

The Life of a Lady Forester

The Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library on the Northwestern State University campus is holding an exhibit of the Caroline Dormon Collection, entitled "The Life of a Lady Forester." The exhibit will run through December 19 in the Cammie G. Henry Research Center at the library. Items on display include Miss Dormon's correspondence, manuscripts, sketches, paintings, and photographs. Included also are several of Miss Dormon's Native American sand paintings, which she collected. The displays are grouped according to the many different hats Caroline Dormon wore in her life. She was a teacher, artist, public speaker, historian, horticulturist, archaeologist, explorer, writer, and above all, a conservationist.

The Research Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and on Sundays from 2:00 p.m. until 6 p.m.



LNPS members Jane & Jerry Beauregard stand with others waist deep in a large patch of fern on the Corney Lake trip in August.
Photo by Rector Hopgood.

New Native Arboretum Is in the Works

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently received a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to create an arboretum at the new Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge near Monroe. The arboretum will be a key component of a planned environmental education complex with will also include classrooms, interpretive nature trails, canoe trails and a boardwalk into the bayou. The arboretum will be consist of up to one hundred species of trees and shrubs native to Louisiana. An effort will be made to purchase the largest available plants. Uncommon species that are not available commercially will be collected on other National Wildlife Refuges. For more information, contact Kelby Ouchley at 318-726-4400

Prose from the president's pen...*Jim Foret, Jr.*

KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST LAND GRAB. The word from Jim Caldwell, USFS, public information office in Alexandria, is the the Air Force wants 600 to 1300 additional acres for the Claiborne Bombing range in Evangeline Ranger District. The Wild Azalea hiking trail passes next to this one. Air Force has not been demanding, they seem very willing to assess the issues and find viable alternatives. Public scoping meetings scheduled for October 7,8,9 in Shreveport, Alexandria and Baton Rouge respectively.

The ARMY at Fort Polk has a new commander and a new staff. They had requested over 40,000 acres of Vernon Ranger District. The draft evaluation assessment is ready but USFS is not interested in publishing it because it is heavily weighted towards what the army wants. Very robust, very well written, but too old line. The USFS and the new command seem committed to rewriting the document by the end of November. A new comment period and public meetings would follow. It is refreshing to note that we have gone from the threat of legislative action to a negotiated action, more friendly to our needs and wishes. I cannot stress enough how important your written statements and your presence at public meetings means to the US Forest Service. The military was just going through the motions, the USFS needs our input and support.

Catahoula Ranger District is under fire by the LA. NATIONAL GUARD. General

Stroud wanted total control of 10,000 acres. He is reportedly retiring. We are not sure what his replacement will do. USFS message to the National Guard is clear, they stand ready to work with the National Guard, but Forest Service lands are not for sale at any price.

Jim Caldwell has been invited to our January meeting to explain the updated situation to us. If any of you want to suggest additions to our program, please write me through Beth Erwin, secretary, P.O. Box 126, Collinston, LA, 71229.

THE FALL FIELD TRIP: I sure do appreciate the efforts of my predecessors a lot more after my own feeble attempt to "fill your plate" for the weekend. I also understand why those guys were so glad to "hand over the reins" to the newly elected president. This is a tough job, well, lonely anyway.

I'll be the first to admit, my plans for this field trip are a bit ambitious. The toughest part is that I am dealing with a number of landowners, all private holdings, no public lands. Just in the last few minutes, I received a call from the Cote Blanche group saying that they are having second thoughts about inviting such a large group on to their lands. So I am scrambling to locate an equally exciting place to visit in case this part of our plants falls through. I promise you this, we will have a fun, fast weekend, so get plenty of rest the week before. See you in October

Jim

LEAFLETS

LARGE NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS NEEDED

Potted or Balled & Burlapped

for the arboretum at Black Bayou
National Wildlife Refuge.

If you know of sources for **LARGE** native
trees and shrubs, please contact Kelby
Ouchley.

