



## Feds To Promote Natives

In a memorandum issued in April 1994, President Bill Clinton ordered federal agencies to put into practice more environmentally responsible landscaping practices. The practices should both benefit the environment and generate long-term cost savings for the Federal Government. Federal Agencies should use regionally native plants, minimize adverse effects on natural habitats, and reduce pollution through reduced fertilize and pesticide use. They should also implement water-efficient practices and create outdoor demonstration areas with native plants where feasible. The response of the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive, EPA, was published in the Federal Register, Volume 60, No. 154, Thursday, August 10, 1995. The response defines the principles and initiatives that Federal agencies and Federally funded projects are to follow. The president directed Federal grounds, Federal projects, and federally funded projects should, where cost-effective and to the extent practicable, implement the environmentally responsible practices.

## Nature Center Planned For Tunica Hills Area

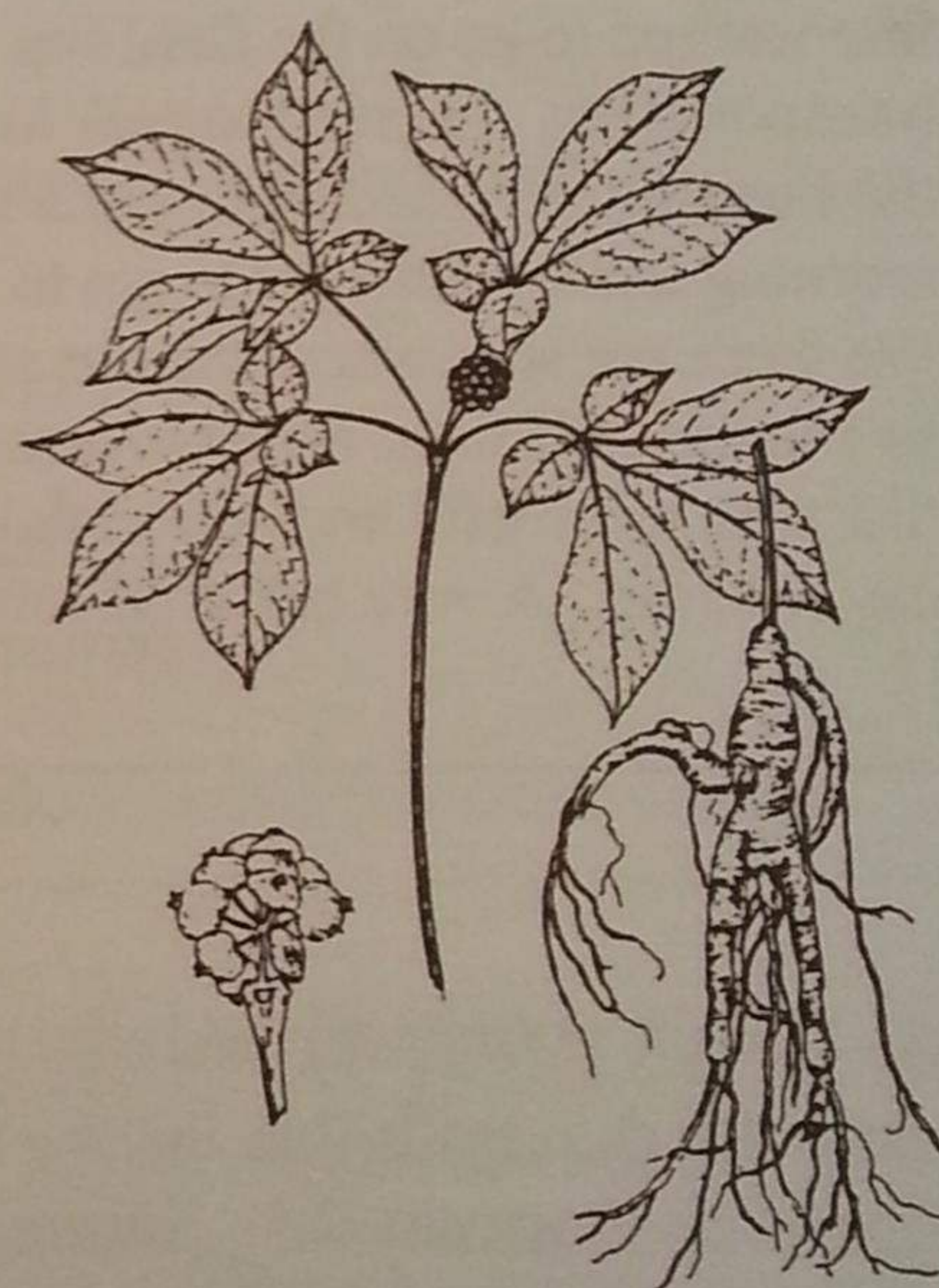
The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission passed a resolution supporting the development of a nature center in the Tunica Hills area of West Feliciana Parish. The center would be a cooperative project between the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism. Both agencies own important land in the area. The Commission voted to back both agencies' efforts to educate about this important region.

