



Mississippi Native Plants and Environmental Education



Newsletter of The Mississippi Native Plant Society and the Mississippi Environmental Education Alliance

Volume 28 Number 4

The proud Emperors of the Forest are naked!

Winter

The **Mississippi Native Plant Society**, promotes the preservation of native plants and their habitats through conservation, education, and utilization.

MNPS Board of Directors

President: Dr. Mac Alford
601-266-6531, mac.alford@usm.edu

Vice-President: Dr. Tim Schauwecker
662-325-7895, tjs2@msstate.edu

Secretary/Treasurer: Dr. Debora Mann;
mann1@millsaps.edu

Education Chair: Dr. John Guyton
662-325-3482, cell 228-324-4233
jguyton@cfr.msstate.edu

Trips Chairs:
Gail Barton; 601-483-3588
lgbarton@gmail.com
Pat Drackett; 601-799-2311
drackett@ext.msstate.edu

The **Mississippi Environmental Education Alliance** promotes EE, supports the work of environmental educators and encourages the adoption of earth-friendly lifestyles

MEEA Board of Directors

President: Laura Beiser
Laura_Beiser@deq.state.ms.us
601-961-5373

President Elect: Terri Jacobson
Terri_Jacobson@fws.gov
601-321-1129

Past President: Cynthia Harrell

MEEA Mini-Grants: Matthew Miller
matthew_miller@tnc.org

Secretary: Angel Rohnke
angel.rohnke@mmns.state.ms.us

Treasurer: Peggy Guyton
peggyguyton@yahoo.com

MNP & EE Newsletter Editors:
John Guyton (see above),
Peggy Guyton 228-324-3136,
Brian Templeton 662-325-3190
btempleton@lalc.msstate.edu &
Lucas C. Majure, 352-273-1962
lmajure@ufl.edu

Your Editors' Christmas Wish

Make Tree Bark and Leaf Glitter Christmas Cards while Teaching Winter Tree Identification

Christmas is fast approaching, but there are still a lot of incredibly beautiful leaves on the ground. In heeding MNPS President Mac Alford's call (see inside) to engage with schools and youth, consider offering teacher friends your services on fall/winter tree and leaf identification. Purchase some spray adhesive, white glue and cardstock paper. Cut the paper down to Christmas card size pieces.

Find a group of youth and have them sketch the bare trees in a woodland landscape. You could do this indoors with them looking out a window that is composed of many panes. Suggest they lightly sketch the panes on their paper and then the trees and other outdoors objects seen in each pane. They can now erase the pane lines, if they wish.

After they have sketched a variety of trees, introduce them to the trees describing how you can even identify them in the winter when they are bare, while explaining that trees often can be narrowed down into groups that have alternate (beech, birch, black walnut, Bradford pear, cherry, Chinese tallow, elm, hickory, oak, poplar, sweetgum and sycamore,) and opposite (ash, buckeye, dogwood, maple and boxelder, and *Paulownia*) twig and leaf arrangements. Forgive the addition of *Paulownia*, Bradford pear, and Chinese tallow, but it is important to mention these are non-indigenous species, they are in our landscape, and they are causing problems. Suggest they collect small twigs that have characteristic branching patterns for the trees in their illustrations or slivers of bark for trees where that is a key characteristic, as is the case with birch bark. Trim the twigs so that they can be glued flat to the cards, as trees, while retaining the characteristic branching. Elm's and sycamore's zig-zag twigs are a give away! Birch bark can be trimmed with scissors and glued on the birch trees on their cards. Evergreen trees are easy to incorporate, and pine needles can be cut down to scale.

Share other fun facts with them such as the ability to blow through a red oak twig but not a white oak and the star shaped pith in hickory, cottonwood and some oak twigs. Those bunches of keys hanging from ash trees should be noted. Allow them to taste the wintergreen flavor of yellow birch twigs, the root beer flavor of sassafras, and chew a "liquid amber" tear from a sweetgum. They should push their fingernails into the spongy bark of an elm while you share with them that cork boards and wine corks are made from the thick bark of a cork oak tree. Speculate with them as to why some elm twigs have wings, and if you figure it out be sure to let me know!

Remember to collect some different colored leaves while you are outside and gently crush to make leaf glitter. Use this to decorate the ground under the trees on the cards. Some trees hold their leaves long into winter so place a few pieces of the appropriate color leaf glitter in the branches of these trees.

Have them write a haiku poem about something they learned for the inside of the card. These three-lined Japanese poems have five syllables in the first line, seven in the second and five in the last line. The lines do not rhyme.

Elm bark has cork wings
Tennis shoes should be so lucky
I could jump and fly

Children and adults take pride in what they create, and unique cards like these are not only are special and memorable for the time invested, but they are personal and cling to bulleting boards and refrigerators for years! Who wants a tie that anyone could buy?

MNP & EE Calendar, Field Trips, Native Plant Sales, et cetera

Native Plants for Sale at Any Time! Native plants are available throughout the year from Strawberry Plains Audubon Center's nursery by appointment. Please contact Kristin Lamberson at 662-252-1155 for more information. Bring a wagon.

