

Annual Meeting Promises Something for Everyone

The subjects to be featured at the annual LNPS meeting in January underscore several of the Society's stated purposes. The keynote speaker, Dr. Fred Smeins, is a Professor of Rangeland Ecology at Texas A & M. His research, teaching interests, and activities center on understanding the structure and dynamics of rangeland plant communities as influenced by plant materials, soil, fire, and climate. Rangeland includes grassland, wetland, shrubland, and savannahs. He conducts research in tall grass and mixed grass prairies, oak savannahs, Chihuahuan desert, longleaf pine savannahs, prairie pothole regions, and coastal marshes of North America, and savannah/shrubland systems of Kenya, Morocco, and Venezuela. He will talk about those areas of his expertise that are found in Louisiana and management methods for those plant communities.

Beth Erwin and Richard Johnson will speak on managing natural areas from their own personal experience. Beth is the curator and developer of Kalorama Nature Preserve near Collinston and Richard, and his wife, Jessie, are curators of the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve near Saline.

Our first LNPS grant recipient, Mary Cummings, will have some of her illustrations on display. We will have pictures from the fall field trip taken by Rector Hopgood. We need for the other photographers to share their field trip pictures, also.

Everyone who owns or is in charge of a piece of earth should learn something useful at this meeting. Understanding your plot of ground and the factors that influence it are the keys to success with plants, *especially* natives. If you don't buy into that and only come to see pictures of pretty flowers, there will be plenty of those in all presentations. Don't forget there will be plants for sale and plenty of visiting and exchanging of ideas and other things with like-minded people.



Several specimens of Catesby Lily, *Lilium catesbaei* delighted hikers on the first day of the LNPS Fall Field trip. Photo by Rector Hopgood.

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

Our Fall field trip was very successful thanks to Julia, Nelwyn, and Latimore. Friday night brought back a lot of memories as I spent 8 weeks at the LSU Forestry Camp in the summer of 1966. The group that spent the night there enjoyed a lively discussion plus muscadines provided by Robert Murry. It was also nice to have coffee the next morning, once I figured out the coffee pot. Several of us spent the Saturday night at Fontainebleau State Park and interacted with a park employee who seemed to need larger underwear. Therese Martin, the dedicated native plant enthusiast from New Orleans, took the bus and joined us again. We saw quite a variety of habitats and plants. The lily and the gentian were very impressive. Check out the photographs at the Winter meeting.

Look for a complete schedule of our Winter meeting in this newsletter but note that we are meeting at the 4-H Camp near Pollock and will

have a Friday night slide show. I hope to arrive Friday afternoon and looking forward to having supper there with as many of you as possible. We can grill steaks or eat peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Or, you can drive to nearby eating establishments. There is a locally owned restaurant in Pollock and as you travel south on U.S. 165 toward Alexandria, you will find other locally owned restaurants plus fast food chains. If you do spend the night, bring your breakfast or be ready to drive again.

Thanks to the other officers and the board members for all the assistance and support during the past two years. The grant program was successful and I would like to see it continue. Hopefully, the Winter meeting at its new location and with the new schedule will work out. It has been a pleasure to serve as your President during the last two years and looking forward to seeing you in January.

Charles Allen

Your Dues Are Probably Due

Most LNPS members dues are due at this time. Check your mailing label. If 96 or W96 is after your name, your dues are due with this issue. Please send your dues to the treasurer, Jessie Johnson, 216 Caroline Dormon 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.

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

Military Seeks More National Forest Land in Louisiana

There are now three branches of the military seeking portions of the Kisatchie National Forest. The National Guard and the Air Force have joined the Army in the quest for use and/or ownership of public lands. Collectively, the Kisatchie stands to lose about 100,000 acres to the military if these demands are met.

All three branches state the need for more area to practice maneuvers and war games. This comes on the heels of a major down-sizing effort on the part of the armed forces, including the closing of facilities in our state.

