

Endangered Plant Is Found Once Again In State

Ending almost a century of seclusion from the list of Louisiana's known flora, American Chaff-seed (*Schwalbea americana*) was rediscovered in July 1997. The plant believed by many people to be extinct in the state was rediscovered by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Natural Heritage Program Ecologist, Latimore Smith. American chaff-seed was found growing in the longleaf pine flatwoods of Allen Parish in southwestern Louisiana. Last recorded in the state in 1902, the rediscovery of one of Louisiana's rarest species is of major significance.

American chaff-seed is a very rare plant throughout its range. The plant is listed as Endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Historically, populations of the plant were recorded from all coastal states from southeastern Texas to Massachusetts and Connecticut. However, the species has not been seen in many of these states for decades. Where it does occur, populations typically consist of small numbers of plants. In 1993, there were less than 20 known populations in the world.

American chaff-seed is a tall perennial herb in the snapdragon family and can be identified by its two-inch long, purplish-yellow, tubular flowers. The plant, a partial parasite on the roots of other plants, grows to a height of 12 to 31 inches at the time of flowering in spring. Its leaves are alternate, lance-shaped to elliptic, and its flowers are borne singularly on short stalks. The fruit is a long and narrow capsule enclosed in a loose-fitting sack-like structure.

Indigenous to moist, fire maintained habitats, this plant is only found in places that have been frequently burned. The area in which American chaff-seed was

found in Allen Parish has been regularly burned for many years. Fire is critical for its perpetuation.

The decline in prescribed burning throughout the southeastern U.S. is having detrimental effects on this plant and many other groundcover plant species native to longleaf pine systems. Among its major beneficial effects, fire kills back encroaching shrubs and trees that would overtake sun-loving plants. Native plants of longleaf pine systems remain unharmed by fire and actually thrive after an area is burned. American chaff-seed, in particular, seems to profit from lightning season (growing season) burns.

Another reason for the rarity of American chaff-seed is its almost exclusive association with high-quality longleaf pine ecosystems. Most longleaf pine forests were removed during the great timber-cutting era earlier this century. High-quality longleaf pine habitats are rare and have been replaced throughout most of their original range by agriculture, agri-forests and residential areas.

The re-discovery of this plant is an important step in the conservation of Louisiana's natural heritage. A plant thought by many to be extinct in Louisiana can now, once again, be tallied on the list of our state's existing flora. Perhaps most encouragingly, the owner of the property on which the plant was found has expressed a strong interest in managing the area for its long-term benefit. Such enlightened foresight bodes well for the future of this very rare wildflower in Louisiana. *For more information, contact Latimore Smith-504-765-2828 (smith_lm@wlf.state.la.us)*

LNPS News was unable to obtain a picture or sketch of the plant. However, those with internet access can view a fine picture at www.abi.org/nhp/us/nj/photoby.html

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

Greetings to all of you friendly flower folks. The Bogs, Birds, Butterflies and Bivalves + Wilson's Wonderful Wildflowers was a great trip. It was all it was banged up to be. Rare plants and common plants, they are all so great. So many beautiful flowers and interesting critters. It was time well spent with good folks in a beautiful wild place. I did get my tail in a crack though, because I missed my only granddaughter's second birthday party and Mother's Day. Oh well, it was a fine weekend in the woods. There was talk of an August trip to the same area to make the most of peak bloom in that habitat. Ken, your slides were the best, thank you.

One a less pleasant note, we are still having insurance problems for the annual meeting. Now it looks as though it will cost us \$3 to \$4 per attendee for the January meeting. I would appreciate input from our members on this if any of you have any suggestions.

I hope to see many of you in nort la (that is how we say north in the region below I-10).

Jim



Winged
Elm

You can e-mail Jim Foret at QRAZ36C@prodigy.com and Terry, the editor, and Beth, the LNPS Secretary at kalorama@iamerica.net

Are Your Dues Due?

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

Student or Sr. Citizen	\$5
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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. Send any address changes to LNPS News, P.O. Box 126, Collinston, La., 71229.—Terry Erwin, editor.

