



UPSTATE happenings

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

March 2020



Upcoming Programs, Events & Field Trips

Friday, Saturday & Sunday March 6, 7 & 8
- SCNPS Upstate Chapter Booth at the
Southern Home & Garden Show:
Greenville Convention Center. See details in
article on Page 2.

**Saturday March 7 – Cabin Fever Garden
Symposium, 8 AM-4 PM.** Presented by Cleveland
County NC Extension Master Gardeners. Register
at Eventbrite.com under Cabin Fever Garden
Symposium 2020:
(<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cabin-fever-garden-symposium-2020-tickets-83428032491?ref=eios>)

**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 5 for times and contacts.

**Tuesday, March 17, 7pm – Program: “Round
About Greenville and the Carolina Blue Ridge.”**
Camperdown Academy, Greenville, SC

Speakers: Pam Shucker and Bill Robertson.
These longtime hiking buddies will share pictures
and anecdotes about some favorite places. See
article on this page. Don't miss it!-----

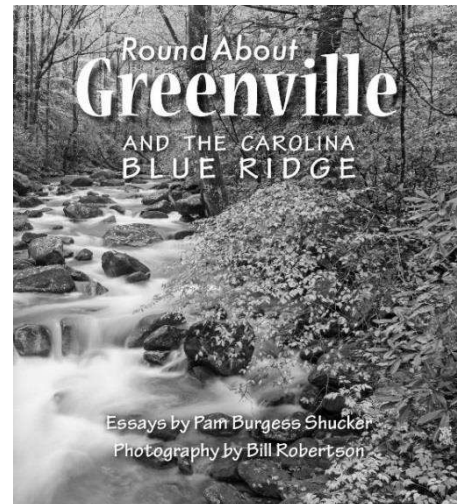
**Saturday March 21, 8:30 am - Oconee Station
Falls and Nine Times Preserve, Oconee and
Pickens Counties:** This moderate hike will cost
\$15 and is limited to 15 people. Please contact
Leader Rick Huffman at (864) 901-7583 or
rick_huffman@earthdesignsc.com
See article on Page 5.

**Saturday, April 4, 8:30 am – Field Trip:
Boggs Rock and Glassy Mountain, Pickens,
SC:** Again, Dan Whitten and Rick Huffman will
host and lead an exclusive and exciting field trip
to these magical locations! See Page 2 for
contacts and details.

**Saturday, April 18, 9:00am - 1:00pm -
Annual Spring --PLANT SALE!--**
Conestee Park, 840 Mauldin Rd, Greenville,
SC (a three-minute drive south of I-85 near
the baseball stadium. Visit our website
(www.scnps.org) for more information
**NOTE: PAID-UP MEMBERS are allowed
early admittance 8:30am - 9:00am!**
See more details on Page 2.

Round About Greenville and the Carolina Blue Ridge

A Book by: Pam Shucker & Bill Robertson



It all started when they were hiking with the Greenville Natural History Association. Pam Shucker and Bill Robertson, who have been hiking locally with that group for years, began bantering about collaborating on a book together, one that would include his photographs and her reflections.

“Because we so enjoy peaceful excursions into the many Upstate areas of natural beauty, we wanted to share our favorites by weaving a tapestry with words and photographs,” said Shucker, a retired teacher specializing in English and environmental education.

After several permutations, the book took shape and became titled *Round About Greenville and the Carolina Blue Ridge*. It's expected to be published in time for the March meeting of SCNPS.

While the City of Greenville, at the foot of the Carolina Blue Ridge Mountains, has landed on many “best of” lists and become known in the last decade or so for its downtown park around the falls, its varied restaurants, arts, vibrancy, and urban livability, Shucker and Robertson relish the region's peaceful natural places that, often, the media doesn't mention much.

Among the gems they visit in their book are Oconee Station, Brasstown Creek Heritage Preserve, and the Poinsett Bridge. The book was driven by the lovely images captured by Robertson.

(Continued on Page 5.)

Field Trip - Boggs Rock and Glassy Mountain, Pickens County, SC

On Saturday April 4th, SCNPS will sponsor an all-day field trip to Boggs Rock in Liberty, South Carolina. Boggs Rock is a wonderful example of Piedmont 'granitic' outcrop plant communities. When granitic rock rises to the surface as an outcrop, time, weather, and water combine to shape habitat conditions for this *herb-lichen* plant community to thrive. Eddies and pools form drifts across the rock surface which light up with bright red leaves of Elf Orpine, (*Diamorpha smallii*, *Sedum smallii*) in the spring. **Leader Rick Huffman** has extensive experience and knowledge of granitic plant communities across the southeast. It should be a fun day to see this world class plant community. **Co-leader Dan Whitten** is also a member and a renown local naturalist.