The Louisiana National Guard is using the "carrot on a stick" method to attract support for its attempt to gain ownership of the "old Camp Livingston" area in the Catahoula District. Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. A.M. Stroud, Jr. proposes to build a 1,000-acre public recreation area on the property if the Guard gets the land. The recreation area project would be funded by cutting the timber. If the land is turned over to the state, federal regulations requiring that National Forest lands be managed for multiple use will no longer apply. The

federal laws that currently protect the environment and natural resources on these lands would no longer be in effect if the lands are transferred to the state.

The Air Force is seeking to increase the area of the Evangeline District that it currently uses as bomber practice range. The base at Barksdale would like to begin training B-52 Air Force Reserve Crews locally. The bombers would drop 500 lb. concrete "bombs" which either bury themselves in the earth or bounce through the woods for 1,000 feet or more. The Air Force already uses over 3,000 acres in the Evangeline District as practice range. The impact area is 672 acres and the safety fan is 2,535 acres. To their credit, the Air Force is following proper procedure thus far in their request and are not seeking ownership.

The memorandum of agreement negotiated between the Army and the Department of Agriculture (Forest Service) provides eighteen months for an environmental analysis of the Army's proposed use of the Vernon District. It is to include an examination of a full range of alternatives, as required by the

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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.

LNPS Annual Winter Meeting

The annual Winter meeting of the Louisiana Native Plant Society for 1997 will be the last weekend in January (24 and 25) as usual. Our meeting place has been changed to the Grant Walker 4-H Camp located north of La. Highway 8 near Pollock.

The camp is located 2 miles east of U.S. 165 so people coming from the southern direction, take U.S. 165 north out of Alexandria and just after the highway narrows from a four-lane to a two-lane, turn right onto La. 8, go approximately 2 miles and turn left into the camp.

For people coming from the north, after you pass through Pollock (at 30 mph) about 1/4 mile south of the railroad overpass turn left onto La. 8, go approximately 2 miles and turn left into the camp.

If you are coming from the east, get on La. 8 in Jena and travel southwest ca 19 miles, and turn right into the camp.

Another change is that we are going to add a Friday night slide show. Accommodations for Friday night are available at Grant Walker 4-H camp for \$5.00 per person. The sleeping arrangements are bunk beds, bring linen, blankets or sleeping bag, and pillow. No food, so bring your own food or be prepared to travel for food. No alcohol is allowed on this campus. Telephone numbers at Grant Walker: Semi-private phone in dining room 318-765-9908, Office 318-765-9529. Of course, there are motels available in Pineville and Alexandria.

REMEMBER!!!

Nurserymen and backyard propagators, bring your plants and seeds to share, sell, and/or trade.

Authors and purveyors of books and other forms of information and items of interest to native plant folks are welcome.

Annual Meeting Schedule

Friday, January 24, 1997

8:00 P.M. "Louisiana Wild Flowers in their Natural Setting"
Ken Wilson and Ken Carstens

Saturday, January 25, 1997

8:00 A.M.: Registration

9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.: "Starting and Managing Natural Areas"
Beth Erwin and Richard Johnson

10:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.: Break

10:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.: Business Meeting

11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.: Lunch—Bring your own!

1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.: KEYNOTE SPEAKER
"Management Strategies for Native Plant Diversity in Louisiana Ecosystems"
Dr. Fred Smeins, Professor of Rangeland Ecology, Texas A. & M.

Friday afternoon and Saturday, 8:00 A.M. until
Displays:

Native Woody Plant Sketches by Mary Cummings, the first LNPS grant winner.

Photographs from our Fall Field Trip.

Book and Plant Sales

Volume II of Plant Atlas Published

Volume Two of the *Atlas of the Vascular Flora of Louisiana* is now available from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Natural Heritage Program. The Atlas is a checklist of plant species found in Louisiana. It includes maps showing species distribution by parish.

