

December 2024

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### Inside this Issue:

<i>LNPS 2024 Annual Conference</i>	1
Annual Meeting Registration, Map, Auctions	2-3
Annual Conference Speakers and Topics	4-5
Friday Field Trip	6
Financial Assistance	7
2023 LNPS Grant Recipients	8
LNPCP, Wild Ones	9
Fall Foliage at Briarwood	10
Seeds in Kisatchie	11-12
Yellow Passion Flower	13
LNPS Board Nominations	14
Karlene DeFatta Award Nominations	15

- 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

## LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



# LNPS NEWSLETTER

## LNPS 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

February 23-25, 2024  
Wesley Center, Woodworth, LA

### Friday, February 23, 2024

1:00 pm	Field Trip (Optional) - Southern Forest Heritage Museum (See Page 6 for details.)
5:00 pm	<b>Registration Open</b> —visit Vendors, Exhibitors, Silent Auction. Complimentary hot meal in the Meeting Room. Bring desserts.
5:45-6:30 pm	<b>Kimberly Hamm</b> , <i>Can Urban Bees Take the Heat? Effects of Urban Warming on Plant-Pollinator Interactions</i>
6:45-7:45 pm	<b>John Hartgerink</b> , <i>Learning Nature's Stories through the Windows on Bluebonnet Swamp</i>

### Saturday, February 24, 2024

7:00-8:15am	Registration Open, Breakfast in Dining Hall
8:30am	<b>Aaron Pierce</b> , <i>Coastal Plant Propagation and Restoration Work</i>
9:30-10:00am	<b>Braden Doucet</b> — <i>Grassland Gumbo: Investigating Local Adaptation to Spice Up Cajun Prairie Restoration</i>
10:45-11am	TRIVIA QUESTIONS (answers will follow business meeting)
11:00-11:45am	LNPS Business Meeting—The Year in Review, LNPS Business, Trivia answers
12:00	Lunch in Dining Hall
1:10 pm	<b>Christina Calcaterra</b> , <i>Conservation on Fort Johnson</i>
2:10 pm	<b>Dr. Aimee Thomas</b> , <i>How Native Plants in Louisiana and Spiders Weave a Vital Web of Life</i>
3:20 pm	NATIVE PLANT AUCTION in the meeting room SILENT AUCTION FINAL RESULTS
5:00 pm	Dinner in the Dining Hall
6:00 pm	Campfire by the Lake

### Sunday, February 25, 2023

7:00-8:15 am	Breakfast in the Dining Hall
9:00 am	FIELD TRIPS—Meet in the front entrance of Wesley Center

## ***REGISTRATION FORM***

### **LNPS Annual Conference, February 23-25, 2024**

**Wesley Center, 2350 Methodist Parkway, Woodworth, Louisiana 71485**

**REGISTER by February 9, 2024** at [La Native Plant Society Payments | THE WESLEY CENTER](#) or return PRE-REGISTRATION FORM below to Wesley Center. Cancellations must be made in writing to the Wesley Center by February 16, 2024 in order to receive a full refund less a \$25 fee. Cancellations after February 16, 2024 are non-refundable. Contact Jackie Duncan for questions at [jacalynduncan@hotmail.com](mailto:jacalynduncan@hotmail.com) or text 318-277-4731.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>COMMUTER RATES:</b>	Friday only	_____ @ \$15.00ea	\$_____
	Saturday with lunch	_____ @ \$30.00ea	\$_____
	Fri and Sat. with lunch	_____ @ \$42.00ea	\$_____

<b>ADD ON MEALS</b> (if not in package):	Sunday breakfast	_____ @ \$14.00ea	\$_____
	Saturday dinner	_____ @ \$19.00ea	\$_____

### **ONSITE LODGING**

**Friday and Saturday nights** with Sat. breakfast, lunch and dinner (Sun. breakfast is optional above).

Private	_____ @ \$280 ea	\$_____
Double	_____ @ \$210 ea	\$_____
Triple +	_____ @ \$200 ea	\$_____

