

Mar—Apr 2022

Volume 35, Issue 1



LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



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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 Changes and New Officers

The LNPS business meeting held February 5, 2022 at The Wesley Center, Woodworth, LA resulted in a change in Officers and significant changes to the Bylaws.

The Officers for 2022-2023 :

President: Tammany Baumgarten

Vice– President: Lawrence Rozas

Immediate Past President: Brian Early

Secretary: Susan Webb

Treasurer: Jackie Duncan

Directors at Large for 2022-2023:

Tracey Banowetz

Peggy Cox

Tommy Hillman

Margaret Vincent

Newsletter Co-Editors:

Jackie Duncan and Wendy Rihner

The **LNPS Bylaws were amended** to change the Board of Directors (BOD) from nine at-large members to four, resulting in the BOD consisting of the President, Vice-president, immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four Directors. Also, the term to serve for Board members was changed to two years, with eligibility for re-election.

The BOD's introductions follow:

President Tammany Baumgarten:

Tammany is a licensed Horticulturist and Master Gardener with the LSU AgCenter in New Orleans. As Owner/Operator of BaumGardens Landscape and Design, she designs, installs and maintains landscapes in the New Orleans area. She has always been an avid proponent of na-

LNPS Changes and New Officers *cont.*

tive and wildlife gardening, weaving that into landscape design and public discourse whenever possible. She also spends a lot of time working to improve and preserve the wildlife diversity at Beechnut Nature Retreat, her 40 acre property in Tylertown, MS. She is the founding President of the Native Plant Initiative of Greater New Orleans, an organization dedicated to promoting and preserving native plantings in our highly urban settings.

Vice President Lawrence Rozas:

Lawrence retired from federal service in the fall of 2017, after 25 years with the NOAA Fisheries Service. As a NOAA scientist, his primary research interests were identifying the habitat requirements of estuarine-dependent fishery species, understanding how to successfully restore coastal habitats, and assessing the habitat function of coastal wetlands. He conducted research for over 30 years and has over 60 scientific publications. He holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences from the University of Virginia, a M.S. degree in Marine Biology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and a B.S. degree in Wildlife Management

from the University of Southwestern Louisiana. Lawrence loves working with native plants, and over the past 15 years he has been landscaping his own residence garden, which is located north of Lafayette, Louisiana. He also is learning more about landscaping with native plants as an active member of the Acadiana Native Plant Project (ANPP). Lawrence is currently the Past President of ANPP, and a member of its propagation team. He also is on the Board of Directors for the Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association.

Secretary Susan Webb: Susan's college degree was Accounting and she spent over 30 years working as a Certified Public Accountant, so her experience with plants has mostly been overhearing and watching her plantsman husband, Rick Webb, and his plant friends. Native plant lovers are a marvelous group, and native plants are interesting, challenging, and rewarding goods to produce and sell. Susan started working full-time in Rick's native plant nursery in 2015 and considers it a charmed life!

Treasurer Jackie Duncan (also Co-Editor of the Newsletter):

Jackie has served as Treasurer for LNPS since 2000. During this time, she worked as a Forester for the US Forest Service in Pineville, retiring in 2011 after 20 years of service. She is from Texas and her first career was as an accountant in the oil and gas industry after graduating from Texas A&M University with a BA in accounting. In her 30's she decided to go for a career change, resulting in an MS in Forestry, landing a job in Pineville, LA. She's a member of the CENLA Master Gardeners and does a lot of volunteer work. As a young girl she was a plant nut wandering around in the woods looking for new flowers, and she's still a plant nut that has developed a deep appreciation for the natural world in which we live.

Director Tracey Banowetz:

New Orleans native Tracey Banowetz is a former market analyst turned hobby gardener. She met her husband - an equally avid gardener - on a blind date. She

LNPS Changes and New Officers *cont.*

loves bugs, birds, and snakes. She and Dave live and garden in Abita Springs.

Director Peggy Cox: After retiring from the LSU AgCenter as Curator of Windrush Gardens in Baton Rouge, she continues cultivating her passion for gardening by attending horticultural society meetings and garden tours as well as gardening at her Sweetwater home near Independence, LA. She loves spending time with grandchildren and growing edibles and natives. She is at her happiest out in nature.