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Secretary Joe L. Herring, in his presentation to the Commission, noted the biological and cultural individuality of the region. "It is probably the most unique area in the state," he said. "It is one of the few places in Louisiana where dinosaur remains have been found."

The hills themselves are unique in Louisiana. Rugged bluffs and ravines distinguish the area, offering diverse habitat supporting uncommon plant and animal species. According to the Commission's resolution, Tunica Hills were created tens of thousands of years ago as wind-blown deposits from the Mississippi River valley.

The Tunica Hills are known to house 13 species of rare vertebrates,

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*Panax quinquefolius*, Ginseng, is one of 20 species of rare plants found in the Tunica Hills area

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## Note from the president...Dr. Charles Allen

The year is almost over, my how times flies. This year seemed to have been a banner year for native plants. I started the year with prairie restoration projects and our winter meeting. The speakers were wonderful and I was thoroughly proud of being able to present the Karlene DeFatta Award to two of my favorite people, Richard and Jessie Johnson. They are the notochord and the backbone of our society. For the nonzoology members, the notochord is a rod of cells that is formed initially and is later replaced by the backbone. The annual Bogs, Birds, Butterflies, and Bivalves Festival attracted a number of plant enthusiasts to Ft Polk in April. In July, I was fortunate to be able to go to Cullowhee and give a talk on grasses. Our fall field trip in September was successful with quite a number of plant people. The sleeping arrangements and the lack of a projector were minor problems. During the fall field trip, I met a very dedicated plant hunter. Therese Martin called me from New Orleans on the Thursday night before. She wanted to go on the field trip but did not have transportation. I agreed to pick her up in Eunice at the bus station. She had to catch the bus at 2:30 in the morning in New Orleans to get to Eunice by 10:00. We were not sure where the bus station in Eunice was so she took off from New Orleans hoping to find me. She was successful and stayed throughout the full 2.5 day fieldtrip. A very brave person but as it turns out, a

true native plant worshiper.

Now, let's look forward to 1996. Our Winter meeting will be Jan 27, 1996 in Alexandria at the LSUA Campus. A complete schedule will be in this newsletter. I am looking forward to our two speakers; Gail Barton and Dr. Malcolm Vidrine. Don't forget to bring plants as we will have the plant sale as usual. The one change that we are trying this year is to have the business meeting before we break for lunch. In the past a number of people have left as soon as we break for lunch and do not come back for the afternoon business meeting. We will try this schedule and see if we get more people in our business meeting. If it doesn't work out, we will look at a different schedule the following year.

