

Winter 2017

Volume 30, Issue 1



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- Beth Erwin, Secretary
- Jackie Duncan, Treasurer
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# Louisiana Native Plant Society News

*Prepared by Jackie Duncan*

## 2018 LNPS Annual Meeting

Wesley Center, Woodworth, LA 71485

January 26-28, 2018

### Friday, January 26 (Snacks will be provided.)

5:30 pm Registration

6:30 - 8:30pm The following three speakers will share their work with us:

1<sup>st</sup> Speaker – **Rebecca Bringol** is the 2018 LNPS Student Grant Recipient, studying at LSUA, lives in Lecompte, and will talk about her research, “Investigating the Edaphic Constraints on the Distribution of *Monarda punctata* L.”

2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker - **Bette Kauffman** lives in Monroe, LA, is a longtime member of LNPS and semi-professional photographer. Bette is also a retired professor from University of Louisiana at Monroe, an Episcopal deacon, and a wannabe singer. Bette will show wildflower and nature photos from her collection taken in Kisatchie National Forest, the ULM Biological Station near Columbia, and the Nature Conservancy land near Columbia.

3<sup>rd</sup> Speaker - **Marc Pastorek** lives in Covington, is Vice-President of LNPS and Louisiana prairie champion. Marc is a prairie restorationist, consultant, and land manager and founder of Pastorek Habitats, an ecological landscape firm dedicated to producing natural grass landscapes that are high in botanical richness and diversity. Marc will talk about some of his prairie projects scattered throughout the state of Louisiana.

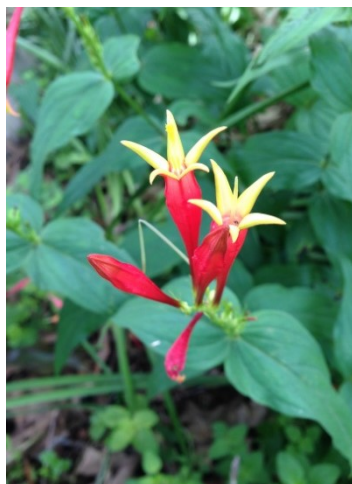
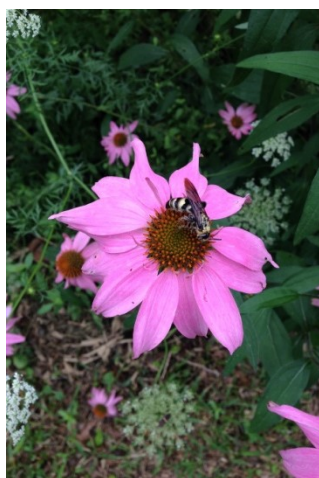
## 2018 LNPS Annual Meeting cont.

### Saturday, January 27

- 7:30 am Registration
- 7:30 - 8:30am Breakfast in the Dining Hall
- 9:00 – 9:45am “Avian Frugivory in Louisiana” presented by William R. Fontenot. Abstract and Bio follow on Page 6.
- 10:00 – 10:45am “Louisiana’s Bartram Trail Revisited” presented by Peggy Davis Coates. Peggy is the Executive Director of Hilltop Arboretum. Abstract and Bio follow on Page7.
- 11:00 – 12:00pm Business meeting
- 12:00 – 1:00pm Lunch in the Dining Hall
- 1:00 – 2:00pm “Progress Report on two Botanical Projects of the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program” presented by Chris Reid, PhD, Manager of the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program. Abstract and Bio follow on Page 8.
- 2:00 – 5:00pm Plant auction in meeting room
- 5:00pm Dinner in the Dining Hall
- 6:00pm till Campfire by lake.

### Sunday, January 28

- 7:30 am Breakfast in the Dining Hall
- 8:30 am - noon Meet at the front entrance to Wesley Center for an exploratory walk on the Wild Azalea Trail in Kisatchie National Forest in an area that partly follows Loving Creek. We will caravan to the sight. Leader to be determined.