**Friday night** with Sat. breakfast and lunch (Sat dinner is optional above). RATES ARE PER PERSON

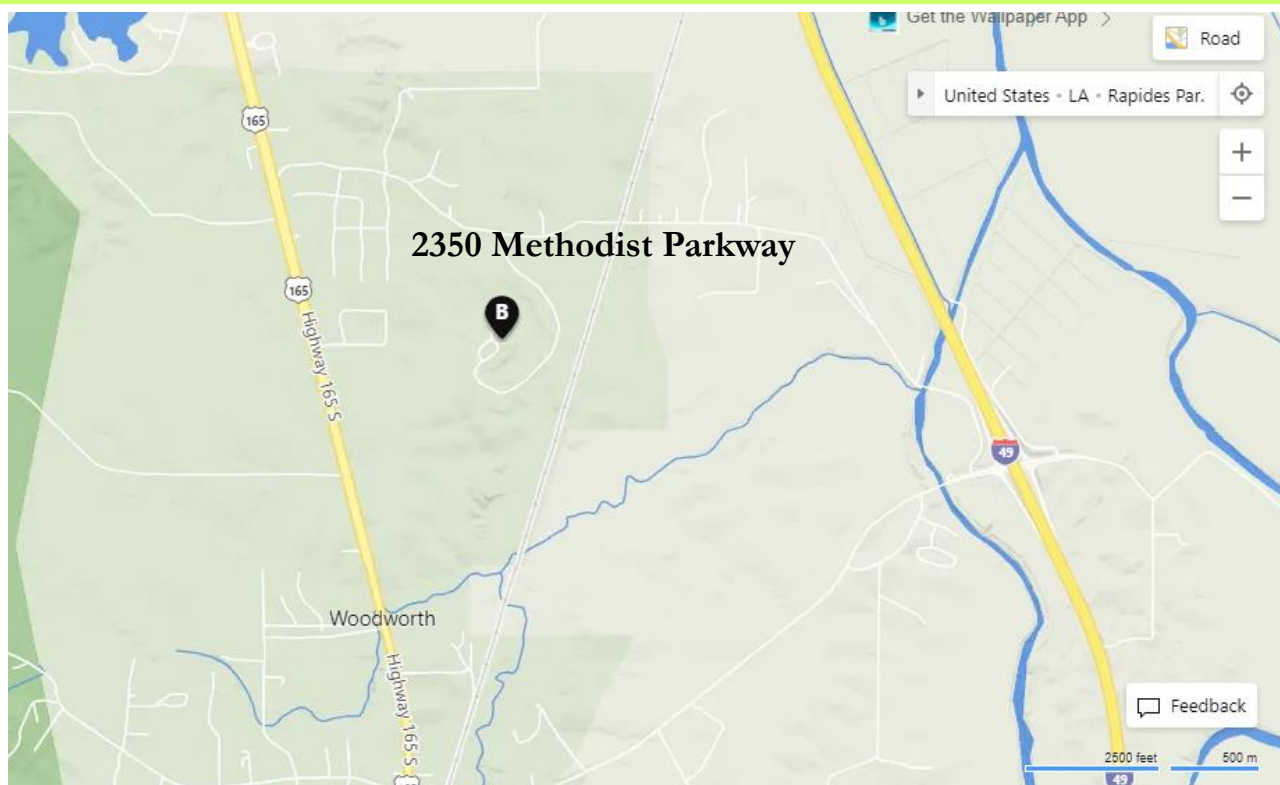
Private	_____ @ \$160 ea	\$_____
Double	_____ @ \$125 ea	\$_____
Triple +	_____ @ \$120 ea	\$_____

**Saturday night** with Sat. lunch and dinner (Sun. breakfast is optional above). RATES ARE PER PERSON

Private	_____ @ \$150 ea	\$_____
Double	_____ @ \$130 ea	\$_____
Triple +	_____ @ \$125 ea	\$_____
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 FEBRUARY 9, 2024**



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 east on Coulee Crossing Road. Then turn east 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

## Silent Auction, Plant Auction

For the first time, LNPS will have a Silent Auction during the Annual Meeting. Bring your items Friday evening or Saturday morning by 10 am. The auction will conclude Saturday afternoon.

The Plant Auction will continue as at previous meetings with native plants being auctioned Saturday afternoon immediately following the meeting. Bring any native plants you have to offer and place them at the front of the meeting room on the tarp. Make sure to label your plants so that folks know what they are.

# LNPS Annual Conference

## Speakers and Topics



**Kimberly Hamm** is a third-year graduate student at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in the Louisiana Native Bee Lab under Dr. Mark Genung. She received her M.S. in Ecological Restoration from the University of Florida, with a focus on prairie restoration and reestablishment, and is a current member of the Acadiana Master Naturalists, the Acadiana Native Plant Project, and the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society.

### ***Can Urban Bees Take the Heat? Effects of Urban Warming on Plant-Pollinator Interactions:***

*Conversion of land into urban areas increases impervious surface cover, leading to greater heat retention and warmer temperatures, a phenomenon known as the urban heat island effect. Understanding how ectothermic animals like native bees respond to these novel environments is necessary given the intensification of urbanization, climate change, and concerns about native bee decline. Kimberly was awarded an LNPS Grant in 2021 to study possible changes in native bee behavior, morphology, and thermal tolerances resulting from these environmental pressures and will summarize her research to date in this presentation.*



**John Hartgerink** and his wife Cindy signed on as volunteers at Bluebonnet Swamp after they both retired from Exxon Mobil 20+ years ago. Hartgerink has been documenting the flora and fauna there ever since. Hartgerink was

BREC's first Volunteer of the Year in 2008 and is still actively volunteering and loves teaching others about this special place.

### ***Learning Nature's Stories through the Windows on Bluebonnet Swamp***

*Bluebonnet Swamp is often referred to as an "island" surrounded by urban "Baton Rouge." John and his wife live close by this 100 acre park donated by the Nature conservancy to BREC in 1997. Hartgerink has come to know every corner of the property and its inhabitants — which include plants, frogs, turtles, snakes, birds, insects and mammals. He considers himself a self-taught naturalist and has taken over 800,000 photos of the natural wonders of the park. This talk describes the lessons learned from the diverse fauna and flora as they lived their lives, reacting to each other and to changes around them including how to find them, how to ID them and how to learn more about them and finally how to teach others about them. John describes the battle there against invasive species, which ones they are dealing with and how.*



**Aaron Pierce** is the Nursery and Coastal Restoration Manager for Resource Environmental Solutions, one of the largest ecological restoration companies in the country founded in Baton Rouge in 2007. Aaron manages the propagation at RES' 40-acre nursery in Montegut, LA where coastal

and other native plants are produced for vast restoration projects.

### ***Coastal Plant Propagation and Restoration***

**Work:** *RES has managed over 37 mitigation sites in Louisiana and Texas, restoring over 20,000 acres of wetlands, streams barrier islands, swamp, marsh and other habitats. Aaron will describe the different types of native plants grown by RES from Black Mangrove to Coastal grasses to Dune plants...and the massive nursery where these thousands of plant propagules are grown which includes a saltwater well, 15 ponds and much more and how they are transported to these difficult sites.*



# LNPS Annual Conference

## Speakers and Topics *cont.*



**Braden Doucet** was born and raised in Maurice, Louisiana. He attended the University of Louisiana at Lafayette for his undergraduate degree in Biology. During his undergraduate years, Braden was a student researcher studying drought resistance adaptations in

*Mimulus guttatus*. Braden is currently in his second semester of his Master's, where he is investigating the putative local adaptation in two Cajun Prairie grasses: *Panicum virgatum* and *Schizachyrium scoparium*.

### ***Grassland Gumbo: Investigating Local Adaptation to Spice Up Cajun Prairie Restoration:***

Braden will discuss some of the potential problems for Cajun Prairie restoration that result from its unique history, as well as how his research is working to enable more informed decision making for Cajun Prairie restoration.



