WINTER 1985 VOL. 3 NO. 4

The LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

January 25, 1986: LNPS WINTER MEETING!!!

The winter meeting of the Louisiana Native Plant Society will take place January 25, 1986 in the Science Building at LSU Alexandria. LSU Alexandria is located on HWY. 71, just about 10 miles south of the city of Alexandria - you can't miss it!

The program will be as follows:

8:00 to 9:00 AM:	Registration and slide show of the native plants of Briarwood Nature Preserve.
9:00 to 9:45 AM:	Native plants as wildlife habitat, by Harold Grelen, et al.
10:00 to 11:30 AM:	Native Orchids, by Jack and Ella Price.
11:30 to 1:00 PM:	Plant sale and lunch.
1:00 to 2:00 PM:	Business meeting.

Last year's plant sale was a huge success, with many plants offered that are not readily available: Osmanthus americana, Chrysogonum virginianum, and Quercus nuttallii, to name a few. If you have any plants to donate to the plant sale, bring them along.

DEADLINE FOR SPRING NEWSLETTER

The deadline for submitting articles, chapter information, plant requests, etc. for the Fall 1985 Newsletter is March 15, 1986. Please mail your correspondence in as early as possible, at least several days prior to the deadline so it'll arrive in time to:

David Heikamp
717 Giuffrias
Metairie, Louisiana 70001

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES YET?

Dues for 1986 are due, and are still only $5! Send yours in before you forget to:

Elinor Herd
239 Pomeroy
Shreveport, Louisiana 71115

"GUIDE TO THE VASCULAR PLANTS OF THE FLORIDA PANHANDLE" NOW AVAILABLE

The University Presses of Florida have produced some fine volumes on native plants thru the years, and many are still available. "Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida" by Andre F. Clewell can now be added to that list. At 616 pages, it is available for $30.00 plus $1.75 shipping and handling. Orders should be sent to University Presses of Florida, 15 NW 15th Street, Gainesville, Florida 32603. Ask about other books they have available, the list is impressive!

HILLTOP ARBORETUM FEATURED IN LSU MAGAZINE

The June, 1985 issue of LSU Magazine (Volume 61, Number 3) features an excellent article on LNPS member Emory Smith and his Hilltop Arboretum. Written by Leslie Pitre, with beautiful color pictures by Nancy Kirk, it is an excellent article. For anyone interested in visiting Hilltop Arboretum (admisiion is free) the address is: 11855 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Anyone interested in making a donation to Hilltop Arborertum can mail it c/o Friends of Hilltop Arboretum at the same address.

SEED EXCHANGE NEWS

Time is running out, if you plan on ordering seeds from the LNPS seed exchange for spring planting. At last count, 75 different seeds were being offered. If you have recently joined the LNPS, and would like to find out what seeds are still available, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to our seed exchange chairman: (Note: if space permits, I'll reprint the list at the end of this newsletter!)

Mr. John Larkin
Rt. 4, Box 189 B
Mockingbird Hill Rd.
Franklinton, Louisiana 70438

GREATER NEW ORLEANS CHAPTER NEWS

by David Heikamp

Since taking the job of editor for the LNPS, I have not had the time needed to coordinate the activities of the Greater New Orleans Chapter. If any member in the New Orleans area is interested in coordinating activities in the New Orleans area (field trips, meetings, etc.), I will supply them with a printout of LNPS members, including those in the New Orleans area.

Also, for the January 25th meeting at LSU Alexandria, anyone that will be driving up for the meeting, and has room to take someone else along, please call me as soon as possible at 831-2342. If you are looking for a ride, call me too, and I'll try to get you in touch with someone that has extra room.

Native Clematis in the Home Garden

by David Heikamp

I had always admired the photograph of Clematis crispa in Clair Brown's book, but when I saw one in a friend's wildflower garden a few years ago, I fell in love with it. This was in an old cow pasture that had been converted to a wildflower garden. We speculated on whether the plant was there all along or a seed had come in with the soil from a collected plant. The next day we searched far and wide for another plant of Clematis crispa with no luck.

