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LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



LNPS NEWSLETTER

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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

LNPS Election Results

The LNPS business meeting was held February 24, 2024 at The Wesley Center, Woodworth, LA. The annual elections resulted in the following Officers and Directors for years 2024-2025.

The Officers for 2024-2025 :

President: Lawrence Rozas

Vice– President: John Michael Kelley

Immediate Past President: Tammany Baumgarten

Secretary: Susan Norris-Davis

Treasurer: Jackie Duncan

Directors at Large:

Janie Braud

Bayli Brossette

Phyllis Griffard

Caitlin Robbins

Newsletter Co-Editors:

Jackie Duncan, Wendy Rihner, Janie Braud

About the New Officers



Lawrence P. Rozas' education, training, and career centered on ecology and the environmental sciences. He dedicated over 35 years of his life studying and writing about the fishes, shrimps, and crabs within the estuaries of the U.S. Southeast Atlantic

and Gulf of Mexico. Lawrence has always been a native plant enthusiast, adding native plants to his homes whether owned or rented. He loves working with native plants, and over the past 20 years has been landscaping his residence gardens located north of Lafayette, Louisiana.

He retired from Federal service with NOAA in 2017, and the next year joined LNPS and attended his first LNPS conference. During the conference, Dona Weifenbach and Heather Warner-Finley recruited him to join the Acadiana Native Plant Project (ANPP), which had only recently been organized. As an active member of both organizations, he continues to follow his passion for native plants by learning more about, and advocating for, native plants. I've learned a great deal about identifying and growing native plants as an active member of the ANPP propagation team. I'm also currently the Vice President of ANPP and served previously as President and Past President.

Lawrence's comments: "Before being elected President of LNPS last month, I served on the Board of Directors as Vice President for two years. Tammany Baumgarten has been a tremendous President, turbocharging the society over the last two years. LNPS also has a stellar Board of Directors with which I'm eager to work. Together, we want to keep the momentum going by continuing to advance ongoing efforts: the Certified Habitat Program, LNPS grants to students

and non-profits, success obtaining outside monies to support LNPS projects, and LNPS's presence at the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference. This year I hope to see great strides made by the society toward developing a Professional Certification Program for Native Plant Landscapers."



Janie Braud developed an interest in native plants through the Master Naturalist program in 2016. She confesses that she was late to connect the dots of the significance of native plants to the food chain after teaching high school science for 35 years.

Janie is currently maintaining two LNPS Certified properties—one at her home in Baton Rouge and one at their camp in Springfield. Not particularly spectacular yet (one a silver, one bronze), but she wanted to get the signs up to generate awareness in the neighborhood.

She is serving as Membership Chair of the Baton Rouge Chapter of Master Naturalists and is a member of the State Board (LMNA). Janie is also currently serving as Vice President of the Wild Ones of Baton Rouge, and a Board Member of the Friends of the LSU Ag Center Botanic Gardens at Burden. Native gardening has been a real joy for her as she has found there is never a dull moment to see what's going on—new blooms, bees, butterflies, interesting bugs, and something may pop up again from last year that you thought was gone. Of course, the birds follow!

About the New Officers *cont.*



Bayli Brossette
(pronounced bro-say),
Curator of Caroline
Dormon Nature Pre-
serve (Briarwood). Bay-
li grew up in Chestnut,
just a few miles south
of Briarwood off High-
way 9. She graduated
from Northwestern
State University in De-

cember of 2021 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. When she tells folks that her degree is in criminal justice, they look at her with a puzzled look. "Why is someone with a Criminal Justice degree running a nature preserve?" Typically, she explains that Caroline Dormon had a degree in Literature and Art, not a degree in forestry or horticulture. Bayli says, "Just like Caroline, my passion is the piney woods of north Louisiana. I would have never thought I would be running a nature preserve, but I cannot see myself doing anything else in the world."



Caitlin Robbins
Co-owner of
Swamp Fly Native
Landscapes and a
Baton Rouge na-
tive, Caitlin re-
ceived her bache-
lor's degree in
Anthropology
from LSU and her
master's degree in
Public Health and
Tropical Medicine
from Tulane Uni-

versity. She is a licensed Landscape Horticulturist and certified Prescribed Burner. Caitlin recognizes the interconnectedness of the health and well-being of wildlife, people and their environments and she is passionate about preserving Louisiana's natural habitats. Caitlin gives educational talks about native plant landscaping and serves on the board of the Louisiana Native Plant Society.

