Louisiana Native Plant Society News

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High School Class Plans Natural Resources Awarness Project

The Biology I Honors class at Mamou High School, under the direction of Kenneth Kidder, is planning a group project to combat the general ignorance and apathy toward the preservation and conservation of natural resources. They plan to produce a photographic anthology of the flora and fauna of a single district within Bayou Chicot State Park. Their overall goal is one of observation, preservation and appreciation, not alteration and disturbance. It is hoped when the project is completed that students and participating community organizations will develop an appreciation for the diversity of Louisiana wildlife and a desire to protect it. They plan to create a webpage displaying their findings so a much broader audience can be reached. The group is seeking the expertise of the LNPS membership to help them with this project, as well as the park rangers, LDWF, and the local newspapers. They will take field trips to the park for detailed observation and photography. The group has been invited to the LNPS fall field trip in Eunice and at the Louisiana State Arboretum in Ville Platte. If any LNPS members wish to offer assistance, Mr. Kidder can be contacted at Mamou High School, 1008 Seventh Street, Mamou, La., 70554.

> Fall Prairie and Arboretum Tour See Page 4

Milkweed seedpod, Asclepias sp.



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

Greetings to all you native plant AFICIONADOS---first time I use that one, feels like a one hundred dollar word to me. I really love that you all allow me to be a part of this great group. I especially enjoy the field trips, I learn volumes each time and it gives me an excuse to go camping in a new piece of woods. I also simply enjoy getting out into a new wild part of our beautiful state. Speaking of field trips, it looks like Dr. Charles Allen has set us up for another good one on October 17 and 18, see you there. We will be going to his old stomping grounds, St. Landry and Evangeline parishes. On a more serious note, in Cameron parish as in other parts of our fair state the land clearing, plant abusing, bulldozer mentality forces are hard at it. Your DOTD was and still is ready to cut 30 plus cheniere live oak trees and 130 of those "trash" trees, hackberry, along La 82 near Rockefeller. It seems these trees are growing too close to the highway ROW on the ancient beach ridge. Now follow this logic, "ain't no telling how many people these trees have killed" -- no mention of alcohol or speeding as a factor, those trees jumped out in front of the vehicles. Nor is there any mention of how many folks these fine oak groves have "thrilled." That has to count for

something. When I visit the chenieres it is like going to church for me.

I am proud to know Mr. Bob Thibodeaux, a fellow arborist from Church Point, who when offered the 25 plus crew days of work for his company, declined, when he realized the terrible deed he had been asked to do by your DOTD. Talk about putting your money where your mouth is. Bob immediately picked up the phone and called your governor who stopped all work, not to restart without Bob's signature. This job is still shut down. Atta boy Bob, I'm glad I know you. These guys have set a fine



Between now and the field trip Paula and I will travel to Branson, Mo. to marry off our oldest son, Jacob. Jake is a submariner in the Navy and Randina is the daughter of a country gospel singer in Branson. Should be interesting. The wedding will be held "onstage" in a theater. This poor unfortunate couple will have to spend the next 3 years together in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Tough duty. See you in October. I'll bring photos.

Jim Foret, Jr.



Letter to the Editor

10 June 1998

Dear Editor,

I am very grateful for the comments Dr. Allen submitted re "the Ft. Polk situation." [LNPS News, Summer 1998, Vol.16, No. 2] I support his views 100% and would have tendered my own much earlier, if I could have found the exact words that would convey my strong belief that sharing with Ft. Polk is not and will not be detrimental to our organization's goals and needs.

Thank you, Dr. Allen, for an accurate assessment so clearly stated.

Nan Haggar (Mrs. James E.Haggar) LNPS member, DeRidder, Louisiana



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 Dormon 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.

