

Volume 25: Issue 2

LNPS NEWS

Summer 2007

Summer Greetings from our President!

By Rick Webb

Two big stories to report:

Florida Parishes Field Trip:

Friends had fun in the Florida parishes frolicking among the ferns and flowers....

The week-end field-trip was held May 25-27. We started out with a few mates arriving at Rick and Susan Webb's house Thursday afternoon for a scouting run on Fluker's Bluff. This was followed by an impromptu "Pre-conference" run quickly whipped up Thursday morning to a fairly old patch of woodland on Tangipahoa River near Amite. The afternoon brought the scheduled gathering and caravan to Sandy Hollow WMA area. The first stop was a sandhill habitat that had been burned recently and showed the understory recovery process. The next stop had been burned a year earlier and it was hard to get people to trek along very quickly as there was too much to see. Numerous ID and photo ops ensued. Persistence in trekking was rewarded with a view of a rocky hillside scattered with young Longleaf and blanketed in Bracken. The third stop was demanded by a corps of troopers that hiked back to a wooded low bluff over Big Creek. That the *Stewartia* viewed had already flowered out was the only bit of a disappointment. Hiked out and hungry, we spent the rest of Friday visiting, eating at the Webb House. As the afternoon had been active, the air-conditioning inside kept the outside deck dancing to a minimum.

Saturday morning we met at Chipola in St. Helena Parish for the short trip to Fluker's Bluff, a dramatic drop from loess hills to the Amite River bottomland and river. The property was a well protected old forest with great trees. There we saw several large Spruce Pines, including what had been the National Big Tree pre-Katrina. It was lovely just to sit on that gravelly beach and watch the river slide by. A picnic luncheon back up on the hill and a short walk along the foot of the bluff after lunch completed our visit.

The crew then drove over to Betty Miley's place. Walking about to see Betty's plantings, her lovely and creative home and fields and woods or just napping on a couch were all there for us to enjoy. Supper, a moonlit wagon ride, and a "slide" show of lots of photos ended a fantastic day.

Sunday morning we gathered at Tracey & Dave Banowetz's Ouida Plantation in Weyanoke northwest of St. Francisville with its woodlands and native plant and perennial gardens. The ravines of the Tunica drew us on a walk through the beech magnolia forest. The photographers had all the butterfly pictures they cared to take among the beautiful flowers of the house gardens. David had set-up a neat plant identification exam on plants throughout his place and invited us to try to name them. Lunch on the deck closed out a wonderful week-end.

Thanks to our hosts, cooks and guides and thanks to all who took time and traveled to make it a special time.

Cool people at various portions of the three days were: Charles Allen, Susan Allen, Tracey Banowetz, David Banowetz, Nang Brown, Peggy Cox, Doc Cox, Bob Dilleuth, Paula Dilleuth, Nancy Ellis, Mitchell Jacobs, Patricia Lewis, David Lewis, Theresa Martin, Betty Miley, L J Miley, Sonie Milton, Kent Milton, David Osborn, Margaret Osborn, Jim Russell, Rick Webb and Susan Webb.

Cool Places over the week-end: A gravel and sand bar on the Amite River, an iron ore / sandstone outcrop in an open longleaf pine savannah, a sandy hillside, steep woodland bluffs, upland hills and fields, loess bluffs and ravines and native gardens.

And too numerous to mention cool plants, birds, dogs, horses and bugs. Way cool!

Second newsy item is that the Louisiana Native Plant Society is now an official tax-exempt nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This is a very important step in our group's history, and our future, as it allows us to pursue granted funding to assist in attaining our stated goals. Congratulations to Tracey and the other officers for pushing this through.

Anyone who has grant source ideas or ways to implement our new status can please contact me or any Board member to help put it to work.

Thanks, RW

The Folsom Native Plant Society Report

by Yvonne Bordelon, FNPS President

The Folsom Native Plant Society is alive and well and living in St. Tammany Parish. Our once small society, which was founded in 1988, is still thriving in 2007 with the highest number of members on record. Recently, we have participated in several Wildlife and Plant Festivals and Shows in an effort to promote the preservation of Louisiana's native plants. Our website (<http://folsomnps.org>) has reached a few thousand people since it was launched in May of 2006. Club members have also been involved in propagating the beautiful native plants of our parish. One of our outreach programs involves seed collection and distribution to the public. We also have distributed several hundred native trees and plants to individual residents who needed to replace landscaping that was lost during Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath and to several towns in the parish. Various members of our society have given presentations about native plants and native plant propagation and we are also speaking out against habitat destruction and pollution.

