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2025 LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE

February 14-16, 2025

Acadian Baptist Center, 1202 Academy Dr  
Eunice, LA 70535

**FRIDAY – February 14, 2025**

11:00 am	Field Trip (Optional): Louisiana State Arboretum at Chico State Park (See page 6 for details)
1:00 pm	Prescribed burn demonstration at the Acadiana Baptist Center prairie (if weather permits)
3:00 pm	Check in/Registration in the Chapel
5:00 pm	Dinner in the Dining Hall
6:00 pm	<b>Tammy Greer</b> , <i>The Role of Native Plants in the Revitalization of Native American Cultures</i>
7:00 pm	<b>Emily Miller</b> , <i>Planting Native in Our Dynamic Coastal Zones</i>

**SATURDAY, February 15, 2025**

7:00-8:15 am	Registration/Check-in in the Chapel; Breakfast in the Dining Hall
8:15-8:30 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks in the Chapel
8:30-9:30 am	<b>Eric Fuselier</b> , <i>Using Native Plants in Phytoremediation</i>
9:30-10:30	<b>Johnny Armstrong and Latimore Smith</b> , <i>Rescuing Biodiversity, the Protection and Restoration of a North Louisiana Ecosystem</i>
<b>Break</b>	
11:00-noon	Trivia Business Meeting, Elections, Year-in-Review, DeFatta Award
Noon	<b>Lunch</b> in the Dining Hall

- 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

## 2025 LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE

February 14-16, 2025

Acadian Baptist Center, 1202 Academy Dr  
Eunice, LA 70535

- 1:15-2:30 pm Jen Blanchard will lead a nature walk around the grounds of ABC. Meet in front of the chapel.
- 1:15-2:30 pm Workshop – Tammy Greer. Dr. Greer will conduct a workshop in the East Room to introduce the use of native plants as pigments and dyes that can be used now, as they have been in the past, to color our world.
- 3:00 pm Plant Auction in the East Room
- 5:00 pm Dinner in the Dining Hall
- 6:00 pm Bonfire by the lake

### SUNDAY, February 16, 2025

- 7:00-8:15am Breakfast in the Dining Hall
- 9:00 am Field trips scheduled (See pages 6-8). Meet in front of the chapel or as designated.

## REGISTRATION

REGISTER by January 31, 2025 by clicking [here](#). Cancellations must be made in writing to [lnpsinbox@gmail.com](mailto:lnpsinbox@gmail.com) by February 7 in order to receive a full refund less a \$25 fee. Cancellations after February 7 are non-refundable. Contact Jackie Duncan for questions at [jacalynduncan@hotmail.com](mailto:jacalynduncan@hotmail.com) or text 318-277-4731.

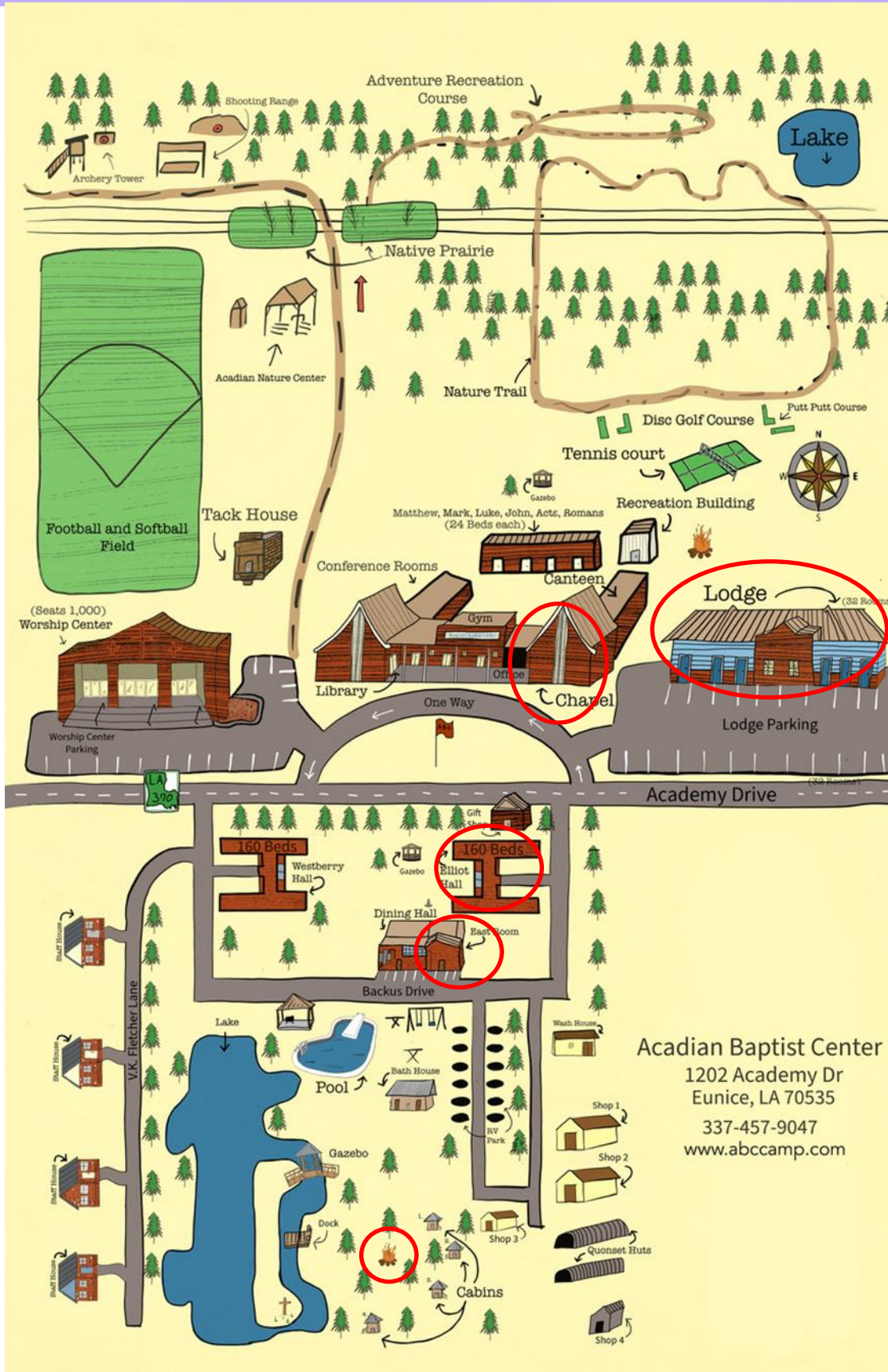
Below is a map showing the grounds of the Acadian Baptist Center. Circled in RED are the Chapel where Check-in and Presentations are located, the Lodge, the East Room where exhibitor/vendors/silent auction/plant auction/and workshop are located. Elliott Hall is also circled in RED for those who are staying in the dormitory. The fire pit where the bonfire will be is also circled in RED. Tent camping can be anywhere beside the lake, and the bath house is available to tent campers.