For additional opportunities monitor: EEinMississippi, <http://bigcypressoutdoorclub.wikispaces.com>, www.clintonnaturecenter.org, <http://www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu/>

Letter from Laura Cook Beiser, MEEA President,

Dear MEEA members and partners,

The Fall 2010 Conference on “Estuaries” of the Mississippi Environmental Education Alliance (MEEA) hosted 40 educators at a 2-day CEU-approved conference/workshop held at the Mississippi Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) near Moss Point. Featured there were a boat ride on an estuary and a field trip to a pitcher plant bog within the boundaries of the NERR. Also featured were three excellent key-note speakers, Dr. David Rutherford of the Mississippi Geographic Alliance who spoke on Australian estuaries and needed conservation efforts there; Ms. Lee Yokal of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance who spoke on nutrients in estuaries, good and bad; and, Ms. Stacey Speas who spoke on the “Barrier Islands of Gulf islands National Seashore”. Jennifer Buchanan arranged for a teleconference with a lady on the “Great Lakes” who taught the audience about freshwater estuaries and the fact the word “estuary” originated with the Great Lakes. Prime examples of an estuary are where ancient freshwater river beds are drowned by salt water that form protection from currents and the harsh conditions of the open water and serve as nurseries for fish, shell-fish and other creatures; in addition, barrier islands form protection for estuaries. In 2010, an alliance was formed between MEEA and the Mississippi and International Envirothon Competition to feature their special topic for 2011, “Estuaries” at the Fall MEEA Conference and to offer Envirothon Teacher sponsors scholarships. An alliance was also formed with the Mississippi Geographic Alliance and the Mississippi Adopt-A-Stream Program during 2010.

Greetings from Mac Alford, MNPS President

Fall is my favorite time of the year. I love the flush of color, especially from goldenrods, bonesets, blazing-stars, and sunflowers, and the sounds and smells associated with the dried leaves of oaks and hickories. Since I have a 4-year-old son who loves to ride his tricycle through leaves, I've had no lack of stimulation lately. The fall is also the time of our annual meeting, which was held at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson this October. Every year's meeting seems different to me, and this year's was no exception. Although I missed the afternoon field trip, the rest of the meeting was well-attended and thought-provoking. In fact, we had to cut short the discussion following the talk on roadside flower research because there were so many questions, ideas, and comments. I liked it. That's the kind of passion that makes our society worth being a part of. Plus, it seemed like everyone won a door prize, even me. What's better than taking home a fine native plant?

As the only new member of the Board of Directors of the MNPS, I especially want to thank Gail Barton, who graciously stepped in as Interim President last year. Gail also led us through the annual meeting's program and is still serving as a field trips chair. The other leaders were willing to (and elected to!) stay on, and we are all thankful for their dedication and for their deep wells of ideas.

Finally, if you have not checked out and bookmarked our new website, www.mississippinativeplantsociety.org, do it! We've already got a list of native plant suppliers and our old newsletters, and we'll be adding a lot of other information in the near future, including suggested books and links, contact information for botanists and herbaria, and information on activities occurring in neighboring states and through similar organizations. If you attended the meeting, you saw first-hand some of the excellent resources available for native plants, and we hope to make our site the authoritative site for finding trustworthy information on Mississippi's native plants, both in the field and in cultivation.

Plants and Politics by President Mac Alford

Political campaigning: it's certainly a way to see the worst in a candidate, and we had more than our share of ugly examples this year. If you are like I am, you were probably excited by a (very) few candidates, bored by most, and—most of all—glad that the process was over ... for this year. So, when I turned on the radio on my way to work this week, I heard a report about George W. Bush's new book, *Decision Points*. I thought, “Oh, isn't there anything else they can talk about?” Then, as if they had read my mind and wanted to torture me, the Bush story was immediately followed by a commentary on “Obama's” electoral loss. Surprisingly, I had not changed to the Oldies station, and even more surprisingly, I actually got a kernel of something interesting from the two stories: the importance of sacrifice.

The stories were not connected, but both made a point about sacrifice. The first spoke of Bush's exhortations to the public to go about life as usual after September 11, 2001. The second spoke of Obama's mistakes in trying to compromise on legislation. He was not willing to sacrifice a bill in order to get the version he sought; rather, he allowed some objectives to be diluted to ensure passage with some bipartisan support. Whether or not one agrees with the interpretations of these radio reports, we can all agree that there is value in sacrifice and that both leaders missed opportunities to call upon us (“the American people”) or to inspire us to sacrifice something for the betterment of our country.

Although they missed their opportunities, I as your new president will not. Thus, I am calling on you for sacrifice. I want each of us to reach out to at least one school and get children involved with native plants this year. Why? Because we are the ones who cherish our state and its indigenous plants. (Thus, our name and mission.) Because we have a passion for our state and its plants. And, because

we want to see this wonderful biological heritage enjoyed, appreciated, and preserved by future generations.

