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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

Louisiana Wildlife Action Plan: An Important Tool for the Conservation and Management of Invasive Species *by Lawrence Rozas*

Congress enacted legislation in 2001 creating the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program in response to declines in wildlife populations across the U.S. A focus of this program, which is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is to fund proactive conservation measures that can be taken by tribes and states to reverse population declines and prevent future listings under the Endangered Species Act. State fish and wildlife agencies that wish to participate in this program and receive federal support are required to develop a Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) to guide the use of the funds for implementing the program.

The Louisiana WAP was developed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and initially approved in 2005. This WAP provides guidelines for conserving non-game species in Louisiana; and to ensure the plan continues to be effective, it must be updated every 10 years. The WAP is essentially a blueprint for LDWF and its conservation partners to develop and implement management actions to conserve fish and wildlife species and the habitats on which they depend.

The current Louisiana WAP was published in 2015, and revisions to this document were published in 2019 ([LA WAP 2015 and Revisions 2019](#)). The document summarized information on the status of fish and wildlife species and habitats in Louisiana. Based on this data synthesis, those wildlife populations believed to be in decline were identified as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). Those SGCN listed in the 2015 Louisiana WAP

Louisiana Wildlife Action Plan: An Important Tool for the Conservation and Management of Invasive Species *cont.*

included 345 animal and 340 plant species. The Louisiana WAP also identified threats to SGCN, as well as research/monitoring needs and conservation action needed to improve the status of these species.

Invasive species are a major threat to SGCN and their habitats in Louisiana. In fact, an entire chapter of the Louisiana WAP was devoted to the threat posed by invasive species to native wildlife and their habitats ([LA WAP Chapter 6](#)). Louisiana is not the only state affected by invasive species. Losses from approximately 50,000 invasive species in the U.S. have been estimated to exceed \$200 billion annually. Louisiana, however, is more vulnerable than most other states to invasive-species infestations because of its favorable climate. High rates of precipitation; long, hot summers; and short, mild winters enhance the chances that once introduced into Louisiana, non-native species will become established here.

Chapter 6 of the Louisiana WAP provides sources of general information, laws and regulations, and the identification and control of invasive species. More specific to our state, Section C of the chapter includes a list of invasive species “known to occur in Louisiana that have, or are likely to have, impacts on SGCN or their habitats”. These species are classified into four different tiers defined by degree of invasiveness. Tier I species are defined as “currently causing severe or widespread negative impacts on wildlife or natural communities in Louisiana”. A few common examples of Tier I plants are Coral Ardisia (*A. crenata*), Camphor Tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*), Elephant Ear (*Colocasia esculenta*), Bermuda Grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), and Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*). Tier II species are “currently causing moderately negative impacts on wildlife or natural communities in Louisiana. Examples of Tier II plants are Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), Paper Mulberry (*Broussonetia papyrifera*), Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), English Ivy (*Hedera helix*), and Monkeygrass *Liriope muscari*. Invasive plants classified as Tiers III or IV are currently deemed to be having less impact on native species and their habitats. Tier III

species may currently occur in the state, but have no known or anticipated significant or moderate impact on native wildlife or natural communities. Tier IV species are not known to occur in the state, but are deemed to have the potential to invade in the near future.

The next section of the chapter is devoted to general management actions LDWF identified to counter the threats from invasive species. More specific information for each of the Tier I species follows this section. A general description of each Tier I species’ native habitat, means of introduction, specific threats, and current distribution within Louisiana are given. The current range of distribution in Louisiana is presented in map form. Research needs and management actions are listed as well.

The Louisiana WAP, and more specifically, the information in Chapter 6 of this plan, should be a wakeup call for citizens of Louisiana. Much more needs to be done to protect our native wildlife and the habitats essential for their survival from the increasing threat of invasive species. Many of the Tier I invasive species continue to be sold in Louisiana by the nursery trade. We need to make nursery owners and the general public more aware of the threat of Tier I and II invasive species to our natural heritage.

To that end, a group of LNPS members recently sent a letter ([LNPS letter](#)) to, and met with, Dr. Mike Strain, the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. We wanted to ensure that Dr. Strain was aware of the Louisiana WAP and more specifically, the threat of invasive plants to native plant populations and ecosystems in Louisiana. We were interested in learning what action Dr. Strain could take to counter this threat and how LNPS could help with his effort in this regard. Dr. Strain indicated that his office did not have the authority to regulate the sale of invasive plants in the state; legislation likely would be required. Even requiring warning labels on the inva-

Louisiana Wildlife Action Plant: An Important Tool for the Con- servation and Management of Invasive Species *cont.*

sive species being sold in the nursery trade would require legislation, in his opinion.

