

## President Receives Award

LNPS president Marion Drummond was one of ten women named Woman of Achievement at the Baton Rouge YWCA's annual Women of Achievement banquet October 14, 1999. She received the award in the nonprofit/community service category. Marion was recognized for her work as site director of LSU Hilltop Arboretum in Baton Rouge. She has guided an ambitious expansion of the arboretum's programs while in her position. The garden editor of *Southern Living* has called her "Hurricane Marion. She is the most active, comprehensive networker among plant professionals in the Deep South."



Marion Drummond(l) and Jessie Johnson(r) inspect shelf fungi on the LNPS fall field trip at Clark Falls in the Tunica Hills

photo by Charles Ancona

## Native Habitat 1, Neighbors 0

Many of you are aware of the situation involving Bruno Borsari of Eunice. He teaches Biology and Agriculture classes at LSU at Eunice. He is also very involved in the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society and served as President of that organization in 1998-1999. He has also served on the Board of Directors of LNPS. He is turning part of his backyard into prairie by transplanting clumps of prairie sod.

One or more of his neighbors complained about the height of his natural vegetation which they labeled as weeds. The City of Eunice tried to get him to cut all of his yard citing an ordinance that specified a minimum height for weeds. Bruno fought this and refused to cut his prairie. The neighbor(s) continued their complaining and the City scheduled a hearing in court for Nov 15, 1999. The press picked up the story and several newspapers ran articles including the Baton Rouge *Morning Advocate*. One of the newspaper articles stated that the neighbors were concerned about pollen and one even reported a snake in their car which they alleged came from Bruno's yard.

In October, I obtained a list of LNPS names and addresses and wrote a letter asking for your support. I am pleased to report that the case was dismissed on the night of Nov 15, 1999. Thanks for your quick and positive response to my request for letters to the Mayor of Eunice. I cannot say for sure but I feel that the case was dismissed because of your letters. There were letters coming from all corners of the state and the local officials in Eunice had to realize that there was a lot of interest in native plants and natural landscaping. This shows that we do have a voice that will be heard when we unite.

Charles Allen



## Prose from the president's pen...Marion Drummond

YOU MISSED OUT on a grand day with fine weather, glorious scenery, and great fellowship if you did not attend the LNPS Field Trip last October. There were close to 60 members and guests who shared the day at the Clark Creek Natural Area to enjoy the waterfall scenery, birds, and plants. With newly-constructed steps to facilitate the ups and downs of the loess bluffs, it is now possible to take either the high road, or the low road beside the stream bed. Some folks want to return in the Spring so if this is an area you enjoy we might schedule a return in the future.

A REAL DEAL: Over the past several years The Friends of Hilltop Arboretum in Baton Rouge have grown and distributed thousands of trees through

the National Tree Trust program. These are major trees that are available at no cost for planting on public property. No trees are available for private use. The Arboretum is going to close down the program for a few years and there is still a small inventory of trees remaining. If any member of LNPS is affiliated with a public facility that could make use of these trees you are welcome to them. Contact Marion Drummond at 225-767-6916 to discuss details and arrange for pick-up.

Those trees still available are:

Five gallon sizes: *Quercus virginiana*, Southern Live Oak; *Taxodium distichum*, Bald Cypress.

Three gallon sizes: *Quercus acutissima*, Sawtooth Oak; *Quercus michauxii*, Swamp Chestnut Oak; *Quercus nuttallii*, Nuttall Oak; *Quercus phellos*, Willow Oak; *Quercus shumardii*, Shumard Oak, *Betula nigra*, River Birch.

Two gallon sizes: *Quercus alba*, White Oak; *Quercus falcata*, Cherrybark Oak; *Quercus phellos*, Willow Oak; *Quercus shumardii*, Shumard Oak; *Betula nigra*, River Birch; *Taxodium distichum*, Bald Cypress.

Marion

### 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 DORMON ROAD, SALINE, LA. 71070. **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.

