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# NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1992

volume 10, number 4

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## A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT, JOHN MAYRONNE

This is my last letter to you as President of the LNPS. I've enjoyed representing our group and working with its members to educate and help preserve our beautiful native flora. A special thanks to the many who gave of their time to help in so many ways.

Special thanks to the other officers and board members for their help. Bill Fontenot has been nominated to take over the presidency. Once elected, I'm sure he'll do a fine job. I look forward to seeing you all at the January meeting.

## WINTER MEETING SET FOR JANUARY 30, 1993

Plan to attend our annual meeting on the LSU-Alexandria campus on Saturday, January 30, 1993. The meeting will begin promptly at 9:30 AM. Signs will be posted to direct attendees to the auditorium. The campus is located on Hwy. 71, about 10 miles south of Alexandria. We will have T-shirts and books for sale, as well as plants for sale or trade. The day's agenda is as follows:

9:30 AM to 10:00 AM:	Registration, coffee (\$2 donation, please).
10:00 AM to 10:15 AM:	Presentation on the organization "Save Our Trees", the speaker is Virginia Plauche.
10:15 AM to 11:15 AM:	"Birds associated with Louisiana's Natural Plant Communities", the speaker is David Pashley.
11:15 AM to 12:15 PM:	"Medicinal Plants in Louisiana", the speaker is Steven Foster.
12:15 PM to 1:00 PM:	Brown bag lunch, plant and t-shirt sale.
1:00 PM to 2:30 PM:	Business meeting. On the agenda:
	1. Old business.
	2. Election of officers.
	3. 1993 conference.
	4. New business.

## About our speakers:

Virginia Plauche, founder of Save our Trees in Louisiana, and has been featured on television and in the newspapers recently speaking out for Save our Trees.

David Pashley, is Director of Science and Stewardship with The Louisiana Nature Conservancy. David received his Ph. D. from LSU in Wildlife and Fisheries. His dissertation was "A Distributional Analysis of the Warblers of the West Indies". He is currently the National Coordinator for migratory bird activities for The Nature Conservancy, and is involved with numerous projects and committees dealing with conservation issues, both nationally as well as state-wide.

Steven Foster, nationally recognized herbal researcher, writer and photographer, is the author of numerous books and other publications. His latest book, done in conjunction with Yue Chongxi, is entitled "Herbal Emissaries - Bringing Chinese Herbs to the West".

#### DUES REMINDER

Don't forget that membership dues for 1993 are due by the first of the year, January 1, 1993! If you know someone who is interested in joining (or rejoining) the LNPS, give them the following address. Make checks payable to the LNPS:

LNPS  
Rt. 1, Box 195  
Saline, Louisiana 71070

The dues schedule is as follows: Student=\$5.00, Senior Citizen=\$5.00, Individual=\$10.00, Family=\$15.00, Organization=\$25.00, Sustaining=\$50.00, Corporate=\$100.00.

#### DEADLINES FOR NEXT 4 NEWSLETTERS:

Don't forget! In an effort to better coordinate the distribution of information concerning field trips as well as other dated information the newsletter uses the following deadline policy. Any information received after the deadline will be included in the next newsletter. Deadlines for the next four newsletters are as follows:

Spring Newsletter:	March 1, 1993
Summer Newsletter:	June 1, 1993
Fall Newsletter:	September 1, 1993
Winter Newsletter:	December 1, 1993

The editor's address is:

David Heikamp  
717 Giuffrias  
Metairie, La. 70001  
Ph (504) 831-2342

#### LIST BEING COMPILED

by John Mayronne

ENPA, the Eastern Native Plant Alliance, is compiling a list of invasive exotics particular to specific states and regions. An example here in Louisiana would be chinese privet. If you have others that are particularly

invasive in your area, please notify me so we can compile an accurate listing. Mail it to me at the following address or call me at (504) 892-5424:

John Mayronne  
320 N. Theard St.  
Covington, Louisiana 70433

#### FALL FIELD TRIPS AND MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS

by John Mayronne

Our summer/fall field trips were a great success. On Saturday, October 24, thirty five men, women, and children (and one dog makes thirty six!) met in the Tunica Hills for an adventure-packed day. It was interesting to note that every part of the state was represented with the exception of the Lake Charles and Alexandria areas.

Starting at 10:00 AM Dr. Bill Platt, an LSU ecology professor of national renown, gave us a brief overview of the past and present ecology of the Tunica Hills. Following this, we began on our sojourn through the rugged terrain encountering rare orchids, ferns, lichens, Indian Pipes, trees, perennials, and a 12 (?) ft. rattlesnake. The topography and coolness heightened our senses, and the flora we discovered proved to be an educational treat for even the children. However, I do believe that the vine swing may have been the highlight for some of the younger set, and possibly even a few of the more mature (older) set.

The following day, 17 troopers showed up for the longleaf pine savannah trip. Though the topography was flat at this location, the diverse mixture of pitcher plants, unusual grasses, perennials, and large trees near the edge of the Tchefuncte River (mosquitos included at no extra charge) displayed another of the unique habitat types that make our state so wonderful.

It is my hope that outings such as these will help foster a conservationist ethic in our state, leading to the preservation of other significant areas for future generations.

I'd like to especially thank Nelwyn McInnis for her efforts in organizing and leading these two field trips. Also, special thanks go to Latimore Smith and Dr. R. Dale Thomas for sharing their extensive planty knowledge with us.

For those who may not have heard, Richard Johnson, of the Briarwood Nature Preserve, recently had an accident and was unable to attend (probably the first meeting or outing he and Jessie have ever missed with our group). We missed you! Get well soon!

#### SPEEDWELLS ARE SPECIAL

by Jack Price

(Editor's note: the following article first appeared in the Shreveport Times and is reprinted here with the permission of the author.)

In early March there are a number of wildflowers to be found along the sides of the highways and country roads. There will be white violets, Johnny-Jump-Ups, and a special small flower called Speedwells, Veronica Parsica. Blooms of the Speedwell are about three eighths of an inch in width. Three of the four petals are blue with narrow darker blue lines running from the outer edge to the center. The fourth petal is not as wide but is a little longer and a lighter shade of blue than the other three. A very small white circle is found in the center where the petals join. Two stamens extend from the yellow throat. A heart-shaped pod containing two chambers is formed when the

flower has been pollinated. The pod is about one eighth of an inch in size when mature with many small seeds.

Seeds germinate in late fall and winter, very small green leaves start a rapid growth on the first warm days of early March. Leaves are thick-clustered on the stems, dark green and wider than they are long and slightly hairy. Stems are about four inches long and lay almost flat on the ground with the tips turning upwards. Stems have numerous branches, each branch will develop short stems about one half of an inch long. Flowers develop on these short stems either singly or in clusters. The blooming season is from early March until September.

Speedwells are annuals and it does little or no good to attempt transplanting when they are blooming. Transplanting at this time will cause shock and few if any seeds will develop. It is best to locate a colony and observe until the seeds are mature before gathering them. Spread the seeds in the desired location in your garden, do not plant or cover with dirt. You should pick a sunny spot where larger plants will not crowd them out. Speedwells are an excellent ground cover and will do well in places where nothing else will grow. They seem to grow just as well in dry places as they do in semi-wet areas. They will reseed for the coming year. Seeds can be obtained from commercial nurseries and may be referred to by the name "Baby Blue Eyes".