I'm often asked “When should I put my feeders up? When should I take them down?”.

I usually tell folks that if you haven't tended your feeders in the summer, to start cleaning and putting in fresh nectar their feeders around the 4th of July, because that's when the number of hummers at the feeders starts to pick up. September is really the peak of migration. If you’re on the hummingbird highway you may see dozens of birds at your feeders! Be sure to put out more feeders if you have lots of birds - it will give them a better chance at a meal. Plus our local experts say “more feeders = more birds!”

Hummingbirds are by nature anti-social creatures and they don't share well, but they seem to be more cooperative at the feeders in the fall than any other time of year. Probably because they realize they would rather eat then spend all their time in defense mode! They'll pretty much be gone by October, but then it's time for winter hummingbirds!

The answer to the question about taking feeders down is a bit more complicated. Contrary to what your grandmother may have told you, you will NOT stop all the hummingbirds from migrating if you don't take down your feeder. The Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are generally gone by October, but in the gulf south, especially near Baton Rouge, we have a good chance of hosting western species of hummingbirds during the winter. If you see a hummingbird between October and March, it's likely a Rufous, a Black-chinned, a Buff-bellied, or one of the other rarer species that's been noted in Louisiana over the years.

Check out http://www.casacolibri.net/winterbanding.asp for more information on these fascinating birds! There have been records of winter hummingbirds returning to Louisiana for as many as six or seven years in a row!

Another common question I’m asked is “what is the formula for making hummingbird nectar?” The standard formula is 1 part sugar to 4 parts water, so use ¼ c. of sugar for each cup of water. Use a sparkling clean feeder. Boil water if you wish, but dissolve sugar in hot water. Avoid using red dye! Use a red feeder and then you don't have to add this unnecessary ingredient. After all, nature does not color her nectar red! Change the nectar every few days during hot weather. Yes, throw the old nectar out; it costs only pennies. You don’t have to fill feeders to the top if you only have a few birds.

For more information about feeding hummingbirds, visit our website and click on the banner for Feeding Hummingbirds from the front page!

- Jane Patterson
**Plant-Of-The-Week**

*by Bill Fontenot (aka the nature dude)*

It’s South Louisiana Plant-Of-The-Week time! Rough-leaf Dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*) is a small (10-20’) native tree, overlooked by even ardent native plant enthusiasts, not to mention the entire nursery industry. Yep, it is sort of a plain-Jane type plant, to be sure, but in that way it lends itself to fitting in with other showier plants as part of mixed planting.

As you can see, it's a nice enough mid-to-late-Spring bloomer, pictured here over a groundcover of "Green-eyed Susan" (*Rudbeckia laciniata*)....... and in late-Summer/early-Fall it produces green-tinged-ivory fruits that numerous species of migrating and local flycatchers, vireos, and mimic thrushes relish.

Rough-leaf Dogwood is a cosmopolitan species here in North America, occupying many woodland habitat types from Canada southward to the Gulf Coast. It loves sunlight and clay soils, but will grow nicely in part-shade and other soil types.

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**Try Nature’s Own Hummer Feeders!**

If you love hummingbirds, an even better and probably lower maintenance option to maintaining sugar water feeders is providing plants that naturally provide nectar. There are many, many choices, but some of the best ones are listed below. The ones are native to south Louisiana are marked: be sure to try these! Many of these can usually be found easily at local garden nurseries:

- Red Abutilon (*Abutilon pictum*)
- Abutilon “Little Imp” (*Abutilon megapotamicum*)
- Parlor Maple or Flowering Maple (*Abutilon pictum*)
- Bottlebrush (*Callistemon citrinus*)
- Bottlebrush Buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*)
- Red Buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*) *native*
- Canna (sp.)
- Cape Honeysuckle (*Tecoma capensis*)
- Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) *native*
- Copper Iris (*Iris fulva*) *native*
- Coral Bean or Mamou (*Erythrina herbacea*) *native*
- Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) *native*
- Cross Vine (*Bignonia carpreolata*) *native*
- Cry-Baby Tree (*Erythrina crista-galli*)
- Cypress Vine (*Ipomoea quamoclit*)
- Firebush (*Hamelia patens*)
- Fire Spike (*Odontonema strictum*)
- Firecracker Vine (*Manettia cordifolioid*)
- Fountain Plant (*Russelia equisetiflornis*)
- Ginger (*Hedychium sp.*) Japanese Flowering
- Cherry (*Prunus serrulata “Kwansan”*)
- Java Plant (*Clerodendrum speiosisssimium*)
- Mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*)
- Mexican Cigar (*Cuphea ignea “David Verity”*)
- Winter or Giant Mexican Cigar (*Cuphea micropetalal*)
- Pagoda Plant (*Clerodendrum paniculatum*)
- Salvia “Van Houttei” (*Salvia splendens “Van Houttei”)”
- Anise Sage (*Salvia guaranitica “Black and Blue”*)
- Pineapple Sage (*Salvia elegans*)
- Autumn Sage (*Salvia greggii*)
- Salvia “Indigo Spires” (*S. farinacea x S. longispicata*)
- Salvia “Argentine Skies” (var. *S. guaranitica*)
- Salvia “Purple Majesty” (var. *S. guaranitica*)
- Salvia “Waverly” (var. *S. leucantha*)
- Salvia cocinea *native*
- Trumpet Vine (*Campsis radicans*) *native*
- Turk’s Cap or Sultan’s Turban (*Malvaviscus arboreus “Drummondii”*)
- Vervain or Porterweed (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*)
- Winter Honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*)
- Winter “ugly” Shrimp (*Justice brandegeana*)
- Zinnias
After a summer break, BRAS programs will begin again this September. We will continue to host presentations on the second Thursday of the month at BREC’s Bluebonnet Swamp Education Center. Attendance is free for all BRAS Members, $3 at the door for non-BRAS Members and $2.50 for non-BRAS seniors (price of admission at the Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center).

Our first speaker will be Dia Windhoffer, a recent graduate from Nicholls State University. Ms. Windhoffer earned her Master of Science degree studying predator removal and video monitoring as management tools for waterbird conservation. Specifically, she deployed video systems on Royal and Sandwich tern colonies on Louisiana’s barrier islands to determine specific causes of nest failure, and also to determine the effectiveness of mammalian removal efforts to increase nest success.

Spoiler alert – Dia’s video footage is the first ever to confirm depredation of Royal and Sandwich tern nests by an herbivorous mammal! But you have to join us to find out which mammal.

So mark your calendars for:

Thursday, September 14th
7:00 – 8:00 PM
“Evaluation of Mammalian Predator Removal and Video Monitoring as Management Tools for Waterbird Conservation” with Dia Windhoffer

See you there!
Our Native Hibiscus

by the nature dude (Bill Fontenot)

Writing about Hibiscus is a daunting task. There’s just too much to say and these days nobody cares to read thousands of words at a time.......but I’m gonna try, ok?

The genus Hibiscus contains about 300 species worldwide, plus of course many many hybrids. I do dig the hybrids -- in a Daliesque sort of way -- but the straight wild species remain the most spectacular to me. Here in Louisiana we’ve got six native species, with the two most widely-distributed being the Halberdleaf Rosemallow (H. laevis) and the regular Rosemallow (H. lasiocarpus). Until recently, H. laevis was known as H. militaris and H. lasiocarpus was known as H. moscheutos var. lasiocarpus.

Specimens featuring pink-tinged blooms are fairly common in both of these species. Years ago (20+) Lydia and I planted one H. lasiocarpus and one pink-tinged H. laevis in our front ditch. Over time, these two have gradually spread out along the entire 50+ feet of ditch; and have fairly well exploded in the recent 1.5 years of heavy rains.

You don’t need a ditch in which to grow native Gulf Coast hibiscus, but it does help. Otherwise, site them in any moist situation that receives a good bit of sun.

Over time you may notice bug damage on some of your hibiscus. I learned recently that this is the result of leaf predation by a species of sawfly (if anyone out there knows otherwise, please let me know....). While not strictly limited to H. lasiocarpus, I’ve only rarely seen such damage on H. laevis. Sawfly(?) damage on H. lasiocarpus has caused more than one native plant gardener to refrain from planting it. Sorta sad.

