

Mississippi Native Plants

The Newsletter of the Mississippi Native Plant Society

Winter 1998

Volume 18 Issue 1



Wild Quinine A Beautiful White-Flowered Perennial

by Jim Wilson

I live in the Piedmont region of South Carolina, where the winters are colder and the red clay soils radically different from the yellow hills of Vicksburg, where I spend my first fifteen years. Thus, I was surprised to learn that wild quinine, *Parthenium integrifolium*, can be found in scattered natural stands in Mississippi, as well as here.

Several years back, I eradicated the bermudagrass and tall fescue in my side yard, and planted a meadow of wildflowers native to the South Carolina Piedmont. One of the flowers I wanted at all costs was wild quinine. Since moving to our farm in 1983, I had watched a patch of it surviving on the steep banks of a deep ditch along a blacktop road leading

to our home. I was impressed by its pristine whiteness and long bloom span.

Plants of our local ecotype were nowhere for sale, so I did what I ask my audiences not to do. I took a plant, vowing that I would pass around its progeny, which I subsequently did. The plant I took was never allowed to bloom, as it was within the strip mowed by the highway department. Time exonerated me, because the highway department "cleaned out" the ditch with one of those infernal spinning machines shaped like a cone. Most of the wild quinine plants were chopped to pieces and thrown up as spoils on the banks. The pity of this is that the ditch was already twice as wide and deep as needed to drain its watershed, and the stand of wild quinine is the only one I've seen in my area.

After watching my plants of wild quinine for several years (I divided the original crown), I am convinced that is a choice perennial for sunny areas. Its gray-green foliage is, in my garden, clean and pest free. The rather flexible stems do tend to flop late in the season, which I suspect is one of the ways the plant uses to distribute its seeds.

The individual flowers are small and numerous, clustered into loose, flat heads of bead-like white flowers that never seem to open fully. Here, wild quinine begins to bloom in mid-summer and stays in color until cold weather arrives some time after Halloween. Even when the flowers are spent, they aren't unattractive, since they age to gray rather than brown. If the plants could be persuaded to stand up all summer, they would grow to a height of two to three feet.

Wild quinine develops a strong, deep root, much on the order of curly dock. Propagation by dividing crowns is slow. Very few seedlings volunteer around mother plants. When they do, it is a time for rejoicing, because I'm trying to grow enough plants to group into a colony.

By the way, the soil on our worn out cotton farm tested pH 5.2, and low to very low in all three major nutrients. I limed it when preparing the soil for the meadow, which may explain why the wild quinine is still thriving. Now, in order to save time and reduce labor, I'm mulching what is left of my meadow with pine bark, but will keep it away from the crowns of perennials. Over the years, Swamp Sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*), and *Pycnanthemum muticum* (one of the mountain mints) took over my meadow and had to be eradicated. All the remaining species are well-mannered, especially the wild quinine.

I would like to see a talented plant breeder select shorter, bushier forms of wild quinine. Its genes have the potential for producing a "Perennial Plant of the Year", I feel sure. But until then, I'll happily settle for my native strain, and hope that its new, mulched habitat will display its plants to better advantage.

Dr. Sidney McDaniel, Plant Taxonomist at MSU has specimens of *P. integrifolium* from Monroe and Chickasaw Counties. It is likely that additional populations of the plant occur in the rich calcareous soils of other counties within the Black Belt Prairie area as well.

Editors Note: Jim Wilson is a horticulturist, garden writer, lecturer, author and former host of 'The Victory Garden'. He will be in Jackson in the spring of 1998 for the Garden Clubs of Mississippi State Meeting and will be traveling through the state on the Mississippi Queen during a lecture cruise in June.

Holly - Just another overgrown foundation plant? No, wait - there's 'lore'!

With their shiny leaves and berry laden limbs the evergreen members of the genus *Ilex*, more commonly known as holly, have intrigued man for millenniums. Through the ages, it has been hung outside homes to ward off evil spirits, worn by warriors as a badge of courage, eaten to purge the soul, drunk as tea to provide extraordinary strength and put under pillows to induce prophetic dreams.

The fact that most retain their green leaves all year long and often sport colorful berries has made holly the source of endless folk tales. Early Christians regarded it as a sign that the Christ Child would "live forever", while American Indians interpreted it as their omen of a long and fruitful life.

Holly wood is so tough it has been known to render even chain saws useless. Early lumbermen often saw the hard quality of the wood as a testament of its eternal life. Folklore hints that George Washington's false teeth were made from holly wood.

American craftsmen took advantage of this toughness to fashion furniture and other durable products from the American holly. Today, very little holly is grown commercially for its wood, and most wholesale lumber dealers don't even carry the product. Nonetheless, at Christmas time, several million dollars worth of holly cuttings are sold at nurseries all across the country.

Holly has long been known by that common name in many countries. Its name probably stems from an old English term, 'holen', which refers to trees with glossy leaves and red berries. In all, there are more than 200 different varieties of holly, including some that lose their leaves each autumn and some that produce yellow, black and even purple berries. Nearly two dozen species are found in the U.S. One of the most common, American holly (*Ilex opaca*), once grew in thick forest stands throughout the eastern half of the country. Now only a fraction of those wild stands remain.

Most hollies are single sexed. Only the female plants develop the coveted scarlet drupes (fruits) and flowering may not begin until they are nearly eight years old. Before then, it is virtually impossible to determine a tree's sex. Each drupe contains several hard nutlets that provide food for mocking birds, thrushes, robins, bluebirds, and Cedar Waxwings, to name but a few.

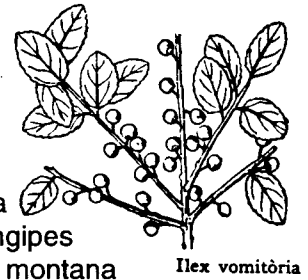
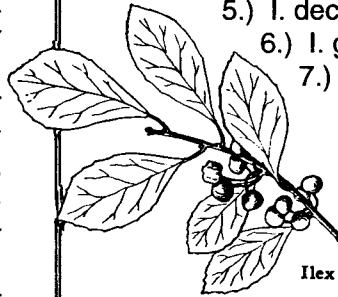
Holly use as a decoration dates back to the Druids, a religious order that once thrived in ancient England

Continued on pg 3

MISSISSIPPI HOLLY TIDBITS

The 12 species of *Ilex* listed below are found in MS:

- 1.) *I. ambigua*
- 2.) *I. amelanchier*
- 3.) *I. cassine*
- 4.) *I. coriacea*
- 5.) *I. decidua*
- 6.) *I. glabra*
- 7.) *I. longipes*
- 8.) *I. montana*
- 9.) *I. myrtifolia*
- 10.) *I. opaca*
- 11.) *I. verticillata*
- 12.) *I. vomitoria*



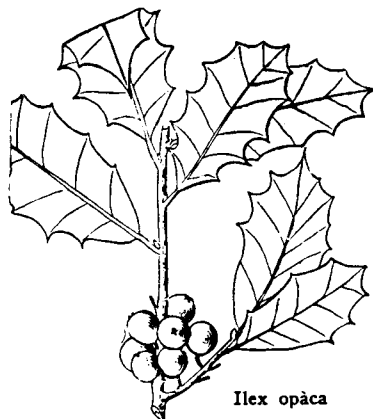
Using this list can you answer the following?

- A) Which hollies are evergreen?
- B) The fruit of which species is dark purple/black giving rise to its common name 'Inkberry'?
- C) Which hollies are deciduous?
- D) Scorched leaves of which native holly were used as a tea substitute during the Civil War?
- E) Which hollies have leaves lacking spines?
- F) Which holly graces a 32 cent Postal Stamp?
- G) Which three hollies have S3 listing (Rare and Uncommon) on the Natural Heritage Special Plant List, having only 21-100 occurrences in Mississippi?
- H) Which holly has S2 listing (Imperilled because of rarity) having only 6 to 20 occurrences in the state and in danger due to habitat destruction?
- I) Which holly was used by the Native Americans living in the Southern Coastal Plains as an emetic?



- A) 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 12; B) 6; C) 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11;
 D) 10; E) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12; F) 10;
 G) 2, 8, 9; H) 3; I) 12

Holly - Continued from page 2



Ilex opaca

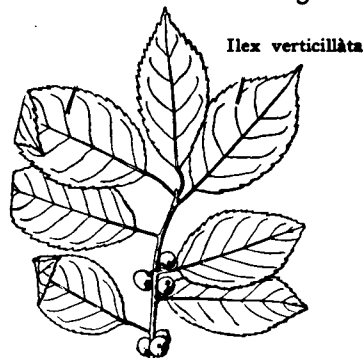
and France. These priests considered the eternally green leaves of the European holly proof that the sun would never desert them. They brought boughs of holly indoors in winter to provide a place for the sylvan spirits to live. The Romans extended this tradition by hanging holly indoors during the feast of Saturnalia, a midwinter festival celebrating the return of longer days.

With the advent of Christianity, early church converts adopted many of the pagan rituals for their own. Christmas Eve was designated as 'tempa exornatur' - 'churches are decked' and it was forbidden to bring any greens into the home before that night when the churches themselves were adorned with holly and other greenery. There are still many places, even today, where the ritual of 'tempa exornatur' on Christmas Eve is still part of the time honored holiday tradition.

As Christianity spread, so did legends about holly. In one tale, holly was said to have had white berries until the time of the Nativity. But when a visitor broke off a branch of a holly tree outside the Bethlehem stable and offered it as a gift to the Christ Child, the baby pricked his finger on the sharp pointed leaves. Horribly embarrassed, the holly blushed and its berries have remained red ever since. Others believe that the first holly sprang up under the footsteps of Christ, when he trod the earth. Its thorny leaves and scarlet berries, like drops of blood, symbolize the Savior's suffering.

The early Roman naturalist, Pliny, believed that a wild animal could be subdued merely by throwing a stick of holly wood at it. If planted near a house or farm he also believed that the tree would repel lightning, poison and witchcraft.

Ten years ago when we purchased our house I planted two female deciduous hollies to keep company with the large male American holly by our driveway. Come to think of it our house hasn't been struck by lightning and as far as I can tell we're witchcraft free. Although we may have been made sick on occasion from my cooking, no one in my household has been made ill from poisoning. I think I'll plant a couple of more hollies just to make sure the next ten years are equally non-eventful! - Lynn Libous-Bailey

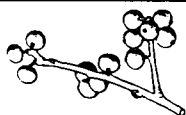


Ilex verticillata

References: 'Deck the Halls With Boughs of Holly' by Maryanne Newsome Brighton, Newsletter of the Alabama Wildflower Society, October 1997; Handbook of Medicinal Herbs, Dr. James Duke, CRC Press, pg. 244; Guide to Flowering Plant Families, Wendy B. Zomlefer, pg 71.; Trees, Shrubs & Woody Vines of the Southwest, Robert A. Vines, Pgs 646-658.

SOMETHING ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL CAUGHT YOUR EYE?

IF THERE'S **CELERY YELLOW** ON THE DATE THIS IS YOUR **LAST ISSUE**. IF THERE IS **ORANGE** YOUR **DUES EXPIRE SOMETIME THIS QUARTER**. DON'T PUT IT OFF - MAIL YOUR RENEWAL CHECK TODAY!!



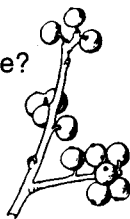
WISDOM

by Sylvia Trent Auxier



Could I be growing old that this bright Spring
I do not wait impatiently to see
The wind-unfolded buds whose opening
Dower with leaf and bloom on the now stark tree?

Could it be creeping age that makes me try
To hold within my heart the clean straight line,
Or graceful curve of bough against the sky,
Sheer beauty etched in every design;



That grouping of the twigs along the branch -
Sparse progeny or closely gathered clan,
As typical of maple, elm or beech
As family resemblances in man?

It could be only that each passing year
Gives me more wisdom, teaches me to see
That only winter, chilly, stark, severe,
Reveals the grace inherent in a tree

Published in 1953 in the book entitled 'Love-Vine'

Fall Color Abounds near the Pearl River

Off we went to explore the Pearl River Wildlife Management area along the northeast side of the Ross Barnett Reservoir, following the Fall Board Meeting of the MNPS. Going on an excursion with a group of people interested in native plants was a welcomed change of pace. While most of the group were interested in the areas filled with wetland plants, my attention was turned to other less wet spots. The native plants which were in full bloom and providing color to the drier surrounding areas of the landscape are what caught my eye.

Wetland natives and introduced exotics covered most of the standing water on either side of the road. But what the vast stretches of brilliant yellow goldenrods (*Solidago* sp.), tall sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*), and narrowleaf swamp sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*) in the areas which were not standing with water were breathtaking. These plants can obviously tolerate damp soils and their bright yellow coupled with the clear white of some concurrently blooming boneset (*Eupatorium* sp.) made for a beautiful display. The icing on the cake was to find numerous six to seven foot tall ironweeds (*Vernonia gigantea*) with their deep royal purple flowers amassed in clusters popping up through the sea of yellow and white.

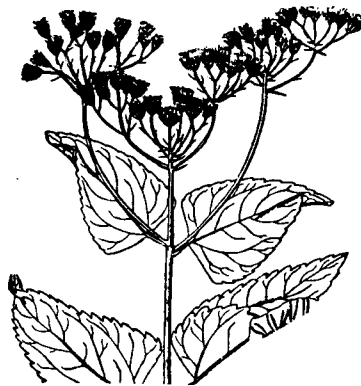
In addition two species of aster-look alike, *Boltonia asteroides* and *Boltonia diffusus*, commonly known as false-asters were present. Doing well in well drained but damp soil conditions their white flowers, nickle and dime sized respectively, made a beautiful display mingling with the lavender blue of the mistflower (*Eupatorium colestium*) and the light yellow flower of the narrowleaf goldenrod (*Solidago tenuifolia*). While I could find only a few pink blooms with dangling yellow anthers the

characteristic urn shaped seed pods of the rhexia (*Rhexia* sp.) provided evidence enough that this was indeed a nice size population of this moisture tolerant plant. Keeping company with some mistflower, which was gracefully weaving in and out of the browned Rhexia flower stalks, the area must have been gorgeous when both were in full bloom.

What I liked most about seeing these plants in the wild was exactly that. Seeing plants in their native habitat lets you see the conditions in which they prefer to grow. Better yet, it gives you the opportunity to see the less than perfect conditions they tolerate and still be happy enough to bloom. This gives you an idea of what they might possibly like if brought into the garden setting. Although most heleniums are touted for being drought tolerant, I had in front of me proof that damp soils with good drainage is perfectly fine for them.

I have a plant or two of all the above mentioned perennials in my garden at home or in the native planting at work. Many of them are planted in areas that have average conditions but judging from where they were located in their native habitat I can surely experiment with placing them in damper sites.

Combining those plants in an area with other southeastern natives, such as Copper iris (*Iris fulva*), Texas star hibiscus (*Hibiscus coccineus*), Elliott's aster (*Aster elliotii*) and some spiky leaved rush (*Juncus effusus*) would provide a damp area with full sun with color and structure from April until the first hard killing frost. Sure some of them may settle in and make themselves at home a bit more quickly than some people would like. But what else could you possibly plant in the low spot along the Southwest side of the garage that would welcome you home with such color and excitement?
-Lynn Libous-Bailey



Mississippi Native Plants The Newsletter of the Mississippi Native Plant Society

Mississippi Native Plants is the quarterly publication of the Mississippi Native Plant Society.

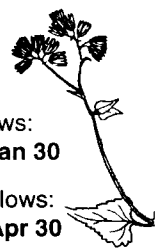
Winter (Issue 1)	December/January/February
Spring (Issue 2)	March/April/May
Summer (Issue 3)	June/July/ August
Fall (Issue 4)	September/October/November



Deadlines for the Spring Issue are as follows:
Articles--Jan 15 Calendar of Events- Jan 30

Deadlines for the Summer Issue are as follows:
Articles--Apr 15 Calendar of Events--Apr 30

Articles of all types submitted to the Editor are welcome.



The Green Pharmacy - The Latest Endeavor by Dr. James A. Duke

Duke has done it again! He has provided the consumer interested in medicinal plants a source that covers some 120 symptoms of the human body, from Athlete's Foot to Yeast Infections. Part one of the book is a guide to *The Green Pharmacy*. This section includes the safety aspects of using herbals for medicinal purposes (these pages should be read carefully by the inexperienced before using herbals), buying, harvesting, growing and storing medicinal plants. This section also contains information and instructions for making herbal tea, tinctures, poultices, and salves.

