



winter 1984

VOL. 2, NO. 4

The LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

A CHANGING OF THE GUARD

As the out-going President, it is my privilege to introduce to you our new President, and so it is with pleasure I present to you Dr. Ben Martin.

A native of Greenwood, Mississippi, Dr. Martin received his B.S. and Masters at McNeese and his Ph.D. at L.S.U. His research was done with the genus Smilax. He joined the staff of L.S.U. at Alexandria in 1973 where he has served as Professor of Biology, as Department Head, and has recently been appointed Dean of Academic Affairs.

As a Society, we have come a long way in the last two years. I feel, however, that we have some very exciting years in the future. At no time in history has our voice been needed more than now!

As we are recognized as leaders in our sphere, let us not forget that wisdom and responsibility must accompany our works,

Sincerely,

Richard L. Johnson
LNPS President, 1984

NATIVE PLANT SOURCE GUIDE AVAILABLE

The New England Wild Flower Society recently published a 53-page guide to NURSERY SOURCES, NATIVE PLANTS AND WILDFLOWERS. Listing and supplying information on 193 nurseries, and covering every region of the country except Hawaii and Alaska, it is a publication worth purchasing. To order, send \$3.50 (this includes postage and handling) to: New England Wild Flower Society, Dept. NS, Garden in the Woods, Hemenway Road, Framingham, Ma. 01701.

OFFICERS FOR 1985

Article VII, Section II of our bylaws states: The Board of Directors consists of the immediate past President, the current President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, the Presidents (or Chairpersons) of each local chapter of the Society, and nine (9) at-large members elected by the Society to serve three (3) year terms.

With that in mind, here are the officers of the LNPS for 1985:

President: Dr. Ben Martin
180 Woodcliff Circle
Pineville, La. 71360

Vice-President: Diane Laborde Bullard
631 Girard Park Circle
Lafayette, La.

Secretary: Neil A. Bertinot
Rt. 7, Box 16E18
Opelousas, La. 70507

Treasurer: Elinor Herd
239 Pomeroy
Shreveport, La. 71115

Ex-Officio President: Richard L. Johnson
Rt. 1, Box 195
Saline, La. 71070

Members-at-large:

3 year terms:

Beth Erwin
P.O. Box 1341
Bastrop, La. 71221

Nelwyn Gilmore
Rt. 1, Box 316
Ruston, La. 71270

Lynn Nelson
Rt. 5
Coushatta, La. 71019

2 year terms:

Charles Harrington
309 Watson Drive
Natchitoches, La. 71019

Augustine Breaux
236 Willowbrook
Gretna, La. 70053

Diane Laborde Bullard
631 Girard Park Dr.
Lafayette, La. 70518

also, all Presidents (or Chairpersons) of local Chapters.

1 year terms:

Barbara Nelson
4110 Pinhook Rd.
Lafayette, La. 70518

Louise Stuart
2317 Hill St.
Alexandria, La. 71301

Neil A. Bertinot
Rt. 7, Box 16E18
Opelousas, La. 70507

SHREVEPORT CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Mrs. Ella Price of the Shreveport Chapter of the LNPS write:

Mrs. Norvell at the Girl Scout office asked Richard and Jessie Johnson, Jack and myself to come and help on their nature trail at the Girl Scout camp near Arcadia. It was established in 1963 and was named the Caroline Dorman Nature Trail. It turned out to be a beautiful place, and they only need to add to what they already have. A little later we'll be helping sample native plants of the area.

BASKETS FROM NATURE'S BOUNTY

by Karlene DeFatta

I would like to share the fun of making baskets from native materials with all you native plant lovers. You aren't destroying any plants, grapevines liked to be pruned back in the fall, and only the ones the size of your little finger or smaller are used. The same thing is true of the Virginia Creeper. Too, we have enough grasses and honeysuckle vines to bury ourselves in baskets and never miss what materials we've gathered. For pine needle baskets, in September and early October the fresh fallen needles of the Longleaf Pine are good. I don't advise collecting the green needles unless you have trees on your own land.

Anyone can make baskets! The local library will have a wealth of information on the subject. I read several books, made notes, but really learned by doing. It's so rewarding to make that first basket! The more you make the more you learn, and the better baskets you will turn out. The enjoyment you have is well worth the time spent.

