

# South Carolina Native Plant Society

Fall 2023

LOWCOUNTRY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



Hello SCNPS Lowcountry Chapter members!

The Lowcountry Chapter has a great line-up of lectures for the fall. We will be meeting in our regular location, the Biology Auditorium in Duckett Hall at The Citadel. The chapter will provide light refreshments after each lecture, and attendees may bring their beverage of choice. Details about upcoming lectures and field trips are provided on the following pages.

**South Carolina Native Plant Week** is celebrated the third week in October each year (October 16-20 in 2023). Many groups, including SCNPS, will be celebrating native plants with special events.

In addition to our fall lecture and field trip series, we encourage all members to consider attending the **South Carolina Native Plant Society Annual Meeting** held at **Saluda Shoals Park in Columbia, SC** on **Saturday, November 4th**. At this meeting, members will have the opportunity to attend a guided walk by a park naturalist, vote on bylaw updates, and vote in state Board of Director elections. Lunch will be provided. To stay up to date on the annual meeting details as well as Lowcountry chapter happenings, be sure to sign up for the newsletter at SCNPS.org under "Receive our Email Updates" on the home page.

Samantha Porzelt  
SCNPS Lowcountry Chapter President

## Lowcountry Fall Native Plant Market

**Saturday, October 14, 2023**

**9:30 am – 12:30 pm**

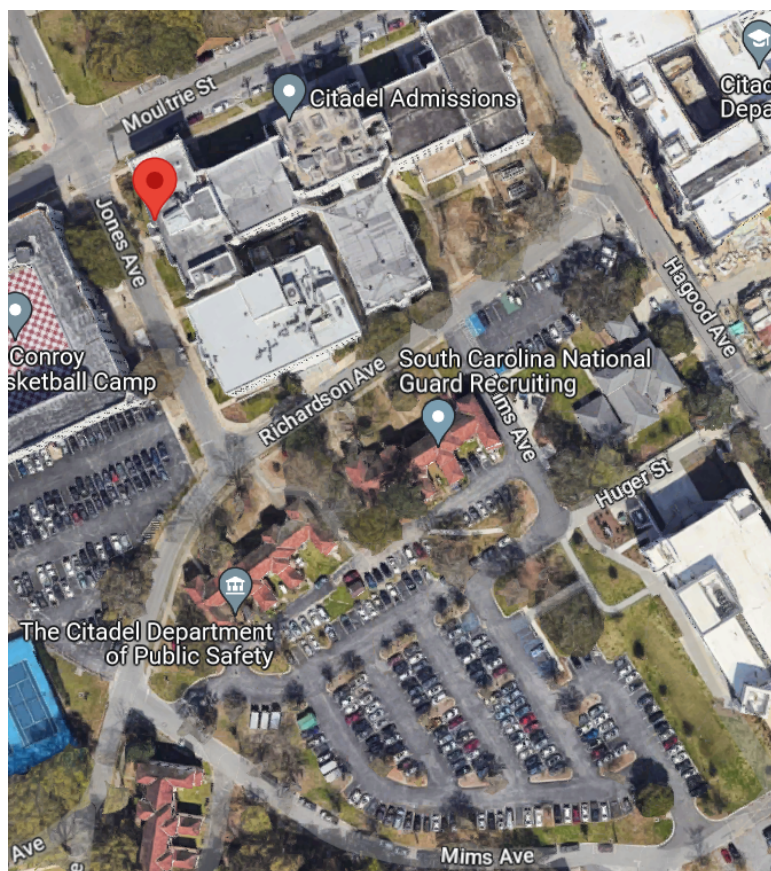
**PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION!**

**R. L. Jones Center, 391 Egypt Road, Mount Pleasant, SC**

The fall sale will be farmer's-market-style with several vendors offering a variety of natives. For more info, please contact Eddie Bernard at [edlbernard@aol.com](mailto:edlbernard@aol.com). To volunteer before and at the sale, please contact Lisa Cyrulik at [lcyrulik72@yahoo.com](mailto:lcyrulik72@yahoo.com). Plant Sale volunteers can start shopping at 9:00 am, SCNPS members shop at 9:15 am, and the sale opens to the public at 9:30 am.

