



**NO program meeting in August... However, see Field Trip on Tuesday, August 21st!**

# UPSTATE happenings

www.scnps.org



JULY 2018

NEWSLETTER OF THE UPSTATE CHAPTER OF THE SC NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

## Upcoming Society Events

(in Bold)

**Thursday, July 12, 9:00am -12:00pm,  
Field Trip: Pinnacle Lakeside Trail at  
Table Rock SP • Meet at picnic area  
parking by Lake Pinnacle Beach •  
Gate FEE required or free entry with Park  
or Palmetto Passport.**

**Leader: Dan Whitten**

Beat the heat by hiking early beginning at 9am to about 11am. The loop trail is an easy 1.9 miles. Great views, several examples of CCC construction, and the chance to cool off with a swim at the end of the hike makes this a fun morning out! Bring water, lunch, field clothes, and swimming attire (optional). To register, contact Virginia Meador <[vmeador@camperdown.org](mailto:vmeador@camperdown.org)>

**Tuesday, July 17, 7:00pm,**

**Program: A Look at Carolina Butterflies!  
Landrum Depot, Landrum, SC**

**Speaker: David Ahrenholz, MD**  
(See article on this page.)

**Tuesday, August 21, 8:15am to about 5pm**

**Field Trip: Explore Whiteside Mountain  
and Highlands Biological Station, NC**

**Leader: Dan Whitten**

We will hike a two mile loop trail, moderate overall, and also take an easy walk at the Biological Station. Restroom is available at the trailhead. Wear field footwear and clothing, bring lunch, snacks, and water.

CARPOOL starts at 8:15am at Holly Springs store (intersection of Hwys 11 and 178). Store address is 6491 SC 11, Pickens, SC 29671. To register, contact Virginia Meador <[vmeador@camperdown.org](mailto:vmeador@camperdown.org)>.

Please indicate the number in your party, whether or not you can drive, and how many passengers you can take. Also, please include your cell number for last minute communications.

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

**Program: Special Plants of the  
Jocassee Gorges • Greenville, SC**  
**Speaker: Patrick McMillan, Ph.D**

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, October 13 & 14  
9:00am - 2:00pm each day**

### Fall Greenhouse PLANT SALE!!

180 Lakewood Drive, Greenville

(See article on Page 2.)

**Tuesday, October 16, 7:00pm,**

**Program: Being a Native Plant Advocate  
Greenville, SC**

**Speaker: Bill Jones, owner of Carolina  
Native Nursery, Burnsville, NC**

## A Look at Carolina Butterflies

David H. Ahrenholz knew he wanted to be a butterfly expert long before he knew he wanted to be a surgeon. It all began in third grade, when he wanted to help his older sister collect insects for a science project. He recalls how his mother fashioned a net out of petticoat material so stiff it “stood up like a dunce cap.”

His interest in the beautiful insects soon became his passion. When he wasn't in the fields on the outskirts of Waterloo, Iowa, where he grew up, he was in the public library checking out as many books about butterflies as he could. When he had read all they had in their inventory, he moved on to the collection at Iowa State Teacher's College in nearby Cedar Falls.

In high school, Ahrenholz purchased a single-lens reflex camera. “People didn't seem too interested in looking at my specimens, so photography seemed a good way to share all that I was learning about them.” He soon began selling his [butterfly] photos.

By the time Ahrenholz enrolled in Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, his goal was to become a biology professor and solve the mystery of metamorphosis. But when he took a job as a hospital orderly, he saw medicine as a better career path. After completing his surgical residency in 1982, Ahrenholz joined Regions Hospital in St. Paul, where he began working as a trauma and burn surgeon.

Since the 1980s, Ahrenholz has been traveling to South America for several weeks at a time, collecting specimens and photographing butterflies. He also has explored species in the Rio Grande Valley and parts of Florida.

In 1986, Ahrenholz had his first meeting with taxonomists at the Smithsonian, who asked if he would collect specimens for them during his travels. The Smithsonian lent him specimen storage cases, which now hold close to 14,000 specimens he has collected. Ahrenholz will one day bequeath the butterflies to the Smithsonian for their permanent collection.

