



Interested in a Field Trip / Photography Workshop? See November 6 in the "Events."

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

UPSTATE happenings

AUGUST 2014 ■ NEWSLETTER OF THE UPSTATE CHAPTER OF THE SC NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Upcoming Events

± Approximate time

Thursday, August 7, 8:30 am - 12 noon
Field Trip: "Lookin' at Paw Paws" at Clemson University's Musser Fruit Research Center and Richard Cain's property.

Leaders: Dave Ouellette & Richard Cain
Paw Paws, our native "tropical" fruit tree, have generated lots of interest in the past few years.

Dave Ouellette, who spoke about Paw Paws at an NPS meeting last year, will give us a tour of the trees at Clemson's Research Center in Seneca. We will then travel to Richard Cain's property in Westminster to see his home grown Paw Paws and take a hike around Richard's place. He has done frequent burns over the past two decades and has an interesting grassy meadow.

As we walk the trail, Richard plans to show us Allegheny mountain gold-embanner (*Thermopsis mollis*), a stand of silverbells and a variety of other native plants. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring sunscreen and water.

Meet at 8:30 am at 604 S. Friendship Road, Seneca, SC 29678. Park by the main office building. Let Judy know if you would like to share a ride to Seneca. She will put possible carpoolers in contact with each other.

Email judy_seeley@hotmail.com to reserve your space. Please send your cell phone number for last minute communications.

No program/meeting in August!

Saturday, Sept. 13, 8 am to 5:30 pm ±
Field Trip to Blue Ridge Parkway

Leader: Dan Pittillo, retired professor from Western Carolina University, and one of the organizers of the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference

Limit 17: Preference given to paid up NPS members

Join Dan Pittillo as he leads our caravan on a tour of special native plant areas along the Parkway in the Asheville area. September 13 is a good time for high elevation blooms. We will spend time at Pisgah Recreation area at Flat Laurel Gap and may go to

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Why a plant sale?

The SC Native Plant Society is an activist organization on behalf of native plants and native communities. Our mission includes: Educating members and the public about the importance of native plants; Supporting efforts by agencies to protect native habitats; Encouraging public and private use of native plants in landscapes; and Promoting the commercial availability of native plants. The Society has earned a great reputation for success in pursuing this mission.

Our twice-yearly native plant sales are a key part of pursuing our mission:

- 1) We make a wide variety of native plants available to the public, and we provide guidance on the importance and use of these species;
- 2) We earn funds to devote to our education and advocacy efforts; we use these funds for preparing displays, publications, newsletters and web-based information, as well as financial support of habitat protection and preservation initiatives; and
- 3) We provide local native plant propagators and nurseries a well-advertised, well-attended sales venue, which provides visibility for them and for the Society.

These sales events have been very successful, thanks to the efforts of a large group of dedicated volunteers over the years. We are now seeking volunteers to help to organize and execute our Fall 2014 sale, scheduled for Saturday, October 18th. The sale will be located at the University Center (formerly McAlister Square Mall) parking lot in Greenville.

We have broken down the job of putting on the Sale into a set of small, but important, components. The major categories are:

- 1) inventory acquisition and organization
- 2) preliminary advertising and publicity
- 3) sale area preparation and plant display
- 4) sale day staffing and execution; and
- 5) sale area take-down and disposition of remaining inventory.

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Why a plant sale?

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This whole process proceeds over the three months prior to the Sale (steps 1 and 2); Friday prior to the Sale (step 3), and Saturday-Sale day (steps 4 and 5).

For steps 1 and 2, we have planning meetings at regular intervals through the summer and early fall, to arrange plant orders; publicize the event, including plant lists and descriptive information for media and the website.

Step 3 starts on Friday, October 17, with the arrival of plants to the site. The "sales floor" is marked out on the parking lot. Plants are labeled with species and price information, and placed on their "shelves." Guest vendors can lay out their plants on Friday as well. The plant holding area for customer purchases is also laid out. The plants will be left on the site, with a watch-person providing a watchful eye overnight.

Sale day (Saturday) starts early (7:00 am), with set-up of tents and tables for displays and checkout area. Some guest vendors may choose to lay out their plants early Saturday as well. **The sale starts promptly at 9:00 am**, at which time we like to have volunteers available to help customers locate and transport plants, as well as experts to advise and answer questions. We also need to neaten up the "shelves" as the inventory disappears! We commonly need to give some of the plants a late morning drink. We also assign several volunteers to manage the **customer plant holding area**, as well as to assist at the **check-out** area. At 1:00, or inventory depletion



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(whichever comes first), we break down the display tents and tables, and transport them back to storage. Any remaining plants are loaded on pickups and hauled to a local outdoor holding area.

