



Save the date for the Native Plant Symposium! October 7-9, 2016



Saturday, May 14th
Dan and Sherrie Whitten discuss the "Wild Plants on the Rabbit" brochure with Myra Ruiz on the early news at WYFF 4...

UPSTATE happenings

www.scnps.org

JUNE 2016

NEWSLETTER OF THE UPSTATE CHAPTER OF THE SC NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Upcoming Society Events

Thursday, June 2, Field Trip to Nine Times Preserve, Pickens County

Leader: Rick Huffman

Nine Times Preserve is located just off Cherokee Scenic Highway 11 and minutes west of Table Rock SP. With approximately three miles of trails, this preserve offers a great opportunity to take winding hikes along rushing creeks, through hardwood forests, as headwater streams course down nearby ravines and across mountain glades. Meet at Holly Springs store upper parking lot, Hwys 11 & 178, at **10:30**. We'll organize and make our way to the site. Lunch and water/drinks are recommended along with regular hiking gear. To register, email <virginia_meador@hotmail.com> Include cell number if you wish to carpool. Questions? Email or call (864) 468-4160.

Program: Thursday, June 21, 7:00pm, "Wildflower Walks in the Smokies"

Speaker: Dan Whitten, Greenville
(See article this page.)

Wednesday, June 22, Field Trip to Glassy Mountain, Pickens County

Leaders: Dan Whitten, Bill Stringer

The loop trail is about a mile long. It starts on top of the mountain in a parking lot next to the towers visible a long way off and proceeds by switchbacks to the top of the rock face and then traverses the top of the rock and around into the woods to the East side before exiting onto the road below the summit. Walk back uphill on the road to parking lot about 1/4 mile. Lots of interesting plants including yellow buckeye, Indian hemp, white milkweed and several warm- and cool-season native grasses. What soil there is, is shallow to rock, allowing xeric plant species to exist. Meet at the parking lot behind the Pickens County Courthouse in downtown Pickens at **9am** to convoy to the field trip site. Lunch and water/drinks are recommended along with regular hiking gear. Wear grippy shoes, as some of the trail is on bare rock. To register, email <virginia_meador@hotmail.com> Include cell number. Questions? Email or call (864) 468-4160.

Saturday, July 9, Field Trip to Dupont Forest - Corn Mill Shoals Trail

Leader: Dan Whitten

Tuesday, July 19, 7:00pm, Spartanburg "New View of the Flora of the Upstate"

Speaker: Gillian Newberry, USC arboretum

Favorite Wildflower Walks of the Smokies



Dan Whitten, current President of the Upstate Chapter of the SC Native Plant Society, will be sharing his love and knowledge of wildflowers focusing on the Great Smoky Mountains area. For many years he has been making the annual "pilgrimage" to the Smokies in the spring of the year during the peak of wildflower season.

The **Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage** is an annual five-day event offering professionally guided programs which explore the region's wildflowers, wildlife, ecology, culture and natural history through walks, motorcades, photographic tours, art classes and indoor seminars. Most programs are outdoors in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, while indoor events are held in various venues throughout Gatlinburg, TN. For several years Dan attended the event as a pilgrim and learned much about this area which has such rich diversity of plant and animal life. He then began leading groups of friends on his own favorite wildflower walks, enjoying sharing his knowledge of the plants and wildlife as well as looking for plants that are less common. This year the "thrill of discovery" that is known by many native plant lovers was experienced by Dan as he saw a spotted mandarin, a plant for which he had been searching for several years.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to the far-sighted people back in the 1890s who envisioned the creation of a national park to preserve for us and future generations the beauty we see today. The creation of this park was not easy! Joining the National Park System took a lot of money and work by literally thousands of people over many years. The effort finally became successful in the 1920s when two competing groups located in Knoxville TN and Asheville NC came together and agreed to locate the park in the Smoky Mountains, halfway between the two cities. An interesting fact is that the park movement was not directed by conservationists, fishermen or backpackers but by the newly formed auto clubs, mostly AAA, who wanted good roads through beautiful scenery on which to drive their shiny new cars!

In contrast to the western national parks that were created mostly out of land that the government already owned, the Smoky Mountain park area was owned by thousands of small farmers and timber and paper companies. Each tract of land had to be individually negotiated and purchased. The large companies had equipment and inventory that had to be compensated and the people who were displaced lost their homes and homesteads.

Photo: Spotted mandarin
(*Prosartes maculata*)

... continued on page 2

Dan Whitten

SC Statewide Certified Master Naturalist • President, SCNPS Upstate Chapter

Tuesday, June 21, 7:00 pm

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

For a map and more information, visit <http://www.scnps.org>



Not all plants were sold at the April 16th Plant Sale. The ones that returned to the greenhouse need a little TLC. On Wed., June 8 and Thurs., June 16, we will be at the greenhouse at **8:30am** working until about noon, checking plants and up-potting as needed. We need to put landscape fabric under the plants on the drip line and arrange the plants more neatly. Come out and help put the greenhouse in shape for a fall greenhouse sale! Email <judy_seeley@hotmail.com> if you plan to come either day. Miller and Kitty have a very detailed list of jobs, so if you would like to work on your own sometime, that is also possible. Call Judy at (864) 855-6396 with questions.

