



*Mississippi
Native Plant
Society
Newsletter
Summer 2002*

Mississippi Native Plants

The Newsletter of the Mississippi Native Plant Society

Summer 2002

Volume 20 Issue 3



MNPS ANNUAL MEETING

Return of the Natives

Crosby Arboretum, Picayune, MS

Saturday, June 15, 2002

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Join us for a fun day devoted to discussing and learning about our favorite native plants. Don't miss our great lectures, tours, and exhibitors on native plants. Call the Crosby Arboretum office at (601) 799-2311 to register or for more information. Free admission and open to the public.

Agenda:

9:00 a.m.

Welcome and Introduction

Bob Brzuszek, MNPS President

9:15 a.m.

The New Native Plant Cultivar Revolution

Bob Brzuszek

Nurserymen have jumped on the native plant bandwagon in the past few years and have discovered and hybridized some new and exciting cultivars of native plants. Bob Brzuszek will show you some of the new natives varieties and discuss how to use them in a landscape.

10:00 a.m.

Prairie Restoration

Marc Pastorek, Meadowmakers

Our prairies contain some of Mississippi's most fascinating and rare plants. Marc Pastorek, President of the Cajun Prairie Restoration Society, will discuss how to use them in the landscape.

10:45 a.m.

Break

11:00 a.m.

Designing with Native Plants

John Mayronne, Native Landscape Corp.

Native plants are a welcome addition to the landscape and can be incorporated into traditional

or non-traditional garden styles. Landscape architect and native plant authority, John Mayronne, will show you how to design your landscape with native style.

12:00 p.m.

Brown Bag Lunch

Bring your own lunch and join the fellowship with other natives.

1:00 p.m.

Tour: The Crosby Arboretum Interpretive Center

The Crosby Arboretum Interpretive Center is an award winning native plant center focused upon the preservation, conservation and exhibition of the native plants found in the Pearl River Drainage Basin. Visit and learn about the restoration, creation, and management of various savanna, woodland and aquatic environments.

1:45 p.m.

Tour of Meadowmakers Farm, Henleyfield, MS

We will carpool to the home and landscape of Marc Pastorek in Henleyfield, Mississippi (located off Highway 43 north and about 45 minutes from the Crosby Arboretum). We will visit Marc's efforts at gardening with native and other great garden plants, and tour his longleaf pine, bog and other restoration sites.

4:00 p.m. *Adjourn.*

The March of the Green Parade

by Ron Wieland

Spring has arrived too early this year, before I was even ready to cruise the roadsides and woods for interesting plants to see what's poking through the litter from the past growing season. As the days become warmer and the spring ephemerals sprinkle color over an otherwise barren land, we are enticed once again to embark on jaunts to satisfy our curiosity. Early bloomers such as the showy evening primrose (*Oenothera spicata*), spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), daisy fleabane (*Erigeron philadelphicus*), wild onion (*Nothoscordum bivalve*), and lyre leaf sage (*Salvia lyrata*) whet our appetites for more. Roadsides and vacant lots often present showy displays of these "spring beauties." My backyard is full of them. I delay mowing the lawn until they sow their "wild oats" to insure a colorful spring the next year. If things go right, next spring, the show will even be better than before.

Reports and projects take the precious time of a northern winter to satisfactorily complete. When the botanical dinner bell rings and the Almighty declares, "Come and get it," one better not hesitate for the show is On. It must go on.

The Society held several outings this spring to help us brush up our plant lexicography. Brushing the cobwebs off after a winter of solace can be a discouraging process. But when dealing with a flora of almost 3,000 species, we should not scorn for missing a name or two. Experts have determined that 106 different species of plants can be found on one-quarter-acre of land near Wiggins on mesic longleaf pine savanna habitats. A lifetime could be dedicated to understanding the botanical dynamics of this little area about the size of my backyard. And you thought keeping tabs on the

queues of peas in your garden was difficult. It takes collective enthusiasm to help us become more versed in the natural history of our neck of the woods. I need help with this one. Is it *Sisyrinchium*, *Schizachyrium*, *Schisandra* or *Shi-sam*? The way to learn plants and their habits is to observe them in their native habitat when flowering or fruiting occurs. A way to get to know them even better is to plant natives in your backyard. A moment taken to survey what's happening in the backyard flower garden will tell that Indian pink is in full bloom or Stoke's aster is about ready to show its colors. It helps to become familiar with growth forms, leaf shapes, phenology, and soil and moisture requirements.

