



Make sure your membership is paid up so you can take advantage of the **early entry** at the Spring PLANT SALE!

UPSTATE happenings

www.scnps.org

FEBRUARY 2018

NEWSLETTER OF THE UPSTATE CHAPTER SCNPS



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Upcoming Society Events

(in Bold)

Tuesday, February 20, 7:00pm, Central Azaleas of the Southern Appalachians
(See article this page.)

Of Interest...

Wednesday, February 21, 2:00pm
Linda Fraser presents: *Growing Wild Things in a Polite Neighborhood*
Presented by the Tryon Garden Club • Open to the public at FENCE, 3381 Hunting Country Road, Tryon, NC

Fri-Sun, Mar 2-3-4, 2018, Southern Home & Garden Show, Greenville

Greenville's Southern Home & Garden Show is the largest and most popular home and garden event in South Carolina! SCNPS has been exhibiting at the Show for umpteen years with the help of new and veteran booth volunteers.

Sign up online or at February's meeting! You do not have to be a botanical expert. Simply greet people, hand out our informational flyers and invite attendees to our field trips and monthly programs.

Then, before or after your shift, tour the Show for help and information on that Spring home improvement project you're wanting to do!

NOTE: We are looking for an H&G Show coordinator to volunteer their organizational and people skills. Contact out-going coordinator Steve Marlow for more information: <steve@marlowcreativeservices.com>

Tuesday, March 20, 7:00pm - 8:30pm
Program: **Status Reports on Smooth Coneflower, Native Cane Restoration and other Rare and Unusual Plants in the Carolinas** • Wilkins Conference Center, Roper Mountain Science Center, Greenville, SC

Speaker: **David White, Ecologist**

NOTE: The Wilkins Conference Center at Roper Mountain is a NEW meeting facility for the Upstate Chapter! Watch for map and photos next month for meeting place details.

Saturday, March 24, 10:00am-12:30'ish
Field Trip: **Station Cove • Off Hwy 11 in Oconee County, SC** • Details pending
Leader: **Dan Whitten**

Join Dan Whitten on this 3/4 mi easy trek into Station Cove. Spring ephemerals and trillium come early here. Then, a grand reward at trail's end: Oconee Station Falls! Contact Dan to sign up: <sdwhit10@aol.com>

Tuesday, April 17, 7:00pm,
Program: **Photos from Fascinating Trips!**
Landrum Depot, Landrum, SC
Speaker: **Bill Robertson, photographer**

... continued on page 2

May~white Azalea: The Sequel

Including Native Azaleas of the Southern Appalachians

se-quel (se'kwəl) *n.* 1 something that follows; anything subsequent or succeeding; continuation

When Dr. Charles Horn spoke at our September meeting in 2006, he shared a mysterious and intriguing tale of a newly defined native azalea species. Read again writer Patricia Phillips' description announcing the Newberry College professor's presentation:

"Dr. Charles Horn dares to tread the oft-foggy footpath of the recently discovered May-white azalea (*Rhododendron eastmanii*). Dr. Horn, a man of contrast, down-to-earth and approachable, yet with the quick mind and academic training of the scientist that he is, will unravel the story in a dialogue which the hobby botanist can follow. The tale of the discovery and subsequent path to understanding of this newly defined native azalea species is sure to intrigue us all."

Fast-forward twelve years to now, 2018 — *Dr. Horn is back* for our February meeting at Southern Wesleyan University. If you have even the slightest interest in azaleas native to South Carolina and the Southern Appalachians, Dr. Horn's plant passion could very well ignite a renewed appreciation for these beautiful and sometimes fragrant plants.

He will update us on the distribution of the May-white azalea, which apparently occurs only in South Carolina, at last count 70 populations in 13 counties. Dr. Horn's research and field work are on-going and have expanded to include DNA lab studies with the help of Marshall University. The molecular work helps determine each azalea species DNA sequence (their genes) to see whether the plants' outward appearances correspond with differences seen in the DNA*.

Dr. Horn says in spite of all the research to date, challenges are still out there. "One of the most challenging parts of identifying azaleas in the field occurs in the middle of winter when they're not in flower. Do we know what species it is? Observing the ecological information," he says, "where is the plant growing in the environment... in saturated water... on a stream bank... a slope? ...becomes part of the story, too."

Another challenge is "correcting erroneous records from the past," referring specifically to mis-identified plants that had names assigned to them before the May-white was recognized as a separate species. Collections at Clemson, USC, and UNC Chapel Hill are on his radar to sift through and make corrections as needed. ... continued on page 2

* Excerpt from *Decoding our Native Azaleas* by Hal and Laura Mahan

Dr. Charles Horn

Biologist / Botanist / Ecologist • Professor, Newberry College
President of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society
For a map and more information, visit <http://www.scnps.org>



Tues., February 20, 7:00 pm

****Southern Wesleyan University****
215 Clayton Street

Founders Hall in Dining Commons • SWU • Central, SC 29630

We are *Staffing Up* for the Spring Plant Sale, April 20 and 21

A committee of creative, enthusiastic NPS members is needed to put on a great plant sale. The motto this year is, "If everyone will do a little, No one will have to do TOO much". You have an opportunity for leadership on the Spring Plant Sale. You do not have to be an expert on native plants, just have a willingness to organize one aspect of the sale and then make it happen. Here are some of the opportunities:

Plant Sale Coordinator: Work with and coordinate the activities of the plant sale committee. *Position OPEN*