**Christina Calcaterra** was born in St. Louis and began her career in botany at the University of Minnesota where she studied plant ID on the prairies and oak savannas at Ceder Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve. Her broad interest in botany led to work in landscaping, ecotourism, and regenerative agriculture. Follow-

ing graduate work in bioinformatics, and teaching at Colorado State University, she spent 2 yrs with the National Ecological Observation Network, collecting vegetative data for public use in Alabama and N. Dakota. Since 2021, she has been at Fort Johnson (previously Ft Polk) as the Subject Matter Expert in botany, monitoring vegetation and prescribing management actions to conserve its unique flora.

***Conservation on Fort Johnson:*** Fort Johnson, in West Central Louisiana, harbors many quality examples of dis-

appearing plant communities of the Gulf Plains. Under the Sikes Act, an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan is in place for the consideration of these natural resources amid military development and operations. Many rare plants can be found thriving in the pockets of bogs, deep sandy woods, and baygalls of the Kisatchie National Forest and adjacent military lands. This presentation will take us through the unique flora found in these and other communities of Fort Johnson.



**Dr. Aimée K. Thomas** is an Asst. Professor of Biological Sciences at Loyola University in New Orleans. Recent projects have focused on spider communities in Belize, New Orleans City Park, and Jean Lafitte National Park, insect pollinators in urban landscapes, using urban landscapes as a learning lab, and STEM education in informal learning environments.

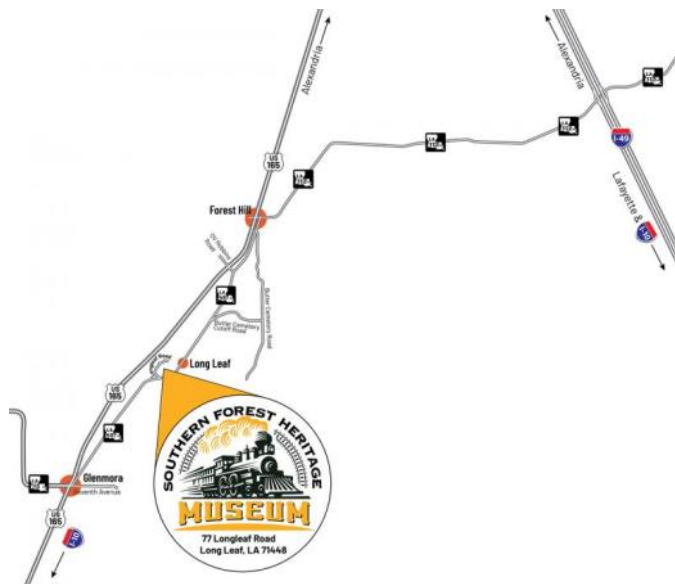
Dr. Thomas currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Louisiana Master Naturalists of Greater New Orleans and co-hosts and produces a local podcast for Louisiana PBS "The Southern Naturalist" which explores wild areas of Louisiana with fellow scientists and naturalists.

***How Native Plants in Louisiana and Spiders Weave a Vital Web of Life:*** Embark on a fascinating journey through the rich biodiversity of Louisiana's native flora and the intricate relationships that exist within this ecosystem. Louisiana, with its diverse landscapes, plays host to an incredible array of plant species, and it's these native plants that serve as the foundation for a web of life teeming with a remarkable array of creatures, including spiders. Explore the interconnectedness of the natural world as we delve into the vital roles that native plants play in maintaining ecological balance, from providing sustenance for pollinators to offering shelter for countless wild-life species. The discussion will shed light on the often underappreciated yet essential role of spiders in Louisiana's ecosystems. These eight-legged marvels contribute significantly to pest control and the overall health of local habitats. Leave with a newfound understanding of the importance of preserving native plants and the vital role that spiders play in weaving the intricate web of life in Louisiana.

## Friday Afternoon Field Trip Option

### Southern Forest Heritage Museum

The **Southern Forest Heritage Museum** is a complex of historic buildings, also on the National Register of Historic Places, preserved from an old sawmill in the beautiful piney woods of Longleaf, Louisiana, 3 miles south of Forest Hill, south of the city of Alexandria on the edge of the Alexander Forest Wildlife Management Area. During the early 20th century, thousands of sawmill towns like Longleaf were created to meet the needs of the lumber industry and to provide employment for logging and mill workers. Lumbering of massive areas of old growth forests during that period provided a means to stabilize the economy of the South devastated by the Civil War. When the lumber supplies diminished, so did the towns. The Red River and Gulf Railroad line, born from a lumber tramway is also featured on the grounds, with rides available for visitors.



