



FALL 1988

volume 6, number 3

The LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION COMING YOUR WAY

A combination of factors has led to an overflow of information for this newsletter. A list of plants from John Mayronne of plants needed for the Hodges Garden Project was too long to fit into the newsletter, so it will be coming to you in a few weeks as a separate mailing. Bo on the lookout for it!

ANNUAL DUES NOTICE (AS REQUIRED BY BYLAWS)

Article III, Section 3 of the bylaws states: "By November 1, the membership shall be advised by notice that Annual Dues (\$5.00 per person) are to be paid by January 1st of the coming year. On March 1, delinquent members shall be so advised. Those whose dues are not paid by April 1 shall be dropped from the roster. Dues paid by new members before November 1 shall apply to the current year, those paid after that apply to the new."

YOUR 1988 DUES MAY BE OVERDUE!

The dues of a few members are long overdue for 1988. If you know someone who does not receive a copy of this newsletter, their dues are probably overdue. The place to send your \$5 annual dues is:

Elinor Herd
239 Pomeroy
Shreveport, Louisiana 71115

DEADLINES FOR NEXT 4 NEWSLETTERS:

Don't forget! In an effort to better coordinate the distribution of information concerning field trips as well as other dated information the newsletter is following the new deadline policy. The deadlines for the next four newsletters will be as follows:

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|--------------------|-------------------|
| Winter Newsletter: | December 1, 1988 |
| Spring Newsletter: | March 1, 1989 |
| Summer Newsletter: | June 1, 1989 |
| Fall Newsletter: | September 1, 1989 |

Every effort will be made to have the newsletters in the mail within 7 days following the deadline. Your editor's address is:

David Heikamp
717 Giuffrias
Metairie, La. 70001

SWEETGUM AND WITCH HAZEL IN LOUISIANA

by Charles M. Allen and R. Dale Thomas

The Witch Hazel Family (Hamamelidaceae) in Louisiana is represented by two species; Witch Hazel (Hamamelis virginiana) and Sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua).

Witch Hazel is also called Winter Hazel, Snapping Hazel, Winterbloom, Spotted Alder, Tobacco Wood, Pistacio, and Witch-Elm. It is a shrub to small tree with alternate, simple, deciduous leaves that have an asymmetrical base and large, remotely spaced, rounded teeth. The flowers are yellow and produced in November. The fruit is a capsule with two glossy black seeds. The capsule squeezes the seeds out at maturity and the squeezing has been reported to propel the seeds for long distances. The twigs are used to make divining rods to locate water. Extractions from twigs and leaves are made into lotions and salves. The extracts contain tannic acid and have been used to lessen inflammation, stop bleeding, and to check secretions from mucous membranes. The extract is also said to be astringent and hemolytic and used for hemorrhoids, varicose veins, and bruises. The Indians are reported to have used leaves to make tea and bark to heal wounds. Witch Hazel is usually found in pine forests or beech-magnolia forests and is fairly common throughout most of the pine forest regions of the state.

Sweetgum is also called Redgum, Whitegum, Star-leaved Gum, Gumtree, Gumwood, Liquidamber, Alligatorwood, Opossum-Tree, Bilsted, Satin-Walnut, and California Redgum. It is a large tree to 150 feet tall. The leaves are alternate, simple, palmately veined, deciduous, palmately 5-lobed, and serrate. The leaves have a pleasant odor when crushed. The flowers are small, green, and produced March to April. The fruit is the "gumball" which is a cluster of capsules. The wood is fairly hard, not strong, and weighs 37 lbs. per cubic foot. It has been used for flooring, furniture, veneers, wooden ware, general construction, boxes, crossties, barrels, sewing machines, musical instruments, tobacco boxes, cabinets, wooden dishes, fruit boxes, street pavement, excelsiors, boats, toys, and pulpwood. Resin from sweetgum is called American storax or styrax and has been used as a stimulant, expectorant, and antiseptic and has been used to treat scabies, dysentery, and other diseases. It has also been used in fumigating powders, pastilles, and adhesives. Oil of styrax has been used to scent soap and perfume and to desharpen tobacco. In the past, the bark of large sweetgums was injured and the resin that was exuded was used as chewing gum. The twigs have also been used to clean and freshen teeth. Sweetgum is perhaps the most common "nonpine" tree in the state. It is found in most habitats and all parishes.