## **LECTURE SERIES**

Lectures are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM, and tasty snacks will be provided during post-lecture socializing (BYO non-alcoholic beverage or water bottle). We will meet in **The Citadel's Duckett Hall Biology Auditorium, 2 Jones Ave, Charleston, SC 29403** (EXCEPT the Nov 28 meeting in Byrd Hall). Free parking is available after 5:00 PM in the parking lot south of Richardson Street, accessible from Mims Ave. Enter Duckett Hall from Jones Ave and take your first left from the stairwell into the Biology Auditorium.



### **Tuesday, September 19: Using Nature to Solve Man-Made Problems** ***Zack Snipes, Co-owner, Shoreline Restoration Group, LLC***

Shoreline Restoration Group, LLC, is a Charleston-based company whose mission is to stabilize, restore, and enhance South Carolina's shorelines and local ecosystems. The company provides a variety of services such as shorescaping with natives, stormwater pond management, wetlands restoration, living shorelines (oyster reefs), and drone services. Zack will give an overview of the company, its mission, and some current, past, and future projects. Be sure to join the related field trip this month where registered participants will have the opportunity to tour an installation in person.

**Tuesday, October 17: Saving Gadsden Creek: A Field Trip & Lecture**

**Rebecca Fanning** (*Friends of Gadsden Creek, Community Hydrology, SC Adopt a Stream*) & **Mikayla Mangle** (*Friends of Gadsden Creek, Center for Heirs' Property Preservation*)

We have a special two-for-one program this month with a combined field trip and lecture all in one evening! The field trip will start promptly at 5:30pm at the parking area near Duckett Hall followed by a short walk back to Duckett Hall for the lecture. Plan to attend one or both but we are asking everyone planning to attend the field trip to register - see below.

**Field Trip - 5:30pm**

***Saving Gadsden Creek: a tour of a flourishing saltwater ecosystem that faces burial by concrete***

As a SC Adopt a Stream volunteer and friend of the Friends of Gadsden Creek, Rebecca Fanning has spent years monitoring water quality and exploring the banks of one of the peninsula's last remaining tidal creeks. Hemmed in by development and under threat of permanent displacement by plans to have it piped underground, this flourishing saltwater marsh habitat is home to more than the usual suspects: in between Wax Myrtle and Black Cherry, a wild Walter's Viburnum blooms; Glass Lizards linger in the Sea Oxeye; Marsh Wrens make their nests in Marsh Elder; and unidentified crabs lurk along oyster beds. Rebecca will discuss the ecology of the creek and point out landmarks that will be important for the lecture to follow, including city infrastructure, habitat impacts, historic features, and more.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED:** To register, please email Amber Von Harten at [lowcountry.fieldtrips@scnps.org](mailto:lowcountry.fieldtrips@scnps.org) and provide a phone number where you can be reached on the day of the trip.

**Meeting location for field trip:** Registered participants should park and meet at the free parking areas near The Citadel's Duckett Hall Biology Auditorium, 2 Jones Ave, Charleston, SC 29403 (see map above). Free parking is available after 5:00 PM in the parking lot south of Richardson Street, accessible from Mims Ave.

**Lecture - 6:30pm (Duckett Hall, The Citadel)**

***Saving Gadsden Creek: a history of environmental racism and what Friends of Gadsden Creek is doing to reverse the trend***

Join us to learn from Mikayla about the work of Friends of Gadsden Creek and what community-based conservation and restoration can do. In her work for the Center for Heirs' Property Preservation, lawyer and community organizer Mikayla Mangle helps underserved communities build generational wealth through land and property ownership. For the last year, she has joined forces with the Friends of Gadsden Creek, a grassroots, community-led campaign opposing the destruction of Gadsden Creek, and the continued patterns of environmental racism inflicted upon Gadsden Green, the adjacent predominantly-Black, formerly racially-segregated public housing community. In this lecture, she will share the history of how the creek and its associated tidal salt marsh has transformed over time and how those changes have affected the surrounding plants, animals, and critically, the Gadsden Green community. Since developer-mayor Riley first envisioned the 'Horizon District' on the west side of the peninsula, developers have continued to try to fill the creek and build on top of it. South Carolina Environmental Law Project is representing the interests of FOGC to defend this vital habitat from developers and restore its environmental integrity.