Society sponsored events included a preliminary spring cleanup of Woodland Hill Nature Area and outings to Copenhagen Hills, Louisiana; Clinton Community Nature Center; Gray's Center, Canton; and Tombigbee National Forest near Tupelo. The small Woodland Hills Nature Area harbors among other prairie plants, two special plants, the prairie hyacinth and purple cone flower. This is the only known location of prairie hyacinth in Hinds County. Situated in a Jackson subdivision that is about eighty years old, the natural area is a narrow remnant of land along a drainage way that was not developed. Removing exotics such as Chinese wisteria that has overtaken much of the area is part of the cleanup effort. We haven't figured out how to control the mondo grass which is intermixed with the desirable natives. Both of these plants are common ornamentals that when left to their own devices will become nuisance weeds.

The Friends of Osborn Prairie at Starkville held a Saturday cleanup on a remnant prairie

they lease from the local school board. This is one of the first attempts at ecological restoration by any non-profit group in Mississippi. The Audubon Society is working on the restoration of an old farmstead at their state headquarters near Holly Springs, with a goal of improving the habitat for birds and other wildlife. Ecological restoration is an activity that accelerates the recovery of an ecosystem. The Nature Conservancy is restoring a wet pine savanna on Old Fort Bayou Mitigation Bank near Ocean Springs. The Society of Ecological Restoration that can be reached on the web at www.ser.org.

I was not ready for the e-mail from Dr. R. Dale Thomas, Botanist, University of Monroe, who notified me that the Louisiana trillium was back and blooming. This year Louisiana trillium began blooming in early March. The late Dr. Freeman, Auburn University, Alabama, reported many years ago that Louisiana trillium also occurs in Mississippi, about 150 miles from other populations located across the great riverine barrier, the Mississippi River. We have had several reports of it occurring in Mississippi since then, but there is considerable difficulty in distinguishing it from the more common species of trillium, *Trillium cuneatum*, that also grows in the same habitats of west-central Mississippi. The purpose of the field trip was to become more familiar with Louisiana trillium to be able to distinguish it from other trilliums in our area.

Eva Gonzales with the University of Georgia, who is studying the genetics of *Trillium cuneatum*, came to Mississippi to collect leaf materials from our populations. We collected plants in Jackson (at LeFleurs Bluff State Park and Meadowbrook subdivision), near Canton (at the Gray's Center), and near Yazoo City in the loess hills. We found two growth forms, one of which was not characteristic of *Trillium cuneatum*. The typical *T. cuneatum* is a robust

plant that has leaves up to four inches wide and attains a height of a foot or more. Other short, small plants were intermixed with the typical forms and in some cases were found to be more abundant than the typical form. Being familiar with the range wide characteristics of *T. cuneatum*, Eva was surprised to see such variability of plant sizes in populations sampled in Mississippi. Although there is no conclusive evidence, it seems that *T. cuneatum* has hybridized with the remnant population of *Trillium ludovicianum*. This was suggested both by Dr. Freeman and Professor F. W. Case who wrote the book on trilliums of North America. The Louisiana trillium is quite rare in Louisiana. Fortunately, the Nature Conservancy has purchased a spectacular old growth woodland along the Ouachita River near Columbia to protect the trillium. The Louisiana trillium is much lower in stature than *T. cuneatum*; it has darker green mottles on its leaves, and has narrower petals than *Trillium cuneatum*, and in some plants, its leaves almost rest on the ground. We will eagerly await the results of Ms. Gonzales's genetic study to find out the reason for the variability in our plants. If funding would be available, "hint, hint," about \$2,000 to \$4,000 dollars, she could also analyze *Trillium ludovicianum* to help define the inter-gradation that is reported in our plants. Protecting Copenhagen Hills Natural Area by the Nature Conservancy has allowed the Louisiana trillium to thrive in its original habitat. As species ranges are further diminished by land developments, these protected areas become increasingly important for conserving special plants.

