



Native Plant News

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Native Plant News
Julie Higgie, editor

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MISSION STATEMENT:

Our mission is to promote the enjoyment and conservation of North Carolina's native plants and their habitats through education, cultivation and advocacy.

ncwildflower.org

A President, Milkweed & Monarchs, Oh My! *Society Members Journey to Butterfly Trail*

By **Christy Larson**

I have often pondered...

Would the native plant cause benefit from a famous spokesperson? (Even though it is hard to imagine anyone more famous than our own Dr. Larry Mellichamp.)

Isn't the plight of the monarch butterfly, who relies solely on milkweed, enough?

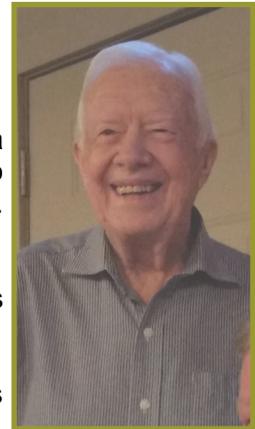
Not to mention the other butterflies, bees and birds who rely on natives?

What about the fact that planting natives is an easy green activity for ANYONE?

The truth is, natives need all the press they can get!

In that vein, I was excited to learn of the **Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Trail** in Plains, Georgia. "Joining the trail indicates that you are providing nectar plants as a butterfly food source and host plants such as milkweed or parsley on which butterflies lay their eggs," is its mission.

Rosalynn Carter's love of butterflies also turned into a Monarch Butterfly Weekend in Plains in October. Her husband, former President Jimmy Carter, has been an idol of mine since I was 4. In 1976, he ran against Gerald Ford, who is from my home town, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mr. Carter has always been a man of peace and honor, exemplified in every arena of his life. At 91 and *(Continued on page 4)*



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President's Letter



Dr. Larry Mellichamp

It has finally rained in our region of Charlotte as of Nov. 1. We were 6+ inches behind, after the hottest and driest summer in memory. I have finally gotten the chance to do some planting of trees, shrubs and wildflowers that have been sitting around in pots all summer. I'm not sure they were better off in pots, but at least they were closer to the hose. Any-

thing planted last winter or spring had to be watered seemingly endlessly, but they did well otherwise.

If you haven't put plants in the ground yet, there is still time. The roots of most trees and shrubs will grow until the soil temperature consistently falls below 40° (early January). Allowing the roots of these plants to establish before next summer will help them tolerate the stress of heat and drought. For best results, spring bulbs (including non-native) should be planted about 12 weeks before the 40° cutoff. Some plants do not like disruptive late fall transplanting, including palms, warm-season grasses, trilliums and most other spring blooming wildflowers; but they may tolerate simply shifting from a nursery pot to the soil with no division or root disturbance.

So, I suspect you need a Yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*) tree or a Paw-paw (*Asimina triloba*) — these have beautiful spring flowers and striking yellow fall foliage (plus the Paw-paw exclusively feeds Zebra Swallowtail butterfly caterpillars). Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*) has the most brilliant red foliage, berries, bark and buds of any native shrub I know, lasting well into winter.

It may be difficult to find natives that have winter interest, but the red berries of hollies and the interesting barks of many shrubs help. Alabama Croton (*Croton alabamensis*) has semi-evergreen leaves that turn a unique orange in autumn. Winter-green foliage like Seersucker Sedge (*Carex plantaginea*), Alum-root (*Heuchera ameri-*

(Continued on page 3)

Fall Planting and Anticipation



Alabama Croton



Yellowwood Tree

President's Letter (cont. from p2)

cana), and of course the favorite heart-leaf gingers (*Hexastylis* species) are outstanding herbaceous perennials with winter interest. See my book *The Winter Garden* [1997] for more ideas of natives and non-natives.

Fall planting for winter interest or spring flowers always leads to anticipation of new things to see in the spring. Planning even further ahead gives you something to look forward to with fall colors next autumn. Always be looking into the future. "Plan and plant for a better tomorrow" was J.C. Raulston's tireless mantra. It has meaning at several levels, such as in improving long-term permanent plantings in cities, parks and home landscapes. I think of it on a closer time-frame, bringing desirable results as soon as the next year or two.

