

The following outline was written by Charlotte Seidenberg for the New Orleans area, but most of the advice pertains to anywhere in Louisiana. Charlotte is a plant enthusiast and birder, an amateur naturalist and author of two books, *The New Orleans Garden: Gardening in the Gulf South* and *The Wildlife Garden: Planning Backyard Habitats*. Charlotte lives in uptown New Or-

leans with her artist/husband, Jean Seidenberg and works full time as a registered nurse/case manager for Intra-corp. Her garden, based on the plan discussed in her second book, is designed to lure native wildlife by emphasizing plants indigenous to the batture and bottomland of her region. Charlotte currently serves on the LNPS Board of Directors.

Information & Resources for Louisiana NATIVE PLANT/WILDLIFE GARDENERS

Compiled by: Charlotte Seidenberg

To make a wildlife garden:

1. Create a variety of habitats: a balance of light and shade, different substrates, the layers found in a forest.
2. Completely eliminate pesticides.
3. Supply water; from as little as a birdbath to a pond.
4. Select a wide array of plants, emphasizing plants indigenous to the immediate ecological region of the garden. Include in the herbaceous layer, plants from the following families, which have small, single-blossomed, shallow-throated flowers that put pollen & nectar in easy reach of parasitic wasps & other tiny beneficial insects:
 - Compositae/Composite family (AKA Asteraceae, sunflower family, daisy family, aster family)
 - Lamiaceae/Mint Family (AKA Labiatae)
 - Brassicaceae/Mustard Family (AKA Cruciferae)
 - Apiaceae/Parsley Family (AKA Umbelliferae, carrot family)
 - Polygonaceae/Buckwheat Family

To find examples of plants in the above families (& Louisiana plant community inventories), refer to:

- Charlotte Seidenberg, *The Wildlife Garden: Planning Backyard Habitats*, Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 1995, <http://www.upress.state.ms.us>. Available online and from Jean Lafitte National Park Visitor Center, local bookstores.
- William R. Fontenot, *Native Gardening in the South: A Personal Guide for Understanding, Appreciating, and Using the Indigenous Plants of Dixie*. Carencro, LA: A Prairie Basse Publication, 1992. To order, send \$16.00 (LA residents add \$1.20) to: Prairie Basse, Rt. 2 Box 491-F, Carencro, LA 70520.
- **Louisiana Natural Heritage Program**, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (P.O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898), phone 225-765-2821 or websites: <http://www.wlf.state.la.us/apps/netgear/index.asp?cn=lawlf&pid=569>. The Natural (Plant) Communities Of Louisiana, <http://www.wlf.state.la.us/apps/netgear/index.asp?cn=lawlf&pid=1178>
- Check your library and bookstore for other books.

Search the internet. These are the best websites for identification of indigenous plants of Louisiana:

- **United States Department of Agriculture Plants Database**, <http://plants.usda.gov/>
- **Institute of Systematic Botany Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants**, <http://www.plantatlas.usf.edu/browse.asp>
- Digital Flora of Texas Image Library - **Texas Vascular Plants**, <http://www.texasflora.org/dftimagebase.htm>

Other resources, online and off:

- **Louisiana Native Plant Society**, <http://www.lnps.org/>
- **Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society**, <http://www.cajunprairie.org/index.html>
- U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service U.S. Geological Survey, *Paradise Lost? The Coastal Prairie of Louisiana and Texas*. This pamphlet is a mini-field guide to Southern Louisiana native plants and wildlife. Call 800-344-WILD to request brochure or view it online at: http://training.fws.gov/library/Pubs/paradise_lost.pdf

