

SOUTH CAROLINA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SPRING 2019

LOWCOUNTRY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER, VOL. 21, Issue 2, Charleston, SC



We hope your holiday season has proven festive and restorative. As you plan for 2019, please note our exciting spring line-up of lectures, field trips and more; we hope to see you there!

This fall, the South Carolina Native Plant Society completed a purchase to add a key piece of creek-side property to our Parks Mill preserve for the Rocky Shoals Spider Lily (*Hymenocallis coronaria*) on McCormick County's Stevens Creek. This purchase was made possible by contributions from the Lowcountry and Upstate chapters in addition to generous donations from individuals. Our February field trip includes a tour of the expanded preserve!

Please welcome our new Lowcountry Chapter Co-Presidents: Heather VanTassel and Sharleen Johnson. Both Heather and Sharleen have been active members of the Lowcountry Board. Heather works for The Nature Conservancy as the SC chapter Conservation Coordinator where she coordinates the conservation easement program and assists with land protection. Sharleen works as a Biologist for SCDNR's Marine Resources Research Institute where she is involved in research and monitoring projects related to coastal and estuarine habitats. Mary Conley will be our new Community Project Grants Chair. See the back page of this newsletter for the positions, names and contact information for everyone on our Board. Thanks, team!

SCNPS is a 100% volunteer-run organization, and new volunteers are always welcomed with open arms. We are particularly seeking new folks to help Jeff and Matt with our Lowcountry chapter outreach table at a variety of community events, as well as volunteers to fill the positions of Program & Field Trip Chair and Plant Sale Co-Chair. If you are interested in these or other volunteer opportunities, please approach one of our board members at any lecture or field trip; we would be very happy to discuss details with you.

This spring, we will once again be funding SCNPS Community Project Grants! Projects must be directed at protecting, preserving, restoring, and/or educating the public about native plants in the Lowcountry of South Carolina. **The deadline for Spring 2019 applications is Feb. 1, and the new grants contact is Mary Conley.** Visit <https://scnps.org/update-community-project-grant-application> for updated application details.

Spring Native Plant Sale!

Saturday, March 16, 9 am - 12 noon

SCNPS Members can start shopping at 8:30! Volunteers can shop at 8:15!

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

We have a great selection of native plants with many hard-to-find species... colorful perennials, shrubs, trees, grasses, ferns and edibles. Cash, check, or credit card accepted. A plant list will be available before the sale on the SCNPS website. Admission to the plant sale is free. If you wish to explore Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site, please pay admission in the visitor center. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Eddie Bernard (edlbernard@aol.com or 843-270-1112) or visit scnps.org.

LECTURE SERIES

Unless noted otherwise, monthly meetings for our lecture series are held on the **third Tuesday** of the month at **6:30 pm** at the **Biology Auditorium, 101 Duckett Hall, at The Citadel**. A map is available at this website: <http://www.citadel.edu/root/visitor-parking> Yellow indicates visitor parking. Attendees may also park in the lot just below the Hagood Gate. ***Please join us after each lecture for a reception, including hors d'oeuvres and wine, plus native plant give-aways!***

January 15: Rare Species Reintroduction in the Longleaf Ecosystem

Lisa Lord, The Longleaf Alliance, SCNPS State President

Longleaf ecosystem restoration, and the recovery of some of its rare species, is a priority in South Carolina. Lisa will highlight The Longleaf Alliance's work to reintroduce the federally endangered Red-cockaded woodpecker and state endangered gopher tortoise on public and private lands in SC and discuss how these reintroductions are benefiting overall ecosystem recovery. Lisa will also provide an update regarding the recently purchased addition to the Rocky Shoals Spider Lily Preserve in McCormick County by SCNPS.

February 19: Woodlanders: History, Plant Introductions, and Propagation Tips

George Mitchell & Carl Dawson, owners of Woodlanders Nursery

George and Carl will describe the history and operation of one of South Carolina's unique horticultural treasures and its associated plants and share some important tips for propagating native and exotic plants. Woodlanders is an international rare plant mail-order nursery founded in 1980 by Robert & Julia Mackintosh. Since then, the company has offered more than 2,000 different rare and hard-to-find plants – many otherwise unavailable in the nursery trade – to arboreta, private gardeners and plant collectors worldwide. They operate on less than 2 acres in beautiful Aiken, SC. For more information, see the February field trip description.

