Rare Plants of Louisiana

Chasmanthium ornithorhynchum - bird-bill spikegrass
Grass Family (Poaceae)

**Rarity Rank:** S2/G4

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<th>State</th>
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<td>1</td>
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**Range:** AL, FL, LA, MS

**Recognition:**
- A rhizomatous grass, 30 to 50 cm tall with erect to reclining stems
- Short contracted panicle with sessile to short-pedicellate, somewhat feathered spikelets.
- Spikelets 7 to 18 mm long by 8 to 17 mm wide, laterally flattened with 5 to 7 florets

**Flowering Time:** June to October

**Light Requirement:** Shade – part shade

**Wetland Indicator Status:**
FACW – usually in wetlands

**Habitat:**
Bayhead swamps and margins of bayheads and wet longleaf pine flatwoods.

**Threats:**
- Conversion of habitat (pine flatwoods) to other vegetation types
- Hydrological modification by ditching/dredging of streams in bayhead swamps and bedding of pine flatwoods

**Beneficial Management Practices:**
- Protect flatwoods streams from dredging/ditching
- Incorporate heavier thinning (during very dry periods) and regular burning in management of pine flatwoods
- Allow fires to burn into bayhead swamps rather than placing fire lines at the junction of pine flatwoods and bayhead swamps

**LA River Basins:** Pearl, Pontchartrain
References: