

## Annual Meeting February 8 – 10, 2008

### Camp Hardtner, Pollock, LA

For the fourth year, LNPS members will return to Camp Hardtner, located in the beautiful piney woods of central Louisiana, north of Pollock, LA. Fishing is available in the pond at the Camp and there is a wonderful deck that overlooks the pond where visiting and drinking coffee will be very nice. No boats are allowed, and alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the grounds.

There are no building rental fees since the camp is providing meals. There will be a potluck dinner Friday night – kitchen privileges are not available but there is a refrigerator/freezer that we can use. **Also this year:** a dinner option is available on Saturday night for those planning to stay over for the Sunday morning hike. The costs for lodging and food are shown on page 3. Please indicate which nights you will be staying.

#### Friday, February 8

**5:00 p.m.** – Registration, potluck dinner, visiting, plant shopping.

#### Saturday, February 9

**7:30 a.m.** – Breakfast. Registration continues.

**9:30 a.m.** – Program I: "Incorporating Native Intents" by Stephen Rusbar, landscape architect with Natives Landscape Corporation, Covington, Louisiana. Stephen will address the process of developing and installing a landscape plan with emphasis on use of site appropriate native plants.

**10:20 a.m.** – Break.

**10:30 a.m.** – Program II: "The Education and Demonstration Process with Native Landscapes" by Kristin Lamberson with the Strawberry Plains Audubon Center, Holly Springs, Mississippi. Kristin will go over the work she and others do at the Mississippi Audubon Society's reclaimed natural space in north Mississippi. The center is comprised of 2,500 acres of diverse wildlife habitat and 15 miles of walking trails.

**11:30 a.m.** – Lunch. Plant and book shopping.

**1:00 p.m.** – Business Meeting.

**1:50 p.m.** – Break.

**2:00 p.m.** – Program III: Chris Reid, botanist with the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program, will give an update on outstanding botanical finds in 2007, including his recent work on/in beaver pond bogs in North Louisiana.

**Followed by our popular Native Plant Auction!!!**

**5:30 p.m.** – Dinner and bonfire.

#### Sunday, Feb. 10

**8:30 a.m.** – Morning field trip departing from Camp Hardtner. Location TBA.



**Directions:** Camp Hardtner is located to the east of Highway 167, eight miles north of Pollock in Grant Parish. The entrances to the side road that loops to the camp are near Mile Markers 103 and 109. The loop is about 8 miles long and the Camp is midway, literally straddling the road. The loop is rough, so travel cautiously.

**See Page 3 for registration, lodging, and dues forms.**

## Saving a Community

By Linda Chance

Hold your breath for a count of 30 to 60 seconds. If you're not in swim training you may begin to notice the definite urge for a breath of air towards the end of your effort. That is the ultimate value of saving our green-growing, oxygen-providing plant species. Plants provide us with the life-sustaining air we require and scrub out growing carbon dioxide levels that threaten to change our climate. But more important for us is the fact that we occupy the top position of the food chain and rely on many intricate relationships among the meat and vegetable choices that we use for food. When our life-sustaining pyramid of provisions narrows due to extinction, whether intentional or not, it threatens our existence. People's dominance over nature must be thoughtful and done with care to meet man's long-range needs. In contrast, concrete and mowed lawns are veritable deserts, unable to sustain natural food or water cycles necessary for life and without any of nature's rich diversity. So where do we set aside spaces to keep our endangered species?

The Cajun prairie in Eunice holds one of those precious positions – to maintain itself in the face of agricultural practices, land development and landscaping “norms” of our times. The Cajun prairie is one the last 100 or so acres remaining of a plant community facing extinction in our state. It is at the top of the list of fast-disappearing plant communities tracked by the Natural Heritage Program of LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries. The Cajun prairie in Eunice remains one of the last places that a high quality tall grass prairie can be viewed, studied and experienced in LA.