Much more can and must be done by LNPS. We can ask nursery owners not to continue selling these invasive plants and gardeners not to use these plants in their landscapes. LNPS is pursuing the possibility of working with the Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association (LNLA) and perhaps the LSU Ag Center to educate nursery professionals, horticulturists, landscapers, and the general public about the threat of invasive species. We want everyone to know the identity of all plants currently listed as Tier I or Tier II invasive plant species. Our hope is that as business owners and the public become informed about the many negative impacts of invasive species, these species will no longer be available in the trade and used by the gardening community. Efforts to control and manage these species can then be focused on controlling and managing the invasive plant populations already established within the state.

LNPS Goes to the Capital!

LNPS President Tammany Baumgarten, VP Lawrence Rozas and Board Members Susan Norris-Davis, Phyllis Griffard and Dona Weifenbach manned a table in the Capitol Rotunda in Baton Rouge on June 6th. We talked with legislators as they came and went from sessions as well as many of their aides and other building staff. Phyllis had her bag of yarn that represents the 6000 caterpillars (only found on native plants) needed for a clutch of Chickadees to survive. Bouquets of Mountain Mint and mixed native flowers from our gardens impressed everyone who stopped by and we gave away dozens of native plants (Penstemon, Tickseed and Boltonia) and packaged seeds provided by both ANPP and NPI. We plan to go back again next year so that this new audience gets

to know us and continues to hear our message about the critical importance of native plants.



The Red Oaks of Louisiana

By R. Dale Thomas (Reprinted from Autumn 1994 LNPS Newsletter)

All oaks belong to the genus *Quercus* in the family Fagaceae, along with chinquapins, chestnuts, and beeches. There are approximately 400 species of oaks in North America, Mexico, West Indies, Central America, Columbia, Eurasia, and Northern Africa. About 88 of these are native to the United States and Canada and 29 grow naturally in Louisiana. Oaks are divided up into subgenera — white oaks, red oaks, and live oaks. Live oaks have evergreen leaves. White oaks have no bristles on the tips of the leaf lobes and the acorns mature in one growing season. Red oaks have bristles on the tips of the leaf lobes and the acorns require two years to mature. The wood of red oaks is much more porous than that of white oaks. This porous wood allows it to absorb more wood preservatives and thus makes it good for cross-ties and treated lumber, but it prevents them from being used for the making of liquid containers such as barrels.

According to the Flora of North America treatment that is now being reviewed, the correct names for Louisiana's 13 species of red oaks are:

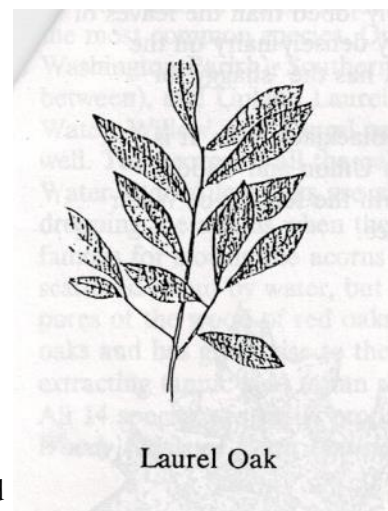
- Quercus incana* — Bluejack or Sandjack Oak
- Quercus laurifolia* — Laurel Oak
- Quercus hemisphaerica* — Upland Laurel Oak
- Quercus phellos* — Willow Oak
- Quercus nigra* — Water Oak
- Quercus imbricaria* — Shingle Oak
- Quercus falcata* — Southern Red or Spanish Oak
- Quercus pagoda* — Cherrybark Oak
- Quercus laevis* — Turkey-foot Oak
- Quercus marilandica* — Blackjack Oak
- Quercus texana* — Nuttall Oak or Striped Oak
- Quercus shumardii* — Shumard Oak
- Quercus velutina* — Black Oak

The water oak complex, including *Q. laurifolia*, *hemisphaerica*, *phellos*, and *nigra*, and by some, *obtuse*, hybridizes so frequently that many individuals occur that are most difficult to identify. All have small acorns and