You may say, “What do I have to offer to students?” The answer is clear: A LOT! Let me begin with an example. One of my good friends at the Clinton Community Nature Center was telling me about a visiting group of school kids from a rural school district. Based on what they saw and talked about, my friend was rather surprised that they drove all the way to Clinton to see what was certainly available just down the road from their school or perhaps even in the woods behind their school. Clearly, teachers are looking for places to teach about plants yet are unaware of what is in their backyard. Well, you, the members of the MNPS certainly know your neighborhoods. Hopefully, you know your county as well as Thoreau knew his Walden Pond. You also know something about plants. That means that you can connect the dots for a teacher, and that teacher would feel very lucky to have someone like you show up and offer a tour or a walk or assistance with a native plant garden at the school or assistance with leaf collections or with any number of other activities.

Maybe you think, “Well, they know just as much as I do.” Don’t underestimate your knowledge of plants. You’ve touched them, smelled them, seen them, photographed them. Maybe you couldn’t always identify them or maybe you couldn’t always keep them alive, but you’ve got hands-on experience, and many teachers may not have that kind of experience. I’ve had teachers bring bus-loads of students from as far as two hours away to walk through our Teaching Garden, with its labeled signs. Although that’s a valuable experience, students would get even more out of an opportunity to see—and be surprised by—plants near where they live. You say, “Surprise?” Oh, yes. For example, every year I have students in General Botany from coastal Mississippi who have never seen pitcher plants (*Sarracenia*), yet they live near one of the largest contiguous expanses of pitcher plants in the world. In short, that just ain’t right.

Finally, we should not only get involved with students because we are passionate about native plants but also because we don’t want to miss the great opportunities we have for environmental education in Mississippi. We still have a significant number of kids who spend time outdoors, whether hunting, fishing, helping on the farm, or cycling. Although some of those activities have practices that run counter to our conservation objectives, we should partner with them when we can to encourage *even more* outdoor activity. More than fifty years ago, probably few could imagine that hunters could be “environmentalists.” As an understanding of the relationship between environment and wildlife was built, the sensibility of a whole group of people changed. That can be true of native plants, too. As we help students understand the important roles (plural) of plants, many directly related to us as humans, appreciation and conservation of plants will become second nature.

I have put forward a challenge, a sacrifice I hope that you are willing to make. At next year’s meeting, let’s see how many schools we’ve helped and what kids (and maybe their teachers) have learned.

NATURE: A GREAT SOURCE FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS AND DECORATIONS

by Pat Drackett, Senior Curator, The MSU Crosby Arboretum

A visitor to the Crosby Arboretum once commented that the best Christmas she had ever experienced was the one when her family was low on funds, and everyone decided they would make presents that year for each other. That comment started a great conversation about the many free and inexpensive holiday projects that can be made from nature’s bounty. Grab a friend to help you brainstorm, and you will soon be on your way to creating unique gifts that will be made all the more special because they were made by you. Children will also enjoy helping with these holiday projects.

In past years, the Arboretum has offered holiday programs centered on the theme of “making something from nothing,” such as wreath making. Beautiful wreaths may be constructed for next to nothing! The visitor I spoke with elaborated on how she had learned to make beautiful pine cone wreaths. To create the wreaths, wire the cones onto a metal circle frame which can be purchased at craft stores. Her tip was that if you twist wire onto the cones and soak them in water to allow them to close up, if you wire them onto the frame when closed, they will create a very dense wreath as they dry and expand. Walnuts and other nuts in the shell can be hot glued onto the wreath for additional decoration.

Wreaths may also be made from evergreen tree branches. Obtain Douglas or Fraser fir branches from a Christmas tree source that provides the service of removing the lower limbs and trimming of the trunk. Many stores will be happy to give you their trimmings and avoid having to dispose of them. Purchase some green floral wire, and rustle up some wire coat hangers (the type that you get from the dry cleaner). Bend each coat hanger into a circle shape. This will become the base for your wreath. Then, bend the hook portion to make an “eye” to allow for later hanging. Use garden shears to prune a handful of branches, and lay them against the wire circle. After anchoring the floral wire on the hanger, begin to wrap around the ends of the branches firmly, arranging and adding more groups of branches as you go. You will soon learn the amount of pressure you need to keep on the wreath to result in a final, consistent appearance. If you need more guidance, there are many craft sites on the internet that provide directions for creating this type of wreath. It may sound a bit complicated at first, but once you have made it through one wreath, you will be ready to tackle your second! Add a bow, decorate with pine cones, or leave plain.

Another popular Arboretum workshop is creating holiday ornaments for wildlife. Pine cones can be stuffed with peanut butter and rolled in bird seed for some tasty treats. Hint: before stuffing, turn your pine cone upside down and tie a pipe cleaner (a.k.a. “chenille”) around the bottom of the cone. This wire chenille makes hanging the pine cones on your trees a very easy process.

