



UPSTATE happenings

NEWSLETTER OF THE UPSTATE CHAPTER
OF THE SC NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
www.scnps.org

March 2019



Upcoming Society Programs, Events & Field Trips (in Bold)

Of Interest... Wednesday, February 20, 2:00pm
"Henry William Ravenel — Planter, Botanist,
Southern Patriot — The Aiken Years"
A Presentation by Harry Shealy

Tryon Garden Club at FENCE • Visitors welcome
3381 Hunting Country Road, Tryon, NC

Fri-Sat-Sun, Mar 1-2-3, 2019, Southern Home & Garden Show, Greenville

SCNPS has been an exhibitor at the Southern Home & Garden Show for over twelve years with the help of new and veteran booth volunteers. You do not have to be a botanical expert. Simply greet people, hand out our informational flyers and invite attendees to our field trips, monthly programs and our **Plant Sale** on Saturday, April 13th!

You can sign up online at: scnps.org/event/2019-southern-home-garden-show

Before or after your shift, tour the Show for help and information on that Spring home improvement project you're planning!

Contact NPS coordinator Kay Stafford for more information:

<kay.stafford4450@gmail.com>

**Saturday, March 16, 9:00am to 12 noon,
Propagation Workshop • \$5 material fee**
Class limited to 12. (See Page 2.)

**Tuesday, March 19, 7:00pm,
Program: *Beyond the Bloom: Native
Perennials for Form & Function*
Greenville, SC
Speaker: Jon Fritz (See this page.)**

**Saturday, March 23, 8:00am -2:00pm,
Field Trip: Station Cove Falls (Oconee Co)
and Nine Times Preserve (Pickens Co)**

Leaders: Rick Huffman and Dan Whitten
Join us on this 3/4 mi. easy trek into Sumter National Forest. Oconee Station is the premier cove forest habitat to see Spring ephemerals such as trilliums and more in the Upstate. A grand reward at trail's end is Station Cove Falls! The trip will include an excursion along the Eastatooe at Nine Times Nature Preserve to view many Spring wildflowers.

Meet at 8am at Holly Springs Grocery at corner of SC Hwy 11 and SC 178. Contact Rick Huffman at <rick_huffman@earthdesignsc.com> or call (864) 901-7583 to sign up. Please include your phone number, bring water, lunch, and wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

SATURDAY, April 13, 9:00am - 1:00pm

**Annual Spring
--PLANT SALE!--**

Conestee Park, 840 Mauldin Rd
Greenville, SC

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Beyond the Bloom:

Native Perennials for Form & Function

Gardening is undergoing a revolution. Originally seen as beautification, we now know that our residential landscapes are key in providing for local wildlife and restoring our local ecosystems. Once thought of as fussy and high maintenance, perennial plantings offer more than colorful blooms: they're some of the strongest players in providing for wildlife, boosting biodiversity, and creating beautiful low-maintenance spaces for us to enjoy. Join us to learn more about our top native perennial selections for form and ecological function in your Upstate yard.

—Jon Fritz

—Thursday, January 31st, Mid-afternoon

Driving west out of Pickens on Hwy 183, I pass by the huge, but today deserted, Pickens County Flea Market. In less than a half mile, I make a couple turns going south and two buildings sitting close together on a rise in the distance come into view. Jon had mentioned earlier, "The one with the gable roof is my house. Turn in the second driveway, which is a newer one and not quite finished."

I was making the trip out to interview Jon Fritz, thinking, "I cannot improve on what he has so succinctly written in the paragraph describing his presentation. I'm going because I feel compelled to meet the person who wrote it." After arriving at his place and meeting Jon, I knew that I had made the right decision.

Turning in, I park and exit my car. Immediately I relish Jon's view of Six Mile Mountain, maybe three miles away, well visible over the rooftops of his neighbors' houses that are a comfortable distance away. Just a few feet away are several stands of short and tall grassy plants. Raised beds are methodically located on two sides of the house. Beyond the beds is a small field of golden broomsedge bluestem waving in the afternoon breeze.

Jon lives, works, and thrives on a single-acre plot of land that he bought in 2015 from a man who originally purchased the property at a tax sale. As he worked for months tearing down the old doublewide on the property — but saving all the windows for his future greenhouse — he was getting certified in permaculture design.

"Exactly what is permaculture design?" I ask.

"There are many definitions of it. It came about in the 60's and 70's... It's a design philosophy that hinges on arranging components so that the waste of one element goes into feeding the other element in an effort so that people can exist in their ecosystem as one unit. So, basically, "permanent culture" is where it comes from. It's the idea that, if we can fill every niche of our plantings with things that we can use, we basically create an artificial ecosystem that operates functionally like an ecosystem — naturally — but also provides for us, and we can fit into that ecosystem, too, without tearing up the soil every year and doing annual beds like I do. It's a self-sustainability endeavor that's been around for forty-some

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Jon Fritz

Landscape Architect • Bluestem Landscape Design LLC, Owner

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

Tues., March 19, 7:00 pm

****Camperdown Academy****
65 Verdae Commons Dr • Greenville, SC

ACROSS Laurens Road from Bradshaw Mazda... 2512 Laurens Rd



Welcome!