Speaking of planning and anticipation, we still need two very important committee positions filled in our organization: **Membership Chairman** and **Field Trip Coordinator**. Every month we have little issues with membership

that need attention: someone's not getting their newsletter, who has not paid dues, what can we glean from membership data that will help us plan, etc. The duties are not onerous. As for field trip planning, this is a task that will be shared by several people, but a coordinator is a must if we are going to have interesting field trips across the state. I will not strong-arm anyone into accepting these jobs, for you must *want* to do them in order for you (and all of us) to be happy. They are jobs you can grow into as you learn, and past providers will help you get started and show you what to do.

Please let me hear from some of you to fill these very important roles, and I will fill in the details. This is *your* organization, and everyone should be involved in *something* so that anticipation of success next spring and fall, and into the future, will be fulfilled. Thanks. (E-mail lmellichamp@carolina.rr.com).

A President, Milkweed & Monarchs! (cont. from p1)



The Butterfly Trail in Plains began due to Mrs. Carter's desire to bring awareness to conserving butterflies and their habitats, because of her love of nature.

—C. Larson

with brain cancer, President Carter is still full of genuine smiles and laughter.

I imagined a town full of natives when setting

off on this adventure with a friend I affectionately call "Monarch Momma", due to her undying dedication to fostering this beautiful species and hence, native plants. Christine Lisiewski is also a fellow NCNPS member and a wonderful photographer.

All Christine and I could see upon entering the tiny town were signs proclaiming "Jimmy Carter for Cancer Survivor" lining the street. One property boasted at least 20. (That should have been my clue that we were passing the Carter home!) It was like stepping back in time. Plains is still in a time and place where "...everybody knows your name". The population of this small town in Georgia is about 750. I am relatively sure they all knew who the weekend visitors were. The town's geographical area is only about 500 acres. The event was hosted by the Plains Historical Preservation Trust, in a quest to connect history and nature.

Farther down the main street, there was a beautiful patch of Swamp Sunflowers (*Helianthus angustifolius*) in their full glory in a front yard. Later we saw them being cut for a church event. It is glorious to see natives used in many capacities. Did we find natives lining every street? In every designated butterfly garden along the trail in Plains? I hope my children will, in 10 years.

Chip Taylor, founder of Monarch Watch, shared aspects of his research related to monarchs. Monarch Watch is dedicated to education and research surrounding the butterfly. Noteworthy is that current tagging efforts infuse money into the local economies in Mexico, the overwintering grounds of the Monarch. A \$5 recovery fee is awarded to persons who return tagged butterflies. One of the Monarch butterflies tagged by Rosalynn in 2014 was actually recovered in Mexico.

Monarchs! (cont. from p4)

In Dr. Taylor's opinion, Green Antelope-horn (*Asclepias viridis*) and Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) are the species to be focused on for restoration in the middle of the country. This is the largest Monarch migration route.

Devastatingly, Monarch numbers continue to decrease due to:

- GMOs
- Development
- Intensive agriculture that no longer leaves hedge rows
- Herbicides used to control "weeds"
- Degradation of overwintering grounds in Mexico
- Conversion of rangelands and grasslands for biofuels

Another Monarch enemy, *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha*, was addressed by Dr. Jap DeRoode from Emory University. It is an obligate, protozoan parasite that infects Monarch and Queen butterflies, and its presence can be detected on the butterfly's abdomen. Citizen scientists are now encouraged to tape the abdomens of Monarchs and send the tape to Monarch Watch to help monitor OE in populations, along with tagging.

You can watch Dr. DeRoode's TED talk about how butterflies self-medicate with milkweed toxins via his website at <http://www.biology.emory.edu/research/deRoode/>. Our native milkweeds are truly amazing organisms!

I am sure everyone took something a little different from the magical weekend. It reinforced for me just how each of us can truly make a difference in the case for natives, one milkweed or native plant at a time.

We can make a difference through sharing — share your natives as you thin or relocate your plants this fall and next spring. Seeds are al-



Christine M. Lisiewski ©2015

Tagged Monarch Butterfly

—Christine Lisiewski.

so a great way to share and “grow” more natives. And perhaps, most importantly through conversations — **young people need to discover the interdependence of natives and our insect populations, the pollinators of our food. They are the future!**

Thank you, NCNPS members, for helping put the “natives” tool in everyone’s toolbox of knowledge!



Sunflowers-C. Larson

Rain Adventures Near Albemarle!