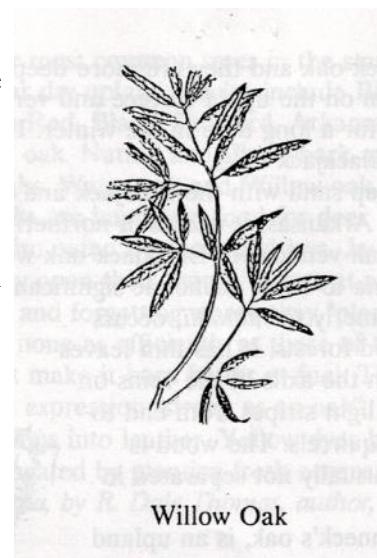
the leaves are smaller than those of the other oaks and are not hairy underneath. Laurel oak occurs in wet sandy areas in pine woods and can be easily identified by its long (up to 6 inches) leaves that are at least an inch wide. The twigs are very brittle. Willow oak has smaller leaves and it has stiff, non-brittle twigs. It is common on clay soils and thus is usually on lowlands. This is the common oak of “pin oak flat” in Louisiana. Actually, pin oak has large lobed leaves similar to those of Shumard oak and is found in the Ozarks and farther north, but not in Louisiana. The Upland Laurel oak occurs on deep sand and is common along

Saline Bayou in Winn and Natchitoches parishes. Its leaves tend to be twisted, but are similar in size and shape to those of willow oak. The plants have a more “scrubby” look because of its failure to prune itself. Water oak leaves are about 4 inches long and are broadest near the tip and some forms have three distinct lobes. In general, if the leaf is small and glabrous and has lobes, it is a Water oak since Willow, Laurel, and Upland Laurel oaks are not lobed. Water oak is our most common shade tree in the state. Old

plants are very susceptible to mistletoe infections. All



Laurel Oak

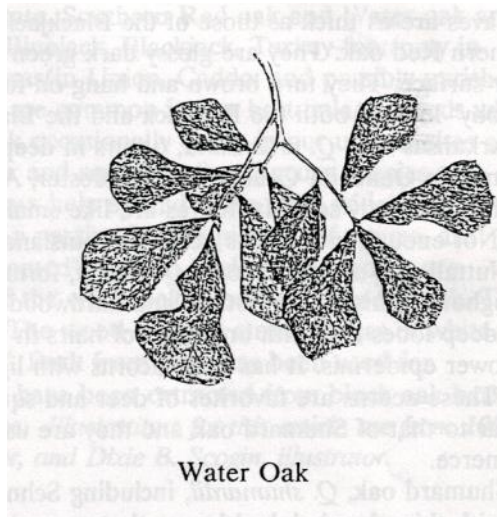


Willow Oak

The Red Oaks of Louisiana cont.

By R. Dale Thomas (Reprinted from Autumn 1994 LNPS Newsletter)

four of these oaks make good hardwood oak lumber and are probably surpassed only by Shumard and possibly Southern Red and Cherrybark for the quality of oak lumber produced. Upland Laurel oak seldom gets large enough to produce large logs.

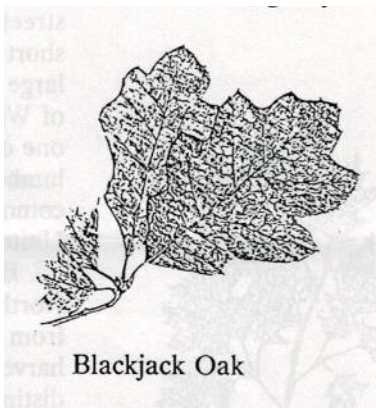


Water Oak

Bluejack oak, *Q. incana*, has leaves sometimes shaped similar to Laurel or Willow oaks, but its leaves are thick and very hairy on the lower surface. Blackjack oak, *Q. marilandica*, has thick, glossy leaves that have orange hair all over the lower surface. These two species grow on our sandiest and driest sites in the state. The old limbs die and hang down but seldom fall from the trunks. This leaves a scrubby, unkept look to the trees. Most do not get big enough for lumber. Both are good for fuel for fires and Blackjack once furnished most of the charcoal from the



Bluejack Oak

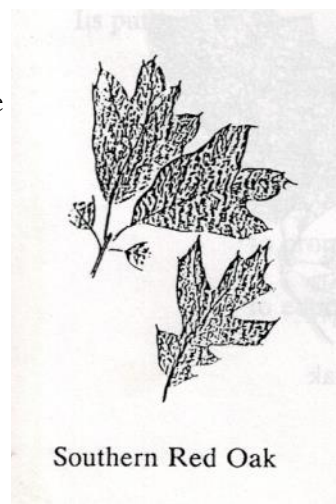


Blackjack Oak

Ozarks for ore smelting in Missouri and Arkansas.

