



Midlands Chapter South Carolina Native Plant Society Newsletter

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President

Marigold Wilson
mnpresident@gmail.com

Vice-President

Bill McCullough
mnpvicepresident@gmail.com

Secretary

Donna Greenwold
mnpsecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer

Deborah Hughes
mnpstreasurer69@gmail.com

Programs/Field Trips Chair

Rayanne Staubly
mnpprograms@gmail.com

Newsletter/Publicity Chair

Currently unfilled position

Plant Swap Chair

Currently unfilled position

Chapter Representative

Don McInnes
mnpchapterrep@gmail.com

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Letters from President Marigold Wilson

Welcome to the Midlands Chapter of the SC Native Plant Society's first Newsletter. It is with great pride and respect for our active members that I report that our Chapter has been successfully revitalizing since September 2016. Now in February 2019, we have voted-upon bylaws, an organized Board, and are beginning to grow Committees, which I strongly encourage anyone interested to join.

This letter that you are reading is but a piece of an effort divided among many hands. The educational speakers at our general meetings every odd-numbered month have been vastly informative and interesting, and the State Board of the SC Native Plant Society has generously guided us to field trip locations throughout the Mid-

lands area and the biannual Spring & Fall plant swaps have had a plethora of plants available for the taking, spreading the power of native biodiversity to the yards of interested citizens.

My deepest thanks go to our Vice President, Bill McCullough, for introducing me to and insisting I investigate the idea of feeding a thousand creatures, aside from humans, in our gardens in 2016. In America today, we the people are often referred to as "consumers." Volunteering for this cause has enabled me to view myself as a true "citizen". As another plant enthusiast once told me, "You can't go wrong with plant people. They must be patient and kind to tend to their gardens; good people." Ours is a cause both locally accessible in your own yard,



**Mystery Plant
Can you guess what this is?**

This native plant is widespread throughout South Carolina. It has a single winter leaf that withers in the spring and produces a bloom stalk in the summer.

preeminently urgent (as habitat insect population), and filled with wildly creative opportunities for learning, applying new knowledge, and leading. Together we can cleave to the concept that our hands in the dirt can improve our habitat for all creatures and our voices, spreading the word, can improve our naturally, more biodiverse than a rainforest, state of South Carolina. I wish you all the best on your native plant journey.

**Featured Cause
Opinion Submitted by Bill McCullough**

One of our missions is to help protect habitats and endangered species. With the Trump administration already attempting to remove seventy-eight environmental rules and with our own local issues, we have plenty of causes we can support. My Cause for discussion, for this first newsletter, is the assault

on wetlands. South Carolina is fortunate to have many diverse natural resources. One of the most important and endangered natural resource is wetlands.

Why are wetlands important? Some of the benefits that they provide are flood

control, erosion control, wildlife habitat, water quality improvement, educational sites, and recreation. Most of the protections are through the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (The Clean Water Act).

One of the problems is the definition of wetlands under



Seep in the Carolina Sandhills NWR

Fun Fact:

Did you know that South Carolina is the 2nd most Swampy State in the US?



Quick and Easy Persimmon Pepper Jam

Featured Cause Opinion submitted by Bill McCullough, cont'd

the jurisdiction of the federal government. The Act mentions waters having a link to navigable waters but also “waters of the United States.” Some interpreted this phrase to include intermittent streams, prairie potholes, pocosins, and similar waters.

Farmers, land developers, and drilling and mining companies have fought this interpretation. A Supreme Court decision in 2006 decided that federal jurisdiction is not limitless, but the decision did not end in binding case law. They kept the significant nexus test but wanted a stronger connection between federal navigable waters and wetlands.

The Clean Water Act has been amended several times and has been supported by Republican and Democratic presidents. George H. W. Bush, an avid fisherman, amended the Clean Water Act to include the concept of “no net loss” of wetlands. George W. Bush added teeth to the enforcement of his

father’s regulations. The Clean Water Act’s main purpose was to cleanup and prevent water pollution. One of the problems was that some of the pollution was from water sources far from the polluted site.