The first volume covered ferns and their allies, conifers, and the monocots. This latest volume covers the dicot families A-E, a total of 51 families and 1,005 species. Approximately 75 percent of the species covered in Volume Two are native to Louisiana. The rest are introduced non-natives. Volume Three will address the remainder of the flowering plants.

The Atlases are the work of LNPS members Dr. R. Dale Thomas and Dr. Charles Allen of Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe. Dr. Thomas has personally collected more than 149,600 plant specimens during his career, and published numerous articles on the flora of the state. He published *100 Woody Plants of North Louisiana* several years ago and is curator of the largest herbarium in the state, at NLU. Dr. Allen is the author of *Grasses of Louisiana* and has served as president of the LNPS for the past two years.

As well as species lists, each volume has maps indicating general geology, soil types and vegetation regions. The Atlas was produced by LDWF's Natural Heritage Section in cooperation with the Louisiana Nature Conservancy and published by

LDWF. Natural Heritage botanist and LNPS member, Julia Larke had copies of both volumes available for sale at the LNPS fall field trip. Those, and other Natural Heritage publications should be available for purchase at the winter meeting in January.

The atlas volumes sell for \$10 each. They may be ordered for \$12 (\$10+\$2 postage, each) from LDWF, Natural Heritage Program, P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000. Make checks payable to the Natural Heritage Account. For more information contact Julia Larke at 504-765-2821.



Bloodroot,
Sanguinaria canadensis

Free Wildflower or Other Plant Identifications

If at any time you would like to know the name of a plant, break off a piece of plant including leaves and stem and flowers or fruit (if present at the time) and place it in a plastic reclosable zipper bag. Mail it directly to the NLU Herbarium. It will stay alive for at least a week in the bag and can be put in an envelope without other packaging without damage to the plant. This service is FREE and is guaranteed to be faster than most other sources. Send plant to Dr. R. Dale Thomas, Director of the Herbarium, Department of Biology, Northeast Louisiana University, Monroe, LA 71209-0502. Phone is 318-343-1518. No approval is necessary before sending plant. Include your name and address.

Coming Events

January 24 and 25, 1997. LNPS Annual Winter Meeting. Note the change in meeting place and schedule. See pages 2 and 3 for details.

