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# NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1989

volume 7, number 1

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## SUMMER '89 MEETING UPDATE FROM BETH ERWIN

The summer meeting is set for June 3, 1989 in Morehouse Parish. We will meet at the Chemin-a-haut (she-minnow-hawt) State Park front gate at 8:30 AM. This is approximately 10 miles north of Bastrop off of La. 139 on the Hamburg Road. (Note: don't go in the park, or you'll be charged a fee!)

Chemin-a-haut facilities are as follows:

Camping sites (there are 26), which include water and power, are \$9 per night, \$7 for senior citizens - first come, first serve. It is a beautiful campground. Word has it that a family reunion has been planned at the park for the same weekend. If you want to reserve a camp site, send Beth Erwin the money and she'll get there early on the morning of June 2 and reserve a camp site for you. Send her \$7 (\$5 if you're over 62) if you want to reserve a campsite. If you have any questions her address and phone number are:

Beth Erwin  
520 Fairview  
Bastrop, Louisiana 71220  
Phone: 1-318-281-6783

As of early morning on 1/2/89, all cabins were rented!

Other options:

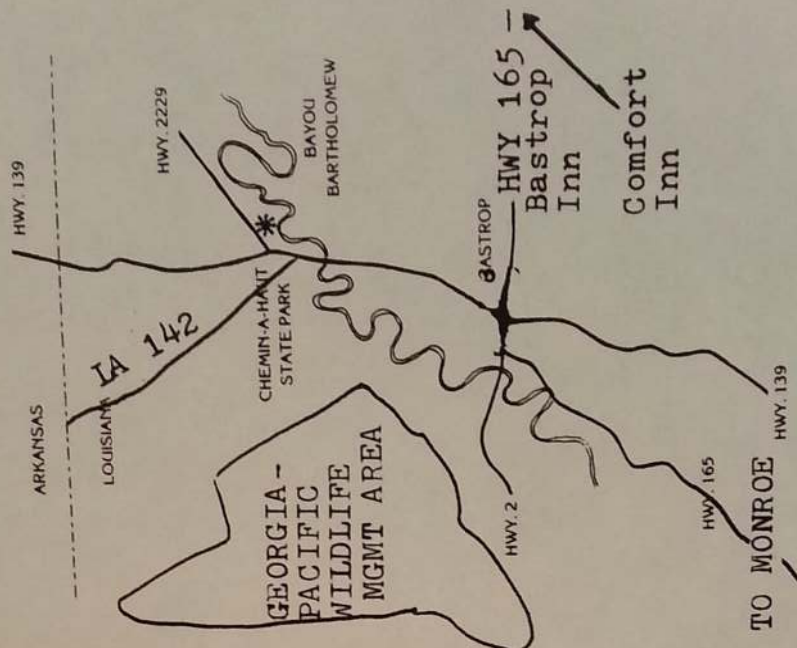
The Bastrop Inn\*  
US 165 East  
phone 1-318-281-3621

Comfort Inn  
US 165 East  
phone 1-318-281-8100

\*LNPS receive a 10% discount on room rates. Has a restaurant and coffee shop.

Bastrop is about 25 miles north of Monroe via US 165 or La. 139, and is about the same distance from Rayville. Most of the fast food outlets are on US 165 east of the courthouse square. Here's the map as promised:





As for the field trips themselves, be sure to pack a lunch, water, and most importantly, insect repellent. We'll be going through open areas, woody areas, and areas that may be a little swampy, so dress accordingly.

#### A LETTER FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT, TERRY ERWIN

If you missed our Winter '89 meeting at LSU-Alexandria, you missed a treat. Dr. John Griffin, from Louisiana Tech, gave a beautiful presentation on using natives in the home landscape. His slides of black gum, red buck-eye, and sourwood were some of my favorites. Nelwyn Gilmore, botanist for the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program, did an excellent job of informing us of what the LNHP and the Nature Conservancy are doing here in Louisiana. That reminds me that we owe a big thank you to those of you who took the time to write and call your protests in over the U.S. Forestry Service-Martin Timber Company land swap proposal. It appears to be a dead issue for now, but let's keep our eyes and ears open lest it is only temporarily comatose. The watershed for Briarwood at least appears to be safe. It is up to us as a group to be vigilant in protecting our natural heritage. That is, after all, one of our stated purposes for organizing in the first place. When special areas are threatened, don't wait to speak out, or expect someone else will do it, or it will be too late.