Highlights of the 2024 LNPS Conference

February 24-26, 2024; by *Caitlin Robbins* (*View presentations at [Louisiana Native Plant Society - YouTube](#)*)

Step into the vibrant world of Louisiana's flourishing native plant community with a recap of the 2024 Annual Louisiana Native Plant Society (LNPS) Conference! From February 23rd to 25th, native plant enthusiasts from across the state gathered at the Wes-



ley Center in Woodworth, LA to hear from a diverse range of researchers, hobbyists and industry-people about their experiences studying, documenting, and preserving native habitats throughout Louisiana and the Southeast.

Kicking off the festivities on Friday evening were two capti-

Highlights of the 2024 LNPS Conference cont.

February 23-25, 2024; by Caitlin Robbins

vating presentations that set the tone for an enlightening weekend. Kimberly Hamm, a doctoral student from UL-Lafayette, shared insights from her research on urban heat islands and their impact on native plant-pollinator dynamics. Following her lead, John Hartgerink presented an enchanting visual journey through the natural wonders of Bluebonnet Swamp in Baton Rouge, showcasing years of dedication and love for Louisiana's biodiversity. For those interested in catching a glimpse, John's photographs can be found on his Flickr account [About John Hartgerink | Flickr](#).

piece of Louisiana's natural beauty home with them. Native plants, stunning nature art, captivating books and reference materials were on offer from various vendors, while both the silent auction and live plant auction added an extra bit of excitement to the proceedings. For those keen to put their botanical prowess to the test, a lively round of native plant trivia provided ample opportunity for friendly competition.



Saturday's agenda was packed with enriching sessions that sparked curiosity and ignited discussion among attendees. Aaron Pierce of Resource Environmental Solutions (RES) shared an overview of his work on propagating and restoring native flora across Louisiana and Texas. Meanwhile, Braden

Doucet, a graduate student from UL-Lafayette, discussed his findings on the captivating topic of local adaptation in two species of Cajun prairie grasses (Switchgrass and Little Bluestem). Christina Calcaterra, the enthusiastic and highly knowledgeable Subject Matter Expert in botany at Fort Johnson, shared her experiences managing the rare and diverse plant communities that thrive there. Closing out the lectures, Dr. Aimee Thomas gave an engaging presentation on Louisiana's diverse spider species, broadening the tapestry of conference topics to include the small and often unseen worlds of the arthropods that live amongst our native habitats.

The conference wasn't just about absorbing knowledge; attendees also had the chance to bring a



In the midst of all this excitement, the LNPS also bid a fond farewell to Tammany Baumgarten, who gracefully concluded her tenure as President, passing the torch to Lawrence

Rozas. Tammany's dedication and hard work over the last two years were celebrated, and she will continue to contribute her wisdom and expertise to the LNPS Board in her role as Past-President. Phyllis Griffard (Director) and Jackie Duncan (Treasurer) will continue their invaluable roles on the LNPS Board, joined



Highlights of the 2024 LNPS Conference cont.

February 23-25, 2024; by Caitlin Robbins

by newly elected Board Directors Caitlin Robbins, Janie Braud, and Bayli Brossette and newly elected Secretary, Susan Norris-Davis.

As the 2024 LNPS Conference drew to a close, it left behind a trail of inspiration and a renewed commitment to preserving and celebrating Louisiana's magnificent native plant heritage. Until next time, let's continue to nurture and protect the natural wonders that make our state truly unique!

Friday afternoon folks enjoyed touring the Southern Forest Heritage Museum, an historic sawmill preserved in Longleaf, LA . Riding the train around the compound was a fun event.



Saturday evening everyone enjoyed relaxing and visiting around the campfire as the full moon rose over the water.



Sunday morning attendees were offered options to visit the ANPP greenhouse in Arnaudville, tour Briarwood or hike the Wild Azalea Trail in Kisatchie. These were the hardy souls that hiked the Wild Azalea



Native Plant Trivia Questions (2024 LNPS Conference)

15 Questions, 5 pts each, Bonus, Total 105 maximum

1. Look at all those acorns!

In response to harsh conditions the year before, oaks can go into acorn production overdrive.

