

Native Plant News



NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Native Plant News
Katherine Schlosser, editor

August—September 2011
ISSN: 2151-2159

NCNPS Fall Trip: Shaken Creek, Sept. 30—Oct. 2

More than 6,000 acres of longleaf ridges and savannas, a relatively untouched slice of the Coastal Plain, is the site of NCNPS's fall outing to Shaken Creek, officially preserved by the Nature Conservancy in early 2007 after almost a decade of work by the Conservancy's Hervy McIver, who was first introduced to this site of rare and diverse landscape in the fall of 1997.

McIver will be one of the guides for the foray, and will introduce participants to this special place that is part of a corridor of several natural areas in North Carolina known as the Onslow Bight. These include the game lands Holly Shelter and Angola Bay as well as parts of Camp Lejeune. Shaken Creek appears to have an older history and distinctive soil qualities that have preserved natural communities, with all four types of Outer Coastal Plain pine Savanna. (See Shaken Creek Fact Sheet TNC materials.)

Hunters who owned most of the land that now comprises Shaken Creek had, for many years, practiced controlled burns, which helped maintain these savannas and pines. Part of McIver's success story was obtaining these lands from multiple owners but giving the former owners and their descendants hunting and fishing rights. In return, TNC has complete ownership.

McIver and Richard LeBlond of the NC Natural heritage Program were recently recognized as Recovery Champions for their work toward the recovery of *Carex lutea*, *Thalictrum cooleyi*, and other rare species found in the Shaken Creek area. The Carex is endemic to the Outer Coastal Plain and is

known from only eight populations in Pender and Onslow counties of NC.

TLC's website proclaims "Few places in North Carolina remain truly natural, in a condition similar to that encountered by the first Europeans to press inland from the coast. Shaken Creek Preserve is one of the best such natural areas existing today on

the entire Atlantic seaboard, a unique home to many rare plants and animals. The landscape is crisscrossed by narrow blackwater creeks that naturally widen in spots to form flat, still lakes. Grassy openings, filled with pitcher plants, fly-traps and orchids, are ringed by pine forests that provide habitat for red-cockaded woodpeckers and migrant songbirds. White-tailed deer and black bear flourish here.

While Shaken Creek Savanna is a treasure in its own right, its location is equally important, sitting as it does in the midst of one of The Nature Conservancy's

highest conservation priorities, the Onslow Bight landscape.

Shaken Creek is situated between two vast protected areas: 100,000 acres at the Holly Shelter Game Land and Angola Bay Game Lands, which the Conservancy played a large part in preserving, and more than 150,000 acres at the Camp Lejeune Marine Base. Linking existing natural areas is critical to the Conservancy's mission because it gives species mobility, provides a buffer for sensitive plant and animal communities and bolsters the long-term health of the landscape."

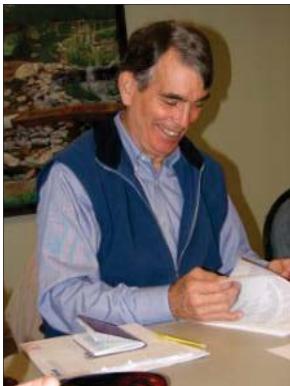


Sarracenia flava at Shaken Creek

continued on page 3



President's Message



I just read Larry Mellichamp's and Paula Gross' new book "Bizarre Botanicals," signed I might add with a puzzling salutation to me. "Weird likes weird." Knowing myself, I wondered whatever could Larry mean?

Yesterday, 11 July, I was making my typical afternoon rounds in the garden and there to my joy was *Monotropa uniflora*. Over the last 14 years I have imported large chunks of dirt that held *M. uniflora* without apparent success so I had chalked those efforts up to just getting some exercise. Yea, I've always been fascinated with Indian pipes since my grandmother showed them to me in the woods next to their house. When



we first moved into this house, I discovered *M. hypopithys*, pine sap in our back area but I had no idea what it was. I thought it might be some weird kind of Indian pipe because of the color. It was

one of the first times I "got into the books" to figure out what it was. Perhaps that was one of the events that really hooked me on natives.

Oh! Now I see what Larry meant by the second weird but what about the first one?

My yard is very heavily shaded so I didn't get to grow sun plants. Then a huge river birch got out of hand and the roots heaved up the stone patio. It was a beautiful tree but I really wasn't all that sad to see it go. Besides creating toe breaking areas on the patio, it was constantly shedding leaves and twigs and I got more than enough suggestions as to keeping the area cleaned up. Well, 4 years ago we took it down and that opened up a

small area that would get 12:30 – 6:30 direct sun in the summertime. My quandary as to what I should plant was solved with another suggestion that it should be a cutting garden. I wanted to go native but I was not bound only to natives because there were several hundred daffodils already in the ground. So here's what I did. I got *Solidago rugosa* at a rescue that grows just like 'Fireworks' and put in one clump in the back so I could keep it thinned. Two other Solidagos have made their way into the border but they are well behaved so they can stay. I put two Hibiscus from Larry Mellichamp, one was *H. coccineus* and the other 'Davis Creek'. There are three kinds of *Rudbeckia*, *hirta*, *heliopsis* and a sp. that was supposed to be *fulgida*. There is *Baptisia alba*, 'Carolina Moonlight' (which is a spring spectacular) and a disappointing

purple one. *Helianthoides* is a super bloomer from early June until frost. There is *Oenothera biennis* and *Monarda fistulosa*, I tried *M. clinopodia* but it didn't like the heat. It took the *Veronicastrum virginicum*, Culver's root a couple of years to establish but it is a showy accent now! There are a couple of *Scutellarias* and *Asters* mixed in too. The lilies are Asia and Asiatic (yellow & white) because "she" wanted them and I wanted to drag out the bloom period. Finally there are happy, happy *Echinacea purpurea*. A friend, Pam Camp who is a guide at the NC Botanical Garden

gave me 4 seedlings and they grew to 6' last year – only 4' this year.

Ah, I mustn't forget the *Eryngium yuccafolium*, rattlesnake master. It came from a plant rescue and is a

wonderful accent and an eye catcher for visitors. I must confess that there are numerous plants that I put in but did not like the soil/drainage/Ph or something but the hardy have certainly put on a show.

A couple of interesting things have come from this new bed. First, even though it was planted as a cutting garden, my wife doesn't cut much out of it because it's so beautiful to watch grow and second she didn't mind me leaving the stalks all through the winter because it provides a wonderful habitat for the birds who come to the feeder. So I will have to say that this was one time that cutting down a tree turned out to be the best thing to do.

I hope you all enjoy nature like I do!

