

Robert Murry Receives Karlene DeFatta Award of Excellence

Robert Murry of Simpson became the third recipient of the Karlene DeFatta Award of Excellence at the LNPS Winter Meeting in January. Robert more than meets the qualifications for the award. His accomplishments in the areas of conservation, preservation, and education of the public to appreciate and use native plants are known throughout the state. He has served the state through the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries both as an employee and an advisor. He worked with the environmental group at Ft. Polk. He has worked very hard to promote the natural heritage of Vernon Parish through the annual Bogs & Birds tours.

Robert has successfully propagated and widely shared such natives as Bigleaf Magnolia, Carolina Lily, and *Silene subciliata*. He is always willing to share his knowledge and quick to speak up when natural areas are threatened. President Charles Allen commented that when he reads the qualifications for the award, Robert Murry is who he thinks of.

Previous recipients of the Karlene DeFatta Award are Karlene DeFatta and Richard & Jessie Johnson. Any member can nominate a person from the state who meets the qualifications.



Robert Murry(far left) points out plants in a Ft. Polk pitcher plant bog to LNPS members on a Bogs & Birds field trip in 1994. Photo courtesy of Rector Hopgood

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Note from the president...Dr. Charles Allen

My evaluation of the Winter meeting was a great success with regard to the speakers, their topics, presentations, and reception by you, the membership. A special thanks to Gail and Malcolm for taking the time to make our meeting entertaining, exciting, and educational. Also, thanks to Dr. Thomas for the great display and for the others who had displays. Many of you do not know the work behind the scene that was performed by Richard Bortnick of LSUA in getting the rooms, coffee, donuts, and many other things ready for our meeting. A special thanks to him and if you run into him, you should also express your gratitude.

My evaluation of the schedule was mixed. We did seem to keep a larger percentage of members around for the business meeting but almost all took off as soon as the business meeting was over. There was very little interaction

between the nucleus of members that usually took place while eating lunch between the speakers in the morning and our business meeting at 1:00 PM. So the old way was better for interaction but the new way was better for keeping more people around for the business meeting. All of this may be mute as we may have to drastically change our winter meeting. A change in the rules at LSUA may force us to change our meeting date and/or our meeting place. LSUA shuts down their heating/cooling system on the weekends and if we are the only group there, then we have to foot the bill for the entire cost of using the facilities, \$1500.00. If our meeting coincides with a scheduled event at LSUA such as ACT tests, etc. then we are charged only a minimal fee as in the past. We are working on working out this problem so pay attention to the winter schedule as there could be a change in the loca-

tion and/or date.

I would like to suggest that we try the following for the 1997 Winter meeting. We should get three speakers and have one on Friday night at 7:00 or 8:00 PM, one at 9:00 AM on Saturday, and one at 1:00 PM on Saturday. Two of these speakers would be local, probably members of our own society and the third would be from out of state. Our business meeting would be at 10:30 AM on Saturday. This should give us the best participation in our business meeting and also much more interaction between members. It should also allow for much more wheeling and dealing in seeds, plants, books, etc. And, people would have time to look at the displays. This schedule would probably work best in a motel. Please give me feedback on the schedule, date, and location. Also, I would appreciate your suggestions on speakers. My mailing address is Dept. of Biology, Northeast La. Univ., Monroe, La. 71209; phone = 318-342-1814 or home = 318-345-5280, email = BIALLEN@ALPHA.NLU.EDU.

Don't forget about upcoming native plant events. Tree planting at Cypress Island Preserve near Breaux Bridge on Sat. March 9. I will be there with 4-7 students from NLU. For more information call Allen May at the Nature Conservancy 504-338-1040. The annual Bogs, Birds, Butterflies, and Bivalves Bust at Ft Polk on March 23-24. A complete schedule, etc. is

(Continued on page 3)

Are Your Dues Due?

Check your mailing label. If a plain 95 or a letter before a 94 appears after your name, your dues are due with this issue. Dues should be sent to the treasurer, Jessie Johnson, 216 Caroline Dormon Rd., Saline, LA. 71070.