**DO NOT SEND DUES TO THE NEWSLETTER ADDRESS!!!**

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

\*If you know of an organization with an activity relating to native plants, let Beth Erwin (kalorama@kalorama.org 318-874-7777) or me (m.drummond@worldnet.att.net 225-274-9674) know and we will try to include it in one of the quarterly newsletters.

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# LNPS Winter Meeting Schedule—January 28-29, 2000

## FRIDAY, JAN. 28, 2000

Potluck supper (This happens whenever enough food/people arrive to eat.)	6pm-8pm
Charles Ancona's Slides: Revisiting the past: Pictures from past LNPS field trips	8 pm

## SATURDAY, JAN. 29, 2000

Registration, visiting and shopping for native plants, t-shirts, books, herbal stuff, new clubs to join and so on.	7 am-8 am
Welcome & Announcements	8:30 am
<b>NATIVE FOODS:</b> MARIE STANDIFER	8:45-9:30 am
<b>NATIVE FERNS:</b> MARY ELLIOTT	9:30-10:15 am
<b>KISATCHIE UPDATE:</b> JIM FORET	10:15-10:30 am
<b>BREAK: EXHIBITS &amp; SALES</b>	10:30-11:00
<b>WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?</b> SOLANGE SILVA	11:00-noon
<b>LUNCH*</b>	12-1
<b>LNPS business meeting</b>	1-1:30 pm
<b>THE EVOLUTION OF A BILINGUAL NATIVE GARDEN:</b> Dave & Tracey Banowetz	1:30-2:30 pm
<b>YOU ARE NEVER FINISHED WITH YOUR (NATIVE) GARDEN:</b> John Mayronne of Natives Landscape Corporation in Covington	2:30-3:30 pm

\*The CAJUN PRAIRIE PRESERVATION SOCIETY will have a short business meeting during the lunch hour.

The Annual LNPS Winter Meeting will be held at LSU 4-H Camp Grant Walker near Pollock. Registration forms are attached to the return envelopes in this newsletter. Please fill out the form and return it, preferably with payment, by January 21st.

Options and prices for the meeting are below. If you choose not to stay or eat at the camp, be prepared to drive for food and hotels.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Dorms with bunk beds, bring your own linens, earplugs, & flashlight. Showers/bathroom facilities in separate buildings. \$5 per bed per night.

**FOOD:** Breakfast in Cafeteria Sat.—\$4 per person. Will be available for one hour, 7-8am. Nothing will be seasoned, other than the way it comes in the package. Seasonings will be out and available for our use. Fruit & Juice, Eggs, Grits, Sausage, Dry Cereal, Biscuits, Milk/Coffee/Tea

Lunch in Cafeteria Saturday—\$5 per person.

Oven baked lemon chicken	Full salad bar
Steamed vegetable	Rolls
Herb-seasoned pilaf	Cobbler
Beverages	

Meal reservations **MUST** be returned by  
JANUARY 21, 2000

**NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE ALLOWED ON THIS CAMPUS.** Camp Grant Walker is the LSU Ag Center 4-H camp. It is located 2 miles east of US 165, near Pollock. ➡People coming from the south, take U.S. 165 north out of Alexandria. Just after the highway narrows from 4-lane to 2-lane, turn right onto La. 8, go about 2 miles to the camp. ➡For people coming from the north, after you pass through Pollock about ¼ mile south of the railroad overpass turn left onto La. 8, go ± 2 miles to the camp. ➡If you are coming from the east, take La. 8 in Jena and drive southwest ± 19 miles, to the camp.

\*Telephone numbers at Grant Walker: Semi-private phone in dining room, 318-765-9908, Office, 318-765-9529. There are motels available in Pineville and Alexandria.



## About the speakers.....

\***Charles Ancona** has been an active LNPS member for three years and a faithful attendee on most of the field trips where he has photographed both plants and people. Find yourself and some of your favorite plants during this presentation.

