

# Louisiana Native Plant Society News

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## LNPS Officers

### LNPS Officers:

- Bud Willis, *President*
- Peggy Cox, *Vice-President*
- Beth Erwin, *Secretary*
- Jackie Duncan, *Treasurer*
- David Moore, *Newsletter Editor*
- Bob Dilleuth, *Past President*
- Will deGravelles, *Interim President CANPS*

### Board Expiring 2016:

Linda Chance | Charlotte Seidenberg | Betty Miley

### Board Expiring 2017:

Rick Webb | Matthew Heron | Dave Banowitz

### Board Expiring 2018:

Mark Pastorek | Dawn McMillian | John Mayronne

## Lily-Orchid Days

by Dr. Charles M. Allen

The annual Lily Orchid Days were held in the Fort Polk area on August 14-16, 2015. About thirty people participated in this year's events. It was kicked off on Friday afternoon with a tour of Allen Acres followed by a look at the moths on the sheets after dark. The major part was the tour on Saturday morning with a caravan of six or so vehicles that departed from Allen Acres and headed west to Bailey Road in the US Forest Service land.

The first stop was the orchid spot and the group walked in to a flatwoods bog and saw yellow fringed orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*) and yellow fringeless orchid (*Platanthera integræ*) in flower. The *P. ciliaris* were short, small, and not

brightly colored which seemed to be linked to the drought. The *P. integræ* were just beginning to flower and seemed to be their usual brilliant yellow but it seemed that there were not as many as in years past.

Other plants seen include Indian plaintain (*Arnoglossum* (*Cacalia*) *ovata*), sharp scale blazing star (*Liatris acidota*), cowbane (*Oxypolis filiformis*), drumheads (*Polygala cruciata*), hatpins (*Eriocaulon*), yellow eyed grass (*Xyris*), meadow beauty (*Rhexia alifanum*, *Rhexia petiolata*, and *Rhexia mariana*), and grass leaved barbara's buttons (*Marshallia graminifolia*). Yellow meadow beauty (*Rhexia lutea*) could be seen in the past flowering state and lots and lots of a blazing star

(*Liatris pycnostachya*) that will be flowering in the next few weeks. Some grasses that the group found were toothache



*Rhexia lutea*

grass (*Ctenium aromaticum*), switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), and wrinkled jointtail grass (*Coelorachis rugosa*). The most common fern here was Virginia Chain fern (*Woodwardia virginica*).

The area had been scouted the day before and no Carolina lilies were found so the group headed west to check out Drake's Creek bog. The group saw poison sumac and Sabine black eyed Susan and other typical bog plants. It was looking kind of bleak until Bette Kaufman walked upon seven beautiful yellow fringed orchids in flower. These were in



*Platanthera ciliaris*. Photo by David Moore.



## *Lily-Orchid Days—Cont.*

a wet area within the bog and were really spectacular. This was by far the highlight of the weekend.

The group moved onto the Ouiska Chitto Creek along Lookout Road to view the one lonely cranefly orchid (*Tipularia discolor*). A small group returned on Sunday morning and found a couple of additional orchids in flower. Not sure if they flowered overnight or it was the younger eyes that found them on Sunday.

The group returned to Allen Acres for a lunch of Susan's Chinese food and then viewed the slide show on Lilies and Orchids. Saturday night was another night of nothing.



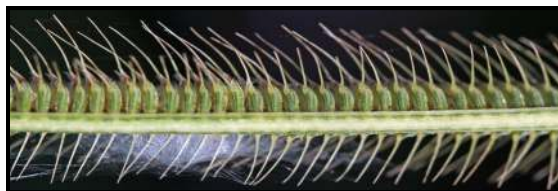
*Platanthera integra*. Photo by David Moore.



*Asclepias rubra*.



*Tipularia discolor*. Cranefly Orchid. Photo courtesy Craig Frazier.





## *Capital Area Native Plant Society News*

The **Capital Area Native Plant Society** has been busy this fall! We were recently involved with LSU Hilltop Arboretum's PlantFEST and Teaser event, which sold hundreds of native plants. We received a donation of custom made "Certified Native" plant tags and brochures from First Graphix, LLC, which were used to label native plants and provide information about our chapter. We hope to continue to be involved with native plant sales, such as the upcoming Tree For All tree sale held by Baton Rouge Green on Oct. 31st. These fabulous plant tags will be used to mark native plants at sales, and hopefully in nurseries as well!

