Nov—Dec 2025

Volume 38, Issue 3

LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Inside this Issue:

- 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

2026 LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE

March 6-8, 2026

Acadian Baptist Center, 1202 Academy Dr
Eunice, LA 70535

FRIDAY – March 6, 2026

TBD	Field Trips or Plant ID Walks (Optional)
3:00 pm	Check in/Registration in the Chapel
5:00 pm	Dinner in the Dining Hall
6:00 pm	Welcome and Opening Remarks in the Chapel
6:15 pm	**Ford Stinson,** *A Place for Wild Things: Creating Habitat in my Yard*
7:15 pm	**John Michael Kelley**, *An Old Cypress Forest at Risk*
8:00 pm	*Louisiana Grass Roots* is a short documentary film that tells the story of the coastal tallgrass prairie in Louisiana.

SATURDAY, March 7, 2026

7:00-8:15 am	Registration/Check-in in the Chapel; Breakfast in the Dining Hall
8:15-8:30 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks in the Chapel
8:30-9:30 am	**Dr. David Creech,** *Growing Natives in a Hostile Land*
9:30-10:30	**Dr. Chris Reid,** *Plants of LSU's Lee Memorial Forest*
Break	
11:00-noon	Trivia Business Meeting, Elections, Year-in-Review
Noon	**Lunch** in the Dining Hall
1:15-2:30 pm	Guided Walk – Christina Calcaterra will lead a nature walk around the grounds of ABC emphasizing identification. Meet in front of the Chapel.

2026 LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE

March 6-8, 2026

Acadian Baptist Center, 1202 Academy Dr
Eunice, LA 70535

1:15-2:30 pm **Steve Nevitt**. *Grassland Restoration in Louisiana*

3:00 pm Silent Auction closes.

3:00 pm Plant Auction in the Gymnasium.

5:00 pm Dinner in the Dining Hall

6:00 pm Bonfire by the lake
Movie in the Chapel

SUNDAY, March 8, 2026

7:00-8:15am Breakfast in the Dining Hall

8:30—11 am Field Trip departure locations and time vary. Confirm with your Trip Leader.

REGISTRATION

REGISTER by February 20, 2026 by clicking LNPS Annual Conference - 2026 or scanning the QR code. Cancellations must be made in writing to lnpsinbox@gmail.com by February 27 in order to receive a full refund less a $25 fee. Cancellations after February 27 are non-refundable. Contact Jackie Duncan for questions at jacalynduncan@hotmail.com or text 318-277-4731.

Below is a map showing the grounds of the Acadian Baptist Center. Circled in RED are the Chapel where Check-in and Presentations are located, the Lodge, the Gymnasium where exhibitor/vendors/silent auction/and plant auction are located. Elliott Hall is also circled in RED for those who are staying in the dormitory. The fire pit for the bonfire location is also circled in RED. Tent camping can be anywhere beside the lake, and the bath house is available to tent campers.

SILENT AUCTION, PLANT AUCTION

LNPS will have a Silent Auction during the Conference. Bring your items to the Gymnasium Friday evening or Saturday morning by 10 am. The auction will conclude Saturday afternoon at 3 pm.

The Plant Auction will continue as at previous conferences with native plants being auctioned Saturday afternoon at 3 pm in the Gymnasium. Bring any native plants you have to offer and place them on the tarp in the Gymnasium. Make sure to label your plants so that folks know what they are.

MAP OF ACADIAN BAPTIST CENTER

2026 Louisiana Native Plant Conference Speakers and Topics

Ford Stinson is a native plant advocate and self-taught gardener from Bossier Parish, Louisiana. He holds a degree in Forestry from Louisiana Tech and a Master of Science in Environmental Science from LSU. Ford's lifelong connection to the land, which includes property owned by his great-great-grandfather, inspired his ongoing efforts to convert a typical yard into a thriving native prairie ecosystem. Through experimentation, observation, and passion, Ford has documented over 770 species of plants and wildlife on his property. He is also an avid daylily hybridizer.

A Place for Wild Things: Creating Habitat in My Yard

What happens when you stop mowing and start listening? In this presentation, Ford Stinson shares his journey of transforming a conventional yard into a biodiverse prairie from scratch. Drawing from years of hands-on experience, Ford outlines his successes, mistakes, and lessons learned in managing fire, planting native species, and balancing habitat creation with neighborhood expectations. With over 770 species documented so far, including pollinators, birds, mammals, and native grasses, his yard has become a living laboratory and sanctuary. This talk is both a personal story and a practical guide for anyone curious about rewilding their own space, no matter how small.

