



Louisiana Native Plant Society News

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23rd Annual Bird, Bog, Butterfly and Bivalve (BBBB) by Dr. Charles M. Allen

The annual BBBB for 2013 was a memorable one. The event started on Thursday, May 23 with a brown bag at Fort Polk with Jeff McMillian giving a great presentation on native plant propagation. Jeff presented lots of useful information on seeds, cuttings, and even grafting to produce more native plants. He repeated this brown bag on Saturday, May 25.

On Thursday afternoon, a few hardy individuals took the tour round Allen Acres and ended up at the Ouiska Chitto. On

Friday morning, we were surprised to have more than 10 people show up for the trek down the Ouiska Chitto. There were so many that two trips had to be made to get the participants upstream for the walk back downstream to Allen Acres. This has become a “look forward to” event as many different plants are seen and talked about along the way. And, even animals are seen, discussed, and photographed.

The Friday afternoon tour around Allen Acres had many

more participants than Thursday and also many more plants were seen and discussed. The Friday night bug light brought in many moths including one luna moth.

The Saturday morning tour of bogs was also one of the larger groups in recent years. The Ft Polk crew had found the interesting bogs to visit and many wildflowers were seen. The group enjoyed a large feast for lunch of Chinese food prepared by Susan. Then the brown bag by Jeff and then another fieldtrip in the after-

LNPS Officers

- Bob Dillemath, *P resident*
- Bud Willis, *Vice-President*
- Beth Erwin, *Secretary*
- Jackie Duncan, *Treasurer*
- Chris Reid, *Past President*
- David Moore, *Newsletter Editor*

Board Expiring 2014:

Kent Milton | Pat Lewis | Johnny Mayronne

Board Expiring 2015:

Jim Foret | Annette Parker | Charles Allen

Board Expiring 2016:

Linda Chance | Charlotte Seidenburg | Betty Miley



Photo courtesy Jackie Duncan

BBBB—Cont.

noon.

The spring butterfly count for Allen Acres was held Sunday morning with the numbers of butterflies way down this year. This was also true for the other butterfly counts that I have been on this spring. But Sunday afternoon was special as the group toured the spot for the green fringed orchid (*Platanthera lacera*) nearby. This is the only extant population in the state and the number of plants been had been going down since the discovery a few years ago. But, we were surprised to find 30 plants with most in flower. The population is in great shape and this was a great way to wrap up the 23rd BBBB.



Calopogon tuberosus (Photo courtesy Jackie Duncan)



Platanthera nivea Photo courtesy Tec MacRae, Beetles in the Bush blog <http://beetlesinthebush.wordpress.com/about/>



Alopia drummondii Photo courtesy Jackie Duncan



Polygala nana (Photo courtesy Jackie Duncan)



Asclepias longifolia Photo courtesy Jackie Duncan



Drosera brevifolia Photo courtesy Jackie Duncan

Blueberries, Huckleberries, what would Huckleberry Finn think?

By Dr. Charles M. Allen

I grew up using the common name of huckleberry for plants in the genus *Vaccinium* but when I got to college, I was told that the genus *Vaccinium* should be called blueberries and members of the genus *Gaylussacia* should be huckleberries. I think of the state of Missouri when I hear Huckleberry Finn and I just checked the USDA Plants database and there were only two counties in Missouri with records for the genus *Gaylussacia* and more than 50 counties with the genus *Vaccinium*. So, using advanced logic, Huckleberry Finn was probably named for a plant in the genus *Vaccinium* and those must have been called huckleberries in Missouri also. In the last few months, I reviewed a paper on the genus *Vaccinium* from the northwestern US and there were several species of *Vaccinium* that were called huckleberries in that area. How is the genus *Gaylussacia* separated from the genus *Vaccinium*? The species in the genus *Gaylussacia* have 10 large boney seeds and most have leaves with resinous glands on the underside and



Vaccinium arboreum Photo courtesy Southeasternflora.com



Vaccinium darrowii Photo courtesy Jeff McMillan



Vaccinium fuscatum Photo courtesy Southeasternflora.com

plants in the genus *Vaccinium* have many smaller seeds in the fruits and the leaves do not have resinous glands.