Follow I-49 or Highway 165 from the north or the south, venturing through Forest Hill, Louisiana, and find your way onto Highway 497 to access Longleaf Road and the Southern Forest Heritage Museum. You **cannot access Longleaf Road from Highway 165**, despite what Google Maps says, the road does not go through the museum. Only Highway 497 will lead you to the museum entrance on Longleaf Road.

**Tour Time:** 1 pm (self-guided)  
Friday, February 23, 2024

**Location:** 77 Longleaf Rd  
Longleaf, LA 71448

**Admission:** \$8/adult  
\$5/child (6-12yrs)

**Train ride:** \$6 (The train does not run when it is raining.)

**Museum Hours:** 9am till 4pm

**Phone:** 318-748-8404

**Website:** [Southern Forest Heritage Museum](http://SouthernForestHeritageMuseum.com)

The tour for the Louisiana Native Plant Society has been booked for 1pm, Friday, February 23, 2024. Individuals may pay when you get there, so I suggest getting there early. This is a self-guided tour. They will provide a brochure and get you started. Editor's note: This was a Crowell mill and when they abandoned the mill in 1969 they just shut the door and left. So there is still old lumber laying in the sheds from when they were in operation. Very interesting.

## Financial Assistance to Attend the LNPS Conference

LNPS has dedicated funds to help individuals wishing to attend the LNPS Annual Conference who otherwise might be financially constrained from doing so. Our goal is to enhance the skill set being applied to native plant advocacy and education in the state of Louisiana by having passionate and energetic people attend the conference, learn and apply the connections made and education received towards the LNPS mission: the preservation, conservation, and study of native plants in their habitats; the promotion of knowledge of their utilization; and the education of the public about the values of native plants and their habitats.

**Applicants for these grants are eligible for up to \$250 in assistance towards securing lodging and meals to attend the conference. You must submit a brief proposal to the LNPS Board at [lnpsinbox@gmail.com](mailto:lnpsinbox@gmail.com) no later than January 21st, 2024. The Board will review, select and notify awardees by February 5th .**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email and cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Describe your reason for wanting to attend the Conference and what contributions you anticipate being able to make towards the LNPS mission.

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

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## 2023 LNPS Grant Recipients

A special thanks goes out to the 2023 LNPS Grant Committee for devoting time to grantee application evaluations and to ZOOM call participation. The 2023 LNPS Grant Committee consisted of: Tammany Baumgarten (chair), Kimberlee Burt, Chris Doffitt, Jackie Duncan, Phyllis Griffard, John Michael Kelley, Gloria McClure, and Patrick O'Connor. A total of \$7,700 was awarded to the following projects.

