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Louisiana Native Plant Society News

Kisatchie National Forest Dedicates the Keiffer-Tancock Registry Natural Area

On June 15th, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Secretary Robert Barham presented Kisatchie National Forest Supervisor Michael Balboni with a certificate of acknowledgment for the Keiffer-Tancock Registry Natural Area's inclusion into the Louisiana Registry Natural Areas Program.

The Keiffer-Tancock Natural



Secretary Barham presents Forest Supervisor Michael Balboni with the Registry Natural Area certificate.

Area is located on the Winn Ranger District. It is 11,294 acres in size, and contains one of the most significant calcareous prairie/forest complexes in Louisiana. Sixty-eight prairies have been documented within the Natural Area boundary, and they provide habitat for 20 percent of the rare plant spe-

cies on the Kisatchie National Forest. Also included within the natural area boundary are the closely-associated calcareous forests where can be found tress such as green ash, redbud, American elm, and Shumard oak. Pine forests comprised of longleaf, shortleaf and loblolly pine, and riparian forests, are also found within the natural area boundary.

Historically there were an estimated 40,000 acres of calcareous prairie in Louisiana. Today, less than 1 percent is thought to remain. The prairies were commonly used during the 1800s by settlers and travelers as locations to rest and fatten their horses and livestock, and some prairies were associated with homesteads that were sometimes called "blackland places" in reference to the dark-colored soil common on some of these prairies.

As with the associated calcareous forests, calcareous prairies have primarily been lost due to land use changes. Conversion to agriculture (many prairies have been planted to cotton or sweet potatoes) and changes

resulting from fire suppression, represent the greatest losses.

Forest Supervisor Balboni expressed appreciation for the efforts of the State agencies and individuals that have resulted in the recognition and looks forward to management opportunities to aid in restoration of the prairies.

Winn District Ranger Greg Cohrs pointed out that this registration is the culmination of literally decades-worth of



Eared Goldenrod (*Solidago auriculata*) a characteristic plant of calcareous forests.

work that involved prominent botanists such as Caroline Dormon, Dr. Clair Brown, Dr. R. Dale Thomas, Dr. Charles Allen, Dr. Lowell Urbatsch, and Dr. Gene Rhodes. Our own Annette Parker was the first to "rediscover" these prairies based on Dr. Clair Brown's notes, as well as herbarium

labels. Since the mid-1980s, Lati-
more Smith, Rich Martin, and
Nelwyn Gilmore of The Nature
Conservancy and Julia Larke,
Chris Reid, Patti Faulkner, and
Judy Jones of the Louisiana Natu-
ral Heritage Program have con-
tributed to further botanical dis-
coveries.

Following the presentation, the
group visited the Carpenter Road
Prairies for a field trip. Barbara
and Michael MacRoberts, and
Jessie Johnson were able to attend
the event and enjoyed the visit to
the Carpenter Road Prairie.



Amity Bass, Kyle Balkham and Judy Jones -- La.
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries staff. Judy
Jones is the Natural Areas Registry Program
Coordinator and was instrumental in seeing this
nomination come to fruition.

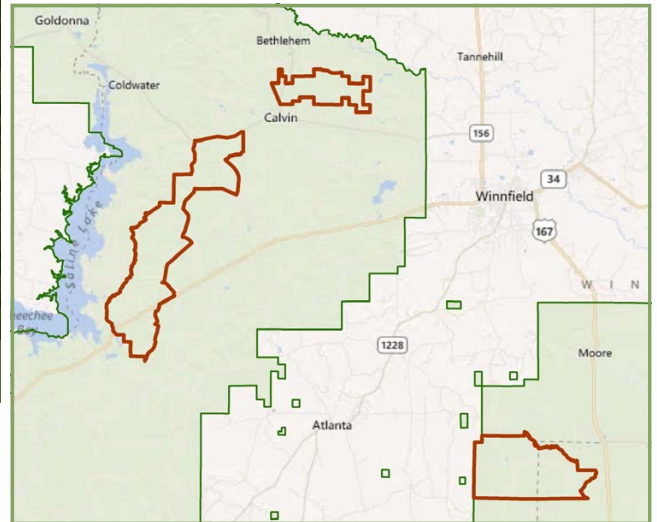


Prairie pleatleaf



Jessie Johnson, and Michael & Barbara Mac-
Roberts share a laugh on Coldwater Prairie.

Keiffer-Tancock Natural Area cont.



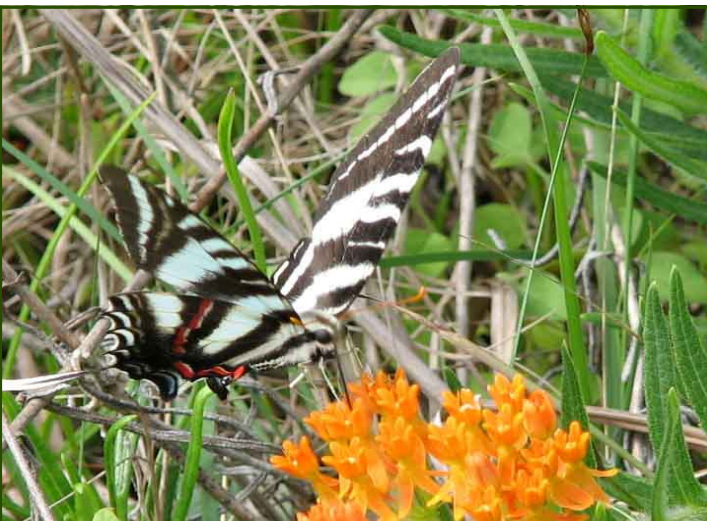
Location of the Keiffer-Tancock Natural Area.



Twenty percent of the rare plant spe-
cies on the Kisatchie National Forest
occur on calcareous prairies—and
most of these are found only on the
Winn Ranger District west of Winnfield, LA.



"Ten miles south of Winnfield a belt of prairie land, from one to two miles in width, runs east and west entirely across the parish. Within this are several open, or bald, prairies, the largest of which are Bertram's and Tancock's" - **Samuel Lockett - Louisiana As It Is - 1874**



Zebra Swallowtail on butterfly weed.



A typical calcareous prairie with butterfly weed and lance-leaved
coreopsis in the foreground.

Two herbarium specimens of *X Hicoria ludoviciana* Ashe from the type tree (Caroline Dormon, near Chestnut, Natchitoches Parish, La., Oct. 10, 1926) were kindly lent for study by Dr. W. C. Coker,



Miss Caroline Dormon



Hairy Lip Fern (*Cheilanthes lanosa*)



Featherstem Clubmoss
(*Lycopodiella prostrata*)



Riddell's Spikemoss (*Selaginella arenicola* var. *riddellii*)

Caroline Dormon's Influence on Botanists in Years Past.

Caroline Dormon's influence on Forest and Botanical matters is wide-spread, and well known. If not for her the Kisatchie National Forest would not be with us today. If not for her, thousands of schoolchildren might not have endeavored to roam the wild countryside in search of this flower or that. If not for her, Louisiana would not be blessed with Briarwood, her legacy and country home.

Less well known, however, were her influences on, and collaboration with, some important botanists from years past. Of particular mention are the works of Edgar T. Wherry and William W. Ashe.

Following is a brief introduction to some of those influences.

Note: To save space, only the pertinent parts of each article are included in this newsletter. If anyone desires a copy of the entire article, let me know—Editor.

Edgar Theodore Wherry

(1885–1982) was an American mineralogist, soil scientist and botanist. He had a deep interest in ferns and *Sarracenia*. He was president of the American Fern Society from 1934 to 1939, and wrote three key guides to the ferns of eastern North America.

Edgar Wherry also published many articles throughout his distinguished career, and in several of these articles he cites the assistance of **Miss Caroline Dormon** in securing specimens.

A typical example of thanks to **Miss Caroline Dormon** was

published in *Midland Fern Notes* in 1938 (Vol. 28, No. 1, pp. 28-30): "Under the guid-



Edgar T. Wherry

ance of **Miss Caroline Dormon** of Chestnut, three species not listed by [Clair] Brown (*Louisiana Conservationist Review* January 1936) for this state were obtained: *Cheilanthes lanosa*, in crevices of sandstone north of Kisatchie (15 miles south of Provencal); *Selaginella riddellii*, in a sand-barren 2 miles south-east of Goldonna, both in Natchitoches Parish; and *Lycopodium prostratum*, in a wet thicket 1½ miles north of Lucky, Bienville Parish. PHILADELPHIA, PA."

Editor's Note: Cheilanthes lanosa (Hairy Lip Fern) is still the only place in Louisiana where this fern occurs. I wonder how Miss Caroline Dormon learned of the spot. Did someone show her the place, or did she discover it in all her years of Louisiana ramblings?

