



New LNPS Brochure Is Ready

The new Louisiana Native Plant Society brochure is now ready. Jessie Johnson, Bill Fontenot, and Beth Erwin collaborated on producing the new brochure to replace the previous one when the supply ran out. Julia Larke, botanist with the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program, has an awesome talent with pen and ink. She produced three sketches for the brochure.

They are of Mamou, *Amsonia ludoviciana*, and Rattan. The sketches are featured in this newsletter. The Society voted to allow Bill Fontenot to produce the brochure at the 1995 Winter Meeting. Five thousand brochures were printed at a cost of around \$500. The bulk of the supply will be at Briarwood. They should also be available in quantity from John Mayronne of Natives Nursery in Covington, Marion Drummond at Hilltop Arboretum in Baton Rouge, Bill Fontenot at the Acadiana

Park Nature Station in Lafayette, Charles Allen at NLU in Monroe, Beth Erwin at Kalorama Nature Preserve in Collinston, and at Walter Jacobs Park in Caddo Parish. If anyone has need of

brochures and none of these folks are handy, write Jessie Johnson, 216 Caroline Dormon Rd, Saline, LA 71070 and she will fix you up.

Note from the president...

Dr. Charles Allen

When I was a graduate student at USL, the zoology students would all get summer jobs and/or teach during the summer. My major in Botany was a liability. There were almost no summer botany jobs and for sure, no summer botany courses to teach. The teaching situation hasn't changed but the field botany work has. There are many summer jobs for botany students. Over the past several summers, I have seen and heard of several summer botany jobs involving rare and endangered plant surveys, vegetational sampling, etc. Times have changed and I am now glad that I stayed in

botany back in the 70's when the future looked bleak. Botany seems to become more popular and appreciated today. Hopefully, we (LNPS) can channel that increase in popularity and appreciation into native plants. And, as my former major professor Dr. John W. Thieret was famous for saying or asking "Have you thanked a green plant today?"

On another note, some of you may be concerned about restoration using plants and not seeds. I was involved in one of the first of these, the Eunice Cajun Prairie

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Restoration Project. Plants were used in lieu of seeds in that project as well as in the other restoration projects that I have been involved in because (1) native Louisiana seeds were not available, we don't want to look like Texas or California or any other state (2) almost all of the plants were perennials and most do not produce seeds (3) the moving was done during the nongrowing season and the death percent was almost zero (4) the plants were taken from a threatened area, it could be plowed under any day. This was not true in all of the restoration projects. I have revisited most of the sites where plants were harvested and it is hard to tell that any plants were harvested. The remaining plants responded to being pruned by growing rapidly. These are perennials and have large underground stems and digging parts out is like pruning an above ground stem. There should be sacred areas where no harvesting for restoration, or any

other purpose, should be allowed. Any area that has a rare and endangered species or just a very uncommon one should be in this category. Restoration projects increase the number of baskets, not all of the prairie eggs (plants) are in one basket but are now in two.



Mamou, *Erythrina herbacea*
by Julia Larke

Are Your Dues Due?

Check your mailing label. If Su94 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. 71270. Dues schedule is as follows:

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

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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 your 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

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In the spring issue of the *LNPS News* the authorship of the article, **Using Oaks for Food & Medicine** was inadvertently left off. The author was Dr. R. Dale Thomas, of NLU. This was the third and final installment in his excellent series of articles about the oaks. The editor apologizes for the oversight both to Dr. Thomas and membership.

Fall Field Trip Itinerary

☞ Meet at Kinder City Hall at 9:00 a.m. on Sat., Sept. 23, 1995.

Kinder City Hall is at the southwest corner of U.S. 165 and U.S. 190. Mayor Fred Ashy will welcome us. Dr. Charles Stagg and his wife, Carla will provide coffee and doughnuts. We will tour remnant Cajun Prairie strips along U.S. 165 south of Kinder. Several grasses, including big and little bluestem, switchgrass, and Indian Grass. Several composites including Blazing Stars, sunflower, goldenrods, and asters should be seen. Other potential finds include blue sage and purple false foxglove.

☞ We will reassemble in Kinder at Fausto's Restaurant at 1:00 p.m., Sat., Sept. 23, 1995

Fausto's is on the south side of Kinder at the junction of U.S. 165 and La. 383. It is a homemade fast food type restaurant. A second option for food is a deli located in the Market Basket (a grocery store) that is across U.S. 165 from the restaurant. There is a park available for those who bring their own lunch. The park is reached by turning right at the first light as you enter Kinder from the south on U.S. 165. The park is about one mile down on the right.

Just west of Kinder, we can make a stop to see a dry, sandy area in south La. with Fire Pink (*Silene subciliata*) and possibly *Tetragonotheca ludoviciana*. We should also see an interesting Adder's tongue (*Ophioglossum*). Then, we will travel west along U.S. 190 and tour pine flatwoods in Allen and Beauregard parishes. Many composites, especially *Eupatorium* should be in flower in the flatwoods.

☞ We will assemble at 9:00 a.m., Sunday Sept 24, 1995, in Sulphur at the Burger King on La. 27 just north of I-10.

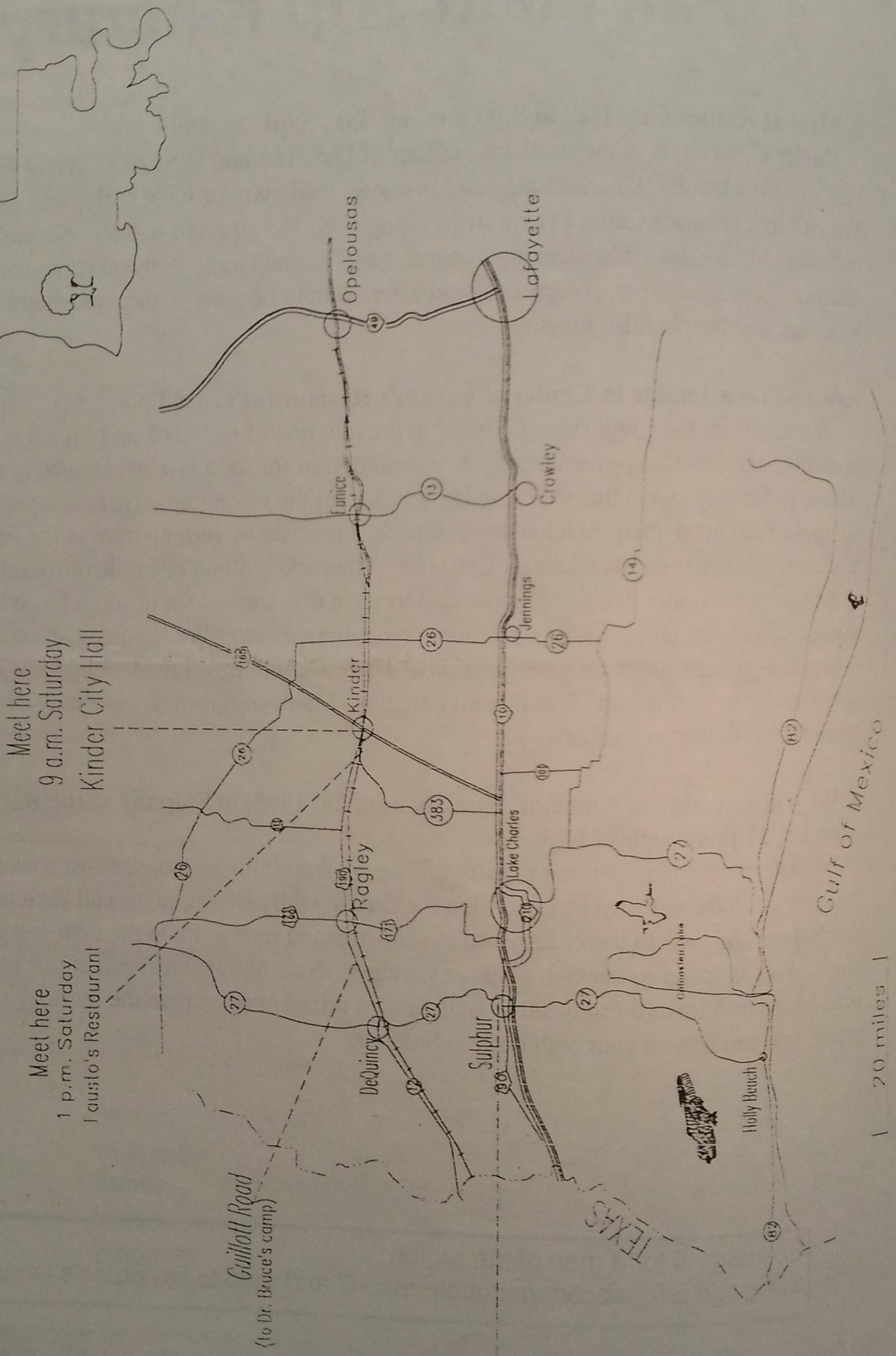
We will travel south and tour the Creole Nature Trail (alligators are almost a sure thing here) and then on to the Gulf. When we reach the Gulf at Holly Beach, plans call for a tour of the beach there and then to travel eastward to Cameron and turn south to the Gulf just east of the ferry. We will travel to the Gulf again at Cameron jetty. We will disband at this point and head back north toward Lafayette or I-10 along a different route than the morning trip. If you prefer, you can retrace your path back to Sulphur.

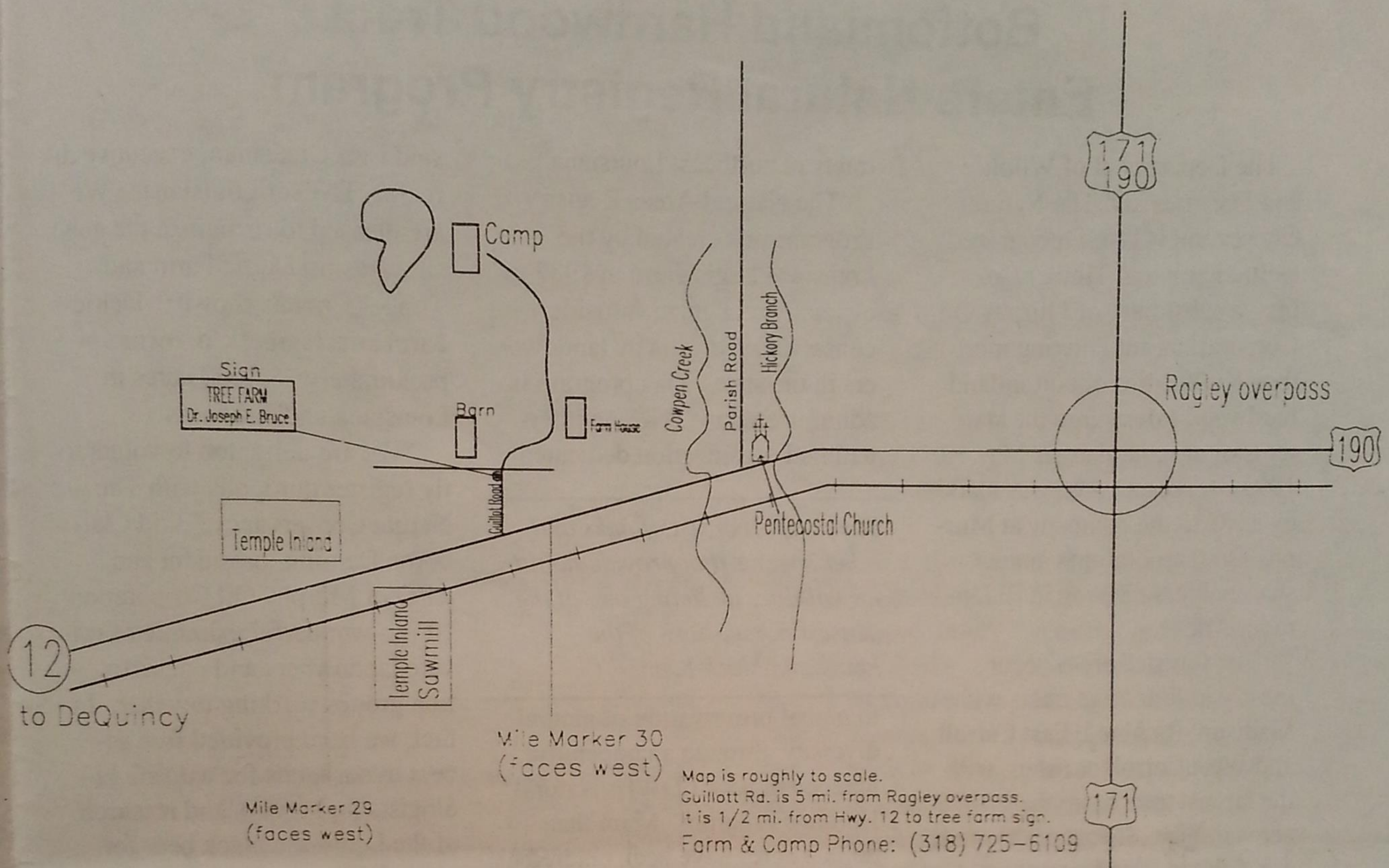
See page 4 for a map of the region.

See page 5 for accommodation options and map to Dr. Bruce's camp.

LNPS Field Trip

September 23-24, 1995





Dr. Joseph Bruce has offered us the use of his camp for Fri. and Sat. nights. His camp is west of Ragley and can hold 20 people. He has requested and we will honor his request for no alcohol. His camp is off La. 12 approximately 5 miles west of the Ragley overpass (the intersection of U.S. 190, U.S. 171, and La. 12). If you are traveling west, you will turn right onto Guillott Road just past Cowpen Creek. About 0.5 mile down Guillott Road, you will see the entrance to Dr. Bruce's Farm. The telephone at his farm is 318-725-6109. If you plan to stay at Dr. Bruce's camp Friday and or Saturday night, you will need to bring sleeping material. Also, please let Charles Allen know so we can have a head count.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Smith of DeRidder (533 Kenneth Smith Road; DeRidder, La. 70634) have offered the use of their RV space. Their telephone number is 318-463-7025. For Friday night, there are motels in Eunice, about 30 miles east of Kinder; or Jennings, about 30 miles SE of Kinder; or Lake Charles and Sulphur about 40 miles SW of Kinder. For Saturday night, the best motel situation would be in Lake Charles or Sulphur. Sam Houston State Park is located just north of Lake Charles.

For those who opt to spend Friday night in Eunice, Dr. Malcolm Vidrine has offered to give a tour of the restored prairie area in Eunice Friday afternoon. Malcolm's phone number is 318-457-4497.

For those that are at Dr. Joseph Bruce's camp Saturday night, we will make time for anyone to show slides of their favorite wildflowers and/or scenes. We will limit the slides to ten per person so everyone will get a chance. A projector will be provided and a slide tray. If you have your own slide tray, then put your slide show together and bring the tray.

Bottomland Hardwood Tract Enters Natural Registry Program

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) recognized Deltic Farm and Timber Co., Inc., a subsidiary of Murphy Oil Corporation, for entering more than 8,000 acres of bottomland hardwood forests into the state register of natural areas May 10, 1995. A presentation was made by TNC to the company at Murphy Oil Corporation's annual shareholders meeting in El Dorado, Ark.

The forested areas occur mostly in four large tracts within Madison, Richland, East Carroll, and West Carroll parishes, with the largest tract more than 2,000 acres in size. "Most of the areas are isolated islands, remnant forests in a sea of soybean and cotton fields," said Gary Lester, LDWF Natural Heritage Program director.

The forests consist of oaks and other hardwood species that provide habitat for wildlife, including one of the densest populations of the Louisiana black bear. "These are key tracts, not only beneficial for black bears denning, but for neotropical migratory songbirds, many which are on the decline in the United States," said Lester. These birds include Prothonotary Warblers, Wood Thrushes, and Mississippi Kites. LDWF Secretary Joe L. Herring said, "Deltic Farm and Timber Co. is to be commended for the exemplary management of their bottomland hardwood

tracts in northeast Louisiana."

