



Louisiana Native Plant Society News

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|-----|
| 2014 Annual BBBB BBBB | 1-2 |
| Broadleaved Barbara's Buttons and Snowy Orchid | 3 |
| Bald Cypress and Pond Cypress | 4 |
| Did You Know? | 5-6 |
| Lily-Orchid Days | 7-8 |
| The Nature Conservancy is looking for volunteers | 8 |
| Membership Form | 9 |

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24th Annual Bogs, Baygalls, Birds, Butterflies, Boletes, Botanical Bliss, Brown Bag etc (BBBBBBBBBB) by Dr. Charles M. Allen

The 24th annual BBBB (BOGS, BAYGALLS, BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES, BOLETES, BOTANICAL BLISS, BROWN BAG etc.) was held March 28 thru March 30, 2014.

The event began on Friday March 28 with a Brown Bag at Fort Polk given by Chris Reid on "Rare Plants of Louisiana" as part of the monthly brown bag series. A tour at Allen Acres later that afternoon gave the participants a chance to see many of the plants on the property and later to view the national champion Large Gallberry tree on nearby Forest Service land. Then, the group took a night tour to the river to see fireflies (lightning bugs), spider eyes, and the night sky.

On Saturday, the larger group assembled and then caravanned to a spot on the

East Fork of Six Mile Creek and viewed horsesugar (*Symplocos tinctoria*), wild azalea aka honeysuckle (*Rhododendron canescens*), and sessile leaved bellwort (*Uvularia sessilifolia*) in full flower. Silver bell (*Halesia diptera*) and yellow jasmine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) were also in flower. The group then moved to Leo's Bog and saw cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) and royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*) with spores. In flower nearby were puccoon (*Lithospermum carolinense*), rock rose (*Helianthemum carolinianum*) and other spring flowers.

The group returned to Allen Acres for a large meal of Chinese food and then were treated to the brown bag presentation by Chris Reid on "Rare Plants of Louisiana". A small number of hardy individuals were treated to a tour of nearby spots and saw phlox (*Phlox pilosa*), green milkweed (*Asclepias viridis*), and puffballs

(*Marshallia caespitosa*).

The group then waited till dark and visited the river again for fireflies, spider eyes, and the night sky. The BBBB BBBB will be held in mid-May in 2015 so mark your calendars.

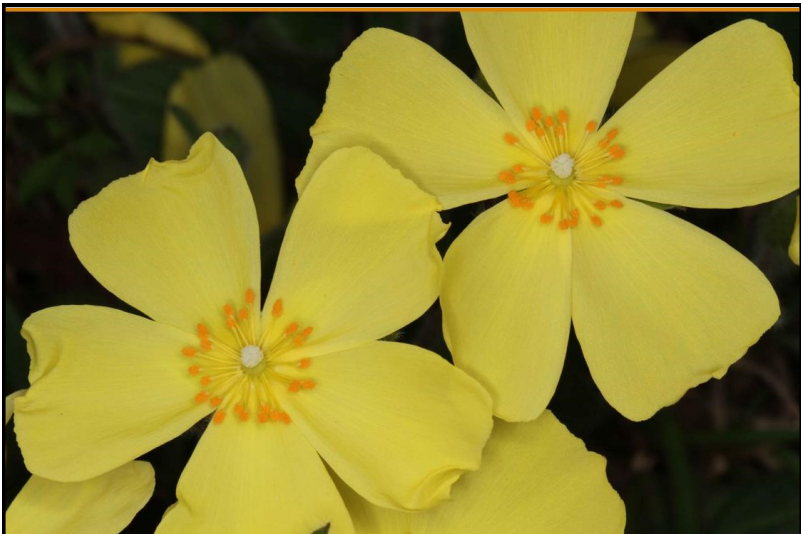


Platanthera nivea Photo courtesy Ted MacRae, Beetles in the Bush blog @ <http://beetlesinthebush.wordpress.com/about/>

BBBBBBB—Cont.



Urularia sessilifolia (Photo courtesy New Jersey Native Plant Society)



Helianthemum carolinianum



Marshallia caespitosa Photo courtesy Univ. Texas Austin



Rhododendron canescens.