Recipes are also available in bird books or craft websites for “bird butter” or suet. This mixture is composed of ingredients such as solid vegetable shortening, oatmeal, cornmeal, peanut butter, dried fruit such as raisins, and black sunflower seeds. Caution: do not use animal fats such as are often found in northern suet mixes. In our warmer winters, mixtures including animal fat will go rancid quickly, and can make the birds sick. Use this “bird butter” to fill in pine cones, or spoon it into in paper bowls or orange or grapefruit

halves. Yum! Hang these from tree branches with pipe cleaners that have been threaded through several holes punched in the edges.

Remember making popcorn and cranberry strings? This is certainly one holiday pastime that the whole family can enjoy, and if you have a dog or cat, the falling pieces will provide additional entertainment! Purchase large craft needles (there are plastic ones available for the younger set) and some yarn, and then let your imagination run wild. Add dried fruit such as apples or raisins, or O-shaped cereals for variety. String the garlands over shrubs or trees in your yard. And when you are ready to discard your Christmas tree, get even more mileage from it by placing it out in your garden and decorating it with a variety of wildlife treats.

Other holiday nature crafts come to mind from my past, such as studding oranges and other citrus fruit with whole cloves, and wrapping them with ribbon and pearl-headed pins. We would use cone-shaped floral foam (available at craft stores) that can be set in water and become the base for long-lasting "boxwood trees," constructing elegant topiaries from short trimmings of boxwood shrubs. Floral (or real) moss at the base, and some ribbon in holiday colors would finish off the picture.

Simply walking into the forest or garden, and cutting an armload of holiday greenery can yield material for festive decorations on the dinner table or mantelpiece. Branches of American holly, laden with berries, are the quintessential holiday decoration. Other ornamental hollies with berries can be used, such as the common dwarf Burford holly that is often heavy with fruit at Christmas-time. Cut lengths of greenery and attach to a length of twine to create long garlands to install over doorways or staircase rails. The garlands may be simple, made of only one material such as the tree trimmings mentioned before, or composed of many different plants with other decorations wired in, such as pine cones.

I remember colonial-styled homes that, in addition to boxwood wreaths that were hung from long red ribbons in the windows, would have lavish holiday decorations over the front door composed largely of fruit. They would start with a plywood frame about the width of the door, often cut in a half-circle at the top. Nails would be pounded through the board, and the fruit affixed to the nails. A pineapple half would be secured as the centerpiece, and a pattern of apples and oranges would be added around it, sometimes with holiday ribbon woven throughout the fruit mix. Laid flat, and fanning out from the edges of the fruit interior would be southern magnolia leaves, and the arrangement would be finished off with a large bow.

Finally, for the industrious among you, consider learning how to make pine needle baskets. Talk about making something from nothing! The best pine needles to use in these baskets are ones collected from the native longleaf pine. In fall, these trees are "ripe" with browning leaves toward the bases of the young trees, making for easy collecting. Longleaf pine is found in the Arboretum's Savanna Exhibit, as well as in other areas of Pearl River County. Our classes at the Arboretum which teach this craft are always well-attended. But, be forewarned, this activity can quickly develop into a life-long obsession.

For those of you who might claim to not know where to begin, a quick search of the internet will surely turn up more information and detailed instructions on any of the above topics. Good luck!

The Crosby Arboretum is located in Picayune, off I-59 Exit 4, on Ridge Road (between Wal-Mart and I-59). Call (601) 799-2311 for more information or visit www.crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu.

MEEA's Founders, Still Active in MEEA and EE, Recognized and Awarded The Founding of the Mississippi Environmental Education Alliance

The Mississippi Legislature, as part of the Waste Minimization Act of 1990, allocated funds for a state environmental education specialist and put those funds in the MSU Extension Service. Dr. John Guyton was hired to fill that position and gave up tenure at Murray State University in Kentucky to return home to serve his state. One of his tasks was to create an infrastructure for EE in Mississippi. At that time Matthew Miller, Executive Director of Crow's Neck Environmental Education Center, was known as Mississippi's foremost environmental educator. Matt was a member of the Tennessee EE organization and Guyton was active in EE in Kentucky. Both were members of the North American Association for Environmental Education.

John, living in Biloxi, traveled to Crow's Neck to discuss creating infrastructure for EE in Mississippi with Matthew Miller. Matt pointed out it would not be easy, that he had participated in two prior efforts in Mississippi that had failed. But, he added, it was needed, and he would join John in trying to pull it off and would be there until they succeeded or had to start over again.

Both were selected to participate in a MS Dept of Education (MDE) Global Change Committee. The MDE had funds from Al Gore to do some environmental education in Mississippi and John proposed using them to create a statewide EE organization and Matt seconded. The Global Change Committee set about planning an organizational meeting that was held at Roosevelt State Park. And thus began a series of planning meetings in the old MS Museum of Natural Science. Whether it should be an alliance or association was discussed at length and in the end Matt and John prevailed and it became an alliance encouraging broader participation.

