

Successful LNPS Annual Meeting held February 4-6, 2005 at Camp Hardtner, Pollock, LA

LNPS members found their way through the back roads of central Louisiana to beautiful Camp Hardtner for a good Annual Meeting. The Potluck supper on Friday was a buffet fit for royalty. Sleeping accommodations were more comfortable - motel style rooms ended the complaints of snoring dorm mates and cold hikes to the bathroom. There were a few comments that a meeting on Super Bowl weekend probably cut into the attendance numbers.

After breakfast Saturday morning, Charles and Susan Allen started off the program by preparing another buffet with taste tests of dozens of native food plants and herbal teas. It was amazing how many wild plant foods were available in early February. Also included in their discussion were plants for spices, aromatics, and miscellaneous uses. Berries from Waxmyrtle were used in making candles. Bear grass leaves were used to hang meats in smokehouses. The bark of a Toothache tree deadened pain of gums and throat. Mexican weed reportedly cures worms. Plants used as coffee substitutes include Dandelion roots and Persimmon seeds.

David P. Lewis of Newton, Texas used slides to show us that the mysterious world of Mushrooms and Mycorrhiza is as beautiful and varied as wildflowers. Mushroom lifestyles include: saprophytes living off dead organic matter, parasites attacking living organisms, and mutualists sharing a symbiotic relationship with other organisms. Many edible varieties were discussed and also poisonous species. Maybe next time David will provide taste

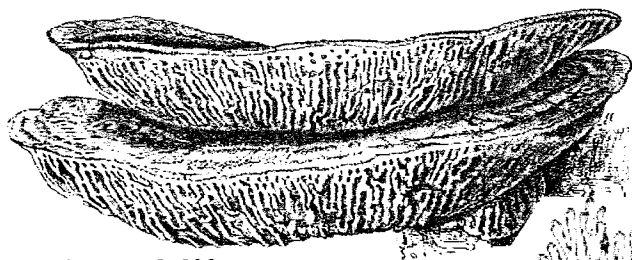
testing, too.

During the business meeting, Jackie Duncan, Treasurer, reported there is a balance of \$6254 in treasury. New officers were elected and are listed on the back page of this newsletter. Our thanks to outgoing President Jimmy Culpepper for his hard work and time. Also we appreciate outgoing board members Charles Allen, Jim Foret, and Jessie Johnson.

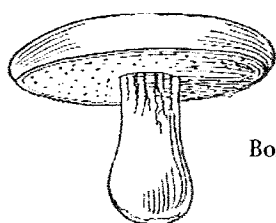
Two Karleen deFatter Awards was presented to worthy recipients. Olga and Walter Clifton of Abita Springs were honored as a team and John Larkin of Franklinton was recognized for his long-standing devotion to native plants promotion.

Dennis Eilers, Office of Louisiana State Parks, showed some recent and planned work that bears little resemblance to the parks of old. There is more focus on the historic aspects of an area and to allow the public to experience the local geography, flora and fauna while the preservation of the site and safety of visitors is implemented. Outdoor recreation in a natural setting is the theme of South Toledo Bend State Park where the view from the water will show little evidence of the extensive human use. The preservation area at Tunica Hill will enable visitors to experience the unique loess topography with a series of walkways.

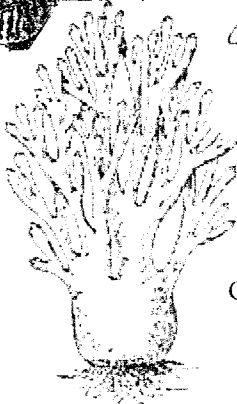
The plant auction got rather hectic at times as bidders were eager to take home more plants while enriching the LNPS treasury. Even the leftovers from the wild plant tasting went on the block.



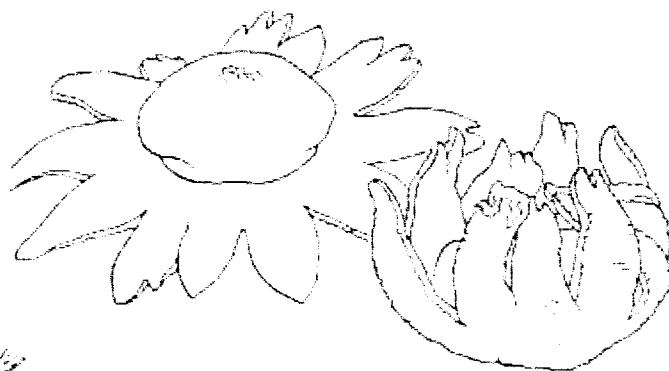
Polyspore shelf fungi



Bolet



Coral fungi



Earthstars

Favorite Native Gardening Guides

by Tracy Banowetz

When I occasionally give lectures on gardening with native plants, I include a list of helpful references. While many of you may already have these in your collection, I thought it would be worthwhile to review some of my personal favorites here. If you do already have them, take a few moments to look them over again. You'll be surprised what you (re)learn!

Two excellent books which provide both inspiration and technical advice on native gardening are Noah's Garden, Restoring the Ecology of our own Back Yards by Sara Stein and The Wildlife Garden, Planning Backyard Habitats by Charlotte Seidenberg. The Wildlife Garden provides the reader with comprehensive information in an easy-to-read format, covering everything from the basic concepts surrounding wildlife gardening, to typical wildlife garden design, following up with specific plant recommendations. A native of New Orleans, Seidenberg's book offers particularly useful emphasis on plants for the southeastern region of the United States. The "Sources and Resources" section of the appendix is worth the price of the book all on its own.

