Protect Restore Educate
SCNPS
South Carolina Native Plant Society

UPSTATE happenings

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

September 2020

Latest News, Events & Field Trips

September 26 through November 7 – Fall Plant Sale: Limited times, several days a week for selected hours to make sure our members and community have access to these hard-to-get natives. Watch for future specifics and see articles on Page 3.

September 15: 6:30 pm for Socializing, 7 pm for Program - SCNPS Annual Meeting: The annual meeting this year will be held online via Zoom 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" and you will receive an invite and instructions.

New Members

Kailan Sindelar: Greenville
Karen Coleman: Easley
Haf Zink: Taylors
Barbara Zinkovich: Travelers Rest
Andra Nus: Arden, NC
Paul J. Rosen: Columbus, NC
Rosemarie Knoll: Penrose, NC
Laura Godfrey: Greenville
William Weatherford: Decatur, GA
Anne Anderson: Oconee, TN
Justin Kirby, Ashley Wells: Greenville

COVID Humor

Have anyone else's gardening skills improved during this quarantine like mine have? I planted myself on my couch at the beginning of March and I've grown significantly since.

(Couldn't find Smily Face with a mask...)

Book Reviews (Stay Busy)

Douglas Tallamy won't be a new name for many of us that have read his previous books, but his message becomes even more clear in his most recent edition, Nature's Best Hope (2019). I met Douglass this Spring at the Master Gardener's symposium where he was the guest speaker. In his newest work he speaks again to the vital importance of native plants. In this edition he focuses his considerable literary skills on helping us better understand the 'why' of it, and the question 'What Each of Us Can Do?' which he recaps succinctly in Chapter 11. It's a new age for conservatism and the fight is being waged right in our own yards, and those of our neighbors.

"Most of our (U.S.) bio-diversity is found east of the Mississippi River, while most of our protected areas are found west. A typical homeowner east of the Mississippi has about 90% lawn containing 10% of the tree biomass that it supported before your house was built. 80% of the plants in your yard are species that evolved in Asia, Europe or South America—species that are unable to support the complex food webs necessary to sustain ecosystem functions in your area.

We must abandon our age-old notion that humans and nature cannot mix, that "humans are here and nature is somewhere else."

We, the members of the SC Native Plant Society, have a tremendous opportunity to carry this message forward simply by doing what we enjoy... "Bringing Nature Home" and in in doing so, becoming what we want for the future of our world.

by Doug Lockard

Mini Book Reviews

"We have an idiomatic name for those who hold the fate of the world in their hands, as we do: gods. But for the moment, at least, most of us seem more inclined to run from that responsibility than embrace it—or even admit that we see it, though it sits in front of us as plainly as a steering wheel." **The Uninhabitable Earth by David Wallace Wells, (2019).**

"Thinking like a planet is so alien to the perspectives of modern life—so far from thinking like a neoliberal subject in ruthless competitive system that a phrase sounds at first lifted from kindergarten. But it is necessary, as we only have a first shot to engineer a solution. This goes beyond 'thinking like a planet'; it is thinking like a people, one people, whose fate is shared by all." **Thinking Like a Planet J.Baird Callicott, 2014.**

Jon Fritz

By Doug Lockard

Announcement

The South Carolina Native Plant Society and SC Botanical Garden provide a valuable service to our SCNPS mission by providing an SC Native Plant Certification curriculum each year, which many of our members have taken advantage of in years past. In addition to the eight required courses, the program includes over 20 elective courses taught at the SC Botanical Gardens (SCBG) and across the state throughout year in a combination of classroom lectures and field walks. Due to the pandemic, the field walks are suspended for the time being; however, they are considering adjusting the format to provide the classroom sessions this fall and the field portion in Spring of next year. Anyone interested is encouraged to reach out to Sue Watts, Program Administrator, at watts9@clemson.edu to express interest. For more information: https://www.clemson.edu/public/scbg/education/certificate-program.html

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2021-22 UPSTATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In accordance with the Upstate SCNPS By-laws the 2020 nominating committee offers the following candidates for the 2021-22 Officers on the Board of Directors:

- President: Virginia Meador
- Vice-President: Rick Huffman
- Secretary: Susan Lockridge
- Treasurer: Ruth Benson

These current board officers have each agreed to serve another two-year term.

Any Upstate Chapter member may nominate additional candidates for upstate chapter offices by contacting a member of the Nominating Committee no later than October 31. Nominations received from members will be added to the election ballot. The election ballot will be considered complete on November 1.

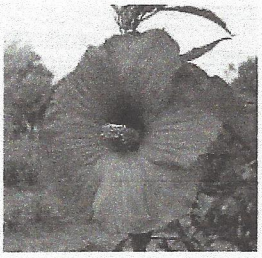
Hibiscus Visitor

Pest Management

We've had our share of mischief in the nursery this month with white flies and the invasive Japanese beetles. We sprayed neem oil on a number of plants which seemed to do the trick for the white flies, but not so much for the beetles. We put the Greenhouse Gang on high alert to capture and kill these little buggers, and we set out beetle traps, all of which has helped but not before they did some damage to our azalea's. Fortunately it's largely cosmetic and the plants remain in good health. For more information on our pest management practices at the nursery, check out Clemson's HGIC site for 'Less Toxic Insecticides' Fact Sheet HGIC 2770 at https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/less-toxic-insecticides/

Japanese Beetle on Hibiscus

(Hibiscus rosa-sinensis)



Fall Plant Sale

Please keep in mind that fall is an ideal time to plant! Cooler weather helps both the plants and the planters. Tender leaves aren't stressed by a hot sun and cooler temperatures lessen the demand for water. We, the planters, aren't drenched in sweat and the soil is more workable. We don't have to devote so much time to monitoring our new plants because Mother Nature is so much kinder in the fall (more frequent showers.) It's easier to see where to put that new addition when others have lost some of their foliage. There are fewer pests, diseases and weeds in cooler weather! And, fall plantings result in earlier spring blooms. So, place your fall orders early and we'll have them ready for pickup at the Greenhouse!

