



UPSTATE happenings

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

January 2020



Upcoming Programs, Events & Field Trips

Of Interest...

Saturday, January 11, 9:00am – **Workday 2:**
Privet Removal, Blackwell Heritage Trust
Preserve – See article on Page 2

Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 2:00 pm
**An Inventory of the Significant Natural
Areas of Polk County**

Published by David Campbell with Pam Torlina
Presented by: The Tryon Garden Club
Guests welcome at FENCE
3381 Hunting Country Road, Tryon NC

Tuesday, January 21, 7:00pm - **Program:**
**To the West and Back – “A Journey that
Exceeded All Expectation!”**

Landrum Depot, Landrum, SC
Speakers: Dan/Sherrie Whitten

**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.gmgga.org>

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

Tri-County Technical College, Pendleton, SC
Speaker: Matt Koski

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.

Please Welcome our New Members

Tobias Blue – Greenville SC

Douglass Pratt – Taylors SC



To the West and Back – A Journey that Surpassed All Expectations!

Lewis & Clark and the Corps of Discovery? Well, uh, no, not that one. The journey we'll hear about is a tad more recent, but it too was fueled by a quest for knowledge and filled with the thrill of discovery.

In 2019 Dan and Sherrie Whitten visited 24 states, hiking, looking and learning. There's much plant life in the West that is totally unlike that of our lush green southern mountains and adjacent gentle hills, but there are a surprising number of plants that are jarringly similar.

For instance, *Maianthemum stellatum* / *Smilacina stellata* (Starry Solomon's Plume, Starflower, or - the name that says it all! - Star-flowered False Solomon's Seal) is immediately recognizable. But wait... and you bring up in your mind's eye an image of the plant you're more familiar with, and ponder the ways in which the two species differ: The western Starflower's flowers are fewer, larger, and more star-like than those of our familiar False Solomon's Seal / Eastern Solomon's Plume (*M. racemosum* / *S. racemosa*), and they are borne in a raceme not a many-branched panicle. (Continued on Page 3.)



Star-flowered False Solomon's Seal

Photo by J.K. Marlow

If You Can't Beat 'em, ...Eat

'em! (Part 2):

By Dan Whitten

Andre Michaux was sent to America in 1785 by the French government to seek new plants that might be of value to France. In his search through upstate South Carolina, western N. Carolina and eastern Tennessee, he found and described many new species and carried pressed specimens back to France and placed them in a botanical museum in Paris.

But he also brought some plants to his friends and from his own garden established in Charleston, SC, with

specimens from other parts of the world, such as the Mimosa.

Michaux introduced many species to America including the Ginkgo, Camelia, Crape Myrtle, Tea-Olive, Parasol Tree, and Mimosa. The last two have become naturalized and **invasive**.

Albizzia julibrissin (also called Persian silk tree, pink silk tree, or Mimosa) is a species of tree in the family *Fabaceae*, native to south-western and eastern Asia. Its flowers have medicinal value for improving your sense of wellbeing. One way to prepare it is to fill a jar with fresh mature flowers (around June) and then add local honey.

Let the jar set in a cool place for six weeks and strain. Take a spoonful whenever needed to make you happier.

If you can't beat 'em.... Eat 'em!



Photo courtesy of Ben Geer Keys

Blackwell Heritage Nature Preserve

Work Morning

Building on the great progress we made November (see *November 2019 newsletter for original article*), NPS and Naturaland Trust will have a second work morning to remove invasive plants (*privet mostly*) at Blackwell Heritage Preserve. As you may know, the land is home to two federally protected plant species and was saved from development through the efforts of concerned local residents and a large group of interested organizations (including NPS, Naturaland Trust, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the SC DNR). The work morning is **Saturday January 11, 9am until noon** or so. Wear long sleeves and long pants. There is poison ivy at the site. Wear gloves and bring shovels or mattocks as we will be pulling up and digging up privet. Some ground is damp, so wear shoes and boots that can get muddy.

