



# UPSTATE happenings

NEWSLETTER OF THE UPSTATE CHAPTER  
OF THE SC NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
[www.scnps.org](http://www.scnps.org)

February 2020



## Upcoming Programs, Events & Field Trips

**Special: Greater Greenville Gardeners Association Symposium, *The Great American Garden—Ideas for Our Times*.** Doug Tallamy, featured speaker. Greenville Convention Center, **Sat. Feb 8.** Tickets sell out quickly Register at: <https://www.ggmga.org>

**Tuesday, February 18, 7:00pm – Program: Floral Color Diversification: “*The Role of Pollinators and Abiotic Factors*”**

Tri-County Technical College, Pendleton, SC in the Parker Marshall Auditorium in Oconee Hall. **Speaker: Matt Koski – See article on Page 1.** **Saturday Feb. 22 – Cabin Fever Garden Symposium,** Presented by Cleveland County NC Extension Master Gardeners. Early bird registration is now open at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com) under Cabin Fever Garden Symposium 2020. **See article on Page 3.**

**Saturday March 7 - Field Trip: Pearson and Melrose Falls, Saluda, NC.** Led by Dan Whitten, Naturalist. This is a moderate hike, cost \$5.00. See article on Page 2 for times and contacts.

**Tuesday, March 17, 7pm – Program: “Round About Greenville and the Carolina Blue Ridge.”** Camperdown Academy, Greenville, SC **Speakers: Bill Robertson and Pam Shucker** These longtime hiking buddies will share pictures and anecdotes about some favorite places.

**Saturday, April 18 – Spring Plant Sale** Conestee Park, 840 Mauldin Rd., Greenville, SC. Paid members early entry at 8:30am. General public 9am to 1pm. See more details on Page 2.

## REMINDER:

### Dues for 2020 are Due Starting NOW.

All SCNPS dues run from Jan. 1 to Dec.31. It is time to renew at our website: [www.scnps.org](http://www.scnps.org). Click on the Membership, then renew. You can update online or print out a form to mail in. **Members that selected the recurring payment option when they joined or renewed in 2019 DO NOT NEED TO RENEW AT THIS TIME!**

## Floral Color Diversification: The Role of Pollinators and Abiotic Factors

Ever wonder how so much variation in flower color is maintained within species, how ultraviolet ‘nectar guides’ on flowers affect plant reproduction, or how abiotic factors shape floral evolution? Assistant Professor at Clemson University, Matt Koski, will share research that tackles these questions Tuesday, February 18, at Tri-County Technical College in Pendleton, SC. Koski will discuss research on flower color evolution and the Lab’s research trajectory that will take place both in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado and right here in the Upstate.

Koski joined the faculty in the Biological Sciences Department at Clemson in August 2019 after a postdoc and Research Assistant Professor appointment at the University of Virginia. He grew up in Michigan and became fascinated with flowering plant diversity during field courses as an undergraduate at the University of Michigan. Later, Koski worked as a botany intern for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the high desert and Sierra Nevada, and then conducted field work on tropical forest community dynamics in Puerto Rico.

*(Continued on Page 2.)*



*Potentilla anserina*  
“Silverweed”

## Plant Sale Update

Here is a composite of needs and issues surrounding the Annual SCNPS Upstate Spring Plant Sale:

### Mark your calendar now for the Spring Plant Sale Saturday, April 18.

Plan to volunteer with sale preparation and at the sale. This is our principal fundraiser of the year and our major outreach to the community.

Thanks to each of you who has responded to the request to volunteer as a Committee Chair for the upcoming Spring Plant Sale on April 17th and 18th! We only have three positions left for the rest of you to fight over and here they are:

**Volunteers Coordinator:** Recruit volunteers to work on all the teams,

maintain list/database of volunteers, secure an overnight guard for Friday night (because the precious plants come over from the greenhouse on Friday), and work with volunteers on day of sale.

**Special Projects:** Identify and invite presenters/demonstrators to the sale. Obtain and sell special merchandise at the sale (fertilizers, seeds, etc.) We have a list from previous years to help with this job.

**Plant Transport Coordinator:** Find and organize people with trucks and other helpers to load and transport plants from the greenhouse to the sale. Do the same to return leftover plants on Saturday after the sale is over.



