from these plants - I would wait for them to turn brown, but they always disappeared before this happened. I thought the birds were eating the seeds.

The mature green pods were placed in a paper plate on the kitchen table. When I returned after about two hours one of the pods had opened but the seeds were gone! After looking all over the table, I decided they must have popped out onto the floor. I carefully swept the floor and sifted thru the sweepings. I found two irregularly shaped seeds. I put a cover over the rest of the seed pods and was fortunate enough to be in the kitchen at two different times when a pod exploded. It made an audible pop and the seeds hit the cover with force. There are two seeds in each pod.

Now that I know their secret, I'll be able to collect seed. Unfortunately, they were nearly all gone before I made this discovery. Next year I'll be ready!"

PLAN YOUR SPRING GARDEN NOW

Now is the time to plan your spring garden. Any plans should include as many native plants as possible. Unlike in years past, there are a good number of mail order nurseries dealing in native plants. If you are having trouble locating such a nursery, I would suggest a firm called WOODLANDERS, INC. They have a wide range of both rare and common species, included are many that will flourish in Louisiana. A copy of their catalog can be had by sending a SASE (37¢ postage) to Woodlander's, Inc., 1128 Colleton Ave., Aiken, S.C. 29801. Several other nurseries listed below are equally good, though not as large a selection is offered, some handling only seeds:

Salter Tree Farm  
Route 2, Box 1332  
Madison, Fla. 32340

Texas Native Plant Nursery  
3105 Lafayette Street  
Austin, Texas 78722

Bill Dodd's Rare Plants  
P.O. Drawer 377  
Semmes, Ala. 36575

Green Horizons  
500 Thompson Drive  
Kerrville, Texas 78028

Texas Natives  
c/o B. Breckenridge  
910 Glen Oak  
Austin, Texas 78745

This list is by no means complete, and I would suggest to anyone interested in growing and propagating native plants that they write to all of the nurseries listed above, as well as any others they may hear of.



## PASSION FLOWER DESERVING

by Jack Price

(Ed. Note: The following article appeared in The Shreveport Times, August 12, 1979)

The story of the Purple maypop or Passion Flower (Passiflora incarnata) as it relates to the crucifixion of Christ is familiar to a large number of people. This large passion flower is very beautiful and deserves a place in your wildflower garden.

Passiflora incarnata has a smaller relative which is not as well known but which is just as attractive, the Yellow Passion Flower, Passiflora lutea. It is a miniature of its larger relative, about one inch in size and yellow-green in color. Makeup of the two flowers is almost the same. The blooms have five sepals, five petals, five stamens, and a pistil or crown.

The pistil is a stalk which separates into three styles. A small stigma which extends sideways is located at the tip of each style.

The perianth (where sepals and petals resemble each other) is yellowish-green and forms three small circles of light green to yellowish-green fringe.

Crowns are also light yellow-green and they extend upward about three quarters of an inch above the petals and sepals.

Fruit or seed pod of the passion flowers is a round ball about one half inch in size, it turns from dark green to dark purple when mature. About ten or twelve small black seeds are attached to the sides of this hollow ball. There are no chambers inside the fruit.

Root systems are very small, shallow and widely spreading. Transplanting is very difficult as the roots are fragile. The main stem may grow to a length of six to eight feet with occasional branches.

Leaves are bright green, slightly hairy on the underside, three-lobed, approximately two to three inches wide and extend on a one inch stem. A very thin, threadlike, coiled tendril is opposite the leaf on the stem. This tendril grasps everything it comes in contact with. A short stem about one inch long develops at the junction of the leaf and tendril to support the flower.

## MUTATIONS IN WILDFLOWERS

by David Heikamp

As with all plants, wildflowers sometimes mutate to form new varieties. I'm sure many of you have heard of the double flowering bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis) and white flowering Cardinal Flower (Lobelia cardinalis var alba). Here in Louisiana, rarely a yellow flowered Iris fulva is found, and yellow flowering forms of 3 of our 4 native Trillium species are known to occur.

It is always interesting to see or hear about these mutants, as when I saw the 6-leaved Trillium gracile a few years back at Briarwood. A few years back, while on an outing with The Alabama Wildflower Society, Ms. Caroline Dean showed us a wonderful slide show featuring many Alabama wildflowers. One of her favorites was an Indian Pink (Spigelia marilandica) where the normally yellow inside part of the flower was white with two very distinct red stripes on each petal running into the throat of the flower: very striking.

(over)



## MUTATIONS IN WILDFLOWERS, cont.

A few weeks back I heard from Karlene DeFatta of Keithville, La. Last year she found a Black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia sp.) that sported a red-brown spot on each ray flower much like Mexican Hat (Ratibida sp.). She brought the plant seeds home, planted them, and some appeared with more area of the ray flowers being red-brown. Karlene hopes to collect enough seed this year to donate some to the seed exchange.

In late July, one of my Pinewoods Lily (formerly Eustylis purpurea, now Alophia drummondii) bloomed in which the outer segments of the flower were a lighter shade of purple than my other plants, but were mottled with patches of purple that were the same deep shade of purple as my plants normally have. All the subsequent flowers on this plant exhibited this same trait. It will be interesting to see if this variation comes true from seed, and whether or not it will repeat next year.

If anyone else has seen interesting mutations in our native flora, why not write a short letter to the editor, in order to share your experience.

