

Native Plant News

Newsletter of the N. C. Native Plant Society

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JUNE—JULY 2010

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Annual Picnic Saturday, June 5th

Double your pleasure at the June 5 NCNPS picnic by arriving in time for two morning activities!

Starting at 10:00 a.m., Stephanie Jeffries, Duke University instructor, will lead a tree identification walk around the picnic site at Hagan-Stone State Park, followed by a presentation from Roy Lindholm, who has his own book and manner for identification of native plants.

Stephanie, a Mellon lecturer in the Thompson writing program at Duke, also teaches classes at the NC Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill, including those on dendrology and spring flora. With a background in forestry, Stephanie earned her PhD as a botanist and ecologist, and will bring to the hike both expertise and interesting stories about NC trees.

Roy, a retired geology professor from George Washington University, became interested in plant identification when his community began a plant inventory. He devised identification keys which resulted in his book, *LINDY'S IDENTIFICATION KEYS FOR NATIVE PLANTS GROWING IN THE NC TRIANGLE*. Roy will bring several copies of this book (for sale at \$22.00) and will demonstrate ID with twigs.

Participants are encouraged to bring a hand lens, loop, or magnifying glass to join in the fun. Attendees have the option of bringing twigs of shrubs or trees they wish to identify from their home property, if time allows during the social hour.

As in previous years, NCNPS will provide the main course of chicken and BBQ, as well as tea and water.

Participants are asked to bring side dishes, desserts, or whatever culinary treat they decide to share. The meal will begin at approximately noon, or as soon as the avid plant ID'ers will allow.

A final treat is our annual picnic plant auction, once again led by the indomitable Larry Mellichamp from UNC-Charlotte. Bring plants to donate, and come ready with cash or check to purchase some great plants to add to your garden. (Please pre-price any small plants that you donate.) Remember that monies received from plant auctions go to our B. W. Wells Fund to support stewardship of native plants.

The location for the picnic is the same as last year, Shelter #2, Hagan Stone Park, Greensboro, NC. There is no electricity at this shelter. If sitting on hard picnic benches is a problem for you, you may want to bring your own folding chair. Bathrooms are located nearby.



Directions to picnic...

From the northeast:

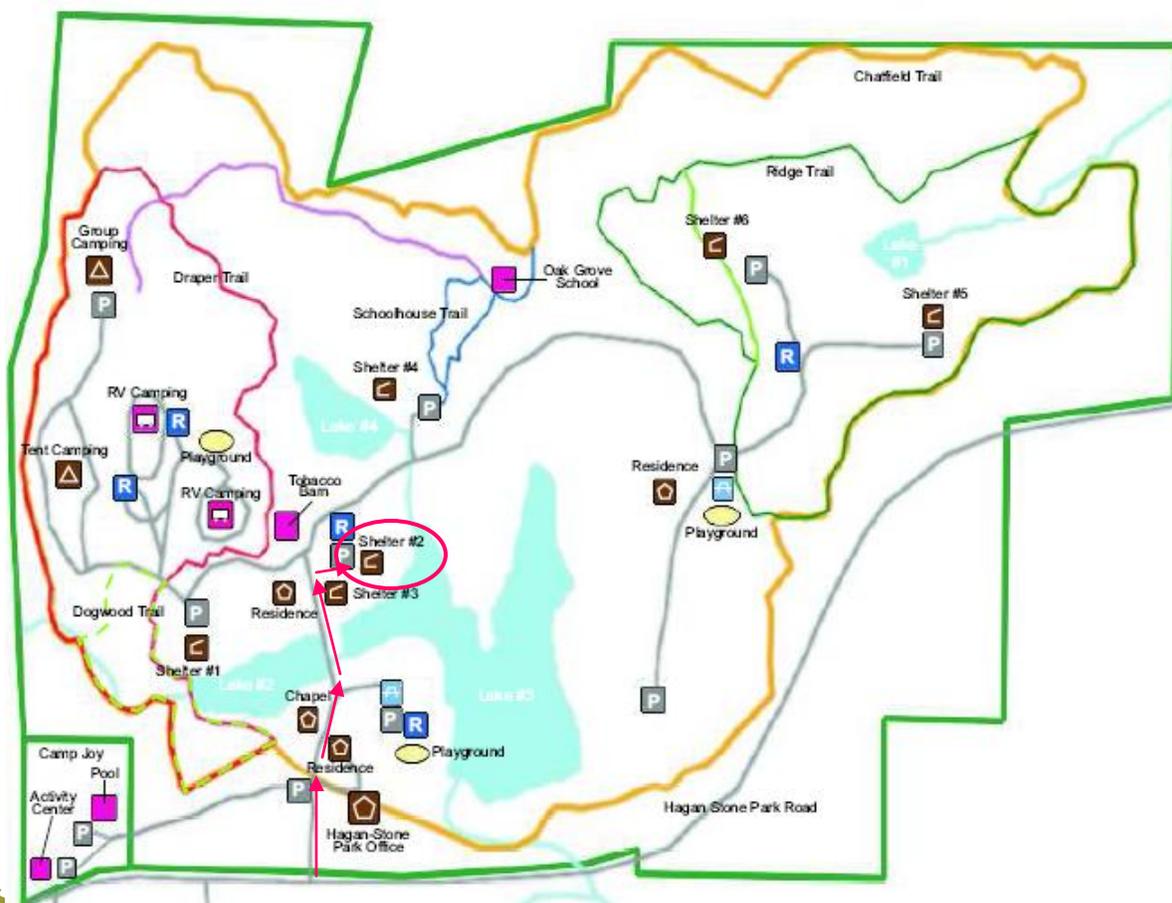
- Follow I-40 W/I-85 S, continuing on I-85 S when they split just outside Greensboro
- Take exit 126A for US-421 S toward Sanford
- Follow US 421 S for about 3.2 miles
- Turn right at Hagan-Stone Park Rd. and follow for about 2 miles. Entrance to Park will be on your right. See map below to shelter 2.