Another view of the Ft. Polk situation *by Charles Allen*

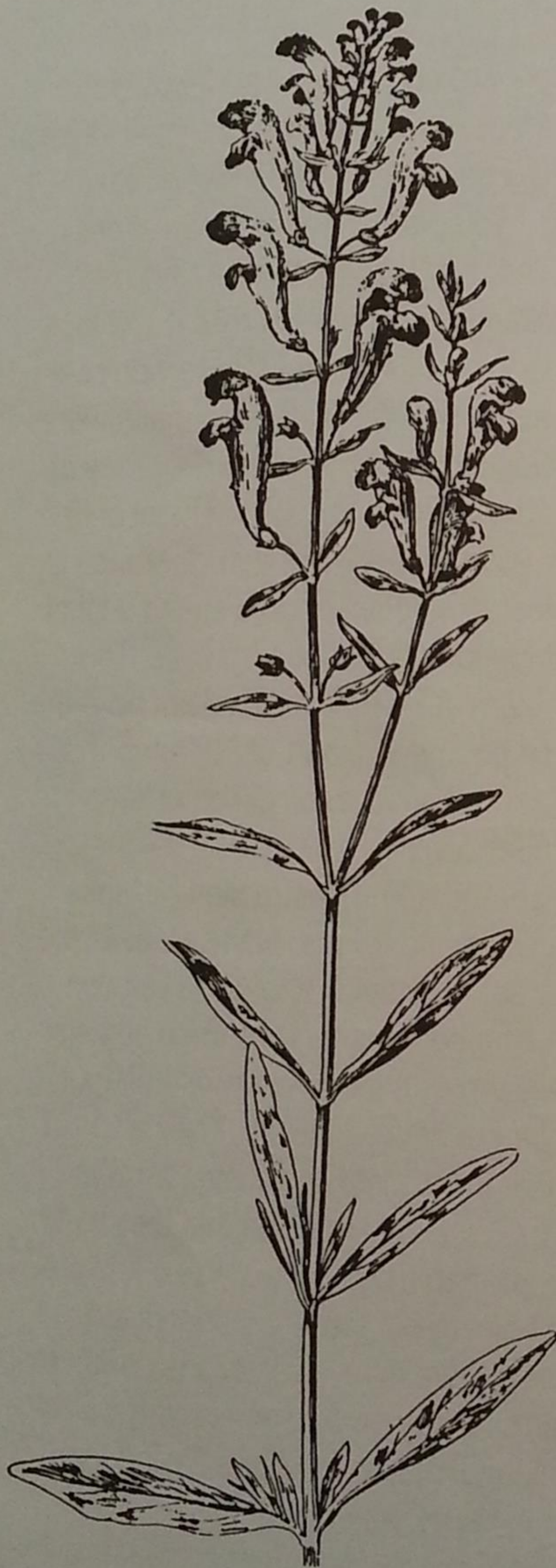
To this point, all comments about the Army's acquisition of the National Forest Lands have been negative. For those with an open mind, there are some positive benefits if this transfer does take place. For a number of years, the public lands around Ft. Polk consisted of three areas: (1) U.S. Army land owned by Ft. Polk (2) Intensive Use Area (National Forest Land used by Ft. Polk) and (3) Limited Use Area (National Forest Land used on a limited basis by Ft. Polk). The first two have been under the control and management of Ft. Polk while the third has been managed and controlled by the U.S. Forest Service. If the land were transferred, the area would still be managed by professional biologists. Many are not aware of the fact that there is an Environmental Section at Ft. Polk whose function is to manage and care for the plants, animals, and environment of the base (number 1 and 2). The Environmental Office is manned by a number of professionally trained biologists and others. This office has put a lot of their own effort into ensuring that the plants and animals of the present Ft. Polk are protected. But more importantly, the Environmental office has secured outside consultants to collect base line data on the biota of Ft. Polk and to monitor the effects of military activities on the area. I am aware of the following organizations doing research at Ft. Polk through efforts of the Environmental Section: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station, Radian Corp., U.S. Geological Survey, Nature Conservancy, and Natural Heritage. The Nature Conservancy has published several articles on the flora and fauna of Ft. Polk including a large one on natural communities and sensitive species in 1993. Ft. Polk is one of the better known biological areas of the state. The results of these biological surveys point to Ft. Polk being a botanical island in Louisiana. Two species are known in Louisiana only from Ft. Polk; Yellowroot, *Xanthorhiza simplicissima*) and Barbara's buttons, *Marshallia trinervia*. There was a population of this reported from SE Louisiana from a roadside that has not been seen since

1971. I don't know if it is management or coincidence that these two species are found on Ft. Polk but not on National Forest land. Perhaps they do occur on National Forest land but haven't been documented there yet.

Many people are concerned about access. I have visited most areas of Ft. Polk over the past several years and there are times when one cannot go to certain areas. But, if you plan ahead you can access almost all of Ft. Polk. The National Forest area has many private "in holdings" scattered across it and thus access will continue to be fairly easy. There won't be blocked roads except during times of troop maneuvers and not all will be blocked because of the necessity of public access. Today, you can travel over most of Ft. Polk on most days; you do need to obtain clearance to get off the road. Most of us plant people spend a lot of time looking at plants along the edges of roads. This has not been a problem at Ft. Polk and will not be in the Limited Use area if it becomes a part of Ft. Polk. The biggest benefit of "control of access" will be to keep the "Bubba" hunters under control.

Many are concerned about destruction by tanks and other Army vehicles and troops. Many areas of the current National Forest (number 3 above) have been abused by hunters who camp and leave trash and also make their own trails through the forest with their four wheelers and four wheel drive vehicles. They also cut down trees and carve initials into trees, etc. Army people are like us native plant people in that they try to leave an area cleaner than they found it. We adopt this creed because we want to but the Army people are required to. They also have many restrictions on where tanks and other vehicles can go and where they cannot. Ride around Ft. Polk and look at the signs saying "No track vehicles". From my experience at Ft. Polk, I see the same management continuing but an increase in the protection for the plants and animals. Access will be more difficult but that could also be beneficial.

Skullcaps.....by Bill Fontenot



Scutellaria integrifolia

During a recent trip up to Monroe, I was pleased and surprised to see narrow-leaved skullcap (*Scutellaria integrifolia*) blooming so abundantly along the roadsides of northern Grant and northwestern Lasalle parishes. I don't know why, but skullcaps have always been a favorite wildflower group for me. Maybe it's because they are a) not all that common around here, and b) bloom a lot like *Salvias* (I really like *Salvias*). Both *Salvias* and *Scutellarias* belong to the mint family (Lamiaceae), along with other notable genera such as the *Menthas* (true mints), the *Monardas* (the beebalms and horsemints), the *Physostegias* (obedient plants or false dragon heads), and the *Pycnanthemums* (mountain mints) -- all of which are stalwart dwellers in my home garden. Hummingbirds, butterflies, and other important insects love this nectar-rich family. It must be interesting to live one's life fueled mostly (75-100%) by sugar.

Mints, skullcaps, and other family members such as heal-all (*Prunella vulgaris*) have also figured largely in medicinal and culinary usages in both the Old and New Worlds. Mints, if I remember right, were/are most often used as gastrointestinal and sinus aids; and skullcaps were/are used as a calmative. Though I often enjoy mint teas that Lydia makes, I've never taken skullcap. I'm way too calm to begin with - any more and I'd never wake up.

I've been happily gardening with skullcaps ever since Dr. Malcolm Vidrine supplied us with our first piece of *Scutellaria integrifolia*. Being as into herbs as she is, Lydia was delighted with the addition; and both of us have sort of kept an eye out for various garden-worthy skullcaps since. Narrow-leaved skullcap is native to just about the entire state, including the remnant tallgrass prairie strips in southwestern Louisiana. Growing to about a foot tall, narrow-leaved skullcap is among the most dependable species for Gulf Coast gardens. It generally produces its short spikes of powder to azure-blue blooms from late spring through early summer. Though many skullcaps thrive in half to full shade situations, narrow-leaved skullcap appreciates all the sun it can get. With the skullcaps, visual appeal doesn't end after the completion of blooming. Rows of tiny skullcap-shaped (whatever that means) seed capsules replace the spent blooms, and persist throughout much of the summer, imparting an interesting texture to the plant.