\$5
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\$100



Fall Field Trip: CAJUN PRAIRIE AND ARBORETUM TOUR

Mark your calendars for Friday, October 16th, Saturday, October 17th, and Sunday, October 18th. The Friends of the Louisiana State Arboretum and the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society will host a Fall Tour of prairies and the Arboretum. In Eunice, this is the same weekend as the Folklife Festival. It will feature crafts, live music, etc. On Friday night, we will assemble at 7 PM in the Science Building at LSU-Eunice and enjoy presentations on the Cajun Prairie plants and animals by Drs. Malcolm Vidrine and Charles Allen. On Saturday morning, we will convene at the Eunice Restoration site at 9 AM. The Restoration site is located at the corner of Martin Luther King and East Magnolia in northeast Eunice. At about 10:30, we will depart from this site and travel north on La 13 to the Duralde Restored prairie. Directions will be given before leaving Eunice. The Duralde Prairie is about three years old. After visiting the Duralde Prairie, we will break for lunch on your own. We will reassemble for a short meeting of the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society at 1:30 PM in the Science Building at LSU-Eunice. After the meeting, we will caravan to a remnant strip of Cajun Prairie. Bring lots of film as you will see many flowers. The Saturday schedule for the Folklife Festival in Eunice is from 10 AM to 10 PM so you will have time to return to Eunice and catch some of the Festival. On Sunday, you will see the Louisiana State Arboretum and its beech-magnolia forest. We will meet at the front of the Louisiana State Arboretum at 9 AM. The Arboretum is located about 8 miles north of Ville Platte on La. Hwy. 3042. The drive from Eunice to the Arboretum takes about 30 to 45 minutes. Again, bring lots of film as you will see lots of fall colors on the trees and more wildflowers. The Folklife Festival in Eunice will run from 11 AM to 5PM on Sunday.

Make you reservations early. Motels in Eunice include: Best Western 318-457-2800; Howards Inn 318-457-2066; La Parisienne 318-457-4274; Potier's Prairie Cajun Inn 318-457-0440; Seale Guesthouse 318-457-3753; and Stone Country Lodge 318-457-5211. In Ville Platte, the motel is Platt Motel 318-363-2148. Campgrounds in the Eunice area include Allen's Lakeview Park 318-546-0502 (not related to Charles Allen) and Cajun Campground 318-457-5753. In the Ville Platte area, Chicot State Park has campsites and cabins: 888-677-2442.



For more information on the tours, contact Charles Allen 318-342-1814 or 318-345-5280

or email BIALLEN@ALPHA.NLU.EDU. For more info on the folklife festival, contact City of Eunice 318-457-7389 or 457-6502.

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Summer Field Trip Report by Joan Moncrief

Heavy winds and strong winds had passed through, breaking the heat wave and giving us a respite from the high temperatures for our summer field trip on June 6 and 7. Our weekend was a potpourri of plants, history, geology, birds and butterflies. On Saturday, we met at Kalorama in Collinston, the former summer home of William B. Reily and now a nature preserve. Beth Erwin, curator, gave a brief talk about the history and environment of the preserve. Situated on the eastern ridge of the Bastrop Hills, Kalorama (Greek for "beautiful view") overlooks the old flood plain of the Mississippi River. As Beth spoke, I could visualize the muddy waters of the disastrous 1927 flood lapping at the base of the ridge, while both men and animals sought refuge atop it. A male Summer Tanager flew in to a tree as we strolled down a slope through old hardwoods to a sandy creek bed. Here were mature Pawpaws, Asimina triloba, and a large Pawpaw nursery. Nestled among Christmas fern, Polystichum acrostichoides, was the rare log fern, Dryopteris celsa, found only in a narrow range in Morehouse Parish. Also, growing in the rich humus were Solomon's Seal, Polygonatum biflorum, Virginia Dutchman's Pipe, Aristolochia serpentaria with its zigzag stem, and orange Morel mushrooms Our next stop was Rector Hopgood's rem-

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nant tallgrass prairie, which overlooks Handy **Brake National Wildlife** Refuge. Kelby Ouchley summarized the geology and history of the Refuge. The land was a Cypress-Tupelo Brake until the late 1960's, when the Federal Government subsidized farmers to cut the trees and plant soybeans. Soybeans could never be harvested; therefore, the land has reverted to wetlands. Rector's prairie was controlled burned in February. The Pale Purple Coneflower, Echinacea pallida, was just past flowering, but there was a patch of, Echinacea purpurea,