By **Stevie O. Daniels**

Rain was pouring down when more than 35 of us arrived Oct. 10 in fits and starts at the McDonald's parking lot in Richfield, N.C. Despite the weather, we all felt a keen draw to see the plants of the unusual circumneutral, slate-based soils in the upland community along nearby Riles Creek.

As leader **Larry Mellichamp** promised, we stepped into a wonderland of Chalk Maple, Ironwood, Chestnut and Scarlet Oak with an understory featuring viburnum, Witch-hazel, and Cross-vine climbing in the low shrubs. The ground and rock ledges were a treasure trove of mosses, lichens, ferns, and

wildflowers with Mountain Laurel on the upper ridge. For instance, we saw the Crinkly Crane-fly Orchid (*Tipularia discolor*), Virginia Snake-root (*Endodeca serpentaria*), and Lion's Foot (*Nabalus serpentaria*).

Paula Gross was our other leader. While Larry took half of the group into the woods, Paula led the others on a roadside viewing of "edge" plants such as Climbing Dogbane (*Thyrsanthella difforme*), which has a willow-like leaf as it trails along the ground changing



Larry Mellichamp and Paula Gross prepare their fall field trip participants for rainy-day adventure in the Reed Gold Mine area.

—Beth Davis

to an oval-shape when it becomes a climber. We saw the massive green thick vine encircling a tree trunk. We also saw a large stand of Fragrant Sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), False indigo (*Baptisa alba*), Rattan Vine (*Berchemia scandens*), Hearts-a-bustin' (*Euonymous americanus*), Sensitive Briar (*Mimosa microphylla*), and American Plum (*Prunus americana*).

The seed exchange during lunch included an exciting array of species such as yellow Sweet Shrub (*Calycanthus*), wild Indigo (*Baptisa*), Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*), milkweed (*Asclepias*), and more.

At least half the group soldiered on — rain was continuing to pour — to the next stop at Reed Gold Mine near Midland. The forest along the trails was filled with the beige-yellow leaves and capsule clusters (that look like hops) of Hop Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), reminding me of pastel birch leaves that hang on in the forests of Pennsylvania. Deep red accents of Sourwood, Black Gum, and Flowering Dogwood were interspersed in the scene. We also saw White Oak, Southern Red Oak, Post Oak and Sassafras.

Continued on page 7

Rain Adventures (cont. from p6)



Seen Along the Way: Moss-covered ledge (L), Roadside Natives (R)

—Stevie Daniels

Larry pointed out several examples of one of his favorite plants — Farkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*), which is evergreen in the southern part of its range.

Our final adventure was exploring prairie plants along the roadside and in the mowed area under the power lines at a site near the gold mine. Among the many species we saw were bluestem, plume grass, goldenrod and rosinweed.

Stevie Daniels, author of The Wild Lawns Handbook: Alternatives to the Traditional Front Lawn, received her horticulture degree from University of Georgia, Athens, where she enjoyed outings with the Georgia Native Plant Society. Now working on a new garden in Durham, she is part-time curator/nursery assistant for Architectural Trees, Bahama.



Beth Davis

CHLOROFIENDS!*

Furrin' Ferns (Non-Native Ferns)

By Lisa Lofland Gould

I've always had a fondness for ferns, for the way they soften the edges of woods and streams, green-up the winter landscape, and provide such diversity of shape and form. Somehow, it rarely occurred to me that ferns, which seem so dainty, could turn on us and become invasive just like any other group of plants.

If you've included native ferns in your garden, you already know that some species tend to form neat clumps (such as Christmas Fern, *Polystichum acrostichoides*), while others spread out (such as New York Fern, *Parathelypteris noveboracensis*). Some of our natives are downright aggressive growers, and woe betide the gardener who isn't prepared for the enthusiastic growth of such ferns as Ostrich Fern (*Matteucia struthiopteris*, which is native from Virginia north) or Hay-scented Fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*).

For all their dainty appearance, ferns are ancient and tough. Their spores can be carried in the wind for hundreds of miles, and many species can also spread via bulbs and rhizomes. Some ferns, such as Bracken (*Pteridium* spp.) are excellent pioneers in newly disturbed habitats. In fact, we can thank ferns for repopulating the planet's plant life following the cataclysmic meteorite that slammed into the earth some 65 million



years ago and wiped out about 70% of the earth's species (including, most famously, the dinosaurs). Before this event, fern spores accounted for around 15 to 30% of the pollen and spores in the microfossil record, while the microfossil layer just above the resulting layer of dust and ash shows up to 99% fern spores. Tough indeed!