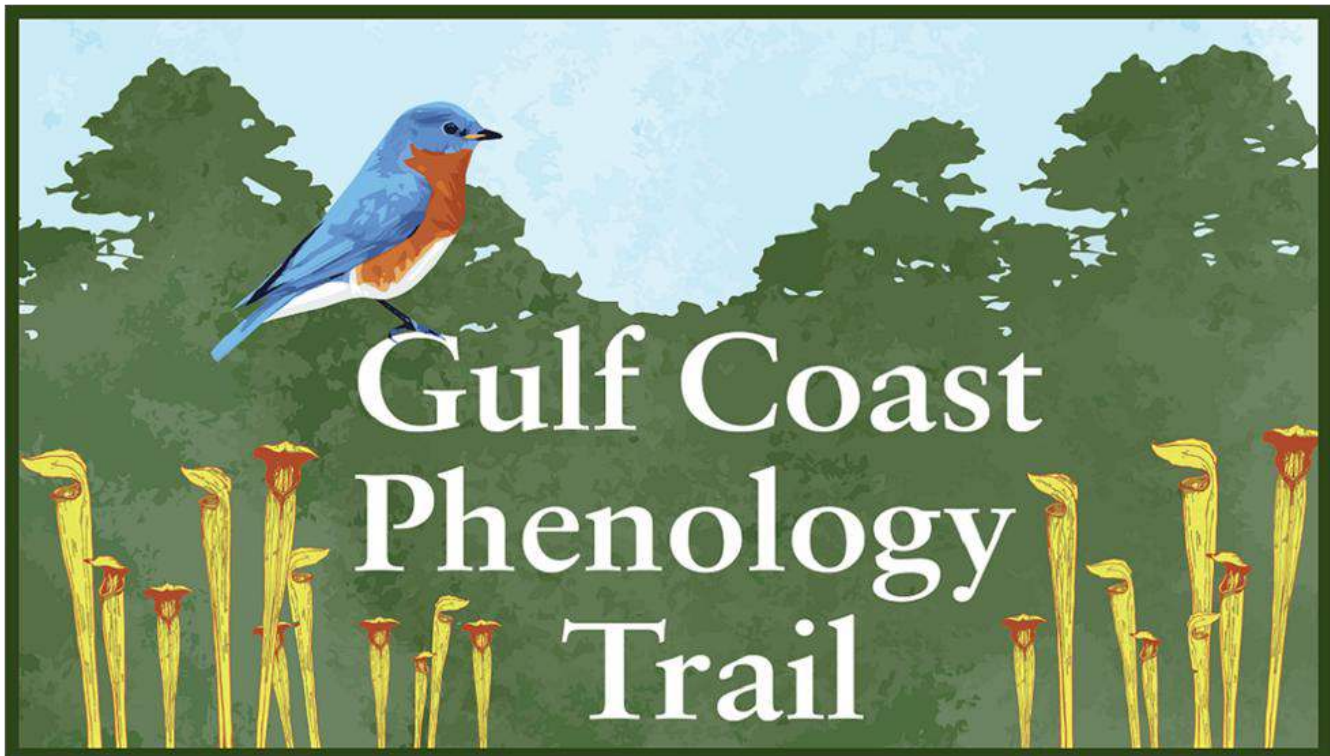
Director Tommy Hillman: Tommy is a lifelong resident of Eunice with three degrees from LSU. He has been involved with the Cajun prairie since the 1980s. He is currently working in Carencro as a dentist.

Director Margaret Vincent: Margaret is a recent graduate of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and a native to South Louisiana. She has been a member and volunteer with the Louisiana Native Plant Society, the Acadiana Native Plant Project, and the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preser-

vation Society for the last three years. Currently, an environmental scientist with the Coastwide Reference Monitoring System, she is always looking for additional ways to serve and learn more about our plant communities.

Co-Editor of the Newsletter

Wendy Rihner: After retiring from Delgado Community College after 30 years, Rihner immediately began working on her passion for native plants for wildlife, especially birds. She is the Secretary for the Native Plant Initiative for Greater New Orleans; she also is the education Chair for the Orleans Audubon Society. As a lifelong educator, Rihner enjoys introducing people to native plants and the birds that need them.



Phenology and Citizen Science

By Gail Bishop

Gulf Coast Phenology Trail Coordinator

What is phenology? Some people think that is the study of bumps on the skull! But that is *phrenology*. **Phenology** is the study of life cycle changes in plants and animals, and citizen scientists are learning how it relates to changing environmental conditions.

