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PRESIDENT’S NOTE

Happy Summer!

A couple of days ago someone asked me why I joined SLAMN and asked what I like about it. It didn’t take me long to respond, “I love being outdoors, I love sharing the outdoors with others, I love visiting with friends and making new ones, and I like that I get to do all of those things while at the same time doing good things for our community. I really enjoyed the adventures with our latest group of graduates. I encourage you to volunteer for the classes next year. The instructors can use the help and it is a great opportunity to earn volunteer and CEU hours.

The summer months are upon us. It's hot out there, so drink lots of water and stay cool! Mark your calendar for our General Meeting on July 12 followed by Family and Friends Fun Day on July 15. More information is in this newsletter.

We will soon begin registration for the 2024 classes. Help us to get the word out. Family and Friends can register today and get on the waiting list. We will start up Nature in Focus and Nature Walks at Sam Houston Park in September. I look forward to visiting with you at the events.

See you out there!

Barbara Morris

If you have any ideas, questions, or comments, I would love to hear from you. 337-302-0168, barbara080158@gmail.com

NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Nominations are now being accepted for all Board Positions. Patty Palmer, Secretary, is stepping down for personal reasons. Patty served as secretary for four years and we appreciate her service. We need someone to step up for this position. The Secretary takes the minutes at Board and General meetings, communicates with course applicants, keeps current membership lists, and communicates with membership by email. Reach out to Patty if you have questions. Contact Barbara or Lori if you would like to be nominated for a Board Position.

THE YELLOW PITCHER PLANT

by Jamie Pope

The Yellow Pitcher plant is an herbaceous perennial and carnivorous plant. The genus is *Sarracenia*, species is *alata*, and the family is *Sarraceniaceae*. The Yellow Pitcher plant is found in the southeastern part of the United States in habitats like marches, bogs, pinelands with open meadows, and wet forest floors that have dense



poor-quality soil with high acidity and low nitrogen.

Insects are trapped and absorbed to make up for the lack of nutrients in the soil. Pitcher plants have nodding flowers and leaves modified as hollow pitchers which trap the insects by luring them with nectar. The insects are then digested or drowned with fluids and later absorbed by the plant. This method of catching insects is considered “passive” because the plant does not close to eat its prey but instead the insect is lured and trapped inside the slippery waxy portion of the pitcher tube by nectar. Inside the pitcher, there are downward-pointing hairs that will prevent the insects from escaping. Yellow Pitcher plants will lure and ingest bugs all Summer long until the pitchers die back in the fall.



Yellow Pitcher plants are yellow-green and sometimes have red-veined pitchers which can grow up to 3 feet tall. They do have one flower that hangs at the tip of its leafless stem to avoid trapping potential pollinators. The flowers are large in comparison to the leaves and the flowers appear from April to May. They have an unpleasant odor that has been compared to cat urine. Alata means winged in Latin and the narrow wing on the front of the pitcher gives the plant its name. The tip of the leaf forms a hood that overarches the mouth of the pitcher which helps guide the insects inside to their demise and prevents rainwater from diluting the

digestive fluid in the pitcher.

Yellow Pitcher plants prefer full sun and require moist to wet acidic soils of sand and peat. It is easy to cultivate but it will do poorly if the specific growing conditions aren't met. They don't like fertilizer because it will cause them to burn and are sensitive to dissolved salts in chlorinated water. Rainwater or distilled water can be used instead of tap water for container plants. Moist conditions must be maintained at all times, but you have to be careful about overwatering them. Do not use scraps as these plants cannot ingest fats.



Southeastern

Louisiana and southern Mississippi comprise the bulk of the range for these plants. If you want to see Yellow Pitcher plants in Louisiana, they can be found in Cooter's Bog and Middle Branch bog in the Kisatchie forest. You can see these plants along with other carnivorous plants at the Abita



Creek Flatwoods Preserve in St. Tammany parish. They have also been introduced to the Big Thicket National Preserve in Tyler and Hardin counties in Texas.