The Natural Areas Registry Program was created by the Louisiana Legislature in 1987 to officially recognize valuable conservation efforts by landowners in the state. This program is administered by TNC, an international organization dedicated

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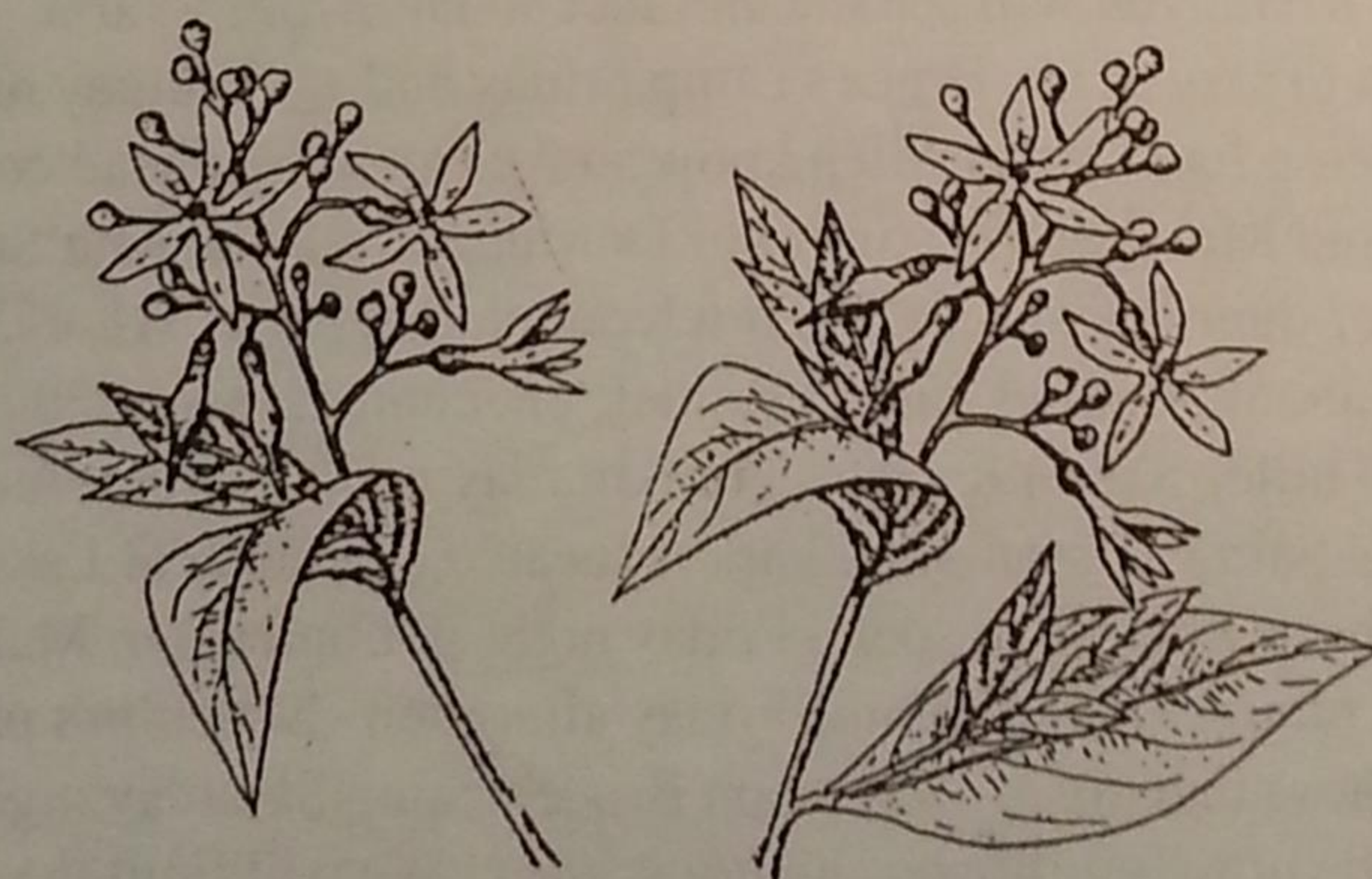
to global preservation of natural diversity, through a cooperative agreement with LDWF's Natural Heritage Program. More than 50,000 acres have been entered into the Registry since its inception.

