Rare Plants of Louisiana

**Calopogon barbatus** - bearded grass-pink
Orchid Family (Orchidaceae)

**Rarity Rank:** S1/G4?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Global</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>imperiled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>rare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>secure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Range:** AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC

**Recognition:**
- A slender orchid that ranges from 10 to 40 cm tall while flowering; lower stems greenish and upper stems often purplish
- Flowers occur in compact racemes, usually 5 or fewer flowers per raceme
- Flowers open nearly simultaneously, as opposed to in slow succession or all at once
- Petals usually rose pink/magenta, ca 1.1 to 1.6 cm long
- Lip (upright topmost petal) bears a beard of yellow club-shaped hairs, hence the specific epithet and common name
- Leaves 1 (rarely 2), narrow, grass-like, about 2-5 mm wide and 5 to 20 cm long (after flowering leaves can elongate to 40 cm long)

**Flowering Time:** April

**Light Requirement:** Full sun to partial shade

**Wetland Indicator Status:** FACW – Usually occurs in wetlands

**Habitat:** Longleaf pine savannas and hillside seepage bogs.

**Threats:**
- Conversion of habitat to intensively-managed pine plantations (site prep disturbance and dense tree spacing)
- Fire exclusion or inappropriate timing of fire
- Residential and commercial development
- Lowering of water table or other hydrologic alterations due to ditches, dense tree spacing, etc.
- Rooting by wild hogs
Beneficial Management Practices:
- Thinning, targeting for removal off-site species such as loblolly and slash pines
- Refrain from creating drainage ditches and plowed fire lines in habitat (prepare fire lines by hand)
- Prescribed burning during April - June
- Minimize soil disturbances that free up growing space for exotics; clean logging equipment prior to entering sites for harvesting to avoid introducing exotics
- Kill more wild hogs

LA River Basins:  Pearl, Pontchartrain, Calcasieu, Red River

References:


