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UPSTATE happenings

APRIL 2014

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Mar 22, 10:00 am
Field Trip to Station Cove Falls
and Oconee Station Historic Site
Email Judy Seeley at judy_seeley@hotmail.com to see if there is any space left on this hike.

Saturday, Apr 5, all day
Field Trip to Stevens Creek Heritage
Preserve & Dr. Tom Proctor's property

Leader: Bill Stringer. Come explore the beautiful Stevens Creek Heritage Preserve near N. Augusta, SC. The site is rich in spring wildflowers and the rare Miccosukee Gooseberry (*Ribes echinellum*). After walking the Stevens Creek trail, we will drive to the other side of Stevens Creek to the adjoining property of Dr. Tom Proctor. We'll eat our bag lunches at his cottage and then have a tour of the property, including the state record Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) tree. Dr. Proctor has done prescribed burns on several hundred acres, creating a variety of successional habitats.

It will be interesting to contrast the Heritage Preserve with Dr. Proctor's Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*) plantations and land uses. This is a special "by invitation only" look at an interesting private land holding.

Bring water, a bag lunch/snacks, and wear field clothing and shoes. Dr. Proctor will provide drinks for lunch.

To sign up, please email Judy Seeley at judy_seeley@hotmail.com. Let Judy know if you would like to carpool and if you can be a driver. We will choose one or more carpool meeting sites, departing at 8:00 am, returning around 5:00 pm.

Wednesday, Apr 9, 10:00 am to about 1:00
Field Trip to Boggs Rock and
Pickens County Native Plant Garden

Leaders: Rick Huffman, Diane Coiner, and Judy Seeley.

This is the first in our "Local Hidden Gems" series of field trips. We will visit Boggs Rock, a granite outcrop in Liberty, SC, and then travel to Pickens to see the native plant garden surrounding the county museum.

Boggs Rock is a unique site hidden away just off Hwy. 178. In the spring, pools of water form in the rock

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Bunched Arrowhead Restoration at Gateway Elementary School

There is an exciting conservation project underway in the Upstate that involves not only the protection of an extremely rare species, but also the vanishing ecosystem that supports it. The federally endangered species that the project revolves around is the Bunched Arrowhead (*Sagittaria fasciculata*), and with only a few populations still known to exist, rare is almost an understatement.

The Bunched Arrowhead grows only in a unique ecosystem known as a Piedmont seep, and as these specific wetlands become increasingly hard to find, so does the only habitat known to support this interesting plant. All previously documented populations of Bunched Arrowhead are closely protected — there is even a Bunched Arrowhead Heritage Preserve in Greenville County.

So, when a previously undocumented colony of this rare wildflower was found near Gateway Elementary School in Travelers Rest, plant enthusiasts from around the area eagerly came together to contribute their ideas and efforts to help protect this extraordinary find. There were some difficult design challenges to overcome, as careful management of the delicate habitat surrounding this celebrated discovery is necessary to ensure the survival of this tiny plant.

It all began one memorable day when a local mom was helping out with a PTA project to install a nature trail behind her son's elementary school. She had been aware of the fact that a population of Bunched Arrowhead was believed to exist near the school, but no one had seen it — until that day. She snapped photos of an unfamiliar plant growing in a small creek and soon learned that she had found the elusive Bunched Arrowhead colony.

After state and federal agencies were notified of the find, a preservation project, spearheaded by SCNPS president Jeff Beacham, got underway. Working as an environmental consultant on the project, he tackled the most pressing issue of the site — the fact that large amounts of rain water drained off the school grounds directly towards the small patches of Bunched Arrowheads, constantly threatening to wash them away. To help with this, Jeff

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Jeff Beacham

SC Native Plant Society

Tuesday, April 15, 7:00 pm

University Center: Greenville Tec, 225 South Pleasantburg Dr, Greenville

For a map and more information, visit <http://www.scnps.org>

Trillium *in the Upstate*

The Upstate region of South Carolina is blessed with abundant native plant diversity. Over 1200 flowering native plant species occur naturally in Pickens County alone. One of the more beautiful, captivating, interesting — and sometimes difficult to identify — is Trillium!

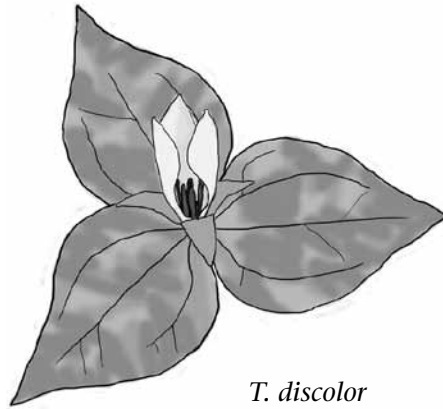
When observing Trilliums it is helpful to know some basic characteristics of these wildflowers. First, all mature Trillium have three leaves. At one time this genus was classified in the lily family, and “Trillium” means “three-leaved lily”. Trillium are now considered to be in “Trilliaceae” family. Three is the magic number when it comes to Trilliums! Each growing season, Trilliums produce no more than one three-petaled flower, each of which has three sepals and six (2 x 3) stamens.