GROWING WILDFLOWERS

by Beth Erwin

I hope everyone has had a profitable spring from a wildflower point of view. I also hope the rest of you folks across the northern section of the state survived the big drought. I finally quit going to check the local wildflower plots because it was just too depressing. At least we didn't have to worry about the weeds outgrowing the wildflowers. We could already use another rain just like the last one. Last week's rains really brought out the blooms...and the johnsongrass and sow thistle and nut sedge and ragweed and so on...

New additions to our garden this year are too numerous to list, so I'll just hit the high spots. Coreopsis verticillata 'Moonbeam' is a plant I first saw in North Carolina last summer and have coveted ever since. The flowers are pale yellow, very much the color you might expect a moonbeam to be, and are born above thin thread-like foliage in neat mounds. We were given a start of the little coreopsis 'Nana' that has flowers like Coreopsis lanceolata but forms a mat and stays under 6 inches in height. In the seedling bed I had excellent germination of Callirhoe papaver, poppy mallow, from seed planted in late winter. Unfortunately, I lost them all in transplanting. Our seedling bed is a rather hodge-podge affair. It is a small box filled with sand, perlite, and a touch of commercial soilless potting mix. We've never changed out the mix, which in commercial horticulture is tantamount to saying you never change your underwear. As far as we know, we've never experienced any seedling disease problems. I have also coaxed up four blue Baptisia seedlings, Baptisia australis, but I am terrified to try transplanting, as my information source says that is the touchy point in propagating them. They are supposed to favor a pH of 7.0 so if I can keep them alive they should like it here.

If you are not already collecting seeds, you should be. I've already gathered some Salvia lyrata for the wildflower plots in town. The plots are apparently the only place in Bastrop that it doesn't occur naturally. The earlier blooming Prunella plants are maturing seeds, and I'm watching a local population of Psoralea simplex and Scutellaria integrifolia (Rough Skullcap) as it matures. Due to the high percentage of cornflowers that germinated in the Monroe wildflower plots, I am getting a lot of requests to add more blue flowers to ours.

For those of you desiring more instantaneous results, according to the book, Growing and Propagating Wildflowers, by Harry Phillips, there are a number of perennial wildflowers you can propagate from cuttings this time of year. The lobelias, red or blue, can be rooted from cuttings six to eight inches long taken in mid-summer. Lay them down in a medium of sand and perlite (available from any garden center), keep moist, and cover lightly with sand. After little rosettes of leaves and roots develop at the nodes, separate the sections and pot them up. Expect results in 4 to 6 weeks. I am giving these a try. The clear plastic cartons that my local supermarket provides for take-out salad make dandy seed and cutting chambers. Another plant project that I am trying is rooting Amsonia or Blue-star cuttings. Cuttings taken from the side branches in May have a better than 50% chance of rooting when stuck in moist sand, according to Phillips. I successfully rooted some Obedient plant cuttings that I pinched from some rangy plants. I stuck the tips in that nasty seedling box. I plan to try some more later to see if I get better results. Mid-summer is also the time to begin experimenting with rooting deciduous shrubs. I am definitely going to try and root some deciduous holly. Whatever you try, please, please, please share your results with us!