Several summers back, my Abbeville gardening/naturalist pal, Elizabeth Edwards convinced me to go out with her way down along the west side of Bayou Vermillion in search of a skullcap that she had found there and tentatively identified as either heart-leaved skullcap (*Scutellaria cardiophylla*), or maybe *Scutellaria ovata*. It was sometime in late July or early August - I remember because we saw a traditionally early-fall bird migrant, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, on a utility wire right alongside the bayou. And boy was it hot. Even though we drove most of the way, I can remember losing much water from many pores that day. We finally found a large colony of the subject plant - it was well withered, no leaves and very few seed capsules (all of them empty) present - along an old, forested fencerow. Oh well. We did do well in the early-fall bird migrant department, however, adding both Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Yellow Warbler from the old fencerow.

I recently received our first ever piece of *Scutellaria incana*, a fine looking thing with elliptic, semi-gloss leaves that have textured, sunken veins. I'm not aware of a common name for this one. Nelwyn and Latimore Smith, botanist buddies, passed it along to me from their outstanding woodland garden just north of Amite, LA. This species supposedly has pretty large flowers (again, pale to medium blue) that occur on axillary as well as terminal spikes. In other words, it packs more blooms per unit area than other skullcaps. Like my daddy said, "We shall see what we shall see . . ."

Then Lydia's got this whacky, raggedy-leaved thing out in the front bed near our ancient butterfly bush that she planted sometime last year. She swears that it's a skullcap; and gets mighty huffy with me if/when I dare suggest that it might simply be some dastardly weed. It does have square stems (a trait commonly shared by mint family members), I'll give her that much. I'll keep ya'll updated on this one when it blooms.

Lastly, everyone should be on the lookout for three exotic skullcaps have recently hit the gulf coast gardening arena. The first is a moisture-loving, mat-forming groundcover type thing called "velvet skullcap" (*Scutellaria javanica*) because, I suppose, of its deep

purple, velvety blooms which it sports through much of the growing season. Keep this plant out of direct sunlight, and it should be happy in most any soil, from perennially wet to fairly dry. Best of all, it has faithfully returned from 15°F temperatures in our garden. The second is *Scutellaria suffrutescens*, a velvety hot-pink to magenta bloomer with very textured, very shiny leaves. I first saw this one at Rose Buras' nursery in Belle Chase, just south of New Orleans. Then this past spring, the Louisiana Society for Horticultural Research had it as one of their "releases". I don't know where they might have gotten it from. I have no idea as to its native country, or how hardy it is, but it sure is pretty. Then there's this brilliant, cardinal flower-red (I'm a sucker for red) thing from, I believe, Central America, that sort of floated into our nursery several years ago. Neither of us can remember for sure, but maybe it was Theresa Grissom that first gave it to Lydia. Then we saw more of it for sale at the Antique Rose Emporium near Brenham, Texas, a couple of years ago. It, too, has velvety blooms and very glossy foliage. Somehow, we've managed to keep it around our garden from year to year, so I guess the thing's hardy here. I'm sure I'll come up with the botanical name before too long.

Most skullcaps are woodland edge/woodland glade/open woodland inhabitants that produce short spikes (racemes) of tubular blooms. As is the case with most wildflowers, skullcaps are drought tolerant and require no fertilizer and no coddling in garden situations. For more information on skullcaps and other wildflowers, give me a call (318/291-8448) or drop me an electronic line (bbboy@linknet.net) at the Nature Station. *Bill Fontenot is the author of Native Gardening in the South. He is curator of the Acadiana Park Nature Station in Lafayette and past president of the LNPS. He & his wife, Lydia have Prairie Bas Nursery at Carencro.*

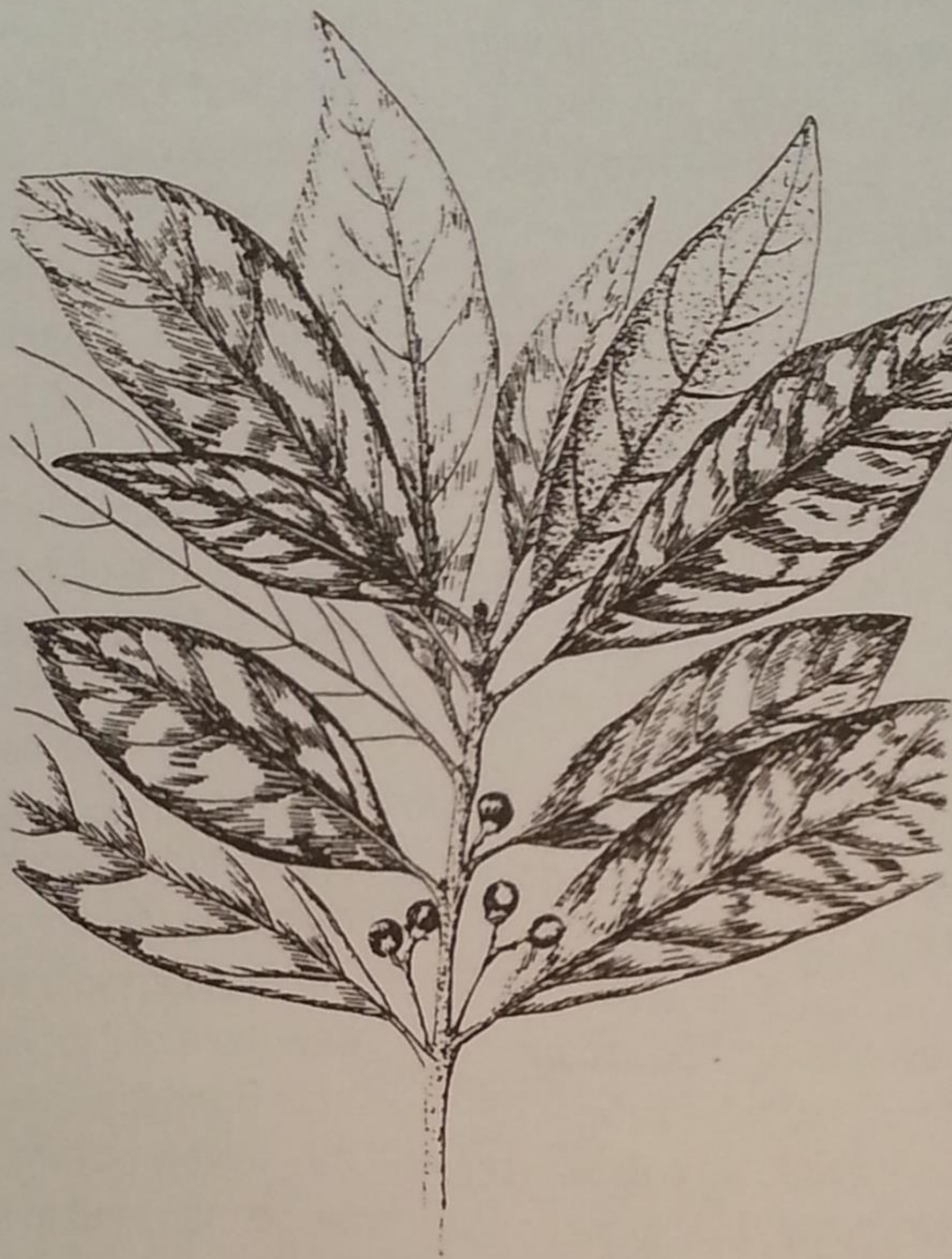
Note: This article first appeared in the **Lafayette Advertiser** in May 1997 as one of Bill's Sunday columns. He still doesn't know the names of the two unknowns he mentions.