Young LNPS members enjoyed the blackberry crop on the summer field trip. Photo by Rector Hopgood

> with their deeper purple rays in full flower. Common Wild Sunflower, *Helianthus hirsutus*, and Common Goldenrod, *Solidago canadensis*, were growing taller in preparation for their burst of yellow flowers. The Legume family was well represented: Goat's Rue, *Tephrosia virginiana*, and Hoary Pea, *T. onobrychoides*; White Prairie Clover, *Petalostemum candidum*; Pink Sensitive plant, *Shrankia uncinata*, and Yellow Sensitive plant, *Neptunia lutea*, and the bluish Butterfly Pea, *Clitoria mariana*. We saw several specimens of the less common pure white Passionflower, *Passiflora incarnata*, as well as the more common purple. A few

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had already produced their subglobose green berry. Also, in fruit was Pea-vine, Lathyrus sp., with its small pubescent pod, Indian Pink, Spigelia marilandica, with its twin fruit pods, and Stonerush, Scleria sp., with its tiny white stone fruits. Poppy mallow, Callirhöe papaver, provided bursts of bright red along the roadside. After eating lunch, enjoying Rector's hospitality, and admiring his photographs, we headed north into Arkansas.

In South Crossett, Arkansas, we parked our vehicles by a trash dump and walked to a power line and pipeline rightof-way. After watching a Redheaded Woodpecker on a power pole, we were struck by the sheer number of Blazing Stars, Liatris pychnostachya, covering the prairie. Soon, the landscape will be resplendent with their bright purple color. Also, very abundant was tall Rattlesnake Master, Eryngium yuccifolium. Fluttering amongst the flowering Common Buttonbush, Cephalanthus occidentalis, was a Painted Lady Butterfly. A few flowering Indian Paintbrush, Castelleja indivisa, were almost hidden from view. An interesting plant was the Dwarf Prairie Willow, Salix humilis var. humilis. A thick stand of these shrubs, only a few feet tall, grew along the path. Unlike its local relatives, this willow grows in dry, open habitat. Scattered amongst the greenery was the yellow Sneezeweed, Helenium flexuosum, and Snout Pea, Rhynchosia latifolia, Blue Hearts, Buchnera americana, and Wild Petunia, Ruellia humilis. Two Mountain-mints Pycnanthemum tenuifolium and muticum, were flowering. In fruit were Flax, Linum sp., and Rough Skullcap Scuttelaria integrifolia. Sunday morning, we journeyed south from West Monroe to Kay and Billy Dunn's home across the Caldwell Parish border. A small pond near the house is on relatively flat terrain, and then the wooded land becomes a series of steep hills leading to a creek bed. The Beech, Fagus grandifolia, woods were rich in humus, but had very few herbs. Horse-sugar, Symplocos tinctoria,

of various heights was abundant, as was Jackin-the-pulpit, Arisaema triphyllum, whose leaves mainly had three leaflets, but some plants had four or five. American Holly, Ilex opaca was sprinkled among the Beeches. Luxuriating along the creek slope were Christmas Fern, Polystichum acrostichoides, Rattlesnake Fern, Botrychium virginianum, and Broad Beech Fern, Thelypteris hexagonoptera, with the distinctive downward angle of its lowest pinnæ pair. Sud-



denly, towering over us was a Bigleaf Magnolia, Magnolia macrophylla. The size of the deciduous leaves is impressive - as long as thirty inches and as wide as twelve inches! Trudging back up the hills, we passed Wild Comfrey, Cynoglossum virginianum, with their bristly fruits on knee high peduncles shooting up from their fuzzy basal leaves. Perched on a pine stump was a sulfur polypore mushroom. Its overlapping, fan shaped brackets in shades of yellow and white were about a foot in diameter. On Saturday, Dr. Allen had shown us various polypore species. This beautiful example was well photographed by the group. Next, we traveled to several miles south of Columbia, where Dr. Harry Winters and Scott Meredith awaited us with very welcome cold drinks and snacks. Five years ago, Dr. Winters acquired 100 acres, which he is developing into an educational preserve for students and nature lovers. The property is located on the high bluffs, which define the western edge of the Ouachita River flood plain, and is bounded on two sides by large creeks which drain the bluffs. (Continued on page 7)

