

LNPS News

Volume 19, Issue 4

Winter 2001-2002

Charles Allen Accepts New Position

Charles Allen will retire from the Louisiana Teacher Retirement System after this Fall semester on Dec 16, 2001. He has taught in the system for 27½ years including 10½ at ULM, a.k.a. NLU. He has also taught at LSU at Eunice and USL, a.k.a. ULL. Charles will accept a Research Associate position with Colorado State University and will be the Botanist for Fort Polk. Susan is transferring to the WalMart in Deridder. They are in the process of purchasing a house in Cravens adjacent to the National Forest. They plan to remain active in LNPS and other native plant activities including tours and publications. The Bogs, Birds, Butterflies, and Bivalves annual Bust will continue and will be very easy to coordinate from their new location. The Cajun Prairie in Eunice is only about an hour and a half from their new home so that will continue, in fact there is an outing scheduled for Jan 11-13, 2002. And, they will return to the Nature Trail near Columbia as much as possible with "Shadows on the Ouachita" scheduled for Feb

2, 2002. The new work telephone number for Charles will be 337-531-7535 and the new work address is: Charles Allen, Environmental and Natural Resources Management Division, 1919 23rd Street, Fort Polk, LA 71459-5512. New home address, emails, and telephone numbers will be forthcoming.

LNPS Winter Meeting

The Louisiana Native Plant Society will hold its 19th annual meeting at Camp Grant Walker near Pollock, La., January 18-19, 2002. The meeting offers a wonderful time of visiting and fellowship with plant folks, opportunities to learn about preserving & promoting native plants, and making new friends.

Due to the number of options available to attendees for accommodations and food, we are asking that you pre-register/pay if at all possible. This should give you more time to visit and shop for plants, books, etc. and help us with the bookkeeping. Our registration fee covers the cost of the liability insurance we are required to carry and facility rental. Options and prices for the meals and accommodations are listed on the inside back pages of this newsletter. If you choose not to stay or eat at the camp, be prepared to drive for food and hotels. The nearest hotels are in the Pineville/Alexandria area. We encourage all vendors of plants, books, herb stuff, t-shirts, etc. to bring items to sell and/or trade in our market.

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From the president.....*Dr. R. Dale Thomas*

Speakers for LNPS

We have three excellent speakers and presentations for the January 2002 meeting of the LNPS. Dr. Eric Sundell has been on staff at the University of Arkansas at Montecello since 1980. A native New Yorker, Dr. Sundell served in the Peace Corps in Tunisia, North Africa, 1964-66. He received his B.S. in Biology from Arizona State University in 1973, and his M.S. in Botany from ASU in 1974. He earned his Ph.D. in Botany/Plant Taxonomy from Tulane University in 1980. He teaches or has taught biology, botany, dendrology, regional flora, and evolutionary biology and was Department Head of Natural Sciences 1985-1997, at UAM, but in his words, "returned to my senses and have been teaching full time since then." His presentation will be on Milkweed Pollination, and is accompanied by beautiful pictures of these interesting flowers.

Theo Witsell has been the staff botanist for the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission since July, 2000. He has also worked as a contract botanist for the Ouachita and Ozark National Forests and the

National Park Service, and served as the Arboretum Coordinator for the Arkansas Arboretum at Pinnacle Mountain State Park near Little Rock. Theo is a member of the Arkansas Vascular Flora Committee, the group of botanists writing the Manual of the Vascular Flora of Arkansas, and is currently working on a master's degree which will include a floristic inventory of Saline County, Arkansas. His interests include conservation of rare species, invasive species control, and restoration of degraded ecosystems. Theo's topic will be Endangered Species and Habitats of the Arkansas Coastal Plain.