New Members



- ✓ Serena Dubose, Pendleton
- ✓ Michael Ferro, Central
- ✓ Richard Holzman, Greenville
- ✓ Kathleen Kenny, Greenville
- ✓ Gennie / Dick Lerch, Piedmont
- ✓ Allan Moore, Greenwood
- ✓ Bill Quinn / Kathee Cammisa, Augusta
- ✓ Kaye Savage, Spartanburg
- ✓ Elizabeth Whitlock, Central
- ✓ Janice / Thomas Williams, Spartanburg

Thank you for joining NPS!

★★★★★

growings on
at the GREENHOUSE

Sat., March 16
9am to Noon

Propagation Workshop:

Miller Putnam is offering a plant propagation workshop on **Saturday, March 16, 9am to 12 noon**, at the Greenhouse, at 180 Lakewood Drive, Greenville. In this hands-on session, learn about seed sprouting, taking cuttings, making divisions and a variety of other propagation techniques you can use at home. **\$5 materials fee.** Class limit of 12. Preference given to paid-up NPS members. (Hint: *EVERYONE* needs to renew starting in January each year) Reserve your spot by emailing <judy_seeley@hotmail.com>. Call Miller at 325-9700 with questions. You will go home with new skills and some new plants! Just ask these folks in the photo...

VOLUNTEEROPP

SCNPS needs volunteers to man a booth at Lake Conestee Nature Park in Greenville for one hour or more on **Sat., March 30, 2019** from 2 to 5pm.

Following the scavenger hunt, will be an optional party from 5 to 7pm with beer, food truck and music by *My Girl, My Whisky, and Me* with a \$15 donation.

This event is called the **Goose Chase** and is an APPLICATION-TO-MOBILE scavenger hunt. Our SCNPS booth will be one of the "missions" where we will provide needed information about the exotic invasive **Fig Buttercup** to complete the mission. This event will help the fundraiser and promote our own mission of education. Contact **Dan Whitten** <sdwhit10@aol.com> to volunteer between 2pm and 5pm.

Beyond...

... continued from page 1

years now, but everyone that studies it admits that it's all very much a learning process still, even for the masters.

"Fortunately I was taking that course at the same time that I had bought this property so I designed it using permaculture principles. It's designed based on concentric circles, based on the hierarchy of input. So, Zone 1 is the house because you spend the most time there. Zone 2 is stuff around the house you'll tend to more often like the raised beds, the herbs, etc., you'll go to several times a week. Then Zone 3 you step out to a larger circle where you might have your hands in it once a week. Then I have an oval-shaped driveway that wraps all the way around my property that defines that. You can't see that much on this side because I've got many of my vegetable beds out there, but on the other side, that whole half of the property is functional plants, mostly food crops of various kinds and fruit trees and shrubs. So that's how it's laid out, with the house in the center and the concentric circle rings outside of that."

As Jon gives me a tour in Zones 1 and 2, he explains how he uses his property.

"This is not like anything I would design for a customer because there's one of everything. It works for me partially because I use it as my laboratory space so that I can try out new things that I've never planted before... 'Oh! I've never bought this before'... so I stick it in the ground and see what it does."

"One of my themes here is — it's a bit 'Darwinian' — it either sinks or it swims. I'm replicating in these beds and in my treatment of the beds and of the plants individually what the average homeowner is going to do. I'm not going to 'baby' any

plant because I know my customers are not going to 'baby' their plants. And if they don't do well, I'll say, 'Well, maybe I put them in the wrong spot.' So I may try a second time in a spot what I've learned about this plant and try it again. Patrick McMillan says the same thing. He says, 'Kill it once, try it one more time; kill it again, don't bother.' So I give it a second chance in a different place in a different condition. Once you learn about what it does, you can find a place that may be more suitable for it."

The "brief" 20-minute interview that I had planned is now over an hour and we have barely touched on perennials...

"So Jon, what is one of your favorite perennials?"

"I'm glad you asked... [Laughter] My friends say, 'When Jon walks around his yard he says, 'Everything is his favorite!'"

Jon points to a tall airy plant...

"Here is probably one of my most favorite... rattlesnake-master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*). I just think it's so 'theatrical.' Its structure lasts all season, all winter. It puts up these flower stalks in late summer into late July and into August. They're blue-green... you can see the coloration down here in the foliage. It will have these little tiny, tiny cream-colored blooms on them — not super colorful. But it's the structure that's most interesting."

