



## President's Message



The last 6 months of my life have been very difficult due to one health issue after another. However, I have a wonderful Strong Board that has helped out in so many ways. I was not able to attend our Fall Board Meeting and want to thank Rob Barry for Presiding in my absence. Glenda has contacted the speaker Maarten Van der Giessen who looks forward to being with us on March 23, 2019. Please be sure to mark your calendars for this special day. Thanks to Billy Welsh and Kristy Thompson plus Dr. Allen Owings for working diligently on getting our plant releases for 2019 and JoAnn Pugh for coordinating our meeting gathering at the Petroleum Club. Hope you are observing your 2018 Release Plants as winter approaches and hopefully it will not be a hard one. Remember to protect them and all your plants that are tropical or tender on those extremely cold nights. This is a research society so it is necessary to report back in March on the report forms that will be provided in another Compost Pile. I've been receiving the great majority of loving care by Glenda so I'm not sure how much care she has been able to devote to our plants.

*Norman*

## Treasurer's Report

Since our luncheon in March, I have continued to be touched by caring members. One member after luncheon, passed on a \$20 donation for scholarship fund. Another member during the summer, supporting LSHR, sent \$200. In September, a member, Patricia, sent in her dues early and that really touched me. That gave me an idea to start collecting dues as I

see members when I attend other meeting with the dues' forms. To date, I have collected dues from 20 members and more said would mail soon. This really makes my day and my job easier as we have over 200 members.

Can you tell, I am doing a subtle reminder, pay your dues early. Everyone's days will soon be busy with Christmas and New Year's plans. Please pay dues promptly and make my day. To those that do pay promptly, I appreciate YOU!

Mark your calendar, **March 23, 2019** with more information in spring issue.

*Beancounter, JoAnn Pugh, Treasurer*

## Editor's Year in Review



I am truly blessed in my current job working for Yankee Clipper in Alexandria, Louisiana. To actually get paid to do something one loves is awesome. As part of my job, I get to travel across our great state visiting with clients and checking to be sure that their yards are the best they can possibly be. It is during these travels that I get to truly appreciate the great diversity of plants that Louisiana has to offer, some of which I share here.





*Anemone berlandieri* (TENPETAL THIMBLEWEED) found growing in heavy clay soils of Alexandria. I am at a loss as to the common name of this perennial as very few of the flowers actually have 10 petals. However, it blooms in late winter when hardly anything else is. I successfully raised some from seed in my yard but they do not seem to like the well drained soil I have here.



*Asimina triloba* (PAWPAW) found growing in a wooded area inside the city of Alexandria. This is the Holy Grail of native fruit trees and produces delicious fruit in the late summer to early fall. My father was a strong proponent of this plant and I agree that virtually every yard should have one in it as it is a beautiful small tree that produces these odd looking flowers in early spring.



*Amelanchier* species (SERVICEBERRY) found growing in the woods of Kisatchie National Forest near Kincaid Lake. This spring flowering, small tree is not to be found in great abundance but it does offer blooms when not much else is available. It seems to do well in the sandy soils there but we have had good luck with nursery grown plants in a wide variety of soil types.



*Viola pedata* (BIRD'S FOOT VIOLET) as seen near Kincaid Lake in Kisatchie National Forest. This charming native perennial thrives in the sandy soil there and blooms profusely in mid-spring. I collected some seed but have been unsuccessful in getting any going at home.



*Oxalis* species (WOODSORREL) found growing in the woods of Kisatchie National Forest near Kincaid Lake. I only found one specimen of this plant but it easily caught my eye while driving past. The flowers were much larger than those I have seen on any *Oxalis* being easily the size of quarters. Unfortunately, I was unable to locate it again to harvest any seed.





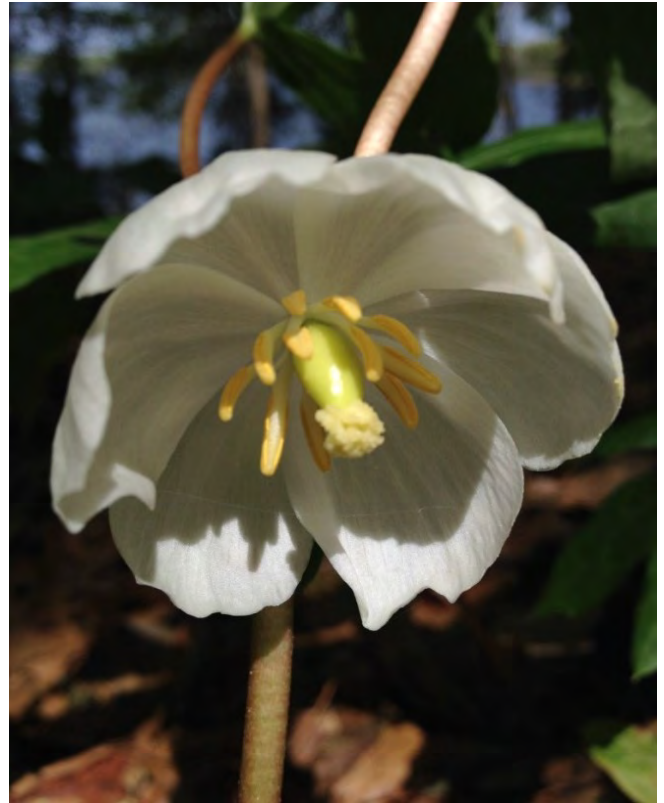
*Sisyrinchium* species (BLUE EYED GRASS) found growing in a friend's yard here in Opelousas. These early spring blooming perennials are mainstays of the wildflower world here in my neck of the woods. They have a few cultivars available in the trade but none are quite as beautiful as the naturally occurring ones to me.



*Rhododendron canescens* (HONEYSUCKLE AZALEA) found growing in Kisatchie National Forest near Kincaid Lake. These spring flowering shrubs form colonies in the sandy soils under the shade of large pines, oaks, et cetera. Although a challenge to grow in the yard, they are worth the effort. Hopefully azaleas hybridizers will work towards making them more tolerant of less sandy soils.



*Halesia diptera* (SILVERBELL) found growing along Kincaid Lake in Kisatchie National Forest. These small, spring blooming trees are rare but seem more adapted to various soil types than I would have thought. This one was growing in a ditch but we have successfully used some to landscape sandy yards nearby. I have also seen them growing in regular garden soil in several plant lover's yards.



*Podophyllum peltatum* (MAYAPPLE) found growing naturally in one of our client's yards near Kincaid Lake in Kisatchie National Forest. This lovely, spring blooming perennial is one of my favorite natives. It seems to do best in sandy soils but my brother has some growing wild on his place in more normal soil albeit well drained.





*Symplocos tinctoria* (HORSE SUGAR) found growing in a wooded area near Woodworth. Although not particularly attractive when in bloom in the spring, this small tree is known to have sweet tasting leaves hence the common name.



*Lonicera sempervirens* (CORAL HONEYSUCKLE) found growing along the road in Kisatchie National Forest near Kincaid Lake. This spring blooming, evergreen vine is a great plant for hummingbirds and is much easier to manage than its Japanese cousin. Commercially available from many sources.



*Erythrina herbacea* (CORAL BEAN) found growing in the sandy soils near Kincaid Lake in Kisatchie National Forest. This herbaceous small shrub can tolerate a wide range of soil types and although found in the shade, does even better in full sun. It is easily grown from collected seed.



*Saururus cernuus* (LIZARD'S TAIL) found growing in a swampy area inside the city of Alexandria. This late spring blooming perennial does extremely well in wet areas. Commercially grown plants seem to thrive in virtually any type soil (even pea gravel) as long as kept wet and fertilized.





***Magnolia acuminata*** (CUCUMBER MAGNOLIA) found growing near Kincaid Lake in Kisatchie National Forest. This tree seems to do well in just about any good soil. Although it is not very showy when blooming in the spring it is the source of the yellow flowering magnolias that were quite the rage several years back. It is also the largest of the magnolias getting over 100 feet tall when full grown.



***Liriodendron tulipifera*** (TULIP POPLAR) found growing in one of our customer's yards in Alexandria. This flowers on this huge tree are often not seen due to their being produced after the foliage appears and due to the size of the tree. However, they are quite colorful and being related to magnolias, one of our older types of flowering trees. This extremely fast growing tree is available commercially.



***Aesculus pavia*** (RED BUCKEYE) found growing along the backroads of Leesville. It was growing in poor soil but I know that this species will do equally well or better in good soil. I was tempted to dig this particular specimen up as it is the brightest red flowered form I have ever seen. However, I contented myself with the promise that I would go back and harvest the seed later on. The following month, I was saddened to see that the highway department had sprayed the area and killed it.



***Echinacea pallida*** (PALE PURPLE CONEFLOWER) seen along Louisiana Highway 10 near Oakdale. These late spring to early summer blooming perennials do not seem to care too much about soil type as long as they have plenty of sunlight.





*Aesclepias tuberosa* (BUTTERFLY WEED) found growing alongside Louisiana Highway 488 near Oakdale. It has long been a goal of mine to grow this beautiful spring blooming perennial. It loved the nasty gravel and grit where it was growing but every one I've purchased to put in my yard withers and dies within a few years. A case of too much TLC in my opinion.



*Callirhoe involucrata* (WINECUP) found growing along the backroads near Polluck. These late spring blooming perennials cannot seem to compete with more vigorous plants in good soil but seem to be quite adept at growing alongside the road where most vigorous plants cannot.



*Cephalanthus occidentalis* (BUTTONBUSH) found growing in a swampy area inside the city of Alexandria. This deciduous shrub enjoys wet feet and blooms in the late spring. Easily grown in the typical garden soil as long as it does not get too dry.



*Zephyranthes texana* (YELLOW RAINLILY) found along Louisiana Highway 6 near Natchitoches. These summer blooming bulbs can be found by the thousands and reseed readily. It was one of my father's favorite bulbs so I did not need to harvest any seed as he already had it established here in Opelousas.





***Arisaema dracontium*** (GREEN DRAGON) found near Kincaid Lake in Kisatchie National Forest. This plant blooms in the spring but I found the summer seed heads to be much more showy. It seems to enjoy good, well drained soil and light shade all day long.



***Liatris elegans*** (PINKSCALE GAYFEATHER) found growing in Kisatchie National Forest. These fall blooming perennials seem to thrive in the well drained, sandy soils underneath tall pines. I have not tried to harvest seed of these because it's relative *Liatris spicata* is prettier and easier to grow.



***Vitis lambrusca*** (FOX GRAPE) found growing inside a wooded area inside the city of Alexandria. Apparently soil type is not of major concern as this particular plant was growing in heavy clay soil. The fruit appear in early fall and although tart, are quite tasty. I am certain they would be better if transformed into a beverage. Very easy to start from seed.



***Rudbeckia hirta*** (BLACK EYED SUSAN) found growing along Louisiana Highway 28 between Alexandria and Leesville. These fall blooming perennials seem to do well even in the extremely well drained soil along the highway but I know that cultivars of this species also do well in better soils. Truly, this is one of our better natural wildflowers for use along our highways.

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