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LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



LNPS NEWSLETTER

Louisiana Native Plant Society Meeting for February 7-9, 2020 at Wesley Center, Woodworth, LA 71485

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- 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
- To educate people on the relationship between our native flora and wildlife

USING NATIVE PLANTS IN THE LANDSCAPE: CUR- RING THE ECOLOGICAL AMNESIA MALADY

Friday, February 7, 2020

(Snacks will be provided.)

5:30pm - 6:00pm Registration

6:00pm - 6:50pm Eric Van-
bergen, freshman at LSU ma-
joring in Environmental Sci-
ence - The Importance of
Bringing Cajun Prairie Plants
to Schools

6:50pm - 7:40pm Anita
Pant, a Ph.D. candidate at the
University of Louisiana at
Lafayette - The Influence of
Plant Diversity on Pollinator
Species Richness and Abun-
dance

7:40pm - 8:30pm Steven
Nevitt, a Geoscientist with The
Hise Company - Telling Your
Cajun Prairie Story: Rediscov-
ering Our Ecosystem Roots;

Environmental Connections to
the Ancient Environment
Around Us Normalizing the
Discussion About the Cajun
Prairie and its Benefits

Bonus: David Johnson, a sen-
ior at Louisiana Tech - Tannins
Impact on Coastal Ecosystems

Saturday, February 8, 2020

7:30am Registration

7:30am - 8:30am Breakfast
in the Dining Hall

8:30am - 9:30am Charles M.
Allen, THE Man! - Edible Use-
ful Chlorophyll Organisms
with Xylem

9:30am - 10:20am Malcolm
F. Vidrine, a retired professor
of biology from LSU Eunice -
Native Garden Propagules -
Producing Plants for Your
Prairie Garden from
'Sticks' (Stem and Root Cut-
tings)

10:20am - 11:10am Bill Fon-
tenot, retired manager of the

Acadiana Park Nature Station
- Wildlife Garden Design:
Concepts and Considerations

11:15am - 12:00pm Business
Meeting

12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch/
Plant Auction in the Dining
Hall

1:00-2:00 Jane Patterson, cur-
rent President of Baton Rouge
Audubon Society, as well as
the Education chair - Plants
for Birds - Why Native Plants
Matter

2:00pm - 5:00pm Plant Auc-
tion

5:00pm - 6:00pm Dinner in
the Dining Hall

6:00pm Campfire by the lake

Sunday, February 9, 2020

7:30am - 8:30am Breakfast
in the Dining Hall

8:30am Meet at the front
entrance to Wesley Center for
field trip

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT: Hope to see you at the Louisiana Native Plant Society Meeting!!!

REGISTRATION FORM

LNPS Annual Meeting, February 7-9, 2020

Wesley Center, 2350 Methodist Parkway, Woodworth, Louisiana 71485

REGISTER by **JANUARY 18, 2019** at <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eggrz3mh777cf50b&oseq=&c=&ch=> or return PRE-REGISTRATION FORM below. **All registrations must be received by January 18, 2020!! After this date, please call the office for Late Registration.** 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.

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 _____ \$11.00

Saturday Breakfast _____ @ \$9.50ea \$ _____

Saturday Lunch _____ @ \$12.50ea \$ _____

Saturday Dinner _____ @ \$14.50ea \$ _____

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

Private Room:

Friday and Saturday nights, includes all meals _____ @ \$246.88ea \$ _____

Friday night, includes all meals _____ @ \$136.94ea \$ _____

Saturday night, includes all meals _____ @ 146.94ea \$ _____

Double Occupancy Room:

Friday and Saturday nights, includes all meals _____ @ \$174.88ea \$ _____

Friday night, includes all meals _____ @ \$100.94ea \$ _____

Saturday night, includes all meals _____ @ \$110.44ea \$ _____

Triple Occupancy Room:

Friday and Saturday nights, includes all meals _____ @ \$163.63ea \$ _____

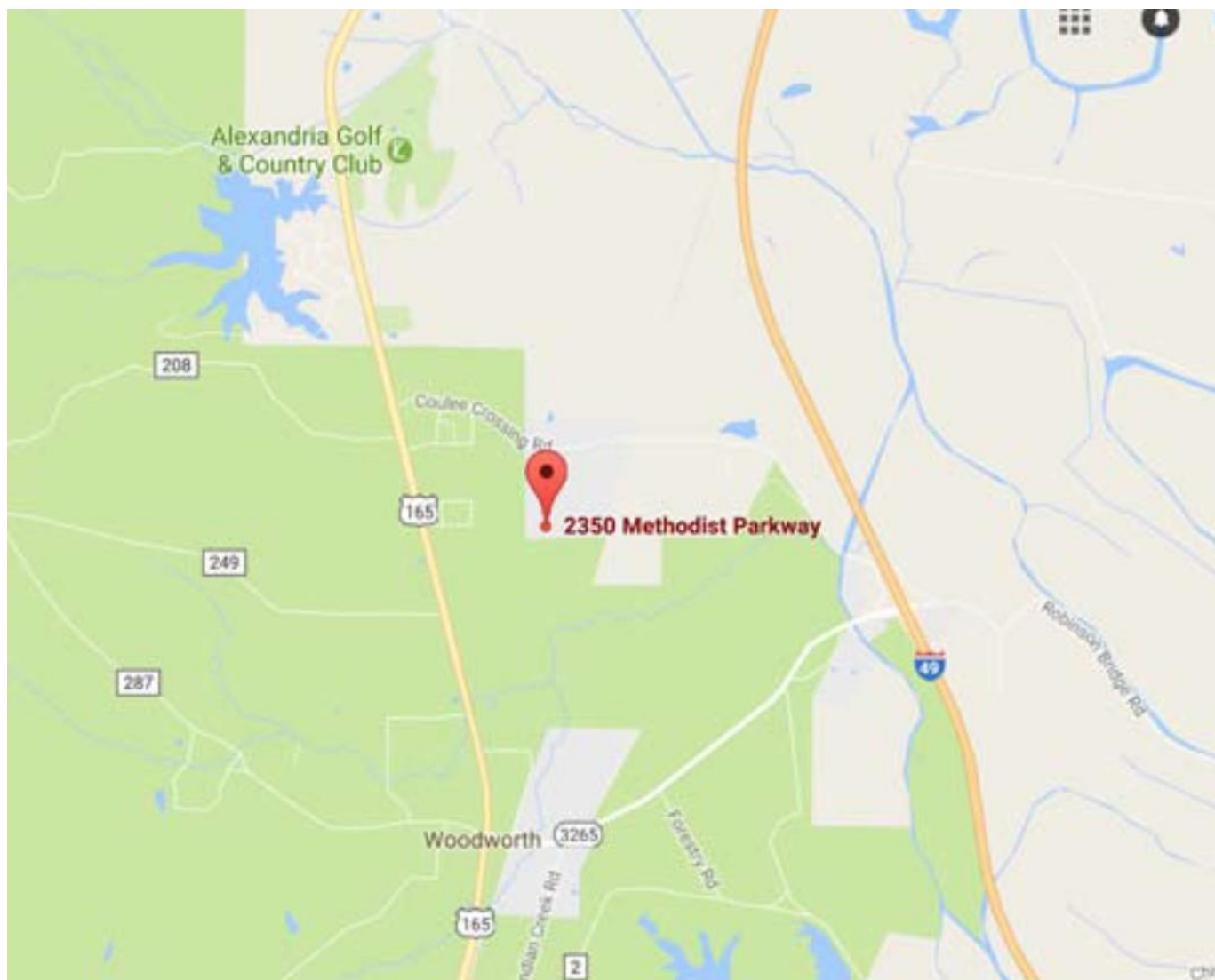
Friday night, includes all meals _____ @ \$106.32ea \$ _____

Saturday night, includes all meals _____ @ \$104.32ea \$ _____

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. **Space is limited; therefore early bookings will guarantee a room.**

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 18, 2020.



