

NOC SYMPOSIUM

Longleaf Pine Flatwoods of West Central Louisiana and East Texas

Overview

Longleaf pines once covered an estimated 90 million acres, from southeastern Virginia to Florida and west through Louisiana to east Texas. It is the latter area, sometimes known as the Pineywoods, straddling two states that we will visit in April, 2024. This will be our first foray to this interesting and unique part of North America.

Our meeting venue is the Regent Suite in the Student Center at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, the oldest and one of the most historic towns in Texas. The event begins with a reception and early check-in on Thursday, April 25, followed by two days of presentations, then two days in the field ending on Monday, April 29.

TRANSPORTATION: Those who drive may find numerous sites of interest along the way. If you prefer to fly, the closest large airports are Shreveport, LA and Houston, TX. Drive time from either airport to Nacogdoches is approximately two hours.

LODGING: Nacogdoches is a college town with a busy tourist season and a variety of lodging options posted on the Convention and Visitors Bureau website: www.visitnacogdoches.org

Advanced symposium registration is required and will be limited to the first 100 respondents.

Electronic registration is simple and convenient on the NOC website. Use your PayPal account or bypass that option and use your personal credit card.

www.nativeorchidconference.org

NOTE: Registration at the door is not available.

Upon receipt of your registration, a confirmation notice will be emailed to you. Periodic updates will be emailed as necessary.

CONFERENCE FEE:

Full Registration: \$199 US per person

Student Registration: \$99 US per person

(full-time students at any high school, college or university)

Case Grant Program: The NOC supports native orchid research and conservation through its Fred Case Grant program; part of your registration fee may be used to supplement this special effort.

A most important aspect of this event is the opportunity to meet people who share a common interest in natural history in general and native orchids in particular. Many long-lasting friendships and professional relationships have been formed at NOC symposiums. Why not take this opportunity to renew them and/or make new ones in the Pineywoods of East Texas.



Snowy orchis
(*Platanthera nivea*)

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Gesse Bullock -
The Tree that Fire Saved

Charles Allen, Ph.D. - *Orchids of Louisiana*

Kevin Allen - *Orchid Reintroduction in a Changing Climate: A Louisiana Case Study*

Tyson Hart, Soil Scientist, USDA -
Plants, Soils and Geology of the Western Gulf Coast Plains

Laura Juszczak, Ph.D. -
A Highway Cornucopia for Native Orchid Conservation: Cloverleaf Interchanges as Exclusion Islands

Joe Liggio - *Orchids of Texas*

William E. Rogers, Ph.D. -
Spiranthes parksii, the Navasota Ladies' Tresses

Jyotsna Sharma, Ph.D. -
Invisible Partners of Orchids

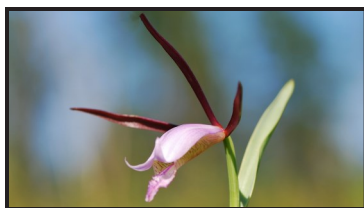
Harsheta Sharma & Tyler Keiser -
Endofungal Bacteria from Orchids

Patrick Smallwood - *Mycorrhizal Specificity and *Cypripedium acaule**

Schedule of Activities

Thursday, April 25	Regent Suite	April 27	Regent Suite
6:00pm - 8:30pm	Reception; early check-in	8:00am - 8:45am	Continental Brkfst.
Friday, April 26	Regent Suite	8:45am - 12:00pm	Presentations
8:00am - 8:45am	Check-in; Cont. Brkfst.	12:00pm - 12:45pm	Lunch (provided)
8:45am - 9:00am	Welcome	12:45pm - 3:00pm	Presentations
9:00am - 11:30am	Presentations	3:00pm - 4:00pm	Field trip planning
11:30am - 12:00pm	Annual meeting	Sunday, April 28	
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch (provided)	8:00am - 5:00pm	Field Trips
1:00pm - 4:00pm	Presentations	Monday, April 29	
		8:00am - 5:00pm	Field Trips

Optional Opportunity - Hike on Your Own:
Abita Creek Flatwoods Preserve and Lake Ramsay Preserve (East of Baton Rouge, LA)



Saturday,

Spreading pogonia
Cleistesopsis divaricata

21st Annual Native Orchid Conference Symposium

April 25-29, 2024

The Longleaf Pine Woodlands at a Glance

Today, less than three percent of the original range of longleaf pine habitat is intact, some of it protected in the Kisatchie National Forest in west central Louisiana and the Angelina and Sabine National Forests in east Texas. Longleaf pine savannas occur on sandy, dry, acidic soil. Where they meet woodlands, hillside seepage bogs and swamps, high plant diversity is evident. Many plants of note occur in these areas. They include native orchids (e.g. *Calopogon oklahomensis*, *C. tuberosus*, *Platanthera chapmanii*, *P. cristata*, *P. integra*, *P. nivea*, and numerous *Spiranthes*), as well as companion plants such as sundews, pitcher plants, and gentians. Those with sharp eyes (and/or an experienced guide) can find *Cypripedium kentuckiense* in the east Texas Pineywoods and west-central Louisiana where it was the subject of an extensive restoration project in the Kisatchie National Forest.

Historically, lightning strikes ignited natural fires which are so essential to longleaf pines. They facilitate the sprouting of seeds and suppress the encroachment of groundcover and dense brush. The forest was quietly renewed every three to four years, benefitting native orchids and endangered plants/animals such as the Red-cockaded woodpecker, Gopher tortoise and Henslow's sparrow. Now, prescribed burns are needed to rejuvenate the forest. They are conducted by people committed to preserving the unique, historic forests and include members of the Alabama-Coushatta tribe who care for their own lands and private preserves near the Big Thicket.



Prescribed burn



Gopher tortoise



Red-cockaded woodpecker

WHAT TO EXPECT

Weather - Subtropical climate with short, mild Winters & long, hot Summers. April temperatures range from mid 70-80 (high) to mid 60-65 (low). Humidity will be high. Louisiana is one of the two rainiest state in the US (avg. rainfall 57" LA; 51" east TX). Last year the area experienced a month's long heat dome which also blanketed the Midwest and Great Plains. Forecasters predict a strong El Nino weather pattern this winter which may bring sufficient rain to end the current drought.

Field trips - Dress for high temperature and humidity. Hiking will be minimal on mostly level terrain. Recommended: Sturdy shoes/boots that can get wet; hat, sunscreen, insect repellent.

Orchids - Our field trips could produce 10 - 12 orchid species including: *Cypripedium kentuckiense*; *Platanthera nivea*; *Isotria verticillata*; *Cleistesiosis divaricata*; *Calopogon tuberosus*; *C. barbatus*, *C. pallidus* and *C. oklahomensis*



Calopogon pallidus

For additional information or assistance, contact the NOC via the 'Contact Us' tab on our website or email:

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Janice Yates, Vice-President jyates4110@gmail.com
Richard Barmore, Treasurer rebster61@yahoo.com



Cypripedium kentuckiense

Sales Area: Limited space will be available for those wishing to sell or display orchid related items (books, prints, etc.). Pre-approval is required. If you wish to reserve sales or exhibit space, please advise.

Cancellation Policy: 75% of the symposium registration fee may be refunded if written notice of your intent to cancel is received by April 1, 2024.