The Society for Louisiana Irises has come out with an impressive book on Louisiana irises. It includes everything you could ever want to know about the Louisianas, and in case the sheer volume of cultural information, and the technical aspects of hybridizing should overwhelm the novice grower, the beautiful color photographs will strengthen your resolve to grow them. The Louisiana Iris, edited by Marie Caillet and Joseph K. Mertzweiler, is distributed by Texas Gardener Press, P.O. Box 9005, Waco, Texas, 76714. The price is \$23.95 and I am sure any bookstore can get it. My apologies for not including the ordering information for Dr. Thomas's new book, 100 Woody Plants of North Louisiana, in the last newsletter. The book is 207 pages, 9 1/2 X 11 inches, and plastic spiral bound. To order send \$7.00 to Dr. R.

Dale Thomas, Director of the Herbarium, Dept. of Biology, Northeast Louisiana University, Monroe, Louisiana, 71209-0502.

One final request: does anyone know where I can get seed cleaning sieves?

FROM SMALL SEEDS.....

by Bill Fontenot, Curator of Natural Sciences, Lafayette Natural History Museum

It seems like only yesterday that Dr. Tom Kee, in his trademark, matter-of-fact manner, explained to his Advanced Field Ornithology class at Northeast Louisiana University that a large percentage of us future biologists would be relegated to careers as glorified zoo keepers; managing small plots of leftover wildlife habitat amidst miles and miles of urban sprawl and clearcut lands. Fifteen years later, here I sit, one of his disbelieving students, managing a 42 acre "nature trail" at Acadiana Park in eastern Lafayette parish. As a result of 100 years of uninterrupted cattle grazing, the "nature trail" winds through a floodplain and escarpment hardwood section run amuck with honeysuckle, climbing fern, and Nandina from the orient, two species of privet, also from overseas, and near pure stands of Poison Ivy that heavily predominate the herbaceous layers. Good cause to feel depressed? Not really. How about optimistic. Well, of course not.

The fact that we, as a nation, have allowed our precious natural heritage to go derelict, mostly for ill-gotten gain, can be quite depressing if we dwell on such things. But there is really not too much time for pity parties. Not for biologists, at least. For a new wave of biological management practices has arrived on the scene, and it's time to get busy planning the future. The future, in this case, is called Biological Restoration. Coupled with increased efforts to preserve our remaining natural habitat, biological restoration and management looms as our only option with which to counteract the commercially induced shrinking of our wilderness.

Few people involved in ecology and wildlife biology would argue that Aldo Leopold should not be selected as the Grandfather of Biological Restoration and Management. As a professor of Wildlife Management at the University of Wisconsin in the early part of this century, Leopold spent countless hours in writing, lecturing, and in physically acting to restore Wisconsin's once magnificent woodlands and prairies. In his landmark book, A Sand County Almanac, Leopold puts the blame for the disappearance of our natural heritage on our own greed and ignorance, certainly the most deadly combination of human woes in history. "Land ethics are still governed wholly by economic self-interest, just as social ethics were a century ago.....One basic weakness of a conservation system based wholly on economic motives is that most members of the land community have no economic value. Wildflowers and songbirds are examples. Of the 20,000 higher plants and animals native to Wisconsin, it is doubtful whether more than 5 percent can be sold, fed, eaten, or otherwise put to economic use. Yet these creatures are members of the biotic community, and if its stability depends on its integrity, they are entitled to continuance." He also introduced us to the concept of the Land Ethic. "No important change in ethics was ever accomplished without an internal change in our intellectual emphasis, loyalties, affections and convictions. The proof that conservation has not yet touched these foundations of conduct lies in the fact that philosophy and religion have not yet heard of it. In our attempt to make conservation easy, we have made it trivial...do we not already sing our love for and obligation to the land of the free and the home of the brave? Yes, but just what and whom do we love? Certainly not the soil, which we are sending helter-skelter downriver.

Certainly not the waters, which we assume have no function except to turn turbines, float barges, and carry off sewerage. Certainly not the plants, which we exterminate whole communities without batting an eye. Certainly not the animals, of which we have already extirpated many of the largest and most beautiful species. A land ethic of course cannot prevent the alteration, management, and use of these 'resources' but it does affirm their right to continued existence, and, at least in spots, their continued existence in a natural state. In short, a land ethic changes the role of Homo sapiens from conqueror of the land community to plain member and citizen of it."