John Michael Kelley is a Botanist/Naturalist from Bossier Parish. He studies and describes remnant old-growth forests and grasslands.

An Old Cypress Forest at Risk

A forest near Baton Rouge is threatened by the construction of a new bridge. A grant from LNPS funded a plot-based vegetation study and visits from several experts. The stand is one-of-a-kind, but other natural remnants face similar threats.

Dr. David Creech is the Director of SFA Gardens. He received his Bachelor of Science in horticulture from Texas A&M University, his Master of Science in horticulture from Colorado State University and his Doctorate in horticulture from Texas A&M University. He has been at Stephen F Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX, since 1978. He directs the 138-acre SFA Gardens on campus. His research interests include blueberry germplasm evaluation and horticultural studies, alternative crop/alternative technology work, crop nutrition studies, new plant introductions for the ornamental horticulture industry, endangered plant rescue, research and reintroduction and finding sustainable solutions to environmental concerns. He is the author of several scholarly and trade articles, and he has accumulated a long list of international consultancies since 1981 to Pakistan, New Zealand, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Nepal, Israel and China. Dr. Creech has served as President of the Native Plant Society of Texas, the Southern Region International Plant Propagation Society and the Southern Region American Society of Horticulture Science.

2026 Louisiana Native Plant Conference
Speakers and Topics *cont.*

Growing Natives in a Hostile Land *by David Creech*

Learn about how native plants can be used to improve soil, water, and air quality through the process of choosing the right plant for the right place. Explore climate challenges from the last five years, consider what the future will bring and learn which plants are best suited for those conditions. Find out why native ornamentals are ideal for urban landscapes, and get recommendations for trees, shrubs, vines and perennials for a 21st century Louisiana landscape.

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Dr. Chris Reid teaches plant identification courses to forestry, wildlife, and fisheries majors at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, and has done so since 2018. His main courses include dendrology, wetland plants, and upland plants. Prior to teaching at LSU, he was a botanist with the Louisiana Wildlife Diversity Program (then Natural Heritage Program) for 15 years. In that job, he conducted field surveys for rare plants, engaged landowners for the enhancement of conservation, and managed habitat stewardship projects on coastal prairie remnants.

Plants of LSU's Lee Memorial Forest

Lee Memorial Forest (LMF), located in Washington Parish, was donated to LSU in 1926 by the Great Southern Lumber Company for forestry education and research. The initial donation was about 1,000 acres. Recent acquisitions have increased the size to 1,500 acres. Being located in a hilly part of the East Gulf Coastal Plain, the original matrix habitat was upland longleaf pine woodland, with drainages supporting bayhead swamp and small stream forest. Currently, the matrix overstory on LMF is piney, with some stands of pure longleaf and some having a mix of longleaf, loblolly, and slash pines. Due to vigorous use of prescribed fire, longleaf pine groundcover quality over much of LMF is outstanding. Stream valleys have generous groundwater seepage and support well-developed bayheads. Some valley slopes are more open and feature many plants characteristic of herbaceous seepage slopes. Focused botanical inventory at LMF started in the late 1980s through the efforts of Drs. Donald Reed and R.E. Nobel. However, their plant specimens were housed at LMF in less than optimal conditions for over 30 years. In 2023, we recovered these specimens and are now integrating them into the Shirley C. Tucker Herbarium at LSU. In recent years, the authors have documented 550 vascular plant species on LMF. Our near-future work, plus the full accounting of the Reed and Noble specimens, will likely bring the number of plant species to over 600. In addition to rare plants, LMF also protects a population of gopher tortoises. Lee Memorial Forest, along with Sandy Hollow Wildlife Management Area, protect the largest and best upland longleaf remnants in the Florida Parishes.

2026 Louisiana Native Plant Conference
Speakers and Topics *cont.*

Christina Calcaterra is a field botanist from St. Louis. She began her career at the University of Minnesota, where she received her B .S. in Ecology. She has been studying and teaching botany for the past 10 years in 7 states from the Rockies to the Appalachians. Since 2021, she has been the subject matter expert in botany at Fort Polk, tracking habitats and rare species and facilitating their conservation to support a rich and stable training area for the installation.