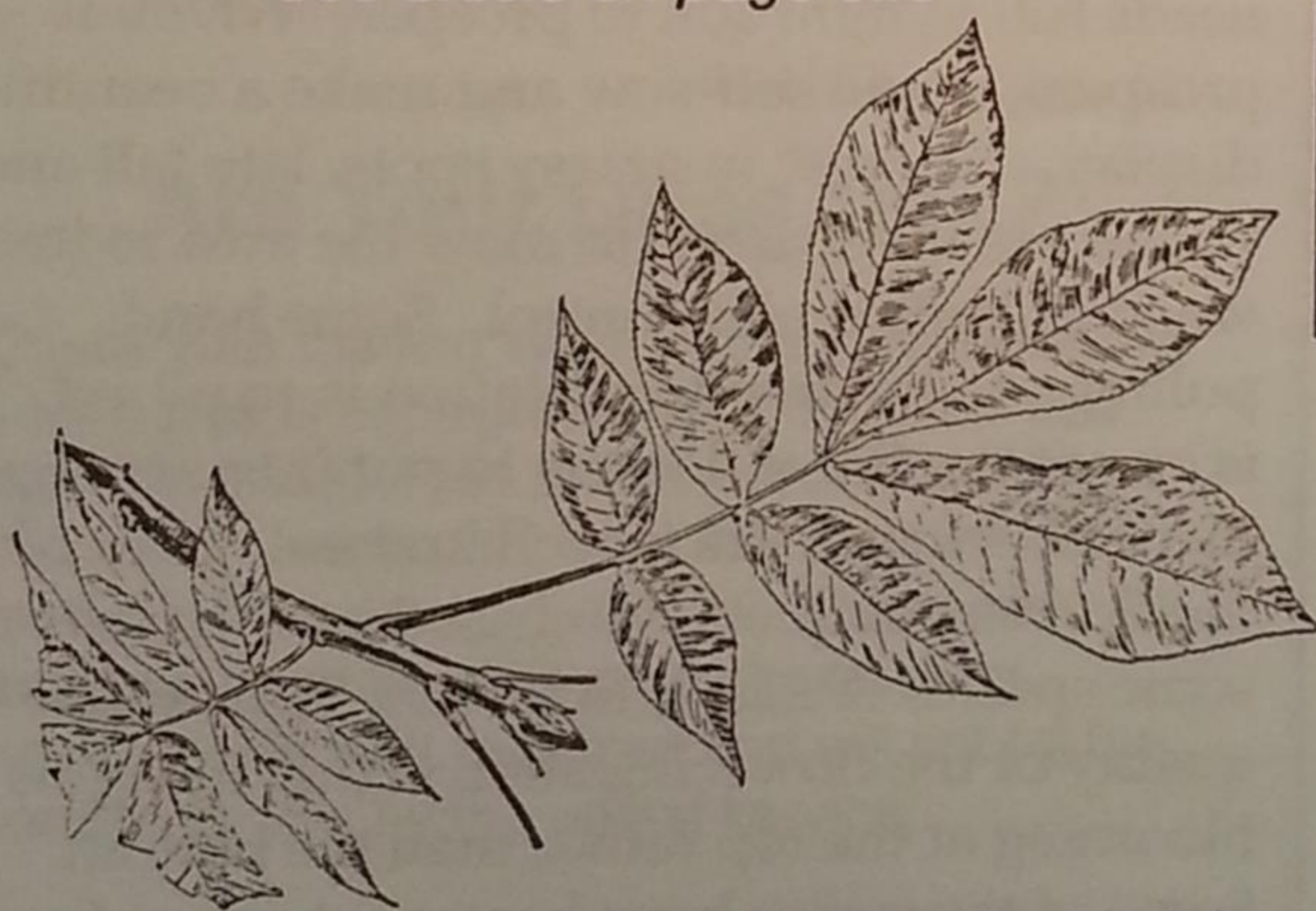
Phone# 318 726 4400

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Rt. 2, Box 401-A

Farmerville LA 71241

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Pignut Hickory, *Carya glabra*



One of our new LNPS members, Donna Spears, wrote us a letter about her work that should interest most of our members. Donna is a state park manager at Fort Jesup State Commemorative Area, between Robeline and Many on Hwy. 6. Their historic theme interprets the frontier culture and military culture of the United States 1822-1846. She writes that they are expanding their interpretation to natural history as well. There is an exhibit that changes seasonally in the conference room, a kitchen herb garden, and an heirloom vegetable garden was underway at the time of her writing. A medicinal garden is planned for fall. They are hoping to add several natural history programs as the year progresses. She also manages Los Adais SCA near Robeline. It is the site of a Spanish colonial presidio. Natural interpretive programs have been requested for Los Adais as well. She says that there is potential on that site for a possible wildflower preservation area. As this is an archaeological site, stewardship is of crucial interest. Donna can be contacted at the Fort Jesup site.