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Sulfur Polypore Fungi in Caldwell Parish. Photo by Rector Hopgood

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Trails and gravel roads give access to the upland mixed hardwood-pine and the upper bottomland, while steps (St. John's Wort, *Hypericum lobocarpum*, was blooming by one step) and an access road are being constructed to the floodplain below. After Dr. Allen has identified the specimen, both woody and herbaceous (a real plus!) plants are labeled with two tags;

a dark orange metal that is easily observable and an aluminum one with both the common and botanical name. The trails will be named the Dr. Charles Allen Nature Trails! Joyce Bennett, who lives in the parish, has volunteered to compile a bird list of the pre-



from the ravine slope was a Sourwood, Oxydendrum arboreum, with its long, flower racemes drooping down. Then, spotlighted in the sun was a clump of Oakleaf Hydrangea, Hydrangea quercifolia, with their bracts in shades of white and pink before turning brown with fruiting. Climbing the trees were various vines: Carolina

Moonseed, Cocculus carolinus, Muscadine, Vitis rotundifolia, Possum Grape, Vitis cinerea, with its lower leaf surface a soft, white pubescence, the Greenbriers, Smilax glauca and bonanox, and Trumpet creeper, Campsis radicans.

Descending, we began to see water tolerant species: Overcup Oak, Quercus Iyrata, Willow Oak, Q. phellos, Black Willow, Salix nigra, and Swamp Privet, Forestiera acuminata. Growing along the path were several Swamp Rose mallow, Hibiscus moscheutos. Vines were everywhere: Climbing Dogbane, Trachelospermum difforme, Ladies' eardrops, Brunnichia ovata, Peppervine, Ampelopsis arborea, and River Grape, Vitis palmata. At the lowest point, which is knee deep in the water in the spring, were Bald cypress, Taxodium distichum, Sycamore, Platanus occidentalis, Willow Oak, Quercus phellos, and Water Hickory,

serve.

The site provides a good study of plant associations and their tolerance to water as you descend from uplands to bottomlands. As we wandered up the trails, we studied a variety of trees: Southern Red Oak, Quercus falcata, Post Oak, Q. stellata, White Oak, Q. alba, Black Oak, Q. velutina, Upland Laurel Oak, Q. hemisphaerica, Water Oak, Q. nigra, Mockernut

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The LNPS summer field trippers paused for a picture on the steps at the last stop. Photo by Rector Hopgood

Hickory, Carya tomentosa, Winged Elm, Ulmus alata, Shortleaf Pine, Pinus echinata, Loblolly Pine, Pinus taeda, Mexican Plum, Prunus mexicana, and Cucumber tree, Magnolia acuminata. While looking at the leaves of a Hornbeam, Carpinus caroliniana, and a Hop hornbeam, Ostrya virginiana, several of us had a lively discussion about the confusion of and the origin of common names. Scrambling along the ground and up the trees was the legume, Dioclea multiflora. Lining the paths was French Mulberry, Callicarpa americana, with its tiny pink flowers. As we approached the highest point, rising *Carya aquatica.* As we continued to a beautiful overlook of a bend in the Ouachita River, we saw huge Cedar Elm, *Ulmus crassifolia*, Honey Locust, *Gleditsia tricanthos*, and River Birch, *Betula nigra.* Green Hawthorn, *Crataegus viridis*, has thrived from the uplands to the wettest areas. After standing by a cluster of flowering Meadow Beauty, *Rhexia mariana*, and admiring the view of the river, we wandered back, munching ripe Blackberries, *Rubus trivialis* along the way. A white-eyed Vireo sang from its perch high in a tree. After convening around the refreshment table again, we began looking forward to our next field trip.

Native Plants for Black Water Soils by Bill Finch

Note: The following article and plant list is part two of the program Bill Finch presented at the LNPS Winter Meeting in January. Part 1 on brown/red water plants was in the summer newsletter. Bill is the environmental editor for the Mobile Register.

