



# Louisiana Native Plant Society News

## Inside this issue:

2015 Annual BBBB	1-3
Louisiana <i>Liatris</i>	4-7
Announcements	8
Membership Form	9

## 25th Annual BBBB (Bogs, Birds, Baygalls, Butterflies and More B's)

by Dr. Charles M. Allen

The 25<sup>th</sup> annual BBBB (Bogs, Birds, Baygalls, Butterflies and more B's) was held on Friday May 15, 2015 thru Sunday May 17, 2015.

The overall attendance at events was down this year but the number of observations was tremendous.

Walker and Heather Wilson began the activities on Friday with a Brown Bag at Fort Polk titled "[Louisiana Wildlife: A Photographic Tour](#)". Members of the Environmental Section at Fort Polk enjoyed their presentation. A small group joined the Friday afternoon tour of Allen Acres and the group enjoyed a leisurely walk and discussion of the many plants seen along the way.

The Saturday morning tour was the traditional tour of bogs and the bog visited this year was the Drake's Creek (aka Government pond bog). The group was about halfway across the pine forest to the bog when a thun-

derstorm threatened. The group retreated to the vehicles and then drove about a mile and stopped to see *Danthonia sericea* (downy oatgrass). This is a population on Forest Service land that is relatively rare in western Louisiana. From this location, the group moved across the pine forest and saw a number of interesting plants including *Polygala nana*

(candyroot), *Polygala mariana* (Maryland candyroot), and *Polygala polygama* (racemed candyroot). Two species of *Tephrosia* were also seen including *T. onobrychoides* (multibloom hoary pea) and *T. virginiana* (goat's rue). Several mushrooms were also observed.

The thunderstorm passed over and the group returned and hiked into the bog. The highlight was to see three bog pink orchids (*Calopogon tuberosa*) in flower. The bog was burned in the winter season and an abundance of pitcher plants (*Sarracenia alata*) could be seen. Other plants seen in the bog were *Sabatia macrophylla* (largeleaf rosepink), *Rudbeckia scabrifolia* (Sabine blackeyed Susan), and joepy weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*), all three not in flower yet. Several sundews (*Drosera brevifolia*), Savannah candyroot (*Polygala ramosa*), colic root (*Aletris aurea*), and skullcap (tractor seat (*Scutellaria integrifolia*)) were also observed.

A few plants of poison su-



*Platanthera nireia* Photo courtesy Ted MacRae, Beetles in the Bush blog @ <http://beetlesinthebush.wordpress.com/about/>

## 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, *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

## **BBBBBBB—Cont.**

mac (*Toxicodendron vernix*), baygall waxmyrtle (*Morella carolinensis*), white bay (*Magnolia virginiana*), and swamp black gum (*Nyssa biflora*) were observed. In addition, several large populations of white topped sedge (*Dichromena (Rhynchospora) latifolia*) were seen.

There is often confusion between the two species of white topped sedges (*Dichromena latifolia* and *Dichromena colorata*) in Louisiana. Both are now placed in the genus *Rhynchospora* and both have the white bracts at the top of the plant. *Dichromena latifolia* is the larger of the two species with the 6-10 bracts 5 mm or more wide at base compared to 3-5 bracts mostly narrower than 5 mm wide at base in *D. colorata*. The white portion is 9-25 mm long, tapering gradually into the green portion in *D. colorata* and 22-55 mm long tapering abruptly into the green portion in *D. latifolia*. The rhizomes of *D. colorata* are slender, straight and 0.7-1.7 mm in diameter and the rhizomes of *D. latifolia* are often bent and swollen at the nodes and 1.4-3.8 mm in diameter. There are also differences in the achenes and tubercles. I find the two species in different habitats with *D. latifolia* in acid bogs and *D. colorata* in less acid areas like wet prairies and even on Grand Isle.

The group returned to Allen Acres and enjoyed a meal of Susan's Chinese food and then Walker and Heather Wilson presented their talk on "Louisiana Wildlife: A Photographic Tour". The group caravanned to Dove Field north of Fullerton Lake and looked at and photographed a number of butterflies. A number of native plants were observed including June Berry (*Vaccinium stamineum*), persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), and prairie fleabane (*Erigeron strigosus*). The most obvious and the plant attracting the most butterflies was stiff verberna aka tuberous vervain (*Verbena rigida*).

