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OCT 2013

UPSTATE *happenings*

Saturday, Sept 21, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Fall Native Plant Sale

To create a landscape that supports native birds and butterflies, shop our Fall Native Plant Sale at University Center, on the corner of South Pleasantburg Dr and Antrim Dr in Greenville. The sale will feature a great selection of plants that provide habitat, nectar and food for our native wildlife. (You can download a list at <http://scnps.org/event/upstate-fall-native-plant-sale/>)

This is a great way to help the wildlife that call South Carolina home and to help make our state a more beautiful place to live. Please help make the sale a success! *Tell your friends! Sign up to help at the meeting (or email merck3@clermson.edu).* *And be sure to come shop!*

Saturday, Oct 5, 9:00-11:30 am Field Trip: Early Succession Piedmont Prairie, Twin Chimneys

This is *not* a plant rescue trip but an opportunity to explore early succession habitats, as well as woods with ferns and woodland understory plants. Plants will still be in foliage and some in bloom, giving us opportunities for plant identification and for marking plants to rescue in December and January. Rick Huffman, leader.

For folks who want to car pool, meet at Home Depot at 1339 South Pleasantburg Dr (near Augusta Rd) at 8:30. Others meet at the gate with flagging on Traynham Rd.

Directions: Travel south on SC Hwy 25 from Greenville, (about 17 miles So. from I-85) turn left onto W. Ridgeway Road, bear right onto Traynham, parking on roadside approximately 2 miles on right.

Wear field clothing and shoes. Bring water and money for lunch (optional). A loupe would be useful. Following the trip, there is an optional lunch stop at the Clock Restaurant on SC Hwy 25.

To reserve your spot, email judy_seeley@hotmail.com. Please send your cell phone number for last minute communications. Please indicate if you will meet at Home Depot or on Traynham Rd.

Background: The Twin Chimneys Landfill is approximate 900 acres located in southern Greenville County. The WM management staff have graciously allowed and supported our relocation of plants that oth-

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BOTANICA CAROLINIANA: An 18th-Century Legacy Come to Life

As we witness the increasing encroachment of civilization on wild spaces and its effects on our native plants, it can be hard to imagine what South Carolina might have looked like to its early explorers and settlers. What treasures have we lost to the past, and what can we still work to protect? Fortunately, some of those early explorers were also expert naturalists and preserved countless plant specimens on their travels. Their herbaria represent original source material and are invaluable to modern botanists, conservationists, and laypeople alike, but are not often accessible outside of academic circles. Thanks to the efforts of area researchers, however, the Botanica Caroliniana project is making these historical records available online for the first time.

At the October meeting, Amy Blackwell will share the work of both Botanica Caroliniana and original 18th-century explorers including Mark Catesby, John and William Bartram, and John Lawson. Amy is a doctoral candidate in Plant and Environmental Science at Clemson University, and works on Botanica Caroliniana along with Patrick McMillan, Director of the South Carolina Botanical Garden at Clemson University, and Christopher Blackwell, Amy's husband as well as the chair of the Classics Department at Furman University and an expert on manuscript imaging.

In 2010, the Blackwells visited the Sloane Herbarium at the Natural History Museum in London during a trip they took to digitize ancient Greek manuscripts in Europe. At the museum, they were excited to discover a large number of specimens that originated in the Carolinas in the 1700s and 1800s. On their return to the US, they told McMillan of the collection and a new interdisciplinary project was born. The subsequent year, the three returned to London and photographed approximately 2,000 specimens collected by at least five different naturalists. The photography took two days, but the next phase of the

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Amy Blackwell

Tuesday, Oct 15, 7:00 pm

University Center: Greenville Tec, 225 South Pleasantburg Dr, Greenville

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



**South Carolina
Native Plant Society**
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Norris, SC 29667
Upstate Chapter

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Upcoming Events

erwise would go under the dozer. SCNPS Upstate Chapter has been rescuing and relocating plants from the Twin Chimneys site for nearly 8 years.

Tuesday, Oct 15, 7:00 pm
Botanica Caroliniana
See story on page 1.