Ms. Gonzales related an interesting story about the mechanism for seed dispersal of trilliums. Once the tiny seeds are ripe, the pericarp becomes sweet and tantalizing to an ant. Even though this provides just a tiny morsel of food, the ants will carry the seed back

to their nests and delicately strip the integument from the seed. They will then discard the seeds in recesses within their nest. Carry out the garbage! Why bother. The buried seed is perfectly situated to germinate in well aired soil, manicured by ants! Exotic red ants need not apply. They have been found to destroy seeds in the process of getting the nutrients from the outer covering.

Jim Garner led a small group of members to visit Clinton Community Nature Center. I had not seen the Center for several years so was eager to see how it was coming along. The Center was hosting its annual springfest. There were lots of activities to enjoy, including naturalist "show and tell" demonstrations for the kids, music, food, and nature walks to view butterflies and plants growing on the area. A handsome wood building houses the Center's gift shop, offices, and meeting room. Surrounding the building trails fan out to all corners of the woodland. In one area, they are building a prairie where numerous prairie herbs have already been planted. The nature center holds natural history lectures on a monthly basis. Exotic pest plants plague efforts to return the area to a more natural woodland setting. Plants that were brought in as ornamentals to the United States many years ago, such as Chinese privet, have created a serious problem in many areas of the state, including this one, by their tendency to spread by seed to other areas.

When we arrived at the Gray's Center to continue our botanical explorations that the Society and the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science started last year, no one was around. As it turns out the staff were busy getting ready for their Earth Day celebration. The Gray's Center houses EarthLab to teach concepts of environmental science to students from schools and religious centers across Mississippi. We were fortunate to sneak a tour of the earth

friendly house that was just completed and being readied for its grand opening. The concrete foam blocks that makeup the walls of the house offer exceptional insulation capacity, as do the special high insulation windows. The house does not have electronic air conditioning but has a homemade version that creatively channels cool air into the house from tunnels constructed in the ground. The roof is used to collect rainwater, which runs off into a cistern. The sewage system, using the design of Bill Wolverton, Stennis Space Center, employs marsh plants to absorb nutrients from the wastes before they enter nearby streams. Parked in an opening nearby, a solar panel rests gleaming in the sun. Everyone agreed that it would be a nice place to live. Sorry; the director, Bill Nichols, gets first dibs on the new earth friendly house. But I am sure if others are interested in seeing the house, future tours will be available. Heather Sullivan led the field trip to relocate a population of pale ladies slipper orchids that had been observed in nearby woodlands several years ago. Although we were not able to relocate the orchid, we completed a ecological sample of the woodland to provide additional information on the flora and vegetation of the site. We found a diversity of sedges growing in the woodland and along the edges of the campground. We made a collection of the sedges to take back and identify.

Our last field trip was to the Tombigbee National Forest to determine whether a bur oak that had been located previously was a State Champion tree. Judy Shearer, Vic Rudis, Davis Mounger, and I, traversed cedar glades, which are remnants of old fields and pastures that have been abandoned, and post oak woodlands. We found several interesting plants including Indian plantain (*Arnoglossum plantagineum*), Indian pink (*Spigelia marilandica*), lots of showy healall (*Prunella*

**MISSISSIPPI'S 10 WORST
INVASIVE WEEDS**

Beware! These ten exotic weeds are biological pollutants that crowd out native plants, degrade wildlife habitat, and threaten many endangered species. To protect your property and woodlands, it is wise to learn how to identify and practice control strategies for their eradication or management.

- Alligatorweed
- Chinese Tallow Tree
- Japanese Honeyuckle
- Chinese Privet
- Cogongrass
- Johnsongrass
- Kudzu
- Tropical Soda Apple
- Purple Loosestrife
- Water Hyacinth

HELP STOP THE INVASION!

* Refrain from planting Mississippi's "ten worst weeds."

* Use nursery-raised native plants for your gardens and plantings.

* Remove these plants from your property.

* Help control exotic plants on nearby public lands.