It's fantastic to make baskets for your home and to give as gifts. I had the pleasure of demonstrating how to make baskets at the Keatchie festival, for the parish-wide homemakers club meeting. People were very interested in making baskets. I enjoyed showing them it's really something anyone can do.

The baskets can be decorated with other native materials. I make flowers out of the small Sugar Pine cones by plucking out the "petals" down to the last four rows. I sew these on the lids of my pine needle baskets, using them in place of a handle or knob. The grapevine baskets are already decorated with their "curly cues". The handle of twisted vines sets them off. The Virginia Creeper weaves well into melon-shaped or egg-shaped baskets. Many dried flowers will help dress up the Virginia Creeper basket, take your pick! Oakleaf hydrangea is nice, as are Clematis seed pods (really achenes) and wild rose hips. Many baskets you will want to leave unadorned and crude. Examples might be baskets for pine cones, fruits, magazines, etc.

In any case, do have fun this year making your own baskets, and feel the pride of something beautiful you've created with the help of nature! Then share your how-to knowledge with your friends. It's great happiness that's meant to be shared!

PLANTSEARCH

Neil Bertinot of Opelousas is looking for the following Louisiana irises: "Abbeville Yellow" or yellow Iris nelsonii, "Her Highness", "Barbara Elaine Taylor", "Pink Joy Roberts" or "Robert's Pink Foliosa", white flowered Iris previcaulis. Anyone that can help Neil with any of these varieties should write him:

Neil Bertinot
Rt. 7, Box 16E18
Opelousas, Louisiana 70570

NATURE CONSERVANCY HARD AT WORK IN LOUISIANA

Everyone who attended our recent January meeting got to hear Ms. Annette Parker of THE NATURE CONSERVANCY speak on the work The Conservancy is doing here in Louisiana. In a recent letter Ms. Parker writes:

"I am compiling a list of Louisiana's rare plants with the assistance of many botanists across the state. I anticipate listing some 250 species. Label data from all herbarium sheets of these plants will be collected. Precise locations will then be mapped on topographic maps. I, and others, will be doing much field work to update old records and to determine the status and distribution of rare species. Hopefully, some LNPS members will be interested in assisting."

NOTE : Anyone desiring further information should write to:

Ms. Annette Parker
c/o La. Natural Heritage Program
P.O. Box 44124
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

DUES, MAILING LIST NEWS

Almost everyone receiving this newsletter will notice that their newsletter envelope is addressed with an address label. This is because our mailing list is now computerized. This will greatly facilitate the mailing of information to our members as well as cut down on the number of mailing errors that occur. If your envelope is not addressed with an address label, don't worry, you are already on the computerized list. Several address changes were received after the envelopes for this issue were already addressed. Any changes that HAD to be made were made on the envelope you received today. Any changes that that did not have to be made in order to assure delivery (title changes for example) have been made on the computerized list already and will appear on your next newsletter, so please be patient and wait for the next newsletter to see if your requested changes have been made.

By the way, dues are due for 1985, so be sure and mail your dues in to our treasurer (\$5 per year) to be sure your name stays on the mailing list. Mail dues to:

Mrs. Elinor Herd
239 Pomeroy
Shreveport, Louisiana 71115

DEADLINE FOR SPRING NEWSLETTER

All articles, information, etc. to be included in the spring newsletter must be received by me no later than April 21, 1985. Chapters have had a POOR track record for submitting news. How is everyone supposed to find out what you are doing, what field trips you have planned, etc.? Address all correspondence to be included in the newsletter to: David Heikamp, 717 Giuffrias, Metairie, Louisiana 70001. All members are encouraged to write down their experiences/observations concerning native plants and send them on in.

ADDITIONS TO SEED EXCHANGE LIST

Along with the seeds listed in the last newsletter, the following seeds and spores can be ordered. Send 25 cents per packet to: Mr. John Larkin Sr., 1907 Metairie Ct. Pkwy., Metairie, La. 70001. Many thanks to all who took the time to collect and donate the seeds in our seed exchange program. Special thanks to Fred Dunham of Baskin, La., Nan Rawls of Lafayette, La. and Karlene DeFatta of Keithville, La. for donating as much as they did. A special thanks also goes to Mr. John Larkin for coordinating the seed exchange!

