



UPSTATE happenings

NEWSLETTER OF THE UPSTATE CHAPTER OF THE SC NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
WWW.SCNPS.ORG

July 2019



Event leader, Bill Stringer, and Naturaland Trust President, Frank Holleman, address attendees at the May 18th Parks Mill Celebration.

Upcoming Society Programs, Events & Field Trips (in Bold) ± Approximate time(s)

Tuesday, July 16, 7:00pm,
Program: Quail Management and Native Plants • Landrum Depot, Landrum
Speaker: Michael Small
(See article this page.)

Thursday, July 18, 8:30am till Noon,
Greenhouse Work Day! • 180 Lakewood Dr., Greenville

We will be preparing plants for our Fall Greenhouse Sale on Oct. 4 & 5. Bring gloves, hat, water, and lots of energy to get the greenhouse and the plants into good shape for the sale. Call Miller Putnam (864) 325-9700 with questions. Email <judy_seeley@hotmail.com> to be put on the Greenhouse Gang notification list.

No Program / Meeting in August... 
Enjoy the remaining days of Summer!

Thursday, August 21, 8:30am till Noon,
Greenhouse Work Day! • 180 Lakewood Dr., Greenville

Again, we'll be preparing plants for our Fall Greenhouse Sale on Oct. 4 & 5. Bring gloves, hat, water, and lots of energy to get the greenhouse and the plants into good shape for the sale. Call Miller Putnam (864) 325-9700 with questions.

Tuesday, September 17, 7:00pm,
Program: Rudy's Playlist of Favorite Moments as a Naturalist • Greenville, SC
Speaker: Rudy Mancke

(Save the dates!)

FRIDAY, October 4th, 3pm to 7pm... and
SATURDAY, October 5th, 9am to 2pm

→ Fall Greenhouse PLANT SALE!!

180 Lakewood Drive, Greenville

Fall is the best time to plant when the weather is cooler and the new plants have plenty of time to establish their roots without a lot of stress. The greenhouse is at 180 Lakewood Drive, Greenville, about a mile from Conestee Park on Mauldin Road.

There will be a selection of trees, shrubs, perennials, ferns, vines and grasses. Cash, check and credit accepted. **We will post a list of plants in September!** Put the dates on your calendar and start a list of what you want! Call Miller Putnam at 864 325-9700 if you would like to shop at the greenhouse between now and the sale.

Tuesday, October 15, 7:00pm,
Program: Scenes from "Nature SCene"
Landrum Depot, Landrum, SC
Speaker: Jim Welch

(Continued on Page 2)

How Quail Management and Native Plants are Helping to Bring Back Our Bobwhite Quail.

If you grew up outside of a city in the Southeast, part of the fabric of your childhood memories is the familiar call of Bobwhite Quail. Today we stop and take note if we are fortunate enough to hear that sweet sound, for there has been a dramatic decline in songbirds and small game species associated with early successional habitats and grasslands.

It's not hard to guess some of the reasons. For most of the 20th century, the southeastern landscape was a diverse mosaic of row crops, native grasslands, fallow fields, and forest (ideal habitat for quail), but land use has changed. Humankind is bent on developing "vacant land" and — in the Southeast at least — Mother Nature tries to fill it with forests. Grasses and fast-growing forbs are the first plants to colonize bare soil. Then shrubs and seedling trees, then thickets of saplings. Pines often thrive in the early stages, but eventually large hardwoods will likely dominate.

This process is called plant succession and quail have a particular place in it. That place is during the early stage of succession when the land is weedy or brushy, especially if there are thickets interspersed where quail can find refuge for hiding.

Habitat edge, where a field meets a forest, pond or fencerow, is often better for quail than a uniform habitat. To enhance the "edge effect," large fields can be divided into several small fields. High quality edge habitat consists of a gradual transition zone of diverse plant communities of different types and heights, including native grasses, legumes and shrubs.

Often landowners have a great native seedbank and just need to add a couple of habitat management practices to get things moving in the right direction. Simple steps like mowing in March instead of October, occasionally discing instead of bush-hogging, and avoiding the use of pesticides.

Our speaker Michael Small, biologist with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, will discuss specific things we can do to enhance quail habitat and the role that native plants play in that process.

Managing for bobwhite benefits many other wildlife species, including songbirds, pollinators, rabbits, wild turkey and deer — the "fringe benefits" of conservation work!



