



Native Plant News

The Newsletter of the North Carolina Native Plant Society

Volume V, Issue 1

January/February 2007

Plants without Borders Native Plant Society Symposium and Plant Sale

May 4-6, 2007

Museum of York County
4621 Mt. Gallant Blvd., Rock Hill, SC

Presented jointly by

South Carolina Native Plant Society
North Carolina Native Plant Society
Culture & Heritage Museums, Museum of York County

The 2007 symposium is the first joint symposium with the North Carolina and South Carolina Native Plant Societies. A theme was chosen to reflect the fact that we will be reaching across state lines with "Plants Without Borders."

This will be a great opportunity to meet our neighbors to the south as well as learn how to preserve our native plants. The Museum of York County has agreed to host the symposium as part of their effort to forge partnerships with natural resource groups in the area. To learn more about MYCO, visit www.chmuseums.org/. To get maps and other information about York County, visit www.visitryorkcounty.com/

To kick off the symposium, Randy Westbrook will talk about the ultimate plants without borders "Invasive Exotic Plants" and ways to combat the invasion. In addition to Randy's talk on Friday evening, we are planning a wine and cheese reception and a silent auction. Money will go to offset symposium expenses and to fund a scholarship for students to attend the Cullowee Native Plant Conference.

Saturday morning we get an early start with the symposium and plant sale beginning at 8:30 am. Native plant vendors will come from across the Carolinas for this one day. It is a unique opportunity to buy native plants and get hands-on advice from experts. The plant sale will be outside on the museum grounds.

On Saturday morning, the symposium begins with three lectures: *Propagating Native Orchids* by Larry Mellichamp, *Natural History of the Rocky Shoals Spider*

Lily by Andy Lazenby, and *Andre Michuax and Magnolia Microphylla* Hidden Jewel of the Piedmont by Charlie Williams.

For lunch, you can order a sandwich box lunch that you can enjoy at the picnic area on the museum grounds. After lunch, we have planned business meetings for the two Native Plant Societies.

Saturday afternoon, from 2 to 5 pm, we figured that people would be ready to get outside, so we planned various outdoor workshops.

- A. Tour the site of the new museum located along the Catawba River. Learn about the future plans for sustainable development of the site and the various bioblitzes that university and museum personnel have done. We'll carpool out to the new museum site. It is about a 20 minute drive one way.
- B. Learn how to take advantage of the millions of gallons of rain that flow from your roof by Creating a Rain Garden. These mini wetlands not only provide great wildlife habitat, but also clean the rainwater entering our rivers. Lara Rozzell of UNC extension service will create a rain garden on the museum grounds.
- C. Our next session, Landscaping with Natives, includes various topics such as landscaping with native plants, organic composting, and other ways to reduce yard waste. Mary Stauble with Charlotte-Mecklenburg County will lead a hands-on workshop to show you how to use native plants to minimize the need for watering and fertilizing in your yard.
- D. This workshop features two speakers: Gail Wagner, an ethnobotanist from USC, will lead us on one of her Grazing Tours to learn about the uses of various native plants in the area. Next is Newt Hardie, founder of KO Kudzu in Spartanburg. KO kudzu is a grass-roots organization dedicated to the control of kudzu without herbicides. Not only will you learn ways to use the growth patterns of kudzu to control it, but also you will hear about their work in the City of Spartanburg and its school system.

- E. Same workshops as D, but Newt will talk first.
- F. Charlotte-Mecklenburg County has 6 sites that focus on Piedmont Prairie Restoration. Tour their native plant nursery to learn about propagation techniques for native prairie species. We'll carpool out to the nursery. It is about a half hour drive one-way.

On Saturday evening, we have planned a social hour starting at 5 pm at Ebenezer Park on Lake Wylie. Next we will have a Bar-B-Que dinner at 6 pm. We'll close the Silent auction at 7:00 pm and announce the winners. At 7:00 pm, we will have an special visit from a mystery guest. Ebenezer Park is located approximately 10 minutes from MYCO off Mt. Gallant Road. To learn more about Ebenezer Park: visit: www.yorkcountygov.com/ebenezerpark. It has camping too, so you walk back to your camping spot if you choose.

On Sunday, we have five field trips planned. We will leave from the Wingate Hotel for the field trips and carpool to save expenses.

- A. Canoe trip through Rocky Shoal Spider lilies at Landsford Canal State Park. Led by Andy Lazenby (Minimum 5, Limit 20 at \$25 per person includes park admission fee and canoe. The money goes back to the park and not the NPS's). You will put canoes in at the upper locks and take out canoes at the lower locks in Landsford Canal State Park and canoe through the world's largest population of Rocky Shoal Spider Lilies. To learn more about Landsford Canal State Park, visit www.southcarolinaparks.com/ and select the park finder.
- B. Nature hike along the Landsford Canal to view lilies at Landsford Canal State Park. Led by John Schmidt. (Minimum: 5. There is a park admission fee of \$2 per person). Walk along the nature trail to view flowering plants to get to the viewing platform to see the Rocky Shoal Spider Lilies. If you are lucky, you might see the nesting bald eagles. They have lived at Landsford Canal State Park for several years. To learn more about Landsford Canal State Park, visit www.southcarolinaparks.com/ and select the park finder.
- C. Tour of the Botanical Garden at UNCC (Minimum: 5.) Led by Larry Mellichamp. Hike the nature trail at UNCC in north Charlotte and learn about the various native plants maintained at the botanical gardens
- D. Big leaf hike at Red Lair Farms (Minimum: 5) Led by Charlie Williams. Enjoy a nature hike to view flowering plants in the area. In addition you will get a special treat and view Big Leaf Magnolia.
- E. KO kudzu blitz at Rose Hill State Historic Site (Minimum: 5) Led by Newt Hardie. This a hands-on

opportunity to see the KO kudzu volunteers in action and try some of their control techniques for yourself. This KO kudzu blitz is a joint effort of the Rose Hill State Historic Site, the Forest Service, and KO kudzu volunteers. To learn more about Rose Hill State Historic Site visit www.southcarolinaparks.com/ and select the park finder.