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.

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION AWARDS

The Louisiana Native Plant Society is offering four awards for the February 2020 annual meeting. The awards will include lodging and meals for one night/day for high school or college students and beginning landscaping/horticulture/environmental professionals. In order to receive one of the four awards, applicants must submit the following application by **January 10, 2020** to email jacalyndun-can@hotmail.com. Selection will be made based on need and involvement/interest in native plants.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email and cell phone: _____

School Affiliation, Job title, Company, and/or organization (describe your activities, length of service)

Describe your interest in LNPS and financial need. How will attending benefit your professional efforts or program of study?: _____

List any relevant organizations or community groups that you are a part of: _____

Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes on January 25, 2020 hosted by New Orleans Botanical Garden and The Native Plant Initiative of Greater New Orleans



Meet Thomas Rainer and Claudia West, ecological landscape designers who are changing the landscape, or rather, restoring the landscape. Their landscape designs are built to sustain wildlife and ecosystems in addition to providing beauty and aesthetic appeal to urban settings. Urban landscapes have become food deserts for local fauna. These authors propose implementing dynamic planting communities that require less mechanical maintenance and can restore ecological functions and principles of natural selection to our green spaces. Gardens must move beyond mere aesthetics. Landscapes have growing practical responsibilities, such as cleaning and mitigating storm water, and providing much-needed food sources for birds and



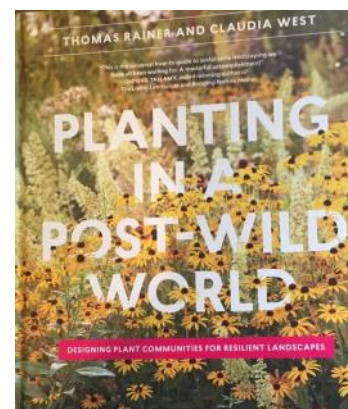
pollinators.

Using native plant communities as a template, they create what they call “designed plant communities.” Thomas Rainer’s blog, Grounded Design defines it plainly as “Plantings that interlock, layer, protect the earth and feed its inhabitants.” Their designs make liberal use of native plants, but they aren’t leaving out the exotic imported plants that populate most of our landscapes. They use them as a foundation if they’re already in place, and add them alongside natives when they are useful to the composition and function.

Planting in a Post-Wild World includes a management toolbox and many varied plant-

ing plans, with photographs of lush and colorful landscapes from rooftops to open fields. It’s a guide for the novice as well as the seasoned landscaper. The best part about this book is it’s easy, interesting, and fun to read. There are so many ideas that are a twist on the ordinary, making these designs extraordinary and special.

Rainer and West are being hosted by the Native Plant Initiative of Greater New Orleans and the New Orleans Botanical Garden in City Park for a Symposium on January 25th, 2020. Tickets (\$25) for Thomas Rainer’s lecture are still available, and can be purchased via www.npi-gno.org/events. Registration begins at 9:00 am; Lecture at 9:30 am; Q&A at 10:30 am. Both authors will be available for book signings after Q&A. The associated workshop by Claudia West is currently sold out.



Power of Partnership by Heather Warner-Finley, Acadiana Native Plant Project President and Phyllis Baudoin Griffard, Acadiana Native Plant Project Past President

Down here in Lafayette, we in the Acadiana Native Plant Project are fortunate to be a part of a community of like-minded citizens committed to conservation at many levels. Our mission is to “promote the use of native plants in our landscape”, which we do in many ways. From the outset, we knew we needed to Propagate, Educate and Demonstrate. Now, thanks to great partners, we also Collaborate. Many of our members are also active with our Acadiana Conservation Partners: TreesAcadiana, the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Association, the TECHE Project, Friends of Lake Martin and Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association.



tion. Each of our nonprofit organizations has set goals and activities to make its own unique contribution to conservation and natural heritage in Acadiana. This year, we collaborated with three of our sister organizations, the Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association, TreesAcadiana and the TECHE Project, to design and install bankline stabilization landscapes at several sites along our two major waterways. ANPP's propagation team was able to provide most of the plants for their grant-funded projects that engage and educate our neighbors as

well as improve ecosystem function.

