



Report: LNPS Summer Hike, Saturday, August 13, 2005

Twenty-one members of LNPS battled extreme heat on August 13 for the summer hike in Kisatchie National Forest's Calcasieu District.

The group, led by Natural Heritage botanist Chris Reid, made its first stop at the Fleming glades in the Evangeline Unit. This unique habitat is dominated by longleaf pines but contains prairie-like vegetation growing on patches of calcareous clay. The heat took its toll on several members of the group during this first leg of the trip, and the itinerary was shortened as a result.

Loving Creek, also in the Evangeline Unit, was the second and final site visited. Louisiana pearlshell mussels (*Margaritifera hembeli*), found only in Grant and Rapides parishes, were seen protruding from the sand along the creek bottom. Sightings of plants including the southern rein orchid (*Platanthera flava*) and Louisiana wood fern (*Dryopteris ludoviciana*) surrounding the creek were also highlights of the hike.

Participants came away from the trip with a deep respect for Louisiana summertime heat and the native plants that endure it on a regular basis. (Thanks to Kevin Allen for this report)

Native Plant World lost a Friend

Carl Raymond Amason, 81, of Calion, Arkansas, died Saturday, July 30, 2005.

Memorial services were held at Young's Funeral Home in El Dorado.

Carl served in Italy in WWII with distinction (a Purple Heart), but he was too modest and peaceful to ever mention it. He took his bachelor's degree from Ouachita Baptist College in 1947. His paid vocation was that of a chemist, and later a nurseryman, but his passion was the love of nature in all its variety.

Carl read voraciously about many disciplines, so much so that he never found the time or interest to buy a television. As a result he became a respected authority in many horticultural, conservationist, historical and naturalist societies.

Although not an educator by profession, he was nonetheless one of the most effective teachers in Arkansas and the South in the fields of botany, birding, history, geography, and music. He shared his appreciation and knowledge of nature with literally thousands of Arkansans through field trips, garden tours, garden club programs, and classrooms.

He was a charter and lifetime member of the Arkansas Audubon Society, the Arkansas Native Plant Society, and the Arkansas Daffodil society, and had served as president of all of them. Carl was integral in the development of the South Arkansas Arboretum in El Dorado and served for several decades on its Board of Directors. He was a valued contributor of learned articles to published journals in subjects ranging from birds, native plants, hollies, magnolias, camellias, daffodils, and history. He also gave generously to numerous plant societies as well as other educational charities and scholarship funds.

His work in conservation efforts was nothing less than tireless, even during the decline of his health in recent years. In the mid 1960's, Carl led a group that successfully lobbied to remove hawks and owls from the predators list in Arkansas, making it illegal to hunt them.

Native plant conservation was another passion of his. He repeatedly won concessions from the state and local highway departments in a campaign to curtail the excessive use of roadside herbicides. As a result, many Arkansans have enjoyed wildflowers that were previously scarce or absent along common byways. His many efforts in preservation were recognized by the establishment in his honor of the Carl Amason Conservation Award by the Arkansas Native Plant Society, an organization which he helped found.

At age 72 he received another rare honor. His personal gardens in Calion were featured along with an interview on HGTV's 'A Gardener's Diary.' Contrary to the being 'reclusive,' Carl was hospitable to a fault, literally exhausting his health with hosting and entertaining garden and nature enthusiasts. He generously donated his time, gardens, knowledge, and money with literally thousands of Arkansans over the years. His home is surrounded by an amazing variety of plants, numerous founding cats and dogs, nests of flying squirrels, and feeders that attract hummingbirds by the hundreds.

His life was an expression of his Christian faith, and he cherished the world God created for us enough to both educate others to appreciate it, as well as fight those who would destroy it thoughtlessly. He was an Arkansan we would all do well to emulate, and our lives are at once richer for his legacy, and poorer by his passing

(This is the obituary written by Jason Anders, president of the ANPS that was published in the Arkansas Democrat. Carl was a charter member of the LNPS, also, and was at our very first organizational business meeting, to help us organize and get our constitution and bylaws. He was as familiar with the flora of Louisiana as he was of the flora of Arkansas.--Beth Erwin

REMINDER:

2006 LNPS ANNUAL MEETING IS FEBRUARY 10 - 12 AT CAMP HARDTNER, POLLOCK!

Some Louisiana Native Plant Areas to Visit

Briarwood

Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve
216 Caroline Dormon Road
Saline, LA 71070
318-576-3379

Open every weekend in March, April, May, August, & November
Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Admission charged for groups of 5 or more.

A wild garden in the sand hills created by the first woman employed in forestry in the US. Emphasis on Louisiana iris. Guided tours.

Eunice Cajun Prairie

NE Eunice at the corners of Martin Luther King Drive & East Magnolias
%Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society (www.cajunprairie.org)
For more information, contact Charles Allen at 337-328-2252.

