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# UPSTATE happenings

AUGUST 2012

**Tuesday, August 21, 7:00 pm**  
**The Natural and Cultural History  
of Fire in the Southlands** *See story at right.*

**Saturday, August 25, 8:00-12:00**  
**Furman University Riparian Clean-up Day**  
On August 25th from 8am till noon, SCNPS in conjunction with Furman University will conduct a clean-up and weeding of the riparian buffers and rain gardens along the Furman lake shoreline.

*Volunteers are welcome!* Along with the work, there will be continuous education on the benefits of riparian buffers and rain gardens, and plenty of native plants to see and learn. Meet at the Shi Center for Sustainability with appropriate clothes, footwear, sunscreen, and your favorite weeding implement. Please mark your calendar and join us for work, fun, education, and fellowship.

**Tuesday, Sept 18, 7:00 pm**  
**"The Most Delightful Country of the Universe!"**  
In 1773, William Bartram set out from Charleston on a 2500-mile journey through the South, at a time when much of it was still wilderness. The account of his explorations was published in 1791 in a classic now known simply as the *Travels*.

Our speaker, Brad Sanders, is the author of *Guide to William Bartram's Travels — Following the Trail of America's First Great Naturalist*, which describes the trail and places visited by Bartram as well as what you'd see if you retraced his route today. Founders Hall in Dining Commons, Southern Wesleyan University, Central.

Plant something  
for us this year!



**NATIVE PLANT  
plant sale!**

**Saturday, Sept 22**  
9:00am-1:00pm

See "Native Plant Sale!" on page 2!  
**Saturday, Sept 22**

## Fall Native Plant Sale!

Parking lot of University Center, 225 South Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville.

*Start thinking now about the plants you need and the ways you can help to make this the best plant sale ever!*

Check out Janet Marinelli's "Songbird Hedges — An Antidote to the Stockade Fence": [http://v1.bbg.org/gar2/topics/wildlife/2001fa\\_songbird.html](http://v1.bbg.org/gar2/topics/wildlife/2001fa_songbird.html) and her plant list on page 2 of this newsletter.

## The Natural and Cultural

# Heritage of Fire in the Southlands

"Wildfire Spreads in Arizona Backcountry," "California Wildfire Threatens Towns," "Fires Burn in Dry Grasslands" ... Familiar summer headlines like these lead us to think of fire as a destructive force that always changes the landscape for the worse and that must be stopped as soon as possible. Certainly fire is destructive in the short-term, but our understanding of its effects is limited by our own limited life-span, our short written history, and our relatively brief tenure on planet earth.

From a long-term perspective, earth is a "fire planet." Earth is unique among the known planets in having fire. Fire requires a heat source, fuel, and oxygen, and earth alone among the known planets has all three. Humans and fire are inextricably linked, having shaped one another over many millennia.

We humans attempt to control fire for our own purposes — and extinguish it when it doesn't suit our purposes. Our technology, from the simplest and most basic to the most complex and sophisticated, is based on the controlled use of fire in a great variety of forms. From a bonfire for warmth to a rocket trip to the moon, mankind has used fire to make his life more comfortable and interesting. But fire can also make human life uncomfortable, frightening, and dangerous when it burns out of human control.

According to Department of Natural Resources Heritage Preserve Manager Johnny Stowe, our global fire situation today can be summed up as a problem of misdistribution in time and place. We have too much fire in some places/times and not enough in others.

As an outdoorsman, land manager, and DNR biologist, Johnny Stowe has experienced, studied, and managed fire in the Southeastern landscape. He enjoys seeing the results of a controlled burn in a renewed meadow, prairie, or long-leaf pine forest, and he is truly fascinated by the natural and human history of fire and the philosophies behind human

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## Johnny Stowe Tuesday, August 21, 7:00 pm

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

For a map and more information, visit [http://www.scnps.org/activities\\_ups.html](http://www.scnps.org/activities_ups.html)

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## Native Plant Sale!!!

The SCNPS Fall Plant Sale is just around the corner and we could not be more excited — we'll be bringing you some of the best plants in the Upstate, so that your gardens can continue to grow and support the ecosystem that you love! This year we are returning to our roots, focusing on bringing you the best species for supporting native wildlife. We are turning back the clock on cultivars and searching out selections of plants with the wide genetic diversity that nature intended.