For more information on the identification, control, and management of exotic species, please visit the below websites:

<http://msucares.com>

<http://www.tnc.org>

<http://www.se-epcc.org/>

<http://www.tncweeds.ucdavis.edu>

vulgans), and one of the largest populations of columbo (*Sweetia carolinensis*), a member of the gentian family. This enchanting plant is hard to miss. It sometimes grows to a height of nine feet. The plants we saw were exceptionally numerous, numbering into the thousands, and many reached heights of over five feet. The basal rosette of leaves can be over two feet wide. Its flowers are yellowish to whitish, streaked with green, and somewhat translucent. Columbo is on the Special Plants List of the Mississippi Native Plant Society Program, and is ranked "vulnerable statewide" (S3). About 30 populations of this plant have been located in Mississippi. In a small moist bottomland at the edge of the national forestlands we found a bur oak tree that measured over 15 feet in diameter. Its crown measured over 90 feet wide. We are awaiting a confirmation on the measurements of the tree by a certified forester before we know whether it is a champion tree. We think it may be slightly smaller than the present champion. There is still a month or two for more good botanizing. Go get 'em guys and gals.

Editors Note: MNPS member Ron Wieland is the Plant Ecologist of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science.

Mississippi Native Plants

The Newsletter of the Mississippi Native Plant Society

Mississippi Native Plants is the quarterly publication

of the Mississippi Native Plant Society.

Winter (Issue 1) December/January/February

Spring (Issue 2) March/April/May

Summer (Issue 3) June/July/August

Fall (Issue 4) September/October/November

Deadlines for the Fall Issue are as follows:

Articles-July 15 Calendar of Events- July 30

Deadlines for the Winter Issue are as follows:

Articles-October 15 Calendar of Events-October 30

Articles of all types submitted to the Editor are welcome.

MNPS Website:

<http://msstate.edu/dept/crec/camps.html>

Mississippi Native Plant Directory

Where can you get those hard-to-find natives? Here is a list of retail & wholesale nurseries, and native plant professionals that can help you. We are sorry for any not listed, let us know to update our files!

Retail and Mail-order Nurseries:

Paul Bounds, Inc.

401 S. Main, Picayune, MS 39466
601-798-3753

The Crosby Arboretum, Mississippi State University

370 Ridge Rd., Picayune, MS 39466
601-799-2311

Brent's Nursery & Landscape

1260 Raymond Rd., Jackson, MS 39204

Barnes Brothers

422 North Mart Plaza, Jackson, MS 39206
601-362-2448

Keenan Nursery

6341 Menge Ave., Pass Christian, MS 39571
228-452-3723

Prairie Basse

217 St. Fidelis, Carencro, LA 70520
337-896-9187

Pushpetappa Gardens

2317 Washington St., Franklinton, LA.
985-839-4930

Trees by Touliatos

2020 Brooks Rd., Memphis, TN 38116
901-346-8065

Native Gardens

5737 Fisher Lane, Greenback, TN 37742
423-856-0220

Pine Ridge Gardens

832 Sycamore Rd., London, AR 72847
501-293-4359

Native Perennial Plants:

Natchez Trace Gardens

1113 S. Huntington St., Kosciusko, MS 39090
662-289-4979

The **Mississippi Native Plant Society** is a non-profit organization established in 1980 to promote the preservation of native and naturalized plants and their habitats in Mississippi through conservation, education and utilization.

MNPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELECTIVE POSITIONS

PRESIDENT

Bob Brzuszek
Crosby Arboretum
P.O. Box 190
Picayune, MS 39466
601-799-2311-22 (D)
601-799-2372 (F)
e-Mail: crosbyar@datastar.net

VICE-PRESIDENT

Joseph McGee
19496 Highway 80
Hickory, MS 39332-3133
601-646-5402 (D)

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Debora Mann
114 Auburn Drive
Clinton, MS 39056-4966
601-974-1415 (D)
601-924-4966 (E)
e-Mail: manndl@okra.millsaps.edu

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Heather Sullivan
2148 Riverside Dr.
Jackson, MS 39202
601-354-7303 (D)
601-354-7227 (F)
e-Mail: heather.sullivan@mmns.state.ms.us

NON-ELECTIVE POSITIONS

EDUCATION CHAIR:

Felder Rushing
1735 Wilson Blvd.
Jackson, MS 39204
601-372-4651 (D)