## SILENT AUCTION, PLANT AUCTION

LNPS will have a Silent Auction during the Conference. Bring your items to the East Room Friday evening or Saturday morning by 10am. The auction will conclude Saturday afternoon.

The Plant Auction will continue as at previous conferences with native plants being auctioned Saturday afternoon at 3pm in the East Room. Bring any native plants you have to offer and place them on the raised platform in the East Room. Make sure to label your plants so that folks know what they are.

# MAP OF ACADIAN BAPTIST CENTER



Acadian Baptist Center  
1202 Academy Dr  
Eunice, LA 70535  
337-457-9047  
www.abccamp.com



## 2025 Louisiana Native Plant Conference Speakers and Topics

**Tammy Greer** Associate Prof of Psychology and Director of the Center for American Indian Research and Studies. Dr. Greer is a member of the United Houma Nation and director of the Southern Miss Center for American Indian Research and Studies. She wild tends the 1,000 square foot Southern Miss Medicine Wheel Garden whose paths point in the four directions. The wild tended garden is filled with Southeastern native plants that were and are still used as tools, building materials, clothing, cordage, food, drink, dyes, pigments, weapons and medicines. Dr. Greer coordinates the yearly Southern Miss Powwow that is open to the public and allows Natives and non-Natives to experience powwow culture here in Hattiesburg. She, currently, is working on several projects that involve waking up our sleeping Southeastern cultural traditions, including our pigment and dye, cordage and mound building traditions as well as food traditions in an effort to address health disparities among Southeastern American Indians.



### ***Native Plants, Traditional & Indigenous Uses***

*Dr. Greer will talk about the role of native plants in the revitalization of Native cultures.*

*Dr. Greer will conduct a workshop to introduce the use of foraged native plants as pigments and dyes that can be used now, as they have in the past, to color our world.*

**Emily Marie Miller** is a student employee at UNO Shea Penland Coastal Education and Research Facility (CERF). Emily will soon be a graduate of the University of New Orleans earning her degree in Earth and Environmental Science with a coastal concentration. Growing up on farmed and forested property in rural Maryland she developed a love and appreciation for the natural world. In 2009 she moved to Louisiana out of desire to connect with the land that raised many generations of her family, and now calls Louisiana home. Dr. Christopher Belser at UNO introduced her to the value of planting native and she has focused her efforts on applying natives for ecosystem enrichment ever since.



### ***Planting Native in our Dynamic Coastal Zones***

*Emily is a LNPS grant recipient and will describe lessons learned from developing native gardens on a strip of land surrounded by coastal brackish marshland and Chef Menteur Pass, an area known to shift in salinity throughout the year. This project informs on the resiliency of particular natives in this environment, and how this information may aid in navigating the future of South Louisiana through coming climate change, sea level rise, and other factors.*

**Eric Fuselier** is an environmental scientist who works with engineers, planners, and landscape architects to provide effective, sustainable solutions for environmental challenges facing cities, regions, and organizations worldwide. Eric has educated city leaders, industry leaders, and legal professionals on a wide variety of topics including climate resilience, low impact development, phytoremediation, wetland science, and environmental regulations.