Interesting story: Back when Lydia and I were operating a native plant nursery, I mentioned the “cosmetic” problems we were having selling H. lasiocarpus to Wylie Barrow, bird ecologist at the National Wetlands Research Center. Upon hearing this, he mentioned that in the Atchafalaya Basin he had recently watched adult Prothonotary Warblers repeatedly plucking sawfly(?) larvae off of hibiscus leaves and carrying them to nearby nestlings. This being the case, I’d expect that more birds than Prothonotary Warblers would greatly appreciate having such a handy food source around for their babies. And what about anole lizards? skinks? tree frogs? spiders? assassin bugs? etc? etc? etc?

If you really REALLY want a wildlife-friendly garden, then CELEBRATE holes in the leaves of “your” plants!

(follow the nature dude on Facebook for more enlightening articles)

Feliciana Hummingbird Celebration
September 9, 2017

The annual Feliciana Hummingbird Celebration will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017, at St. Francisville, Louisiana. The Feliciana Hummingbird Celebration promotes the unique breeding habitat found in the St. Francisville area. The event offers an opportunity to observe hummingbirds up close as they are weighed and measured. In addition, vendors will be at both homes with hummingbird-attractive plants available for sale. The gardens include the home of Carlyle Rogillio at 15736 Tunica Trace (Hwy. 66) and Murrell Butler at 9485 Oak Hill Road.

There is no fee. Come and go as you please.

Maps can be found at the Historical Society Museum on Ferdinand St.or at the St. Francisville Inn at Commerce & Ferdinand Streets, both in the historic district. You can also print a map from this website: http://stfrancisvillefestivals.com/features/feliciana-hummingbird-celebration/fhc-map

Ph: 800-488-6502
Ph: 225-635-6502
Fax: 225-635-6421
patrick@bluegoosemedia.com

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If you really REALLY want a wildlife-friendly garden, then CELEBRATE holes in the leaves of “your” plants!

(follow the nature dude on Facebook for more enlightening articles)
BIRDER WORD FIND

BY CRYSTAL JOHNSON

Auks
Bald Eagle
Beak
Binoculars
Breed
Bunting
Carolina Chickadee
Caw
Christmas Bird Count
Clapper
Condor
Conservation
Cuckoo
Downy
Screech Owl
Egg
Egret
Elder
Flicker
Flock
Fly
Fowl
Goose
Great-horned Owl
Gulls
Hawk
Heron
Ibis
Indigo
Kestrel
Knot
Lek
Lifer
Molt
Nestling
Northern Cardinal
Pish
Quail
Rail
Robin
Scope
Seeds
Skua
Song
Swamp
Swan
Tail
Teal
Tern
Thrasher
Towhee
Tufted Titmouse
Twitch
Vireo
Warblers
Who cooks for you?
Wild
Willet
Worm
Wren
National Audubon currently has a nationwide initiative to encourage all of us to grow more native plants that are good for birds. The logic is that we have removed many of the native plants in our environment, which is stressing food supplies for insects and other organisms, including our native birds. By using native plants in our landscape design we can add back what was taken away and increase biodiversity, making our homes a healthier place for all of us. It's Audubon's goal to have it memberships plant a million native plants for birds!

If you visit www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds and enter your zip code, Audubon will provide a list of plants that are favorable to birds and that are native to your area. Unfortunately, these plants are not always easy to find in nurseries in our area. Below you will find a list of nurseries in south Louisiana, as well as some mail order resources, that will help you find options for purchasing native plants that you can add to your yard and homescapes. (Please note that I'm not including any "big box" stores or hardware stores that carry season plants. They may accidentally carry natives, but they are not a reliable source.)