At Roosevelt, Miller and Guyton co-chaired the committee that wrote the constitution and bylaws. Other groups planned the first conference, initiated a newsletter and developed a financial plan using notebooks Guyton produced for the various working groups using documents supplied by NAAEE and many other state affiliates. Miller and Guyton were elected as MEEA co-chairs until the first conference, at which time a president would be elected. Crow's Neck became the first home for MEEA.

MEEA's next funding came from the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) grant that Guyton received. With these funds he and Matt lead MEEA's early leaders on an Ozark retreat to Potosi, Missouri with EETAP and NAAEE affiliate leaders. Guyton and Miller's donated travel money from this grant kept the MEEA account from going inactive.

At MEEA's first conference, Matt organized a silent auction to fund mini grants for MEEA members and later he produced a CD of his stories to supplement the mini grant funds. At the first conference, John proposed MEEA become the Mississippi Affiliate of the North American Association for Environmental Education and Matt seconded. John was elected as the Mississippi Representative to NAAEE - a position he still holds. As Affiliate Rep. John worked on the National Standards for Environmental Education.

Matt and John have both served terms as MEEA presidents and guided the organization from the coastal estuaries to the Mississippi mountains. Matt hosted the now famous EE researcher Dr. Gerald Lieberman at a Crow's Neck MEEA conference, and John brought our parent organization, the NAAEE, to Mississippi for their annual conference a few years ago. You couldn't count the motions made by one and seconded by the other, as they periodically feel the need to tweak the alliance they envisioned!

Both have been quick to point out the huge number of MEEA members who shaped and nurtured MEEA: Flinda Hill (secretary for many years), Jo Ann Casey (MEEA's first president), Steve Strong (the third founding member and second president), Peggy Guyton, Sandra Murphy, Clay Burns, Barbara Dorr, Linda Clifton, Jennifer Buchanan, Buddy Bounds, Dr. Armando de la Cruz (past president), Harold Anderson, Dr. Harry Sherman, Bob Kochtitzky, Jennifer Griffin, Eva Jenkins, Jerry Jones, Bill Nickle, Jeff Stawowy, Rosie Tallent, Dr. Elizabeth Waldorf, Georgia Spencer, Pam Williams, Dr. Judy Breland, Kay Williams, Laura Beiser, Terri Jacobson, John DeFillipo and so many more. And Matt adds, "and that ain't all, we have to mention the huge number of students, teachers and professionals whose lives have been touched by MEEA. And there have been a passel!"

Laura Beiser presented John Guyton and Matthew Miller with the President's Award for founding MEEA and lifetimes of service to Environmental Education.

The Disappearance of Ordinary Things by Harold Anderson

Some things are timeless – they are perfect in design and function and have withstood the test of time. So, why are they so hard to find? What's that? You say you want an example? OK, an adjustable garden hose nozzle. Since you, dear readers, are undoubtedly gardeners, and probably of a certain age, you most likely know what I'm writing about: a brass nozzle like those used by firemen except sized to fit a garden hose. By screwing it one way of the other, you can adjust the flow from mist to a pin-point high pressure stream. You can even stop the flow or permit a "natural" flow – just like the stream from the faucet. These little beauties have been around practically forever (at least since the early 1900's), are fail proof and practically indestructible – until my wife gets a-hold of them. Her hobby is running over garden hoses – especially the brass tips, and her aim is deadly. Since squished-flat fittings cannot be screwed onto others, the ends of all my hoses have been chopped off and repaired with replacement ends, which invariably leak and account for my astronomically high water bill. A brass nozzle that has been run over by a 1999 Suburban is not a pretty sight.

So there lay my last brass nozzle, attached to the replaced end of a garden hose about 12 feet from the driveway when my wife returned from Wally World, with the behemoth loaded with at least one of everything they stock (and friends, that's a LOT of stuff.) When she spied it, she laughed manically, took deadly aim, looped out into the yard and nailed it. When I spied the carnage, I just sighed in acceptance (I've learned long ago not to criticize her driving), and went to my "plumbing box" in the storeroom for a spare, but alas, the cupboard was bare. I bought my last stock of nozzles from the local family-owned hardware store years ago, but it was long gone, a victim of the chain "big-box" building supply store that set up business on the edge of town. So that's where I headed.

Their garden center was elaborate and had every kind of watering device one could imagine – trigger grip nozzles that last about one season then won't shut off completely and leak even worse than my replaced hose ends; nozzles that allow the user to dial in a spray pattern and last until sand gets into the works and freezes the nozzle at the last selected pattern, thereby disabling the "off" position; rubber-coated ergonomic spray nozzles that cost more than my first car (NO WAY was I going to buy one of those for my wife to run over!), and even a self-propelled lawn sprinkler that looked like a miniature John Deere tractor. I kid you not!