Asclepias viridis Photo courtesy Southeasternflora.com



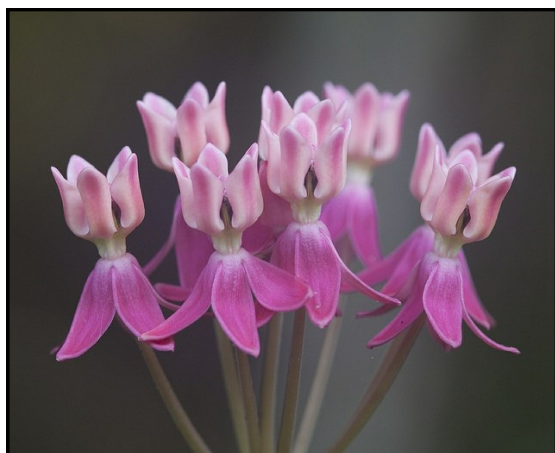
Lithospermum carolinense. Photo courtesy The Nature Conservancy.

Broadleaved Barbara's Buttons and Snowy Orchid

By Dr. Charles Allen

On Saturday June 21, 2014, a small group of nature enthusiasts met at Allen Acres and then migrated to Cooter's Bog. There they were treated to many plants in flower including lots of snowy orchid (*Platanthera nivea*) and a few hanging-on bog pinks (*Calopogon tuberosa*). The bog was alive with white topped sedge (*Dichromena (Rhynchospora) latifolia*) and yellow meadow beauty (*Rhexia lutea*). The savannah candy root (*Polygala ramosa*) was just beginning in the bogs and drum heads (*Polygala cruciata*) was scattered across the wetter areas. The common candyroot (*Polygala mariana*) was seen across the drier areas. Spindleroot (*Ludwigia hirtella*) and savannah rose gentian (*Sabatia gentianoides*) were also seen. A small number of baygall milkweed (*Asclepias rubra*) were seen in flower also. I am trying to change the name of this milkweed from red or swamp to baygall milkweed which is a more appropriate name.

After a long stay at Cooter's Bog, the group moved to Bird's Creek where they viewed broad-leaved Barbara's Buttons (*Marshallia trinervia*). This is the only living population of this species in Louisiana and the farthest west that this plant grows in the United States.



Asclepias rubra.



Polygala mariana. Photo courtesy Alabamaplants.com



Sabatia gentianoides. Photo courtesy Jeff McMillian.



Marshallia trinervia. Photo courtesy Southeasternflora.com



Dichromena latifolia.



Ludwigia hirtella.

Bald Cypress and Pond Cypress

By Dr. Charles M. Allen

Bald Cypress vs. Pond Cypress has always been a big question in Louisiana. Even the scientific name for pond cypress has jumped around from *Taxodium ascendens* to *Taxodium distichum* var *ascendens* and now to *Taxodium distichum* var. *imbricarium*. Bald cypress has always remained as *Taxodium distichum* but sometimes may be thought of as *Taxodium distichum* var *distichum*. Bald cypress is also the common and widespread tree in the state and in fact is so widespread and common it was selected as our state tree. It is currently reported from 62 of the 64 parishes; someone (or two someones) needs to make a herbarium specimen from St. James and West Baton Rouge Parishes to complete the list. Pond Cypress is reported only from St. Tammany Parish but there are reports of it from throughout the state especially in southwest Louisiana also in east Texas. From the Flora of North America bald

cypress is reported to have short shoots with leaves mostly in 2 ranks, pendent to horizontally spreading; leaves mostly narrowly linear, ca. 5-17 mm long, laterally divergent, free portion contracted and twisted basally. And pond cypress has short



Taxodium adscendens Photo courtesy John Hayden at <https://facultystaff.richmond.edu/~jhayden/>



Taxodium distichum Photo courtesy Wikipedia.org



Taxodium adscendens Photo courtesy John Hayden at <https://facultystaff.richmond.edu/~jhayden/>

shoots with leaves not in 2 ranks, mostly ascending vertically; leaves mostly narrowly lanceolate, ca. 3-10 mm long, appressed and overlapping, free portion not contracted and twisted basally.



Did you know......that one of the major vegetative differences between the Ticktrefoils (*Desmodium* spp.) and the Lespedezas (*Lespedeza* spp.) is the presence of a pair of stipels at the base of the leaflets on *Desmodium* leaves?