Student or Sr. Citizen	\$5
Individual	\$10
Family	\$15
Organization	\$25
Sustaining	\$50
Corporate	\$100

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in this newsletter. I (and ?? NLU students) will be camping on Friday and Saturday nights near the Little Cypress Recreation Area. April 27th will be Earth Day at the Louisiana Arboretum north of Ville Platte. Plans are still being made but will probably kick off at 9:00 AM with a bird tour followed by a plant tour at 10:30 AM and another one at 3:00 PM. A slide show and night walk are being planned for after dark that evening. My daughter has started working there and has twisted my arm so I will be there for the plant tours. She is the daughter that says that I volunteer for so many things that I should have "Fool" stamped on my forehead. One thing for sure, there is plenty of space on my forehead as it runs all the way to the back of my head. For more information, please contact me at the above numbers or Dawn Allen Newman at 318-461-2971. The big event of 1996 is the Gulf Coast Regional Native Plant Conference in Baton Rouge June 12-15. For more information, contact Marion Drummond at 504-767-6916. And, the year is not over until our fall tour. Nelwyn and Julia are planning our fall trip to St. Tammany and Washington parishes. I am sure we will get to see many native plants in September.

And, last but not least, board members are evaluating the grant proposal. A copy of the grant announcement is enclosed in this newsletter. Please spread the word about the grant and let's see how it works.

Gulf Coast Regional Native Plant Conference

"SOLVING PROBLEMS WITH BIODIVERSITY"

JUNE 12-15

**LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS
BATON ROUGE**

sponsored by Hilltop Arboretum
Registration limited to 225

FEATURING:

Charles Allen, Dick Bir, Mike Bridges, Gail Barton, Tommy Dodd, Beth Erwin, Will Fleming, Bill Fontenot, Kim Hawks, Margie Jenkins, John Mayronne, Jan Midgely, Darrel Morrison, Robert Poore, Don Shadow, Malcolm Vidrine, and then some.....

TOPICS INCLUDE:

Favorite plants of Gulf Coast gardeners
The forest on the coast
Developing positive attitudes toward natives
Losing biodiversity to invasive exotics
Public projects using native plants
Habitat-based criteria
Planting for wildlife in your garden
Medicinal plant investigations at LSU
Perennials from Venus & Mars
New introductions for the Southeast

Contact: Marion Drummond, 504-767-6916

* 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. Because we mail bulk rate whenever possible, please keep you address up to date, lest you miss an issue. Send any address changes to LNPS News, P.O. Box 126, Collinston, LA. 71229. Address changes may also be sent to the treasurer, Jessie Johnson, 216 Caroline Dormon Road, Saline, LA. 71070.—Terry Erwin, editor

Something About *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

by Carl Amason

There is a common shrub that is showy in flower that grows in moist, wet places, or even in shallow water. I suspect that it grows in every parish of Louisiana. Its native range in the east is from Southern Canada through Florida, across the Gulf Coast area through Texas into Mexico. It is found growing in southern Minnesota, and I have seen it commonly growing in the marsh lands about Chicago. The bush is *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, and is commonly known as button willow, (though not a willow), or buttonbush. I am not sure of the source of button in the two common names. Perhaps there are other common names. A plant that has such a wide range has many different names given to it by hunters and fishermen. They are the people who most often see it in flower. The scientific name is adapted from the Greek words for head and flower. The individual flowers are tiny. They are packed in globose balls, completely rounded with extended pistils. Ball-shaped flower heads develop into balls of nutlets that readily germinate in moist areas. The bushes are deciduous stems covered in dark bark that are usually crooked. It grows six to eight feet tall, always in wet places. I cannot explain to my satisfaction why its specific scientific name is *occidentalis*, which means western. It is pri-

marily a plant of the eastern and central United States with extensions into the tropics. It is in the family Rubiaceae, which includes coffee, *Gardenia*, *Mitchella*, and others, some ornamental and some weedy. Plants in Rubiaceae are found worldwide. Buttonbush is the only

came up in the water's edge. I don't know how the seeds arrived as the nearest seeding plants that I am aware of are about a mile away. They always seem to prosper in light shade to full sun.

The flowers are white and spherical and attractive to see. They are more attractive to butterflies, bees, hummingbirds and other nectar consuming animals. The flowers are borne in small clusters that do not bloom all at once. That makes for a long blooming season for the hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies. The large swallowtail butterflies are conspicuous in their feeding. I assume this would be a good shrub to grow for butterfly gardeners, especially for those who have a garden with a wet area. I doubt if the shrub would prosper in ordinary well drained soil. Developing nutlets in the old flowers may not be considered to age beautifully or colorfully, but many songbirds eat the seeds.