## 2017 LNPS GRANT RECIPIENTS

**Student:** Rebecca Bringol received the \$500 student grant for her research project “Investigating the Edaphic Constraints on the Distribution of *Mondarda punctata* L.” Rebecca is a student at LSUA in the Biological Science Department with an emphasis in Botany. Her research is being guided by Dr. Nathan Sammons, Assistant Professor, Plant Biology, LSUA.

**Organization:** The Acadiana Native Plant Project (ANPP) directed by Janice Eaton Akers received the \$500 organization grant for their project to move and restore the June Walker Memorial Greenhouse. The greenhouse was bequeathed to ANPP this past summer by the family of the late ANPP founding board member, June Walker. June was the retired owner of Sunset Herb Nursery and she kindly opened her greenhouse to ANPP and oversaw/taught 4-6 hand-on ANPP volunteers several times a month. After June’s passing, her family bequeathed her greenhouse and its contents to ANPP, and they are in the process of relocating the structure to Teche Farm in Arnaudville, on 0.4 acres of property on a seven-year lease from the St. Martin Parish Board of Education, renewable at ANPP’s option and in collaboration with local nonprofit NUNU Arts and Culture Collective. ANPP has already started preparing the greenhouse site and aim to complete assembly and connect utilities in time to start a new cycle of propagation by December 2017. On completion, ANPP will rededicate the structure as The June Walker Memorial Greenhouse and Educational Center and continue training more volunteers and home gardeners to grow natives in quantity for distribution and use in civic initiatives such as the new demo garden in Acadian Village.



Swamp sunflower, *Helianthus angustifolia*

# **REGISTRATION FORM**

## **LNPS Annual Meeting, January 26-28, 2018**

Wesley Center, 2350 Methodist Parkway, Woodworth, Louisiana 71485

REGISTER by **JANUARY 22, 2018** at [www.thewesleycenter.com](http://www.thewesleycenter.com) or return PRE-REGISTRATION FORM below. Susan Sellers can be contacted directly at the Wesley Center by calling 318-449-4500 Ext. 0 between the hours of 9am till 4pm or by email at [ssellers@thewesleycenter.com](mailto:ssellers@thewesleycenter.com).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**DAY PARTICIPANTS** – for those who will be coming on Friday and/or Saturday and will not be staying the night

No meals _____		\$10.00
Saturday Breakfast _____ @ \$8.50ea	\$	_____
Saturday Lunch _____ @ \$11.50ea	\$	_____
Saturday Dinner _____ @ \$13.50ea	\$	_____

**ONSITE LODGING and meals** – for those who will be staying the night

**Private Room:**

Friday and Saturday nights, includes all meals _____ @ \$224.00ea	\$	_____
Friday night, includes all meals _____ @ \$111.00ea	\$	_____
Saturday night, includes all meals _____ @ 133.00ea	\$	_____

**Double Occupancy Room:**

Friday and Saturday nights, includes all meals _____ @ \$156.50ea	\$	_____
Friday night, includes all meals _____ @ \$77.25ea	\$	_____
Saturday night, includes all meals _____ @ \$99.25ea	\$	_____

