



SUMMER 1988
volume 6, number 2

The LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SUMMER MEETING JUNE 4th, 5th and 6th

This year's summer meeting, titled "Habitat Discovery" has been planned by Robert Murry, Charles Allen, Doug Adams, and Annette Parker. All sites are within close proximity to the dam of Toledo Bend Reservoir. Members and their friends won't want to miss this meeting! If you need any additional information or have any questions about the meeting, etc., call Robery Murry (Phone 1-318-383-6123).

As for facilities, Leesville (24 miles away) has several motels. J and L Marina (1 mile away) on Toledo Bend rents cabins and also has a restaurant. Call for a reservation (Leesville listing). Another restaurant, the Bobcat Restaurant in Texas, is just 4 miles away.

Also, primitive camping sites are available at Toledo Bend Park Site #16, Hadden's Ferry on the Sabine River, as well as Annette and Doug's back yard. Inquire upon arrival. Camping with facilities is available at Toledo Bend Park Site #15 (formerly Pleasure Point). This park is 4 miles north of the dam off Highway 191.

The central meeting place for all trips will be the Observation Tower of the Sabine River Authority located immediately above the dam off Highway 191 (this is in Louisiana). Please be punctual, early arrivals are invited to come by Annette and Doug's home (see map, it's a beige brick house about 1 mile from the Observation Tower).

Other things to keep in mind: bring insect repellent and lawn chairs for the business meeting - also bring your friends.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

Friday, June 4th: evening/afternoon, set up camp.
6:00 PM, evening walk of about 1 mile along Bayou Toro to its junction with the Sabine River. Expect to see old growth hardwoods, disturbed uplands, and streamside communities.

Saturday, June 5th: 9:00 AM, auto tour with some walking to Monk's Hammock. Expect to see a blackland soil (prairie) community as well as cutover pinelands.
lunch.
1:00 PM, brief stop at a disturbed area to observe the natural diversity within a huge Gaillardia pulchella (Indian Blanket) population and scissortailed flycatchers.
1:30 PM, Sabine riverbottom. Old growth trees within a natural bottomland. Walking should be easy to

Saturday, June 5th:
(continued)

moderate depending on personal interest.
4:00 PM, upland longleaf pine sand community with various wildflowers.

dinner.

6:00 PM, observe bay gall plants, including Cyrilla (Titi) and white Rhododendron. Also, an adjacent hardwood site with Carolina lily. Discussion of landscaping with natives and wildflower propagation.

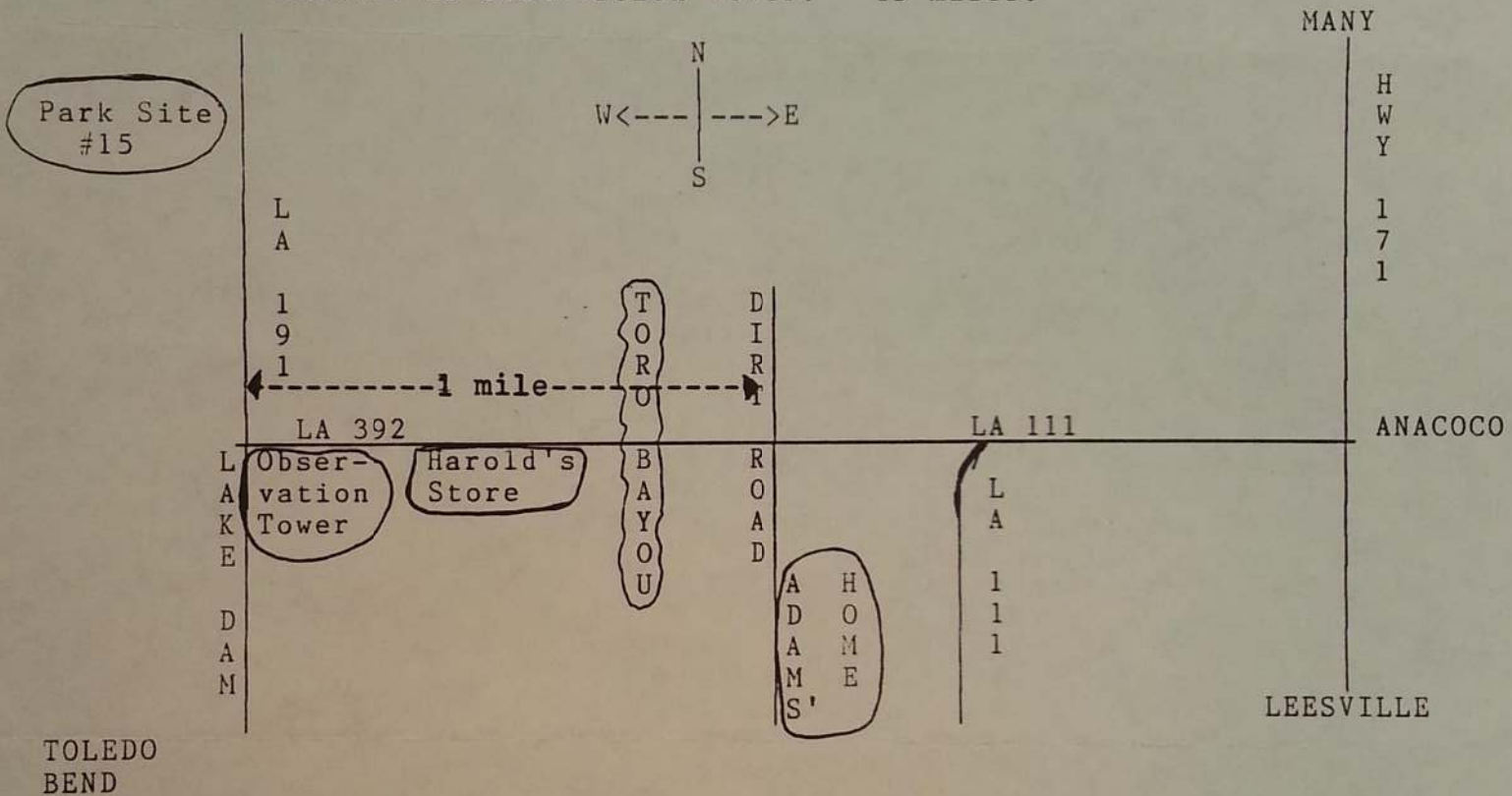
7:30 PM, business meeting followed by slide show.

