

# South Carolina Native Plant Society

Spring 2021

LOWCOUNTRY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER, Volume 23, Issue 1



Hello SCNPS Lowcountry chapter members! This is my first time writing to you as your new chapter president. I am thrilled to be in this position and look forward to building on the great work that this chapter has accomplished.

Though I don't think 2020 turned out the way any of us wanted, we still had a productive year for the Lowcountry chapter. A special thanks goes to outgoing president Sharleen Johnson for her dedicated service to the South Carolina Native Plant Society over the last two years (and well before that). Please join me in thanking Sharleen!

Fortunately, Sharleen will remain a member of our board, and we have many previous board members staying involved as well. This talented board has been hard at work on a spring schedule of exciting events. We invite you to read below for a preview of lectures and socially-distant field trips, as well as our annual spring native plant sale. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we will continue holding our lectures virtually until further notice. If you aren't already, be sure to subscribe to the state-wide SCNPS email list to get up-to-date information about events, including Zoom links for lectures (<http://tinyletter.com/scnps>).

Please note, given our transition to virtual programming over the last year, our board is planning to discontinue mailing our newsletter and monthly postcards for the foreseeable future. We will continue sending both our newsletter and postcards out via e-mail and will post this information on the SCNPS website. If you would like to continue receiving chapter news in the mail, please let us know by either e-mailing Sharleen Johnson ([sharleen.p.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:sharleen.p.johnson@gmail.com)) or mailing a note to P.O. Box 14517, Charleston, SC 29422. Note: Only current dues-paying members are eligible to receive news via hard copy mail.

Lastly, please encourage a school or worthy organization to apply for an SCNPS Project Grant this spring! The Lowcountry chapter will be accepting separate applications for school and community projects. School projects (up to \$500) must be directed at educating students about Lowcountry native plants or plant communities, and community projects (up to \$1,000) must be directed at protecting, restoring, and/or educating the public about native plants. **The deadline for Spring 2021 applications is Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**, with grant funds being awarded by Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. For application details, please visit: <https://scnps.org/lowcountry>.

Matt Johnson  
Lowcountry President

*Save the Date: Spring Native Plant Market!*

**Saturday, March 27th, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Charles Towne Landing parking lot  
1500 Old Towne Road, Charleston 29407**

Our Spring 2021 sale will be a "farmer's market" style sale with several vendors offering a variety of natives. We recommend subscribing to our TinyLetter e-mail list (<http://tinyletter.com/scnps>) to get up-to-date information about the plant sale, including a list of plants that will be available. To learn more about ways you can volunteer before and at the sale, contact Lisa Cyrulik at [lcyrulik72@yahoo.com](mailto:lcyrulik72@yahoo.com). Details on a pre-sale are being finalized and will be announced soon.

## **LECTURE SERIES**

Unless noted otherwise, monthly meetings for our lecture series are held on the **third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm**. Until further notice, all lectures will take place through Zoom and Facebook Live. If you can't join our lectures live, please note that recordings of past talks are available on the SCNPS Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/SCNPS/](http://www.facebook.com/SCNPS/)); click the "More" tab and then "Videos" to view them at any time.

### **February 16<sup>th</sup>: Protecting Places for Plants: A Land Trust's Role in Preserving Habitat and Open Space**

*Tom Austin, Edisto Island Open Land Trust*

Join Tom Austin, Land Protection Specialist for the Edisto Island Open Land Trust (EIOLT), for an introduction to land trusts, their important role in natural resource conservation, what they do for native biodiversity, and an update on EIOLT's pollinator garden project at the Hutchinson House Heritage Center, funded by the Lowcountry chapter of SCNPS and the Carolina Butterfly Society.

### **March 16<sup>th</sup>: From Entomologist to Native Plant Vendor – A Natural Link**

*Dwight Williams, Owner of Bottle Tree Gardening*

Dwight will share his perspective as an entomologist on the importance of native plants and what he learned from his path as former manager of natural exhibits at Cypress Gardens to creator and owner of Bottle Tree Gardening nursery in McClellanville, SC. Dwight is one of the consistent local vendors at our chapter's bi-annual plant sales.