CANPS will be visiting Betty Miley of Maypop Hill Nursery and Gloster Arboretum on Oct. 17th. We hope to see some less common plants, including Mountain Laurel, Silky Camelia and Bigleaf Magnolia. In August, a few members attended Dr. Allen's Lily Orchid Days and witnessed both the yellow fringed and fringeless orchids! Later this month, we will be travelling to Birmingham Botanical Gardens for the Central South Native Plant Conference, please join us!

On Oct. 18th, we will hold our monthly native plant propagation workday at Burden Botanical Gardens. Our plant propagation program has taken off! We outgrew our hoop house at Burden Botanical Gardens and have been moved to a larger area. Recently we have been collecting and processing fleshy fruits and seeds, stratifying and germinating our harvest. Our volunteers have been great, and on Oct. 7th, we partnered in a native iris planting with Zydeco Iris, Baton Rouge Chapter of the Sierra Club, and BREC's Conservation Department. CANPS members are also assisting with a swamp restoration at BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo!

In other news, CANPS has been holding monthly leadership and development meetings at Hilltop Arboretum. We will be electing new officers this fall and are excited for the new projects to come. We have potential projects with the Baton Rouge Herb Society, a prairie and butterfly garden at Burden Botanical Garden, and a butterfly garden with Baton Rouge Center for Visual and Performing Arts!

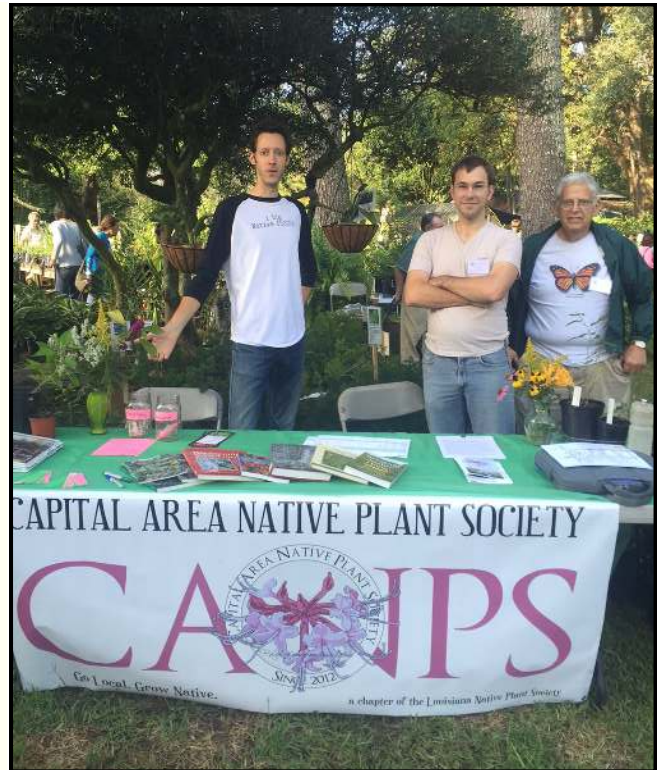
The Capital Area Native Plant Society maintains a calendar of events on [www.canps.weebly.com](http://www.canps.weebly.com), and can also be found on Facebook and Twitter. Join our discussion forum for great insights on native plants! If you would like to support our efforts to bring native plants to the capital area, please contact us at [canpsbr@gmail.com](mailto:canpsbr@gmail.com) regarding donations (money, plants or seeds).

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual meeting. If you are interested in contributing oral histories or photographs to the Louisiana Native Plant Society historic archive, please contact Matthew at [canpsbr@gmail.com](mailto:canpsbr@gmail.com). May your fall be filled with wildflowers!

Native Tidings,

Lauren and Matthew

Capital Area Native Plant Society



Leif Remo, Matthew Herron, and Ken Bosso at the CANPS PlantFest booth



Matthew Herron, Ken Bosso, James Henson, and Leif Remo at the propagation table





## 2016 Annual Meeting

The 2016 LNPS Annual Meeting will be held Feb. 5, 6, and 7 at Camp Hardtner north of Pollock, LA. This year's meeting will see a host of prairie restoration specialists speaking about their experiences with this endangered natural community.

Here is the speaker agenda. More information about the annual meeting will be available in the Winter 2016 newsletter.