Southern Red oak probably has more different leaf shapes than any other native oak. It has the consistent characteristic of having hairs all over the lower surface of the leaves. The species name, *falcata*, refers to the fact that the angles formed by the lobes of the leaves are sickle-shaped.

This is a fast-growing upland species. Cherrybark oak, *Q. pagoda*, is a lowland relative and is sometimes placed in the same species with the name *Q. falcata* var. *pagodaefolia*. The leaves of the Cherrybark oak are larger and one common form in Louisiana has whitish hairs on the lower epidermis as opposed to the common light brown to tan. The bole of this tree is usually straight and free of low limbs and thus forms some of our best oak lumber. It is restricted to lowlands and/or clay soils. Its bark is smoother than that of the upland Southern Red oak and at least to some people, resembles that of Black Cherry. The name of Spanish oak for the Southern Red oak has been used since colonial times but no plausible explanation of origin is known.



Southern Red Oak

Turkey-foot oak, *Q. laevis*, is another of the oaks of the dry sandy habitats of the Coastal Plain. In Louisiana, it is known to occur only in the area of the Pushepatapa Creek near Varnado in Washington Parish. Its leaves are as thick as those of the Blackjack oak and they are more deeply lobed than the leaves of Southern Red oak. They are glossy dark green on the upper surface and very densely hairy on the lower surface. They turn brown and hang on for a long time in the winter. It

The Red Oaks of Louisiana cont.

By R. Dale Thomas (Reprinted from Autumn 1994 LNPS Newsletter)

has the “shaggy” or “scrubby” look of both the Bluejack and the Blackjack oaks.

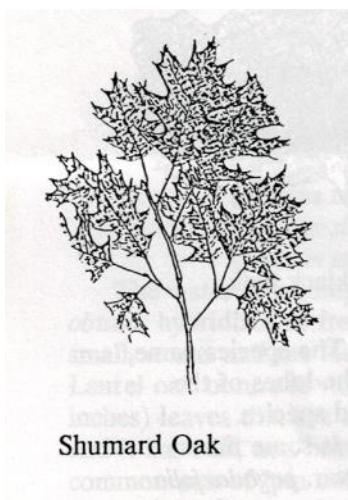
Arkansas oak, *Q. arkansana*, occurs in deep sand with the Bluejack and Blackjack oaks. It is common in Ouachita County near Chidester, Arkansas. It occurs in northern Union and Caddo parishes on sandy soils. Its leaves are like small versions of Blackjack oak with the texture of Water oak. Not enough individuals occur in Louisiana to be of economic significance.

Nuttall oak or Striped oak, *Q. texana*, formerly *Q. nuttallii*, occurs throughout Louisiana in bottomland hardwood forests. It has thin leaves with deep lobes and with only tufts of hairs in the axil of the veins on the lower epidermis. It has large acorns with light strips from end to end. These acorns are favorites of deer and squirrels. The wood is similar to that of Shumard oak and they are usually not separated in commerce.



Nuttall Oak

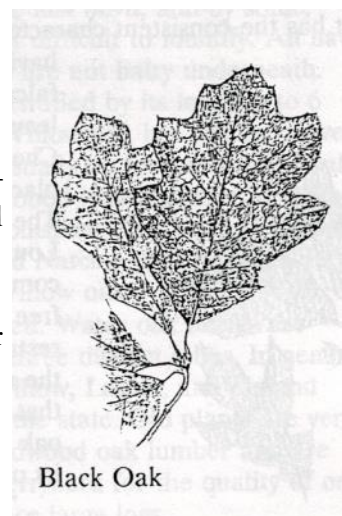
Shumard oak, *Q. shumardii*, includes Schneck's oak, is an upland oak with thin, deeply lobed leaves that are only about twice as long as wide. The short, wide leaf distinguishes sterile specimens from Nuttall oak. Shumard oak makes one of the most handsome oaks to be used in street plantings. Most of its leaves



Shumard Oak

fall in a short period of time in early winter and its large leaves are easier to rake than those of willow or water oak. Shumard oak is one of the most important red oaks for lumber in the South. It is replaced commercially by Northern Red oak, *Q. rubra*, in the northern part of the United States.

Black oak, *Q. velutina*, is an upland oak that is quite common in North Louisiana in our upland pine forests. It is usually not distinguished from Southern Red oak by our tree harvesters, but it can be easily distinguished by the orange inner bark. The other red oaks have white, pink, or almost red inner bark. Black oak leaves are thick and very glossy on the upper surface.



Black Oak

The lower leaf surface is hairy all over. The terminal buds on black oak are very angular.

