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NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1990

volume 8, number 2

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# A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT, TERRY ERWIN

Let's Go Wild With Natives in the Landscape is now a memory, but for those who attended, I believe it will be a long-lasting, pleasant one containing lots of inspiration for gardening and landscaping with natives. We had a great time at Louisiana Tech's Lomax Hall, truly a super facility. The LNPS owes a big thank you to Dr. Peter Gallagher, Sue Jennings, Dr. John Griffin, Fred Christian, Marilyn Beavers, and the rest of the Ruston Chapter for their attention to details and for insuring the success of our conference. I want to personally thank Elinor Herd for working so hard at selling our shirts and for signing up several new members (16, I think). You did a great job, Elinor! Everyone loved the plant sales. I thought the selections were outstanding. Lastly, thanks to our speakers for sharing their knowledge on a variety of subjects. I heard nothing but praise of all our speakers. I believe conferences such as this one are essential for the LNPS to grow and flourish. It was a great event, and I look forward to future conferences.

A good thing to do in the summer heat to help further the native plant cause in Louisiana is to lend your support to Scenic Louisiana. Contact your state representative and senator and tell them you are in favor of a billboard-free I-49, beautifully landscaped with Louisiana native plants. As you cruise the state highways in your air-conditioned vehicle, take note of where the wildflowers are blooming. We all need to become observers and reporters for Louisiana Project Wildflower. If the plants are being mowed, complain to the highway department. LPW has the potential to change our roadsides from dead, ugly, bare ground to dazzling displays of wildflowers. Finally, stay active and alert to the preservation of our native flora. As a state organization we are, and will continue to be, an organization that makes a difference in the fight to preserve our natural heritage!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN METAIRIE AREA

Are you interested in helping nurse sick and injured purple martins back to health? Carlyle Rogillio of Metairie (recently featured on WWL News) is attempting to create a preserve for purple martins. He also accepts sick and injured purple martins at his home, nursing them back to health in a back yard aviary. He's in dire need of volunteers to help him nurse the birds back to health. Now is the time of greatest need, since young martins are just fledging, and face the most danger as they learn to fly. If you have some time to spare, please contact Mr. Rogillio at 888-5510. His address is 4913



Dreyfous, Metairie, La.

### DUES REMINDER

Do you know anyone who would like to join the LNPS? Tell them to send their dues (\$5) to our Treasurer:

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 four newsletters are as follows:

Fall Newsletter:	September 1, 1990
Winter Newsletter:	December 1, 1990
Spring Newsletter:	March 1, 1991
Summer Newsletter:	June 1, 1991

### A BUTTERFLY GARDEN IS CREATED

by Karlene DeFatta

The Walter Jacob Nature Center (near Blanchard, La.) is nestled into a beautiful hardwood forest with nature trails along creeks, through meadows and bogs. Interesting programs for children are under the watchful eye of naturalist and LNPS member Larry Raymond.

Members of the northwest chapter of the LNPS donated wildflowers and planted them around the center. The project has been going on for about two months. Some of the wildflowers that have been planted at the center are Wild Geranium, Geranium maculatum, Poppy Mallow, Callirhoe papaver, Mexican Primrose, Oenothera speciosa, Blue Star, Amsonia tabernaemontana, Orange Butterfly Weed, Asclepias tuberosa, Blue Phlox, Phlox divaricata, Obedient Plant, Physostegia sp., Beebalm, Monarda fistulosa, Penstemon tubaeiflorus, Cardinal Flower, Lobelia cardinalis, Yarrow, Achillea millefolium, Wild Ageratum, Eupatorium coelestinum, Blazing Star, Liatris squarrulosa, Black-eye Susan, Rudbeckia hirta, Indian Blanket, Gaillardia pulchella, Giant Coneflower, Rudbeckia maxima, Rosinweed, Silphium gracile, and Rose Verbena, Verbena canadensis, just to name a few!

While it takes a few years to get a wildflower garden really well established, members are enjoying being a part of this worthwhile project now.