### ***Phytoremediation with Native Plants: How to Use Native Plants to Improve Environmental Quality***

*Learn about how native plants can be used to improve soil, water, and air quality through the process of phytoremediation. The concepts and species discussed in this presentation aren't limited to green infrastructure or large-scale remediation projects: they can be applied to residential, commercial and municipal landscaping projects as well. Learn how to pay attention to surrounding land uses and activities to know how to select species for your next native plant project that will benefit the environment beyond just providing habitat for pollinators and wildlife. Topics covered in this presentation will include rain gardens, stormwater management, pesticides, carbon sequestration, outdoor air quality and more!*

## 2025 Louisiana Native Plant Conference

### Speakers and Topics *cont.*



**Jennifer Blanchard** is a botanist and Instructor of Horticulture - Medicinal Plants at LSU. She has introduced new courses on medicinal plants and indigenous plant use and Cannabis Horticulture. As a PhD student, her research focuses on the extraction of natural plant products for use in industry. Jennifer has a bachelor's in environmental biology and a masters in Earth and Environmental Science and has enjoyed working with Dr. Charles Allen in recent years. Jennifer is enthusiastic about sharing information on the propagation and use of native medicinal plants in the landscape and all the value-added benefits these plants provide to human health and the environment.

*Jennifer Blanchard will lead a guided nature walk on Saturday afternoon.*

**Johnny Armstrong** retired following 42 years as a medical doctor with specialty in pathology. He has worked for the past 16 years on the restoration of the ecology of the shortleaf pine-oak-hickory woodland and grassland on Wafer Creek Ranch, Ruston, a project detailed in his latest book, "Rescuing Biodiversity: The Protection and Restoration of a North Louisiana Ecosystem."



**Latimore Smith** is the Founder of Southern Wild Heritage, LLC (2018). He retired from LDWF (2000, 15 years) serving as a Natural Heritage Ecologist. Previously he worked at The Nature Conservancy as Director of Science and Stewardship. Latimore is an authority on longleaf pine and shortleaf pine ecological systems in Louisiana.



### **History and Ecology of Shortleaf Pine Systems in North LA and a Review of the Shortleaf Pine-Oak-Hickory Woodland Restoration Project at Wafer Creek Ranch**

*Johnny and Latimore will present jointly on a restoration project, which is one of the leading examples of shortleaf pine woodland restoration in the state. Latimore will provide an overview of the history and ecology of the shortleaf pine system in North Louisiana and Johnny will discuss the many facets and lessons learned in the restoration of a shortleaf-oak-hickory woodland at Wafer Creek Ranch over the last 16 years.*



## 2025 Louisiana Native Plant Conference Field Trip Options

### Friday February 14, 2025

#### **Talk and Guided Hike at the Louisiana State Arboretum** with Kim Hollier, 11am

Join other LNPS meeting goers at the **Louisiana State Arboretum** for a free talk and guided hike with Arboretum naturalist Kim Hollier. Come early and enjoy the exhibits in the Nature Center. The grounds surrounding the Nature Center were landscaped with natives and earned gold certification in the Louisiana Certified Habitat Program. After an introductory talk by Kim at 11am, the guided walk will start on the accessible pavement and continue on one of the nature trails, max 1.5 mile walk. Allow 2 hours but you can come and go as you like. Enter through Chicot State Park (1300 Sudie Lawton Lane, Ville Platte, 70586, \$3 entrance fee, free for 62+). No need to register. Pets and picnicking are not allowed at the Arboretum but are welcome elsewhere in the State Park. Also feel free to brownbag your lunch during the talk. Navigate to the entrance of Chicot State Park, pay the entrance fee, then follow signs to the Arboretum. <https://www.lastateparks.com/parks-preserves/louisiana-state-arboretum>



### Sunday February 16, 2025

#### **Cajun Prairie Restoration** in Eunice with Dr. Malcolm Vidrine, 9am



The [Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society](#)'s signature restoration is in Eunice, at the corner of Martin Luther King Drive and East Magnolia, just 15 min drive from the LNPS Conference site. Join Dr. Malcolm Vidrine at the site for an insightful introduction to the restored Cajun Prairie and the story behind the restoration. Volunteers used only local seeds and plugs collected from nearby remnants so this prairie is as Cajun as can be. The paved trail around the 10-acre site is wheelchair accessible. But bring boots if you want to explore off-path. Throughout the year, you will find plants in flower but especially from March to October. There is a paved parking lot and a covered shelter for picnics. Navigate to 650 E Magnolia Ave, Eunice, LA 70535.