But wait there is more.... the museum gift shop has agreed to host a book sale for us. You can purchase various titles, such as *Native Plant Propagation Handbook* by the NC Native Plant Society, *A Guide to Wildflowers of South Carolina* by Richard D. Porcher and Douglas A. Raynor, *The Winter Garden* by Peter Loewer & Larry Mellichamp plus other titles. T-shirts will be available. The t-shirt design will feature an outline of NC and SC with the logos of the SCNPS, NCNPS, and MYCO on the back. The front will feature a small design of yellow jessamine and the ladies slipper with "Plants without Borders" over the left breast that met the approval of our husbands too.

We have lined up accommodations at the Wingate Inn for a cost of \$89 per night + 11% sales tax. This price includes a breakfast buffet. The Wingate Inn is located off Dave Lyle Blvd near Exit 79 off I-77. Plan on about a half hour driving time from the hotel to MYCO. Camping sites with hook-ups are available at Ebenezer Park located about 10 minutes from MYCO. To make an on-line reservation go to: www.yorkcountygov.com/ebenezerpark.



Landsford Canal, 2002; © Jean Woods

Symposium at a Glance

Friday, May 4, Museum of York County

Time	Location
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm - Early Registration	Auditorium
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm Silent Auction	Auditorium
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm Wine & Cheese Reception	African Hall
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm – Invasive plants-(Randy Westbrook)	Auditorium

Saturday, May 5, Museum of York County

8:30 am to 5:00 pm	Native Plant Sale and Exhibitors	Museum Grounds
8:00 am-12:00 (noon)	Registration	Auditorium
All morning sessions will be in the Auditorium		
8:30 am to 8:45 am	Welcome	Bill Stringer, President of the SCNPS and Tom Harville, President of the NCNPS
8:45 am to 9:45 am	Propagating Native Orchids – (Larry Mellichamp)	
9:45 am to 10:45 am-	Andre Michaux and Magnolia Microphylla – (Charlie Williams)	
10:45 am to 11:00 am	break	
11:00 am to 12 noon -	Rocky Shoal Spider lily- (Andy Lazenby)	
12:00 to 1:00 pm	lunch	Auditorium/Picnic area
1:00 pm to 2 pm	business meetings of the NPSs	Auditorium/Classroom
1:00 pm to 2 pm	tour of museum	Museum
2:00 to 5 pm		
A	Tour new museum site (Steve Fields & John Schmidt)	Near Catawba River
B	Rain Gardens (Lara Rossell)	Museum grounds
C	Landscaping with Natives (Mary Stobble)	Covered Picnic Area
D	Grazing Tour (Gail Wagner)/KO Kudzu (Newt Hardie) (Limit 15)	Museum grounds/ Classroom
E	KO Kudzu/Grazing Tour (Limit 15)	Classroom/Museum Grounds
F	Tour of Native Plant Nursery at Char-Meck (limit 18)	Charlotte, NC
5:00 to 6:00 pm	Social Hour at Ebenezer Park on Lake Wylie	
6:00 pm	Bar-B-Que Dinner.	
We'll close the Silent auction at 7:00 pm and announce the winners.		
7:00 pm	Interpretative Program on Medicinal Plants of European Settlers	

Sunday, May 6

9:00 am Leave from Winngate Inn for field trips- To save expenses, we will carpool rather than rent vans. Also bring your lunches and drinks.

- A. Canoe trip through Rocky Shoals Spider lilies at Andy Lazenby
Landsford Canal State Park (Limit 20 at \$25 per person includes
park admission fee)
- B. Nature hike in Landsford Canal State Park to John Schmidt
view the Rocky Shoals lilies (there is a park admission fee)
- C. Tour of the Botanical Garden at UNCC Larry Mellichamp
- D. Big leaf hike at Red Lair Farms Charlie Williams
- E. KO kudzu blitz at Rose Hill State Historic Site Newt Hardie

**Registration information will be available soon.
Watch for a brochure in the mail, or check
www.ncwildflower.org**

From the President...

I had a very interesting question posed to me the other day. I was asked if I could only impart three things from the Native Plant Society to the public—what would they be?

Before you read on—think about that question.

In reality, each member of the Society should be ready to provide an answer but here's what I thought of:

1. That NC is VERY rich in the diversity of native flora and for people to get out and appreciate all of this diversity. They should take the time to seek out some of our preserved areas and enjoy everything around you, the trees, the bushes, the plants. Take a series of walks through the same area and watch it change over the seasons.
2. That there is a lot of stewardship required to maintain the areas that are and will be set aside to preserve native plants. There is a real threat to our native environments from invasive plants like Japanese Stilt grass, *Microstegium vimineum*, Japanese honeysuckle, *Lonicera japonica*, or Princess trees, *Paulownia tomentosa* and a host of others and we should invest in removing these threats to keep our native heritage for future generations.
3. That we can incorporate native plants into our home and business landscapes. As our population continues to grow, development will happen but we can explore options that can preserve native plant habitats and in those cases where a project is necessary we can rescue some of the plants and preserve them in other areas.

