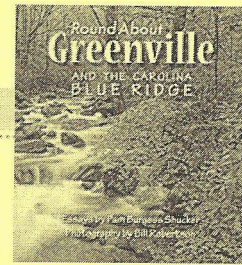


UPSTATE happenings

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

October 2020



Latest News, Events & Field Trips

October 20, 6:30 PM socializing, 7 PM presentation (via Zoom) - Round About Greenville and the Carolina Blue Ridge: Pam Shucker and Bill Robertson will present our Zoom online program in October on their recently published book "Round About Greenville and the Carolina Blue Ridge". Bill is a professional nature photographer. Pam's writing tells how nature is healing to the body and uplifting to the spirit. Not only will you enjoy reading through this book, but also you will come back to it many times as a reference and as a refresher. *See article at right.*

Pam and Bill are both members of the Upstate Chapter of the SCNPS and worked with Upstate board member Janie Marlow who designed the book.

The invitation and link to the program will be sent out via *Tiny Letter* the week of the event. Be sure to sign up for *TinyLetters* on SCNPS.org if you are not already receiving these notifications.

September 21 through November 7 – Fall Plant Sale Underway: See our website: See article on Page 4 for full details.

Limited times, several days a week for selected hours to make sure members and public have access to these hard-to-get natives. Watch for future specifics, procedures and on-line the ordering process at our website.

New Members

Nina Barris: Liberty
Christine and Mike Benard: Salem
Mary Anne Buckheister: Greenwood
Jordan Burns: Simpsonville
Evelyn Doron: Greenville
Sara Putnam: Greenville
Elizabeth Samples: Greenville
Johanna Stoiser: Simpsonville

Round About Greenville and the Carolina Blue Ridge

During these difficult times of relative isolation, wouldn't it be great to get a peek of the outdoors from your recliner or sofa?

That is possible! *Round About Greenville and the Carolina Blue Ridge* is a new book highlighting favorite peaceful retreats in the beautiful surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains and foothills.

Two Greenville natives, Upstate Master Naturalist and former environmental writer and teacher, Pam Burgess Shucker, and well-known nature photographer, Bill Robertson, hike each week in this incredible mountain environment they call home. On one spring excursion under gently swaying hemlock branches with a stream gurgling past, wildflowers and ferns peeking beside the trail, the idea for such a book sprung forth: "We should combine our writing and photographs to introduce folks to the environmental diversity we enjoy each week," one suggested to the other. A book detailing their favorite locations in the nearby Blue Ridge Mountains and Piedmont emerged.

Bill's photographs, termed "restorative environments," hang in local hospitals, businesses and homes. Hospitals realized that soothing images of mountain streams, nature scenes, colorful flowers, and mountain vistas helped people recover faster than in a sterile hospital environment. Time spent viewing nature, in person or in photographs, improves emotional health, something needed these days.

Research studied 290 million people in 20 countries, including the US. The study concluded what nature-lovers already know: ... spending time in, or living close to, natural green spaces is associated with diverse and "significant health benefits." It reduces the risk of type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, premature death and preterm birth, and increases sleep duration. People living closer to nature also had reduced diastolic blood pressure, heart rate and stress.

Exploring in person is best but dreaming of nature through photos and stories offers a healthy option!

Round About Greenville and the Carolina Blue Ridge includes 102 pages, 80 of Bill's restorative photographs, essays about nature, location directions, and a map to get into naturally spectacular areas in Upstate South Carolina, all for \$23.00. Available on Amazon, local stores, and from author and photographer: pamshucker@gmail.com and brphoto@bellsouth.net. — Pam Burgess Shucker. It is also available at the SCNPS.com bookstore or at: <https://www.roundaboutgreenville.com/>

A New Way of Doing Things

Since the pandemic started, we have not been able to physically meet for field trips or for programs. Since I am the Programs Committee Chairperson, I will address how we now do programs during present circumstances. We notify members of upcoming field trips on our website <https://scnps.org/events>, and by e-mail notices, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. As well as through the TinyLetter feature also found on our website, scnps.org. This is the way we give you the link to programs online. If you are not receiving the TinyLetter email notifications, you will not be able to join our monthly programs.

To subscribe to our emails, go to [SCNPS.org](https://scnps.org). There on the home page, scroll down a bit to where it says in the right-hand column, "Receive our Email Updates". At the bottom of that paragraph, type in your email address. Then just click the "Subscribe" button below.