Part two covers some 120 symptoms of the human body and how and what plants are used to treat them. There is a short general overview at the beginning of each symptom, followed by the plants that are useful or it. Each plant is given by common name, with scientific name in parentheses. This is followed by a variety of useful information concerning the plant species. And in some cases, the author provides a generalized recipe. Throughout the book are boxes that illustrate a particular plant or provides interesting anecdotes about the plant or symptom. In several cases a recipe is provided (e.g., in the section on overweight, there is a wonderful recipe the author calls Lean Mean Bran Muffins).

At the end of section two, the author provides an overview of his life with plants. This is a most interesting section because in several ways it parallels the lives of many of us whose world seems to center on plants and the seemingly endless wonders of nature.

The only disappointment in the book, but a minor and one of personal taste, is the index. Under some entries it will refer the reader to another entry. For example, if the reader looks in the index for coneflower, it will refer them to see Echinacea. Under Echinacea it provides the page number. This is an annoying process when it seems that a page number could be put under coneflower as well as referring to Echinacea.

The book provides a wealth of information concerning medicinal plants whether one is a professional, amateur, or just enjoys a general interest in medicine. It is presented with solidly research data and often in the author's botanical humor. It also provides many uses and to some degree medicinal plant history. I highly recommend the book for anyone with an interest in plants and medicine.

The Green Pharmacy - Rodale Press - \$29.95 HB.

Review Written by Stephen L. Timme, Ph.D.:
Associate Professor of Botany
Pittsburg State University
Pittsburg, Kansas 66762
slt@pittstate.edu



The **Mississippi Native Plant Society** is a non-profit organization established in 1980 to promote the preservation of native and naturalized plants and their habitats in Mississippi through conservation, education and utilization.

1996 -1997 MNPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**ELECTIVE POSITIONS****PRESIDENT**

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MS Museum of Natural Science
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Jackson, MS 39201
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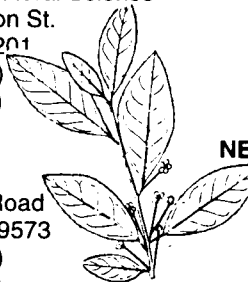
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52 Cable Bridge Road
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601-928-4881 (D)
601-928-5837 (E)

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Debora Mann
114 Auburn Drive
Clinton, MS 39056-4966
601-974-1415 (D)
601-924-4966 (E)
e-Mail manndl@okra.millsaps.edu

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Lynn Libous-Bailey
PO Box 357
Stoneville, MS 38776-0357
601-686-5312 (D)
601-686-9873 (E)
e-Mail llibous@hotmail.com

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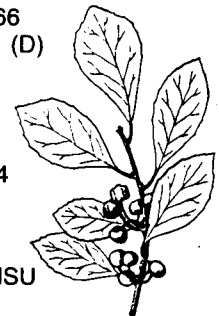
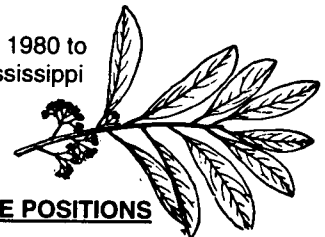
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Crosby Arboretum
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Misadventures in Botany

by Gail Barton

Here in Meridian, we are hoping to establish an arboretum. Our prospective site is on the Bonita Lakes property owned by the City of Meridian. We are currently working (along with local botanist, Tony Tisdale) to compile a list of indigenous flora from the site. The list will become part of our final proposal to Mayor John Robert Smith.

Three of us gathered to walk the site on a Saturday morning in October. Our group included Gail Barton - Meridian Community College Horticulture Instructor, Steve Strong - Lauderdale County Extension Agent and Nell Covington - President of the Meridian Chapter of the Audubon Society. We parked beside the lake and walked into a mesic woodland with rolling hills to begin our survey. Some of the common plants we found were - red maple (*Acer rubrum*), hickory (*Carya glabra*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*), cucumber magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*), loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), dogwood (*Cornus florida*), Elliot's blueberry (*Vaccinium elliotii*), wood oats (*Chasmanthium sessiliflora*), smilax (*Smilax pumila*). We were all a bit rusty on keying plants. We decided early on, however, that the three of us working together could do the job of one decent taxonomist! And so, we moved on through the woods secure in the knowledge that each of us could perform one third of the work load of a normal person.

We moved down hill to a boggy area adjacent to the lake where we found alder (*Ainus serrulata*), black willow (*Salix nigra*), lady fern (*Athyrium asplenoides*), cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*), switch cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*), spike rush (*Juncus spp.*), climbing hydrangea vine (*Decumaria barbara*), many assorted sedges and a good bit of Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*) and witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*). Nell pulled out her book and accessed her knowledge of wetland vegetation to identify camphor weed (*Pluchea purpurescens*) and rattlesnake root (*Prenanthes spp.*). Steve identified young slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*) and I recognized a stand of Indian plantain (*Cacalia lanceolata*). We walked on proud that each of us had attained the status of One Third of a Taxonomist.