These may not be your first thoughts but I will assure you that no matter what you came up with, it will take action on *all* our parts to get the message out. I encourage you to get involved with the Society.

Tom Harville



NCNPS website:

www.ncwildflower.org

Listserv:

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/NCNPS

Earn a Plants Without Borders T-shirt!

There are various ways you can make the 2007 symposium "Plants Without Borders" a huge success.

1. We need people to
 - bring finger food for the reception and breaks,
 - donate items for the silent auction, or
 - bring plants for the rain garden.
2. On the day of the symposium, we will need people to
 - staff the registration desk or
 - sell symposium t-shirts.
 -

For volunteering two hours, you will get a free symposium t-shirt.

Please contact Jean Woods,
jean14424@aol.com to sign up.

Oh, there is one last thing you can do—mark your calendars and spread the word about the symposium. In the next few months, we will finalize the details and send out the brochure, but word of mouth is the best advertisement.

Jean Woods

Society news ..

Shinn Fund Donations received

Generous contributions to the Shinn Fund were received this year from:

Tom Harville of Cary
Dr. and Mrs. Ray Noggle of Raleigh

If you would like to honor a friend, remember a loved one, or just make a contribution, please direct your check to: Hugh Partiridge, Treasurer, 736 Linda Court, Cary, NC 27513-4318. A card announcing your gift will be mailed according to your directions.

Lichen Inventory of the North Carolina Piedmont slated for publication

Gary B. Perlmutter received a grant from the NCNPS (Shinn Grant) to have his article on the lichens of Piedmont North Carolina published in *Castanea*, the journal of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society. Publication date is expected to be January 2007.

"Based on surveys of the literature and herbaria, including internet-available herbarium databases, plus recent collections, the lichen flora of the Piedmont of North Carolina consists of 340 taxa representing 111 genera in 41 families including three taxa of uncertain position. Broken down by habit, the flora is 32% crustose, 46% foliose, and 22% fruticose. This report presents the first lichen checklist for the North Carolina Piedmont. Twenty-two taxa are reported as new for the state, including the genera *Gyalecta*, *Lichinia* and *Sarcogyne*."

Perlmutter, who works with the NC Department of Natural Resources, Division of Air Quality, is a Native Plant Studies Certificate Program student at the NC Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill. His application was sponsored by Misty Franklin.



Pyxie cup lichen.
www.buenavistatownship.org/.../nature_trail.htm

Correspondence received

...acknowledgement from Governor Michael F. Easley regarding our letter opposing development of the North Shore Road Project in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

...acknowledgement from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service regarding our letter opposing development of the North Shore Road Project in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

...letter from the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, State Parks and Recreation, regarding our letter of support for the acquisition of Chimney Rock Park as an addition to the Hickory Nut Gorge State Park.

...application from Gary B. Perlmutter of Raleigh for a Tom and Bruce Shinn Grant.

Contrasts

Or, what a difference 700 years and another culture makes .

"the din of the dusty world and the locked-in-ness of human habitations are what human nature habitually abhors; while, on the contrary, haze, mist, and the haunting spirits of the mountains are what human nature seeks, and yet can rarely find."

Kuo Hsi, 11th Century Chinese painter
An Essay on Landscape Painting

"Looking only a few years through the vista of futurity what a sublime spectacle presents itself! Wilderness, once the chosen residence of solitude and savageness, converted into populous cities, smiling villages, beautiful farms and plantations!"

Chillicothe (Ohio) *Supporter (American frontier newspaper)*
1817

New Benefit of Membership

At the Cullowhee Conference last summer George Lockhart asked if the NCNPS has a listserv - a tool through which members across the state can communicate with one another. His was looking for a way for members to communicate directly with one another for assistance with plant identification, suggestions for gardening, places to visit, etc.

Sounded like a great idea, but as with many good ideas, it took a little time to put into place. We have a very nice website (<http://www.ncwildflower.org/>) which holds photos, a calendar, and lots of information about native plants, invasives, plant sources, and upcoming events.

The new listserv will NOT replace that website. Instead, it functions as an additional benefit of membership.

Here's how it works:

1. First, you must sign onto the site.

Go to

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/NCNPS

2. Click on Join. When prompted, list your name and that you want to sign up for the site.

If you don't have a Yahoo ID, follow these instructions:

a. Go to www.groups.yahoo.com/group/NCNPS
b. Click on the blue Join This Group button.

c. If you don't already have a Yahoo ID, click on Don't Have a Yahoo ID? Sign UP

d. Enter your first name, last name, Yahoo US, gender, Yahoo ID (try your name, nickname, abbreviated name, whatever you can find that hasn't already been taken) and a password.

e. You will need to remember your Yahoo ID and password, for that is what you will use to access the site. You don't have to use the Yahoo ID (which appears as an email address) for anything else. It is just an ID system.

f. Complete the rest of the form (security question and answer, birthdate, zip code, and an alternate email - you can use your regular email here). Then verify your registration by entering the code shown.

g. At the bottom of the form, click "I Agree."

You're set and ready to log onto the NCNPS group site by using your Yahoo ID and password.

This is all very secure and safe. The Triad Chapter has been using a Yahoo group for a couple of years with nary a problem. Same for the Charlotte chapter.

3. A message will be sent to me (and Tom Harville), asking for approval - which will be approved, of course. This system allows us to keep this a private, members-only site, which in turn allows us to keep out spam and unsavory characters.

4. You are ready to go. Any message you post to this site will go to every NCNPS member who also signs up for the service.

You will be able to post messages, photos, files, and calendar information if you choose.