From the south:

- Follow I-85 N toward Greensboro
- Take exit 126A to merge onto US-421 S toward Sanford for about 3.5 mi
- Turn right at Hagan-Stone Park Rd and follow for about 2 miles. Entrance to Park will be on your right. See map below to shelter 2.

What to bring

- Side dishes to share (salads, fruits, vegetables, breads, desserts).
- PLANTS for the auction
- Lawn chairs, if desired
- Sunscreen, hats
- Loupe, hand lens, or magnifying glass for tree walk



President's letter

Tom Harville

From Plutons to Plants and Moss to Marvel!!

What a weekend Lynda Waldrep and Jean Woods planned for the spring walk! We had periods of perfect weather interrupted by periods of weather that made you appreciate the perfect weather even more. I left Cary early to get up to Brevard in time to catch Mossin Annie's moss walk. Since it has been a looong time since I had been to Brevard and My mind set was that the roads were very twisty-turney but I was oh so wrong – 250 miles of uncongested four lane roads right to the motel. I had time to check in and get settled in my room before we gathered in the parking lot.



Just a couple of miles up Hwy 276 we stopped at a roadside picnic area and our first good omen greeted us just on the edge of the parking lot, a showy orchid in full bloom. Now you have to understand that Annie Martin knows a thing or two about moss but I'm not sure she had ever tried to



"herd cats" intent on looking at all the native plants around. We did manage to get out of the parking lot and into the woods and Annie poked logs, fondled rocks and pulled some of the smallest plants up to examine. She said we would need a loupe and she really meant it. There were those of us who had a hard time not wondering off to see all the other Trillium, ferns, etc. around us. There were some rugelli x erectum hybrids that were knockouts. After dinner on the town, we met back at the motel to hear about Dupont Forest [http://](http://www.dupontforest.com/)



www.dupontforest.com/ from David Brown. There are so many great trails that you could stay a week and not see them all so I would highly recommend a visit. Having so many trails in one area makes it very nice to divide up a large group so



President's letter

we could all hear what our leaders were saying but no matter how good your plans are, you will get strung out along the trail and that's OK because we're here to see the plants. I was excited to see *Hexastylis rhombiformis* in the wild.