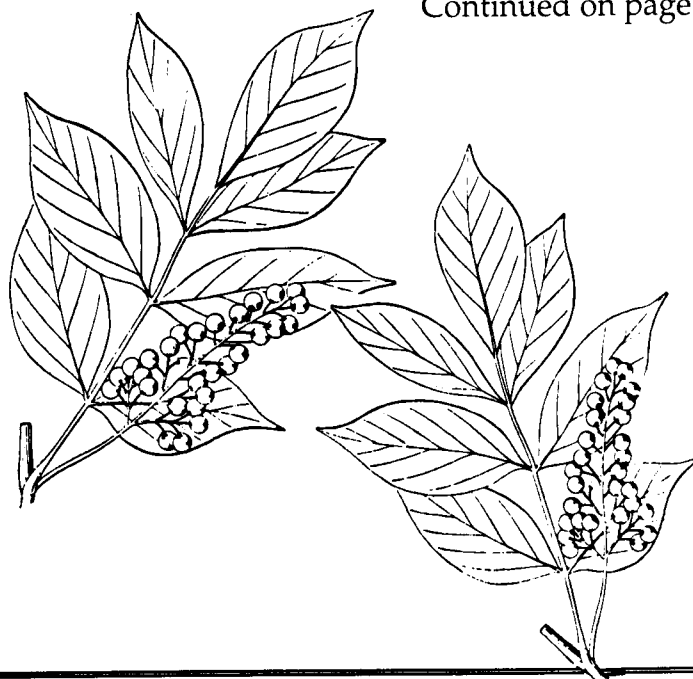
As we moved around the lake on higher ground, we explored the drainage areas (small creeks and streams feeding into the lake). We found large American beech (*Fagus grandiflora*), spruce pine (*Pinus glabra*), oakleaf

hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), native azalea (*Rhododendron canescens*) and crested iris (*Iris cristata*). We climbed to the top of a steep xeric slope and found hawthorns (*Crataegus spp.*), persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), Carolina holly (*Ilex ambigua*), Adam's needle yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*), flowering spurge (*Euphorbia corollata*) and ebony spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*).

Then we descended into another boggy drainage area. Nell had the best boots and the best knowledge of wetland vegetation. She waded out into the muck and called out names of the plants she was finding as I took notes. We were cooking! But then, she hit a snag. "I've found a small woody plant. It looks like an ash - but the leaves are alternate." she observed. "I'll bring it back and we can key it."

After she waded onto higher ground, each of us puzzled over the specimen. Was it some sort of hickory? Were there ashes which had alternate leaves? We walked on with a piece of the mystery plant in tow. After we emerged from the woods, we drove back to a picnic area by the main lake and spread out all our unknown plant parts on a picnic table. I ate a cucumber that Steve had brought from his garden while we worked. We became a bit cocky as we solved several mysteries, but still the ash/hickory??? puzzled us. Everyone loves a riddle and each of us handled it many times in our quest for

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Misadventures - Continued from pg 6

enlightenment. Finally Steve and I gave up. Nell persevered. She took the specimen home and vowed that she would discern its identity.

Monday evening after work, Nell called me at home. When I picked up the receiver she was laughing hysterically. "Are you itching?" she queried. Well yes, I had noticed itching and rashes in the oddest places. "Guess what our mystery plant is?" At which point the light bulb finally emitted a dim glow and I knew what we had handled, sniffed, crushed and fondled. It was poison sumac (*Rhus vernix*)!

My symptoms were minor. I had a rash on my lips and around my mouth from touching the sumac and eating the cucumber. Also I had a large patch of rash on my torso. None of my rashes ever blistered. They just swelled and itched. I treated myself with an over the counter poison ivy gel a few times. Steve required a prescription ointment and Nell had to make a doctor's visit to get a cortisone shot.

As David Bromberg would say "You've got to suffer if you want to sing the blues". In our case, we suffered to identify the *Rhus*!

We invite local members of MNPS to assist in this endeavor. We would also appreciate input from members around the state who have worked on similar projects. If you would like to help with our project call Gail Barton at 601-484-8793.

Editor's Note: MNPS member Gail Barton lives in Meridian MS. She is a horticulture instructor at MCC and is publisher and editor of the quarterly publication 'Garden Path - A Newsletter from Flowerplace Plant Farm', PO Box 4865, Meridian MS 39304.

Winter Spotlight & Scent of the Season: Bayberry

There are few times when I smell the scent of bayberry that I am not carried back to the Christmas holidays of my childhood. My mother would carefully unwrap the deep green bayberry candles and place them on top of the television during the holidays. Their scent would fill the living room and would stay with me to adulthood.

Known by its common name of bayberry or southern wax myrtle, *Myrica cerifera* is an aromatic evergreen shrub or small tree. It is a fairly quick grower and inhabits a wide variety of sites. At home in fresh to slightly brackish areas, pine savannas, cypress-gum ponds, swamps, and bogs, it is also tolerant of upland mixed woodlands, old fields fence and hedgerows. Full sun in damp areas is the ideal habitat for bayberry, too much sun and dry conditions, however, are not tolerated.

It's thick attractive foliage responds well to pruning, making it an ideal hedge plant for a damp area. Use of bayberry in the home landscape should not, however, be limited to that of a screen. If gardening for wildlife is high on your list then make

sure that your landscape contains at least one or more of this shrub. When placed together to form a small group these large shrubs can provide an evergreen accent as well as cover for birds. In addition fruits are cherished by numerous bird species including Catbirds, Eastern Bluebirds, Meadowlarks, Tree Swallows and White-eyed Vireo's, to name just a few.

