



Fall **PLANT SALE** at the Greenhouse! Sep 30 - 1 Oct - 180 Lakewood Dr., Greenville

For updates and more information, go to [www.scnps.org](http://www.scnps.org)

# UPSTATE happenings

OCTOBER 2016 NEWSLETTER OF THE UPSTATE CHAPTER OF THE SC NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

## Upcoming Society Events

### Saturday, September 24, Field Trip to Jones Gap / Eva Russell Chandler HP Leader: Dan Whitten

Meet at **8:45 am** at the carpool site at the intersection of SC 11 and US 276 where 276 starts up the mountain towards Caesar's Head.

We will begin the hike at **9:10 am** at the Raven Cliff parking area. We will do a 4.4 mile loop hike going down the Coldspring Branch Trail and back up the Bill Kimball Trail. The hike is rated strenuous, but we will be going slow and observing nature as we go. Highlights include a diversity of ferns and possibly a few orchids along the way. We'll also make a 30-minute stop at Chandler HP to see Grass-of-Parnassus and other rare plants in a 1/2 mi. loop. We should return to the cars by about **2:30 pm**.

Bring lunch, water, hiking stick, sunscreen, and wear snake gaiters for extra protection. To reserve the hike, email <[virginia\\_meador@hotmail.com](mailto:virginia_meador@hotmail.com)>. Please include a cell phone number for last minute communications.

### Tuesday, October 4, Pressly Heritage Garden • Erskine College, Due West, SC Leaders: Eva Pratt, Dr. Jan Haldeman Lunch at Moffat Dining Hall at 12 noon, cost \$7.00

Meet Dr. Haldeman at side entrance of dining hall at **1:00 pm** to begin tour of campus trees and the Garden (beside Science Center), an easy walk from the dining hall.

To carpool, meet at **11:00 am** at the Home Depot parking lot, 1339 South Pleasantburg Dr. (near Augusta Road), Greenville. To reserve the garden tour, email <[virginia\\_meador@hotmail.com](mailto:virginia_meador@hotmail.com)>. Please include a cell phone number for last minute communications.

### Tuesday, October 18, Roel Pavilion, USC Upstate, Spartanburg "Plant-Animal Interactions: The Impact of Invasive Plants on Amphibians" Speaker: Melissa Pilgrim, PhD. (See this page.)

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**DIRECTIONS:** Take 176 to Exit #22, Valley Falls Road. Take a right, go to 2nd right, North Campus Blvd., turn right. At 1st STOP sign, take a right, Gramling Drive. Take 3rd turn to left, stone sign on the road, Susan Jacobs Arboretum. Turn left and park. New entryway on right, Ricks/Roel entryway--steps leading to Roel Pavilion.

## Plant-Animal Interactions: The **IMPACT** of invasive plants on Amphibians



It is often said that the health of an ecosystem's amphibian population is a good indicator of the overall health of that ecosystem, as amphibians are in such close contact with both terrestrial and aquatic features of their homesites. Unfortunately, amphibian populations are in decline worldwide, so it is important that we find solutions to the many problems they are currently facing.

These beautiful and interesting creatures are up against an overwhelming diversity of challenges, including loss of habitat, fertilizers and other chemicals polluting waterways, and invasive species. Gaining a better understanding of these challenges will hopefully provide us with an opportunity to prevent further damage to these already delicate ecosystems, and consequently, help slow the decline of amphibians everywhere.

Addressing the role native plants play is a good place to start. It is well documented how destructive introduced plant species can be on a region's native plant populations, especially in urban areas where there are fewer resources to compete for, as well as an overuse of exotic and invasive plants in landscaping. The same exotic plants used in new neighborhoods and business complexes escape cultivation and find their way into the few remaining wild places that animals find refuge in. Once there, they begin displacing native plants that likely serve an important function or purpose in the ecosystem they are found in.

The delicate relationships between animals and plants have developed over long periods of time, and in a lot of ways they have become dependent on each other. If we alter the faces of these ecosystems too much, too fast, animals might not be able to adapt quick enough.

Right here in the Upstate area, a fascinating research project is taking place that addresses these specific issues. Dr. Melissa Pilgrim, Director of Research and Associate Professor of Biology at the University of South Carolina, runs the undergraduate research program Upstate Herpetology, which focuses on the interactions of amphibian species within the ecosystems they reside in. Her primary research focus involves an integrative approach to investigating how ecosystems respond to environmental change (natural and anthropogenic), and she

Photo courtesy of J.D. Wilson

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## Dr. Melissa Pilgrim

Director of Research • Associate Professor of Biology, USC Upstate

**Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 pm**

Dr. Lawrence E. Roel Garden Pavilion at the Susan Jacobs Arboretum  
276-382 Gramling Drive, Spartanburg, SC 29303

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

**VOLUNTEER VOLUNTEER** *Op!*

Join the crew at the **Pickens County Museum** native plant garden. The group meets on the first two Tuesday mornings and the second Saturday of each month to plant, weed, spread mulch, and keep the garden looking inviting for the many visitors to the museum.

Volunteering at the museum is a great way to learn about native plants as you work with them in all seasons, from sprouts in the spring through bloom time and into seedtime. It is also a great way to meet other members and develop friendships.

Rest rooms and water are available. Sally Gurrie, a Master Gardener, is the new coordinator for the group.

Please contact Sally at <[sgurrie@att.net](mailto:sgurrie@att.net)> or Judy Seeley at <[judy\\_seeley@hotmail.com](mailto:judy_seeley@hotmail.com)> with any questions or to be put on the notification list. Even if you can't volunteer, come and enjoy this beautiful garden.

*"Thanks to this collaborative effort, this lilies site will be protected in its natural state in perpetuity."*



*growings on*  
at the **GREENHOUSE**



**Greenhouse Work Days**  
**Oct 12th**  
**& 26th**

Greenhouse work days continue in October on Wednesday, Oct. 12 and Wednesday, Oct. 26, from 9 am to Noon each day.

There is always good work, good company and something good to learn at the greenhouse! Call Miller Putnam at **(864) 325-9700** with questions.

**Parks Mill: N**

A collaborative effort among a group of non-profit groups has resulted in the protection of a 12.8-acre native plant site in McCollum Park. The site is home to the Shoals Spider Lily (*Hymenocallis coronaria*), a rare species found only in shallow, swift-running sections of the

The famed naturalist-explorer William Bartram's observation of the shoals spider lily in the Savannah River at the "cataraque" he wrote, "almost alone possesses the most numerous shoals lily sites have been destroyed by the building of mills, and later for hydroelectric power. The only previously protected lilies site in the area is the Parks Mill site on the Catawba River.

The newly protected site was the result of the efforts of individuals who became committed to the protection of this rare plant. It comprises one of a very few sites for this rare plant. Thanks to a grant from the National Bank to the Naturaland Trust in Greenville.

**UPSTATE**  
*happenings*

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Newsletter submissions welcomed.

Please email articles, photos (*with description and/or caption*) and general announcements to  
[steve@marlowcreativeservices.com](mailto:steve@marlowcreativeservices.com)

Deadline for the November edition is **Friday, 7 October 2016**



the South Carolina Native Plant Society, the site has been purchased from the private owners. Thanks to this collaborative effort, this lilies site will be protected in its natural state in perpetuity.

The new owners will convey a conservation easement to the Upper Savannah Land Trust that stipulates the allowed future uses of the site. The Land Trust will monitor the site in the future to insure that the stipulated conditions for the site are maintained. The site, which includes pine and mixed hardwood tracts, and a section of Stevens Creek, will be managed by the SC Native Plant Society to maintain the natural state. There are a few small repairs needed to structures on the site. Also, the Society is proposing to erect a small, rustic open pavilion structure on site for hosting small meetings, workshops and other events.

If you are interested in contributing to a fund to repair and maintain this wonderful site, you can send a check made out to "SCNPS Lilies" and mail it to SCNPS Lilies, c/o SC Native Plant Society, PO Box 491, Norris, SC 29667.

## Native Plant Site Gets Permanent Protection

— Bill Stringer

... of individuals, a state agency, and the permanent protection of a beautiful ... in Lenoir County. The plant is the Shoals ... a large white-flowering lily that grows ... of Piedmont streams.

