

SOUTH CAROLINA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SPRING 2017

LOWCOUNTRY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER, VOL. 19, Issue 2, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464



Happy New Year! I hope y'all have made some resolutions to come to all our fabulous lectures and field trips we have planned for this spring! In addition to our regularly-scheduled meetings, please note that elections will be held this spring. It is time to vote for new leadership of our society, which will hold their positions for the next two years. Please note that the deadline to submit nominations is at our January 17 meeting. If you would like to participate in an unofficial, non-elected, volunteer as-needed position in any of the board's activities – from plant sale support staff to hospitality to education and outreach – please contact a board member (see back of this newsletter). We would love for you to share your input, enthusiasm, and talents to make our upcoming events successful (fun, educational, and productive!). We are a volunteer-run organization from the state to local chapter level, so we cannot accomplish our goals without volunteer manpower. Fortunately, as the saying goes, many hands make the workload light.

Finally, please consider applying for a Community Project Grant or forwarding the information to a worthy organization. Previously, we have provided grants for the Citadel Herbarium; native plant gardens at J.B. Edwards Elementary School and the Daniel Island School & Community Garden; and most recently the Student Garden at Dixie Plantation (sign up for our February field trip to get a peek at how they are using our money to create a pollinator garden!). Community projects must be directed at protecting, preserving, restoring, and/or educating the public about native plants or plant communities in the Lowcountry of South Carolina. Individual award amounts will not exceed \$500. **The deadline for Spring 2017 is February 1**, with the grant being awarded by March 1. Please contact me or check <http://scnps.org/lowcountry-chapter-fund-community-projects> for application details.

Katie Ellis
Lowcountry President

Spring Native Plant Sale!

Saturday, March 25, 9 am - 12 noon

SCNPS Members can start shopping at 8:30! Volunteers can shop at 8:00 am!!

**Charles Towne Landing parking lot
1500 Old Towne Road, Charleston 29407**

We have a great selection of native plants with many hard-to-find species... colorful perennials, shrubs, trees, grasses, ferns and edibles. Cash, check, or credit card accepted. A plant list will be available before the sale on the SCNPS website. Admission to the plant sale is free. If you wish to explore Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site, please pay admission in the visitor's center. For more information or to volunteer, contact Eddie Bernard (edlbernard@aol.com or 843-270-1112) or visit scnps.org.

LECTURE SERIES

Monthly meetings for our lecture series are typically held on the **third Tuesday of the month** at **6:30 pm** at the **Biology Auditorium, 101 Duckett Hall, at The Citadel**. See map at <http://www.citadel.edu/root/visitor-parking> Yellow indicates visitor parking. Attendees may also park in the lot just below the Hagood Gate. ***Please join us after each lecture for a reception including hors d'oeuvres and wine, plus native plant give-aways!***

January 17: Creating & Preserving Botanical Memories

Sara Edi, Sweetgrass Botanicals (Winston-Salem, NC), www.sweetgrassbotanicals.com

Sara uses age-old techniques to press and preserve plants and flowers and frame them to create lasting, beautiful works of art! Be sure to take a look at her website, Sweetgrassbotanicals.com. Sara Edi will reveal her entire process to us, taking botanical specimens previously collected from our trail in the Audubon Swamp Garden at Magnolia Plantation and turning them into finished pieces of art. She will generously donate these works to be RAFFLED AT THE MEETING, so bring your cash and checkbooks! All proceeds will go towards our chapter's programs and projects.

February 21: Update on SCNPS Rocky Shoals Spider Lily Preservation in McCormick County, SC

Lisa Lord, SCNPS State Vice President

Pancratium fluitans, we call it *Hymenocallis coronaria*, but either way the Rocky Shoals Spider Lily is a large, rare, and exquisitely beautiful wildflower that inhabits shoals and rapids in Piedmont streams. This year Naturaland Trust, in collaboration with the South Carolina Native Plant Society, has purchased a 12.8-acre site on Stevens Creek in McCormick County with a dense population of spider lilies. The stream flows through a largely undeveloped, forested watershed and is home to several native fish species, a diverse community of aquatic insects, and native mussel species. The site also contains interesting historic structures that give us a view into the agrarian culture of the past. This presentation will show the beauty of these spider lilies and tell about SCNPS's and Naturaland's plans for preservation of this treasured property.

March 21: Plant Ecology in the Lowcountry: From Discovery to Recovery

Joel Gramling, Citadel Herbarium Curator and Biology Department Head

The botanical history of the Lowcountry of South Carolina is filled with famous naturalists who named and categorized our flora while exploring a new realm. Over the last 300 years the Lowcountry has experienced significant cultivation and other alterations that have irrevocably transformed the landscape to produce the plant communities we see today. As we experience continued urbanization, how can plant ecology inform us about our landscape and the choices we need to make to preserve our natural resources? From historic discoveries to large-scale agriculture to the introduction of invasive species, local history is evident in today's landscape and should direct modern ecologists going forward.

April 18: Nature Photography 101

Nolan Schillerstrom, Audubon South Carolina

Self-taught wildlife photographer and Audubon SC's Coastal Program Coordinator Nolan Schillerstrom will discuss photography basics: everything from cell phone photos and basic composition rules, to how to choose the correct ISO, aperture, and shutter speed for artistic effects in your photos. Nolan specializes in showcasing the birds and places he loves and works to protect.

May 16: TBD! We are attempting to book a regional native plant authority – check our website, email, Facebook, and postcards for updates.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, January 21, 9:00 am - after lunch

Building Bridges Via Partnerships – Magnolia Plantation Audubon Swamp Workday

Leader: Jeff Jackson, SCNPS

Come join us as we have a major workday at our trail in the Audubon Swamp Garden. We will be replacing at least one of our 6 footbridges, cleaning up, possibly rerouting paths to avoid roots, and installing some more gravel. Weather permitting, we will have a little cookout, so bring a side or snack. Useful tools will be gloves, loppers, hard rakes, heavy duty buckets, charged cordless drills, and a wrecking bar or 2. The main thing to bring is yourself and a willingness to do a little labor with a fun group of people! Please contact and coordinate with Jeff Jackson at Lowcountryroots@aol.com or 843-478-5827 for more info.

Saturday, February 25, 9:00 am - noon

Dixie Plantation

Leader: Abbie Cain, Program Coordinator for Graduate Program in Environmental Studies, College of Charleston

Dixie Plantation is a nearly 1,000-acre property that lies 17 miles south of the College of Charleston's downtown campus. Donated by John Henry Dick in 1995, the property has served faculty and students at the College as a living laboratory. This spring students will be installing a 75-foot by 110-foot native plant habitat made possible by grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the South Carolina Native Plant Society. Nearby, you can explore additional habitats. If you're up for more of a walk (or a short car drive), you will see our research lab facilities and ponds. The three-pond system transitions from salt water to brackish to fresh and is controlled by a rice trunk. The surrounding trees are home to many of our native birds, including some rare species. With his avid ornithology hobby, John Henry Dick would have been proud. Contact Katie Ellis at kathryn.k.ellis@gmail.com or 843-9906-9916 to sign up and receive carpool info.

Saturday, April 22 (Earth Day!), 9:00 am - noon

Francis Beidler Forest

Leaders: Matt Johnson, Education Director, and Nolan Schillerstrom, Coastal Program Coordinator, Audubon SC

"Plants, birds, and more!" Join SCNPS for a 2-hour guided 1.75-mile, ADA-compliant boardwalk exploration through the largest remaining stand of virgin cypress-tupelo swamp left in the world! Home to 1,000-year bald cypress trees and beautiful prothonotary warblers, Beidler offers visitors a chance to step back in time into this ancient ecosystem. Matt and Nolan will provide an overview of the swamp's natural history, as well as talk about their citizen science project involving the prothonotary warbler. Participants should be treated to several views of these "swamp canaries" as they fly into their nesting cavities within cypress knees. In addition, the native plants of this unique community will also be discussed. Nolan will also be on hand for a follow-up discussion on wildlife photography, so be sure to bring your cameras with you! This trip is limited to 25 participants and there is a \$10/person fee to participate. Contact Katie Ellis at kathryn.k.ellis@gmail.com or 843-9906-9916 to sign up and receive carpool info; payments will be made the day of the event at Beidler.

Saturday, May 20, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm (paddle); lunch 1:00 pm

River and Rice Plantation Paddle on Chessey Creek

Leader: Nature Adventures Outfitters

We'll meet at the public boat landing adjacent to Nature Adventures Outfitters' cottage on Chessey Creek and paddle down the creek to the Ashpoo River and Horseshoe Creek and back. Along the way we'll explore the flora and fauna in a freshwater marsh ecosystem alongside Ravenwood and Bonnie Doone plantations. We'll return for 1 p.m. creekside cookout and picnic. Bring a chair, beverage, and side dish to share (SCNPS will provide burgers, hot dogs, etc.) – there will be a refrigerator on site to keep things fresh until we return! Contact Katie Ellis at kathryn.k.ellis@gmail.com or 843-9906-9916 to sign up and receive carpool info. You MUST CALL NAO directly at 843-568-3222 to register and pay for the guided trip. Fees include a 3-hour paddle with Nature Adventures guides and all equipment as follows: Bring your own boat + guide fee: \$20, Rent a boat + guide fee: \$45.

Lowcountry Chapter Board Members

President	Katie Ellis	kathryn.k.ellis@gmail.com, 843-906-9916
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