These are called ___?___ years.
(Winter 2023-2024 is one!)

Bonus...what kind of oak produced these? (2 pts)



2. The female form of this native tree bears black/blue drupes following its frothy white spring bloom – The fruit makes it easy to remember that it is in the same family as olive trees



3. With common names like **Comfortroot** or **Pine-land Hibiscus**, this native hibiscus species (botanical name) is often seen in roadside ditches or poorly drained areas.



4. This pollinator favorite is common in shallow shore-lines preferring freshwater depth up to 12". It can spread via rhizomatous roots to form large colonies and may be grown in water gardens or containers but keep the water depth past saturation but below the leaves.



5. Name 3 native plant species that appear in this photo. 5 pts + 2 for each other native or nonnative species.



6. How many species of Pine tree are there in Louisiana?

Bonus: Name three (2 points each)

Native Plant Trivia Questions (2024 LNPS Conference)

15 Questions, 5 pts each, Bonus Questions, Total 105 maximum

7. This moisture loving *Lobelia* shares part of its name with a back yard bird. Both have this name because of the color of the robes worn by certain Roman Catholic VIPs.



10. Considered one of the “BIG FIVE” of the native tallgrass prairie species, this large prairie grass has been called “cow candy” because of its high protein content and nutritious seeds.



BONUS: Name the other 4

8. This native understory shrub is one of the first to leaf out in spring and also the first to drop its leaves in summer.



No, it's not marijuana.

11. A non-native fern is a Tier 1 invasive on the Louisiana State Wildlife Plan. It was brought to the US in the 1930s as an ornamental! Get rid of it by digging the rhizome or with glyphosate.



9. The fruit of this native vine has been documented to be eaten by over 25 species of birds, higher than almost any other native plant species in Louisiana.



12. This native legume vine is common in wet areas including woodlands and prairies. Its seeds can be eaten like peas in summer, and tubers edible in winter.



Native Plant Trivia Questions (2024 LNPS Conference)

15 Questions, 5 pts each, Bonus Questions, Total 105 maximum

13. **Coefficient of Conservatism** is a formulation by which each native species in a region's flora is assigned a numerical value (C-value from 1-10) to help evaluate the **Floristic Quality** of an area.

A species of **WHAT NUMBER** would make you excited if you saw it in the wild?

14. This ubiquitous member of the Aster family is an upright native plant of prairies and wetlands. The Acadian French name “anis marron” refers to the anise-like smell of the dried foliage.



Answers on Page 19.

15. This native understory fruit tree feels like family.

Bonus: it is the larval host for which butterfly?



Upcoming Field Trip to Briarwood

By Jackie Duncan

LNPS is planning a field trip to **Briarwood Nature Preserve**, home of Caroline Dormon, on **May 26, 2024**. The tour will be **Sunday morning starting at 9am**. Tour costs are \$12/person. Bayli Brossette, Briarwood curator, has offered free overnight camping on Friday and/or Saturday nights. The Education Building will be available for cots and bedrolls, and tent camping is available outdoors. The Education building has showers but bring your own toiletries and towels. Bayli will provide lunch following the tour. If you have never been to Briarwood, this is a great opportunity.

For questions or information, please contact either Jackie Duncan, jacalynduncan@hotmail.com or Bayli Brossette, briarwoodnp@gmail.com



GOOD WEED BAD WEED

What is this mysterious vegetation in my garden??

If I keep it, will it damage other, more beneficial species?

Good Weed/Bad Weed: NPI's New Database

By Susan Norris-Davis

Selectively weeding, keeping desirable, mostly native plants and doing my best to eradicate those unwanted, I found the diversity of my gardens deepening and my frustration at not being able to find more varied natives at local nurseries easing- and this diversity was free! — except of course for the work involved in research, identification, experimentation, and observation. My notes began to pile up and the information about these ‘weeds’ has become fascinating to me. Culturally, socially, linguistically, technologically – there are so many ways that these plants are part of us. I thought not only might this be of interest to others, it is arguably an essential part of living sustainably in our communities.