William Bartram made the first recorded ... in 1773, when he found it growing ... of Augusta." The fragrant flower, ... the little rocky islets." Since that time ... wiped out by dams built for power- ... power. Siltation of streams from ... has also contributed to its demise. The ... is at Landsford Canal State Park in the

... formerly held by a group of private indi- ... having it protected for future genera- ... w remaining sites in South Carolina for ... from the South Carolina Conservation ... eenville, and on-going fund-raising by



Photos © 2016 Steve Marlow



**Native Plant Site Gets Permanent Protection!**  
(See Page 3.)

**South Carolina  
Native Plant Society**  
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Upstate Chapter

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## Upcoming Society Events

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**Thursday, Nov 3, 8:15 am to 5 pm ±**  
**Field Trip/Photo Workshop at Dupont SP • Limit 15**

**\*\*Reservations Deadline: Oct 29th!\*\***  
**Leaders - Photographers Bill Robertson, Bill Sharpton, and Lynne Scoggins**  
Preference given to paid up members. Join us for a day of fun and adventure at Dupont State Forest in NC. We will go to Lake Julia, Bridal Veil Falls, High Falls, Triple Falls, and Hooker Falls. There should be good fall color! Personal instruction available.

We have permission to drive three vehicles into the forest for transporting photography gear. There is no fee for the workshop but there will be shared costs for entry fees (\$27 gate fee and \$1 per person fee) and possibly for renting a van to stay within the three vehicle limit. Bring camera gear, tripod, and wear field clothing and shoes appropriate for November. For extra protection wear snake gaiters. Bring lunch, snacks, and water.

To reserve for the trip, email Virginia Meador at <virginia\_meador@hotmail.com> Please include a cell phone number for last minute information.

**Tuesday, November 15, 7:00pm, SWU, Central, SC**  
**Program: "Mountain Nature: A Seasonal Natural History of the Southern Appalachians"**  
**Speaker: Jennifer Frick-Ruppert, Professor at Brevard College**

**Tuesday, Dec 13, 7:00pm, University Center, Greenville • Christmas Social!**  
Bring finger foods to share; drinks will be provided.



You are invited to the dedication of the

**Skip Still Meadow**

Monday, October 24, 2016 10:00am  
SC DNR, 311 Natural Resources Drive, Clemson SC

*"Interactions"— Continued from Page 1*

is also interested in understanding how individual animal responses to environmental variation impact population level processes. She uses herpetological systems as her animal models and currently has an army of students working with her to accomplish her objectives. What they discover in their studies could help us protect our area's dwindling amphibian populations.

Join us Tuesday, October 18th when Dr. Melissa Pilgrim and her

undergraduate research team will take us on a guided hike focusing on the ways invasive plants are reshaping the riparian zone of creeks in the Upstate. The hike will begin at 5pm, and participants will meet in the parking lot across from building 17 on the USC Upstate campus. Following the hike, there will be a formal presentation on plant-amphibian interactions.

We look forward to seeing you there!  
— Mary Holcombe

## Fall Plant SALE

**Sep 30 - 1 Oct**

**Friday & Saturday**

180 Lakewood Dr., Greenville, SC

Join us at the Greenhouse for a GREAT selection of plants and terrific prices! The Sale is 9:00 am to 3:00 pm both Friday AND Saturday.

Watch the Society's website for a list of plants or call Miller Putnam if you want the list emailed, (864) 325-9700



On 9/11/16, a warm Sunday afternoon, a group of four met up and carpoled over for a 4.2 mile hike at Crowders Mountain State Park. There were several flowers in bloom including Smooth False Foxglove (*Aureolaria laevigata*), St. Andrew's Cross (*Hypericum crux-andreae*) and several Thoroughworts and Asters.

We found the Bear Oak trees (*Quercus ilicifolia*) growing on the ridge top of the King's Pinnacle which tops out at 1705' elevation. This is the southern most population of what is normally a Northern Appalachian species. Pictured in the photo at one of the overlooks are Paul, Jo Anne, Dan and Judy.