Since I assumed the brass nozzles were in in out-of-the way location, I grabbed the first sales lady I spied, who was probably younger than the socks I was wearing. When I asked the location of brass nozzles, she gave me the look she reserves for those who inquire after flying widgets. After I described the object of my desire and its function, she said "We ain't got no sich a-thang." "Sure you have," I said, "they are as common as lead-headed roofing nails." The flying-widget look grew more intense, and I ascertained I had crossed some sort of invisible line. "Just send me an adult," I said. She stalked off in a huff and headed to the service desk, where she engaged a slightly older woman in animated conversation complete with wild hand gestures and much pointing in my direction.

Said customer service representative, who actually might have been older than my socks, walked up to me. "How may I help you, sir?" she asked pleasantly. When I explained that I was looking for an adjustable brass hose nozzle, she blessed me with the flying-widget look. "Describe it," she ordered. I did.

"Oh," she replied, "we have those, but they are chrome plated. Is that OK?" "Sure," I said. She handed me a chrome-plated dial-a-pattern nozzle with a rubber-coated ergonomic handle. "No! No! No!" I emphatically exclaimed. "I just want a plain old adjustable brass nozzle. They have been around forever. I can't believe you don't know what they are. How old are you, anyway?" "I am forty-one years old," she snarled at me through clinched teeth, "and I have never heard of such a thing!"

"Just send me a MATURE sales person, OK?" I responded.

The next sales person to arrive was a hatchet-faced women "of a certain age" who had that "take-no-prisoners" air about her. "I hear you are having a problem, *sir*," she said in her I'm-not-going-to-pretend-to-be-nice voice. "Please describe to me what it is you want." I did.

"Oh," she said, "That's in plumbing." "No, no, no. This is a garden supply item."

She stood up very straight; her hands at her side, slightly bent at the elbows, with fists clenched and her chest puffed out like a lizard "showing its money." She snarled, "I KNOW the stock in this store. Follow me." I had no choice. I feared she would pull me by the ear.

We arrived at the plumbing section. She assumed the same expression as before, except a haughty look had replaced the sneer. She rared back and pointed to a bin. "See, there they are!" she exclaimed, victoriously.

The scene reminded me of a photo I once saw in an art gallery in New Orleans. It was entitled "The Betrayal." It was of a woman just like this one, but dressed in a 1930's-style overcoat, in a bleak city winterscape pointing to a cowering little woman as two Nazi soldiers looked on.

In my scene, the haughty woman was not pointing to a cowering Jewish woman, but to a bin of outdoor faucets.

I next tried the Co-op, with about the same results.

I finally found adjustable brass hose nozzles at a hardware store in Pearl, MS that specializes in Chinese imports. Since the Chinese have been in business for about 5,000 years, maybe they will continue making brass nozzles for the rest of my lifetime.

Now, have you tried to buy any carbon paper lately? How about mucilage? Say what? Oh, go look it up in your dictionary.

Do White-tailed Deer Prefer Native or Introduced Plant Species? Part 1 of 2 **by Edward D. Entsminger & John Guyton, Ed. D.**

Herbaceous plants are a major part of the white-tailed deer's (*Odocoileus virginianus*) diet. Herbaceous plants commonly referred to as forbs include broad-leafed plants, but not grasses or grass-like plants. White-tailed deer will also browse woody vegetation in the winter when the forbs become scarce. Warren and Hurt 1981 stated that deer eat 45.7% forbs, 26.1% woody vegetation and vines, 12.7% grasses, 8.0% legumes, and 6.9% sedges and rushes. A chart of vegetation from research plots on the right of ways south of Starkville, MS along Highway 25, has been included to show what deer preferentially eat, as high, moderate, or low browse. Noted are the native and introduced species from the sites. The native species are not only native to Mississippi but to the lower 48 states. An asterisk (*) in the "In Plots" column and to the right of the scientific name denotes flora that have been located in the plots.

Overall, from 123 plant species identified in the research plots 87 species are natives, 28 are introduced, 6 include native and introduced species and 2 species' classification is vague. Approximately 75% of the counted vegetation along the roadside right of ways are native species, but this percentage is NOT the same as percent cover of vegetation along the roadsides. Highly browsed natives make up approximately 36.78% of deer's diet, moderately browse 19.54%, and deer will browse 43.68% of low preference natives when this is the only vegetation available. In comparison, the white-tailed deer's diet is composed of 25.00% highly browsed introduced species, 35.71% moderately browsed introduced species and deer consume 39.29% of the less palatable introduced plant species. Approximately 6.50% of plants in the research plots are closely related species that may be native or introduced varieties.

To generate the native and introduced low, moderate, and high percentages, I summed the native low browsed column totaling 38 natives. I took 38 low browsed natives and divided by 87 (total natives) which equal 0.4368 then multiplied it by 100 to equal 43.68% low browsed natives. Similarly, 17 moderately browsed natives totaling 19.54% consumed and 32 highly browsed natives equaled 36.78% of deer's diet of native species along the roadside sites. Same calculations were used above for the 28 introduced species. The 7 highly browsed introduced species equaled 25.00% of their diet, while 10 moderately browsed introduced species equaled 35.71% and 11 low browsed introduced species totaled 39.29% of the deer's diet in the sites along the right of ways. In conclusion, the chart and data show that white-tailed deer have a preference to native vegetation rather than the introduced species along the roadsides in the research plots. However, in actuality how much does the native versus introduced vegetation dominate in percent cover of the ground along the roadsides? Look for more information to come in the next issue. This research is supported by a contract with the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT).