Brumfield's Nursery
16800 Thrasher Lane, Van Cleave, MS 39565
228-826-1851

Rivers Greenhouse and Garden
4664 Hwy 18E, Brandon, MS 39042
601-825-9816

Cottage Gardens
40 James Jarrell Rd., Carriere, MS 39426
601-798-0753

Superior Trees, Inc.
P.O. Box 9325, Lee, FL 32059
850-971-5159

Ted Darenus
Rt. 2, P.O. Box 750, Warren, TX 77664
409-547-3536

niche Gardens
1111 Dawson Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27516
919-967-0078

Brier Rose Herbs
Po Box 305, Belle Chase, LA 70037
504-392-7499

Wildflower and Native Tree Seeds:

Louisiana Nature Science Center
11000 Lake Forest, New Orleans, LA 70127
504-246-5672

Wildseed Farms
425 Wildflower Hills, Fredericksburg, TX 78624
800-848-0078

Louisiana Forest Seed Co.
303 Forestry Rd., LeCompte, LA 71346
318-443-5026

Bog and Aquatic Plants:

Nature's Gardens Creations
Hillcrest Rd., Carriere, MS 39426
601-798-7738

American Aquatics
621 Elysian Fields, New Orleans, LA 70117
504-944-0410

Bois D'Arc Iris Farm
1931 Bull Run Rd., Schriever, LA 70395
504-446-2329

Custom Watergardens
217 N. Bernadette, New Orleans, LA 70520
504-486-7663

**Wholesale Nurseries (recommend these
to your local retail outlets!):**

Dodd and Dodd Nursery
PO Drawer 439, Semmes, AL, 36575
251-645-2222

Tom Dodd Nursery
PO Drawer 45, Semmes, AL 36575
251-649-1960

Jenkins Farm and Nursery
62188 Dummyline Rd., Amite, LA 70422
985-748-7746

Louisiana Growers
63279 Lowery Rd., Amite, LA 70422
985-747-5850

Murrell Trading Company
PO Box 102, Bayou Goula, LA. 70716
504-545-3336

Shadow Nursery
254 Shadow Nursery, Winchester, TN 39398
615-967-6059

Windmill Nurseries
12398 Highway 25, Franklinton, LA 70438
985-796-9655

Native Gardens
5737 Fisher Lane, Greenback, TN 37742
423-856-0220

Flowerwood Nursery
PO Box 7, Loxley, AL 36551
800-858-3521

Shademakers Nursery, Inc.
64753 I-55 Frontage Rd. N, Roseland,
LA 70456
504-748-2847

Reeves Nursery
39560 Reeves Rd., Franklinton, LA 70438
985-839-8921

Landscape Architects and Contractors:

Native Habitats
188 Spring Creek Rd., Flora, MS 39071
601-634-0190

The Landscape Studio
201 West Pine, Hattiesburg, MS 39401
601-544-1935

Natives Landscape Corporation
320 N. Theard St., Covington, LA 70434
985-892-5424

Meadowmakers
188 Charles Daughdrill, Carriere, MS 39426
601-799-1808

NATIVE PLANT HAPPENINGS:

Mushroom Foray

Saturday, August 3 12 noon to 4 p.m.
The Crosby Arboretum, Picayune, MS
Noted area mycologist, Dr. William Cibula, will lead a foray to Old River Natural Wildlife Area to discover mushrooms. Reservations required.