Retail nurseries that carry native plants

Hilltop Arboretum
www.lsu.edu/hilltop
11855 Highland Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70810
Phone: 225-767-6916
Email: hilltop@lsu.edu

Hilltop Arboretum has what it calls the "Hodge Podge" which is a volunteer nursery area on the premises. Usually unmanned, this nursery features plants that are tagged with names and prices, so it's up to you to know what you're looking for. These are plants that have been propagated or shared by volunteers. Not all of them are native, so you do have to know what you're looking for, but you can often find things here that you can't find anywhere else. Payment is by the honor system... leave your check in the mailbox slot by the parking lot.

Twice a year, Hilltop holds pretty awesome plant sales...one in the spring and one in the fall. People arrive a day ahead to see what's going to be offering and are jostling each other at the starting line the day of the sale. Bring your wagon and have a good idea of what you're going for if it's going to be something in high demand! It's worth it to become a member of Hilltop to get notice of the sales and the programs that Hilltop Arboretum has to offer.

Harb's Oasis
www.harbosaisis.com
13827 Coursey Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70817
(225) 756-2720
Email: harb.oasis@gmail.com

In addition to the traditional landscaping options, Harb's Oasis actually features a Native Plants section, and is the only retail nursery in our area to do so. In addition, there are people here who actually know about plants and are able to answer questions. Definitely worth a visit to see what they have to offer.

Clegg's Nursery
www.cleggsnursery.com

In Baton Rouge
274 North Donmoor
(225) 927-1419

5696 Siegen Lane
(225) 292-9153

10645 Greenwell Springs Road
(225) 275-7006

In Denham Springs
31275 Hwy 16
(225) 791-6060

Clegg's does a great amount of business in Baton Rouge and is a fine full service nursery. They don't, however, feature any native plants, per se. That is, you can occasionally find them there, but they will be accidental finds and likely not labeled as natives. That said, Rick Webb, a wholesale grower who specializes in native plants, does sell to Clegg's, so you may occasionally find Louisiana natives here... but you certainly have to know what you're looking for. In my personal experience, it's not likely that the salespeople will have any idea about what is native and what's not.

For the following nurseries, finding natives will be accidental. Finding someone at the nursery who knows native plants is possible but you may have to ask around.

Louisiana Nursery
www.louisiananursery.com

13121 Coursey Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70816 US
Phone: 225-756-0008

8680 Perkins Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70810 US
Phone: 225-766-0300

39245 Hwy 42
Prairieville, LA 70769 US
Phone: 225-677-7984
Email: contact@louisiananursery.com

Pretty much a repeat of what I said about Clegg's. Nice nursery, but finding natives will be accidental.

Garden District Nursery
www.facebook.com/gardendistrictnursery.com

2544 Government St
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
225-383-3514

(Continued on page 7)
Plants for Birds - Louisiana style!

(Continued from page 6)

Greenhand Nursery
www.facebook.com/GreenhandNursery
11810 Gibbens Rd
Baton Rouge, LA
225-354-9525
Greenhand Nursery

Ins-N-Outs Nursery
www.facebook.com/diginsnouts
5211 Legion St
St. Francisville, LA 70775
(225) 635-6952

Green Thumb Nursery
www.greenthumbsny.com/
12188 Hwy 22
Ponchatoula, LA 70454
225-294-5089

Smith's Nursery
www.smithsnursery.net
19355 Hwy 22 East
Ponchatoula, LA 70454
(985) 386-8862

Bantings Nursery
26300 Highway 190
Lacombe, LA 70445
985.882.5550
Email: northshore@bantingsnursery.com

Inwood Gardens
www.inwoodgardens.com
1640 Collins Blvd.
Covington LA 70433

Garden Spot of Mandeville
2100 N Causeway Blvd,
Mandeville, LA 70471

Wholesale Nurseries
You can't buy direct from these companies but you should watch for their wares at Plant and Garden Sales around the state.

Maypop Hill
www.maypophill.com
Email: maypophill@gmail.com
Sells plants at Clinton Louisiana Community Market (first Saturday of each month, as well as LSU Spring Garden Sale and New Orleans Botanical Garden events.

Louisiana Growers
(Rick and Susan Webb)
www.lanativeplants.com
63279 Lowery Rd
Amite, Louisiana
(985) 747-0510
Email: rick@lanativeplants.com
Sells plants at many of seasonal plant and garden shows listed below.