The *Louisiana Native Plant Society News* is published four times per year. It is the official publication of the Louisiana Native Plant Society. The editor welcomes articles, notices of upcoming events, and book reviews of interest to native plant folks, as well as illustrations, poems, and prose. Deadlines for submissions are June 1st, September 1st, December 1st, and March 1st. Send any address changes to LNPS News, P.O. Box 126, Collinston, La., 71229.—Terry Erwin, editor.

Some Notes on *Liatris pycnostachya* by Carl Amason



Liatris pycnostachya receiving a visit from a tiger swallowtail on a cutover area in Jackson Parish near Chatham.
Photo by Rector Hopgood

One of the loveliest of wildflowers here in the South Central United States is *Liatris pycnostachya*. It is a truly beautiful plant that flowers at a most welcomed time in midsummer to early fall. Its color is a radiant purple, with flower heads with crowded small composite flowers, thickly arranged on a stem from eighteen inches to well over three feet tall, the lower part with thick narrow leaves from two to three inches long and the purple flowers amassed in the upper half, coming from green recurved bracts. The meaning of *Liatris* is unknown, but *pycnostachya* is a Greco-Latin contraction of *pychnos*, dense, and *stachys*, a spike. The wildflowers have dense spikes that resemble bottle brushes. It has quite a few

common names, including button-flower, snakeroot, gayfeather, and blazing star; common names which this species shares with perhaps forty other species of *Liatris*. This must have been a much used herb by the American Indians and early pioneers who had only plants, usually, as a medicine source. Apparently, it was used to treat snakebites, but many wild plants are called snakeroot. Most of the *Liatris* comes from a corm and this species is no exception. The corm is present in all seasons and perhaps it was the part used medicinally. It is easily transplanted into the garden or grown from seeds and is a wonderful perennial for a flower bed. It is one of the finest wildflowers to attract almost any kind of showy butterfly into the garden. This plant will grow in not-so-well drained roadside ditches to somewhat dry, but not the driest roadsides. It, like so many other composites, needs full to light sun to prosper. Where it prospers, it will self-sow and make a beautiful display. To grow in grassy spots, late fall and winter are the seasons to mow the area to keep woody plants under control. Some hand-pulling of unwanted vegetation is required. It is one of the finest flowers to put into arrangements as its vase life is well known. Most of the florists bouquets purchased now have some species of *Liatris* in it. Another unique quality of the flowering stem is that it begins blooming at the top rather than the bottom. Some of the corms have become staples of Dutch bulb merchants, but so far, *Liatris pycnostachya* is not one of them so featured. In looking through regional floras, I find that most often authors of Louisiana and Arkansas field guides feature this species by name. I find it unusual such a beautiful flower is not

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universally recognized in its region. All parts of the eastern United States feature some species of *Liatris*. Recently, on the LNPS field trip to Corney Lake in North Louisiana, Dr. Dale Thomas pointed out to me that most all the descriptions of *Liatris pycnostachya* state that the plant stems and leaves are hirsute(hairy). Those plants growing about the very shady parts of Corney Lake were smooth.

This is a plant that is sure to satisfy any wildflower enthusiast. It is easy to grow, easy to keep, showy in flower, and is the plant to have to photograph visiting bugs, bees, and butterflies. Almost any species of *Liatris* will fill that requirement and such considerations make these flowers one of the most overlooked of our wildflowers.

Are Your Dues Due?

Check your mailing label. If the number above your name is highlighted, your dues are due with this issue. Please send your dues to the treasurer, Jessie Johnson, 216 Caroline Dorman Road, Saline, La. 71010. **Remember to send us your change of address.** The newsletter is sent bulk mail and will not be forwarded to you by the postal service.

Student or Sr. Citizen	\$5
Individual	\$10
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1997 Mid-South Native Plant Conference

October 24-24
Christian Brothers University
Memphis, Tennessee

Pregregistration Fee by Oct. 1
\$70.00
after Oct. 1 = \$85.00

For information call:

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MSNPC, Lichterman Nature Center
5992 Quince Road
Memphis, TN 38119

Speakers include:

Leslie Aldridge
Carl Amason
Gail Barton
Gregory Pendano
Julius Furr
Judy Glattstein
Dale Hendricks
Margaret Leggett
Russell Studebaker

Larry Lowman
John Mickel
Bob Brzuszek
Tom Pellett
Plato Touliatos
W. Gary Smith
Nickie Stanley
Jan Midgeley
Scott Woodbury

on subjects like:

propagation on small and large scale
ferns, pokeweed, mosses, and magnolias
creating prairies and swamps in your yard
and assorted other interesting stuff

Fall Field Trip

October 10, 11, 12, 1997. *Annual Fall Field Trip, New Iberia Area*. Guy in charge: Jim Foret, 318-365-7806.

Friday evening--4:30 p.m.: Meet at the boat dock, Lake Martin, Breaux Bridge, for a visit to the largest White Ibis rookery in the country. White Ibis are only a small part of the bird show. This is a huge wading bird rookery. It is a wonderful wild area, with plenty of big gators and lots of nutria rats. After a short trip to New Iberia to check into motels, we will head to Mary and Caleb Tutwiler's home at 701 E. Main Street for a reception. Great refreshments and good conversation will be served. Bring your favorite slides--8:00 p.m. or so, until.

Saturday morning--8:00 a.m.: Carpool leaves from the parking lot of the Holiday Inn, New Iberia, 2515 Hwy. 14, for Avery Island to meet our guide. Explore Avery Island until 12 noon. We must leave by noon because the McIlhenny's shut everything down at noon on Saturday. For your entertainment, we will caravan to Cote Blanche Island to finish out our day of exploring there. Cote Blanche is a short lob on the other side of Weeks Island from Avery Island. *Since we have to cross the Intercoastal Canal to Cote Blanche on an "Adults Only"--18 years and older--private ferry, we will have a boat on standby to ferry families over.* **You must provide your children with their own life jackets!!!** We should return to the Holiday Inn before dark to freshen up and eat. The caravan will leave Holiday Inn again about 8:30 p.m. for dancing in Breaux Bridge to finish off the night.

Sunday morning--9:00 a.m.: Caravan leaves Holiday Inn parking lot for Mulberry Island located at the gulf rim west of Freshwater Bayou, south of Kaplan. Mulberry Island is the last chenier before the gulf beach. We should be able to walk down to the beach but not to the water, since active accretion is happening there and new land(mud) is forming between the beach and the water.



Helianthus angustifolius,
Narrowleaf sunflower

DIRECTIONS: Lake Martin: I-10 to Breaux Bridge exit 109 south on Rees St. or La. 328 to La. 94 west(right) across Bayou Teche to La. 31 south(left) to Lake Martin Road. Turn right, the boat dock is 1½ miles straight ahead. Rookery is at the end of the levee road to your left facing the boat dock.