The crowd had dwindled quite a bit by Sunday morning but the enthusiastic group called and got permission to visit the green fringed orchid (*Platanthera lacrea*) site. This is the only known location for this species in Louisiana. We saw three plants of the orchid and all were past flowering. On the way back to Allen Acres, the group stopped at the green milkweed site. The green milkweeds are not as obvious as when the pictures were sent out a few weeks ago but are still there with a few plants trying to produce fruits. Other plants were seen including yellow false indigo (*Baptisia bracteata*) and puff balls (*Marshallia caespitosa*), both in fruit. A few plants of compass plants (*Silphium laciniata*), sensitive brier (*Mimosa hystrix*), and purple sneeze weed (*Helenium flexuosum*) were seen. A fairly large clump of butterworts (*Pinguicula pumila*) were seen in flower.

Mark your calendars for the 26<sup>th</sup> annual BBB which will be in late March or early April in 2016. Also, Allen Acres will be hosting the annual Lily Orchid Tours on August 14-16 this year and the Butterfly Blast September 25-27, 2015. Plans are being formulated for a Bioblitz at Allen Acres during the National Moth week of July 18-26, 2015. Will be conducting plant, bird, butterfly, fungi, and ?? inventories during the day and a moth and other invertebrate survey at night.



*Rhynchospora latifolia*. Photo courtesy southalabamawildflowers.weebly.com



*Rhynchospora colorata*. Photo courtesy Santonine plantes aquatiques.fr



*BBBB—Cont.*



*Platanthera lacera* (Photo courtesy Missouriplants.com)



*Sabatia macrophylla*. Photo courtesy Southeasternflora.com



*Aletris aurea*. Flowers. Photo courtesy Alabamaplants.com



*Aletris aurea*. Basal rosettes. Photo courtesy Alabamaplants.com



*Vaccinium stamineum*



*Polygala nana*. Photo courtesy Ed Weislo/Floridas Nature.com



## Louisiana *Liatris*

By David Moore

### Blazing Stars!

Is it possible to come up with a more awesome name for any plant? Well, maybe. “Kiss Me Over the Garden Gate” (the common name for *Polygonum orientale*) is a great name, as is “Queen’s Delight” (*Stillingia sylvatica*) or “Little Brown Jugs” (*Hexastylis arifolia*). But, since this article is about Blazing Stars....

Blazing stars are typified by a spike- or raceme-like inflorescence composed of many small flowers crowded together along an upright stem. The crowded nature of these individual flowers lends the appearance of a comets tail – hence the origin of this popular common name.

Blazing Stars are a principal component of the herbaceous vegetation in open pine woods, longleaf savannahs, and prairies in Louisiana. They are also an important source of nectar for butterflies and other pollinators.

Some species, such as *Liatris pycnostachya* (prairie blazing star), are habitat generalists and can be found in a variety of habitats. On the other hand, *Liatris punctata* is only found in the sodic (high sodium) soils of Calcasieu Parish. All species, however, are most often found in sunny locations.

Only one species is rare. That is *Liatris tenuis*, which is in the Center for Plant Conservation’s National Collection of Endangered Plants. It is considered rare throughout its range of Eastern Texas and Western Louisiana.

Depending on which classification you use, there are “37 species in North America, Mexico, West Indies

(Bahamas)” (Nesom – Flora of North America - FNA), “40-50 species native to eastern and central North America” (Weakly – Flora of Virginia), or “ca. 40 species from Eastern North America” (Gandhi and Thomas– *Asteraceae* of Louisiana – G&T).

Prior to the publication of the 24th volume of the Flora of North America, the best (and still very useful) key for Louisiana *Liatris* was the “*Asteraceae* of Louisiana” by Gandhi and Thomas.

The “Vascular Flora of the Southeastern United States, Volume 1: *Asteraceae* by Arthur Cronquist is also a very good source for keying members of the genus *Liatris*, as well the entirety of the *Asteraceae* Family.