Directions from Greenville and Points South: Head up Poinsett Highway towards Travelers Rest; take Hwy 25 north; and just as you leave the Travelers Rest business district, turn right on Blue Ridge Drive. 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.



Directions from North of Travelers Rest: Take Hwy 25 south and turn left on Blue Ridge Drive before entering the Travelers Rest business district. Then follow the directions above.

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

Our work there in November made great progress in removing large areas of privet and liberating wetland areas around bunched arrowhead populations. Over time, we will restore this important part of our Upstate native plant heritage. We also want to give due credit to local residents involved in the effort. They raised the alarm about the proposed development and the harm it threatened to the Preserve and the surrounding community and have joined with conservation groups to fight the proposed development.

Jump in and help the cause!

ASIDES....

Champions! Our very own Kathy Harrington has a great idea! For future editions, we will interview our members that do the heavy work... board members, volunteers and those that champion causes at the expense of countless hours of personal time. Many are long-time members devoted to the environment and NPS. They have diverse backgrounds and many talents. These "**Champion Spotlights**" will educate new and existing members about these rich resources and opportunities, and hopefully motivate many to participate more. Thanks Kathy!

Big Thank You to Three NPS Board Members

There are changes happening on the Upstate board of directors. As of the end of 2019, Steve Marlow has resigned as newsletter editor, JoAnne Conner has asked to step down as Membership chair, and Tom Weathers has completed his term as Upstate Treasurer. Thank you all for your dedicated service to the Upstate Chapter.

Steve Marlow has resigned as newsletter editor. Steve has created beautiful newsletters for the past five years, keeping us informed of chapter happenings, writing many articles and adding great photos. He and Janie made a terrific team. Keith Manchester, a member, is taking his place starting this month.

JoAnne Conner has served on the board for 5 years! As Membership chair, she called all new members to warmly welcome them to the group, to

find out their interests and direct them to activities and opportunities of interest in NPS. She will be missed on the Board.

Tom Weathers stepped in a year ago to accept a one-year term as the Upstate Treasurer. Tom provided monthly budget updates and income and expenditures logs and coordinated our income and expenses with the State NPS Treasurer. We will also miss you, Tom.

When you see any of these folks at a general meeting or other activity, please thank them in person.

Openings on the Board of Directors

As you might guess, we are looking for a new Membership Chair and a new Upstate Treasurer. You would serve not only in the specific job but as a board member directing the activities of the upstate chapter. Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday evening of each month, usually at the Swamp Rabbit Café in Greenville. For more information, contact Virginia Meador at <vmeador@camperdown.org>.

The Greenhouse

The NPS greenhouse still has several thousand plants to maintain, even though Miller and Kitty Putnam have "retired" from being in charge. Doug Lockard and a small crew of volunteers are making regular visits to the greenhouse to water and check on plants. More volunteers are always welcome, especially starting in March. Contact Doug at:

<doug.lockard@email.com>. We also need folks willing to propagate native plants at their own property and have them ready for the spring sale on April 18, 2020. Interested?? Contact Judy Seeley at <judy_seeley@hotmail.com>.

Dues for 2020 are due starting NOW. All SCNPS dues run from January 1 to December 31. It is time to go to the website (www.scnps.org) and renew. Click on the Membership heading, then renew. You can update online quickly or print out a form to mail in. Put it on your "To Do" list for January.

To the West and Back – A Journey that Surpassed All Expectations!

(Continued from Page 1)

Erythronium grandiflorum (Glacier Lily) is another look-alike. At first glance Glacier Lily looks like a robust version of our delicate Trout Lily (*E. umbilicatum*)... but look closely! Its leaves are not mottled, and its flowers don't have the purple backing. About it, Flora of North America states "This beautiful species is often very abundant in mountain meadows of western North America, especially in the Rocky Mountains, where it may form spectacular displays."