There are a number of native plant happenings scheduled for 1996. In March, our society has been asked to help in a reforestation effort by the Nature Conservancy. Robert Murry, the Forest Service, and I have scheduled the Bogs, Birds, Butterflies, and Bivalves Festival for March 30-31 at Ft Polk. The big event of 1996 will be the Gulf Coast Regional Native Plant Conference in Baton Rouge in June. And, our fall fieldtrip is probably going to be in Washington-St. Tammany parishes. My feelings for native plants in 1996 are best described by the words of the song "I'm so excited"

### 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. You may also pay your dues at the Winter meeting in January. Dues schedule is as follows:

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



## President Proposes LNPS Grant Program

Contingent on the amount of money available, I propose that we institute grants to promote native plant education, preservation, restoration, etc. If we keep the amounts small, then we can spread the money out among more recipients. I would suggest an upper limit of \$500.00. Interested applicants would be required to submit a proposal that would include (1) detailed description of proposed project including

time frame (2) budget (we need to specify what we would not allow the grant money to be used for—salary is one item I would suggest that we not pay for and what we would such as travel costs, supplies, etc.) and (3) resume of applicant(s). The review and award process is a difficult one and perhaps we would need to have persons outside of our society to do this. Please think about this and we will discuss it at the Winter meeting.

### LNPS Winter Meeting January 27, 1996 LSU Campus at Alexandria

**9:00 AM:** "Creating Butterfly Habitat" *Dr. Malcolm Vidrine*

**10:00 AM:** Break

**10:30 AM:** "Propagating by Seed" *Gail Barton*

**11:30 AM:** Break

**12:00 Noon:** Business Meeting

**1:00 PM:** Lunch, Plant and Book Sales, Information Exchange, Visiting, etc.

**Throughout the Day:**



A display of dried specimens of native trees and shrubs  
with key characters for ID by *Dr. R. Dale Thomas*



Plant and Book Sales ☞ Information Exchange ☞ Visiting with fellow native plant enthusiasts

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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* \*  
\*\*\*\*\*



## Louisiana Iris Are Featured On 1995-96 Wild Louisiana Stamp

Claude Houchin's painting of Louisiana irises depicted on the 1995-96 Wild Louisiana Stamp is now available on posters and prints. This distinctive artwork, chosen over 10 other entries, makes a charming addition to any collection.

The painting depicts a stand of purple Louisiana irises in a freshwater wetland. Iris dot the tall grasses along a river bank in the background and stand out against the base of a tree in the foreground. Houchin describes the harmony of sky, trees, and iris as a fitting work to celebrate Louisiana's Natural Heritage.

The painting's image is available in several edition, each including a signed and numbered print with one stamp. Print image size is 6.5 inches by 9 inches. Posters measure 18 by 24 inches. Prices

### Iris Painting Ordering Info

Regular edition: \$149.50

Regular edition with pencil remarque: \$179.50

Regular edition with color remarque: \$199.50

Artist proof: \$229.50

Artist proof with color remarque: \$279.50

Artist Signed poster: \$30.00

Unsigned poster: \$15.00

La. residents must add 8% sales tax. Shipping cost \$8.50 per order.

Orders may be placed by sending name, address, and telephone no. to Houchin's Custom Framing, 7568 Bluebonnet Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA. 70810, (504/769-8067) Visa and MasterCard orders are accepted. Please include card number, expiration date, and name of card holder. Credit card orders must include a signature.

and ordering information are listed separately on this page.

Resident and non-resident visitors to lands administered by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, such as refuges and wildlife management areas, must possess a Wild Louisiana Stamp, a valid fishing license, or a valid hunting license. Monies generated by stamp sales are dedicated to LDWF watchable wildlife, endangered species, and land stewardship programs coordinated by LDWF's Natural Heritage Program.

The Natural Heritage Program will receive 15 percent royalty on the sale of posters and prints.

Artist Houchin is an Oklahoma City native now residing in Baton Rouge. He studied art at Oklahoma State University and Stephen F. Austin College, and has earned many awards in his long career. He feels the selection of his painting for the Wild Louisiana Stamp is the highest honor conferred on his work. *For more information contact Gary Lester at 504/765-2821.*



### ATTENTION ARTISTS!

The Gulf fritillary butterfly has been chosen as the official image for the 1996-97 Wild Louisiana Stamp. LDWF administrators are inviting artists to submit works for consideration for the stamp by 4 pm. on Feb. 5, 1996.