Sunday, June 6:

9:00 AM, possible trip to a local bog depending on interest.

MAP: NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

Distances: Anacoco to Leesville: 9 miles.
Anacoco to Observation Tower: 15 miles.



LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS CONFERENCE SET

The 1988 "LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS CONFERENCE" has been set for July 28, 29 and 30 at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina. Last year's conference was a huge success. The conference will be limited to the first 400 registrants, and preregistration is required. The deadline for registration is July 1, 1988. If you're interested in attending (and who wouldn't be!) you can obtain additional information by calling Jim Horton (Phone 1-704-227-7244). For information on housing and meals call Sue DeBord (Phone 1-740-227-7397). Additionally, LNPS member John Mayronne has a few registration forms he can send out to interested members. He can be contacted by calling or writing him at:

John Mayronne
P.O. Box 2355
Covington, Louisiana 70434
Phone 1-504-892-5424

DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES ARE DUE!

The 1988 LNPS dues are due! If "(87)" appears on your address label, this will be the last newsletter you will receive. So, if you haven't renewed your dues, or know someone who hasn't, the place to send your \$5 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:

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

St. Augustine Surprise

by Margaret Waring

After living at our Alexandria home for three years (a home built in 1922) we have added some very pleasant plantings of native and cultivated plants. We have also worked at growing a decent St. Augustine lawn, at the expense of a few spiderworts. To our surprise, a very delicate and beautiful flower appeared in our lawn this May. I identified it using Clair Brown's "Wildflowers of Louisiana" as Hebertia, Alophia drummondii. He lists it as rare in Louisiana, and as I was unfamiliar with it, I reported it to LNPS member Dr. Ben Martin. He has observed it in preserved natural areas, but never on developed land.

If anyone has any suggestions for helping insure this flower's reappearance next May, please write. I can only assume it bloomed this year due to infrequent mowing, as allowed by lack of rain. In this case, April drought, not showers, brought May flowers:

Margaret Waring
1925 Elliott St.
Alexandria, La. 71301

Welcome New Members!

