

LNPS NEWS

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 1

SPRING 2003

President's Comments: LNPS Winter Meeting 2003

If you didn't attend the 20th anniversary winter meeting of the LNPS on February 8th and 9th at Camp Grant Walker in Pollock, Louisiana, you missed an outstanding conference. My thanks goes out to all those that planned the meeting, but especially **Tracey Banowetz** for taking on the leadership role to see it happen. Another super thanks to **Beth Erwin** for editing the newsletter for 10 years and to Kent and Sonie Milton for agreeing to edit the newsletter for the next three years.

The 2003 meeting kicked off with Saturday morning's plant shopping with vendors from Coyote Creek, Prairie Basse and Wild Things.

The first speaker was **Chris Reid**, botanist with La. Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, who gave an excellent slide presentation on "Rare and Endangered Louisiana Plants" in the various ecosystems in Louisiana.

Our business session followed with the approval of new officers and three board members. My thanks to **Dale Thomas** for his tenure as president and to **Al Troy**, **Tracey Banowetz** and **Marilyn Christian** for serving as board members. LNPS also donated \$2,000 to the Cajun Prairie Restoration fund to help pay for 10 acres of Cajun prairie in Eunice, La.

The afternoon session began with a slide talk,

(emotional to say the least) by **Brian Tamulonis** on "Using Native Plants in the Suburban Landscape" that provided the audience with alternative choices of native plants for the more traditional plants used in suburban landscapes. He discussed plants by group: ground covers, edging and border plants, vines, low shrubs, tall shrubs, and flowering trees. He also provided an excellent handout. Brian is planning to return to school in Maryland in the near future. We will miss him and wish him well.

Jim Caldwell, public information officer for the U.S. Forest Service, gave an interesting slide presentation on the Kisatchie National Forest and the array of things to do and see including Fort Polk (inside joke for those that weren't there).

Our final speaker was **Peter Loos**, past president of Texas Native Plant Society, and specialist in wetland site restoration. His slide presentation gave an overview and progress of "Wetland Restoration" projects he is involved with in Texas. He depicted the transformation of one project, a golf course in Dallas, from beginning to end. Peter also had an excellent handout on "Native Plants for Wetland Restoration". It covered all wetland plants from trees to herbaceous plants.

The day's program ended with a plant auction of

Dr. Dale Thomas was presented the Karlene DeFatta Award of Excellence during the LNPS 2003 Annual meeting. Some of his former students accepted the award for Dr. Thomas in his absence.



(Continued from page 1)

plants donated by **Margie Jenkins** and **Rick Webb**.

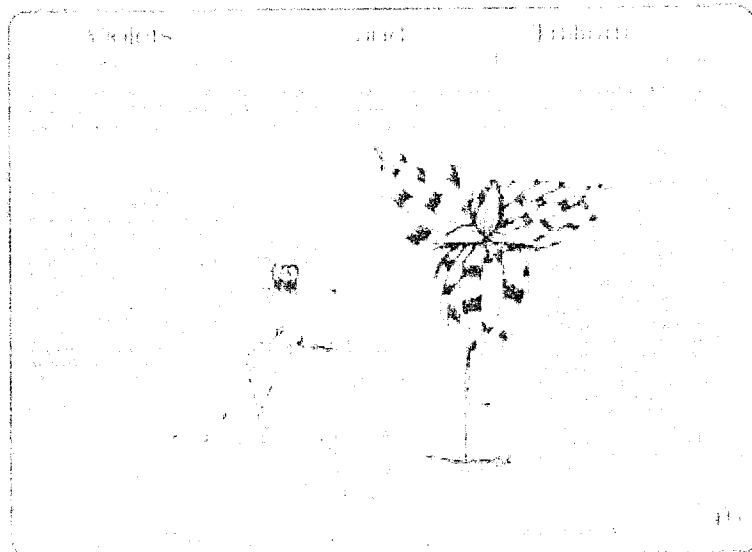
The evening activities included conversation, drink, and dancing to music provided by a local D.J. Those of us that stayed truly enjoyed the 20th anniversary celebration.

Our field trip on Sunday to the La. State Arboretum at Chicot State Park near Ville Platte was led by **Jim Robinson**, the director. It had been about 8 years since I had visited the arboretum and it has improved 100% even with the extensive damage from several storms over the last few years. There are newly installed native plants surrounding the Caroline Dorman Lodge, the tree identification signs contain excellent information about each species, and the beginnings of the trails have been reworked. It is an excellent place to visit for a visual image of native plants, and also the effects natural disasters have on succession by opening up areas for shade tolerant species like American beech and magnolia to take the place of broken and uprooted trees. We aged a fallen cherrybark oak to be about 100 years old, probably a remnant tree on the site at the turn of the 20th century. Thanks to Jim and **Kim Hollier** the park curator, for hosting an outstanding tour.