Send for the information packet and artist's agreement from LDWF Natural Heritage Program, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA. 70898-9000, or phone 504/765-2821.





LNPS Fall Field Trip participants gathered in front of the Kinder City Hall before heading south to visit remnant Cajun Prairie strips. The LNPS members received a warm welcome from the mayor and citizens of Kinder. Photocourtesy of Charles & Carla Stagg

## American Beautyberry

Autumn comes and questions start popping up about the pretty forest shrub with clusters of shiny purple berries. What is its name? What good is it?

The plant is, of course, American beautyberry, *Callicarpa americana*, sometimes called French mulberry. Its leaves, twigs, and berries are food for wildlife of many kinds.

This two to eight foot deciduous shrub thrives on a wide variety of forest sites from east Texas to Maryland. It grows well in shade but does best in the open or beneath high, fairly thin pine canopies. In late March, it puts out new green leaves oppositely arranged on the twig. Growth is essentially completed by July, but when portions of the current season's growth are removed, some of the lateral buds break dormancy and form new twigs.

Small bluish flowers form in the leaf axils, mostly during June but occasionally through the summer. The conspicuous berries, the plant's real trademark, become noticeable in July and mature from August to November. They are readily available in August and September, a time when other wild fruits are scarce. Their high water content (approximately 80 percent) can be important to wildlife during these usually dry months.

Berries are considered important quail food during the winter and are frequently eaten by deer from August through October and to a lesser extent a other times of the year. It is also eaten by squirrels, raccoons, opossums, foxes, and domestic livestock.

Berries are a relatively high energy food. Studies show that fat contents range from six to eleven percent. In crude protein, phosphorus, and calcium, berries are generally marginal or deficient for most game. During the period of rapid growth in the spring, new leaves and twigs have enough of these nutrients to meet the maintenance and growth requirements of both deer and cattle. When growth ceases, protein and phosphorus contents drop below the amount needed by the animals but the calcium remains adequate. Leaves and twigs from a plant that has been through a recent fire are higher than average in nutrient content and palatability.

Twigs and leaves are eaten by deer and cattle during the growing season and occasionally in early winter. As deer browse, American beautyberry is considered medium choice, but as with other medium-choice plants, it may comprise a major part of deer diet when first-choice feeds are scarce.  
*adapted from a 1969 Louisiana Conservationist article by L.K. Halls and S.W. Oefinger, Jr.*