Willis Farm Nursery
G W Willis, md
www.willisfarm.net
Mail: P O Box 719, Doyline, LA,
71023-0719
Shipping: 3100 Herren Rd, Doyline,
LA, 71023
Land: 318-745-3048
Cell: 318-210-4507 (G W Willis)
Fax: 318-745-3246
Email: willisfarmnursery@gmail.com
Holds a retail market Saturday 9-3, January - April & October - November at wholesale prices

Mail Order Sources

Almost Eden
www.almostedenplants.com
1240 Smith Rd
Merryville LA 70653
337-375-2114
Email: john@almostedenplants.com

Nativ Nurseries
www.nativnurseries.com
1003 US-45 ALT
West Point, MS 39773
(662) 494-4326

Bois D'Arc Gardens (specializing in Louisiana Iris)
www.bois-darc.com
1831 Bull Run Road
Schriever, LA 70395
985-446-2329 or 985-209-2501 or
985-859-4848
Email: bois@charter.net

Louisiana Iris Gardens
www.louisianairisgardens.com
Tully, NY
Contact form on website

Seasonal Plant Sales and Garden Shows

March through October
Pelican Greenhouse @ City Park
New Orleans
Plant sale first Saturday of each month. Features many native plants. Email plants@nocp.org for a list of native plants available each month.

March
Madisonville Garden Show
Sponsored by the Madisonville Garden Club. Usually first weekend in March. Check with the club for dates: www.facebook.com/Madisonvillegardenclub

Northshore Garden & Plant Sale
Sponsored by St. Tammany Master Gardener Association & LSU Ag Center. Usually third weekend of March in Covington

Crosby Arboretum Spring Native Plant Sale
Usually last weekend in March. Check website calendar for dates: crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu

Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show
Sponsored by LSU Ag Center. Usually middle of March at Parker Coliseum on the LSU Baton Rouge

(Continued on page 8)
Plants for Birds — Louisiana style!

(Continued from page 7)

campus.

April

Festival des Fleurs
Blackham Coliseum, Lafayette, LA.
Usually first weekend of April.

New Orleans Spring Garden Show
New Orleans Botanical Gardens
usually second weekend of April.

June

Daylily Festival & Garden Show
Magdalen Square, Abbeville, LA.
Usually first weekend of June

September

Pollination Celebration
Hammond Research Station sponsored by Tangipahoa Master Gardeners. Second weekend of September

Folsom Fall Garden Festival
Midway Church Park, Folsom, LA.
End of September.

October

New Orleans Fall Garden Show
This event is sponsored by the New Orleans Botanical Garden, New Orleans City Park, the New Orleans Botanical Garden Foundation, and Friends of City Park.


Links to other websites and resources

- PlantNative.org
  www.plantnative.org

- Louisiana Native Plant Society
  www.lnps.org

- Capital Area Native Plant Society
  canps.weebly.com

- Society for Louisiana Iris
  www.louisianas.org

Do we have your email address?

Keep up to date with all of Baton Rouge Audubon Society’s events and programs by joining our email list! We won’t inundate you with spam, we promise! Simply send a request to president@braudubon.org and ask to be added to the e-list!

AND If you would prefer to receive the BRAS “Barred Owl” newsletter in electronic form ONLY (rather than the printed version thereby lessening your carbon footprint) please email our Membership chair and let her know! Drop her a line at membership@braudubon.org

Also please follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BRAudubon

Baton Rouge Audubon

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president@braudubon.org

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The Barred Owl

is published quarterly by the Baton Rouge chapter of the NAS. Submissions should be emailed to newsletter@braudubon.org

Changes of address and other official correspondence should be sent to:

Baton Rouge Audubon Society
P.O. Box 67016
Baton Rouge, LA 70896
The early bird catches the word...