\***Marie Standifer** is a botanist trained as a plant anatomist. Her interest in native plants has led her to extensive studies of textile remains and foods of the Southeast native population. Her comprehensive knowledge on this subject has led to presentations across the country.

\***Mary Elliott** is a garden designer and owner of FRONDEROSA WHOLESALE NURSERY in Poncha-toula. Her love of plants was nurtured in her upstate native New York, but, fortunately for us, the plants AND the food of South Louisiana have kept her here where she is continually expanding her knowledge of ferns and their companion plants.

\***Jim Foret** is the immediate past president of LNPS and an ever-vigilant watchdog and faithful reporter on the Kisatchie Forest.

\***Solange Silva** is a soil specialist with a particular interest in mycorrhiza and its relationship to plants. She is on the staff of the Houston-based NORTHRUP ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISTS, a firm that evaluates and restores both wetlands and prairies.

\***Tracey and Dave Banowetz** have gardened in both Houston and Baton Rouge, moving from the traditional landscape philosophy to a mostly native garden. Their present garden was originally designed by Bill Fontenot and implemented by Marc Pastorek but their personal imprint is significant. "BILINGUAL"? You will have to come to the meeting to learn about this!

\***John Mayronne** is degreed in Landscape Architecture from LSU and is a principal with NATIVES LANDSCAPE CORP. in Covington. Owner of the former NATIVES NURSERIES, he is widely respected for his knowledge of both native and exotic plants, and for his understanding of the natural systems of the Southeast.



An intrepid group. LNPS members and guests assembled for a group picture on the fall field trip to Clark Falls in the Tunica Hills. Photo by Charles Ancona



A bonus for all who come to the January meeting will be the availability of native plant material from four regional growers. Make up a wish list and come visit and shop with:

**\*Sandra and Lonnie Gibbs of Wild Things Plant Farm** in Logansport

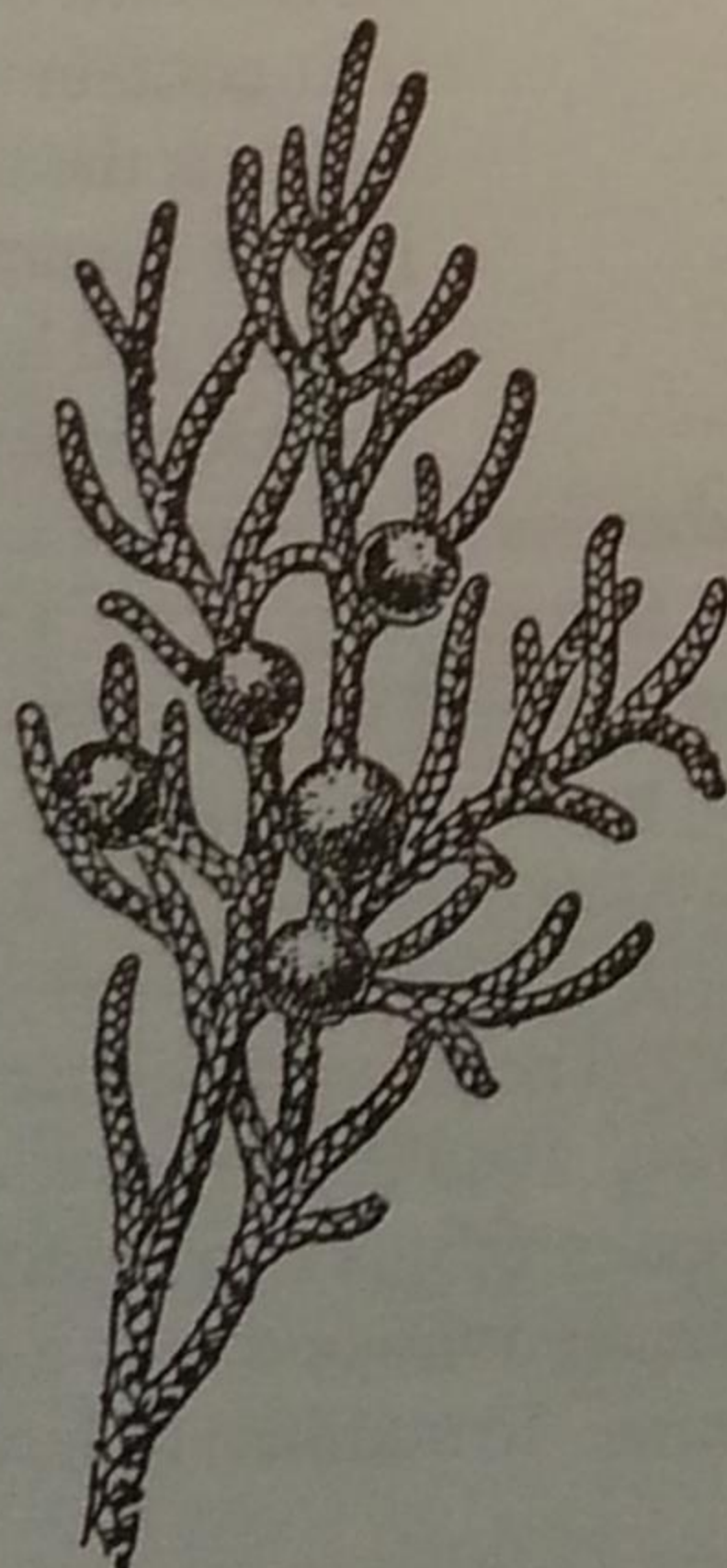
**\*Lydia and Bill Fontenot of Prairie Basse Nursery** in Carencro