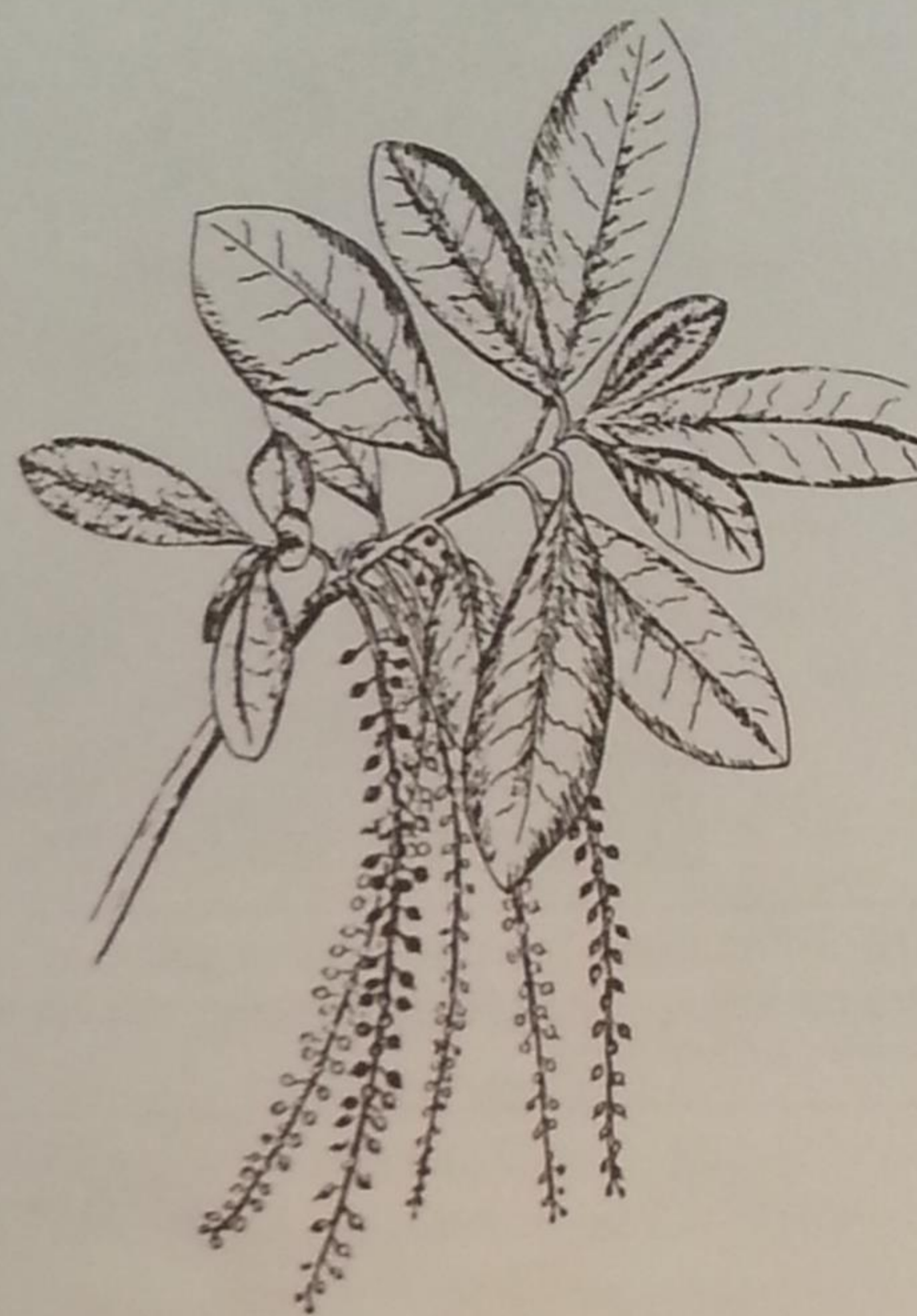


# A Love Affair With *Cyrilla racemiflora*

## by Carl Amason

In my earlier years of traveling about over the country sides, usually alone, I would play a game of trying to name to my satisfaction all of the roadside showy wildflowers, small trees, and large trees. Composites were, and still are, a problem. Some were easy for a traveler to identify. Long-leaved pines, pitcher plants and such, Spanish moss hanging from trees, noble live oak trees, and on excursions into Texas, there were mesquite and different *Opuntias*. Perhaps my favorite tours were in the lower South and the lower mountain ranges of Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia and the Carolinas where I was familiar, or at least thought I was, with the species and the genera of plants. Trips to the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Northwest gave many problems as almost everything was different. Much the same was Arizona, parts of New Mexico and much of Texas where the plants were very much adapted to desert conditions. It was trips to Mobile, Alabama area, Houston, Texas area, and points between that pleased me most and presented me with a feeling of wonder at the number of plant puzzles. On one of my early trips to Briarwood, when Caroline Dormon was alive, she gladly pointed out a "Titi" growing in a wet area. For me, it was love at first sight, even without flowers or fruit. Later, on a trip to Mobile, the little town of Beaumont, Mississippi has always remained as a pleasing memory. The highways in those days all converged into a wide spot in town with a confusing factor of a pulpwood yard in "downtown." The highway to Mobile was evident. It led in a southeastern direction across some poorly drained wet areas. Low and behold, there was *Cyrilla racemiflora* growing wild and rank, a weed along the roadside. It was not in fruit or flower at the time, but it was well established as a highly desirable plant to try out on my place.