Dan and Sherrie Whitten are both Master Naturalists as well as being active SCNPS members. If you've been on a field trip with them you can attest to their keen powers of observation, and it will be a pleasure to see western flora through their eyes!

— Janie Marlow

Tuesday, January 21, 7:00pm Program: To the West and Back – "A Journey that Exceeded All Expectation!" Landrum Depot, Landrum, SC Speakers: Dan/Sherrie Whitten

Dan is a Past President and frequent field trip leader of SCNPS's Upstate Chapter, Past President of the Upstate Master Naturalist Association, an instructor in the South Carolina Native Plants Certificate program, and tour boat captain with Jocassee Lake Tours. Sherrie is President of Friends of Jocassee and Past President of the Upstate Master Naturalist Association.



Glacier Lily

Photo by: J.K. Marlow

South Carolina
Native Plant Society
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UPSTATE Chapter



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We are Staffing Up for the Spring Plant Sale

April 17 and 18 – 8:30 to 1pm

Enthusiastic NPS members are needed to put on a great plant sale. Our Motto: “*If everyone does a little, no one does TOO much*”. You have an opportunity for leadership! You don’t have to be an expert, just willing to organize one aspect of the sale and then make it happen. Here are some of the opportunities:

Plant Sale Coordinator: Work with and coordinate the activities of the plant sale committee. *Position FILLED: Kathy Harrington*

Plant Ordering Team: Decide what plants are wanted for sale, locate suppliers and prices, order plants, arrange for delivery/pick-up of plants. *Positions OPEN to join this team.*

Volunteers Coordinator: Recruit volunteers, maintain list/database of volunteers, hire overnight guard, work with volunteers on day of sale. *Position OPEN*

Guest Vendor Liaison: Recruit and work with guest vendors, provide colored plant price stakes, collect, and count price stakes at end of sale. *Position OPEN*

Publicity Team: Create, print, and distribute flyers, press release and calendar listings and submit to local media. Post on local on-line calendars, arrange tv interviews, seek out new avenues of publicity. Already on the team: *Team Leader: Judy Seeley. TEAM MEMBERS STILL NEEDED.*

Site Manager: Supervise site set-up Friday, April 17 and set-up and tear-down on Saturday. Could be two people. *Position(s) OPEN*

Plant Picture ID Cards: Create and have laminated any new picture ID cards needed. *Position FILLED: Cathy Bergin.*

Plant Information Labels: Print labels to attached to each plant. Order supplies if needed. This job requires availability and flexibility two weeks before the sale. *Position FILLED: Dan W.*

Special Projects: Identify and invite presenters/demonstrations to the sale. Obtain and sell special merchandise at the sale. (fertilizers, seeds, tee shirts, etc.) *Position OPEN*

Plant Transport Coordinator: Find and organize people with trucks and other helpers to load and transport plants from the greenhouse to

the sale site. Do the same to return left-over plants on Saturday afternoon. *Position OPEN*
Equipment Transport: Pick-up and transport tables, canopies, signs, etc. from the storage unit and return them on Saturday. Requires a truck. *Position OPEN*

Gatekeeper/New Member Sign-up: Entrance times: 8:30-9am am for PAID MEMBERS only. 9am to 1pm for the general public. At entrance gate, check member IDs from a master list, sign-up new members on the spot, and actively solicit people to join the plant sale email notification list. *Position OPEN*

Hospitality: Buy, bake or recruit bakers for volunteer refreshments. Provide water and coffee on both Friday and Saturday. Purchase cups, napkins, etc. *Position OPEN*

Take plant inventory both pre- and post-sale: Coordinate an inventory of the plants on the ground late Friday and again immediately when the sale closes on Saturday. This requires at least two teams of two each on both Friday and Saturday. *Position OPEN*

Contact Kathy Harrington to volunteer or for more information.
<pharmkat1965@gmail.com>