Trilliums can be divided into one of two subgenera, either sessile (“Toadshade”) or pedicellate (“Wake Robin”).

pedicellate — as refers to Trillium, possessing a flower stalk

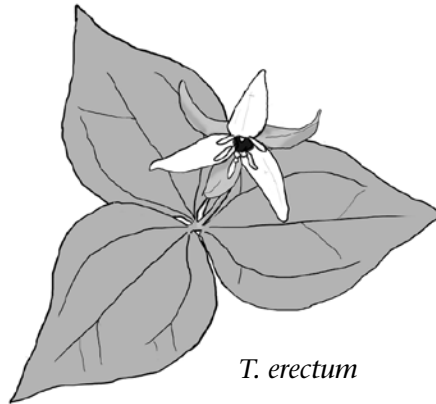
sessile — attached directly, without a supporting stalk

Drawings courtesy of http://www.namethatplant.net/keys/key_trillium_beta.shtml



T. discolor

Sessile trilliums have mottled leaves and a single stemless flower that is borne on top of the plant at the leaf juncture.

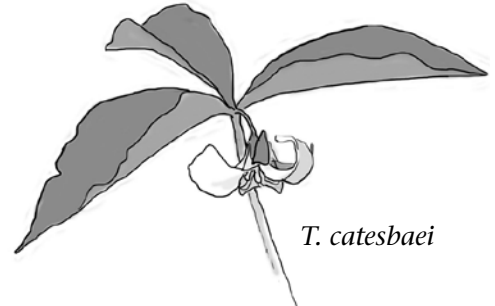


T. erectum

The pedicellate trilliums have solid green leaves with a stem that arises from the leaf juncture and supports the flower.

Two examples of “Toadshade” Trillium that can be found in the Upstate are *T. cuneatum* (“Sweet Betsy”) and *T. discolor* (“Faded

Trillium”). In fact, these are the only two sessile trillium that naturally occur here. Sweet Betsy typically has maroon-colored flower petals, though yellow and green flowered forms exist. Faded Trillium has yellow flowers only and has a spicy scent.



T. catesbaei

Pedicellate trilliums are more variable in morphology and the Upstate has more species in this subgenera. Some of these would be *T. catesbaei* (Rosey Wake Robin), *T. simile* (Gleason’s white trillium), *T. grandiflorum* (Snow Trillium), *T. vaseyii* (Vasey’s Trillium), *T. rugelii* (Southern Nodding Trillium), *T. erectum* (Red Trillium), *T. persistens* (Persistent Trillium) and *T. undulatum* (Painted Trillium).

Station Cove in Oconee County is one of the most well-known places to visit in late Winter and early Spring, and there you can see *T. cuneatum* that number in the thousands. Another excellent place to view this plant species is Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve in Greenville County. At least four Trillium species can be found at Jones Gap State Park, also in Greenville County. For the real Trillium lover, though, nowhere else in SC, or possibly in the world, compares to Wadakoe Mountain in Pickens County, where a total of eight Trillium species have been documented.

The Natural Heritage Trail at the SC Botanical Garden, under the direction of Patrick McMillan, is home to one of the best Trillium collections of any public garden. Here you will find a total of 42 Trillium species (64 entities if you include the various forms and cultivars).

Spring is upon us and Trillium are beginning to POP. Hope to see you on the Trillium trail!

— Joe Townsend

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Bunched Arrowhead Restoration at Gateway Elementary

worked with Caliber Engineering and Earth Design Landscape Architects to design two specialized stormwater control structures which helped to reduce the scouring effect of runoff and ensure that the plants could happily exist in that location for many years to come.

Plenty of people came

together to make this project a success. Local environmentalists, members of the school district, and enthusiastic volunteers all pitched in to help protect this uncommon wildflower from disappearing. Join us for our April meeting as Jeff Beacham describes the inspiring Gateway Project. — Mary Holcombe

BULLETIN BOARD

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses”

of used, dirty pots. The SCNPS will recycle them in the plant propagation project. We are using mostly the one gallon size and if you could rinse them off before you bring them to the next meeting that would be great... and, if you are out of time, we'll take them dirty. See me before or after the meeting and I'll collect them. Miller Putnam, 864.325.9700.

Programs co-chair opportunity

For six years Diane Creaton has done an extraordinary job planning and coordinating our monthly programs. As she accepts other responsibilities, we are seeking an interested volunteer to step forward with ideas and organizational skills to assume a Programs Co-Chair position. Diane will continue to be available in a support role and to assist in a smooth transition for someone — maybe YOU! If you are in any way interested, please contact Diane Creaton, dicreaton@yahoo.com

Hello writers

Want to practice your writing skills? If interested, contact Janie Marlow, publicity@scnps.org



Clemson Herbarium curator Dixie Damrel puts NPS members to work during our February tour of the facility. Photo by Judy Seeley.

Cleveland Park, March 6: A half dozen NPS volunteers braved the cold to remove Mahonia seedlings, Japanese Honeysuckle and English Ivy, and to delight in the multitudes of Sweet Betsy Trillium (*Trillium cuneatum*) poking their heads up through the leaf litter. The ribboned trees are Silverbell (*Halesia tetraptera*). (The city has promised to remove the large Mahonias.) Photo by JK Marlow.