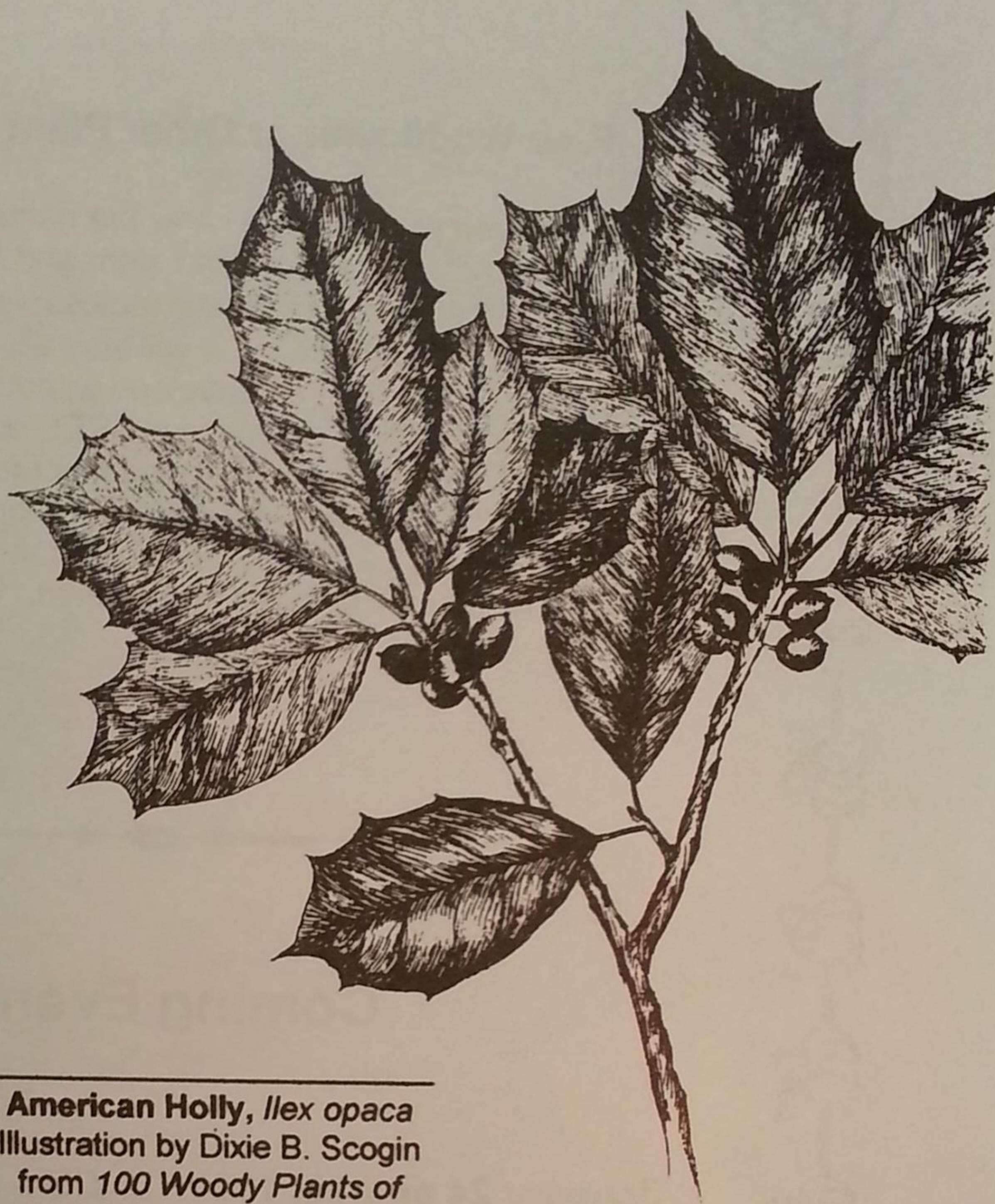
May 24 and 25, 1997. Bogs, Birds, Bivalves, and Butterflies Blast at Fort Polk. Robert Murry and Charles Allen will host this annual trip that is always delightful. More details in the Spring(March) newsletter.

American Holly by Carl Amason

One of the noble trees of the Southern forest is the American holly. It is revered by the horticulturists as a feature of landscape plantings. It is beloved by the birdwatchers as a wonderful source of bird food in late winter. It is sought after by beekeepers as a source of honey for their bee hives. Wildlife people are fond of seeing their ever-green leaves as a refuge for the animals and so the praises go on and on.

Only children who go barefoot in the summer hate a holly tree in their yard. The spines of the leaves are painful to small bare feet. In short, the holly tree is known and appreciated by just about all who have seen it, especially a well-berried tree in the Christmas season. Just what would the Christmas season be without holly? Perhaps the green leaves and bright red berries have contributed to the common usage as green and red being the Christmas colors.

The American holly is *Ilex opaca*. It is found as a natural plant in almost every Louisiana parish. It grows well in



American Holly, *Ilex opaca*
Illustration by Dixie B. Scogin
from *100 Woody Plants of
North Louisiana* by R. Dale
Thomas & Dixie B. Scogin

the bottomlands along the major and minor streams. That is where most of the larger trees are found. It is equally at home on upland sandy soils. In a few words, it is found almost everywhere.

Holly wood is one of the whitest woods known and was eagerly sought by cabinet makers, piano manufacturers, and makers of the early wooden Vene-

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tian blinds. The wood is lightweight, easily worked, does not splinter and takes stains well.

