

Louisiana Native Plant Society

News

Summer 1994 vol. 12, no. 2

Letter from the president.....Bill Fontenot

Greetings to all. I hope that this edition of the LNPS newsletter finds everyone well, and ready for the summer. First off, congratulations on a job well done by our new newsletter editor, Terry Erwin. I'm certain that we can all expect the same level of quality with each successive issue - particularly if Terry continues to receive assistance from members who are taking the time to contribute articles, announcements, and other newsworthy items.

Soon, you'll be receiving a copy of the Kisatchie National Forest Planning Newsletter. Currently, the USFS is in the process of revising its management plan for the Kisatchie. In that newsletter, you'll be asked to select one or more of the potential forest management alternatives which will be listed on page 7. In my estimation, your timely response (deadline for response is JUNE 17) to this appeal represents one of the most important actions that you will take on behalf of Louisiana's natural environment this year--probably this decade. That's why the LNPS took the time to beg for additional copies of that newsletter; and then paid the additional postage to insure that each LNPS member receives one.

When you receive your copy, you'll notice that an official "Response Form" has been enclosed for your convenience. Near the bottom of this form, you'll also notice that there is space for you to include your name, address, and "occupation/organization". In order to achieve the greatest possible impact to your response, I urge you to write "Private Individual" in the occupation/organization blank. Why? Unlike non-profit groups, governmental agencies, universities, or even business and industry, it is private individuals who pay the lion's share of taxes used to fund the USFS, the agency which "manages OUR national forests.

As to which specific management alternative (you'll find six alternatives listed on page 7 of that newsletter) you should support, here are a few facts for you to consider: We're interested in obtaining the highest level of habitat diversity, protection, and in most cases, habitat restoration possible. We want to see historical longleaf pine habitat returned to same, hardwood areas returned to hardwood, etc. Thus, alternatives A,B,C, and even E, DO NOT serve our interests very well. On the other hand, most elements of alternatives D and F seem compatible.

In closing, I urge each of you to please take the time to respond. Remember, we're talking about nearly 1,000 square miles of forest spread over eight parishes--a substantial chunk of ecosystem if I ever saw one. Remember also that it was Caroline Dormon, a woman who so many LNPS members hold in highest regard, who single-handedly procured the Kisatchie National Forest for us. Let's not let her down, ya'll. The 275 additional responses that the LNPS membership represents is HUGE. Let's do it!

HOT OFF THE PRESSES!!!

Atlas of the Vascular Flora of Louisiana, Volume I: Ferns & Fern Allies, Conifers, & Monocotyledons, by R. Dale Thomas & Charles M. Allen. Produced in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Natural Heritage Program and The Nature Conservancy, La. Field Office. The long awaited publication on Louisiana plants features a listing of plants alphabetically by families, genera, and species, notations on the herbaria in which the species were observed, who collected the specie, and a state map showing which parishes each species is known from. Common names are included in the listings. The book is available by mail from the Natural Heritage Program. Send a check or money order(\$10.00 + \$2.00 postage) payable to the Natural Heritage Account to the Natural Heritage Program, Environmental Branch, LDWF, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA. 70898-9000.--*Beth Erwin*

Gardening for Butterflies in Louisiana, by Gary Noel Ross, Ph.D. Published by the Natural Heritage Program of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries. 41 pages, 6" X 9", color photos. This is an book for anyone interested in gardening for butterflies. The book discusses the habits of butterflies and the importance of providing for both the larval and adult stages. Lists of recommended plant materials are broken down into natives and exotics, and give the stage of the insect which prefers each listed plant. It is available for \$5.50 (\$4.00 + \$1.50 postage) from the Natural Heritage Program at the previously listed address.--*Beth Erwin*

Gardening With Native Plants in the South, by Sally Wasowski, with Andy Wasowski. Taylor Publishing Co., Dallas, Texas. \$29.95. This is the latest publication by the Wasowskis, whom many of you heard at the Gulf Coast Native Plant Conference last summer in Lafayette and at the winter meeting of the LNPS this past January. The book gives considerable emphasis on designing a garden by habitats. Sample designs are included. The book concentrates on native species that are reasonably easy for the novice native plant gardener to obtain. The plant descriptions and cultural recommendations are nicely grouped and contain plenty of detail. There is also a wealth of inspiration for any gardener in the pictures and designs.--*Beth Erwin*

Wild Orchids of Arkansas, by Carl R. Slaughter, M.D., Rt.3 Box 320-02, Petit Jean Mountain, Morrilton, Ark. 72110. \$20.00. This book has almost all of the orchids native to Louisiana. The color photographs and helpful hints on identification make this book a must have on your book list. It is a book that will give you an appreciation of the native orchids and also makes you aware of just how rare some of them are becoming.--*Jessie Johnson*