Convinced of the value of this localized information and its relevancy, I conceived of a way to create a tool by which people learning the ins and outs of their gardens, or just observing natural spaces, might find answers about the “good weeds” and “bad weeds” that they came across. In July, 2022, I submitted a grant proposal to LNPS to create **Good Weed/Bad Weed** — an online database for weeds of southeast LA. The idea was to provide a quick, reliable, online resource that allows the home gardener to make informed decisions about weeds. A place where you can find answers to your weed questions: *Are they native? What are their growth habits? What is their natural role? Do they have ornamental, medicinal, or edible traits? What about non-natives that have value in the garden and do not appear to pose a significant problem?*

How best to get rid of unwanted weeds? How are all these weeds getting here?

LNPS approved the grant to get started, with additional funding from the New Orleans Town Gardeners (NOTG), the Meraux Foundation, the Native Plant Initiative of Greater New Orleans (NPI), and Carro and Billy Gardener. A web developer was hired and used FileMaker Pro to set up the database with an initial list of 20 species. I did the initial research on a volunteer basis to populate the database and worked closely with the developer, learning how best to set it up and get it running...by doing.

NPI provided new funds to create a data entry interface that makes adding species to the library easy for a small team of specially recruited volunteers that are beginning this work currently. The combined cost of development to date is about \$9,000. Costs going forward consist only of a monthly maintenance fee to host the database and the occasional use of our developer for trouble-shooting and software updates. We plan to have 100 additional species added by the end of 2024 and will keep adding to the database until we run out of weeds...in other words, ‘till we die!

Here are a couple of examples of intriguing ‘weeds’, described in the database, that I learned so much about that are interestingly intertwined in both natural ecology and human culture.

Good Weed/Bad Weed: NPI's New Database cont.

By Susan Norris-Davis

First, **Peppergrass** - *Lepidum virginicum*. It is found statewide in LA in sunny, disturbed areas in late winter and spring. The leaves and flowers are edible and the seeds are used as a pepper substitute. It is a member of the mighty Mustard family. In an interview for "Louisiana Eats" by Poppy Tooker on NPR, Leah Chase recounts how she uses Peppergrass picked from the sidewalks as a potherb for 'Gumbo Z'herbes' made traditionally on Maundy or Holy Thursday. Look for it in bloom now and starting to set seed on the side of the road. It is a larval host for the Checkered and Southern White butterflies.



Crescent butterfly (with the piano keys marking). It is a pretty, shade-loving ground-cover of wet areas. Look for it this summer.



The "Good Weed/Bad Weed" database is accessed through the npi-gno.org website. Click on the 'Resources' tab and then the database on the drop-down menu. There is a brief introduction, a few instructions, scroll to the bottom, and click on the 'GOOD WEED/BAD WEED' button. That's it, you're in! No usernames, no passwords. We hope (we tried really hard) we made it easy and fun.

A final thought from the Good Weed/Bad Weed homepage - Happy Weeding ya'll!

Then, there is **Looseleaf Waterwillow** - *Justicia ovata*. If you were at the LNPS conference in February, you may remember this species from the John Hartgerink's presentation on the Bluebonnet Swamp. It was noted as a larval host for the sometimes rare Texas



"There is nothing
either good or bad,
but thinking makes it so."
- Shakespeare



2024 LNPS Scholarships Available

LNPS maintains a scholarship budget for students or others to attend the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference in North Carolina in July or other native plant-oriented meetings in the Southeast US. Each scholarship reimburses up to \$750 to defray registration, transportation, lodging and/or food costs. If you plan to attend and believe your participation would benefit the mission of LNPS and your need is justified, apply by sending an email to lnpsinbox@gmail.com with your resume, amount requested for specific costs, your personal goals the meeting would advance, the meeting description, statement of need and any other information that supports your application. There is no deadline, but if your attendance is contingent on funding, apply several weeks before you need a decision.

Registration for the upcoming Cullowhee Native Plant Conference opens April 1. Information is available at [Western Carolina University - The Cullowhee Native Plant Conference \(wcu.edu\)](http://WesternCarolinaUniversity-TheCullowheeNativePlantConference(wcu.edu)).