The day also features our lunch stop and a foray on Glassy Mountain in Pickens South Carolina. Glassy is a north facing exposed granitic dome call a 'monadnock'. The mountain trail has many botanical treasures and the views are spectacular.

Carpoolers will meet at 8:30 am. in the parking lot located on the north corner of E. Cedar Rock Street and SC Hwy 178, directly adjacent to the courthouse. We will then consolidate and drive to our locations. Please dress appropriately, bring lunch and water. Again, this is a MODERATE hike. Cost is \$0.00 and



participation is limited to 15. We will meet at the Pickens Courthouse Parking Lot, E. Cedar Rock Street, Pickens, SC

Contact Rick Huffman 864-901-7583,

rick_huffman@earthdesignsc.com

Or Chris Sermons 864 992 6987, biowayfarm@gmail.com

Our 2020 Spring Plant Sale Has Something for Everyone! (on April 18, 9 AM to 1 PM)

Whether you are new to native plants or a bona fide native enthusiast, you're sure to find wonderful additions for your yard. Here is the opportunity to create a wildlife-friendly habitat in your garden with:

- Bold, colorful native azaleas
- Low-maintenance groundcovers
- Pollinator-attracting perennials
- Colorful, fast-growing vines
- A variety of shade ferns and a few for sun
- Year-round interesting native grasses
- Wildlife-attracting shrubs and trees

Plus, see the additional plant vendors for other natives. Featured selections include endangered Oconee bells, and a variety of carnivorous species, including Venus fly traps and terrestrial pitcher plants! Make sure your membership is current as paid members get in at 8:30am to shop 30 minutes early!

Upstate Chapter Booth at Southern Home and Garden Show

Each year the Upstate Chapter has a booth at the Southern Home & Garden show where volunteers provide the public with information about native plants & the upcoming April Spring Plant Sale.

Again this year the H & G Show will be held at the Greenville Convention Center on Friday, Saturday & Sunday March 6, 7 & 8th. Volunteers work together in three-hour shifts. If you can help with this worthy event please take a look at the schedule posted on the SCNPS.org website. Look under the "Activities" and then "Calendar of Events". Signing up online is easy. After signing up each volunteer will receive a follow-up email from this year's coordinator, Kay Stafford. Specifics will be a part of that email along with the free parking pass. Kay can also be reached at kay.stafford4450@gmail.com.

It's a pleasant educational opportunity and volunteers can enjoy the Show for free if they so desire.

So please stop by and participate as desired on Friday, Saturday or Sunday March 6, 7 & 8th at the SCNPS Upstate Chapter Booth at the Southern Home & Garden Show-Greenville Convention Center.



Bell Fest Volunteers Needed

Upstate SCNPS will have an information/plant sale table at **Bell Fest** on March 14 at Devils Fork SP. Shifts are 9-11 am, 11am to 1pm and 1-3:30 pm. Call Judy Seeley to volunteer, 864.952-9162.

The Oconee Bell, a delicate bell-shaped wildflower found only in isolated locations in the southern Appalachians - is finally getting its due. A group of devoted fans is hosting a celebration in its honor. The Annual Oconee Bell Fest takes place at Devils Fork State Park - one of the few spots in the Jocassee Gorges featuring the kind of moist wooded environment necessary for the flower to thrive. Upstate master naturalists will be leading small groups of visitors on educational tours through the park's Oconee Bell Nature Trail, an easy, one-mile loop boasting large colonies of the wildflower. The walks will be offered every 30 minutes



Round About Greenville and the Carolina Blue Ridge, cont...

A longtime local photographer whose serene nature scenes both enliven and calm the halls of local medical facilities, churches, non-profits, and private homes, Robertson said the idea of the book was to escape the pavement and high energy of downtown Greenville and “focus on encouraging readers to discover more of the natural world.”

With short pieces written about a lot of different places, the book’s biggest challenge, said Shucker, was figuring out how to graphically integrate the photographs and words into a coherent whole. They found a solution in SCNPS’s very own design guru, Janie Marlow.

Printed by Four Colour Print Group out of Louisville, KY, *Round About Greenville and the Carolina Blue Ridge* can be purchased from Bill or Pam, may be available in some local book and gift stores, and can be ordered on Amazon.

“Bill and I each have friends and contacts who are eagerly awaiting this book that we have talked about for years,” said Shucker. “It is written for them, as well as to

share our love of the natural environment we enjoy through weekly hiking and photography excursions. Many will buy it for Bill’s photography alone.”

This version of the book, said Shucker, had another catalyst. In a discussion she had at M. Judson Booksellers, the staff at the downtown Greenville bookstore said they wish there were more titles to offer the tourists who ask for a book exploring the natural areas around the city. Sure, there are books about the area’s waterfalls or a guide to its hiking trails, or the history of Greenville, but nothing quite like what they created in *Round About Greenville and the Carolina Blue Ridge*.