There were more pleasures, fascinations, and love affairs from there to Mobile. Outstanding was the pitcher plant bog on the Mississippi-Alabama line. Last time I saw that place, it was a mess. The roads were all torn up, but mostly the pitcher plant bog, as a



*Cyrilla racemiflora*

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

four-lane highway was under construction. As usual, I digress from *Cyrilla racemiflora*, which I was told is known as titi, or black titi. The last common name was to distinguish *Cyrilla racemiflora* from its cousin *Cliftonia monophylla*, also known as titi or buckwheat tree. I got only good looks at both small trees and on my return home, I did some research and studying on my trees of love. To this date, however, if I have *Cliftonia monophylla* growing on the place, I am unaware of it, but *Cyrilla racemiflora* is another story of success. I have forgotten where on the sandy backroads of Mobile that I was when I came to a small creek of flowing water. There, extending across the ditch into the edge of the road, was a leaning tree of *Cyrilla* with ripe capsules of seeds. Of course, I stopped and to say that some seeds "jumped" into my pocket would be an exaggeration, but that is the way I still tell the story. I returned home with a raceme--how the plant got its specific name--and I

(Continued on page 7)



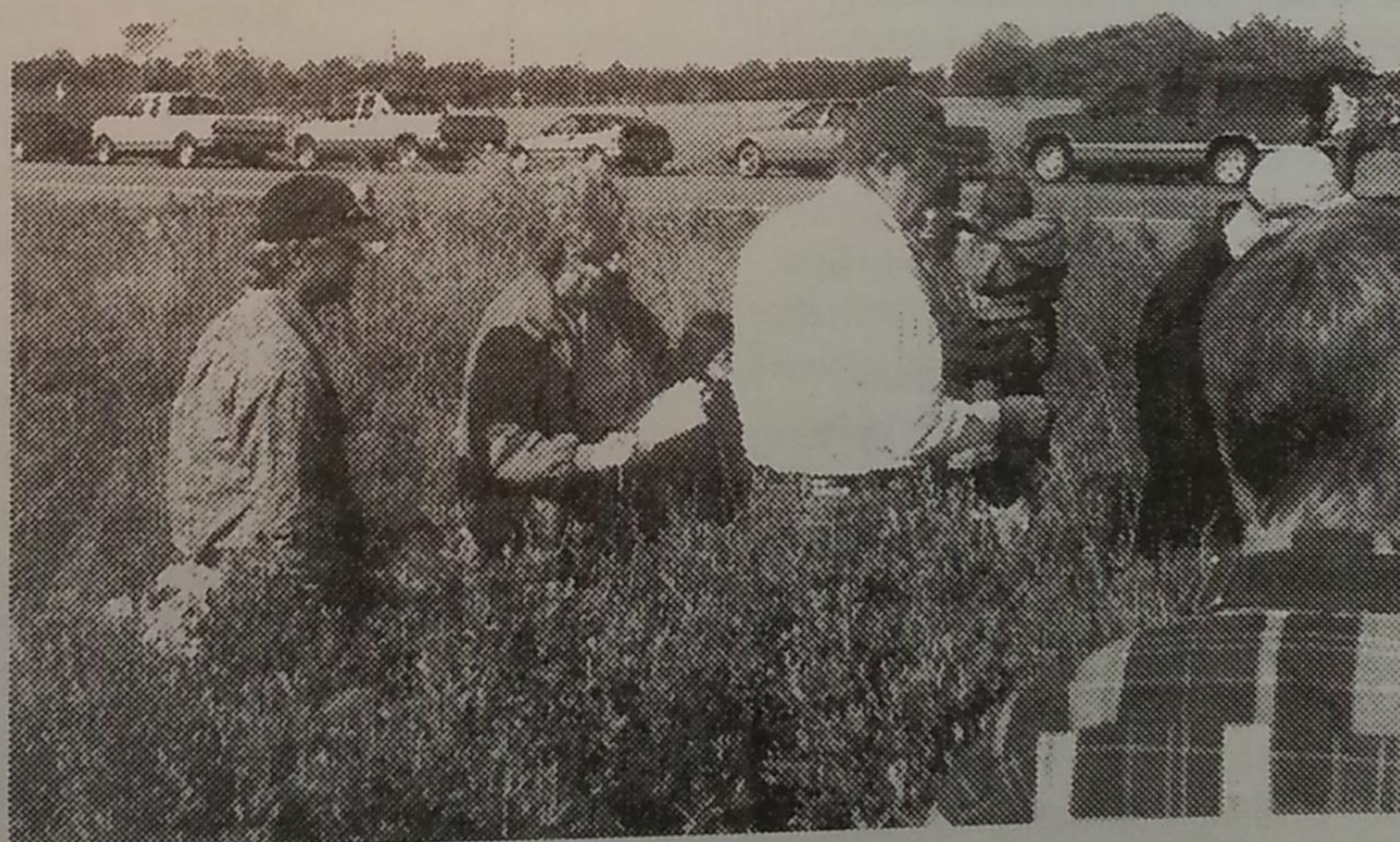
(Continued from page 6)