Some Notes on *Persea borbonia* by Carl Amason

There are many distinctive plants, bulbs, shrubs, trees, etc. that are native to Louisiana and in spite of their distinction, confusion reigns due in large part to common names and in part, perhaps, early botanists and latter day botanists not familiar with the plants. One of the most unique plants is *Persea borbonia*, commonly known in most of Louisiana as the red bay. Keep in mind that bay is just part of the language as far as aromatic or oily leaves are concerned, just as rose, pine and cedar are used as common names of plants that are not true roses, pines or cedars and in some cases not closely related. More about that application but back to *Persea borbonia*, which is native to almost all of the state.

Persea borbonia is a common small tree that grows mostly on well-drained sandy knolls amid wet lowlands. Some are adapted to growing in wet areas. It is an evergreen tree, or sometimes-thin shrub that can grow up to twenty feet tall, taller in better soils and shrubbier in poorer sites. The leaves are up to five inches long with a half-inch petiole included. It is very fragrant when pulled or crushed which helps to identify that it is in the Laurel Family along with the true European laurel bay (that name again) and *Lindera* (Spice bush), *Sassafras*, and *Cinnamomum*, just to name a few. Closest in relationship is *Persea americana*, native of the American tropics and is known as Avocado or sometimes as alligator pear.

The flowers of the native red bay and fruit are not really significant. Flowers are in a panicle or a peduncle, small in size, and greenish-yellow in color. They are borne in the leaf axils, and they develop into a dark blue or black drupe (single seeded fruit) which are not show



Redbay

illustration from 100 Woody Plants of North Louisiana written by Dr. R. Dale Thomas & illustrated by Dixie B. Scogin

either. But it is the leaves that make this small tree interesting and important. This brings into focus also the cultural differences between the French ancestral and English ancestral cooking. Whereas the English speaking people principally use salt, black pepper, red peppers, onions, and at times, celery as spice, the French are famous for their spicy foods. They have adapted their native *Persea borbonia* as a favorite substitute for the European bay leaf of commerce. The Cajuns seem to prefer the native because of its availability and freshness for their seafood and crawfish boils. The European bay leaf may be a year or more old when

purchased. The native red bay is picked as used.

The *Persea borbonia* is frequently cultivated as the evergreen leaves give a pleasant landscape use and its leaves are utilized. It grows well in the shade and in open sun, where the leaves will develop a reddish color upon maturity, hence I suppose, the name red bay. It ranges from the east coast from Delaware, through Florida into the West Indies, along the Gulf Coast into Texas and perhaps into Mexico. It is a range that the books are vague in including. There is a record from Miller County, Arkansas found over a hundred years ago and people have been looking for it ever since. In its range are some other forms. Professional botanists cannot agree if these forms are ecotypes, subspecies, or distinct species. They are swamp bay (*P. palustris*), and silk bay (*P. humilis*) to the splitters. Whereas the