Rector Hopgood created a slide presentation especially for a Friday night program about his remnant prairie for an LNPS meeting years ago. Those lucky few who arrived on Friday night to see the show are *still* talking about it. Rector continued to give the program around the Monroe area, refining and adding to the program over a period of several years. It became wildly popular, and even developed "groupies" that would show up to see it each time it was publicized, even though they were not affiliated with the group that was to see it. In the period since it was shown for the first time at the LNPS meeting, it has been upgraded considerably, with several more years of prairie management, and seasonal views included. It is still a three-screen/projector show, including some of the finest wild-flower photography to be found, featuring the only known remnant prairie in Louisiana that is managed only for that purpose, to preserve the prairie habitat.

Dale

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 Jackie Duncan, 114 Harpers Ferry Road, Boyce, LA 71409-9716. **DO NOT SEND DUES TO THE NEWSLETTER ADDRESS!!!** Remember to send your change of address. The newsletter is sent bulk mail, and will not be forwarded.

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

ATTENTION!!!!

PLANT VENDORS, TRADERS, & PURVEYORS OF THINGS OF INTEREST TO PLANT FOLKS: BRING YOUR WARES TO THE JANUARY LNPS MEETING!!!

T- Time

January 11-13, 2002

EUNICE CAJUN PRAIRIE LAND PURCHASE

The fund raising is still going on so it is not too late to pledge any amount. We will be approaching Union Pacific shortly and see what we can do to preserve the restored prairie in Eunice forever. Thanks to all that have already responded.

(Transplanting, Tallow Whacking, Tidying, Tangoing, and Togetherring)

Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society
We will use the L'Acadie Inn as our Headquarters for this meeting. They have 16 rooms and we can use the outside space plus the lobby. Two of the rooms have a kitchen so we can heat the gumbo and or other foods. The rooms rates are \$60 for the kitchenette, \$40 for king, and \$50 for doubles. They have two kitchenettes (Susan and I have one of those), five kings, and 9 doubles. Peter, we can have a bon fire and Lance is saving wood for us. Kelly and Lance Pitre are the owners: Phone 337-457-5211. It would probably be better to call with reservations or questions so we can keep the numbers straight.

Friday, January 11:

1 PM till dark: Tallow Whacking, Transplanting, and Trash Cleanup at the Eunice Restored Prairies. Meet at the corner of Martin Luther King Drive and East Magnolia.

6:30 PM till: Gumbo and whatever you bring. Bring a few slides to share and we will eat, talk, party, and network.

Saturday, January 12:

8-11 AM: Transplanting, Tallow Whacking, and Tidying (Trash Cleanup) at the Eunice Restored sites.

11:00 AM-NOON: (DAVID LEWIS) at the Jean Lafitte Center in Eunice. Title = "Mushroom Identification"

12-12:30 PM: Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society Meeting

12:30-1:30: Break for Lunch. A tradition is Matilda's BBQ on the east side of Eunice.

1:30-4:30 PM: Transplanting, Tallow Whacking, and Trash Cleanup at the Eunice Restored sites.

7 PM: We will ad lib but probably will have enough Leftovers from Friday night.

9 PM till: PARTY!! at the L'Acadie Inn. Todd Ortego (Music for all and all will dance) The cost is \$300.00 and we will split the cost.

Sunday, January 13: Recover and Retreat

Some notes on sourwood.....by Carl Amason

There is a small, dogwood-sized tree that is native to parts of Louisiana, mostly in the Florida Parishes east of the Mississippi River and then along an axis between Alexandria to Monroe in Northern Louisiana. This tree is *Oxydendron arboretum* and it is a beautiful native as well as a valued horticultural subject. It is a tree of all seasons. Its common name is sourwood, an early literal translation of its scientific name of *oxydendron*. Why sourwood? We must remember that most of the early botanical names were also associated with scientific nomenclature in other disciplines. About the time sourwood's name was given, the chemical world had apprised the world that the element of oxygen was the agent that turned wine into sour vinegar. So the chemical agent oxygen was, at that time, associated with things turning sour. In the changing of the thinking, that connection has diminished but the scientific name still holds true because certain elements of the tree's sap have a sour taste.