***Christina Calcaterra** will lead a **guided nature walk** on Saturday afternoon with emphasis on plant identification.*

Steve Nevitt is the owner of Louisiana Native Seed Co. and Prairie Manager for the Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society (CPHPS). Steve has been active in prairie restoration work for over 10 years. His ecological work began with the CPHPS while studying coastal ecology and geology at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. His prairie restoration work mainly encompasses larger meadow/prairie and grassland plantings and restorations of about 1 acre in size or larger that occur at municipal properties, solar farms, commercial properties as well as farms, estates, and larger homesteads.

From the beginning of his career, Steve has been adamant about the use of local ecotypes in creating the most natural, resilient and beautiful habitat restorations. He has spent over a decade responsibly sourcing local genetics from prairies and habitats throughout Louisiana and has worked to make these genetics available in the trade.

Grassland Restoration in Louisiana

Steve will discuss the lessons he has learned from his experience in prairie restoration. He will cover detailed procedures of prairie restoration, including site preparation, treatment of invasive and undesirable species, different soil aspects and plant selection to name a few. He will also discuss the use of native grasses for cattle rangeland and beef production.

2026 Louisiana Native Plant Conference Field Trip Options

The details for the 2026 field trips are currently being worked out. The potential field trips planned for Friday, March 6 and Sunday, March 8 are:

Louisiana State Arboretum at Chicot State Park—concentrating on viewing state champion trees

Acadiana Nature Station in Lafayette

Flatwood Wildlife Management Area

Gueydan remnant prairie south of Lafayette

A.E. LeBlanc Forest Natural Area (old growth cypress stand) south of Baton Rouge

When details are finalized, an email will be sent to notify members.

Self-guided options are available anytime.

St. Landry Parish Visitor Center at I-49 north of Opelousas https://cajuntravel.com/about-st-landry-parish-louisiana/visitor-center/ was landscaped with all Louisiana native species, including a large patch of wild indigos, an iris/cypress wet planting, and Cajun prairie plantings. 35 min ENE of Conference site. Building closed on Sunday but grounds are open.

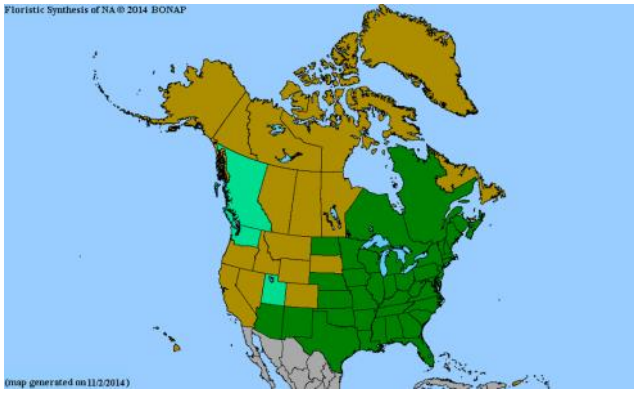
The Nature Conservancy's Cypress Island Preserve at Lake Martin has a Visitor Center that serves as a hub for inspiring the public about TNC's mission and work in this fragile natural area. Volunteers staff the center most weekends. The Visitor Center is located at 1264 Prairie Highway, St. Martinville, LA 70582. Call 337-342-2475 to verify hours and access road status. https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/cypress-island/

Headed north? The US Forest Service's **Wild Azalea Trail in Kisatchie National Forest** has a trailhead not far from I-49 at 352-398 Castor Plunge Rd, Woodworth, LA 71485. Free. 1h 15 min from Conference site.

Black Cherry (*Prunus Serotina*)

By Jacalyn Duncan

Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) is a common deciduous native tree that usually grows to a height from 60 to 80 feet tall. It is widely distributed throughout eastern North Ameria and most of Louisiana. It is an early forest successional species that grows along fencerows and in open areas, wherever there are bird perches.



Family	Rosacea
Subfamily	Amygdaloideae
Genus	Prunus
Species	serotina

The genus name *Prunus* is a Latin word that translates to plum or cherry tree. The species name *Serotina* is a Latin word that translates to "late-flowering", which refers to the species' tendency to flower and fruit later in the season compared to other cherry species. The Acadian French name for this tree is "merisier" (Holmes 1990).