RESEARCH/SEED REQUEST

Robert D. Marquard, Director of Research at the Holden Arboretum in Mentor, Ohio has issued a request for seed to assist in a research project. He has initiated a breeding program in Witch Hazels, and wants to establish a range-wide collection of *Hamamelis virginiana*. Cooperators who can collect seed should make a bulk seed collection of 50-200 seed from each of one to three populations. Each population will need documentation as to location, habit, and number of plants. He is attempting to assemble this collection during the fall, 1994. Questions and/or seeds can be directed to Dr. Marquard at 9500 Sperry Road, Mentor, Ohio, 44060-8199

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Calhoun Research Station Field Day, Saturday, June 18, 1994, 8:30am-12:00noon: This event will feature an extensive tour of the native plant arboretum as well as highlights from the fruit and vegetable research underway at the experiment station. Dr. Blair Buckley, asst. professor, will conduct the vegetable tours. Dr. Charles Johnson, professor, will conduct tours featuring on-going research on native and exotic fruiting plants. Dr. John Pyzner, professor, will conduct tours of the arboretum. Mr. Steve Hotard, area forester, will conduct tours of the shade tree collection in the arboretum. Registration is at 8:30am and the program begins at 9:00am. The station is located just south of I-20 on US 80, between Monroe and Ruston. Contact person is Dr. Charles Johnson, LSU Research Station, Calhoun, La., 318-644-2662.

LNPS Summer Meeting, September 25-25, 1994--Kisatchie National Forest, Natchitoches area-- information will follow in a separate mailing. **WATCH FOR IT!!!!**

EASTERN NATIVE PLANT ALLIANCE NOTES:

The health of the Mixed Mesophytic Forest, centered in West Virginia and extending into seven other states, is the center of an intense debate, according to an article by John Flynn in the *Amicus Journal* (Winter 1994). In this old and biologically rich forest, residents have long been concerned by a slow, insidious epidemic of root-related disease, die-back, and death. In recent years some professional ecologists have become equally convinced that the problem, apparently linked to genetic variability within species, is real and serious, and most likely caused by acid precipitation and other airborne pollutants. The U.S. Forest Service and forest products companies, however, continue to maintain that the forest is healthy, and that any problems can be corrected by better management, a position critics consider obfuscating and motivated by profit. With the help of volunteers, a group formed by ecologists is planning site studies from Alabama to Pennsylvania to survey the forest and determine the extent of die-back and death.

Entrepreneurial opportunities in the National Forests are outlined in a recent USDA publication. Entitled *Income Opportunities for Special Forest Products* (Forest Service Agricultural Information Bulletin 666), it describes in some detail how to build a business using plant products to be found on U.S. Forest Service land. Sixteen chapters cover more than a dozen product categories, including medicinal plants, seeds, craft materials, and ornamental greens. Conservation considerations are mentioned, but coverage of these issues is generally cursory. The bulletin is \$13 from the U.S. Government Printing Office; call 202-783-3238 to order it on VISA or MasterCard or for information about mail orders.

The proliferation of disturbance-loving native species as ever-widening suburbs move into once-wild areas is a threat that deserves more attention, some ecologists believe. A *New York Times* article by William K. Stevens (3/1/94), building on a report in the March issue of *Conservation Biology*, outlines some of the changes that enable species such as white-tailed deer and raccoons, crows and Canada geese, to take over "semi-natural" areas, crowding out many native plants and less adaptable native animals. Developers and suburban dwellers commonly reduce the tree canopy, remove dead trees, substitute mowed lawns and paving for brushy growth, introduce domestic animals. Adding structures, cultivated plantings, and feeders, they also provide wildlife with new dwelling places and a readily-available year-round feast. Thus, unintentionally, they shape the plant and animal community, and reduced diversity as a result is becoming evident.

BOGS & BIRDS FIELD TRIP REPORT--By Joan Moncrief

The Saturday, May 14 Field trip to the Vernon District of the Kisatchie National Forest began with the sighting of a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus forficatus*, calling from a tree as we walked to the Fort Polk Range 8 bog. The bog was bright with Yellow Pitcher-plants, *Sarracenia alata*, interspersed with Grass-pink Orchid, *Calopogon pulchellus*, Colic-root, *Aletris aurea*, and Candyroot, *Polygala mariana*, blooming amongst the abundant Toothachegrass, *Ctenium aromaticum*, and the Carolina Jointgrass, *Manisuris cylindrica*. Adding color to the bog were flowering Spiderwort, *Tradescantia sp.*, Meadow Beauty, *Rhexia alifanus*, and Yellow Star-grass, *Hypoxis hirsuta*. The less common Snakeroot, *Psoralea simplex*, was in flower.