From the top of the newly installed viewing platform at the Cajun prairie myriad wildflowers can be seen blooming from early spring till late fall. School children can learn about bugs and butterflies and crustaceans along the mowed walkways. The Cajun prairie is rich in grasses, sedges and supports a multitude of Asters, such as Giant Coneflowers, Golden Asters, Black-eyed Susans and Compass flowers, to name a few. It protects many unusual and 44 rare species such as the beautiful and heat-loving Purple and Missouri Coneflowers (*Rudbeckia purpurea*, *R. missouriensis*), the diminutive, sky-blue Prairienymph lily (*Herbertia lahue*) and Pale Pink Rose Pogonia orchid (*Calopogon oklahomensis*), a wild Heliotrope (*Heliotropium tenellum*), several rare grasses and sedges and many others. The most spectacular blooms of the Cajun prairie are Blazing Stars (*Liatris pycnostachya*) according to Dr. Charles Allen, Ft. Polk botanist, and founder of the Cajun Prairie Habitat Restoration Society. Other conspicuous and unusual flowers include members of the Bean family, both yellow and white False indigo (*Baptisia*) and Sensitive Briar (*Shrankia*), whose leaves close upon touching. American agave (*Manfreda virginiana*) is an unusual succulent with green flowers and red stigmas and Snow-on-the-mountain (*Euphorbia collorata*) has a cooling effect when its green and white flowers bloom en masse in the summertime.

A visit to the Cajun prairie in Eunice, LA will strengthen our appreciation and deepen our gratitude for the neighborhood that fosters such a unique slice of one of Louisiana's vanishing communities.

### Keep Up With All The Latest Native Plant Activities!

Looking for something to do? See the back page of this newsletter for just a few of the upcoming events of interest to native

## 2008 Annual Meeting Registration Form

Remittance

Registration

Free

Saturday Meals:

Breakfast \$6.50/person (7:30 am)

Lunch \$7.50/person (noon)

Dinner \$8.50/person (5:30 pm)

Lodging:

Cabin bed\* \$15/person

Motel type rooms \$40 single; \$60 double

Infirmiry house 3 bedroom/2 bath; \$150 total/night

Maloney house 2 bedroom/2 bath; \$100 total/night

Vatican house 2 bedroom/2bath; \$100 total/night

\* Cabins: 14 beds per cabin; bath facilities in cabin; bring your own linens.

Friday

Saturday

Friday & Saturday

Annual Dues (from form below):

**TOTAL**

Please submit your registration and payment by **January 25, 2008**. Checks payable to LNPS.

Send to:

**Tracey Banowetz, P. O. Box 10, Weyanoke, LA 70787**

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The Louisiana Native Plant Society was founded in 1983 as a state-wide, non-profit organization.

Its purposes are:

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.

**Membership Form:**

**Checks payable to LNPS.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues: Student/Senior \$5 \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Corporate \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Tracey Banowetz, P. O. Box 10, Weyanoke, LA 70787**

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**Events of Interest to LNPS Members:**

**Jan. 26:** Hilltop Arboretum's annual symposium "For the Love of Trees," Baton Rouge, LA. [www.lsu.edu/hilltop](http://www.lsu.edu/hilltop).

**Feb. 8 – 10:** LNPS Annual Meeting, Camp Hardtner, Pollock, LA. [www.lnps.org](http://www.lnps.org)

**Feb. 16:** Cajun Prairie Society work day at Duralde. Will move to Eunice around noon. Charles Allen, [native@camtel.net](mailto:native@camtel.net)

**Mar. 22:** Friends of Louisiana State Arboretum spring meeting. [www.friendslaarb.org](http://www.friendslaarb.org)

**Apr. 4 - 6:** Feliciana Nature Society's Audubon Bird Festival. St. Francisville, LA. [www.audubonbirdfest.com](http://www.audubonbirdfest.com).

**Apr. 5 – 6:** LNPS Spring tour in Desoto and Caddo parishes, led by Chris Reid. [www.lnps.org](http://www.lnps.org).

**Apr. 11 - 13:** Annual BBBB (Bogs, Birds, Butterflies etc.) in the Fort Polk area. Charles Allen, [native@camtel.net](mailto:native@camtel.net)

**May 3:** Cajun Prairie Habitat Preservation Society meeting in Eunice. Charles Allen, [native@camtel.net](mailto:native@camtel.net).

**July 23 - 26:** Cullowhee Native Plant Conference. Western Carolina State Univ., Cullowhee, NC. [www.wcu.edu/5033.asp](http://www.wcu.edu/5033.asp)

For what's happening at the **Louisiana State Arboretum** in Ville Platte, visit [www.friendslaarb.org](http://www.friendslaarb.org).

**LOUISIANA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

C/O TRACEY BANOWETZ

P. O. Box 10

WEYANOKE, LA 70787

Please check the date on  
 your  
 label. If the date is earlier  
 than 01/08, your dues are  
 now due. If your dues have  
 expired, this may be your  
 last issue of the newsletter.  
 Membership form is on pg 3