

SOUTH CAROLINA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SPRING 2016

LOWCOUNTRY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER, VOL. 18, Issue 2, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464



Happy New Year! I can hardly wait to break into my spring garden, and fortunately we have multiple opportunities ahead this spring to help you be the best gardener possible. Join us in February for a hands-on workshop on invasive and native plant identification and management at Charles Towne Landing. In our April lecture, local landscape architect J.R. Kramer will tell us about incorporating native plants in innovative ways into our developed landscapes. Plan to bring some inspiration from Brookgreen Gardens home with you after our special guided tour led by one of the staff horticulturalists. And don't forget to mark your calendars now for our annual spring plant sale on March 19!

I am excited to announce that we awarded our first community project grant (\$500) in the fall to James B. Edwards Elementary School. The money will help students purchase supplies to erect a hoop house on the school grounds. They plan to use this facility to grow various native plants as well as spartina grass for the Seeds to Shoreline Program. Native plants will be grown within the house to be transplanted into the school garden to promote indigenous fauna and teach sustainable ecosystems. The spartina grass will be transplanted into receding estuary coastlines to reverse negative human impacts and promote new growth and niches. Our next Community Project Grant will be awarded in March – please feel free to contact me with questions about the application (or see information on page 3 of this newsletter).

Finally, please consider attending the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference July 20-23 at Western Carolina University. The lectures, field trips, and socializing are fantastic! There are SCNPS-sponsored scholarships available for students and young professionals to attend – please contact Jeff Jackson if you have any questions.

Katie Ellis
Lowcountry President

Spring Native Plant Sale!

Saturday, March 19, 9 am -12 noon

(SCNPS Members can start shopping at 8:30!)

**Charles Towne Landing parking lot
1500 Old Towne Road, Charleston 29407**

Get your spring planting started! We have a great selection of native plants with many hard-to-find species... colorful perennials, shrubs, trees, grasses, ferns and edibles. Cash, check, or credit card accepted. A plant list will be available before the sale on the SCNPS website. Admission to the plant sale is free. If you wish to explore Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site, please pay admission in the visitor's center. For more information, contact Colette DeGarady, (cdegarady@tnc.org, 843-937-8807 ext. 15) or visit scnps.org.

LECTURE SERIES

Monthly meetings for our lecture series are typically held on the **third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm** at the **Biology Auditorium, 101 Duckett Hall, at The Citadel**. Park in any visitor spot, Kovat's Lot, or the lot behind Capers Hall. Avoid any student lots. For directions and further information visit:

<http://www.citadel.edu/publicsafety/citadelmaps.html> **Please join us after each lecture for a reception including hors d'oeuvres and wine, plus native plant give-aways!**

January 19: A Natural Phenomenon – The Monarch's Journey

Colette DeGarady, Senior Conservation Ecologist, SC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

After a recent trip to the central highlands of Mexico, DeGarady will discuss the amazing 3,000-mile migration of the monarch butterfly. Learn how native plants play an important role in the survival of the monarch. The discussion will include conservation efforts not only in Mexico, but here in the lowcountry of South Carolina. Discover how you can support this natural wonder and see monarchs in your own backyard.

February 16: Transition of Freshwater Forested Wetlands to Marsh in Coastal SC as a Result of Sea Level Rise

William H. Conner, Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology & Forest Science, Clemson University

Ongoing research studies in tidal forested wetlands in South Carolina are helping us to gain insights and practical experiences about the impacts of sea level rise on coastal ecosystems. These low-lying wetland ecosystems are representative of coastal wetlands along the southeastern US coast from Texas to Delaware which are currently converting from freshwater forested wetland to salt marsh. Even small concentrations of salinity (e.g., <2 ppt) can drastically decrease growth rates and litterfall production, leading to decreased productivity and permanent changes in the composition of these forests. The result is deteriorating soil and water quality and reduction of the capacity for carbon sequestration within these coastal ecosystems.

March 15: Dixie Plantation

Tim Callahan, Professor, Geology and Environmental Geosciences; Director, M.S. in Environmental Studies Program, College of Charleston

Dixie Plantation is an 881-acre property along the Stono River owned by the College of Charleston Foundation for the purpose of providing a "living laboratory" for students and faculty. In collaboration with the Lowcountry Land Trust, the College is working on a comprehensive plan to restore and maintain its diverse ecosystems, such as longleaf pine savannahs, tidal marshes, and water impoundments. Come learn about some of the history and research at Dixie, as well as future opportunities.