Dixie Damrel with a specimen of Fig Buttercup (*Ficaria verna*), collected at Lake Conestee Nature Park in 2013 — the first documented location of the plant in SC. Photo by Karen Burnett.



Upcoming Events

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depressions and briefly support plants such as Elf Orpine (*Diamorpha mallii*), a beautiful red stonewort. An array of lichen, mosses, ragwort, and larger plants manage to thrive in the cracks, bare rock, and thin soils of the outcrop.

We will then drive to Pickens to the Pickens County Museum where NPS and Master Gardener volunteers maintain a lovely native plant garden. This is an opportunity to see how you can use native plants in your own landscape. The garden will be full of blooms in April. The museum will also be open for touring.

Parking is limited at the Boggs Rock site. If possible meet at the Pickens County Museum at 9:30 am to form carpools to drive the 7 miles to Liberty and then back.

Wear field clothing and shoes. Bring water and a snack or lunch, if you wish. There are outdoor benches at the museum where we can eat.

The Pickens County Museum is at 307 Johnson St, Pickens, SC 29671, on Hwy 178 two blocks south of Main St. Contact Judy (below) for directions to Boggs Rock.

Email Judy Seeley at judy_seeley@hotmail.com to reserve your space.

Tuesday, Apr 15, 7:00 pm

Program: Bunched Arrowhead Restoration at Gateway Elementary School See story on page 1.

Saturday, Apr 19, 10:00 am

Field Trip to Hagood Mill near Pickens
Leader: Joe Townsend.

This is one of our “Hidden Gems” field trips. Hagood Mill is an historic site three miles north of Pickens, noted for its National Historic Register grist mill and regular music and storytelling festivals. The hidden gem on the 50-acre property is a nature trail through the woods along a creek. In April this trail is flush with spring ephemerals. We should see Vasey's Trillium (*Trillium vaseyii*), Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), Sweetshrub (*Calycanthus floridus*) and many others. Joe Townsend will guide us along the trail.

This will be a family-friendly outing. The trail tour will take about an hour. We will then go into the new petroglyph exhibit recently opened on the property. Since we will be at Hagood on a third Saturday, the mill will be in operation grinding grain and there will be demonstrations of crafts such as caning, blacksmithing, weaving, knitting, and hearth cooking. The mill activities continue until 4:00 pm so you can stay and enjoy the historic buildings and craftspeople

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Dues for everyone were due in January. To pay your 2014 dues, go to <http://scnps.org/scnps-membership/renew-membership/>

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Upstate Chapter

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for a long as you wish. There is no entrance fee.

Wear outdoor clothing and walking shoes. Bring water and a lunch/snack. There are picnic tables and restrooms at the mill. Please bring a flashlight for best viewing of the petroglyphs.

Directions: From Main St. (Hwy 183/178) go N on 178 for 3.0 miles, then turn left on Hagood Mill Rd. Mill is on right.

From SC 11 (Cherokee Foothills Scenic Hwy), turn south on 178, go 5.6 miles. Make a sharp right onto Hagood Mill Rd. Parking is in front of mill or across the road in a field.

Mill address is 138 Hagood Mill Rd, Pickens, SC 29671. Phone 864-898-2936.

To reserve your space, email Judy Seeley at judy_seeley@hotmail.com. Please give the number in your group and let Judy know if there will be younger children.

Plant something
for us this year!



NATIVE PLANT
plant sale!
Saturday, April 26
9:00am-1:00pm

**Saturday, Apr 26, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Annual Spring Native Plants Sale!**

To create a landscape that supports native birds, butterflies and — perhaps even more importantly — native pollinators, shop our Spring Native Plant Sale. Research indicates that even a modest increase in native plant cover significantly increases the number and species of breeding birds.

The Plant Sale is the Society's

primary source of funds to support projects such as the Bunched Arrowhead restoration at Gateway Elementary.

We need your help for the sale to be a success. There is much to do, both before and on the day of the sale.

To find out how you can help and

to put your name on the volunteer list, please call Karen Burnett, 864-506-0922 (cell) or 864-639-4046, or email burnettm@mindspring.com

The Plant Sale will be held in the parking lot of University Center, South Pleasantburg Blvd @ Antrim Drive, Greenville.



Spring Southern Home & Garden Show

We appreciate the HomeBuilders Association of Greenville providing SCNPS with our booth space at the recent Spring Southern Home & Garden Show! A total of 25 of our dedicated volunteers staffed our booth over the three (3) days at the TD Convention Center. Because of your one-on-one interaction with hundreds of Show attendees, we received 29 personal requests for "More Information" about SCNPS! THANK YOU, my good friends for your tremendous efforts and support. Also, special thank you's go to Christi Bruner & Carolina Wild for providing the grand assortment of native plants, to Diane Creaton for the gorgeous wildflower PPT presentation, and to Karen Burnett for coordinating the production of ALL those handouts! A great job, Everyone!

— Steve Marlow