Black water wetlands have few dissolved salts, very few nutrients and sandy to sandy loam to peaty topsoils. They are common in the Florida parishes and northwest Louisiana and are the dominant wetland habitat in the Mississippi Gulf Coast region. Waters in these areas are tea-colored — stained red or black, but pellucid, and not naturally muddy.

Plants from black water swamps have little tolerance for the stew of natural chemicals and minerals found in brown water swamps. Most seem to require higher dissolved oxygen content. Many of these plants are also limited in their ability to penetrate heavy clay soils.

Bogs and flatwoods in the Gulf Coast black water regions are among the richest habitats for flowering plants in the world, so we won't come close to listing all the plants that can be grown there. Some of the highlights are listed below.

WHITE-TOPPED SEDGE, Dichromena spp.	Extremely showy, long, star-like blooms.
PITCHER PLANTS, Sarracenia leucophylla, S. psittacina, S. purpurea, S. rubra, S. wherryi, S. alata, S. flava, S. alabamensis.	Perhaps the most astonishing flowering plants in the world; the leaves are even prettier than the flowers.
GRASSPINK ORCHID, Calopogon spp.	Imagine a field of Dendrobium orchids
HABENARIA ORCHIDS, <i>Platanthera</i> spp.	About a dozen species, with big showy heads of ornate flowers, from the orange-fringed orchid, <i>P.ciliaris</i> , to the bright white snowy orchid, <i>P.nivea</i> .
PINK COREOPSIS, Coreopsis nudata	Large flowered lavender-pink Coreopsis
STRING LILY, Crinum americanum	Grows well almost anywhere along the Gulf Coast, even in regular garden soils, but best adapted to moist sandy soils.
Rose pinks, Sabatia spp.	The dozen species of Sabatia are among America's showiest wild flowers. Pink, daisy-like flowers with substance. S. dodecandra is superb.
Bog SUNFLOWER, Helianthus heterophylla	A richly colored, neat-flowered sunflower of bogs.
BARBARA'S BUTTONS, Marshallia spp.	Great flowers for the perennial border, already in fancy catalogs. Most adapt readily to dry soils.
HATPINS, Eriocaulon and related genera.	There are more hatpins than you can shake a stick at, and all capture the attention of bog-trotters. Their flowers really do look like long fancy, old-fashioned hat pins.



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IILKWEEDS, Asclepias spp.	Numerous species of milkweed are specific to Southern black water bogs, including A. michauzii, A. rubra, & A. cinera.
BOLDCREST, Lophiola americana.	Fuzzy silver flowers flecked with pure gold.
BUTTERWORT, Pinguicula lutea.	Of the several specis, yellow butterwort is a most arresting in- sect eater.
THREADLEAF SUNDEW, Drosera traceyii.	Insect eating leaves make long, silvery threads in morning sun vivid pink flowers.
SKULLCAP, Scutellaria spp.	Bog skullcaps are among the showiest of these distinctive American herbs.
BAPTISIA, Baptisia spp.	Many popular Baptisia are bog natives.
Stokes aster, Stokesia lævis	That Blue Danube in your yard has forgotten its roots in a Southern ditch; look for Deep South selections of this top-notch perennial.
BLAZING STAR, Liatris spp.	Multiple bog species, including the most famous, Liatris spi- cata, from which modern cultivated plants were derived.
ERYNGO, Eryngium spp.	A common genus in the bogs of Mississippi and gardens of England.
CATESBY'S LILY, PINE LILY, LEOPARD LILY, Lilium catesbei	Stunning; grows in average soils
IRIDESCENT LILY, Lilium iridollae.	Very rare, very beautiful.
MICHAUX'S TURK'S CAP, Lilium michauxii	Broadly adapted southern lily is most vigorous in bogs, may tolerate heavy clays if humus available.
BIG TURK'S CAP, Lilium superbum	For best results, look for Southern sources; will grow well in rich soils if humus is available.
CROW POISON, BUNCHFLOWERS, Zigadenus and allied lilies.	Long panicles of shining white flowers, among the South's showiest lilies.
YELLOW STARGRASS, Hypoxis spp.	A popular flowering genus in other countries, where our species are often grown in gardens
HONEYCOMB HEAD, Balduina	Rich yellow daisy-like petals surrounding a tan honeycomb.
WICKY, DWARF MOUNTAIN LAUREL, Kalmia hirsuta. Edges of	A mountain laurel with fuzzy leaves and twelve inches high.
bogs.	a unit a standar aummar floworing woody