Thanks, George, for setting this idea in motion!

If you experience any difficulties, contact me at

kathys@ncwildflower.org

and I will walk you through the process.

Now, what are you waiting for. Let's all get signed up!

NCNPS website:

www.ncwildflower.org

Listserv:

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/NCNPS

Chapter news

Margaret Reid Chapter (Triangle Area)

Contact Margaret Partridge at
margaret@ncwildflower.org

- 2/18/07 Turkey Creek Work Day
- 3/4/07 Occonechee Park
- 3/18/07 Long Leaf Pine Savannah at Sharon Harris
with Dr. Gary Blank
- 4/1/07 Catsburg Bluffs
- 4/8/07 Reid Garden Easter Open House
- 4/15/07 TBA
- 5/6/07 Exploring Coastal Plain around Mount Olive
with AJ Bullard
- 5/20/07 Tour of the Blomquist Garden with Stefan
Bloodworth
- 6/3/07 Picture Creek joint walk with the Butterfly
Society

For more information on the activities of the Triangle Chapter, see Charlie Kidder's article "Native Plants at the N.C. State Fairgrounds" on page 7.

Charlotte Mecklenberg Chapter

The Charlotte Chapter has a new chair, Angela Haigler. She can be reached at
angela@ncwildflower.org

See pages 1 – 3 to see what the Charlotte Chapter has been up to!

Triad Chapter

Contact for details: kathys@ncwildflower.org

Triad Chapter member Lisa Gould is preparing a schedule of Lookabouts for the chapter. Hikes will alternate between the first Saturday and first Sunday of each month. Details will be available on the NCNPS web site, www.ncwildflower.org.

Chapter meetings

- Feb. 7, 7:00 pm, Southside Library, Winston-Salem
Jenny Cruse-Sanders (assistant professor of biology at Salem College) "Ginseng".
- Mar. 7th, 7:00 pm, TBA
- Apr. 7th, Lookabout call for details

Apr. 14th, 1:00 – 5:00 Earth Day Celebration, KCEF Library, Greensboro

The Plant Study group of the Triad Chapter has embarked on a study of natural plant communities of the Piedmont. On the third Wednesday evening of each month, a member will present information as follows:

February 21:

- 1. Reference of basic geology, hydrology, soil, and natural community vocabulary terms, concepts and illustrations - Joanne Lapple
- 2. Upland Pool]
- Upland Depression Swamp Forest] - Judy West
- Hillside Seepage Bog]
- Low Elevation Seep]

March 21:

- 1. Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest, Piedmont subtype – Marion Sledge
- 2. Piedmont/Low Mountain Alluvial Forest - Trena McNabb
- 3. Xeric Hardpan Forest – Lynda Waldrep

April 18:

- 1. Piedmont Longleaf Pine Forest – Sue Cole
- 2. Mesic Mixed Hardwood Forest]
- (Piedmont subtype)]
- Pine-Oak Heath] Janice Ovelman

May 16

- 1. Piedmont Acidic Cliff – Kathy Schlosser



Triad Chapter on New River Trail.

Native Plants at the N.C. State Fairgrounds

By Charlie Kidder

Visitors to the North Carolina State Fairgrounds in Raleigh now have an exciting new opportunity to learn about the state's native plants, thanks to an effort led by the Margaret Reid Chapter of the North Carolina Native Plant Society.

In the summer of 2006, the Fair's Flower Show Director, John Buettner, contacted Margaret Partridge, Chair of the Reid Chapter, to see if we would be interested in establishing a garden. The answer was an enthusiastic "yes!" and work began in August. With the NC State Fair opening in October, a lot of work had to be done in a very short time.

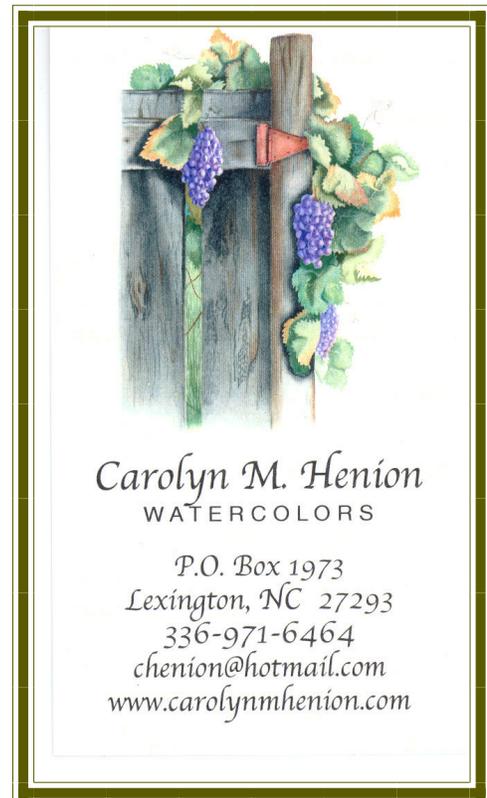
Luckily, chapter members were up to the task, putting in over 200 hours over the next several weeks. Also, a tremendous amount of help was provided by Sarah P. Duke Gardens. Stefan Bloodworth, curator of the Blomquist Garden of Native Plants at Duke, brought over a truck load of stone, and he and his staff helped us place them around a water feature. These were *large* stones, not the kind that one, or even two, people could lift. Luckily, a ball cart allowed us to push and shove them into place.