The *Vaccinium* species in Louisiana include the small *darrowii* that is found only east of the Mississippi River in Washington, St Tammany, Tangipahoa, and St. Helena parishes. It is the smallest plant of the Louisiana *Vacciniums* and has glaucous twigs, small evergreen leaves, and blue fruits. Some older books report *Vaccinium myrsinites* also in Louisiana and is similar but has bright green twigs and black fruits. It is found to the east of Louisiana in Alabama, Florida, Georgia,

Blueberries, Huckleberries, —Cont.

and South Carolina. The other *Vaccinium* species include the group with a campanulate corolla with the lobes longer than the tube and the current years twigs not verrucose (*Vaccinium arboreum* and *Vaccinium stamineum*) and the group with urceolate corollas with short lobes and the current year twigs verrucose (*Vaccinium corymbosum*, *Vaccinium elliotii*, *Vaccinium fuscatum*, and *Vaccinium virgatum*). *Vaccinium arboreum* (sparkleberry, farkleberry, tree huckleberry, winter huckleberry) grows to be the largest plant and is considered to be a tree species. The leaves are evergreen and the fruits are black and ripen in August to September and remain on the plant (unless eaten) thru the winter. I have eaten many in January and February. The fruits are not as good as other species but last a long time on the plant and thus were available when other foods were not. And, as I say, these taste pretty good to a person who never ate a “Snickers” bar. The other species *Vaccinium stamineum* is called deer berry or squaw berry and is a small plant with deciduous long leaves. The fruits are green and rarely change to a reddish purple color. Probably



Vaccinium stamineum—note the exserted stamens. Photo courtesy MissouriPlants.com

the most common and widespread species is *Vaccinium elliotii* with the common names of summer huckleberry and Elliott’s blueberry plus many others.

The twigs are green, the leaves are glabrous, and the plants are mostly solitary (not rhizomatous). It flowers in January to early February and the fruits are mostly single and ripen in mid to late May and are the best to eat. Similar to *Vaccinium elliotii* is *Vaccinium virgatum* with the common name of June berry. It has green twigs but differs in having pubescent leaves and the plants are rhizomatous and thus form clumps. It flowers about a month later than *Vaccinium elliotii* and the fruits are often in clusters around the stem and ripen in June, hence the common name. The two species also have some habitat differences with June berry mostly growing in dry sandy soil while summer huckleberry can

grow in dry sandy soil and also in somewhat moist creekbank areas. Baygall blueberry is the common name (that I use) for *Vaccinium fuscatum*, sometimes called *Vaccinium arkansanum*. It has the widest leaves with very distinct veins and is found as the name implies in baygalls. The fruits are black but not many are produced per plant. *Vaccinium corymbosum* is the mystery to me as it is reported for Louisiana. Some say it is similar to *Vaccinium fuscatum* and has blue fruit and some books say its habitat is mountains so that would leave Louisiana out? There is another *Vaccinium* (*Vaccinium tenellum*) that should be looked for in southeast Louisiana as it has been reported from southeast Mississippi. The key character seems to be reddish glands on the underside of the leaf. from southeast Mississippi.



Vaccinium elliotii



Plant Profile: Carolina Rock Rose by David Moore



Carolina Rockrose

Carolina Rockrose (*Helianthemum carolinianum*) is a showy, drought-tolerant, perennial member of the Cistaceae family. It

is found in most of the pineywoods of Louisiana, including the Florida Parishes. As with other members of this genus, the “normal” flowers have 5 bright-yellow pet-

als, numerous stamens and a 3-lobed style. These normal, cross-pollinating (chasmogamous) flowers are produced earlier in the growing season (March in central Louisiana) and occur singly or in small clusters toward the stem tips. Lateral branches elongate at or after the first round of flowering and produce self-pollinating (cleistogamous) flowers that appear later in the season – usually June in central Louisiana.

The main advantage of cleistogamy is a smaller allocation of resources (nectar, petals, and pollen are not needed) for the production of seed. This can prove useful for seed production on unfavorable sites (dry, sandy soil) or adverse conditions (hot, dry summers).

Of course, the disadvantage is the lack of sexual reproduction, which can lead to inbreeding depression or the loss of adaption to additional environmental constraints. Peanuts and violets are some other plants that have self-pollinating flowers.

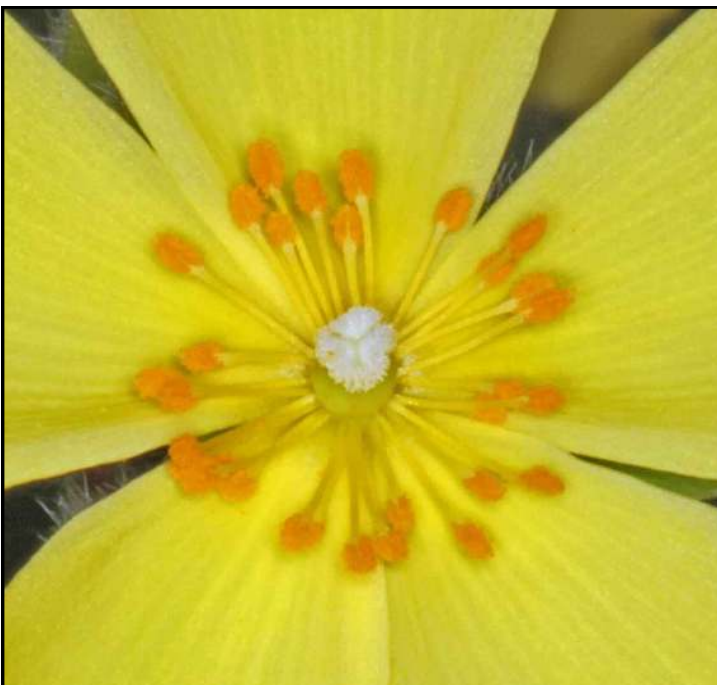
Helianthemum carolinianum is not a strong competitor



Trichome hairs on stem (pine pollen on leaf surfaces).

(it is often found in cemeteries), but it has found a unique way to survive in the pineywoods of Louisiana. It is fire-tolerant. In fact, it is adapted to, and depends upon, fire for its survival. Here is how.

The seeds are sown in the soil during the growing season, but they don't germinate in the next season. In addition, the hard seed coat is impermeable to water, which means the seeds remain soil-dormant for a long period of time. Together with their small seed size, this allows populations of *Helianthemum carolinianum* to establish a large seed bank. After a fire has moved through an



Chasmogamous flower showing numerous stamens and 3-parted style.

Carolina Rock Rose—Cont.

area, the seed coat softens or cracks due to the heat of the fire, and the surviving seeds germinate shortly after the fire. This mechanism allows the Carolina rockrose (and other members of the Cistaceae family) to produce a large number of young shoots simultaneously and at the right time, and thus to obtain an important advantage over other plants in the process of repopulating the area. The lack of modern wildfires is probably one reason why Carolina Rockrose is not seen in great abundance in Louisiana's pinelands today.



Carolina Rockrose chasmogamous flowers—Grant Parish.



Developing cleistogamous seed capsules



Basal leaves—note punctations on upper leaf surface. Photo courtesy Southeasternflora.com



Mature cleistogamous seed capsules

Announcements

LNPS's new chapter, The **Capital Area Native Plant Society** (CANPS) has been very busy this year. CANPS now meets regularly at BREC's Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center in Baton Rouge on the third Sunday of each month at 2pm. Meetings include a guest speaker or special workshop, our regular native plant/seed exchange and a walk through the swamp. General Admission (\$3) applies but if you are a CANPS member, you get in free for this day!

Bluebonnet Swamp is 103 acre property containing mostly Cypress-Tupelo but also some Bottomland and Hardwood Slope community types. Ongoing projects at the swamp include a comprehensive species assessment and forest/meadow restoration projects. At the February meeting, board member Will DeGravelles gave a very informative talk on the importance of forest management. On February 24, CANPS partnered with the LSU Herbarium to lead an herbarium tour with Jenny Kluse and Dr. Lowell Urbatsch. For the March meeting, co-founder of Natives Landscape Corporation Stephen Rusbar visited from Covington to share the work he has done promoting native plants in municipal landscaping in Southeast Louisiana. In April, CANPS hosted special Earth Day activities, including an urban wildflower bike tour "Velo des Fleurs". This was a special collaborative event with Bike Baton Rouge celebrating urban open spaces. Later that day, CANPS board members Will DeGravelles and Nancy Tarver, along with the co-presidents, helped make wildflower seed balls at the 2013 Earth Day Celebration in downtown Baton Rouge, LA. This turned out to be a very popular activity, with a very long line of children waiting to get their hands dirty!

In May, local naturalist and photographer John Hartgerink presented photographs and stories of his many discoveries in the swamp. On May 14th CANPS members joined Lauren with the Youth Wetland Program and several Louisiana Delta Service Corps members to remove privet as part of our first restoration efforts at the swamp. In June, CANPS Co-President Lauren Hull spoke on the Youth Wetlands Program, an LSU Agcenter and Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) effort to engage young people in ecosystem restoration through wetland education curriculum and native plantings in Southern Louisiana. In addition, CANPS was represented at Burden Center's Garden Fest 2013 on June 15th by Lauren Hull and Will DeGravelles.

At our July 21 meeting, Co-President Matthew Herron will be discussing the new Louisiana Plants Phenology Project, an interactive online citizen science tool to help track the distribution, flowering and fruiting of our native flora. Following an explanation of how to use the tool and access the data, members will have the chance to give input on ways to engage the community and work on a new display for Bluebonnet Swamp about native plants, phenology and LNPS/CANPS.

For a sneak peak of the phenology project check out the link:

Louisiana Plants Phenology Project

<http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/louisiana-plants-phenology-project>

CANPS has also finally scheduled our first field trip: On August 3, 2013 CANPS will be going to TNC's Abita Creek Flatwoods Preserve with an optional trip to the Abita Brew Pub and Restaurant afterwards for food and drink! To stay updated on times for the trip and carpooling options, please contact us at the email below. Abita Creek Flatwoods is home to many rare and unusual plants, and pitcher plants galore, so come out and have fun with us!