The other cherry tree that lives in our area is the evergreen Laurel Cherry (*Prunus caroliniana*). There are 4 species of plum that live here: American Plum (*P. americana*), Chickasaw Plum (*P. angustifolia*), Mexican Plum (*P. mexicana*), and Flatwoods Plum (*P. umbellata*).

The **flowers** are white racemes that bloom in Spring, usually March.

Leaves are simple, pinnately veined, finely serrate or crenate margins, upper surface lustrous green, lower surface duller green; rusty colored hairs on lower midrib underneath; one or more reddish glands at base.

Black Cherry (*Prunus Serotina*) *cont.*

Note the brown hairs at the base of the leaf.

Fruits are 0.25 to 0.5 inch diameter reddish black drupes; bittersweet taste. Cajuns made Cherry Bounce, a strong liqueur, from this fruit. Seeds ferment on the ground; and birds eating the fallen fruit are thought to be intoxicated, fluttering and stumbling around.

Bark is smooth with horizontal lenticels when young, later braking into small plates, becoming fissures; reddish brown to black. Cajuns used the bark to make cough medicine.

Toxicity — Leaves, twigs and seed pits contain hydrocyanic acid that is poisonous to livestock but not to deer.

Like apricots and apples, the seeds of black cherries contain cyanogenic glycosides (compounds that can be converted into cyanide), such as amygdalin (Note the root word of the Subfamily). These compounds release hydrogen cyanide when the seed is ground or minced, which releases enzymes that break down the compounds. These enzymes include amygdalin beta-glucosidase, prunasin beta-glucosidase and mandelonitrile lyase. In contrast, although the flesh of black cherries also contains these glycosides, it does not contain the enzymes needed to convert them to cyanide, so the flesh is safe to eat. (From Wikipedia)

Benefits—The wood is highly prized for furniture, but the ecological values are many. Doug Tallamy ranks the *Prunus* genus second only to the oaks (*Quercus*) in the number of butterfly and moth caterpillars it hosts. More than 450 species hatch and dine on the trees.

Butterfly examples —

- Eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*)
- Cherry gall azure (*Celastrina serotina*)
- Viceroy (*Limenitis archippus*)
- Red spotted purple/White admiral (*Limenitis arthemis*)

Moth examples—

- Cecropia (*Hyalophora cecropia*)
- Promethea (*Callosamia promethea*)
- Polyphemus (*Antheraea polyphemus*)

Black Cherry (*Prunus Serotina*) *cont.*

Mites— *Eriophyes cerasicrumena*, the **Black Cherry Leaf Gall Mite**, is a species of gall mite in the family Eriophyidae, producing galls on black cherry trees. The mite is hard to see with the naked eye because it is so small and is the cause of the black cherry finger gall. They will not harm the tree. The gall is a hollow pouch that forms when the leaf reacts to being eaten by the mite. The mite eventually lays its eggs there and then dies. Later in the spring the eggs hatch, and the young mites stay inside the pouch until fall. The female mite overwinters in one of the trees buds and repeats the cycle.

Cherry Gall Azure Butterfly— Then there is the Cherry Gall Azure Butterfly (*Celastrina serotina*) that produces carnivorous larvae. The caterpillar gnaws a hole in the Cherry Gall and eats the mite larvae that hatch there, as well as the adult mite. The caterpillar of the cherry gall azure is green when it first hatches, becoming white or pink (color similar to galls) later. It is assumed that this provides camouflage as protection against being eaten by birds.

Ants— Ants come for the nectar produced by the black cherry leaf glands and the somewhat sweet substance produced by the azure caterpillars. They act as predators helping the Black Cherry tree by killing and insects and shielding the cherry gall azure caterpillar from a wasp that preys on it.

Quote from *Bad Naturalist*— "Now, imagine the effects if one of these relationships were to break down. If no cherry gall azure caterpillar, then the mites could overwhelm the tree. If no ants, then too many insect pests, and perhaps not enough *C. serotina* caterpillars to control the mites. The caterpillars that survive to metamorphose into adult azures go on to pollinate the tree. Now, eliminate the tree, and this whole tiny universe of relationships is split apart. Nothing for the cherry gall azure, nothing for the ants, and perhaps less food for the wasp as well, not to mention less habitat for the hundreds of species of butterfly and moth that lay their eggs on the tree."