Barack Obama proposed changes that allowed the federal government to have jurisdiction over water that did not have a surface connection to the navigable waters but did have a significant impact on covered waters downstream. (Obama used Anthony Kennedy’s decision in the 2006 Supreme Court decision.) These waters would include ephemeral streams, prairie potholes, Carolina bays, and pocosins to name a few.

In February, 2019, Trump has proposed removing all of Obama’s protections. His regulations are based on Anthony Scalia’s decision in the 2006 Supreme Court case in which he concluded that the federal government only has jurisdiction over

waters with a surface connection to navigable waters. Although this rollback was a campaign promise from Trump to farmers, (part of his electoral base) under Obama’s proposals farmland would continue to receive the exemptions already in place. The primary beneficiaries would be real estate developers and mine and drilling companies. So if Trump’s changes succeed, developers can fill in pocosins, Carolina bays, mountain bogs, ephemeral streams, and prairie potholes and put in subdivisions or businesses.

According to the Southern Environmental Law Center, seventy percent of South Carolina’s wetlands could lose protection. Water quality may suffer, wildlife habitats may be destroyed, and more flooding may result.

Although we are still within the comment period before these changes can go into effect, nine lawsuits have already been filed and more are likely.

Native Plant Recipe

Quick and Easy Persimmon Pepper Jam

Ingredients:

- 6 large **ripe** persimmons
- 1-2 finely chopped Jalapenos
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 lemon or lime
- 2 tblsp of water
- 1 tblsp of corn starch (more or less!)

- Peel and remove seeds from persimmons.
- Puree using food processor.
- Over medium heat in a medium sauce pan combine with jalapenos and sugar and boil for about 15 minutes.
- Mix water, corn starch and mix to dissolve corn starch and then add lemon juice and combine with puree.

- Boil on low and cook for 15 minutes more or until thickened.
- Pour into jar and seal. Can be frozen for up 3 month or refrigerated for up to 3 weeks.

Delicious poured on top of softened Brie or cream cheese and served with water crackers.

Midlands Chapter Upcoming Events

Midlands Chapter General Meeting Thursday March 14th, 7 – 8:30 pm, at Richland Library St. Andrews, Broad River Road

Calhoun County Library Native Plant Presentation Tuesday March 19th 7 – 9pm

Newsletter/Publicity Committee Meeting Thursday March 28th 6:30 – 8:30pm
M Kitchen restaurant

Field Trip TBD Sunday March 30th

Spring Plant Swap Saturday April 6th 10 – 12pm at Richland Library St Andrews, Broad River Road

Midlands Plant & Flower Festival April 11 - 14th State Farmer's Market

Earth Day Event April 20th at Wingard's Nursery

Riverbanks Zoo Earth Day Event-Party for the Planet Earth Day Festival April 22nd

"Earth Day: Why Native Plants Matter" Presentation April 23rd 6:30 – 8pm -Richland Library St Andrews, Broad River Road

Nature Conservancy Peachtree Rock Event April 27th

For more information about any of these events please contact Marigold Wilson.



Plant Swap!

**The Next
Plant Swap is
April 6th!**

**The Next
General
Meeting is
March 14th!**

**See you
there!**

Bringing Nature Home by Douglas Tallamy Book Review written by Marigold Wilson

I was originally encouraged to read this book by the Native Plant Society, and it was worth running to the library. This book is a fantastic resource – if you read only one book to learn about why native plants matter, let this be it.

Solid information, very readable for the non-botanist, an essential message, best de-

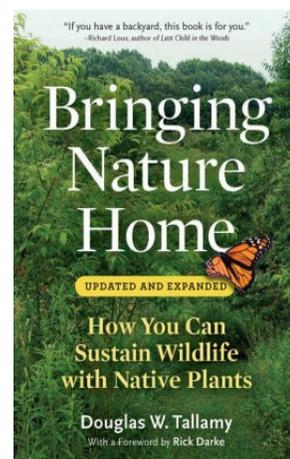
scriptions of "bird food" insects ever (how often do insect stories make you grin and laugh out loud? the entomologist in the author really shines), a comprehensive list of native plants for various American regions, and an excellent definition of what "native" really means.