An Ozark Variety of Phlox pilosa Author(s): Edgar T. Wherry Source: American Midland Naturalist, Vol. 16, No. 3 (May, 1935), pp. 413-416.

Thanks are hereby extended to **Miss Caroline Dormon** for guidance to localities of this Phlox in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, and to Professor Dwight M. Moore of the University of Arkansas for similar aid in locating a number of stations in that State.

Dept. of Botany, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

Editor's Note: Ozark Phlox (Phlox pilosa ssp. Ozarkana) is found in five north Louisiana Parishes. Ozark Phlox is sometimes mistaken for Wild Blue Phlox (Phlox divaricata) but Wild Blue Phlox blooms slightly earlier in the year, grows in moister places, spreads by horizontal runners, and has more bluish flowers. Ozark Phlox also has glandular-hairy stems and upper leaves, and the leaves of Ozark Phlox are wider than those of Wild Blue Phlox.



Ozark Phlox (*Phlox pilosa* ssp. *ozarkana*)



Wild Blue Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*)

Caroline Dormon's influence on Botanists cont.

William Willard Ashe (1872-1932) was a native of North Carolina who had a forty-year professional career spanning from 1892 to 1932. He worked with the North Carolina Geological Survey as Forester from 1891 to 1909, after which he began to work full time with the US Forest Service. Ashe was an early advocate of the need to create national forests east of the Mississippi, having worked with Joseph A. Holmes who was among the originators of the idea in 1893.



William Willard Ashe

One of Ashe's largest contributions to forest conservation was his field work toward, and coordination of, national forest land acquisitions in the eastern United States, from before the passage of the Weeks Act in 1911 until the time of his death in 1932. He served as Secretary of the National Forest Reservation Commission from 1918 to 1924. During this time he also served as Secretary of the National Forest Reservation Commission (1918-1924), vice-

president of the Society of American Foresters (1919), and chairman of the Forest Service Tree Name Committee (1930-1932).

Ashe also made significant contributions to Botany, Dendrology, and early ecological work in the eastern United States, and was among the first to formally propose Research Natural Areas in the southeast, and put the plan into action by 1922.

Notes on Southeastern Woody Plants Author(s): W. W. Ashe Source: Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club, Vol. 55, No. 8 (Nov., 1928), pp. 463-466

CRATAEGUS AESTIVALIS var. *Dormonae* var. nov. Leaves as in the type form but thicker and dentate, appressed pubescent above as they unfold with the flowers early in March, eventually glabrate above except for the midrib, below permanently pale gray pubescent along the midrib and with prominent tufts in the axils of the veins; petiole permanently pubescent. Flowers 17 to 20 mm. wide, anthers deep rose; calyx lobes entire, short-triangular, glabrous, either spreading or with ascending tips from a keeled base and coloring with the fruit. Fruit, ripening and falling the last of June with the pedicels attached, bright glossy red, usually slightly depressed, rarely oblong, from 10 to 14 mm. long; flesh pale yellow, soft and pleasantly acid when mature.

Miss Caroline Dormon, Black

Natchitoches Parish, La., March and June 1927; March 9 and June 24, 1928 (type, herbarium of W. W. A.). Known as June haw.

Magnolia cordata and Other Woody Plants Author(s): W. W. Ashe Source: Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club, Vol. 54, No. 7 (Oct., 1927), pp. 579-582

Castanea Margaretta forma *Dormonae* form. Nov. This is a rare form which occurs in middle Louisiana, having three large nuts to the involucre in place of one. If this form occurred within the distribution of chestnut it would doubtless be regarded as a hybrid or as having a chestnut strain. Chestnut is not known to occur, however, within 350 miles of Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, the station for this form, which was collected there by **Miss Caroline Dormon**. In its long pubescent twigs, and the densely set and elongated spines on the fruit, this form approaches variety *arcuata* Ashe of the Gulf Coast of Louisiana and the "Big Thicket" region of Texas.

Editor's Note: Castanea Margaretta is now known as Castanea pumila var. pumila (Chinkapin).