Plant ordering team: Decide what plants are wanted for sale, locate suppliers and prices, order plants, arrange for delivery/pick-up of plants. *Positions OPEN to join this team.*

Volunteers Coordinator: recruit volunteers, maintain list/database of volunteers, hire overnight guard, work with volunteers on day of sale. *Position FILLED: Steve Thompson*

Guest Vendor Liaison: Recruit and work with guest vendors for the sale, provide colored plant price stakes, collect, and count price stakes at end of sale. *Position FILLED: Betsy George*

Publicity Team: Create, print, and distribute plant sale flyers, write plant sale press release and calendar listings and submit to local media, post plant sale on local on-line calendars, arrange tv interview spots, seek out new avenues of publicity. Team leader needed. *Already on the team: Janie Marlow (poster) and Janice Weakland (list of regular media contacts)*

Site Manager: Supervise set-up of site on Friday, April 20 and set-up and tear-down on Saturday. Could be two different people. *Position(s) OPEN*

Plant Picture ID cards: Create and have laminated any new picture id cards needed. *Position FILLED: Kathy Bergin*

Plant information labels: Print labels that are attached to each plant. Order supplies if needed. This job requires availability and flexibility two weeks before the sale. *Position FILLED: Dan W.*

Special Projects: Identify and invite presenters/demonstrations to the sale. Obtain and sell special merchandise at the sale. (fertilizers, seeds, tee shirts, etc.) *Position OPEN*

Plant Transport Coordinator: Find and organize people with trucks and other helpers to load and transport plants from the greenhouse to the sale site. Do the same to return left-over plants on Saturday afternoon. *Position OPEN*

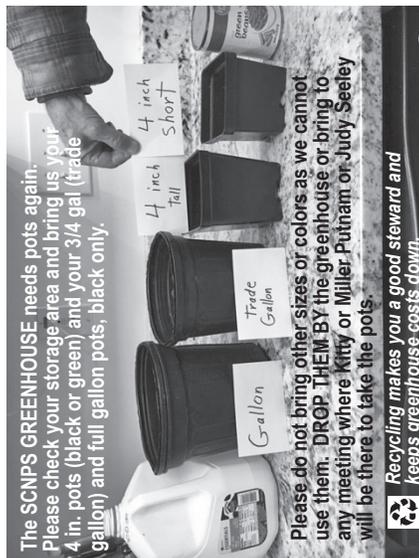
Equipment Transport: Pick-up and transport tables, canopies, signs, etc. from the storage unit and return them on Saturday. Requires a truck. *Position OPEN*

Gatekeeper/new member sign-up: We are changing the entrance times this year. 9 to 9:30am will be for PAID MEMBERS only. 9:30am to 1:00pm will be for the general public. A new job this year is to man the entrance gate, check member IDs from a master list, sign-up new members on the spot, and actively solicit people to join the plant sale email notification list. *Position OPEN*

Hospitality: Buy, bake or recruit bakers for volunteer refreshments. Provide water and coffee on both Friday and Saturday. Purchase cups, napkins, etc. *Position OPEN*

Take plant inventory both pre and post-sale: Coordinate an inventory of the plants on the ground late Friday and again immediately when the sale closes on Saturday. This will require recruiting and training at least two teams of two people each on both Friday and Saturday. *Position OPEN*

Contact Judy Seeley to volunteer or for more information. <Judy_seeley@hotmail.com>



South Carolina Native Plant Society
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Upstate Chapter

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Upcoming Society Events

... continued from page 1

SATURDAY, April 21, 9:00am - 1:00pm
Annual Spring PLANT SALE!!
Conestee Park, 840 Mauldin Rd.,
Greenville, SC

A three-minute drive south of I-85 near the baseball stadium. Visit our website for more information <www.scnps.org>

We are changing the sale entry rules this year to give 2018 paid members a special chance to make purchases and to encourage new people to join NPS.

The gate will open from **9am to 9:30 for PAID MEMBERS ONLY**. At 9:30 the gate will open for the general public. The sale will be open to **everyone** until 1pm.

May-white Azalea...

... continued from page 1

Even though we think of native azaleas mostly in the piedmont and mountain areas of the state, Dr. Horn says "there are some interesting species along the coast." In addition, his presentation will include comments about species in other parts of the Southern Appalachians, not just South Carolina.

— Steve Marlow

Dr. Charles N. Horn is Professor of Biology at Newberry College, Newberry, SC. He served as department chair from 1994 to 2011 and has taught a variety of courses, including Botany, Economic Botany, Field Biology, Ecology, and Environmental Science. Dr. Horn received the Governor's Distinguished Professor Award in 2010.

growings on
 at the GREENHOUSE

It is warming up... ☺

...at the greenhouse, (really!) so pull on your gardening gloves and come out to help propagate, pot, and pamper some native plants. All the wildflower perennials for NPS sales are grown at the greenhouse. And we need 2000 plants for the April Plant Sale.

So, **YOU** are needed at the greenhouse! We will work afternoons while it is still cold, from **Noon to 4pm...** (or help as long as you can.)

☞ **Thursday, February 8**
Wednesday, February 14
Thursday, March 8
Wednesday, March 21

This is a great way to learn propagation skills, get to know other NPS members, and have some fun "digging in the dirt." Come out anytime within those hours to 180 Lakewood Dr., Greenville. Dress in layers and bring your water, snacks, and a pair of crosscut pruning shears if possible. Questions? Call Miller Putnam at 325-9700.