By the time you read this, Beth and I will be busy planning for our annual summer field trip. We are certain that with our enthusiasm to have the LNPS group come up here, Dr. Thomas' expertise, and with several local residents to act as guides, we will have a great time!

I want to thank our newsletter editor, David Heikamp, for doing such an outstanding job on our newsletter. The newsletter is the glue that holds us together. You can make David's job easier by sending him information on meetings, events, or interesting articles you believe your fellow native plant enthusiasts will enjoy.

Yours for a native Louisiana,

*Terry*

#### DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES!

LNPS bylaws require that members whose dues aren't paid by March 1st of the current year be so notified. Please take a look at your address label. If (88) appears on the label, you need to pay your dues for 1989. Make your



\$5 check payable to the Louisiana Native Plant Society, and send it to our Treasurer:

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 uses the following deadline policy. Any information received after the deadline will be included in the next newsletter. Deadlines for the next four newsletters are as follows:

Summer Newsletter:	June 1, 1989
Fall Newsletter:	September 1, 1989
Winter Newsletter:	December 1, 1989
Spring Newsletter:	March 1, 1990

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

AN INVITATION TO ATTEND A SPRING WILDFLOWER TOUR

The City of Eunice and the Southern Arts Council cordially invite you and your friends to the Spring Cajun Prairie Wildflower Tour. Tours and slide shows will be led by Dr. Charles Allen, Dr. Malcolm Vidrine, and Barbara Savoy. The schedule is as follows:

1. Friday, May 5, 1989:
  - 3:30 PM: welcome by Mayor Joubert, Eunice City Hall.
  - 4:00 - 6:00 PM: tour of remnant prairie strip near Eunice. Depart from Eunice City Hall parking lot, each participant is responsible for his/her own transportation, ice water, snacks, etc. Maps will be available at the City Hall.
  - 8:00 - 9:00 PM: slide show of remnant prairie strips and Eunice Cajun Prairie Restoration Project at Eunice City Hall.
2. Saturday, May 6, 1989:
  - 8:00 - 11:30 AM: tour of remnant prairie strip near Eunice. Depart from Eunice City Hall parking lot, each participant is responsible for his/her own transportation, ice water, snacks, etc. Maps will be available at the City Hall.
  - 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM: lunch break.
  - 1:30 - 3:30 PM: tour of Gallery Forest near Eunice, depart from Eunice City Hall parking lot at 1:30 PM. Again, each participant is responsible for his/her own transportation, ice water, snacks, etc. Maps will be



available at the City Hall.  
6:00 - 8:00 PM: live Cajun music show at the Library Theater in Eunice.  
Admission will be \$1.00.

If you need more information, you can write Dr. Charles Allen at:

Dr. Charles Allen  
LSU-Eunice  
Eunice, Louisiana 70535

APRIL 1, 1989: HODGES GARDENS WORKDAY  
by Annette Parker

April 1st presents a unique opportunity for all LNPS members. Hodges Gardens, under the leadership of Cathy Hill, Horticulturist, is seeking to establish a planting of natives. John Mayronne designed the layout, and the Northwest and West-Central Chapters are really getting behind this project. This may be the most significant activity undertaken to date by the LNPS.

Hodges Gardens is located along Highway 171, 3 miles north of Hornbeck, in southern Sabine Parish. Volunteers may enter the gardens beginning at 8:00 AM. Inform the worker at the main gate that you're with the LNPS and there will be no entrance charge. Furthermore, you'll receive a free season's pass! Bring a picnic lunch and Hodges Gardens will provide soft drinks.

Bring any herbaceous plants that you deem suitable and we'll sort them there. If you cannot attend, send your plants with someone. Also, bring any hand tools that you may need. The soil will already be prepared, and large tools such as rakes, shovels, wheel barrows, etc., will be supplied by Hodges Gardens.

Contributions of plant material by those professionally in the business are tax deductible. Please bring a list of your donations and check with Cathy Hill for more details.

For more information concerning the work day, call Amy Burgess (phone 1-318-797-0578) or Annette Parker (phone 1-318-286-9229). Come expecting a good time of fellowship and the joy of doing what we all love doing - planting natives!

INTERSTATE 49 CAMPAIGN NOW UNDER WAY

Bill Robertson of Shreveport, Louisiana, is founder of a citizens' coalition called Scenic Louisiana. Bill has asked for our help in getting the 211 miles of Interstate 49 declared a scenic highway. Scenic Louisiana plans to ask the Legislature to authorize the Department of Transportation and Development to develop and implement a plan for the comprehensive landscaping of Interstate 49.

