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UPSTATE *happenings*

FEB 2014

Upcoming Events

Thursday, Jan 30, 10:00 am
Workday at Cleveland Park

This is a workday to remove exotic invasives from our wildflower site at Cleveland Park in downtown Greenville. We will meet at the site and work approx 2 hrs removing English ivy. Bring gloves and a sharp pointed shovel (extra tools will be available). *Please sign up with Bill Sharpton, gsharpton@aol.com*

Park in the lower Zoo parking lot and walk southwest toward the Vietnam Memorial, continuing along the Reedy to the double bridges. Cross the bridges to the south bank and the site is directly ahead up a bank.

Tuesday, Feb 18, 7:00 pm
Wild Orchids of Newfoundland
See story at right.

Note location! J Verne Smith Technical Resource Center Auditorium on Main Campus of Greenville Tec, 620 South Pleasantburg Dr, Greenville.

Friday, Feb 28, 1:00-3:00 pm
Field Trip to Clemson University Herbarium

Last September Dixie Damrel, Curator of the Clemson University Herbarium, gave a delightful talk at our chapter meeting. This indoor field trip follows that up with a tour of the Herbarium and a short visit to the vertebrate collection, both housed in the Campbell Natural History Museum on the Clemson Campus. Dixie will show us where over 100,000 plant specimens are preserved, and we will observe the plant mounting process. We will also have a chance to see behind the scenes in the vertebrate collection of this teaching and research museum.

Because the museum spaces are small, the tour is limited to 10 people. Preference will be given to currently paid-up NPS members. Email Judy Seeley at judy_seeley@hotmail.com to reserve your place on the tour. Go to <http://scnps.org/scnps-membership/renew-membership/> to pay your 2014 NPS dues.

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Wild Orchids of Newfoundland, Canada

Where is an orchid lover's paradise? Not a greenhouse! If you prefer seeing orchids in the wild over tending finicky exotics, then the best place to go is Newfoundland, Canada. In this easternmost province of Canada, over 40 species of orchids are found in the wild. And since they almost all bloom at the same time in July each year, this makes it the ultimate pilgrimage for orchid enthusiasts from around the world.

At the February meeting, Jim Fowler will share his personal journey to see the wild orchids of Newfoundland in July of last year. As an avid photographer and botanist, he was thrilled to catch 35 of the 42 native orchids in full bloom. After a life-long obsession with wild flowers, and hearing about Newfoundland from orchid enthusiasts for almost 15 years, this trip was a dream come true.

Among his stunning photographs, you might recognize some familiar faces. Some of the wild orchid species he photographed in Newfoundland are also found in the Carolinas. Although Jim says they look a little different due to different growing conditions, several familiar Carolina wild orchids also grow in Newfoundland.

But what makes Newfoundland such a fantastic place to see orchids? Abundant rainfall, along with the basic soil provided by the underlying limestone, provides an ideal habitat. Along with showing photographs of the orchids, Jim will also discuss the habitat of these wild orchids.

Jim Fowler is a well-known wildflower expert here in the Carolinas. He is author of Wild Orchids of South Carolina, a Popular Natural History. This book is full of spectacular photography and personal anecdotes along with an extensive description of each flower. So you can look forward to his sharing his stories, broad knowledge, and keen eye for aesthetics in his upcoming talk. — Jessica Harwood



NOTE LOCATION!

Jim Fowler

Author of Wild Orchids of South Carolina, A Popular Natural History

Tuesday, Feb 18, 7:00 pm

J Verne Smith Technical Resource Center Auditorium on Main Campus
of Greenville Tec, 620 South Pleasantburg Dr, Greenville

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

Dues for everyone are now due. To pay your 2014 dues, go to <http://scnps.org/scnps-membership/renew-membership/>

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Upstate Chapter

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Upcoming Events ... continued from page 1

Friday-Sunday, March 7-8-9

Spring Southern Home & Garden Show, Greenville

Almost 20,000 people will walk the aisles of the upcoming Southern Home & Garden Show, and many of them will learn something about native plants and about SCNPS — *if you will help staff our booth!*

Volunteers receive an exhibitor's badge and a pass to the exhibitor's parking lot, both good for the duration of the show. Sign up at a meeting, or email Steve Marlow, steve@marlowcreativeservices.com

Thursday, March 13, 9:00-12:00 noon

Work Day in the Skip Still Meadow

SC DNR Clemson Office, 311 Natural Resources Drive, Clemson. Learn from Bill Stringer about the native and invasive plants in the meadow. Help remove invasive plants and install a split rail fence around the meadow. Bring work gloves. Questions? Contact Cathy Reas Foster at creas@clemson.edu

Saturday, Mar 15

2nd annual BellFest at Devils Fork State Park

This event sponsored by Friends of Jocassee, <http://friendsofjocassee.org> There will be bluegrass music, food and beverages for sale, and lots of exhibits. Volunteers will be stationed at various points along the improved Oconee Bell Trail, each providing a specific bit of information about *Shortia's* interesting history, about Pygmy Pipes (*Monotropis odorata*), about the lake, the park, or something else of interest.

Trail volunteers should contact Dan Whitten, sdwhit10@aol.com, to sign up for a training session.

To volunteer to help man the SCNPS booth, contact Cathy Foster, creas@clemson.edu.

Tuesday, Mar 18, 7:00 pm

Under the radar: Fig Buttercup

Fig Buttercup — aka Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*, formerly *Ranunculus ficaria*) is reported to be invasive in ten states and the District of Columbia. Relatively new to our flora, it is quietly naturalizing in the Southeast.

Learn what it can do to a native ecosystem, when and where to look for it, and how to recognize it. Bill Stringer and Janie Marlow. *Southern Wesleyan University, Central.*

BULLETIN BOARD

Plant Propagation

If you are interested in propagation and helping with providing plants for the Plant Sale, contact Miller Putnam for information on work days in the greenhouse. Call Miller at 864 325 9700.

Nine Times preserved

Naturaland Trust and Upstate Forever have succeeded in protecting one of South Carolina's most special places — the 1,648-acre Nine Times Forest in Pickens County. An ecological jewel, the property contains three mountains of stunning granite outcroppings as well as streams, creeks and stands of hardwoods. Located in close proximity to Jocassee Gorges, the tract also provides exceptional habitat for bear and other wildlife.

The Nine Times Forest was one of the largest intact unprotected forests left in the Upstate. Several years ago, about 560 acres were protected through a broad-based effort, in which The Nature Conservancy, Naturaland Trust and Upstate Forever actively participated. That tract is now owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy. The Nine Times Forest adjoins The Nature Conservancy's preserve.

Writers Needed

We're soliciting volunteer journalists to interview our speakers and put together a short write-up describing the upcoming presentations.

Here's your chance to get published, to hone your writing skills, and to talk with some very interesting people!

We currently have two open slots. Copy deadline for the July newsletter is June 6, and for the August newsletter is July 4.

You will usually have about 3-4 weeks in which to prepare an article of about 450 words. Interested? Contact Janie Marlow, publicity@scnps.org

Save Our Saluda Annual Meeting

SOS members and supporters are invited to the 6th annual meeting on Thursday, January 23rd, at 7pm at the Travelers Rest Library. An exciting meeting is planned, "Celebrate Our Saluda Rivers — The North, Middle and South". Two guest speakers will show video clips from their kayaking adventures down sections of the Middle and South Saluda Rivers. Video of a North Saluda paddle trip will also be shared. Public river access issues and areas will be reviewed.