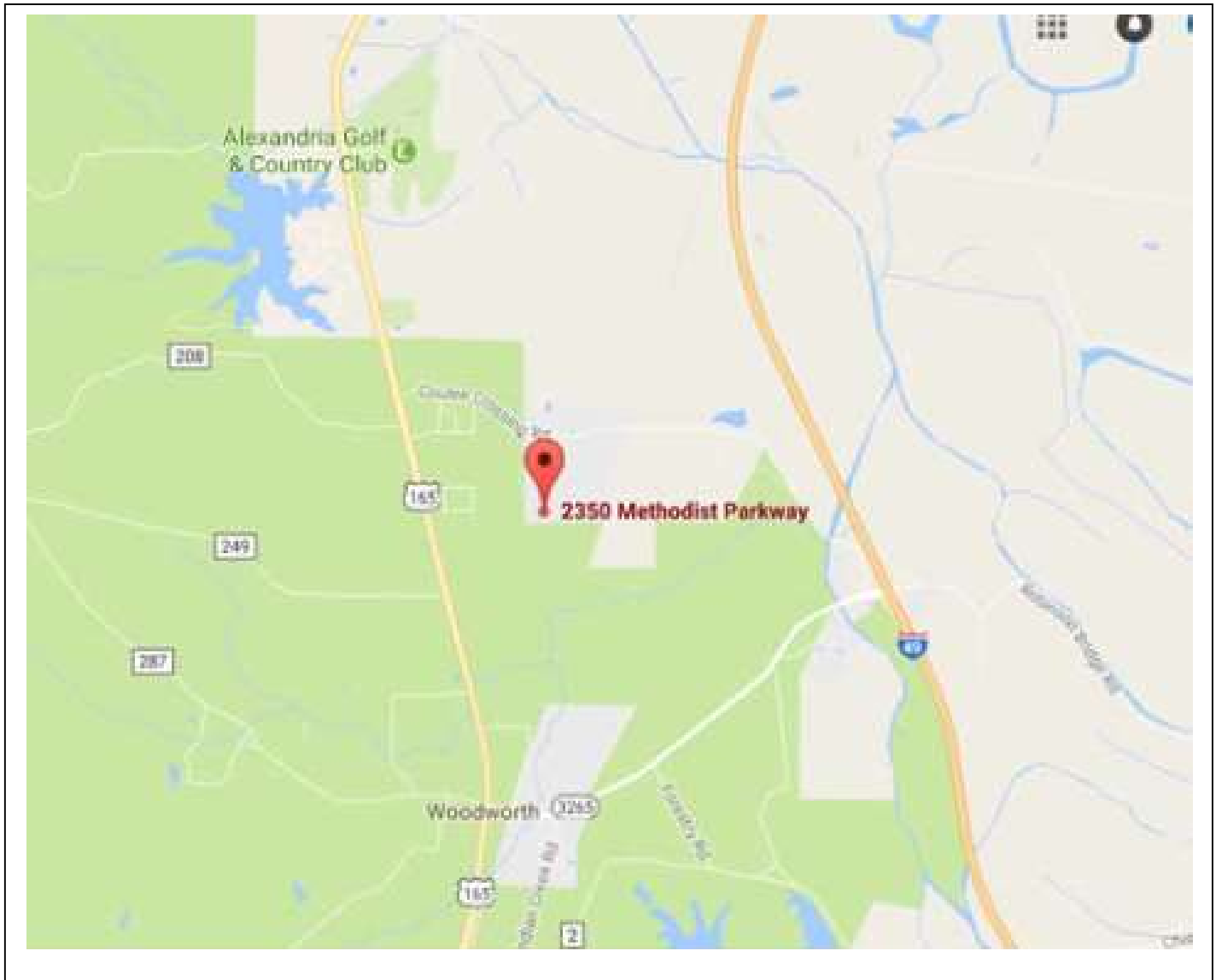
**Triple Occupancy Room:**

Friday and Saturday nights, includes all meals _____ @ \$145.25ea	\$	_____
Friday night, includes all meals _____ @ \$71.63ea	\$	_____
Saturday night, includes all meals _____ @ \$99.63ea	\$	_____

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: All rates are per person. If you are booking double or triple occupancy please include all parties names and include payment for all parties or send in a separate reservation form for each party indicating who your roommate(s) will be.

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 22, 2018.**



## **Driving Directions to the Wesley Center**

2350 Methodist Parkway - Woodworth, Louisiana 71485

The Wesley Center can be easily reached either from Highway 165, which runs through Woodworth north to Alexandria. Or it can be approached from I-49.

