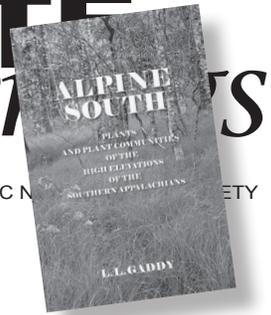




Save these Dates! Oct 31 - Nov 2, SCNPS Symposium at the historic Penn Center on St. Helena Island

For updates and more
information, go to
www.scnps.org

UPSTATE happens



SEPT 2014 NEWSLETTER OF THE UPSTATE CHAPTER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Upcoming Events ± Approximate times

Saturday, Sept. 13, 8 am to 5:30 pm ± Field Trip to Blue Ridge Parkway

Leader: Dan Pittillo, retired professor from Western Carolina University. Limit 17: Preference given to paid up NPS members.

Join Dan Pittillo as he leads our caravan on a tour of special native plant areas along the Parkway in the Asheville area. September is a good time for high elevation blooms. We will spend time at Pisgah Recreation area at Flat Laurel Gap and may go to Black Balsam Knob or Devil's Courthouse. We will include Wolf Mountain Overlook, especially the seepage cliff there. Some hiking will be involved.

Wear field footwear and clothing appropriate for high elevations and bring a lunch, snacks, and water. A hiking stick will be useful. To minimize the number of vehicles, we will carpool from north Greenville (site TBD). You may drive directly to the starting spot, arriving no later than 10 am. Take I 26 N to exit 2 (R), then NC 191 S to Blue Ridge Parkway exit (R) and into the first left parking area. Let Eva know whether you drive directly or carpool.

Please email Eva Pratt at evaoncompton@gmail.com to reserve your spot. Give the number in your party, whether or not you can drive, and how many passengers you can take. Please include cell phone number for last minute communications. The alternate "rain date" is Saturday, Sept. 20.

Tuesday, Sep 16, 7:00 pm, Southern Wesleyan University, Central Program: Plants and Plant Communities of the High Elevations of the Southern Appalachians Speaker: Dr. L. L. "Chick" Gaddy (See Page 1.)

Saturday, Sep 20, 9:00 to 3:00 pm National Hunting & Fishing Day Volunteers needed to help man the SCNPS booth at the World of Energy. Contact Cathy Reas Foster at creas@clemson.edu or (864) 878-6712.

Wednesday, Sep 24, 9:00 till Noon Workday: Highway 76 Roadside Prairie, Westminster • In the foothills of Oconee County, along US Hwy 76, lies a gem of native diversity. It is a long, narrow sliver of native plants, many found in native prairies. The native plant list for this site is huge! It consists of roadside, old roadbed and Blue Ridge Electric (BREC) right-of-way, bordered by US Forest Service (USFS) land. It gets mowed, sprayed with herbicide, or control-burned by USFS.

SCNPS got permission from SCDOT and

... continued on page 2

Scaling New Heights: Exploring High Elevation Plants

We're all familiar with the incredible biodiversity of our region—not only do we have a wide variety of native plants here in South Carolina, but we also have access to the lush mountains and coves of the Blue Ridge Mountains just across the North Carolina border. But did you know that we also have access to plant communities not unlike those of more northern climes like New England and Canada just a few hours away in the heart of the Southern Appalachian Mountains?

These unique environments and specimens are the subject of the September 16th meeting, where Dr. L.L. "Chick" Gaddy will give a presentation on "Plants and Plant Communities of the High Elevations of the Southern Appalachians." Dr. Gaddy is a South Carolina native and an avid naturalist with a Ph.D. in biogeography from the University of Georgia. Over the course of the past thirty years, he's become intimately acquainted with the flora and fauna of the Southern Appalachians and has documented his efforts through photography. His previous books include *A Naturalist's Guide to the Blue Ridge*, *Spiders of the Carolinas*, *The Natural History of Congaree Swamp*, and *Ferns of the West Indies*.