Author's Note: I decided to concentrate on the Black Cherry tree after reading the book, *Bad Naturalist*, by Paula Whyman; and much of what I have written here is taken from this book. The "*Bad Naturalist*" chronicles Wyman's humorous and challenging journey of restoring 200 acres of farmland in the Blue Ridge Mountains, highlighting the complexities of ecological education and conservation. Whyman's journey acts as an educational experience, revealing the complexities of nature and the unpredictability of ecological restoration. She learns that nature often defies human attempts at control and perfection.

Key to Louisiana Hickories (*Carya*)

By John Michael Kelley

For use with **mature plants only**. Learn the saplings and seedlings by comparison to known specimens of larger size.

All species have compound leaves with numerous leaflets; the whole arrangement is dropped, leaving a single bud-scar in Autumn. Hickories look similar to ash (*Fraxinus*) but have alternate branching and leaflets with consistently serrated margins.

The fruits are borne in fall and have a peculiar form; they have several scales of fleshy/corky material wrapped around the nut, which itself has a "meat" inside, which is shaped somewhat like the lobes of a brain. These scales are "sutured" to each other at their edges and these sutures may be prominently winged or plain. The term fruit refers to the nut with scales still attached. One lineage within the genus has winged sutures and valvate bud scales (with edges of two scales touching but not overlapping, like hands in prayer) and inhabits bottomlands primarily (the pecan hickories as opposed to "true" hickories).

The bark of hickories changes greatly with age; most are smooth when young and often laced (think braided with ovals or diamonds between ridges) but become either deeply ridged or platy with age. The plates may be shaggy or tightly affixed. They almost all become smooth when very ancient.

1. **Upland trees**, sites never flooded, usually hilly, on terraces along small, dissected streams

    Dark brown, black, or grey, and deeply ridged bark

        Petioles (leaf stalks) densely hairy=**tomentosa**

        Petioles (leaf stalks) essentially hairless

            Crooked, small trees, terminal buds often noticeably bronzed, typically on very dry sites, often on sandy clay soils=**texana**

            Well formed, larger trees, moist sites, often on loam soils=**glabra**

    Light-colored, smooth, laced bark, the terminal buds bright and sulfurous yellow=**cordiformis**

    Light-colored, shaggy bark

        Tiny tuft of hairs on the "ramp" just below the tip of each tooth on the leaf margins, undersurface of leaves not bronzed, the three terminal leaflets often nearly equal in size and larger than the rest, fruits >.75" long, husks not winged at the sutures, nuts not speckled, often on loam soils=**ovata**

        Leaves lacking such tufts, but undersurfaces bronzed in fall, fruits <1", sutures winged, nuts speckled, often on clay soils=**myristiciformis**

2. **Bottomland trees**, sites at least occasionally flooded, or at least on lower terraces near large rivers or wetlands, or in landscaping or homesites for pecan.

    Shaggy bark, nuts about as broad as long or broader, not cylindrical

        Leaflets relatively narrow, often >2.5 times as long as wide, often curved about their length, the lower margins conspicuously straight and the upper curved, the fruits flattened and

Key to Louisiana Hickories (*Carya*) *cont.*

ridged in cross section, nut not speckled, often in depressions or banks of waterways with sandy soils=**aquatica**

Leaflets fairly broad, rarely >2.5 as long as wide, not curved, fruits egg shaped, not flattened, nut speckled, often in upland woodlands with clay soils=**myristiciformis**

3. **Platy bark**, nuts often 1.5 times as long as broad or more, cylindrical, often planted in yards=**illinoensis**

Tomentosa (mockernut) -medium to large hickory, very large shade leaves, large nuts with small meats, very fuzzy petioles and often leaflets too, silvery gray to black and tightly laced and ridged bark, very common with oaks and pines in the uplands.

Cordiformis (bitternut)- a large hickory with light-colored and laced bark, smoothest of any at maturity, fast height growth, often covered in mosses, fruits small and oval shaped with a heart-shaped inner chamber, common on rich mesic slopes and higher floodplains with beech and water oak. Buds valvate.

Myristiciformis (nutmeg)-a medium hickory with bark that usually peels only from the bottom, leaves very shiny bronze in mid-autumn, nuts sweet, rare on floodplains and in calcareous woodlands with post oaks and hawthorns. Buds valvate.