## SPOROTRICHOSIS ON THE INCREASE

Having read about an increase in the number of cases of Sporotrichosis in both the Times Picayune and the newsletter of The Alabama Wildflower Society, I thought it would be appropriate to bring this to our reader's attention.

Sporotrichosis, caused by the fungus Sporotrichum schenckii, is a subacute infection usually occurring in farmers, horticulturists and miners. The disease, normally occurring following infection with the fungus by trauma, has become more common among users of sphagnum moss recently due to its presence in the moss.

The disease usually starts as a skin lesion, but may spread to other parts of the body. In the recent past, pulmonary infections with no prior skin lesion(s) have increased.

Sporotrichosis is easily treated if properly diagnosed. Diagnosis can be a problem, as it is a disease physicians rarely see. Should you develop a small pustule, or swollen lymph nodes (those in the armpit and elbow are frequently swollen and sore), you should see your physician immediately and by all means suggest the possible diagnosis of Sporotrichosis!



## WILDFLOWER WREATHS

by Karlene DeFatta

Roadsides and hillsides at this time of year are covered with wildflowers and weeds, green and pliable for use in wreaths.

The Cypress Weeds, Eupatorium capillifolium, twined together into a circle make a nice wreath foundation. Small sprigs of white Snakeroot, Eupatorium rugosum, worked at a 45 degree angle into the wreath makes a pretty background. Wild blue Ageratum, Eupatorium coelestinum, is pretty nestled among the white Snakeroot, every six inches or so. The small Rayless Goldelrod, Solidago xenuifolia gives the whole wreath a nice golden glow when used in small sprigs.

As the wreath dries, the material contracts so as to hold everything in place. It takes on a soft and subtle appearance: purple flowers turn to mauve; yellow and white flowers turn to soft greens, beiges and browns. Natural colors such as these blend well in wreaths, as well as in any room. Darker walls make the wreath stand out.

For best results, don't hang the wreath until dry. Lay it to dry in a shady, airy place. Flowers may become fuzzy as they dry, a little hair spray will keep the fuzzies in place.

Wildflower wreaths add warmth to any room, so take to the roadsides with scissors in hand and capture some of the glory of fall to take home and savor all winter long!

### INTERESTING READING

Many times, in reading thru old periodicals, you can come across articles of interest to your fellow wildflower enthusiasts. If you do, why not mail a copy to the editor, and we can pass the reference on to our readers. Below, I'll list a few I have come across in the past few months. Many of our public libraries can obtain copies of them for you thru their interlibrary loan system:

"TAXONOMY OF CLEMATIS SECTION VIORNA" from Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden, February, 1943, Vol. 30 No. 1. by Ralph Erickson

"THE DISTRIBUTION OF HABRANTHUS TUBISPATUS (L'Her.) IN SOUTH AMERICA AND NORTH AMERICA - TEXAS AND LOUISIANA" by W.C. Holmes and Christopher J. Wells, from SIDA 8(4): 328-333. 1980.

"KNOWN DISTRIBUTION OF HYMENOCALLIS SALISBURY IN NORTH AND MIDDLE AMERICA AND THE WEST INDIES" by Walter S. Flory, from PLANT LIFE 34: 47-59. 1978.

"NATIVE HYMENOCALLIS" by Caroline Dorman, from PLANT LIFE 1961.



Gordonia lasianthus COLD DAMAGED IN N.O.

by David Heikamp

The winter of 1983/84 saw one of the most unusual cold spells ever to hit the New Orleans area. While the record-breaking freeze of the early 60s that hit the area had below-freezing temperatures for a longer period of time, the cold spell this time around was accompanied by tremendous winds that dried out much of the vegetation in the area.

According to local horticulturists, such a wind has a negligible effect on plant material when the temperature is above the freezing point, but that below the freezing point, it has a definite adverse effect. Many plants that were not affected in years past suffered considerable damage this time around. Japanese yews had most of their outside branches frozen back several inches, while the branches on the interior of the shrubs remained untouched. There were many other such cases around the city.

Of particular interest to me was my only Gordonia lasianthus. While planted on the north side of my home, it is offered considerable protection from damaging winds by my neighbor's home, and a 6 foot cedar fence less than 10 feet to the north. No cold damage was apparent until late May, at which time branches started dying back to the main trunk. This was preceded by a swelling of the branch in the area closest to the main trunk, followed by a peeling of the bark along a several inch stretch of the branch near the main trunk.

This continued up until the third week in July, at which time almost half the branches had died. As each branch died, I cut it off, painted the tree with wound paint, and waited for the next branch to die. I was fairly sure it was a fungus disease at this point, having no idea cold damage would show up so long after the cold spell that caused it.

About the third week in July, after removing several dead and dying branches at one time, I noticed a pattern to the destruction. While not all the dead branches were on the north side of the tree, most were, and were concentrated in an area about two thirds the way up the tree. At this time, I also noticed several new shoots appearing from the main trunk in the area of the dead branches, and also on some of the side branches.

It is now the first week in August, and the tree has flowered normally, and in fact still has a few flowers on it, and is apparently making a comeback. Why the damage occurred, I can only surmise that it was the combination of wind and cold. Sometimes man-made structures have been implicated in augmenting cold/wind damage by causing a funneling effect that creates an unfavorable microclimate. From personal observations, this was not the case.