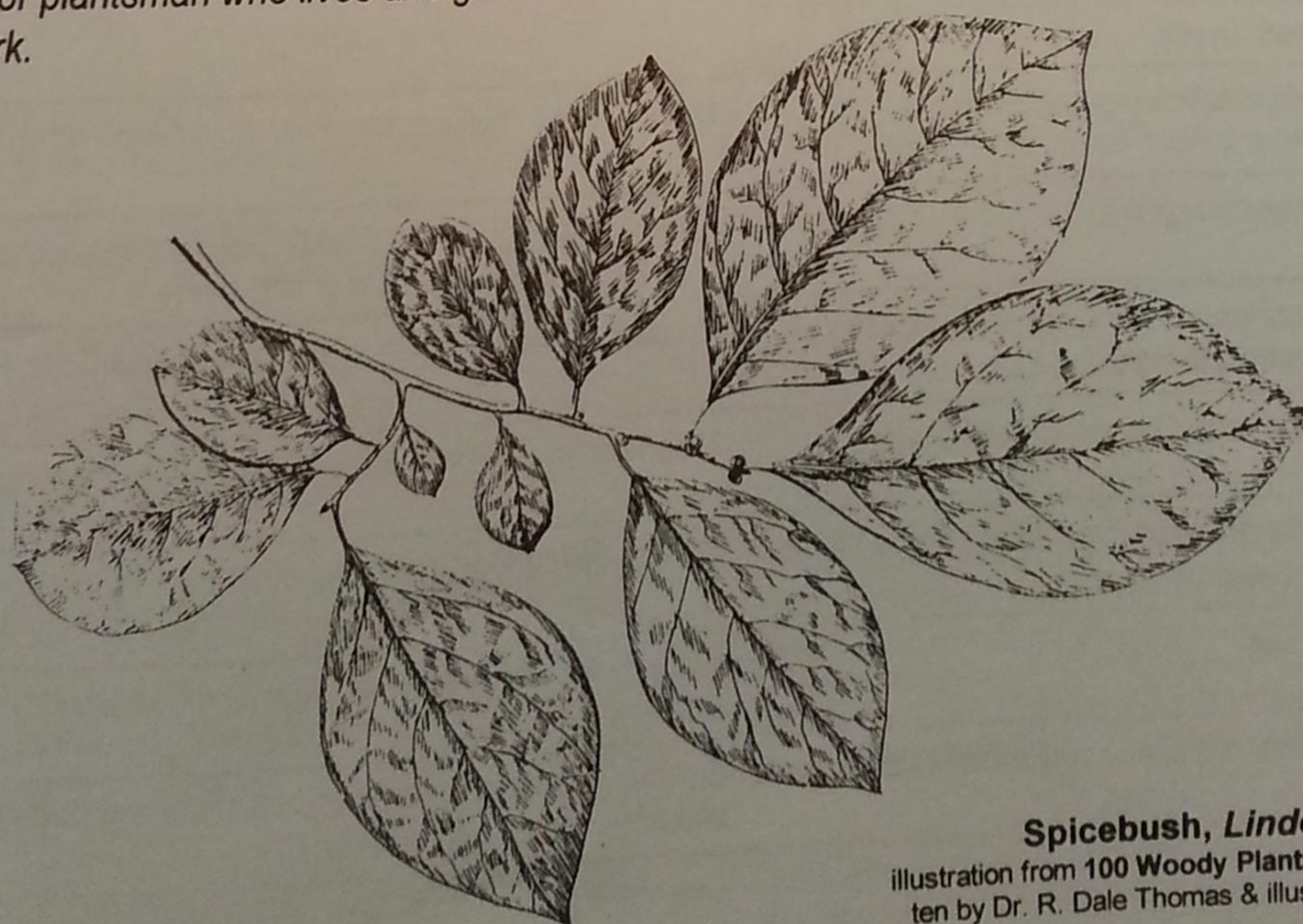
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typical red bay leaf is smoother green above and whitish beneath and grows in well-drained soil, the swamp bay is named for its habitat. The silk bay has bronze pubescence that turns whitish with age. Local people can readily distinguish between the types. All local types have a common fungus growth on the leaves that cause some disfiguration. As a personal note, I wonder if someday someone will hybridize the *Persea borbonia* with the *Persea americana* (avocado). It seems possible.

On the subject of the word "bay" being part of the common names of plants: Red bay and sweet bay, according to the books, are applied to all of the *Persea* species and/or subspecies. "Bay" is also applied to the related *Persea* species of the orient and to the European *Laurus nobilis*, the true bay. Bay and sweet bay have been applied to *Gordonia*, *Magnolia grandiflora* (bull bay), and *Magnolia virginiana* (sweet bay). All have fragrant evergreen leaves and most have apparently been used as a substitute for the European laurel as a spice. Common confusion occurs when the terms bay, sweet bay, or red bay is applied when a person is not familiar with the other person's usage of the word. All are interesting plants and worthy of growing in a garden or yard, especially in a large place. *Carl Amsen is a superior plantsman who lives and gardens near Calion, Ark.*

Cajun Prairie Society Re-Activation

The board of directors of the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society met on Friday May 22, 1998 and voted to jump-start the organization again. Plans for reorganization with new by-laws, a newsletter and meetings were discussed. The organization will shortly become the owners of 4½ acres of land in Eunice near the present restoration site. The group voted to advertise for members with dues set at \$10.00 per year. The next meeting is scheduled for July 10, 1998 at 1:00 PM at LSU-E. To join, send dues (\$10.00) to Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society, P.O. Box 1006, Eunice, LA 70535.



Spicebush, *Lindera benzoin*

illustration from 100 Woody Plants of North Louisiana written by Dr. R. Dale Thomas & illustrated by Dixie B. Scogin

Native Plants for Red or Brown Water Soils

by Bill Finch

Note: The following article and plant list is part one of the program Bill Finch presented at the LNPS Winter Meeting in January. Part 2 on blackwater plants will be in the next newsletter. Bill is the environmental editor for the **Mobile Register**.

These are plants for muddy clay and silt wetlands with a high mineral and salt content. The clays and silts give these waters a dense, muddy brown or red color, unlike the translucent, tea-colored waters of BLACKWATER swamps. All of the wetlands in the Mississippi embayment are RED and BROWN WATER WETLANDS, and are the easiest wetlands to reproduce in Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and South Louisiana gardens west of the Florida parishes. The red and brown water wetlands are usually associated with major rivers and other streams that have headwaters in rich, often limey soil regions, such as the Mississippi, which rises in the rich glacial till and prairies of the Midwest; the Alabama, which rises in the quartz mountains of the Appalachians; and most Texas rivers, which drain the interior caliche and limestone regions. Brown water wetlands also include isolated "pothole" and "buffalo wallow" wetlands in prairies and other rich soil regions, and share many charac-

teristics with brackish water wetlands near the coast.

These wetlands are often, but not always, associated with near neutral pH soils, though, when wet, most of these soils become fairly acidic, and most of the plants that grow here require acidic soils. But the pH of the soils is less important than the fact that chemically reactive clays hold onto a variety of chemicals, and prevent them from leaching. Plants that grow here have adapted to those conditions. They are tolerant of the poisonous effects of chemical salts, and many thrive only in chemically rich (i.e., high nitrogen, fertile) soils. These wetlands are also often fairly low in dissolved oxygen, a condition that may further limit the types of plants that will grow there.