April 19: Aesthetic Ecology

J.R. Kramer, Remark Studios

J.R. Kramer, landscape architect and principal with Remark Studio in Charleston, will describe "Aesthetic Ecology," the method by which we use native plants and incorporate important natural systems in a refined architectural manner. With 16 years of experience, J.R. has been practicing sustainable landscape architecture in the lowcountry in an innovative way that retains connections to the natural world.

May 17: TBD

Stay tuned! We will post announcements on our Facebook page and in the monthly postcard and email listserv once we finalize the details for this meeting.

STAY CONNECTED:

If you haven't already, make sure you have signed up to receive email updates on our [scnps.org](http://www.scnps.org) website (look for a brown box on the right hand side of the main page). Also, be sure to "like" SCNPS on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SCNPS>

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday January 23, 8:30 am-noon

Botanizing, Birding and a Winter Walk in the Woods

Leader: Patrick Campbell

Our field trip takes us to the South Tibwin trail in the Francis Marion National Forest for a chance to explore nature preparing to change seasons. We will have a leisurely walk through the woodlands and fields identifying plant life turning toward spring. We will make our way to the wetlands and impoundments, discussing the evolving environment due to climate change and saltwater intrusion. The ducks and shorebirds overwintering in the refuge are very active and rapidly molting into breeding plumage. Dress for the weather, bring snacks, binoculars, camera and a spotting scope if you have one. Meet in the Bi-Lo parking lot at the IOP connector in time to carpool to the refuge promptly at 8:30.

Saturday, February 20, 9:00 am-noon

Native and Invasive Plant Management Workshop

Leader: Jeff Jackson

Meet at Charles Towne Landing in the parking lot closest to the entry road. Bring gloves, loppers, handsaws, and, most importantly, a pointed shovel. We will be looking at how to identify invasives and learning eradication techniques. Wear comfortable clothes you don't mind getting dirty, and be sure to bring any water, snacks, sunscreen, bug spray etc. that you may need.

Saturday April 23, 10:30-11:30 am

Brookgreen Gardens Tour

Leader: Katie Ellis. Please RSVP and pay no later than March 30 (no group limit).

Fee: \$16 (cash or check made payable to SCNPS)

Brookgreen Gardens, located south of Myrtle Beach, is a 9,100-acre property and a "floral jewel" of the South Carolina coastal community. What was once a thriving 1700s rice plantation has been transformed into the Archer and Anna Hyatt Huntington Sculpture Gardens. Designed in 1931 by Anna Hyatt Huntington, the gardens are a testament to the natural landscapes that surround the site. Learn how native plants have been incorporated into the gardens from one of Brookgreen's horticulturalists on a guided 1-hour walk around the grounds. Afterward, feel free to walk the Lowcountry trail, stroll down the 300-year-old live oak allée, or explore the Native Wildlife Zoo. Plan to bring a lunch/snacks or purchase food on-site after our tour. For more information about visiting the gardens, please see www.brookgreen.org

Saturday May 21

Kayaking (location TBD)

Coordinator: Mary Conley

Stay tuned for details for location, time, and pricing!

Community Project Funding Opportunity

To support the use of native plants in local landscape, the Lowcountry Chapter is accepting applications for its Community Project Grant Program. Community projects must be directed at protecting, preserving, restoring, and/or educating the public about native plants or plant communities in the Lowcountry of South Carolina. Individual award amounts will not exceed \$500. The deadline for Spring 2016 is February 1, with the grant being awarded by March 1. Please contact Katie Ellis or check <http://scnps.org/community-project-grant-funding> for application details.

Lowcountry Chapter Board Members

President	Katie Ellis	kathryn.k.ellis@gmail.com, 906-9916
Programs	Eddie Bernard	EBernard@tompsc.com
Hospitality	Denise Creed	906-6956
Education	Jeff Jackson	lowcountryroots@aol.com, 478-5827
Education	Kim Counts Morganello	kcounts@clemson.edu
Publicity	Laura Moses	lauramoses@yahoo.com, 364-1976
Membership/Plant Sale	Colette DeGarady	cdegarady@tnc.org, 937-8807 ext 15
Board Member	Pat Campbell	woodcarverpat@gmail.com, 866-9909
Board Member	Mary Conley	mconley@tnc.org
Board Member	Suzi DeMerell	556-7788
Board Member	Robert Ellis	ellis.rm1@gmail.com



Lowcountry Chapter, SCNPS
1417 Stuart Engals Blvd., Suite 100
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

