



# South Carolina Native Plant Society

## *Lowcountry Chapter Newsletter*

Volume 16, Issue 2, Spring 2014

1417 Stuart Engals Blvd.  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

I write this from the midst of the January polar 'vortex', the worst freeze this area has seen in quite a while. It's funny watching the comments on social networking. I see everyone concerned, plant-wise at least, for their camellias, citrus, and houseplants. Nobody seems concerned about their natives! Hmmmm. Maybe that's because there IS no concern. Our native plants have endured these extremes for eons, and will continue to do so. It's called ADAPTATION. Our native plants evolved right along with our climate, therefore, no worries!

But this freeze does make the coming Spring all that much more welcomed. It's been said a million times before, but spring IS a time of renewal. We get excited from the time we first see our trillium peeking from beneath the leaves until that last woody tree has fully leafed out and greened-up for summer. Nesting birds, the return of our insect pollinators, all those flowers a-bustin' open, all are signs of renewal and the beginnings of another cycle.

For us here at the Native Plant Society, it's also a time for renewal. A new year of events begins. Besides our always great line-up of lectures and field trips, we will also have plant sales, a bog gardening workshop, work days, and maybe even a plant rescue or two. (Stay tuned for more on those later!) We have opportunities galore for members to volunteer their time, both in Board positions and back-work. And, oh YEAH, it's also time to renew your SCNPS dues to further support our fine organization, so don't forget to do that!

So here's to the upcoming Lowcountry Spring. It'll be here before we know it!

*Jeff Jackson, President*  
*Lowcountry Chapter, SC Native Plant Society*



### **SPRING 2013 NATIVE PLANT SALE!**

**Saturday, March 15th, 9am-12 noon**

***SCNPS Members can start shopping at 8:30!***  
***(Memberships and renewals available that morning)***

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

Come shop early and get your spring planting started! Great selection of native plants with many hard-to-find species. Colorful perennials, shrubs, trees, grasses, ferns and edibles available. Admission to the plant sale is free. If you wish to explore Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site, please pay admission in the visitors center. For more information, contact Colette DeGarady, at [cdegarady@tnc.org](mailto:cdegarady@tnc.org), 937-8807 ext-15, or visit our website at [scnps.org](http://scnps.org).

## **LOCATION FOR 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. Download a parking pass online [www.scnps.org](http://www.scnps.org) to use when parking in faculty lots. 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! Unless otherwise stated, all lectures and field trips are open to the public and confirmation is not required.

## **LECTURE SERIES**

**Tuesday, January 21st, 6:30 pm, Biology Auditorium, 101 Duckett Hall at The Citadel**

***The Palmetto Trail – The Natural Connection to South Carolina***

**Natalie Britt, Executive Director for the Palmetto Trail Conservation Foundation**

2014 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the groundbreaking of the Palmetto Trail! This great pathway is South Carolina's hiking artery, stretching from the mountains to the coast. The Foundation's mission of preservation, outdoor recreation and education through the trails is ongoing. We will hear where the Trail has been, where it is, and where it's going.

**Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm, Biology Auditorium, 101 Duckett Hall at The Citadel**

***Adaptation to Upland and Bottomland Habitats in Elliot's Blueberry (Vaccinium elliotii)***

**Dr. Jill Anderson, Plant ecologist with USC's Biological Sciences Department**

Everyone loves blueberries! Jill's research into this specie's wide range of growing conditions is sure to fascinate! In fact, the fieldwork she did for her Dissertation was done right here in the Lowcountry at Beidler Forest.

**Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm, Biology Auditorium, 101 Duckett Hall at The Citadel**

***Natural Solutions to Water Pollution***

**Stuart Schuck, Co-owner of Charleston aquatic nurseries**

Stuart and his brother Brian have been growing aquatic plants in the Charleston area for over 20 years. His experience in plants and in the systems that they have developed are incredible! Come and see how aquatic plants are not only beautiful but can be a functioning part of our landscapes as well.

**Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:30 pm, (NOTICE! – This is the FOURTH Tuesday in April!)**

**Biology Auditorium, 101 Duckett Hall at The Citadel**

***Paddling in Beautiful Berkeley County and South Carolina***

**Archie Thompson, Coordinator for Berkeley County Blueways**

With 23 identified paddling trails totaling over 175 miles, Berkeley County is a paddler's paradise! With more and more people hitting the water these days, it's great to know about the local resources available in our great outdoors. Archie Thompson, lifelong Lowcountry resident and kayak enthusiast, will tell us about these and other opportunities for enjoying South Carolina's waterways by kayak or canoe.

**Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm, Biology Auditorium, 101 Duckett Hall at The Citadel**

***A Potpourri of the Lowcountry's Botanical Bounty***

**Dr. Richard Porcher**

To close out our lecture series for the season, we bring back a perennial favorite. Noted botanist Dr. Richard Porcher's experiences in the field make for great listening, especially when delivered in Richard's own enthusiastic manner! His appreciation and observations are a treat not to be missed, so as we close out the 2013-14 year please join us in welcoming Richard back to our podium.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

**Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**

### **Palmetto Trail**

Come join us for a brisk walk in the winter woods of the Lowcountry. Jeff Jackson will lead us along The Palmetto Trail through the woods and wetlands of the Francis Marion National Forest. This is a HIKE! We hope to cover around 5 miles, but be sure that we'll be making a few stops for botanizing! Bring water, food, and wear weather-appropriate clothing and footwear. Meet at Sweetgrass BI-LO on Hwy 17 North in Mt. Pleasant at 7:45 am for a prompt 8:00 departure. Contact Jeff to sign up or for more details. Email (best way!) [Lowcountryroots@aol.com](mailto:Lowcountryroots@aol.com) or text/call [\(843\) 478-5827](tel:8434785827).

**Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 10am**

### **Widgeon Point Preserve**

**Beaufort, SC**

This field trip will provide a unique look at the beauty and botany of Widgeon Point Preserve, which is owned jointly by the Beaufort Open Land Trust and Beaufort County. We will walk the trails with members of the NPS South Coast Chapter and the land trust to learn about the plants on this unique sea island. Bring water, lunch, binoculars, and wear comfortable shoes. Register and receive directions by sending an email to Lisa Lord at (843) 521-2175 or [lisa@openlandtrust.com](mailto:lisa@openlandtrust.com)

**Saturday, March 22**

### **Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, Hwy 61**

**Charleston, SC**

And you were looking for a field trip? Naaa, we have something MUCH better in store! We are going to spend a beautiful spring day sprucing up our adopted trail in the Audubon Swamp Garden at the Plantation. Bring gloves, light tools, water and lunch and let's make a day of it. And wear comfortable shoes, just in case we take an impromptu walk. 9:00 am until. Park in the Swamp parking lot to the right just after entering the Plantation off Hwy 61. Contact Jeff Jackson for info.

**Saturday, April 26**

### **Wadboo Creek Paddle Trip**

Archie Thompson, coordinator for the Berkeley County Blueways, will lead us on a paddle on wonderful Wadboo Creek. Located at the headwaters of the Cooper River system, Wadboo offers a diverse range of wetland habitats. We will be able to offer some 2-person kayaks for use or you can bring your own. Please watch your email or the SCNPS.org website for further details as the date approaches.

**Saturday, May 24**

### **Poinsett State Park**

**Sumter, SC**

Come spend part of your Memorial Day weekend with the Native Plant Society at one of the SC State Parks System's hidden gems. Poinsett offers some of the most varied terrain you will find this close to the coast. Streams, ravines, and bluffs allow the opportunity to see some interesting plant combinations such as mountain laurel with Spanish moss! We invite NPS members statewide to join us for a casual morning of walks and a potluck picnic afterwards. Our chapter will meet at the Summerville Hwy 17A Wal-mart parking lot, on the edge behind Hardee's right at the I-26 exit, at 7:45 am for an 8:00 departure. We plan to be in the Poinsett picnic area parking lot around 9:30.



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### Lowcountry Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs

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