Native plants are those

plants that native insects can eat to pass the energy from the sun up to all animals.

This book also explains why focusing on "butterfly/pollinator gardens" is not just for the aesthetic appeal to humans – but as an enormous food source.

Cont'd page 4



Book Review, Cont'd

Native plants mean native insects mean native birds and everything else. When you understand that human populations must be maintained by natural spaces' services (clean air, water, soil to grow food), then you will understand the importance of this movement.

Lawns are non-native, and many people spray chemicals on them, burn gas mowing them, and generally pour money into this cultural phenomenon. The conventional yard regime is something that many follow simply because it seems to be the thing to do, but with a closer look aided by this book, it is easy to realize that lawns just don't make sense on a grand scale.

This book will open your eyes to the potential personal value of the outdoor portion of your property. Your yard will become something not just to maintain, but to spend time in as it begins to thrive with local life you no longer dismiss as just "bugs". My family's efforts were rewarded with a hundred endangered migrating monarchs visiting our yard because we provided a delicious respite on their journey. Multiple species of birds nest in my yard, feeding on their young tasty caterpillars. As Douglas Tallamy explains, one nest of little chickadees needs nine thousand (9,000) protein-packed butterfly babies! The enormity of the impact of a single yard is brought home.

Read this book. Go native.

Midlands Chapter Mission Statement

- Educate and inform members and the general public about the importance of native plants.
- Support efforts by government agencies and other organizations to protect habitats and endangered species.
- Encourage the use of native plants in public and private landscaping.
- Promote the commercial availability of native plant materials.

Please Join us!

We are looking for people who are motivated to make a difference. We have open positions on several committees. If you have a skill or interest we would love to have you join us. The time commitment is very minor but the personal and community rewards are major.

Please contact one of our board members if you are interested. Thank you all for your support as members!

Contact Information:

South Carolina Native Plant Society
 PO Box 1311
 Chester, SC, 29706
<https://scnps.org/>
www.facebook.com/SCNPS/



Community Events

The Birds and the Bees in Your Backyard - Saturday, March 9th 9:00 -10:30 am. Hyatt Park, 950 Jackson Avenue, Columbia, SC Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-birds-and-the-bees-in-your-backyard-tickets-54883232225>

Spring Planting Work Day - Sunday, March 10 (Tentative) Columbia Resilience invites you to come out to the Community Orchard and help do some Spring Planting. Stay tuned for more information. We will be following weather reports closely during this time.
https://calendar.google.com/calendar/event?eid=MWw0ZTJjb2pqcTIIOTFqNXNxbHNjZ2toaGMgY29sdWliaWFyZXNpbGllbmNIQG0&ctz=America/New_York
<https://scnps.org/event/lowcountry-spring-plant-sale-5>

Upstate Plant Propagation Workshop - March 16 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Details at <https://scnps.org/event/upstate-plant-propagation-workshop>

Nightwalk at Beidler Forest – Saturday, March 16 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Francis Beidler Forest 336 Sanctuary Road, Harleyville, SC Reservations are required. No more than 20 people may participate and the cost is \$12. No children under the age of 10. Register at <https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/VunatUxSA0ihooqatcxG4A2>

Heat & Drought Tolerant Plants - Monday, March 18- 10:00 am - Ballentine Branch, Richland County Library

Butterfly Gardening - Tuesday, March 19- 10:00am - Cooper Branch, Richland County Library

Conservation Lobby Day & Oyster Roast - Tuesday, March 19, 2019 10:00 AM 8:00 PM SC State House Details at <http://www.scwf.org/events/2019/3/19/conservation-lobby-day-oyster-roast-z9ryl>

