

Fall 2020 Newsletter (Part II)

South Carolina Native Plant Society, Lowcountry Chapter

Greetings, fellow Lowcountry SCNPS members! As promised, here is part two of our fall newsletter, with information about October-December events as well as our upcoming elections.

Due to ongoing public health challenges, we will continue to hold lectures online this fall. In April, May, and September of 2020, we held our meetings online through Facebook Live. If you missed those lectures, they are available for viewing at your convenience on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/SCNPS); click on the "Videos" link on the left side of the page to access recordings. To expand lecture viewing and interaction options, our October and November meetings will be accessible both by Facebook Live and by Zoom. In December, our holiday party will be virtual, and to facilitate real-time interaction it will be held 100% on Zoom (no Facebook Live).

If you have not already subscribed to the state-wide SCNPS email list, we encourage you to consider doing so (<http://tinyletter.com/scnps>). The SCNPS email list is used to disseminate announcements about lectures (including Zoom invitations), field trips, plant sales, and other related events and information. If you wish to unsubscribe at any time, an unsubscribe link is included at the bottom of every email. Because it takes time to print newsletters/postcards and then distribute them through the USPS, the SCNPS email list is often the first way that members will hear about upcoming events.

Over the next few months, we look forward to engaging with you through a state-wide annual meeting, a new style of plant sale, a field trip, lectures, and a virtual holiday party!

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 13th: Virtual state-wide SCNPS Annual Meeting, featuring Dr. Richard Porcher:

"Rediscovering the Cultural and Natural Landscape of the Lowcountry in the Footsteps of Our Ancestors"

Time/Location: This meeting will be held online on Tuesday, 10/13, at 6:00 pm via Zoom (subscribe to our email list to receive a Zoom invitation) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/SCNPS)

Description: Celebrate Native Plant Week 2020 with a state-wide SCNPS virtual meeting! In place of an in-person meeting, we will be streaming live on Facebook and Zoom. President Katie Ellis will provide updates about SC Native Plant Society business, followed by Dr. Porcher's talk (description follows), and then the meeting will conclude with an opportunity for questions and discussion. The Lowcountry is primarily an anthropocentric landscape, one in which man and nature have created ever since the first European settlement in 1670. Swamps that were cleared to grow rice are now freshwater marshes (see the Cooper River); inland swamps that were dammed to create rice reservoirs harbor today some of the best habitat for wading birds; vast acreage of forests today are secondary forests that reclaimed fields that were abandoned; Native American shell rings, mounds and middens led to a unique plant community that developed on the shell deposits; and many Carolina bays harbor a totally different community than at settlement time. Throughout the natural Lowcountry are abandoned cultural sites that tell us where we came from as a society. Dr. Porcher's PowerPoint presentation will elucidate this anthropocentric landscape through photographs and commentary.

October 17th: Charleston Native Plant Market at Charles Towne Landing State Park

The Lowcountry Chapter will hold a different kind of plant sale this fall based on social distancing and safety guidelines. On October 17th from 9:00-noon, we will have a farmer's-market-like plant sale open to the public, with five local vendors: Bottle Tree Gardening, Let It Grow, Milkweed Madness, Plants Galore, and Roots and Shoots Nursery.

Mask wearing will be required. Each vendor will handle their own check-out process (cash, check, or credit card). In contrast to our usual sales, there will not be a central check-out or a plant holding area, and shoppers will need to bring their own box, cart, or wagon to carry plants. SCNPS volunteers will be on hand to help shoppers and vendors. A list of plants for sale will be posted on the SCNPS website <https://scnps.org/scnps-news> by October 10th.

If you are not able to participate in this fall's native plant market, don't worry! There are other ways to purchase native plants locally! Roots and Shoots Nursery (<https://rootsandshootsnursery.com/>) in West Ashley is open Tuesday-Saturday every week, and Bottle Tree Gardening (<https://www.facebook.com/Bottle-Tree-Gardening-200464484068043/>; 843-870-5974) in McClellanville is open some Saturdays and by appointment.

November 7th Field Trip: Butterflies and Native Plants

Time/Location: Saturday, 11/7, 10:30 AM; Francis Marion National Forest

Professor Brian Scholtens will lead a 10-person butterfly walk, focusing on the relationship between South Carolina butterflies and their host plants. Since butterfly activity tends to decrease as fall progresses, this month's field trip will occur prior to the lecture in order to maximize the chance of diverse butterfly sightings. To register (required), contact Austin Trousdale by email (awt3rd@gmail.com; preferred) or phone (864-554-8722). Lowcountry members will receive priority registration, and additional details will be emailed to registrants.