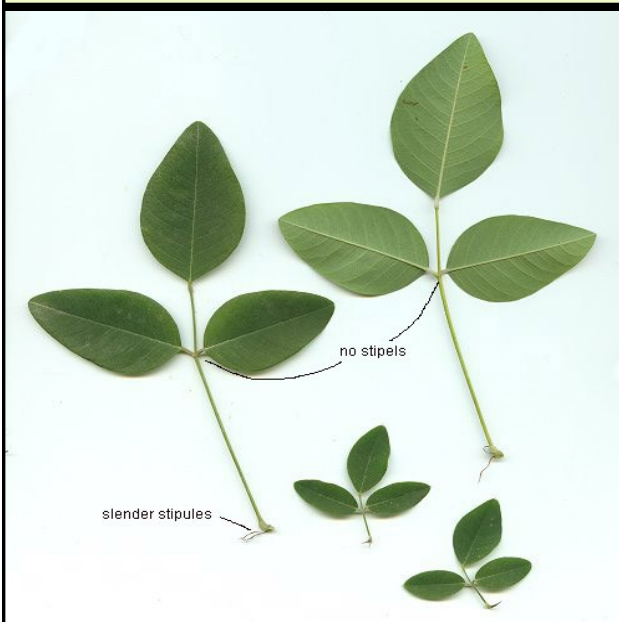
Both *Desmodium* spp. and *Lespedeza* spp. have stipules, which are leaf-like appendages at the base of the leaves, but only *Desmodium* spp. have stipels. Stipels are usually present at the base of the terminal leaflet in *Desmodium*s. Unlike stipules, which are mainly deciduous, most stipels do not fall off and so are a good field identifier for *Desmodium* spp. Stipules also vary considerably in size and shape, while most stipels are linear and almost whisker-like. True stipels occur only in compound leaves, and they are found at the base of a leaflet or pair of leaflets. Similar-



Paired stipels at base of terminal leaflet, and paired stipules at base of leaf in *Desmodium canadense*. Photo courtesy MissouriPlants.com

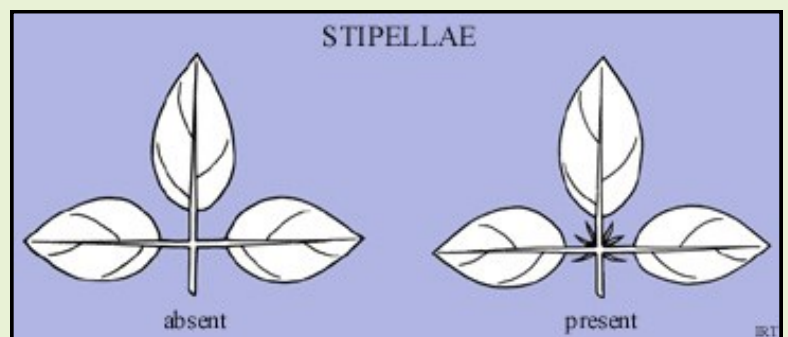


Paired stipels at base of terminal leaflet in *Desmodium cuspidatum*. Photo courtesy MissouriPlants.com



Lespedeza bicolor stipules—no stipels.

looking structures are sometimes found at the base of a simple leaf. However, these are not stipels but are instead stipel-like structures. Both stipels and stipel-like structures occur in a variety of forms. They can be very small, so use a 15-20x hand-lens or microscope to look for them.



The other difference between Desmodiums and Lespedezas is the type of fruit. Desmodiums' fruit is known as a loment, which is a type of indehiscent legume fruit that breaks apart at constrictions occurring between segments, so that each segment contains one seed.

Lespedeza fruit is a modified, one-seeded legume. From Wikipedia: "*A legume fruit is a simple dry fruit that develops from a simple carpel and usually dehisces (opens along a seam) on two sides. A common name for this type of fruit is a pod, although the term "pod" is also applied to a few other fruit types, such as that of vanilla (a capsule) and of radish (a silique).*"



Desmodium canescens loment. Photo courtesy K.R. Robertson at Illinois Natural History Museum



Desmodium spp. showing single-seeded loment



One-seeded legume (not a loment) in *Lespedeza bicolor*



Desmodium loment on Man's best friend....



A familiar situation? →

Lily Orchid Days

Fort Polk, La Area

August 15 thru August 17, 2014

It will be hot but this is the time of the year that Carolina Lily (*Lilium michauxii*) and Yellow Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*) are in flower and perhaps yellow fringeless orchid (*Platanthera integrata*) and crested yellow orchid (*Platanthera cristata*). I and the Fort Polk crew will have located good spots for these plus other notable plants for viewing and photographing.