If I could only have two basic reference books on native plants, I would have to choose Bill Fontenot's Native Gardening in the South and Sally Wasowski's Gardening with Native Plants of the South. Fontenot's guide is a must-have for any native gardener in Louisiana. It begins with an enlightening discussion of the concept "What is a Native?" including a very useful listing of common southern terrestrial plant communities. Part II covers "Native Plant Usage" with tons of information to help the reader with the design and basic plant selection process, combining key elements of landscape design with practical emphasis on plant communities and habitats. Part III, "The Plants," covers horticultural information on some of the most popular native plant species in the South, while additional useful reference material is contained in Part IV, "Appendices." My favorite section is "Appendix D – Suggestions" which includes lists of plants for a variety of needs and situations such as "Outstanding Blooms," "High Adaptability," "Shady Sites," "Seasonal Bloom Schemes," and more. You won't find a better guide than this!

There are three features which make Wasowski's Gardening with Native Plants of the South a particular favorite of mine. The color photographs are simply delicious. The horticultural information is presented in a consistent and simple format; information regarding companion plants is also included. What I like best about this book is the way the plants are organized by form or size: trees over 50 feet tall, small trees 15 to 40 feet tall, tall shrubs 5 to 15 feet tall, accents and low shrubs, etc. This feature makes this reference book particularly useful for the beginner when planning a native plant garden.

One word of advice ~ all the books I've recommended here have been in print for some time, and as a result they might be hard to find. What your local library or bookstore doesn't have might be available on Amazon.com or at the Hilltop Arboretum gift shop in Baton Rouge (tel. 225-767-6916). Bill Fontenot's book is self-published. To purchase, send \$20 (shipping/handling included) to: Bill Fontenot, 217 St. Fidelis St., Carencro, LA 70520-6019.

These are just a few of my favorites for folks who are just getting started with native gardening. If I've left out one you can't live without, send a note to me at Banowetz@bellsouth.net or P. O. Box 10, Weyanoke, LA 70787, and we'll feature it in the next LNPS newsletter!

Jackie Duncan sent information about a new wildflower book:

THE SECRETS OF WILDFLOWERS

This new book is proclaimed to discuss the natural history, folklore, uses, name origins, horticulture, conservation, and even the literature of many of the most popular North American wildflowers. 230 pages, 100 color photographs, hardcover.

\$24.95, ISB 1585746681 Available from bookstores, Amazon, B&N, or directly from Lyons Press/Globe-Pequot 1-888-249-7586

- info on www.sandersbooks.com -

author e-mail: jackfsanders@yahoo.com;
or: Jack Sanders, Box 502, Ridgefield CT 06877

Scholarships Available for Cullowhee Conference

Up to 22 scholarships will be awarded for the 22nd Cullowhee Conference on Native Plants in the Landscape, to be held July 20-23, 2005 at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina. Scholarships will cover the registration fee, room and meals during the Conference. Scholarships are available to college students, botanical garden interns, and nature center or park interns involved with programs on native plants and interested in propagation, production, education and perpetuation of native plants in the landscape. For more information contact:

Scholarship: Elaine Nash

Scholarship Coordinator
3390 Hwy 20 SE
Conyers, GA 30208
770-922-7292

Conference: Conference Director

Distance and Continuing Education
Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, NC 28723
800-928-4968 or 828-227-7397

Events of Interest to LNPS Members:

Apr. 9 - Allen Acres Special Event: Contact Charles Allen. at native@camtel.net.

April 16, Saturday: Cajun Prairie Spring Meeting, Eunice, LA. Contact :www.cajunprairie.org or email Charles Allen at native@camtel.net, or call 337-531-7535 (day), 337-328-2252 (home) or Sara Thames asthames@hotmail.com

April 17, Sunday: Matlock Hills Field Trip. Depart from San Augustine, TX. Contact Peter Loos, Native Plant Society of Texas, (936) 362-2215, cyrilla@inu.net

May 19 - 22, Thursday - Sunday: BBBB Tours and Plant ID workshop, Vernon Parish. Contact Charles Allen at 337-328-2252 or 337-531-7535, or email native@camtel.net.

June 4: Mushroom Walk in East Texas. Contact Charles Allen.

June 11: Broadleaf Barbara's Button Excursion. Contact Charles Allen.

June 18: Friends of the Louisiana State Arboretum meeting and hike. Contact Charles Allen.

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The following programs are by **Friends of LSU Hilltop Arboretum**, 11855 Highland Road, Baton Rouge. 225-767-6916, email hilltop@lsu.edu or www.lsu.edu/hilltop. Some events have admission fees.

April 9, Saturday: "Monet in a Pot: Container Gardening" - Carole Ellis & Susan Broussard

April 17: Spring Garden Tour

April 21: "Night Lights in the Garden" - Sadik Artunc, Ione Burden Conference Center.

May 7: Master Gardener plant sale at Burden Center on Essen Lane.

May 14, Saturday: "Weeds: Prevention and Control" - Tracey Banowetz.

May 19: "Green is Good: Gardening in the Shade" - Dan Gill. Ione Burden Conference Center.

May 22: 2005 Spring Garden Bonus Tour - Double Feature!

June 6-17: Summer Academy: Critter Camp: A Backyard Safari for ages 4 to 7.

June 11: "Propagation Workshop including Air Layering" - Allen Owens & Susan Broussard.

June 16: "LA Native Trees in the Landscape" - Jimmy Culpepper.

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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Milton, Kent & Sonie, *News Editors*, 2906 Highway
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Miscellaneous notes:

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

NOTE: Please check date on your label.

If the date is 6/04 or later, your dues are current. Many members
owe dues and this may be their last issue of the newsletter.

A membership form is in every newsletter.

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



Last Dues Paid: 02-07-04

Larry and Anne Raymond (Fam 04)
6675 North Park Circle
Shreveport, LA 71107