Glabra (pignut)-a large hickory with moderately deep ridges, smaller fruits than mockernut and with a pear shape, usually very straight and tall, our finest formed hickory, common on mesic slopes and upper floodplains with white oaks and basswood.

Key to Louisiana Hickories (*Carya*) *cont.*

Texana (black,texas) - small to medium hickory with screwy form, very deep ridged and dark bark, small leaves, pear shaped nuts, common on very dry sands or sandy clays.

Aquatica (water)- a small to medium hickory with grey platy or shaggy bark in very thin strips, leaflets often conspicuously curved and hairy beneath (unlike pecan, which is a larger tree with more leaflets), in wet depressions, bayou banks, and slough margins, with palmetto, sugarberry, and pecan. Buds valvate.

Ilinoensis (pecan)-A large hickory with platy bark and a poorly formed trunk even on natural forms, with commercially valuable nuts of all shapes and sizes but usually cylindric, our only commonly planted species, on large river floodplains with sugarberry, sycamore, and cottonwood. Buds valvate.

New Native Plant Nursery in Shreveport

CADDO NATIVE PLANT COMPANY

Caddo Native Plant Company (CNPC) is a new native plant nursery that has recently opened in Shreveport, Louisiana. Its sole focus is to preserve and protect ArkLaTex native plants by selling plants grown from collected local seeds and cuttings and by encouraging homeowners to use them in their landscapes. CNPC grows a wide range of native perennials (forbs) and some trees & shrubs. Many, if not most, of the plants grown by Caddo Native Plant Company are propagated from seed or cuttings collected in the ArkLaTex.

The face behind this one-man operation is Bradley McCullough. Bradley is a 22 year old Shreveport native and a recent graduate from LSU in Shreveport. He has spent most of his adult life working in the nursery and landscape industry. His passion for native plants stems from a deep appreciation of Northwest Louisiana's natural lands and history. Bradey grew up hunting and fishing in Northwest Louisiana and spends much of his free time in the woods or in his pirogue. Bradley has 130 ArkLaTex native species in his home garden, which is a source of many of the plants grown by CNPC. His yard registered as a gold level Louisiana Native Habitat through the Louisiana Native Plant Society.

As of Fall 2025, CNPC has a nice variety of native plants for sale including: Frostweed, Copper Iris, Blue Mistflower, Cutleaf Coneflower, Compass Plant, Foxglove Penstemon, Calico Aster, American Beautyberry, Red Mulberry, Swamp Chestnut Oak, and many more. Bradley has collected thousands of local native plant seeds this past summer and plans to having many more ArkLaTex native species available for purchase in Spring 2026. This backyard nursery is available online only and purchased plants can be delivered or picked up in Caddo Parish. Caddo Native Plant Company has a live plant availability list that can be accessed by scanning the QR code. Their live availability list can also be accessed via Facebook and Instagram.

Follow Caddo Native Plant Company on Facebook & Instagram @Caddonativeplantcompany.

Email: CaddoNativePlantCompany@gmail.com

Cell: (318) 564 - 2246

IN MEMORIUM

Dr. Gladden (Bud) Willis

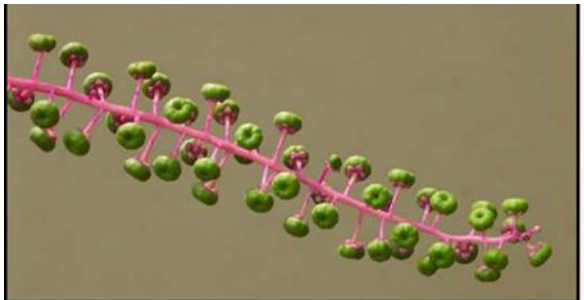
March 26, 1939—August 26, 2025

Bud Willis (We all knew him as Bud.) shared his life with the Louisiana Native Plant Society upon retiring from a long and recognized career as a pathologist at the Ochsner Clinic Foundation in New Orleans. Bud served as President of the Society from 2014 to 2015. He was on the Board in 2008, served as Vice President 2012-2013, and Past President 2016-2017. Bud greeted everyone with a smile and a hug. He was a very gentle soul and will be remembered with fondness.