Partnering allows each nonprofit to broaden its outreach and promote its message. Trees are important components in watershed management, and NATIVE trees also provide habitat for valued wildlife. Prairies also provide important watershed management services as well as essential habitat for pollinators. Watershed management projects that benefit the Vermilion may also benefit the Teche. You get the drift!

To connect our local scientific

(academic and government) community to our work, the Acadiana Conservation Partners were the guest speakers last spring to Science on the Bayou, a public outreach project of the UL Lafayette Biology Department that brings local science to the public (usually at a local pub). This was a powerful way to demonstrate our overlapping actions to conserve biodiversity. All conservation is local, after all. State, federal and university scientists are among our members and passionate speakers. The scientific community in your locale may not know about the good work you're doing. Why not tell them?

Establishing the June Walker Memorial Greenhouse in Arnaudville would not have been possible without the warm invitation of NUNU Arts and Culture Collective. We have also actively reached out to commercial nurseries, worked at schools, spoken to Garden Clubs, local libraries and Master Naturalists, and have tables at almost every local nature- and gardening-related event. The most popular traditional nursery in town has put us on their schedule to speak to their clientele about installing landscapes that attract wildlife. Another nursery has welcomed our seeds and has begun making local ecotypes of native plants available in their nursery year-round, unlike our limited hours at our greenhouse.

Which organizations and businesses can you partner with in your part of Louisiana to get more native plants into the ground?



The Catahoula Hummingbird & Butterfly Garden by Linda Barber Auld, BugLady

Lepidopterists all know that we need specially selected plants to attract the specific butterflies and moths that we desire to observe living in their wild habitats. I enjoy visiting different gardens in all corners of our state to witness these plants in action while studying which ones they prefer and select to use in varying situations. The Catahoula Garden, full of activity and surprises, is one for your "must see" list.

Bentley, Louisiana, is an unincorporated community in Grant Parish with a population of only 722 people. Just twelve miles north of Pineville, Bentley is located off State Highway 167. Positioned inside the Kisatchie National Forest on U.S. Forest Service land, the Catahoula District station can be found on the corner of Louisiana Highway 8 and Forest Service Road 147. It overlooks the oasis garden residence of an array of birds, butterflies and important life-giving native plants that support this interesting ecosystem. A Forest Service team of employees in cooperation with a local group of volunteers, driven by the selfless mission of creating this super special place, worked together to begin building the garden in 1994. It's divided into smaller sections which in the last few years have also been tended by some local

Louisiana Master Gardener volunteers. They continue to enhance the nature smorgasbord by introducing more native plants. On October 20, I did a plant inventory and the totals were 45 nectar, 38 caterpillar host and 9 non-native. Of course, each season would produce more additions for my list. Multiple Eagle Scout projects have improved the garden by helping to lay out the beds with posts and also constructing the Bat House.

The first quadrant contains a beautiful stand of Longleaf pine trees where rare Red-cockaded woodpeckers (RCW) call it home. The woodpecker cluster site was there before the garden was established. RCWs now occupy a much smaller portion of their original range and are federally listed as endangered. They have a preference for longleaf pine forest habitats that have diminished across the South due to fire suppression and intensive logging. Many of these cut areas were replaced with other pine species that grow faster. The other limiting factor is they prefer "park-like" stands of pine trees so they need old trees in open areas. The birds are rarely seen except perhaps during breeding season. The male has a small red streak on each side of its black cap called

a cockade, hence the name. The common name came into use during the early 1800's when 'cockade' was regularly used to refer to a ribbon or other ornament on a hat. The RCW plays a vital role in the intricate web of life of the Southern pine forest because they are 'primary' cavity nesters, meaning they are responsible for the construction of cavities. In the Southern pine ecosystem, there are many 'secondary' cavity users that benefit from the RCW's work. RCWs are considered a 'keystone' species because use of their cavities by these animals contributes to the species richness of the pine forest. At least 27 species of vertebrates have been documented using RCW cavities, either for roosting or nesting.

