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# UPSTATE happenings

DEC 2012

**Saturday, Dec 1**

## **Plant Rescue at Twin Chimneys Planting at Conestee Nature Park**

*The purpose of a plant rescue is to relocate native plants (with the landowner's permission) that are in the direct path of development. Rescued plants go primarily to public spaces, but one of the perks of being a rescuer is the opportunity to take some plants home!*

We will rescue plants from Twin Chimneys in the morning and in the afternoon we will continue planting in a prairie restoration site at Lake Conestee Nature Park.

A carpool will leave at 8:30 am from the Home Depot parking lot on South Pleasantburg Dr in Greenville. For those coming from other areas and wanting to carpool, meet at the Clock Restaurant on SC Hwy 25 south just past the 185 toll road, ready to depart at 8:40.

We'll be at the Greenville County landfill at 9:00 and remove plants until about 11:00, then have lunch at a nearby restaurant. (If you cannot be there in the morning, meet us at the Conestee site at 1:00.) At Conestee we will put these plants into the ground, and plan to be done by mid-afternoon.

Please sign up with Bill Sharpton, [gsharpton@aol.com](mailto:gsharpton@aol.com) This will allow us to better plan the day's agenda, and it is the only way we can know whom to contact if there is a change of plans, rain delay, etc! Be sure to provide a phone number!

Bring gloves, shovel or sharp-shooter; wear long pants.

*Directions to Twin Chimneys Landfill plant rescue site:* From Greenville, take US Hwy 25 South to Ware Place (where 418 & 8 intersect 25). Go south approx 7.5 miles; turn left onto West Ridgeway; bear right onto Traynham Rd & look for signs.

*Directions to Conestee Nature Park prairie restoration site:* From the intersection of I-85 and South Pleasantburg Dr/Hwy 291 (Exit 46), follow SC 291 South for 1.1 miles and turn left at the traffic light onto Old Augusta Rd; after 0.4 miles turn left (gas station on corner) onto Fork Shoals Rd. Follow Fork Shoals Road 0.2 miles then turn left onto Henderson Ave and follow it until it ends (~ 0.6 miles); the entrance to the Park parking lot is on the right. See map: [www.conestee.org](http://www.conestee.org)  
The prairie is located northeast of the Henderson Ave parking lot off an old roadbed.

*Note that the December meeting is the second Tuesday, not the third —*

... continued on page 2

## Let's have a party!

*You bring finger foods! We'll provide drinks.*

*Let's all enjoy good food and fellowship!*

*(There will be shopping opportunities at the book table as well!)*

If you can take your eyes away from the goodies, you'll be treated to a beautiful 600-image slide show showcasing the multitude of life forms found in southern Spartanburg County.

For more than 100 years, Roxanna Martin's family has owned 70 acres adjacent to the Tyger River near Cross Anchor. On her strolls with a digital camera, Roxanna has accumulated more than 70,000 images from all seasons and in every kind of weather. She's used those photographs and consulted with field biologists and botanists to identify more than 300 species of plants and more than 30 species of butterflies along with numerous insects and spiders.

*The exhibit Photographs from Roxanna's Farm was recently on display in the Roger Milliken Science Center at Wofford.*



## Tell us a story!

SCNPS member and storyteller Judy Seeley will tell us an off-beat South Carolina Christmas tale filled with improbable coincidence and unforgettable characters. You will also match wits with Judy to count the number of native plants included in this rendition of "The Recipe."

*Judy Seeley has been a professional storyteller for twenty years. She loves telling stories. Through voice and gesture, she creates memorable characters for folk-tales, personal stories, and humorous tales. Judy hails from Illinois, spent nine years in Georgia, ten years in Pennsylvania and now lives in Easley. She collected stories along the way and joyously shares them at schools, libraries, civic organizations, and clubs. Judy's stories challenge audiences of all ages and backgrounds to recognize their common values, foibles, and joys.*

*Judy is also a Master Naturalist.*

Please note that this is the 2nd Tuesday, not the usual 3rd.

## Tuesday, Dec 11, 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)*

Betsy and David George plant *Shortia* seedlings at the SC Botanical Garden (Oconee Bell photos by Ed Pivonun).



