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# UPSTATE happenings

OCT 2012

Plant something  
for us this year!



**NATIVE PLANT**  
*plant sale!*  
**Saturday, Sept 22**

9:00am-1:00pm

**Saturday, Sept 22, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm**  
**Fall Native Plant Sale!**

Parking lot of University Center, 225 South Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville.

Remember, fall is the perfect time to plant so that roots can get well established during the cool months!

**Tuesday, Oct 2, 10:00 am-12:00 pm**  
**Natural Heritage Garden Prairie/  
Savanna Planting**

A native prairie/savanna area, which historically was an important component of the natural landscape of the State, is currently under development at the SC Botanical Garden. This consists of transplanting several acres of native prairie grasses and forbs. (For more info, see [www.clemson.edu/public/scbg/events/natural\\_heritage\\_garden/piedmontprairie.html](http://www.clemson.edu/public/scbg/events/natural_heritage_garden/piedmontprairie.html))

When this project is established, visitors can see a re-created example of a natural community that was very important in the early history of our state, but now exists only as tiny strips scattered along the back-roads of the Piedmont.

The SC Native Plant Society collected most of the native seeds for this project, some of which have been established as transplant plugs. We will be lending a further hand in this project by helping to transplant several thousand of these plugs. This will consist of digging lots of holes and nestling these transplants into their new homes. The Society will be acknowledged in signage for our significant role in its development. If you can help, bring sturdy gloves and shoes and wear your old jeans, and show up at the Fran Hanson Visitors Center on Tuesday,

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## Sex in the Garden!

Robert Wyatt says an alternate title for his talk might be *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About (Plant) Sex (But Were Afraid to Ask)* – just like the 1969 book, except that one was definitely not about plants. In this talk, he answers such intriguing sex-among-plants questions as “Are males really necessary?” “Do plants engage in cross-dressing?” “Does size really matter?” “Are there sex-changes in the plant world?” “Does it always take two to tango?”

Robert knows the answers to these and to most other questions about how plants make new plants. Many of the answers are both surprising and fascinating. For example, Jack-in-the-Pulpits can change their gender — repeatedly. And then there are orchids, which, it turns out, are not quite honest. Orchids produce gorgeous and highly prized blooms, but they actually attract pollinators by faking it. Most produce no pollen or nectar: they successfully trick pollinators into visiting them by mimicking characteristics of nectar or pollen-producing species.

Robert Wyatt is both an entertaining speaker and a recognized expert on plant reproductive ecology. He is especially interested in the co-evolution of plants and animals. The author of many publications, including the 1993 graduate-level text *Ecology and Evolution of Plant Reproduction*, Robert taught at the University of Georgia for many years and has contributed a great deal of scholarly research to his field.

Currently, Robert teaches Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, and students in the Native Plant Certificate program at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia. He has developed this talk as a means of turning a complex and occasionally tedious subject into an attention-getting, entertaining, and memorable presentation. He also illustrates the program with a variety of pictures and cartoons.

— Amy Fendley

*Dr. Robert Wyatt obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his doctorate from Duke University, both in Botany. He taught for two years at Texas A&M University before joining the faculty at the University of Georgia, where he was a Professor of Botany and Ecology for more than 20 years and still retains an adjunct appointment. From 1999 to 2005 Dr. Wyatt was the Executive Director of the Highlands Biological Station, an inter-institutional center of the University of North Carolina. He has won numerous awards for teaching and research, including a Guggenheim Fellowship that enabled him to produce Ecology and Evolution of Plant Reproduction.*

**Robert Wyatt**  
**Tuesday, Oct 16, 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)

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Native Plant Society  
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*Upstate Chapter*

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## Upcoming Events

October 2 at 10:00 am. Tools will be available.

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### Wednesday, Oct 10, 10:00 am-3:00 pm Roadside Botanizing Field Trip

*Bill Stringer, leader*

We won't be having the usual fall seed collecting schedule this year. But, we will have an opportunity to see fall-flowering and seeding natives along our Upstate roadsides. We will meet at the Pickens County Museum parking lot, where there is the wonderful native habitats garden for a great start-up for the field trip. From there we will car-pool to several diverse natural roadside communities in Pickens and Greenville Counties. Because we will be operating along county roadsides, it will be important to car-pool to minimize the number of vehicles in our "convoy". We will be going out a little earlier in the season, when the plants are less mature, with more flowering and certainly more attractive. A few species will have mature seeds by then, so if you wish to collect some seeds, bring your own containers.

Wear sturdy shoes and bring water and a snack. We will stop at a small country "eatery" for lunch. If you wish to participate, please send an e-mail to [catboyz@nctv.com](mailto:catboyz@nctv.com) with your name and cellphone number, and indicate if you can drive your vehicle in the car-pool.

For directions to the Museum, go to: <http://www.co.pickens.sc.us/CulturalCommission/FAQMuseum/default.aspx>.

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### Tuesday, Oct 16, 7:00 pm Sex in the Garden *See story page 1.*

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### Saturday, Nov 3 Plant Rescue *Save the date!*

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#### Tuesday, Nov 20, 7:00 pm Introduction to Medicinal Botany

Most folks may not realize that over 40 percent of prescription drugs sold in the United States contain at least one ingredient derived from nature. For thousands of years humans have relied on plants for food, shelter and medicine, and plants have yielded many very valuable compounds for treatment of disease.

## Are you tuned in?

Most of you know by now that the South Carolina Native Plant Society has a new, upgraded website; the web address is the same:

**[www.scnps.org](http://www.scnps.org)**

With the new site, member services including renewals and new memberships can be completed online with a secure credit card payment. We have also added a bookstore, expanded our education section and created many new ways for you to stay informed.

**In the coming weeks, our new e-mail announcement system will be replacing the listserve.** The current Yahoo e-mail system is difficult to join and difficult to maintain. With the new system, simply go to our home page, provide your e-mail address and hit "subscribe"... that's it. You will be able to unsubscribe at any time. Please be aware... *you will not be automatically added to the new system.*

With this program Dr Jan Haldeman of Erskine College hopes to encourage an appreciation for plants that can heal. Plants of the Southeast have a long history of medicinal use by Native Americans as well as early American colonists and settlers, and many medical plants can be found as close as our own backyards and wooded areas near our homes. *Founders Hall in Dining Commons, Southern Wesleyan University, Central.*

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### Saturday, Dec 1 Plant Rescue *Save the date!*

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