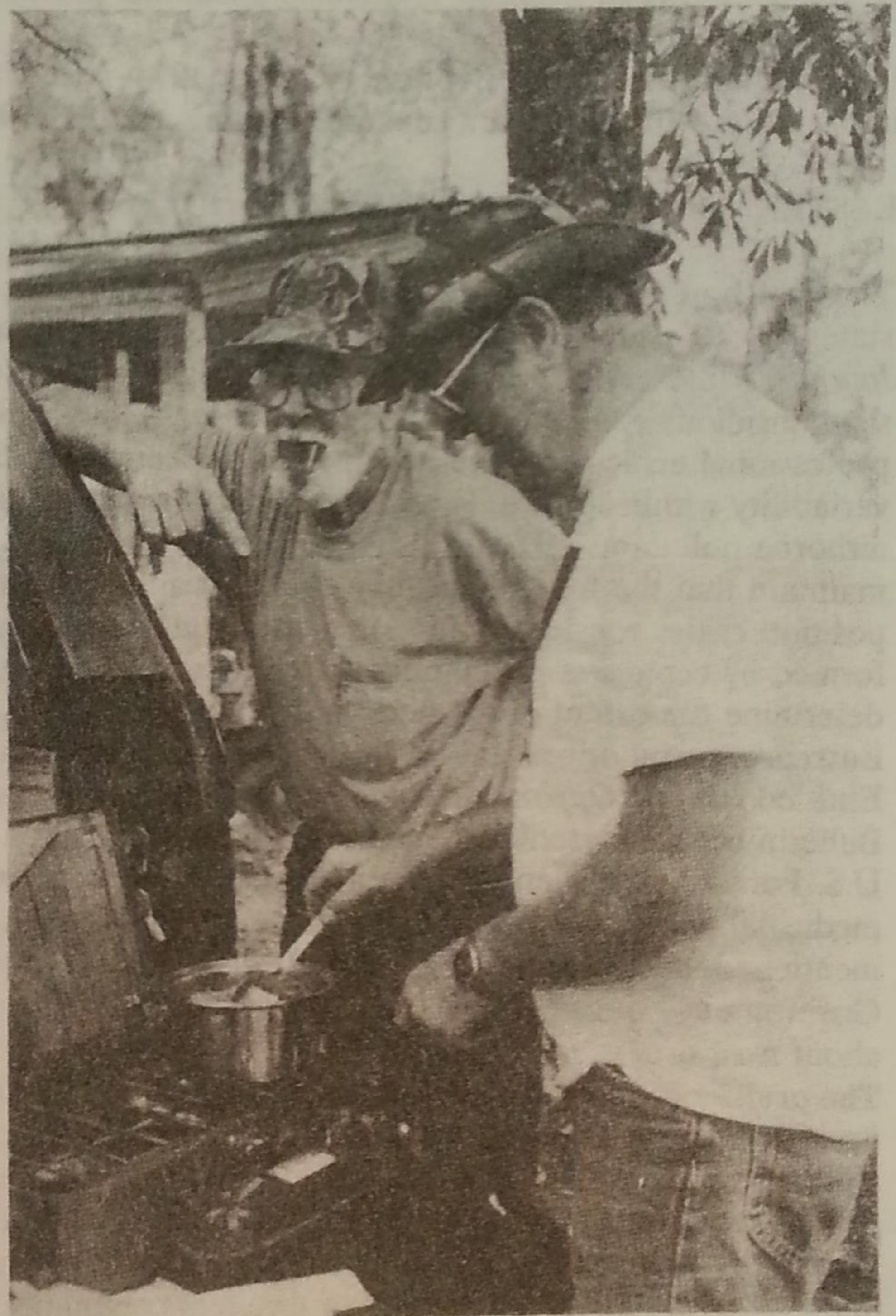
Abundant Bracken, *Pteridium aquilinum*, separated the bog from the upland Longleaf Pine area. Occasional Pinewoods Lily, *Eustylis purpurea*, Woolly-white, *Hymenopappus scabiosaeus*, Orange milkweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, Bladderwort, *Utricularia sp.*, and Purple Coneflower, *Echinacea pallida*, were flowering. Noseburn, *Tragia smallii*, one of the four *Tragia* species in this area, was in fruit.

The highlight of the morning for birders was the observation of a nest of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, *Picoides borealis*. As the nestlings were being fed by males, Ken Moore, wildlife biologist, explained the nesting habits and the Kisatchie Forest management practices for the conserving these woodpeckers.

At Little Cypress Pond, Dr. Charles Allen served a native plant lunch of Sweet Goldenrod, *Solidago odora*, tea, *Stachys floridana* tubers, *Smilax laurifolia* tips and *Halesia diptera* fruit. Dessert was Huckleberries, *Vaccinium amoenum*, collected from the bushes as we walked to the afternoon bog.

Leo Bog was a more extensive area of Yellow Pitcherplants, with woodier plants: Swamp Bay, *Magnolia virginiana*, Bay Gall, *Ilex coriacea*, Fetterbush, *Lyonia lucida*, Red Bay, *Persea palustris*, and Red Chokecherry, *Pyrus arbutifolia*.

Splashing in Drake's Creek to collect mussels ended the outing. Dr. Malcolm Vidrine identified five genera of freshwater mussels: *Lampsilis*, *Fusconaia*, *Villosa*, *Toxolasma*, and *Uniomerus*.



Chef Charles Allen and Master Browser, Robert Murry discuss some of the finer points of the Roots, Shoots, and Fruits Cuisine.

