



# Save Endangered Species: Keep the Wild Alive

## Introduction of the Endangered Species Pondberry, *Lindera melissifolia*, to New Sites in Mississippi

Pondberry planted by Mattie Coleman and the students from S.V. Marshall High School. Sponsored by the Leland Garden Club, the Greenville Garden Club, the Mississippi Native Plant Society, Hillside National Wildlife Refuge, Morgan Break National Wildlife Refuge, the National Wildlife Federation's Species Recovery Fund and the U.S. Forest Service, Center for Bottomland Hardwoods Research.



Late summer pondberry with fruits



Early spring pondberry in flower



Morgan Brake National Wildlife Refuge



Hillside National Wildlife Refuge



Female flowers



Male flowers

Pondberry is a dioecious species. That means male and female flowers are on separate plants

The plant we are protecting: Pondberry is an endangered clonal shrub that grows in seasonally flooded wetlands and on the edges of sinks and ponds. Pondberry populations occur in six southern states. The species has been affected by habitat destruction and alteration, especially timber cutting, clearing of land for agriculture, and drainage and flooding of wetlands. The populations that are known today are mature, but as they decline due to changing habitat conditions or are destroyed, no new populations are being naturally generated. Opportunities for dispersal are very limited now due to land use of areas surrounding pondberry populations and to changes in hydrology. If the species is to recover, introduction to new areas may be necessary.

### S.V. Marshall High School: Mission Accomplished

Procedures: We planted 20 pondberry plants (10 female and 10 male) at Hillside and Morgan Break National Wildlife Refuge on Friday, May 3rd, 2002, in spots carefully selected to match pondberry's ecological requirements. We counted the number of stems and measured the height of each one so that we can track future growth and survival. We surrounded each plant with a 4 foot high chicken wire cage to protect it from herbivores like deer and armadillos. The plants will be watered, fertilized, and monitored until they become established. When the plants are doing well the cages will be removed. In a few years we expect that a new population will have been established at both Hillside and Morgan Break National Wildlife Refuge.



Measuring stem heights		
Plant heights cms		
Hillside		Morgan Break
F 61a.....57	M 66a.....59	M 71a.....62
F 61b.....26	M 67a....47	M 72a....61
F 61c.....26	M 67b....9	M 72b....17
F 61d.....25	M 68a....59	M 73a....49
F 62a.....73	M 68b....19	M 74a....75
F 62b.....39	M 69a....53	M 75a....53
F 63a....40	M 70a....55	F 76a....23
F 64a....56		F 77a....59
F 64b....38		F 78a....57
F 64c....41		F 78b....31
F 64d....30		F 79a....68
F 65a....54		F 79b....70
F 65b....40		F 79c....24
F 65c....21		F 79d....25
F 65d....11		F 80a....72



Planting female pondberry



Each plant height was recorded



Protective caging was put around the plants



All plants were tagged to let the public know this was a research project

