

UPSTATE happenings

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

November 2019



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

Of Interest... Wednesday, October 16, 2:00pm
"Hardscape in the Garden with Pottery of Matt Jones"

A Presentation by Eleanor Owen & Matt Jones
Tryon Garden Club at FENCE • Visitors welcome
3381 Hunting Country Road, Tryon, NC

Saturday, November 9, 9am to Noon.
Work Morning: Invasive plant removal Blackwell Heritage Preserve, Travelers Rest (See article with DIRECTIONS on Page 2.)
Volunteers needed to remove Privet on newly acquired property. Bring gloves, shovels and mattocks. Wear long pants and long sleeves (poison ivy is present) and shoes/boots ok to get muddy. Contact Virginia Meador at <vmeador@camperdown.org> to sign-up.

Tuesday, November 19, 7:00pm,
Program: Chattooga Conservancy Projects: Native cane restoration and more • Tri-County Technical College, Pendleton, SC (See story page 1.)

Tuesday, December 10, 7:00pm,
Our annual Christmas Social/Party!
Camperdown Academy, 65 Verdae Commons Dr., Greenville, SC

New! at the book table...

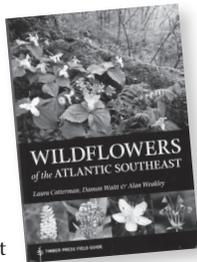
Yes, another field guide! and one that I think you'll want to add to your daypack....

As you're learning to identify wildflowers, getting a feel for the characteristics common to a plant family can be helpful, and **Wildflowers of the Atlantic Southeast** provides that.

Getting a feel for different habitats and the plants you can expect to see in them is also useful, and this guide includes a good discussion of these.

Plants are grouped by flower color, so you can, say, just thumb through the blue flowers till you find a match — but this book offers an intuitive alternative to that time-consuming approach. Within each color section, plants are grouped by easily visible features such as number of petals or leaf arrangement, so using the key on page 48 sends you directly to a page of plants that meet your search criteria. Once there, you're presented with photograph(s), description, bloom time, and an all-important range map.

Wildflowers of the Atlantic Southeast is by Laura Cotterman, Damon Waitt, and Alan Weakley, all who are affiliated with the University of North Carolina Botanical Garden at Chapel Hill.



Restoring Native Cane at Chattooga Old Town

When Buzz Williams was in high school, his English teacher chased him down the hall one day, shoved a book into his hand, and said, "You need to read this!" That book was the seminal *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson. The teacher thought it might capture the wandering attention of a boy who would sometimes cut class to go fishing. It did.

Reading *Silent Spring* launched Williams on the path to a career in conservation. And his hobby of weaving white-oak baskets led him to pair that conservation passion with restoring native cane.

The founder and former executive director of the Chattooga Conservancy, Williams is heavily involved in the non-profit's Native Cane Restoration Project, a collaborative cost-share effort with the USDA Forest Service. The project goal is to restore 29 acres of native cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*) located on the Oconee County side of the SC Highway 28 bridge that crosses the rollicking Chattooga River into Georgia. That's in the Andrew Pickens District of the Sumter National Forest.

"Native cane was once used extensively by native people for building material, baskets, flutes, blow guns, arrow shafts, and sleeping mats," said Williams. "I became interested in native cane because I make white-oak baskets and (then) became interested in the history of Cherokee cane basketmaking."

He discovered that native cane -- which provides great wildlife habitat, stabilizes stream banks, and filters sediment -- once covered as much as 10 million acres in the Southern Appalachians and Piedmont regions. It is now a rarity.

"Today native cane habitat is a critically endangered ecosystem with less than 2% remaining," Williams noted. "Ninety percent of the demise of the cane and its habitat is due to poor agricultural practices, such as extending pastures and development into riparian areas," he said. The plant's native habitat is bottomland on river banks.

At the Nov. 19 meeting, Williams will talk about the restoration efforts by the Chattooga Conservancy and its project partners – including the Eastern Band of the Cherokee, RTCAR (Revitalization of Traditional Cherokee Artisan Resources), master gardeners, and volunteers. Together that coalition has successfully restored about 5 to 6 acres of native cane and has begun to harvest the plant with the Eastern Band of Cherokee to supply sustainable material for craftsmen at Cherokee, NC.

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Native Cane

Buzz Williams

Chattooga Conservancy, Founder

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

Tues., November 19, 7:00 pm

****Tri-County Technical College****
Parker Auditorium next to Oconee Hall

(Same location as our May meeting...)

7900 US-76 • Pendleton, SC 29670

The final Greenhouse Sale on Oct. 4 & 5 was a big success! A lot of people showed up Friday, causing a BIG traffic jam. However, they did shop and shop.