Most of these plants prefer FLUCTUATING water levels. They will tolerate standing water for days, and more rarely, months at a time, but most grow best when water levels eventually fall below the surface of the soil. Many will grow in regular garden beds here in the Deep South. Experiment with placing them at different levels in garden swales i.e., ditches), water them well until they are established and follow the lead of the rainfall.

SPIDER LILIES, NIMBUS LILIES, RADIANT LILIES, Most <i>Hymenocallis</i> species, including those described as <i>H. radiata</i> , <i>H. occidentalis</i> , <i>H. galvestonensis</i> , <i>H. liriosme</i> , <i>H. choctawensis</i> ; <i>H. coronaria</i> may require soils high in dissolved oxygen.	Bloom time: spring, early summer, and fall, depending on species. Full sun preferred.
LOUISIANA IRIS, <i>Iris brevicaulis</i> , <i>I. fulva</i> , <i>I. giganticaerulea</i> , <i>I. virginica</i> , <i>I. nelsonii</i> ; but not <i>I. verna</i> .	Bloom: spring. Full sun for most, though <i>fulva</i> blooms well in part shade.
TUCKAHOE, ARROWLEAF, <i>Peltandra virginica</i>	Great bold foliage, green flowers and fruits like a large Jack-in-the-pulpit in spring and summer. Sun or part shade
ARROWHEADS, WAPATO, DUCK POTATO, Many, but not all, species of <i>Sagittaria</i> , including the common <i>S. latifolia</i> .	Handsome foliage, showy white flowers June-Sept., interesting fruit, Sun.
CREeping WATER PLANTAIN, BUR HEAD, <i>Echinodorus cordifolius</i>	Like <i>Sagittaria</i> , but with heart-shaped leaves and prominent bur-like fruits.
ATAMASCO LILY, <i>Zephyranthes atamasco</i> , The famed Southern lily is often found on seasonally flooded prairie areas.	Bloom: Spring. Sun or part shade. Not for continuous standing water.
LIZARD'S TAIL, <i>Saururus cernuus</i>	A wonderful, showy summer bloomer for wet, muddy areas. Sun or part shade.
EUSTOMA, <i>Eustoma grandiflora</i> . Very showy purple flowers, often found in brackish waters.	Summer, Prairie relatives of this plant are now sold as showy annuals under the name <i>lisianthus</i> . Sun.
ROYAL FERN, <i>Osmunda regalis</i>	One of the ferns most tolerant of brackishness and heavy soils. Sun if wet, to deep shade.