Drizzling rain and fog this morning had me wondering what butterflies we might see. The meandering paths invite curiosity and adventure with flowering surprises at every turn. Fluttering around the red Turk's cap flowers, a Cloudless Sulphur was using its long tongue to probe and slurp up pollen. The sprawling lantana growing in the middle of the garden was beaconing Clouded and Ocala skippers. A beautiful freshly-hatched Red Admiral was flitting around the flower clusters and repeatedly

evading my camera lens. It landed on my shorts ever-so-briefly but long enough for me to admire its beauty. Shimmering green Long-tailed Skippers were zooming about visiting and tasting a variety of blossoms.

Lisa Norman and I spent some time attempting to determine whether the six Monarchs we were excitedly watching glide about were males or females. All were females except for one. Supposedly, this weekend is the middle of Monarch migration and this is definitely an excellent fueling station. Master Gardener Jacalyn Duncan had reported to me that they have been trying to establish native milkweeds in this space. The plants were there but we couldn't find them because they had probably been chewed down by Monarch caterpillars.

The next sighting was a gorgeous Red Spotted Purple, its iridescent blue wings were glistening as it was pumping them. Its tongue was thrusting into the lantana blossoms gathering pollen. A Pipevine Swallowtail swooped in to challenge territorial rights. It is easy to confuse these two butterflies because the adults look very similar. The Pipevine caterpil-

lar eats the pipevine plant (*Aristolochia*) which is toxic and therefore makes the butterfly taste bad to predators. The flashy colors are the message, "Don't eat me!" The Red Spotted Purple caterpillar eats willow and cherry which tastes good, so the adult Red Spotted Purple mimics the adult Pipevine as its self-preservation technique.

The two Hackberry (Sugarberry) trees not only provide tasty berry food for the birds but also caterpillar food for four butterflies even though none of them were seen today. I feel sure the Hackberry and Tawny Emperor, Question Mark and the American Snout all reside here in other times of the year. They could have been there and just were not spotted.

The rarely seen *Zanthoxylum clava-herculis*, also known as Hercules club or Toothache tree, is one of the native alternatives to citrus for feeding Giant Swallowtail caterpillars. However, unlike evergreen citrus, the toothache tree will lose its leaves in Autumn which could pose a problem to the third generation Giant caterpillar who might run out of food if it takes too long completing its life cycle. Swallowtails usually overwinter in the

pupa or chrysalis stage.

Almost at the garden's center stands a stately Catalpa tree with its long seed pods. It offers a bounty for hungry *Ceratomia cataplae*, the Catalpa Sphinx hawkmoth caterpillar, which is just one of the 58 Louisiana sphinx moths that have been studied and documented by Vernon Antoine Brou, Jr.

As we walked around the little pond, we were surprised by a green heron when it burst out of the bushes, flew to the island in the pond's center, then landed at the water's edge. A line of Callicarpa (Beauty Berry) loaded with pretty purple berries down its stalks provides a feast for a variety of birds.