The leaves of the bayberry have glands on both surfaces which contain essential oils. These oils are released when the leaves are crushed and have a distinctive heavy woody pine-like scent. Bayberry is not only a good choice for the landscape but for the kitchen as well. French settlers in Canada added the leaves of *M. pensylvanica* (the northern counterpart to *M. cerifera*) to soups, sauces and condiments as a substitute for the tropical bay leaves (*Lauris nobilis*). Cajuns across the south found the southern wax myrtle just as tasty a bay substitutes in their many

Continued on pg 8



Bayberry - Continued from pg 7

gumbos and stews. Tea made from the leaves is taken in rural South Carolina for colds and fever and bayberry leaves have also been used as a natural tick and flea repellent.

But perhaps bayberry is best known for its wax. It is the coating on the outside of the fruit that yields the aromatic wax, which is made up of several types of fatty glycerides. The fruits are so heavily covered with these fats that one bushel of bayberry fruit yields up to 4 lb of wax. Early American settlers made candles from the wax on the berries and later began using the wax in soap, ointment, leather-polishing formulations and medicinals. It was most heavily utilized in the production of Christmas candles until the early 1960's when man-made scents hit the market and artificial bayberry was born.

If you're thinking of purchasing bayberry for the fruit

this is one of those buyer beware plants. Because it is dioecious - that is it has separate male and female plants, you need to make sure the plant you are purchasing has fruit on it. That is the only way to be sure it is a female. Unless of course the grower can guarantee that that particular plant was grown from rooted cuttings off of a female shrub. Most won't make that guarantee since they purchase from a wholesaler. Shrubs grown from seed have a 50/50 chance of being either male or female so keep that in mind, especially when they give you the hard sell.

It is one native plant that is worth seeking out. Not only for the wonderful scent that the leaves and fruit provide, but for the wildlife value as well. It is near the top of my list for 1998 acquisitions.

-Lynn Libous-Bailey

References: Native Gardening In The South, William R. Fontenot, pg. 23, 63; Handbook of Medicinal Herbs, James A. Duke, pg 317-318; Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Northern Florida and Adjacent Georgia and Alabama, Robert K. Godfrey, 483-489.

\$\$\$\$\$\$ NOTIFICATION OF DUES INCREASE \$\$\$\$\$\$

One point of business at the fall meeting was the membership dues. After reviewing the figures it became evident that the current dues are no longer adequate to keep up with the cost of the day to day expenses of running the society. The Board voted for an increase of dues as follows:

\$\$\$ EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1 1998 THE FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIP DUES \$\$\$
FOR THE MISSISSIPPI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY WILL GO INTO EFFECT:

Student-\$7.50 Individual / Family-\$10.00 Sustaining-\$15.00 Contributing-35.00 Life -\$125.00

Atlas of the Vascular Flora of Louisiana
Volume I: Ferns & Fern allies, Conifers, & Monocotyledons
Volume II: Dicotyledons: Acanthaceae - Euphorbiaceae

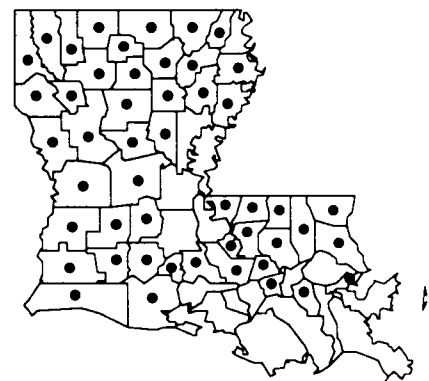
by: R. Dale Thomas & Charles M. Allen

In cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
 Natural Heritage Program & The Nature Conservancy, LA Field Office

These checklists provide a listing of plants documented in Louisiana. Each species listed is accompanied by a map of Louisiana, with a black dot placed in the Parishes in which plant has been found.

Copies may be obtained at a cost of \$12.00 **per copy** (check or money order) made payable to : The Natural Heritage Account.

Mail Payment to: Louisiana Natural Heritage Program
 Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries;
 PO Box 9800;
 Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 (504) 765-2821



Coreopsis tinctoria

Calendar of Events**March 20-22****Crosby Arboretum Spring Plant Sale
10:00-3:00 Each Day**

The annual spring plant sale will be bigger than ever. Native plants are the specialty with a huge stock of spring perennials, including plants that attract birds and butterflies. Plant experts will be available to assist in your selection.

For more information: Crosby Arboretum PO Box 1639 Picayune, MS 39466-1639; 601-799-2311

April 4**Plymouth Bluff Wildflower Weekend
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Registration Fee - \$20.00**

With nearly four miles of nature trails that wind through a variety of habitats ranging from bottomland hardwoods and cypress-tupelo sloughs to upland oak-hickory-pine forests there will be an abundance of spring wildflowers to view. Registration begins at 8:00, with the first trail walk beginning at 9:00. Lunch (which includes a short program), refreshments, and three guided trail walks are included. Lodging will be available for Friday and/or Saturday nights @ \$40.00 single and \$50.00 double occupancy.

For more information contact Plymouth Bluff Center 2200 Old West Point Road; Columbus, MS 39701; 601-241-6214. Their web site address is <http://www.plymouthbluff.com>

April 17 & 18 10:00-5:00**April 19 11:00-5:00****Memphis Botanic Garden Spring Plant Sale**

Still have space left for some choice native perennials? Make your way to the MBG for their spring plant sale. Native as well as choice garden plants will be available. Staff and volunteers will be there to answer any questions. Make time to tour the gardens which should still be in spring bloom.

Call 901-685-1566 for more information.

April 16 Preview Party (5:00 - 6:30)**Reservations required (\$)****April 17 (9:30 - 6:30) & 18 (9:30 - 4:30)****Lichterman Nature Center Spring Plant Sale**

If you're planning a trip to Memphis this spring this is the weekend to go! The Lichterman Nature Center will have native plants on hand to fill in those bare spots in your garden. Knowledgeable staff and volunteers can help answer any questions you may have about the cultural requirements of your purchases.