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NANNYBERRY, Viburnum nudum	Superb shrub or small tree, four season interest, tolerates a wide range of conditions.
LYONIA, Lyonia lucida and other species. One of the South's great "new" shrubs.	Most species are handsomely evergreen, with bright red new growth, pretty maroon-red flowers.
LEUCOTHOE, Leucothoe axillaris. A much sought-after weeping shrub	Grows great in black water bogs, must be well-drained every- where else.
HAMMOCKSWEET AZALEA, Rhododendron serrulatum	A summer blooming native honeysuckle azalea; tolerates some flooding, may be broadly adapted to the South.
EVERGREEN DWARF BLUEBERRIES, Vaccinium darrowii, V. myrsinites	Some of the finest small(18") evergreens for the South
CLIMBING PIERIS, Pieris phillyreifolia	Beautiful 2' evergreen shrub that can become a 50' vine.

Huckleberries, Gaylussacia mohrii, G.dumosa, G.frondosa, G.nana	All are first-rate shrubs.
TAR FLOWER, Befaria, Very rare.	Spectacular, tall shrub, like a cross between an azalea and a magnolia.
ARONIA, Aronia arbutifolia	Apple-blossom flowers in spring, red fruits.
POND CYPRESS, Taxodium ascendens	The prettiest cypress, the best for most yards; broadly adapted, may not tolerate high pH soils as well as bald cypress.
LOBLOLLY BAY, Gordonia lasianthus, Like a 40' tall camellia.	Deliciously fragrant, creped white flowers with a crown of gold stamens.
Fever TREE, Pinckneya pubens	Like a pink poinsettia on a tree
MYRTLE-LEAVED HOLLY, Ilex myrtifolia	Tiny, tiny, almost needle-like leaves.
MRS. HENRY'S WHITE CEDAR, Chæmcyparis henryæ	Beautiful evergreen for coastal gardens
LONGLEAF PINE, Pinus palustris	The king of pines, broadly adapted, even to wet bogs
SLASH PINE, Pinus elliottii	Prefers muck soils, but will tolerate salts and chemical content.
SPRUCE PINE, Pinus glabra	A very ornamental pine that tolerates standing water and wet soils. May prove difficult in certain heavy soils.



Central-South Native Plant Conference

The Central South Native Plant Conference will be held October 23 & 24 in Birmingham, Alabama. Friday's session will be held at the Levite Jewish Community Center at 3690 Montclair Road. The program will begin at 9:15 with Bill Finch speaking on "Alabama's Fabulous Floral Diversity." Linda Askey, gardening editor for Southern Living will speak on "What is a Native?" LSU professor of Landscape Architecture Wayne Womack will speak on "Natives and Exotics in the Garden." After lunch, Cole Burrell will speak on native ferns. Rich Pais will speak on "Wildlife Habitats in the Developed Landscape." Randy Westbrooks will talk on "Native vs. Exotics: Who's Winning?" Concurrent sessions in the late afternoon will feature Meredith Clebsch of Native Gardens on wildflower propagation, Edward Croom of the University of Mississippi on medicinal plants of the southeast, and Henry Hughes, a principal with an urban forestry management firm in Birmingham, on regeneration of native forests in urban settings.

Saturday's session will be held at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens at 2612 Lane Park Road. The first speaker will be Don Shadow on deciduous hollies, followed by Robert Bruenig, director of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildfower Center on "Native Plants and our National Well-being." Jim Allison will speak on botanical



finds in Bibb County, Alabama and

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

cos 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.

og to promote the propagation and use of native plants in the landscape

cos to educate people on the relationship between our native flora and wildlife.

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