Herbaceous Native and Introduced Plant Species that Deer Browse

Common Names – Monocotyledons	Scientific Name	In Plots	Native or Introduced	Deer Use
Big Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>		Native	Low
Broom Sedge	<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>	*	Native	Low
Switchcane	<i>Arundinaria gigantea</i>		Native	Low
Asiatic Dayflower	<i>Commelina communis</i>	*	Introd	High
Bermudagrass	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	*	Introd	Low
Orchard Grass	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	*	Introd	High
Velvet Panicum	<i>Dichanthelium scoparium</i>	*	Native	High
Smooth Crabgrass	<i>Digitaria ischaemum</i>	*	Introd	Mod
Common Rush	<i>Juncus effuses</i>	*	Native	Low
Black Needled Rush	<i>Juncus roemerianus</i>	*	Native	Low
Rice Cutgrass	<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	*	Native	Low
Italian Annual Rye Grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	*	Introd	High
Switch Grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>		Native	Low
Dallisgrass	<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	*	Introd	Low
Bahiagrass	<i>Paspalum notatum</i>	*	Native & Introd 2	Low
Vasey's Grass	<i>Paspalum urvillei</i>	*	Introd	Low
Timothy Grass	<i>Phleum pratense</i>		Introd	High
Kentucky Bluegrass	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	*	Native & Introd 2	High

Common Broadleafed Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	*	Native	Mod
Tall Fescue	<i>Schedonorus arundinaceus</i>	*	Introd	Mod
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>		Native	Low
Narrowleafed Blue-eyed Grass	<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	*	Native	Low
Indian Grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>		Native	High
Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	*	Introd	Low
Eastern Gamagrass	<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>		Native	Low

Dicotyledons

Common White Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>		Native & Introd 2	Low
Wild Meadow Garlic	<i>Allium canadense</i>	*	Native	Low
Common Annual Ragweed	<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	*	Native	High
Dogbane / Indianhemp	<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>	*	Native	High
Sweet Annie / Sweet Sagewort	<i>Artemisia annua</i>	*	Introd	Low
Butterfly Milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	*	Native	Mod
White Doll's Daisy	<i>Boltonia asteroides</i>	*	Native	High

Smallhead Doll's Daisy	<i>Boltonia diffusa</i>	*	Native	High
Partridge Pea	<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	*	Native	Mod
Lambs Quarter	<i>Chenopodium album</i>		Native & Introd 2	High
Chickory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>		Introd	Low
Spotted Water Helms	<i>Cicuta maculate</i>		Native	Low
Field Thistle	<i>Cirsium discolor</i>	*	Native	Low
Pasture Thistle	<i>Cirsium pumilum</i>	*	Native	Low
Canadian Horseweed	<i>Coryza canadensis</i>		Native	High
Queen Anne's Lace	<i>Daucus carota</i>	*	Introd	Low
Illinois Bundle Flower	<i>Desmanthus illinoensis</i>	*	Native	High
Pine Barren Ticktrefoil	<i>Desmodium strictum</i>	*	Native	Mod
Virginia Buttonweed	<i>Diodia virginiana</i>	*	Native	High
Clasping Coneflower	<i>Dracopis amplexicaulis</i>	*	Native	High
Daisy Fleabance	<i>Erigeron annuus</i>	*	Native	Mod
Prairie Fleabane	<i>Erigeron strigosus</i>	*	Native	High
Dogfennel	<i>Eupatorium capillifolium</i>	*	Native	Low
Common Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	*	Native	Mod
Lateflowering Boneset	<i>Eupatorium serotinum</i>	*	Native	High
Goldenrods	<i>Euthamia spp.</i>	*	Native	High
Rough Bedstraw	<i>Galium asprellum</i>		Native	High
Purple Everlasting Cudweed	<i>Gamochaeta purpurea</i>	*	Native	Low
Carolina Cranesbill Geranium	<i>Geranium carolinianum</i>	*	Native	Low
Fine-leaved Bitter Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium amarum</i>		Native	Mod
Swamp Rose-Mallow	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	*	Native	Low
Mouse Ear Hawkweed	<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	*	Introd	High
Morning Glories	<i>Ipomoea spp.</i>	*	None 1	Mod
Japanese Clover	<i>Kummerowia striata</i>	*	Introd	Mod
Everlasting Peavine	<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i>	*	Introd	High
Virginia Pepperweed	<i>Lepidium virginicum</i>		Native	Low
Chinese Bushclover	<i>Lespedeza cuneata</i>	*	Introd	Low
Blazing Star	<i>Liatris aspera</i>		Native	Mod
Floating Primerose Willow	<i>Ludwigia peploides</i>		Native & Introd 2	Unk
Water Horehound	<i>Lycopus spp.***</i>	*	None 1	Low
Yellow Sweet Clover	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>		Introd	Mod
Common Yellow Wood Sorel	<i>Oxalis stricta</i>	*	Native	Low
Butterweed	<i>Packera glabella</i>	*	Native	Low
Purple Passion Flower	<i>Passiflora incarnate</i>	*	Native	Low
Largebracted Plantain	<i>Plantago aristata</i>	*	Native	Low
English Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	*	Introd	Low
Common Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	*	Introd	Low
Mock Bishopweed / Herb William	<i>Ptilimnium capillaceum</i>	*	Native	Mod
Kudzu	<i>Pueraria montana</i>		Introd	High
Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus flabellaris</i>	*	Native	Low
Maryland Meadow Beauty	<i>Rhexia mariana</i>	*	Native	Mod
Curled Doc	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	*	Introd	Low
Lyre Leaved Sage	<i>Salvia lyrata</i>	*	Native	Low
Hairy Skullcap	<i>Scutellaria elliptica</i>	*	Native	High
Helmet Flower / Hysop Skullcap	<i>Scutellaria integrifolia</i>	*	Native	High
American Nightshade	<i>Solanum americanum</i>		Native	High