The Gulf Coast Phenology Trail is composed of 12 sites from Fairhope, Alabama to southeast Louisiana and volunteers gather data on five focal plants: red bay, red maple, Chinese tallow, wax myrtle, and yaupon holly on a weekly basis. Additional site-specific plants such as eastern baccharis and American beauty berry plus animals are observed and recorded. Some observations

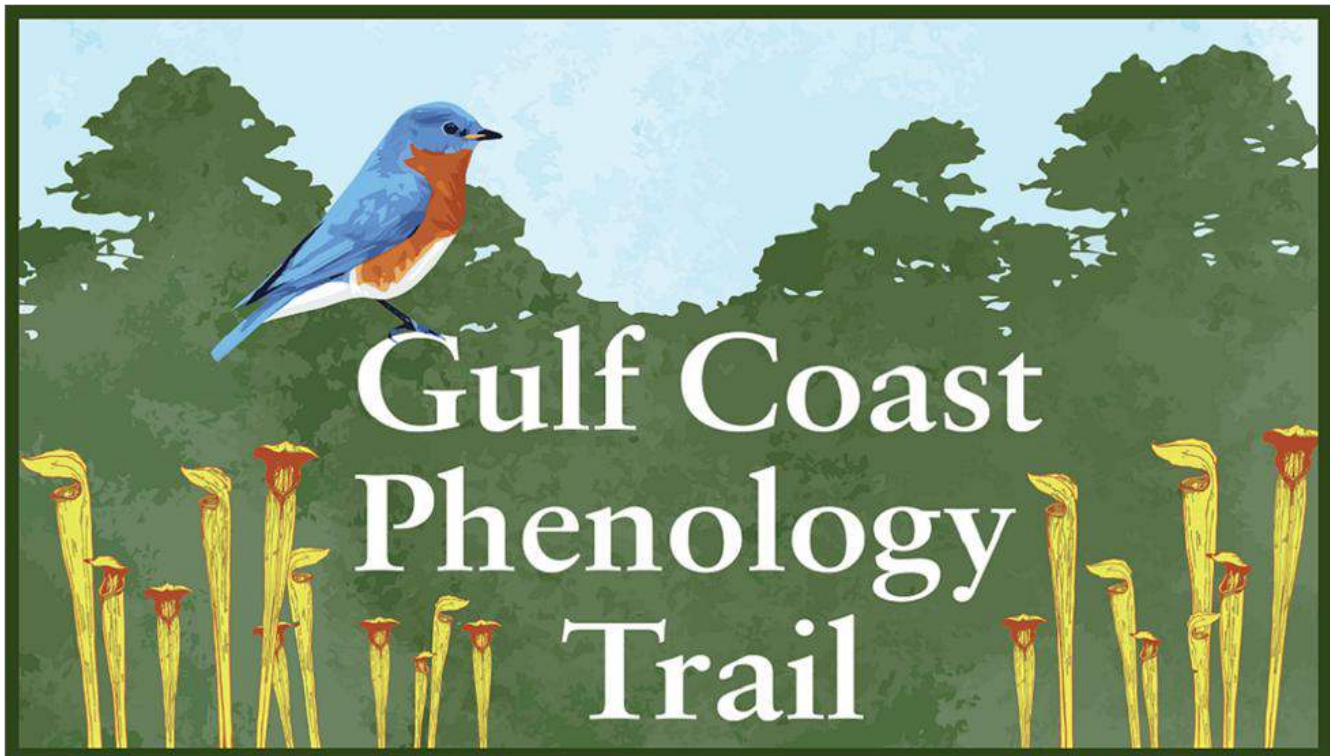
started in 2017 at the initial sites such as Mississippi Sandhill Crane Refuge. Most recently, the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) south of Fairhope, Alabama joined to monitor focal plants and others. Current sites in Louisiana include Couturie Trail at New Orleans City Park, Barataria Preserve, Bayou Lafourche Phenology Trail at the Acadia Cultural Center, Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge and Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge.

