



For updates and more  
information, go to  
[www.scnps.org](http://www.scnps.org)

# UPSTATE happenings

JUNE 2012

## April-May-June Annual Cogongrass Survey in South Carolina

South Carolina is in the early stage of invasion: Cogongrass has already been found in several counties. We believe we can stop this plant from becoming the complete menace we see in Alabama and Florida, but we need your help. *We need the eyes and ears of people who spend time outside* to find this grass and report any sightings.

If you would like to find out more about the Cogongrass Survey or would like to help volunteer, please call Extension Agent Carolyn Dawson at (828) 638-5889, ext. 117, to find out how.

For more information:  
[www.clemson.edu/cafls/departments/forestry/cogongrass/resources.html](http://www.clemson.edu/cafls/departments/forestry/cogongrass/resources.html)

There is a Survey Guide document you can download that provides information about how to conduct the survey as well as other various reference materials and pictures that will aid with the identification of cogongrass.

---

## Tuesday, June 19, 7:00 pm Edible Landscaping with Native Plants

See story page 1.

---

## Monday-Friday, July 16-20 PULSE coming to Enoree District of Sumter National Forest

We are invited to participate in PULSE 2012, the 25th Annual Carolina Vegetation Survey Field Foray. Any level of experience is appropriate; the only requirement is that you bring an enthusiasm for field work.

During July 16-20, Pulse will focus on the north-central Piedmont of South Carolina with special emphasis on the Enoree District of the Sumter National Forest. Complimentary lodging for participants at Newberry College has been arranged. To find out more, visit the website

<http://cvs.bio.unc.edu/pulses.htm>

To get on the mailing list to receive PULSE announcements, email Dr. Bob Peet, [peet@unc.edu](mailto:peet@unc.edu)

## Edible Landscaping with Native Plants

An internet search for “edible landscaping” brings up dozens of websites dedicated to discussions, instruction, sales, pictures, and award-winning gardens that are both pretty and good to eat. The increasing interest in growing your own food, even on a city lot, has led to new ideas about what to put in the traditional flower border or along the walkway and the foundation — or in a planter on the balcony, if that’s the only place you have.

Chris Sermons, co-owner and manager of Bio-Way Farm in Ware Shoals, uses edible native plants in landscaping whenever he can. He begins with a garden design and then selects appropriate plants. Chris says he asks himself which edible native plant will meet the requirements of the design elements. He incorporates exotic plants only when unsuccessful in finding an appropriate native plant. Chris demands a lot from a plant — he wants it to be useful in the kitchen as well as in the landscape!

Chris will discuss some of the edible native plants that he has successfully used in landscaping. He’ll describe their uses from start to finish: that is, from choosing an appropriate plant for the location to preparing the site for planting to harvesting and preparing the nuts, fruits or other edible portions.

Bio-Way’s produce includes blueberries and muscadines, and Chris is adding paw-paw trees, as the farm does not currently produce enough paw-paws to market. He is also growing groundnut (*Apios americana*). Chris says he has learned about plants through observation, experience, and the Native Plant Society, so his planting advice will be practical and useful for the local gardener.

— Amy Fendley

*Chris Sermons manages Bio-Way Farm, a Certified Organic produce farm, evolving on Permaculture Design principles. On the farm he discovered his love for native plants and biodiversity, which inspired him to start a micronursery specializing in edibles, fertility and insectary plants. In the future, he plans to integrate ecology and livestock within a forest garden and extend it into an emerging oak savannah. For more information, visit [www.biowayfarm.com](http://www.biowayfarm.com), or make an appointment to visit the farm in person. The Bio-Way website says that guided tours are available.*

## Chris Sermons

Bio-Way Farm

## Tuesday, June 19, 7:00 pm

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

For a map and more information, visit [http://www.scnps.org/activities\\_ups.html](http://www.scnps.org/activities_ups.html)

South Carolina  
Native Plant Society  
PO Box 491  
Norris, SC 29667  
*Upstate Chapter*

Address Service Requested.

Non-profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
CLEMSON, SC  
29631  
PERMIT NO. 7



PHOTO BY JK MARLOW

## Pickens Museum Garden

We continue, along with the Master Gardeners of the Foothills, to tend to and love working in the Rampey Native Plant Garden surrounding the Pickens County Museum landscape in downtown Pickens. This work mostly involves mulching and weeding, trimming and replanting and transplanting.

Pickens County Museum is outstanding; if you get a chance to see it, it is worth the drive over. In the garden we have Rocky Shoals Spider Lily blooming! (as of the last week in April) and many, many other great things in flower.

Take a look, be inspired and JOIN US the 1st and 2nd Tuesdays of each month. We now start at 8 am due to heat but any time in the morning is great and quit when you need to; tools are available or bring your own.

You will learn hands-on about the native plants of this area — and we have a good time!

Contact Diane Coiner: [dcme@att.net](mailto:dcme@att.net)

— Karen Burnett

*Saturday, March 31:*

## Water 'n' Wildlife Day

Over 60 volunteers participated in the inaugural “Water and Wildlife Day” to help protect the water quality and wildlife habitat of Lake Hartwell and the Clemson Experimental Forest. The 17,500 acre Clemson Forest has 100 miles of Lake Hartwell shoreline with many streams that flow through the forest on their journey to the lake.

Volunteers worked at the Clemson University Outdoor Lab and at the Corps of Engineers Twin Lakes Recreation Area, which are located in the Clemson Forest adjacent to Lake Hartwell, to plant native trees, pick up litter, repair old and install new wood duck boxes, install bluebird, wren, and butterfly boxes, build an owl house, and do a shoreline survey. Volunteers also enjoyed a picnic lunch provided by the Lake Hartwell Association.

During lunch, Herb Burnham, LHA president, welcomed and thanked all the volunteers. Knight Cox, Forest Manager for Clemson University, explained the history and management of the forest. Jamie Sykes, Fisheries Biologist, US Army Corps of Engineers, discussed the water quality and aquatic habitat of Lake Hartwell. After lunch, John Garton and Dan Whitten, SC Master Naturalists, led a nature hike through the forest to the lake.

— Cathy Reas Foster



PHOTOS BY STEVE MARLOW