Please, all of you out there, volunteer to help at your Native Plant Society's

main fundraiser. We are a fun-loving, friendly group and everyone helps everyone else, so you won't be alone if you decide to help. If we all do a little, no one person will have to do a lot. We need your help! Please contact Kathy Harrington to volunteer or for more information at: [pharmkat1965@gmail.com](mailto:pharmkat1965@gmail.com).



### We Are Also Looking for a New Publicity Chairperson:

This is a board position and includes writing press releases, updating the website, sending out *Tiny Letters*, and electronic media outreach. Training will be provided. Lots of room for your creativity and fresh new ideas. Contact Judy Seeley for more information: [Judy\\_seeley@hotmail.com](mailto:Judy_seeley@hotmail.com) or call 864 855-6396.

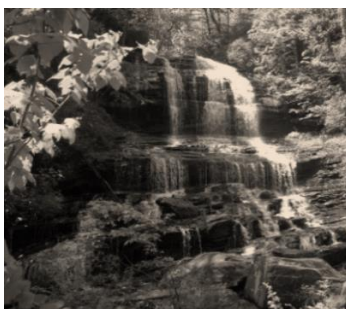
### \*\*\*Field Trip\*\*\*

#### Pearson and Melrose Falls, Saluda, NC

SCNPS will sponsor an all-day field trip to beautiful and diverse Pearson and nearby Melrose Falls in Saluda, North Carolina on March 7. Spring ephemerals such as Trout Lily and Trillium will possibly be out early and it's an easy and great place to walk. Meet Saturday March 7 at 9:20 am at 1309 Grove Road in Greenville to carpool or be at Pearson Falls by 10 am. We plan to hike from Pearson Falls around 10 am. We will do the Pearson Falls hike first where \$5 fee is required. Then we will go to nearby Melrose Falls for 1.5-mile round trip hike. Final itinerary will be sent a week prior to the event. Please dress appropriately and bring lunch and water.

Our field trip leader will be renowned local naturalist, Dan Whitten. Dan has a rich knowledge of native plants and the role they play in nature and folk culture. We are honored to provide this wonderful opportunity to share a day with Dan.

Limit: 15 people, RSVP, Contact: Rick Huffman 864-901-7583 [rick\\_huffman@earthdesignsc.com](mailto:rick_huffman@earthdesignsc.com)



### Floral Color Diversification: The Role of Pollinators and Abiotic Factors, Cont...

For Koski's postdoc, the American Bellflower, *Campanula americana* (Campanulaceae), became the focus of research. American Bellflower pollen coloration is highly variable ranging from white to deep purple. Very little was known about how and why pollen color displays such wide variation. Koski found that populations with darker pollen are found in areas of higher summer temperatures, and that dark pollen is more resilient to heat stress than lighter pollen. Thus, floral color variation is again explained by selection by the abiotic environment. So why is white pollen maintained if it is less fit? Interestingly, plants with white pollen produce more flowers and more seeds per fruit, suggesting a trade-off could maintain variation in pollen color.

For the University of Pittsburgh PhD program, Koski developed a system to examine the evolutionary ecology of floral ultraviolet color patterns. Many angiosperms display UV-absorption at the base of petals and UV-reflection at the tips of petals creating a 'bullseye' effect that is not visible to the naked human eye. These patterns were thought to have evolved in response to pollinators that are visually sensitive to UV light. However, after years of collecting data across the globe on the widespread plant, *Potentilla anserina* (Rosaceae), Koski discovered that variation in floral UV-patterns can actually be shaped by the abiotic environment. Overall, this work underscores the importance of non-pollinator agents of selection shaping floral evolution.

## Cabin Fever Garden Symposium

The **Cabin Fever Garden Symposium** will be presented by the Cleveland County NC Extension of Master Gardeners on Saturday, February 22, 2020. Tickets are available on Eventbrite under Cabin Fever Garden Symposium 2020. Early bird registration is now open.

**Cabin Fever 'Adding Value to Your Landscape'** is a Garden Symposium open to all and presented by the Cleveland County Extension of Master Gardener Volunteers. This is their third year of offering classes on all aspects of gardening, for beginners through professionals, in the landscape field.

### Special Guests:

**Dr. Larry Mellichamp** - University of North Carolina Charlotte Botanical Gardens, Director Emeritus and recently retired Professor of Botany and Horticulture at UNCC.