The Fall Plant Sale will be held **Saturday, September 22, 9am-1pm** in the **University Center Parking lot** at the corner of **Antrim and South Pleasantburg Drive in Greenville**. We are very excited to continue to offer credit card purchasing in addition to cash and checks.

As always we will have a great selection of perennials, flowering shrubs, vines, grasses and edibles. This year we will also have a very nice selection of native trees that both support wildlife and provide fruits for the humans that frequent your garden as well. We will have North America's potassium source, the Paw Paw, as well as exciting nut trees like the American Filbert and Black Walnut. Our grass selection will be as good as ever with plants grown from SCNPS seed collection trips over the past Spring and Fall. These grasses are as native as you can get and will be great hosts for butterflies and skippers.

We also have many volunteer opportunities including publicity, plant staging and labeling among many others roles so be sure to sign up early at our monthly lectures, or email our volunteer coordinator, Lynn Davis, at [mcmahondavis@peoplepc.com](mailto:mcmahondavis@peoplepc.com).

— Ryan Merck

## Plants For Songbird Hedges

 by Janet Marinelli

Choose the species most appropriate for your climate and growing conditions.

### Canopy trees:

Oaks, *Quercus species*  
Black gum, *Nyssa sylvatica*  
Southern magnolia, *Magnolia grandiflora*  
Sweetbay magnolia, *M. virginiana*

### Understory trees:

Flowering dogwood, *Cornus florida*  
Pagoda dogwood, *C. alterniflora*  
Silky dogwood, *C. amomum*  
Gray dogwood, *C. racemosa*  
Rough-leaved dogwood, *C. drummondii*  
Sassafras, *Sassafras albidum*  
Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis*  
Dahoon holly, *Ilex cassine*  
Yaupon holly, *Ilex vomitoria*  
Staghorn sumac, *Rhus typhina*

### Shrubs:

Spicebush, *Lindera benzoin*  
American elderberry, *Sambucus canadensis*  
Chokeberry, *Aronia arbutifolia*  
American beautyberry, *Callicarpa americana*  
Mapleleaf viburnum, *Viburnum acerifolium*  
Arrowwood, *V. dentatum*  
Smooth witherod, *V. nudum*  
Rusty haw, *V. rufidulum*  
Possumhaw holly, *Ilex decidua*

Inkberry holly, *I. glabra*  
Eastern red cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*  
Willows, *Salix* species, including coastal plain willow, *S. caroliniana*

### Vines:

Virginia creeper, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*  
Wild grape, *Vitis vulpina*  
American bittersweet, *Celastrus scandens* (*not to be confused* with the invasive non-native Oriental bittersweet, *C. orbiculatus*!)

### Nectar plants for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds:

Eastern columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*  
Fringed bleeding heart, *Dicentra eximia*  
Coral bells, *Heuchera americana*  
Virginia bluebells, *Mertensia virginica*  
Cardinal flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*  
Jewelweed, *Impatiens capensis*  
Swamp azalea, *Rhododendron viscosum*  
Coral honeysuckle, *Lonicera sempervirens* (*not to be confused* with the invasive non-native Japanese honeysuckle, *L. japonica*!)  
Trumpet creeper, *Campsis radicans*

## Fire in the Southlands

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perceptions and uses of fire.

In August, Johnny will discuss "The Natural and Cultural Heritage of Fire in the Southlands." He will touch on philosophies and benefits of burning, both historically and currently, with a look at changes over time. Johnny will illustrate his points with photos of many types of ecosystems. — Amy Fendley

Johnny Stowe is a native of the ridge and valley physiographic region of NW Georgia and NE Alabama, where he learned about land management from his Grandpa, Daddy and other wise old timers. He also learned a lot from years of hunting, fishing, hiking, and working in the woods. Johnny earned his BS in Timber Management and his MFR in Wildlife Ecology and Management from the University of Georgia. Since 1996 he has been Heritage Preserve Manager for the South Carolina DNR's Heritage Trust Program, restoring and managing longleaf pine sandhills and wet savannas, switchcane and other grassland species, and wetland ecosystems.