

Annual Meeting Report

There was a great turn out for the 21st Annual Meeting on February 7, 2004, at Camp Grant Walker in Pollock, La. with about 75 persons registered. The pot luck supper on Friday night was both welcomed and filling.....I've never seen so much food, especially deserts.

Charles Allen showed slides taken from recent field trips as we ate.

We appreciate our speakers: Don Reed and Hallie Dozier with the L.S.U. Ag Center , and Latimore Smith with the Louisiana Nature Conservancy.

Don gave an overview of plants that are somewhat resistant to foraging by deer, but as we found out, if deer are hungry, they will eat just about anything. Hallie discussed invasive species and the work being done in Louisiana as well as regionally to educate the public about invasive species and the effect on native plant populations. Latimore provided an update on some of the Louisiana Nature Conservancy areas, current projects, and some of the endangered and threatened species found on the sites.

During the business meeting a decision was made to donate \$2500 to the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society.

The plant auction raised \$393 for LNPS. Plants were donated by Margie Jenkins, Rick



LNPS Members pose by steam engine flywheel at Southern Forest Heritage Museum, Long Leaf, La. Sunday February 8, 2004 photo by Bette Kauffman

Webb, Jim Culpepper and Nelwyn McInnis.

Our thanks to Olga Clifton, Liz Guidry, and Loice Lacy for serving on the board for the past three years.

(Officers and Board Members for 2004 are on back page.)

By Jimmy Culpepper, LNPS President

Some Notes on

GLANDULARIA CANADENSIS

LNPS NEWS

Wild Verbena

by Carl R. Amason

Glandularia canadensis is better known by its older name of *Verbena canadensis* or the common name of **wild verbena**. It is found growing in almost every parish of Louisiana and since it is a beautiful plant it is readily seen and admired. This is one wild flower that is recognized by even those people who know only a few flowers, especially wildflowers by a common name.

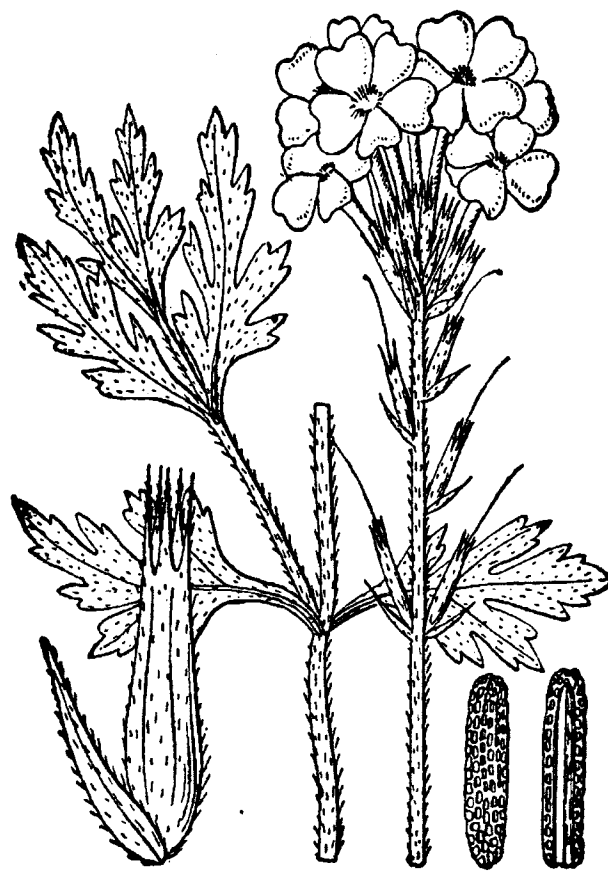
In early spring before the deciduous trees cast their almost total woodland shade is when *Glandularia canadensis* or wild verbena blooms in the more open woodlands where it can carpet the ground with its prostrate growth of perennial evergreen leaves, but also it is often seen as a plant that is a foot or more across that is removed from the crowd of many plants.

The flowers are two to two and one-half inch round clusters of many individual, one-half inch, tubular blossoms of a purplish color. The flowering clusters arise one to three inches above the compound leaves, forming a mat that will seldom exceed five inches in any situation. There is one distinct color sport of the pure species that is now available as "Homestead Purple". Another sport is the pure white form but most of the plants have a uniform purple color.