Long and narrow, with the water feature at the upper end, the garden is fairly small, perhaps only about 600 square feet in total. Still, we managed to pack in a surprising variety of plants, with close to one hundred different taxa. The garden space already had a couple of mature loblolly pines towering overhead, so we concentrated on perennials and shrubs for the understory. There are also a few smaller trees, like dogwood, sourwood and magnolia, which will form a mid-level layer of greenery. Most of the plants were provided by Duke Gardens, as well as by the North Carolina Botanical Garden and by members' personal gardens and plant rescues.

Over the course of the 2006 State Fair, chapter members volunteered over ninety hours at the garden to answer visitor questions and talk about the advantages of using native plants in the home garden. Although excellent native plant gardens have long been at Duke and UNC, this new garden provides an additional learning opportunity for many people who might not visit the university gardens.

The Margaret Reid Chapter looks forward to adding even more plants in the near future and talking to all future North Carolina State Fair visitors about these wonderful plants!

Photos taken before work was finished ..



Horticultural 'bad guys' meant well

Dale Suiter spotted the following article on the Plant Conservation Alliance website and thought NCNPS members would be interested. If you will recall, we have had articles in past issues of the newsletter debating the merits of plant rescues. This article adds another perspective to that debate.

By Laura Casey

MediaNewsStaff

Sat., Jan. 13, 2007

Originally appeared in the Oakland Tribune.

NO MATTER HOW you look at it, Concord resident Bob Case is an unlikely villain in a recent kerfuffle over the Presidio clarkia, a delicate little blossom that grows in only two places in the world -- San Francisco's Presidio and on a small patch of the Oakland hills.

If this story had two villains, the other would be Richmond's Annie's Annuals, long considered one of the premier and best-loved plant sellers in the Bay Area. And villains they would be, if it were not so painfully obvious that these two entities simply want what is best for a flower few of us are likely to ever see.

The story begins with Case, a wildflower enthusiast with a special spot in his heart for the explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. One day in December 2005, a friend handed him a seed from a Presidio clarkia, a state and federally listed endangered plant named after Clark.

Whoever handed Case the seed broke the law somewhere in this chain of events, but Case didn't know that. He simply planted it to see if it would grow. And it did, like a weed.

"It's an interesting little plant," Case says of the brilliant lavender-pink and red flowers that sprouted in his garden. "And the reason why I grew it is I thought, here is a plant that is struggling in the wild. Why not grow it if I can?"

The question of "why not?" is an innocent one, but not so simply answered. The Presidio clarkia has been listed as endangered for almost 30 years, and is one of the oldest listings on the California Department of Fish & Game's endangered handbook. For years, experts believed the Presidio clarkia grew only in the Presidio. Then, in 1988, others were found in the Oakland hills.

Genetic comparisons made between the Presidio and Oakland populations concluded that at least one of the Oakland populations was indigenous, meaning it was not planted by the human hand. Because it is listed as an endangered plant, the Presidio clarkia is protected by the state and federal government, making it illegal to handle or harm the plant, and illegal to harvest its seeds.

The Presidio has dedicated thousands of dollars and hundreds of worker hours to protect the Presidio clarkia -- also called the *Clarkia franciscana* -- in its San Francisco home. In Oakland, this little clarkia grows in a small area off Skyline Boulevard on city property, East Bay Regional Parks property and private land. On the city's property, conservationists struggle to convince Oakland leaders to protect the plant from the city's much-needed brush removal policies to prevent an urban wildfire such as the city saw in 1991.

Meanwhile, on East Bay Regional Parks land, the Presidio clarkia growing in Redwood Regional Park is threatened by the dogs that romp around the serpentine prairie where the plant grows. Parks officials say they are now working on a protection and restoration plan, much to the dismay of local dog owners. And on private land, the Presidio clarkia may stop development of a 1.28-acre lot on Oakland's Crestmont Drive -- a lot, as it turns out, where about 10 percent of the known Presidio clarkia plants on Earth grow.

But getting back to our story, we return to Case's backyard, where Presidio clarkia was growing like a weed. Case, a member of the California Native Plant Society, decided to share the bounty and brought his plants to a native plant sale, where they were snapped up and where one eventually fell into the caring hands of Anni Jensen, the propagator for Annie's Annuals.

Jensen called the plant "totally charming," and late last year the well-respected and much-loved nursery began offering the Presidio clarkia to Annie's Annuals' loyal customers for \$5.95. It even was featured as a "Plant of the Month" on the store's Web site, noting that it is endangered and only available for sale in California.

"We are offering this because few people ever get a chance to actually see this plant in the wild," Jensen says in an e-mail. "And should it go extinct, it will survive in gardens." On the surface, it seems like a noble cause. People grow a rare and endangered plant and it, therefore, becomes less rare and endangered. Not so, say several plant experts, including a curator with the University of California Botanical Garden in Berkeley and a botanist with the California Department of Fish & Game.

"People think they are preventing the extinction of something in nature (by growing the clarkia in their yards), but they are not," says Holly Forbes with the University's Botanical Garden. People who grow rare and endangered plants could actually harm native populations of the plants in the wild, says Mary Ann Showers, lead botanist with the California Department of Fish & Game.

The Presidio clarkia for sale at Annie's Annuals is of undetermined origin. It could be the clarkia

continued on page 9

Horticultural guys continued

that grows in the Presidio or the one that grows in the Oakland Hills, and although both clarkias have similar DNA, one grows in the cool, damp coastal climate of San Francisco, while the other grows in the warmer, dryer climates of the Oakland hills.

And that, unfortunately, is the weed among the flowers. Let's say someone buys the clarkia version found in the Presidio and plants it somewhere in the East Bay, such as the Oakland hills. Insects or wind take pollen from that clarkia and mix it with native plants in the hills, perhaps creating a hybrid that isn't adapted to the warmer, inland temperatures. Suddenly, the entire native stand becomes even more endangered.