NATIVE HERBS by kae snow-stephens

WOOD SAGE, *Teucrium canadense*, is a relatively pest-free and well-behaved perennial is neither a Germander nor a member of the Salvia family. Its square stems point to a Labiatae, or Mint family heritage. WOOD SAGE is found all over Louisiana, preferring damp and somewhat shady sites. The leaves are lanceolate, sharply serrated, 3"-5" long, and downy to the touch. The stems are erect and leafy, reaching 3'-4'. Flowers, appearing May to October, are on a long spike, white-to-pink in hue. Propagation is by creeping rhizomes and self-sowing.

This is a nice little plant for a damp site, with filtered sun. It grows well under trees with a medium-to-high canopy. It is usually low-growing, except when beginning to go into the bloom stage. In sheltered areas the leaves will stay green all winter.

WOOD SAGE was once used extensively in herbal medicine, possessing both antiseptic and astringent properties. The entire plant was crushed and applied externally as a poultice, or made into teas and tinctures to be used internally.

References: Brown, Clair A., *Wildflowers of Louisiana*

Forey, Pamela, *Wildflowers, American Nature Guide*

Grieve, M., *A Modern Herbal, Vol. 1*

Some Notes on the Pine Woods Lily

by Carl Amason

Here on my place in Union County, Arkansas, amid the sandy soils and piney woods, there are quite a lot of the Iris Family member that is universally known as pine woods lily, a common name that, frankly, I do not like because it is not a lily, but the scientific name has been changed as frequently as the game that young people played sometimes when I was growing up, known as "fruit basket turnover". I learned the plant as *Eustylis purpurea*, which is what you will find it listed and pictured in books that go back twenty years ago, but its scientific past has it listed as a *nemastylis*, not they tell us to call it *Alophia drummondii*, and the name changing probably isn't over because some botanists are studying its relationship to the largely Mexican genus *Tigridia*. But it remains a lovely, easily grown wildflower, beloved by those who know it as "pine woods lily".

All my life, I would seek out my treasures along the sunny sandy rail fence corners of the cotton fields or along the plowed edges of the peach orchard. It grew any place where grasses would grow--sunny, well drained, sandy acid soil. When fallow fields began to grow up into woodlands, it would flee to the roadsides and forest edges. And I can certainly understand why people not knowledgeable about wildflowers, or even cultivated plants, think they have found some kind of wild orchid when they first find them blooming on their first sighting. Only people with some botanical teaching can, at first exposure, place it as a member of the Iris Family. And it is only one of several members of the showy Iris Family that grows within our membership area, which includes what used to be *Alophia*, but is now *Herbertia lahue* ssp. *caerulea*, which is found mostly along the lowlands and along the coast of Louisiana and Texas (I don't know a common name) and *Nemastylis geminiflora*, Prairie pleatleaf, which grows in areas of limey soils which puts it mostly in alluvial, but well drained areas of the Red River Valley in the west and the Mississippi Delta in the eastern part of Louisiana. In Arkansas, there is another lime loving *Nemastylis* species, *N. nuttallii*, found mostly in the Ozark area. I have never seen any of the *Nemastylis* in bloom, and all of these Iris Family members have a multitude of synonyms; their botany relationships are confusing. But as usual, I have digressed, so back to the pine woods lily, and away

from celestial lilies and *Herbertia*.

My understanding of the range of the pine woods lily is that its original home range was west of the Mississippi Valley, in the sandy soils and piney woods of East Texas, Louisiana, and some few southern counties of Arkansas. In the *Atlas of the Vascular Flora of Louisiana* by Drs. Dale Thomas and Charles Allen, they have studied specimens from St. Helena and Tangipahoa, two of the Florida Parishes east of the Mississippi. I wonder if they have been introduced and escaped as I suspect sooner or later the entire southeastern pine belt will support living populations. I can not state with authority, but only as interesting statements. I have been told that the only known Mississippi population is somewhere in the Vicksburg National Military Park area and it was brought in with some sod. And most of my young life, I thought it grew almost all over the world, not knowing that a fairly uncommon, pretty wildflower was so common in my area.

It is not one of the first things to come up in the spring. Its pleated leaves emerge after warm weather has arrived and quickly grows into a flowering plant 10 to 16 inches tall, with a bright purple with brownish and yellow markings, that look like miniature *Tigridia* flowers--a plant that I really don't know. As many pine woods lily plants that I have seen, I really can't swear if they grow from a true bulb or a corm, I just enjoy the plant and I have never given myself the luxury of dissecting the structure. It is a small structure and is found with difficulty in the dormant season about two inches underground. The flowering stalks have leaves; usually two or three, but only one at a time, never in whorls or opposite. The flowering buds come from bracts at the tips. Each flower is composed of three sepals, each about an inch in length and an half inch wide, oval shaped. The three petals are smaller, $5/8$ " in length, and half as wide, with a crimped end that forms a circular depressed tip about $1/4$ ", with yellow markings where it is crimped. The entire flower is about two inches across and rather flat, but the three petals do arise about the plane of the sepals about $1/8$ inch. In the middle are three columns of stamens, upright $1/4$ inch, with a style with three parts. Each part has two tips that bend back over the anthers. This is hardly noticeable unless the flower is dissected. The ovary is three parted and is inferior. It all makes for a very pleasing and pretty flower. The flowers begin blooming on my place in the very last days in May, peak in bloom by mid-June, and with the coming of hot, dry weather, blooming is over by the end of June. If the summer is a good growing season and the rains come just right, I have seen them re-bloom in early September, but that is not dependable in the wild. Seeds usually ripen in September and the above ground parts of the plants quickly die. The plants are easily grown from seeds and blooming can occur in two years. The seeds are dark and round.