Gladden (Bud) Williams Willis was born in 1939 in Minden, LA and grew up in Doyline, LA. His early years were spent on part of the family farm that later became Lake Bistineau State Park. Around that time Gladden's family moved into the little community of Doyline where he graduated from Doyline High School in 1957. He graduated from Centenary College in 1960 with a mixed premedical degree in biology, physics, math, and chemistry. He graduated from Tulane Medical School in 1964 with an MD degree. His post-MD training was at the old Confederate Memorial Medical Center (Now LSU medical school in Shreveport) from 1964 through 1969, where he qualified in pathology. While there, he met and married Lydia Hall, a medical artist, and they moved to Manhattan where Gladden was located at the Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. A short time after the birth of their first child, Gladden and Lydia decided to move out of New York, and Gladden joined the Pathology Department at the Ochsner Clinic Foundation in New Orleans, where he would remain for 32 years - 25 as head of Surgical Pathology.

Gladden was an emeritus member of the Arthur Purdy Stout Society of Surgical Pathologists, the Association of Directors of Surgical Pathology, the International Academy of Pathology, the Royal Microscopical Society, The Society of Surgical Oncology, the New York Academy of Sciences and various others. He served as president of both the Louisiana Pathology Society and the pathology section of the Southern Medical Association.

Gladden and Lydia returned to his old home on the Willis Farm in Doyline, Louisiana after retiring from medicine in December of 2004. One of his two avocations was nature and scientific photography. Over 3,500 photographs have been published in biology books, guides, etc, and he continued pursuing his work in macrophotography into retirement.—two examples of his work are below.



Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*). Photo courtesy Bud Willis.

Downy lobelia (*Lobelia puberula*). Photo courtesy Bud Willis.

IN MEMORIUM

Dr. Gladden (Bud) Willis *cont.*

He remained a member of the North American Nature Photography Association and the American Society of Media Photographers. His other avocation was to grow native plants and trees and he pursued this with some vigor. This vigor led to the formation of Willis Farm Nursery, which was a small, private grower of ornamental native and heirloom shrubs, selected ornamental and shade trees, selected fruit trees and native perennials.

In addition to the Louisiana Native Plant Society, Bud also volunteered with other organizations including: former Board member and President of the Dormon Foundation (which aims to preserve land and diverse native plants), former Chair of the capital building campaign and the administrative board of the Munholland United Methodist Church, and a former Board member, Vice president, President, and Chair of the capital campaign of the Jefferson Performing Arts Society.

If everyone were like Bud Willis, there would be no wars in this world. Thank you, Bud, for sharing your life with us.

Note: LNPS made a donation to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in his honor.

Get on Board with LNPS!

Help us advocate for native plants in Louisiana.

Join our Board of Directors.

If interested, email lnpsinbox@gmail.com.

The Northeast Louisiana Master Gardeners Proudly Present

THE WEB OF LIFE

SUPPORTING NATURE IN YOUR OWN OUTDOOR SPACE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026

Doors Open at 7:30 AM | Seminar ends at noon

West Monroe Convention Center | 901 Ridge Avenue | West Monroe

JOHNNY ARMSTRONG

is a retired physician, conservationist, and author of the book, ***Rescuing Biodiversity: The Protection and Restoration of a North Louisiana Ecosystem***. Johnny has 17 years of experience in restoration ecology from his property, Wafer Creek Ranch, near Ruston.

BRADLEY MCCOLLOUGH

is a Shreveport native and a recent graduate from LSUS with a BS in Environmental Sciences. He is a certified nursery and landscape professional with Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Assoc., and has designed and installed native landscapes in Northwest Louisiana.

AUSTIN KLAIS

works to restore ecosystems in Northeast Louisiana, and monitors the return of wildlife. He and his wife, Caitlin, desired to share their knowledge and love of native wildflowers and wildlife with others. This led them to start their own nursery, Grown by Grace Native Plants.

LET'S HELP OUR POLLINATORS!

See seminar information and registration on reverse side.

LSU AgCenter Research · Extension · Teaching

Consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the AgCenter will make reasonable accommodations to enable persons with disabilities to perform essential duties of their positions and to make program services available to all. If you need an ADA accommodation for your participation, please contact the Ouachita Parish Extension Office at (318) 323-2251 at least two weeks prior to the event. The LSU AgCenter and LSU provide equal opportunities in programs and employment.