Shingle oak, *Q. imbricaria*, is known to occur in Louisiana only in Bossier Parish. Some trees in Ouachita Parish with leaves similar to this tree are possible hybrids of water oak and some other species, possibly overcup oak. Shingle oak has leaves about 1.5 to 2 inches wide and about 6 inches long. They are not lobed and are hairy underneath. It is not considered native to Louisiana by the authors of the Flora of North America. It gets its common name from the fact that it easily splits with a froe to make shingles and was thus used when Michaux first saw it.

Red oaks are some of our most common trees in the state. Southern Red oak and Water oak are the most common species. Our dry upland species include Bluejack, Blackjack, Turkey-foot (only in Washington Parish), Southern Red, Black, Shumard, Arkansas (in

The Red Oaks of Louisiana cont.

By R. Dale Thomas (Reprinted from Autumn 1994
LNPS Newsletter)

Union, Caddo, and possibly parishes between), and Upland Laurel oak. Nuttall and Cherrybark are common in our bottomland woods with Water, Willow, and Laurel oaks. Water oak and Willow oak occasionally occur in our upland sites as well. The acorns of all the oaks are important food for deer and squirrels. Small acorn species such as Water and Willow oaks are also eaten by ducks and jays. Jays help spread these trees widely by dropping the acorns when they open their mouth to fuss at a passing bird. Squirrels, of course, are famous for storing the acorns and forgetting where they “planted” them. In lowland sites, some are scattered about by water, but none as efficiently as those of the white oak known as Overcup oak. The pores of the wood of red oaks make it burn better as fuel. The wood is much stronger than that of white oaks and has given rise to the expression “strong as an oak”. Bark from oaks has been used for extracting tannic acid to tan skins into leather. Yellow dyes have been extracted from black oak bark. All 14 species are easily propagated by planting fresh acorns. *Illustrations for this article are from 100 Woody Plants of North Louisiana, by R. Dale Thomas, and Dixie B. Scogin, illustrator.*

was three feet away. This was way too easy - so I continued on to look for Crane-fly Orchid (*Tipularia discolor*) leaves and found several on the Backbone Ridge trail. The Crane-fly Orchid leaves disappear before it flowers around July. The green leaves are purple underneath and easy to identify. All are in the Orchidaceae Family.



Southern Twayblade
Listera australis



Coralroot Orchid
Corallorhiza wisteriana



Crane-fly Orchid
Tipularia discolor

Searching for Orchids

Louisiana State Arboretum, Ville Platte

By Jim Robinson

President of Friends of the Arboretum

On February 25th, I took a nature hike in the Arboretum in search of our wild orchids that are usually in bloom in late February. My first search was one of our old trails that we found Southern Twayblades (*Listera australis*) on many times. I found it pretty quickly - then while photographing it, I turned and a clump of Coral Root Orchid (*Corallorhiza wisteriana*)

Trip to Briarwood Nature Preserve Saline, Louisiana

by Linda Barber Auld, NOLA Buglady and Jackie Duncan

Arriving mid-morning, Bayli Q. Brossette (new Briarwood curator), and her new baby Clovis met us at the visitor center. A trip to Briarwood is not complete without a visit with Jessie Johnson (Jessie and her husband Richard Johnson were curators at Briarwood from 1973 to 2011). So we started there first. Jessie doesn't miss a beat and she is just as spry as always, albeit with a little help. She chauffeured us around in her golf cart pointing out plants as we went. She also knew the birds as the sounds of Bluebirds, Cardinals, Carolina Wrens, Chickadees, Hooded Warblers, Magnolia Warblers, Parula Warbler, Pine Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, and Summer Tanager filled the air. It felt good to see Jessie doing so well.



After visiting with Jessie, the official tour began with a visit to Caroline's cabin to see her collections of bird eggs, miscellaneous old bottles of different sizes, her old camera, arrowheads, plus some of her framed drawings of a mockingbird and Carolina wrens. Caroline's rocking chair faced the fireplace where she had sat with her dog and had dreamed about nature. Bayli and Clovis then shuttled us by the rare *Torreya taxifolia* Caroline planted and then by "Grandpappy" the old longleaf pine, followed by Caroline's memorial. Along the way Bayli pointed out the *Nabalus barbatulus*, barbed rattlesnake root plants that John Michael Kelley had identified just a few days before. We also saw a praying mantis egg casing, a Bess horned beetle, a beautiful pink mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), and several native honeysuckle azaleas. In Caroline's iris garden we saw her prized giant blue, *Iris giganteaerulea*, among the assorted blooming iris. A gorgeous stand of five species of tall *Nepenthes* pitcher plants were showcased at the back alongside huge ferns over 5 feet tall. While riding through Briarwood, a beautiful Zebra Swallowtail darted past, and in another instance bands of sunlight streamed through the forest revealing the rare phantom crane fly. Briarwood Nature Preserve is filled with an integrated ecosystem of plants and insects packed with a surprise at each turn. Every visit is well worth the effort.