By all means, I had to get one for my wildflower garden, so for the next several years my friend sent me whatever seeds her plant produced. This went on for 3 years. Seeds were few, because they always seemed to get eaten before they ripened. I continued to search lists from native plant nurseries, but at that time, I could find no one that carried it. It looked as though I would never get one for my garden.

Then, after 3 years with no success, I heard from a lady living in Kitchener, Ontario, of all places, that had a collection of species Clematis, and was fairly successful at getting seeds to germinate. I wrote her, and she was most helpful, writing a lengthy letter on her experiences with Clematis species.

Armed with this new information, I was ready for any seeds my friend's Clematis would produce. Since this was four years from the time I first saw Clematis crispa , I didn't want to take any chances. To maximize seed production, I sent my friend a bag of Sevin dust (carbaryl) as well as a supply of slow release fertilizer, along with instructions not to pick the seeds until all traces of green were gone, and the seeds were about to fall off on their own. About a dozen seeds were obtained, and I was off and running. That year I managed to have eight plants flowering from those dozen seeds in less than three months time. Success at last!

Not long afterwards, seeds and plants of other native Clematis species started coming in from some of the many people I had contacted in my efforts to obtain Clematis crispa . I have now had experience with a number of Clematis species, and would like to share some of that experience with you now. I should point out that I only grow the urn-shaped species native to the United States - Section Viornae of the genus Clematis .

Obtaining seeds or plants to start with is a real problem. Woodlanders in South Carolina carries Clematis crispa now, as well as a few others from time to time. Right off hand, I can't think of another nursery that carries any. Clematis still aren't as popular as they deserve to be. As for seeds, I would suggest writing to people who are interested in wildflowers. The American Rock Garden Society lists some of the rarer ones from time to time in its seed exchange. Also, there is now an international Clematis society, which formed within the last year. Dues are L5.00 and can be made via international money order through the Post Office. I don't know what the exchange rate is these days, so I can't say what that is in dollars. The address is:

The International Clematis Society
Burford House
Tenbury Wells, Worcs.
England WR 15 8HQ

First of all, to get Clematis species from seed, you must have fresh seed that has been harvested when there is no trace of green left in the seed. If

seeds are not ripe, they will not germinate. Contrary to popular belief, I have yet to find a Clematis species that needs or benefits from seed stratification. I'm referring to the practice of cold stratification. In fact, I did a little experiment with Clematis fremontii a few years ago, and the seeds that I used cold stratification on were much slower in germinating, and had a much lower percentage germinate. The next important thing with Clematis seeds is to never let them dry out completely, and supply some bottom heat if possible. Soil heating cables are excellent, the tops of refrigerators and freezers are good too. I've used a number of mixes for seed germination. The first one I ever used was 50% coarse sand and 50% sphagnum moss. The two things that all the mixes I've used since then have in common with this original mix are that they are loose, porous mixes, and they don't dry out too quickly.

Don't try to plant seedlings out until a few mature leaves are formed. This will be when they are about one half to one inch tall. If you try to plant them out when they have only their two embryonic leaves, you've missed the boat! Clematis like a rich, well drained, cool soil that does not dry out. They also like to reach for the sun when they begin new growth in early spring. I have most of mine growing on chain-link fence. If you can provide some shade for the root system, such as a nearby shrub or a good mulch, you will get much better results. Don't worry about pruning your native Clematis, as they will die back to the ground every year anyway.

What species to grow, and in what area of the country? You can probably guess that if I am growing them here in southern Louisiana, and a lady in Kitchener, Ontario is growing them, they are probably quite adaptable. From my own experience, and through my communications with others, it seems that the species that are easy to grow are easy to grow in just about any climate, and the ones that are difficult are difficult for just about everyone. Below I'll list some of the species I've grown, along with some of my observations on them.

Clematis crispa is still my favorite. It is among the easiest from seed, and will bloom sooner than any other species from seed. It likes a little damper conditions that most of the other species. Flowers range from a deep lavender to almost white, and they vary tremendously in how much the sepals recurve, so that some appear very frilly, while others sport a more formal, elongated look. My favorite is one I got from Woodlanders a few years ago - a deep lavender, the upturned part of the sepals is a very pale lavender, giving the flower a distinctly bitone appearance.

Clematis glaucophylla runs a close second. This is a rare species that occurs in sandy acid soil along streams in only a handful of spots in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. It has glaucous leaves, cherry red flowers, and is quite vigorous. I find the glaucous species on the whole to be very susceptile to leaf mold, but not this species. It never seems to suffer from leaf mold, and flowers and grows extremely well.

Clematis versicolor is another glaucous-leaved species. Flowers are rather small, and range in color from pinkish to purplish, fading to white near the tips, and are rather smooth with few, if any, pleats or creases. It is fairly easy from seed, but when it comes to leaf mold, it is about as susceptible as the next species.

Clematis texensis is another glaucous-leaved species. This one occurs only on the Edward's Plateau in Texas - an area rich in endemics, by the way. Flowers are a fiery red, and range in shape from a fairly open urn, much like Clematis pitcheri to an urn that almost doesn't open up at all. This one too is fairly easy from seed.

Clematis addisonii is a very rare species, and is one of the few forest species. It is also unusual in that it will usually send up one stem with one

terminal flower. It is a glaucous-leaved species too, is very susceptible to leaf mold, and has a flower that is a smooth urn that is such a deep purple as to appear almost black. In a sunnier location, it will branch out a bit. It is not too difficult from seed, but is slow to germinate.

Clematis pitcheri and Clematis reticulata are very closely related to one another. Clematis pitcheri is also the most variable species of our native Clematis. Both these species have leaves that are reticulated, but those of Clematis reticulata are much more so. As for flowers, Clematis pitcheri ranges in the deep purple shades, while Clematis reticulata ranges from pale lavender to almost white. These are both easy from seed, and will send up "volunteers" in your garden. A number of plants I brought to a field trip of the AWFS a few years ago were one of these two species, or possibly a hybrid between the two. Clematis pitcheri tends to die out for no reason after a few years, at least for me, so it's a good idea to have some coming from seed each year just to be safe.

Clematis viorna is a more eastern species than either of the last two species mentioned. Flowers are colored purplish, fading to white at the tips, and are rather smooth as in Clematis versicolor . I have not tried this one from seed.

Clematis hirsutissima is a species from our western states. It is easy to germinate, but is an exceedingly poor grower. I have had a few seedlings for going on four years now, and they are still very small.

Clematis baldwinii is one of the "shrub" species in that it doesn't climb. A Florida native, it is easy from seed, and has a long, narrow flower that is normally a very pale lavender. It is a difficult species to keep going, though. For me, it tries to make growth several times a year, but this new growth dies practically overnight for no apparent reason.

Clematis fremontii is another "shrub" species. It is native to the area of St. Louis, Missouri, as well as one area on the Kansas/Nebraska border. Fairly easy from seed, it is a good grower. Mine have not bloomed yet, so I can't report on the flowers. Native to open, rocky glades, it does well in a rich garden soil.

Clematis socialis is probably the rarest species. I have one plant which has yet to bloom.

A couple of species I've also had are Clematis albicoma and Clematis coactilis . The Clematis albicoma I have is from garden seed, and does not entirely fit the description of the species, so it is probably a hybrid. Mine is a rather weak grower, with flowers a washed out purple instead of the deep purple they are supposed to be. I had one plant of Clematis coactilis from seed a year ago. It was doing well, then one day it just up and died for no apparent reason. Both these species are shale barren species, and are very rare, being endemic to the shale barrens of the Virginias.