planted the seeds in good soil and gave them no other treatment. Much to my surprise, I think every seed came up. I grabbed the seeds in the fall and planted them, and next spring I had many seedlings that I let grow in the pot all the next summer. For me, they are just as easily grown as they are desirable to have growing. During the summer, I read everything that I could find on titi or *Cyrilla*, and frankly, there wasn't a lot for me to read. In the autumn, when rains begin to fall, I planted them along an intermittent stream that my backyard slopes to and many lived to this day. I haven't given them any care, let alone special care, since then.

*Cyrilla racemiflora* is found growing on the Coastal Plain from Norfolk, Virginia to Texas. Through Florida, it hopscotches all across the islands of the West Indies into northern South America. The leaves are narrow, evergreen, grow alternate on the twigs and are two to three inches long. Old leaves turn orange to red before they fall. Flowers are small, white, and perfect, clustered in racemes on one year old growth. They are showy, radiate from the twigs, and are eagerly worked by honey bees among other

insects. It is considered an excellent bee plant. I have learned that it is a favorite deer browsing plant! It grows through a shrub and in time, becomes a large shrub or small tree, in moist and poorly drained soils. I am even getting good seed reproduction here on my place in Union County, Arkansas. I have seen wild plants growing as far north as Winn Parish in North Central Louisiana. The books all say that they grow well if watered in upland conditions. It grows well in light shade, but blooms best in lots of sun. I have never seen any cold damage to my plants and it gets very cold some winters. I have not seen any significant damages from insects or diseases, either. I definitely think they are good plants to grow and enjoy. I don't think birds seek out the seeds for food, but I suspect that warblers and vireos seek out insects feeding on the pollen and nectar of the flowers, much as they do on the male racemes of oak flowers. Frankly, for me, I think it is a first rate shrub or tree with outstanding features in all seasons of the year.

And *Cliftonia*? Just another reason I want to live to be more than a hundred years old. *Carl Amason is a superior plantsman who gardens near Calion, Arkansas*



No need to bend over to see these plants! LNPS Fall Field participants waded into grasses and forbs waist high and higher following field trip leader, Dr. Charles Allen. Photo courtesy of Charles & Carla Stagg.



## Volunteers Needed!!!

The Louisiana Nature Conservancy needs volunteers for a bottomland hardwood reforestation project. Saturday, March 9, is the date for planting seedlings at our Cypress Island Preserve. The Conservancy is reforesting 100 previously cleared acres. This work day will be set aside for Native Plant Society members throughout the state. A minimum of 15 volunteers is needed in order to plan a special day for Native Plant Society members. A naturalist led hike will be offered to give you a chance to explore and learn about the preserve. For more information, contact Allen May at The Nature Conservancy, 504/338-1040.



Therese Martin was one of several members writing down plant names and taking pictures on the LNPS Fall Field Trip. Photo courtesy of Rector Hopgood.