See you in the woods,
Tom





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Shaken Creek continued

For Sunday's half day walk participants will travel beyond Pollocksville to the island Creek Forest Walk, considered the smallest hike in the state's second smallest national forest, the Croatan. The nature loop is only about a half mile but contains a variety of natural habitats, including freshwater poscosins, longleaf pine savanna, and saltwater marsh. The geology of the area is compacted, fossilized shells. Expect to see a variety of trees, carnivorous plants, ferns, and perhaps a wide range of wildlife, including birds, deer, bears, snakes, and alligators.

Directions to both sites will be sent to members when their registrations are confirmed.

Lynda Waldrep

Photos courtesy of Robert Thornbill



A plethora of *Pleea tenuifolia*, rush featherling, which should be in bloom during our visit.



Parnassia caroliniana, the endangered Carolina grass-of-Parnassus which will be in bloom.



Sarracenia flava, yellow pitcher plant

For more information on Shaken Creek, check out the article from NC Wildlife magazine here: and then put the website. It has good photos.

[http://www.ncwildlife.org/WINC/documents/
Sample_08/sample_April08.pdf](http://www.ncwildlife.org/WINC/documents/Sample_08/sample_April08.pdf)



Schedule for Shaken Creek and a Slice of the Croatan

Sept. 30, Oct. 1& 2, 2011
(Jacksonville, NC as base)

Friday, September 30

- 7:00 p.m. Assemble at Comfort Suites in Jacksonville for coffee and dessert.
(Please bring dessert to share!)
- 8:00 p.m. Presentation by Robert Thornhill, Shinn scholarship recipient.
"Sweet September: The Autumnal Treasures of Shaken Creek Savannas."

Saturday, October 1

- 9:00 a.m. Assemble park lot of Comfort Suites to distribute water and purchased bag lunch.
Note: only a few snacks are provided this trip. Buy lunch or bring your own. Water provided.
Leave ASAP for hike. Please try to car pool to our site.
- Arrive Shaken Creek for a full day , finishing approximately 4:00 p.m.
- 6:00 p.m. Social hour at Renee's Courthouse café.
Open bar (you purchase your own), announcements, door prizes, and seed exchange.
- 7:00 p.m. Buffet dinner at Renee's. (See registration form for payment.)
8:00 p.m. Presentation by Robert Thornhill.
"The Best of the Rest: Botanical Highlights of Winter, Spring, and Summer at Shaken Creek Savannas."

Sunday, Oct. 2

- 9:00 a.m. Assemble at the motel parking lot for drive to Croatan stops between Jacksonville and near Pollocksville.
Water and snacks provided at the end of the hike.
Finish approximately 1:00 p.m.

Notice: A block of rooms at Comfort Suites have been set aside for us until Sept. 16.

Please call 910-346-8900 to make reservations on your own.

Make sure to ask for the NC Native Plant group rate, \$89.00+tax. This is not available on the web.

There are many motels in this area but remember that this is a military area where prices are higher and amenities are lower.

Email lyndawaldrep@aol.com if you have questions.



NCNPS FALL WALK REGISTRATION SHAKEN CREEK AND A SLICE OF THE CROATAN SEPT. 30, OCT. 1-2, 2011

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

(We would like to have your cell phone # so we have a means of communicating when traveling; however, be aware that cell reception is spotty at best in these locations.)

Registration fee:

NCNPS member - \$25.00 per person (\$15.00 limited income) \$ _____
Single day participation \$15. Please indicate/circle Saturday or Sunday. \$ _____

Registration:

non NCNPS member - \$30.00 per person \$ _____
Single day participation \$20. Please indicate/circle Saturday or Sunday. \$ _____

Sat. optional sack lunch (sandwich, chips, fruit, cookie, water) offered for \$8.00 each. \$ _____
Please indicate regular or vegetarian.

Saturday night buffet dinner served at the Renee's Courthouse Cafe,
Jacksonville, NC - \$14.00 per person \$ _____
Please indicate regular or vegetarian. _____

Join the NCNPS - \$25.00 for an individual membership; \$35 for family \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Registration deadline: Sept. 26, 2011

I/we will bring a dessert item for the Friday evening social at Comfort Suites, Jacksonville..

Please make checks payable to **NC Native Plant Society**
and mail to:

Jeff Prather, Treasurer
108 Wicklow Place
Chapel Hill NC 27517



2011 Shinn Grant Recipient to Speak

This year's Shinn Grant recipient will be the featured speaker at NCNPS's fall outing Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2011. Robert W. Thornhill, M.S. student at NC State's Department of Plant biology, requested funds last year to study the flora of the savannas at Shaken Creek, a site that begged for floristic baseline information due in part to its coquina limestone geology and areas rich in rare taxa.

To prepare us for our walk, Robert will begin Friday night at 8:00 p.m. with "Sweet September: The Autumnal Treasures of Shaken Creek Savannas."

With the highest number of reproductive plants of any month, September in the savanna represents the crescendo of a year-long floristic suite--and provides a tremendous opportunity for botanizing at a time when many other ecosystems are "past their prime." This presentation will provide a preview of the diverse and rare flora participants will see blooming/fruiting on Saturday's walk. An introduction to Shaken Creek savannas and the different communities therein will also be provided

On Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Robert will continue his descriptions of Shaken Creek at other times: "The Best of the Rest: Botanical Highlights of Winter, Spring, and Summer at Shaken Creek Savannas."

A synopsis of the rest of the parade--the plants that peak in seasons other than au

tumn. Particular attention will be given to species that are especially rare, common, beautiful, less-than beautiful...or otherwise captivating to the pre-

Stucky's class *Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes* and we are very much looking forward to the excellent collections and finds we know he will be making. Robert's project follows in line with those of my other students in going beyond the checklist style of most master's level floras. Instead, he will be developing a full-blown guide, including keys and illustrations, as well as information on abundance and phenology of individual species. This manual will be immensely useful to help guide resource management at the site, as well as facilitate the work of other researchers, particularly ecologists. Support from the NCNPS would be a wise investment, paying dividends in years to come. I recommend Robert without reservation.

Robert will also assist in leading the outings both days. NCNPS is proud of its contribution to Robert's studies and the resulting information on Shaken Creek.

Lynda Waldrep



Robert Thornhill, 2011 Shinn Grant recipient, to be featured speaker and guide at NCNPS Fall Outing.

senter, i.e., attention will be given to rare species and species not likely to be encountered in other habitats.

Robert's advisor at NCSU, Dr. Alexander Krings, recommended him for the Shinn Grant, stating,

In many respects, Robert is the perfect student to undertake a study of Shaken Creek. As with other savannas, the flora is rather 'technical' with much of the diversity represented by grasses and sedges. The work requires exactly the kind of keen eye and attention to detail exhibited by Robert. He has already spent much of the winter in the herbarium, keying out preliminary collections from last year and gearing up for the growing season. He has taken Dr. Jon



Carex lutea, golden sedge.
James Henderson, Gulf South Research Corp., Bugwood.org



Southeast Coast Chapter

Sunday, August 28, 2011

Holly Shelter Walk SE Coast Chapter
(9 AM - 11 AM)

Andy Wood, Education Director at Audubon NC, will lead a walk through the longleaf pine woods and savannas at Holly Shelter. We will hope to see the pine lilies in bloom, along with other late summer wildflowers.

Sunday, September 11, 2011

Carolina Beach State Park Walk
(8 - 11 A.M.)

Dr Paul Hosier, Professor of Biology at UNCW, will lead a walk visiting the ponds, savannas and xeric longleaf pine habitat of Carolina Beach State Park. We will look for insectivorous plants including the 8 Bladderworts species, some of which should be in bloom. We will also see plants adapted to the extremely dry sugar sand habitats.

Sunday, October 09, 2011

Shelton Herb Farm Field Trip
(2 - 4 P.M.)

Margaret Shelton, owner of Shelton Herb Farm, will lead a hike through her Centennial Farm (in her family for over 100 years). The land includes Long Leaf/ Wire Grass savannahs, several Carolina Bays, two beaver ponds, and numerous blackwater creeks running through hardwood forest and thick bay underbrush on the way to Town Creek. Carnivorous plants as well! We will also visit the nursery which sells native plants as well as traditional herbs.



For information, contact:

lara@ncwildflower.org

NCNPS President's Award

As your editor, I am supposed to have my ear to the ground, seeking out Society news and items of interest.

Completely caught off guard, and out-of-the-loop, Tom Harville presented me with the NCNPS President's Award for Service to the Society.

I am especially honored as this is the first time this particular award has been made, and it was done with such obvious fun as Tom and the board kept it secret.

I serve at your pleasure, and with great pleasure, and cannot imagine working for or with a nicer group of people.

Thank you!
Kathy Schlosser



*Kathy Schlosser is presented the President's Award for Service to the NC Native Plant Society during the June 2012 picnic.
Photo courtesy Robert Jones.*

Photos courtesy of Dennis Burnette



North East Coast

The NE Coast chapter came together in Corolla July 8- 9 for a botany blitz at the Pine Island Audubon Sanctuary. <http://nc.audubon.org/centers-chapters/pine-island-audubon-sanctuary-and-center>

With over 2,600 acres of marshes, upland forest and dune systems along Currituck Sound, the sanctuary was sheltered from development for many years as a private hunt club.

Director Mark Buckler invited NCNPS members & friends to begin an inventory of the property's diverse vegetation, with the ultimate goal of creating a comprehensive plant list for the sanctuary.

Alexander Krings, director of the NCSU herbarium, once again joined us for this latest exploration of the Outer Banks plant communities. With assistance from Rachel Clark, who recently compiled a flora of Kitty Hawk Woods, Dr. Krings guided the group in collecting and identifying specimens. 162 specimens representing 38 families were collected, and many were pressed to be included in the NCSU herbarium collection.

Everyone took a break after lunch on Friday for a book-signing party to celebrate the publication of Dr. Kring's *Manual of the Vascular Flora of Nags Head Woods, Outer Banks, North Carolina*. Congratulations, Alexander, and thanks again for your continuing enthusiasm and support for the natural treasures of the northern NC coast.

Katherine Mitchell (kathym@ncwildflower.org)



Kim and Mary explore offshore marsh island

Photo: M. Buckler



NC Coastal Reserve intern
Bobby Barksdale finds pink
hibiscus .



Keying specimens at the lodge

Photo: M. Buckler



Alexander and Radfords
Photo: M.J. Seipler



Asheville Chapter

Caroline Douglas is the new chapter chair for the Asheville chapter.

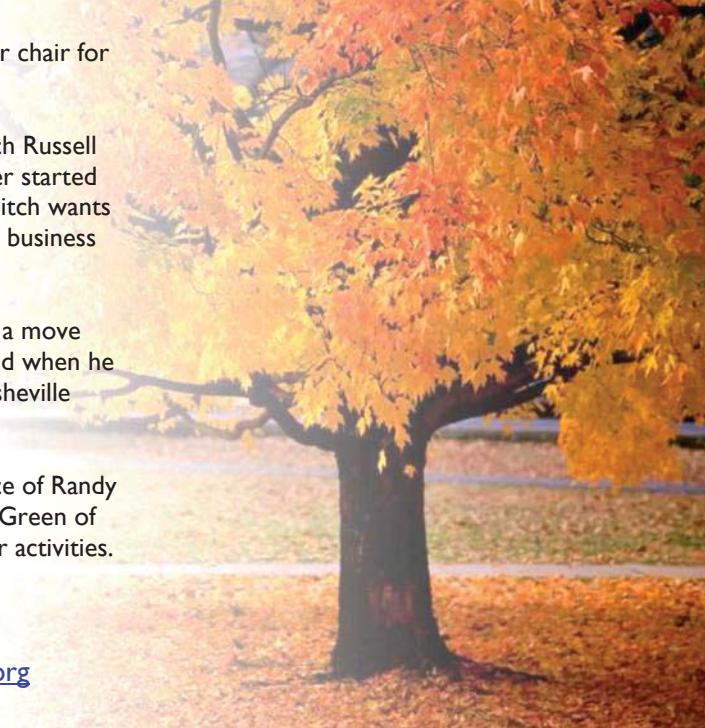
Caroline says, "I want to thank Mitch Russell for his work with getting the chapter started and running it the last few years. Mitch wants more time to be with family and his business and we wish him all the best."

Fortunately we will not lose him to a move out of state like the Georgia NPS did when he came to us; he will remain in the Asheville area."

Caroline will have the able assistance of Randy Burroughs of Asheville and Debbie Green of Black Mountain to help with chapter activities.

Contact Caroline at

caroline@ncwildflower.org



Gathering Leaves

Robert Frost

Spades take up leaves
No better than spoons,
And bags full of leaves
Are light as balloons.

I make a great noise
Of rustling all day
Like rabbit and deer
Running away.

But the mountains I raise
Elude my embrace,
Flowing over my arms
And into my face.

I may load and unload
Again and again
Till I fill the whole shed,
And what have I then?

Next to nothing for weight,
And since they grew duller
From contact with earth,
Next to nothing for color.
Next to nothing for use.
But a crop is a crop,

Triad Chapter

Wednesday, September 7th

Moon of the First Frost: Autumn In Field and Forest, Kathy Schlosser
7:00 p.m.
KCEF Library

Wednesday, October 5th

A Visit to Trena's Meadow
Contact Lynda for details and directions
lyndawaldrep@aol.com



The Triad Chapter has 5 members who serve on the NCNPS board. Pictured are 3 of them: Mark Rose, Lynda Waldrep, and Joanne Lapple. Not pictured: Kathy Schlosser and David McAdoo.





Good works at Daniel Boone Native Garden

The Daniel Boone Native Gardens has been awarded a grant from the B. W. Wells Stewardship Fund through the North Carolina Native Plant Society.

With the funds awarded, the Daniel Boone Native Gardens has labeled 50 native plants, 23 trees and 10 ferns currently growing in the Gardens. Labels are permanently engraved plastic labels on 24 inch standards, giving both the

common name and scientific name of individual plants. The new labels will give visitors to the Gardens more information about the outstanding native plant collection at the Daniel Boone Native Gardens.

The Daniel Boone Native Gardens, located on Horn in the West Drive, opened for the 2011 season on April 29. Admission is \$2 for adults. It is a great time to plant natives in your garden, and the Daniel Boone Native Gardens can help

you identify plants which might work in your own landscape. It is a great place for a picnic or a cup of coffee after the Farmer's Market. The Gardens will be open through October.

The B. W. Wells Stewardship fund **supports stewardship activities** that are in keeping with its mission to promote the enjoyment and conservation of North Carolina's native plants and their habitats through education, protection, propagation, and advocacy. More information



Family visits Daniel Boone Native Gardens.

about B. W. Wells and his contributions to the conservation of native plant habitats can be found at <http://www.bwwells.org/>.

The North Carolina Native Plant Society offers many resources related to native plant protection in North Carolina. Their web site is <http://www.ncwildflower.org>. Most helpful is their gallery of native plants, offering photos to help you identify your own discoveries.

The Daniel Boone Native Gardens are located on Horn in the West Drive in Boone, near Horn in the West and the Farmer's Market. The Gardens are open daily, with a \$2 entrance fee, and staffing is usually present on weekends. Visit our web site, www.danielboonegardens.org for more information.

Press release submitted by Kit Fisher, former chair Daniel Boone Native Gardens.

SALE !!!

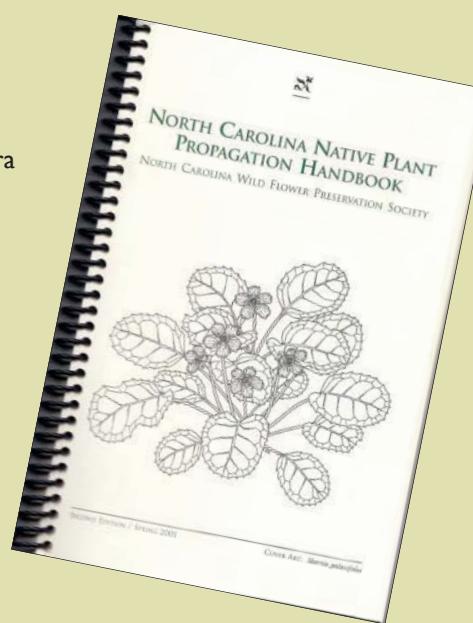
Our famed 115 page North Carolina Native Plant Propagation Handbooks are on sale for \$5.00 each, plus shipping.

This is the second edition, published in 2001. At the time, Ken Bridle, who acted as editor, had this to say about the book:

"We dedicate this edition to the NCWFPS members who compiled their records of both success and failure and were able to produce a valuable and useful manual about the propagation of North Carolina native plants. The contributors to both the original and the new edition have shared a wide range of information and expertise unavailable from any other source."

Order your copy, and a few extra to keep on hand as gifts, from:

Marlene Kinney
4900 Richland Dr.
Raleigh NC 27612-3522
919-787-5384
mkinney3@nc.rr.com





A Wonderful Spring in North Carolina

This has been an exciting spring with some great orchid discoveries in North Carolina. The first came through an emailed photo. Out of the blue I got a request from a guy wanting help with an ID. It turns out that he had found a new location for *Calopogon multiflorus* in the Holly Shelter area along the North Carolina coast. That is only the second or third location for this rare species in the state and puts it close to its northern limit. As I sent the photo around to confirm my ID there were some excited folks. One of them is a new resident of Greensboro. Doug Goldman who did the *Calopogon* section of the [Flora of North America](#) has just moved here to join the USDA Plants organization that is being set up in the city. It is great to be able to access that organization's expertise.



Isotria medeoloides, small whorled pogonia. 2010 plant in seed—2009 pod to the left.

The second round of excitement came from a location east of Greensboro.

Several years ago a lady called a friend who does a short native plant column in a local Sunday paper. The caller said that she thought that she had found several plants of *Isotria medeoloides* in her back yard and wanted someone to confirm her find. Needless to say when we were told Mark Rose and I were in our cars the next day to see the plants!

It turned out that the plants were the Small Whorled Pogonia, and it is the second colony that has been discovered in someone's yard in North Carolina over the past 15 years. This is the first Piedmont location for the state. Most of the other NC populations are found in the

mountains. Her colony consisted of three plants at the edge of the wood line in her back yard. Over the years the location has had mostly one plant and for the past several years the plant has had two flowers. This year there is only one plant again, but it has three flowers! I have been searching the internet for any other known triple flowering plants but have not been able to find any records for one. This plant got another round of people very excited also.

If these two finds are any indication of how the year will turn out, I can hardly wait to see what comes next. I hope that you too have great orchid hunting this season.

David McAdoo



Above: triple flowers on this year's plant.

Below: Close-up of 2010 flower.



Photos courtesy of David McAdoo.



Death and the Garden

A few years ago, a long time member of the NC Native Plant Society passed away. Her yard had many native plants, including *Shortia galacifolia* (Oconee bells). The gardens had not been tended in recent years, so things looked a bit ragged, but the plants were well and healthy. I kept watch on the house and then the new owner appeared one day, I went by and introduced myself and in the process of getting to know this lady, I asked what she planned to do with the flower beds. She was rather non committal and, in the course of our talk, I offered to remove any plants she did not want and also tried to make her aware of how special some of the plants were. I made every effort to be friendly and not pushy.



© J. Dan Pittillo

Shortia galacifolia.

Photo: Dan Patillo, from USDA Plants Database.

As the weeks passed, I would wave and say hello. We were gone for several days, and when we returned, I was horrified to see that the new owner had removed all the plants, put in boxwoods and some bedding plants from Lowe's. The beds were all now lined with that red dyed mulch. The native plants had all been dug up and tossed out. All very orderly and sterile, as it remains to this day!

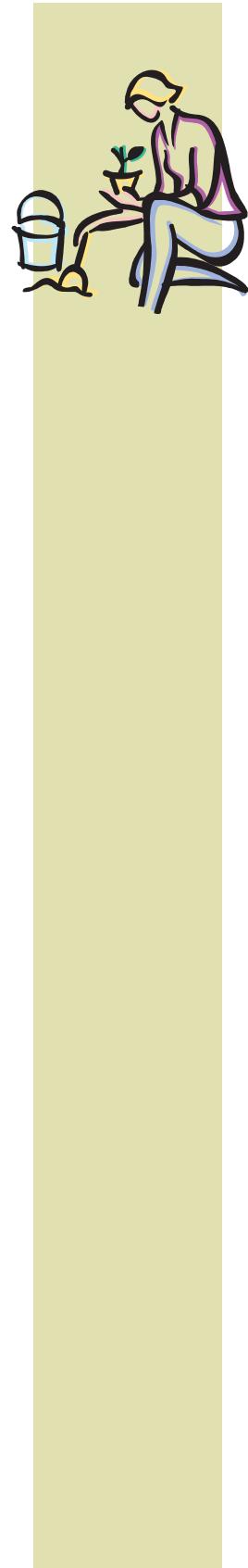
This incident worried me as I have, like most of you, many native plants in my yard, some of which are rather rare. I also have collections of *Hexastylis* and *Trillium*. What would happen to these if I get run over by a bus or have sudden heart attack and die? What guarantee do I have that the next owner would value my plants? None.

This led me to add a codicil to my Will that states that the NC Native Plant Society has the right to do a plant rescue of my flower beds in the event of my death. I also designated up to \$2,000 to be used to cover expenses to do this and to purchase and install some plants to replace those removed. I further specified that the plants should be used in ways to further NC NPS goals and aims, such as public gardens, use in propagation, and education.

Since this will now have to be probated in my Will, I have some hope that my plants will not be ripped out and lost. At a recent Board meeting we were discussing this and realized that the contents of the yards of the people at the meeting would be enough to establish a well stocked botanical garden!

Among our membership we are growing and protecting a large number of our native plants. This is a legacy that should not be lost. I encourage you to think about this and consider making some arrangements so that what you have so carefully assembled will not be lost.

Jean Woods





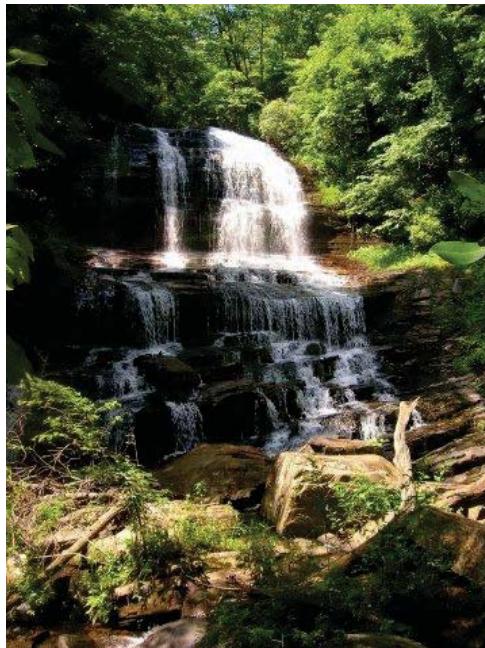
Member Recommended Hikes: Pearson's Falls

Anna Weston and husband, Jerry, visited Pearson's Falls in mid-June while in the area for a play at Flat Rock and to visit with Hendersonville friends. While late in the season for blooms, they considered themselves fortunate to have found a brochure in Flat Rock and decided to take the walk. This is their story:

Leaving our B & B in fog, as is often the case in our western mountains, we found that the directions on the many web sites for the falls (which we read on our return to Greensboro) are better than those in the brochure. Pearson's Falls is south of Flat Rock off Hwy 176. The brochure indicated that the turn for Pearson's Falls would be a couple of miles south of Saluda, the next little town south of Flat Rock. We saw a small sign for the falls on the right as we left Saluda. Anna, as usual, was zooming along in her TT much too fast to make the turn. A turn-around in the next parking lot lead us back to the side road. However, a short distance off Hwy 176 the road went steeply downhill and changed to gravel. We decided that, if this was the only and correct access, we would have to pass on the visit to the falls. More study of the brochure and we decided to continue down the mountain. About two miles south of Saluda, as indicated on the brochure, we found a large sign and the correct right turn for a paved road that leads to the entrance of the falls.

The posted opening time is 9:00 a.m. There was a car parked inside the gate next to a toll booth but no person in sight when we arrived about 9:00. After waiting for ten or fifteen minutes, the gatekeeper wandered in from a side path and opened the gate. He had been delayed in opening because he had to clean up trash that had been strewn everywhere by bears or other animals.

The gatekeeper most interesting. He

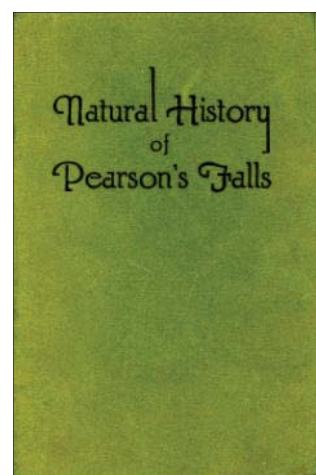


and wife retired to the area after a life in theater, including New York and California. He continues his enthusiasm for the theatre with amateur roles in the Greenville, SC, area. He suggested that we hike first and view the plants around the gatekeepers house afterwards. This was a slow day for visitors and we enjoyed the quiet of the glen.

Charles William Pearson scouted this area of the mountains in the 1800s for a route for Southern Railway to pass through the mountains from western North Carolina into South Carolina. He bought a large tract of land for his family. For years he and his heirs allowed generations of visitors to picnic on the great stone table-rock that is at the foot of the falls. In 1931 Pearson's son had to sell a portion of his holding. He accepted the offer of a timber company to buy the glen and surrounding woodland. The Tryon Garden Club bought the 268 acres of the glen and saved what is now the preserve. The Club manages the glen as a botanical preserve of native trees, flowers, granite and streams with a ninety foot waterfall at the end of a gentle, well maintained trail.

A book written by Dr. Donald C. Peattie, *Pearson's Falls Glen*, is for sale from the gatekeeper and lists the over 200 species of plants, wildflowers, mosses, lichens and trees found in a deciduous climax forest. Over 25,000 people visit the glen each year including botanists and birders from all over the country who come to discover and catalogue its wonders. It is also a wildlife preserve and outdoor laboratory for the botany departments of surrounding colleges and universities, and the site of frequent field trips for local science classes. Pearson's Falls is designated as a North Carolina National Heritage Site of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, a North Carolina Birding Trail Site and is listed in the Smithsonian Institution of American Gardens. The Club charges an admission fee, well worth the small amount, to hike and view the glen and falls.

Just inside the gate and beyond the toll booth there is a garden house with a large bay window that was built to house the glen plants catalogued by Dr. Oliver M. Freeman as a part of the collection of the Botany Department of UNCA. A gatekeeper's house was added



You can read a full digital version of Peattie's book at the following website:
http://toto.lib.unca.edu/booklets/natura_history_person's_falls/default_natural_history_person's_fall.htm



Pearson's Fall continued...

when the need for full-time supervision of the entrance and glen became necessary. Parking is just beyond the gate house. There is a picnic shelter near the parking area with a Port-O-Let.

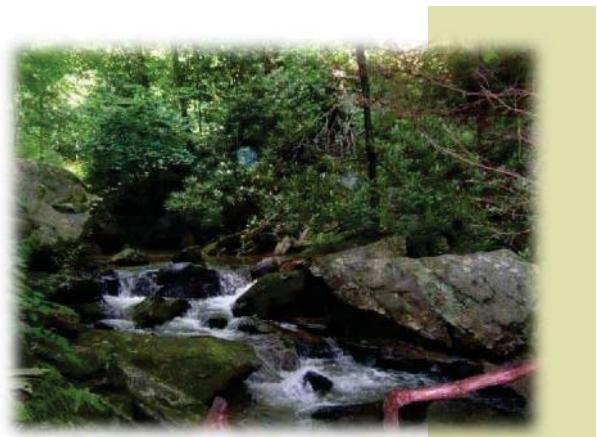
An excellent path from the parking area to the falls meanders gently uphill along and across the creek, and never with any serious elevation changes. Again, while there were few flowers in bloom at this time of the year, the walk was continuously through a moist greenery of ferns, lichens, moss and many recognizable flowering plants past their bloom. The only crossing of the creek is over a beautiful bridge of natural stone. There are many places to step down to the creek on flat, rock surfaces for a close-up.

The falls offer numerous viewing points from large, flat boulders that are moss and slick free. Even without the walk to the falls and all that the creek side offers, the gardens around the gatekeeper's house are worth the visit. On our return to the entrance area we saw many native plants around the house garden that were labeled for ease of identification. There was also a nice information board with photographs of some of the more common native plants.

We left the glen and drove the last few miles to Tryon for a quick drive-through and return to Saluda for lunch—Jerry is always on the lookout for good food. We found it with lunch at the Purple Onion, which specializes in use of local foods from bread to beer to coffee. Menu selections include margaritas, tiramisu, apple pie, hummus, carrot cake, chicken salad, risotto, grits, steaks, meat loaf, Greek salad, roast turkey,

spinach salad, lemon chicken, chutney and a soup of the day. Everything appeared wonderfully fresh. There is a patio for outside dining that added to the enjoyment of lunch on what had become a hot, for Saluda, and sunny day.

Anna and Jerry Weston



Photos courtesy Jerry Weston:

Previous page—Pearson's Falls

This page:

1. Pearson's Creek
2. *Chimaphila maculata*, striped wintergreen, striped pipsissewa
3. *Monotropa uniflora*, Indian pipes



Can't Visit Anytime Soon?

Jerry suggests the following short video:

<http://www.waterfall-picture-guide.com/pearsons-falls.html>



June Picnic Photos by Larry Lapple



Mark Rose conducts propagation workshop with lots of enthusiastic participants.



Working with cuttings, and scouting out the plants to be auctioned...

LUNCH! ↴





Letters to the Editor

The May 2011 version of my Flora is now available for free download from the [UNC Herbarium website](#), and also in printed copy, traditionally hardbound in Wolfpack red.

This version has a number of significant enhancements, in addition to the routine updated taxonomic treatments, revised and improved keys, addition of new references, etc. This version offers more complete coverage of se. LA, MS, AL, n. FL, TN, KY, WV, DC, MD, DE, and s. NJ, and like the 2010 version is arranged phylogenetically. The indexing is enhanced, with a new Quick Index to Families.

Most noticeably, range maps have been created and inserted for over half of the 7000 taxa, with the remainder of range maps planned for the 2012 version. These maps provide a simple graphic that indicates nativity vs. alien status and common/uncommon/rare abundance in each state X physiographic province unit, the area of nativity of alien taxa, whether the taxon is endemic to the Flora area, and its distribution outside of the Flora area (all in one square inch ;-).

Alan Weakley, Ph.D.
Director and Curator, UNC Herbarium (NCU), NCBG
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Dept. of Biology and
Curriculum for the Environment and Ecology
UNC at Chapel Hill



Our new friend at USDA, Doug Goldman, has added an artist search element to the Advanced Search menu of the USDA Plants Database. Here is a link to my photos which he put up early this year. I'm very proud of this.

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/imageGallery?txtparm=&category=sciname&familycategory=all&dur=0&growthhabit=all&nativestatus=all&wetland=all&artist=Stan+Gilliam©right=all&imageType=all&cite=all&location=all&viewsort=text&sor=asc&sciname&submit2.x=70&submit2.y=13>

I know this is a long link, but it'll work if you copy and paste it into your browser.

Otherwise, you can just click on Advanced Search on USDA Plants Database and scan down the list of photographers and artists.

Stan Gilliam
Triad Chapter member



My husband, Larry, contacted Syngenta about donating some Fafard to the NCNPS. Fafard is a business unit of Syngenta.



Syngenta generously donated a pickup-truckful of Fafard 3B potting mix. We picked it up a few weeks ago, and have it stored at our house until NCNPS is ready to use it for propagation workshops, auction items, rescue/potting, etc.

Joanne Lapple
Larry is also the one who took all the picnic photos on page 11.



Gwyn Riddick mentioned NCNPS, including mission statement and website address, in an article in the July 16th *High Point Enterprise*!

Robert Jones
Triad Chapter member

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Non-native and Invasive Forest Plant Workshops

The Non-native and Invasive Forest Plants Workshops for Landowners is a series of 6 one-day educational workshops featuring presentations by experts in non-native invasive plants that impact North Carolina's forests. Each workshop will engage regionally based stakeholder groups in the planning and educational content. These workshops are designed for family forest landowners, but all forestland ownership types and professional forestland managers and advisers are welcome. Commercial and educational exhibits will be displayed at each workshop.

Sponsored by the N C Forest Service
Hosted by N C State University
Dept of Forestry and Environmental Resources

Workshop Regional Locations and Dates

•Sandhills, Lower Piedmont and Uwharries:
August 19, 2011 - Moore Co. Ext. Ctr
707 Pinehurst Ave, Ag. Center, Carthage,
NC 28327

- Western North Carolina:
September 13, 2011 - Crowne Plaza Tennis & Golf Resort
One Resort Drive, Asheville, NC 28806
- Coastal Plain of North Carolina:
October 18, 2011 - Duplin County Extension Ctr.
165 Agriculture Drive, Kenansville, NC 28349
- Northeastern North Carolina:
February 7, 2012 - Sen. Bob Martin Eastern Ag Center
2900 NC Highway 125 South, Williamsburg, NC 27892
- Piedmont (includes urban forestry topics):
May 1, 2012 - Bur-Mil Park
5834 Bur-Mil Club Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410
- Northern Blue Ridge:
May 8, 2012 - Wilkes Co. Community College
1328 S. Collegiate Drive, Wilkesboro, NC

28697

Advanced registration for these workshops is required. Participants may attend multiple workshops, but the content from one workshop to the next will be the same or quite similar. Registration process can be completed by phone, online or by mail/fax.

There is no cost to attend one of these workshops. However, there is a single \$15 handling fee for persons requesting professional continuing education (CE) credits from any of the types of credits provided. Check the type of CE credits needed when completing the registration form.

For details and to register:

<http://www.ncsu-feop.org/NNI/>

Extending the Picnic Workshop: Plants suitable for propagation from cuttings in late spring or early summer

Perennials

Agastache *Phlox*
Asters *Physostegia*
Boltonia *Salvia*
Callirhoe *Sedum*
Campanella *Solidago*
Chelone *Tradescantia*
Clematis *Verbena*
Conradina *Vernonia*
Coreopsis
Eupatorium
Filipandula
Guara
Helianthus
Hibiscus
Lobelia
Meehania
Monarda

Shrubs, Trees

Aronia
Callicarpa
Ceanothus
Cephalanthus
Clethra
Cornus
Cyrilla
Diervilla
Gelsemium
Gordonia
Halesia
Hydrangea
Hypericum
Ilex
Illicium
Myrica

Information submitted by Lynda Waldrep, who "culled the list from William Cullina." She also recommends the NCSU Cooperative Extension Service Bulletin on plant propagation by stem cuttings. "It has many non-natives, but the overall how-to descriptions would be applicable."

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/pdf/hil-8702.pdf>



Distinguishing Between Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes

Grasses, sedges and rushes can be challenging to identify. Following is a beginning primer to help in deciding first whether you are looking at a grass, a sedge, or a rush.

Grasses have their leaves arranged in ranks of two, and a ligule is often present. By contrast, sedges and rushes have leaves arranged in ranks of three, and the ligule is poorly developed or absent.

Another distinctive sedge characteristic is their triangular shaped stem. Remember, the adage "sedges have edges", thus they are not grasses.

GRASS

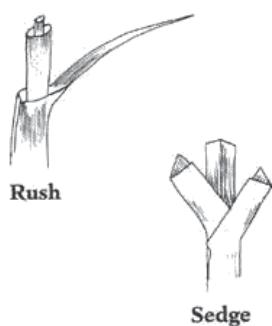
Stem almost all **hollow**, round or sometimes flattened, **with joints**. **Single seed** in each flowering scale. Leaf **sheath is open** at the back.

SEDGES

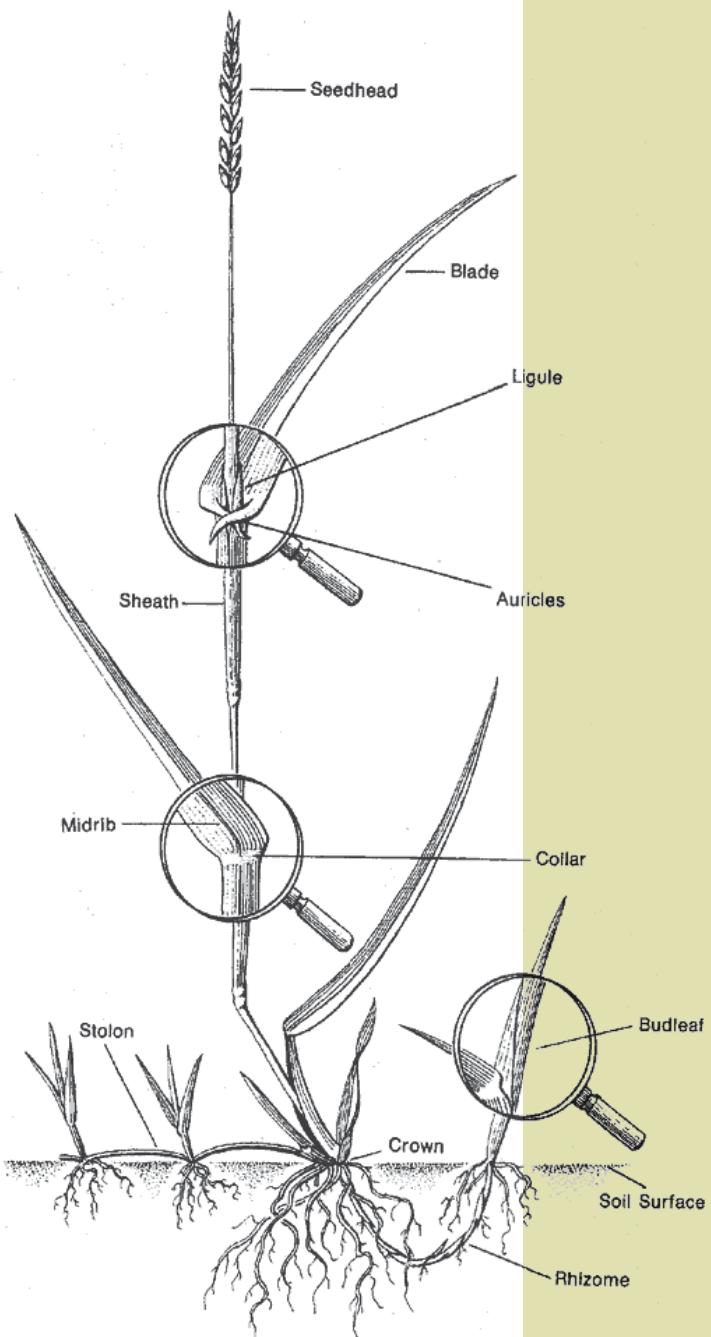
Stem **solid** and mostly **triangular** but some round or square, **no joints**. **Single seed** in each flowering scale. Leaf **sheath is closed** at the back.

RUSHES

Stem **solid** and mostly **round**. **Several seeds** in each pouch. Regular flower made up of 3 outer and 3 inner scales and 1 pouch. **No ligule**. Leaf **sheath is closed** at the back



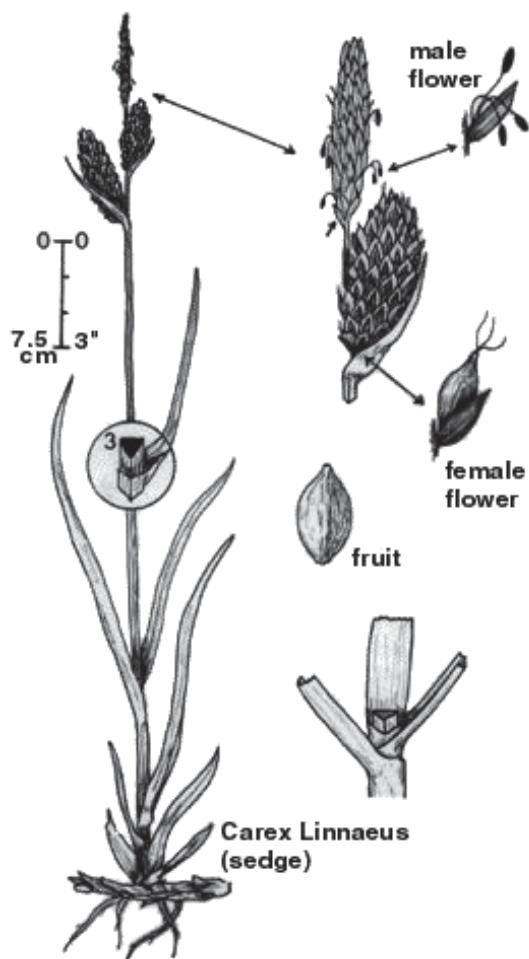
Grass characters:



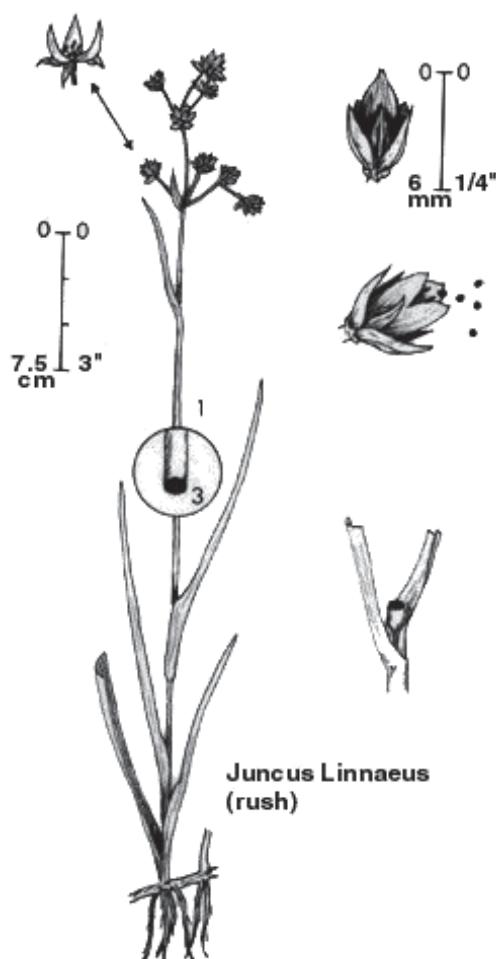


Distinguishing Between Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes continued...

Sedge characters:



Rush characters:



All three groups of the grasslike plants (grasses, sedges, rushes) are monocotyledons. All three groups produce mostly narrow leaves with parallel veins. Generally if the stem is hollow you have a grass. There are very few grasses that have solid stems. To be certain that the stem is hollow, cut it open between the nodes. If the specimen has a solid stem, it is not likely a grass. Peel back the leaves (if there are any) and note whether the stem is round, that is if it easily rolls between your fingers, or whether it angular. Plants with angular stems are usually sedges, those with round stems are rushes.

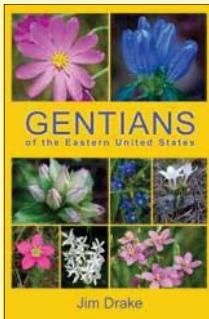
The Sedge family (Cyperaceae) has many genera, not all of which have angular stems. The "sedges have edges" character applies mostly to true sedges in the genus *Carex*. Many bulrushes or tules in the genus *Scirpus* have round stems. To be certain that a plant that is a member of the Sedge Family you must examine the flower. The individual flowers are borne in the axil (inside face) of a single, scalelike bract. This contrasts with grasses that have two bracts immediately associated with the individual flower (lemma and palea). Sedges and grasses have one seed for each flower, in contrast to the rushes which have a three-parted capsule filled with many small, black seeds.

Rushes (*Juncus*) and wood rushes (*Luzula*) in the Rush Family (Juncaceae) have solid stems. The flowers usually consist of two series of three, petal-like structures, which are actually the sepals and the petals that surround the pistil. Using a hand lens you can see that these look like the petals of a miniature brownish lily.

Adapted from Royal BC Museum.



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This book by author Jim Drake covers the family Gentianaceae occurring within the Eastern United States. It is possibly the most comprehensive text covering the vast range of genera within the family Gentianaceae.

Jim has attempted to provide descriptions of all members of this family within his very broadly defined "eastern" U.S. Text descriptions along with ample photographs help the reader to understand and enjoy the range of wildflowers included within this diverse family.

Beginning with Bartonia and finishing with Voyria, this text attempts to fill the genera in between including, Gentiana, Sabatia, lesser-known genera such as Centaurium, Halenia and many others. Not only focusing on the blue gentians, this 220 page guide gives equal treatment to the rest of the eastern gentian family including both common and less well known members.

Available in late January 2011
inquiries may be made to
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\$24.95 plus shipping.
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NC Native Plant News

c/o Katherine Schlosser
1402 Bearhollow Road
Greensboro, NC 27410

NORTH CAROLINA'S NAT

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NCNPS Guidelines

Plants on the NC Plant Conservation Program's *Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern* list or the NC Natural Heritage Program's *List of Rare Plant Species* should not be collected except under special circumstances, such as: imminent destruction of habitat, scientific research contributing to long-term conservation of the species, or reestablishment of extirpated populations. When such circumstances exist, collection should be carried out only when the collector has the necessary permits and permission.



Scrophularia marilandica, carpenter's square or figwort