PLANT SALE is Saturday, April 18th at our New Location — Conestee Park!

UPSTATE happenings

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APRIL 2015 — NEWSLETTER OF THE UPSTATE CHAPTER OF THE SC NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Upcoming**Events**

± Approximate Time

Saturday, March 21, 10am - Noon
Field Trip/Wrkshp • Lake Conestee NP
Leaders: Bill Stringer & Janie Marlow

Fig buttercup *(Ficaria verna)* has recently been reported in SC, in our very own Lake Conestee Nature Park. A little bit of smart scouting has since turned it up in Rock Hill and another site in Greenville. We've learned some things about how it spreads, and it's downright scary. Because of this and the way it reproduces, it has the potential to crush the Spring wildflower communities of our floodplains. We are concerned that it may be establishing beachheads along other streams and tributaries in the state, and — **we need lots of trained, alert eyeballs.** looking for fig buttercup whenever you take Rover for a walk, when you go birdwatching, or along your favorite jogging trail.

If you would like to participate in this field trip/workshop, email **catboyz@nctv.com.** Please include your cell phone number. Bring water and snack if needed and wear shoes suitable for muddy walking. **Meet at 601 Fork Shoals Rd., Greenville, SC 29605.** Go to http://lakeconesteenaturepark.com/ for a park map.

Saturday, April 4, 9:30am - 3pm±
Field Trip to Betsy & David George's property, Oil Camp Creek, River Falls
Leader: Betsy George

We are invited by the Georges for a morning walk, botanizing along Oil Camp Creek and enjoying the Spring wildflowers. We will eat lunch at the Georges' home and then carpool or shuttle to the end of Oil Camp Creek Road to hike the access trail to Pinnacle Pass Trail, #20, in Jones Gap SP.

Meet at 9:30 at the residence, 229 Oil Camp Creek Road, Marietta (ample parking). Bring lunch, snacks, water, and hiking stick suggested. E-mail Judy Seeley at judy_seeley@hotmail.com to reserve your space. Indicate number in party and furnish a cell phone number, please.

☆Our Upstate plant sale is April 18, 9am to 1pm at our NEW LOCATION, Conestee Park *(old baseball stadium)***, 840 Mauldin Road, Greenville.**

You can participate in three ways:

★ **Come out, shop for PLANTS, BOOKS** and bring your friends and neighbors! Plus, ask questions of the experts!!

★ **Publicize the event** by distributing posters, posting the event on your Facebook page, sending the sale flyer and information to any groups to which you belong. Personal invitation is the best way to bring customers out to the sale, so contact your gardening friends. The poster and all the information you need is at http://scnps.org/event/

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Nature Journaling

We all get something out of a walk in the woods – or we probably wouldn't be native plant buffs. But some people glean much more out of that stroll in nature than others. Gale McKinley would be one of those.

An artist by profession, she draws on her time in the natural world to inspire not only her paintings and drawings, but also her longtime hobbies as an herbalist, naturalist, split oak basket maker, and nature journal writer.

While Gale is capable of speaking about several subjects with savvy -- she has been a teaching artist-in-residence with the South Carolina Arts Commission on more than one topic -- it is nature journaling on which she will focus her presentation for our Upstate chapter meeting in April.

"I am very fortunate in that I can spend most of my time in nature everyday either writing about what I see or depicting it visually through my artwork," said McKinley. "I seek to identify the plant or animals and label my drawings with the correct scientific names, but more importantly, I write the story of the discovery. Often the serendipitous event of seeing an owl sitting in a pine tree or a seven-foot long snake skin still wet from the recent shedding is the greatest treasure of the day."

McKinley, who lives in the Neal's Creek community between Anderson and Belton, has wandered and hiked in the northwestern corner of South Carolina all her life, straying also into north Georgia and southwestern North Carolina. Her family has been in this region for many generations.

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Gale McKinley

Award-Winning Artist • Herbalist • Naturalist • Nature Journal Writer

Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 pm

Founders Hall in Dining Commons,
Southern Wesleyan University, Central

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

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APRIL 18th

upstate-native-plant-sale-2/ in the *calendar* listing.
★ **Volunteer to help at the sale** on April 18 **or with the sale preparation** on April 16-17. To see the volunteer opportunities and to sign-up, go to http://scnps.org/event/upstate-native-plant-sale-2/. At the bottom of the announcement, it says *"to volunteer click here"*. A list of volunteer needs will appear. Fill in the needed information, mark any jobs for which you're interested, and hit submit.