It was also fun to try to sort out the different *Violas* that we saw. Just in case you needed a break from all the flora, we got to see some really beautiful waterfalls.



So after a marvelous day in the forest we beat feet back to the motel cleaned up and went down to eat our catered buffet and drool over the auction plants. Right after dinner, Ed Swartzman waxed eloquent about Bogs and Swamp Forests. His talk sure did enlighten me as to the area all around us and it made me look at more detail as we walked. And then there was the plant auction. I know I speak for the Society and I'm betting I speak for all who bought plants in thanking all the folks who brought plants for us to sell. Everyone was very generous and we will put the money to good use through our BW Wells Stewardship fund.

Sunday morning it was threatening rain during breakfast and I really wondered if we were going to get washed out but to our good fortune, the rain held off and we were off to walk a pluton. No it's not Walt Disney's cartoon dog. If you had been in Ed's talk, you would have known it is a granitic dome left over from a really old volcano and we walked up one side and some of us walked down the other.

Tom Harville



You can just barely see the end of the roof of the covered bridge on the lower falls picture. Well just behind the roadway up there was a large patch of our native climbing fern, *Lygodium palmatum*, another first in the wild for me.



President's letter

Tom Harville



We did get on and off rain all the way up but it let up and the afternoon was dry. Most folks hit the road home right from the parking lot but the real diehards went back to the motel to get ready for the next round. We were fortunate to have Jean Woods who is a tour guide at the Cradle of Forestry, <http://www.cradleofforestry.com/> and offered to guide us around. It's really a nice facility and there is plenty to botanize on along the paths. It was a nice short walk and a very pleasant drive from the motel.



The next morning was the true test. The plan was to head west toward Highlands to the Southern Highlands Reserve, <http://www.southernhighlandsreserve.org/> but when I went to breakfast it was pouring and I mean pouring. There were some faint of heart that didn't go but for those of us who did, it was marvelous.



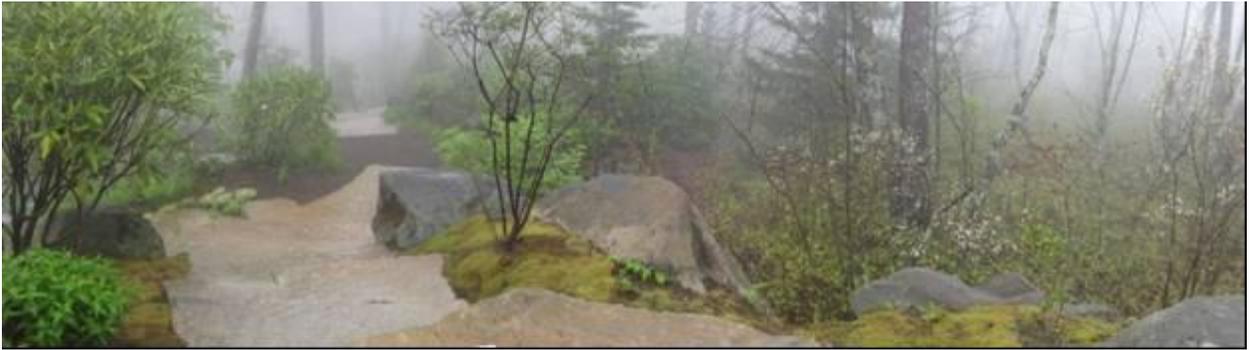
Through the mist and a little bit of rain, we got to see how our native plants can be used in a large scale garden setting. Drifts of *Tiarella* with blooming *Rhododendron vaseyi* in the background is quite breathtaking. I can't even imagine how they got some of the stones up the mountain. It was well worth the effort to see.

Since I'm partial to *Hexastylis*, I was attracted to the *Hexastylis shuttleworthii*.



President's letter

Tom Harville



So there you have the quick view of another great outing for the Society. I'm confident that everyone learned something and can take it back home and talk to others about our NC natives.

See ya in the woods

Tom



NCNPS Guidelines for walks and native plant collection

The purpose of the North Carolina Native Plant Society is to promote enjoyment and conservation of native plants and their habitats through education, protection, and propagation.