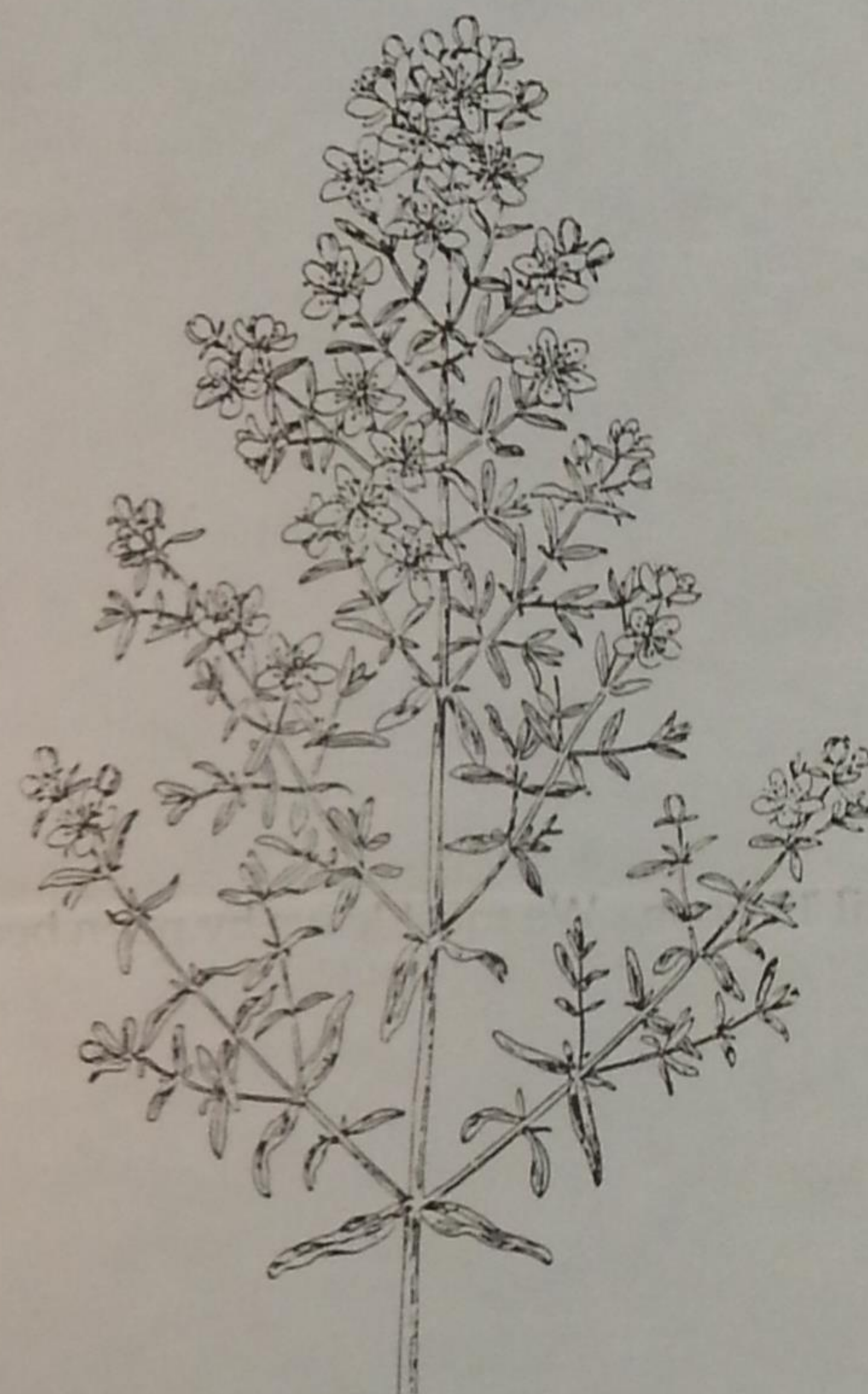
MOTELS: Holiday Inn, New Iberia, 318-367-1201. Best Western, New Iberia, 318-364-3030. Both are near the intersection of US 90 and La. 14. **NOTE:** If the New Iberia motels are full, there are several motels on the south side of Lafayette, including Hilton, Best Western(Hotel Acadiana), Holiday Inn Express, and Comfort Inn.

CAMPING: Belmont campground, Hwy. 31, north of New Iberia, at the intersection of La. 86, behind Club 21.

Lake Fausse Point State Park-318-229-4764--A good long drive from our activities.

Jim's yard or Mary Tutwiler's yards are available.

Please note, you are responsible for your own food and water and wheels(we will carpool where we can).



Hypericum sp., St.. John's Wort

Sunday, October 11, in a parallel dimension, the World Championship Gumbo Cookoff will be held in Bouligna Plaza in historic downtown New Iberia. This year, approximately 62 teams from throughout Acadiana will compete. All types of gumbo will be sold to the public beginning at 11:00 a.m. About 10,000 people attended last year. If you plan to stay in a hotel, make your reservations as soon as possible.

The Louisiana Native Plant Society was founded in 1983 as a state-wide, non-profit organization. Its purposes are:

- œ to preserve and study native plants and their habitats.
- œ to educate people on the value of native plants and the need to preserve and protect rare and endangered species.
- œ to promote the propagation and use of native plants in the landscape
- œ to educate people on the relationship between our native flora and wildlife.

LNPS News

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Seedpod of Tulip Poplar,
Liriodendron tulipifera

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Dr. & Mrs. Charles Allen
NLU Department of Biology
Monroe LA 71209-0502

inside...

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