



UPSTATE happenings

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

May 2020



IMPORTANT NOTE

Out of concern for the health of all members, customers and the public, many planned events and venues await rescheduling. As such, this issue reflects the times we are living in and is aimed at providing you with ideas and opportunities for either remote (vicarious/ armchair) or self-guided adventures and educational opportunities. We all look forward to a return to some normalcy so we might more directly plan and participate in relevant events and enjoy each other's' company. Thanks to all of us, our interest prevails, and we will soon be "back in business" as they say. Take care everyone, this can't last forever! Anyhow, the calendar below details planned and cancelled events for your convenience. More information is contained in relevant articles as referenced.

Cancelled:

Tuesday, April 12: Upstate Chapter Open Meeting
Saturday, May 16, Parks Mill Lilies Open House:
Save the date! See latest information in article on Page 1.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS, EVENTS & FIELD TRIPS

Tentative:

Tue., May 19, 7 PM, Speaker: Dr. Saara DeWalt, Professor/Chair of Biological Sciences, Clemson, speaking on Invasives in Dominica. An effort is underway to provide this venue online using Zoom or a similar venue.

Planned:

July 11 Mt. Mitchell TBD: Tentatively planned, but final decision will depend upon the current situation. See article on Page 4 for details

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Please wish a warm welcome to our new members:

Pam Barbour: Taylors
Lois and Don Budlong: Travelers Rest
Mark Eckert and Deb Wickliffe: Seneca
Debbie Grooms: Piedmont
Virginia McKenzie: Boiling Springs
Rebecca Parke: Central

SPEAKER

Unfortunately there is no speaker scheduled for this month. Watch for future releases. Instead, this issue is dedicated to all of you who care and continue to look for ways to enjoy our hobby, our environment, and our relationships. As your editor, I hope you enjoy this issue and that it sustains your passions and interests until we can all be more active again. Let's start with a positive thought about how we can carry along sequestered. Then we will enjoy articles about the ongoing efforts of individuals and small groups, great ideas from our champ Rick Huffman, and the all-important efforts of our new Teammate Doug Lockard and his accomplishments with our greenhouses, which are the baseline of our group economy, the Plant Sales. So keep up the good fight, stay well, and be happy. Better times are coming!

Sincerely, *Keith Manchester*

PARKS MILL SPIDER LILY UPDATE

Due to travel restrictions issued by Governor McMaster, we must cancel this event. If you have signed up via e-mail to attend, you will receive a return e-mail confirming the cancellation. So instead we are putting together a Virtual Open House. A couple of us will travel to Parks Mill before May 16 and shoot photos and videos for a webpage to be posted on the SC Native Plant and Naturaland Trust websites. We will make the URLs for these webpages widely available to interested groups.

So, you will be able to continue "sheltering in place" and still experience the wonder of this site and the Lilies at their peak. You will see the majesty of the creek valley, hear the babble of the Creek, see some wildlife, and experience the Mill itself, while avoiding contact with those little pesky wildlife, the ticks! So watch for the release of the webpage link, stay in, wear your masks and gloves, and be safe!

Thanks, *SC Native Plant Society and Naturaland Trust*

MAKE IT HAPPEN

Let's start with some vicarious opportunities that we have to explore and enjoy our environment. SCETV offers many programs, the most prescient being Expeditions with Patrick McMillan. Many episodes are focused on upstate and Appalachian topics, but all are interesting. Not sure about satellite TV, but if you have Charter/Spectrum cable, the main channels are: 8 (ETVH), 16 (UNCTV), and 191 (ETVW, which varies from Channel 8). Also see Mt. Mitchell Hike story on Page 4, as this hike will be led by Patrick McMillan himself!



Phlox subulata

THE JOY OF SPRING EPHEMERALS AND WOODLAND TREASURES

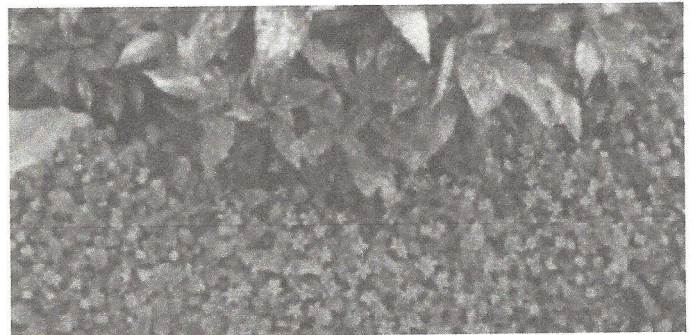
Greetings Upstate Chapter Native Enthusiast! After a long winter, we all are ready for the first hint of spring. We find ourselves listening for the returning sound of songbirds signaling the promise of spring to come. Longer, warmer days get us excited to see the first peek of green as the Upstate comes alive with flowering trees, shrubs, and our wonderful spring ephemerals. Spring ephemerals are transitional plants that come out early before the tree canopy fills in, allowing them to take advantage of the sunlight hitting the forest floor. We all love our native Dogwood, Redbuds and Serviceberry trees as icons of spring, but for us plant geeks, it's our spring ephemerals that usher in the magic of the season. Examples of our native ephemerals, such as Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*), Blood Root (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), Trilliums (*Trillium spp.*), Jack in Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), Foam Flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), and Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) can be seen in pockets along the northern rim of the upstate where soils are deep, organic and relatively undisturbed. We can find these spring beauties across the upstate in places such as Jones Gap and Paris Mountain State Parks, Nine Times Preserve in Pickens County and along the Reedy River corridor. But really, they can be seen all around in niche areas, often struggling to stay ahead of invasive plants such as English ivy (*Hedera helix*), Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), and Periwinkle (*Vinca spp.*).