8:30-9:00 Dr. Charles Allen - Prairie Garden Dynamics - Natural Changes Through the Years

9:00-9:30 Larry Allain - Prairie Conservation and the Fate of Native Pollinators

9:30-10:00 Jim Foret - Prairie Dirt and Other Good Things That Come with Prairies

10:00-10:15 Break

10:15-10:45 Dr. Malcolm Vidrine - The Cajun Prairie Gardens and the Cajun Prairie Restoration Project in Eunice, Flowering Phenology as it Relates to Natural Landscaping, Pollinators and Just Plain 'Knock Your Eyes Out' Beauty!

10:45-11:15 Beth Erwin - What I Have Learned About Hydrology and Prairies in Northeast Louisiana

11:15-11:45 Jessie Johnson - Briarwood's Wildflower Meadow and How it Came into Being Because of Hungry Voles

11:45-12:30 Lunch

12:30-1:15 Business meeting (begins mid-way through lunch, in lunch room)

1:30-2:30 Jim Willis - Wildlife Habitat Federation - Bringing Back the B's--Restoring Native Habitat in the Coastal Prairie"



Searching for *Geocarpon* on a saline prairie



*Geocarpon minimum*. Photo by David Moore



## Eupatorium Everywhere Even East of Eden

By  
Dr. Charles M. Allen

The genus *Eupatorium* includes native herbaceous perennials in the *Asteraceae* or sunflower family, also called the *Compositae*. As with all members of this family, the flowers are in heads, hence the name *Compositae*. This family is also noted for having two kinds of flowers, the ray flowers and the disc flowers. Both kinds of flowers have five petals and five stamens, and the calyx is reduced to a pappus which, in *Eupatorium*, is bristles. The heads can contain both ray and disc flowers (the typical type as seen in sunflower or purple coneflower) or rays only (as in dandelion) or with discs only (this is the situation in *Eupatorium*, also *Liatris* (blazing stars) and ironweed (*Vernonia*). The disc flowers are perfect and white, pink, or purple. The heads can be in flat-topped corymbs or open panicles. The leaves vary from alternate to opposite or whorled, from sessile to petioled, and from entire or toothed to lobed or pinnatifid. *Eupatorium* is a variable and large genus with a wide range of common names and can be split into a number of smaller genera.

The non-white-flowered species have pink to blue or purple, flat-topped inflorescences and include mistflower (*E. coelestinum*), joe-pye weed (*E. fistulosum*), pink thoroughwort (*E. incarnatum*), ivyleaf thoroughwort (*E. ivifolium*), and sweet-scented joe-pye weed (*E. purpureum*). Mistflower can be placed in the genus *Conoclinium*, pink thoroughwort in the genus *Fleischmannia*, joe-pye weed in the genus *Eupatoriadelphus*, and ivyleaf thoroughwort in the genus *Chromolaena*.



Mist flower (*E. coelestinum* or *Conoclinium coelestinum*).

Both mistflower and pink thoroughwort have leaves that are opposite, simple, petioled, and with a deltate-ovate, distinctly truncate-based blade. Mistflower closely resembles cultivated ageratum and is sometimes called wild ageratum. It has flowers that are odorless and blue, purple, pink, or (rarely) white and is an erect plant with a slightly conical head. It is a widespread species of mesic to slightly moist habitats. A related species, *Eupatorium greggii*, is considered to be one of the top butterfly nectar plants in central and south Texas. Pink thoroughwort has light pink, sweet-smelling flowers in a flat head and is a sprawling plant of well-drained forests. When I was learning plants back in the early 70's, I had read about *E. incarnatum* and kept looking at *E. coelestinum* and tried to make lighter colored flowered *E. coelestinum* into *E. incarnatum*. Finally, I found true *E. incarnatum* and could see the flopping semi-vine characteristic of *E. incar-*

*natum* and the odor of the flowers. Charles Allen is looking for a start of this plant so anyone with a plant or seeds to share, please contact him.

Ivyleaf thoroughwort is an erect plant that has opposite, subsessile leaves with elliptic to oblong blades that are acute apically and basally. Its flowers are blue. It is restricted to moist habitats in southern Louisiana and was just discussed by Bill Fontenot with some great photos.

Both joe-pye weed and sweet-scented joe-pye weed have whorled leaves, but the internodes in joe-pye weed are hollow and purple while in sweet scented joe-pye weed they are solid and green. Joe-pye weed is a common plant of baygalls and other moist areas throughout the state, while sweet-scented joe-pye weed is reported only from the gorges near Copenhagen in Caldwell Parish. Sweet-scented joe-pye weed is the species that is often offered for sale by native-plant nurseries.