X *Hicoria ludoviciana* hyb. Nov. *H. aquatica* (Michx. f.) Brit. X *H. Buckleyi* var. *arkansana* (Sarg.) Ashe. This interesting hybrid, which has been collected and studied by **Miss Caroline Dormon**, of Natchi-



Castanea pumila (Chinkapin) was once known as *Castanea Margaretta*



Ashe's Magnolia (*Magnolia Ashei*) named in honor of William Ashe

toches Parish, Louisiana, where it is found, has the foliage, buds, bark and general aspect of *H. Buckleyi*. The fruit, however, is compressed, the husk very thin, the nut wrinkled, particularly at the base, the shell though not brittle, so thin that it can be crushed between the fingers, and the very large kernel is much wrinkled and bitter. Washington, D.C.

Editor's Note: Hicoria is an old name for the Genus Carya, which contains the Hickories and Pecans, and hence the common name "Hickory." Hicoria Buckleyi var. arkansana is now known as Carya texana (Black Hickory).

According to the Plants National Database, *Hicoria ludoviciana* (now known as *Carya ludoviciana*) is still known only from Louisiana, and probably from this single specimen.

Announcements

WINTER MEETING. This years Winter Meeting of the Louisiana Native Plant Society will be held at Camp Hardtner from February 1-3, 2013. Details to follow.

2012 LNPS Grant Awards

LNPS has awarded two grants in 2012 in the amount of \$500 each to Amite Elementary Magnet School and to Bayou Rebirth.

Amite Elementary Magnet School's project is to develop an environmental playground to include interactive learning centers, butterfly/hummingbird gardens, natures trails, etc. Project Based Learning and STEM (science, math, engineering, and technology) will be used in the project to involve students as designers, engineers, landscapers, surveyors, and architects to create their own environmental playground.

Bayou Rebirth, a wetlands restoration nonprofit organization, is planning a native plant symposium in the Fall of 2013 to help educate residents, urban planners, and other professionals about native plants in Louisiana and develop the market for native plants in the region.

Congratulations to both recipients.

UL Horticultural Science Club

The existing Horticulture Club was a loosely organized mob of "hippies". Our leaders, Jake, Steve, and the Reverend Dirt and their lady and guy friends are passionate about planting and growing things well. They all want to be urban farmers (so cool). I have grown to love them one and all and named them the "Green Guerrillas". They love to plant things now and then ask forgiveness and permission later. Our classroom building always has color around it, an herb garden, large pot/baskets filled with interesting flowering and fruiting beauties. These kids love the La State Arbo, the Kisatchie, the Cajun Prairie, Caroline Dormon, Dr. Allen, Dr. Vidrine, Rick Webb, Mark (Prairiedog) Pastorek, Bill Fontenot, Larry Allain, Jim Robinson. These young people really get it. They understand the importance of planting native plants in our fragmented continental and worldwide landscape.

Around the UL campus they plant Native Trees each Arbor Day and Earth Day (in recent past from Bill Fontenot). I call them Tree Warriors after they negotiated down the president about plans to cut some of our beautiful native UL live oaks trees to build ugly buildings. They designed and built a nature-based play playground at the UL Early Childhood Lab, using Louisiana natives (Rick Webb's). They helped landscape and maintain the landscape of the Beau Soleil House, our international award winning solar home, using Louisiana Natives (Rick Webb's). This fall they will install a Prairie Patch (lawn reduction) and a flower garden using prairie forbs (with Prairie dog and Dr. Allen's help). Some of these plants will be purchased (from Rick and others). Some will be rescued from prairie remnants. Some of them are plants they grew in their Hort Club garden along with vegetables and tobacco and cotton. They are presently planning to help the university plant prairie seed on parking islands in a new parking area in November. What an amazing group, I hold them up and honor them.

Jim Foret



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The Louisiana Native Plant Society's **Facebook** page represents the LNPS on this social network. This is a non-profit organization account that we have with Facebook that was opened on February 25, 2012 with the appropriate LNPS board and officers' approval. Our page currently displays a variety of native plant information as well as links to the LNPS website, an area explaining where and how to join, an events page, as well as a variety of LNPS related photos. It is well designed and it invites new users to join in the ongoing discussion. The page displays a variety of beautiful native plant photos and discusses LNPS-related activities and highlights members and events across the state as well as offering a wealth of information for visitors.

The LNPS's Facebook page currently has 100 'Likes' since it's establishment. So what is a 'Like'? When a user comes across information, images, or a thread that they find interesting or useful they can simply click on it and a window pops up offering you the option to 'Like', 'Comment', or 'Share' with a text box just below it. You can also perform any of these functions by clicking any of those buttons that are below the object you are viewing. If you 'Like' the page that you are viewing then you are kept up to date on all of the postings from the LNPS Facebook page. The 'Like' or thumbs up icon is normally in the top of the page to the right of the page's title. It is an open forum where anyone with an interest in native plants and a Facebook account can view at anytime and are welcome to comment or add content.

