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# UPSTATE happenings

JULY 2013

## Saturday, June 22, 9:30 am Workday: Protect Threatened Bunched Arrowhead

Join us to help protect the threatened population of bunched arrowhead at Gateway School in Travelers Rest. We will be placing hay bales and log check dams in the drainage way that is causing sedimentation and scouring at the bunched arrowhead site.

We'll meet in the playground behind the school at 9:30 am and should finish around noon. Bring your work gloves, and learn how we are preserving this special habitat. Long trousers are advisable if you are allergic to poison ivy.

If you plan on participating,  
please email [jeffbeacham@gmail.com](mailto:jeffbeacham@gmail.com)

Address: 200 Hawkins Road,  
Travelers Rest, SC.



Bunched Arrowhead (*Sagittaria fasciculata*)  
is a federally protected plant endemic to  
Greenville and two other counties.

## Tuesday, July 16, 7:00 pm South Carolina's Haws

See story at right. Founders Hall  
in Dining Commons, Southern  
Wesleyan University, Central.

## Tuesday, August 20, 7:00 pm Proper Urban Tree Care

Bob Polomski will talk to us  
about proper urban tree care  
techniques, as well as common  
landscape mistakes to avoid. Bob  
is widely known and respected  
for his down-to-earth gardening  
expertise. He is the author of  
*Month-by-Month Gardening for the  
Carolinas* and co-author of *Carolinas  
Gardener's Resource: All You Need  
to Know to Plan, Plant & Maintain  
a Carolina Garden*. University  
Center: Greenville Tec, 225 South  
Pleasantburg Dr, Greenville.

## South Carolina's Haws

If you grew up in the South, you may know them as "mayhaws" or "thornapples." And you might have kept your distance, because of those long, pointed spines. But hawthorns (*Crataegus* spp.) are arguably the most underappreciated ornamentals for a native landscape. They provide attractive flowers, interesting fruit, and dense cover for wildlife, plus they grow easily, untroubled by most serious diseases and insect pests.

Ron Lance, a familiar SCNPS speaker and western North Carolina naturalist, is a recognized authority on hawthorns of the southeastern United States. At our July meeting, Ron will treat us to an in-depth show-and-tell on the South Carolina members of this challenging genus. We will see specimens and pictures, and hopefully all attendees will leave with sufficient tools in hand and in head so that hawthorn identification in SC is not the same thorny problem it may have seemed before!

*Crataegus* are members of the *Rosaceae* family. About 150 distinguishable varieties can be found in the Southeast, and each Southern state has its own distinct collection. Ron himself grows 40 or 50 varieties at his farm in Mills River, N.C. He is working on a guidebook to southeastern *Crataegus*.

When did Ron's interest in this little-known and seldom-classified genus begin? early in his career, in the 1970s, when he was working on a pictorial book about woody plants of the Southeast. Hawthorns presented him with the greatest challenge, he said, mainly because "their taxonomy was all messed up. I got sidetracked, trying to straighten it out, and the more I got into them, the more I started collecting seeds and helping with research."

One of the researchers Ron assisted was Dr. James Phipps, a renowned hawthorn expert at the University of Western Ontario who is

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## Ron Lance

Western North Carolina Naturalist

## Tuesday, July 16, 7:00 pm

Founders Hall in Dining Commons, Southern Wesleyan University, Central

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

Have you renewed your membership yet?

You can do it online: <http://scnps.org/scnps-membership/renew-membership/>

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Upstate Chapter

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## South Carolina's Haws

doing the hawthorn treatment for *Flora of North America*. The two men toured the Southeast together, along with Robert O'Kennon, looking for rare *Crataegus*, and their work resulted in several papers, as well as a book published by Timber Press.

Ron's hawthorn quest continued during his 13-year stint at the North Carolina Arboretum, several years as resident naturalist at Chimney Rock Park, and a post at Balsam Mountain Preserve near Sylva. Earlier this year, he started working as Land Manager for North American Land Trust, inventorying plants and evaluating potential trail development at the Big Ridge Preserve, a 3,000-acre conservation easement tract near Glenville, N.C.

He decided to write a guidebook to southeastern hawthorns "because no one else is doing it. I wanted to consolidate all the misinformation and confusing information out there, and reorganize it in a more acceptable form." The book will contain 800 of Ron's photos, some dating all the way back to 1985. And we will get a sneak peek at our July meeting! — *Jeanne Melvin*



Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) is usually found in moist nutrient-rich forests. It blooms early in the Spring.

## Wildflowers in Cleveland Park

While walking along the Reedy River in downtown Greenville's Cleveland Park, SCNPS member Bette Thern noticed some interesting wildflowers — including Little Sweet Betsy (*Trillium cuneatum*), Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) and Bellwort (*Uvularia perfoliata*) — growing in prime position right beside the trail but nearly strangled by tangles of English ivy and other invasives. The site also contained several Silverbell trees (*Halesia tetraptera*) in the under canopy.

The site was shown to Scott Drayton of City of Greenville Parks and Recreation. Scott committed Greenville P&R to remove the invasives and underbrush if SCNPS members would mark the wildflowers and Silverbell saplings.

SCNPS accomplished their part of the deal on May 22. The approximately 3000 sq ft site is located on the south bank of the Reedy just below the Vietnam Monument.

The Upstate Chapter Board has agreed to proceed with the project which will consist of

A — a coordinated effort to monitor the site year-round for encroaching invasives

B — two work days per year at the site to control invasives.

To visit the site, park in the lower Zoo parking lot, walk past the Monument and cross the river at the double bridges. The site is located at the end and slightly to the right of the crossing just across the asphalt walking path.

Don't have time for a walk in the woods? Not sure where to go when you do have time? Have never seen *Liparis liliifolia* or *Liparis loeselii*? Log on to [www.jfowlerphotography.com](http://www.jfowlerphotography.com) and sign up for Jim's blog. Join Jim Fowler and friends for virtual excursions into the wilds of the Carolinas and Georgia to see our amazing wildflowers and rare orchids.