### 2023 Grant Awardees

Project Name	Applicant	Description	Awarded
Outbound Jr. Naturalist Christ Episcopal EXPANDED CURRICULUM	Margaret deLaureal	Purchase recording and observation equipment for completing student nature walks, guided writing and art to be compiled into the "Junior Naturalist yearbook." Covington, LA	<b>\$600</b>
LA SUPREME COURT SATELLITE OFFICE GARDEN	Jay McCallum	Hire a landscape designer to guide locals in creating a native demonstration garden on the adjoining grounds of a public building. Farmerville, LA	<b>\$1,000</b>
BULBANCHA BLOOMS COMMUNITY GARDEN	Lilith Dorsey	Replace missing and damaged items; reinforce and expand security fencing, amend garden for planting. New Orleans	<b>\$800</b>
Native Plant Outdoor Classroom Enhancement at UNO's Coastal Education and Research Facility	Diane Maygarden	Continue creation of a bioswale, rain garden, and ridge planting of shrubs, trees and herbaceous plants and expand lawn replacement to highlight native plants of this estuary New Orleans	<b>\$1,000</b>
JAZZ MUSEUM NATIVE PLANT GARDEN MASTER GARDENERS OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS	Susan Goss	Implement a 5 year plan to enhance and expand existing gardens at The New Orleans Jazz Museum, 400 Esplanade Avenue, to integrate the Museum's outdoor space into its overarching celebration of New Orleans' cultural and historic roots while also promoting native plants and their importance to our culture and the environment. New Orleans	<b>\$1,000</b>
GIRL SCOUT BRONZE AWARD	Nicolette Carroll	Junior Girl Scout to win Bronze Award (to identify and solve a problem in nature) by planting new native plants and dig a pond for the benefit of insect pollinators at Allen Acres Natural Area, Vernon Parish	<b>\$500</b>
The Whitney Institute Conservation Grounds Project	Trenice Cooper	Develop an underutilized area of The Whitney Institute into a conservation ground dedicated to showcasing native Louisiana plant species. Wallace, LA, St. John the Baptist Parish	<b>\$1,000</b>
Lecompte Smith's Landing Native Plant Garden	Paula Trudeau	Refresh and modify the existing flower bed at Smith's Landing in Lecompte, Louisiana (Rapides Parish)	<b>\$500</b>
Chickens in the Meadow Northshore High School Agriculture Department	Eric Heiden	Create a 10x30 meadow to introduce students to the importance of native plants in agriculture, in eco-restoration, and in beautification. The meadow will be a live demonstration of the role pollinators play in agriculture Slidell, St. Tammany Parish	<b>\$800</b>
St. Mary Parish Library Flower Beds	Ashton Myers	Overhauling the flower beds at Franklin and Centerville branches with at least 50% native Louisiana plants. Franklin, LA, St. Mary Parish	<b>\$500</b>



## LNPS Project: (LNPCP) Louisiana Native Professional Certification Program

A committee, headed by LNPS Board Member Dona Weifenbach, is in the works to develop curriculum and training for Louisiana landscape professionals by which local landscape professionals are trained to understand the ecology of, identify, design with, propagate and maintain native plant landscapes. This program will ultimately create a listing/directory of those successfully completing the instruction and their level of certification, easing the process for homeowners, municipalities, and government entities of finding qualified and knowledgeable professionals in this field. Similar to green infrastructure training programs, this native landscape certification will be used as criteria for evaluating applicants for contracts or other native plant-related jobs — all of which increases the quality and number of native plant installations in our state and region!

LNPS applied for and was awarded a grant from Louisiana Landscape and Nursery Foundation for Scholarship and Research towards this program and an additional grant from BTNEP (Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program) is pending. To date, LNPCP Committee members have been recruited from multiple disciplines, each requiring the knowledge and understanding of native plants and their habitats. These committee members represent businesses that include landscape architects and contractors, retail and wholesale nursery sellers and growers, maintenance firms, forestry and mitigation banking firms, parks and recreation, coastal, wetland, and prairie restoration, green infrastructure and stormwater management.

## Wild Ones: Native Plants Natural Landscapes

*By Wendy Rihner*

In 1977, nine people at a conference in Milwaukee sat listening to Lorrie Otto, the pioneer of natural landscaping with native plants. Otto was their inspiration, and Wild Ones was born of their enthusiasm. Today, Wild Ones remains the only national not-for-profit organization advocating for native plants in natural landscapes. It has 9,300 members in over 100 chapters in 34 states, coast to coast.

Louisiana has three chapters: Wild Ones Western Gulf Plain (West Central LA and Southeast TX), Wild Ones Greater Baton Rouge (E/W Baton Rouge, St. Helena, Ascension, Livingston, E/W Feliciana, Tangipahoa), and Wild Ones Ponchartrain Basin (St. Tammany and Washington).

All Wild Ones chapters share the same mission: to promote “environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities.” In short, Wild Ones wants to become known as the “Audubon” for plants, “healing the Earth one landscape at a time” ([wildones.org](http://wildones.org))

To that end, chapter members can participate in a wide variety of public and members-only events: educational tabling, working with school gardens or community gardens, propagation workshops, webinars, plant sales, to name just a few. Education on the importance of natives in the landscapes of homes, parks, churches, office buildings, schools is the goal.