Dr. Gaddy's most recent book, *Alpine South: Plants and Plant Communities of the High Elevations of the Southern Appalachians*, came out in April of this year and is "a color guide to the flora and vegetation of the highest elevations (4000-6600 feet) of the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia." In the book, Dr. Gaddy blends scientific analysis and practical knowledge into an accessible and engaging guide to these unique environs. Over 130 color images of endemic wildflowers and more northerly plants supplement the text.

For his presentation, Dr. Gaddy will draw on the information in *Alpine South* and present a slide show of some of the images he's accumulated over his extensive travels in high elevation locations such as the Highlands-Cashiers region in North Carolina, Mt. Rogers and Whitetop Mountain in Virginia, and the Roan Mountain massif on the North Carolina-Tennessee border. He will focus not only on the unique and sometimes surprising plants that can be found in these Southeastern locations, but also on the local geography, geology, and climatology of high elevation sites.

Dr. Gaddy will have copies of *Alpine South* available for purchase and will be on hand to sign them after his presentation. Come prepared to learn about these fascinating ecosystems and leave inspired to plan your own high elevation hiking or camping trip to see them in person! — Meredith Mizell

Dr. L. L. "Chick" Gaddy

Author, Field-Trained Naturalist, and President of terra incognita, Columbia, SC

Tuesday, September 16, 7:00 pm

Founders Hall in Dining Commons,
Southern Wesleyan University, Central

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

**South Carolina
Native Plant Society
PO Box 491
Norris, SC 29667**

Upstate Chapter

Address Service Requested.

Upcoming Events ± Approximate times

... continued from page 1

BREC to manage the woody plant development, in exchange for their agreement to stop broadcast spraying of herbicides. It is time for another workday to hold up our end of the deal. We will apply small amounts of herbicide to the bases of woody stems with hand spray bottles. We will provide the herbicide, applicators, and rubber gloves. Some members have experience with this technique, and speak highly of its effectiveness. We will also be gathering litter.

Participants should wear long pants, sturdy shoes, and bring sturdy gloves. There is limited parking at the site. Meet at 8:30 at Ingles lot in Westminster to carpool to the site. **Email Bill Sharpton** (gsharpnton@aol.com). **Come join us.**

Saturday, Oct 18, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE!!

University Center parking lot, Greenville
(See article at right.)

Tuesday, Oct 21, 7:00 pm Greenville Program: Restoring Nature's Garden

Speaker: Marian St. Clair

Marian plans to give a brief overview of the garden they purchased in 2010, showing the effect of removing invasive plants, the spontaneous return of some natives, and the planting of others. University Center, Greenville Tec, 225 S. Pleasantburg Dr.

Saturdays, Nov 8 & Nov 15

Seed Collecting: Leader Bill Stringer

We will botanize country roadsides while collecting seeds for the Upstate NPS and for your own planting. The Upstate Chapter has several meadow projects for which we need native seeds. Come out to learn the fall native grasses and forbs and help harvest the seeds.

We will carpool to nearby counties, meeting at 9 am, finishing around 4 pm. Carpooling is necessary because often we stop along rural roadsides to view and collect. Two or three vehicles are all we can safely manage along the roads. We will eat lunch at a nearby restaurant. Wear field clothing and sturdy

shoes and bring sturdy gloves. Bring water and snacks for yourself.

Nov 8th • Meet at 9:00 at Home Depot on Woodruff Rd in Greenville to form carpools. We will travel in Greenville and Laurens counties.

Nov. 15th • Meet at 9:00 at the Pickens County Courthouse parking lot (214 E Main Street, Pickens, SC 29671). Enter the parking lot from Court St. which runs beside the Courthouse. We will travel in Pickens and Oconee counties.

Reserve your space by emailing Bill Stringer, catboyz@nctv.com. Indicate which date(s) you will attend, the number in your party, whether or not you are willing to drive and how many riders you can accommodate. Please include your cell phone number for last minute communications.