Unlike most movements, Leopold's Land Ethic Movement did not wilt against public criticism and big money. Using the University of Wisconsin Arboretum as a base, people like John Curtis and Grant Cottham fell into the fray, contributing works that described Wisconsin's natural landscapes of the future. Today, the work of biological restorationists like William Jordan, Nina Leopold, and Konrad Liegel, and many others in Florida, Illinois, and Ohio has inspired the formation of the Society for Ecological Restoration and Management. Aldo Leopold's small seeds have surely struck fertile soil!

So, what about Louisiana? Well, the establishment of the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program and the Nature Conservancy Office here during the past few years has provided a great starting point. So far, the Heritage Program staff has discovered and identified more than seventy distinct habitat types within our state. The Nature Conservancy has purchased over 30,000 acres of precious Tensas River Basin lands, with more acquisitions planned for the future.

Native plant societies are currently playing large roles in states with active biological restoration programs. So what about the LNPS? Well, planting native species in our yards is a good start. Not only do these plantings spur public interest and education, but they also provide seed banks from which biologists may well have to rely upon in acquiring plant stock for future restoration projects. Our state universities sorely need to get into the act. The extensive botanical surveys provided by Drs. R. Dale Thomas, Charles Allen, and many others have provided much baseline data from which restoration projects could be launched.

So what about me? Well, I've just declared war on a small segment of the Acadiana Park Nature Trail. Those invaders have got to go. Meanwhile, I'm researching early botanical surveys by Featherman, Small, and Darby in an effort to rediscover the make-up of our pre-settlement Mississippi River Floodplain flora. From small seeds.....

NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST CHAPTER

by Karlene Defatta

Members of the Northwest Chapter (Shreveport) obtained permission to explore some land in southern Desoto Parish. On April 9 we went on a field trip into this interesting area. Along the sandy banks of creeks huge wild azaleas were in bloom. Right beside the road we spotted a beautiful Silverbell, Halesia diptera in full bloom. In another area we found a Bigleaf Snowbell in bloom, Styrax grandifolia. Under the Bigleaf we found masses of white primrose-leaved violets, Viola primulifolia. Ferns dotted the bottom lands - Christmas Fern, Lady Fern, Royal Fern, Spleenwort Fern, Rattlesnake Fern, and Grape-leaf Fern. Dogwoods and Hawthornes were also blooming along the roadside and in the woods creating views that were breathtaking.

On April 10th, Jim Robbins invited members of the Northwest and Ruston Chapters to his place at Cypress Lake. The Nature Center is nestled into the beautiful woods aglow with Shooting Stars, Dodecatheon media. Even in the misting rain that fell Jim's well-kept bed of treasures inspired us all. A

big bed of Penstemon murryanus contained the prettiest plants of the species I have ever seen. Interesting trails led us to an unbelievably beautiful area where dozens of Baptisia sphaerocarpa plants hung their huge clusters of yellow flowers down like Wisteria. Further down the trail was a truly unbelievable sight - hundreds of Celestial Lilies, Nemastylis geminiflora still open because the day was so overcast - unforgettable! There were even a few white Celestial Lilies mixed in with the typical lavender/blues. Wild Hyacinths, Camassia scilloides were also in bloom. The beauty of that hillside will be one of my fondest memories!

On May 14th, Northwest Chapter members went back to the Desoto Parish site to see what was blooming in May. We saw Cone Flowers, Echinaceae pallida, Blue Skullcap, Scutellaria integrifolia, White Milkweed, Asclepias variegata and Red Milkweed, Asclepia tuberosa. We also saw another milkweed in bud that we could not identify - one with big, wavy leaves. I hope to go back in June to collect seeds. Penstemon digitalis was also in bloom, and New Jersey Tea, Ceanothus americanus was in bloom literally everywhere. We root-pruned some shrubs for fall digging - to be used to landscape the grounds around the Heritage Center at LSU Shreveport. Two things stressed on our trip were the method of root pruning for fall digging and the conservation of our native plants for all to enjoy.

In closing, I will have to say the most fun on all our trips is the closeness we feel as we stamp thru the woods, picnic together, talking all the while about wildflowers - we have such a nice group of nature lovers!

NEW ENGLAND WILD FLOWER SOCIETY SEED OFFER

LNPS member Bill Gebelein sent in a notice from the New England Wild Flower Society that their seed list is now available. To receive a copy of the list, send a long (#10, business size) SASE (45 cents postage) before March 1st (no seeds can be ordered after March 15, 1989) to:

Seeds, New England Wild Flower Society
Garden in the Woods
Hemenway Road
Framingham, MA 01701

SPEAKING OF SEEDS!

Don't forget the LNPS Seed Exchange! Any seeds you collect should be sent in to our Seed Exchange Chairman. Hopefully, if all goes well, a list of available seeds should appear in the next newstletter so you can order seeds and receive them in plenty of time for sowing. PLEASE NOTE THAT ANNETTE HAS A NEW BOX NUMBER! That address is:

Annette Parker Adams
Rt. 1, Box 332
Anacoco, Louisiana 71403

HAPPINESS IS WILDFLOWERS

by Karlene Defatta

I have a big back yard, surrounded by native trees and shrubs (Dogwoods, Hawthornes, Redbuds, Yaupons, etc.), made even bigger two years ago when a fire burned down my greenhouse. A few years ago a tornado blew down some big trees. I then had the setting for a backyard full of all kinds of wildflowers that I can see all the time from the house instead of only when I can get out

into the yard.

I laid out my paths first, so I'd know where to plant. Inside the greenhouse foundation area I have 4 beds filled with Salvia coccinea (both the red flowered variety and a coral pink sport), several species of Obedient Plant, Physostegia digitalis, Physostegia virginiana, and the fall-blooming Physostegia praemorie, Penstemon digitalis, Penstemon cobaea, Penstemon tenuis, and Skullcap, Scutellaria integrifolia. The Standing Cypress, Gilia rubra are a blaze of red that the hummingbirds feast on. Other plants in this area are yellow sundrops, lazy daisy, Mexican Hats, Gaillardia aestivalis, Coreopsis lanceolata, and Wild Tansy from Washington State.

Beside the pathways are Asters, Spiderworts, Sages, Beebals, Giant Cone Flowers, Narrow-leaf Sunflower, Violets, Oakleaf Hydrangea, New Jersey Tea, Red Buckeye, Carolina Spicebush, Virginia Willow, Rusty Haw Hawthorne, and the Amsonias or Blue Stars.

In a low area are Hibiscus, Crinum americanum, Hymenocallis Eulae, Indian Pink, Wild Ageratum, and others. To one side of the path are five Dogwoods where hundreds of Mexican Primrose bloomed this past April and the Turkscap Lilies bloomed summer and fall.

I created a spot for my Pitcher Plants and also grow the Pickerel Weed in a sunken container of water. This does sound like a "mess" of wildflowers. It will take two or three years to be really pretty and cover my whole back yard with wildflowers. I look out on this area each day, and it beckons me to go out and explore, I never seem to make it back indoors.

To complete this setting, I have special beds on each side of my back door. Among the rocks, mosses and driftwood there grow the Northern Maidenhair Fern, Venus Hair Fern, and Ebony Spleenwort. Here I have my small wildflowers like Iris cristata, Hepatica, Wild Ginger, a few special violets, and a few very special plants - Crane-fly Orchids, Southern Twayblade Orchid, Shadow Witch Orchid, Rattlesnake Orchid, Green Spider Orchid, and on a piece of driftwood, Epidendrum conopseum - so I can enjoy them as I come and go. Happiness is wildflowers!