Help Wanted: Fall Sales Volunteers!

The Fall Sale is just around the corner, scheduled for Saturday September 26th through Saturday November 7th. During that period the SCNPS nursery will be open several days a week for selected hours to make sure our members and community have access to these hard-to-get natives. Kathy Harrington will be coordinating the program for us again (THANK YOU!) and she'll be taking orders online or by phone in advance, and then scheduling pick-up dates/times. She's currently building a PLANT SALES TEAM that can work a few 3-hour shifts. A limited number of visitors will be scheduled at a time to shop and/or pick-up plants while practicing social distancing, so it'll be safe for all. The number of sales days will be determined by the number of volunteers and we'll need at least 2-3 dozen signed up and trained by September 15th so please call Kathy Harrington at 864-310-1144 or by e-mail: pharmkat1965@gmail.com

Greenhouse Goings On

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

Cathy McCurdy and her husband Lyn have agreed to take over the Maintenance & Operations Team (M&O) 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 aboard!**

The Greenhouse Gang has been equally as busy producing to the tune of more than 850 seedlings, cuttings, rootings, divisions etc., moving through the early phases of propagation in the greenhouse on their way to the inventory for future sales. Although the somewhat social 'workdays' of the past were suspended due to COVID, Greenhouse Gang Coordinator Pam Barbour, assisted by Kay Stafford and others, have been working independently to keep up the momentum while practicing social distancing. We'll be going into the Fall Sale season with over 5,000 plants in inventory for the first time ever!

Invasives

Mimosa (*Albizzia julibrissin*) is now blooming throughout South Carolina. It's a small, fast-growing tree. But don't let the beautiful flowers fool you! Mimosas are invasive trees and are listed as a significant threat to native plant populations. Please don't plant this tree in your landscape and remove invasives! A list of invasives from the SC Exotic Plant Pest Council: https://www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/SCEPPC_LIST2014finalOct.pdf a nd an informative PDF booklet with photos and descriptions of SC Invasive Species, as well as explanations of how these species harm native plant populations and wildlife: https://www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/Publications/InvasivePlantsBooklet .pdf

Thanks to Clemson Extension Agent Barbara Smith for this article from our SCNPS Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/SCNPS

***Invasive Mimosa** (Albizzia julibrissin)*

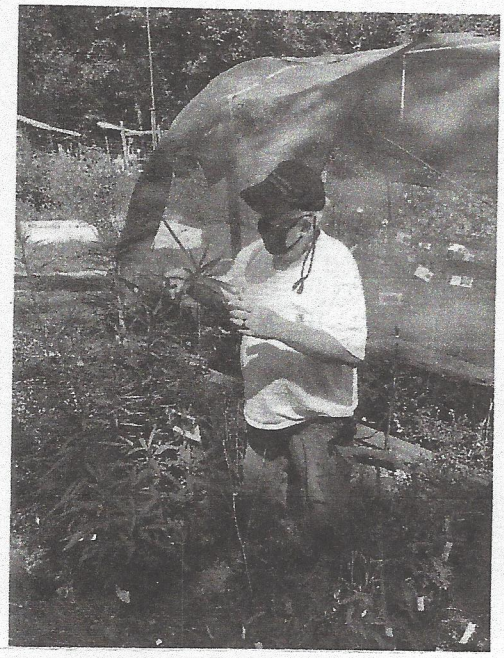
Joe Pye Weed

I came to the fall plant sale last year and everything that I bought is doing so well and really has brought in the native wildlife. My Joe Pye Weed is bringing in flocks of Yellow Tiger Swallowtail butterflies. I have more hummingbirds this year than ever on my native honeysuckle and ironweed. Gold finches are all over my brown eyed and blacked eyed Susan's. I have seen a hummingbird moth for the first time ever on my stemless ironweed. Been really fun!

Joe Pye Weed (Eutrochium purpureum)

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

UPSTATE Chapter



Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
GREENVILLE, SC
PERMIT NO. 618

Electronic Service Requested.

T00108
09/05/2020

DOUG LOCKARD
MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES: 01/31/2021
306 W FARIS RD
GREENVILLE SC 29605-3005

2020-21 Public Relations Project

The Board approved a special project for the 2020-21 year to launch a new Public Relations initiative. A special PR Steering Committee has been assembled by Doug Lockard who will be acting as it's Secretary, and which includes some well-established members of the SCNPS Upstate Jon Fritz, Rich Huffman, Keith Manche and Judy Seeley. Two new members to SCNPS Justin Kirby and Kyoko Niwah Pinson will also join the team and bring a fresh perspective to the program. Lastly, but most importantly, we've also invited two dynamic young interns from USC's School of Journalism and Communications to bring fresh marketing skills to help us convert the newsletter to an online digital edition and investigate other social media opportunities that might help us reach a wider demographic audience. It's going to be an exciting year so watch this space for updates!

Wonder Woman!

Annette Des Hotels Taking a Water Test