Jimmy Culpepper, President.

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**LNPS WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS  
 CONDOLENCES TO JACKIE DUNCAN ON THE LOSS  
 OF HER MOTHER, ANNA PUSKY, ON MARCH 12,  
 2003. FUNERAL SERVICES WERE HELD IN BRYAN,  
 TEXAS.**  
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**WILLIAM "BILL" GEBELEIN DIED MARCH 3, 2003
 IN SHREVEPORT. HE IS SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE,
 LOUISA. THEY HAVE BEEN MEMBERS FOR MANY
 YEARS AND WERE REGULARS AT MEETINGS AND
 FIELD TRIPS. BILL SERVED AS TREASURER OF
 LNPS DURING THE 1980S.**



BUSINESS MEETING

The LNPS conducted its annual business session during the winter meeting at Camp Grant Walker. Officers elected for 2003-2004 terms are listed on page 6. Board members elected for three-year terms are Jim Robinson, manager of the Louisiana Arboretum near Ville Platte, Bob Dille-muth, chairman of the board for Hilltop Arboretum in Baton Rouge, and Sandra Gibbs, of Wild Things Plant Farm near Logansport. As immediate past president, Dr. R. Dale Thomas replaced Marion Drummond in that board position.

For the 2003 summer/fall field trip, the LNPS members present decided to return to an area that was visited about sixteen years ago. Dr. Charles Allen agreed to plan the trip to an area west of Natchitoches and along Toledo Bend Reservoir, including the Kisatchie Creek area. This area is known historically as the "Badlands" of Louisiana and served as a border between Spanish Texas and French Louisiana.

A resolution was passed supporting conservation, protection, and restoration of native ecosystems in the state in conjunction with the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase.

Beth Erwin presented the Karlene DeFatta Award to Dr. R. Dale Thomas. His contributions to education and cataloguing the native plants of Louisiana far exceeds those of any other individual. The plaque, which is tailored to Dr. Thomas' particular interests, featured a branch of tulip poplar with flower and seed pod, and a tiny adder's-tongue fern. In his absence, several of his present and former students accepted the award for him. (photo on page 1)

The Folsom Chapter and the Northwest Chapter reported on their activities. Peter Loos reported from the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society, and the Native Plant Society of Texas.

The Society plans to meet in February of 2004, at Camp Grant Walker.

—Beth Erwin, Secretary.

Louisiana State Arboretum at Chicot State Park in Ville Platte has recently published a site specific Species Guide. The violets and trilliums illustrated on page 46 were plentiful during the LNPS field trip there on February 9, 2003. The guide was produced in part by funding received from an Urban and Community Forestry grant through the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

Notes on *Spig-*

To many people *Spigellia marilandica*, commonly called Indian pink, woodland pink or woodland pinkroot is one of the loveliest wildflowers. It is a perennial that returns year after year to bloom in the same spot and lasts well into the autumn months. It is a valued wildflower to those who seek native wildflowers but make little effort for cultivation and also to those who actively maintain a wildflower garden, large or small.

The flowers themselves are one to one and a half inch long and are borne on leafy stems which have opposite oval leaves. There are 4 to 8 pairs of sessile leaves, about two inches apart. When one plant blooms, more are wanted. The plants grow up to 15 to 18 inches tall with terminal buds in coiled inflorescences which open one flower at a time. At any time more than one will be blooming as each flower lasts more than a day. The buds are red on the outside and they open into a five-petaled yellow flower with an extended pistil. The yellow petals open above a tubular red flower with an enlargement just below the petals. Later the fertilized embryo will develop into a capsule containing a few blackish seeds.

The black seeds are not so easily gathered because the seed capsules erupt, scattering the seeds all around. If seeds can be gathered, sow them in commercial soil or in soil gathered from a blackberry patch in the fall. Covering isn't necessary but a slight covering will not hurt; it just is not necessary. Place the pots in a simulated woodland edge – or the real edge – or in a semi-shaded location in the fall and let nature take its course. Small seedlings should appear the following spring and at that time they should be transplanted into pots of soil or into the ground where they can be watched and not allowed to dry out. In so many words, they are easily grown from seeds and they are easily transplanted as mature plants. They need only a part sunny or a woodland condition to grow well; they require little or only a minimum of fertilizer. Mature plants bloom in the spring and require only some moisture, just enough to stay alive.