CITY OF EUNICE SPONSORED PRAIRIE TOUR

The City of Eunice is to be commended for its leadership role in promoting Louisiana wildflowers. On August 5 and 6, 1988 the City sponsored its first Annual Louisiana Prairie Cajun Tour. Activities included slide shows by Dr. Charles Allen and Dr. Malcolm Vidrine as well as a guided tour of the remnant prairies between Estherwood and Mermentau. For information on next year's tour, or to commend the City of Eunice on a job well done, write to:

The City of Eunice
200 West Park Avenue
Eunice, Louisiana 70535

OPELOUSAS COMPANY MAKES TWO GRANTS FOR STUDY OF WILDFLOWERS

The August 9, 1988 edition of the Times Picayune reported that Lou Ana Foods has made two \$20,000 grants to LSU's horticulture department to study the feasibility of a wildflower business. Tom Shad, Chairman of Lou Ana, has set a \$300 million sales goal for the company in 1992, \$125 million of which he expects to come from new ventures. The grants, therefore, are to study the economic potential and benefits of growing wildflowers.

In the article, Shad correctly points out that most wildflowers planted in Louisiana are not really native, and fail to reseed themselves. Another aspect of the studies will be to determine which wildflowers will bloom

anually in our Gulf climate, as well as which seeds germinate in the shortest time.

FRIENDS OF HILLTOP:

Anyone interested in joining Friends of Hilltop Arboretum can send their 1988-1989 dues in now. Classes of Membership range from \$10 per year on up. Send your dues to:

Friends of Hilltop Arboretum
c/o Treasurer
P.O. Box 17524 University Station
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

INTERESTING ENDEAVORS OF LNPS MEMBERS

by Annette Parker Adams

Celia Jones: on her property near Gibsland, Celia has thousands of naturalized daffodils (Narcissus) and red spider lilies (Lycoris radiata). Her grandmother originally planted a few bulbs in the early 1900s. LNPS members are invited to view this spectacle in early spring, by appointment. The spider lilies, lovely and mysterious, merit an early September visit. Although non-native, these varieties have proven themselves as excellent naturalizers and require little care, whereas few modern varieties of daffodils do. For more information, contact:

Celia A. Jones
Rt. 2, Box 170
Gibsland, La. 71028
Ph. 1-318-843-6397

The Murrays: Robert and Retha Murry manage an ever-expanding orchard, vineyard, and native plant business. Robert propagates dozens of varieties of muscadines and blueberries and offers these and natives for sale at very reasonable prices. 1988 was a great year for the blueberry harvest. Muscadines will be available from late August through early October. Robert is always willing to answer questions concerning the plants he sells as well as others. His techniques are state-of-the-art. Robert has mastered the art of propagating big-leaf magnolia, oak-leaf hydrangea, Carolina Lily, and other natives. The Murrays are easy to find. Once in Simpson, follow the signs to "Muscadine Hill". Contact them at:

Robert Murry
P.O. Box 7
Simpson, La. 71474
Ph. 1-318-6123

SYNOPSIS OF SUMMER MEETING

by Annette Parker Adams

The summer meeting held June 3-5 in the vicinity of Toledo Bend was informative, well-planned, and a lot of fun! A diversity of habitats, including longleaf pine uplands, a bog community, bottomland hardwoods, and blacksoil prairie, were visited. Basswood, swamp milkweed, Berlandiera, two species of snake root, poppy mallow, purple and white prairie clovers, titi, toothache tree, and Carolina Lily were among the most interesting plants seen.