"Conservation of the forested wetlands in the Mississippi River alluvial plain is very important,"

said Lisa Creasman, executive director, TNC of Louisiana. "We are pleased to recognize the good stewardship Deltic Farm and Timber Co. has shown." Deltic Farm and Timber Co. owns approximately 387,000 acres in Louisiana and Arkansas.

"We are delighted to voluntarily register our lands with The Nature Conservancy," said Claiborne Deming, president and CEO of Murphy Oil Corporation. "It is a wonderful example of private landowners and conservation groups working together. In fact, we have provided free access to our lands for wildlife biologists for surveys and research of the Louisiana black bear for several years, and were previously recognized in April 1992 for our effort."

For more information contact Gary Lester at 504/765-2821.



Louisiana Bluestar, *Amsonia ludoviciana*, by Julia Larke

Some notes on *Itea virginica*

by Carl Amason

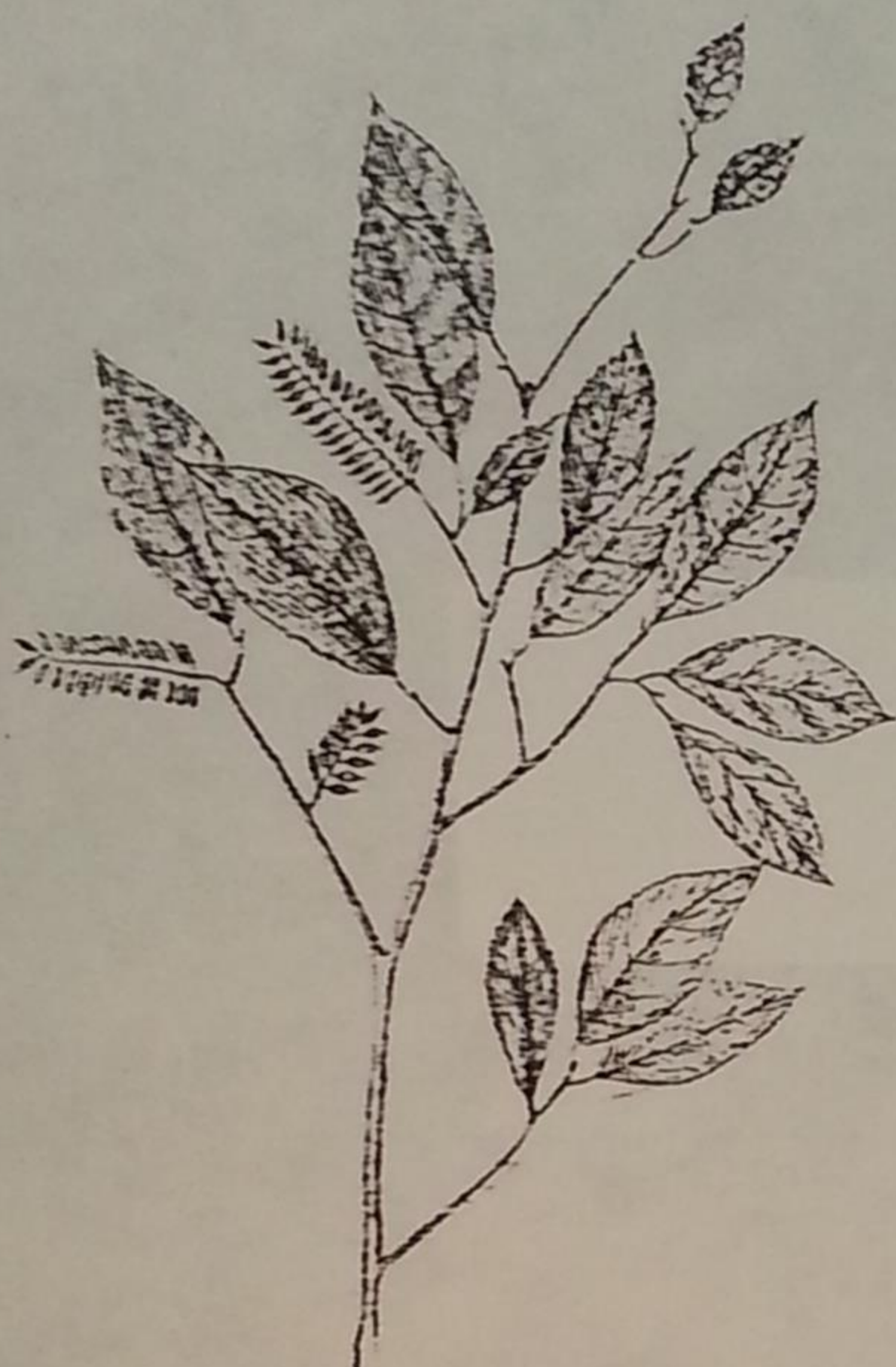


Illustration from 100 Woody Plants of North Louisiana, by R. Dixie Thomas & Dixie B. Scogin

A most charming flowering plant of the wet areas about the countryside, usually seen blooming in the wild and rarely seen in gardens is *Itea virginica*. In late April and early May, it is very conspicuous blooming in its natural habitat. Its pendulous branches, end in spires of many tiny white flowers. Each flower may be 1/16 inch wide and 1/4 inch long, equally spaced all around the stem, like a "bottle brush." These spires are three to five inches long. The bush is usually from three to five feet tall, hardly as wide, but some growing in sunny water's edge may get to six feet. The flower spires are droopy, adding much to the charm of the shrub. It is the only representative of the genus *Itea* in North America. Other species of the *Itea* are found in the tropics of the world and in Asia. Its native range in the United

States is restricted to low, poorly drained and wet places, beginning in New Jersey on the Coastal Plain to Florida. The range extends along the Gulf Coastal Plain into Texas, and extends up the Mississippi River valley and its tributaries to the vicinity of Cairo, Illinois. Throughout its range, the shrub and its flowers are surprisingly uniform for a species with such a wide distribution. Of the two cultivars registered, both were named for the autumnal foliage coloring. Most common in the nursery trade is 'Henry's