Or maybe there's no problem -- but is the risk worth it? Experts say no. "It gets very convoluted, and a lot of this we don't understand," Showers says. "The possibility for the impacts to native stems [sic] of plant is just too great."

And that concern has led Annie's Annuals to make a change. Although growers at the nursery say their Presidio clarkia was self-pollinating and offered little chance of endangering the purity of the wild plants, Jensen says they have taken it off the market.

"The last thing I would want to do is inadvertently damage the



Clarkia franciscana, Presidio clarkia
@ 1999 Margo Bors.
[http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/cgi/img_query?
query_src=photos_index&seq_num=113243&one=](http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/cgi/img_query?query_src=photos_index&seq_num=113243&one=)

North Carolina Native Plant Society

T-Shirts

100% cotton, pre-shrunk

Sizes: Small, Medium, Large, X Large, XX Large

**Colors: Pine green, White, Tan
Azalea pink, yellow, cranberry, sky blue**

\$15.00 (+ \$3.00 shipping)

Send your order (make checks to NCNPS):

Brenda Scott, Membership chair
6106 Bent Oak Drive
Durham, NC 27705

Be sure to include color and size preference as well as your mailing address and an email or telephone so we can let you know if your choice is still available!



NC Conservation Network Legislative Update

Volume 9, number 1

Jan. 26, 2007

Environmental Review Commission, meeting summary, Jan. 23, 2007.

The Environmental Review Commission held their last meeting of the inter session this week, though they are expected to meet once or twice during the first few weeks of the legislative session. They continued to hear information items this week and have not discussed any specific legislation. The focus of this week's meeting was parks, recreation, and land conservation, with a couple of holdover agenda items thrown in, including the Governor's Hazardous Materials Task Force recommendations, and the brownfields report. The meeting was chaired by Sen. Charlie Albertson, and attended by co-chair Pryor Gibson, Reps. Pricey Harrison, Carolyn Justice, Edith Warren, Jim Harrell and Daniel McComas, and Senators Ellie Kinnaird, A.B. Swindell, and Katie Dorsett.

Clean Water Management Trust Fund. CWMTF Chair Phil Baddour presented the annual report after first briefly introducing the new interim director – D.G. Martin. He started by urging continued financial support, noting that the challenges will only continue to grow as our population grows. In 2006, the trust fund supported 178 projects to the tune of \$116 million. In its 10 year history, it has provided \$711 million through 943 grants that leveraged \$1.4 billion. He highlighted several acquisition projects, including the historically large 776,000 acre acquisition of International Paper lands by The Nature Conservancy, as well as wastewater, stormwater, and wetland restoration grants. His goal for 2007 is to improve the grant review criteria, and to give more weight to projects, particularly wastewater projects, in economically distressed communities.

Conservation Easement Program. Richard Rogers, Assistant Secretary DENR, gave a report on DENR's conservation programs. The million acres initiative – which established a goal of conserving one million acres by 2010 - is behind schedule, hitting 405,521 at the end of 2005. The major reason we're not there, he said, is that we are not putting enough resources to conservation. He also updated legislators on the Conservation Easement Program, and noted some legislative initiatives for 2007 that include modifying the cap for the conservation tax credit program and clarifying the method used to appraise properties so they are not overvalued. In closing Rogers reminded the commission of the population growth expected in North Carolina and the billions of acres of open space and farms that will be lost – "it is a fact, there is no changing it," but with conservation planning, we can be strategic about it, he said. He emphasized the focus DENR is putting on conservation through their reorganization (Rogers was recently promoted to Assistant Secretary), integrating their programs and mapping priority areas. His final words: "when the time comes for allocation of funding, conservation needs to be a part of it."

Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. Lewis Ledford, Director of Parks and Recreation gave a rundown of Parks and Recreation Trust Fund activities. Last year they awarded 55 grants to local governments totaling \$17.7 million, which leveraged \$27 million in local matching funds. They had requests for \$27 million which would have leveraged \$53 million. The fund also invested \$20 million to acquire 2700 acres in 16 parks, and invested \$16 million in 20 capital improvements. They have identified 550,000 acres of land acquisition opportunities (437,000 at existing parks and 113,000 at new parks) with an estimated price tag of \$630 million, in addition to \$324 million is needed for capital improvements at existing parks.

Natural Heritage Trust Fund. Lisa Riegel, Executive Director, provided an update on the Natural Heritage Trust Fund. Even though funding sources have been increasing through the deed stamp tax and license plate sales, they are only able to fund about half of the grant applications due to the rising property costs. In 2006, they awarded 33 grants totaling \$26.6 million conserving 15,000 acres.

Land and Water Conservation. Rep. Lucy Allen, who co-chairs the Land and Water Conservation Study Commission along with Sen. Charlie Albertson, presented the recommendations the Commission made earlier this week. (These are reported in depth above so will not be repeated here.) In response to a question from Rep. Pryor Gibson, Allen did note that the Homebuilders Association and Realtors Association had expressed opposition to impact or deed transfer fees, and agricultural interests did not want a water use fee (which had been a draft recommendation but was not a final recommendation). In closing she said that everyone acknowledges that our natural resources are one of the best economic development tools we have, and that those supporting bonds for various needs should not be considered competing interests – "we just have to figure out how we can all be winners."

