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UPSTATE *happenings*

MARCH 2014

Upcoming Events

Friday, Feb 28, 1:00-3:00 pm

Field Trip: Clemson University Herbarium

Last September Dixie Damrel, Curator of the Clemson University Herbarium, gave a delightful talk at our chapter meeting. This indoor field trip follows that up with a tour of the Herbarium and a short visit to the vertebrate collection, both housed in the Campbell Natural History Museum on the Clemson Campus. Dixie will show us where over 100,000 plant specimens are preserved, and we will observe the plant mounting process. We will also have a chance to see behind the scenes in the vertebrate collection of this teaching and research museum. Because the museum spaces are small, the tour is limited to 10 people. Preference will be given to currently paid-up NPS members. Email Judy Seeley at judy_seeley@hotmail.com to reserve your place on the tour. Go to <http://scnps.org/scnps-membership/renew-membership/> to pay your 2014 NPS dues.

Thursday, Mar 6, 10:00 am

Workday at Cleveland Park

This is a workday to remove exotic invasives from our wildflower site at Cleveland Park in downtown Greenville. We will meet at the site and work approx 2 hrs removing English ivy. Bring gloves and a sharp pointed shovel (extra tools will be available). *Please sign up* with Bill Sharpton, gsharp@aol.com

Park in the lower Zoo parking lot; walk southwest toward the Vietnam Memorial, continuing along the Reedy to the double bridges. Cross the bridges to the south bank and the site is directly ahead up a bank.

Friday-Sunday, March 7-8-9

Spring Southern Home & Garden Show, Greenville

Almost 20,000 people will walk the aisles of the upcoming Southern Home & Garden Show, and many of them will learn something about native plants and about SCNPS — *if you will help staff our booth!*

Volunteers receive an exhibitor's badge and a pass to the exhibitor's parking lot, both good for the duration of the show.

Show hours/Volunteer shifts:

March 7, Friday, 12 noon to 8 pm

Shift: 12-3 / 3-6 / 6-8

March 8, Saturday, 10 am to 8 pm

Shift: 10-1 / 1-3 / 3-6 / 6-8

March 9, Sunday, 1 pm to 5 pm

Shift: 12-2 / 2-5

Sign up at the meeting, or email Steve, steve@marlowcreativeservices.com

... continued on page 2

Under the radar: Fig Buttercup

There are plenty of plants we are already aware of that are a problem in South Carolina. It is hard to find a forest edge or fence row without privet and Japanese honeysuckle, and drainage ditches throughout the Piedmont are prime real estate for Bradford pear and mimosa seedlings — not to mention kudzu. But there is a new culprit in our area, and since it is relatively unknown, it is quietly establishing itself in our region's parks and waterways without many even being aware of its presence.

This newcomer to our flora is Fig Buttercup, also known as Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*, formerly *Ranunculus ficaria*), and some of its more unusual characteristics make it especially troublesome as an invasive. The plant has an early and accelerated life cycle, as well as the ability to reproduce in multiple ways, making it hard to eliminate once it is established.

Fig Buttercup has been cultivated in our country for many years, and recently it has begun to aggressively naturalize outside the garden. It already shows up on a number of invasive plant lists for eastern states. Predominantly a problem in the north-eastern section of our country, it is now popping up in places like Smoky Mountain National Park and Lake Conestee Nature Park right here in the Upstate.

Regular observation of known aggressive plants and their timely removal is necessary to winning this war, and early detection is key. Today we have the rare opportunity to get a head start on the eradication of a problem species before it has gained a foothold in our area.

Join us for our March meeting to learn when and where to look for Fig Buttercup, how to recognize it, and what to do if you find it. This plant poses a widespread threat to the Southeast's riparian ecosystems, but as of now, it is only popping up in localized areas. Together, hopefully, we can stop Fig Buttercup from becoming a long term problem in our state, and that would be something we could all be proud of. — *Mary Holcombe*

Janie Marlow & Bill Stringer

SC Native Plant Society

Tuesday, March 18, 7:00 pm

Founders Hall in Dining Commons,
Southern Wesleyan University, Central

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

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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Upcoming Events ... continued from page 1

Thursday, March 13, 9:00-12:00 noon Work Day in the Skip Still Meadow

SC DNR Clemson Office, 311 Natural Resources Dr, Clemson. Learn from Bill Stringer about native and invasive plants in the meadow. Help remove invasive plants and install a split rail fence around the meadow. Bring work gloves. Questions? Contact Cathy Reas Foster at creas@clemson.edu.

Saturday, Mar 15 2nd annual BellFest at Devils Fork State Park

This event is sponsored by Friends of Jocassee, <http://friendsofjocassee.org>. There will be bluegrass music, food and beverages for sale, and lots of exhibits. Volunteers will be stationed at various points along the improved Oconee Bell Trail, each providing a specific bit of information about *Shortia's* interesting history, about Pygmy Pipes (*Monotropis odorata*), about the lake, the park, or something else of interest.

Trail volunteers should contact Dan Whitten, sdwhit10@aol.com, to sign up for a training session.

To volunteer to help at SCNPS's booth, email Cathy Foster, creas@clemson.edu.

Tuesday, Mar 18, 7:00 pm Under the radar: Fig Buttercup *See story page 1.*

Saturday, Mar 22, 10:00 am Field Trip to Station Cove Falls and Oconee Station Historic Site

Leaders: Joe Townsend and Bill Sharpton. Visit this premier upstate site for spring wildflowers, the rich cove forest at Station Falls. We will hike to the beautiful two-tiered waterfall and enjoy the view while we eat lunch. After returning to the trailhead, there will be an optional visit to the historic buildings at Oconee

Station, another 3/4 mile walk away.

Wear field clothes and footwear and bring a bag lunch/snack and drink. Parking is limited at the Station Cove trailhead on Rt. 95. (There is ample parking at Oconee Station, but if you park at Oconee Station arrive there no later than 9:30 am! Plan on a half-hour hike from the parking lot to the Station Cove Trailhead where we will all meet at 10 am.)

Directions to 500 Oconee Station Rd, Walhalla, SC: From Hwy 11 turn N on Oconee Station Road/ Hwy 95. Go 2.1 miles to Oconee Station Historic Site on the right. The small parking area at the Station Falls trailhead is another 1/4 mile on the left.

Email Judy Seeley at judy_seeley@hotmail.com to sign up for the walk or with any questions.

Saturday, Apr 5, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Stevens Creek HP

and 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. 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 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 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.

Tuesday, Apr 15, 7:00 pm Bunched Arrowhead Restoration at Gateway Elementary School

The bunched arrowhead (*Sagittaria fasciculata*) is a federally endangered plant that is endemic to approximately a 50-mile area between Asheville, NC, and Greenville, SC. Current records document extant populations in only two counties, mostly in Greenville County, SC, and in Henderson County, NC. Its rarity is a function of its limited geographic range and the fact that it lives in Piedmont seeps, a rare wetland type.

SCNPS State President and environmental consultant Jeff Beacham will tell us about The Gateway School Bunched Arrowhead Restoration Project, a unique collaboration of nonprofit groups, volunteers, and state and local agencies to restore the habitat of a previously unknown population of bunched arrowhead. This project has design and stewardship challenges that have required considerable creativity! Its goals include, of course, the protection and restoration of this rare wetland-dependent plant, but also to further an understanding of bunched arrowhead ecology and the restoration and preservation of our vanishing Piedmont seepage woodlands.

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

Parking lot of University Center, South Pleasantburg Blvd @ Antrim Drive, Greenville.

Writers Needed If interested, contact Janie Marlow, publicity@scnps.org