At the March 17 meeting of SCNPS, the collaborators will select several places highlighted in their book to discuss by sharing anecdotes and related photographs. They also plan to talk about Heritage Preserves in the area and the state’s leading role in their birth. Native plant buffs should find plenty in the presentation to not only affirm their favorite hiking spots but to inspire them to lace up their trail shoes for a new adventure.

“Both Bill and I seek out wildflowers on our hiking experiences,” said Shucker. “And our group often plans spring hikes around significant wildflower areas.”

Field Trip Event: Oconee Station Falls and Nine Times Preserve

SCNPS will sponsor an all-day field trip to historic Oconee Station Falls in Oconee County and an afternoon foray along the Eastatoe Creek and Nine Times Preserve areas in Pickens County. As a cove forest habitat, Oconee station falls is the premiere place for spring ephemerals such as Trillium, Foam Flower, Mayapple and more. The Eastatoe valley is rich with species and habitat diversity. Each hike is an easy walk and the waterfalls are wonderful.

Participants will meet 8:30 am at Holly Springs grocery at the intersection of SC 1178 and SC 11. We will carpool to the trail head parking on Oconee Station Road. Please email or call to reserve. Final itinerary will be sent a week prior the event. Please dress appropriately and bring lunch and water.

Our trip will be led by SCNPS founder, Rick Huffman. Rick has a rich knowledge of the geology, the natural history, native plants and the role they play in nature and for people. We are honored to provide this wonderful opportunity to share a day with Rick.

Limit: 15 people, RSVP, Contact; Rick Huffman 864-901-7583, rick_huffman@earthdesignsc.com or

Chris Sermons 864 992 6987, biowayfarm@gmail.com

Field Trip Event: 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.

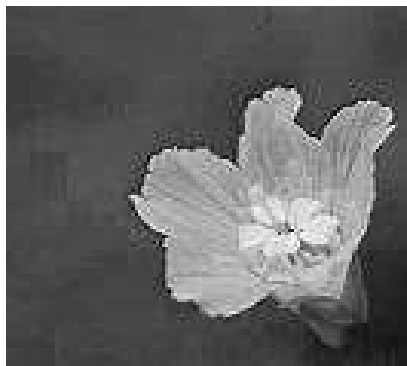
Our field trip leader will be renowned local naturalist, Dan Whitten. Dan has a rich knowledge of native plants and the role they play in nature and folk culture. We are honored to provide this wonderful opportunity to share a day with Dan.

Limit: 15 people, RSVP, Contact: Rick Huffman 864-901-7583 rick_huffman@earthdesignsc.com



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

UPSTATE Chapter



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Plant Sale Volunteers Needed!

It's time to volunteer for the **April 18 NPS Spring Plant Sale!** We need *helpers for set-up* on Friday, April 17 and *to run the sale* on April 18. From *greeting eager customers* entering the sale to *loading sold plants* into vehicles, there are jobs for all skill levels and training is given. The SIGN-UP form is on the NPS website. Go to www.scnps.org and click on the Calendar under the Activities heading. **Go to April 18.** Click on the Plant Sale and you will find the link to the sign-up form. While you are at the website, *download the sale poster and share with your friends!* You can also sign up on the "Home" page to receive emails, called Tiny Letters, with updates on coming events. Contact the Volunteers Coordinator, Tim Gillion, at tulysses9@gmail.com or call him at 864-350-9881 if you have questions. All sale volunteers can shop early for plants on Friday, April 17. These sales take about 75 volunteers to run and volunteering is a great way to contribute to your association. It is also a rewarding and enjoyable time of working with your fellow members.

Sign Up Now!

URGENT NEED

While we're on track to have a really great plant sale on April 18, 2020, **we need one more volunteer** for an important job: **Special Projects and Vendor Liaison** to will identify and invite vendors/presenters/demonstrations to the sale, as well as obtain and sell special merchandise at the sale (fertilizers, seeds, etc.). Contact **Kathy Harrington, (864) 310-1144**, pharmkat1965@gmail.com

Parks Mill Lilies Open House on Saturday, May 16.

One of the highlights of Spring is the blooming of the Rocky Shoals spider lilies at the Parks Mill Spider Lily Preserve in Stevens Creek near Plum Branch. This rare and beautiful display of huge white blooms atop dark green 2.5-foot-tall leaves is truly a sight to behold. SC Native Plant Society and Naturaland Trust are quite proud of our accomplishment in getting Parks Mill protected for posterity. We will again be holding an Open House at the site on Saturday, May 16, 2020. This event will be open to members of SCNPS and Naturaland Trust, as well as the general public. More detailed information about this event will be released soon, or see <https://scnps.org/activities/rocky-shoals-spider-lily-preservation-project>