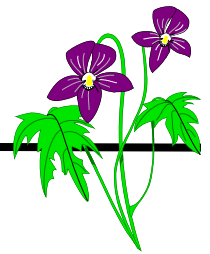


Folsom Native Plant Society

folsomnps.org

April 2012



From the President's Corner

Salutations Everyone,

The flowers are blooming, the birds are singing and April showers (and storms) are abundant.

Spring sprung early this year. I'm already picking Mulberries and a few of the early Huckleberries (wild blueberries, *Vaccinium* spp.) are already ripening. We seem to be about 2 weeks ahead of schedule because of the mild winter.

The FNPS booth at the Spring Plant show was a smashing success. The new sign looked great and thanks to David and some other volunteers, we have about 43 (or more) new and/or renewed club members. Everyone who visited the booth seemed to appreciate the new displays and the variety of plants that we had.

April's meeting at Walter Clifton's Hummingbird Haven, will be a plant swap. Bring any plants and/or seeds that you would like to share. A.J. and I will bring some that were left over from the booth.

Walter plans to grill some sausages, so if members will bring a covered side dish, then we will have a fine feast. How much better does it get? Enjoying good food with friends and leaving with free plants.

I hope to see you all there at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 15th.

YLB

Return of the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and Nectar Loving Songbirds

Male Ruby-throated hummingbirds were observed in Covington and in other parts of south Louisiana in late February. So it's time to put up your feeders and to check your garden for hummingbird plants. Good natives include: Red Buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*), Coral Bean (*Erythrina herbacea*), *Salvia coccinea*, Small Red Flower annual Morning Glory (*Ipomoea coccinea*), Indian Pink (*Spigelia marilandica*), Coral Honeysuckle (*sempervirens*), Native Honeysuckle Azaleas (*Rhododendron canescens*) and Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*). Turks Cap or Sultan's Turban (*Malvaviscus arboreus* var. *drummondii*) is another good shrub or herbaceous perennial which is native to tropical America and has naturalized here.

Nectar loving song birds like protonotary warblers, orchard orioles, and other orioles will also appreciate the natives above, in addition to Louisiana Irises, especially *Iris fulva*.

Next Meeting Date: Sunday, April 15 at 1:00 p.m.

At the long-time home of Walter Clifton, *Hummer's Haven*,

22315 Main St, Abita Springs, LA 70420 (985) 892-1468

From the circle in the middle of Abita Springs, you take Hwy. 59 north.

One block at Main Street (Hwy 735), turn right. Go 5 blocks to 22315 Main Street, corner of Pine Street. Or from the circle, you take Level St. 6 blocks to Pine St. and turn right. Hummer's Haven is across Main St.

April Mystery Plant

This genus contains many flowering and fruiting shrubs and small trees. The bluish-black berries are prized by both human and wildlife. The white or pale pink bell shaped flowers appear in late winter to mid spring. The plants are semi-evergreen and have lovely red and bronze leaves in fall.

If you know the name of this native plant, then be sure to put your guess and your name in the Mystery Plant drawing at the next meeting.

Chestnut Oak Seedlings

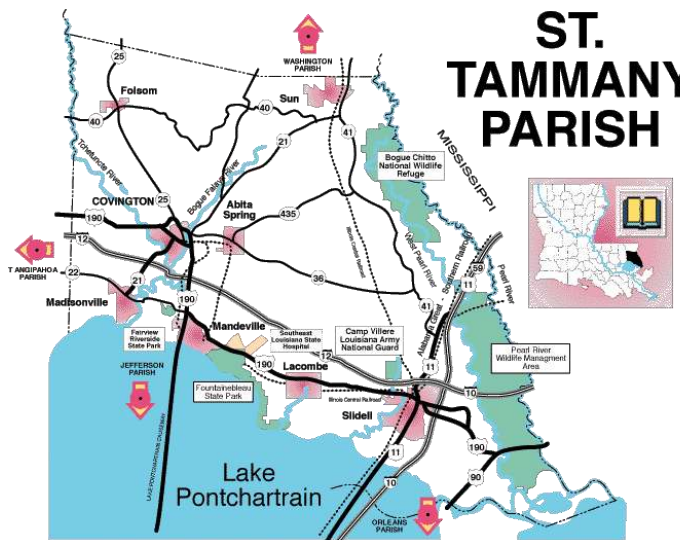
On March 7, a few FNPS went over to fellow member, John Cleary's, house in Hammond to dig up a multitude of Chestnut Oak seedlings (*Quercus prinus*) (I believe) (<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=qupr2>). Chestnut Oaks are large, stately trees with interesting, chestnut-like leaves and attractive bark. Its most unique feature is the extra large acorns that are the size of a small chicken egg. We gave away several at the plant show, but we still have some in pots for the April meeting.

Who We Are & Where We're At

The Folsom Native Plant Society first met in 1989. Ninety percent of the group lived in Folsom and met either at John Larkin's house near Folsom or at the Folsom Elementary School.

Over time, the membership has expanded its geographical range, and now we are distributed as follows:

Covington	25
Mandeville	14
Folsom	8
Abita Springs	6
Slidell	4
Madisonville	4
Bush	3
Hammond	3
Zachary	2



ST. TAMMANY PARISH

Breaux Bridge	1
Frankinton	1
Kentwood	1
Metairie	1
Mount Hermon	1
New Orleans	1
Norwood	1
Robert	1
Tickfaw	1

Meetings this year have been held at members' homes. The April meeting will be in Abita Springs. If you would like to host a meeting at your home, please contact Yvonne by email at ylbordelon@bellsouth.net.

Remember to invite a friend to come to our meeting with you. Both of you will have more fun while you learn about St. Tammany's native plants.

News from the Natural World

Allen Owings has announced that a Master Gardener type program called, "Master Naturalist" will be launched by the LSU AgCenter in the fall. We'll relay more information as it becomes available.



The new "Celebrating Wildflowers" website, <http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/> has been launched. Larry Stritch, Ph.D., national botanist is very excited to announce that Barry Lilly, CW webmaster, has created a major new way for the public to view / find our 317 wildflower viewing areas from the CW homepage.

In addition to the viewing areas you will find information about sustainable gardening, using native plants, pollinators and much more.

Folsom Native Plant Society MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION

It's time to pay your FNPS dues. Please complete the following and return with your check. There are two types of membership, family and student. You will receive the FNPS Newsletter by one of two methods, email and snail mail.

Type Membership	Newsletter	Dues	Check One
Family	Mail	\$18.00	☐
	Email	12.00	☐
Student	Mail	\$ 9.00	☐
	Email	6.00	☐

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mail to: Folsom Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 1055, Folsom, LA 70437

The purpose of the Folsom Native Plant Society is to protect, perpetuate, and propagate the abundant native plants of Northwest St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, and adjacent areas, focusing primarily on our native wildflowers, which are fast disappearing; and to discourage pollution of our water and ground so basic to their survival.

Dates to Remember

FNPS Meeting - Sunday, Apr. 15,
1 pm, at Walter's House,
Abita Springs
(See Page 1 for Directions)

FNPS Meeting - Sunday, May. 20,
1 pm Tentative

Our Board for 2012

President: Yvonne Bordelon
Vice President/Program Chairman: Rod Downie
Treasurer: David Scherer
Plant List Recorder: A.J. Bailey
Newsletter: Nick Blady nblady77@gmail.com
Publishers: Candyce & David Scherer
Hospitality Coordinator: Candyce Scherer
FNPS Website: (<http://folsomnps.org>)
Yvonne Bordelon

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