The leaves are simple, entire, leaves, opposite or whorled, up to five inches long. They are smooth dark green with some pubescence on the underside. In appearance, it is a coarse shrub, usually five to six feet tall, rarely taller, but often in a reclining position. This is a shrub to enjoy and appreciate in its natural habitat, but it can be a challenging shrub to grow in the garden. *Carl Amason is a superior plantsman who gardens near Calion, Ark.*



Cephalanthus occidentalis
Buttonbush

species commonly seen in its genus, but I have never seen one cultivated. I have always thought about planting one on my place, but since it is everywhere, I just haven't "gotten around" to setting one out. I did not have to "get around" to setting out one or two in the edge of my newly established small pond. Two just

Bogs, Birds, Butterflies, & Bivalves +Roots, Shoots, & Fruits Cuisine

MARCH 23-24, 1996

The annual tour is scheduled for March 23-24, 1996 in the Leesville-Ft Polk area.

Meet at Little Cypress Recreation Area at 9:00 AM on Saturday March 23. Tours will include pitcher plant bogs, upland areas, and other ecosystems. Orchids (perhaps a yellow lady slipper), pitcher plants, and other interesting plants should be seen. Several different kinds of birds including the red cockaded woodpecker, butterflies, and other animals might be encountered. Weather permitting we will stop at a stream and look at the bivalves (mussels). Bring your own lunch and water or other beverages. The bogs are wet so dress accordingly.

A 2nd tour will begin at the Little Cypress Recreation Area at 1 PM on Saturday March 23.

A 3rd tour will begin at the Little Cypress Recreation Area at 9 AM on Sunday March 24.

The roots, shoots, and fruits cuisine sampler will be prepared at about 4:00 PM at the Little Cypress Recreation Area. If you are traveling from the east along La. 10, turn right onto Forest Service Road 400 which is about 9 miles west of Cravens. If traveling from the west, turn left onto Forest Service Road 400 off of La. 10 about 4 miles east of Ft. Polk or 9 miles east of Pickering and U.S. 171. Pickering is about 8 miles south of Leesville on U.S. 171. After turning onto Forest Service Road 400, travel about 0.5 mile and turn left onto the first road, Forest Service Road 471. Little Cypress Recreation Area is on the left about 1 mile from the intersection of Forest Service Roads 400 and 471. Turn left onto Forest Service Road. Little Cypress Recreation Area will be on the left about 1 mile. For more information, contact Dr. Charles Allen 318-342-1814 or Robert Murry 318-383-6123.

There are several motels in Leesville and very primitive camping in the National Forest. Note-no camping is allowed on Ft Polk. A campground with running water and toilets is found at Fullerton Lake. Charles Allen and members of the Biology Club from NLU will probably camp near Little Cypress Recreation Area on Friday night March 22 and Saturday night March 23.

Earth Day at the Louisiana Arboretum, April 27. North of Ville Platte. Bird tour starts at 9 AM, plant tours at 10:30 AM and 3 PM. There will be a tree planting at 1 PM. Slide show and night walk are planned for the evening. Contact: Dawn Allen Newman at 318-461-2971.

Flowers, Birds, and the Fruits of May

May 17-18. The management and personnel of the Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge invites birdwatchers and wildflower enthusiasts to come to the Refuge in south Arkansas to see red-cockaded woodpeckers and other spring birds and the flush of flowering wildflowers and fruiting mayhaws on Friday and Saturday, May 17th & 18th. Saturday's trip is a repeat of Friday's. Red-cockaded woodpeckers are a sure thing as adults will still be feeding young in the nest holes. Bring your own lunch and drinks. There are no restroom facilities or picnic areas in the refuge. Those coming from the east can meet at the refuge headquarters west of Crossett on U.S. 82; those coming from the west can meet at King's Inn Best Western Motel in El Dorado on U.S. 167. The Crossett group will leave headquarters at 9 AM. Those meeting at the King's Inn will leave at 8 AM. Both groups will meet at the junction of Shallow Lake Road with U.S. 82, and continue until 3 PM. Lodgings are available in Crossett and El Dorado. For more information contact Ruth McDonald at the Refuge, P.O. Box 1157, Crossett, Ark., 71635, (501)364-3168 during business hours or Carl R. Amason, P.O. Box 164, Calion, Ark., 71724, (501)748-2362, after the sun goes down.