## 2025 Louisiana Native Plant Conference

### Field Trip Options *cont.*

#### Sunday February 16, 2025



**Old Growth Longleaf Pine savanna** with Brian Sean Early, leave ABC at 8:30. Meet in front of the Chapel at 8:15.

Join LDWF botanist Brian Sean Early for a guided visit to the Porteau Tract, a 500 acre tract with 200 acres of **old growth longleaf pine savanna** and flatwood ponds, with the rest undergoing restoration with the state's Natural Heritage Program. Details about accessibility available at the meeting. It's an easy one-hour drive west of the Acadian Baptist Center to just past Kinder. Those who want to carpool can arrange that morning. (Photo from a nearby tract)

**Cajun Prairie Farms** with Larry Allain, meet there at noon

Visit the Allains' working family farm and prairie restoration, Cajun Prairie Farms, in Arnaudville with Larry guiding you around several prairie restorations in various stages and their organic vegetable gardens and animal husbandry. It's on Hwy 93 between Grand Coteau and Arnaudville, about 35 minutes from the Conference site. Navigate to 7334 Hwy 93, Arnaudville LA 70512-5901. It's also an AirBnB farm stay!



#### **Palmetto Island State Park (PISP)**

John Michel Kelley and Susan Norris-Davis will lead a field trip at PISP on Sunday morning, leaving Acadian Baptist Center(ABC) about 9am. PISP lies just south of Abbeville in Vermillion Parish, about 1.5hr drive time from the ABC. The park is about 1,300 acres of mostly coastal bottomland hardwood forest with many *Sabal minor* in the understory. It is located on the Vermillion River and just north of the west side of Vermillion Bay which connects with the Gulf of Mexico and hence is subject to tides. It was acquired by the State



## 2025 Louisiana Native Plant Conference

### Field Trip Options *cont.*

#### Palmetto Island State Park (PISP) *cont.*

in 1981 and opened to the public in 2010. Between PISP and Abbeville lie some privately owned, freshwater but still tidally influenced, cypress-tupelo swamps. It was here that the new species of *Iris nelsonii* - *Abbeville Red*, endemic to this area, was discovered in the 1930s. They are pollinated mainly by Ruby-throated hummingbirds. Concern for survival of the species due to the many hydrology/land use changes occurring in the area and accelerating since the 1940s, populations of *Iris nelsonii* have been moved to PISP. We should be able to see stands of growing Iris as well as many species specific to coastal bottomland hardwoods. There is a boardwalk into a wetland area as well as some short trails. Entrance fee. 19501 Pleasant Road, Abbeville LA 70510. 337 893 3930. 1h 15 min from Conference site.

**On your way home on Sunday February 16, two native nurseries in Arnaudville will be open 10am-1pm.**

**Gulf Coast Flora** ([gulfcoastflora.com](http://gulfcoastflora.com)) is a large wholesale native plant nursery at 250 Tupelo Rd. Arnaudville, La 70512. Visit their website for their inventory.

The **Acadiana Native Plant Project** ([greauxnative.org](http://greauxnative.org)) grows over 100 native plant species, including trees, shrubs, vines, and plants adapted for wetland and prairie conditions. Visit their website for their inventory. You can also stretch your legs with a short walk on ANPP's Teche Woods Nature Trail behind the greenhouse. 1046 Main Highway, Arnaudville.

**Other self-guided options** are available anytime. Get a group together at the Conference if you like!

**St. Landry Parish Visitor Center** at I-49 north of Opelousas <https://cajuntravel.com/about-st-landry-parish-louisiana/visitor-center/> was landscaped with all Louisiana native species, including a large patch of wild indigos, an iris/cypress wet planting, and Cajun prairie plantings. 35 min ENE of Conference site. Building closed on Sunday but grounds are open.

**The Nature Conservancy's Cypress Island Preserve** at Lake Martin has a Visitor Center that serves as a hub for inspiring the public about TNC's mission and work in this fragile natural area. Volunteers staff the center most weekends. The Visitor Center is located at 1264 Prairie Highway, St. Martinville, LA 70582. Call 337-342-2475 to verify hours and access road status. <https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/cypress-island/>

Headed north? The US Forest Service's **Wild Azalea Trail in Kisatchie National Forest** has a trailhead not far from I-49 at 352-398 Castor Plunge Rd, Woodworth, LA 71485. Free. 1h 15 min from Conference site.



Photo by Larry Allain, USGS

Abbeville red (*Iris nelsonii*)



# Louisiana Certified Habitat in North Louisiana

Jackie Duncan and Christina Calcaterra joined by Bradley McCullough and Rachel Swartz from Garrison's Nursery in Shreveport met Butch Crain at the certification site in Bienville Parish. After a couple of hours hunting plants, Butch's property was certified at the gold level. Formerly, his land was used as a truck patch and for livestock grazing. His unique 26 acres is bordered by rights of ways on the north and south sides that he is burning to promote native grasses and forbs. The forested area in between has been burned 1 to 3 times to promote an open understory.