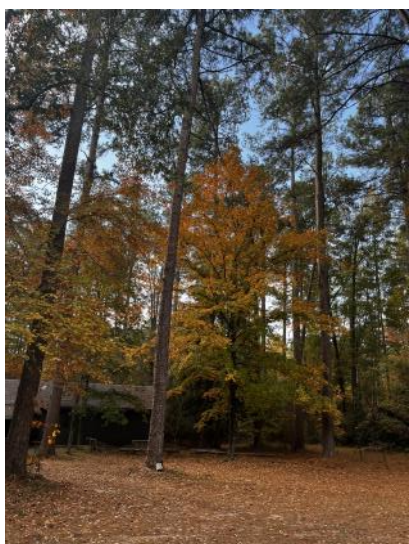
For information on Wild Ones, head to [www.wildones.org](http://www.wildones.org). You can locate the LA chapters by clicking on the “Find a chapter” button on the righthand sidebar.

# Fall Foliage at Briarwood

*By Bayli Brossette, Curator at Briarwood*

As the days become shorter and temperatures get cooler, the fall foliage at Briarwood is leaving an impact on our visitors. I often hear from folks across the state that there is no area to view good fall foliage in Louisiana. Fortunately, Briarwood is just the place for that. Even though most of our native species were left a little crispy after the awful drought and lack of rain for 55 days, they pulled through just in time for the fall tour season.

Once you enter Briarwood, you will be delighted to see the Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) trees. With their



distinctive mottled bark and palmately veined leaves, they are among the first contributors to Briarwood's fall beauty just following the red leaves of the Blackgum (*Nyssa aquatica*). Their leaves transition from green to a warm blend of gold and amber, forming a striking contrast against the azure sky. Further down the

road, you will notice the fiery red leaves of the Sourwood (*Oxydendrum arbo-reum*). The brilliance of their crimson foliage creates a visual feast that can't be ignored. While the Bigleaf Magnolias (*Magnolia macrophylla*) have dropped almost all their leaves, they have created a majestic display amongst the pines. With their large leaves, it is one of the best understory



trees of all seasons. The most beautiful tree for fall,



the Maple (*Acer* spp.), paints the landscape with hues ranging from fiery reds to warm oranges.

Although these are just a few common native species that add to the beautiful fall foliage, they are, in my opinion, the best. The fall season may be short,

and non-existent in some parts of the state, but Briarwood stands as a testament to the breathtaking beauty that unfolds when the seasons change.

In 2024, Briarwood will be undergoing a few changes. Starting January 1st, all tours will be by appointment only, anytime throughout the year. We have a few exciting events coming up, such as Tom Sawyer Day on February 17th. Our annual Spring Picnic, titled 'Year of the Iris', will be held on April 20th. This day will be dedicated to honoring the Louisiana Iris and revealing our partially restored Bay Garden. The Bay Garden, started by Caroline Dormon, holds record to being the oldest collection of Louisiana Irises in the country. We invite you to come and see the hard work we have accomplished since September. There will be live music, lunch, tours, door prizes, and much more.

As always, we invite you to come and experience Briarwood Nature Preserve. You can schedule an appointment on our website, [www.briarwoodnp.org](http://www.briarwoodnp.org), or call Curator Bayli Brossette at 318-576-3379. Thank you for supporting the Louisiana Native Plant Society and being dedicated to preserving our precious native species.



# Seeds in Kisatchie in November

*By Jackie Duncan*

Here are a few seeds I found in Kisatchie National Forest recently. Some seeds are somewhat shriveled due to the dry conditions and high heat of this past summer. .



*Smilax pumila*, sarsaparilla vine differs from the other smilax in that it has no thorns and has red berries. Dr. Allen has said that this could be used as a ground cover.



Possumhaw, *Viburnum nudum*, has great bird food in the Fall providing blue-black berries. This year they are not as plump as usual.



Joe Pye Weed, *Eutrochium purpureum*, a great pollinator plant.