A Brief Summary of Doug Tallamy's Thought on Alien Plants

By *Lawrence Rozas*

In his virtual presentation to the South Alabama Land Trust last year ([Are Alien Plants Bad with Douglas Tallamy \(youtube.com\)](#)), Dr. Doug Tallamy (University of Delaware) compares the value of introduced and native plants. He begins by giving some examples of the millions of specialized interactions between native plants and animals found in nature. Dr. Tallamy makes the case that “ecosystem function” is the most appropriate metric to use for assessing and comparing the value of plant species, and in comparisons using this standard, introduced plants are functionally inferior to native species. He warns that many of the specialized interactions between native plants and wildlife are now threatened by invasive plants and the overuse of other non-native plant species in the U.S. If you haven't seen this presentation, tune in. You're sure to learn something.

New Venue for 2025 LNPS Conference Acadiana Baptist Center

Acadiana Baptist Center is in the small village of Richard, 37 miles northwest of Lafayette and 15 minutes southeast of Eunice (home of CPHPS prairie restoration site). Lodges, dormitories, RV spaces, tent camping and cabins will be available to rent.



On the 93-acre compound, many trails afford views of the abundant native plants.

Mark your calendar for February 14-16, 2025 for the next LNPS Conference at the Acadiana Baptist Center.



My Flowering Natives (end of February)

By Jackie Duncan

My property is in the pineywoods of Central Louisiana. The soils are sandy loam, acidic. The soil series is Ruston, Smithdale on the ridges and Guyton in the lowlands. I have a hillside seep in the back where the water flows into Cotile Lake all year long.



Trillium ludovicianum (Louisiana wakerobin) is the first to bloom along with Redbud. Interesting splotchy leaves.



Gelsemium sempervirens (Yellow Jessamine). I let this one climb up my Red Buckeye tree. I hope it doesn't kill it.



Cercis canadensis (Redbud)



Prunus caroliniana (Cherry Laurel). Evergreen, produces bluish-black seeds in the fall. Great bird tree. Can prune to any shape.

My Flowering Natives (first week of March)

By Jackie Duncan



Prunus Mexicana (Mexican Plum). A bee magnet.



Vaccinium ellioti (Summer Huckle Berry). Great to eat.
Notice the green stems.



Crataegus marshallii (Parsley Hawthorn)



Rhododendron canescens (Wild Azalea)

My Flowering Natives (2nd week of March)

By Jackie Duncan



Salix nigra (Black Willow. Host for the Viceroy Butterfly.



Crataegus opaca (Mayhaw)



Osmanthus americana (Devilwood). Evergreen. Sweet smelling. Native version of Sweet Olive.



Halesia diptera (Silverbell). I use this tree to replace all my Dogwoods that have died.

My Flowering Natives (2nd week of March)

By Jackie Duncan



Asimina triloba (Pawpaw. Host for the Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly.



Chionanthus virginicus (Fringe Tree)



Malus angustifolia (Crab Apple)



Calycanthus floridas (Sweet Shrub). Smells very sweet.
Can be aggressive.

New Native Plant Nurseries in Louisiana

Grown by Grace Native Plants Nursery Opens in Monroe

Austin Klais and Caitlin Streeter-Klais

A new native plant nursery is coming to Monroe! **Grown by Grace Native Plants** is a small-scale (backyard) native plant operation run by a family that wants to share its love of wildflowers and wildlife with everyone. Austin and Caitlin had been considering growing and selling native plants for awhile and finally decided to take the leap! Here is their story.

Most people who know Caitlin know she has a love for plants and butterflies, but she isn't the best at keeping those plants alive. She originally wanted to add native plants to her yard to carry on her late husband's legacy of love for natives, but her knowledge consisted of just a few plants that they'd discussed and no nurseries nearby sold these plants. After Caitlin and Austin later married, he mentioned adding some natives into a flowerbed they were expanding, and since he served on the board of the Arkansas Native Plant Society prior to moving to Louisiana, Austin already was thoroughly excited about natives. Though skeptical at first, Caitlin now sees that these plants have been the easiest to care for and come back prettier every year! And what better impetus to start a business than to see how they welcome birds, butterflies and other wildlife to our yards.

When picking out a name for their business, Austin and Caitlin decided they wanted it to be a way to share their story along the way. "Grown By Grace" doesn't only describe the grace that they have to give these plants,

but it also describes the grace they'd been given in their walk with God.