by Crystal Johnson

ACROSS
1 Crow's call
4 Target, as in a camera
7 Gorget location
11 A bunting with good jeans?
14 Color of one becard's throat
15 Devilishly large nocturnal raptors?
17 Youngster who'll later ask for the chef?
18 Yearn
20 Tall, colorful, majestic, stately waders
25 Bird that may be Bald or Golden
26 "This ___ Jeopardy!"
27 Hereditary material
29 First egg hole
31 Unit of mown and dried grass
34 Sea bird that defends itself by releasing a foul-smelling oil from its nose
36 Mimic Dr. Dre
37 Excuse
40 Bird with a dirty mouth?
47 Apt description for 15-, 20-, and 34-Across?
49 Not out
50 Day (Spanish)
51 Afro, e.g.
52 Wild ___ or ___ Vulture
53 Birthplace of Mr. Clooney

DOWN
2 Small bird found in canyons, cactuses, and the Carolinas?
3 Placed
4 Broadcast
5 Snub
6 Stooge with bowl cut
7 Braggart
8 Bay (e.g., at the moon)
9 Key West, Jamaica, or Hawaii
10 Egg holder
12 Birthplace of Ms. Silverman
13 A female deer
15 Assess, as in interest
16 Weepy birds described in Prince song
18 Mutt
19 Yellowfin tuna
21 Product made by Bic
22 Example preceder or follower
23 Sharptont or Hirt
24 Fantastic
28 Small, secretive marsh bird once known as Sharp-tailed Sparrow: Abbr.
29 Budgie or cockatiel, for example
30 Often yellow migrant
31 Clutch
32 Interjection often associated with regret
33 Louisiana postal code
35 Rust-colored body part on some hawks
37 Perfect condition for a roadrunner
38 Large-chinned host
39 Birthplace of Mr. Bryson
40 Pokémon ___ (popular location-based game)
41 Black-bodied, white-faced corvid in Europe and Asia
42 ___ Sunday (NFL game occurring on first Sun. in Feb.)
43 Offer
44 Audubon Louisiana's Director of Bird Conservation
45 "Forever and ___"
46 Birthplace of Ms. Etheridge
48 New Orleans accent
Keep Your Membership Current!

If your membership expires, you will no longer receive The Barred Owl. We'll eventually take your name off the list. It is expensive to produce and membership dues help to cover that cost. Please see the expiration code on the first line of the label above your name. The month and year in which your membership expires are indicated after your membership organization (e.g., BRAS DEC 09 for BRAS-only members and NAS DEC 10 for NAS members).

Maintaining your membership current is important!

**BRAS and National Audubon Membership**

You may join NAS by going to their website (audubon.org) and you automatically become a member of both NAS and BRAS. You will receive the quarterly award-winning Audubon magazine as well as the quarterly BRAS newsletter, The Barred Owl.

**BRAS Only Membership**

If you want all of your dues to support local conservation and education, join BRAS only. You will NOT receive the Audubon magazine. You WILL receive The Barred Owl and a free sanctuary patch. You may join on-line at any level by visiting our website www.braudubon.org, or send this form with your check to: BRAS, P.O. Box 67016, BR LA 70896.

**Patches!**

Extra sanctuary patches or patches for NAS members are $10 each and can be ordered by using the form to the right. If you are joining BRAS and want a free patch, you must put "1" in the blank.

---

**Baton Rouge Audubon Society (BRAS)**

Please enroll me as a member of BRAS! Enclosed is my check for:

- [$25] Individual Membership
- [$30] Family Membership
- [$50] Wood Thrush Membership
- [$100] Rose-breasted Grosbeak Membership
- [$250] Louisiana Waterthrush Membership
- [$500] Painted Bunting Membership
- [$1000] Cerulean Warbler Membership
- [$ ] Additional Contribution

- [#] of patches (indicate 1 which is free with BRAS membership. Additional patches are $10 each; NAS member patches @ $10 each; no patch will be sent if there is no indication.)
- [ ] Electronic version of newsletter only (do not mail)
- [ ] Add me to the BRAS email list (to be informed of field trips, etc.)

Name: ___________________________ Ph: __________________
Address: __________________________
City: ___________________________ State: _______ Zip: _______
E-mail: ___________________________

MAIL COMPLETE FORM TO:
Baton Rouge Audubon Society
PO Box 67016
Baton Rouge, LA 70896