— Steve Marlow

An Upstate native, **Jon Fritz** graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelors of Landscape Architecture in 2009. After graduation, he worked as a Wildfire Effects Monitor in the southern plains states, where he was inspired by the natural beauty and diversity of prairie ecosystems. He has been designing residential landscapes in the area for 10 years, starting his own business, **Bluestem Landscape Design, LLC**, in 2015. Helping hundreds of residential clients realize their dream landscapes, Jon strives to merge the needs of the clients and the environment to produce landscapes that are both beautiful and functional.



Miller Putnam has attentive listeners at the 2018 propagation workshop.

© D Lockhart

Our 2019 Spring Plant Sale on April 13th has something for everyone!

Whether you are new to native plants or a bona fide native enthusiast, you're sure to find wonderful additions for your yard. Here is the opportunity to create a wildlife-friendly habitat in your garden with:

- Bold, colorful native azaleas
- Low-maintenance groundcovers
- Pollinator-attracting perennials
- Colorful, fast-growing vines
- A variety of sun and shade ferns
- Year-round interest native grasses
- Wildlife-attracting shrubs and trees

Plus see the additional plant vendors for other natives. Featured selections include endangered **Oconee bells**, and a variety of **carnivorous species**, including **venus fly traps** and **terrestrial pitcher plants!**

Make sure your membership is current as paid members get in at **8:30 a.m.** to shop 30 minutes early!

Hear ye ☺ hear ye!

We're on track to have a really great plant sale in April and we need a few more really great volunteers to lead two important groups. We still need great minds (and bodies) for the following positions:

- ★**Front-End Chair:** Organizes the team that greets customers at the "door" and signs up new members on the day of the sale.
- ★**Transport Chair:** Lead the groups that transport needed items from the storage unit to the sale on Friday morning, April 12, and back to the unit on Saturday afternoon after the sale.

If you are interested in either of these positions, contact **Kathy Harrington** at pharmkat1965@gmail.com

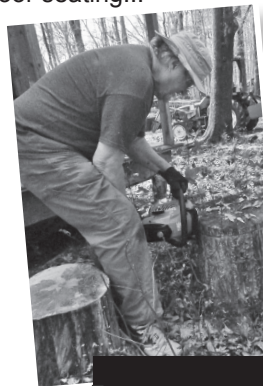
PARKS MILL

PLUM BRANCH SC

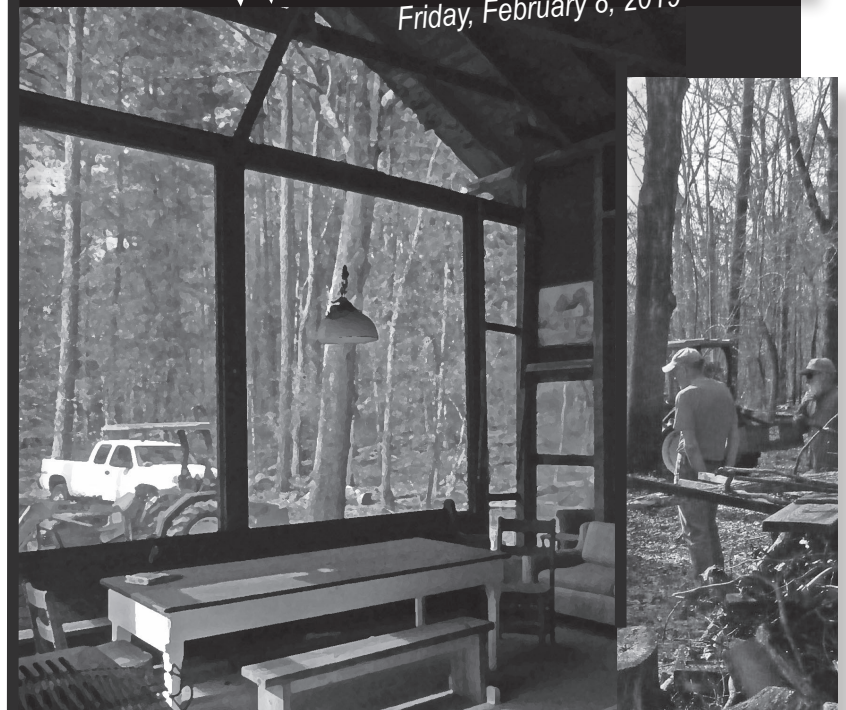
Home to the Rocky Shoals Spider Lilies

On a recent balmy, partly cloudy Friday Bill Stringer, Dale Stone, Tom Simpson, Bill Quinn, and Richard Cain put in a good day of clean-up and haul away. In the two photos at right, *Stringer raises Cain* in order to remove a strip of twisted tin from a corner of the roof. Tractor with box-blade also made easy work of scraping a deep layer of leaf and twigs debris from the main entrance road. Steve Marlow did a litter pick-up blitz.