They are a well behaved garden plant and when they bloom, one is well regaled for the little bit of trouble that is necessary to grow and keep them growing. There is one fault, if that can be termed a fault, and that is that they are eagerly eaten by deer – by day or by night – and if the deer find them growing, they will return almost nightly to

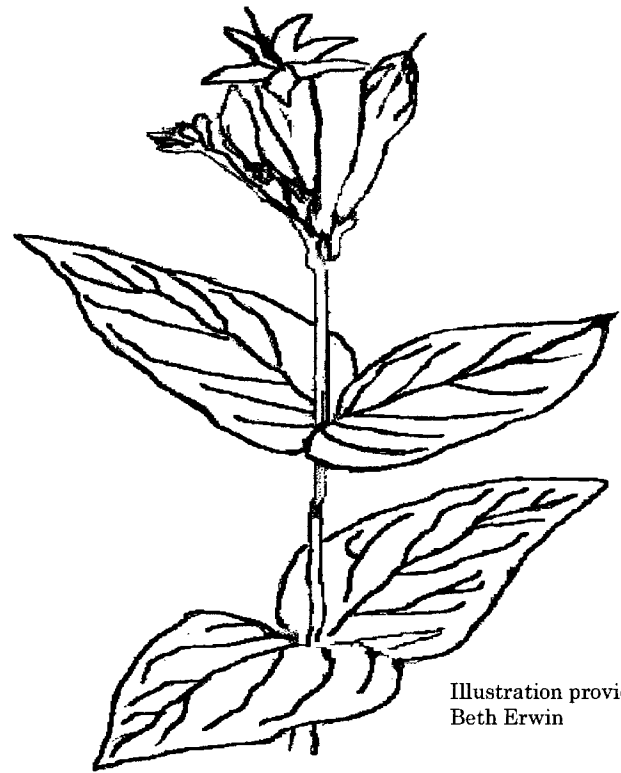


Illustration provided by
Beth Erwin

get the last crumb of life in the plant. Ease of cultivation has its own limits.

Spigellia marilandica is fairly common in places. Soil doesn't seem to be a limitation to growing this plant. It is widely found in Louisiana as a native wildflower except on the immediate Coastal Plain. It grows in sandy soils and in clayey soils but usually always in a moisture retentive area as it is not a desert plant or even one that has to have all day sun but neither does it like wet or boggy areas. It prefers well drained moist soils, which may sound like an oxymoron or contradictory description but it has become a well used phrase by knowledgeable growers. It is found in most, if not all of the southeastern states and is named for the state of Maryland, where it was first described.

In Indian days and later with the pioneers, this plant was used, along with its family member Carolina Jessamine or Yellow Jessamine, as a vermifuge or a medicine to expel intestinal worms. There are better worm medicines on the market, and extracts of both *Spigellia* and *Telium* are poisonous and they may have been used as "kill or cure" remedies in their time. Under any circumstance, it is a better and more lovelier garden plant than medicinal herb.

Events of Interest to LNPS Members

"IRISES, INDIGOS, INSECTS, IMAGES, ILLINOISIAN and INTELLECTUAL INTERACTIONS" April 3-6. The spring Meeting of the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society features tours, partying, net working, and food but the highlight is our guest speaker, Russell Kirt. Russell is a noted prairie restorationist from West Chicago, Illinois, author, and Professor Emeritus at DuPage University. The big events are Sat April 5th with tours of the Eunice Prairie and Russell's presentation "Will Chicagoland Prairie Restoration Techniques work in Cajun Country?" Contact Peter Loos 936-362-2215 or email cyrilla@flex.net.

3rd ANNUAL LOUISIANA MIGRATION SENSATION: April 10-13. A birding event in Lake Arthur, La. Presentations at the Ziegler Museum in Jennings and tours in and around Lacassine Wildlife Refuge and Lake Arthur. Sponsored by Friends of the Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 217; Lake Arthur, La 70549. Call Deanne or Wordy Duhon @ 337.774.3675 or email, wordyco@centurytel.net

ALLEN ACRES AMBLINGS: Sat. April 12, 2003, 7 am till

Tours of Allen Acres including Annuals, Arbors, Aves, Amphibians, Arachnids, and Adventurous Activities. Saturday April 12 is a very important day in history because on this day in 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt died in Warm Springs, Georgia. But on the same day in 1945 in a remote section of se Louisiana about 3 miles ne of Greensburg, La, a boy was born to J.T. and Mamie B. Allen. The boy was named Charles McKinley Allen. So, on Sat 12 April 2003, you are invited to join in a day long celebration with tours, food, slides, more food, and partying. Please no presents, your presence will serve as all the presents. Other than yourself, you could bring a dessert plus your own drinks; Susan says she cannot cook desserts. Also, bring along a few slides to share if you plan to stay into the evening hours. Contact Charles Allen 337-328-2252 native@camtel.net

MISSISSIPPI NATIVE PLANT MEETING: Sat. April 26. 9 am till at the Herbert Wilson Recreation Center 3625 Hancock Ave. Gulfport, MS For more info: call Bob Brzuszek 601-799-2311 Ext 22 or <http://groups.msn.com/MississippiNativePlantSociety/annualmeeting.msnw>

