



LNPS Annual Conference, Feb 3rd-5th 2023 Speakers & Topics



Zachary Sides is a student at LSU in the school of Renewable Natural Resources, an officer in the LSU chapter of the Botanical Society of America, and a lifelong nature enthusiast. He has worked on a variety of conservation projects and has botanized many areas of Louisiana. Most recently, Zachary completed an internship with LDWF where he conducted general floristic surveys of a small band of prairies.

The Creston Prairies: A Deep Time Perspective: Learn about a small band of calcareous prairies in northwest Louisiana, the research conducted on them, and their history, all while taking a step back to look at a deep time perspective of grasslands and their ecology.



John Michael Kelley is a certified interpretive guide, Master Naturalist, and Self-taught Botanist and naturalist. John has long been interested in nature and outdoor skills and began studying botany in 2019. He has since conducted research on rare species and habitats of Louisiana and surrounding states. Much of his work as an independent researcher is delivered to state agencies and private interest groups to further the study of our region's biodiversity. Other discoveries are reported in scientific journals, with special regard for range extensions, unique population occurrences, and rapidly spreading invasive species. John Michael's work has been largely self-funded.

The Nature of Southern Old-Growth: What is "old-growth"? Is there any left? Why does it matter? This presentation will outline the major concepts of theoretical old-growth structure and compare this theory to modern and historical forests in Louisiana and neighboring states. Ideas in vogue will be discussed and a brief list of tips provided for the recognition of old stands. Bring your notebook! This is a fact-rich and picture-heavy presentation.



Keith Maung-Douglass is a project manager at CARBO Landscape Architecture with Master of Landscape Architecture from Temple University focusing on ecological restoration and a BS in Biology and Environmental Chemistry from Roger Williams Univ. Keith moved to Louisiana in 2014 after spending most of his life in Pennsylvania and New England. To assist in learning more about Louisiana flora and fauna, Keith got certified through the Louisiana Master Naturalist Assoc. in 2016 and joined the Capital Area Native Plant Society. Before joining CARBO in 2017, Keith worked as a research fellow at the LSU Coastal Sustainability Studio. While there, he worked on a range of coastal design

projects including the *Changing Course* design competition and the design of an interactive coastal Louisiana exhibit for the Center for River Studies. At CARBO, Keith enjoys incorporating native plants and green infrastructure into the design of projects. One of his focused interests is in the design, installation, and maintenance of native meadows.

The Right Plant in the Right Place: Using Native Plants in Landscape Design: There are many factors that may come into play when deciding on what plant is planted in a particular location. Personal bias, plant availability, and limited plant knowledge are often large contributing factors to why specific plants are chosen for our landscapes. Plants can serve many functions within our landscapes: shade, seasonal color,

visual interest, screening, erosion control, wildlife habitat, food source, stormwater management, etc., but can only fulfill these functions when they are alive and happy. In this talk, we will discuss these many different functions and explore how we can work within the site's conditions and other challenges to design a landscape that meets our desired goals.



Bette J. Kauffman is a Deacon in the Episcopal Church currently serving at Grace Episcopal in Monroe. She is a long-time member of LNPS and lifelong “wannabe biologist” whose interest in native plants eventually led to starting a very active chapter of Louisiana Master Naturalists in the northeast corner of the state. She is the current President of the statewide Louisiana Master Naturalist Association and a photographer of some accomplishment, having just won first place in the national *Wild Ones!* photo competition in the “It’s Alive!” category

Care of Creation Programs in LA: *How did one major religious organization get started doing and promoting “Care of Creation” as a ministry? What have we accomplished? What are our goals? This short talk will provide an insight into the history, current status and future plans of the Care of Creation efforts of the Episcopal Church in Western Louisiana.*



Jeff Agnew is a Senior Professor of Practice in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Tulane University. Jeff received his Ph.D. from Louisiana State University and his MS from the University of Florida. He has broad interests in the earth and life sciences and regularly teaches courses on natural history, environmental science, paleobiology, geology, and oceanography. Jeff is particularly interested in restoring native plant communities to residential landscapes.

Lessons from the Wild: Gardening in NOLA with Native Plants of Southern Louisiana

Take a journey to the fragmented natural habitats surrounding New Orleans as Jeff Agnew recounts his efforts to recreate a native plant community in his yard.



Austin Klais is a wildlife biologist with Quail Forever in NE LA working with private landowners and public partners to improve habitat for quail, pollinators, and other upland wildlife. Austin is an Arkansas native with his bachelor’s degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences from Arkansas Tech University. He began his career as a private consultant working with wetlands, water quality, and threatened and endangered species, then became a Farm Bill Biologist with Quail Forever in 2017 based in southeast Arkansas until he moved to Monroe in 2020 as a Coordinating Wildlife Biologist. He loves to assist with prescribed burns and teach people about native plants.

Wildlife Management Grounded in Native Plant and Habitat Restoration: *Wildlife management can be beneficial for game, nongame, generalist, and specialist species if grounded in the use of native plants and native habitat restoration. Actively managing habitats for appropriate uses based on ecological characteristics of the site gives us the best chance of long-term success. Working with the naturally existing habitat conditions is the only truly sustainable, low risk investment strategy. Combining knowledge of landscape ecology, landowner objectives, and financial resources can help create high quality habitat that benefits many of the rare/declining species in the state and ideally the ones which were historically supported in the area. With all these things in mind, we can help manage for the 1) best version of the currently available habitat, 2) most natural habitat based on the location, and/or 3) best habitat option given the circumstances including management limitations or landscape changes since the historical condition.*