In all of my observing, I have seen a range of the color from light to medium purple. I have never seen one that could be called lavender, certainly not pink, nor have I seen a flower that I would call dark purple. At close range, the flowers are showy and really show up in the grass, about the same height as the flowers. I have never seen deer damage or insect damage to the plants, but I'm sure they have natural enemies, but black grasshoppers are not one of them. Perhaps they have evolved with the grasses and herbivores haven't developed an addiction to them. They are difficult to find at anytime except when they are blooming. Another aside that should bring a chuckle: Many times friends and unknowns come to me, telling of their discovery of "lots of orchids in bloom". I usually ask several pointed questions, time of day, location, color, etc., and I quickly deduce their findings. When I want them to take me to the site, in the afternoons, after work, I am so happy to go back with them. They are so distressed as "someone has picked every one of them", or "a deer has eaten all the blooms". Of course, I know the situation. I see the late afternoon's results of the mornings flowers. We discuss the situation, hopefully on my part, that they had seen an iris relative, not an orchid, and I show the badly shrivelled evidence among the grass. So be warned, these are early risers. I know they are opened by 7 AM., and on hot, dry days, the flowers are showing stress by noon, by 2 PM., they are gone, but on cloudy, cool, June days, I have seen them stay in good shape until after 3 PM.

For the most part, I really don't cultivate these beauties. I mow the dead grasses of late fall and winter where they grow and eagerly await their June flower season. I have a suspicion that they are short lived by the many seedlings keeping the colonies alive. Purple flowers do not show at a distance like white, yellow or pink flowers, but the flowers, which are at right angles to the stems, are lovely. Even the dried seed pods add much interest to a coffee table sized dried arrangement. I don't see any practical arrangement use for the flower itself as it is so short lived. And that brings me back to my final observation. Enjoy these ephemeral flowers where they grow and bloom and enjoy them by the name of pine woods lily because I strongly believe that we have not seen the end of the name changing of the species of flowers. If you are confused over the names, so are the botanists, the taxonomics, the book writers, and even the writer of this article. The scientific name is a mess, but the use of and sight of "pine woods lilies" is universal. Please enjoy these wildflowers in nature, be aware of the problems of nomenclature, but don't let the arguments deprive you of the pleasure of seeing but do be aware of the problems of taxonomists and appreciate their problems--at least sometimes.

TOOTHACHE TREE AND HERCULES' CLUB IN LOUISIANA

by

R. Dale Thomas and Charles M. Allen, Herbarium, Biology Department, Northeast Louisiana University, Monroe, La. 71209-0502.

Two distinct woody plants have the overlapping common names of TOOTHACHE TREE and HERCULES' CLUB. Both plants, *Aralia spinosa* and *Zanthoxylum clava-herculis*, are widespread throughout the Southeastern United States and have a history of use by both the early settlers and by the various tribes of Indians. This may account for the overlapping of their various names. *Aralia spinosa* has been called Devil's Walking Stick, Hercules' Club, Prickly Ash, Prickly Elder, Angelica-tree, Spikenard Tree, Toothache Tree, Shotbush, Pigeon Tree, Pick-tree, Thorny Ash, and Mississippi Hoe Handle. *Zanthoxylum clava-herculis* is known as Toothache Tree, Hercules' Club, Southern Prickly Ash, Sea Ash, Pepperwood, Prickly Orange, Sting Tongue, Tear Blanket, Pillenterry, Prickly Yellow Wood, and Wait-a-bit. Both shrubs (or small trees) have prickly stems and compound leaves. The leaves of *Aralia spinosa* are two or three times pinnately compound and have thorns on the petioles and the leaves of *Zanthoxylum clava-herculis* are only once odd pinnately-compound. The leaves of *Zanthoxylum* are about 10 inches long with about 9-13 leaflets, but those of *Aralia* can be up to three feet long and about as wide. Thorns are scattered along the twigs and main trunk of *Zanthoxylum*. These thorns are on the ends of corky protuberances (bumps) on larger stems. The thorns on *Aralia* are concentrated near the leaf scars and terminal bud scars but are scattered all over the younger stems.