Why observe? Adding to scientific data, getting outside in an established natural area, tracking phenology in your own backyard, training with others, or learning about new plants are benefits. One volunteer stated... "I'd rather be volunteering for Nature's Notebook than volunteering to help others do their taxes." Being outdoors promotes good health. Join thousands across the United States who monitor phenology by going to Nature's Notebook at <https://>

www.usanpn.org to learn how to observe and record data. For more information contact Gail Bishop at gulfcoastphenologytrail@gmail.com.



Note: Did you know that observations added to Nature's Notebook are used by the Weather Channel to show in real time the emergence of spring in the United States by using spring leaf out anomaly?



Do you want to help pollinators in Louisiana?

Join us in monitoring the flowering and seed timing of important pollinators plants through Nectar Connectors, a campaign of Nature's Notebook, the USA-NPN's plant and animal data collection program.

Time to Restore: Connecting People, Plants, and Pollinators is a new program using the Nature's Notebook phone app to record observations of plants and pollinators.

Choose a location, join Nature's Notebook, choose the wildflowers, observe, and record on the Nature's Notebook phone app.

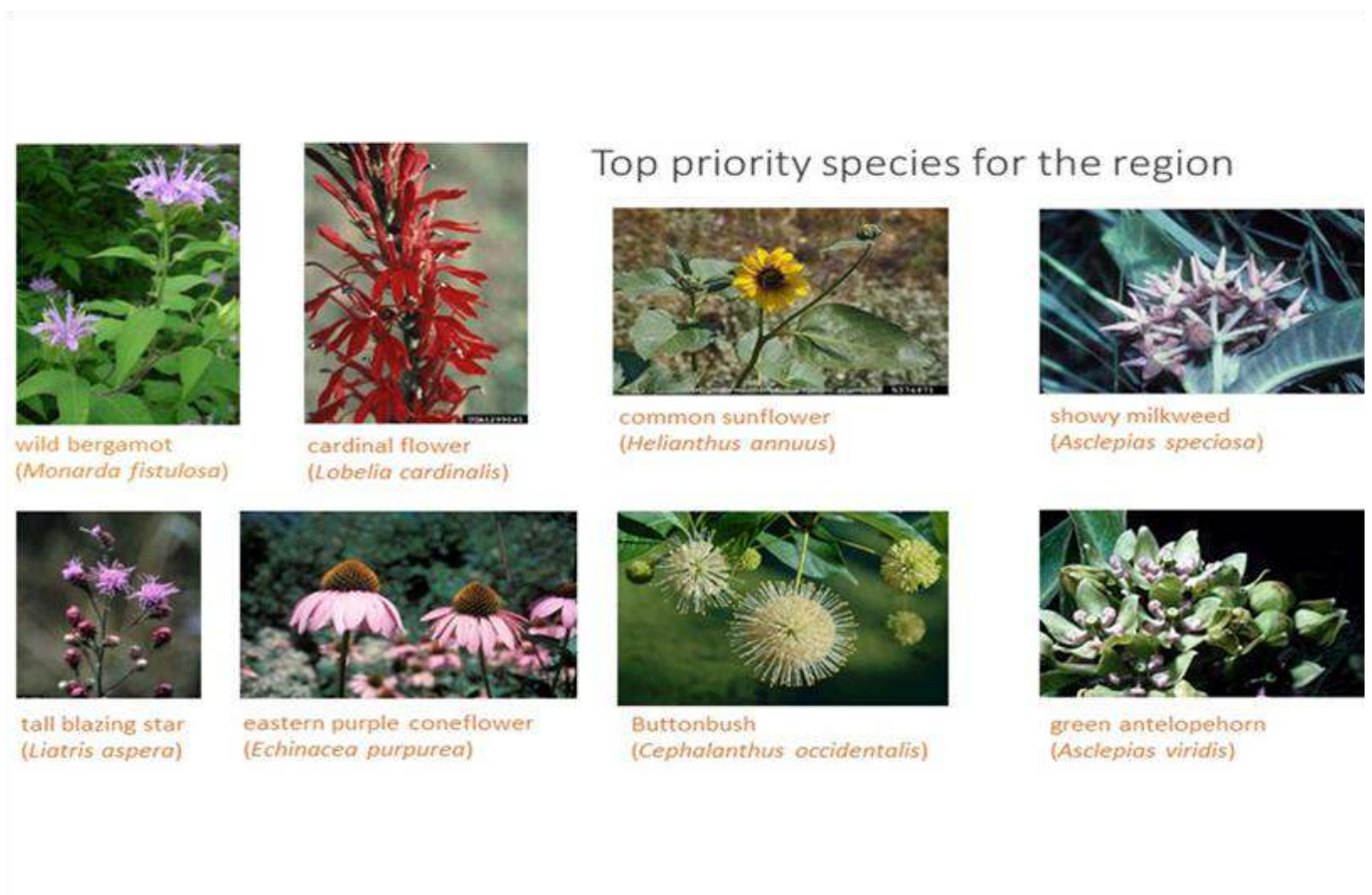
This program is hosted by the National Phenology Network (<https://www.usanpn.org>) and sponsored by the South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center (<https://southcentralclimate.org>) in Norman, Oklahoma.