Ecosystem Enhancement Program. The EEP was established in 1996 (originally as the Wetlands Restoration Program) to provide compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to wetlands. Suzanne Klimek, DENR, gave a brief update on the program, emphasizing that since the agreement with Department of Transportation no road projects have been delayed waiting

for mitigation projects. They have worked hard, she said, to get ahead and currently have more restoration projects in place than they have needs. They have extensive data on program costs and have initiated a rulemaking process to change the fee structure and increase fees. Public comments are due February 15. Rep. Harrison asked how they keep track of failed projects

Continued on page 11

that are not providing the restoration services they were intended to. Klimek said they do keep track of all projects and “by far most of our projects are succeeding” though there might be an occasional need for repair such as erosion control matting or replanting. They post all monitoring reports on the web, she said. Rep. Gibson asked a series of questions aimed at the costs of the program – are we at as close to a reasonable price for mitigation as we’re going to get ?”is there light at the end of the tunnel? Klimek acknowledged that when the program was established fees were much higher, but assured the commission that the data they have now enables them to project accurate costs and they



Photo: J. R. Manhart. Digital Flora of Texas
www.csdl.tamu.edu/FLORA/imaxxcis.htm



Counties in which *H. carolinianum* can be found are shaded in green. www.plants.usda.gov

A Coastal Carolina Rare Plant: *Helianthemum carolinianum*, Carolina frostweed

Here’s a plant to watch for in the eastern part of state: *Helianthemum carolinianum*, which is on the Natural Heritage Program’s rare plant list.

Stems are 4 – 12 inches tall, arising from a basal rosette of leaves. The leaves are elliptic to obovate, or nearly lanceolate, 2-5 cm long and .7-2 cm wide, pubescent on both surfaces. Two to four leaves are below the subtending, bright yellow flowers. Blooms from April – May in old fields, savannahs, and in pine barrens.

The common name “frostweed” is said to be due to milky sap that seeps from cracks at the base of stems and dries to a crystal-like form.

The Natural Heritage Program reports the plant in Hoke County in the Calloway Sandhills (at the southwest corner of Fort Bragg, between the Army base and the Sandhills Gamelands). It is also found in four other NC counties, as shown on the map below.

Calloway Sandhills features moderate slopes (some steeper along Mill and Rockfish Creeks), and is planted in longleaf and loblolly pine. Sub-canopy hardwoods have been removed, and the area has been subjected to pine-straw raking and fire suppression.

Part of the Calloway Sandhills are owned by The Nature Conservancy, and part are under private ownership. Efforts to re-introduce fire will help restore the natural vegetation.

Other rare plants that might be found in the same community include *Lindera subcoriacea*, bog spicebush; *Pyxidantha barbulata* var. *brevifolia*, Pyxie moss; *Potamogeton confervoides*, conferva pondweed; and *Tridens carolinianus*, Carolina triodia grass.

See Radford, p. 719 and the Natural Heritage Program website, www.ncnhp.org. Click on Heritage data, County Natural Area Inventories, then Hoke County.

News from around the country

Endangered Species Day

May 11, 2007

The goals of Endangered Species Day are to celebrate the rich diversity and natural heritage which support our societies and economies and provide this nation and our planet with great beauty and joy.

Endangered Species Day was created to educate people about the importance of protecting our rare, threatened, and endangered species. ES Day provides an opportunity for schools, libraries, museums, zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens, arboreta, agencies, businesses, community groups and conservation organizations to educate the public about endangered species and highlight the everyday actions that individuals and groups can take to help protect our nation's wildlife, fish and plants.

With over 1,800 species worldwide now listed as threatened and endangered, and thousands more threatened with extinction unless they are protected, every such public education effort is greatly needed.

Source: *The Center for Plant Conservation.*

Moss Harvesting in the US

Following is an abstract of an article on moss harvesting. Look for the full article in your local university .

"Quantity and value of commercial moss harvest from forests of the Pacific Northwest and Appalachian regions of the U.S"

By: P. S. Muir, K. N. Norman, K. G. Sikes
(Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Cordley Hall 2082, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331-2902, U.S.A.)

The work reported here addresses two primary questions: (1) How much "moss" (a mixture of mosses and liverworts) is harvested commercially from forests in the Pacific Northwest (PNW) and Appalachian regions of the U.S.? (2) What is the commercial value of this nontimber forest product?

Methods included surveying land managers, botanists and moss dealers, querying U.S. government databases, and interviewing people involved in the moss trade. Approximately 35% of land manager respondents issued permits for moss harvest in the last five years. These reported that permits were issued for an average of 4,009 (Appalachian) and 96,433 (PNW) air-dry kg/yr of moss over the years 1997-2002, with a maximum reported

permitted harvest of 166,793 air-dry kg across both regions in the year 2000.

Official U.S. Forest Service sources listed the maximum yearly reported harvest for these regions as 115,661 air-dry kg in 2000 (PNW = 71,534 kg and Appalachians = 44,127 kg) and official Bureau of Land Management sources for OR and WA listed the maximum permitted harvest as 54,978 air-dry kg in 2001. Yearly revenues from sales of commercial moss harvest permits were reported to be . US\$19,650.

In contrast, estimates of total harvests based on export data and assumptions about those data suggest that the mean yearly harvest for the years 1998-2003 was between 4.6 and 18.4 million air-dry kg (yearly minimum and maximum estimated at 0.9 and 37.4 million air-dry kg, respectively). Moss sales (domestic plus exports) are estimated to total between US\$.6 million and 165 million per year.

The wide ranges in these estimates illustrate how little is known about the moss harvest trade. In combination with lack of information about the size of the moss inventory, re-accumulation rates, and species and ecosystem functions potentially affected by harvest, results indicate that policy makers and land managers lack critical information on which to base harvest regulations.