At this point in the page's lifespan we have had over 5603 unique visitors see posts from our page. Over 5033 actually read the posts and none of those were via paid advertisements. Only 588 of those visits were from when a post is shared or goes 'Viral'. The total number of visits to the page to view information on it have been 23611. Of those 22413 were 'Organic' meaning that they came from people who have 'Liked' our page. 1192 were visits from shared posts. We've had 673 unique users who have visited the page over that time period. The most viewed posting was the photo that advertised the 'Lily Orchid days in the the Fort Polk area'.

You can find the LNPS Facebook page at: <https://www.Facebook.com/LouisianaNativePlantSociety>. You will actually have to log in to view the full page and all of its information.

- Jeff McMillian

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LOUISIANA CONSERVATION REVIEW

July, 1936

Louisiana Nature Guardians

"Upon my honor, as a Louisiana Nature Guardian, I promise to take care of all our natural friends, to guard and protect them to the best of my ability, and as far as possible influence others to do the same."

An Oldie but a Goodie..... I am sure there is a part of all of us that wishes still such oaths were taken. Enjoy!



Image courtesy R.W. Smith



Image courtesy Keir Morse

Sky Blue Aster (*Symphyotrichum oolentangiense*) is one of about 10 species of Asters in Louisiana that have blue or violet flowers. Sky Blue Aster, flowering in the Fall, is usually found on calcareous prairies in Central and Northern Louisiana, although it can be found on other clay soils that have a high pH (calcareous). It is a drought-tolerant plant and prefers to live in full sun – just right for lots of gardens here in Louisiana that have clayey soils.

The species name refers to the place where the plant was first discovered, which is the Olentangy River in Ohio. It was discovered by John Leonard Riddell, whose name you may recall earlier in this newsletter – *Seleaginella arenicola* var. *riddellii*.

Sky Blue Aster (don't you just love that name) is easy to identify because its leaves are very rough to the touch – like sandpaper (botanists use the term 'scabrous' for this characteristic). The basal leaves also have a very long petiole that is sometimes narrowly winged, and a leaf base that is heart-shaped (cordate). Also, the bracts surrounding the base of the flower (phyllaries) have a noticeable green, diamond-shaped tip. Stem pubescence is not a good character to use in the identification of this plant because the stems on some plants can be hairy, while another plant right next door can have a completely smooth stem – go figure!



Image courtesy Dan Tanaglia

New Members—2012

Kay Andrews
(Lake Charles, LA)

Dorothy Delaney
(Covington, LA)

Carroll Johnson
(Vicksburg, MS)

Jenny and Joe Prejean
(Lafayette, LA)

Johnny Armstrong
(West Monroe, LA)

Erin Dibos
(Baton Rouge, LA)

Jennifer Kluse
(Baton Rouge, LA)

Cecilia Richmond
(DeRidder, LA)

Joe Baucum
(Barataria, LA)

Charlotte Fallen
(Baton Rouge, LA)

Linda Knowles
(Houston, TX)

Frances Roberts
(Ball, LA)

Yvonne Bordelon
(Covington, LA)

Rebecca Grace
(Houston, TX)

Jeff Kuehny
(Baton Rouge, LA)

Varnell Roberts
(Ball, LA)

Regina Bracy
(Amite, LA)

Peggy Hellyer
(Shreveport, LA)

Joy Lorens
(Carriere, MS)

Linda Lea Smith
(Bossier City, LA)

Alan Broussard
(Lafayette, LA)

Bob Hines
(Bentley, LA)

Heather Maria Mancuso
(Slidell, LA)

Jason Stagg
(Baton Rouge, LA)

Hannah Covert
(New Orleans, LA)

Bobbie Ann Hutchins
(Mooringsport, LA)

Carrie Martin
(Covington, LA)

Alicia Thomas
(Plaquemine, LA)

Denton Culpepper
(Baton Rouge, LA)

Teresa Janezic
(Prairieville, LA)

Betty Plummer
(Covington, LA)

Dr. Harry Winters
(Metairie, LA)

We welcome these new members to LNPS and hope to see them at the Winter Meeting at Camp Hardtner February 1-3, 2013.

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