I used a combination of the “Flora of North America” and “The *Asteraceae*

of Louisiana” to produce the following key for all species of *Liatris* in Louisiana. Both keys use phyllary morphology as a determinate part of their dichotomous keys.

The combination of the two keys was necessary because *Liatris punctata* (covered in FNA but not G&T) was discovered in Louisiana after the publication of G&T, and characters of *Liatris punctata* are so unique that changes to the G&T key were needed to accommodate this recently-discovered Louisiana species.

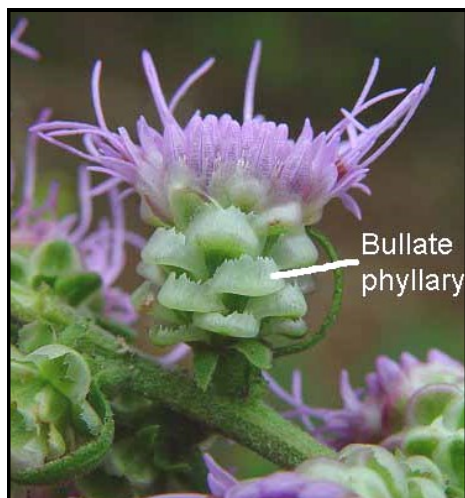


Blazing Stars along a roadside in the Missouri Ozarks. Photo by David Moore.



The following pictures of all species of Louisiana *Liatris* show the phyllaries, the morphology of which are unique to each *Liatris* species and are central to most *Liatris* keys. A phyllary is one of the involucrel bracts subtending the flower head of a plant in the Asteraceae (Compositae or Sunflower) Family. An involucre is a whorl or cluster of bracts at the summit of the peduncle (stalk of the inflorescence) that is situated just below the flower head.

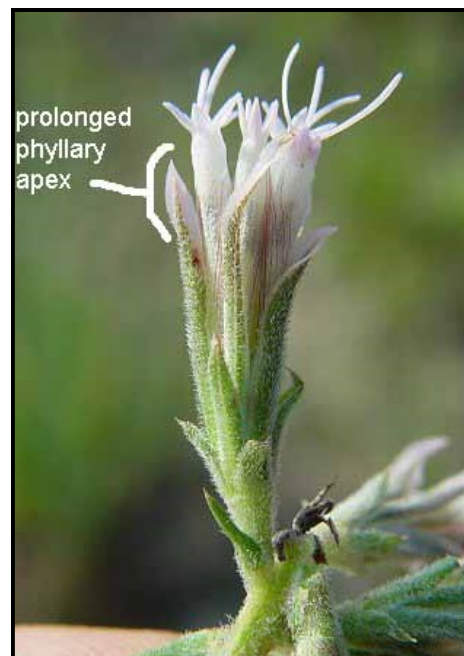
Here is a link to a good website about plant morphology (<http://nickrentlab.siu.edu/PLB304/>) and here is a link to a great book on the same subject ([http://www.amazon.com/Plant-Identification-Terminology-Illustrated-Glossary/dp/0964022168/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1435854603&sr=8-1&keywords=plant+identification+terminology](http://www.amazon.com/Plant-Identification-Terminology-Illustrated-Glossary/dp/0964022168/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1435854603&sr=8-1&keywords=plant+identification+terminology))



*Liatris aspera*. Note bullate phyllaries.  
Photo courtesy Alabamaplants.com



*Liatris acidota*. Photo courtesy Converse Griffith - Kisatchie National Forest.



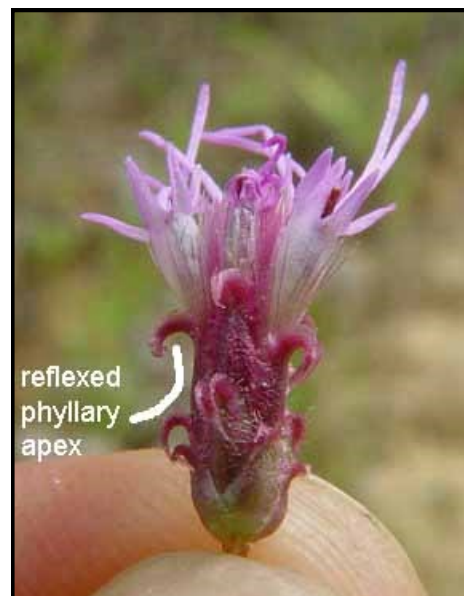
*Liatris elegans* with prolonged phyllary apices. Photo courtesy Alabamaplants.com