Tuesday, Oct 22, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Field Trip: Clemson Experimental Forest Autumn Plants and Landscapes
John Garton will lead us as we drive and walk to various locations along the Lake Issaqueena Road (gravel) to see autumn colors, wildflowers, fruits, and woodland settings of the Clemson Experimental Forest.

Meet at the North Forest Gate on Lake Issaqueena Rd.

Directions from Clemson: On Hwy 133, go approx 4 miles north from Hwy 123. At Lawrence Chapel United Methodist Church turn left onto Old Six Mile Rd and go 100 yards. Gate is on your right.

Wear field clothes and footwear. Bring a bag lunch/snack and drink. We will finish after lunch.

Limit of 20 people. To reserve a space, email Judy Seeley, judy_seeley@hotmail.com Please include your cell phone number for last minute communications.

Saturday, Nov 16, 10:30 am
SCNPS Annual Meeting

Please save the date for our exciting statewide annual meeting!

Rudy Mancke has agreed to give a talk and lead us on a field trip. The meeting will be held at Saluda Shoals Park, Columbia. For more information, see www.scnps.org.

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BOTANICA CAROLINIANA

project — identifying the specimens then cataloging and incorporating them into the database — is an ongoing process.

In addition to working with the specimens, Amy and Patrick have also researched and written about the naturalists responsible for this work. Mark Catesby (1682-1749), an English naturalist, has been the focus of some of their research so far, and they have recently published a paper on Joseph Lord (1672-1748). Lord is notable because he was of American rather than English origin, and the investigation of his collection has already yielded some exceedingly rare specimens.

"It's not historical botany — it's just botany. I think of Mark Catesby and Joseph Lord and John Lawson and the others as research partners," Amy says. And thanks to the Botanica Caroliniana, we can join in their research with just a click of a mouse. To view the database and read more on Amy's blog, visit the Botanica Caroliniana website at <http://folio.furman.edu/projects/botanicacaroliniana/index.html> and be sure not to miss Amy's presentation of this fascinating work. — Meredith Mizell

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

The Mystery of Indian Trail Trees

Saturday, Oct 5, 6:00 pm & Sunday, Oct 6, 6:00 pm
"Trail marker trees" or "Indian trail trees" are terms used to describe trees that appear to be deliberately bent — presumably by Indians — to mark a trail or water source. Is this a legend made up to explain naturally occurring damage? or are these trees living artifacts of Indian history? In upcoming presentations at the Upcountry History Museum in Greenville, Don Wells will describe research being done to find the answer to that question, before it is too late. On Saturday, October 5, at 6:00 pm, he will speak on *The Mystery of The Trees*, and on Sunday, October 6, at 6:00 pm he will present *In the Presence of the Elders*. Admission is \$10, with proceeds going to support the work of the Mountain Stewards.

The research involves such things as assembling a database of possible trail trees, mapping the locations of these trail-tree candidates, comparing those locations to known Indian trails, evaluating the age of the trees and the date of the "injury", and delving into the history, language, and traditions of the Indian peoples of the area. Over 1700 potential trail trees have been mapped, with concentrations in northern Georgia and Arkansas and including several dozen in the western Carolinas. Tree coring has revealed dates in the 1700s and early 1800s, dates that predate the Cherokee Removal of 1838.

There is some urgency to the research because many of the trees are quite old and lie along ridges in prime mountain real estate. If they are indeed part of our national heritage, the time to protect them is now. Mountain Stewards, a non-profit organization based in Georgia, is heavily involved in what has come to be called "the Trail Tree Project". To find out more about it, or to submit a tree for evaluation, go to <http://www.mountainstewards.org/>

Wells has also written a book entitled *The Mystery of the Trees* which will be available at the presentations or can be ordered online.

The Upcountry History Museum is located at 540 Buncombe Street, Greenville, SC 29601.

American Canopy, Trees, Forests & the Making of a Nation Wednesday, Oct 23, 5:15 pm

Eric Rutkow, author of *American Canopy, Trees, Forests, and the Making of a Nation*, will be speaking at the Barrett Room of the Spartanburg County Public Library, 151 S. Church St in Spartanburg. There will be a book-signing after the lecture.