**From Hwy 165** north of Woodworth, turn right on Coulee Crossing Road. Then turn right again onto Methodist Parkway and into the Methodist Conference Center.

**From I-49**, take exit 73 onto LA 3265 West. At the first cross street, turn right onto Coulee Crossing Road. Continue on Coulee Crossing Road and turn left onto Methodist Parkway and into the Methodist Conference Center.

# Avian Frugivory in Louisiana

Presented by William R. Fontenot

**ABSTRACT** – The “Avian Frugivory in Louisiana” presentation expands upon a survey of bird frugivory in Louisiana, published in the Journal of Louisiana Ornithology in 1998, in which 26 observers recorded 65 species of birds utilizing the fruits of 49 species of native, naturalized, and exotic plants in Louisiana. In the 18 years subsequent to that publication, 30 additional observers joined the original corps, adding 21 new bird species, eight additional plant species, and dozens of new bird/fruit interaction pairings to the original report. The importance of Louisiana’s native fruiting plants to birds was also categorized based on the diversity of bird species (both observed and from the literature) attracted to them. Though anecdotal and strictly qualitative in nature, it is hoped that these records will generate additional bird frugivory studies in Louisiana, as well as assist wildlife managers and habitat restorationists in planning bird conservation projects throughout the U.S. Gulf Coastal region.

**William R. Fontenot** has dedicated his career in biology since 1987 to restoring ecological integrity in lands, from the smallest urban gardens to the largest wildlife management areas. In 1980 he received his M.S. in freshwater fish ecology from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. From 1980-82 he spent time in the PhD program in Biogeography at the University of Alabama. In 1986 he began his career with Lafayette Parish Consolidated Government, working first as Curator of Natural Sciences at the Lafayette Natural History Museum, then as manager of the Acadiana Park Nature Station, where he retired in 2008. Since 1987 he has also operated his own wildlife management, “wildscape” design, and ecological restoration consulting business, specializing in ecological assessment, biological inventory, land-use planning, and wildlife-friendly native plant-oriented landscape planning. As a professional naturalist, Fontenot has led thousands of guided tours, and has consulted and lectured at many universities, museums, botanic gardens, arboretums, and other research institutions throughout the eastern U.S.

He has published many natural history-related articles in various newspapers, newsletters, magazines, tourist information guides, and scientific journals. He has authored/coauthored a number of books and publications including Native Gardening in the South (1992), A Cajun Prairie Restoration Chronicle (1995, with Drs. Charles Allen and Malcolm Vidrine), Gulf Coast Birds (2001, with Brian Miller), Louisiana Birdwatching (2004, [25-page introduction] with Bill Thompson III), Vanishing Before Our Eyes (2006, with Dr. Wylie Barrow, Jr.), Wings Over The Wetlands (2008), and Watching a Forest Grow (2008). After contributing a weekly nature column in the Lafayette, LA Sunday Advertiser newspaper for 22 years, he now produces a nature blog at <https://www.facebook.com/thenaturedude> .

He has served as a member of the Louisiana Ornithological Society’s Louisiana Bird Records Committee, The Louisiana Nature Conservancy’s Technical Advisory Board, and as President of the Louisiana Native Plant Society, President of the Louisiana Ornithological Society, Director of the Gulf Coast Native Plant Conference, and Program Director for the Cullowhee, NC Landscaping with Native Plants Conference.

In 2001, Fontenot was honored in receiving the Louisiana Wildlife Federation’s **Professional Conservacionist of the Year** award. In 2009, he received the Louisiana Ornithological Society’s **President’s Award**, and the Louisiana Native Plant Society’s **Karlene DeFatta Award** for service to those organizations. In 2011 The Cullowhee Gardening with Native Plants Conference honored him with the **Tom Dodd, Jr. Award of Excellence**.