Alan Weakley's *Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States, Working Draft of 21 May 2015* lists over 240 taxa of ferns and other spore-bearing vascular plants (such as horsetails, clubmosses, etc.); of these, 44 (~18%) are not native to our region, with North Carolina recording 13 non-native species. Two of these species are officially considered invasive in our state: Japanese Climbing Fern (*Lygodium japonicum*) and *Salvinia molesta*, Giant Salvinia [the whole genus *Salvinia* has Federal Noxious Species designation].



Japanese Climbing Fern infestation

Chlorofiends! (cont.)

Japanese Climbing Fern and its relative Old World Climbing Fern, *Lygodium microphyllum* (not yet in North Carolina), are Asian species that thrive in disturbed areas. Sections of the Everglades are seriously infested with Old World Climbing Fern, and both species are of concern to citrus growers and timber managers, as well as being threats in natural areas. One particular impact of these vines is from fire: the vines surround trees and create a perfect pathway for fire to spread high into the canopy, where trees that are normally fire-resistant are killed. The climbing fern, however, is not killed by the fire, and can grow back rapidly.



Marianna Maiden Fern

out of its native range in the Deep South and being found in suburban forests away from the coastal plain.

Other Asian species that have been recorded in North Carolina in disturbed areas, along roadsides, and sometimes in old brick mortar, include Net-veined Holly Fern (*Cyrtomium falcatum*) and Fortune's

Of the non-native ferns that Weakley records in the Southeast, the ones of most concern to me are those that thrive in disturbed places and/or wetland and aquatic habitats. Disturbance is a huge factor in the spread of invasive species, so when Weakley notes non-natives naturalizing in suburban woods or moist forests, I sit up and take notice. Two



Southern Shield Fern

such species are Japanese Painted Fern (*Anisocampium* [formerly *Athyrium*] *niponicum*) and Japanese Red Shield-fern (*Dryopteris erythrosora*), which have both been recorded in naturalized situations in the NC piedmont; Weakley predicts that Japanese Painted Fern will naturalize more widely. Southern Shield Fern (*Christella* [formerly *Thelypteris*] *kunthii*), a coastal-plain, limestone-loving denizen in South Carolina and Georgia (and farther south and west), is also escaping

Net-veined Holly Fern (*Cyrtomium fortunei*). Although it's not yet in North Carolina—but is present in all the surrounding states—Mariana Maiden Fern (*Macrothelypteris torresiana*), which is native to the tropics of Asia and Africa, is another lover of disturbed habitats. This

fern can grow to over 4 feet in height and is known for its rapid growth and ability to spread aggressively. Weakley notes that it is “increasingly invasive in natural habitats...it continues to spread northward”.

When a species naturalizes, it does not necessarily mean it will become invasive, but unfortunately, we are poor at predicting which species will end up invading, and by the time they do, it's too late to eradicate them. Remember the phrase that is often used to describe the spread of invasive species: *An explosion in slow motion*. The best plan of action remains: plant native species, which in turn support our native wildlife. *Go Native!*

**Thanks to Jim Butcher's The Dresden Files for the column title.*

Food for Emerging Pollinators!

Bees in Winter



By **Theresa Morr**

In the chilly sunlight of late winter and early spring, the queen bumble bee (*Bombus*) climbs out of her underground hibernaculum (Latin for “winter residence”) and groggily begins her search for food. She is alone, as the rest of the colony has died over the winter. She has not eaten for several months and must find sustenance. She will soon lay the eggs she carries, fertilized by the male bumble bees during their short lives last autumn. The firstborn will all be female. The queen must build ample stores of pollen and nectar, ready to feed her many hungry daughters when they hatch.

Honeybees are also stirring. Many thousands have overwintered in the hive, vibrating to keep from freezing and feeding off of caches of food stored the previous autumn. It is time to look for new sources of nectar for the coming generations.

Mason bee males emerge from their cocoons weeks before the females. During their short lives they must mate and find wood or plant cavities in which to lay stores of food for the eggs that will hatch after their death.

In a beautifully synchronized event orchestrated by Mother Nature each year, early blooming plants are also stirring and opening their first flowers, ready for pollination to occur. Most of the earliest bloomers are our native trees.

