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NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1990

volume 8, number 1

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT, TERRY ERWIN

I want to thank everyone involved in the success of the January meeting at LSU-Alexandria. Dr. Ben Martin provided terrific accommodations. We thank you for your hospitality, Ben! I won't go into details of the meeting here, as Annette Parker has done so further on in this newsletter.

We did make great stride there, and our efforts have already borne fruit - in the form of an official LNPS T-shirt (These are already available! Again, see John Mayronne's article further on in this newsletter.) Many thanks to John for making it happen. This promises to be an excellent fund raiser for our group, buy several.

This June the LNPS will hold its first native plant conference. The meeting will be at Louisiana Tech on June 7, 8, and 9, 1990 - that's this summer, folks! A registration fee of \$20.00 per person will be required and I assure you you'll be getting a lot for your money. University housing will be available (cheap) and shuttle service from the main campus to Lomax Hall will be provided. A supplemental newsletter will be out between now and June when details are finalized - be on the lookout for it. Hope to see all of you there!

DUES REMINDER

Please take a minute to check your mailing label. If it still says (89), then you need to pay your 1990 dues by April 1 in order to remain on the mailing list and remain a member of the LNPS. We have an exciting year planned for 1990 and we hope you want to enjoy it with us. Please send your dues (\$5) to our new Treasurer, not to the newsletter editor. Our new Treasurer's address is:

Mary Moseley
122 Justin
Shreveport, Louisiana 71105

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 five newsletters are as follows (see next page):

Conference Supplemental:	date open.
Summer Newsletter:	June 1, 1990
Fall Newsletter:	September 1, 1990
Winter Newsletter:	December 1, 1990
Spring Newsletter:	March 1, 1991

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

LNPS INVITED TO JOIN OUR FRIENDS IN ARKANSAS IN APRIL!

At our Winter, 1989 meeting, Dr. and Mrs. Speairs arose to invite members of the LNPS to join the Arkansas Native Plant Society on a field trip in late April.

Carl Amason, a member of the Arkansas Native Plant Society as well as our own LNPS wrote to remind us all of the great opportunity to explore the wilds of Arkansas with our fellow native plant enthusiasts: the ANPS will hold its spring meeting in Camden, Arkansas on April 27, 28, and 29, 1990 at the American Family Inn with its restaurant, The Cajun Kitchen, as headquarters.

Camden has a population of about 20,000, and has some historical interest. It was chosen as the site of the meeting primarily because of the unique sand hills environment to the northwest, the adjoining Ouachita River floodplain, and the more typical Western Coastal Plains and the environs about Camden which support a population of Stewartia malachodendron - the only known population in Arkansas.

The Inn is located just off Highway 7 between Camden on the top of the hill, and Cullendale and the paper mill under the hill. Registration is \$2 and begins Friday, April 27. Details of a banquet meal at 7:30 PM (to include speakers) are yet to be worked out.

Field trips are featured for Saturday, three (3) field trips in the morning to be repeated in the afternoon to the same places with the same leaders.

One field trip will feature a trip to the Chidester, Bluff City and White Oak State Park areas. Plants on this trip should include Arkansas and Bluejack oaks, Selaginella riddellii (a spikemoss, which is a fern ally), and Penstemon murryanus.

Another field trip more or less parallels the first, but goes along unpaved country roads where one should see Rhododendron viscosum (R. oblongifolium), Alophia drummondii (formerly Eustylis purpurea), as well as a few surprises.

The third field trip will be south of Camden on more typical Coastal Plains where there are some Magnolia tripetala , many Magnolia virginiana , plus more common southern species that are uncommon over most of Arkansas.

The evening banquet type dinner will include some announcements and awards, and will feature the Honorable Jodie Mahony, who is Representative to the Arkansas General Assembly from the El Dorado area, as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Nature Conservancy.

A Sunday morning get-away field trip will go to the sand hills area - Poison Springs State Park, the site of a Civil War battle. This field trip should finish up by noon, when those going north, east or west could continue their trip home if they wish. Anyone desiring to make a post-convention trip to Carl Amason's place at Calion can continue on south. Sounds like fun!

MAYHAW MEETING SCHEDULED

A meeting on mayhaws is scheduled for Friday and Saturday April 20 and 21, 1990 at Orange, Texas Days Inn located on I-10. Ecology, habitat, etc. will be discussed. For more information call or write:

Project Mayhaw
c/o Herbert K. Durand
Rt. 3, Box 312
Willis, Texas 77378
Phone (409) 856-4821

WINTER MEETING NEWS

The annual winter meeting, held January 27, 1990 at LSU-Alexandria was called to order by our President, Terry Erwin. First on the agenda was an informative talk by Frances Rothwein, a U.S. Forestry Service biologist in the Kisatchie District. The red-cockaded woodpecker was the topic, and on-going research on this endangered species was described. Interestingly, the Vernon population is now the second largest known anywhere for this bird.