 A screenshot of the Nature's Notebook app interface. At the top, there are tabs for "Sites", "Plants & Animals", "Observe", and "Review". Below the tabs are three buttons: "Plants" (highlighted in blue), "Animals" (orange), and "Site-visit Details" (orange). The "Observe" screen shows an "Observation Date" of "2019-5-13" and a plant name "yellow paloverde-1". There is a button "Mark All Phenophases As No". Below this are several rows of phenophase observations, each with three buttons: "Y", "N", and "?". The "N" button is highlighted in orange for "Young leaves" and "Leaves". At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Save Data" and "Next Plant".

Do You Want to Help Pollinators *cont.*

This citizen science observation program is focused on eight focal plants that are seen in Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico and is opened to additional wildflowers in each state.



Questions? Contact Gail Bishop at

GulfCoastPhenologyTrail@gmail.com

The Fontainebleau State Park Project

St. Tammany Parish *by Kim Burt*

Fontainebleau State Park is an essential part of our community in St. Tammany Parish. Comprising 2,800 acres of natural forest and amenities on the shores of Lake Pontchartrain, the Park was badly affected by Hurricane Katrina and more recently Hurricane IDA. In 2021 a multi-pronged project was initiated to restore and enhance different areas of the Park using native trees and plants. It started with planting native Louisiana Iris and more recently 400 Bald Cypress bare root trees, guided and organized by Gary Salathe, the founder of the Louisiana Iris Conservation Initiative.

Katrina left large areas of Park forestation open to invasion by Chinese Tallows. In June, an initiative was started to reverse this. A project team headed by St Tammany Master Gardener Association (STMGA) and Greater New Orleans Master Naturalists started by marking trees in designated areas and pulling baby tallows, then cutting saplings, and finally, removing the 'mother trees'. A lot of the forest will regenerate itself, but there are areas where the tallows were dominant, creating large gaps



when cleared. We are replanting the exposed areas with native understory trees and bushes that flower and provide food for wildlife. We potted the first 80 bare root shrubs of Parsley Hawthorne, Shining Sumac, Mayhaw, and Gallberry, all donated by the Mandeville Parks and Parkway Commission as part of their 'Free Tree Program'. We intend to integrate them in the first designated area surrounding the Visitors Center by end of March/beginning of April. This initiative is open to the Public and is also supported by volunteers from the FNPS and the Honey Island Group of the Sierra Club. It will be an ongoing project for quite some time.

Another initiative is the creation of native plant beds in different areas of the Park. The first was a

Pollinator Garden (July/ August 2021). The next bed has just received budget approval and will be built in March/April.

Sugarcane is native to the tropics. Most locals know that Fontainebleau was originally a Sugar Plantation and that its creator Bernard de Marigny also founded the nearby City of Mandeville. Few know much about the Sugar Mill ruins that sit

prominently by the main road in the middle of the Park or the im-



portance of Fontainebleau Plantation in Louisiana's Sugarcane history. The LSU AgCenter Sugarcane Research Center has donated cuttings of 'historical' heirloom sugarcane for us to create an edu-

The Fontainebleau State Park Project

St. Tammany Parish *cont.*

cational demo garden. Because of Hurricane IDA, planting was delayed and we had to pot them to over-winter. We are now in the site levelling and construction stage of the bed. The cuttings are due to be transplanted sometime in April.