The willows’ furry catkins are among the first plants to provide native bees with nectar and pollen. Later in spring, the mature seed pods will disperse a flurry of seeds with silky parachutes that emulate dandelion puffs but are so numerous they look like a spring snowfall.



Spring-beauty

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) and Chalk Maple (*Acer leucoderme*) are two North Carolina natives that bloom from January to March. Red Maples are known for their red spring flowers, as well as scarlet foliage in the fall. In the wild, Chalk Maples are found in rocky bottomlands. They have distinctive white bark patches, and often have multiple trunks.

While most of the perennials are still dormant, the spring ephemerals are forming their first buds. One of the earliest spring flowers to bloom—as early as February and March in the southeastern US—are Spring-beauties. Their flowers range from white to pink, and often have bright pink stripes and pink pollen. Two species can be found in the understory of deciduous forests. *Claytonia caroliniana* has wider, oval-shaped leaves, while *Claytonia virginica* has narrower, grass-like leaves and can often be found in parks and on lawns.

Spring-beauties are a favorite of the bee fly (*Bombylius*). These small flies can hover and

Pollinators! (cont.)

dart quickly between blossoms, and their hairy bodies not only keep them warm during early spring foraging, but also collect large quantities of pollen.

As we wait for spring to welcome back our native plants and pollinators, it is important not to remove leaf litter and plant debris too early. These materials provide shelter for our insect hibernators. Most pollinating insects need a dry and warm day, with temperatures of at least 50 degrees, before they emerge from winter hibernation. It is especially important not to use herbicides or pesticides in early spring, in order to protect our native and honeybee queens so they can once again regenerate the colony and partner with us as good stewards in our gardens and forests.



Common Witch-hazel

Some Early-blooming Choices for Pollinators:

<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Fragrant Sumac	white	February - May	Shrub / Tree	Piedmont, scattered Mountains	sun/ shade	
<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras	yellow	March - April	deciduous	Coast, Piedmont, Mountains	part to full sun	
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern Redbud	pink	March-April	deciduous	Piedmont, scattered Mountains	full-sun / shade	mesic / xeric
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Sourwood	white	June	deciduous	Mountains, Upper Piedmont	full-sun / shade	sub-xeric / xeric
<i>Halesia tetraptera</i>	Mountain Silverbell	white	March-May	deciduous	Mountains, Upper Piedmont	sun	mesic
<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	Blackhaw Viburnum	white	March-May	deciduous	Mountains, Piedmont	full-sun / shade	mesic / xeric
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Common witch-hazel	yellow	Late October-February	deciduous	Mountains, Piedmont	full-sun / shade	mesic / sub-xeric
<i>Vaccinium pallidum</i>	Lowbush blueberry	pinkish purple	February - May	deciduous	Mountains and Piedmont	full-sun / part-sun	mesic / xeric
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Highbush blueberry	pinkish purple	February - May	deciduous	Piedmont coast and mtns	full-sun / part-sun	sub xeric



Native Orchid Travels

By **David McAdoo**

I'm not very good about sharing adventures, but I experienced a couple this year that I can't stop myself from talking about.

For those of you who missed our Native Plant Society's spring weekend, you need to start coming to them so you don't miss great fellowship and plants. I was driving north of Mount Pisgah on the Blue Ridge Parkway with Mark Rose when all of a sudden he yelled at me to stop and turn around. We have spent many hours together doing what I call "car hiking." We always seem to see interesting things as we are traveling. When I went back on the Parkway and pulled off the road we saw the most amazing clump of Pink Lady's Slippers (*Cypripedium acaule*) that I have seen in more than 50 years of orchid hunting. What a magnificent sight!

To make the spring even better, I traveled to New Hampshire a couple weeks later to attend the annual Native Orchid Conference. Part of the reason that the dates and location were picked this year was for opportunities to see albino Pink Lady's Slippers. In my years of hiking I have only seen that three or four times. For some reason that phenomena seems to be more prevalent in the northeastern United States than in the rest of the country. I will have to say that the conference delivered! About 20 percent of the Lady's Slippers that we saw were albinos with the clump below being the star of the conference!



Mark Your Calendar!

NCNPS 2016 Spring Outing!



Save the dates for the weekend of May 21st for an outing in coastal-plain savannas. Details of times and places will be announced early 2016.