The science of applying spring ephemerals in landscapes begins with knowing where these plants live naturally. By seeing where and how these plants grow in the wild, we can then better understand the connections of plants, soils, light conditions, and moisture gradients to design and apply these beautiful native plants in sustainable gardens and landscapes for our clients.

In residential design, we often encounter site conditions such as dry, high acidic clay soils, dense tree canopy and mats of surface roots. These conditions are common but are not well suited for lawns or other traditional landscape applications. They often become mulch beds. At Earth Design, by seeing these conditions in nature, and our firsthand knowledge and experience with plants and soils, we can apply the correct plant community solutions such as woodland wildflowers and cool spring ephemerals. Here are a few additional examples of our favorite woodland wildflowers and Spring ephemerals that can address this niche. Green and Gold (*Chrysogonum virginiana*) is a woodland wildflower that thrives in dry acidic soils with shade, but it can tolerate a fair amount of morning sun. The plant grows to about 2-3" in height and spreads 3-5' over time. From late February to May, Green and Gold sends out carpets of bright yellow flowers that blend well with other companion plants. Other companion plants we like are Crested Iris (*Iris cristida*) which is a slow

colonizer that grows about 3-4" in height and slowly spreads as a mass over time. With bright blue flowers, Crested Iris offers a nice contrast with Green and Gold. Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) is another easy plant to work with in our palette. It grows about 10-12" in height and spreads by seed. Our native Columbine works in the landscape as a hardy, unique long-flowering woodland perennial. Its texture and interesting foliage also work well in planters. Foam Flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*) has been a long-spring time favorite that provides crystalline white spires of flowers and soft cordate shaped leaves that contrasts well with ferns. Celandine Poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*) is another neat plant that serves as a yellow flowering woodland perennial. With deeply lobed leaves, the plant grows in drifts across the landscape complementing our other spring treasures. Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) is a contrasting beautiful plant with blue bell-shaped flowers. Growing 1-2' in height, Virginia Bluebell is a delightful companion plant which contrasts well with Celandine Poppy. Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) is a great reliable semi evergreen to add for texture and diversity to any mix. Trilliums are a wonderful part of our spring ephemeral experience, but few designers even try to work with these iconic plants. Again, by understanding soils and connections, we can successfully showcase these treasures in our landscapes. These are just a few examples of Spring ephemerals and woodland wildflowers that when combined with species of moss and ferns, can come together in designs that create a tapestry of welcoming color and pattern in early spring.

With Spring approaching, it's a great time to plan your landscape options!



Chrysogonum virginiana

---Rick Huffman - BLA, ASLA
Earth Design Landscape Architecture



PLANT SALES FOR MAY 2020

Dear Members: The upstate greenhouse steering committee has worked out a temporary, limited way for members only to purchase plants from the greenhouse. It must be done by appointment. Link to plant list and prices is: <https://scnps.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SCNPS-Upstate-Price-List-11Apr20.pdf>

The article below explains the new greenhouse access process:

The Greenhouse Steering Committee has been working alongside the Greenhouse Gang and the Maintenance & Operations Team to prepare the nursery for sustained operations during the peak pandemic months when will be hosting an unusually high number of plants. Normally we would have sold 75% of our usual 4,000 plant inventory during the Spring Sale; however, this year due to the cancellation, we have a full house.

We've installed several new beds and irrigation to keep our plants healthy until the Fall sale which hope to have in late September or early October. Sadly, for the health and safety of volunteers, its necessary to close the Greenhouse to all but a small crew for the near future. Access to the property will be restricted to the Maintenance & Operations Team and Greenhouse Steering committee. Because it is important to continue to provide plants to members during these difficult times, some of the Steering Committee have volunteered to facilitate sales to the membership on a case-by-case basis.