Southern grape fern (*Botrychium biternatum*)

A few of the plants we saw during our visit were Southern grape fern (*Botrychium biternatum*) with its sporangia, *Liatris elegans*, Splitbeard (*Andropogon ternarius*), and Sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*). And to our surprise, Rachel spotted a rattlesnake that must have just eaten its dinner because it was 5 inches in diameter at the largest size.

Thanks to Butch for sharing his time and property with us. It was very enjoyable to go trekking through his property and identifying plants. Also, thanks to Butch for restoring this land to its natural habitat.



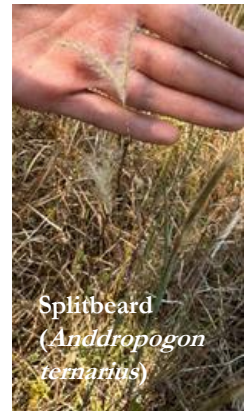
Spotted bee balm (*Monarda punctata*)



Sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)



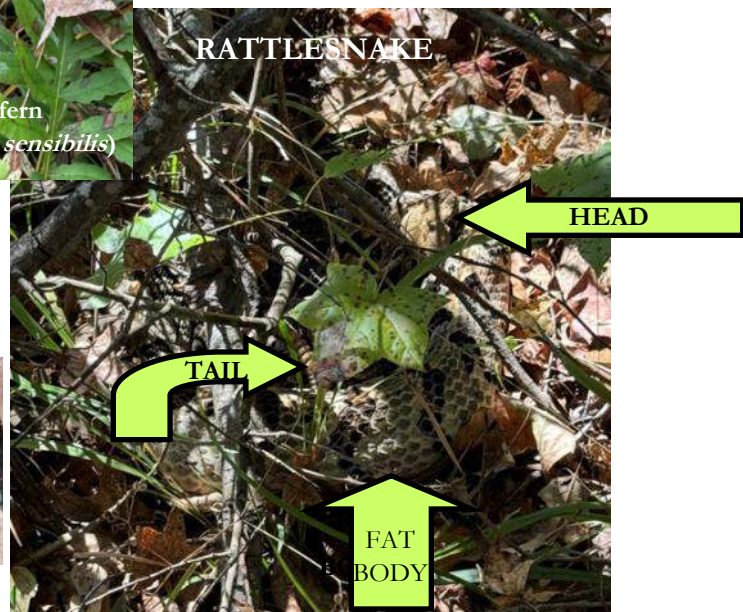
*Liatris elegans*



Splitbeard (*Andropogon ternarius*)



Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*)



RATTLESNAKE

HEAD

TAIL

FAT BODY



# Lily Orchid Field Trip

## Allen Acres Natural Area

August 16 thru 18, 2024

By Jackie Duncan

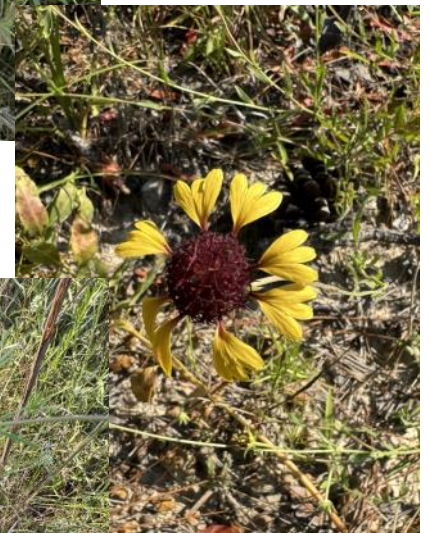
Getting started a little after 8am, our first stop was Wolf Cave along Bundicks Creek on the west side of the Vernon Unit of Kisatchie National Forest. Along the trail going to the Cave we saw our first orchid, the Crane-fly Orchid (*Tipularia discolor*). This orchid blends in to the background with its purplish-brown to copper colored blooms on about a 2 foot stalk.



Other notable wildflowers in the flatwoods were Barbara's Buttons (*Marshallia graminifolia*), Meadowbeauty (*Rhexia mariana*), Blueflower Eryngo (*Eryngium integrifolium*), and Lanceleaf Blanketflower (*Gaillardia aestivalis*).



Remaining in the National Forest, we traveled a little south on Hwy 10 to deadman's curve where we turned west on FR 410 that goes to Rosepine. Stopping along the road, we walked into the flatwoods area where we saw Crested Yellow orchid (*Plantanthera cristata*)



and the Yellow Fringeless Orchid (*Plantanthera integra*).