The NCNPS 2016 Annual Meeting & Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2016.

We'll be trying a new location:

Seven Springs

in Farmington NC (Davie County).

Look for more information in the *Spring Native Plant News*.

Chapter News

South Piedmont Chapter

By **Beth Davis** and **Lisa Tompkins**

Our chapter has been very active all year with many interesting programs and field trips! Our August meeting included a tour of the exhibit "Keeping Watch on Water," an exhibit at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte's up-town location depicting the many creeks in Charlotte and the ongoing struggle to reclaim them from a polluted past. Then, we toured the Little Sugar Creek Greenway with **Chris Estes**, whose firm worked on the planning and installation of this creek reclamation project.

In September, chapter members walked Pinhook Nature Preserve with **Andy Kane** from Catawba Lands Conservancy. The Pinhook Preserve is located southeast of Spencer Mountain in Gaston County and has a mile of shoreline on the east bank of the South Fork Catawba River. This 125-acre property is owned and permanently protected by the CLC, and is part of a magnificent 1,402-acre conservation area. It includes an area designated as NC Natural Heritage land, and the property is comprised of dry-mesic oak/hickory forest, mesic-mixed hardwood



NCNPS member Lanny Waterson.

forest (Piedmont subtype), Piedmont-levee forest and pineforested areas. The floodplains and the slopes above are diverse and support rich botanical diversity, including the magnificent Big Leaf Magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*).

In October, **Gary Marshall** of Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation talked about identifying invasive, exotic plant species in the Piedmont. Afterwards, he led the group into the Reedy Creek Nature Preserve to demonstrate some of his handy tools, like the EZ-ject Lance, and techniques such as cutting/slashing and painting. Our victims included Mimosa, Tree of Heaven and Chinese Privet. And in November, **Cyndi Banks** from South Carolina spoke about woodland medicinal plants and the installation of a Woodland Medicinal Garden at the Highlands Botanical Garden.

Our winter programs will include such exciting topics as "Documenting Your Garden by Creating a Personal Herbarium," featuring NCNPS member **Trena McNabb**, and "How to Create Bird-friendly Habitats in Your Own Backyard," courtesy of **Lisa Tompkins** and **Jill Palmer**.



NCNPS member Jane Srail.

More Chapter News

Margaret Reid (Triangle) Chapter

By **Amy Mackintosh** and **Margaret Partridge**

The Triangle Chapter has been busy with our ongoing projects: the Reid Wild Flower Garden, an adopted greenway in Cary, and the permanent native plant garden at the North Carolina State Fair, as well as bringing the NC Native Plant Society to the public's attention with booths at various recent events.

Through an Eagle Scout Project, some donated stone, and the expertise of **Jeff Prather**, the Black Creek Greenway "showy" native plant garden area was demarcated with a stacked stone border during workdays on Sept. 12 and 13. Eighteen students from Green Hope High's AP Environmental Science classes removed invasives with NCNPS members **Margaret Partridge**, **Amy Mackintosh** and **Tom Harville** while Jeff took charge of the scouts building the edging. Over 40 native plants were installed in the area.

The Reid Wild Flower Garden was included on the Gardeners of Wake County garden tour on Sept. 19-20. NCNPS Reid Chapter volunteers pitched in for several workdays beforehand, and greeted over 110 visitors during the tour, showing them around the garden as well as publicizing the Society. Even in a dry September this woodland native garden looked pretty good!

The NCNPS Garden at NC State Fair continues to fare quite well with complete neglect until the few weeks beforehand. Three workdays tidied it up quite nicely. Twenty-three chapter volunteers, plus one from Wake Audubon, manned the garden for 112 hours and interacted with the numerous fair-goers.



Society member Jeff Prather and a Boy Scout working on a project at the adopted greenway.

Reid/Triangle Chapter volunteers staffed NCNPS booths at the following events:

- ◆ NC Botanical Garden Plant Sale, Chapel Hill, Oct. 2 & 3
- ◆ Monarch Festival, Durham, Oct. 10
- ◆ BioBlitz at Brumley Nature Preserve, Durham, Oct. 17. This event, organized by Triangle Land Conservancy and NatureServe, brought professional naturalists and willing volunteers together for a whirlwind day to inventory the plants and animals found at the preserve.