Oct 31 - Nov 2, SCNPS Symposium Penn Center, St. Helena Island

The South Carolina Native Plant Society will hold its annual conference at the historic Penn Center on St. Helena Island. Speakers, field trips, and workshops will focus on land use and native plant communities of the Sea islands.

Thursday, Nov 6, 8:15 am to 5 pm ± Field Trip/Photo Workshop: Dupont SP

Leaders: Bill Robertson, Bill Sharpton, and Lynne Scoggins • Limit 15: Preference given to paid up members. Join us for a day of fun and adventure at Dupont SF in NC with photographers Bill Robertson, Bill Sharpton, and Lynne Scoggins. We will go to Lake Julia, Bridal Veil Falls, High Falls, Triple Falls, and Hooker Falls. There should be good fall color! Personal instruction available.

We have permission to drive three vehicles into the forest for transporting photography gear. There is no fee for the workshop but there will be shared costs for entry fees (\$27 gate fee and \$1 per person fee) and possibly for renting a van to keep the vehicle limit. Bring camera gear, tripod, and wear field clothing and shoes appropriate for November. Bring lunch, snacks, and water. **To reserve for the trip, email Judy Seeley at judy_seeley@hotmail.com AND Liz Parsons at emparson18@gmail.com.** Please include a cell phone number for last minute information.

Join the Fall Native Plant Sale Team

Our NPS Fall Plant Sale is eight weeks away! The date is **Saturday, Oct. 18** with set-up on Oct. 16 and 17. Our plant sales not only send wonderful native plants out to live in local landscapes and gardens, but also educate the public about natives, support local native plant vendors, and raise the majority of the funds we need for our Upstate yearly budget. The plant sale planning committee, co-chaired by Betsy George and Bill Stringer, has been meeting throughout the summer. Plants are ordered, the sale advertising flyer is available, publicity is ready to go, and Miller Putman and other members have potted up hundreds of propagated and donated plants. We are on track for a great plant sale! *The only missing ingredient is YOU.*

On Oct. 16, 17, and 18 we have about 44 volunteer slots that need to be filled. There are jobs for all. You don't have to be a native plant expert to help. We need folks to do final tagging and preparation of the plants on Thursday, Oct. 16, at Miller and Kitty Putnam's place. On Friday morning we need people, especially those with trucks, to bring the plants from Putnams' to the sale site at Greenville Tech (225 S. Pleasantburg Dr., Greenville). On Friday, from 9am to 8pm (in shifts) we need lots of help to unload trucks, place plants out for sale, and do other site preparation. The position of overnight watch-person is still open. (7pm Fri. to 7am Sat.) On Saturday, we need an early bird crew at 7:30am to set up tables, tents, and signs. Starting at 8:30am, we need volunteers to serve as greeters, in the holding area, on the sales floor, at check-out, at the book and information table, and to bring water and snacks for volunteers. When the sale ends at 1pm we need more volunteers to break down the tables and tents, move plants back to Millers', clear the site, and load cars.

To see a complete list of volunteer opportunities and to sign up as a volunteer, please go to www.scnps.org. Click on Activities, then calendar. In the calendar, go to October and click on the plant sale date, Oct. 18. This will bring up a detailed list of jobs and other sale needs, like loaning carts and camp chairs. Check the jobs where you can volunteer, then click submit. No computer access? Call Judy Seeley 864 855-6396 up till Aug. 31. During September, call Diane Coiner at 864 843-0707. As a benefit, volunteers can purchase plants on Friday during set-up. However, the real benefit is the camaraderie of working together, of watching plants rush "out the door" in the first two hours, and knowing you helped produce a successful plant sale.

Once you sign up to help, someone from the planning committee will contact you in early October or sooner. Thanks, Judy Seeley, Volunteers Coordinator

"What this country needs is dirtier fingernails and cleaner minds." — Will Rogers