# Lily Orchid Field Trip *cont.*

## Allen Acres Natural Area

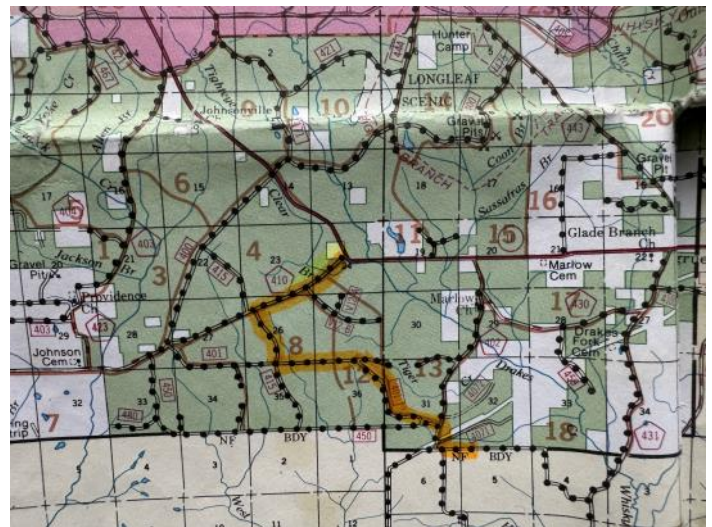
August 16 thru 18, 2024 *Cont.*

By Jackie Duncan

We then traveled south on FR 415 where we spotted Indian Plantain (*Arnoglossum ovatum*) and Water Cowbane (*Oxypolis filiformis*). Two species that I don't see very often.



If you are interested in the route, below is a picture of the Vernon Unit with the route highlighted in orange. The highlighted route starts at deadman's curve on Hwy 10. The second picture shows where the Vernon Unit is located within the state.



We then turned east and traveled along FR 401 where we saw the less common Pineland Hibiscus (*Hibiscus aculeatus*). This ended out morning jaunt.





## 2023 LNPS Grantees' Reports

### Whitney Plantation

5099 Hwy 18  
Wallace, LA 70049

On behalf of the Whitney Institute, I would like to express our gratitude for the opportunity to partner with the Louisiana Native Plant Society. Your support has been instrumental in helping us conserve and enhance the grounds of Whitney Plantation with native plant species.

Thanks to the LNPS grant, we have seen a significant increase in visitor interest and engagement, with many inquiring about the native plants we've introduced. This has enriched our visitors' experiences, offering them a deeper connection to the environment and the history of Louisiana's native flora.



Despite facing challenges due to the two storms this year, including Hurricane Francine and other unnamed tropical storms, we have persevered. Like the resilient native plants, we adapted and continued to



promote and nurture these species. I am pleased to share that our efforts have been fruitful and share photos of our successful conservation grounds.

We are proud of what we've achieved, and we look forward to building on this success for future generations to learn and appreciate Louisiana's native plants.

Thank you again for your partnership and continued support. We would be honored for LNPS to share our story in future newsletters or social media posts.

Best regards,  
Trenice Cooper





## 2023 LNPS Grantees' Reports *cont.*

### Bulbancha Bloom Community Garden

4200 N Galvez Street  
New Orleans, LA

My projects funded by the LNPS grant have been very successful for the most part. I improved the soil at the community garden, which was mostly construction debris mixed with hard clay and red ants. This has helped



greatly with both drainage, especially during the recent flooding, and the ability to grow natives as well as food and other crops. The funds also helped us add a metal raised bed which now houses a local mayhaw tree and a very vigorous hibiscus which has just begun to bloom. We finally added a temporary fence, and while we

managed to secure a second Rain barrel, unfortunately, this was stolen too. I am sending pictures of the garden, our button bush and other natives are in bloom. I am very grateful



for your organization and would like to sincerely thank all of you on behalf of everyone involved with Bulbancha Bloom Community Garden. We hope all of you get the change to check it out sometime.

Thanks  
Lilith Dorsey



Larkspur (*Delphinium carolinianum*)



Old Plainsman (*Hymenopappus artemisiifolius*)

## Plant of Interest

By Jackie Duncan

### Sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)



Some people love them and some hate them, but Sweetgum seems to be everywhere. *L. styraciflua* is found in swamp forests, floodplains, moist forests, depression wetlands, old fields, and disturbed areas. Specimens have been collected from hardwood swamp, lowland woodland, wet hammock, lake edges, pine woods, mixed woodland, wet slash pine, sand bluffs, and the edge of mesic woodlands.

Twigs soaked in water or whiskey functioned as early toothbrushes in Appalachia. The resin was used to dress wounds and treat fever, while the gum was used in treating herpes, inflammation, and toothache. The sap used to be gathered as chewing gum. Leaves were boiled to apply to cuts or sore feet.

*L. styraciflua* is quite fire resistant, as populations have been known to persist through repeated annual burns.