### **April 20<sup>th</sup>: Ecological Forest Management: An Overview of Audubon South Carolina's Forest Management Program**

*Tim Evans, Forest Program Manager, Audubon South Carolina*

Audubon manages more than 25,000 acres in South Carolina with hopes for the future and an eye to the past. Using soil maps, archival aerial photography and old journals, we work to identify historic forest types and restore native plant communities in areas where they've been lost, either by conversion or degradation. Join Tim for this presentation to learn about Audubon's unique ecological approach to managing our forests.

### **May 18<sup>th</sup>: Rewards and Challenges of Managing for a Diverse and Healthy Habitat**

*Jim Westerhold, General Manager, Boone Hall Plantation and Farms*

Jim Westerhold received his education by growing up on a farm and a Masters degree from Clemson in wildlife management. He has been managing natural resources in SC, mostly the coastal plain, for over 30 years. Jim left a great job at Horry Georgetown Technical College to take his dream job of managing Boone Hall in May of 2020. Boone Hall Plantation is a 700-acre property in the middle of Mount Pleasant. The goal is to manage every acre for long-term benefit for the community. The obstacles (public perception and expectations, present high quantity of non-native plants, Covid, education of paid visitors, etc.) are difficult, but the need and opportunity exist. Jim will discuss his approach to management of Boone Hall Plantation.

## FIELD TRIPS

**Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Roxbury Park (4494 SC-174, Meggett, SC)**

*Leader: Tom Austin, Land Protection Specialist, Edisto Island Open Land Trust*

*Details: Join local naturalist Tom Austin for a guided nature walk through the Town of Meggett's Roxbury Park. Roxbury Park is a roughly 200-acre park with over 4,000 feet of frontage along Toogoodoo Creek. The property boasts a wide diversity of habitat types and a staggering biodiversity for its relatively small size. So far, over 1,500 species of plants, animals, and fungi have been documented on the property. A stroll below its mature upland forests, across its freshwater marsh, along the creek and ponds, or through its native wildflower plantings is almost certain to yield something surprising! *Space is limited to the first 15 members who register. Please RSVP to Austin Trousdale: [awt3rd@gmail.com](mailto:awt3rd@gmail.com).**

**Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**Spring Native Plant Market at Charles Towne Landing**

Our Spring 2021 sale will be a “farmer’s market” style sale with several vendors offering a variety of natives. We recommend subscribing to our TinyLetter e-mail list (<http://tinyletter.com/scnps>) to get up-to-date information about the plant sale, including a list of plants that will be available. To learn more about ways you can volunteer before and at the sale, please contact Lisa Cyrulik at [lcyrulik72@yahoo.com](mailto:lcyrulik72@yahoo.com). Details on a pre-sale are being finalized and will be announced soon.

**Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm**

**Francis Beidler Forest (336 Sanctuary Road, Harleyville, SC 29448)**

*Leader: Audubon South Carolina staff*

*Details: In the morning we will hike the newly opened and developing trail network through former agricultural fields now converted to native grasslands. Following a BYO lunch, options include participating in a 2-hour canoe tour through Four Holes Swamp or exploring the 1.75-mile boardwalk trail. Meet at the new parking area adjacent to the front entrance of Beidler. *Space is limited to the first 12 members who register. There is a \$15/person fee to participate. Please RSVP to Austin Trousdale: [awt3rd@gmail.com](mailto:awt3rd@gmail.com).**

**Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9:30 am – 11:30 am**

**Boone Hall Plantation & Gardens (1235 Long Point Rd. Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464)**

*Leader: Jim Westerhold, General Manager*

*Details: We'll take a stroll with the new manager, Jim Westerhold, who will share the challenges of invasive plant species management on the property. *There is no charge for this program, but space is limited with a max of 12 participants. To register, email Colette DeGarady at [colette.degarady@tnc.org](mailto:colette.degarady@tnc.org).**

## 2021 Lowcountry Chapter Board Members

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President	Matt Johnson	scnps.lowcountry.president@gmail.com
Programs & Field Trips	Austin Trousdale	awt3rd@gmail.com
Hospitality	Lauren Boyd	la.boyd@icloud.com
Education & Outreach	Lauren Boyd	la.boyd@icloud.com
Education & Outreach	Matt Johnson	scnps.lowcountry.president@gmail.com
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Rep to State Board	Austin Trousdale	awt3rd@gmail.com
Board Mem./State President	Katie Ellis	kathryn.k.ellis@gmail.com, 843-906-9916

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