The sale brought in \$10,018, a greenhouse record. That success is due in great part to **Miller and Kitty Putnam** who have generously shared and managed their greenhouse for NPS plants for many years. They are retiring from leadership and we cannot thank them enough for their generosity, devotion, and all the teaching and training they have given to volunteers.

The greenhouse has become the "Go To Place" for native plants in the upstate. Please send Miller and Kitty a thank-you card or email or thank them in person the next time you see them. The address is 180 Lakewood Dr., Greenville, SC 29607... The Millers'

email: <millerputnam@gmail.com>

The greenhouse work days have involved numerous NPS members and non-members as well! The *Greenhouse Gang* has had a lot of laughs, developed friendships, learned propagation skills, and helped produce thousands of native plants. While there have been about 100 volunteers over the years, the folks who helped with plants and preparation for this Fall Sale are: Miller and Kitty Putnam, Judy Seeley, Dale Stone, Steve Holding, Charlotte Morley and her son Jared and grandson Eric, Beverly Cain, Diane Coiner, Kay Stafford, Susan Lochridge, Julius Gunther, Janice Weakland, Virginia Meador, Don Meador, Cresida Riccardi, Doug Lockard, Janie Marlow, Denise DuPon, Frank Holleman, Mary Margaret Dragoun, Kathy Harrington, Mike Lee, Tom Simpson, Allan Moore, Amy Henderson, Bec Foss, and Cathy Bergin. On the actual sale days, Betsy George, Sally Gurrie, Ted and Betty Thern, and Dan Whitten also helped.

Great job everyone!!



Native Cane...

... continued from page 1

Native cane once grew in expansive thickets along the Reedy River in Greenville County, too. "We know this," said Williams, "because the Revolutionary War battle known as the Battle of the Great Cane Break was fought on the banks of the Reedy River near Simpsonville."

Over the years, Williams has found conservation work most satisfying. And he thanks that persistent English teacher to this day!

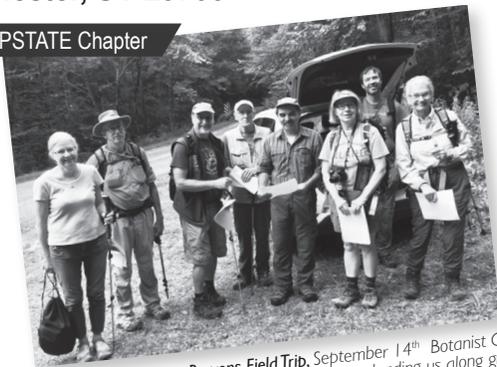
— *Lynne Lucas*

New Publicity Team Member

Welcome to **Jessica Harwood** who has joined the publicity team of Judy Seeley and Janice Weakland. Jessica will be posting on the SCNPS Facebook page and looking for other media contacts.

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

UPSTATE Chapter



Buck Creek Serpentine Barrens Field Trip, September 14th Botanist Gary Kauffman shared in-depth knowledge of the area, leading us along gravel roads and into the brush to see numerous native plants including the beautiful Blue Gentian and Rhinannon's Aster (*Symphytotricum rhinannon*)

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Blackwell Heritage Preserve Work Morning Scheduled Nov 9th

NPS along with Naturaland Trust is holding a work morning to remove invasive plants (*Privet mostly*) for a newly acquired addition to Blackwell Heritage Preserve.

The new property contains two federally protected plant species. It was saved from development through cumulative collaborative efforts by Upstate Forever, the Southern Environmental Law Center, SC Native Plant Society, Greenville County, Naturaland Trust, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Heritage Trust Program of the SC Department of Natural Resources. (Details at <https://www.upstateforever.org/news/ultrarare-plant-habitat-protected-in-travelers-rest>)

The work morning is **Saturday, November 9, 9am to no later than noon**. Wear long sleeves and long pants. There is poison ivy on the site. Wear gloves, bring shovels or mattocks as we will be pulling up and digging up privet. Some ground is damp, so wear shoes or boots that can get muddy. (Possible follow-up work days later in November.)

Directions: From Greenville and points south: Head up Poinsett Hwy towards Travelers Rest; take Highway 25 north; right as you leave the Travelers Rest business district, turn right on Blue Ridge Dr. Continue up Blue Ridge Dr. The parking area will be on the left in the pasture on the Heritage Trust property, marked with blue paint on the trees on the left side of

the road.

From north of Travelers Rest: Take Highway 25 south and turn left on Blue Ridge Drive before entering the Travelers Rest business district. Then follow directions above.

To sign-up for the work party and receive any last-minute information, please contact Virginia Meador at <vmeador@camperdown.org>



Welcome!
 New Members

- Patrick Belk, *Greenville*
- Dee McGowan, *Greenville*
- Carol Hay, *Greer*
- Janie Merritt, *Mountain Rest*
- John Pinson/Kyoko Niwa, *Inman*
- Evelyn/Bill Watkins, *Greenville*
- Candace Williams, *Pickens*