*L. styraciflua* flowers from April through May

(Source: [Liquidambar styraciflua - Coastal Plain Plants Wiki](#))

## Person of Interest

By Jackie Duncan

**John Michael Kelley** is a young man in Haughton, Louisiana who is a self-trained botanist. He currently works for the U.S. Forest Service. He has always been a mystery to me because he seems to know a lot of people and has surveyed a lot of places of interest. In his spare time, he writes papers for scientific journals. He and Christian M Cobb recently authored a paper on *Stylisma patens* in the journal *Phytologia* (September 23, 2024) 106(3) entitled “***Stylisma patens* (Convolvulaceae) documented in the West Gulf Coastal Plain of Louisiana.**”

*Stylisma patens* is in the Morning-glory family. The authors attributed some past records of this plant as misidentifications and that two recent discoveries of the plant may be the only two known in Louisiana, one observation in Vernon Parish and one in Natchitoches Parish.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), Wildlife Diversity Program (WDP) has recently started tracking *Stylisma patens* because this species has been ranked S1 (critically imperiled). Previous specimens may have escaped notice. Further investigation is warranted.





## Remembering Karlene DeFatta (1922—2005)

*By Janie Braud*

“Wildflower lovers, your help is needed. Do attend the meeting at Barnwell Garden and Art Center on the Riverfront, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM” *Shreveport Journal*, Mon. June 14, 1982.

In 1982, Karlene DeFatta of Keithville, Louisiana with several of her friends, put out a plea for the conservation, preservation, and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Louisiana.



Photo from *The Shreveport Journal*, May 26, 1986

Wildflowers were certainly not new to Mrs. DeFatta. A stroll through her home garden in 1975 would reveal her prized yellow lady’s slippers collected from Arcadia, Louisiana, irises, phlox, spiderwort, wild verbena, seven species of ferns and pink shooting star, an herb in the primrose family. (a sample listing of the 128 species)

As reported in the *Shreveport Journal* in 1981, visitors would be greeted at the DeFatta home with a sign on the gate that read “Wildflower Haven”. Mrs. DeFatta’s wildflower haven was created from her diligence to seeking out new plants in Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas. She always traveled with a shovel, plastic bags, and a water jug. (asking permission on private land). She also carried a magnifying glass to observe details - “to really get all the good out of them – they are just so neat”. Walking up to 3 miles a day with her dog, Trouble, Mrs. DeFatta found joy in discovering new flowers.

## Remembering Karlene DeFatta (1922—2005) *cont.*

Although members of a visiting Southern Pines Garden Club to Mrs. DeFatta's home in 1985 might have viewed some of the plants as weeds, to Mrs. DeFatta, the plants were treasures. To demonstrate, she picked several leaves from a jewel weed plant, crushing them in her fingers. She told the group that the juice from the leaves cures poison ivy and she rubs it on her face if she feels stinging after working in the yard.

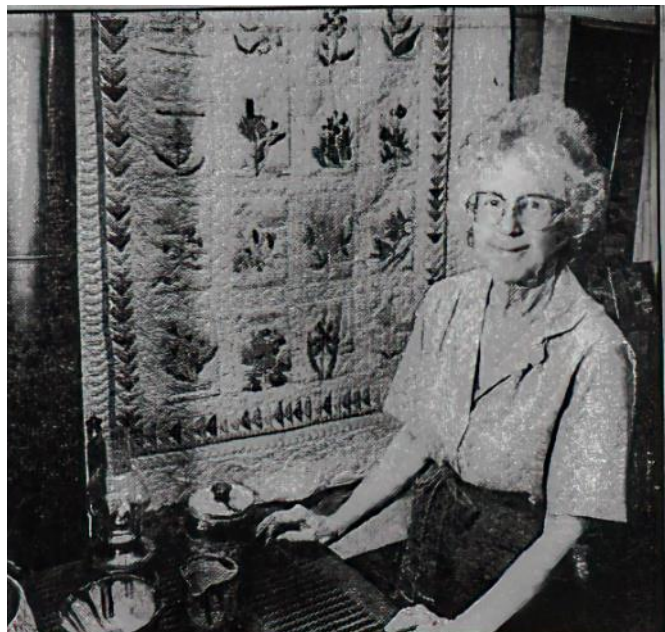
While some may have thought about removing fallen trees, Mrs. DeFatta kept them as part of the landscape, sculpting colorful clematis and trumpet vines around them. An old bathtub was buried, filled with waterlilies, the porcelain edges lined with stones and wood.

Mrs. DeFatta, retired from nursing, not only was an avid gardener, she quilted, did pottery, made handmade dolls – colorful rag dolls and armature dolls made from copper wire. She also utilized natural materials – making baskets and wreaths out of grapevines, Virginia creeper, cattail leaves, and pine straw. Christmas cards were made from dried wildflowers. Mrs. DeFatta shared her talents with others, teaching classes at various community centers.

Mrs. DeFatta grew up on a dairy farm in Claiborne Parish. As she reported in a 1985 *Shreveport Times* article, “Country time was good for children.... We did everything the hard way, we churned, we put our milk in the stream to keep cold, we made butter.” She spent endless hours outside studying the frogs and fish in the ponds and streams. Nature was always the ruling passion in her life.

