

Native Plant News

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Native Plant News
Katherine Schlosser, editor

August 2012
ISSN: 2151-2159
Vol. 10 No. 4

Fall Trip: September 28—30: Piedmont Prairies

Piedmont prairie communities of the southeastern United States were common prior to European settlement, according to Dr. Robert Thompkins of Belmont Abby College. However, development has all but erased the tall grasses, leaving only scattered remnants. Several such sites can still be found in Cabarrus County, and the North Carolina Native Plant Society's fall outing will focus on three such places.



mented, with 66 graminoids, and included many new species as well as 13 that are listed species for North Carolina. Dr. Thompkins will be one of the guides both days, as well as Dr. Larry Mellichamp and Dr. Jim Matthews. Dr. Stucky will join us on Sunday. (In an interesting aside, Dr. Stucky was Dr. Thompkins' advisor for his M.S. degree., and Dr. Matthews was Dr. Mellichamp's professor. Small world of plants!)

As in past years, the schedule will begin with a social and short program on Friday, Sept. 28, followed by walks on Saturday and Sunday. To help members understand and improve knowledge of graminoids, Dr. Jon Stucky of NCSU will present Saturday night's program: "It's a Grass; We Can Identify It!" An optional dinner precedes his talk at the First Baptist Church fellowship hall. (See registration form.)

Dr. Stucky is a native of the tallgrass prairie region of Kansas. He received his undergraduate education at Kansas State Teachers College in the heart of the tallgrass prairie of the Flinthills Region and his Ph.D. from Texas Tech University in the short grass prairie of the Texas Panhandle. In 1974 he joined the Dept. of Botany (now Dept. of Plant Biology) of NCSU. He has taught a number of field-oriented courses including Grasses / Sedges / Rushes. His published research has focused on the population biology of rare North Carolina plants including smooth coneflower of North Carolina Piedmont prairies.

This year's event will be based in Mt. Pleasant, and participants will visit two sites on Saturday and one on Sunday: Saturday morning is the Buffalo Creek Savannah followed by a drive out to Suther Prairie; Sunday will be a half day visit to the Pharr Family Farm. These sites are available to us through Catawba Lands Conservancy and the Cabarrus County SWCD. In a study of Suther by Dr. Thompkins, 208 species were docu-

An optional tour for those who arrive early enough on Friday is the native plant garden at Mt. Pleasant High School, located at 700 WALKER RD between NC 73 and NC 49, west of their intersection. Friday night's dessert social will be at the fellowship hall of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church on Mt. Pleasant Rd., a few blocks south of the traffic light at Main Street. (Specific address sent to registrants.)

Friday night's presentation will be a description of our education and outreach efforts, led by Education Chair Christy Heislars-Larson. This is an audience interactive activity, so be prepared!

(Note: Our motel base, listed in the last newsletter, is <http://www.carolinacountryinnandsuites.com/> Room prices range from \$55 - \$69 for our group, depending on choice: one queen, two queens, king. Some rooms have both microwaves and refrigerators, and some do not. You need to ask. They also offer a smoking or non-smoking option, so be sure to specify your selection. There is no breakfast, but this motel is beside a Hardee's, and there are several local restaurants that serve full breakfast just a few blocks away.)

~ Lynda Waldrep



Mt. Pleasant Registration Form

September 28-30, 2012

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (Home and 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 - \$35.00 per person \$ _____

Single day participation - \$20. Please indicate/circle Saturday or Sunday. \$ _____

Saturday night dinner (optional) \$12.00 per person \$ _____

Please indicate regular or vegetarian. _____

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

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Registration deadline: **received** by September 24, 2012

I/we will bring a food item for the Friday evening social. (Enough for four people; no large amounts necessary.)

Please make checks payable to NC Native Plant Society

Mail to:

Jeff Prather, Treasurer

108 Wicklow Place

Chapel Hill NC 27517

Be sure to bring your sunscreen, hat, rain gear (we walk, rain or shine), and extra water.

Also don't forget a food item for the Friday social.

Confirmation of registration and directions to meeting sites will be sent on receipt of registration via email.

Note: There is no lunch option for Saturday. Please bring your own. Snacks and bottled water will be available both days.

This is a fillable form - you may type in your information,
then print and mail this page.



Board of Directors

TOM HARVILLE, PRESIDENT
tomhar@bellsouth.net

LYNDA WALDREP, VICE-PRESIDENT
lyndawaldrep@aol.com

CAROLYN A. WHITE, SECRETARY
Carolyna.white@gmail.com

JEFF PRATHER, TREASURER
jandcprather@earthlink.net

KATHY SCHLOSSER, EDITOR; TRIAD CHAPTER
kathyschlosser@triad.rr.com

TRENA McNABB, MEMBERSHIP
trena@tmcnabb.com

JEAN WOODS, EDUCATION
jean14424@aol.com

ALICE ZAWADZKI, SPECIAL PROJECTS
alice@ncwildflower.org

MARK ROSE, AT LARGE
trilliumboy@yahoo.com

DAVID McADOO, AT LARGE
dmcadoo@triad.rr.com

LARRY MELLICHAMP, AT LARGE
lmellichamp@carolina.rr.com

MARGARET PARTRIDGE, TRIANGLE CHAPTER
afm500@bellsouth.net

LISA TOMPKINS, SO. PIEDMONT CHAPTER
lestompkins@windstream.net

LARA BERKLEY, WILMINGTON CHAPTER
lara@b-and-o.net

CARY PAYNTER, WILMINGTON CHAPTER
dmpaynter@earthlink.net

CHRISTY LARSON, WESTERN NC CHAPTER
christyheislars@yahoo.com

KATHY MITCHELL, NE COAST CHAPTER
katherine.mitchell@ncaquariums.com

SUSAN RUIZ-EVANS, NE COAST CHAPTER
susan_ruiz-evans@ncsu.edu

DAVID McCLOY, MOORE COUNTY CHAPTER
dmccloy@mindspring.com

NANCY SAINT, Merchandise
gnsaint@bellsouth.net

CAROLYN IKENBERRY
cikenberry@earthlink.net

WEBMASTER: TERRY BRITTON
tbritton@gmail.com

September 2012

Sept. 5th: Triad Chapter Meeting

NCPCP Preserves and the Plants They Protect
Rob Evans, NC Plant Conservation Program
Location: KCEF Library, Greensboro
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 23rd: Southeast Coast Chapter Meeting

Alistair and Charlotte Glen will lead a tour of Growing Wild Nursery in Pender County. This is a joint event with the Cape Fear Audubon Society. Additional Info on the website.
2:00—4:00
Directions from Wilmington:
Take Interstate 40 north to Hwy 53 (exit 398). Turn left and take Hwy 53 west to the stop light. Turn right onto Hwy 117 north, and travel 5 miles. Turn right onto Murphy Road. The nursery is 0.2 miles on the left.

Sept. 28th—30th: NCNPS Fall Trip—Piedmont Prairies

Registration form in newsletter and on website.

October 2012

Oct. 3rd: Triad Chapter Meeting

Urban & Suburban Meadows
Video featuring Catherine Zimmerman, Dr. Doug Tallamy and others
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Central Library, Winston-Salem, Room 120
660 West Fifth Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101
For more information: call Kathy 336-855-8022 or email
kathyschlosser@triad.rr.com

Oct. 14th: Southeast Coast Chapter

Croatan National Forest with Keannie Kraus
2:00—4:00
For details, see www.ncwildflower.org

November 2012

Nov. 14th: Triad Chapter Meeting

Native Wildflowers for Pollinators & Hands-on Native Grasses
Nancy Adamson, Pollinator Conservation Spec., East Region, Xerces Society
Location: KCEF Library, Greensboro
Time: 7:00 p.m.



President's Message



I recently worked at shift at our booth at the Green Summer Show in Hickory sponsored by the North Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association. The show was attended by mostly landscape designers and architects. We had some interesting discussions with the attendees and the most common question was, "Where can I buy native plants?" We had a list of native plant vendors that we handed out, but none of the vendors that specialize in natives had booths. I thought about this driving home. Do the vendors that we know and buy from, consider this type of show not profitable to attend? Should we be encouraging some of our vendor friends to attend?

There is an increase interest in native plants by the public. We get lots of questions about the use of native plants in the landscape when we do festivals and home shows. I have read in various publications about the rising interest in "green" solutions for landscaping and sustainable landscape design. I am proud of our proactive efforts in having a booth at this show and the Green and Growing Show held in Greensboro every February. We have had a booth at that show for the past several years with many people stopping by with questions or comments.

I think it is important that we work both ends of this: encouraging people to buy and use native plants (demand), encouraging landscape designers and architects to use and recommend natives (demand), and encouraging nurseries to grow natives (supply). We have a list of native plant vendors on our web site and are working to have a list landscape designers there also. Our list of native plant vendors requires the vendor to certify that they sell natives, do not sell any plant listed on our invasive plant list, and that they only sell nursery propagated plants.

We are considering a way to list another tier of vendors that carry natives, but do not adhere to one or both of the other criteria. To do so, we would have to add a caution to buyers to be educated about what they are buying. Many vendors carry some selection of natives, but are often not knowledgeable about natives or making recommendations concerning natives. It would be up to the buyer to make wise and educated choices.

We would like to see some way to help nurseries and big box stores to tag natives with information. You see some of this being done now, usually a tag saying only "Native" on it. This is all very preliminary right now, so stay tuned. We also encourage our members who see invasive plants for sale, to find the manager and express respectful disapproval and, hopefully, educate the manager about the danger of invasive plants.

Using natives, as you all know, creates habitat for our birds, butterflies, and wildlife; creates more sustainable landscapes; and creates a connection to our environment and a sense of place in our beautiful North Carolina.

~ Jean



Financial Report To Members: Jeff Prather, Treasurer

NCNPS Annual Financial Summary June 1, 2011-May 31, 2012
As of May 31, 2012 our unrestricted assets (cash) including our American Fund and State Employee Credit Union accounts totaled \$73,683.58 [Checking \$4,730.59, Money Market Shares \$46,418.69, Shares \$28.35, and American Funds \$22,505.95] with an additional \$2,720 in fixed assets (e.g., projectors, screens, tents, etc.). We have no liabilities. NCNPS is a small 501(c) (3) non-profit. As such we are exempt from some of the more onerous record keeping requirements. Each year we must electronically file a simple IRS Form 990EZ. In addition, we have to file for a Charitable Solicitation License through the North Carolina Department of State Charitable Solicitation Licensing Division. I just completed our renewal for the 2011-2012 business year and want to report to the membership a summary of our income, donations and expenditures.

Our income revenue streams for our business year ending May 31, 2012 are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Items include SECU Interest, Membership, Donations, NCNPS Plant Sales, Fall Field Trip, Spring Field Trip, T-shirt/Bags, Hat, Apron, Propagation Handbook, State Fair (Donation), Head Nets, Insurance rebate, Habitat Certification, Fall Field Trip Accounting Discrepancy, and TOTAL.

The actual deposits were \$19 less because of an accounting discrepancy in the Fall Field Trip that I could never reconcile. Our expenditures were as follows:

Grants and Allocations

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Items include The Nature Conservancy, BW Wells (2 @ \$100.00 each), NC Center for Non-Profits, NC Conservation Network, Shinn Grant -Brevard, and 4th Approximation.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Items include Tryon Garden Club (Spring Trip), Saluda Public Library (Spring Trip), Saluda Comm. Land Trust (Spring Trip), Saluda Center (Spring Trip), WCU-Cullowhee Scholarships, Friends of Plant Conservation, Sarah P. Duke Gardens, North Carolina Botanical Garden, UNC-Charlotte Botanical Garden, and TOTAL.

Other expenditures included the following:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Items include Taxes, Postage/shipping (newsletter, handbook, etc.), Printing (newsletter, native plant society pamphlets/handouts), Computer support/telephone, Supplies (e.g. projector, etc.), Administration (Liability insurance, misc. admin costs), and Conference/Meetings (Spring/Fall Field Trips, etc.).

One of the largest donations we have ever given was made to the National Heritage Program (NHP) to assist them in their latest "approximation" of the natural communities in North Carolina. One of the missions of the NHP is to inventory, tract, and help conserve the biodiversity in the state. A more detailed article of 4th Approximation appeared in our previous newsletter, July 2012, Col. 10, No.3. We also made a \$2,000 donation to the Friends of Plant Conservation to help them reach their goal of \$20,000 to conduct an assessment of the Redlair property. Eventually, the land will be acquired by the State and transferred to the NC Plant Conservation Program. Unfortunately, we had no qualifying applicants this year for our Shinn grants.

So, if you know of any "starving" students looking for additional grant money, please have them review our Shinn Grant application process

(http://www.ncwildflower.org/scholarships/shinn.htm).

Jeff Prather, Treasurer

SUTHER PRAIRIE GERMPLASM

BIG BLUESTEM *Andropogon gerardii*

Suther Prairie germplasm big bluestem was released in July 2002 by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Cape May Plant Materials Center (PMC) in Cape May Courthouse, New Jersey. It is recognized as a source identified release.

Suther Prairie germplasm big bluestem was collected from a wet prairie 27 miles Northeast of Charlotte in Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Cabarrus County is in the Piedmont of North Carolina in plant hardiness zone 7a and receives 45-55 inches of precipitation per year. The average temperature in July is 79° F and 42° F in January.

Description

Big bluestem is a native, long-lived perennial, warm season grass that occurs from the short grass prairie region to the Atlantic Ocean. It is tufted with short, scaly rhizomes that form a sod. Big bluestem can reach a height of 6 to 8 feet on most sites. It is very leafy at the base with some leaves carried up on the stem. The seed heads normally have 3 spikelets that appear like a 'turkey foot.' Under proper management, big bluestem can produce a high quality forage.



Uses

Suther Prairie germplasm big bluestem can be used in several conservation practices, such as: critical area stabilization, conservation cover, field border, range seeding and pasture and hayland planting. Fertilization is recommended to improve productivity and forage quality. Plants should be grazed or hayed in the leafy stage before seed head emergence.



Grass seed drills equipped with specialized seed boxes are recommended for planting fluffy or "trashy" seed such as big bluestem.

Adaptation

Suther Prairie germplasm big bluestem is recommended for planting throughout the southern Piedmont and upper Coastal Plain areas of the eastern United States.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Acer pensylvanicum, striped maple

Autumn Daybreak

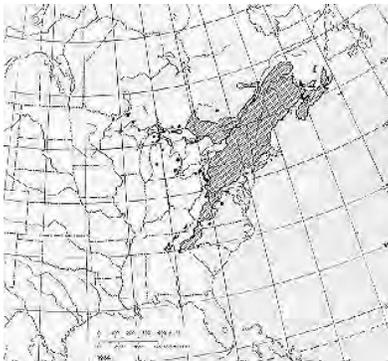
Cold wind of autumn, blowing loud
At dawn, a fortnight overdue,
Jostling the doors, and tearing through
My bedroom to rejoin the cloud,
I know—for I can hear the hiss
And scrape of leaves along the floor—
How may boughs, lashed bare by this,
Will rake the cluttered sky once more.
Tardy, and somewhat south of east,
The sun will rise at length, made known
More by the meagre light increased
Than by a disk in splendour shown;
When, having but to turn my head,
Through the stripped maple I shall see,
Bleak and remembered, patched with red,
The hill all summer hid from me.

Edna St. Vincent Millay



rise to another common name (along with moosewood, presumably because further north, moose are among the animals that eat the bark).

Striped maples grow in the shade of mixed hardwood/coniferous forests in slightly acidic, moist soil. Dense shade results in slow growth, sometimes as little as an inch per year, but when more light filters through, growth speeds up.



Acer pensylvanicum, striped maple, brings a bit of New England to the far western counties of North Carolina, its' lemon yellow leaves fading to gold as cool breezes arrive from the North.

This small tree (up to 40 feet at maturity, but usually 15-25 feet) is attractive throughout the seasons. Winter exposes pale vertical stripes along its' greenish bark, the signature stripes fading to reddish-brown as the tree matures. Spring brings dense panicles of green flowers, appearing after the leaves form, followed by winged samaras that whirl and spin their way to the ground.

Summers' dark green leaves have a shape, faintly recognizable as an *Acer*, sometimes called *goosefoot*, giving

Striped maple is a great tree to encounter in the wild, but I can't say how it would perform outside its native range. Better to enjoy it where it is, taking in all the other plants that share space, and the vistas often nearby.

Kathy Schlosser



Reference:

Gabriel, William J. and Russell S. Walters, *Striped Maple*. http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/silvics_manual/volume_2/acer/pensylvanicum.htm

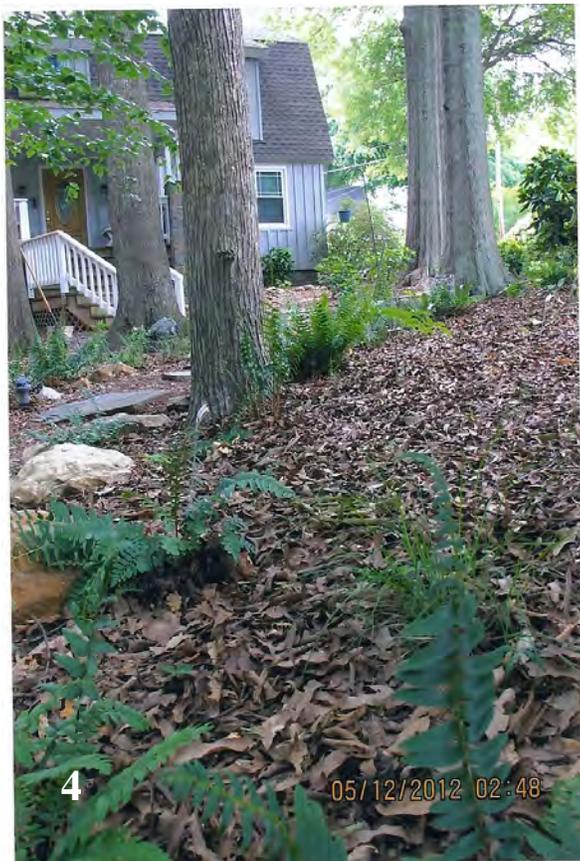
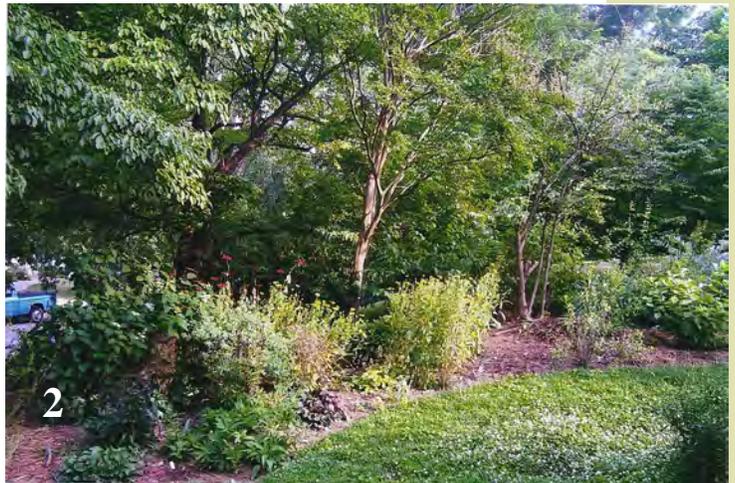
Top Photo from Burnt Meadow Nursery, Brownfield ME <http://burntmeadow.com/2012/04/08/moosewood-or-stripped-maple/>



Two New NCNPS Native Plant Habitats

Welcome to our two newest certified Native Plant Habitats. **Marion Hart Sekerak** of Davidson and **Jeff Morgan** of Winston-Salem submitted successful applications for habitat certification in the last two months. Marion's garden was certified in June and Jeff's in July. NCNPS has now approved 32 gardens as native plant habitats. Congratulations to both gardeners for their outstanding efforts to promote native plants in their home environments.

Carolyn Ikenberry



1 & 2—Jeff Morgan's gardens

3 & 4—Marion Sekerak's gardens



2012 Wanderings of a Board Member

by David McAdoo
ncorchid@yahoo.com

I serve on the board of directors of your organization as a member at large. I feel that my responsibility is to represent you in the decision making of your Society. One of the functions that I oversee is the annual Shinn Grant award. There is a pool of professionals who volunteer to review applicants, and we make a decision on grants to be awarded. The other areas that I support are volunteering programs when requested and supplying photos for the web site or newsletter as needed. Recently I have been trying to help out with our spring and fall weekends.

As many of you know I am your local orchid nut. This has been a hot spring and summer which has made it hard to plan when to see flowers in bloom. The bad news is that I seem to be caught in a rut of going back to the same places each year. The good news is that I have seen some wonderful flowers this year at those places. Actually I have started to take more pictures of other wild flowers and plants. Many years ago I decided that my photography skills were better than my gardening skills. I kill a lot fewer plants this way and get to enjoy them longer.

I started the spring with a wonderful late April weekend in the mountains around the Green River gorge. If you have never been to our Society's weekend outings, you really ought to try one. We go to wonderful places, there are great hikes led by knowledgeable people, and the fellowship is great. This year we got our full share of *Trilliums* in bloom and saw a good collection of fern species. In addition I even got to see a couple orchids.



Trillium rugelii



Trillium catesbaei



Trillium luteum

Continued on page 5



Ginseng plant



Pearson's Falls



Maidenhair fern

I didn't get a lot of time to enjoy that weekend because I was involved with Mark Rose co-chairing a Native Orchid Conference outing in Wilmington several weeks later. We met at the University of NC in Wilmington with people from US, Canada and Europe. Because of our hot weather I was scared that people would be disappointed with the flowers that they didn't get to see on the field trips. As it turned out we saw plenty of orchids and other plants and the conference was a great success.



Cleistesioipsis divaricate



Venus Flytrap



Sabatia kennedyana

After the conference I have made a couple other trips. I've been to Brevard to give a talk, Charleston to visit my daughter (this gives me an opportunity to hike in the Francis Marion National Forest), and a late summer trip back to the coast. Below are some of the wonderful sights that I go to enjoy in no particular order. Hope you had a great summer. Share your adventures and photos with Kathy and the newsletter.

Continued on page 6



Peltandra sagittaeifolia



Platanthera cristata



Lilium catesbaei



Sarracenia minor



Platanthera x bicolor



Hibiscus coccineus

Continued on page 7



Lophiola aurea



Spiranthes vernalis



Sarracenia jonesi



Near Albino squirrel in Brevard



News of Interest to Our Members



YouTube slide.

There is a video on the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center's website — <http://serc.si.edu/> — of which NCNPS can be proud. If you watch the short film about the North American Orchid Conservation Center, you will see that our own **David McAdoo** is featured in the credits for contributing some of the orchid photos.

The video addresses what a team of ecologists led by the Smithsonian and the U.S. Botanic Garden is doing to save some of the imperiled North American orchids.

Congratulations David!

Triad Chapter Member Mike Vaughan Documents Prairie Project

"I have started to build a web site for my prairie project, which leads to my blog (which is not at all up to date - but will be later).:

To follow Mike on his long and interesting journey, visit:

www.WolfslandPrairie.org

A Call for Help !!

At the recent Cullowhee Native Plant Conference, I was intrigued by the tax implications on a small 501(c) (3) non-profit after acquiring and restoring a large tract of land in South Carolina including a number of large grants. When I talked to the former President, his response was simple, he had no idea what the implications were. He indicated that years ago, the South Carolina Native Plant Society had sought out a volunteer to help the society with their tax issues. As the father of an environmental attorney, I know that attorneys are required to do a certain amount of pro bono work. It could also be a certified public accountant. Plant knowledge is not a requirement. Our 2012 Charitable Solicitation License has been approved. I think we are in full compliance, but I would personally prefer to have a tax expert look over our records.

If any member is an attorney/CPA familiar with non-profits or knows of someone who might volunteer, please have them contact Jean Woods or myself.

Jeff Prather, Treasurer

jandcprather@earthlink.net

Jean Woods jean14424@aol.com



Triangle (Reid) Chapter

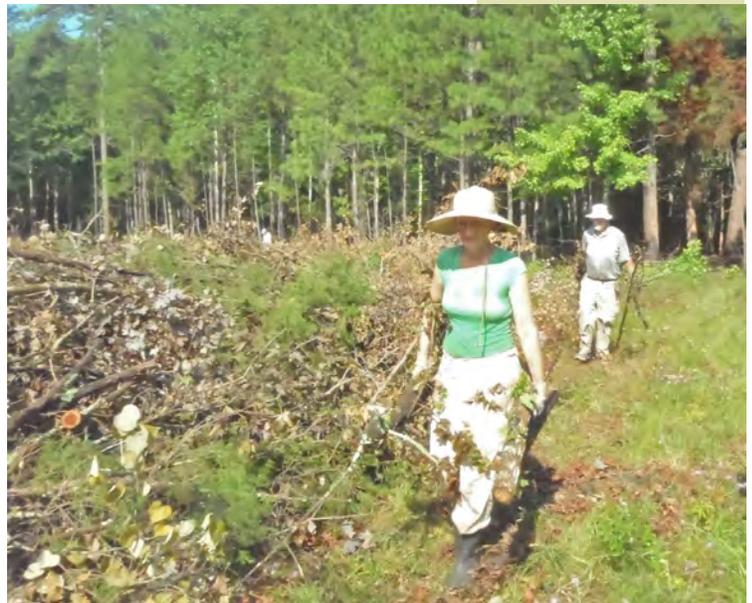
Picture Creek Workday

Reid Chapter members who turned out on July 28 to assist the N. C. Plant Conservation Program (PCP) staff at the Picture Creek Nature Preserve were too late for the peak smooth coneflower show, but there was still plenty to see. The site, which is located in Butner, contains the world's largest population of the federally endangered smooth coneflower as well as a great many other Piedmont prairie plants.

NCNPS volunteers, several of whom are also Friends of Plant Conservation preserve stewards, helped drag trees and brush that had been recently cut down by PCP staff and is slated for chipping this fall. The objective is to create openings along the woods edge so that the prairie plants growing in the power line clearings might infiltrate.

Picture Creek's diabase soils support an extremely diverse plant community with a number of rare, and in some cases unique, plants including species of *Ruellia* and *Solidago*.

Dale Batchelor
Margaret Partridge





South East Coast Chapter Chair: Cary Paynter

Recently I have been taking an Introduction to Botany course at the NC Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill. Two certificate programs are offered by the garden, one in Native Plants Studies and the other in Botanical Illustration. The native plants classes cover the basics of botany but offer as well shorter courses on lichens, mushrooms, Piedmont tree identification and more. The botanical illustration courses include great classes for even the artistically challenged. I loved the class Drawing for People Who Think They Can't Draw despite being right about my inability to draw!

The NC Botanical Garden is also a great institution to support for its commitment to public education about native plant conservation and their contribution to getting native plants into gardens and nurseries across the state. Members receive their choice of seeds from their list each year and get first pick in their fall plant sale. It's also worth a visit (even if you are not nearby) to see plants from all parts of the state and even a taxonomic garden! Neat stuff!

For more information, go to
<http://ncbg.unc.edu/classes-workshops/>

Mordecai Hyams 1819-1891



Hello, people of Statesville, let me introduce myself, in case you don't recognize me. I'm Mordecai Hyams. Well, after the war broke out – which one? – well, of course, the Civil War, - because of my love of

plants, my Confederacy asked me to go to the Carolina Military Institute, just down the road in Charlotte. The huge building was filled with large quantities of roots and herbs and barks that had been stockpiled for the manufacture of medicine. We had to learn to make these drugs ourselves, since we were no longer able to get them from the dad blame North.

My work as an agent of the Confederate government was to identify and purchase these plants from the locals. After the war, I came here to Statesville to be a purchasing agent for similar roots, herbs and barks for the Wallace Brothers. They had a 44,000 sq foot herbarium right downtown by the court house here in Statesville.. That was real big business – the biggest in all of North Carolina, maybe the whole country. Well, my sons, Charles and George would go with me on expeditions into the foothills and mountains. We found over 160 new plant species.

by Nancy Saint

We taught the locals how to recognize these valuable plants, like "sang" (ginseng). The people would bring the plants into their rural stores and receive credit to buy their staples. We would then buy the herbs for The Wallace Brothers. It was a good deal for everybody.

My boys and I were traveling along the Catawba in McDowell Co in May, 1877. I spotted something in bloom up high on the hillside. I sent George up to get that plant. I sure didn't recognize the flower, so it was finally sent to Asa Gray at Harvard. I was so surprised to learn that it was the *Shortia galacifolia*, Oconee Bells that had been so elusive. You remember stories about the man from France, Andre Michaux, who had made an expedition into North Carolina's mountains almost 100 years ago, finding and identifying plants. He had found the same plant and brought it back to Paris, where it had remained as a pressed and dried specimen of just a few leaves and a single seed pod. Asa Gray and other botanists had been trying to find the plant for a long time and that was what we found.

I've sure enjoyed telling you my story and I hope you enjoy your trips to the woods. Keep an eye out for more *Shortia galacifolia*!

Nancy Saint wrote this based on several articles in the Statesville newspaper. Nancy is on our Board of Directors as Merchandise Chair.



Introducing Your Board...

Carolyn Ikenberry, Native Habitat Certification Chair

We welcome you to apply for certification which is a straightforward process: download and complete the application from the Society website (ncwildflower.com) and send it, along with plant inventory and pictures of your garden, to Carolyn Ikenberry, 4 The Glen, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Include a \$10 application fee.

Certification does not require a professionally designed garden nor does it require 100% native plants. It does require evidence of an effort to use native plants and conservation practices widely in the landscape. The rewards of native gardening are enormous so I encourage you to consider taking the steps toward certification."



2012 NCNPS "Delegation" to
Cullowhee Native Plant Conference.

Photo courtesy Nancy Saint



Creating a native ‘pocket’ meadow—Notes from Cullowhee Lynda Waldrep

Information compiled by:

**Lisa Wagner (Natural Gardening:
www.naturalgardening.blogspot.com)**

Spring through fall interest (peak flowering summer – fall)

Example species to include:

Perennials:

<i>Ageratina rugosum</i>	Boneset
<i>Amsonia spp.</i>	Bluestar
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Weed
<i>Baptisia spp.</i>	Blue Wild Indigo
<i>Coreopsis spp.</i>	Coreopsis
<i>Echinacea spp.</i>	Coneflowers
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Rattlesnake Master
<i>Eutrochium spp.</i>	Joe-Pye
<i>Helianthus spp.</i>	Sunflower
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Smooth Oxeye
<i>Liatris spp.</i>	Blazing Star
<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>	Wild Quinine
<i>Penstemon spp.</i>	Beardtongue
<i>Rudbeckia spp.</i>	Black-eyed Susan
<i>Silphium compositum</i>	Silphium, Rosinweed
<i>Solidago spp.</i>	Goldenrod
<i>Symphiotrichum spp.</i>	Asters
<i>Vernonia spp.</i>	Ironweed

Grasses:

<i>Schizachryium scoparium</i>	Little Bluestem
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian Grass
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie dropseed

Editor’s Note:

A number of species of plants on the list opposite appear on the North Carolina list of protected plants, meaning they are endangered, threatened, or of special concern. If you would like to include the plants on Wagner’s list, we recommend that you select species that are not listed below unless you obtain them from permitted nurseries that use propagated stock. Alternate species are just as attractive in gardens as the imperiled species.

Baptisia alba, Thick-pod White Wild Indigo, Threatened
Baptisia bracteata Creamy Wild Indigo, Special Concern, Historical
Baptisia australis var. *aberrans*, Prairie Blue Wild Indigo, Endangered

Echinacea laevigata, Smooth Coneflower, Endangered
Echinacea purpurea, coneflower, Special Concern, Vulnerable

Helianthus floridanus, Florida Sunflower, Threatened
Helianthus laevigatus, Smooth Sunflower, Special Concern, Vulnerable
Helianthus occidentalis ssp. *occidentalis*, Naked-stem Sunflower, Special Concern, Historical
Helianthus schweinitzii, Schweinitz's Sunflower, Endangered

Liatris aspera, Rough Blazing-star, Threatened
Liatris helleri, Heller's Blazing-star, Threatened
Liatris microcephala, Small-head Blazing-star, Special Concern, Vulnerable

Rudbeckia heliopsisidis, Sun-facing Coneflower, Endanger

Silphium connatum, Virginia Cup-plant, Sp. Conc., Vulnerable
Silphium perfoliatum, Northern Cup-plant, Threatened

Solidago leavenworthii, L. eavenworth;s Goldenrod, Threatened
Solidago plumosa, Yadkin River Goldenrod, Threatened
Solidago ptarmicoides, Prairie Goldenrod, Endangered
Solidago radula, Western Rough Goldenrod, Endangered
Solidago rigida var. *rigida*, Prairie Bold Goldenrod, Threatened
Solidago spithamaea, Blue Ridge Goldenrod, Threatened
Solidago tortifolia, Twisted-leaf Goldenrod, Endangered
Solidago villosicarpa, Coastal Goldenrod, Endangered
Sporobolus heterolepis, Prairie Dropseed, Threatened

Symphiotrichum depauperatum, Serpentine Aster, Endangered
Symphiotrichum georgianum, Georgia Aster, Threatened
Symphiotrichum leave var. *concinnum*, Narrow-leaf Aster, Threatened
Symphiotrichum oblongifolium, Aromatic Aster, Threatened
Symphiotrichum Rhiannon, Buck Creek Aster, Threatened



Plant Collecting

Plant rescue—the words get the juices flowing in the hearts of native plant enthusiasts who garden. Some are motivated quite simply with thoughts of removing plants from sites slated for destruction and placing them in safe locations. Others are looking for plants for their own gardens. Many combine both impulses.

For a few, getting out into the fresh air, especially in a habitat not previously explored, to see a special plant in a unique habitat is all we need. A photograph or two, or three or four, satisfies our curiosity. Some of us go home and study the history of the plant, some keep a life list of plants seen, much as birders and other naturalist-types do, and some follow-up with a search for plants or seeds from a nursery.

Others want to add to personal collections of native plants and enjoy collecting on their own when they can. The drive to obtain a special plant can be overwhelming, pushing collectors to take risks that would keep the rest of us awake at night.

Ron Wilson, a botanist working with The Nature Conservancy, spotted something out of the ordinary two years ago on Nassawango Nature Preserve on Maryland's Eastern Shore. *Platanthera x canbyi*, or Canby's bog orchid, a rare hybrid of two rare parent orchids, had not been seen in Maryland in nearly 20 years. Yet there it was. He agonized over telling anyone else what he had seen, but was finally convinced to do so by the Preserve manager, Joe Fehrer. After further debate about how to handle the information, they set out to photograph the plant, taking a news reporter with them. They hoped the excitement generated by the find would increase interest in the Preserve system, and might just encourage donations to preserve management funds. (Schwedler, 2009)

Wilson and Fehrer decided the potential benefit, educationally and financially, was worth the risk that public exposure might bring out the worst in some plant hunters. They took steps to prevent loss of the plant-- the reporters were sworn to secrecy about the location-- but they knew that some plant hunters would go to extremes to find such special plants once word was out.

Susan Orlean explored this phenomenon in *The Orchid Thief* (Ballantine, 2000), in which the central character, John Laroche explains his obsession for orchids: "I really have to watch myself, especially around plants. Even now, just being here, I still get that collector feeling. You know what I mean. I'll see something and then suddenly I get that feeling. It's like I can't just have something--I have to have it and learn about it and grow it and sell it and master it and have a million of it."

These are not your usual 'criminal' types, even though they sometimes take endangered plants or take plants without the permission of the landowner. They have a strong interest in plants and are often very knowledgeable. Sometimes they actually do rescue plants, saving them from imminent destruction by road building, development, or other certain demise.



Panax quinquefolius, ginseng (c. NCPCP, NCDA)

However, obsession is not governed by rules, and that is where the difference between lawful collection and poaching comes into play. That may sound harsh, but in many cases it describes not only the breaking of a specific law (ginseng poaching, for example), but a violation of public trust. Many states have laws in place to protect the most vulnerable of our native plants, which when on public land belong to all of us, and when on private land, belong only to the owner. In other cases, we might define these as "culprits," otherwise law-abiding people who do not intend to do harm. After all, what could it hurt to take a plant, especially if there are others left in place?

That's a tricky question. Does the culprit know how many plants are required to maintain a viable population, one that will not suffer for lack of genetic diversity or from insufficient numbers to reproduce successfully? Does the culprit consider the potential damage caused to the habitat as a whole by the removal of one or more plants, or the habitat to which the plant is destined. Will that new habitat support the plant? Will it be pollinated and multiply in its' new home?



Venus flytrap illustration by William Curtis, Curtis's Botanical Magazine, (1746-1799).

Will it carry disease or a different gene pool to nearby natural populations?

By removing a plant, others who visit the site will be denied the opportunity to see it in its' natural habitat, and the plant itself is denied the chance to grow and spread, perhaps eventually enabling its' removal from endangered or threatened lists.

What about just taking a few little seeds? After all, plants produce many seed, don't they? Maybe not, and even if they do, most of the above questions still apply.

In the case of Venus flytraps, poaching has now spread from taking plants (still poached each year by the thousands) to harvesting seeds. By taking so much seed, future generations of the plant can be destroyed.

There is a fellow on our coast who has been taking seed for years, selling here and overseas. As long as he takes from his own land, he is within his rights, if not using good sense for future harvests. The minute he steps off his own land, and without a permit, he is in violation of public trust.

Poaching has taken another sinister turn recently. Driven not by obsession, nor by tradition, these poachers are day laborers with little to no knowledge of sustainable harvesting, and very little of the plants themselves. It doesn't excuse what they do and the way they do it,

But it draws a clear line between taking all you can find for the money and harvesting sustainably.

For years, people have harvested from public lands to supplement family income. Many still do, and they know how to do it. They have permits, their harvests are inspected, and they take only what they need so there will be more to harvest the following year. They plant seeds as they harvest, and otherwise care for their "crop," and the land that supports it.

Newer harvesters are trucked into forests, given large bags, shown a picture of a plant and told to collect every one they can find. They often collect for a minimal piece-meal wage, while the person acting as dealer reaps the larger reward. They know nothing about sustainable harvesting, nor do they care. Immediate reward/income is their goal. They are in and out as quickly as possible to avoid detection by the few authorities in place to protect what belongs to all of us.

The individual collector is not in the same league, but needs to pay close attention to the rights of property owners, private or public. Whether taking a single plant on a single occasion, or regularly rescuing plants in imminent danger, we all need to be certain that we consider the environment over our own personal desires.

For information about regulations governing protected plants in North Carolina, visit the NC Plant Conservation Program website (<http://www.ncagr.gov/plantindustry/plant/plantconserve/index.htm>) or the Friends of Plant Conservation (www.ncplantfriends.org)

You are also welcome to join Friends of Plant Conservation, where you can help to "...conserve North Carolina's rare plants and unique habitats..."

Several years ago, NCNPS adopted a policy called *Guidelines for Collection of Native Plants for Use in Restoration, Horticulture, Medicinal Preparations and Scientific Research*. A copy of that document, with a short list of resources, follows this newsletter.

Reference:

Rare Hybrid Orchid Discovered on Eastern Shore, Jon Schwedler, August 10, 2009.

http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/maryland_dc/newsroom/rare-hybrid-orchid-discovered-on-eastern-shore.xml



Advertise with NCNPS!



Lady's Slippers
of the Eastern United States



Jim Drake

This new 24 page booklet from Jim Drake covers eight taxa of Lady's Slippers of the Eastern United States. It contains lots of colorful photos including some that show flower structure.

Reasonably priced at \$7.50 plus 1.50 shipping.



GENTIAN
of the Eastern United States



Jim Drake

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.

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.

\$24.95 plus shipping.

Add 6%
sales tax



100% cotton short sleeved shirts in yellow, green, tan, deep red and blue in the standard cut. The scoop-neck inventory includes pink and blue/violet.

Small to XXL
\$15.

Canvas tote bag, with forest green bottom and handles, that sports our logo on the front. A special deal for non-members is that included with the purchase of the \$15 totes is a one year free membership.

Nancy Saint
535 Colony Court
Statesville, NC 28677
704-878-2817
gnsaint@bellsouth.net

NC Native Plant News

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

NORTH CAROLINA'S NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SINCE 1954

Are your NCNPS Dues Current?

We will soon begin purging our membership roll of those whose dues are not current. Dues are payable by May 31st of each year. Watch your mail for a reminder, or just send them now:

Jeff Prather, Treasurer
108 Wicklow Place
Chapel Hill NC 27517

Individual:	\$25.00
Family:	\$35.00
Limited Income:	\$15.00
Sustaining:	\$50.00

If you change your email address, be sure to notify us, as our primary means of communication is electronic.

www.ncwildflower.org