**Additional Information:**

This 1.5-mile walking tour of Gadsden Creek will take place at 5:30pm just before our lecture. We will gather in the parking lot and make the short walk to where Gadsden Creek emerges

from underground at the intersection of Fishburne and Hagood. We will end the tour where Gadsden Creek meets the Ashley River at the south end of Brittlebank Park and, time permitting, Rebecca will demonstrate some basic water quality tests and indicators. From there we will return to Duckett Hall for the lecture at 6:30pm. We will walk along sidewalks and the edges of parking lots, so mud boots are not necessary, but plan to wear comfortable walking shoes and sun protection.

If you use the web-based application iNaturalist, observations are encouraged! All photos taken along the boundaries of Gadsden Creek are automatically uploaded to its Project Page, accessible at this link: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/gadsden-creek>

**Tuesday, November 28: Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve - Attributes and Management Challenges**  
***Trapper Fowler, North Coast Project Manager Coastal Conservation League***

**NOTE:** Meeting location for this lecture will be at **Byrd Hall** on The Citadel campus, directly south of our usual lecture location (Duckett Hall), at 1 Jones Avenue.

Former Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve manager Trapper Fowler will discuss what makes this site SC's most biologically diverse heritage preserve, how fire historically and currently plays a role in maintaining the habitat and why this specific location is such a challenge to burn today. We will discuss how the Coastal Conservation League has identified this preserve's protection from external threats as a major priority for their work and what is being done to ensure this treasure is sustained.

**FIELD TRIPS & PLANT SALE**

**Saturday, September 23, 9:00 to 10:30 am: Seaside Farms HOA in Mt. Pleasant**

***Field Trip Leader: Zack Snipes, Shoreline Restoration Group, LLC***

(Specific location will be provided to registered participants.)

On this field trip, participants will see recent work performed by Shoreline Restoration Group, LLC. In the spring of 2023, SRG was contracted by Seaside Farms to perform grading work accompanied with erosion management techniques and shoredscaping with natives on a stormwater pond. Participants will see native plants that were used in the erosion control design as well as the wildlife the site has brought in (dragonflies, native bees and wasps, butterflies, wood ducks, whistling ducks, turtles, and an otter).

**This field trip is limited to 15 participants and registration is required.** To register, please email Amber Von Harten at [lowcountry.fieldtrips@scnps.org](mailto:lowcountry.fieldtrips@scnps.org) and provide a phone number where you can be reached on the day of the trip.

**Saturday, October 14, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm: Fall Native Plant Market**

***PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION! R. L. Jones Center, 391 Egypt Road, Mount Pleasant, SC***

See the first page of this newsletter for additional details.

**Saturday, November 18, 10 am - 12:30 pm: Restoration of Pocotaligo Carolina Bay, Longleaf Pine, and Fall Wildflowers**

***Trip leader: Dr. Richard Porcher***

Join us for a trek to just east of Manning, SC (about a 2-hour drive from Charleston) for a special outing led by Dr. Richard Porcher to visit the site of the Pocotaligo Carolina Bay that he has restored. As described in *Wildflowers of South Carolina* (2022), Carolina bays are geological formations of unknown origin that form shallow depressions in sandy coastal soil mainly on the South Atlantic Coastal Plain Province of North America and are of significant ecological importance, providing wetland habitats for a variety of animals in the surrounding uplands and are a wildflower paradise. We will have the chance to visit Dr. Porcher's restored Carolina bay and longleaf pine habitats as well as look for Fall wildflowers.