*(Continued from page 1)*

including 13 species of rare vertebrates, including black bears and Webster's salamanders, some of which are found nowhere else in the state. Twenty species of rare plants are also found there, including ginseng, Canada wild ginger, and silvery glade fern. At least 10 plant species are found nowhere else in Louisiana.

The area is also culturally significant. Tunica Trace is a portion of the scenic Natchez Trace system used for travel since colonial times. "The area is a perfect place to educate people on the cultural and biological individuality of the site," said Herring.

LDWF and CRT have expressed an interest in working together to develop a nature center in the region. Herring gave no time frame for the center's construction. "Money is always an issue," he said. "Strapped as we all are, we'll work together to find the necessary funds to get this center developed." For more information contact Joe L. Herring at 504/765-2623.

**Landscaping With  
Native Plants  
CULLOWHEE CONFERENCE  
Western Carolina University  
Cullowhee, North Carolina  
July 25-27, 1996**

Field trips will be July 24th. To request your name to be put on the mailing list for the registration booklet, contact Sue Deitz, Division of Continuing Education and Summer School, 440 H.F. Robinson Building, WCU, Cullowhee, North Carolina, 28723. Cost is reasonable due to dorm housing. Participation is limited to the 1st 400 applicants, and it FILLS UP VERY FAST.



## Letter from the vice-president...Jim Foret

Each quarter and sometimes in between when I read through my issue of LNPS News, I make a point of taking the time to read over the "purposes" of our organization on the back cover. In my busy life I feel a need to slow down and remind myself of what is important about our group. While looking over these 4 points, I often ask myself if I am personally doing enough to fulfill these goals. I know that I do enjoy the annual meeting and I look forward to the annual fall field trip with great anticipation. But is ol' Jim doing enough?

I feel that we should *all* be busy in our communities working with children and Seniors and everyone in between. We should all be encouraging our communities to plant native arbor day trees, place native tree and shrub plantings in parks and public areas, conduct "tree walks" and build hummingbird and butterfly gardens with natives for the enjoyment of all. It is always amazing to me how many quiet helpers are out there ready to pitch in with these kinds of projects, so you shouldn't be alone.

Just think of how many more people we can influence through these kinds of activities. By associating with us during these events, we impact many, especially young citizens and deliver untold hours of enjoyment to our communities. With people, especially our young people, distancing themselves from the natural world at a terrifying rate, any impact we can have on our neighbors to reverse this trend is good. We as a group must do our all to change poor attitudes if we are to keep any wild areas intact.

My purpose for this communication is not to preach but to share with the membership some of our wonderful New Iberia experiences. Over the last couple of years we have done four "Tree Walks in City Park" as a public library program. All we hope to accomplish in these tree walks is to introduce folks to the native and exotic trees in their city park. In addition we manage to not only talk trees, but also to tie their existence to our lives and the lives of other plants and animals in the park. I find regular people are so hungry for this information and so appreciative to us for sharing our time and knowledge.

Another thing we do is a grand Arbor Day



Celebration. And celebrate we do. First we celebrate on "the" day, rain or shine-the third Friday of January, usually around the 20th. We invite all of our children, lots of kids are important. We celebrate about 11:00 AM, many eat lunch in the park after. In 1995, we dedicated a tree to Jim Zerangue, a recently deceased "quiet helper." This year we invited the Iberia Parish Criminal Justice Facility Choir to perform(they also bring along a great sound system). We had student and adult poets write and perform poetry. The Broussard Brothers & Friends singing group wrote and performed an Arbor Day song to some of Iris DeMent's music. Dancer, poet, artist, actress "Madaline" made a surprise guest appearance again this year, speaking and performing her works in French and English in honor of the trees. What a day, what an hour, what an impact on hundreds of children and adults. Jus think of the impact on our natural world if each of us would celebrate the trees on Arbor Day, conduct a tree walk and plant a butterfly garden, all about and with natives. *Jim Foret, Jr. is Director of Parks & Recreation for the city of New Iberia as well as a horticultural and arboricultural consultant with Foret & Foret in New Iberia.*



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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