

Office of the Governor



JOHN BEL EDWARDS

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** native plants are indigenous species that have evolved alongside native wildlife and occur naturally in a particular geographic region, ecosystem and habitat; and
- WHEREAS,** native plants are essential for healthy, diverse, and sustainable ecosystems and are critical for cleaning air, filtering water and stabilizing soils; and
- WHEREAS,** native plants are well-adapted to Louisiana's soils, temperatures, precipitation and environmental conditions, making them the best option for conserving and protecting our environment and adapting to its changes; and
- WHEREAS,** native plants provide food including nectar, pollen, seeds and foliage for native and migratory birds, caterpillars, butterflies, bees and other wildlife in ways that non-native plants cannot; and
- WHEREAS,** Louisiana is home to about 2,500 native plant species including large shade trees, such as our state tree, *Taxodium distichum* or bald cypress, and state flower, *Magnolia grandiflora* or southern magnolia, as well as shrubs, perennials, vines, grasses and wildflowers; and
- WHEREAS,** native plants play an important role in all of Louisiana's diverse ecosystems, from the coastal marshes and prairies to the bluff forests of the Tunica Hills, from the bottomland hardwood forests and swamps to the longleaf pine savannas and the oak and hickory woodlands; and
- WHEREAS,** it is important to encourage public awareness about the benefits of Louisiana's native plants to pollinators and other wildlife, to the economy and to the health and sustainability of Louisiana's fragile ecosystems.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **John Bel Edwards**, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as

NATIVE PLANT MONTH
in the State of Louisiana.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 1st day of April A. D., 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bel Edwards".

John Bel Edwards
Governor