To obtaining Preview Party Reservations or other information call 901-767-7322

May 15 & 16**Historic Vicksburg Landscape Symposium**

This is the third symposium with proceeds benefiting the Children's Sculpture Garden at the Southern Cultural Heritage Complex. Registration for the two days is \$130.00. Partial registration for the Friday session, including lunch is \$60.00; \$20.00 for the Friday Evening Speakers' Party; \$50.00 for the Saturday session which also includes lunch. Garden Tours and lectures fill Friday and a full day of lectures on Saturday. Plant sales both days.

For more information contact Dinah Lazor, Executive Director of the Southern Cultural Heritage Complex; PO Box 150; Vicksburg MS 39180; Ph 601-631-2997 FAX 601-034-4519



Botanical Nomenclature - It provides lots of information

Botanical names are denoted with a two-word name or binomial. The first name is the genus, which identifies the closely related group to which the plant belongs. The second name is termed the specific epithet and serves as an adjective to modify the genus name and to identify the species. The genus name is always written first and starts with a capital letter. The species name is second and starts with a lower case letter. The combined genus and species name is italicized (or underlined), for example : *Echinacea purpurea* or Echinacea purpurea.

Because the species name is an adjective, under the rules of Latin, it has to agree in gender and number with the genus name which it modifies. For this reason there may be a variety of possible endings to the genus name, such as *purpureus* (masculine), *purpurea* (feminine), *purpureum* (neutral). The base of the adjective may also be combined with a prefix or suffix to alter its meaning. The prefix *atro*, which means dark can be added to *purpureus* (purple) to get *atropurpureus* (dark purple). The adjective *albus* (and its forms *alba* and *album*) mean white. By adding a suffix, the meaning can be adapted in a variety of ways: *albescens* = becoming white; *albicans* = whitish; *albiflorus* = white-flowered; *albicaulis* = white-stemmed.

Below are some botanical terms denoting color. In most cases, for simplicity, just the masculine form is given. You'll quickly discover that the use of botanical names is more than just scientific snootiness. It's also an accurate way to describe a plants characteristics in an universally accepted language.

<i>albus</i> - white	<i>eburneus</i> - ivory-white	<i>niveus</i> - snow-white
<i>argenteus</i> - silvery	<i>erythraeus</i> - red	<i>ochraceus</i> - ochre, yellow-brown
<i>atro</i> - dark	<i>flavus</i> - yellow	<i>pallidus</i> - pale
<i>aurantiacus</i> - orange-colored	<i>fuscus</i> - dark brown	<i>purpureus</i> - purple
<i>aureus</i> - golden yellow	<i>glaucus</i> - blue-grey	<i>roseum</i> - light pink
<i>azureus</i> - sky blue	<i>griseus</i> - grey	<i>rubidus</i> - red
<i>brunneus</i> - deep brown	<i>haematoides</i> - blood red in color	<i>rubrus</i> - red
<i>caeruleus</i> - dark blue	<i>ianthinus</i> - violet in color	<i>rufus</i> - red
<i>candidus</i> - white	<i>igneus</i> - fire-red in color	<i>russatus</i> - resset, reddish
<i>cardinalis</i> - scarlet	<i>incanus</i> - hoary, light grey	<i>sanguineus</i> - blood red
<i>carmineus</i> - carmine, vivid crimson	<i>kermesinus</i> - carmine, rich red	<i>stramineus</i> - straw-colored
<i>carneus</i> - flesh-colored	<i>lacteus</i> - milky-white	<i>tinctus</i> - colored
<i>chryseus</i> - gold, golden yellow	<i>leuco</i> - white	<i>variegatus</i> - variegated
<i>cinereus</i> - ash colored, grey	<i>vividus</i> - lead colored, bluish grey	<i>versicolor</i> - diversely colored
<i>coccineus</i> - scarlet	<i>luridus</i> - brownish-yellow	<i>virens</i> - green
<i>coelestis</i> - sky blue	<i>luteus</i> - yellow	<i>viridis</i> - green
<i>coeruleus</i> - blue	<i>miniatus</i> - flame red, vermilion	<i>xanthinus</i> - yellow
<i>cyaneus</i> - blue	<i>nigrus</i> - black	<i>xantho</i> - yellow

Editor's Note: This article was taken from the July 1997 Issue of The Georgia Native Plant Society Newsletter 'NativeScape'.

References: *Plants and Their Names*, a Concise Dictionary by Roger Hyam and Richard Pankhurst; *Gardener's Latin* by Bill Neal

From their Binomial Nomenclature (Scientific Name) what information about the flower or foliage color do the following plant names provide us with?

Artemisia lactiflora
Salvia azurea
Aquilegia chrysantha
Digitalis lutea
Echinacea pallida
Centranthus ruber
Baptisia lactea
Potentilla atrosanguinea
Polemonium caeruleum
Lobelia cardinalis

Helleborus purpureus
Santolina virens
Carex glauca
Geranium sanguineum
Eupatorium coelestinum
Corydalis ochroleuca
Coreopsis rosea
Actaea alba
Salvia argentea

Heuchera sanguinea
Campanula lactiflora
Stachys coccinea
Agastache aurantiaca
Aquilegia caerulea
Linum flavum
Tanacetum niveum

Note: Not all of the above mentioned plants are native to Mississippi.