26. Wild Wisteria, W. macrostachya
27. Snowbell, Styrax americana
28. Bag-Pod, Sesbania vesicaria
29. Silverleaf Sunflower, H. argophyllus
30. Golden Wave, Coreopsis tinctoria
31. Brown-Eyed Susan, Rudbeckia hirta
32. Ox-Eye Daisy, Chrysanthemum leucanthemum
33. Mexican Hat, Rudbeckia columnaris
34. Annual Sunflower, H. annuus
35. Coffee Senna, Cassia occidentalis
36. Wild Bean, Dioclea multiflora
37. Hog Peanut, Apios americana
38. -----Deleted-----
39. Strawberry Bush, E. americana
40. Vining Milkweed, Matelea decipens
41. Honeyvine Milkweed, Matelea zenocarpa
42. Evening Primrose, O. biennis
43. Jerusalem Artichoke, H. tuberosus
44. Sticktight Sunflower, Bidens aristosa
45. Evening Primrose, O. lamarckiana
46. Wild Yam, Dioscorea villosa
47. Purple Passion Flower, Passiflora incarnata
48. Carolina Moonseed, Cocculus carolina
49. Rattle Box, Crotolaria sagittalis
50. Prairie Mimosa, Desmanthus illinoiensis
51. Wild Wisteria, Wisteria sp.
52. Butterfly Pea, Centrosema virginianum
53. Wild Indigo, Baptisia sp.
54. Brazilian Rattlebox, Sesbania punicea
55. Coreopsis, C. tinctoria (Some solid red.)
56. Silverleaf Sunflower, H. argophyllus
57. Evening Primrose, O. biennis
58. Crossvine, Bignonia capreolata
59. Balloon Vine, Cardiospermum halicacabum
60. Witch Hazel, H. virginiana
61. Meadow Beauty, Rhexia alifanus
62. Cardinal Flower, Lobelia cardinalis
63. Wild Ageratum, Eupatorium coelestinum

SPORES

Note: Fern spores are tiny, so it will appear almost nothing is in the packet.

- WF-1. Louisiana Wood Fern, Dryopteris ludoviciana
WF-2. Christmas Fern, Poylstickum acrostichoides

- WF-3. Ebony Spleenwort, Asplenium platyneuron
WF-4. Cinnamon Fern, Osmunda cinnamomea
WF-5. Ladder Brake, Pteris vittata
WF-6. Spider Brake, Pteris multifida
WF-7. Sensitive Fern, Onoclea sensibilis
WF-8. Lowland Fragile Fern, Cystopteris protrusa
WF-9. Holly Fern, Crytomium falcatum

GREATER NEW ORLEANS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY'S SPRING FIELD TRIPS

The Greater New Orleans Native Plant Society has scheduled the following field trips for Spring 1985. All members of the LNPS are welcomed to join us on these trips:

March 30: Clarks Creek. This is a place we've visited before, but much later in the year last time. Hopefully there will be some interesting things in bloom. Long ago, this was part of the foot hills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

April 27: Florida parishes trip. A trip across Lake Ponchatrain to see the bogs there any anything else that looks interesting!

May 25: Wiggins, Mississippi trip. This is an area we visited the year before last. A very interesting area of rolling hills, the home of Colopogon orchids as well as Lady Lupine, Lupinus villosa.

As in past years we will meet in the parking lot of Lakeside Shopping Center which is located at the corner of Veterans Blvd. and Causeway Blvd. in Metairie. We'll meet on the north side of the shopping center, in the parking lot just outside the D.H. Holmes store. We will leave at 7:30 AM sharp for each trip. If you know in advance you'll be going, and have room in your car for others and would like to car pool, please contact David Heikamp at 1-504-831-2342. As always, bring along a sack lunch and something to drink. Dress comfortably. Guests are welcome!

AMARYLLID SYMPOSIUM TO BE HELD IN NEW ORLEANS

On April 12, 1985, the second symposium ever held by THE AMERICAN PLANT LIFE SOCIETY will be held in New Orleans. A number of botanists, collectors, and experts on the family Amaryllidaceae are scheduled to talk. A plant sale of amaryllids is also scheduled. Anyone intertested may obtain registration information by sending a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Mr. A.T. Diermayer
545 Brockenbrough Ct.
Metairie, Louisiana 70005

ST. JOHN'S WORT IS ABUNDANT

by Jack Price

(Ed. Note: The following article appeared in The Shreveport Times, July 15, 1979)

Several members of the St. John's Wort family are found in our area. One of the most beautiful, Hypericum densiflorum, blooms from June through July. It is found in sub-marginal land, pinewoods, on creek banks and roadsides in semishade.