Below, Tom saws two stumps at just the right height for additional outdoor seating...



WORKDAY
Friday, February 8, 2019

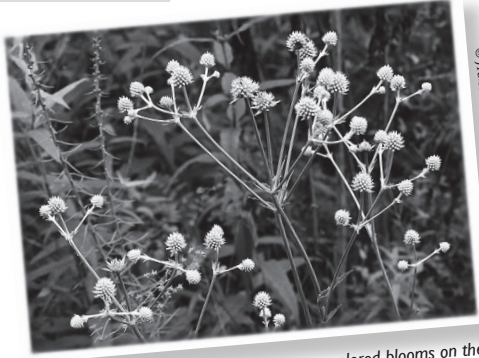


A **Society-wide field day & celebration** is tentatively scheduled for May 18th when the lilies should be in full bloom... *Stay tuned!*

**South Carolina
Native Plant Society
PO Box 1311
Chester, SC 29706**

UPSTATE Chapter

Non-profit
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"This plant will have these little tiny, tiny, cream-colored blooms on them, not super colorful. But it's the structure that's most interesting... so 'theatrical.'"
— Jon Fritz, Landscape Architect

Electronic Service Requested.

Upcoming Society Events

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A three-minute drive south of I-85 near the baseball stadium. Visit our website for more information <www.scnps.org>

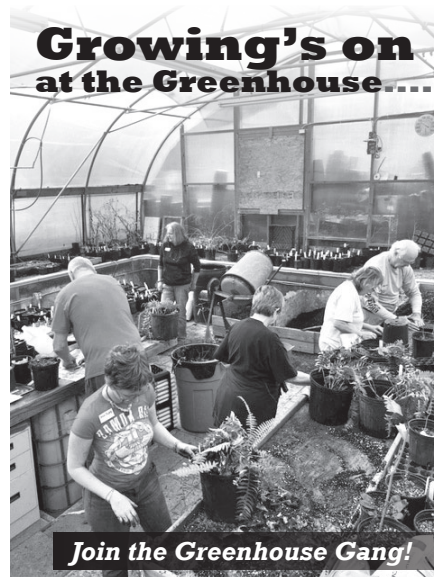
NOTE: PAID-UP MEMBERS are allowed early admittance 8:30am - 9:00am!

Tuesday, April 16, 7:00pm,
Program: *Oconee Bells and other Plants of the Jocassee Area*
Landrum Depot, Landrum, SC
Speakers: Kay and Brooks Wade

Tuesday, May 21, 7:00pm,
Program: *Shortia Around the World*
Pendleton, SC
Speaker: Dr. L.L. "Chick" Gaddy

Tuesday, June 18, 7:00pm,
Program: *Native Plants in the Sustainable Landscape*
Greenville, SC
Speaker: Dr. Ellen Vincent

Tuesday, July 16, 7:00pm,
Program: *Quail Management and Native Plants* • Landrum Depot
Speaker: Michael Small



The Greenhouse is in high gear growing plants for the **April 13 Spring Plant Sale**.

March work mornings are:

- Thursday, March 7, 9am to Noon
- Tuesday, March 12, 8:30am to Noon
- Wednesday, March 20, 8am to Noon
- Saturday, March 30, 8am to Noon.

April dates are:

- Thursday, April 4, 8am to Noon
- April 9, 10, and 11, 8am to Noon.

We transport plants to the sale site on Friday, April 12.

Email <judy_seeley@hotmail.com> with questions or to be put on the Greenhouse Gang notification list.

There is always something new to learn about propagating plants. Dress in layers and bring water and any snacks you need.

(We have the most fun!)

180 Lakewood Dr Greenville...
CLOSE TO MAULDIN ROAD

Plant Sale Volunteers Needed

It's time to volunteer for the **April 13 Spring Plant Sale**! We need *helpers for set-up* on Friday April 12 and to *run the sale* on April 13. From *greeting eager customers* waiting to enter the sale to *loading sold plants into vehicles*, there are jobs for all skill levels. The SIGN-UP form is on the website. Paste this address into your browser: <https://scnps.org/2019-plant-sale>

volunteer. You can also go to www.scnps.org and click on calendar under the activities heading. **Go to April 13.** Click on the Plant Sale and you will find the link to the sign-up form. While you are at the website, *download the sale poster and share it with your friends!* You can also sign-up on the "home" page to receive emails, called Tiny Letters, with updates on coming events. Contact

the Volunteers Coordinator, Judy Seeley at (864) 855-6396 if you have questions. All sale volunteers may shop early for plants on Friday, April 12. These sales take about 50 volunteers to run and volunteering is a great way to contribute to NPS. It is also a rewarding and enjoyable time of working with your fellow members.

--- SIGN UP NOW!