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FALL 1993

NEWSLETTER

volume 11, number 3

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT, BILL FONTENOI

Halleluliah! Our garden made it through another summer - the hottest and driest that I can remember here in south Louisiana. Being a weather freak, I keep close daily tabs on rainfall amounts at our place in Prairie Basse, which is ten miles north and east of Lafayette. We normally expect fifteen to seventeen inches of rain in any given summer. This year, we got seven. It was all we could do to keep out 1,300 plus containerized plants alive and looking decent. At this point, my fingers seem permanently contorted to fit quite perfectly around the end of a hose (thus, our suppers have been somewhat limited to similarly shaped hot dogs - thank God for hot dogs).

The good news centers around the performance of our garden. With only a few exceptions, our planted stuff has survived nicely with little or no supplemental water. Of course, the most outstanding players were the dry-habitat and/or drought-tolerant natives like mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum* sp.), the coneflowers (*Ratibida* sp., *Echinacea* sp., and *Rudbeckia* sp.), golden aster (*Chrysopsis graminifolia*), *Coreopsis verticillata*, wild bergamont (*Monarda fistulosa*), rosinweed (*Silphium gracile*), as well as woodies like St. Andrew's Cross (*Hypericum hypericoides*), Carolina Buckthorn (*Rhamnus caroliniana*), Redbud, various hawthorns (*Crataegus* sp.), witch hazel, and arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum* and *Viburnum ashei*). Additionally, we were pleasantly surprised to learn of the latent drought tolerance exhibited by more than a few wetland species such as salt-marsh mallow (*Kosteletzkya virginica*), scarlet hibiscus (*Hibiscus coccinea*), obedient plant (*Physotegia virginiana*), and spider lily (*Hymenocallis liriosme*).

Yes, the case for indigenous plant usage remains as strong as ever. Aberrant weather conditions such as severe drought, late winter or (worse) early spring cold snaps, and sudden flooding rains are seeming to occur with greater frequency. Here in south Louisiana, as we witness the gradual decline of *Pittosporum*, and many varieties of azalea, gardenia, crape myrtle, etc., it behooves us to inform property owners as well as landscape designers and contractors of the possibilities provided by substituting native species in such cases.

In closing, I welcome all new LNPS members, particularly Frank Schwartzburg and friends who are currently attempting to establish a new Baton Rouge chapter. As always, I encourage you to attend as many state LNPS meetings and field trips as possible; and please do not hesitate to contact our officers or board members if we can assist you in any way. Beth Erwin,

our state secretary, and Ella Price, our state treasurer, are currently preparing a membership roster to be distributed to all members in order to facilitate communication within the organization.

1993 FALL FIELD TRIP

The LNPS fall field trip will be October 9th and 10th to Copenhagen and Sicily Island Hills. Field trip leader will be Dr. R. Dale Thomas of NLU. The Copenhagen site is a series of steep bluffs on the west bank of the Ouachita River, near Columbia, Louisiana. The calcareous soil present there, as well as many uncommon plants make this one of the most interesting areas in the state. Woody plants present include Florida sugar maple, nutmeg hickory, chinquapin oak, Oglethorpe oak, Durand oak, and numerous hawthorne species. The soil type makes for some unusual looking specimens of some of the more common species as well. Herbaceous plants present include purple coneflower, narrow-leaf sunflower, yellow powderpuff, native four-o'clock, prairie parsley, ear-lobed goldenrod, and numerous species of asters.

Day two of the field trip will be to the Sicily Island Hills area. This site is characterized by steep gorges covered with old mixed hardwoods. We will see large beeches and yellow poplar, as well as oak-leaf hydrangea, sourwood, silky camellia, and many ferns, mosses and liverworts. A special attraction in this area is the state's tallest waterfall.

Saturday, October 9th: meet at the Pizza Plus restaurant in Columbia Heights at 10:00 AM. Columbia Heights is up the hill from downtown Columbia, on the west side of the river. The restaurant is on the eastern side of US 165 between the intersections of La. 4 West and La. 849 South. It will be open, and it serves breakfast. We will caravan from the restaurant to the Copenhagen site. Bring a sack lunch. We will eat lunch on the trail.