A ten acre restored prairie that was established in 1989 and is open to the public. A walk through this site will give the viewer a sense of what much of southwest Louisiana looked like prior to European settlement. From February to November, one or more native plants will be in flower with a peak of flowers in May and again in August. Visitors are welcome to make their way through the tall vegetation and enjoy the abundant insect life also.

Black Bayou Lake National Refuge Arboretum & Prairie Demonstration Area

480 Richland Place
Monroe, LA
318-387-1114
<http://southeast.fws.gov.BlackBayouLake>
Dawn to dusk, year round
Free admission.

Hilltop Arboretum

11855 Highland Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70810
225-767-6916
www.lsu.edu/hilltop
Open 7 days a week, sunrise to sunset.
Free admission.
14 beautiful acres showcase an extensive collection of Louisiana native trees and shrubs. Self-guided tour maps or call to schedule group tours. Many programs.

Kalorama

P. O. Box 126
7197 Collinston Road
Collinston, LA 71229
Open: Sat 9 - 5, Sun 1:30 - 5.
Feb 15 - May 15 & Oct 1 - Nov 15: Admission.
Kalorama is located on the Bastrop Ridge NE of Monroe with upland forests, prairie meadows, and bottomland hardwoods to enjoy and study.

Louisiana State Arboretum at Chicot State Park

Rt 3 Box 494
Ville Platte, LA 70586
1-888-677-2442

A 300 acre arboretum with over 150 species in a mature beech forest. Hard surfaced trails with interpretative sites. Special programs.

Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park

8012 Blanchard Furrh Road
Shreveport, LA 71107
318-929-2806

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Wed - Sat;
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sun
Free admission.

Pine-oak-hickory forest with 5 miles of nature trails, interpretative building, pavilion, a handicapped-accessible trail. Several naturalists provide information and special programs.

Also check out other Louisiana State Parks (1-877-226-7652, www.lastateparks.com); Kisatchie National Forest; Wildlife Managed Areas; State Wildlife Refuges; and National Wildlife Refuges.

Note: Send info on other areas to LNPS Newsletter Address on back page.

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.

Membership form:

Checks payable to LNPS.

Name _____ phone _____ Email address _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Annual dues: Student/Senior \$5 _____ Individual \$10 _____ Family \$15 _____
Organization \$25 _____ Sustaining \$50 _____ Corporate \$100 _____

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

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NOTE TO MEMBERS: If you would like to be on the LNPS email group, contact Tracey Banowetz at *banowetz@bellsouth.net*.

Events of Interest to LNPS Members:

Sept 30-Oct 1 Butterflies over Allen Acres. Charles Allen; *native@camtel.net*

Oct 15: Friends of the Louisiana State Arboretum, Jim Foret; *possumforet@hotmail.com*

Oct 20-23: Texas Native Plant Society Fall Symposium, Trans-Pecos Region
[http://www.npsot.org/events/Fall Symposium/Symposium2005.htm](http://www.npsot.org/events/Fall%20Symposium/Symposium2005.htm)

Nov 4-5: Transplanting from US 165 to Duralde and Eunice. Charles Allen; *native@camtel.net*

Events at Hilltop Arboretum, 11855 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, LA. 225-767-6916; www.lsu.edu/hilltop

Sept 30-Oct 1: "PlantFest!2005" Native & Hard-to-Find Plant Sale Fundraiser.

Oct 9: Sun: Hilltop Fall Garden Tour

Oct. 20, Thurs: "Rose garden Open House" with LSU horticulturists & Baton Rouge Rose Society

Nov 12, Sat: "Planting Techniques" by Bob Souvestre

Nov 17, Thurs: "Cool Season Bedding Plants" with Allen Owings

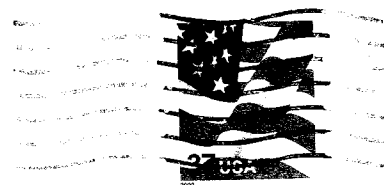
Dec 5, Sat: Gift Shop Holiday Open House & Sale

Dec. 10, Sat: "Christmas Arrangements"

Dec 15, Thurs: "Poinsettias" with Jeff Kuehny & Pat Branch

February 10-12, 2006 Louisiana Native Plant Society Annual Meeting, Pollock.

Kevin Allen is coordinating a propagation program for the southern lady's slipper orchid (*Cypripedium kentuckiense*). Seedlings will be planted in the Kisatchie National Forest. Anyone interested in helping with the expenses of the seedling purchase (\$6.25 each), please contact Kevin at *kevinall@shreve.net* or 318-865-9183.

LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**2906 HWY 457****ALEXANDRIA, LA. 71302**

Last Dues Paid: 04-12-05

Larry and Anne Raymond (Fam 05)
 6675 North Park Circle
 Shreveport, LA 71107

Please check date on your label. If the date is 12/04 or later, your dues are current. A few members owe dues and this may be their last issue of the newsletter. Membership form is on pg. 3