Gulf Coast Regional Native Plant Conference, June 12-15, Baton Rouge. See page 3.
Landscaping With Native Plants, Cullowhee Conference, July 25-27, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC. Contact: Sue Deitz, Division of Continuing Education, 440 H.F. Robinson Building, WCU, Cullowhee, NC. 28723.

Louisiana Native Plant Society Grant

Purpose: To promote the purposes of the society which are: the preservation, conservation and study of native plants in their habitats; the promotion of knowledge of their acceptable utilization; and the education of the public about the values of native plants and their habitats.

Eligibility: (1) any University student (group), any member of the Louisiana Native Plant Society, (group), and (2) grant will be used for study, enhancement, propagation, preservation, promote use in landscaping, etc of native Louisiana plant(s) or habitat(s).

Time period of grant: June 1, 1996 to December 31, 1996

How to apply: Submit three copies of proposal on or before May 1, 1996 to:

Dr. Charles Allen, President
Louisiana Native Plant Society
Department of Biology
Northeast Louisiana University
Monroe, La. 71209

What to submit:

- (a) detailed description of proposed project including time frame
- (b) detailed budget maximum = \$500.00 (travel, supplies, etc. are acceptable items but **not salary.**)
- (c) impact your proposal will have on native Louisiana plants and/or habitats.
- (d) resume of applicant

The executive board of the Louisiana Native Plant Society will evaluate applications and select the awardee.

Winner will be announced on or before June 1, 1996.

Awardee will be required to present a written report summarizing the activity and/or achievements to the Louisiana Native Plant Society. The report, or if very long, an abstract of, will be published in the LNPS Newsletter.

For more information contact Dr. Charles Allen at the address above or 318-342-1814
email = BIALLEN@ALPHA.NLU.EDU

LNPS Annual Winter Meeting Minutes

The annual business meeting of the Louisiana Native Plant Society was held January 27, 1996, on the campus of LSU-Alexandria. Around 80 people registered at the meeting. Malcolm Vidrine spoke on butterflies and creating habitats for them. Gail Barton spoke on seed propagation.

President Charles Allen called the meeting to order. The secretary read the minutes from the previous meeting. The minutes were approved as read. The treasurer presented the financial report. Total income for 1995 was \$2,005.00. \$1765.00 of this amount was dues. The total expenses for 1995 was \$2404.34. The balance as of December 31, 1995 was \$5142.03.

Old Business: Richard Johnson reported on the display garden and new plant additions at Briarwood. He announced that Tom Sawyer day would be held the last Saturday in February, the 24th, at Briarwood.

Sandra Gibbs reported that the Northwest Chapter was meeting 9 times per year and added new members at each meeting. John Larkin reported that the Folsom Chapter was growing.

New Business: A motion was made that the current officers retain their positions for the coming year. A second was given and all approved. Officers are Charles Allen of Monroe, president, Jim Foret of New Iberia, vice-president, Jessie Johnson of Saline, treasurer, and Beth Erwin of Collinston, secretary.

The president called for three nominations for board members to serve until 1999. Those nominated were Jimmy Culpepper, Baton Rouge, Sandra Gibbs of Shreveport, and Bruno Borsari. The nominations were seconded and all were approved.

Charles Allen presented the Karlene DeFatta Award to Robert Murry, commenting that Robert full-filled all of the qualifications completely for the award.

It was announced that the fall field trip would be held in Washington and St. Tammany Parishes. Nelwyn McInnis and Julia Larke would be responsible for planning the trip.

The president commended Terry & Beth Erwin on the quality of the newsletter.

Julia Larke announced that Volume II of the Atlas would be out in late spring or early summer. It would contain families A-E.

The group discussed the proposed financial grants for work in the field of native plants. Jim Foret moved that we allocate a maximum of \$500 for the grant for this year and that the board be authorized to come up with the criteria, advertise, and make the grant. A report would be given at the next winter meeting. There was a second and all approved.

Charles announced that there would have to be either a change of weekends for the winter meeting or change of meeting places the following year. Cost

for the present facility when we were the only occupants would be between \$1,000 and \$1,200. Several places were suggested, and several persons agreed to check out alternatives.

Beth commended Julia Larke and Bill Fontenot on the job done on the new brochure.