November 17th Lecture: South Carolina Butterflies and Their Host Plants

Time/Location: This meeting will be held online on Tuesday, 11/17, at 6:30 pm via Zoom (subscribe to our email list to receive a Zoom invitation) and on Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/SCNPS)

Presenter: Professor Brian Scholtens (Biology Department, College of Charleston)

Description: South Carolina has more than 160 species of butterflies ranging from subtropical species that migrate to our coast counties to north temperate species that barely make it into the state in our mountains. We are most familiar with the wide-ranging species that use widespread plants as caterpillar hosts, but many butterfly species have specific habitat and host plant requirements that require you to seek them out. Dr. Scholtens will discuss common butterfly species, but will also focus on host plant relationships of butterfly species found in some of South Carolina's most unique and interesting habitats.

December 15th: Mini Lecture, Board Introductions, and Virtual Holiday Party

Time/Location: This meeting will be held online on Tuesday, 12/15, at 6:30 pm via Zoom (subscribe to our email list to receive a Zoom invitation)

Event Description: Our holiday party will be a little different this year and will begin with a 20-minute talk (details below), followed by an introduction of the SCNPS board members for 2020-2022, and then time for socializing.

Speaker: Rebecca Fanning, Master's Student in Environmental Studies at the College of Charleston

Lecture Description: Rebecca will present on her Master's thesis research using hand built structures made of logs and tree limbs to repair erosion-incised streams (slow the water, drop out sediment, build stream beds back up) and to envision what restoration should look like from a plant community perspective.

LOWCOUNTRY SCNPS ELECTIONS & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Every two years, the Lowcountry chapter holds informal elections for positions on the Lowcountry Board. The Board provides a panel of nominees; in addition, all chapter members in good standing are eligible to nominate themselves (or other members) to board positions. Nominations are due to Sharleen Johnson (sharleen.p.johnson@gmail.com) by October 31st. If there is only one nominee for a given position, then that nominee will be considered elected by default. If there is more than one nominee per position, elections will take place in November. Election results will be announced at the November meeting (if elections are not necessary) or at the December meeting (if elections are necessary).

Board-developed panel of nominees for December 2020-November 2022:

President: Matt Johnson
Programs: Austin Trousdale
Field Trips: SEEKING NOMINATIONS
Plant Sale: Eddie Bernard
Plant Sale Volunteer Coordinator: Colette DeGarady
Education & Outreach: Lauren Boyd
Grants Coordinator: Evan Cook
Publicity: Laura Moses
Hospitality: Lauren Boyd
Membership: SEEKING NOMINATIONS

If you are considering nominating yourself for a specific board position, please reach out to Sharleen to learn more about the responsibilities of that position. Also, the current Board encourages interested members to become “Board members at large” to learn more about what the board does, and to prepare for serving in a specific role in the future. If you would like to attend future Lowcountry Board meetings, email Sharleen.

Current Needs (PLEASE CONSIDER NOMINATING YOURSELF!)

Field Trips Chair: The Board member in charge of field trips will work with the Programs chair and the rest of the Lowcountry Board to plan field trips and to develop field trip descriptions and other communication details (map of meeting location, etc.) in collaboration with field trip leaders. Each month, the Field Trips coordinator will communicate and coordinate with field trip leaders one week in advance of the field trip, and will either attend (at least half of field trips) or identify another Board member to attend the field trip. The Board member attending the field trip will be responsible for bringing copies of the SCNPS liability waiver and ensuring that it is completed by each participant.

Membership Chair: The state-wide membership list, organized by chapter, is maintained by the State Membership Chair. The Lowcountry Membership Chair’s responsibilities are to: communicate with the State Membership Chair to receive updated membership lists; to submit the newsletter/postcard (prepared by other Board members) and updated and trimmed membership list (names and addresses and expiration dates only) to the printer/mailer each month; to obtain/prepare an updated membership list before each plant sale; to check in members for early shopping at plant sales; and to follow up on any needed address corrections.

Lowcountry Chapter Board Members

President	Sharleen Johnson	sharleen.p.johnson@gmail.com
Programs & Field Trips	Austin Trousdale	awt3rd@gmail.com
Plant Sale	Eddie Bernard	edlbernard@aol.com
Plant Sale Volunteer Coord.	Colette DeGarady	cdegarady17@gmail.com
Education & Outreach	Matt Johnson	mgjohnson@audubon.org
Education & Outreach	Lauren Boyd	la.boyd@icloud.com
Grants Coordinator	Mary Conley	mconley@tnc.org
Grants Committee Member	Evan Cook	evanoco@gmail.com
Publicity	Laura Moses	lauramoses@yahoo.com, 843-364-1976
Hospitality	Lauren Boyd	la.boyd@icloud.com
Membership	Sharleen Johnson	sharleen.p.johnson@gmail.com
Board Member/State President	Katie Ellis	kathryn.k.ellis@gmail.com, 843-906-9916



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