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NEWSLETTER

FALL 1991

volume 9, number 3

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A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

What a year it's been so far, wet....wet....wet....now hot and dry (at least here). I wonder what the fall will bring?

Remember to mark your calendars for our Saturday, October 19th meeting and field trip. We will leave Briarwood at 9:30 AM and return by mid to late afternoon, a business meeting will follow. There are accommodations for campers, please call ahead if possible (phone 318-5761-3379).

LNPS will be working again this year to pass rare and threatened plant legislation in our state. As noted in a previous newsletter, at least 36 states have such legislation. Please help us to secure this legislation by contacting your friends and legislators and informing them of this impending legislation and its importance.

LNPS's Environmental Issues Committee will also be working with the U.S. Forestry Service to offer suggestions for its new management plan. Mandates from the federal government should ensure a more ecological plan than in the past. We will keep you posted on this issue as details of the plan are completed, however this process generally takes 2 years plus or minus.

Any members who can assist in our Environmental Issues Committee's networking efforts (i.e., phone calls, letters, etc.) please drop me a line either by mail or by phone. Also, if anyone has any new business for this committee please send it to me with details and possible solutions. See you at Briarwood October 19th! [John Mayronne, 320 Theard St., Covington, La. 70433, phone (504) 892-5424]

SUMMER MEETING TO BE HELD OCTOBER 19, 1991

The LNPS will hold its summer meeting on October 19, 1991 ( not October 12 as stated in the last newsletter!) following a field trip in Winn Parish. The field trip, led by Nelwyn McInnis, will leave from Briarwood. According to Richard and Jesse Johnson of Briarwood, camping space will be available to those who need it (see the letter from our President above for the phone number).

## DUES REMINDER

Do you know anyone who would like to join the LNPS? Tell them to send their dues (\$5) to our Treasurer:

Mary Moseley  
122 Justin  
Shreveport, Louisiana 71105

## 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:

Winter Newsletter:	December 1, 1991
Spring Newsletter:	March 1, 1992
Summer Newsletter:	June 1, 1992
Fall Newsletter:	September 1, 1992

## Second Central South Native Plant Conference Scheduled

The second Central South Native Plant Conference will be held October 25 - 26 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 2612 Lane Park Road. The registration fee will be \$35 and participation will be limited to 275 people. Featuring noted southern authors, botanists and horticulturists from a five state area, lectures will focus on "Knowing, Growing and Showing the Natives".

With sessions beginning at 8:30 AM on Friday and continuing until noon on Saturday, the conference will also include a social hour and opportunities to tour the gardens and/or review video tapes of concurrent sessions.

An overview of the sessions to be presented is as follows:

How Botanists Get to Know Plants by Dr. Edward Clebsh;  
Mississippi Natural Heritage Program by Ken Gordon;  
Alabama Natural Heritage Program by Scott Gunn;  
How Georgia Tracks Rare Plants by Tom Patrick;  
Gardening for Wildlife, The Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program  
by Jerry Hightower;  
Alabama Highways: a Program for Wildflower Enhancement by Clif Dixon;  
Roadways to Progress for Natives: Louisiana Project Wildflower  
by Mary Courville;  
Some Perspectives on Writing "Floras" by Robert Kral;  
Native Wild Plants and Their Potential in Landscaping  
by Dr. Stephen Timme;  
Propagation of Some Woody Plants Native to the Southern U.S.  
by Robert McCartney.  
Growing Native Plants in the Home Setting by Louise Smith;  
Rooting Native Azaleas from Cuttings by Pete McNeese;  
Gardening with Native Wildflowers by Dr. Sam Jones;  
Natural Environments and Human Nature by Dr. Peter Harzem;  
Nature Photography by Walt Burch;  
Virtues of Native Flora by Richard Bir;  
Commercial Production of Native Trees by David Ellis;

Landscapes as Ecological Museums by Edward Blake Jr.;  
Selecting and Growing Native Plants of Promise by Don Shadow;  
Eastern Native Ferns and Flowers in Public Places  
by Edwin Steffek Jr.

For more information on the conference, please contact Shelley Lindstrom,  
Birmingham Botanical Gardens, 2612 Lane Park Road, Birmingham, Alabama, 35223;  
phone 205-879-1227.

### Three Unusual Summer Treasures

by Karlene DeFatta

My favorite summer wildflower is the yellow Hibiscus aculeatus which I raised from seed several years ago. I love it so, I've had a few plants every year since. The large, pale yellow petals have a black-purple splotch in the center. It has foliage very different from the other hibiscus species - five-fingered, notched leaves. In fact, the leaves and seed pods remind one of okra, although the hibiscus pod is shorter. It will not winter outside here in north Louisiana so I raise it every year from seed to blooming size plants. I plant mine in a large pot and set it inside a container that will hold water. Giving it some fish emulsion makes it so happy it blooms a long time and makes many seed pods.

The wildflower that takes second place among my summer treasures is Asclepias curassavica. It also is not winter hardy here. I raised mine from seed given to me by a friend. The foliage is a slick, narrow strap-shaped leaf and the blooms are a beautiful red and gold. Last fall I spotted a volunteer plant with a bud in the center. I dug it and planted it in a large pot which I placed on a stool in front of a window in my home. It bloomed all winter. When early spring arrived I cut it back, since the plant had gotten so tall. It quickly put out many shoots on each limb and kept on blooming. Due to all the moles and gophers tunneling through this hill of mine, I sunk it pot and all in the ground in my back yard. It kept blooming and blooming! It's now more than six feet tall, and still hasn't stopped blooming - ten to twelve clusters of flowers at all times. It makes many seed pods, and there are seedlings at the base of the plant. I planted some seeds a while back, they came up quickly, and I need to transplant them now. I realize not everyone wants a plant that isn't winter hardy, but the beautiful red and gold blooms constantly make it worth all the work. In fact, the blooms are a great reward for very little work!

Third place goes to the Salt Marsh Mallow, Kosteletzkya virginica. A friend brought this to me several years ago from south Louisiana. The Marsh Mallow grows six feet tall (I cut mine back to make lots of limbs, but it still grows tall). The deep, bright pink flowers, two to two and one half inches across, cover the branches. The seeds are in a flat ring of carpels, the seed pod distinguishing this species from the true hibiscus. The carpels turn dark then the seeds pop out. I gather mine just as they turn. It likes to grow in a damp place. I enjoy looking out my kitchen window and seeing dozens of bright pink blooms every morning.

All three of the above summer blooming plants will give months of pleasure and memories to relive.