The meeting was adjourned.
Beth Erwin, Secretary

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

Its purposes are:

- ✧ 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.

annual
N.L.U. PLANT SALE(mostly natives)

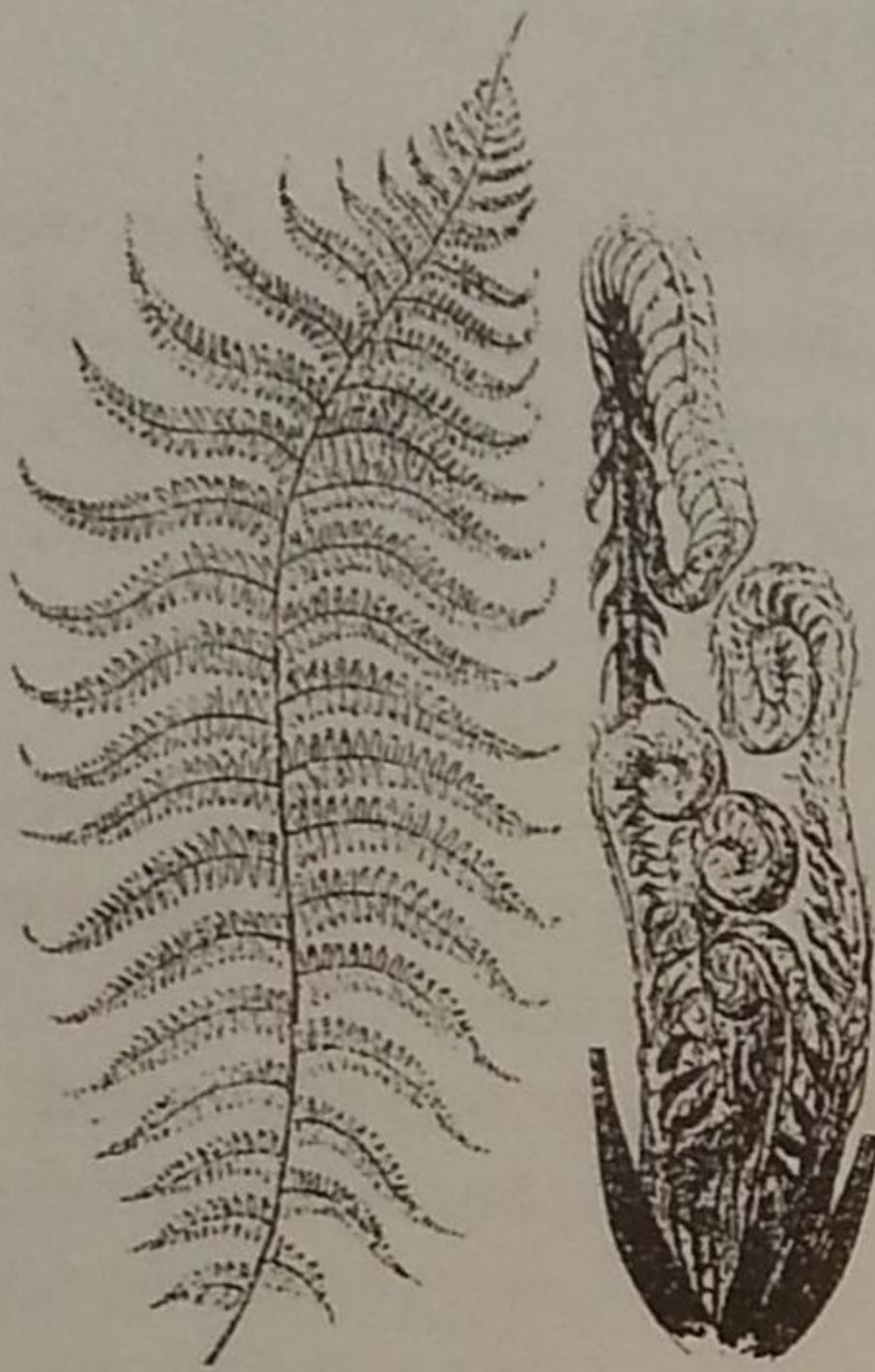
March 29-30, April 12-13, April 19-20

8 til 5

at the Northeast Louisiana University greenhouses,
Bonaire Drive, Monroe, La.

All proceed from this sale go to support the NLU
herbarium, the largest herbarium in the state, and one of
the fastest growing in the country.