The Bryologist (pp. 197-214)

Source: *Plant Conservation Alliance*
www.pca.gov

Lahr Native Plant Symposium

The Lahr Native Plant Symposium will take place March 31 from 9am-3:30pm at the U. S. National Arboretum in Washington, D. C.. Registration materials and detailed program information are available by calling 202/ 245-4521. Fee \$85.

News continued

Dell says plant a tree, help the environment

Michael S. Dell, who made his name building computers, has a new goal: planting trees. In a speech Tuesday at the Consumer Electronics Show here, Mr. Dell urged the electronics industry to foster the planting of trees to offset the effect on the environment of the energy consumed by the devices they make.

He said Dell, the computer company he founded, would begin a program called "Plant a Tree for Me," asking customers to donate \$2 for every notebook computer they buy and \$6 for every desktop PC. The money would be given to the Conservation Fund and the Carbonfund, two non-profit groups that promote ways to reduce or offset carbon emissions, to buy and plant trees.

Mr. Dell said the trees would absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, offsetting the equivalent emissions from the production of electricity for computers over three years. "I challenge every PC vendor in the industry to join us in providing free recycling," Mr. Dell said. "This is a better way than government regulation."

Dell intends to cover the administrative costs of the program. Mr. Dell was not able to estimate those costs.

For full story, please see: <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/10/technology/10dell.html?ex=1169182800&en=46de8aee2df5899c&ei=5070>
Source: The New York Times, 10 January 2007

This story from the Non-Wood Forest Products Digest:
NWFP-Digest-L No. 1/07 18 January 2007
<http://www.fao.org/forestry>

Fraser firs in danger

ROANOKE, Va. Experts say that phytophthora root rot, a nasty condition, is killing Fraser firs - the most popular Christmas tree species - across southwest Virginia and leaving soil unsuitable for the trees for up to 20 years. At Virginia Tech, scientists are hoping a long-term study can figure out how root rot works.

Christmas trees are grown across the New River Valley, though Floyd and Grayson counties are the leading area producers.

Increasingly they're meeting with the water mould, so-called because it spreads more rapidly in wet weather and heavy clay soils. The mould is gradual but potent. It typically begins by yellowing the needles of Fraser firs, producing a condition tree growers call "off colour." Soon the tree will drop its brown needles and die, leaving only a bare-bones frame of branches.

It's the biggest challenge facing regional growers today, Dan Young, president of the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers, told the association's convention last month in Blacksburg.

For full story, please see:
<http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/virginia/dp-va-christmastreerot0910sep10,0,4784463.story?coll=dp-headlines-virginia>

NWFP-Digest-L, No. 9/06



http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/info_fir.htm

When the Sap Flows

February 16

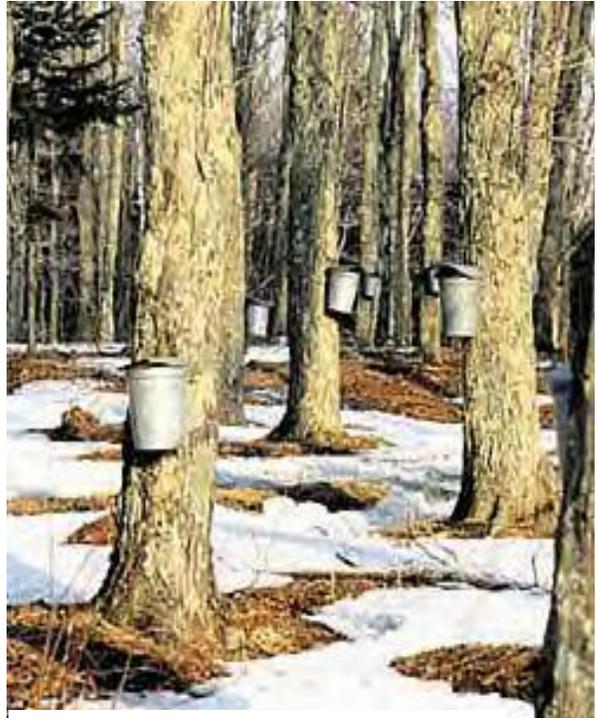
It won't be long now before the sap begins to rise in the sugar maples, and—regardless of anyone's opinion about where the best sugar originates—the first sap flow is as happy an event as February ever offers. It means that March is coming, and the equinox, and the buds and the leaves and spring itself. It means that Winter has an ending. And all the ice on the river, all the cold in the thermometer, can't check it when the time comes.

We see the sun rising a bit earlier, setting each day a little later, and we know that the old earth is turning as usual, on its axis and in its orbit. We see the moon following its phases. We see the pines and the hemlocks on the rocky hillsides, shrugging off the snow and sheltering grouse and chickadee. Things are in order, and we know it. But it isn't until the sap begins to rise that we really feel it. There is the substance of knowledge, but there is the essence of belief which must rise from inside; it, too, has its season.

You have to be sick to know you will recover. You have to be cold to appreciate warmth. Maybe you can best believe in the change that is Spring when you are most in need of it. Certainly there are few enough signs of Spring when the sap begins to move. But something happens down at the roots and there is the response. Snow and ice and sleet and biting cold, and in their midst comes a warm day and there is the sap. And you know that Winter's days are numbered. It's as simple as that. You know. And from there on you look ahead, confident. Sap rises and hope becomes certainty.

Hal Borland

Sundial of the Seasons (NY: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1964), p. 316

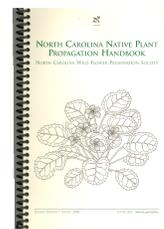


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