David Ahrenholz says he likes the fact that as a lepidopterist, he is always discovering. “You spend the day in the tropical rainforest, and then you come back to your room, take a cold shower, put your feet up and say, ‘You know, today I saw something that I never knew existed on the face of the earth,’” he says. “And it happens day after day.”

On Tuesday, July 17th at the Landrum Depot, an extremely passionate Dr. Ahrenholz will share with us a close-up look at butterflies right here in the Carolinas. His presentation is sure to be “over-the-top,” so please come join us in Landrum!

Excerpts from *Minnesota Medicine*, June 2015



### Dr David Ahrenholz

Trauma / Burn Surgeon • Lepidopterist

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



**Tues., July 17, 7:00 pm**

**\*\*Landrum Depot\*\***  
211 North Trade Ave

Landrum, SC 29356



# Welcome!

## New Members



- ✓ Susanne Alewine, *Piedmont*
- ✓ Linda / Gary Burch, *Campobello*
- ✓ Christa / Ethan Friddle, *Easley*
- ✓ Sarah T / Peter Godfrey, *Marietta*
- ✓ Patti Hester, *Anderson*
- ✓ Heather / Glenn Hilliard, *Greenville*
- ✓ Cathy Jaggars, *Greenville*
- ✓ Thomas King, *Williamston*
- ✓ Doug Lockard, *Greenville*
- ✓ David / Sandra Meek, *Greer*

**Thank you for joining NPS!**

\*\*\*\*\*

## VOLUNTEER OPP

### Pickens County Museum Native Plant Garden

NPS members and Master Gardeners keep the beautiful native plant garden in Pickens going and growing. Volunteers work on the **first two Tuesday mornings of each month**. Come out between 7am and 11am to help weed, dig, plant, and chat. Volunteers often take home "extras" that the garden provides. In July the dates are Tuesday the 3rd, and Tuesday the 10th.

Contact Judy Seeley <[judy\\_seeley@hotmail.com](mailto:judy_seeley@hotmail.com)> or Sally Gurrie <[sgurrie@att.net](mailto:sgurrie@att.net)> to volunteer or to go on the notification list. *Come out and enjoy the garden!*

## UPSTATE happenings

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<[steve@marlowcreativeservices.com](mailto:steve@marlowcreativeservices.com)>

August issue deadline is **Friday, 6 July 18**

# growings on at the GREENHOUSE

180 Lakewood Drive, Greenville

## Fall Greenhouse Sale set for October

Mark your calendars for **Saturday and Sunday, October 13 and 14** for the Fall Greenhouse Sale of native plants. It will run from **9am to 2pm** each day. The greenhouse is at 180 Lakewood Drive, Greenville, SC.

As you are currently watering like mad to keep your spring plantings from wilting, remember that fall is really the best time to plant!! With cooler temperatures, new plants are under less stress than in the hot summer months and have time to develop a good root system as the soil slowly cools. The sale will include a wide selection of native trees, shrubs, perennial wildflowers, vines, and ferns.

Start now making a list of what else you would like to add to your landscape at the end of the season when it will be so much cooler and easier to dig those planting holes. If you just can't wait, remember that you can shop at the greenhouse *any time of the year* by appointment. Call Miller Putnam at (864)325-9700.

## Growings on at the Greenhouse!

**Next Workday is Wednesday, July 11th**

8am to noon

The Greenhouse Gang is still working over the summer, potting up baby plants, improving the irrigation system, and nurturing plants for both the 2018 Fall Greenhouse sale and the 2019 spring sale. We have a good time, a few laughs, get a lot done, and learn more about the plants each time. New members of the "gang" are always welcome.

The next workday is **Wednesday, July 11, 8am to Noon**. Come when you can within those hours. Remember your gloves and water and snacks, if needed. Questions? Call Miller Putnam at (864)325-9700. To be put on the greenhouse work days notification list, email to: <[judy\\_seeley@hotmail.com](mailto:judy_seeley@hotmail.com)>



Above: Kay and Kathy share a smile at the potting table. Photo by Judy Seeley

**"Pots" are legal in SC.** (They are medicinal for making little plants grow happily.)



DO YOU HAVE any of these lurking in your yard after your spring planting?? Don't toss them out! The greenhouse needs pots. Bring

them to the next meeting, please. We will fill them with native plants! Black pots only in the **1gal** and **3/4gal** sizes. Black or green in **4inch** pots.