Garnet', a selection made by Mrs. Henry of Philadelphia, from a plant found in the Carolinas. A newer cultivar, grown and named by Mr. Larry Lowman of Wynne, Arkansas, is 'Saturnalia'. He grew it from seed collected along Wolf Bayou in the Memphis area. *Itea japonica* 'Beppu' is a plant some people of authority declare to be a cultivar of *Itea virginica* that went to Japan and returned as a Japanese species. I am just aware of the "discussion." All of this is to relate that appreciation that others have for a very nice native shrub. It is an excellent plant to know in the wild and to grow in one's garden, especially where a wet site is involved. One is not limited to grow *Itea* in a wet place, for it will grow and bloom well in good garden soil, in sun or light shade. It is easily transplanted, grown from cuttings, or grown from seeds. I am unaware of any benefit to birds or

other garden wildlife that would enhance its appearance in the garden for those people who plant for wildlife. Nothing in nature is useless or goes to waste. Under garden conditions, this shrub will grow from three feet to five feet tall, almost as broad, and the flowers develop into non-showy seed capsules. It is beautiful in flower, with almost pristine white spires of flowers on pendant terminal limb and twig ends. In the late afternoons, some fragrance can be noted. The foliage is a medium matt green that turns to wonderful fall colors of orange to red to purplish. For those who arrange, the flowers hold up as cut flowers in a vase.

Itea virginica is in the Saxifragaceae (Saxifrage Family), along with other garden favorites such as *Heuchera* (alum-root), *Hydrangea* (common and uncommon true hydrangeas). Around its native range, it has several common names. That is a sure sign that this species is admired by ordinary people. Some of those names are Virginia willow (it is not a willow), Virginia spire, sweetspire (there may be other sweet spires) and tassel-flower. I am unaware of any preferences as to soils needing to be acid, sweet or neutral. From casual observations and conclusions made, *Itea* grows well in acid, wet places, even in the muck along the edges of lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams. ☞

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Rattan Vine, *Berchemia scandens*,
by Julia Larke

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.
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