**Registration is required.** To register, please email Amber Von Harten at [lowcountry.fieldtrips@scnps.org](mailto:lowcountry.fieldtrips@scnps.org) and provide a phone number where you can be reached on the day of the trip. Details will be provided to registered participants.

**ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING**

**Join the Kiawah Conservancy for these Native Plant Week events:**

Monday, October 16: A WALK IN THE GARDEN

Wednesday, October 18: WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

Thursday, October 19: DESIGNING IN NATURE WITH MARY REYNOLDS

Friday, November 3: NATIVE PLANT SALE

<https://kiawahconservancy.salsalabs.org/nativeplantweek2023/index.html>

**Saturday, November 4, SC Native Plant Society Statewide Annual Meeting**

**Saluda Shoals Park, Columbia, SC**

Join members of the Chapters from across the state for the Society's Annual Meeting to be held at Saluda Shoals Park in Columbia, SC. At this meeting, members will have the opportunity to attend a guided walk by a park naturalist, vote on bylaw updates, and vote in state Board of Director elections. Lunch will be provided. Additional details will be posted to <https://scnps.org/>

**Tuesday, December 12, 5:30 - 7:30 pm, SCNPS Lowcountry Chapter Holiday Social & Trivia (Location to be announced)**

**Thursday, December 14, 6:30 - 8:00 pm, Charleston Green Drinks - Plants & Trees**

**Palmetto Brewing, 289 Huger St, Charleston, SC 29403**

Charleston Green Drinks hosts monthly gatherings that offer environmentally-minded community members a chance to connect, collaborate, and learn more about environmental resources and opportunities in Charleston. All are welcome. Organizational co-hosts will provide brief intros, followed by tabling time and open networking, giving us all the chance to dig deeper into the issues and better connect with one another. For scheduling and more information visit

<https://growpurpose.com/charleston-green-drinks/>

### 2023 Lowcountry Chapter Board Members

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|----------------------------|------------------|--|
| President                  | Samantha Porzelt | <a href="mailto:scnps.lowcountry.president@gmail.com">scnps.lowcountry.president@gmail.com</a> |
| Vice President             | Austin Trousdale | <a href="mailto:awt3rd@gmail.com">awt3rd@gmail.com</a>   |
| Lectures + Field Trips     | Amber Von Harten | <a href="mailto:lowcountry.fieldtrips@scnps.org">lowcountry.fieldtrips@scnps.org</a>           |
| Hospitality                | Jennifer Bremer  | <a href="mailto:gingerbremer@icloud.com">gingerbremer@icloud.com</a>                           |
| Education & Outreach       | Lauren Boyd      | <a href="mailto:la.boyd@icloud.com">la.boyd@icloud.com</a>                                     |
| Publicity                  | Laura Moses      | <a href="mailto:lauramoses@yahoo.com">lauramoses@yahoo.com</a>                                 |
| Plant Sale                 | Eddie Bernard    | <a href="mailto:edlbernard@aol.com">edlbernard@aol.com</a>                                     |
| Membership                 | Caroline Wright  | <a href="mailto:calbrecht90@gmail.com">calbrecht90@gmail.com</a>                               |
| Grants Coordinator         | Matt Johnson     | <a href="mailto:matthew.johnson@audubon.org">matthew.johnson@audubon.org</a>                   |
| Rep to State Board         | Montana Feix     | <a href="mailto:montanafeix@gmail.com">montanafeix@gmail.com</a>                               |
| Board Member               | Colette DeGarady | <a href="mailto:cdegarady17@gmail.com">cdegarady17@gmail.com</a>                               |
| Board Member               | Sharleen Johnson | <a href="mailto:sharleen.p.johnson@gmail.com">sharleen.p.johnson@gmail.com</a>                 |
| Board Mem./State President | Katie Ellis      | <a href="mailto:kathryn.k.ellis@gmail.com">kathryn.k.ellis@gmail.com</a> , 843-906-9916        |

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