Sunday, October 10th: meet at the store at Leland, near the intersection of La. Hwy. 8 and La. Hwy. 913 at 10:00 AM. Leland is between Harrisonburg and Sicily Island. Bring a lunch.

A list of accommodations available to LNPS members in the Columbia area follows. If you're interested in staying in any of the bed and breakfasts, please make your reservations promptly, as Columbia will be crowded this weekend. If you have any questions or require additional information contact:

Beth Erwin: Phone 318-281-6783
Dr. R. Dale Thomas: Phone 318-342-1812

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE COLUMBIA AREA

BLANKS-ADAMS HOUSE 222 Wall Street, Columbia (Phone 318-649-2246) 2 rooms with private bath and separate kitchen. Continental breakfast. \$50.
I-MON-A HOUSE 300 Blanks Street, Columbia (Phone 318-649-2280) 1 room with private bath, sitting room, choice of full or continental breakfast. \$50.
MEREDITH HOUSE Hwy 4, Columbia (Phone 318-649-2898) 2 rooms with private bath. Continental breakfast. \$50.
TINGLE HOUSE Columbia (Phone 318-649-9250) 2 rooms with private bath. Continental breakfast. \$50.
ASHBURN HOUSE 300 East Pearl, Columbia (Phone 318-649-5632) 1 room with private bath. Continental breakfast. \$50.
MCILWAIN HOUSE Hwy 4, Columbia (Phone 318-649-2659 or 649-5603) 1 room with private bath \$50. 2 rooms with shared bath. \$40. Continental breakfast.
HORNE HOUSE 507 Lakeside, Columbia (Phone 318-649-2527) 1 room with private bath. Continental breakfast. \$50.
"MADAME LABARGE" (houseboat) Riverton Marina, 7 miles north of Columbia on

US HWY 165 (Phone 318-649-7859 or 649-0187) 3 bedrooms, 1 double bed, 3 single beds, queen size sofa bed in living room, 1 and 1/2 bath, full kitchen, (provisions available for continental breakfast). \$75/double, plus \$10/extra.

BOSCOBEL_COTTAGE_B & B in Bosco, 15 miles north of Columbia off US HWY 165 (Phone 318-325-1550) 2 rooms with private bath, separate from main house, refreshments on arrival and full plantation breakfast. \$75.

COLUMBIA_MOTEL HWY 165 South, Columbia (Phone 318-649-2588)
8 rooms with double bed \$25.50. 6 rooms with 2 double beds \$32.40.
1 room with king-size bed \$28.08.

Riverton_Lake_Campground Riverton, 6 miles north of Columbia off US HWY 165 (Phone 318-649-5707) 25 full RV hookups (sewer, water, electricity) \$11/double plus \$1 per extra. Large tent area.
Please note: The annual Fall Folk Festival & Craft Fair will be in progress on the east bank of the Ouachita River at Columbia this same weekend. The festival attracts in excess of 20,000 people. In addition, there will be hot air balloon races on the east bank of the river. Other attractions include a restored paddle wheeler offering rides on the river. Please allow yourself extra time to accommodate the traffic these attractions will generate, especially if you have to cross the river from the east side. If you are travelling with someone who is interested in attending these attractions, we should be able to accommodate you through carpooling, from Pizza Plus.

DUES_REMINDER

Don't forget that membership dues for 1993 were due by the first of the year, January 1, 1993! Members who did not paid their dues by April 1, 1993 were dropped from the roster. Please send your dues to the address below. If you know someone who is interested in joining (or rejoining) the LNPS, give them the following address. Make checks payable to the LNPS:

LNPS
Rt. 1, Box 195
Saline, Louisiana 71070

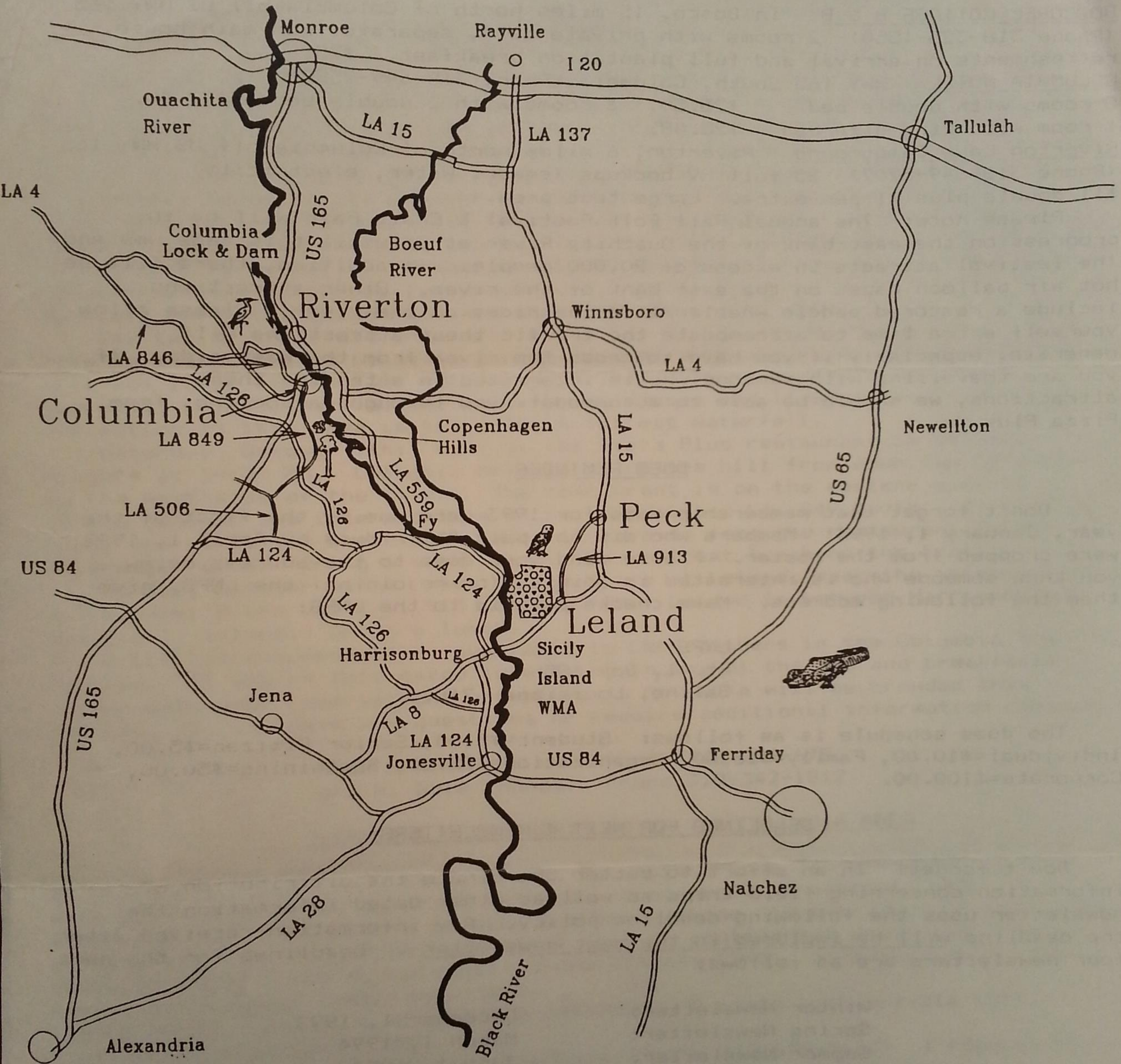
The dues schedule is as follows: Student=\$5.00, Senior Citizen=\$5.00, Individual=\$10.00, Family=\$15.00, Organization=\$25.00, Sustaining=\$50.00, Corporate=\$100.00.

DEADLINES FOR NEXT 4 NEWSLETTERS:

Don't forget! In an effort to better coordinate the distribution of information concerning field trips as well as other dated information the newsletter uses the following deadline policy. Any information received after the deadline will be included in the next newsletter. Deadlines for the next four newsletters are as follows:

Winter Newsletter:	December 1, 1993
Spring Newsletter:	March 1, 1994
Summer Newsletter:	June 1, 1994
Fall Newsletter:	September 1, 1994

The editor's address is: David Heikamp
717 Giuffrias
Metairie, La. 70001
Ph (504) 831-2342



Drawn by Beth's brother

8/3/93