In winter, the tree is leafless and the architectural form of the tree is exposed to the elements, the mind, and the imagination. In a word, it is beautiful. With the coming of spring, fresh green leaves, three to eight inches long, one to two inches broad, arranged in an alternate pattern make it pleasing as both a specimen tree or one in a woodland situation. It is beautiful in foliage.

In early to mid-summer, the terminal ends of the branches come into bloom. The tiny fragrant blooms are borne in sprays. Perhaps five to twelve twigs make up the panicles of dangling quarter inch flowers that are much sought after by honeybees. Where sourwoods make up a significant part of the woodlands, beekeepers move hives, when pos-



sible, into the vicinity. Later, a light yellow "Sourwood Honey" is packaged in glass containers and sold and eagerly bought by the public. The show of flowers lasts two to four weeks and it comes at a time when few other woody plants are in bloom. It is beautiful in flower.

As fall comes and many autumn leaf colors are developing in yellow, orange, bronze, and some reds, sourwood leaves develop a strong red color. It becomes conspicuous in both yards and woods. The old flowering twigs are pleasing twigs of ripening seed capsules. It is beautiful in the fall.

There is a catch to planting or transplanting

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sourwoods. It isn't the easiest tree to establish and some summer rainfall is a big help. One doesn't know when and if summer rains will come. It is usually not a tree found in wet places, but is found on shady slopes of acid soil. It is always best to buy and plant a small nursery grown plant. Its needs for water must be attended to in a pleasant fashion to the plant.

Lately some mail-order nurseries call it the "lily of the valley tree," a name that means more to people who know the exotic lily of the valley plant. Most Southern people who know the native tree call it "sourwood." There is little other use for the tree outside of ornamental values and those of beekeepers for a source of honey nectar. It is an outstanding small tree in any season and situation. One closing note: *Oxydendron arboretum* is the only species of the genus of the Ericaceae family and is related to so many other ornamentals. It is that botanically distinct. *Carl Amason is a superior plantsman who lives and gardens near Calion, Arkansas.*

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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 VEYORS OF THINGS OF INTEREST TO
 PLANT FOLKS: BRING YOUR WARES TO
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SHADOWS ON THE OUACHITA

Join us and the Columbia Ground Hogs and let's see if we see any shadows. We will begin on Saturday, February 2, 2002 at 7 AM with a birding tour led by Joyce Bennett. Meet at the front gate of the Nature Trails. At 9 AM, we will tour the nature trails that will start from the campsite area on the Ouachita River. The view during this time is great as one can see the Ouachita River from several spots along the trails.

Columbia is located along U.S. 165 about 30 miles south of Monroe and about 50 miles north of Alexandria. To get to the Nature Trails; For those traveling north out of Alexandria, turn right onto Church Street at the first traffic light at the bottom of the bluff in Columbia, it will also be the first traffic light after McDonalds. For those traveling south out of Monroe, turn left at the 2nd traffic light after crossing the Ouachita River bridge onto Church Street. Follow Church Street until it dead ends into Boatner St just past the Elem. School. Turn right on Boatner Street and go one block and turn left onto Fisher Road. Follow Fisher Road out of town, in about a mile, it will turn to gravel but keep going. About 1.2 miles after the gravel begins, you will see the Nature Preserve on the left with a large wooden gate. To get to the campsite, follow the gravel road back to the Ouachita River. We will break about 11 AM and Susan will provide gumbo to go with what you bring. We will have tables and chairs at the campsite on the Ouachita River. Plans for Saturday afternoon are still in progress but we will start around 1:30 PM from the campsite on the Ouachita River. And, plans for Sunday morning February 3rd are very fluid at this time. More information will be forthcoming and will be available at the annual LNPS meeting in January 19, 2002.

You are welcome to camp on the site on Friday and/or Saturday nights. There is a locally owned motel in Columbia (318-649-2588) plus several motels in Monroe including Holiday Inn-Holidome (318-387-5100 by I-20), La Quinta (318-322-3900), Hampton Inn (318-361-9944), Hotel 6 (318-322-5430), Ramada Inn (318-323-1600), Courtyard by Marriott (318-388-0034), Best Western Airport Inn (318-345-4000), Days Inn (318-345-2220), and Stratford House Inn (318-388-8868).