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- **Pollinator Conservation Handbook** by The Xerces Society and The Bee Works: "Without pollinators, at least 80 percent of our flowering plants could not reproduce. Despite their importance pollinators are declining in many areas as their habitat is converted to other land uses." This book tells you what you can do about it in your own backyard. <http://www.xerces.org>.
- Paul, B. Hamel, **Land Manager's Guide to the Birds of the South**. Available for \$20.00 postage paid from: The Nature Conservancy, Southeastern Region, P.O. Box 2267, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2267.
- **Weeds Gone Wild, Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas**, <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/>
- **Louisiana Ornithological Society**, <http://losbird.org/>, check "online birding resources" for links to hummingbird sites.
- **Gulf Coast Bird Observatory**, <http://www.gcbo.org/>
- **Meadow Makers** (<http://meadowmakers.com/>) Specializing in landscaping with native wildflowers and grasses. Meadow Maker 248 Charles Daughdrill Road, Carriere, MS 39426, (601) 799-1808 e-mail Marc Pastorek: info@meadowmakers.com.
- **Amphibians Of Louisiana** (toads & frog calls), <http://www.wlf.state.la.us/apps/netgear/index.asp?cn=lawlf&pid=725>
- **Snakes Of Louisiana**, <http://www.wlf.state.la.us/apps/netgear/index.asp?cn=lawlf&pid=611>
- **Butterflies of Louisiana**, <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/lepid/bflyusa/la/toc.htm>
- **Moths of Louisiana**, <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/lepid/moths/la/toc.htm>
- **Louisiana Wildlife Federation**, <http://www.lawildlifefed.org/aboutoverview.cfm>
- **National Wildlife Federation Backyard Habitat Program**, <http://www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/index.cfm>

Plant Sources:

- Let parts of your yard go wild to see what natives appear—ID plants using the internet resources above. You will probably be surprised at how many plants show up in your garden.
- Learn to ID plants from the above lists using the above internet resources, then find them growing in your "neighborhood." Collect seeds from plants you find on the levee, in the spillway between mowings, in the batture, and grow plants yourself OR dig/rescue plants (ask permission first, if appropriate): from roadsides and roadside ditches subject to herbiciding, "weedy" city lots about to be paved over, natural areas about to be "developed" for housing or Sprawl-Marts.
- Buy plants from local nurseries that have propagated plants themselves or whose suppliers of nursery-propagated natives are as close by as possible. Network with native gardening friends on new nurseries. Start with these:
 - **Bantings Nursery**, 3425 River Broad, Bridge City, 504-436-4343
 - **Mizell's Farms, Inc.**, Jim Mizell, Folsom, LA, 985-796-9309, & at the Green Market in New Orleans, http://www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org/markets/other_mrks.php
 - **Coyote Creek Native Plants, Herbs And Perennials**, St. Francisville, LA, 225-635 – 6736, <http://www.coyote-creek.net/>
 - **Prairie Basse Native Plants**, Bill & Lydia Fontenot, Carencro, LA, 337-896-9187
 - **Wild Things Plant Farm**, Perennials, Natives, Wildflowers, Sandra Gibbs, Logansport, LA, 318-697-7367
- Check the Saturday *Times-Picayune* magazine "Inside Out" for listings of **Plant Sales** at:
 - Audubon Louisiana Nature Center, <http://www.auduboninstitute.org/lnc/upcoming.htm>
 - New Orleans Botanical Garden, City Park, <http://www.neworleanscitypark.com/nobg.php>
 - Crosby Arboretum, Picayune, MS, <http://www.msstate.edu/dept/crec/camain.html>
 - Hilltop Arboretum, Baton Rouge, LA, <http://appl003.lsu.edu/hilltop/hilltop.nsf/index>
- Mail Order if you can't find what you need in this region:
 - **Maple Street Natives**. In Florida, but is a good source of natives for butterfly gardens, including *Asclepias perennis*, <http://www.maplestreetnatives.com/index.htm>
 - **Green Plant Market, Inc.**: "Specializing in native perennials, shrubs and trees of the Southeastern United States," <http://www.wegrowit.com/greenplant/GreenPlantMarket.html>