Lisa and I quietly stood gazing at the endless acres of bright, golden *Helianthus angustifolia*. All you could hear was the wind in the swaying pine trees and the trickling sound of the little waterfall on the pond's island. Suddenly motion caught my eye. It is a beautiful Buckeye coaxing us to enter the wildflower patch. A two-foot wide path invited us to explore and follow the Buckeye. There before us we see liatris, blue lobelia, aster, and agalinis, the Buckeye caterpillar host plant. The Buckeye landed on my shoe (which has



Stiria rugifrons

Yellow sunflower moth



trod many a trail) and quickly began sucking fluids. Lisa and I laughed out loud as its wings began to tremble! We guessed that the mineral concoction it was siphoning must have tasted really good. Lisa observed that the plants looked beaten down and we deduced that deer must be bedding down in this area. All of their needs are met here: food, water and a quiet place to live.

The next two quadrants are more pine trees to the left and to the right are two more wildflower fields that measure ten acres each. As we were discussing the wonderful sporadic wildflower assortment growing amidst this yellow gorgeousness, I spied something on one of the sunflower centers. My heart beating a bit faster, I exclaimed, "It's a caterpillar I've never raised and I don't know what it is!" The caterpillar was positioned on the dark brown center packed with seeds. It appeared to be eating the seeds and not the flower petals. This larva is a yellow-brown mix which perfectly matches the flower colors. A row of fleshy thorns down its back resembles the seed textures. I checked my best caterpillar guide without success. After downloading the pictures later on Facebook, I received the identification within a few minutes, "Yellow Sunflower Moth", *Stiria rugifrons*. Well, that certainly makes sense.

I was delighted to see my "Geaux Grow Natives!" pro-

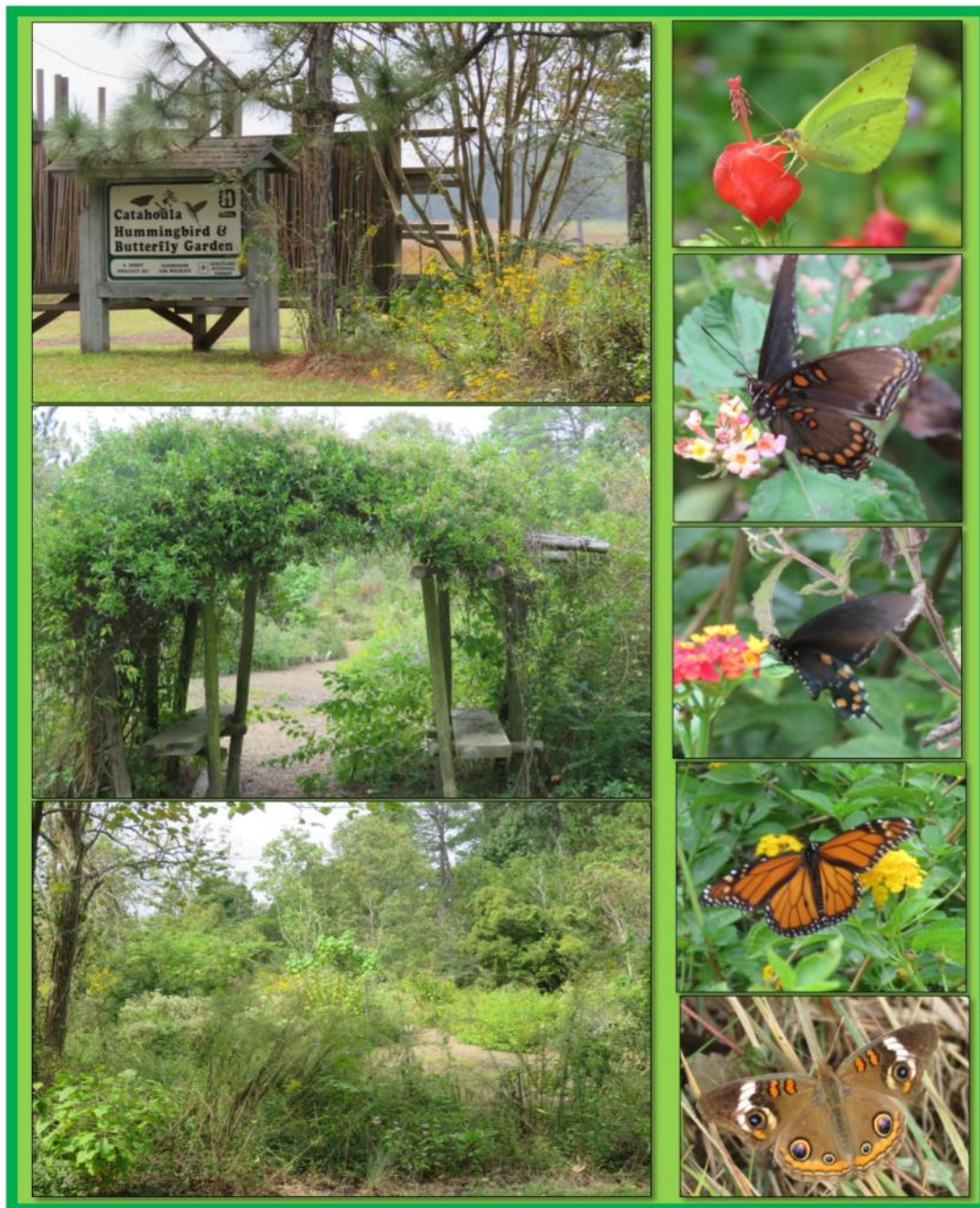
ject plants, both Spring and Fall selections, growing and thriving here. My showcase of nectar plants are Buttonbush, Garden Phlox, Cardinal flower, Slender Mountain mint, Purple coneflowers and Ironweed. The caterpillar host plants are Agalinis, Partridge Pea and Passion flower vine.