As you can see, plant sales are a large undertaking, but we have devised a strategy for spreading out the work, so that it is not a burden on anyone. This strategy obviously requires a sizeable number of volunteers, but the reward for volunteers is considerable. We meet lots of interesting people and learn about a large variety of native plant species. Also, volunteers get to shop for plants on Friday, ahead of the crowd on Saturday. This is an important perk, when you see how

fast the inventory disappears on Saturday morning!

We will soon post a complete listing of volunteer jobs on the website (<http://scnps.org/events/2014-10/>). You can fill out a volunteer form, indicate your volunteer interest and day(s) available, and e-mail or regular mail it to Betsy George, **Betsy.george1950@yahoo.com**, or 229 Oil Camp Creek Road, Marietta, SC 29661. We will also be circulating volunteer forms at our monthly meetings (*no meeting in August*). We look forward to hearing from you!

Thanks,
Upstate Chapter Plant Sale Management

UPSTATE happenings

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www.scnps.org

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Newsletter submissions
welcomed.

Please email articles, photos (with description and/or caption) and *Bulletin Board* announcements to steve@marlowcreativeservices.com

Deadline for September edition is
Friday, 8 August 2014



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At the piedmont prairie portion of the SCBG's Heritage Garden, a small contingent of willing workers responded to an urgent request to help get 2500 native grass plugs into the ground.

at the South Carolina Botanical Garden — June 20

WHITESIDE MOUNTAIN

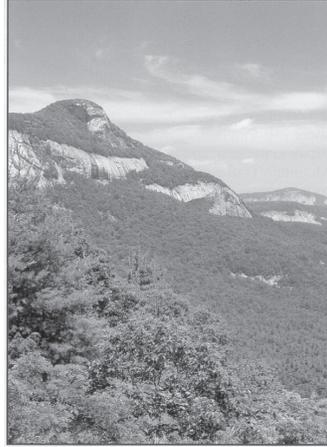
SCNPS Field Trip: Saturday, June 7th

If you were not on the Whiteside Mountain field trip in June, you missed a good one! A gradual climb in the cool misty air offered us opportunity to study and identify ferns, which were the focus of the trip. Dan Whitten gave us practice in looking at hay-scented, cinnamon, Southern lady, bracken, and New York ferns along the old road bed. It was hard to keep focused on the ferns, however, when mountain laurel, fire pink, flame azalea, fairy wand, goatsbeard, bluets, mountain saxifrage, spiderwort, and wood lily, were all in bloom. We noted over 53 plant species along the way.

At the top, the rarities of Whiteside Mountain came into view. Clammy locust, with its sticky new stems, was ready to open pink flowers. Farther along the ridge path we spotted pale corydalis with its delicate pink blooms. It is in the same family as bleeding heart. We also saw minnibush with its white glands on the leaf tips and had a sniff of carrion flower. One whiff is enough!

The views from the ridge top at 4930 ft. were spectacular. A peregrine falcon zipped by at one point, and we could hear young peregrines calling, probably for food. It was a perfect day on the mountain, cool and foggy, then sunny in turns. If you have never visited Whiteside Mountain, put it on your list of "must see" places.

—Judy Seeley



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Flowers of the rare Pale Corydalis (*Capnoides sempervirens*, formerly *Corydalis sempervirens*) are pale pink with bright yellow tips.



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The greenish flowers of Wild Sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*) are in three small umbels, often hidden under the plant's solitary compound leaf.



© Judy Seeley

The Foothills Trail:



© Steve Marlow



As an example of just the kind of botanical treasure one can find along the FHT, here is the rare ash-leaf golden banner (*Thermopsis fraxinifolia*) photographed by a hiker on June 27th!

Celebrating 40 Years 1974 - 2014!

Along the 77-mile Foothills Trail, showy wildflowers can be found in many habitats in most seasons of the year. We are so fortunate in the Upstate to have this woodland trail that beckons us to explore nature and the Blue Ridge Escarpment on foot with day hikes and backpacking adventures.

The SC Native Plant Society salutes: 1) the early visionaries who developed the trail from an idea, and 2) the many volunteers who maintain the trail from Oconee State Park to Table Rock State Park.



Got an idea for an SCNPS field trip?
Contact judy-seeley@hotmail.com

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Native Plant Society
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Norris, SC 29667
Upstate Chapter

Address Service Requested.

Upcoming Events ... continued from page 1 ± Approximate time

Black Balsam Knob or Devil's Courthouse. We will include Wolf Mountain Overlook, especially the seepage cliff there. Some hiking will be involved.