On the way home, we stopped at the Readheimer Baptist Church cemetery to visit Caroline Dormon's gravesite. One of the plaques at Caroline's burial site reads: "In memory of Caroline Dormon for her contributions to the State of Louisiana's Forestry Department and her aid in establishing the Kisatchie National Forest - from Boy Scout Troop 32 Pollock, Louisiana."

Trip to Briarwood Nature Preserve Saline, Louisiana *cont.*

by Linda Barber Auld, NOLA Buglady and Jackie Duncan

Another plaque contains a poem written in October 1945 by Caroline Dormon:

“When I am dead will someone plant a tree there where I lie?
Then dust will stir to life again.
Become a party of beauty rich and infinite.
What rare fulfilment to become a tree!
To feel new snow upon my face
And wrestle strongly with outrageous winds:
To hold the sun against my cheek
And live anew in birth of flowers each spring:
To gather to my breast the birds
That speak for me through lovely throats:
To reach above man’s little frets and cares.
Then I shall touch God ---
And yet, keep hold on warm sweet Earth I love.”

About Bayli Brosette (pronounced *bro-say*), Curator of Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve (Briarwood). Bayli grew up in Chestnut, just a few miles south of Briarwood off Highway 9. She graduated from Northwestern State University in December 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.”



In addition to Bayli, her husband Travis helps with the mechanical and heavy lifting chores at Briarwood on the weekends. During the week he works for the railroad.

Medicinal Use of Passionflower

Passiflora incarnata by Summer Ellzey

FAMILY: Passifloraceae

CONSTITUENTS: Alkaloids including harmine, harman, harmol, and passiflorine; flavone glycosides; sterols.

ACTIONS: Sedative, hypnotic, anti-spasmodic, anodyne

PARTS USED: Fresh or dried leaves; fruit eaten as food.

DOSE: Standard infusion/tea of the leaves; of the tincture 1-4 ml or 10-30 drops



Passiflora incarnata, Passionflower, or Maypop, whichever you prefer to call it, is a beautiful vine with distinctive purple flowers native to the southeastern United States. It can be found near roadsides, disturbed areas, and unmowed pastures. It is the larval food for several species including the Gulf Fritillary butterfly, which feeds on my passionflower every year. But, did you know that we can consume this wonderful native ourselves?

Before I started my journey learning about natives and their importance to the ecosystem, I was on a mission to grow food and medicine on our property for my family. Since the beginning of time, before modern medicine, plants were used to treat ailments and I wanted to harness that knowledge of long ago. I wanted to use nature to nourish and heal my family. I scoured the internet for information and found a whole new world of herbalism. I couldn't believe how many plants have medicinal uses, plants that we would consider weeds. Native and non-native alike. One plant that is in just about every herbalists medicine cabinet is Passionflower.

Passionflower is revered in the herbal world for its calming and relaxing properties. It has been used to help treat insomnia, anxiety, panic attacks, epilepsy, and even Parkinson's. Having a cup of passionflower tea before bed can help ease you into a restful nights sleep. Taking a dropper full of passionflower tincture can help reduce an occasional bout of anxiety or oncoming panic attack. It is an effective yet, gentle herb that can be used by children and adults for hyperactivity. Passionflower is contraindicated during pregnancy which means it should not be used.

I'm sure you are wondering how to prepare and use this wonderful plant for your needs. In herbalism, there are quite a few ways to extract the medicinal constituents from plants such as infusions/teas, tinctures, making an oil to prepare a salve, decoctions, and syrups. For passionflower, it's best as an infusion or tincture from fresh or dried plant material. It can be combined with other herbs with the same properties or an aromatic herb to enhance the flavor, but it is always best to start with a single herb to know it's effects on your body. If there is more than one herb then you don't know which one is doing what to you, so it's best to start simple.