SEED EXCHANGE LIST FOR 1985/1986

INSTRUCTIONS: Below is a list of available seeds for winter 1985/spring 1986. Price is 25 cents per packet. Number of seeds per packet varies with scarcity of seed. Some are in short supply. Please note with your order what you want done in case a particular species is sold out: refund, substitute, or donate to the society. Orders will be filled as they are received. Send your requests to:

Mr. John Larkin
Rt. 4, Box 189 B
Mockingbird Hill Rd.
Franklinton, Louisiana 70438

1. Rudbeckia hirta, Black-eyed Susan (strain w/ red splotches)
2. Penstemon digitalis
3. Arisaema triphyllum, Jack-in-the-Pulpit
4. Rudbeckia hirta
5. Queen Anne's Lace
6. Baptisia australis, Blue False Indigo
7. Rudbeckia sp. Purple Cone Flower
8. Centrosema virginianum, Butterfly Pea
9. Campsis radicans, Gold Trumpet Vine
10. Rudbeckia maxima
11. Clematis texensis, Texas Red Clematis
12. White-flowered Yarrow
13. Coreopsis grandiflora
14. Liatris sp.
15. Gaillardia sp., Indian Blanket
16. Hibiscus sp., bright pink flowers
17. Penstemon tubiflora
18. Penstemon sp., from Arkansas, tiny white flowers
19. Blue Waterleaf
20. Acacia sp., Huisache
21. Hibiscus sp., large pink-flowered mallow
22. Clematis pitcherii
23. Penstemon sp., pinkish flowers, Keithville, La. area
24. Clematis glaucophylla, red flowers, collected in eastern Miss.
25. Deleted
26. Wisteria macrostachya, wild Wisteria
27. Styrax americana, Snowbell
28. Sesbania vesicaria, Bag-Pod
29. H. argophyllus, Silverleaf Sunflower
30. Coreopsis tinctoria, Golden Wave
31. Rudbeckia hirta, Brown-eyed Susan
32. Chrysanthemum leucanthemum, Ox-eye Daisy
33. Rudbeckia columnaris, Mexican Hat
34. H. annuis, Annual Sunflower
35. Cassia occidentalis, Coffee Senna
36. Dioclea multiflora, Wild Bean
37. Apios americana, Hog Pea
38. Deleted
39. E. americana, Strawberry Bush
40. Matelea decipens, Vining Milkweed
41. Matelea zenocarpa, Honeyvine Milkweed
42. O. biennis, Evening Primrose

43. H. tuberosus, Jerusalem Artichoke
44. Bidens aristosa, Sticktight Sunflower
45. O. lararckiana, Evening Primrose
46. Dioscora villosa, Wild Yam
47. Passiflora incarnata, Purple Passion Flower
48. Cocculus carolina, Carolina Moonseed
49. Crotolaria sagittalis, Rattle Box
50. Desmanthus illinoiensis, Prairie Mimosa
51. Wisteria sp, Wild Wisteria
52. Centrosema virginianum, Butterfly Pea
53. Baptisia sp., Wild Indigo
54. Sesbania punicea, Brazilian Rattle Box
55. Coreopsis tinctora, Coreopsis (some solid red)
56. H. argophyllus, Silverleaf Sunflower
57. O. biennis, Evening Primrose
58. Bignonia capreolata, Crossvine
59. Cardiospermum halicacabum, Balloon Vine
60. H. virginiana, Witch Hazel
61. Rhexia alifamus, Meadow Beauty
62. Lobelia cardinalis, Cardinal Flower
63. Eupatorium coelestinum, Wild Ageratum
64. Cercis canadensis, Redbud Tree
65. Callirhoe papaver, Poppy Mallow (limited)
66. Hibiscus coccinea, Scarlet Mallow
67. Verbena rigida, Wild Verbena
68. Louisiana iris (mixed, from named cultivars)
69. Helianthus angustifolius, Narrow-leaved Sunflower, Sept. into Nov.
70. Helianthus divaricatus, Wild Sunflower
71. Agalinus fasciculata, Pink Foxglove
72. Helenium amarum, Bitterweed, collected along US 190
73. Solidago altissima, Goldenrod
74. Solidago odora, Goldenrod
75. Cercis canadensis, Redbud Tree