

The Crosby Arboretum

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Quarterly News Journal

Summer 2005

20

Louisiana Quillwort (*Isoetes louisianensis* Theiret)

Louisiana Quillwort is a rare vascular plant that is on the Federal Endangered Species List. These small, semi-aquatic plants have hollow rounded leaves that taper from the base to tip (resembling a rush). The leaves arise from a fleshy stem (corm) that is shallow rooted. Reticulate (spiny) spores are produced in specialized compartments (sporangia) at the fleshy leaf bases.



Photo by Julia Lakes, LA Dept. of Wildlife

The Louisiana Quillwort occurs on sand and gravel bars on small to medium-sized blackwater streams of riparian/bayhead forest communities. It is commonly associated with Primrose-leaved Violet, Bullrush, Yellow-eyed Grass as well as water-loving tree species.

Small populations have been reported along the rivers and streams in Jackson and Perry counties in Mississippi and in St. Tammany and Washington parishes in Louisiana. Disturbances such as timber harvesting close to streams, gravel mining, dredging, ditching, channelization, and road construction as well as beaver dams and over collection of plants have lead to significant declines of this species.

Little is known about the biology and habitat requirements of this species. Land management practices such as maintaining stream side buffer zones and monitoring water quality in sand and gravel mining and near construction sites are thought to minimize habitat loss and therefore maintain Louisiana Quillwort populations.

ARBORETUM NEWS

Plans for New Visitor's Center Approved
The Crosby Arboretum Board met with architect Tom Howorth on February 12. Mr. Howorth explained his design for a new visitor's center for the arboretum. His design is a facility that is over 6,000 square feet that includes a large program room, an orientation/board room, a combined gift shop and lobby, a central gallery, and larger restrooms! A plaza is at the front entrance and a deck is at the back entrance. The facility also includes several storage areas for equipment and supplies as well as staff offices that are away from public viewing. The design was unanimously approved by the board. The next objective is to come up with the rest of the funding to build the facility.

Pinecote Pavilion Restoration
Crosby Arboretum's Pinecote Pavilion will be 20 years old next year! Minor structural repairs and restoration work is needed to spruce up this unique structure so that the public can enjoy it for years to come. Terry Johnson and arboretum volunteers Gordon Ousset and Ashley Morgan have already started making minor repairs such as cutting and staining wooden strips in the floor of the pavilion and repairing memorial benches. The Crosby Arboretum Board and staff are making further plans to restore this Mississippi Landmark.

Special Project Grant Awarded
The Arboretum was recently awarded the William M. White Special Project grant offered through Mississippi State University. These funds will be used to purchase Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) receivers. Hands-on training and programs will be offered to the public on how these devices are used in plant community ecology applications. A GeoCache site will also be established at the arboretum to attract visitors who are involved in this growing hobby.

Wildlife Day 2005 A Success!
The arboretum's annual Wildlife Day event for schools was well attended this year. Kim Johnson sent mailings to area schools and extended our mailing area to attract schools that have never been to this event. This strategy brought our numbers for Wildlife Day up to 950! A huge thanks goes out to all exhibitors, staff, and volunteers who helped make this event a success. Exhibitors: NOAA, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Marine Life Oceanarium, WRANPS, C & H Pest Control, Arboretum Volunteers Bernie DeSantis, Lalise Giarouso, and John Mayer for running our booths and Jean McInnis, Hugh Guillot, Ashley Morgan, JoAnn Fleming, Laura & Gordon Ousset for helping groups find booths. Kudos to Terry Johnson for making sure the buses arrived in an orderly fashion and Robin Veerkamp (despite her injured knee!) for making sure the groups had a guide to take them to the booths. Kim Johnson and Pat Dale did a great job in the Visitor's Center making sure the kids came through in an orderly fashion.

Refrigerator Donation
The Pearl River County Master Gardeners need a refrigerator to store seeds used for propagation project for the arboretum. If anyone has an old working refrigerator they would like to donate, we would appreciate it!

Call for Arboretum Volunteers!
We need you! The Crosby Arboretum is searching for volunteers to assist with duties such as tour guides, visitor orientation, trail maintenance, gardening projects, clerical work, and special projects. Please come by the arboretum to fill out and application anytime Wednesday-Sunday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Crosby Arboretum Program Schedule

June-August 2005

JUNE

Fire Ant Seminar (Adults)

Saturday, June 4

10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Dr. Tim Lockley, Entomologist and District Inspector of the Bureau of Plant Industry, will give a presentation on how to control those vicious fire ant colonies that invade lawns. Admission is free and open to the public. Call (601) 799-2311 to register.

Building Birdhouses (Children)

Saturday, June 18

10 a.m. to Noon

Come build a bluebird house with Dad and learn where to mount them and how to protect the houses from predators. All materials will be provided and are limited to 24 participants. Admission is free for arboretum members and \$6.00 for non-members. Call (601) 799-2311 by June 11 to register.

Father-Child Fishing Day (Family)

Sunday, June 19

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

On this day, we are opening the pond at the Arboretum for fishing! Come celebrate Father's Day at the arboretum by spending the day fishing with your children. Admission is free for fathers.

Summer Nature Camp (Children)

Wednesday-Saturday, June 22-25

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Hey kids! Looking for something fun to do this summer? Then come to The Crosby Arboretum's

Reservations: Call the Arboretum office at (601) 799-2311, ext. 21 to confirm all events and to make a reservation, seating is limited. Programs subject to change.

Address: 370 Ridge Road, Picayune, MS 39466; P.O. Box 1639, Picayune, MS 39466

Hours of operation: Wednesday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Admission Fees: Adults, \$4; children under 12, \$2; members, free.

Email: crosbyar@datastar.net

Crosby Arboretum Webpage: This website includes upcoming programs and events, volunteer opportunities, natural area information, and news updates.

<http://msstate.edu/dept/crec/camain.html>

Nature Camp where you will learn how to make a sundial, a compass, perform an archaeological dig, identify plants, and create poems inspired by nature! If you are 8 years old or above, then ask your parents to register you for these four days of fun. All materials will be provided. Be sure to dress for the weather. The camp fee is \$15.00 for members and \$30.00 for non-members. Call (601) 799-2311 by June 15 to register. Nature Camp is limited to 30 participants so register today!

JULY

Create A Butterfly Activity (Children)

Saturday, July 9

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Come learn about the remarkable adaptations butterflies have for sense, smell, and taste while creating your very own butterfly. All materials will be provided. Admission is free for members and \$2 for non-members. Program is limited to 25 participants. Call (601) 799-2311 by July 2 to register.

AUGUST

Soil & Water Quality Testing (Children)

Saturday, August 6

9:30 a.m. to Noon

Come learn how to determine the quality of soil and water through a series of simple tests. All materials will be provided. Admission is free for arboretum members and \$1 for non-members. Recommended for children above the age of 8. A parent/guardian must be present with each child or group of children. Program is limited to 30 participants. Call (601) 799-2311 by July 30 to register.

Summer Wildflower Walk (Adults)

Saturday, August 27

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

This time of year the savanna is filled with several colorful flowers and the butterflies that are attracted to them! Join us as we meander through the savanna identifying the various flowers in bloom this season. Admission is free for members and \$4 for non-members. Call (601) 799-2311 to register.

