



UPSTATE happenings

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

August 2020



IMPORTANT NOTE

Still, most planned events and venues await rescheduling. We hope to return soon to the normalcy of enjoying our pastime, as well as the camaraderie of our fellow plant lovers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 15: 6:30 pm for Socializing, 7 pm for Program - SCNPS Annual Meeting: The annual meeting this year will be held online via the Zoom format as we have done for the June and July programs. Our presenter this year is Dr. Billy Campbell of Westminster, SC. He is also the owner of Memorial Ecosystems, a green burial service and one of the few in the country. Dr. Campbell will talk about how his idea that he put into practice fits in with natural ecosystems. Dr. Campbell is familiar with our local flora, as you might expect of a country doctor of an earlier century when they depended upon plants for medicine. Please come learn by signing up for "Tiny Letters" as described below and you will receive an invite and instructions.

TINY LETTERS SIGN-UP

SCNPS Programs - A New Way of Doing Things: Since the pandemic started, we have not been able to physically meet for field trips or programs. We still communicate with our Tiny Letter feature found on our website, SCNPS.org, with links to programs online. If you are not receiving Tiny Letter notifications, you must sign up. **There will be no live August Upstate meeting as in past years.** To subscribe go to SCNPS.org. On home page, scroll down to "Receive our Email Updates" in right hand column. At bottom of paragraph, type in your email address and click "Subscribe" button below. You will receive invites to future meetings and links that allow you to join. Otherwise, we have no way of giving you timely important information.

---Dan Whitten - Programs Chair

GARDEN MENTOR SQUAD

Knowledge Sharing in the Upstate SCNPS Nursery: One of the greatest opportunities for contributing to SCNPS these days is for our veteran gardeners to share their knowledge. With over 4,000 plants in the nursery this summer, we're encountering all manner of challenges and need experienced gardeners to help guide us to optimize the health of our inventory.

If you've been gardening for a while or are a Master Gardener with research skills, particularly with SC native plants, we invite you to join a new initiative to build our own ***Native Plant Care & Maintenance Manual***. We have wonderful nursery volunteers eager to learn but need help from veteran gardeners to assemble a garden 'to-do' calendar to highlight plants with special needs throughout the year. Also, we look to Clemson HGIC and our local Master Gardeners to help when we find something unfamiliar. But there's no better resource than our own members who have learned successful cultural practices or sustainable remedies we can add to our own SC Native Integrated Pest Management Plan. And wouldn't it be wonderful if we could post articles each month in our newsletter to help all of us become better native plant gardeners!

This Mentor Squad would support on-going efforts in two ways: Joining our brain trust to respond to inquiries from nursery volunteers of observations of plant stress or abnormalities by phone, text or e-mail on an as needed basis. Recent challenges include Japanese beetle damage, 'leggy' asters, drooping azalea's, and powdery mildew; and by periodically visiting the nursery in Greenville, for an hour or so, to survey inventory with our eager volunteers to make suggestions on what we might do to improve health care, such as mid-summer pruning to extend the bloom or make the plants more attractive for the Upstate Fall Sale.

We'll do the work; we just need your experience! Days & times are very negotiable, with sound social distancing, and no need for fear of commitment as we simply send out an invitation monthly calling for volunteers for the coming month.

If you'd like to try it out, please give Doug Lockard a call at (864-908-4461), or text or e-mail (doug.lockard@email.com), and he'll review the opportunity with you. We've already started this program and we can use you today!



Honeysuckle Leaf Blight

Honeysuckle leaf blight, caused by a fungus (*Inolibasidium deformans*), is a disease that affects honeysuckle species, particularly invasive Asian bush honeysuckles like Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*). We (researchers at the University of Kentucky and Northern Kentucky University) are interested in its diversity, host range, and virulence.

We are reaching out to ask for your help in mapping where honeysuckle leaf blight can be found. All you have to do is look for symptoms on your nearest honeysuckle (distorted, yellow to brown dead patches on leaves)

and submit any observations you see on iNaturalist.

You can see photos and learn more at our iNaturalist project page:

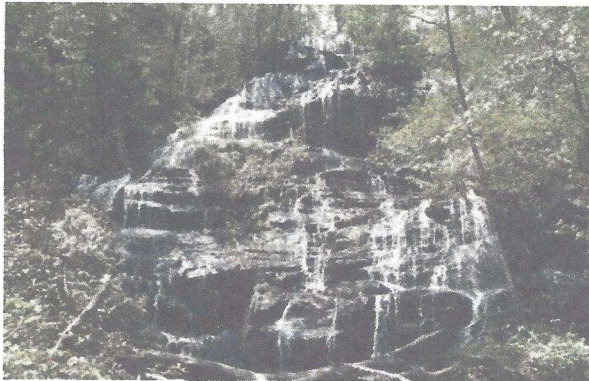
<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/honeysuckle-leaf-blight-survey>. Would you be able to share this information with any others who may be able to help us collect information on where honeysuckle leaf blight is found? Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thank you, Ellen V. Crocker, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Forest Health Extension, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Kentucky
e.crocker@uky.edu.



**South Carolina
Native Plant Society
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UPSTATE Chapter



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Pickens County Museum Native Plant Garden

The Native Plant Demonstration Garden is maintained by volunteers from SCPS, Master Gardeners of the Foothills and Upstate Master Naturalists Association. They give time and effort to keep the garden as a showcase of SC native plants. They weed, mulch, prune, add new plants, move and remove plants to maintain the design of the garden, place identification

signs on plants, educate visitors and keep walking paths free from weeds.

In 2019, volunteers pulled a noxious, invasive water plant, Floating Heart (*Nymphoides peltata*), from the stream bed. In 2018, this plant was declared illegal in South Carolina and Pickens County was under warning from the SC Department of Plant Industries (DPI) to remove it. In 2020 we have not yet found any. Volunteers will continue to check for it and pull any plants found.

Our hope is that with several more years of diligent monitoring and removal, the plant will be eradicated from the stream bed.

We are always in need of new volunteers. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or comments.

Judy Seeley, 864 855-6396 or
judy_seeley@hotmail.com.