Here is a simple explanation of what an infusion and tincture are. An infusion is an extraction using water. A tincture is an extraction using alcohol that is 80 proof or higher. Most herbalists use vodka or brandy. I suggest everyone have a tincture on hand from any medicinal herb because they have a long shelf life and are quick and easy to take, but take longer to make than the other preparations. It's a long term solution to preserving the plant. You can even use the tincture to make a quick cup of tea if you don't have any plant matter on hand. The

Medicinal Use of Passionflower

Passiflora incarnata by Summer Ellzey

hot water will evaporate the alcohol. Also, I use the folk method of making tinctures which doesn't really use exact measures. Below I share how to make an infusion and a tincture, so you can start enjoying what this beautiful plant has to offer.

To make an infusion/tea:

1-2 tsp. dried or 1 Tbsp. fresh passionflower leaves, chopped
1 cup boiled water
Honey to sweeten, if desired

-Put herb in cup or jar. If you have a tea strainer you can use that too. Pour the water over the herb. Cover and steep for at least 15 minutes. Strain and sweeten, as desired. Have a cup before bed to help sleep or throughout the day for anxiousness or stress. Enjoy!

To make a tincture:

Mason jar (whatever size you want to use)
Passionflower leaves dried or fresh, chopped
(enough to fill jar 1/3 for dried to 1/2 for fresh)
80 proof or higher alcohol (enough to fill the jar and cover the herb)

-Take the chopped fresh herb and fill the jar about 1/2 way. Fill 1/3 to 1/2 for dried. Cover with the alcohol. You want at least two to three inches of alcohol above the herbs. Put the lid on tightly give it a shake and set in a cool spot for 4 to 6 weeks. Give it a shake daily. If you miss a day or so that's fine. After the 6 weeks are up strain with a sieve and cheesecloth and store in amber glass dropper bottles and label it. Depending on how much I have I will put some in dropper bottles and keep the rest in my jar in a cabinet for later. Take a dropper full, about 1-4ml, as needed. Enjoy!



Drummond's Skullcap

Scutellaria drummondii by Wendy Ribner

At 12 inches, Drummond's Skullcap (*Scutellaria drummondii*) sure is a cute groundcover! Though its leaves are small (1/3-1/2 inch), they tend to bunch at the base, making the plant an efficient cover. According to the Missouri Botanical Garden, the plant's genus name stems from "Skutella", meaning cup or dish, referring to the calyx that maintains its shape after blooms are spent. Two dotted white swaths run along the base of the bloom. According to wildflower.org, Drummond's Skullcap, like all Skullcaps, can be differentiated from other mints by the crest at the top of its blossom.

Though it is an annual, it reseeds easily, and harvesting its seeds is quite easy. Once the seed pod turns brown, snip off the stalk, place in a paper bag, and shake! Drummond's Skullcap can be found in the wild in western Louisiana parishes and throughout St. Tammany Parish.

This diminutive Skullcap was named after the 19th Century Scottish botanist Thomas Drummond whose biography is fodder for a Hollywood film: he walked from the Allegheny Mountains to St. Louis, lost his son in a murder, and once ate skunk to stave off death! In 1830, Drummond came to America to collect in the southern and western states. He first identified this Skullcap in Texas.



Out of Frustration, A New Native Plant Vendor is Born *by Ian Richardson*

It all started with chickens...

When Ian Richardson and Fabiola Campoblanco first got their flock, they never imagined the wondrous adventure their chickens would send them on. What began with a flock of chickens in their backyard, led them down a path of composting and permaculture, ultimately introducing them to the world of native plants.

As passionate advocates for sustainability, Ian and Fabiola decided to incorporate native plants into their backyard. However, they soon encountered the frustrating reality of limited options for purchasing natives in the Baton Rouge area. Determined to alter that reality, they took matters into their own hands.

Fast forward a year and a half, and their backyard nursery, Beavers Abundance, is now a thriving supplier of native plants for urban gardeners, landscape professionals, and permaculture enthusiasts in the greater Baton Rouge area. (The name "Beaver Abundance" stems from a childhood nickname.) Embracing permaculture principles, Ian and Fabiola implemented eco-friendly practices such as recycling pots, utilizing chicken waste for composting, and prioritizing the growth of plants from local ecotype seeds.

Beavers Abundance aims to provide customers with beautiful, resilient native plants that not only enhance their landscapes but also support pollinators and benefit our local ecosystem. Their goal is to create lasting beauty and sustainability, without the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Looking back, they jokingly ponder, "Which came first the beaver or the egg?!"

Visit Beavers Abundance at their backyard location at [1329 Carter Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70806](https://www.beaversabundance.com), every Friday from 10 am to 12 pm. You can also find them at the St. Gabriel farmers market or schedule an appointment on their website, [beaversabundance.com](https://www.beaversabundance.com).