# Louisiana's Bartram Trail Revisited

Presented by Peggy Davis Coates

**ABSTRACT** – William Bartram was America's first native-born naturalist artist. In 1773, he set out on a four-year journey from Philadelphia through the Carolinas and the Gulf South to Louisiana and the Mississippi River. Along the way, he recorded his observations of the native people, plants, and animals by writing and drawing in his journal. He reached Louisiana in 1775, a year before the American Declaration of Independence, 28 years before the Louisiana Purchase, and 37 years before Louisiana became the 18<sup>th</sup> state in the Union. He spent only a few months in Louisiana, reaching his western most point of exploration when he crossed the Mississippi to "Pointe Coupe", in present day Pointe Coupee Parish. From this place, Bartram reversed his path and arrived back in Philadelphia in early 1777. He later organized and drew from his journals to publish his book "Travels" in 1791. The book found a significant readership in American and Europe and is still in print today.

**LSU's Hilltop Arboretum** is leading a regional partnership to commemorate Bartram's travels through Louisiana in cooperation with the Bartram Trail Conference founded in 1976 to identify and mark Bartram's southern journey and works to promote interest in developing recreational trails and botanical gardens along the route.

To date, Bartram's trail in Louisiana is marked with signage placed through the fundraising of the partners. This presentation will trace Bartram's path through the greater Baton Rouge area to the westernmost point of his journey in Pointe Coupee Parish, focusing on eight sites where historical markers have been erected.

**Peggy Davis Coates**, a native of South Louisiana, joined the LSU Hilltop Arboretum as Executive Director in June 2007. Peggy's last position, one she held for twelve years, was with Baton Rouge Green as their Program Director. Peggy received her Master's Degree of Landscape Architecture from Louisiana State University and her Masters of Science Degree in Urban Forestry from Southern University. In ten years of service at the LSU Hilltop Arboretum, she has worked in concert with the Friends of Hilltop Arboretum, LSU's Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture, and a core of amazing volunteers to develop the arboretum into a regional environmental destination. Major site, plant collection and facility improvement projects make a substantial impact on the Baton Rouge area. Programs, events and activities for gardeners of all ages are offered throughout the year.

# Progress Report on two Botanical Projects of the LNHP

Presented by Chris Reid, PhD

**ABSTRACT** – The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP) conducts biological inventory and research pertaining to rare/threatened/endangered species and performs education and outreach relative to focal species and habitats. A relatively recent mission expansion has been into direct implementation of habitat stewardship. Two projects will be highlighted: native plant landscaping at Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries headquarters and LNHP's coastal prairie research and stewardship initiative. In late 2015, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the agency housing LNHP, redesigned its landscaping to feature native plants. Design and installation of the new landscaping has been led by LNHP botanists. The existing landscaping was completely demolished and replaced with a series of gardens representing native habitats such as coastal prairie, calcareous prairie, longleaf pine savanna, and sandhill woodland, among others. Two educational signs have been installed, one orienting visitors to the gardens and the other promoting the benefits of using native plants in the urban landscape. Presently, over 150 species of native plants are represented. New plant materials will be continually added. The second LNHP project to be presented involves enhancement of coastal prairie habitat. Coastal prairie is one of the most imperiled habitats in North America. Since 2010, LNHP has identified about 2,500 acres of remnant coastal prairie in the cattle country around Lake Charles. Partnerships were formed with landowners of almost all the remnants discovered so far. Since 2014, LNHP with other LDWF colleagues have burned over 1,000 acres of prairie per year. To remove fireproof brush and tallow thickets, chemical and mechanical brush control have been employed. Preliminary botanical survey result will be presented.

**Chris Reid**, a native of Louisiana, lives in St. Francisville and has been a Botanist with the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program since 2002. Chris received his Bachelors of Science in Forestry at LSU, a Masters of Science in Biology at ULM, and recently completed the PhD program at LSU in plant biology. His expertise is in the flora of the central Gulf region and in taxonomy of sedges, grasses and xyrids. Chris was awarded the 2015 Professional Conservationist of the Year Award for his work in saving Louisiana's remaining coastal prairie.