References

[American Pitcher Plant | San Diego Zoo Animals & Plants](#)

[Pitcher plant | Description, Carnivory, Families, & Facts | Britannica](#)

[Yellow Pitcherplant \(usda.gov\)](#)

[Meadowview Biological Research Station \(pitcherplant.org\)](#)

[Middle Branch Bog \(usda.gov\)](#)

[Sarracenia alata \(Flycatcher, Pale Pitcher Plant, Sweet Pitcher Plant, Trumpet Pitcher Plant, Yellow Pitcher Plant, Yellow Trumpets\) | North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox \(ncsu.edu\)](#)

[The-longleaf-pine-ecosystem .pdf \(cityofmandeville.com\)](#)

[Abita Creek Flatwoods Preserve \(nature.org\)](#)

CORAL SNAKES IN LOUISIANA

By Paul Zimmerman

There are two types of Coral snakes in Louisiana, the Eastern Coral snake, and the Texas Coral snake. While very similar in appearance to each other, the Texas Coral snake is a little thicker and has a broader range in Louisiana. Both species can grow to about 30 inches in length. They are a beautiful snake that has wide red and black bands separated by narrow yellow bands.

These Coral snakes are usually hard to find because they spend most of their time underground. They are more active at night, seeking out their prey – primarily frogs, lizards, skinks, and other snakes.

One of seven types of venomous snake found in Louisiana, the Coral snake is unique in several ways. It lays eggs (all other venomous snakes in Louisiana give live birth). Its venom is a neurotoxin which causes rapid paralysis and respiratory failure. The other venomous snakes in Louisiana deliver hemotoxin which destroys red blood cells and causes organ failure.

Coral snakes have small mouths and two small fixed (not retractable like other venomous snakes) fangs. They must bite their prey, hang on to it, and “chew” to deliver enough venom to paralyze it.



Eastern Coral Snake – Venomous – STAY AWAY!



Milk Snake – Non-Venomous - Harmless

Easily confused with a scarlet “milk” snake, the coral snake is best identified by its coloration. The saying “Red next to black – safe from attack, Red next to yellow – you’re a dead fellow” is a good, yet not always dependable way to determine which snake it is. As with any snake, the best advice is just to leave them alone and walk away. If you are unfortunate enough to get bitten, try to get to a hospital as quickly as you can. While the Coral snake venom is highly toxic, in most cases, the snake cannot deliver a large enough volume to be fatal to a human.

PASSION VINE

By Dr. Charles Allen

Maypop or passion vine or passion fruit is in the genus *Passiflora* and in the *Passifloraceae*. The species in our area are herbaceous perennial vines that climb with unbranched axillary tendrils. Two species, *Passiflora incarnata* (purple passionvine) and *Passiflora lutea* (yellow passionvine) are native to Louisiana. There are also three species, *Passiflora foetida* (foetid passionflower), *Passiflora suberosa* (corkystem passionflower), and *Passiflora tenuiloba* (birdwing passionflower) that each has a limited native range over southern sections of Texas, Florida, and Arizona. There are also other non-native species and hybrids cultivated especially in south Louisiana including *Passiflora caerulea* (bluecrown passionflower) with herbarium records from ten parishes. Wikipedia reports there are 550 species of *Passiflora* in the World.



The leaves are alternate, simple, lobed, and have palmate major veins. The regular perfect flowers are axillary. The five green sepals are small, and the five petals have a large conspicuous corona that is in several series. The five stamens are elevated on a stalk. The superior ovary has three styles, and the fruit is a one-locular berry with each seed surrounded by a fleshy aril.

Purple maypop (*Passiflora incarnata* – pictured in this article) is the most common and has large purple (rarely, white) petals. The leaves are distinctly lobed, with small teeth along the margins. Two glands are located on the upper side of the petiole at the base of the blade. These glands resemble the egg cases of butterflies and reportedly give some protection to the plant, since butterflies may sense that another butterfly has already laid eggs on the plant. The berries are mostly more than 3 cm in diameter and turn a yellow color at maturity. The fruit is edible. Purple maypop inhabits open disturbed sites throughout the state and flowers from April to October.