**\*Mary Elliott of Fronderosa Nursery** in Ponchatoula

**\*Darla and Marc Pastorek of Plants That Work** in Carriere, Ms.

These folks go to a lot of trouble to make beautiful plants - many of which cannot be found easily - available to us. Getting them to the meeting in good shape in Winter is going the extra mile, and we do so appreciate it. Thanks you, growers!!!

We also invite others with plants, books, or other things of interest to native plant folks to bring your stuff to sell.



Eastern Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*

## News From Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society *by Charles Allen*

(1) Transplanting January 22-23, 2000.

This is your chance to restore prairie for the future. The Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society has scheduled January 22-23, 2000 for transplanting. We will start with culture on Saturday morning, January 22, meeting at Fred's in Mamou from 9 AM to 11:30 AM. Fred's features live Cajun Music and dancing every Saturday morning. You need to attend and add to your resume. Lunch is on your own. We will meet at the Burger King on the western side of Eunice at 1 PM. We will travel as a group to a remnant site and rescue prairie plants and transport them back to the Society's property in Eunice. If you have a truck, come in it and we can load it with prairie plants. But, we will also need help in loading the trucks so come in your car and lend us your back. On Sunday morning, January 23, we will meet at the Burger King at 9 AM and transplant more prairie plants.

(2) Short meeting during LNPS annual Winter Meeting on January 29, 2000.

(3) Tours of restored and remnant prairies and meeting on May 6-7, 2000. The schedule will be in the next LNPS newsletter. Tentatively, we will begin at Fred's on Saturday morning, meet at 1 PM and tour Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. More details in the Spring Newsletter.

(4) Officer for 1999-2000

President: Larry Allain

Vice President: Marc Pastorek

Secretary: Bruno Borsari

Treasurer: Malcom Vidrine

Newsletter Editor: Charles Allen

(5) To Join: Dues = \$10.00 per family per year  
Make checks payable to Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society and mail to:

P.O. Box 1006

Eunice, LA 70535



## Some notes on *Vaccinium arboreum*.....by Carl Amason

There is a delightful common, native, large shrub or small tree in the family Ericaceae. This is a term that means nothing more than the Erica Family. The family consists of azaleas, blueberry and so many wonderful wild plants and cultivated garden hybrids and cultivars. All are woody plants, but the one that is so outstanding is *Vaccinium arboreum*.