For more information call the LSU AgCenter 318.323.2251 | 8AM - 4:30PM

Louisiana Master Gardener™ An Educational program of the LSU AgCenter

LNPS Activities and Community Engagement Activities

1. **LNPCP Status Report** *by Dona Weifenbach*—

   The first **Louisiana Native Professional Certification Program (LNPCP)** class was held in Lafayette June 14-15 at the National Wetlands Research Center. The second class was held at Hilltop Arboretum in Baton Rouge on November 20-21. Both classes had approximately 30 attendees and feedback has been positive.

   Classes are being planned in 2026 in Shreveport, Mandeville, New Orleans, and Alexandria. People from each area will be recruited to assist with classes. Co-facilitators, instructors, and assistants are needed at each location.

2. Informative Table Display at the **Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference** *by Janie Braud*

   The Louisiana Native Plant Society (LNPS) actively participated in the Keep Louisiana Beautiful Conference in Baton Rouge by hosting a vibrant and educational table display. The display featured native flowers, informative posters, and eye-catching banners, all designed to highlight the importance of native plants in our landscapes. In addition to sharing valuable information about the benefits of native flora, the table promoted the LNPS certification programs tailored for both habitats and professional landscapers.

   A central message of the display encouraged attendees to "Let Louisiana Bloom, Our Highways can be Byways of Beauty and Biodiversity," emphasizing the potential for state roadways to serve as corridors of ecological diversity and visual appeal. The table attracted considerable interest, with a steady stream of activity and attendees expressing genuine curiosity and enthusiasm for native plants. Special thanks are extended to Janie Braud, Vilma Fernandez, Skylar Bueche, and Tammany Baumgarten for their dedicated efforts and representation at the conference.

3. **Site Visit to Historical Cemetery in Baton Rouge** *by Janie Braud*

   LNPS was approached to assess the presence of native plants at a historical cemetery in Baton Rouge prior to the scheduled clearing of overgrown areas by a work group. Janie Braud conducted a brief visit to the site to investigate the potential for preserving any significant native plant species. Although no noteworthy native plants were found during this visit, the outreach to LNPS reflects a growing awareness and appreciation for the value of native plants within the community. The organization is encouraged by this positive trend toward environmental stewardship.

4. **Native Plant Seminar in Alexandria** *by Jackie Duncan*

   Molly Lyles, Horticulture Extension Agent for LSU AgCenter, hosted a native plant seminar on October 11 at the Dean Lee AgCenter in Alexandria. Presenters were John Michael Kelley and Christina Calcaterra, both noted botanists in the state of Louisiana and LNPS members. Topics included plant identification by families and natives for your yard.

5. **Briarwood BioBash** *by Jackie Duncan*

   Bayli Brossette hosted the 2nd annual Briarwood BioBash September 26-28 at the home of Caroline Dormon, the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve, near Saline. Speakers topics ranged from sassafras, to Louisiana irises, to snakes and beyond. All the speakers that I heard were terrific. This all happened while folks wondered the Preserve searching for nature to post into the iNaturalist app.

Donations and Memorial Gifts

Donations:

Jim Foret

Jessie Johnson

June Mire

Jen Mullen

Memorial Gifts:

David Lewis in memory of Patricia Lewis

Jessie Johnson in memory of:

Loice Kendrick-Lacy

Richard L Johnson

Atamasco lily

Zephyranthes atamasca

LNPS NOTICES

1. If you are interested in the **Louisiana Certified Habitat Program,** please email louisianacertifiedhabitat@gmail.com for more information and to receive the application.
2. Report wildflower locations along roadsides by clicking this link Louisiana Roadside Wildflower Locations to DOTD for input into the Wildflower Program.
3. LNPS 2026 Annual Conference is scheduled for March 6-8, 2026 at the Acadian Baptist Center, Eunice, LA.

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The deadline for newsletter articles, etc. is March 15 for the next LNPS newsletter. Any article involving native plants is welcomed.

Foxglove beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)

Annual LNPS Dues

Circle one: Individual, $20. Student/Senior, $10. Family, $25. Sustaining, $50. Corporate, $150.

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Checks payable to LNPS.

Mail to: Jackie Duncan, Treasurer

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Boyce, LA 71409

Or, memberships and donations may be paid online at: www.lnps.org