I. Conducting Walks

A. Obtain written permission to conduct a walk on private lands (this includes land trusts and other properties owned by non-for-profit organizations, such as The Nature Conservancy). State and federal land management agencies may also require permits for group walks.

News from members...

From new member Sonia McElveen, news of the first annual Piedmont Herb Festival being planned for June 4 and 5 in Union County. Dr. James Duke is the keynote speaker. The festival will cover the spectrum of growing, cooking with, medicinal uses, etc.

Piedmont Herb Festival with Dr. James Duke
 June 4-5, 2010
 NC Extension Service - Union County Center
 3230-D Presson Rd.
 Monroe, NC 28112
www.piedmontherbfestival.com
 704-283-3822

Jeff Prather, our Treasurer, points out that John Gwaltney, who lives in MS and has been a member for several years, has a website that may be of interest to our members.

Southeastern Flora is a plant identification resource, with more than 16,000 photos.

Southeastern Flora is an online resource to assist you in identifying native or naturalized wildflowers you may find in the southeastern United States. Currently there are over 1,100 species listed on this site and over 16,100 pictures to help you identify what you're looking for. You can easily identify trees, shrubs, vines, and herbaceous plants without knowing how to read a plant identification key.

Simply define a few traits about your specimen, and the visual photo search results will help you narrow your selection to the exact species.



Robinia hispida, bristly locust (John Gwaltney)

www.southeasternflora.com



Lynda Waldrep and Joanne Lapple set up a display on Earth Day for the Triad Chapter.

Report from the Scholarship and Grants committee

Two grants were awarded this year from the Tom and Bruce Shinn Fund. The grants went to:

Ms. Kelly Hines - M.Sc. Candidate, Department of Plant Biology, North Carolina State University - who is doing a floral survey of Howell Woods in southeastern Johnston County (North Carolina). It is "the most significant terrestrial natural area in the county" as designated by the NC Natural Heritage Program.

Ms Natasha Shipman - Biology & Environmental Studies Department Assistant, Warren Wilson College - in support of her MS thesis research to define pollination visitors and investigate sensory cues in a population of *Trillium cuneatum*.

David McAdoo
 Scholarship and Grants committee

More from our members...

Triad Chapter member Lisa Gould shares a poem from the author of *How to Identify Grasses and Grasslike Plants*. The poem was sent to her by Ann Wagner, a member of the Rhode Island and New England Wildflower Societies.

The Identification of Grasses

A grass can be "glumey" in more ways than one,
When its classification remains to be done;
You pull off the parts, and soon feel your age
Chasing them over the microscope stage!

You peer through the lenses at all of the bracts
And hope your decisions agree with the facts;
While you oculist chortles with avid delight
As you strain both your eyes in the dim table light.

You are left on the horns of quite a dilemma
When you count the nerves on the back of the lemma;
Then you really get snooty and turn each on turtle
To see if the flower is sterile or fertile.

And then the compression, no problem is meaner -
Is it flat like your wallet or round like a wiener?
"How simple," you think, "for a mind that is keen"-
But what do you do when it's half-way between?

You probe and you guess how the florets will shatter,
For you know later on it is certain to matter;
You long for the calmness of labor that's manual
When the question arises-"perennial" or "annual"?

And that terrible texture, the meanest of all,
Is one of the pitfalls in which you can fall;
"Cartilaginous" maybe-or is it "chartaceous"?
Has even the experts exclaiming "Good gracious!"

Then you wail as you wade through the long tribal key,
"Oh, why must his awful thing happen to me?"
"Grasses are easy," our teacher declares,
As he mops off a brow that is crowned with gray hairs!

H.D. Harrington



In Memory

Word was recently received that NCNPS member Mr. Pearson Stewart of Chapel Hill, and a Reid Chapter member, died.

Also, Marcia McDermott of Brevard, NC died in April.

Our sympathies are extended to the friends and family of both NCNPS members.



NCNPS members attend the 2010 Rare Flora Group meeting.

Chapter News...

Southeast Coast Chapter



The SE Coast Chapter’s second walk was held April 25th at Carolina Beach State Park, along the Flytrap Trail. In spite of a rainy forecast, the weather was actually perfect!