After Hurricane Katrina, when the residents of St. Tammany Parish pushed their way out from under the tons of debris, they found that most of the forests and native habitats, as well as their personal property, had suffered severe damage. Now, 2 years later we are still dealing with assaults on our native plant habitats as a result of the construction boom and the parish's post-Katrina cleanup projects. Many of the stately trees that were spared by Hurricane Katrina, have been cut down to make room for the new homes and businesses of the thousands of people who moved here from the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain. Countless acres of pine land savannahs and woodlands have been bull-dozed as well. Our beautiful

wild and scenic rivers are also being assaulted. Recently, one of the parish's clean-up projects went seriously wrong. Riparian areas along the Tchefuncte River were damaged and denuded. Streams and drainage areas that were supposed to have been cleared of debris from H. Katrina, were filled with soil and debris, instead. Now, because so many of the plants were removed as a result of this unnecessary project, erosion of the river banks is a serious problem and it gets worse with every rain. As Philip Shabecoff wrote in the New York Times Magazine, June 4, 1978 - "*So bleak is the picture... that the bulldozer and not the atomic bomb may turn out to be the most destructive invention of the 20th century.*" We, at the Folsom Native Plant Society, have now become river watchers as well as the protectors and propagators of St. Tammany's native plants and also proponents of habitat protection.

As native plant enthusiasts, we must all speak out to protect what is left of our native habitats. While governments in other parts of the country are promoting green referendums and the use of native plants in landscaping, storm water control, sewerage treatment and Xeriscaping, Louisiana is still using outdated and ineffective methods and materials. Perhaps a grass-roots movement is in order. We should all serve as models for Green living. If everyone in the LNPS and FNPS learned more about such innovative and ecologically sound methods of gardening such as using rain gardens or planting native wildflowers and grasses instead of expensive, labor intensive lawns and shared their knowledge with neighbors and friends, the good news would soon spread all over Louisiana.

For more information about landscaping with native plants and the many labor and money saving uses for native plants consult these print and digital sources:

Books:

Fontenot, William. Native Gardening in the South. A Prairie Basse Publication (bbboy2@bellsouth.net), 1992.
Miley, Betty V. Geaux Native! In Your Louisiana Yard. Maypop Hill Publications (bvmiley@bellsouth.net), 2006.
Wasowski, Sally. Requiem for a Lawnmower. Taylor, 1992.

Websites:

How to Naturescape – http://www.plantnative.com/how_intro.htm
Rain Gardens – <http://www.for-wild.org/download/rainclay/rainclay.html>
Gardening for Water Conservation – http://www.foresightdesign.org/resources/Water_Consevation_in_Landscaping.pdf
Going Native with Plants: a new-old direction for Water Conservation Gardening – <http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0418/p13s01-sten.html>
Native Plant Landscaping – http://livinggreen.ifas.ufl.edu/landscaping/using_native_plants.html



The Folsom chapter is on display at this Master Gardener show in March. (photo by Yvonne Bordelon)

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: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Annual Dues: Student/Senior \$5 _____ Individual \$10 _____ Family \$15 _____
 Organization \$25 _____ Sustaining \$50 _____ Corporate \$100 _____

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Events of Interest to LNPS Members:

July 18 – 21: Cullowhee Native Plant Conference, Western Carolina University. www.nativeplants.wcu.edu

July 27 – 28: Feliciana Hummingbird Celebration, St. Francisville. www.audubonbirdfest.com.

Aug. 25: Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society summer/fall meeting www.cajunprairie.org

Sept. 15: Nature Walk with the Feliciana Nature Society, St. Francisville. Tracey Banowetz (banowetz@bellsouth.net)

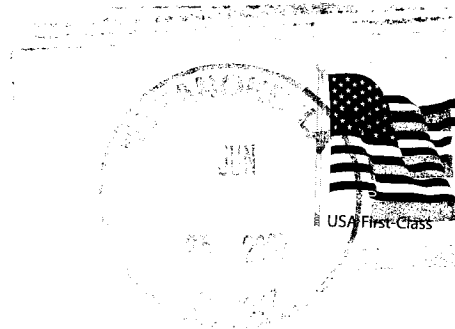
Sept. 15: Haynesville Butterfly Festival, Loice Lacy (Lklacy@magnolia-net.com)

Oct. 6 – 7: Hilltop Arboretum annual plant sale. Baton Rouge, www.lsu.edu/hilltop.

Oct. 18 – 21: Native Plant Society of Texas annual symposium www.npsot.org

For what's happening at the **Louisiana State Arboretum** in Ville Platte, visit www.friendslaarb.org.

LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
C/O TRACEY BANOWETZ
P. O. Box 10
WEYANOKE, LA 70787



Date dues last paid: 04-12-05

Larry and Anne Raymond (Fam 07)
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Shreveport, LA 71107

Please check date on your
label. If the date is 07/06 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