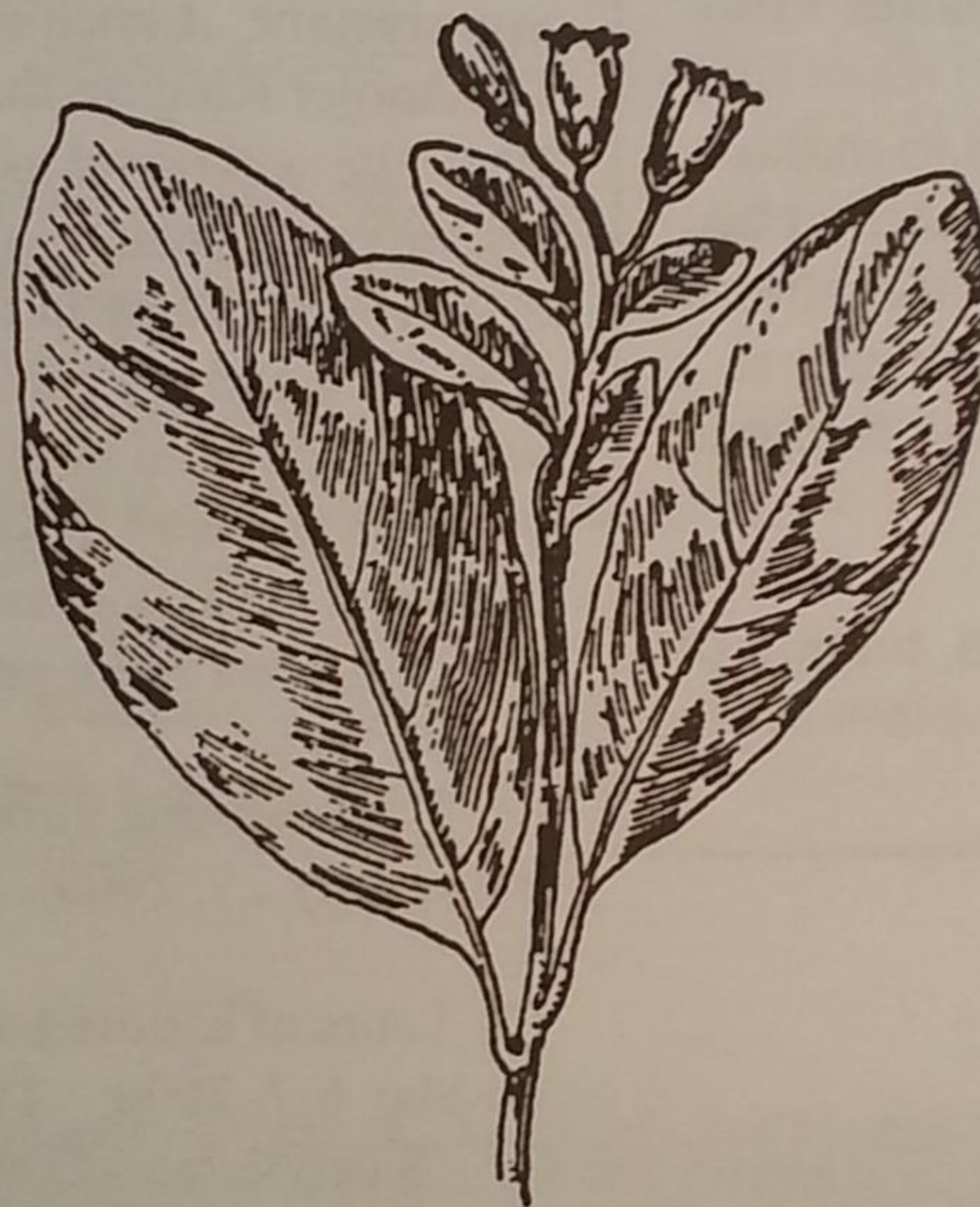
The range is so widespread that the common people know it by a number of names. Sparkleberry, farkleberry, winter huckleberry and tree huckleberry are just a few. It is of general knowledge that when a plant has so many common names, it is well known. So it is with *Vaccinium arboreum*. It comes as a shock to many people that the plant is not a huckleberry at all, but is a blueberry.