Dr. Charles Allen and Malcolm Vidrine of Eunice presented their recently released video, "Wildflowers of the Cajun Prairie". Their genuine, deep concern for the preservation of gravely endangered habitat touched all. (See the article by Dr. Allen further on in this newsletter).

Diane Billard and Bill Fontenot presented a "Project Wildflower" update. Forms are now available for LNPS members to use in reporting existing roadside stands of wildflowers.

An update was presented on the wildflower planting at Hodges Gardens.

Amy Burgess and Marilyn Beavers are designing a society brochure which should be available this spring.

Beth Erwin presented information concerning the Native Plant Conference at Louisiana Tech scheduled for June 7, 8, and 9, 1990. Various seminars, field trips, and other informative activities will be available for participants. This vast undertaking needs the support of all LNPS members. Invite your friends now before they schedule their summer vacations! There will be no separate summer meeting.

The T-shirt project has been boldly undertaken by John Mayronne. After a spirited discussion highlighting our varied tastes, members voted to allow John to "do his own thing". They will be available later this spring.

Members agreed to donate \$100 to the Scenic Louisiana group, which is working to keep billboards off of part of I-49.

Celia Jones encouraged all to become involved with Project Learning Tree and to volunteer in their local school systems. After all, we all agree that education is the answer to solving environmental problems.

Last but not least, our 1990 officers were elected:

President:	Terry Erwin
Vice-President:	John Mayronne
Secretary:	Beth Erwin
Treasurer:	Mary Moseley
Editor:	David Heikamp

New Board Members (3-year terms):
Marilyn Beavers
Diane Bullard
Ben Martin

SCENIC LOUISIANA UPDATE

Scenic Louisiana is asking everyone concerned about preserving our state's scenic heritage to join its campaign to designate Interstate 49 as a scenic "Louisiana Parkway".

The Louisiana Parkway Project of Scenic Louisiana is a citizen's campaign to educate the public on the need to make I-49 a scenic highway. The 211 miles of I-49 between I-10 at Lafayette and I-20 at Shreveport expose motorists to some of the state's prettiest scenery in a largely natural, undisturbed condition: rolling hills, dense woodlands, hardwood bottomlands and broad farming valleys.

As Scenic Louisiana proposes, scenic-highway status for I-49 would:

- * prohibit outdoor-advertising billboards;
- * restrict the size and placement of nearby on-premise business signs;
- * require landscape screening of adjacent industrial and commercial sites; and
- * employ alternative motorist-information systems including standardized "logo" signs to alert travelers to off-road businesses and attractions.

Scenic Louisiana was founded in January 1989 by Louisiana native Bill Robertson, a Shreveport freelance writer who serves as president of the non-profit group. His proposal to make I-49 a billboard-free scenic highway has attracted support from many civic and conservation groups, a number of individuals across the state, and prominent elected officials. Notable among the latter is Governor Buddy Roemer, who announced in November 1989 his desire to see I-49 develop as a scenic highway "uncluttered by billboards".

Governor Roemer has issued an executive order preventing any billboard permits from being issued for I-49 locations until the Louisiana Legislature can consider legislation permanently establishing the I-49 "Louisiana Parkway".

Scenic Louisiana believes the Louisiana Parkway will be a genuine tourist attraction, a symbol of environmental renewal in a state that badly needs to send that signal, and a lasting source of pride for all Louisianians.

You can support the Louisiana Parkway Project by writing a letter to your local legislator or newspaper, arranging for endorsements of the campaign by civic groups and tourism organizations, or by joining Scenic Louisiana. We will need strong grass roots support from the people of Louisiana to preserve I-49 as a pristine scenic highway.

For more information, write: Scenic Louisiana, P.O. Box 5504, Shreveport, Louisiana 71135-5504. Or, call (318) 869-1932.

EARTH DAY 1990 IS APRIL 22

Bob Thomas of the Louisiana Nature and Science Center located in New Orleans writes:

April 22, 1970 was the first Earth Day and marked the beginning of the environmental movement in America. There are a million theories about why it happened (the wind-down of the conflict in Viet Nam, the close of the restless '60s, it was time for a new movement following the accomplishments of Civil Rights, etc.), but its magnitude shocked even the most optimistic proponents.