LNPS 2002 Winter Meeting Schedule

FRIDAY EVENING

Gathering from about 5 PM until.

Potluck supper*		5 - 7
Pictures from the past**		7 'til

*Bring food of your choice. Susan Allen brings Gumbo. We do not have use of the kitchen for heating, so bring a hot plate if your item needs heating, or pack accordingly.

**Beth & Terry Erwin will bring a few slides from over 15 years ago of LNPS trips. We are asking others that have slides and pictures from past trips to bring some also. If you are like many of us, you may have slides of plants that you don't know the name of. This is a good time to find out. We hope that be having lots of people bringing pictures to share, we will break the "Friday night curse" that has plagued our scheduled speakers for the past few years.

SATURDAY

Breakfast		7 - 8
Registration		8:00-9:00
Milkweed Pollination	Dr. Eric Sundell	9:00-9:45
Endangered Species & Habitats of the Arkansas Coastal Plain	Theo Witsell	10-10:45
Break & Shopping		10:45-11
Presentation of Award		11:00
Seasons on the Prairie	Rector Hopgood	11:10-12
Lunch/Shopping		12:00-1:00
The Business of the Day		1 - 2

See page 2, Dale Thomas' column, for speaker information.

Accommodations: Men's or Women's dorms with bunk beds, bring your own linens and earplugs, Showers/bathroom facilities in separate buildings. \$5 per bed per night.

Food:

Breakfast in Cafeteria Sat.—\$4 per person.

eggs, sausage, fruit, bread and coffee

Lunch in Cafeteria Saturday—\$5 per person.

Roast beef poboy, baked potato, full salad bar and dessert

Meal reservations MUST be returned by January 11, 2002

Rules/Regulations/Directions

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.

Send completed reservation form and check for appropriate amount to:

Jackie Duncan, LNPS treasurer
114 Harpers Ferry Road
Boyce, LA 71409

Questions? Contact Jackie Duncan at above address, or ph. 318-874-7778, or email: jduncan/r8_kisatchie@fs.fed.us. or Marion Drummond at (225) 274-9674, or email: m.drummond@worldnet.att.net

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Registration Form

Names/titles & area of habitation as you wish them to appear on your name tag/meal ticket: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ Phone or email: _____	Registration fee \$5 x _____ Lodging \$5 x _____ Saturday breakfast \$4 x _____ Saturday lunch \$5 x _____ You may choose to include your dues renewal at this time: Annual dues: check one Student/Senior \$5 _____ Individual \$10 _____ Family \$15 _____ Organization \$25 _____ Sustaining \$50 _____ Corporate \$100 _____ TOTAL _____
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Make checks payable to LNPS. Meal reservations MUST be returned by January 11, 2002.

Calendar

January 11-12, 2002. T-Time (Transplanting, Tallow Whacking, Tidying, Tangoing, and Togetherring) Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society. See Page 3.

January 18-19, 2002. LNPS Winter Meeting, Camp Grant Walker, Pollock, Louisiana.

February 2, 2002. Shadows on the Ouachita. See Page 3.

February 23, 2002. Tom Sawyer Day at Briarwood. Bring gloves, clippers, and lunch (drinks provided). Work begins around 9 AM and doesn't last past lunch. Tour Briarwood in the afternoon.

March 9, 2002. LNPS Field Trip. Spring ephemerals in the hills of Northwest Louisiana. We will be looking for Trout Lilies & Trilliums, and maybe some Bloodroot. Meet at Briarwood at 9 AM. Richard & Jessie Johnson will lead us to some "hot spots" in and around their stomping grounds in the hills of northern Natchitoches Parish within a 20-mile radius of Briarwood. Some overnight accommodations are available at Briarwood but you MUST make prior contact with Jessie at (318) 576-3379 to stay there. Nearest motels are Natchitoches, Ruston, or Arcadia.

LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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