French mulberry, *Callicarpa americana*



## Seeds in Kisatchie in November cont.

*By Jackie Duncan*



Red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*). Shrub in usually wetter areas.



Tree huckleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*)



Cowbane (*Oxyypolis rigidior*)  
Carrot family. Wetter areas. Tall



Milkweed, not sure which one.  
Maybe *Asclepias variegata*, white



# Yellow Passion Flower (*Passiflora lutea*)

*By John Michael Kelley*



**Common name-** yellow passionflower

**Scientific names-** *Passiflora lutea* L.

**Family-** Passifloraceae

**Form-** Herbaceous vine

**Season of Bloom-** Summer

**Height-** 2-6'

**Stems-** Medium green, glabrous or sparsely hairy

**Leaves-** Three lobed, highly dimorphic and changing node-by-node up the stem, with white variegation or a digital camo pattern along the primary veins, glaucous or not beneath, L/W 0.5-2, to 5" wide, glabrous, tendrils long and tightly coiled.

**Inflorescence-** Individual flowers usually paired at the nodes, on thin pedicels.

**Flower and fruit-** Flowers highly modified with 5 sepals and 5 petals, a ring of filaments gives an exploded appearance, like other species in shape but barely over 1" wide, yellowish green. Fruits under 1", deep purple, staining strongly and suitable for dye or ink, many seeded, cucumber-like taste, evidently edible.

**Habitat-** Wooded edges, bottomland hardwood forests, calcareous prairie margins, disturbed areas later in recovery.

**Associates-** Water oak, Virginia creeper, Loblolly and Shortleaf pines, Muscadine, Poison ivy

**Range-** Statewide, widespread in the southeast

**Status-** Common, least concern

**Notes-** This species has very odd leaves. The shapes and patterns may be deterrents against use by fritillary and heliconian butterflies, a point illustrated clearly in other members of the genus. The species' fruit looks very appealing to wildlife, although the stems and leaves contain cyanide. The fleshy texture and individually coated seeds are ideal for mammalian dispersal, protected from damage in the digestive tract. Deer and Turkey eat the young stems in spring, but virtually nothing is known about uses of the fruit by wildlife. I am working to make observations on this but nothing yet.



## **LNPS is seeking nominations for The 2024 Board of Directors**

- terms are 2-year duration
- the Board meets approx. 6x per year online

### **Open Positions for 2024:**

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary

Consider contributing your time and talents to help advance the LNPS mission. It's important!

*Never served on a Board before?  
Have Questions? reach out and let's talk.*

It takes just a few hours of the year to help us run LNPS and make an impact. [EMAIL US](#) your questions or a bit about yourself for consideration to work alongside us next year.

*For the preservation, conservation, and study of native plants in their habitats; the promotion of knowledge of their utilization; and the education of the public about the values of native plants and their habitats.*

## Karlene DeFatta Award Nominations

The **Karlene Defatta Award** is the highest award given by LNPS and is given in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in the areas of conservation, preservation, and education of the public in the appreciation of and uses of native plants.

**Nominations are now being accepted!** Any LNPS member can nominate a person from the state of Louisiana who meets these qualifications. If a suitable recipient is nominated by a member, the nomination will be reviewed by the Board. If approved, the award is generally given at the annual LNPS Conference.

To date, the following distinguished persons have received the Karlene Defatta Award:

- 1992 Karlene DeFatta
- 1995 Richard and Jessie Johnson
- 1996 Robert Murry
- 2001 Jack and Ella Price
- 2002 Margie Yates Jenkins
- 2004 R. Dale Thomas
- 2005 Olga and Walter Clifton
- 2005 John Larkin
- 2007 Charles Allen
- 2009 Bill Fontenot
- 2018 Beth Erwin
- 2019 Loice Kendrick-Lacy
- 2020 Jim Foret & John Mayronne
- 2022 Rick & Susan Webb
- 2023 Jacalyn Duncan

If you would like to nominate someone in Louisiana for this distinction, please [EMAIL US](#) the name of your nominee and a description of their qualifying accomplishments.

## 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](http://www.lnps.org)