Now 20 years (= one generation) later, most of what caused deep concern at the time is common place and a part of our daily lives. Virtually everyone is aware of the need for environmental reform and many are deeply involved in correcting ecological ills. It is the norm to recycle at least newspaper and aluminum, to refuse unneeded bags in stores, and to turn off lights when one leaves the room. People are buying more fuel-efficient cars, adjusting

thermostats, retrofitting insulation in homes, and refusing to use plastic foam products. Hot topics of discussion are acid rain, ozone depletion, greenhouse effect, and coastal erosion. Concern for the lifestyles of future generations is at an all-time high.

By insuring that Earth Day 1990, the 20th anniversary, is a global event, we can take the environmental movement into a new dimension. Now we have the opportunity to clearly show that "clean environment" is a prerequisite for "sound economy". A corollary is that a "dirty environment" cannot possibly yield a decent economic future for our society.

Actually, environmentalism is much easier today. Those radical crazies of 1970 are now in their forties. They are in middle management, daily making decisions that guide America's industry, but they have not lost their deep concern for the Earth . . . and it shows! The business community is at the cutting edge of much environmental reform, and that's a healthy sign.

So, what will people do to celebrate Earth Day 1990? Some groups will participate in Earth-oriented activities such as planting trees, cleaning litter, petitioning reform, educating children, and the like. Families and individuals might plant a garden, feed wild animals, visit a nature center, or go to the beach. Synagogues and churches may have environmental stewardship sermons, choral presentations that pay tribute to nature, and begin recycling programs for members. Businesses could focus on waste reduction, change environmentally poor practices, organize ecological activities for their employees, and support environmental activities of their choice. The list is endless and is only limited by your own creativity.

Whatever you do, don't let this important celebration slip by without telling Mother Earth what she means to you. The next decade will most certainly be affected by environmental concerns in all arenas of human activity.

For sheets of ideas, send a self-addressed stamped (45 cents) long envelope to the Louisiana Nature and Science Center, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70187-0610.

ZEMURRAY GARDENS INVITE

Fay Bright of Zemurray Gardens sends an invitation to LNPS members to visit Zemurray this spring. While the gardens are planted predominantly with non-native plants, there are many native plants, especially on the long trail around Mirror Lake. The gardens encompass 75 acres of azaleas, camellias and dogwood. Trails wander through a natural setting and encircle their way around a 20 acre lake appropriately named, Mirror Lake. There are a number of points of interest along the trails where life-size, mythological statues cast in France have been placed. Zemurray will be open the following dates for the 1990 season (hours are 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM each day):

March 3, 4
March 10, 11
March 17 through April 16
April 21, 22
April 28, 29

The gardens are located on Highway 40. Exit I-12 at the Robert exit (this is Highway 445). Take Highway 445 north through Robert to Highway 40 west. It can also be gotten to by exiting I-55 at the Tickfaw exit (this is Highway 442). Take Highway 442 east to Highway 40 east. There are picnic tables and a parking area. The entrance fee is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children under 12 and for senior citizens.

CROSBY ARBORETUM OFFERS PROGRAM MARCH 15

Unfortunately, this did not arrive in time for our winter newsletter, but you still may have time to register. The Crosby Arboretum is sponsoring a program on March 15 entitled "New Trends in the Culture and Use of Native Plants". The arboretum is located just off I-59 in Mississippi. The registration fee for the program is \$30, and to see if you can still register call the Arboretum at (601) 261-3137.

SEED SAVERS EXCHANGE INFORMATION

LNPS member Danna Cain of Norcross, Georgia sent in some literature on an organization called the Seed Savers Exchange (SSE). This is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to preserving heirloom varieties of vegetables, fruits, and grains. A 256 page Winter Yearbook published every year contains the names and addresses of more than 700 listed members. This represents more than 4,000 rare and unusual garden varieties which they are offering to other gardeners who are willing to help maintain them. For more information write to:

Seed Saver Exchange
Kent Whealy - Director
Rural Route 3, Box 239
Decorah, Iowa 52101

NORTHWEST CHAPTER NEWS

Nickie McCombs, Secretary of the Northwest Chapter of the LNPS would like everyone to know that their chapter is planning a workday at Hodges Gardens on March 31, 1990. Starting at 10:00 AM, they will be working on the native plant garden. LNPS members interested in helping are invited to join them. Just bring a sack lunch and your favorite hand tools!

HODGES WORKDAY PLANNED FOR APRIL 7

by Annette Parker

Don't discard those extra divisions of your perennial wildflowers. Bring them to the annual Hodges Gardens LNPS workday. Mark April 7 on your calendars now. The wildflower plot established by the society last year has flourished, and we need a greater variety of plant material. The main gate opens at 8:00 AM. Tell the worker that you're volunteering with the LNPS and there will be no admittance charge. You'll also receive a year's pass later! Hodges Gardens is off Highway 171, about 3 miles south of Many, La. and 12 miles north of Leesville, La. Soft drinks and large tools will be provided. Bring your own hand tools, though. Native shrubs such as viburnums are welcomed. Bring any native perennials you can spare. Some suggestions are:

any penstemon	spiderworts
white asters	wild petunia
Indian Pink	Carolina Lily
Blue Star	milkweeds
phlox	Meadow Beauty

WEST-CENTRAL CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Chapter President Darlene Jhanbatsch invites native plant lovers from across the state to participate in the following scheduled spring activities.