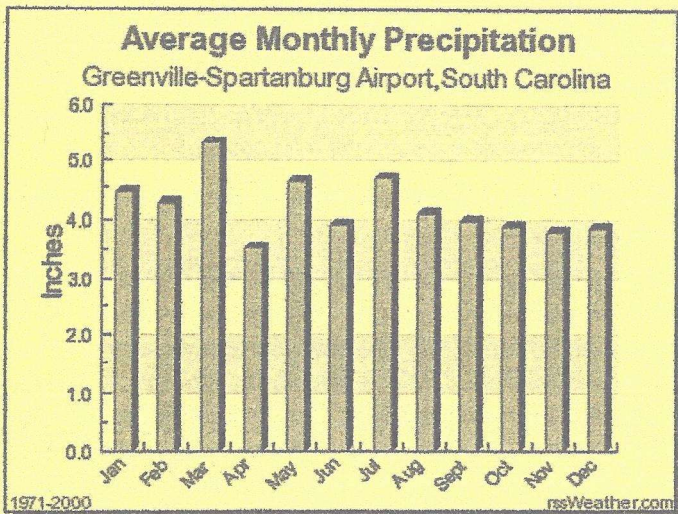
That is all there is to it! Then you will be receiving updates about future meetings, links that allow you to join a scheduled meeting and invitations with those links included.

Dan Whitten – Programs Chair

Greenville County Precipitation

Natives play an important role in water and soil conservation. As we are all aware, planting diverse native species of herbaceous perennials, shrubs, and trees in your yard creates layers of vegetation that deflect pounding rains, increasing the chance for water to be absorbed by your soil before running off into storm drains and streams. According to 130 years of NOAA data, the area around Greenville County should receive around 50.8 inches of rainfall each year; however, by the end of July this year, we've already reached 49.5 inches and that's before the hurricane season rainfalls!

by Doug Lockard, Greenville News article August 15, 2020



Greenhouse Goings On

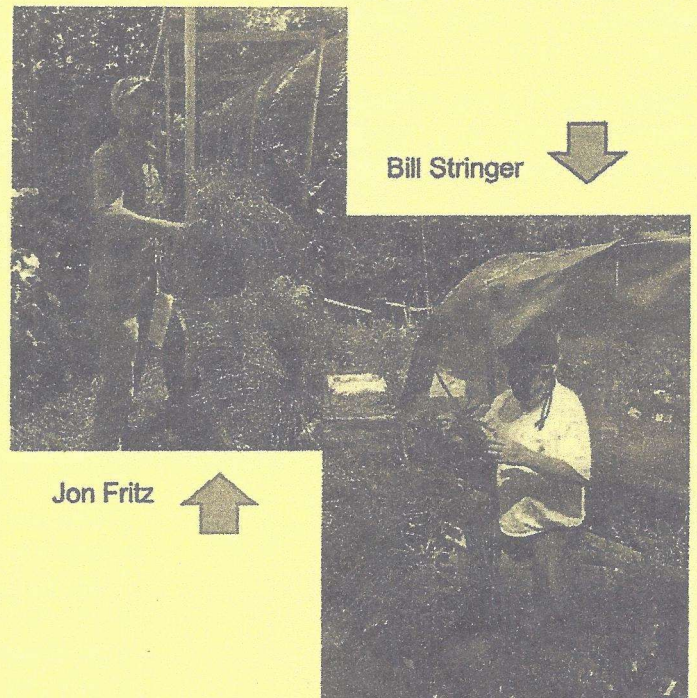
Our first Mentor Garden Walkabouts with Bill Stringer and Jon Fritz provided excellent observations about beneficial care of our natives. We have built new shade coverings and moved 30% of our 4,000+ plants as a result of their recommendations.

Cathy McCurdy and her husband Lyn have agreed to take over the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Team from Doug Lockard so he can focus on the new PR Project. We now have 14 members on the team, including our two newest, Justin Kirby and Mark Earnhart. Welcome!

The Greenhouse Gang has been busy producing over 850 seedlings, cuttings, rootings, divisions etc. moving through the early phases of propagation for future sales. While the social workdays of the past are suspended, Pam Barbour, Kay Stafford, and others are keeping up the momentum. We'll be going into the Fall Sale season with over 5,000 plants in inventory for the first time ever!

We have had our share of mischief this month with white flies and invasive Japanese beetles. We are on high alert with traps set out, neem oil sprayed, etc. The Greenhouse Gang is on high alert to capture and kill these little buggers! For more information on our pest management practices, see Clemson's HGIC site for 'Less Toxic Insecticides' Fact Sheet HGIC 2770 at <https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/less-toxic-insecticides/>

Special Note: Judy Seeley, Co-chair of the Greenhouse Gang and Membership Chair, has been out of action recently due to unexpected surgery. She has been sorely missed but, by all reports she is recovering well. We send our best wishes for a complete and speedy recovery.