Wear field footwear and clothing appropriate for high elevations in September and bring a lunch, snacks, and water. A hiking stick will be useful. To minimize the number of vehicles, we will carpool from north Greenville (site TBD). You may drive directly to the starting spot, arriving no later than 10 am. Take I 26 N to exit 2 (R), then NC 191 S to Blue Ridge Parkway exit (R) and into the first left parking area. Let Eva know whether you drive directly or carpool.

Please email Eva Pratt at evaoncompton@gmail.com to reserve your spot. Give the number in your party, whether or not you can drive, and how many passengers you can take. Please send your cell phone number for last minute communications. The alternate "rain date" is Saturday, Sept. 20.

Tuesday, Sep 16, 7:00 pm, Southern Wesleyan Univ., Central **Program: Plants and Plant Communities of the High Elevations of the Southern Appalachians**

Speaker: Dr. L. L. "Chick" Gaddy

The climate and the vegetation of the highest elevations of our southern mountains is not unlike that of the Adirondacks, New England, or even Canada, but only a few hours drive away. Here we can find isolated plants and plant communities reminiscent of a flora normally found considerably north, as well as other unique plants endemic to this region alone.

L.L. Gaddy is author of *The Natural History of Congaree Swamp* (with John Cely), *A Naturalist's Guide to the Southern Blue Ridge Front, Spiders of the Carolinas*, and (just out!) *Alpine South*.

Saturday, Sep 20, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm **National Hunting & Fishing Day**

Volunteers needed to help man the SCNPS booth at the World of Energy. Contact Cathy Reas Foster at creas@clemsun.edu or (864) 878-6712.

Wednesday, Sep 24, 9:00 pm till Noon **Workday: Highway 76 Roadside Prairie, Westminster**

In the foothills of Oconee County, along US Hwy 76, lies a gem of native diversity. It is a long, narrow sliver of native plants, many of them found in native prairies. The native plant list for this site is huge! It consists of roadside, old roadbed and Blue Ridge Electric (BREC) right-of-way, and is bordered by US Forest Service (USFS) land. It gets mowed, sprayed with herbicide, or control-burned by the USFS.

SCNPS got permission from SCDOT and BREC to manage the woody plant development, in exchange for their agreement to stop broadcast spraying of herbicides. It is time for another workday to continue holding up our end of the deal. We will be applying small amounts of an herbicide

to the bases of woody stems with hand spray bottles. We will provide the herbicide and applicators, as well as sturdy rubber kitchen gloves. Several of our members have experience with this technique, and speak highly of its effectiveness. We will also be gathering litter.

Participants should wear long pants, sturdy shoes, and bring sturdy gloves. There is limited parking at the site, so we will meet at 8:30 at the Ingles parking lot in Westminster to carpool to the site. **To help on the workday, e-mail Bill Sharpton (gsharpton@aol.com).** We look forward to a productive day. Come join us.

Saturday, Oct 18, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm **FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE!!**

University Center parking lot, Greenville

Tuesday, Oct 21, 7:00 pm **Program: Restoring Nature's Garden**

Speaker: Marian St. Clair

University Center, Greenville

Saturday, Oct 25 & Nov 1

Seed Collecting: Join us for an enjoyable and productive outing collecting seeds from various locations. Details TBA.

Oct 31 - Nov 2, SCNPS Symposium **SAVE THESE DATES!!**

The South Carolina Native Plant Society will hold its annual conference at the historic Penn Center on St. Helena Island. Speakers, field trips, and workshops will focus on land use and native plant communities of the Sea islands.

Thursday, Nov 6, 8:15 am to 5 pm ± **Field Trip/Photo Workshop: Dupont State Forest**

Leaders: Bill Robertson, Bill Sharpton, and Lynne Scoggins

Limit 15: Preference given to paid up members

Photographers take note! Join us for a day of fun and adventure in the beautiful setting of Dupont State Forest in NC with photographers Bill Robertson, Bill Sharpton, and Lynne Scoggins. We will go to Lake Julia, Bridal Veil Falls, High Falls, Triple Falls, and Hooker Falls. There should be good fall color at this time of year. Personal instruction available.

Bill Robertson has received special permission to drive three vehicles into the forest so we can carry 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 keep the vehicle limit.

Bring all your camera gear, including a tripod. Please wear field clothing and shoes appropriate for November. Bring your lunch, snacks, water and a smile in preparation for a great day.

To reserve for the trip, email Judy Seeley at judy_seeley@hotmail.com AND Liz Parsons at emperson18@gmail.com. Please include a cell phone number for last minute information.

"I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree." — Joyce Kilmer