Maypops are the host for the caterpillars of the Gulf Fritillary (shown on left), Variegated Fritillary, Zebra Long Wing, and Julia heliconian butterflies plus the Plebeian sphinx moth. We see a few variegated fritillaries at Allen Acres and many Gulf fritillaries (sometimes hundreds in September). Purple maypop fruits are edible and are quite delicious when fully ripe. Passion flower (*passiflora incarnata*) is an herbal supplement used historically in treating anxiety, insomnia, seizures, and hysteria. There is an herb shop in New Orleans

Miss Anne's Maypop herb shop (<https://www.maypopherbshop.com/>). Betty Miley is the owner

of the maypop hill native plant nursery (<http://www.maypophill.com/>) and the author of several books. She also publishes a newsletter and you can contact her to signup (<http://www.maypophill.com/newsletter.php>).

NEXT GENERAL MEETING – JULY 12

Brenda Lafleur, renowned photographer, will be sharing photographs and stories about her trip to Death Valley, Utah. While there, she observed the Death Valley Pupfish. Have you been to interesting places? Do you have a story and photos to share? Bring your jump drive. We would love to hear about your adventure.

July 12, Social at 5:30; Meeting starts at 6 pm

Room 101, Frash Hall, McNeese

FAMILY AND FRIENDS FUN DAY!

July 15, 11am-3pm

3961 Lakeview Dr, 70605

Last year we had a great time on Big Lake. It was so much fun visiting with everyone. This year, Kathleen Simon has again graciously offered to host the Family and Friends Fun Day. We would love to meet your family and friends. Invite them along for kayaking, fishing, and if you dare, swimming. We will provide something on the grill. You should bring food to share and comment on the Facebook page so we know how many burgers to grill. This is a wonderful summer get together. I hope to see you there!

SUCCESSFUL RENDEZVOUS

Rendezvous 2023 was hosted by SLAMN on April 21st – 23rd, 2023 in Hackberry. The Rendezvous was a huge success judging from all the positive comments & compliments received from the attendees. The final count of registrants was 93. Thanks to Lori Marinovich (Organizer), Barb Morris, Kathleen Simon, and all the many Volunteers who dedicated time and effort to make the Rendezvous such a Success!! We done a good job!

CLASS OF 2023



Mike Schoen, Karen Schoen, Jamie Pope, Paul Zimmermann, Gabbie Fignar, Carla Matte, Diana LaRussa, Mary Sherk, Not pictured; Jon Paul Zimmermann, Ann Bowman

Congratulations! We are looking forward to sharing many fun activities in the future.

PEARL RIVER DAM

The US Army Corp. of Engineers is currently reviewing and accepting public comments on the plans to dam the Pearl River in Mississippi. The downstream impact to LA. would be far reaching to the diversity and ecology of the Pearl River Estuary, namely the Gulf Sturgeon. The SLAMN Board will send a letter of concern from SLAMN for the public comment record. The comment period ends June 30, 2023.

If you would like to submit a personal comment to the Corp of Engineers, the website is:

<https://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Programs-and-Project-Management/Project-Management/Pearl-River/>

ACTIVITIES & OUTREACH

SLAMN members are encouraged to volunteer to make presentations to different nonprofit groups that are interested in various SLAMN topics. Many thanks to **Mickey Deal** who used her story board to make her first public presentation to the Ragley Senior Retirees. Nice job!

SLAMN received a Certificate of Thanks from Re-Tree LC. Lori Marinovich accepted the Certificate on behalf of the club from the City of Lake Charles for all the help with the City's Retree LC Initiative following the Hurricanes.

CALENDAR

2023	
July 12	General Meeting Social - 5:30, Meeting – 6:00pm
July 15	Field Trip – Family Fun Day
Sept 6	Board Meeting (Nominations for Board Members and Committees)
Oct 4	General Meeting (Election of Board Members and Committee Assignments)
Oct 7	Field Trip
Dec 6	Board Meeting