Hollies are more eagerly sought now as horticultural specimens in gardens and parks. All hollies are dioecious, that is, male or female plants. The flowers are either staminate (pollen-producing) or Pistillate (berry or seed producing). It is the pistillate (female) tree that is so admired for its winter berries. Red berries are the usual color thought of as "the" color of ripe berries, but there are also yellow and orange berried forms of American holly.

Holly trees are slow growing and difficult to transplant after they become two or three feet tall. That is the reason so few are seen in yards and why they are often expensive native trees. They take shearing quite well after they have become established and will grow in full sun to moderate shade. There are quite a few differences in the leaf texture and the color brightness of the berries. The fact that they make small to moderate trees means they should be given plenty of growing space when planting. Small trees, suitable for planting from the

woods have such an irregular shape that they should be potted and sheared when growing in early spring for best effect. The leaves are moderately dense and green. The sex of young trees is unknown until they bloom. Their blossoms are small, white, four-petalled affairs that drop as a complete unit. The male blossoms have four stamens. The female blossoms have a central green ovary with a pistil attached that produces the berry.

As previously stated, American hollies are difficult to transplant except as small seedling and those are usually poorly shaped. The best way to look at planting a holly is that you are planting one for the children--if you are young--or for the grandchildren if you are younger.

The Florida parishes have strains of the small myrtle-leaved holly, which is spineless. It is perhaps the loveliest of all to most botanists and horticulturists. Get it if you can! It should be hardy anywhere in Louisiana where it is not in dry, full sun. There is so much to enjoy in Louisiana that while growing things is work, it is very satisfactory work.

Carl Amason is a superior plantsman who gardens near Calion, Arkansas.

The Army , Kisatchie, and Public Interaction

by Robert Murry

It has been decreed that the Secretaries of Army and Agriculture get together and attempt to meet Fort Polk's stated needs for more military training lands by employing more of the lands of the Kisatchie National Forest. The public involvement has been excellent in calling attention to the original proposed takeover.

If we assume that these two agencies reach an agreement, how will environmental and recreational needs be met? Who will speak for the environment? Who will speak for the landowners who live within the boundaries of the National Forest?