**Opening Keynote:** "Why Grow Native Plants"

**Closing Keynote:** "Some of the Best Southeastern Natives for the Home Landscape"

This is a great time to be gardening in the South. There are many new plants becoming available each year, including natural species and especially cultivar selections of our favorite trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns, and perennials. There is a trend towards using more natives, not just because they are better adapted to our warm southern climates but also because they're interesting in their own right and support native bees, butterflies and birds. Homeowners will be asking for them. They ought to be known and grown more widely in the landscape.

**Robert "Craig" Mauney** - NC Cooperative Extension Area Specialized Agent, Commercial Vegetable & Fruit Production, Western Region

**Topic: The Edible Landscape:** Learn how to develop an edible landscape or transition your existing landscape into one with edible plants. Growing edibles in your landscape is an option for gardeners who have limited space or who want to incorporate some fruits and vegetables into their garden beds without having to establish garden space for edibles alone.

Find out which edible plants will do well in the existing landscape and how to transition the landscape to have more edible plants.

**Pam Fish** - Known as the "lavender lady", Pam is the owner of Lucy Mae Lavender Farm in Haywood County and a lavender grower with experience in Cleveland and Durham counties. She has been a Health and PE teacher for 34 years.

**Topic:** Growing and Using Lavender

Pam will present information on growing lavender successfully in your location, processing lavender and the variety of uses you will find for this wonderful plant.

**Kelly Malone** - Second generation member of a family nursery business that has served the Charlotte area since the late 1970's. Malone's Nursery is a hidden treasure featuring sedums, succulents, cacti, bonsai, tropical and air plants.

**Topic: Growing Succulents:** Kelly will demonstrate how to make and maintain succulent gardens and will also have succulents available for purchase.

**Dr. Pat Parr** - Past president of the Cleveland County Master Gardeners Association and has completed the UNC Native Plant Certificate Program. She holds a BS, Masters and CA from SUNY New Paltz; a Master's from Canisius College in Buffalo, NY; and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from NOVA Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

**Topic: Propagation:** Passing Along Legacy Plants: Propagation is both an art and science to produce a new plant from an existing one. We will review the basic principles of propagation and become familiar with common methods of creating new plants. Participants will leave with a small start of a legacy plant that Pat would like to pass along with your help.

Join us to discover more about these topics and acquire additional tips to enhance your gardening skills. Whether you are new to Cleveland County or have gardened here for many years, the presenters will help you learn and grow as a gardener. More information can be found at <https://cleveland.ces.ncsu.edu/>

**Registration Fees:** Early Bird tickets at \$60 each are available through Jan. 31, 2020. Regular admission tickets at \$65 each begin on Feb. 1, 2020 and end March 4, 2020

**How to Register:** Preregistration is required. Registration for the Symposium and class choices will be through Eventbrite. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cabin-fever-garden-symposium-2020-tickets-83428032491>



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UPSTATE Chapter

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### **Please Welcome Our New Members**

Frank Crane – Clayton, GA  
Judy Buck, Salem, SC  
Melisa Garvais – Greenville, SC  
Tom Crawford – Simpsonville, SC  
Jessica Lazenby – Greenville, SC  
Michael C. Stewart – Greenville, SC



### **Quick Tips:**

Remember, it is winter and there are several things you can do, not just for your native plants, but for the animals and soil that support and benefit from them. As it is a warm winter, there are more than a few things to act on:

- Feed and water birds extra
- Use leaves as natural mulch
- Compost anything you can
- Drain objects that gather water, as mosquitos are being born early this year and will continue
- Cover/protect your water spigots in case of freeze
- Tread carefully in brush as snakes may return from hibernation due to unusually warmer weather
- Prepare a list of early spring chores and keep it where you can see it, so you can plan ahead
- ***Make sure the Native Plant Sale is on your list!***

### **Oconee Bells**

Mark your calendars for BellFest on March 14, 2020 at Devils Fork State Park from 10am to 3pm. Featured will be the Oconee Bells in bloom, some seed grown plants for sale, exhibits, music, clogging, medicinal plant walk, naturalist interpretation on Bell trail and more. Featured speaker at noon is Tim Lee, naturalist at Jones Gap State Park and Caesar's Head State Park. Contact Dan Whitten to volunteer at SCNPS exhibit at [sdwhit10@aol.com](mailto:sdwhit10@aol.com). Will be listed on Page 1 calendar in March edition.