Stay updated on their latest endeavors by following their Facebook or Instagram posts.

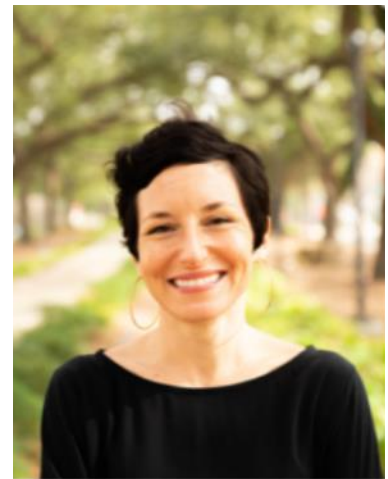


Hilltop Announces a New Director!

Good Afternoon Friends,

I am very excited to announce that Tara Titone has joined us as Director of Hilltop!

Previously Tara served as Interim Chief Executive Officer of Build Baton Rouge where she also served as Chief Operating Officer. She has over 20 years' experience in leadership, administration, program development and landscape design from her work with private, nonprofit, and public sector firms in Fort Lauderdale, FL, New York, NY, and Baton Rouge. She received her Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree from LSU.



Tara will oversee all of our research, teaching and service activities and assist the Friends of Hilltop with fundraising for operational support and educational programs to engage the broader community.

Please stay tuned for more information and an update from Tara in our fall newsletter. In the meantime, please help me wish Tara a warm welcome.

Best,

Chris Werner
President, Board of Directors
Friends of Hilltop Arboretum

PROPAGATION TIPS

***Viburnum dentatum* (Southern Arrowwood) and *Viburnum nudum* (Possumhaw) from Cuttings** by Lawrence Rozas

Some species of shrubs and trees can be propagated from cuttings. A quick and easy method that works well for Southern Arrowwood *Viburnum dentatum* and Possumhaw *Viburnum nudum* is to use the branches removed by Winter pruning and/or shaping to make cuttings. Make cuttings about 1 – 2 feet in length from each of the pruned branches, cut the end of each cutting at a 45-degree angle and immediately shove it into the soil around the existing plant. Make sure there are at least 2 nodes below the ground. Space cuttings about 2-feet apart to make it easy to dig the plants later when they have rooted. Early during the next Winter, dig and pot the cuttings that have survived and grown roots. Most (at least 80%) of the cuttings are usually successfully rooted and can be potted as new plants using this method.

***Spigelia Marilandica* (Indian Pink)** by Beulah Bergeron (reprinted from Fall 1984 Newsletter)

I may be the last person to know about the exploding seed pods of Indian Pink (*Spigelia marilandica*). This discovery is so interesting to me that I want to share it with others.

Last Week I decided to pick some of the mature pods while green, as I have never been able to collect seed from these plants. Previously, I would wait for them to turn brown, but they always disappeared before this happened. I thought the birds were eating the seeds.

Anyway, I placed the mature green pods on a paper plate on the kitchen table. After about two hours, I returned to find some open pods but the seeds were gone! After looking all over the table, I decided they must have popped out onto the floor. I carefully swept the floor and sifted through the sweepings. I found two irregularly shaped seeds. I put a cover over the rest of the seed pods and was fortunate enough to be in the kitchen at two different times when a pod exploded. It made an audible pop and the seeds hit the cover with force. There are two seeds in each pod.

Now that I know their secret, I'll be able to collect seed. Unfortunately, they were nearly all gone before I made this discovery. Next year I'll be ready!.

***Rhododendron canescens, austrinum* (Native Azalea)** by Margie Jenkins (reprinted from 1993 Gulf Coast Regional Native Plant Conference)

Cuttings: Cuttings need to be very tender, so tender that if they wilt it is hard getting them upright again. Use no rooting hormone. Do not use any fertilizer in cutting media. Keep under mist. After rooting, start feeding with mild liquid fertilizer. Do not transplant until they have broken growth the following Spring.

Seed: Gather the seed in early Fall before the pods become totally brown. Lay them on paper to complete drying. Each pod can have as many as 200 or more seeds. Mash the pods in order to extract the seeds. Sift on milled sphagnum moss. Mist with a hand sprayer and cover with a piece of glass. Place under fluorescent lights. Germination will take place in about one week to ten days.

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Save the Date!**Louisiana Native
Plant Society****Annual Conference****Feb. 23rd-25th 2024***Woodworth, LA*

Newsletter Co-Editors may be contacted as follows:

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The deadline for newsletter articles, etc. is November 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.

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