Native plants are certainly increasing in popularity but are still highly underutilized and not well-understood by the general public. Austin and Caitlin saw this to be true even of themselves when considering adding natives to their yard. This was especially true in their own part of Louisiana as finding natives is hit or miss in the Monroe area with many nurseries lamenting the challenges of even finding native plants for their own stock. Austin and Caitlin feel

privileged and passionate as native plant advocates to advance the trail blazed by so many others to share their love, knowledge, and appreciation for native plants. They believe that we have all received a gift of loving and appreciating native plants; now it is our turn to share those gifts with grace.



**Grown by Grace Native Plants
Monroe, LA
grownbygracenativeplants@gmail.com
501-425-1985**

New Native Plant Nurseries in Louisiana cont.

A Young Man's Love for Ark-La-Tex Natives

By Melissa Weaver

As native plant enthusiasts in Northwest Louisiana, we depended on plant exchanges, annual plant sales at Briarwood or nurseries such as Almost Eden to cultivate our own native gardens. We now have another option, **Garrison's Greenwood Garden Nursery in Shreveport**. Last year, a small selection of native plants was added to their inventory. By this Spring, the native section has blossomed exponentially to include a multitude of native plants. One young man alone can be credited for the success of this project, a Shreveport native, Bradley McCullough. His love of plants began in childhood while exploring the Piney Woods hunting and fishing. He was also influenced by his grandfather who owned a citrus grove in Florida. Three years ago while in high school, he began working for Garrison's Nursery. Bradley had always grown vegetables, but he started watching TikTok videos about native plants. He became obsessed with the idea and importance of native plants and quickly realized many people have no knowledge base of these precious plants and the crucial need for them in our environment. As the buyer of perennial plants at Garrison's Nursery, Bradley researched buying native perennials, but few local growers offer native plants. He persevered and with a combination of plants he personally grew and bought wholesale, he was ready to launch his project Spring of 2023. By the end of the season, his plants had sold out. One year later, his small area exploded into a much larger one with more tables filled with a magnificent variety of native plants including a Louisiana Native Iris table and over 500 seedlings. He is particularly passionate about leading new customers towards the native plant



section while educating them on the benefits to their garden and to the environment. However, Bradley's natives aren't just Louisiana natives, but Ark-La-Tex natives. Northwest Louisiana is one corner of the 14,000 square mile region aptly named the Ark-La-Tex which

also includes Northeast Texas, Southern Arkansas and the Southeastern tip of Oklahoma. Because of the area's distinctive ecosystem, he wanted to provide plants that would grow best in the Ark-La-Tex. As he experimented with various species in his own personal garden, the variety of birds, bees, butterflies, snakes and all manners of garden creatures increased significantly. One such captivating insect caught his attention, the butterfly, and his passion for plants now included providing host plants and nectaring flowers for them. The Ark-La-Tex native plant section includes an abundant selection such as Lupine, Baptisia, Liatris, Salvia, Gaillardia, Phlox, Indian pink, Azaleas, Little Bluestem, Guara, Mistflower and Bradley's favorite, Arkansas bluestar, and of course, Milkweed. To share his knowledge and increase community education, Garrison's Nursery is holding a Milkweed plant exchange in the near future and anyone can exchange a Tropical Milkweed for a native Milkweed. As awareness grows on how beneficial native plants are to our natural world, one young man has greatly impacted our corner of the state and as the old saying goes, we all have been blessed by the fruits of a fellow plant lover's labor.

Garrisons Greenwood Garden

6905 Greenwood Rd

Shreveport, LA 71119

Located on Greenwood Road (Highway 80)

1 mile west of Pines Road Exit off of I-20 and

1 mile east of Bert Kouns Industrial Loop at I-20.

New Native Plant Nurseries in Louisiana cont.

A Little Nursery with Big Aspirations

Chickadee Natives is a backyard native plant nursery in New Orleans that focuses on preserving the local genetics of Southeast Louisiana's native plants. Chickadee Natives began in 2021. After more than a decade in the horticulture industry in New Orleans, owner Charlsie Shaver saw the ever-growing demand for native plants and knew all too well the meager supply. Charlsie first began growing natives back in 2016 when she started a landscaping business that focused on native plants, and she quickly found out how hard they were to source in the quantities needed for more than backyard gardening.