Karlene DeFatta's can do attitude was behind the very existence of the Louisiana Native Plant Society. When she thought there should be a state chapter, she checked out Robert's Rules of Orders from the library and invited people to an organizational meeting. Thus began the organization in which we continue to honor her with the esteemed Karlene Defatta Award, established in 1992 on the 10 year anniversary of the Louisiana Native Plant Society.

Virginia creeper basket made by Mrs. DeFatta.



Inscription on Mrs. Defatta's quilt is “Happiness is Wildflowers”

Photos by Lee Shively, *Shreveport Times*, July 31, 1985



## Karlene Defatta Award Nominations Request



The Karlene Defatta Award is the highest award given by LNPS and is given in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in the areas of conservation, preservation, and education of the public in the appreciation of and uses of native plants. Nominations are now being accepted! Any LNPS member can nominate a person from the state of Louisiana who meets these qualifications. If a suitable recipient is nominated by a member, the nomination will be reviewed by the Board. If approved, the award is generally given at the LNPS Conference.

If you would like to nominate someone in Louisiana for this distinction, please [EMAIL US](#) the name of your nominee and a description of their qualifying accomplishments by January 1, 2025.

To date the following distinguished persons have received the Karlene Defatta Award:

- 1992 Karlene DeFatta
- 1995 Richard and Jessie Johnson
- 1996 Robert Murry
- 2001 Jack and Ella Price
- 2002 Margie Yates Jenkins
- 2004 R. Dale Thomas
- 2005 Olga and Walter Clifton
- 2005 John Larkin
- 2007 Charles Allen
- 2009 Bill Fontenot
- 2018 Beth Erwin
- 2019 Loice Kendrick-Lacy
- 2020 Jim Foret & John Mayronne
- 2022 Rick & Susan Webb
- 2023 Jacalyn Duncan



## REPORT ON ONGOING ACTIVITIES

1. Two **Resolutions** by the Louisiana Native Plant Society were submitted to the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) at the August 16-17 LWF 85th Annual Convention in Lafayette. The resolution “PROTECTING, RESEARCHING, AND EXPANDING LOUISIANA’S MATURE AND OLD-GROWTH FORESTS” was approved. The 2nd resolution “MANAGING ROADSIDE MOWING FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT BENEFITS” was tabled with the understanding that it will be updated to address issues raised during the meeting and resubmitted. On November 20, representatives of the Louisiana Native Plant Society and Louisiana Wildlife Federation met with Department of Transportation and Development personnel in Baton Rouge. Efforts are under way within Department of Transportation and Development to promote less mowing and more natural habitat along the roadsides, but this change of direction and attitudes take time. In the meantime, the Louisiana DOTD Wildflower Program is enlisting the help of the Master Gardeners and enthusiasts who wish to help catalog the various wildflowers along roadsides. Click this link [Louisiana Roadside Wildflower Locations](#) to report wildflower locations to DOTD for input into the Wildflower Program.
2. Dona Weifenbach is heading up a team to design and implement a certification program (**LNPCP**) by which local landscape professionals are trained to understand the ecology of, identify, design with, propagate and maintain native plant landscapes. This program would create a listing/directory of those successfully completing the instruction and their level of certification, easing the process for homeowners, municipalities and government entities of finding qualified and knowledgeable professionals in this field.

The logo has been designed and meetings held. Funding in the amount of \$8,500 has been received from LNLFSR and BTNEP. Teams have been identified to work on assigned tasks including the writing and editing of the training manual. Active committee members are: Dona Weifenbach, Tammany Baumgarten, Lawrence Rozas, Bill Fontenot, Malcolm Vidrine, Caitlin Robbins, Phyllis Griffard, Rebecca Moss, Ethan Eichler, Natalie Waters, and Katie Kogler.



Partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*)



*Lobelia* spp.

## Donations and Memorial Gifts

### Donations:

Jessie Johnson

### Matching Donations:

John Tierney

### Memorial Gifts:

David Lewis in memory  
of Patricia Lewis

Jessie Johnson in  
memory of Loice  
Kendrick-Lacy



Atamasco lily  
*Zephyranthes atamasca*

### 2024-25 OFFICERS

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Vice President: John Michael  
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## LNPS NOTICES

1. If you are interested in the **Louisiana Certified Habitat Program**, please email [louisianacertifiedhabitat@gmail.com](mailto:louisianacertifiedhabitat@gmail.com) for more information and to receive the application.
2. Report wildflower locations along roadsides by clicking this link [Louisiana Roadside Wildflower Locations](#) to DOTD for input into the Wildflower Program.

Newsletter Co-Editors may be contacted as follows:

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The deadline for newsletter articles, etc. is March 15 for the next LNPS newsletter. Any article involving native plants is welcomed.



Foxglove beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)



## Annual LNPS Dues

Circle one: Individual, \$10. Student/Senior, \$5. Family, \$15. Organization, \$25. Sustaining, \$50. Corporate, \$100.

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Checks payable to LNPS.

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Or, memberships and donations may be paid online at: [www.lnps.org](http://www.lnps.org)