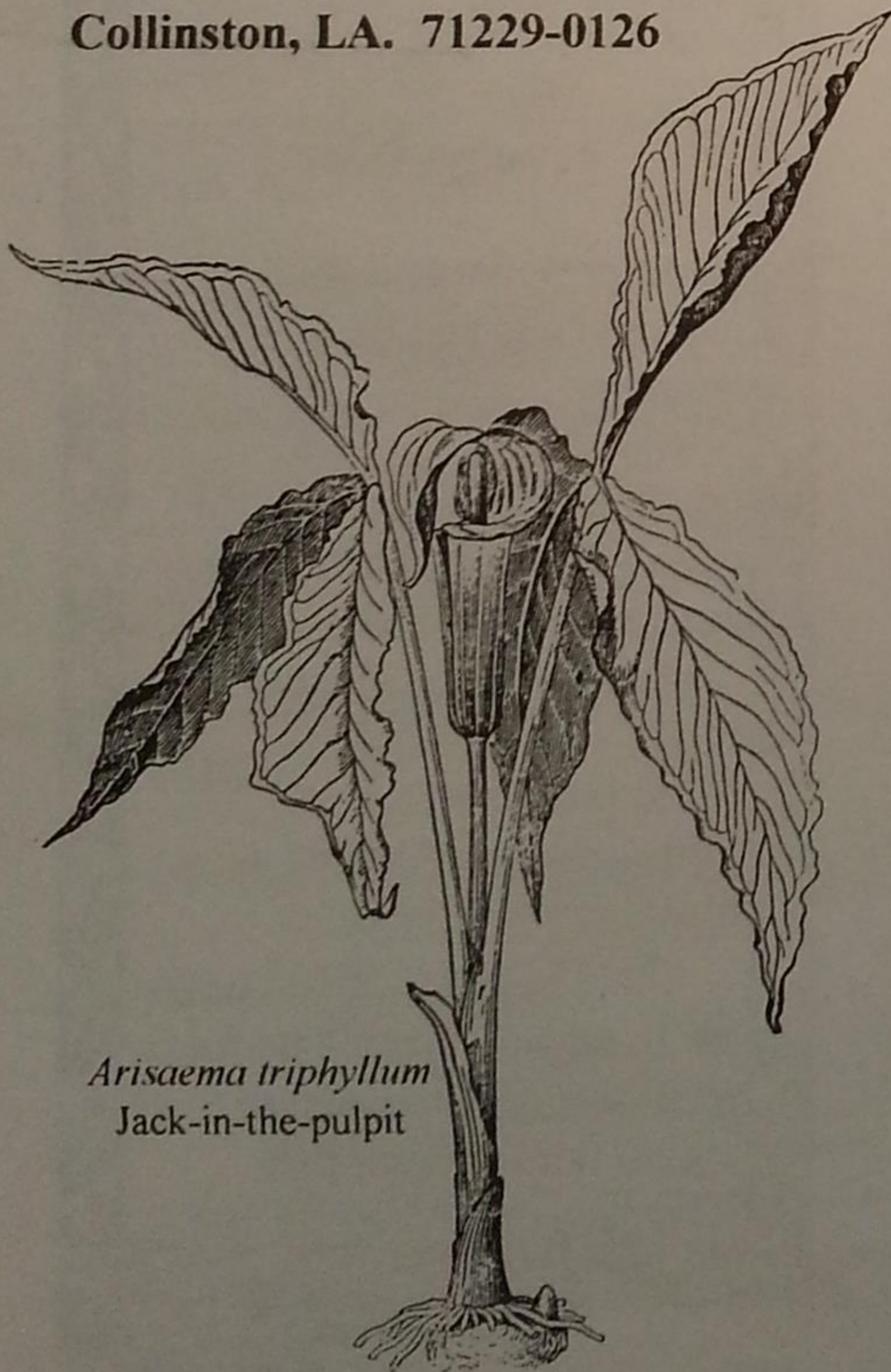
*Directions: Bonaire Drive is on the west side of Ewing Coliseum on the
campus. The greenhouses are about ¼ mile north of the Coliseum on the
right. Contact: Dr. R. Dale Thomas, 318-342-1812.*



Athyrium filix-foemina, Lady Fern

LNPS News
P.O. Box 126
Collinston, LA. 71229-0126

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Arisaema triphyllum
Jack-in-the-pulpit

Dr. & Mrs. Charles Allen 96
NLU Dept. of Biology
Monroe, LA. 71209-0502