Directions to Allen Acres: From the east sides of the state, get on La 10 going west out of Oakdale and follow La 10 thru Elizabeth and Pitkin and then six miles past Pitkin, you will enter Cravens. In Cravens you will turn south (left) onto La 399. La 399 is just east of the two stores in Cravens. If you are coming from the west, you will turn onto La 10 at Pickering and follow La 10 just south of Ft Polk and continue east for about 15 miles. After entering Cravens, watch for the store on the right and then turn right onto La 399. Now all are on La 399, follow it south for 1.8-1.9 miles and in a sharp curve to the left, turn right into our driveway. If you are coming from the south, get on La 112 (an east-west road) and turn north onto La 399. You will travel north on La 399 for six miles and turn left into Allen Acres.

Friday August 15, 2014

5 pm Tour of Cool spots at Allen Acres

8 PM: "Orchids of West Central Louisiana" by Dr. Charles M. Allen and Other Slide Shows At Allen Acres

9 PM: moth light/hummingbird moth/firefly counting

Saturday August 16, 2014

8: AM Caravan to Carolina Lily and yellow fringed orchid spots plus other plants. Depart from Allen Acres

12 noon or so till 5 pm: Rest, slides shows, anywhere out of the heat; and on demand: "Orchids of West Central Louisiana" by Dr. Charles M. Allen and Other Slide Shows

5: PM Tour of Allen Acres shady spots

8 PM: "Orchids of West Central Louisiana" by Dr.

Charles M. Allen At Allen Acres and Other Slide Shows

9 PM: moth light/hummingbird moth/firefly counting

Sunday August 17, 2014

8: AM Caravan to Carolina Lily and yellow fringed orchid spots plus other plants. Depart from Allen Acres

No charge for Tours and talks

For more information, contact Dr. Charles Allen or Susan Allen 337-328-2252 or email native@camtel.net. Allen Acres has a B and B (www.allenacresbandb.com).

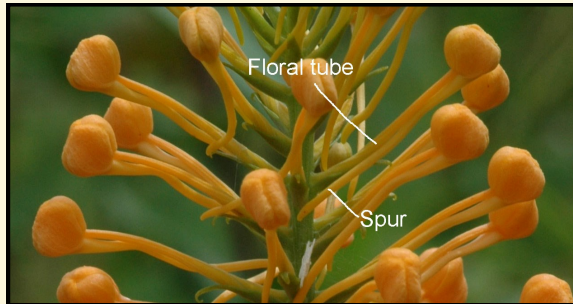


Lilium michauxii.

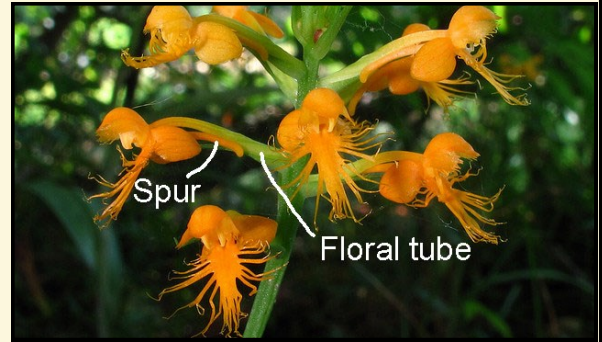
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Platanthera ciliaris with spur longer than floral tube.



Platanthera cristata with spur shorter than floral tube.



Platanthera ciliaris



Platanthera integra



Platanthera cristata



The Nature Conservancy in LA is interested in enrolling knowledgeable volunteers to assist in rare plant surveys on our preserves across the state. We are keen to learn more about the rare plant populations on our properties. Volunteers need to be relatively competent field botanists (at least for their part of the state), be in generally good physical condition, and able to work more or less on their own in the field. If anyone is interested, please contact Latimore Smith at latimore_smith@tnc.org.



Pinguicula lutea

"The outstanding scientific discovery of the twentieth century is not television, or radio, but rather the complexity of the land organism. Only those who know the most about it can appreciate how little we know about it. The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant, 'What good is it?' If the land mechanism as a whole is good, then every part is good, whether we understand it or not. If the biota, in the course of aeons, has built something we like but do not understand, then who but a fool would discard seemingly useless parts? To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering." – Aldo Leopold from A Sand County Almanac: With Essays on Conservation from Round River

Membership Form

(Checks payable to LNPS)

NOTE: Membership and donations may also be paid online at www.lnps.org.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

Annual Dues:

| | | | |
|----------------|------|--------------|-------|
| Student/Senior | \$ 5 | Organization | \$25 |
| Individual | \$10 | Sustaining | \$50 |
| Family | \$15 | Corporate | \$100 |

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LNPS

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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, and to educate people on the relationship between our native flora and wildlife.

www.lnps.org

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