Member **Dale Batchelor** continues to get the word out through her articles in *Triangle Gardener Magazine*. The last issue included her piece about the NCNPS garden certification program. She also promoted the NCNPS at the Southern Ideal Home Show held in September.

See more news on p19

Mountain Garden Grows With Society Help

Something new has blossomed in the mountains of North Carolina! Thanks to support from NCNPS, a native plant garden with Monarchs in mind is now being enjoyed by residents and neighbors of College Walk Retirement Center in Brevard.

It all started when **Kevin Betts**, executive director, approached society member and former President **Jean Woods** about establishing a Monarch Way Station at the Retirement Center, as he knew that Jean was very involved with native plants and care of the environment.

Together they made a plan for the Monarch Way Station in a traffic circle in the residential section of the center. The circle was overgrown with large shrubs and privet lurking in the undergrowth. Kevin agreed to remove the shrubs and pay for part of the replanting. Jean agreed to write a grant for the perennials and help arrange a planting day.

Together they contacted **Nina Shippen**, NCNPS member and landscape designer, who designed an attractive layout using only native plants, for what would be a public garden and a haven for butterflies. Jean also consulted with Dr. **Larry Mellichamp** about the plant list and where to acquire the plants. College Walk paid for the shrubs and Jean wrote

a grant request to the Society for the perennials. The perennials were purchased at the UNCC Botanical Garden Fall Plant Sale and from Ross Farms, Charlotte, NC, which graciously discounted the plants since they were for a public garden done by the NCNPS.



Jean and Kevin arranged a "Planting Day" and invited the residents who were able to help with the planting. Those who were not physically able to help were invited to come and watch. There was a good turnout of residents, and all the plants were installed in short order. In all, 65 perennials were planted, made possible by the NCNPS grant, along with 12 shrubs. College Walk is handling the paper work to certi-

fy the Monarch Way Station and Jean is having a sign made which will credit the Society for its contribution.

The garden looks good now and should be gorgeous next spring and summer. If you are in Brevard, stop by to see what your society has helped to make possible. College Walk Retirement Center is on Neely Road. Come in the main entrance and turn left to the cul-de-sac at the end of the street. Jean lives nearby and would love to show you around! Contact her at jeanw@ncwildflower.org if you are coming by.

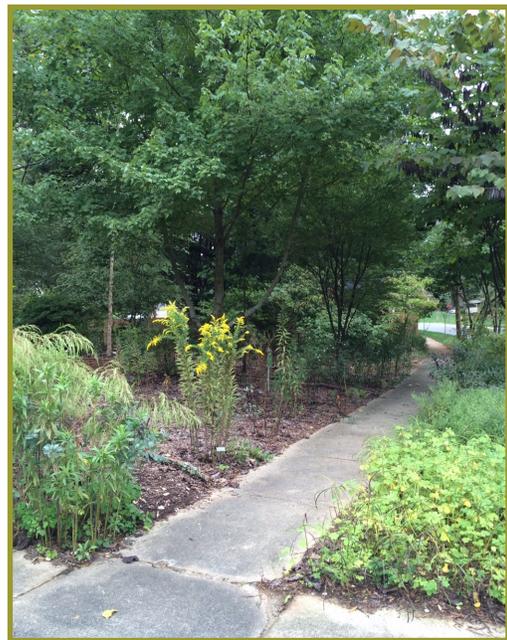
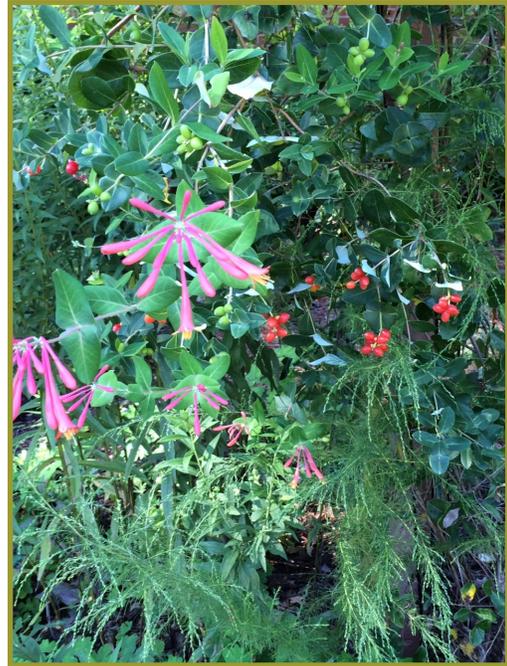
New Native Plant Habitat Certification

Congratulations to **Karen Hudson-Brown**, whose garden in Charlotte was certified as a Native Plant Habitat in early October. Karen has the distinction (as far as our records show) of being the only person who has received certification for **two** home gardens. Her other one was certified last year in Gerton, NC. On her Charlotte property, she took a conventional neighborhood yard and transformed it into a native habitat that is admired and visited by many!