The following members have joined the LNPS since the spring newsletter was mailed out:

Cleo Beard
1705 West Kentucky
Ruston, La. 71270

Charlotte Bryan
P.O. Box 1152
Ruston, La. 71270

Fred Christian
Rt. 4, Box 141 1/2
Ruston, La. 71270

Mary Griffin
270 Oak Alley
Pearl River, La. 70452

Montene Bowden
1401 Tech Farm Rd.
Apt. 210
Ruston, La. 71270

Sue Jennings
Rt. 3, Box 59-2C
Dubach, La. 71235

Beula Laster
1742 West Kentucky
Ruston, La. 71270

Denyse Cummins
Rt. 4, Box 141 1/2
Ruston, La. 71270

David Farrar
608 Bond
Ruston, La. 71270

Marion Drummond
29550 Greewell Springs Rd.
Greenwell Springs, La.
70739

Linda Kearney
Rt. 4, Box 103-A
Ruston, La. 71270

Jane Stephenson
Rt. 2, Box 2585
Ruston, La. 71270

Evelyn Dandridge
702 Elm
Minden, La. 71055

Dr. John Griffin
Tech Station Box 10198
Ruston, La. 71270

Jane Stephenson
Rt. 2, Box 2585
Ruston, La. 71270

SPEEDWELLS ARE SPECIAL

by Jack Price

(Ed. Note: The following article appeared in the Shreveport Times and is reprinted with their permission.)

In early March there are a number of wildflowers to be found along the side of the highways and country roads. There will be white violets, Johnny-Jump Ups and a special wildflower called Speedwells (Veronica Parsica). Blooms of the Speedwell are about 3/8 of an inch in width. Three of the four petals are blue with narrow darker blue lines running from the outer edge to the center. The fourth petal is not as wide but is a little longer and a lighter shade of blue than the other three. A very small white circle is found in the center where the petals join. Two stamens extend from the yellow throat. A heart-shaped pod containing two chambers is formed when the flowers have been pollinated. The pod is about 1/8 of an inch in size when matured with many small seeds.

Seeds germinate in late fall and winter, very small green leaves start rapid growth on the first warm days in of early March. Leaves are thick-clustered on the stems, dark green and wider than they are long and slightly hairy. Stems are about four inches long and lay almost flat on the ground with the tips turning upward. Stems have numerous branches, each branch will develop short stems about 1/2 of an inch long. Flowers develop on these short stems either singularly or in clusters. The blooming season is from early March until September.

Speedwells are annuals and it does little or no good to attempt transplanting when they are blooming. Transplanting at this time will cause shock and few if any seeds will develop. It is best to locate a colony and observe until the seeds are mature before gathering them. Spread the seeds in

the desired location in your garden, do not plant or cover with dirt. You should pick a sunny spot where larger plants will not crowd them out. Speedwells are an excellent ground cover and will do well in places where nothing else will grow. They seem to grow just as well in dry areas as they do in semi-wet areas. They will reseed for the coming year. Seeds can be obtained from commercial nurseries and may be referred to by the name, "Baby Blue Eyes".

ACADIANA CHAPTER HAS A LOT PLANNED

The Spring '88 issue of the ANPS newsletter lists a number of events that should be of interest to all members of the LNPS. For more details, send a SASE to:

The Acadiana Native Plant Society
c/o Lafayette NATural History Museum
637 Girard Park Drive
Lafayette, Louisiana 70503

July 26, 1988: following the business 6:30 PM meeting at the Lafayette Natural History Museum, there will be a progress report on the Natural Heritage Program (starts at 7:15 PM).

August, 1988: a field trip to the southwest Louisiana coastal prairie area.

September 10, 1988: a wildflower gardening program and plant sale at the Lafayette Natural History Museum - open to the general public.

October 15, 1988: wild azalea trip trail.

SUE JENNINGS REPORTS ON RUSTON CHAPTER:

The Ruston Chapter of the LNPS has been reactivated this year. The new President is Dr. John Griffin. The other officers are Marilyn Beavers, Vice-President, Cleo Beard, Treasurer, and Susan Jennings, Secretary. Dr. Peter Gallagher is Program Chairman. Meetings will be held the second Tuesday of each month, except during the summer, at 7:00 PM in the auditorium of Lomax Hall (Louisiana Tech University, Ruston). For more information call 1-318-255-2918.

At our first meeting, Richard and Jesse Johnson presented a great slide program on Louisiana's native irises.

The March meeting featured a presentation by Beth Erwin of her wildflower planting project in Bastrop. Her slide show and comments on her experiences with the project were of great interest to all.

Upcoming projects of the Ruston chapter include trips to Hodges Gardens, Briarwood, and Cypress Black Springs.

IN MEMORIAM

LNPS member Emory Smith passed away on March 22, 1988. Emory was a lifelong wildflower enthusiast and was among the first members to join the LNPS. The founder of Hilltop Arboretum, which is supported by Friends of Hilltop, it will serve as a fitting memorial for years to come.