*Liatris punctata*. Photo courtesy Missouri-plants.com

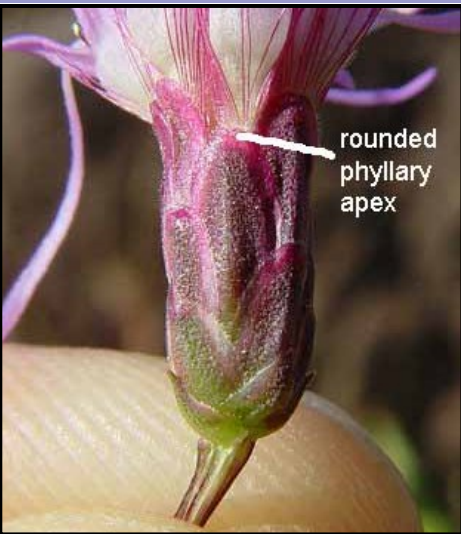


*Liatris hirsuta*. The inner and outer phyllaries are of different lengths. Photo courtesy Craig Frazier



*Liatris pycnostachya*. Note the reflexed (backward-bending) phyllary apices. Photo courtesy Missouriplants.com

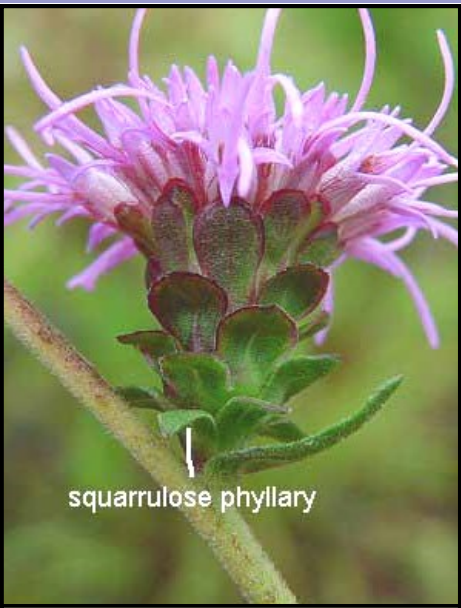




*Liatris spicata*. Note rounded phyllary apices. Photo courtesy Missouriplants.com



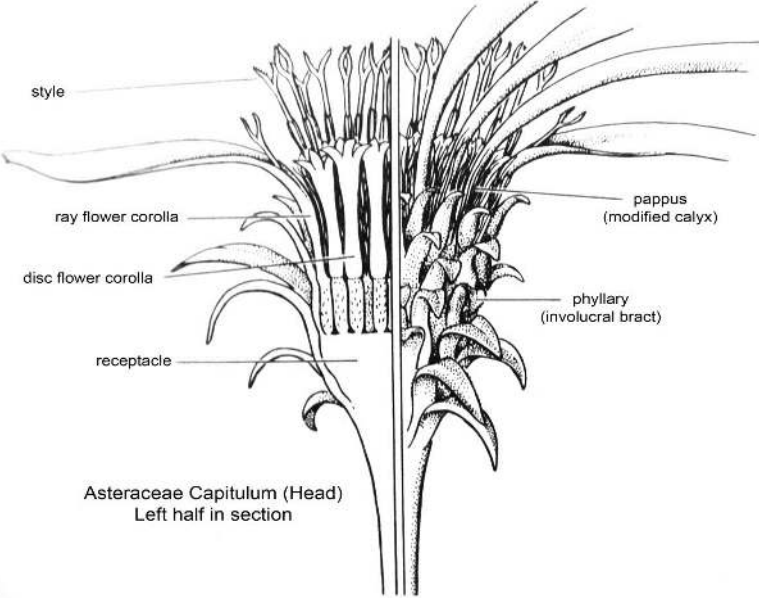
*Liatris squarrosa*. Note the prominent outward-spreading (scurrose) phyllary tips. Photo courtesy Missouriplants.com



*Liatris squarrosa*. Note the somewhat squarrose (squarrose) phyllaries. Photo courtesy Missouriplants.com



*Liatris tenuis*. Note the long, narrow Phyllaries. Photo courtesy Tom Philipps U.S. Forest Service.