They're trying to be the most active chapter. Will another chapter accept the challenge? You may want to write or call for more information just before an outing, particularly if the weather is uncertain. Call or write:

Annette Parker
Rt. 1, Box 332
Anacoco, La. 71403
Phone (318) 286-9229

The activities are:

March 24: Longleaf Vista and the Kisatchie Hills Wilderness. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Fire Tower along Highway 117 near Kisatchie, La. You can't miss it. Bring lunch.

April 7: Hodges Gardens workday (see above).

April 14: Briarwood Nature Preserve. Louisiana irises should be in bloom. Meet at Briarwood at 10:00 AM. It's located off Highway 9 just south of Saline, La.

May 19: Cameron Parish outing: Creole Nature Trail and the Holloman Bird Sanctuary led by retired biologist Robert Murry. What a treat! Meet at 7:30 AM at the Leesville McDonalds on the south side of town just off Highway 171. Details are still to be worked out, so write or call for more information in early May. You'll see unusual beach and marsh plants. Bring insect repellent. (Note: members living south of Leesville may want to arrange another rendezvous point.)

GROWING WILDFLOWERS

by Beth Erwin

It is now my favorite time of year. Every day something new has popped out of the ground. The trilliums are going strong, one of my trout lilies bloomed, and the Heucherella has sent up flower buds. It is a good start. We didn't lose anything to the December cold. One or two things were nipped back, though. I gleefully removed two dead pyracanthas that had been espaliered against a fence at a friend's place. They were a maintenance nightmare and a bug hotel. I plan to replace them with a pair of Lonicera sempervirens plants.

After six weeks of sort of piddling around, blooming sometimes, some years not, our Missouri primrose outdid itself last year. It has rewarded us this year with dozens of babies. It is frustrating when a plant does that. I nurse it along for years, and suddenly I have more than I have room for. I hesitate to give plants like that away for fear they will prove finicky for the recipient too!

Terry and I bit the bullet and removed all of the privet across the back of the yard, exposing the view of our neighbor's savings account. That's what I call his collection of aluminum cans and scrap metal. We transferred dozens of wax myrtles to the back fencerow, and have ordered some Virginia pine seedlings to mix around the edges.

For those of you who came up here last summer for the meeting: the power line we walked that had the dwarf willow and the Solomon's Seal has survived the mowing it got a few weeks after we saw it. The willow is now in bloom, and the Solomon's Seal is blanketing its locale.

Those members up in this area should take note that there will be a plant sale April 6th at the NLU greenhouse featuring the fruits of Dr. Dale Thomas's

labors. He has things for sale that you will never find anywhere else!

T-SHIRT UPDATE

by John Mayronne

The T-shirts are ready! Available colors are red, teal, navy blue, watermellon with a white background, and white with a kelly green background. The plant depicted is Mamou, Erythrina herbacea. The price will be \$8.75 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling. Richard and Jessie Johnson will handle most of the shirts. I will have them available at my nursery outside Covington on Fridays and Saturdays. Also, the Louisiana Nature and Science Center (New Orleans) and either the Lafayette Natural History Museum or the Lafayette Nature Station will have them (probably at a slightly higher price to cover their costs and raise a little revenue for their needs).

To order through the mail write to:

Richard Johnson
Briarwood
Rt. 1, Box 195
Saline, Louisiana 71070

Richard will also be bringing T-shirts to all the meetings of the Northwest Chapter so members of that chapter may find it easier to purchase them at the meetings.

CAJUN PRAIRIE VIDEOTAPE AVAILABLE

by Dr. Charles Allen

A group of citizens of Eunice, La. has formed a nonprofit society to preserve Cajun Prairie. The society has assisted in the production of a video entitled "Wildflowers of the Cajun Prairie". The video was produced and directed by Patrick Mire and is a 28 minute television-style documentary. Much of the script is based on the article by Malcolm Vidrine and myself which appeared in the May-June '89 issue of the Louisiana Conservationist. The article itself has also been reprinted by the society.

Cost of the video is \$20.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. Cost of the article is \$2.00 plus 50 cents postage and handling. To obtain copies of one or both write to:

Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society
P.O. Box 172
Eunice, Louisiana 70535