

AN OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY FALL FIELD TRIP!

A unique adventure is in store for LNPS members on Saturday, September 23. The West-Central Chapter has planned a wildflower outing along scenic Toro Bayou - by canoe! Danny and Barbara Rowzee, proprietors of Tack-a-Paw Expeditions, have offered LNPS members a 50% discount. The rate of \$12 per canoe (\$6 per person) includes portage, life jackets, instructions, and a guide to assist and direct the group. Pick your partner now, no canoeing experience is necessary, and the pace will be slow and casual. Experienced partners will be paired with novices for maximum enjoyment and safety. Toro Bayou is exceptionally scenic with some rocky banks, small cliffs, and waterfalls to be admired.

We'll meet at 9:00 AM at Tack-a-Paw headquarters along La. State Highway 392, about 1 1/2 miles east of the Toledo Bend Dam. The dam is clearly marked on maps. This location is about 14 miles west of Anacoco and the junction of Highways 171 and 111. The Tack-a-Paw sign cannot be missed as you travel along La. State Highway 392.

After the canoe trip, a walk is planned in the area for anyone not yet exhausted.

Don't forget to bring your lunch and some insect repellent. If you plant to attend, drop Annette Parker a line and let her know, though no reservation is necessary. Annette's phone number is (318) 286-9229.

DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN THOSE SEEDS YOU'VE COLLECTED!

One last reminder to send those seeds you've collected to our Seed Exchange Chairman, Annette Parker. She's also the person to write if you're interested in purchasing seeds from the society:

Annette Parker
Rt. 1, Box 332
Anacoco, Louisiana 71403

GROWING WILDFLOWERS
by Beth Erwin of Bastrop, La.

Instead of loosing one or two plants to drought this summer, I've lost some to excessive rain. This spring I ordered a few perennials with an eye toward drought tolerance. Upon retruning from a four day trip to south Louisiana the last week of June, I could find no physical evidence of two previously healthy globe thistles (Echinops ritro). in the front flowerbed!

At long last I had a Sabatia angularis come up and bloom. It came up in the wrong place but the darn things are so contrary that I knew better than to bother it. It was a magnificent specimen. Unfortunately, I never got to see it with the sun shining on it.

Most of the shrubs in the yard made phenomenal growth due to the rain, some as much as four feet! We can only hope for a mild winter so the still-tender growth won't be damaged.

Those of you who visited us on the summer field trip might be interested to know that the powerline where the dwarf prairie willow grows has been mowed. I think this will be beneficial in the long run, at least it was not herbicided. And, if you thought our butterfly weed and poppy mallow populations were lush, you should have seen the Liatris pycnostachya this month. In certain prairie-type areas it is so thick that you cannot walk

through it.

We traveled too much this summer to get all we wanted to get done in the yard. The rain every day for two months did not help when we were home. I did not get any cuttings started this year, but I did collect a lot of poppy mallow seed. Now is the time to dig poppy mallow and make root cuttings if you are so inclined. It is also a good time to check your native shrubs like azaleas and wax myrtles for any offshoots around the base of the plant. You can take a shovel or a sharp knife, drive it into the ground between the lateral shoot and the mother plant and sever the underground connecting stem. Water it well, and then leave it alone. In late December or early January, you should be able to transplant the new plant without too much shock to it or the mother plant.

If you are planning to divide perennials this winter, remember to mark where they are now so you'll know where to dig next winter. It can be very confusing when everything is in its autumnal stage and the asters, goldenrods, and gaillardias have generously overseeded the entire garden. Also, some plants like liatris, for instance, disappear completely if the old flowerheads are removed.

I'm planning to attend the conference in Memphis (in October) where I hope to be inspired to propagate more plants as well as do some native plant shopping, of course. I hope some of you plan to go too!

MILKWEEDS FOR THE WILD GARDEN

by Annette Parker

Swamp milkweed, Asclepias perennis, is a shy but lovely small plant with an exceptionally long period of bloom. This milkweed flowers continuously from mid-May to early September producing hundreds of pinkish-white blooms. Sadly, none of my specimen's flowers were pollinated. This prolific little bloomer brightens moist, shady areas, can withstand flood waters, and is maintenance-free. My specimen did not go dormant during the mild winter of 1988.

Asclepias incarnata, or Tall Swamp Milkweed, is the leading butterfly attractor in my yard. This bold plant reaches 3 feet in height and has a thick, sturdy lower stem and a broad well-branched crown. Dormant during the winter, in late spring a shoot rapidly emerges. It does not need staking, and is noninvasive. The period of peak bloom lasts for about 4 weeks. Six or more butterflies could be seen hovering around the dark, fleshy-pink flowers on my specimen this year. This native milkweed thrives in moist, sunny locations and is the mid-summer focal point of my wetland garden.

NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR LATE OCTOBER

The 2nd annual mid-south native plant conference is planned for October 27 to October 29, 1989. The conference will be held at Memphis State University in Memphis, Tennessee. The fee for the conference is \$55, which includes registration, two meals, and a t-shirt. Topics to be addressed cover all aspects of native plant gardening. For more information and a registration form, contact:

Mid-South Native Plant Conference
Lichterman Nature Center
5992 Quince Road
Memphis, Tennessee 38119

NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE SET FOR NOVEMBER 10 & 11, 1989

LNPS member Bill Gebelein sent in a notice he received for the Central South Native Plant Conference to be held at Birmingham Botanical Gardens in Birmingham, Alabama this coming November 10th and 11th. The deadline for registration is November 1st, and the fee is \$55 which includes one dinner. For more information call, or write:

Lawrence Quick
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
2612 Lane Park Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35223
Phone 1-205-871-2565

Moth Mullien
by Lucille Felts

I successfully cultivated Moth Mullien, having grown them from seed I found beside my road. I planted them in my popouri plot, and they grew and bloomed - the whole experience was pure pleasure. When they started blooming they brightened my day every morning for two months (June and July). The blossoms really do look like a yellow moth, and with the dark green of the trees in the background, through my window the looked like soft yellow lights. The blooms are only for a day, but so beautiful! And, there is always more tomorrow. Now I have millions of seed to share with any wildflower enthusiast who will come for them. My address is:

Lucille B. Felts
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NEW MEMBERS FOR 1989

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