We saw 3 species of *Lyonia*, and a blooming *Hypericum* (species determined soon...), *Sarracenia* (*flava?*), *Drosera* sp., and *Dionaea muscipula*. There were about 20 people, and the park ranger bagged her own walk to come with us!

Jack Spruill invited Cary and I to attend the Coastal Caucus hosted by NC Coastal Federation that was held today in Jacksonville. Attendees included NC Coastal Federation, PenderWatch, Cape Fear River Watch, Mike Giles (Coastkeeper,) NC Conservation Network, and Jimmy Johnson, of NCDENR. Presentation topics included an update of the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan, a terminal groin update, review of the 2010 legislative short session, Titan Cement, and offshore oil exploration, among other things. It was comprehensive and fascinating – a great forum for environmental groups to come together to learn more about each other’s efforts.

Lara Berkley



Sarracenia (flava?)
Lara Berkley



Lyonia lucida
Cary Paynter



Lyonia mariana
Cary Paynter

Chapter News...

Northeast Coast Chapter

Northeast Coast Chapter members have continued to explore the diverse maritime forests of the Outer Banks with Alexander Krings, Director of the NCSU Herbarium. Last October, we returned to the Kitty Hawk Woods Coastal Reserve, where NCSU graduate student Rachel Clark has undertaken the task of compiling a new comprehensive flora. Rachel and Dr. Krings

shared some of the features that make Kitty Hawk Woods unique, such as species -- including swamp chestnut oak (*Quercus michauxii*) and sweetleaf (*Symplocos tinctoria*) -- that aren't found a few miles away in Nags Head Woods.



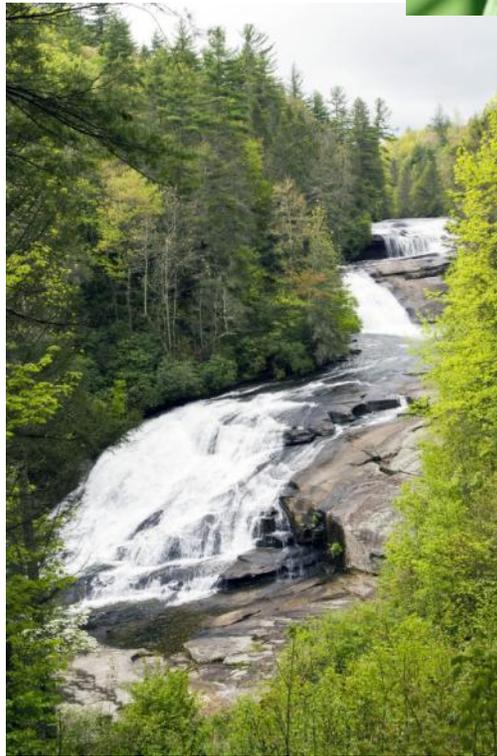
On April 20th, the chapter ventured to the mainland for a hike and paddle at Merchant's Millpond State Park, one of our state's rarest ecological communities. Towering above the pond, bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*) are often encircled by swamp doghobble (*Leucothoe racemosa*) and swamp rose (*Rosa palustris*) at the waterline. We searched for early bloom on the silky camellia (*Stewartia malacodendron*), which were unfortunately still about a week away, and we enjoyed a peaceful encounter on the pond with a local resident (see photo below).



We headed down to Hatteras Island on May 6th for a hike in Buxton Woods with Dr. Krings and Bo Dame, Northern Sites Manager for the NC Coastal Reserves. This is the northernmost stronghold of dwarf palmetto (*Sabal minor*) which abounds in these sandy woods. It is infrequently seen further north, and reaches its limit south of the Virginia border. Buxton Woods is the largest remaining maritime forest on North Carolina's barrier island and features rare communities, such as the maritime shrub swamps dominated by stiff dogwood (*Cornus foemina*).

Kathy Mitchell

Photo collage from Dupont Forest and environs from David McAdoo



More on Dupont Forest

Ed Schwartzman, with the NC Natural Heritage Program, led one of the Saturday morning hikes into Dupont Forest. This group was called the “bushwhackers,” as we went off the trail to observe plants and plant habitats.