The butterfly population of the Catahoula Hummingbird & Butterfly Garden is surveyed each year for the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) by Marty Floyd, who also has the huge task of recording all of the Region 10 count data for the NABA annual report publication. Count data is also available on their website. Last year's count data totals are: Pipevine Swallowtail 8, Black Swallowtail 1, Cloudless Sulphur 110, Little Yellow 298, Sleepy Orange 1, Gray Hairstreak 20, Red-banded Hairstreak 6, Gulf Fritillary 132, Variegated Fritillary 5, Silvery Checkerspot 1, Phaon Crescent 10, Pearl Crescent 97, Common Buckeye 67, Carolina Satyr 19, Long-tailed Skipper 60, Funereal Duskywing 2, Common Checkered Skipper 12, Tropical Checkered Skipper 3, Swarthy Skipper 1, Clouded Skipper 8, Fiery Skipper 24, Whirlabout 3, Dun Skipper 2, Eufala Skipper 1, Ocola Skipper 2. Totals: 25 species, 893 individuals. Immatures: 20 Gulf Fritillary caterpillars on passion flower vine.

The Catahoula Hummingbird and Butterfly Garden offers a

place for visitors to view hummingbirds and butterflies as well as other wildlife. It also provides an opportunity for volunteers to get involved in creating and maintaining a special place in their National Forest that attracts wildlife as well as tourists. The garden is an ever-growing project and the Forest Service team is always looking for new people to get involved. Interested folks can contact Emlyn B. Smith at emlyn.smith@usda.gov

Butterfly pictures below are on right from top to bottom: Cloudless Sulphur, Red Spotted Purple, Pipevine Swallowtail, Monarch, and Common Buckeye. Photos are by Linda B. Auld.





Jackie Duncan, LNPS Treasurer,
114 Harper Ferry,
Boyce, Louisiana 71409

Next LNPS Newsletter is
March 19, 2020. Send news
articles to

dawn.allen89@gmail.com by
March 12, 2020.

www.lnps.org



Annual LNPS Dues

Circle one: Individual, \$10. Student/Senior, \$5. Family, \$15. Organization, \$25. Sustaining, \$50. Corporate, \$100.

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Checks payable to LNPS.

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114 Harpers Ferry Road

Boyce, LA 71409

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