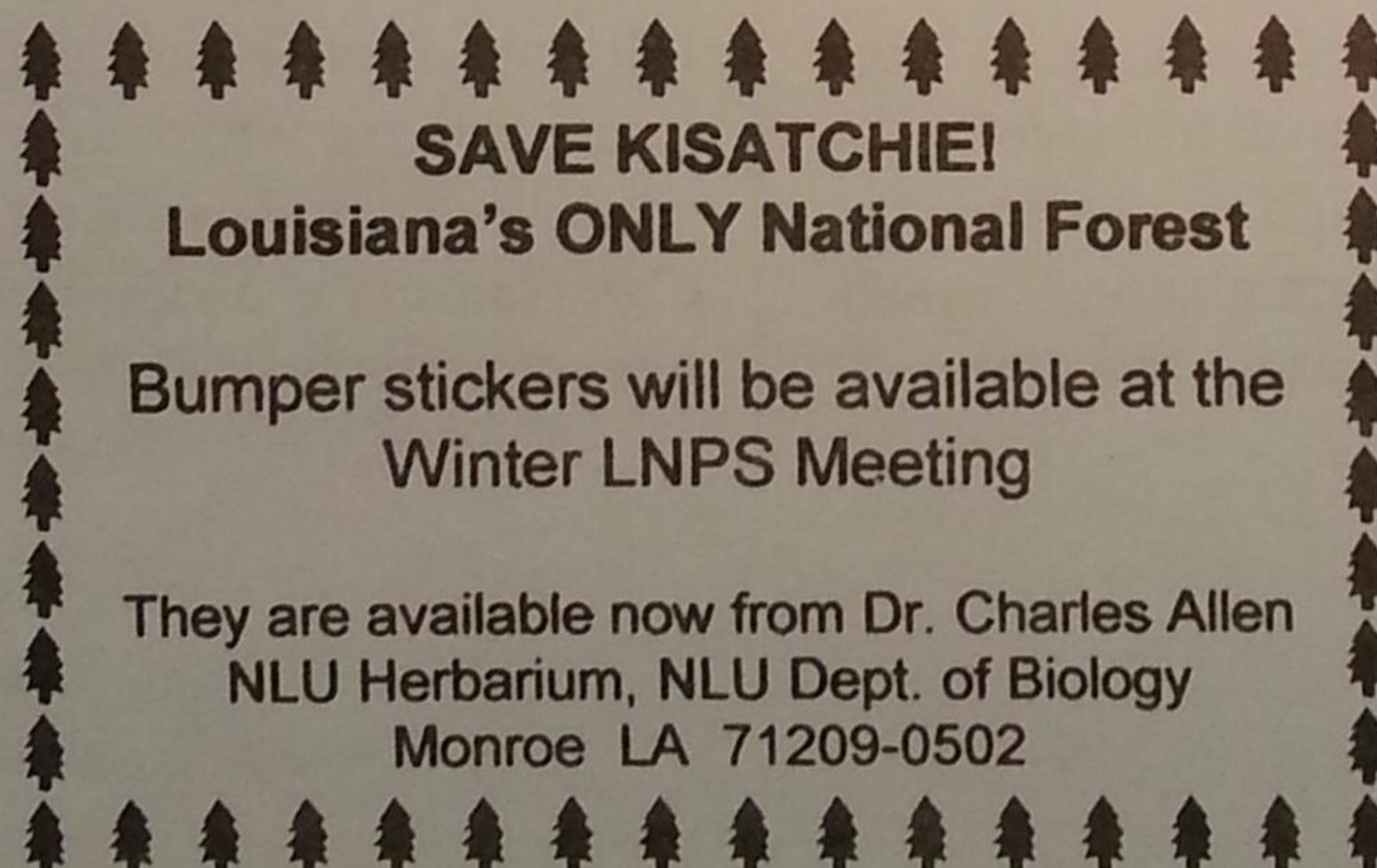
I propose the following: that all recognizable groups with broadly similar interests be invited to join together and petition the Army and Forest Service to hold a coordination meeting twice a year to discuss the previous management

actions and projections for the future. We, the environmental and recreation groups, would have a single spokesperson seated at the table.

The reasons for this are as follows. We do not, and should not, trust either the Army or the Forest Service to act in our best interests. The interagency rivalry that has existed for years cries out for a third party to help make progress in managing our public lands.

A common complaint of each agency is lack of budgeted funds. In fact, within the agencies themselves, often funds are not wisely applied to existing environmental management problems.

Concise recommendations from our committee can be used by each agency in seeking better funding, when needed, to implement their environmental management programs on *all* the public owned lands in this complex.



Military Seeks More.....

(Continued from page 3)

National Environmental Policy Act. *The Kisatchie Update* from the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, November 13, 1996 states, "Although the second phase document clearly should be a comprehensive environmental impact statement (EIS), it is our understanding that the Army is planning to do only another environmental assessment (EA) and to do it within just six months. The Army's balking at doing a full EIS could be interpreted as wariness about what may be revealed by a full EIS — or, just a general lack of regard for environmental concerns."

Meeting to help the Army and Forest Service identify factors which should be considered in the environmental analysis will be held in December. See dates, time, and location at right.

Facts and information for this article were provided in part by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund. Article compiled by Beth Erwin, LNPS Secretary.



Mistletoe, *Phoradendron serotinum*



Indian Pipes, *Monotropa uniflora*

Meetings will be held as follows to allow public input to identify areas for environmental analysis of the Army's proposed usage of the Vernon District of the Kisatchie National Forest

Tuesday, Dec. 10th, 7pm.

"Warrior Club," Ft. Polk

Wednesday, Dec. 11th, 7pm.,

Holiday Inn on McArthur Drive,
Alexandria

Monday, Dec. 16th, 7pm. LDWF
Building, Baton Rouge

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

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

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