Aralia spinosa is a spiny, few-branched shrub or small tree. *Aralia* is the Latinization of the old French-Canadian name, Aralie; *spinosa* refers to the spines on the stem. It is in the same family as Ginseng (*Panax*, Araliaceae) and in the same genus as American sarsaparilla or spikenard and five other species in North America. It ranges from Oklahoma and East Texas to New York. It tends to grow unbranched until cold weather kills the terminal bud and then two or a few lateral buds grow in a bean-pole fashion. Its large compound leaves form a umbrella-shape at the tip of the poles. Its large sprays of white flowers make it an attractive plant to cultivate. It is especially impressive behind a fence or in the edges of wooded areas. The wood is weak, soft, and light and has been used for button boxes, photograph frames, pen racks, stools and arms of rocking chairs. Stems about two

inches in diameter can be peeled in spring and make excellent tomato stakes or walking sticks. The large clusters of purple berries are relished by a number of birds and deer browse the foliage. Indians used a decoction of the bark and root to purify the blood and to treat fever. They used the boiled mashed root as a poultice to bring boils to a head. Negroes used the fresh root to treat snakebite, and applied a dried powder of the root to the site of the bite. The water that fresh roots were stored in has been used to treat irritated eyes. The bark has been considered a stimulant and also a means of breaking fever by increased perspiration. Many other uses were made of spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*), a closely related herbaceous species of the Appalachians. *A. spinosa* is suspected of poisoning livestock in Maryland. This shrub can be propagated by seeds or root cuttings. The fruit should be harvested and the pulp removed from the seeds. An embryo dormancy is present and is satisfied by 3 months of cold stratification. Seeds sown without cold treatment germinated 1% and those treated germinated 55%. Root cuttings are much easier but the juice from the bark of roots sometimes causes sores on those handling it. The preparation of clearcut woods for pine planting causes many broken roots and thus many small readily-available plants of this shrub. The tendency of this plant to form thickets can be counteracted by keeping the area around it mown. Godfrey described this plant by saying: "The characteristic prickly, canelike stems marked by ring-scars and crowned by an umbrellalike canopy of large 2-3-pinnately compound leaves makes this plant easily identifiable. Its features make it a very interesting subject for horticultural use although its habit of spreading afar by underground runners is perhaps a disadvantage. The national champion devil's-walkingstick is 1'11" circum., 51' in height, 16' spread in San Felasco Hammock State Park, Florida."

Zanthoxylum clava-herculis is a shrub to small tree. The flowers are yellow-green and produced April to May in terminal panicles. *Zanthoxylum* comes from the Greek for yellow (xanthos) and wood (xylon) referring to the yellow wood of some species. *Zanthoxylum* is in the citrus family (Rutaceae) and is a large genus with 2 species in Louisiana and 18 in North America including Hawaii. Because of the similarity of chemical content throughout the genus, these plants have been used throughout the world in medicine and various folklore. It is most widely known in Louisiana by the name of Toothache Tree referring to its use by both Indians and settlers. It ranges from southern Virginia, Kentucky, West Virginia to Florida and west to Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. In Louisiana it is common in fence rows from Alexandria south and is common on chenieres along the Gulf. It is also common along the Red River and is scattered throughout northern Louisiana. It seems to prefer basic soil in uplands and is common in the clay upland soils near Copenhagen. Indians used this plant for an amazing range of ailments. A decoction of the bark was used for gonorrhea; the wood for toothache, and a decoction of boiled roots to increase perspiration. Both Indians and early settlers mixed the inner bark with bear grease and applied it as a poultice to treat ulcers. Ripe berries were thrown in hot water to make a spray used in the mouth and blown on the chest and throat for chest ailments. The bark was also used for inflammations of the throat. The inner bark, boiled in water, produced a lotion used to treat various itches. The berries have been considered tonic, stimulant, anti-rheumatic, and effective in relieving gas, colic, and muscle spasms. A solvent extract from the bark is an effective synergist with pyrethrum. Modern herbalists specify the bark and berries of *Zanthoxylum* as a treatment for rheumatism and as a stimulant for blood circulation. Researchers have not been able to validity their claims. Berberine is found in the bark and it is a broad-spectrum bactericide. Other species are used throughout their range as chewing sticks for cleaning teeth, killing decay bacteria, etc. The fruits have been described as single-seeded capsules or as follicles with one or two seed. The plant has dormant seed that must be stratified for four months and probably should also be scarified. They can be propagated by the occasional suckers but probably should be propagated by root cuttings. The national champion is 7'6" in circumference at 2', 38' in height, and 59' in spread at Little Rock, Arkansas.

Another species, *Zanthoxylum americanum*, has been found in Louisiana only in several populations at Copenhagen in Caldwell Parish. It ranges from Quebec to Minnesota and south to Louisiana and the peninsula of Florida. It is a small shrub forming clones by subterranean runners. Prickles occur in pairs at the nodes on the stems (scattered on *Z. clava-herculis*). There are few if any on the petioles. Flowers are solitary or in axillary panicles rather than terminal. This species has the same numbing effect when one chews the bark. It was used throughout the northern part of United States where it is usually referred to as prickly ash. It is heavily browsed by deer at Copenhagen. Because of its spreading by underground roots to form thickets, it can be easily propagated by root cuttings. Plantings of both species should be supplemented with lime.