# PARKS MILL

Home to the  
Rocky Shoals Spider Lilies



## NEWS FROM THE PARKS MILL LILIES SITE

We scheduled our second Park's Mill Lilies Open House event for the weekend of May 19-20. We hold these events to familiarize people with our role in the protection of this wonderful site.

In preparation for this event we had two volunteer Wednesday work days to prepare the site for company. We mowed, swept and "weed-whacked" the site, but more importantly, our skilled and dedicated work crew built two new stoops to allow folks to enter the back door and the bathroom in the face of doors that open outward. We built some simple "pews" for visitors. We also did repairs and improvements to the plumbing. We mowed out the trail to the creekside that takes "lily-lookers" to the lilies. We removed some protruding roots from the trail that presented trip hazards.

On Wednesday, we noticed that the creek was very low, with almost no active flow, and the lilies were looking a bit depressed. Walking back to the mill building, we noticed that the mill-race canal was full to near overflowing, and that the water flow into the penstock was "yuge". It didn't take rocket science to figure out that something was causing water from the creek to be diverted around our beautiful lilies. This, when we were two days before the first Open House day. What to do!? This was the main topic in the pickups heading back home!

We know that there is a water flow management gate in the mill dam upstream that controls the diversion of waterflow to the millrace canal. This is how the miller controlled the power available for grinding at the mill stones. Upon examination at the dam, we determined that the years-old wooden control gate had rotted away. The only way to get water flowing over the dam and into the creek channel again was to devise a temporary control gate. We undertook to make a repair on Thursday. Miller Putnam's idea of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch plywood did the trick. At this

point, a hero in the person of the previous owner Bill Quinn took the lead, with Bill Stringer, Miller Putnam and Kathie Quinn assisting in cleaning out debris and installing the plywood gate. After an hour of pulling out debris and forcing the plywood down over the opening in the dam, the water started rising to the point that it began to spill over the dam again. By early evening the creek flow was back to normal- Hooray!

Then, Friday night, early Saturday morning, rains dropped 4 inches of rain on the Stevens Creek watershed. You guessed it, the lilies, normally 30 to 36 inches tall, were almost all under water, when our first visitors arrived Saturday morning. Just a few blooms could be seen above the current, but determined picture-takers were able to get shots.

We were very busy with visitors on Saturday morning and afternoon. Rusty Wilson and Virginia Meador were indispensable in shuttling and welcoming visitors in from Plum Branch. The Sunday morning crowd

was light, but the afternoon crowd was larger, thanks to a lot of local people stopping by. Jeff Jackson of the Lowcountry was a huge help with welcoming visitors and answering questions about the project. The water was almost back to normal by Sunday afternoon.

For the weekend we had a visitor total of 85 guests who were very interested in learning about rocky shoals spiderlilies, as well as the history of the mill. We discussed how the site came to be bought and protected, as well as our determined vision to preserve and protect the lilies and the mill. A donations bucket passed around netted a total of \$270 to help our cause. Plus, we had many conversations with visitors that promised to win more friends for Parks Mill. And, the lilies seemed to cope well with being bowled over by flood water.

— Bill Stringer



Excellent work crew! (L-R) Bill Quinn, David George, Steve Holding, Dale Stone. Not shown are Bill Stringer, Tom Simpson, Rusty Wilson, Mike Runyon and Miller Putnam.



South Carolina  
Native Plant Society  
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Chester, SC 29706  
*Upstate Chapter*

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No kidding... *REALLY* big-leafed Bigleaf magnolia!



The **Tryon Garden Club** and **Native Plant Society** joined to travel to Belmont in North Carolina on May 14th to see the amazing *Magnolia macrophylla* at eye level. Pictured are trip leader, Charlie Williams, wrapped in the leaves, and Janie Marlow clicking a flower.

*Photos: Virginia Meador*



North end of  
a southbound  
armadillo!



This creature waddled out of the underbrush and away from me as I took wildflower photos at Parks Mill. Yikes! — *Virginia Meador*