March 19: The Southeastern Grasslands Initiative: A New Course for Conservation in the 21st Century

Dr. Dwayne Estes, Southeastern Grasslands Initiative

Grassland loss is the single greatest conservation issue currently facing eastern North American biodiversity. Southern grasslands are nearly extinct and the species that depend on them are fading fast. The Southeastern Grasslands Initiative (SGI) is a collaboration of leaders in international biodiversity conservation led by the Austin Peay State University Center of Excellence for Field Biology, in partnership with the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, North Carolina Botanical Garden, and Roundstone Native Seed. SGI seeks to integrate research, consultation, and education, along with the administration of grants, to create innovative solutions to address the multitude of complex issues facing Southeastern grasslands, the most imperiled ecosystems in eastern North America.

April 16: TBA

May 21: Re-Thinking the Urban Watershed

Kim Morganello, Clemson University Cooperative Extension

Resilient landscapes that are also aesthetically pleasing and sustainable are becoming increasingly popular in South Carolina communities. Rain gardens, rainwater harvesting systems, vegetative buffers, shorescapes and other features work to assist residents with erosion control, manage stormwater runoff, conserve water and provide habitat for pollinators and songbirds. An overview of design considerations, including native plant selection, will be provided for a number of these landscape-level best management practices. This lecture will also highlight available resources and tools to assist with implementation in the home landscape.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, January 19, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

A Brisk Winter Walk Along the Palmetto Trail in Francis Marion National Forest

Leader: Jeff Jackson, Horticulturist, Amateur Naturalist, and past president of the Lowcountry chapter

Join us for a brisk winter walk in the National Forest. We hope to cover 3 - 5 miles along one of our state's treasures, The Palmetto Trail. Segment covered will depend on conditions at the time of the walk. We will meet at the Harris Teeter on Hwy. 41 in Mt. Pleasant and plan on departing there at 10 am. Bring water, trail snacks, binoculars, etc. Most importantly, dress appropriately for the weather conditions and wear good shoes or boots! Please email Jeff ASAP at lowcountryroots@aol.com to let him know you are going and to receive updates as we get closer to the date.

Saturday, February 23, 8:30 am

Woodlanders Nursery & Parks Mill Trip

Leader: Jeff Jackson, Horticulturist, Amateur Naturalist, and past president of the Lowcountry chapter

Pack a lunch! And maybe even a dinner, because we will be in for a LONG but fun day...

We will depart promptly at 8:30 am from the Walmart parking lot in Summerville (at the intersection of Hwy 17A and I-26) for a 2-hour drive to Aiken's Woodlanders Nursery, grower of hard-to-find native and exotic plants for almost 40 years. We will tour their nursery operation. (Note: Woodlanders is a mail order company. They are **not** set up for retail sales and we will not be able to make purchases during the field trip. **HOWEVER, you can place orders prior to the trip** and arrange to pick them up while we are there. For more information, visit www.woodlanders.net.) Next, we will travel north for about another hour to our extraordinary property at Parks Mill. This property is a botanical and historical gem! We'll tour the property, including the historic mill and Stevens Creek, which flows through the property and is home to an incredible population of Rocky Shoals Spider Lilies. If there's interest, an evening cookout/pot luck could happen. Sign up is REQUIRED. Contact Jeff at lowcountryroots@aol.com for more information and to sign up.

Saturday, March 16, 9:00 am – noon

Spring Native Plant Sale! Charles Towne Landing. See front page for details.

Saturday, April 20, TBA

Saturday, May 25, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Walking Tour at Fort Johnson Marine Center + Picnic

Leaders: Kim Counts Morganello (Clemson) & Sharleen Johnson (SCDNR)

Visit the Fort Johnson Marine Science Center on James Island for a walking tour highlighting a total of four demonstration gardens at the College of Charleston's Grice Marine Laboratory and at the SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) Marine Resources Center. Participants will walk up to two miles as we visit and interact with rainwater harvesting systems of varying sizes, rain gardens, native plant gardens, bog gardens and more. Bonus highlights include historical earthworks and tabby cisterns located on campus as well as breathtaking views of the Charleston Harbor. We will conclude with a picnic lunch.

Tuesday, June 18, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Green Drinks, featuring the South Carolina Native Plant Society

Come join us and your fellow nature-loving Lowcountry folks! There will be a brief presentation and a lot of fellowship. Location TBA.

Lowcountry Chapter Board Members

Co-President	Heather VanTassel	heather.hulton@gmail.com
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