It is seldom offered in the nursery trade because people like something "exotic" in appearance, something that has to be purchased and not dug from the wild. So, times have made a complete circle, as many folks like to grow native plants but do not like to dig them from the wilds. The native tree huckleberry is difficult to dig from the wild and is slow to grow from seed. (Just poke the berries in the soil and keep watered.)

Identification of the tree huckleberry is easy. It makes a large shrub or small tree, perhaps 25 to 20 feet tall with a large crown. The trunk is usually branched or well forked and the main trunk just above the ground can be up to six inches in diame-

ter. It is in the main flush of mid-spring that the tree is in its great splendor with every twig on every limb on every branch bearing a multitude of dainty bell shaped white flowers. The flowers entice every bee and pollen seeker to partake of the goodness within. After two weeks or so, the united corollas fall and

little green fruit will develop all summer long. By early fall the fruits have developed their size, about 1/4-round, but remain green. Meanwhile, as the fruits are developing, the leaves are growing and they are lovely in a bright green, up to about two inches long and an inch wide. Most are a bit smaller in size. Then in the mid-autumn, the leaves turn to shades of red and the berries turn black. The fruit contain many seeds, which is the characteristic that separates blueberries and huckleberries. Huckleberries contain ten



***Vaccinium arboreum***

large seeds. Blueberries have many small seeds. The black colored berries hang on the tree throughout much of the winter and then the fruit-eating birds devour them in an orderly manner. While the fruits are not poisonous, they are not delicious as other blueberries, so it is the birds and small mammals that eat them. The dangling berries have a beauty all their own. Really, there is something Oriental about the beauty of this tree in all of its aspects. Like flowering dogwood, it is a tree with beauty in all seasons. In addition to birds and small



## Dates to Remember

animals eating the fruit, so do children. The flavor or taste varies from a dry greenish sour to a dry sweetish taste. Even for most children, only a few berries are sufficient and if more than a few are eaten, the mouth is left with a blackish coloration. Nothing to worry about as the boys certainly do not, regardless what worrying mothers think.

Tree huckleberries are best grown as a specimen tree in the lawn or on the edge of a planted woodland. They are long lived and furnish beauty to the house places as well as the countryside. Usually, volunteers or seedlings come up in desirable, and perhaps at times, undesirable places but it is usually left to its own way of living. One feature that doesn't satisfy most growers, is they tend to send up root sprouts. Frequent mowing or just snipping down with hand clippers quickly eliminates these. This is a tree to enjoy in all seasons and that usually means picking and eating a few ripe fruits in the winter, especially on a warm afternoon stroll over one's property. *Carl Amason is a superior plantsman who lives and gardens near Calion, Arkansas.*



Deerberry, *Vaccinium stamineum*

**January 22-23, 2000.** Cajun prairie transplanting. See page 5.

**January 28-29, 2000.** LNPS Annual Meeting. See page 2-3.

**March 1, 2000.** Deadline for submissions to Spring 2000 issue of *LNPS News*

**May 6-7, 2000.** Cajun Prairie tour. See page 5.

**May 19, 2000.** Arkansas Flora Conference. Fayetteville, AR. Discussing possibilities for Arkansas floristic work including possible publications. Contact Phillip Hyatt, phyatt/r8\_kisatchie@fs.fed.us (h)318-473-7262;(w)-7117;(fax) or Dr. Johnnie Gentry, gentry@comp.uark.edu or 501-575-7925.

**May 20-21, 2000.** Bogs & Birds. Details in spring newsletter.

**June 1, 2000.** Deadline for submissions to Summer 2000 *LNPS News*.

**September 23, 2000.** Winn Wildflower Walk. Details in subsequent newsletters.

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.