*Liatris elegans* corm. Photo courtesy Alabamaplants.com



*Liatris punctata* corm variation. Photo courtesy Bob Harms at the Univ. of Texas.

### A Dichotomous Key to Louisiana *Liatris* - adapted from "Flora of North America" and "Asteraceae of Louisiana"

1	Pappus bristles subplumose, the lateral hairs mostly 0.5-1.0 mm long, at least 15 times as long as the width of the pappus bristle axis (from 'Asteraceae of Louisiana')	-2
+	Pappus bristles barbellate, the lateral cilia less than 0.5 mm long, not more than 6 times the width of the pappus bristle axis (from 'Asteraceae of Louisiana')	-8
2 (1)	Heads 4-5 flowered; phyllary apices (at least inner) prolonged, $\pm$ spreading, $\pm$ dilated, petaloid (pink, purplish, white, or yellow)	<b>1. <i>Liatris elegans</i></b>
+	Heads 9 (+) flowered; phyllary apices (at least of inner) acuminate, acute, cuspidate, mucronate, obtuse, rounded, rounded-acuminate, or truncate (seldom notably spreading, not dilated or petaloid)	-3
3 (2)	Leaves 3-5-nerved; florets 10-60; corolla lobes adaxially hispid	-4
+	Leaves mostly 1-nerved, sometimes 3-5-nerved ( <i>L. acidota</i> ); florets (2-)3-6(-8) or 8-14(-16); corollas lobes glabrous	-5
4 (3)	Phyllaries $\pm$ equal (outer usually as long as or longer than inner)	<b>2. <i>Liatris squarrosa</i></b>
+	Phyllaries $\pm$ unequal (outer shorter)	<b>3. <i>Liatris hirsuta</i></b>
5 (3)	Heads in loose, spiciform arrays (widely spaced, stems evident); florets 4-6(-8) or 8-14(-16)	<b>4. <i>Liatris punctata</i> (in part)</b>
+	Heads in dense, spiciform arrays (closely spaced, stems usually obscured); florets (2-)3-6(-8)	-6
6 (5)	Corms elongate or becoming rhizomes	<b>4. <i>Liatris punctata</i> (in part)</b>
+	Corms globose, subglobose, depressed-globose, or ovoid	-7
7 (6)	Leaves 3(-5)-nerved (bases of basal lvs often fibrous-persistent), cauline lvs abruptly reduced distally (pappus bristles subplumose); coastal plain, Louisiana, Texas	<b>5. <i>Liatris acidota</i> (in part)</b>
+	Leaves 1-nerved (bases of basal lvs not fibrous-persistent), cauline lvs usually gradually or little reduced, sometimes abruptly reduced, distally; inland habitats	<b>4. <i>Liatris punctata</i> (in part)</b>
8 (1)	Leaves 3- or 5-nerved	-9
+	Leaves usually 1-nerved, sometimes 1- (or 3-) nerved	-11
9 (8)	Phyllary apices obtuse to rounded, East of Mississippi River	<b>6. <i>Liatris spicata</i></b>
+	Phyllary apices acuminate, acute, or acute-acuminate	-10
10 (9)	Phyllary apices acute to acute-acuminate (reflexed to curving-spreading, tips often $\pm$ dilated, nearly petaloid); florets (4-)5-8	<b>7. <i>Liatris pycnostachya</i></b>
+	Phyllary apices acuminate to acute (erect and $\pm$ appressed); florets (2-)3-4(-5)	<b>5. <i>Liatris acidota</i> (in part)</b>
11 (8)	Phyllaries narrowly triangular, margins without hyaline borders, apices (divergent), usually acuminate to acute; florets 10-12; west Louisiana, east Texas	<b>8. <i>Liatris tenuis</i></b>
+	Phyllaries other, margins usually with narrow hyaline borders, apices (erect) acuminate, acute, obtuse-angled, rounded, or rounded-retuse, sometimes minutely involute-cuspidate to apiculate; florets 3-6(-9) or 7-10(-12)	-12
12 (11)	Phyllaries glabrous (bullate, hyaline borders relatively broad, often erose to lacerate or irregular)	<b>9. <i>Liatris aspera</i></b>
+	Phyllaries glabrous or puberulent to puberulent-hirtellous (not bullate, hyaline borders none or relatively narrow, smooth)	<b>10. <i>Liatris squarrosa</i></b>