Michael Small

Biologist

SC Department of Natural Resources

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

Tues., July 16, 7:00 pm

****Landrum Depot****
211 North Trade Avenue

Landrum, SC 29356

Quail illustration by David Basenger

A BIG, BIG THANK YOU to Miller and Kitty Putnam!



AFTER FIVE YEARS of directing a terrific crew of volunteers to grow and tend plants at the greenhouse, Miller and Kitty Putnam are retiring from leading the efforts. They have given endless hours of their time and energy, provided equipment, installed irrigation, planned, kept track of inventory, and devoted themselves to the greenhouse. They still love propagating and growing plants and will continue on a small scale but are ready to be free from the constant responsibilities of watering thousands of plants and being in charge at work days. They will continue leadership through the Fall Sale.

So, what happens then? We need your suggestions and ideas. Miller and Kitty are willing to let others use part

of the greenhouse. Could you be a leader? We are also looking for members who would be willing to propagate or "babysit" some plants for the sales at their own property. Several of our members take divisions from plants at their homes, care for the plants and then deliver them for the spring sale. Would you be willing to do that?

Do you have a home greenhouse? What are your ideas for helping the Upstate grow plants instead of having to buy them from commercial growers? The large profits at our last four sales were due in great part to the much lower costs of growing our own perennials. Please send your suggestions to our Upstate President, Virginia Meador, at <vmeador@camperdown.org> Feel free to call Miller at (864) 325-9700 with questions or ideas. You may also contact Judy Seeley at (864) 855-6396.

Final Tally for the Spring Plant Sale

TADA!! The Spring Sale had a net profit of \$16,268.90 with total sales, including our guest vendors, of \$27,298.00. This does not include the ongoing sales directly from the greenhouse.

If you would like to see our upstate budget, please contact Virginia Meador or any board member. Your board would love to hear from you with your ideas, concerns, and suggestions. The board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6pm, usually at the Swamp Rabbit Café. Please join us sometime and learn more about the "workings" of the Upstate Board. We are looking for new members for the board.

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

UPSTATE Chapter



Changes are coming at the greenhouse...
(See top of Page 2.)



Have you seen ME this Spring?

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
GREENVILLE, SC
PERMIT NO. 618

Electronic Service Requested.

Upcoming Society Events

... continued from page 1

Tuesday, November 19, 7:00pm, Program: Chattooga Conservancy Projects: Native cane restoration and more • Tri-County Technical College, Pendleton • Speaker: Buzz Williams

Tuesday, December 10, 7:00pm, Christmas Social/Party! Botany Bingo returns with a new round of fun and prizes! • Greenville, SC

★★★★★

Have you seen Me..?

I am *Penstemon australis* with common names such as Southern Beardtongue and Downy Beardtongue. I may be spotted along Upstate roadsides and powerline rights-of-way, blooming in April and May!

Naturaland Trust and the NPS Upstate Chapter are partnering again to protect our native plant heritage.

Naturaland Trust has stepped forward to protect 40 acres of Oconee Bell habitat on Boone's Creek in Oconee County. About 85% of this rare plant's habitat was eliminated when Lakes Jocassee and Keowee were built. Most of the remaining plants live on properties owned by Duke Energy and government agencies around the lakes. This parcel is privately owned and is on a pristine creek that flows into Lake Keowee, just south of Lake Jocassee. It was up for sale for development, and conservationists thought we could not stand by and lose part of the remaining habitat of this rare plant. Naturalists tell us that this population is especially important, because it has evolved to live in the most southerly part of the Oconee Bell's range and thus is most adapted to survive a warming climate.

In the past, Naturaland Trust and the Upstate Chapter have partnered to protect the Parks Mill rocky shoals spider lily site in McCormick County, Janie's Prairie and its native plants on the Middle

Saluda River, and bunched arrowhead habitat just above Travelers Rest.

Now, Naturaland Trust and local conservationists have to raise the \$290,000 to pay for this important Oconee Bell habitat. The Upstate Chapter has committed to donate 10% of the purchase price over the next three years. We still have 90% to go!

If you want to help protect one of the world's rarest plants and an icon of the Upstate's native plant heritage, donate by going to <<http://www.naturalandtrust.org>> This is a chance for our generation of native plant supporters to demonstrate that we value one of our region's most precious plants.

— Frank Holleman



Frank Holleman, III, is President of Naturaland Trust. He is a senior attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center with an office in Chapel Hill, NC. Frank and his wife, Anne, reside in Greenville.