### SPECIAL REQUEST

Kimberly Krah1, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Georgia, is doing research on the genus Baptisia, the ultimate goal being to develop more garden-worthy Baptisias. She is seeking as many different sources of seed and plants of Baptisia species as she can locate, and is willing to pay for the plants. If you can help out, please contact her at:



University of Georgia  
Horticulture Department  
1111 Plant Science Building  
Athens, Georgia 30602  
Attention: Kimberly Krah1

Phone (404) 542-2471  
FAX (404) 542-0624

GROWING WILDFLOWERS  
by Beth Erwin

The winds of change are blowing through my little corner of the world (my garden, that is). At long last, someone is buying the rental house next door. They have already asked if those are weeds or flowers I'm growing. Today I came out the house too late to save some gaillardia seedlings from the mower (he was just doing us a favor). I have been nurturing some wax myrtles for year as a screen on that side of the house. Our new neighbors put up a wooden fence and then painted it white. I was about to remove the herbaceous plants because the wax myrtles were choking them out. Now maybe I can remove the wax myrtles instead and plant more weeds! They told me they put up the fence because neighbors where they lived before never mowed the lawn.....could I interest you in a lovely bridge spanning a small body of water somewhere along the California coast???

On a more down-to-earth note, I am planning some changes of my own. The Coreopsis grandiflora has simply got to go. It is just too rowdy and too large for my yard. It is out of scale and I find the color too harsh with other things that bloom at the same time. The clear yellow of my primroses, Oenothera pilosella and O. missouriensis is just right with the pinks and blues of assorted phlox and Penstemon tenuis. I will save some to put around on the side because the gold of the coreopsis is so pretty in arrangements with coral honeysuckle, Lonicera sempervirens. Around in the shade garden I have ripped out a lot of aggressive ferns and replaced them with non-aggressive species. We decided to cut down the dogwood. It was like putting a 20-year-old dog that was blind and missing two legs to sleep. Dogwoods have real problems in Bastrop. There are a lot of them here, but by far the healthiest are in the woods. There is Chionanthus virginicus (Greybeard) in its place. We were given five young Greybeards this past winter and all are doing well. Down closer to the ground in the shade we added Mertensia virginica (Virginia Bluebell) from my grandmother's house, a blue phlox, a large clump of Spigelia marilandica (Pinkroot) rescued from a soon-to-be-razed house, and a couple of clumps of Thalictrum (Meadow Rue). Things are getting crowded again in there. I have a whole passel of things from Bluestone Perennials to put out, and don't know where I'll put them.

Currently the unofficial flower of Morehouse Parish, Callirhoe papaver (Poppy Mallow or Winecups) is in full bloom in the yard and about the area. It is especially pretty combined with the lavender of beebalm and Daucus carota var R. Dale Thomas. The latter is an extremely vigorous Queen Anne's Lace which Dr. Thomas grew from seed collected on his land in Tennessee. It is responsible for the choking deaths of a couple of its neighbors here in my yard, and there's no telling how many in other yards around the area. The Sourwood I brought from Terry from Memphis last fall is beginning to bloom. It's not a sure thing yet, though. Best of all, the Magnolia macrophylla has tripled in size this spring. Now, if Elisabeth can only refrain from plucking all the leaves off of it...they are such lovely, tempting leaves! Now is the



time to start collecting seeds in and attempting some semi-hardwood cuttings in the back yard. Start saving your 2-liter clear plastic soda bottles to recycle into mini greenhouses. I'm currently collecting seed for a local daycare facility and an elementary school. For some reason it is easier to give away seeds than plants to strangers. I am always being asked for sources of native seed to plant. I'll beg them to come to the yard and let me give them plants and they will respond with "Oh no, I couldn't do that!" If they only knew!

### NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE REPORT

by Beth Erwin

The Louisiana Native Plant Society sponsored its first native plant conference at Louisiana Tech in Ruston, June 7 through June 9. Over one hundred people from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee attended. Several people and groups brought plants and books to sell. The LNPS t-shirts nearly sold out, and over a dozen new members were added. The early birds who arrived Thursday evening enjoyed slides on Louisiana irises, the Cajun Prairie, Louisiana natives, as well as a video film on the Cajun Prairie. Friday was a day full of decisions, as everyone made up their minds as to which sessions to attend. Time between sessions was spent making new friends, and grilling each other on the sessions we missed. The day ended with a short field trip to some local sand hills and then on to the Louisiana Tech Arboretum Pavillion for supper and local entertainment. You'd be surprised at some of the other talents our folks have hidden up their sleeves. There were more sessions Saturday morning, then the field trip to Briarwood - always a treat. About fifty of us went to Briarwood.

A marvelous addition to our gathering was the publication of LNPS member Fran Johnson's new book The Gift of the Wild Things. It's a wonderful book about the life and accomplishments of Miss Caroline Dorman. It lays to rest any doubts about how much one person can accomplish. Our conference fit right in line with Miss Carrie's visions of recognition for Louisiana natives.

One last note before I forget, if there's some subject or speaker that any of our members would like to hear, or know of, please contact me so I can try to make arrangements to have them at one of our meetings!

### ARKANSAS MEETING REPORT

by Rosana Shelby

At our Louisiana Native Plant Society state meeting in Alexandria, Carl Amason from Arkansas invited our members to the Arkansas Native Plant Society meeting in Camden, Arkansas. Some of us from the Northwest Chapter were able to attend. I wish more of you could have gone with us.

We were warmly welcomed by the ANPS. They said they were so honored that we had come all the way from Louisiana to join them. The truth of the matter was, since we were from Shreveport, we had driven less than most of their own members! In any case, I would like to share some of the things we did and saw with those of you who could not attend.

Jim Shires went on most of the field trips and furnished me with the information about them, because we were only able to go on one trip. My daughter Julie Hayes, her friend Dani Miller, and I went on the Sunday trips.

On the Sand Hills trip we saw the following members of the Oak Family: Black Jack, Blue Jack, Margaretta, Post Oak, and White Oak. Other trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants were Sassafras, Bulmelia. High Bush Buckeye, Yellow Wood Sorrell, and Yellow-Puccoon. Some mosses we saw were Spike Moss, Selaginella, and Raindeer Moss.

Jim said  
left of the  
wool



Jim said the "Indian Mounds" trip was interesting just to see what was left of them. Flowers they saw were Climbing Milkweed, Yellow-Puccoon, Woolly-White, and lots of Spiderworts.

Friday afternoon they visited homes in the area and saw Silky Camellias, Delphiniums, Phacelia, Yellow Lady Slippers, Swamp Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Blue Flag Lillies, numerous ferns, Sweet Bays, and Swamp Azaleas to name a few.

On Sunday we went to Mrs. Adams's garden in Camden. She served us coffee and coffee cake. Then we wandered around her beautiful yard. The back yard slopes down and she planted Jack-in-the-Pulpits, Wild Azaleas, various bog plants, Dogwoods, and many other trees and shrubs that grow well in that setting. Around her home, which is on a hill, she had many flower beds with Columbines, Indian Pinks, Irises, Roses, Foxglove, and others too numerous to mention.

We then went to Poison Springs State Park, a very unique place. Th last stop for those of us going south was Carl Amason's home. His place is a nature lover's delight. Going on the paths is a wonderful experience. Everywhere you turn or move the least bit, or just look up, you spot a treasure. You may see a Big Leaf Magnolia in bloom, all colors of irises, Clematis, Partridge Berry, the first leaves of a Pinewoods Lily, Wine Cups, roses, Paw Paws, and Blue-eyed Grasses. Down in the bog there are many ferns and all kinds of bog plants. To spend time with a man like Carl Amason was a treat that everyone traesured.

I could go on and on about the Arkansas trip. My advice is, if you ever have the opportunity to go, then go!

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