Charlsie's path to native plants was a common one. She was first inspired to take up gardening to grow her own food. Like most vegetable gardeners, she quickly learned how important pollinators were for her crops. Once you learn about pollinators, it's a slippery slope to host plants and natives; then before you know it, you find yourself awkwardly explaining to concerned passers-by why you're standing thigh-deep in a ditch full of muddy water looking at "weeds" and that you're really ok. In fact, you're having a great time.

Passionate about preserving the local genetics of southeast Louisiana native plants, Charlsie spends hours each week mapping local plant populations, identifying vulnerable sites and collecting seeds. She is working hard to expand her nursery this year to help fill the gaps for both retail and wholesale customers. She also aims to become a major producer of restoration-quality seed in the coming years.

Beginning in April, you can visit Chickadee Natives at the Crescent City Farmers Market on Thursdays and the Abita Springs Farmers Market on Sundays, as well as various garden shows and other events (dates listed on the website). New Orleans-area residents can also order on the website (www.chickadeenatives.com) and get plants delivered right to their doors on Fridays.

Stay updated on the upcoming expansion and other news by following on Instagram and Facebook, or visit the website to sign up for the email list.



picture by Larry Allain



picture by Larry Allain

Crinum lily (*Crinum americanum*)

2024-25 OFFICERS

President: Lawrence Rozas

Vice President: John Michael
Kelley

Immediate Past President:

Tammany Baumgarten

Secretary: Susan Norris-Davis

Treasurer: Jackie Duncan

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The article deadline for the Summer newsletter is **July 15**. Any article involving native plants is welcomed. All articles must be submitted in Word along with pictures, if applicable.

LNPS NOTICES AND UPDATES

1. **The Louisiana Certified Habitat (LCH)** Program initiated in 2020 has resulted in over 300 certified habitats! Promotions, signage, and personal testimonies have made a difference in the choices homeowners and small businesses make in what they plant in their yards. If you are interested in the **Louisiana Certified Habitat Program**, please email louisianacertifiedhabitat@gmail.com for more information and to receive the application or visit the website [Apply For The Louisiana Certified Habitat Program - Louisiana Native Plant Society \(lnps.org\)](https://www.lnps.org/apply-for-the-louisiana-certified-habitat-program).
2. LNPS maintains a **scholarship** budget for students or others to attend the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference in North Carolina in July or other native plant-oriented meetings in the Southeast US. Each scholarship reimburses up to \$750 to defray registration, transportation, lodging and/or food costs. See Page 10 for more details.
3. LNPS has been awarded grant funding to develop and implement **The Louisiana Native Professional Certification Program (LNPCP)**, which is being led by Dona Weifenbach. If you are interested in working on the Committee, please email LNPS at lnpsinbox@gmail.com with your information and how you would like to contribute.
4. Native Plant Nurseries and Seed sources are available on the LNPS website [Plant and Seed Sources - Louisiana Native Plant Society \(lnps.org\)](https://www.lnps.org/plant-and-seed-sources)
5. Links to all the 2024 LNPS Conference speaker presentations can be viewed on the [Louisiana Native Plant Society - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvXqzKqzKqzKqzKqzKqzKqzK).
6. Beavers Abundance Native Plant Nursery has moved to a new location at 17873 Old Jefferson Hwy, Prairieville, LA. Hours are Wed-Sat, 10am—4pm.

Trivia answers: 1. Mast, Water Oak; 2. Fringetree, *Chionanthus virginicus*; 3. Aculeatus; 4. Pickerel Weed, *Pontedaria cordata*; 5. Pokeweed, Beautyberry, Muscadine, Bald Cypress, Crossvine, Sweet Bay, Groundnut; 6. Loblolly, Slash, Shortleaf, Longleaf, Spruce; 7. Cardinal Flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*; 8. Red Buckeye, *Aesculus pavia*; 9. Poison ivy, *Toxicodendron radicans*; 10. Eastern Gamagrass, *Tripsacum dactyloides*, (Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Switchgrass, Indiangrass) 11. Japanese Climbing Fern; 12. Groundnut, *Apios americana*; 13. 10; 14. Dog Fennel, *Eupatorium cappilifolium*; 15. PawPaw, *Asimina triloba*. Tiger Swallowtail

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