Regardless to what common names we use for *Aralia spinosa* and *Zanthoxylum clava-herculis*, few woody plants have had such a varied and wide-spread use in our folklore.

STAMP FUNDS PLANTS

Attention naturalists, canoeists, birders, and day-hikers. Here's your chance to explore a system of protected lands in Louisiana. A free guide to Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife Management Areas comes with the purchase of the Wild Louisiana Stamp. The guide is complete with maps, directions, descriptions of the vegetation, and a list of the animals protected at each of the 43 areas. The stamp, a beautiful depiction of Roseate Spoonbills, is \$5.50 and allows you unlimited visits to over one million acres of land for one year. July 1, 1994-June 30, 1995. The following outfitters have agreed to support the program and make the guides and the 1994-95 Wild Louisiana Stamp available to you. They will receive the stamps in June.

Shreveport

Annette Knight
Kampers Korner
5822 Line Ave.
Shreveport, LA. 71106

Lafayette

Dick Williams, Jr.
Pack & Paddle
601 E. Pinhook Road
Lafayette, LA. 70501

Baton Rouge

Lisa Redman
Backpacker
7656 Jefferson Hwy.
Baton Rouge, LA. 70809

Monroe

Jerry Mehl
Outfitters, Limited
3027 Breard Street
Monroe, LA. 71201

Slidell

Rick O'Connell
Bike Zone
1501 Gause Blvd.
Slidell, LA. 70458

New Orleans

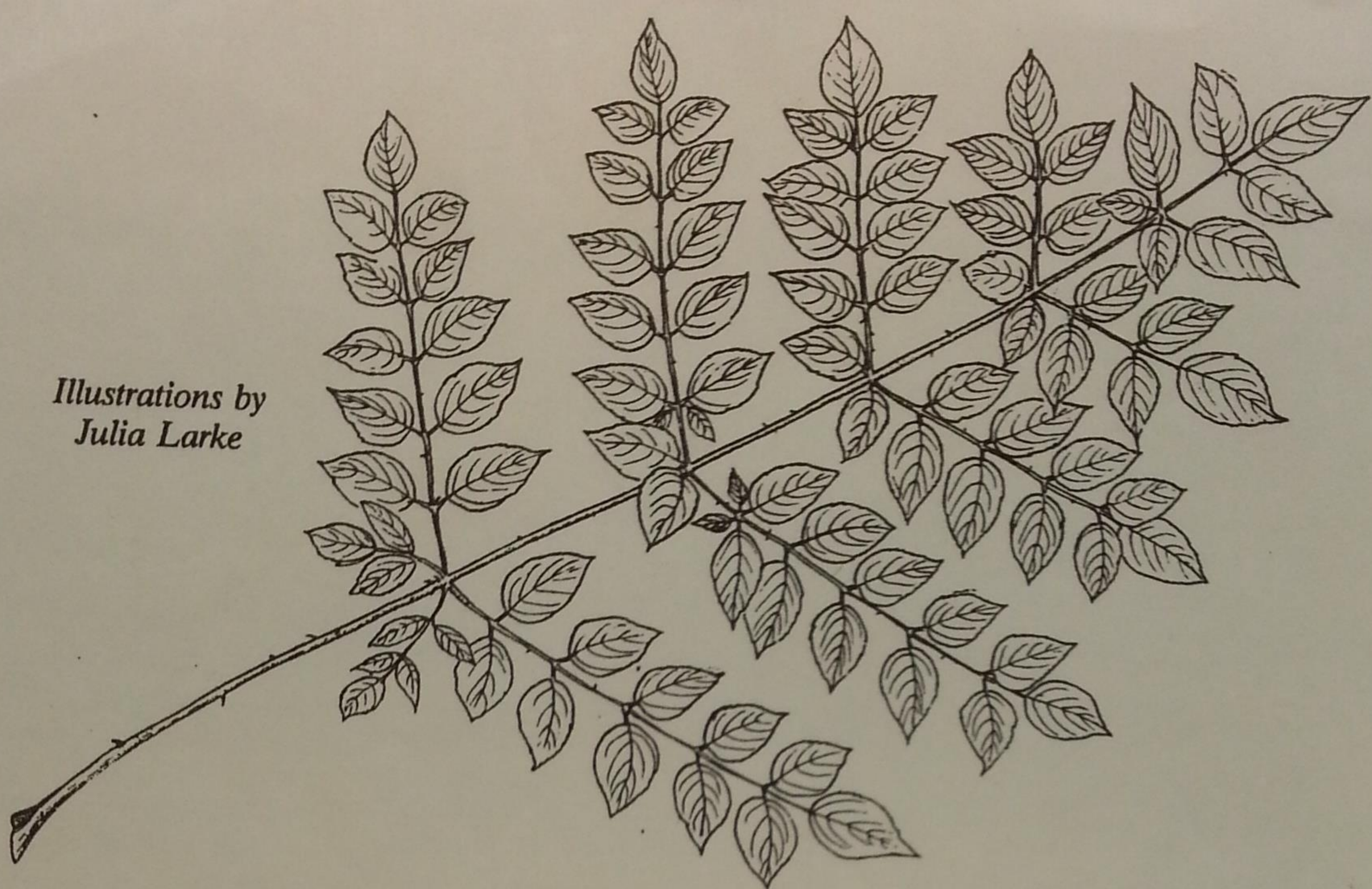
Mike Boley
La. Nature & Sci. Center
Read Blvd. across from Meth. Hosp. on
Nature Center Dr., N.O. East