Schoolyard Butterfly Gardening by Anne Kilmer

Anne Kilmer, in the July-September 1996 News of the Lepidopterists' Society, wrote an article about schoolyard gardening. I thought it interesting enough to share in part with MNPS members. It is a wonderful reminder that those of us who appreciate native plants can share our interest with younger generations. In the article she writes:

"Children's Crusade. They've been disheartened long enough, told that it's their job to pick up litter (most of it tossed by them in the first place), while around them the world is increasingly uglified by their elders. Bulldozers crash through the children's secret places. Society is too frightened to let them build tree houses, rafts, forts, the other crippling playthings of daring youth. Got to keep those kids safe."

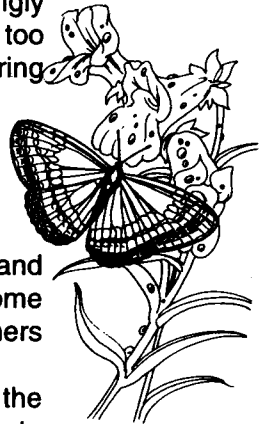
"So here's a way to keep them busy after school, outside, playing with other kids, getting to know their neighbors, hanging out with birds, bugs, worms, plants, watching the grass grow. Greening the knees of their pants, getting mud under their fingernails."

"It's butterfly gardening. Really, we're gardening to attract stinkbugs and fireflies, bees and beetles, raising caterpillars to feed the shrikes and jays and mockingbirds, showing some wilkweed bugs a good time. We call it butterfly gardening because that's a sexy name. Mothers like butterflies. They can even tolerate caterpillars, because they like butterflies so much."

"But really we're critter gardening. What's fun is listening to the grownups, led by the children, who start to see, and love, the orb weavers, wasps, lizards, tree frogs that come to share in the healthy garden, once the spraying stops."

"What's fun is to see the amazing generosity of neighbors and friends, the nurseries that donate choice plants (not the cast-offs we ask for), the schools and nursing homes and churches that drop everything, pick a spot, plant a garden and then love it just enough to let it go beautifully to seed."

Editor's Note: Any MNPS member who is involved in a project involving children is invited to submit an article on all aspects of the project. Many of us would welcome information on, project ideas, obtaining grant money, getting community involvment, etc,



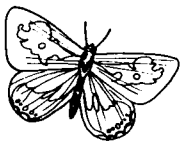
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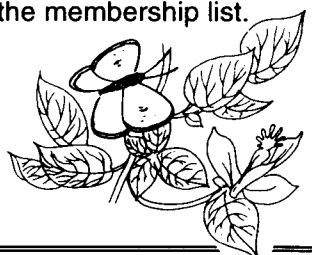
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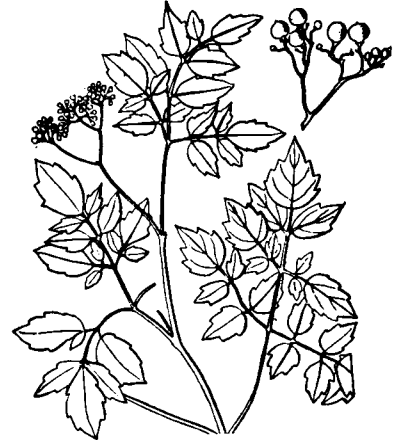
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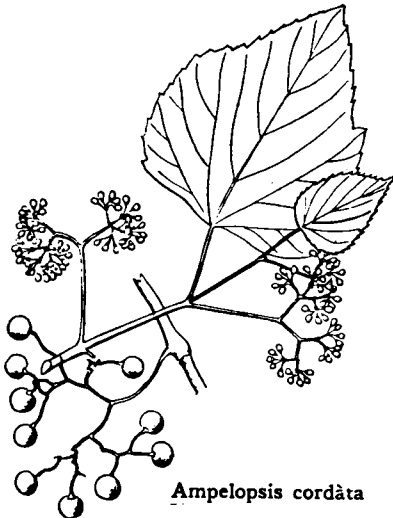


Porcelain-berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) Exotic vine with voracious appetite?

A native of northeast Asia, porcelain-berry is a deciduous, climbing vine of the grape family which can grow, with support, to a height of 16 feet. It is related to two North American *Ampelopsis* species: raccoon-grape (*Ampelopsis cordata*) and pepper-vine (*Ampelopsis arborea*). The leaves of porcelain-berry are bright green, slightly hairy on the underside, and often deeply lobed with three to five lobes per leaf. Popular among gardeners is a variegated leaf form.



Ampelopsis arborea



Ampelopsis cordata

The unusual fruits of porcelain-berry distinguish it from similar species. The fruit is hard, with the appearance of porcelain, and changes color from white to a series of pastel shades of yellow, lilac, and green before finally turning sky blue. All the colors can often be found on a single fruit cluster.

Porcelain-berry was cultivated in North America as an ornamental bedding and screening plant. It spread into natural areas when birds ate the berries and dispersed the seeds in their droppings. Once established in the wild this prolific vine spread along the East Coast from New England to North Carolina. It is a hardy species that can adapt to a variety of environmental conditions. It grows well in moist soils but is especially successful in moist, slightly shady areas along stream banks and in thickets.

Although relatively slow to establish, porcelain-berry grows quickly and becomes very difficult to remove. It is resistant to insects and disease, and can out compete native species for water and nutrients. The thick mats of porcelain-berry, which are so attractive to landscapers, spatially usurp other native plants in the wild.

From the Virginia Native Plant Society Invasive Plant Fact Sheet. Web Site: <http://www.state.va.us/~dcr/dnh/invamp.htm>

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