If you would like to purchase a plant during the Spring planting season, you can reach out to one of those listed below to make a request. We ask your patience and flexibility in working with these volunteers as their priority will be ensuring a safe transaction for all concerned. The link to the price list is above and also on the website calendar for April 18. (www.scnps.org) The contacts below will also have a copy of the price list and can e-mail it to you in PDF.

Kathy Harrington, 864-310-1144, pharmkat1965@gmail.com

Amy Henderson, 914-649-6779, amyjoygarden@gmail.com
Susan Lochridge, 864-380-3673, needlespirits@gmail.com
Doug Lockard, 864-908-4461, doug.lockard@email.com
Kitty Putnam, 864-313-8434, kitty.putnam@gmail.com
Miller Putnam, 864-325-9700, millerputnam@gmail.com
Kay Stafford, 703-350-8774, kay.stafford4450@gmail.com



FIG BUTTERCUP: THE BATTLE CONTINUES...

Spring is here! and Fig Buttercup is back. Actually it never left; it was just hiding.

Greenville's original infestation was discovered in Reedy River floodplain in Lake Conestee Nature Park in 2013. Since then, three source populations have been identified, each on tributary creeks, each about five miles upstream.

Fig Buttercup (*Ficaria verna*) is not "just another invasive plant". It is so aggressively invasive - and has such a limited period of vulnerability - that it has actually been outlawed in numerous states, including South Carolina.

The Clemson University Dept of Plant Industry continues to reach out to people throughout the state requesting that they recognize and report it. Fig Buttercup is blooming now, and its bright yellow flowers make it easy to spot.

Now is also the optimum time to treat it. This year a varied coalition of agencies and organizations, led by SCNPS, has joined forces to fund a massive effort toward controlling Fig Buttercup in Greenville's Reedy River corridor.

These sponsors include the South Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Council, Greenville County Soil & Water Conservation District, ReWa, Greater Greenville Master Gardeners Association, and Friends of the Reedy River.

Moist soils along waterways support diverse native plant communities, which in turn support native songbirds, butterflies and other pollinator wildlife species. Invasion of these areas by Fig Buttercup rapidly converts them into monocultures that suppress native plants and wildlife.

Fig Buttercup threatens to blanket moist sites and streamside land throughout the Southeast. Its early emergence, dense growth, and floating propagules, combined with our common high-rainfall events, facilitate its ability to colonize new territory downstream — as illustrated in the sequence of pictures at lower left.



Invasive Plant Control, Inc, a nationally recognized invasive plant control firm out of Nashville (www.invasiveplantcontrol.com), has been contracted to treat Fig Buttercup along Greenville's centerpiece Reedy River and its tributaries, including Lake Conestee Nature Park. Several years of treatment will be necessary.

Learn more at <https://scnps.org/citizen-science-invasive-fig-buttercup>

—Janie Marlow

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

UPSTATE Chapter



MOUNT MITCHEL FIELD TRIP

Location: Mt. Mitchell, Blue Ridge Pkwy and NC80
Date: Saturday July 11th
Leaders: Dr. Patrick McMillan
Hike rating: Moderate
Cost: \$35.00

SCNPS will sponsor an all-day field trip with Dr. Patrick McMillan, renown naturalist, biologist, and Emmy winner for his 'Expeditions' shows. Our journey will take us along scenic roads that will display drifts of botanical delights. Mount Mitchell is the highest peak of the Appalachian Mountains and the highest peak in mainland eastern North America. Mountain wildflowers such as **Small Purple Fringed orchid** (*Platanthera psycodes*) and more. It will be a blast spending the day with Patrick McMillan, our world class leader.

SCNPS chapter will provide a van for this field trip. Participants will meet at 7:00 am at 1309 Grove Road and travel to Mt. Mitchel and scenic byways. Final itinerary will be sent a week prior the event. Please dress appropriately, bring lunch and water.

Limit: 12 people, RSVP, Contact; Rick Huffman 864-901-7583 rick_huffman@earthdesignsc.com

Chris Semons 864 992 6987 biowayfarm@gmail.com

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--- JUDY STAYS BUSY! ---

"Since we have been spending so much time at home lately, I've decided to get in touch with you, some of my cherished people, to see how you are doing. Being home so much gives you new perspective about what is important. As Tom says, it is not the "things" you have but the people in your circle, however physically close or distant. We would love to hear back from you to know how you are doing and keeping occupied."

"Tom and I have been spending much of our days out in the yard. Tom has even started weeding with determination to make the front flower beds look neat again, after a year of pretty much neglect. I come along behind him to look for missed weeds, put down some Preen, and layer on the mulch. I have also been taking photos of flowers in and around our yard as they put out their blooms, to my delight. I am not much of a photographer with my cell phone, but this gives you an idea of how lovely SC native plants are. Hope you enjoy them. We certainly are, along with the birds frequenting our feeders."

---Judy Seeley



Iris cristata (Dwarf Crested Iris)