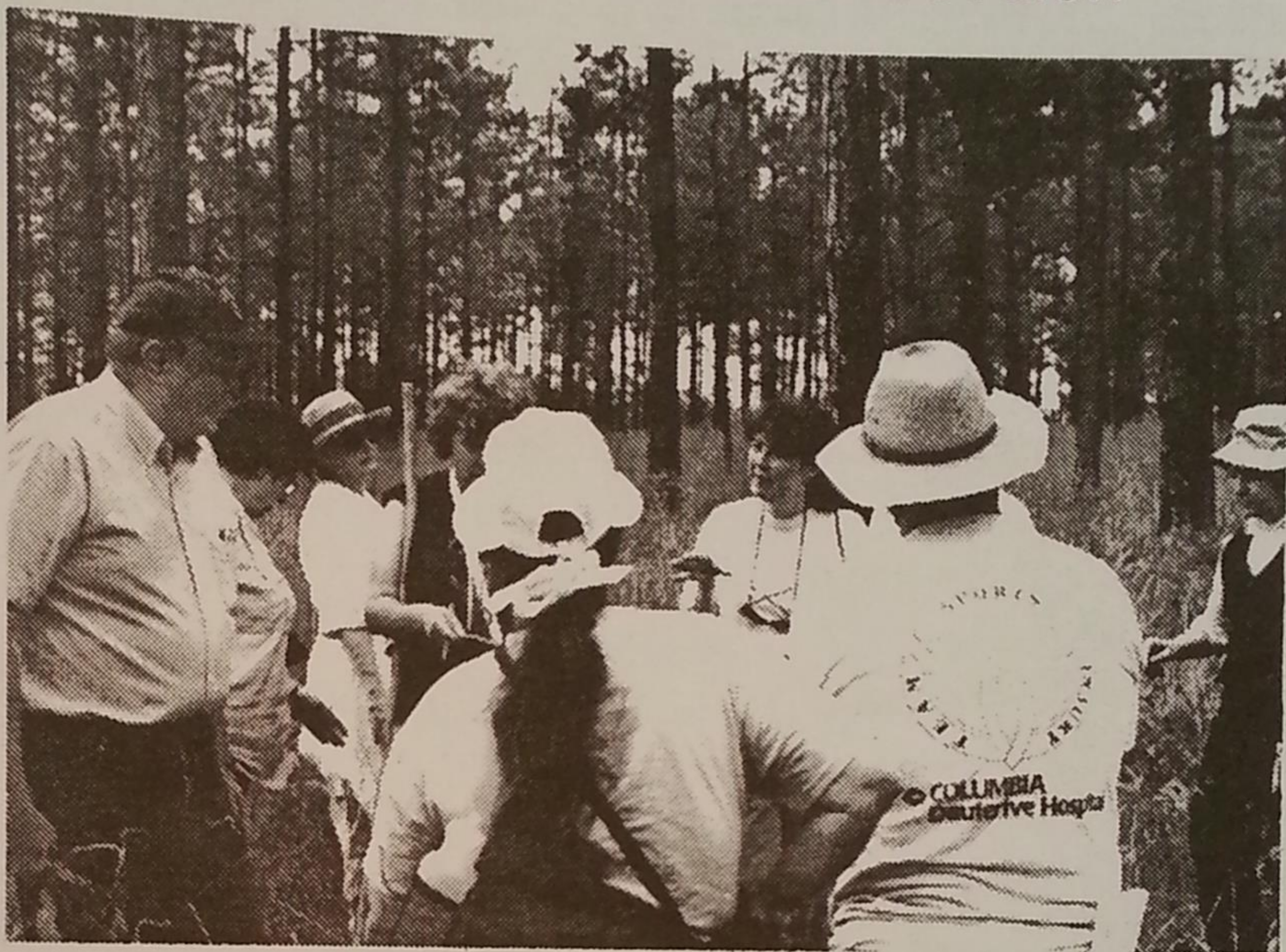
CINNAMON FERN, <i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	Broadly adapted, Sun, if wet, to deep shade.
SWAMP LILY, CRINUM LILY, <i>Crinum americanum</i> . Generally found in black-water streams, but tolerant of brackishness.	In the garden, compatible with plants from fertile swamps. Bloom: summer, even in part shade.
CARDINALFLOWER, <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> . Not for continuous standing water.	Thrives in heavy, wet soils. Plants from the southeast are better growers here. Bloom: August. Sun, if wet, to shade.
BUTTERWEEDS, <i>Senecia</i> species	A first rate, self-seeding annual for Louisiana. Pick some off the side of the road. Bloom: early spring. Sun.
SWAMP MILKWEED, <i>Asclepias perennis</i>	A free-blooming milkweed with white-pink flowers spring to fall. Loves rich, wet soils. Blooms in shade.
LANCE-LEAVED MILKWEED, <i>Asclepias lanceolata</i>	Broadly adapted, very showy orange and red flowers. Summer. Prefers sun, blooms in shade.
BIG-LEAVED BLACK-EYED SUSAN, <i>Rudbeckia maxima</i>	Huge and spectacular, common along prairie swamps. Blooms best in sun, foliage good even in shade.
HIBISCUS, <i>H. coccinea</i> -red, <i>H. grandiflorus</i> -pink or white, <i>H. militaris</i> -white with red eye. NOT <i>H. aculeatus</i> .	All tolerant of brackish and heavy soils, summer bloom, varies by species. Sun.
SPIRANTHES, <i>Spilanthes americanum</i> . Fairly common American relative of the increasingly well-known tropical herb.	Pretty yellow, daisy-like flowers in summer. A runner. Sun to light shade.
LADY'S TRESSES, <i>Spiranthes cernua</i> & <i>S. odorata</i> ; but not smaller <i>Spiranthes</i> species.	The common lady's tresses orchid of swamps, with great foliage and astonishing flowers, sometimes fragrant. Summer. Blooms in shade.
MONKEYFLOWER, <i>Mimulus alatus</i>	Attractive, distinctive pink-lavender flowers in summer. Sun to part shade.
LOTUS, <i>Nelumbo lutea</i> . The big yellow American lotus thrives in deep mud.	About 6-12 inches of standing water will keep it upright, but standing water is not necessary after July.
WILD RICE, <i>Zizania aquatica</i>	Handsome, robust, distinctive foliage, great flowers, and of course, real wild rice. May require slowly circulating, standing water to grow well, but very tolerant of salts. Sun.
SCORPIONWEED, <i>Hydrolea</i> species	Surprisingly clear blue, phacelia-like flowers on a short, semi-woody plant with grayish foliage. A real surprise. Loves ditches. Summer, sun.
JOE-PYE WEED, <i>Eupatoriadelphus</i> species	Great, tall foliage and flowers; withstands occasional flooding.
BLUE-EYED GRASSES, <i>Sisyrinchium</i> species. I don't think even the experts have figured out the species, but look for blue-eyed grasses that grow in prairies, calcareous areas and Mississippi River swamps.	They'll grow well in heavy, red water soils. Species and genotypes from better drained and sandy soils may require blackwater soil and water conditions.
LEATHERFLOWER, <i>Clematis crispa</i>	The South's finest native clematis, with very showy blue to lavender bells. Loves mud. Timid climber. Summer. Sun to light shade.
GOLDENCLUB, <i>Orontium aquaticum</i>	Outstanding foliage, white and gold flowers in spring. Sun to part shade for best bloom, but foliage dramatic even in deep shade.
WILD HYACINTH, <i>Camassia scilliodes</i> . An exceptionally beautiful blue-flowered bulb of seasonally flooded prairie wallows, relative of more famous western camassias.	Bloom: Early spring. Must have sun in winter and early spring. Dormant in summer. Not for continuous standing water.
FALSE DRAGONHEAD, OBEDIENT PLANT, <i>Physostegia purpurea</i> & <i>P. virginiana</i>	There are several Southern natives, with a variety of bloom times, that are as showy as the obedient plant of gardens.