The business meeting was conducted beneath longleaf pines. Members who lingered afterwards were treated to a catfish dinner prepared by Doug Adams. An excellent slide show on the "Dragonflies of Southwest Louisiana" designed and presented by Dr. Malcolm Vidrine followed. Dr. Vidrine is a professor at LSU-Eunice. He then showed fabulous slides of our butterflies. Those hardy members who still wanted more met Robert Murry Sunday morning at Fort Polk for a tour of what could be the state's best longleaf pine flatwoods/bog community. What a lovely site! Abundant bog orchids (Calopogon), pitcher plants, yellow meadow beauty, white-topped sedge, toothache grass, and many other species made for a spectacular show. A special thanks goes to Drs. R. Dale Thomas and Charles Allen for making their expertise available to LNPS members during the outings.

KISATCHIE WORKDAY

by Annette Parker Adams

Kisatchie National Forest sponsored "Volunteer Day" on June 18, 1988. LNPS members had been invited to attend and several did so. Volunteers were provided tools to use in clearing segments of the new Caroline Dorman Nature and Equestrian Trail. Two groups were formed, with each group covering about five miles of trail. Forest service personnel were on hand to transport volunteers, provide water and soft drinks, and to make arrangements for two free meals per volunteer. All this had to be done via all-terrain vehicles. All food was donated by Natchitoches businesses. An excellent dinner of seafood jambalaya was served to the exhausted volunteers.

For more information on this new trail, contact any K.N.F. office. We thank the Forest Service for allowing and asking us to take part in this activity.

NEW WEST-CENTRAL CHAPTER ORGANIZED

by Annette Parker Adams

A west-central chapter (Vernon Parish area) of the LNPS is now being organized. Previously these members lacked affiliation with a local chapter. Organizers include Annette Parker (Ph. 1-318-286-9229) and Robert Murry (Ph. 1-318-383-6123). An informative article soliciting members will be submitted to the "Leesville Daily Leader". LNPS will be notified of our activities by way of the LNPS Newsletter.

Everyone is invited to attend our first outing planned for Saturday, September 17. Interested persons are to meet at 9:00 AM at the fire tower on the east side of Hwy. 117, about 4 miles north of Kisatchie, Louisiana. This tower is visible from the highway and a large sign indicating fire threat is present.

The primary destination will be a scenic area in the Kisatchie National Forest off Forest Road 378. Interesting plants we will see include a xerophytic club moss (really a fern) and rock portulaca. This area is part of the legendary "Sunk Hills" and promises to be botanically and geologically exciting. I would suggest you bring envelopes for any seeds you may collect, and be sure to bring a lunch.

LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVES CONFERENCES - ONE DOWN, ONE TO GO!

by Annette Parker Adams

Eight LNPS members journeyed to Cullowhee, North Carolina to attend the annual "Landscaping with Native Plants" conference which was held July 28, 29 and 30. About 400 people of various ages and backgrounds attended this

informative conference. Lectures covered a broad array of topics including tips on educating the public about the value of natives, plants of high potential, beginning a native plant nursery, and propagation techniques for unusual species.

Cullowhee is just south of Cherokee, North Carolina, and the Great Smokey Mountain National Park. Sourwood, Oxydendron arboreum, presented a lovely display on the hillsides of the area, while red bee balm, Monarda didyma, was stunning on moist, sunny slopes.

If you missed the conference, don't despair! A recently organized Mid-South Native Plant Conference will be held October 28, 29 and 30 in Memphis, Tennessee. It promises to be even better than the Cullowhee conference, LNPS's own John Mayronne is one of 20 speakers scheduled. The fee is \$55 and includes registration, lunch and dinner Saturday, and a T-shirt. Topics to be presented include butterfly gardening, native magnolias, wildflowers in the perennial border, new cultivars, and under-utilized natives. Sunday's activities include either a tour of a large Memphis nursery specializing in natives, a float trip down the Wolf River, or a tour of Memphis gardens where natives are prominently displayed.