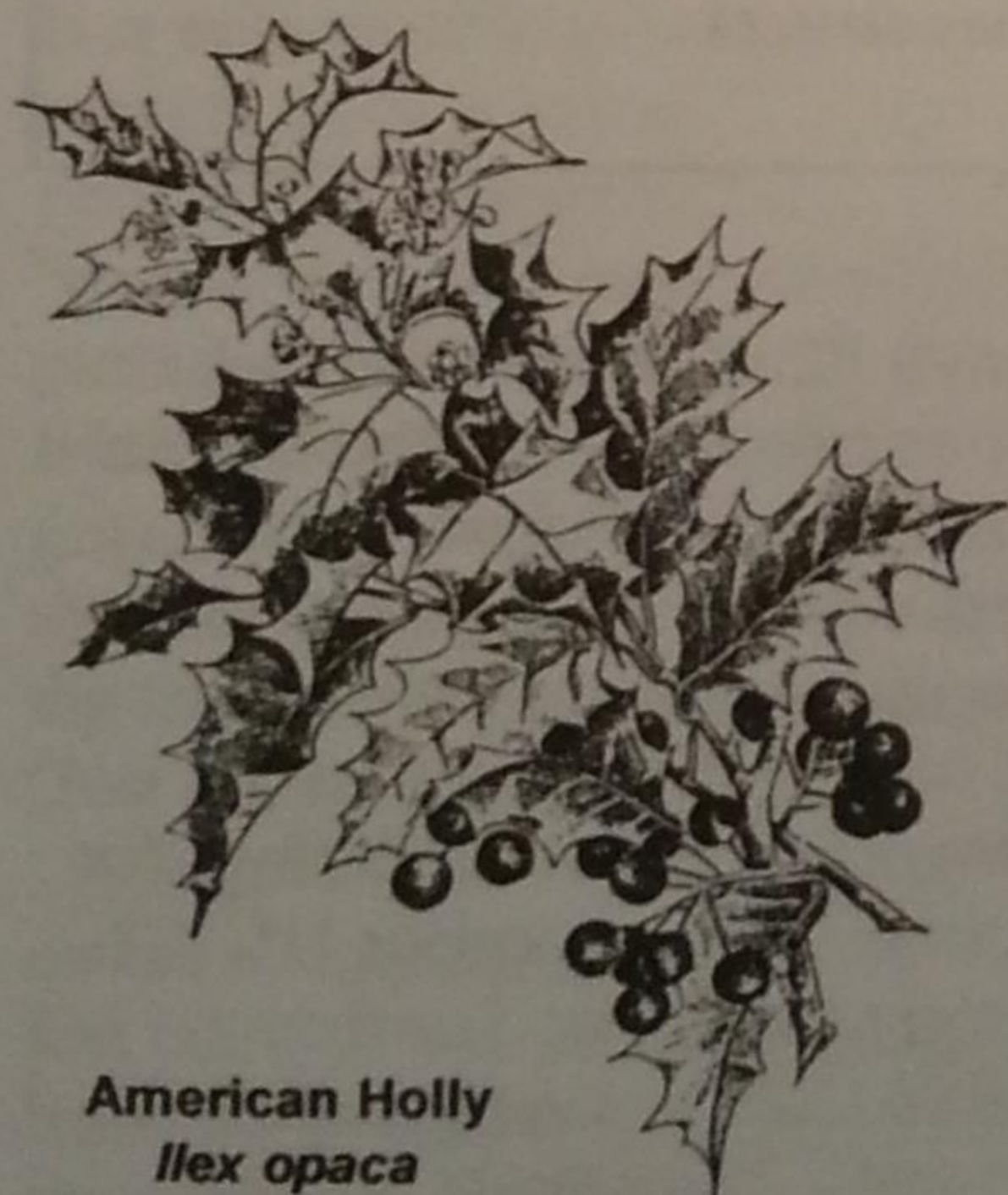
The Louisiana Native Plant Society was founded in 1983 as a state-wide, non-profit organization. Its purposes are:

- ☞ 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.

### LNPS News

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NLU Department of Biology  
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