Finally, at least for now, we started another project end of December courtesy of the Louisiana State Arboretum located in Chicot State Park. It is the oldest State Arboretum in the U.S. with over 150 Native Plant Species. They contacted us because they have had a Native Plant Project for over two years and could now share seeds. We initiated the 'Native Plants from Seed' project for Fontainebleau which will consist of two demo gardens, one wet and one Coastal Plains. We took the LSA seeds along with other native seeds donated to us, identified them as suitable for wet or dry, and potted them in early January to stratify over winter in natural conditions. We shall shortly confirm the two locations of the gardens and start site preparation.

Once an area is established it is our intention to provide educational signage for all the Native plants in the beds and trees within view of the General Public. It is also our goal to look after and maintain the work we have done. It has been challenging at times, but the rewards will continue to increase as more and more initiatives have been completed.



CALL FOR ACTION

CITIZEN SCIENTISTS NEEDED FOR MONARCH OE SPORE DISEASE MONITORING

Citizen scientists help track the spread of Oe (*Ophryocystis elektroscirrha*) parasites in monarchs across North America. Monarchs infected with OE cannot fly as well or live as long as healthy monarchs. Heavy infections cause death in the chrysalis or upon eclosing. Infection begins when caterpillars eat a milkweed leaf or egg case contaminated with as few as one parasite spore. If you would like to get involved with this nationwide monarch Oe monitoring research, please send an email to monarchhealth@gmail.com to receive a free kit with instructions on how to take samples to send to the University of Georgia for testing. Sampling can be done at any site with wild monarchs or from raised caterpillars. More information is available by visiting the website www.monarchparasites.org

CALL FOR CULLOWHEE APPLICANT

The LNPS Board of Directors recently voted to approve a donation to fund a sponsorship to attend the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference at Western Carolina State University, July 20-23, 2022. Held continuously since 1984, the Cullowhee Conference is perhaps the leading conference within the native plant movement, bringing together experts, professionals, and enthusiasts from across the country. Although we cannot guarantee that our sponsorship will necessarily go to a Louisiana applicant, we can certainly increase our chances of that happening if there is a nice pool of Louisiana applicants for the Cullowhee selection team to choose from!

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE HOWEVER as the deadline to apply for a sponsorship is midnight, **Sunday April 24, 2022.** (Note that each application also requires a supporting recommendation which must also be submitted by April 24.) The sponsorship program is open to students, emerging professionals, K-12 science teachers, and interns at public parks, nature centers and parks. Applications and recommendations may be submitted online at www.nativeplantconference.wcu.edu.

**Cullowhee
NATIVE
PLANT
Conference**

July 20 -23, 2022

The **Cullowhee Native Plant Conference**, hosted by Western Carolina University, is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge and application of native plants in landscape architecture, horticulture, and environmental science education.

The conference, held on the campus of **Western Carolina University**, is dedicated to connecting a diverse group of professionals, gardeners, educators, and students. Most of whom return annually for inspiration, knowledge, networking, and fun.

Sponsorship Program

Sponsorships are awarded annually to cover the cost of attending the conference. Students, emerging professionals, K-12 science teachers, and interns at public gardens, nature centers, and parks are encouraged to apply.

Visit our website for the application:
nativeplantconference.wcu.edu

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
Cullowhee Native Plant Conference
Since 1984

2022-23 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President: Lawrence Rozas
Immediate Past President: Brian Early
Secretary: Susan Webb
Treasurer: Jackie Duncan
Director: Tracey Banowetz
Director: Peggy Cox
Director: Tommy Hillman
Director: Margaret Vincent

LNPS NOTICES

1. If you are interested in the **Louisiana Certified Habitat Program**, please email louisianacertifiedhabitat@gmail.com for more information and to receive the application.
2. The LNPS Board of Directors proposed and approved the funding of one Cullowhee Native Plant Conference Scholarship in the amount of \$566. If you are interested, please apply at <http://nativeplantconference.wcu.edu>. The deadline is April 24. We would like very much for a Louisiana resident to receive this award. See page 10 for more info.

Newsletter Co-Editors may be contacted as follows:

Jackie Duncan, jacalynduncan@hotmail.com

Wendy Rihner, wrihner@gmail.com

The deadline for newsletter articles, etc. is July 15 for the next LNPS newsletter. Any article involving native plants is welcomed.

Annual LNPS Dues

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

Checks payable to LNPS.

Mail to: Jackie Duncan, Treasurer

114 Harpers Ferry Road

Boyce, LA 71409

Or, memberships and donations may be paid online at: www.lnps.org