DICLIPTERA, <i>Dicliptera brachiata</i> . A neat, native relative of the tropical <i>Dicliptera</i> now popular in Louisiana gardens.	Curled, pink-purple flowers in summer. Sun to part shade.
BEARD-TONGUE, <i>Penstemon</i> species	Surprisingly, some Southern penstemons from the prairies thrive in heavy, seasonally wet wallows. Check you local wallows.
YELLOW CANNA, <i>Canna flaccida</i> , The South's handsome native yellow canna. Easy to grow most anywhere, but native to rich, wet soils.	Most naturalized and horticultural cannas will also thrive in same conditions.
POWDERY THALIA, FIREFLAG, <i>Thalia geniculata</i> & <i>T. dealbata</i> .	The handsome 6 to 7 foot tall <i>Thalia</i> species are usually grown in pots in pools. I've had them naturalize in my yard, especially where there is plenty of organic matter.
BALD CYPRESS, <i>Taxodium</i> species	
DRUMMOND RED MAPLE, <i>Acer drummondii</i>	Better adapted to Southern conditions than the Ohio red maples you buy at the nursery, and a heck of a lot prettier. Survives weeks of standing water in Mobile Delta.
MAYHAW, <i>Crataegus opaca</i>	
WATER ELM, PLANER TREE, <i>Planera aquatica</i> . A very pretty native elm that is common in heavy wet soils.	A beautiful medium-sized tree of heavy, continuously flooded clay soils, with handsome bark and foliage and a gothic, twisted canopy. An excellent street tree.
RED ELM, <i>Ulmus rubra</i> , A very pretty native elm that is common in heavy wet soils.	Southern climate, by the way, is not conducive to rampant spread of Dutch elm disease, so elms are still common in many swamps.
AMERICAN ELM, <i>Ulmus americana</i>	That famous elm, rarely attacked by Dutch elm disease in Southern swamps. Buy only from Southern sources.
SOUTHERN SILVERBELL, TWO-WINGED SILVERBELL, <i>Halesia diptera</i> . Not for continuously flooded areas.	Very likely the very best flowering tree for heavy wet clays. Look for sources in the Mississippi Delta area for best results.
RED BAY, <i>Persea borbonia</i>	The traditional bay of Louisiana cooking.
SWEETBAY MAGNOLIA, <i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Grows anywhere.
AMERICAN WISTERIA, <i>Wisteria frutescens</i> . The native one loves swamps, is exceedingly mild mannered, and has flowers that swirl with color.	Generally, blooms after the leaves have formed, in April. Rank Asian wisterias bloom before or as the leaves are forming in March.
RATTAN VINE, <i>Berchemia scandens</i> . A vigorous, immense native with smooth ebony bark, neat, eye-catching leaves, and a haunting, twisted growth habit.	Needs strong support, loves heavy, wet soils.
LADIES EARDROPS, <i>Brunnichia cirrhosa</i> . A little known native vine with pink fruits that look like flower, and hang like earrings in late summer and fall.	Nice foliage. Loves heavy, wet soils, where it is less likely to produce excessive seedlings.
LITTLE BLUESTEM PALMETTO, <i>Sabal minor</i>	One of the world's most attractive and showy shrub palms grows like a weed in Gulf Coast swamps. Can take weeks of flooding.
SNOWBELLS, <i>Styrax americana</i>	One of our most charming native shrubs. Broadly adapted, withstands heavy flooding.
SWAMP ROSE, <i>Rosa palustris</i>	A very pretty native rose, and the only rose for wet soils.
VIRGINIA WILLOW, SWEETSPIRE, <i>Itea virginica</i>	A broadly adapted and beautiful shrub.
TRUE WILLOWS, <i>Salix</i> species	Several of the native shrub willows have very showy flowers & leaves.
HORSE SUGAR, <i>Symplocos tinctoria</i> , Broadly adapted and beautiful ever-green flowering shrub.	Leaves taste like sweet tea with lemon concentrate added. May perform fine in most heavy wet soils.

Ft Polk Spring Field Trip Report.....Charles Allen

The number of participants was down but enthusiasm was at an all time high. Twenty avid plant people gathered at the Little Cypress Recreation Area in Vernon Parish on Saturday Morning May 9, 1998. The group was made up of Native Plant Society members from all over Louisiana and from Texas and Arkansas. The morning venue included pitcher plant bogs where the group saw sundews, butterworts, Virginia willow, *Helenium drummondii*, white bay, rose pogonia, bog buttons, wild azalea, Virginia chain fern, cinnamon fern, royal fern, red bay, large gallberry, *Lycopodium*, *Smilax laurifolia*, poison sumac, colic root, red choke-cherry, toothache grass, *Hypoxis* (star grass), yellow eyed grass (*Xyris*), baygall wax myrtle, several species of *Rhexia*, sunny bells, bladderwort, and *Zigadenus* (not in flower). In the longleaf upland areas, the group saw *Phlox*, wooly white, *Coreopsis*, *Polygala polygama*, *Polygala incarnata*, *Polygala nana*, *Polygala mariana*, *Aristolochia tomentosa*, New Jersey tea, pale purple coneflower, three species of thoroughwort, dwarf pawpaw, mountain mint, puccoon, queen's delight, skullcap, *Spiranthes*, Indian blanket, goat's rue, *Wahlenbergia*, *Rudbeckia hirta*, *Rudbeckia grandiflora* and several oaks. Two snake sightings were recorded, including a rattler. Just before lunch, the mob descended on a baygall near Drake's Creek and saw joe-pye weed, fetter bush, baygall blueberry, several baygall damselfies, and two bivalves.

On Saturday afternoon, the group visited the inland calcareous prairies on Ft. Polk and saw *Rudbeckia missouriensis*, prairie acacia, chittumwood, *Carex microdonta*, parsley hawthorn, cock's spur hawthorn, littlehip hawthorn, purple prairie clover, snow-on-the-mountain, toothache tree, Carolina lily, *Penstemon tubaeflorus*, and *Viola walteri*. A detour on the return trip landed the group at the nature trail that was created by Robert Murry. There the group saw labeled plants including many that were at the



Bogs & Birds fieldtrippers are pictured here in a longleaf pine area.

photo by Charles Ancona

prairie site plus *Bromus pubescens* and Carolina thistle and a large copperhead. Throughout both days, the group feasted on ripe summer huckleberries (that is Elliott's blueberries for the non-southerners).

Wilson's Wonderful Wildflowers made for a great Saturday night outside the bunkhouse. There were a few mosquitoes and it turns out that Carl has all the plants in Ken's slide show growing on his property.

On Sunday morning, the group made a short excursion onto Ft. Polk and saw the only Louisiana extant population of *Marshallia trinervia* about a week from flowering. Then the group traveled along Bird's Creek and saw many species characteristic of upland forests including beech, white oak, witchhazel, silver bell, service berry, and *Smilax pumila*. After a short trip eastward, a short excursion upstream onto Ft Polk was made to see whorled *Pogonia* (in fruit as Carl had predicted) and a small copperhead. The last stop was a burned bog where *Sabatia macrostachya* plus many pitcher plants were observed. The group then split for many destinations. Most would remember this B's blast for rootbeer that tasted like water, copperheads, summer huckleberries, and the slide show.

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

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

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Two-winged silverbell fruit
Halesia diptera

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