The Louisiana Parkway Project, as their effort is called, would exclude billboards and limit on-premise signs on land adjacent to the parkway. It would also require screening of junkyards and similar industrial developments as well as protect and enhance scenic views along the interstate corridor.

Interstate 49 is one of the last major segments of interstate under construction in the United States, and when it is completed some time in 1994 it will open largely unseen sections of our state to the eyes of millions. The parkway will symbolize environmental renewal, a message Louisiana badly needs to send.

Under current Louisiana laws, almost 4,000 billboards could be erected



along I-49. Currently, billboards only exist along I-49 between Opelousas and Lafayette - the "old" portion. These same statutes require the state to pay owners of billboards deemed out of compliance with state law for their removal. An alternative to billboards would be logo signs, which would display only essential tourist information. Four states - Hawaii, Maine, Vermont, and Alaska - have eliminated billboards entirely. Over 100 cities in the United States have done likewise.

Scenic Louisiana has asked for our help and input in this project. They have also asked for our endorsement, which will be brought up as new business at our June meeting. If you do have any input, or would like more information on the Louisiana Parkway Project, you can write or call Scenic Louisiana:

SCENIC LOUISIANA, INC.  
P.O. Box 5504  
Shreveport, Louisiana 71135-5504  
Phone (318) 869-1932

(Editor's Note: a self-addressed, stamped envelope would be a good idea.)

#### WINTER MEETING WELL ATTENDED

With such beautiful weather, our Winter '89 meeting was one of the best-attended winter meetings to date. Everyone enjoyed the program, and the following officers were elected for 1989:

President:	Terry Erwin
Vice-President:	John Mayronne
Secretary:	Annette Parker
Treasurer:	Elinor Herd
Editor:	David Heikamp

New Board Members (3-year terms):

Bill Gebelein  
John Griffin  
Darlene Jhanbatsch

Items of note from the meeting are as follows:

1. Seed Exchange Chairman Annette Parker suggested that seeds now in the exchange be donated to Project Wildflower (approved). Fresh seeds will be brought to future meetings for purchase as they are obtained.
2. John Mayronne gave a presentation on the Hodges Gardens project. A work day will be planned for early April.
3. Dr. Allen mentioned that the City of Eunice has leased 10 acres on which a prairie will be reestablished.
4. Amy Burgess presented ideas and information on a possible society brochure. A committee was appointed to gather more information.
5. Beth Erwin and Richard Johnson discussed a meeting planned for June, 1990 at Louisiana Tech. Seminars would cover the basics of growing wildflowers and the meeting would include a side trip to Briarwood.



MEMBERS PAID FOR 1989 (AS OF 2/28/89)

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#### SOURCES OF NATIVE PLANTS

by Annette Parker

I have been seeking information concerning nurseries that offer natives by mail order. The big retailers such as Burpee and Parks list some native plants and seeds, but their prices are generally high. Here are descriptions and addresses of some lesser-known establishments:

We-Du Nurseries: their 1989 catalog has over 500 listings. They specialize in nursery propagated southeastern natives, rare and unusual rock garden and woodland plants, and ferns. The average cost per plant is \$2.50. Representative listings include Oxydendrum arboreum (Sourwood), nine varieties of Phlox, five species of Baptisia, and eleven Penstenon or beardtongues. Plant sizes are not specified. Many of their natives are not listed elsewhere. (address is Rt. 5, Box 724, Marion, North Carolina 28752)



Bluestone Perennials: sells herbaceous perennials in lots of three or six. An average price is three for \$3.00. They carry mostly non-natives including dozens of *Chrysanthemum* varieties, but quite a few natives are also listed. These include *Tiarella cordifolia* (Foam Flower), *Helenium* (Red-and-Gold), as well as five *Coreopsis*. Postal charges are very reasonable, and a \$5.00 discount is applied to your first order. I can't wait 'til my order arrives! (address is 7211 Middle Ridge Rd., Madison, Ohio 44057)

Girard Nurseries: specializes in azaleas, rhododendrons, and conifers. I was impressed with their listing of native, deciduous rhododendrons. They offer a collection of two each of six species for \$13.00. Before you get too excited, you should realize that these plants are only six inches tall. The selections include *R. calendulaceum*, *R. serrulatum*, and *R. atlanticum*. Another offering is our native witch hazel at three for \$8.00. (address is P.O. Box 428, Geneva, Ohio 44041)

### WEST-CENTRAL CHAPTER NEWS

We have planned a number of activities, and all LNPS members are invited to attend. Confirmation of scheduled activities is prudent if weather conditions seem unfavorable. Call Annette Parker (318-286-9229), Robert Murry (318-383-6123) or Darlene Jhanbatsch (318-238-1851) for confirmation or more information on the following activities:

March 18, 1989: early spring outing to the Vernon District of Kisatchie National Forest. We'll meet at 9:30 AM at the tourist commission headquarters building just north of Leesville on Highway 171. This building is about 1/4 mile south of the intersection of Highway 28 and Highway 171. Bring a lunch.