BOGS, BAYGALLS, BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES, BIVALVES, BOLETES. & BOTANICAL BLISS: May 16-18. Tours of bogs, baygalls, etc in the Ft Polk area. An annual event started in 1991 by the late Robert Murry. The rose pogonia orchid should be near the end of its blooming while the bog pink orchids should just be starting. That is the reason Robert choose this time frame for the annual event. The event will revolve around Allen Acres, Little Cypress Recreation Area, and Austin Arabie's property and begin on Friday with the big events on Saturday. Contact Charles Allen 337-328-2252 native@camtel.net

2nd LONE STAR REGIONAL NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE, Wed. May 28—Sun. June 1, 2003

In association with the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference; the 2nd Lone Star Regional Native Plant Conference In Nacogdoches; Texas at Stephen F. Austin State University: Learn about gardening with natives while networking with other native plant enthusiasts. Field Trips; Lectures; and Networking Events. For more information contact: Dr. David Creech; dcreech@sfasu.edu; 936-468-4343; Peter M. Loos; cyrilla@flex.net; 281-362-1107 or Elyce Rodewald; erodewald@sfasu.edu 936-468-1832

'SUMMER SOLSTICE SAFARI', June 20-22

Featuring Streamside Strolls, Sandbar Scenery, Splendid Sunrises and Sunsets, Stargazing, Slide Show and Supper at the Schepis." Tours of Columbia Nature Trail. Contact Charles Allen 337-328-2252 native@camtel.net

TEXAS PRAIRIES & SAVANNAHS CONFERENCE, July 11-13: in Austin, TX! The conference will be held at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. More details to follow.

BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL, HAYNESVILLE, LA, Sept 13-14.

Contact Loice Lacy at 870-234-6103 or email llacy@magnolia.net.com

BIG THICKET SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE: Oct 9-11. Beaumont, TX. Contact Cathy Guivas, (409) 839-2689 ext. 223, cathy.guivas@nps.gov. Abstracts due by June 1.

TEXAS NATIVE PLANT SYMPOSIUM Oct 16-19: A chance to tour the Edward's Plateau as the meeting is in Fredericksburg, TX. More info to follow. Check out NPSOT webpage: www.npsot.org

SOME NOTES ON *POLYGALA NANA* BY CARL R. AMASON

There is a widespread *POLYGALA* native to most of Louisiana that looks like a dwarf type of bachelor's button. *Polygala nana* is a yellow, perhaps greenish yellow flower which grows approximately two inches tall. Several bloom heads of many tiny perfect flowers are on stems that arise from a flat cluster of a succulent type of leaves that are medium green and in a small rosette cluster on the ground. Most members of the *Polygala* family are shades of pink or purple and have a strong pleasant odor of wintergreen. At times children will indulge in sampling the roots, hence a common name of candyroot.

If *Polygala nana* were known to the English rock gardener and native to Europe, it would be a classic rock garden plant. The books all term it a biennial and it naturally grows from seeds. It naturalizes easily where it grows happily. It is usually found along sunny areas of pinelands where the soil is not wet or boggy but is consistently moist. It can be found in mowed cemeteries that are not constantly mowed. It is a joy to find in acid lands with native grasses and some other desirable plants. It is easily shaded out by shrubs but likes tall light shade. It comes into parts of south Arkansas and is found in Louisiana on bottomland terraces but not in the large river bottoms, Mississippi Delta or Gulf Coast wet areas. Where it grows, it can regenerate from seeds from year to year and will please even the most hard to please wild-

flower grower. It is limited by its small size but on the other hand, its small size is what endears it so much. This is a plant that is a pleasure to know, a greater pleasure to see, and perhaps even a greater pleasure to grow in the exacting location of a biennial. For most people it is a plant to leave alone, but if it is common in one's area, and if that person isn't one that tries to keep a "perfect lawn", it may be a plant to try to grow.



Dawn Allen Newman 2003

*****LNPS Fall Field Trip: Sept 19-21. Details are being put together. Will be in west central Louisiana revolving around Sabine Parish. To offer suggestions and especially to volunteer, contact Charles Allen 337-328-2252.**

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 _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____ phone _____

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

LNPS Board of Directors

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kcrew@northeastnet.net

Milton, Kent & Sonie, News Editors, 2906 Highway 457,
Alexandria, LA, 71302, polandtrees@aol.com (318)
442-0026

Membership Drive . I would like for each member to recruit a new member for LNPS. You probably have a friend, an acquaintance or a co-worker who is interested in native plants for gardening, attracting butterflies or hummers. There is a membership form in this issue. Please use it to sign up a new member. What about a gift membership for someone special? *Jimmy Culpepper, President*

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LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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