

SOUTH CAROLINA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SPRING 2018

LOWCOUNTRY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER, VOL. 20, Issue 2, Charleston, SC 29412



I hope your holiday season has proven restorative and provided ample time for your favorite things in life. The new year has had a memorable start with a near-record-breaking snowfall in the Lowcountry! Coastal South Carolina covered in snow is truly a magical experience. The long-lasting low temperatures of this 2018 event provided an opportunity to enjoy the winter wonderland -- to slow down, reflect, connect with neighbors and nature, and of course, play! As you plan for 2018, we have an exciting line-up this spring of lectures, field trips and more – we hope to see you there!

The SC Botanical Garden, in partnership with the SC Native Plant Society, offers the “Certificate in Native Plant Studies” program. This popular course offers hands-on field-based classes, providing students the opportunity to learn about native plant communities that define South Carolina. In order to obtain certification, 88 hours of coursework is required. As part of the certificate program, the Lowcountry Chapter of SC Native Plant Society is working with local partners, including Audubon South Carolina and Clemson Cooperative Extension, to offer two courses in the Charleston area in spring 2018. To learn more, visit

<https://www.clemson.edu/public/scbg/education/certificate-program.html>

Please encourage a school or worthy organization to apply for the SCNPS Community Project Grant. 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 \$1,000. **The deadline for Spring 2018 is February 1** with the money being awarded by March 1. Please check <http://scnps.org/lowcountry-chapter-fund-community-projects> for application details.

Kim Morganello
Lowcountry President

Spring Native Plant Sale!

Saturday, March 17, 9 am - 12 noon

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

**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 center. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Eddie Bernard (edlbernard@aol.com or 843-270-1112) or visit scnps.org.

LECTURE SERIES

Unless noted otherwise, monthly meetings for our lecture series are 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 16: Native Plants in the Grounds and Gardens at MUSC

Nathan Dubosh, MUSC arborist

The grounds department at the Medical University of South Carolina knows that trees and green space have a positive impact on human health. This urban campus covers 80 acres in downtown Charleston and contains approximately 3,000 trees! In 2009 MUSC had 68 species of trees and by 2017 that number had increased to 160 species after planting 437 new trees. Come learn about their efforts to incorporate native vegetation in the campus plantings and the process of species selection when choosing trees.

February 20: Rare Plants and Botanical Oddities of Lowcountry Wildlife Refuges

Keith Bradley, USC Herbarium

Keith Bradley recently surveyed and mapped the rare plants of the National Wildlife Refuges in the lowcountry and the State-managed Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve in Horry County. In his talk, Keith will highlight some of the unusual and unique species he encountered during his surveys. He is especially passionate about the rare plants that aren't usually given much attention. Some plants, such as the pygmy spider lily, are under the radar in the conservation community. Keith has been a research botanist for over 25 years and has authored Southeastern US plant identification guides.

March 13: Permaculture and Native Plants

David Manger, Roots & Shoots Nursery

In its most basic form, permaculture means "permanent agriculture." More broadly though, permaculture is a whole-system way of thinking where we gather cues from nature to find sustainable and self-sufficient ways to live. In the plant department, this typically means growing lots of perennial plants, both native and not, to feed ourselves and accomplish many important goals. David will give a brief introduction into the world of permaculture and explore how to design landscapes with ecosystem functionality as a primary consideration.

April 17: The Ecology and Distribution of Native Azaleas in South Carolina

Dr. Charles Horn, Newberry College

Ten species of the *Rhododendron* genus are known to be native in South Carolina. Dr. Horn's work over the last decade, through a study of herbarium material and field trips, has been to refine the identification, distribution, and ecology of these species. The species are not difficult to identify when in flower and are distinguished by flowering time, flower shape, petal color, and presence/absence of glandular hairs. Two species are evergreen and are common to the foothills, flowering during May and June. Three deciduous species are early-spring flowering and have a wide distribution. Five species flower May to July and can be distinguished by a combination of habitat and flower features. One species, May-white azalea (*Rhododendron eastmanii*) is endemic to South Carolina.

May 15: Lisa Matthews Memorial Bay

Lisa Lord, SCNPS State President

The Lisa Matthews Memorial Bay (LMMB) is a 52-acre preserve in Bamberg County with a diverse Carolina Bay and associated longleaf pine uplands. The LMMB was acquired by the South Carolina Native Plant Society in 2003. The most important management responsibility on the property is a population of federally endangered *Oxypolis canbyi* (Canby's Dropwort) that occurs in the bay. Lisa Lord, President of the State Board of Directors for the South Carolina Native Plant Society, will talk about the history of the LMMB, recovery of the Dropwort, ongoing management, future needs, and opportunities.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, January 20, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Walking Tour of MUSC Urban Farm and Medicinal Garden

Leader: Tripp Odom, MUSC Grounds Department

Meet at the Medical District Greenway at 101 Doughty Street (parking is available at the Jonathan Lucas Garage for a fee). The tour will include a behind-the-scenes sightseeing walk around campus. We will start at the new Medical District Greenway, move on to the history and advancement of medicinal plants in the Porcher Medicinal Garden, have a look at various pollinator plots in conjunction with Bee Campus USA, have a small snack at the Urban Farm, and round off the tour with stops at a few favorite native trees to highlight the campus arboretum. Contact Katie Ellis at kathryn.k.ellis@gmail.com or [843-906-9916](tel:843-906-9916) to RSVP.

Saturday, February 24, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Ferry and Tour of Bulls Island

Leader: Coastal Expeditions

Sign up for this trip if you like birding, hiking, beachcombing, and a chance to explore the over 66,000 acres of Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. The ferry to the island takes about 30 minutes. Once on the island, you'll be able to explore the 16 miles of trails and seven miles of sandy beach. The jewel of the island is the magnificent Boneyard Beach. This three-mile stretch of beach at the northeast corner is the result of the surf that is steadily moving sand away from this end of the island. The hundreds of oaks, cedars and pines that are left behind are weathered by the salt and sun to create a skeletonized forest in the sand. Guests should be prepared with sunscreen, water to drink, insect repellent, good walking shoes (not sandals), and snacks to ensure a comfortable day. The fee is \$35 per person, which includes the ferry and tour guide (but not tips). Please contact Coastal Expeditions directly to reserve your space on this trip (843-884-7684); the final day to RSVP is Friday February 23.

Saturday, March 17, 9 am – noon

Spring Native Plant Sale! Charles Towne Landing. See front page for details.

Saturday, April 21, TBD

Exploring New Charleston County Park on Edisto Island

Leader: Adam Ronan, CCPRC

Details are being finalized; we will publish information for this field trip in the April postcard, on Facebook, and on our email listserv. Contact Katie Ellis at kathryn.k.ellis@gmail.com or [843-906-9916](tel:843-906-9916) to RSVP.

Saturday, May 19, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Lisa Matthew Memorial Bay

Leader: Lisa Lord

Join the Lowcountry Chapter at the Lisa Matthews Memorial Bay, our 52-acre preserve in Bamberg County. Learn about the ongoing management and restoration of the Carolina Bay and the surrounding longleaf pine forest. Wear clothing and shoes suitable for hiking and possibly getting your feet wet. Bring drinking water and a lunch if desired. The bay is located on US Hwy 301, 8.2 miles south of where it intersects Hwy 78 in "downtown" Bamberg. RSVP to Lisa Lord at lisajlord@gmail.com or 843-909-2343.

Lowcountry Chapter Board Members

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