Black Nightshade	<i>Solanum ptycanthum</i>		Native	High
Canada Goldenrod	<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	*	Native	High
Anisescented Goldenrod	<i>Solidago odora</i>	*	Native	High
Hairy White Oldfield Aster	<i>Symphotrichum pilosum</i>	*	Native	High
White Nymph	<i>Trepocarpus aethusae</i>	*	Native	Low
Crimson Clover	<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	*	Introd	Mod
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pretense</i>	*	Introd	Mod
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	*	Introd	Mod
Common Venus's Looking Glass	<i>Triodanis perfoliata</i>	*	Native	Mod
Stinging Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	*	Native & Introd 2	Mod
Brazilian Vervain	<i>Verbena brasiliensis</i>	*	Introd	Mod
Tall Iron Weed	<i>Vernonia gigantean</i>	*	Native	Mod
Garden Vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	*	Introd	Mod

Sedges and Rushes

Cherokee Sedge	<i>Carex cherokeensis</i>	*	Native	Low
Fox Sedge	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	*	Native	Low
Globe Flatsedge	<i>Cyperus echinatus</i>	*	Native	Low
Leathery Rush	<i>Juncus coriaceous</i>	*	Native	Low
Common Rush	<i>Juncus effuses</i>	*	Native	Low

Woody Vegetation – Trees/ Vines

Box Elder Maple	<i>Acer negundo</i>	*	Native	Mod
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	*	Native	Mod
Trumpet Creeper	<i>Campsis radicans</i>	*	Native	High
Carolina Coralbead	<i>Cocculus carolinus</i>	*	Native	Low
Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	*	Native	Low
Green Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	*	Native	Mod
Evening Trumpetflower	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	*	Native	Low
St. Andrews Cross / St. Johnswort	<i>Hypericum hypericoides</i>	*	Native	High
Dwarf St. Johnswort	<i>Hypericum mutilum</i>	*	Native	High
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	*	Introd	Mod
Blackgum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	*	Native	High
Virginia Creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	*	Native	Low
Loblloy Pine	<i>Pinus taeda</i>	*	Native	Low
Southern Red Oak	<i>Quercus falcata</i>	*	Native	Low
Blackjack Oak	<i>Quercus marilandica</i>	*	Native	Low
Black Locust	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	*	Native	Mod
Sawtooth Blackberry	<i>Rubus argutus</i>	*	Native	High
Northern Dewberry	<i>Rubus flagellaris</i>	*	Native	High
Black Willow	<i>Salix nigra</i>	*	Native	High
Sawbriar	<i>Smilax glauca</i>	*	Native	High
Common Greenbriar	<i>Smilax rotundifolia</i>	*	Native	High
Eastern Poison Ivy	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>	*	Native	High
Winged Elm	<i>Ulmus alata</i>	*	Native	High
American Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>	*	Native	Mod

Introd = Introduced Mod = Moderate

- 1 *Ipomoea spp.* and *Lycopus spp.* Listed as "None" since they are not specific to species.
- 2 Both introduced and native are present and not discerned.

Juniper Berries Aren't Just for Gin Anymore

Make a marinade with a bottle of red wine and a dozen or so juniper berries crushed in a mortar. Add peppercorns, cloves, a red bay leaf, a sprig of rosemary, a cinnamon stick and a pinch of salt. Cube a couple pounds of venison and marinate for several hours with your favorite diced vegetables. After removing the meat add a little more wine or brandy and reduce the marinade. Brown the meat in olive oil and butter or margarine and then simmer in the marinade for a couple hours. Strain the pan drippings and use as a sauce for the venison.