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Editors note: Some other Louisiana sources of natives plants are:

Fronderosa, Pontchatoula (Mary Elliott)

Maypop Hill Nursery (Betty Miley) Norwood. 225-629-5379; bvmiley@bellsouth.net

Plantation Point Nursery, Mooringsport. 1-800-865-9220 or 318-996-7222; flowers@shreve.net

LNPS Summer Hike, Saturday, August 13, 2005

Join your fellow LNPS members for what promises to be a wonderful hike on Saturday, August 13. Our 2005 summer hike, led by LNPS board member and Natural Heritage botanist Chris Reid, will take place at the Evangeline Unit of the Calcasieu District in Kisatchie National Forest, southwest of Alexandria.

While the forest is primarily upland longleaf habitat, we will try to visit at least four sites in the Evangeline Unit including the Flemming glades; Brushy Creek (a hardwood slope forest); a wild azalea seep (bayhead swamp and upland longleaf habitat); and Loving Creek, a small stream flood plain where we will search for the Louisiana pearl shell mussel, found in only two Louisiana parishes and nowhere else in the world. Just a few of the plant species we expect to encounter include the pine woods lily, southern rein orchid, winter-berry holly, possumhaw viburnum, mapleleaf viburnum, cinnamon fern, Louisiana wood fern, and more!

We will meet at 9:00 a.m. sharp at the Forest Service Ranger Station, located at 9912 Hwy. 28 West in Gardner, LA, approximately 10 miles west of Alexandria, on the edge of Kincaid Lake. We'll eat a picnic lunch in Kisatchie and plan to wrap up our adventure by 4:00 p.m.

To get to our meeting place and departure point:

- ⇒ Travel Interstate 49 to Alexandria.
- ⇒ From MacArthur Drive (Hwy. 71/165), head west on Hwy. 28 for approximately 10.6 miles.
- ⇒ Be sure to arrive at **9:00 a.m. sharp**

⇒ **We will depart by 9:15!**

For the most enjoyable experience don't forget to pack:

- ⇒ Your picnic lunch & snacks
- ⇒ Water
- ⇒ Insect repellent
- ⇒ Sun screen
- ⇒ Binoculars
- ⇒ Field guides
- ⇒ \$2 - \$3 parking fee per vehicle might be required, depending on where we decide to picnic.

Questions? Contact Tracey Banowetz at Banowetz@bellsouth.net or 225-655-4028. Hope to see you there!



For those of you wishing to extend your stay, numerous campsites are available. For more information, visit the Kisatchie web site at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/kisatchie/calcasieu-rd/evangeline/>

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:

July 29& 30, Friday & Saturday: Tour of Allen Acres Shady Spots & Carolina Lily & Yellow Fringed Orchid Viewing, DeRidder/Leesville vicinity. Contact Charles Allen: 337-328-2252 or 337-531-7535; *native@camtel.net*

August 13, Saturday: LNPS Summer Hike. Alexandria vicinity. See page 3 for details.

Aug 26-28: Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation meeting. Eunice, Contact Charles Allen (See July 29-30 above).

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. Contact Hilltop for details.

July 9, Saturday: "Peppers: Preparing a Peck of Peppers with Pat" - Brunch with Pat Retherford.

July 21, Thursday: "Gingers" by Tim Chapman.

Aug 8 - Sept 2: Photography Exhibit by La. Master Gardeners featuring "Native Plants".

Aug 13, Saturday: "Irises: Care and Selection" by Rusty Ostheimer.

Aug 18, Thursday: "What's Bugging You?" by Dale Pollet.

Sept 10, Saturday: "PlantFest!2005 Teaser Program" by Heidi Sheesley.

Sept 15, Thursday: "Fall Gardening Q & As" with Butch Drewes and Scott Ricca.

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

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

Please check date on your label. If the date is 9/04 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

Larry and Anne Raymond (Fam 05)
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