Hammond

Rick O'Connell
Bike Zone
1300 W. Thomas St.
Hammond, LA. 70401

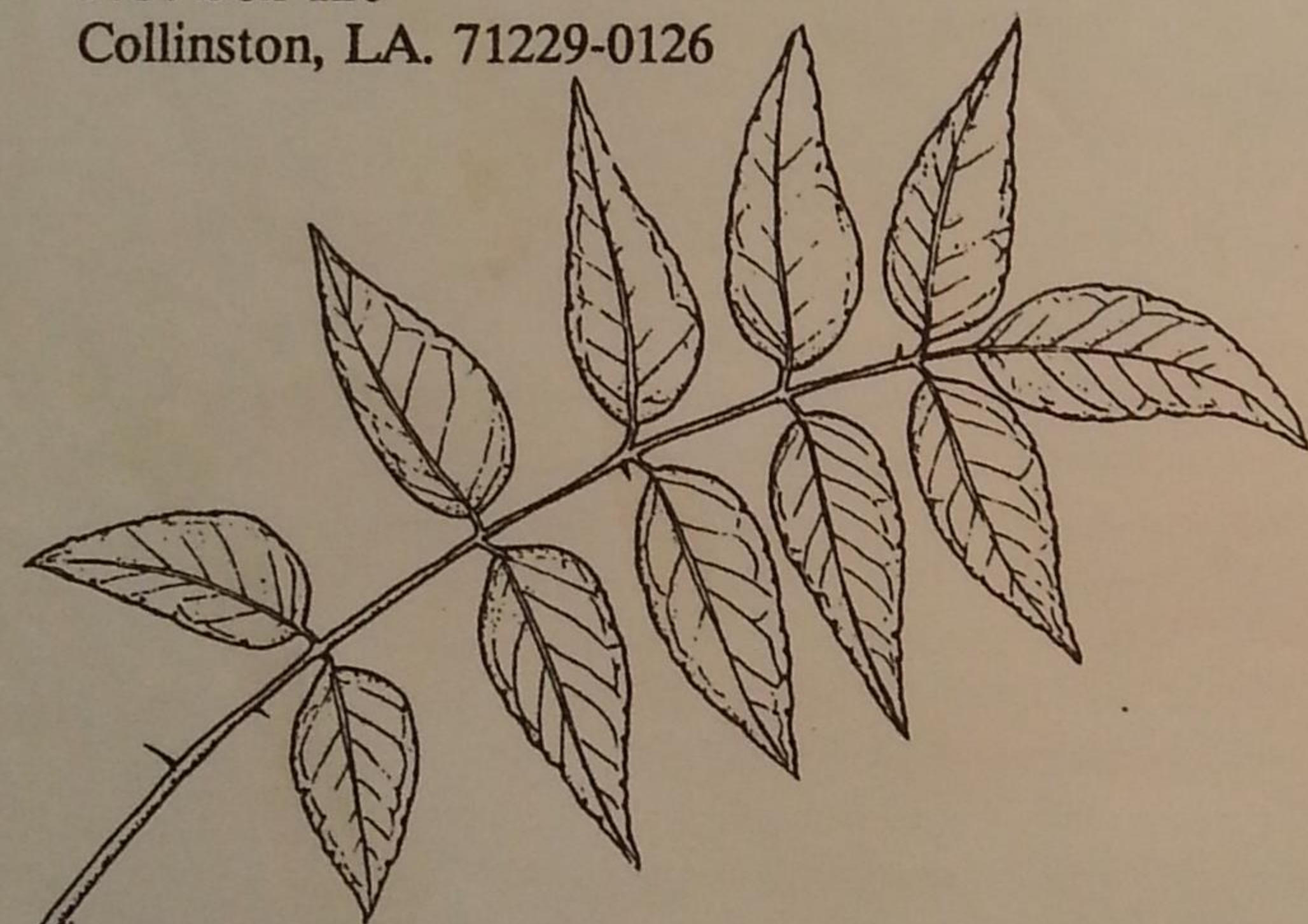
Stamps and guides are also available at the LDWF office in New Orleans, 400 Roayal St., and LDWF headquarters in Baton Rouge, 200 Quail Drive. Sheriffs offices in each parish can also sell interested persons the stamp. Proceeds from the sale of the stamps are dedicated to the research and protection of distinctive natural communities and plants, as well as native species of animals including endangered and rare species.

Illustrations by
Julia Larke



Aralia spinosa

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Zanthoxylum clava-herculis

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