All are as easily or difficult to grow - dependent on the grower - but are wonderful flowers to grow in a woodland or wildflower garden. This is one plant that requires some thought and care in transplanting. It can be difficult to transplant when in bloom. Cuttings are fairly easily grown if they are rooted in sand or a mixture of sand and peat. Generally they require no addi-

tional fertilization to prosper.

Enjoy it as a wildflower.... but that is easier said than done because so much of its habitat is destroyed. Wildflowers are becoming rare due to several factors: logging, especially clear cutting, burning and setting out pine seedlings and from unthinkingly pulling or ripping out the flowering plants in bloom and not taking care of the plant when they are planted.



Glandularia canadensis Wild Verbena
Illustration from USDA NRCS

A COMMON NAME IS NEVER WRONG!

by Charles Allen

What do you call the green twigged, small shrub with black edible fruits that ripen in May in Louisiana? When I was growing up in eastern Louisiana, we called it Summer Huckleberry and I picked many gallons for the making of "Huckleberry Pie". Later, in college, I was told that the common name was "Elliott's Blueberry" and still later found other common names for *Vaccinium elliottii* including May Berry and Spring Huckleberry. Often in the same habitat was another shrub that had brown twigs and fruits that ripened in the Fall and held onto the tree during the Winter. In fact, the Native Plant group ate some of this fruit on our field trip to the Southern Forest Heritage Museum on February 8, 2004. My parents taught me to call this plant the Winter Huckleberry. Later, I found other common names for *Vaccinium arboreum* included Tree Huckleberry, Farkle Berry, Sparkle Berry, Whortle Berry, and Goose Berry.

In wet areas in St. Helena Parish, a small tree with leaves having a distinct white undersurface was identified as White Bay. Today many of you call this plant Virginia Sweet Bay or Sweet Bay or Virginia Bay or perhaps one of several other common names for *Magnolia virginiana*.

All St. Helenians of my age and older also could tell you about Stink Bush (*Illicium floridanum*) and how it was very common along the Tickfaw River but almost absent from the Amite River bottom. The plant got its name from the bad smelling odor from the crushed leaves; it was so malodorous that it stunk. Most of you call our Stink Bush "Florida Anise". I was told once that Stink Bush was not a good horticultural name as the name would turn off the prospective customer.

I can also remember my grandmother gathering sage that she dried and put in homemade sausage. It had a strong minty odor and even today when I smell it, I think of homemade sausage. Later, I found out her sage is also called Mountain Mint and is *Pycnanthemum albescent*. These are just a few examples of the how variable common names are in Louisiana and in

the United States. And, also notice the common name variations over time.

Where do common names come from? I like to think of two sources for common names: (1) Maw-Paw and (2) Botanical-Horticultural.

Our ancestors applied the Maw-Paw common names to plants. This name arose from interaction with the plant, was based on "on-the-ground" observations over a period of time, and usually had a practical connotation. Our ancestors used a combination of their senses - sight, smell, taste, and touch - to come up with the common names. But, due to the lack of fast communication (TV, Telephone, and for sure, no internet) in those years, the common names did not get dispersed widely. My ancestors came up with one common name while other people living a few hundred miles away or even closer came up with their own common name for the same plant. That is the reason for the great variation in common names. Summer Huckleberry, May Berry, and Spring Huckleberry are Maw-Paw common names for the first plant mentioned. Winter Huckleberry and Tree Huckleberry are Maw-Paw names for the second example. White Bay and Sweet Bay would qualify as Maw-Paw names for the third and Stink Bush for the fourth one. Both Sage and Mountain Mint are Maw-Paw names but the name "mountain" is difficult to associate with any part of Louisiana.

To my way of thinking, these Maw-Paw common names are the true common names and are never wrong. If that is what you and your ancestors called it, then that is what you call it. If it is a Maw-Paw common name, there is logical basis for its origin, which you or your ancestors used to create the common name. Summer Huckleberry's name got its origin from the fruits ripening in the summer and the huckleberry from its black color while the Winter Huckleberry with its fruits that persisted into the winter was an appropriate common name. White Bay can be traced directly to the very visible white undersurfaces of the leaves and bay plants lived in wet areas or baygalls. Stink Bush is a very apropos common name for anyone who has

crushed the leaves of *Illicium floridanum*. And, sage is a commercially available spice that smells somewhat like *Pycnanthemum albescens* so it is easy to see how the name Sage could be adapted to *Pycnanthemum albescens*.

Botanists, horticulturists, and persons with botanical backgrounds created the Botanical/Horticultural common names. These names take all or part of the common name from the scientific name. Elliott's Blueberry is an example of a Botanical/Horticultural common name. The scientific name for Summer Huckleberry is *Vaccinium elliottii*.

As many of you have seen, the scientific name can also vary with some species of *Hypericum* being called *Ascyrum* or *Rhamnus* being changed to *Fragula* or Poison Ivy going from *Rhus* to *Toxicodendron* and versa vice. There is a scientific basis for this variation; the names are not being changed to irritate you. Sometimes the name changes arise from an older scientific name being discovered; the scientific name should be the correct one and a system of priority prevails. The oldest correctly published name should be the name used. In going through old literature, sometimes an older name is found and this causes the necessity for a name change to ensure that the rules of botanical nomenclature are followed. Other name changes arise from the interpretation of a genus; some botanists think that the genus *Rhus* should include the Sumacs and the Poison Ivy, Poison Oak, and Poison Sumac while others think that the “poison” ones should be in their own genus, *Toxicodendron*. Even

with the variation in some scientific names, these are more stable than common names.

With so many Maw-Paws scattered across Louisiana, the south, and the United States, it is not surprising that many common names were coined and are still being coined for the same plant. And, sometimes the same common name was applied to several different plants. How many different plants are called Snakeroot and how many trees are Ironwoods? So common names can and do vary. One of my strong beliefs is that a common name is never wrong; if that is what you call it, that is what it is to you and your common name is not wrong!



Vaccinium arboreum - also known as :
Winter Huckleberry, Farkle Berry,
Sparkle Berry, Whortle Berry, and
Goose Berry!

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

HYPERTUFA BASINS & PLANTERS

by Jimmy Culpepper

I first learned of hypertufa from a session at a native plant Meeting in Cullowhee, N.C., ten years ago. It was conducted by Gail Barton, a native plant enthusiast from Meridian, Mississippi. She bought materials to the session and those attending had the opportunity to try their hand at making hypertufa. So most of what I will share is from Gail Barton with a few of my own additions from experiments over the last 8 to 10 years.

Hypertufa containers appear to be stone or rock, but are actually a blend of cement, peat, and sand or other materials. In England, hypertufa mixtures are used to coat old sinks so they will look like antique stone troughs. The faux troughs are used as planters.

I've made about 25-30 planters and water basins in many sizes and shapes. I have given most of them to friends and donated a few to silent auctions and other worthwhile causes. I've even sold 4 or 5, but the truth is, I just love making these things. Each one is totally different even when using the same mold.

Let's get started and create a hypertufa!

1. Assemble the following materials:

- bowls, planters or other interesting forms that can be used as a mold. It's best if the sides of the mold are smooth and the bottom is smaller in diameter than the top.
- Plastic to line the mold (heavy garbage bags work well).
- Large pail or inexpensive plastic concrete mixing container to mix materials and a small measuring container (metal 2 lb. coffee can works great).
- Portland cement
- Sphagnum peat or decomposed wood chips
- Coarse sand, or perlite, or pea gravel.
- Iron sulfate or copperas (optional), rubber or latex gloves, wire brush, and chisel.

2. I do not screen materials but crumble any chunks or large pieces – try to have nothing larger than penny size pieces. Usually cement, peat, and wood chips have a few pieces to crumble.

3. Measure equal volumes of: cement - peat or woodchips - and sand or perlite or pea gravel. Experiment with different mixes i.e. cement - peat - $\frac{1}{2}$ perlite and $\frac{1}{2}$ pea gravel (just keep overall ration 1-1-1) to see the changes the different combinations make in the hypertufa's appearance.

Use about one gallon (or a 2 lb coffee can full) of each material to make a planter or basin about 18" across. You can add 1to2 cups of iron sulfate or copperas into the dry mix to give the hypertufa a rich brown natural color.

4. Thoroughly mix all dry ingredients. Slowly add water a little at a time, mixing well after each addition. Stop adding water when the mixture is moist enough to hold together, but not soggy. A handful of the mix should retain its shape when released from a firm grasp. Generally about 1 gallon of water is needed to achieve this consistency.

5. Pack the mixture into a plastic-lined mold making sure the sides and base are 2-3" thick. If the vessel is to be used as a planter, be sure to insert 1 or 2 wooden dowels into the bottom for drainage holes (old wooden broom or mop handles are great for making dowels). If the mold is larger than 2 feet in diameter, reinforce with wire (chicken-wire) or fiber mesh (available from hardware stores) for strength.
6. Leave the mold alone in a dry, sheltered, shady location for 24-48 hours, depending on humidity. Remove the new vessel from the mold when it is dry enough that a fingertip will not dent the surface, but moist enough that a fingernail will leave a mark. After separating the basin from its mold, remove the dowels if you used them. Distress the bowl by scouring with a wire brush. Use a chisel or other blunt object to gouge the surface, creating the appearance of carved stone.
7. Season the basin in a dry place out of direct sunlight for about a month. Then rinse the basin repeatedly to remove chemicals before using. With time, mosses and lichen will grow on the outer surface of the vessel and give the container a natural weathered look. To age the basin more quickly, douse the outside with manure tea, diluted buttermilk, or water in which rice has been boiled.
8. Don't get discouraged if you break a few (probably because they didn't dry enough). I tend to get in a hurry to see what great thing I've made and occasionally break one.
9. Experiment with different mixes and take your time.

HAPPY HYPERTUFAS!

With regret we report that **Avis Foster**, 73, a LNPS member from Coughatta, died Saturday, January 31, 2004. Avis was the sole care giver for her invalid husband, active in her community, an avid gardener, and attended several LNPS related events.

Miscellaneous notes:

If you would like to be on the LNPS email group, contact Tracey Banowetz at Banowetz@bellsouth.net.

Jackie Duncan sent excerpts of interview with Dale Bosworth Chief of the U. S. Forest Service and Chris Butler for the Idaho Statesman. Major concerns.... we're cutting more timber ... eliminating miles of roads.... job to restore fire-dependent ecosystems while battling the accumulation of fuels invasive species ... loss of open spaces to ranchettes and condominiums ... manage grazing to protect environment ... damage by unmanaged outdoor recreation and off road vehicles... Complete interview at www.idahostatesman.com/Opinion/story.asp?ID=59359

For information about a Native Plant and Bird Trip to Peru from Aug. 31 to Sept 15, 2004, contact Christine Mackay, (206-372-4405,) P. O. Box 94034, Seattle, WA 98124.
www.crookedtrails.com.peru_nativeplants.htm

Events of Interest

Contact information: * **Charles Allen** (337-328-2252) *native@camtel.net*

Hilltop Arboretum, Tracey Banowetz, 11855 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, LA 225-767-6916,
Banowetz@bellsouth.net

- * **April 2-4:** Bogs, Birds, and more B's than the law allows. (also *Jackie Duncan jduncan@fs.fed.net*)
- * **April 16-18:** Columbia/Catahoula Campout and Caravan. (also *Jackie Duncan jduncan@fs.fed.net*)
- # **April 25: Hilltop** Garden Tour I: White Oak Landing area
 - May 1:** EcoFest and Arboretum tours, Jim Robinson, **Chicot State Park**, 3469 Chicot Park Rd, Ville Platte, LA 70586, 1-888-677-2442 or 337-363-2403, *arboretum_mgr@crt.state.la.us*
- # **May 8: Hilltop** Mother/Daughter Tea with "Natural Fibers and Nature's Colors by Margaret Vick
- # **May 13: Hilltop** Dan Gill Gardening Program:
 - "Some Like It Hot - Heat Tolerant Annuals and Perennials"
- * **May 14-16, 2004: At Eunice - Cajun Prairie** Spring Meeting featuring Joe Liggio Orchids
- # **June 7-18: Hilltop** Summer Academy, a day camp for children ages 4 to 7.
- # **June 12: Hilltop** "Live Oak Trees and their Care" by Randy Harris
- # **June 13: Hilltop** Bonus Garden Tour
- # **July 10: Hilltop** "Using Ferns in the Garden" by Mary Elliot, owner of *Fronderosa*
 - July 20-25: Cullowhee Native Plant Conference**, Cullowhee, NC
- * **July 30-August 1: Carolina Lily and Yellow Fringed Orchid** Viewing
 - Aug 8-12: North American Prairie Conference**, Madison, Wisconsin
- # **Aug. 14: Hilltop** "Fragrance in the Garden" by Kim Bevil
- # **Sept. 11: Hilltop** PlantFest! 2004 Teaser preview of PlantFest!
 - Sept 18: Haynesville** Butterfly Festival
- # **Oct 1-2: Hilltop** PlantFest! 2004 - Sale of native and hard-to-find plants
- * **Oct 8-10: Cajun Prairie** Fall Meeting plus Arboretum Tour
 - Oct 14-17: Texas Native Plant Society** joint meeting with LNPS

Dear LNPS,

Thank you so much for supporting groups such as the "Cajun Prairie Association." When we donate money and labor to their cause we are fulfilling three of the Louisiana Native Plant Society goals to preserve, promote and educate people about our diverse native plants.

Not only do we benefit but everyone in Louisiana and any visitors touring the state. We have too few areas such as this that can be enjoyed by not only people but protects the birds and animals as well.

We are grateful to the individuals who saw the need to protect this area and instead of sitting back wringing their hands are doing something about it before it is beyond recall.

Thanks to all,

Jessie Johnson

LNPS Board of Directors

Allen, Dr. Charles, 5070 Hwy 399, Pitkin, 70656,
native@camtel.net

Dillemuth, Bob, 5848 Guava Dr, Baton Rouge, 70808,
rdillem@eatel.net

Foret, Jim, 7766 Main Hwy, St. Martinville, 70582,
possumforet@hotmail.com

Gibbs, Sandra, 1184 Hall Rd, Logansport, 71049,
lawildthings@cs.com

Johnson, Jessie, 216 Caroline Dormon Road, Saline, 71070,
cdnprj@wmconnect.com

Robinson, Jim, 4213 Chicot Park Rd, Ville Platte, LA, 70586,
arboretum_mgr@crt.state.la.us

Seidenberg, Charlotte, 816 Upperline St, New Orleans, LA 70115-1721,
c.seidenberg@cox.net

Webb, Rick, 63279 Lowery Road, Amite, LA 70422-5151, *rwebb@j-55.com*

Young, Jr., Herbert, PO Box 8281, Monroe LA, 71211-8281,
botany07@bellsouth.net

LNPS Officers

Culpepper, Jimmy, *President*, 15820 Greensboro Dr, Greenwell Springs, LA, 70739, *peppercul@aol.com*

Banowetz, Tracey, *Vice-president*, PO Box 10, Weyanoke, LA 70787-0010, *banowetz@bellsouth.net*

Duncan, Jacalyn, *Treasurer*, 114 Harpers Ferry Rd, Boyce, 71409,
jduncan@fs.fed.us

Erwin, Beth, *Secretary*, PO Box 126, Collinston, 71229,
kcrew@northeastnet.net

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

Welcome to New Members: Ashley Alberty, Baton Rouge; Keven Allen, Shreveport; Helen Byrnes, Winnfield; Catherine Dabadie, Ventress; Mary W. Gregory, Pleasant Hill; Natoshia Hebert, Covington; Chris & Steve Hightower, New Orleans; Ann LaVere, Shreveport; Ben & Cindy Martin, Monroe; Milton Nal, Baton Rouge; J. W. Nixon, Baton Rouge; Evelyn T. Thomas, Shreveport; Theresa Thrash, Shreveport; Barbara Williams, Baton Rouge; Andra L. Wilson, Shreveport.

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



#03

Larry Raymond
6675 N Park Cir
Shreveport LA 71107-9539