Or, you may print out the form and mail it to Diane Coiner, our Volunteers Coordinator, at 157 Silvery Lane, Liberty, SC 29657. **Or,** you can call Diane at 864 843-0707.

Upcoming**Events** *(continued from page 1)*

Saturday, April 18, 9am - 1pm
SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE!!
At our NEW SITE in Conestee Park *(old baseball stadium)*, 840 Mauldin Road, Greenville

Tuesday, April 21, 7pm, SWU, Central
Program: Nature Journaling
Presenter: Gale McKinley *(See Pages 1-2)*

Saturday, May 2, 9am - 1pm
Water "n" Wildlife Workday • Keowee Toxaway SP *(Potluck picnic & guest speakers!)*
Projects abound for volunteers: Carolina Fence, planting native plants, removing exotics, trail maintenance, and more! Contact Cathy Reas Foster at **creas@clemson.edu**

Saturday, May 9, 10am - 3pm±
Field Trip to see Rocky Shoals Spider Lilies and to Stevens Creek HP
Carpools meet at 8am • Group limit 15
Leader: Dr. Judy Gordon, Professor Emerita, Biology, Augusta Regents Univ.
Dr. Judy Gordon has studied the protected Rocky Shoal Spider Lily *(Hymenocallis coronaria)* over many years. She will lead us to the population of lilies on Stevens Creek near Plum Branch, SC.

After lunch on the old mill porch at the site, we'll drive to Stevens Creek HP and hike the trail. Bring water, lunch, and snacks. Carpools will form at 8am at Home Depot at 1339 S. Pleasantburg Rd. (near Augusta Rd.) and at Hardees off Hwy 123 at Hwy 178 exit to Liberty. To reserve space, email Judy Seeley at **judy_seeley@hotmail.com.** Indicate if you will carpool and at which site, and give a cell phone number for last minute information.

Journaling — *Gale McKinley* *(continued from page 1)*

She has been journaling for about as long as she can remember. Among her early influences were *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady* by Edith Holden, and other classics such as (William) *Bartram's Travels* and John Muir writings.

At the April meeting, McKinley plans to discuss various styles of journals, materials, and sources of inspiration. Because many people, at first, are intimidated by blank pages staring them in the face, she often spends a chunk of teaching time "helping to build confidence in budding journal keepers." So even you skeptics out there might find a way to employ your love of nature as a rewarding muse.

"The rewards of keeping a journal are endless," she said. "It is a place to grow your thoughts, feelings, ideas, observations, and bonds with the natural world. It helps to develop a greater awareness and closer relationship to the earth – and a desire to care for it."

McKinley has received numerous awards for her artwork, including those from the SC Wildlife Federation, the Cherokee Indian Museum, and local arts organizations and museum. She has illustrated several books and just completed drawings for a children's book.

She will bring with her different examples of journals, some more artistic and some more scientific in nature, and read from each.

She likes this Henry David Thoreau quote: "Wealth is the ability to fully experience life." Journaling is part of her path to such wealth, says McKinley, "and I love sharing the wealth with others." — *Lynne Lucas*

Tuesday, May 19, 7pm, Greenville
Speaker: Tim Lee • Tim is a Naturalist and Interpretive Ranger with the SC State Park Service at Caesar's Head and Jones Gap State Parks. Providing educational programs and exhibits, as well as inventorying and monitoring flora and fauna are just a few of Tim's responsibilities. *(More details to come!)*

Saturday, May 23, 10am - Noon
Propagation Workshop *($10 materials fee)*
Location: Miller Putnam's greenhouse, 180 Lakewood Drive, Greenville
Instructor: Ryan Merck with assistance from Joe Townsend and Betsy George

Have you ever wanted to know how to propagate plants from seeds, divisions, and woody cuttings? Ryan will give hands-on instruction on propagation techniques. Bring a lunch/drink for a social time after the workshop.

E-mail judy_seeley@hotmail.com to reserve a spot. Please include your cell phone number.

Any Field Trippers Out There?

Like going on NPS field trips? Many of our members joined NPS **because** of a great field trip. We want to keep them going and need a few people to help organize and plan trips.

Could U take on planning ONE trip in 20**15**?

Is there a spot you would love to visit???

Well, shout out that idea and sign on to make it happen. The planning includes picking a destination, finding a trip leader, picking a date, writing a short newsletter blurb based on discussion with the trip leader, and taking reservations.

We already have many ideas for 2015 and some are partially planned.

Interested? Contact Judy at **judy_seeley@hotmail.com.**

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

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