The white-flowered species include Yankee weed or dog fennel (*E. capillifolium*), Yankee weed (*E. compositifolium*), and (*E. x pinnatifidum*), all with deeply dissected leaves and a panicle. *E. capillifolium* is a rank-smelling plant with alternate leaves and segments narrower than 1 mm. It is widespread in disturbed areas. *E. compositifolium* and *E. x pinnatifidum* both have leaf segments wider



Joe Pye weed (*E. fistulosum* or *Eupatoriadelphus fistulosus*)





*Eupatorium capillifolium*. Photo by Dr. Charles M. Allen

than 1 mm, but *E. compositifolium* has more than seven flowers per head while *E. x pinnatifidum* has five or fewer flowers per head. *E. x pinnatifidum* is a hybrid between *E. capillifolium* and *E. perfoliatum*.

There are more than ten other white-flowered species reported for Louisiana and the SE US, all with entire to toothed leaves and a flat-topped inflorescence. Leaf characteristics, flowers, and bracts are all used to differentiate these species. With its sessile and connate-perfoliate leaves, boneset (*E. perfoliatum*) is readily recognized. Its name apparently originates from the belief that extracts from this plant would cause broken bones to grow back together, since its leaves are fused together. Two common species of upland pine forests are roundleaf thoroughwort (*E. rotundifolium*) and white thoroughwort (*E. album*). As its name implies, roundleaf thoroughwort has ovate, approaching round, leaves, while *E. album* has elliptic to lanceolate leaves. *E. rotundifolium* is very widespread in a number of habitats while *E. album* is restricted to dry upland habitats. A look alike to *E. album* is *E. leucolepis*, often called justice weed, which has smaller leaves and is restricted to bogs, baygalls, and pine savannahs. The leaves of all three species are nearly sessile.



*E. x pinnatifidum* (a hybrid between *E. capillifolium* (above) and *E. perfoliatum* (below) result of hanky panky at Allen Acres. Photo by Dr. Charles M. Allen

Fall thoroughwort (*E. serotinum*) has petioled leaves and is a very common weed in disturbed areas throughout the state. *E. hyssopifolium* is readily recognized by its clumps of leaves at the nodes rather than the single but paired leaves in most other species. Other white-flowered species with non-dissected leaves include *E. altissimum*, *E. glaucescens*, *E. lancifolium*, *E. mohrii*, *E. pilosum*, and *E. semiserratum*. The leaves of what I think are *E. glaucescens* are oriented like a compass plant, that is the blade is twisted so the flattened portion is oriented perpendicular to the ground compared to the flattened portion of most leaves being parallel to the ground. A design like this is best for capturing sun rays for photosynthesis.

Have you had enough of the white flowered, non-dissected leaved Eupatorium? But wait, there are still more. Two species (*aromaticum* and *altissimum* (used to be called *E. rugosum*)) both have pure white flowers and are now in the genus *Ageratina*. Both are late-flowering and seem to be species of hardwood forests with *Ageratina altissima* widespread across the state and *E. aromaticum* mostly restricted to areas east of the Mississippi River. *Ageratina altissima* was once called *Eupatorium rugosum* with the common name of snakeroot and is poisonous to animals and can cause death among humans who drink milk from cows who have eaten *Ageratina altissima*.

From Wikipedia: During the early 19th century, when large numbers of European Americans from the East, who were unfamiliar with snakeroot, began settling in the plant's habitat of the Midwest and Upper South, many thousands were killed by milk sickness. Notably, milk sickness was possibly the cause of death in 1818 of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of Abraham Lincoln. A related and woody/shrubby species, *Ageratina havanense*, produces fragrant flowers and is very popular in central Texas as a butterfly plant.



Boneset. (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*). Photo by Dr. Charles M. Allen



*Eupatorium rotundifolium*. Photo by Dr. Charles M. Allen



*Eupatorium ivifolium* or *Chromolaena ivifolium*. Photo by Dr. Charles M. Allen





*We shall not cease from  
exploration, and the end  
of all our exploring will be  
to arrive where we started  
and know the place for  
the first time.*

**- T. S. Eliot**

## *Membership Form* (Checks payable to LNPS)

NOTE: Membership and donations may also be paid online at [www.lnps.org](http://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**  
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Boyce, LA 71409

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*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.*

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www.lnps.org

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