Native Plant Sale

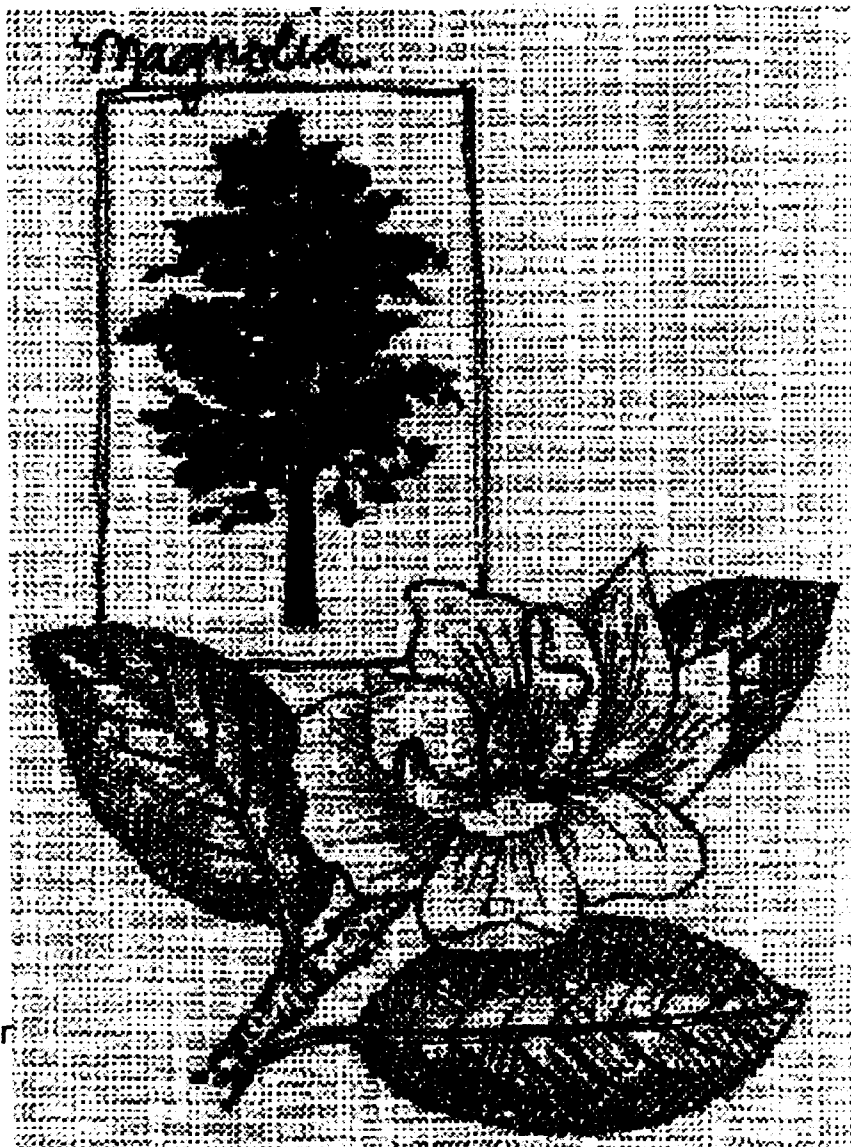
Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 21 & 22
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Crosby Arboretum, Picayune, MS
A great selection of hard to find native and wildlife plants will be available for sale. Free admission and open to the public.

Fall Plant Swap

Saturday, October 12 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
The Crosby Arboretum, Picayune, MS
Join the fun and bring your plants to swap. Free admission and open to the public.

For information and directions, call the Crosby Arboretum office at 601-799-2311, or visit <http://msstate.edu/dept/crec/camain.html>.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL FORM

Join the organization devoted to the study and appreciation of wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees native to the state of Mississippi. Members receive Mississippi Native Plants, a publication that addresses scientific and gardening issues relevant to the recognition, enjoyment, and conservation of our native plants and natural habitats.

JOIN TODAY

New Member Renewal

- Student \$7.50
 Individual or Family \$10.00
 Sustaining \$15.00
 Contributing \$35.00
 Life \$125.00
 Check here if you do not want your name to appear on a Membership List.

Name _____

County _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

e-Mail _____

Return this form and Check to: **MNPS**
C/O Dr. Debora Mann
114 Auburn Drive
Clinton, MS 39056-6002

Mississippi Native Plant Society

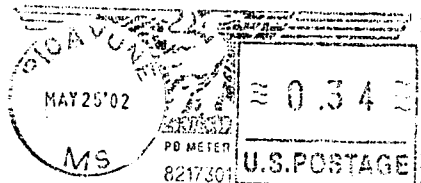
Bob Brzuszek

Crosby Arboretum

P.O. Box 1639, Picayune, MS 39466

601-799-2311-22 (D)

e-Mail: crosbyar@datastar.net



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P
S

Tom & Debora Mann

114 Auburn Drive

Clinton, MS 39056

39056^6002