Lowcountry Lecture: The Southeastern Grasslands Initiative — A New Course for Conservation in the 21st Century - March 19 @ 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Details at <https://scnps.org/event/lowcountry-lecture-the-southeastern-grasslands-initiative-a-new-course-for-conservation-in-the-21st-century>

Upstate Lecture: Native Perennials for Form and Function - March 19 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Details at <https://scnps.org/event/upstate-lecture-native-perennials-for-form-and-function>

Pests in the Garden - Wednesday, March 20- 7:00pm – St. Andrews Branch, Richland County Library

Shorebird Steward Training - Friday, March 22 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Caw Caw Interpretive Center 5200 Savannah Hwy, Ravenel, SC Register at <https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/6r3Y9uZyEkWsfzwoHcRCBQ2>

Shorebird Steward Training - Friday, March 22 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Botany Bay Plantation 1066 Botany Bay Rd, Edisto Island Register at <https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/8SSV50jKpEe4TgJZTCRBvQ2>

Join Columbia Garden Club for Spring Plant and Tree Exchange - Saturday, March 23 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. Parking Lot of Forest Park Shopping Center in Forest Acres, 4711 Forest Drive (Across from McAlister's Deli and Bonefish Grille) Donations accepted. Come to exchange Annuals, Perennials, Trees, Shrubs, Herbs, House Plants, Bulbs and Rootings Exchange begins at 10:00 a.m. SHARP! FREE OF CHARGE

Forks, Knives, and Spoonbills: A Dinner Celebrating Conservation - Friday, March 29, 2019 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM Spotted Salamander Restaurant, 1531 Richland St., Columbia Details at <http://www.scwf.org/events/2019/1/30/forks-knives-and-spoonbills-a-dinner-celebrating-conservation>

Community Events

Spring Gardening Adult Workshop – Saturday, April 17 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Riverbanks Zoo Botanical Garden

Sandhills Botany at Peachtree Rock - Monday, April 1, 2019 9:00 AM 2:00 PM Peachtree Rock Heritage Preserve Details at <http://www.scwf.org/events/2019/04/01/sandhillsbotany>

Medicinal Herb Walk – Sunday, April 7 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. (Columbia Resilience) Details at https://calendar.google.com/calendar/event?eid=NWdhadZkYjlkbm9iOWVlM3ZqbTBpdmV2ZW4gY29sdWliaWFyZXNpbGllbmNIQG0&ctz=America/New_York

Snakes of South Carolina Wednesday, April 10, 2019 10:00 AM 3:00 PM Saluda Shoals Park Register at <http://www.scwf.org/events/2019/4/26/pro-birder-module-fyyzw-5kf2a-debwd-rgebz>

River Rocks Festival 2019 - Saturday, April 13 th noon - 8pm 555 Williams Street, Columbia, SC 29201; Next to Founders Park (the USC baseball stadium). Parking will be available in the lot at the corner of Blossom and Williams Street. Benefits Congaree Riverkeeper. Tickets: \$12 in advance; \$15 day-of. Tickets can be purchased via Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/river-rocks-festival-2019-tickets-54873786974>

Nightwalk at Beidler Forest – Saturday, April 14 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Francis Beidler Forest 336 Sanctuary Road, Harleyville, SC Reservations are required. No more than 20 people may participate and the cost is \$12. No children under the age of 10. Register at <https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/t5w76t4E6kun0spYuYwEgw2>

Oconee Bells and Other Plants of the Jocassee Area – Tuesday, April 16 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Details at <https://scnps.org/event/oconee-bells-and-other-plants-of-the-jocassee-area>

Lowcountry Field Trip: Kayaking - April 20 Details TBA — check back for updates!

Sassafras Mountain: Palmetto Pro Birder Field Day - Friday, April 26, 2019 9:00 AM 2:00 PM Pickens County, SC Register at <http://www.scwf.org/events/2019/4/26/pro-birder-module-fyyzw-5kf2a-debwd-rgebz>

Herbal Remedies Adult Workshop – Saturday, April 27 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Riverbanks Zoo Botanical Garden Details at <https://www.riverbanks.org/education/garden-programs>