Bill Stringer

Jon Fritz

Beautyberry Insect Repellent

In the never-ending search for environmentally correct methods for keeping the annoying mosquito at bay, I recently found a tip from Seth Norton, Ph.D. on *OutMoreUSA.com* that looks interesting. The leaves of our native Beautyberry shrub have been used for hundreds of years by farmers and Native Americans as an insect repellent and Beautyberry extracts have been shown by the USDA to be effective at repelling ticks and mosquitoes. Beautyberry can even repel fire ants! Recipe:

- Cover 1 cup fresh Beautyberry leaves with 4 oz of rubbing alcohol (isopropanol) in a mason jar, then cap and let stand for 2 days.
- Strain out the leaves and add 2 drops scented body wash or spray of your choice (optional) into a small spray bottle. Once sprayed, the alcohol evaporates from your skin faster than water, leaving behind the bug deterrent. ---Submitted by Doug Lockard



Native Plant Identification Apps

"There's an App for that..." There are at least five [free](#) apps that purport to identify native plants as well as non-natives, exotics and invasives. Just take a photo and run it through the app. Some will even provide information on soil and water needs, specific plant characteristics and habits. The list below provides the name of each app and which platforms it works with. Some are more accurate and robust than others, but all are FREE, so have fun! One actually identified Poison Ivy as Virginia Creeper. Oops! But time will improve these tools.

- **iNaturalist** – Works with Android and IOS
- **Picture This** – Works with Android and IOS
- **PlantNet** – Works with Android and IOS
- **Google Lens and Pinterest** – Works with Android, IOS and laptops
- **Rash Plants** – Works with IOS

The information above was gleaned from an article by Meg Muckenhoupt in the Greenville News, Saturday August 15, 2020. To read the complete article with detailed reviews of each app, you can get it in the News archives online or at Meg's website [reviewed.com](#). You can also follow "Reviewed" on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Submitted by member Jennifer Bausman via Mitzi Stewart, President of SCNPS Piedmont

Endangered Natives

Here is an endangered native species to watch for. Learn to identify them in your garden and in the wild!



Hexastylis naniflora (Dwarf-flowered Heartleaf)

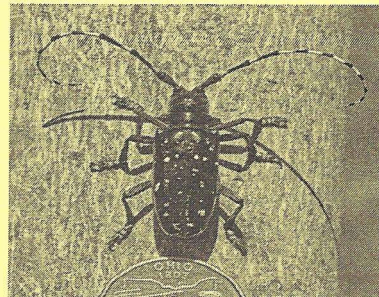
Not exactly a news flash since this favorite native ground cover has been listed as 'endangered' for 20 years; but it may well be losing the race. *H. naniflora* is located only in a few counties in the upper Piedmont of NC & SC, including a small 'island' colony in the Bunched Arrowhead Heritage Preserve in Travelers Rest, SC. This narrow endemic is being impacted by rapid development and drought, another example of how invasives such as English Ivy, Chinese privet, and Japanese honeysuckle thrive under the same conditions, adding to the threat of our native populations. For more information: [SCWF.org](#), [DNR.SC.gov](#), [NCSU.edu](#)

---Submitted by Doug Lockard

Invasive Alert

Asian Beetle: Discovered in South Carolina in June, this invasive insect threatens maple, elm, ash, sycamore, poplar and willow trees by boring into the tree, weakening and eventually killing it. So far, the beetle has only been found in the Charleston area but check your trees for signs of pests and diseases at least once a year. If you see the Asian long-horned beetle on your property, report it to the Clemson Extension immediately.

This beetle is shiny and black with small, white spots on its body, and it grows to a mature size of 1.5" long and has characteristic long antennae. To learn more about this pest or to report a sighting, check out this Clemson Media Release: [newsstand.clemson.edu/mediarelations/inspectors-survey-low-country-trees-after-invasive-beetle-discovered/](#)



---Submitted by Doug Lockard

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Native Plant Society
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MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES: 01/31/2021
306 W FARIS RD
GREENVILLE SC 29605-3005

Media Outreach

In August we launched a new program to update our media outreach and improve our communications with our membership and the Upstate community. We will be updating the website and using innovative new social media tools. If you have already subscribed for our email updates, you will have seen our new full-color E-News feature launched in September, and we've also launched a new Instagram account called 'scnps_upstate'. This month (October) we will be issuing a new Media Survey designed to solicit feedback from our Upstate members on what subjects you are most interested in and what media tools you use. Watch here for future updates on new developments in media and communications.

Contact Doug.Lockard@email.com or at 864-908-4461 if you have questions or comments.

SCNPS Fall Plant Sale is Now Underway!

Online ordering is now open to everyone until November 7th. The Upstate Plant Nursery is now staffed with volunteers pulling orders for the Fall Sale. Orders are open to everyone (including the general public). There are two ways you can shop and purchase plants this year. You can shop online by reviewing the inventory at <https://scnps.org/upstate-nursery-fall-2020-native-plant-sale>.

After placing and paying for your order with Kathy Harrington, she will schedule a time for you to collect your order a few days later at the Upstate Native Nursery using our 'Low-Contact' curb-side program.

Alternately, individuals or small groups can make appointments through Kathy to shop native plants in person. These appointments will be limited to the availability of our all-volunteer sales team.