## *Announcements*

**LNPS Grant applications** are due by July 31. If you are or know someone who is interested in applying for the 2015 LNPS Grant, applications are online at [www.lnps.org](http://www.lnps.org) or can be obtained by email at [jacalynduncan@hotmail.com](mailto:jacalynduncan@hotmail.com).

The **27th annual Southern Garden Symposium** will take place in St. Francisville on October 23 & 24. Many great speakers will include Dr. Larry Mellichamp on "Native Plants of the Southeast." Complete information online at [www.SouthernGardenSymposium.org](http://www.SouthernGardenSymposium.org).

The **17th annual Haynesville Celebration of Butterflies** will be September 12, 2015 at the Claiborne Parish Fairgrounds in Haynesville, Louisiana. Speakers will be Charles Allen, Edible Plants; Dennis Demcheck, Enjoying Hummingbirds and the Gardens That Attract Them; Lee Faulk, Vermicomposting; and Victoria LeFevers, Butterfly Gardening: the Importance of Host and Nectar Plants. For further information contact Loice Kendrick-Lacy, (870) 234-4910, [loicelacy@suddenlink.net](mailto:loicelacy@suddenlink.net).

July 25-26. **Bioblitz at Allen Acres** with concentration on moth species during national moth week (<http://nationalmothweek.org/>). Contact Dr. Charles Allen ([native@camtel.net](mailto:native@camtel.net)) and check out [www.nativeventures.net](http://www.nativeventures.net).

August 14-16 **Annual Lily Orchid Days**. Carolina lily (*Lilium michauxii*) and yellow fringed orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*) are targeted species but other orchids, lilies, etc are seen in flower. Contact Dr. Charles Allen ([native@camtel.net](mailto:native@camtel.net)) and check out [www.nativeventures.net](http://www.nativeventures.net).

Sept 25-27 **Annual Butterfly Blast at Allen Acres**. Lots of butterflies this time of the year. Contact Dr. Charles Allen ([native@camtel.net](mailto:native@camtel.net)) and check out [www.nativeventures.net](http://www.nativeventures.net).

**CANPS** is proud to announce a **new native plant propagation program** in Baton Rouge. The propagation team meets on the 3rd Sunday of every month from 4-6pm at the LSU AgCenter's Burden Botanical Gardens.

Activities thus far have included dividing and repotting donated native plants and taking cuttings of local populations of Piedmont azaleas, *Rhododendron canescens*. In the future we would like to propagate a variety of native tree, shrub, and wild-flower species to share with the Baton Rouge community. These native plants will be used in Burden's demonstration gardens, donated for local conservation projects, and sold during plant sales in hopes of encouraging native plants in the area. This effort would not be possible without the generous support of the LSU AgCenter's Burden Botanical Gardens, the Louisiana Master Gardeners of East Baton Rouge, and the dedication of our volunteers.

In other news, **CANPS has started a blog, called Ludoviciana**, reporting our various fieldtrips, workdays and activities. Check it out at <http://canpsbr.blogspot.com/>. The new CANPS YouTube channel features videos of the 2015 LNPS Annual Meeting presentations and other informative videos surrounding native plants:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzvhdX19wj2wXg2bHt8y\\_nw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzvhdX19wj2wXg2bHt8y_nw).

Finally, please join us for the **CANPS Summer Potluck Party**, Saturday July 18th, 5pm til, at Richard Ehrlicher's lovely home, 5955 College Dr., Baton Rouge, LA, 70806.

As usual, you can visit our Facebook or our website, [canps.weebly.com](http://canps.weebly.com), for up to date information on CANPS happenings!





*Pinguicula  
pumila*



*Polygala  
lutea*

## 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**  
**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

«AddressBlock»

Expires: «Department»