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Spring Plant Sale Wrap-Up Report

The 4/16 Upstate Plant Sale is a big package to "wrap up"! The sale was a great success due to the creativity, hard work, and enthusiasm of 56 volunteers who worked at the greenhouse and on the sale. We want to add *Ron Cowley* to the list of volunteers published in the May newsletter.

Between the NPS plants and the guest vendor sales, well over 2000 native plants were sent out to new homes in the Upstate. Natives are hot items this year! In addition, our customers received advice and education on using native plants in their landscapes and learned about invasive plants.

Financially, this sale had the highest gross and net sales of any plant sale so far. Guest vendors did well and so did we. Our net income is right around \$14,000 with sale expenses of \$9,571. A number of members have asked, "What do we use all that money for?" Our Upstate budget includes ongoing expenses for meeting space rental and refreshments, honoraria for meeting speakers and some field trip leaders, storage unit rental, printing (newsletters, handouts, signs, flyers), office supplies, postage, special projects (Fig Buttercup eradication, for example), education (student scholarships and conferences), advocacy, and special projects. If you are interested in seeing the Upstate budget or have questions about how our money is spent, please contact Dan Whitten.

We welcome your comments and suggestions about future plant sales. Send your comments to judy_seeley@hotmail.com. Thanks again to all who worked so hard to make the sale successful.

— Rita Lance and Judy Seeley,
 Plant Sale Co-Chairs (retired)

Save the Date!
SC NATIVE PLANT SYMPOSIUM

Native Plants
 connect COMMUNITIES...



OCTOBER 7-9, 2016

SC BOTANICAL GARDEN • MADREN CENTER • CLEMSON

"Favorite Walks" — Continued from Page 1

Even those few people who were allowed to remain on their property until their death were not able to live as they always had, trapping, cutting wood and hunting. It was a high cost to those who were affected, but what a multiplied gift to the future inhabitants of our country.

Much of the early development of the facilities was done by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) who worked from 1933-1942 when World War II started. Many of the trails, campgrounds, and beautiful stone bridges and buildings are examples of their work. The Park was chartered by Congress in 1934 and formally dedicated by President Franklin Roosevelt in September 1940. This park remains a national treasure for all the people of our country and the rest of the world to enjoy.

Our speaker, Dan Whitten, is a naturalist living in the Spartanburg County since 1980. He graduated from Auburn University with a BS degree in Wildlife Management. Retiring from Michelin North America after 30 years he began to renew his study of nature by taking the

Upstate Master Naturalist Class in 2008. Continuing in his studies he took the Catawba Master Naturalist Class in 2010 and the Lowcountry Master Naturalist class in 2016. He became a SC State Certified Master Naturalist in 2014. Dan is active in many areas related to nature serving on the boards of the SC Native Plant Society, Foothills Trail Conference, Friends of Jocassee, and the Tyger River Foundation.

We will have a taste of the beauty of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park from Dan which may inspire many of us who are not already to become "pilgrims" in the future. The 2017 event will be April 11-15th and detailed information is available at www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org

Join us for an evening of beauty and learning and go on a photographic "favorite walk" in the Smokies!

We welcome Susan Kyzer, our lead article writer this month, to our NPS writers group. She is a new member of the Society, a retired nurse and has published numerous articles in nursing journals for several years.

★★★★★★

Corneille Bryan Native Garden — Thursday, April 28



Janet Manning (right), Director of Horticulture for CBNG, leads the group through a "treasury of native plants."

Most of us in the NPS enjoy any opportunity to see beautiful native plants in their natural home. This usually means a few patches glimpsed along

a hiking trail or from the roadway. Our trip to Corneille Bryan Native Garden on Lake Junaluska condensed many such places and times into one glorious afternoon, immersed in a garden of surprising variety. The compact garden fills a ravine of only two acres with almost 500 varieties of native trees, shrubs, herbs, ferns, grasses — you name it! Outstanding Spring bloomers such as azaleas, trillium and celandine poppies are the current stars, but will soon be replaced by summer phlox and magnolias before the fall explosion of asters and sunflowers. I think we could visit on any day of any month till the snow falls, and not be disappointed, wandering the trails along the tiny stream to relax and revel in this treasury of native plants.

I can't wait to go back!

Long-time Upstate member Susan Lochridge not only records the minutes at every monthly board meeting, she enjoys writing about Society events and outings.

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