**South Carolina  
Native Plant Society**  
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*Upstate Chapter*

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## Upcoming Events from p.1

**Tuesday, Dec 11, 7:00 pm**  
**Christmas Party! a story! pictures!**  
*See article on page 1.*

**Saturday, Jan 12, 10:15 am**  
**DNR Workday at Stevens Creek HP in McCormick County**  
*SC DNR's Mary Bunch invites us to a volunteer workday at Stevens Creek Heritage Preserve on Sat., January 12, 2013. "We will meet at the parking area on Garrett Rd at 10:15 am. If it is raining hard or snowing/sleeting the make-up day will be January 19th (Sat) same time/location. We will control invasive plants and tidy up the trail. We need to make another go at that chinaberry tree-it still lives after EZ Ject injections and hack-n-squirt, so we'll cut it down and paint the stumps.*

*"Please wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty, bring gloves if you have them and lunch. I will bring some drinks and will have extra gloves on hand. You are welcome to bring clippers/loppers etc and I will have some on hand also." — Mary Bunch, bunchm@dnr.sc.gov*

*Stevens Creek Heritage Preserve is in the southern tip of McCormick County. From the town of McCormick go south on US 221/SC 28. After US 221 leaves SC 28 at Clarks Hill, go south on SC 28 for .2 miles and turn left onto the first paved road. After crossing a railroad, turn left onto secondary road 88 and go 1.2 miles to the parking area on the left.*

**Tuesday, Jan 15, 7:00 pm**  
**The Clemson Experimental Forest: An Update On Resources and Activities**  
At 17,500 acres the Clemson Forest is the largest tract of public conservation land in the upper Piedmont of South

## Oconee Bell project in the SC Botanical Garden

Most native plant people are familiar with the tale of the rare and beguiling Oconee Bell (*Shortia galacifolia*), and how this plant was lost to science for nearly 100 years. One of the most beautiful of all wildflowers in the Southern Appalachians, this plant seems to hold a special place in the hearts of native plant enthusiasts and nature lovers of all ilk.

Moreover, *Shortia* seems to have a mysterious and mystifying nature about it, not the least of which is because it is difficult for gardeners to obtain.

In the mid 1960s, the SC Botanical Garden in Clemson was the recipient of scores of Oconee Bell plants that were rescued ahead of bulldozers and imminent flooding of the Keowee valley that became

Carolina. It is a unique treasure trove of native plant diversity. Within its boundaries are beautiful stands of oak-hickory forest, bottomland forest, rocky streams, waterfalls, other special habitat types and special cultural resources.

Over recent years SCNPS has provided a number of field trips in the Forest to see some of its habitats and botanical gems. In this presentation Ben Sill and John Garton will provide an update on conservation activities and resources and a power point presentation on the Forest's wildflowers.

**Saturday, Jan 19**  
**Plant Rescue** *Details to come.*

**Tuesday, Feb 19, 7:00 pm**  
**Janisse Ray!**  
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janisse\\_Ray](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janisse_Ray)



Joe Townsend with a flat of the rare Oconee Bells.

known as Lake Keowee and Lake Jocasse. Currently one hundred 18-month-old Oconee bell seedling plants have been planted in the SC Botanical Garden as part of an ongoing multi-year study to learn more about the growth characteristics of these plants. Because *Shortia* in the wild rarely reproduces from seed, little data exists on this subject in the botanical literature. One of the purposes of this study will be to determine the length of time it takes for this plant to go from seed to producing a flower. Having germinated and grown these plants, personal observation has yielded some surprising and interesting information. Unlike most plants that grow in temperate areas, *Shortia* seedlings begin to put on a new flush of leaf growth when weather cools in September and continue to grow through the Winter months. Hopefully this study will provide much needed data that will further the knowledge of these wonderful and beautiful plants.

Stay tuned for more! — Joe Townsend

Go to [www.scnps.org](http://www.scnps.org) and **sign up** to receive email announcements about upcoming outings and workdays at the "Jack-in-the-pupit site," Furman University, and a newly discovered population of bunched arrowhead!