Ed pointed out a variety of trees, shrubs, and grasses in addition to the usual spring wildflowers. Over lunch alongside a Cox Branch fen, we had a wonderful discussion on the differences between bogs and fens.

Paula was our ‘resident’ geologist, explaining a great deal about rock and soil formation.

Pictured are Ed, Arleigh Birchler, Mossin’ Annie, Paula LaPoint, Mimi Westervelt, Dana and Kevin Cox. Also along for the hike were Carson Stuart and Kathy Schlosser.



Tree Identification Tip

A little hint from Ed Schwartzman: when trying to distinguish one cherry from another... look at the back of a leaf. If there are short white hairs along the upper part of the midrib, it is a black cherry (*Prunus serotina*).



An assortment of Hexastylis flowers brought by Mark Rose from the collection in his garden (not all are native). He had more than 20 on display.

North Carolina Native Plant Society Membership Application

**Dues are “due” on
May 31st !!!**

New Membership, Renewal **(Check One)**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Send your renewal form and check to:

Jeff Prather, Treasurer

108 Wicklow Place

Chapel Hill, NC 27517

- I do **not** want my contact information printed in the membership directory.
- I am willing to receive the newsletter via email to conserve resources.
- I am interested in NCNPS Native Plant Habitat Certification Program.
(Recognizing your use of native plants in your landscape)

Save and help the Society with a 3-year renewal!

- Family: \$100 for 3 years
- Individual: \$70 for 3 years

Memberships/Gifts:

- Limited income: \$15 per year
- Individual: \$25 per year
- Family: \$35 per year
- Sustaining: \$50 per year
- Life Membership: \$1000
- Gift-undesignated: _____
- Gift-scholarship: _____
- Gift-stewardship: _____

Join Local Chapter:

- Charlotte
- Triad
- Triangle
- NE Coast
- SE Coast
- Asheville
- Uwharrie

Indicate activities of interest:

- Volunteer
- Meetings
- Field Trips
- Plant Auctions
- Helping with Newsletter/
Publications
- Rare Plant Preservation &
Maintenance
- Publicity
- Education/Advocacy
- Scholarship/Grant
- Board of Trustees
- Plant Rescue
- Speakers Bureau

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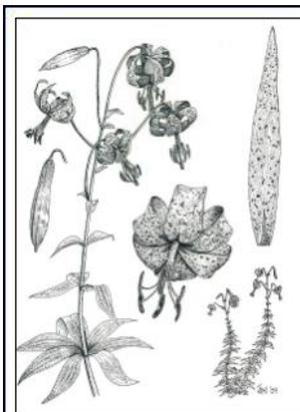
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Breath O'Spring, Inc. introduces "Native Lilies of the Southeast." This is a series of prints produced from an original black and white illustration drawn by renowned wildflower artist Jean C. Putnam Hancock. Each intricately detailed print is individually signed by the artist and is suitable for framing. The first lily featured in this series is the Turk's Cap Lily (*Lilium superbum*). Actual size of the print is 10 3/4" X 14". Price per print is \$14.95 plus \$2.95 postage and handling. Number two in the series, Pine Lily

(*Lilium catesbaei*), is also available. Please specify which print desired when ordering.

Prints may be ordered by emailing

contact@breathospring.com

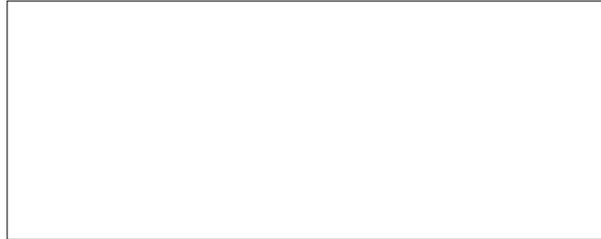
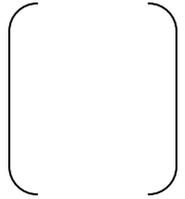
A portion of the gross revenue will be donated to a botany organization. Please visit our web site www.breathospring.com



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