In other news, the new CANPS website will be launched hopefully by the end of July, so stay tuned for lots of great resources for all of LNPS and the general public to use, including interactive maps, calendars, propagation tips and much more!

Matthew and Lauren

canpsbr@gmail.com

Announcements

The 15th annual **Haynesville Celebration of Butterflies** will be held September 14 at the Claiborne Parish Fairgrounds in Haynesville, LA. Among the speakers will be Charles Allen, Felder Rushing, and James Dean, who will speak on blue-birds. The festival features a conservatory stocked with native butterflies in all four stages and many host and nectar plants.



The Covington Garden will have a **Spring Flower Show** in April 2014. The Show is a Small Standard Show and will be open to the public on Thursday, April 3, 2014, from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. For more information contact Barbara Plummer at cybeplum@bellsouth.net

The *Botanical Society of America* will have its annual meeting at the Riverside Hilton in New Orleans July 27-31. More information can be found at:

<http://www.2013.botanyconference.org/>

The **Land Trust Alliance** will hold its annual conference at the Sheraton Hotel on Canal Street in New Orleans September 17-19. One field trip that is still open will be led by Nelwyn McInnis of The Nature Conservancy—Biking and Birding: Abita Creek Flatwoods Preserve and Tammany Trace. More information can be found at:

<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/training/rally/Rally2013Brochure.pdf>

Prairie Restoration Roundup July 26, 2013 from 9 am - 3 pm at the Texas City Prairie Preserve south of Houston. Learn the best techniques for restoring your land back to prairie!

Sponsored by the Native Prairies Association of Texas – Houston Chapter
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Sponsored by the Native Prairies Association of Texas – Houston Chapter

More information can be found at: <http://prairiepartner.org/page/heartland-series-1>

Welcome New Members

Twana Casey
February 2013
Butte LaRose, LA

Brook Cassady
April 2013
New Orleans, La

Lillian Cutshall
June 2013
Ball, LA

Forrest Dillemath
January 2013
Baton Rouge, LA

Dick Ehrlicher
January 2013
Baton Rouge, LA

Linda Finley
January 2013
Lake Charles, LA

Jennifer Granger
May 2013
Lake Charles, LA

Philip R. Hilton
January 2013
Baton Rouge, LA

Mandy Holden
February 2013
Pollock, LA

Lauren Hull
April 2013
Baton Rouge, La

Stacy Huskins
February 2013
New Llano, LA

Bette Kaufman
January 2013
Monroe, LA

Anna Kephart
April 2013
Natchitoches, LA

Jack Land
May 2013
Arcadia, LA

Jeff McMillian
January 2013
Merryville, LA

Gary Perkins
May 2013
Pineville, LA

Sarah Rayner
February 2013
Baton Rouge, LA

Leif Remo
March 2013
Baton Rouge, LA

Emily Shirley
February 2013
DeRidder, LA

Sheryl Shumsky
April 2013
New Orleans, LA

Matt Vance
May 2013
New Orleans, LA

Jerry Walls
January 2013
Bunkie, LA

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“This extensive pine region ([sic] of southwest Louisiana) embraces over eight thousand square miles of land, and the pine flats form one of the best ranges for livestock that can be found within the limits of the State, for there the grass is almost as thick and luxuriant as in the prairies, and they are almost preferable for pasturage, because the top-branched trees afford considerable shade, and protect the stock from the excessive heat of the sun, while the creeks and bayous are far more numerous, which serve as convenient watering places for cattle.”

- Americus Featherman, 1872

Membership Form (Checks payable to LNPS)

NOTE: Membership and donations may also be paid online at www.lnps.org.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

Annual Dues:

Student/Senior	\$ 5	Organization	\$25
Individual	\$10	Sustaining	\$50
Family	\$15	Corporate	\$100

MAIL TO:

Jackie Duncan
114 Harpers Ferry Road
Boyce, LA 71409

LNPS

Louisiana Native Plant Society
114 Harpers Ferry Road
Boyce, LA 71409
Phone: 318-793-8064
E-mail: jacalynduncan@hotmail.com

The Louisiana Native Plant Society was founded in 1983 as a state-wide, non-profit organization. Its purposes are to preserve and study native plants and their habitats, to educate people on the value of native plants and the need to preserve and protect rare and endangered species, to promote the propagation and use of native plants in the landscape, and to educate people on the relationship between our native flora and wildlife.

www.lnps.org

Louisiana Native Plant Society
Jacalyn Duncan
114 Harpers Ferry Road
Boyce, LA 71409

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