This conference is limited to 250 registrants. Write for a brochure today and begin organizing carpools! Write to:

Mid-South Native Plant Conference
Lichterman Nature Center
5992 Quince Road
Memphis, TN 38119

THIS AND THAT:

by Diane Bullard

Several Louisiana highways have been designated as wildflower management areas by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. This is a result of a DODT subcommittee of Louisiana Project Wildflower. The highways will be managed as test areas for the encouragement of native wildflower stands. It has been decided to work with the following highways as an initial step: Highway 90 (Lafayette to New Iberia), I-49 (Washington to Carencro), Highway 28W (Alexandria to Leesville), I-49 (Boyce to Natchitoches), Highway 165 (Turkey Creek to Highway 71), Highway 112 (Sugartown to Deridder), and Highway 118.

The Acadiana Native Plant Society is hosting a program on Gardening with wildflowers and other native plants on Saturday, September 10 from 2:00 to 5:00 PM at the Lafayette Natural History Museum. A native plant sale will take place at the end of the program.

GROWING WILDFLOWERS

by Beth Erwin

With the fall season unofficially here, I hope those of you that are planning wildflower projects are about ready to plant. Folks up here are predicting an early frost, and if the activity of the squirrels in our front yard and the early blooming of the narrow-leaf sunflowers mean anything, they may be right. Our narrow-leaf sunflowers normally bloom in October, but the ones I have not pinched to control the height are in full bloom, and I have noticed them blooming around the parish too. The lack of water earlier in the year has made them appear somewhat anemic.

I had some success with seeds and cuttings here over the summer. I managed to get a couple of Amsonia ludoviciana cuttings to root and am gently

nursing the young plants along. The dwarf goldenrod seedlings didn't make it. The Baptisia australis did manage to survive the transplanting stage. I hope they don't require too many years of growth before they bloom. That's the downside of starting perennials from seed for someone as impatient as I. About midsummer the poppy mallow seeds I sowed last winter in a sand and perlite mix began to germinate rapidly. They send their roots out and down rapidly and are tricky to transplant. I am trying to root a couple of flats of deciduous holly cuttings, one group in sand and the other in peat and perlite. The thick fleshy younger shoots that had just hardened off at cutting time appear to be the most likely ones to root. In case you haven't heard, there's been an explosion in the commercial demand for deciduous hollies. Several wholesale nurseries around the country have sold out of the most popular varieties.

We are looking forward to the asters and blazing star liatris blooming. Our perennial gaillardias are still going strong and the Georgia calamint should bloom any time now. The aster-like heleastrum is in full bloom, both in Terry's yard and mine. It really benefitted from being divided early last spring. A newcomer to my garden this year that I am thrilled with is Coreopsis verticillata 'Moonbeam'. It forms a low, sprawling mass of lemon yellow flowers. I am hoping I can use it as a ground cover type plant. It has bloomed continuously all summer.

Due to general appearance, fear of public opinion, etc., I had the city of Bastrop mow the wildflower plots here. Everything had gone to seed. The railroad applied herbicide to the Verbena tenuisecta we had started for erosion control. I don't know what they sprayed, but it killed the trumpet creeper to the roots. No wonder there are erosion problems.

I hope everyone will at least consider attending the native plant conference in Memphis this October. At the last LNPS state meeting, members present discussed putting on a conference here in our state. Initial plans have begun. The planning committee, under the direction of Richard Johnson, would like this conference to meet the educational needs of people in the LNPS, most particularly that large, silent group that joined because they like wildflowers and want to know more about them. The conference is tentatively set for June, 1990. We'll be searching for speakers who are articulate and can communicate their chosen subject on a level that can be understood by the targeted audience. The committee is still open for possible subjects for sessions. If you have an idea, please write to me, Richard Johnson, Dr. John Griffin, Diane Bullard, or John Mayronne. Currently we plan to hold the conference at Louisiana Tech. There is plenty of meeting space there, very inexpensive housing, and best of all, a local chapter to act as a host. Are you ready for Ruston? Those addresses are:

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