April 1, 1989: Hodges Gardens work day. See article in this newsletter.

April 22, 1989: Briarwood Nature Preserve tour. Louisiana irises should be gorgeous, as will many other plants. Call one of the numbers listed above if you're interested in carpooling. Otherwise, meet at Briarwood at 10:00 AM. Briarwood is west of La. Highway 9 between Campti and Saline in northern Natchitoches Parish.

May 20, 1989: bog tour, Vernon District of Kisatchie National Forest. Meet at 9:30 AM at the same place as for the March 18th meeting. The bogs and upland pine areas should be lovely at this time of year. Bring a lunch.

### GROWING WILDFLOWERS

by Beth Erwin

There are signs of spring, finally, up here in the cold northeast. A winter like this is the best selling point possible for native plants. All around town there are imported species with brown, melted-looking flowers and leaves. Our native species either had sense enough not to be fooled by the early warm weather or, if they had popped out, didn't seem to be affected by three days of ice and 20 degree weather. Down close to the ground, our *Trillium gracile* and *Erythronium* (Dog-tooth Violet or Trout Lily) were the first ones up and the Shooting Stars followed the next week. I forgot to bring in my seedlings sprouting in the clear plastic food containers. Those that had sprouted included *Phlox caroliniana*, *Oenothera pilosella*, and Pinewoods Lily. They don't seem to have been hurt either.

One of the biggest headaches in our yard is the privet hedge around the back yard. We absolutely despise the stuff, every bit as much as the white



flies and spider mites love it. However, the view on the other side of the hedge has kept us from removing it, along with the expense of either putting in five foot plants or a screening fence to replace them. Hopefully, we have found a solution. A local nurseryman has given us some large Magnolia grandiflora that my former boss would have referred to as "doggy looking". We plan to replace some of the privet with them and cut the magnolias back and let them grow up as multi-stemmed large shrubs. Few plants are denser than southern magnolias. We were also given another Magnolia macrophylla to replace the one we lost last summer. We planted this one on the north side of the yard within easy reach of the water hose in hopes that we can do better this time. At the rate I'm going, soon I won't be able to get to the faucet. This winter I've planted Iris virginica and Iris fulva very near the faucet and more recently sank a large bucket right next to the faucet and planted a sedge in it. It's one of the Scirpus species, I think, that I've admired for years. I've learned the hard way on this hillside that if I want success with plants that need a lot of water, then I had better put them near the faucet. Every summer I get VERY tired of dragging water hoses around about mid-July. After Terry made sure that I had not opened the main water line, he predicted I'd have a bumper crop of mosquitos this year!

See you up here this June for the Summer '89 meeting!

#### START PLANNING TO COLLECT SEEDS NOW

It is once again time to start planning to collect seed for the coming year's seed exchange program. There's no time like now to get started. Last year's exchange was a big success, and with more cooperation, this year will be even better. Pay attention to where various wildflowers are blooming, and keep notes as to where they are. If you can somehow mark the spot, or tag the plant with a weather-resistant tag, so much the better. Even in a big city there are many opportunities to collect seed. Some of your neighbors may have trees, shrubs, etc. growing in their yards, and be willing to share some with you.

When to go out and collect the seed depends on both the species involved, and the weather that particular year. As a general rule, annuals will mature their seeds faster than perennials. If the plant is an annual, you can take the whole plant. If it is a perennial, cut off the portion of the plant with the seeds, being careful not to disturb the rest of the plant. In any case, never take all the seeds of a particular species from a given area. Always see to it that enough is left to continue the species in that spot.

Put the seeds in paper bags, label carefully as to the date collected, species (or a good description of the plant), your name for future reference, and where it was collected. When you get home, store the seeds in a cool, dry place. It is generally not necessary to refrigerate them, and in no case store them in a sealed container or plastic bag, as they will mold. Clean the seeds as much as possible. A regular sieve from the kitchen is very good for this.

Finally, send the seeds you collect to Annette Parker, our Seed Exchange Chairman, at the address below. Do not send them in an envelope, the post office will crush the vast majority of them if you do - use a small box!

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