There may be either one or two plants in an area or you may find them growing in thick colonies. Hypericum densiflorum is like a small two foot tree with many branches. The branches extend outward and upward from ground level and have no order or arrangement in their growth.

Bark on the main trunk is slightly cracked and slick brown with a lighter bark showing through the cracks. Leaves are opposite on short stems and petioles and are slick green. They are lanceolate, approximately two inches long and five sixteenths inch wide.

A five part bract develops at the tip of the new growth. Two members of the bract are about one inch long and the other three are approximately one half to three quarters of an inch in length. A small green ball develops in the center of the bract, it grows in size and turns yellow spreading open five golden yellow petals. The petals fold out then down resting on the bracts. Hundreds of solid yellow fine stamens are located in the center of the petals, they form a round ball about one half inch in height and one inch across.

Small balls of pollen about one sixtyfourth of an inch in size develop on the tips of the stamens. A very small greenish-yellow pear shaped seed pod develops in the center of the stamens. It is approximately one eighth inch at the base, one half inch in length and tapers to a point at the tip. Three styles twist upward with the stigma at their tips ready to receive the pollen. Petals and stamens fall away after the flower has been pollinated leaving the developing seed pod and the five part bract. There are many very small seeds, they are almost powder-like. Flowers and leaves wilt very rapidly when picked.

The root system of Hypericum densiflorum is very extensive and shows much age. Roots spread outward. They are not too deep and have only a small taproot. There is evidence St. John's Wort will produce stolons as several plants are connected by a single root. It is best to transplant in the winter months when the foliage is absent and the plant is dormant. Even then transplanting is difficult.

MALLOW FAMILY HAS FAMILIAR VARIETIES

by Jack Price

(Ed. Note: The following article appeared in The Shreveport Times, August 21, 1977)

North Louisiana, South Arkansas and east Texas have an abundance of hibiscus growing in roadside ditches, open fields, marshy areas and along low damp drains and lakes. These plants are members of the mallow family, which also includes cotton and okra, both of which were once native plants but are now cultivated. Hibiscus are perennials and vary considerably as to size and color both in the plants and the blossoms.

Some plants may attain a height of six feet and flower range from one and one half inches to seven inches or more in diameter. The five petals of the larger hibiscus vary in color from snow white with red centers to different shades of pink, dark red, and a rare yellow. The seed pods remind one of a small okra pod.

Hibiscus of our area start to bloom in mid July and continue until mid August. They can be easily transplanted or started from seed.

Salt Marsh Mallow, Kosteletzka virginica, resembles hibiscus. It is found only in the coastal parishes of south Louisiana. It can be transplanted to our area and does very well. Its flowers are small when compared to the hibiscus of this region, being only one and one half to two inches in diameter. The blooms are light pink to dark pink and occasionally a pure white will be found. The flowers have five petals with a center column. The column extends out about two to two and one half inches and contains the pollen.

The leaves of the marsh mallow are hairy to the touch, dark green in color, approximately three inches long by two inches wide and alternate up the stem. The stems may reach a height of six feet. Young plants will only have a single stem while older plants have several branching stems.

Flowers last most of one day when the weather is cool but collapse by mid day when the weather is hot. A large plant will produce vast numbers of blooms in one season, as many as fifty blooms may open in one morning. When the blooms fade a five pointed green flat seed pod about one half inch in size is left. Each point is divided into two cells and each cell contains one seed. Therefore, one seed pod is capable of producing ten seeds.

One of the distinguishing factors of the Salt Marsh Mallow is the design of the seed pod. Transplanting can be difficult as dehydration is very fast when the plant is removed from the watery soil. The best method of starting it in your wildflower garden is by collecting seeds. Collect after the pods have turned brown, start in a flat and the following spring transfer to the desired location. Hibiscus prefer direct sun and plenty of water. Young plants should bloom in two years when started from seeds. Allow room for growth and reseeding.