

The Naturalist Newsletter

A publication of the Louisiana Master Naturalists Greater New Orleans Chapter

A word from the President, Joe Baucum

Welcome to the first edition of the LMNGNO Newsletter. Fall 2018 will mark the beginning of the student mentorship program --- a boon to the certification process and a boost to enhanced learning. Thanks for all that you are doing to make this a GREAT organization. Suggestions for improvements are always welcome. Please consider becoming a committee chair, committee member, board member, or officer --- all are available to you as a certified member.



Photo by Dr. Bob Rogers

Spring 2018 Workshops come to a close

This photo, taken during the Grand Isle Migratory Bird Festival, shows most of the class that we hope to certify in the coming year!

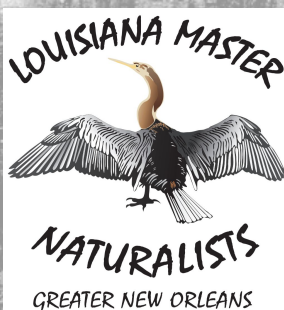
(front row, left to right): Chase Mathey, Janell Simpson, Marianne Maumus, Melissa Bailes, Rachael Guillory, Sarah Tetlow, Sunny Summers, Lauren Willsie, and Sandy Baptie (second row, left to right): Katie Ives, Zack O'Donnell, Regina Sullivan, Nicole Rochat, Nicole Moody, and Bob Thomas (third row, left to right): Jo Gundlach, Joe Baucum, and Brianna Cervantes (top row, left to right): Steve Wulff, Ann Rogers, Cindy Baucum, and Mark Meunier

Upcoming Events

- **Moonlight Paddle down Cane Bayou**
Sponsored by Canoe & Trail Shop
November 17
6:00 pm- 12:00 am

Follow us on Instagram!

@ LMNGNO



Newsletter Naming

Written by: Alahna Moore

As the inaugural issue of the Louisiana Master Naturalist Newsletter, we decided to go with a straightforward title - The Naturalist Newsletter. For subsequent editions, **we're looking for suggestions from our readers of a new name!**

We ask that you use your knowledge of species names, geographic features, and naturalist terms to come up with a clever title for the newsletter.

Send your ideas to:

LMNGNO.communications@gmail.com

Rendezvous 2019

Facts by Joe Baucum

- Rendezvous registration is not yet open but will be soon
- There will be a 100 person limit
- Registration includes five meals and sleeping accommodations.
- This is our 4th statewide meet
- Registration Chairman will again be Maryann Hoskins
- Meeting naturalists from other areas of the state expands your knowledge and perspective on the Louisiana natural history scene.
- A special keynote speaker will open festivities on the first night.

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Do Apple Snails Mate?

Written by: Joe Baucum

Joe and Cindy Baucum had always thought that all snails were hermaphroditic. Little did they know!

Joe and Cindy had never seen an apple snail (*Pomacea maculata*) anywhere on the island of Barataria in the twenty two years that they have lived there. Driven by southerly winds, a nondescript tidal flooding occurred in 2017 covering most of the natural elevations of Lower Barataria with a foot or so of brackish water. Soon thereafter, Joe and Cindy started seeing an occasional hot-pink cluster of apple snail eggs on ditch vegetation. As the clusters became more frequent, so also did the appearance of adult-though-small apple snails.



Recently, they spotted what they thought to be a single snail floating in the water, but, upon removal, it turned out to be two co-joined snails. Yes, the apple snail has separated sexes (gonochorous) --- dioecious if referring to plants --- and is NOT a hermaphroditic snail.

Contribute Social Media Content, Earn Volunteer Hours!

Thanks to the new and improved communications committee, now you can earn Volunteer Hours for contributing to LMNGNO's social media sites! Submit photos, writings, or volunteer to edit our newsletter or website in exchange for VH. For more information, or to submit content, contact LMNGNO.communications@gmail.com

- 1 VH / 1 written page
- 1 VH / 5 photos
- 1 VH / 3 social media posts (incl. shared articles, etc.)
- 1 VH / 1 hour editorial work (website & newsletter)
- 1 VH / 1 hour of labor on any media (original painting, sculpture, videos, webinars. Labor includes research, planning, and execution)

Nature Notes: *Baptisia alba*, Wild False Indigo



Native to the South-eastern USA, **White False Indigo** is a sturdy, long-lived plant, although it takes a few years to reach mature size. Beautiful white flowers contrast against charcoal-grey stems. Cousin to the Lupine, with similar spikes of pea-like flowers in late spring. Will tolerate a wide range of soil conditions, from moist to dry. Very tolerant of summer heat and humidity. Seed pods are interesting for dried flower arrangements. Observed growing in the Big Branch Marsh NLR.