Karen started with removal of conventional turf grass, covering it with newspapers and layering 4 inches of mulch on top. From there, over the next 10 years, she has grown what she calls a “relatively mature” native plant habitat of ground covers, perennials, shrubs, and understory and canopy trees. Karen says that dog-walkers and others stop by to admire what she has done, and are interested when she tells them about the values of a native habitat.

One of the most impressive aspects of Karen’s story is that she sought certification while she was about to put her home on the market and move away from Charlotte. Though undoubtedly busy with all the work of selling a home, she wanted to take the time to obtain certification so the next people who lived in her home would appreciate and continue the work she started.

We wish Karen all the best in her new home, where she is likely spreading the word about the value of natives in the environment.



Member Spotlight!



Carolyn White



Atamasco Lily —David McAdoo

Know a member who's doing something natively? Send their info to:

jchiggie@yahoo.com

Meet **Carolyn A. White**, our society's new Historian!

Born and raised in El Paso, Texas, Carolyn has lived in several states due to her husband being in the military. She has been in the Durham/Chapel Hill area for 29 years. Her professional background is as an educator. "I practiced education in North Carolina for 22 years, as a classroom teacher, middle school principal, central office director, and at the state level as the Director of Early College High Schools," she said.

Carolyn has been a member of the NCNPS since she retired. Although she has only been a member for just 3-plus years, she jumped right into service, serving as society secretary for two years. As our new Historian, Carolyn is certainly not resting on her laurels. "It seems that we are at a point in our journey as an organization that it would be a good idea to digitize many of the archived items of the society," she explained, adding, "This could be a wonderful resource for all members of the society." The board will discuss this idea at its next meeting.

What is Carolyn's favorite native plant? "I'm not sure I have a favorite," Carolyn said, "but I really enjoy the Atamasco Lily (*Zephyranthes atamasca*). It was on the property when we bought it and continues to thrive. We live in a neighborhood with a small lake, and my husband and I are trying to put more natives around the lake and beside the walking trails so that others can enjoy the natives that thrive in North Carolina."

Welcome New Members!

Kristy Taylor	Barbara Trueheart	Judy Harvey
Donna VanVleet	Jessica Howells	Henry Horton
Caroline Healy	Lucy Crockett	Laurie Wack
Jennna Mallett	Sam Marshall	Pat Holder
Sandra Vinton	June Nelsen Fong	Henry Phillips
Susan Owen	Regina Cybulski	Kathy Wright
Judith Pipal	Brooke Adams	Catherine Luckenbaugh
Mandy Cuskelly	Marie Noel	Therese Roy
Frances Warren	Bill Ehmgig	Carl Matthews
Esther Murphy	Stevie Daniels	Annkatriin Rose
Catherine Aiken	Jacob Heiling	

More Chapter News! (cont. from p15)

The Triad Chapter

By **Judith West**

Following a three-month summer hiatus, the Triad Chapter resumed our monthly meetings. In September, we were treated to an informative talk and amazing images about how our plantings of natives in our yards could make a difference to the birds of our area. The talk was presented by **Ann Walter-Fromson**, who is an active member of both our society and the T. Gilbert Pearson Chapter of the Audubon Society.

Our October meeting was a presentation by **Dennis Burnette**, another member, on the

species of milkweed found in the Piedmont of NC. He informed us about which ones are easy to grow from seed and which are more difficult. He talked about the habitat of each species in the wild. While Dennis is a butterfly expert, we only tangentially discussed monarchs and other species which use milkweed.

Our November meeting focused on ferns, and was presented by society member **Lisa Gould**. She covered some fern natural history, gave identification tips, and described ferns that thrive in Piedmont gardens. Our December meeting will consist of a presentation of photographs taken by our members, snacks, and a swap of seeds and other items related to native plants and the natural world.





North Carolina Native Plant Society

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**We're
Wild
About
Natives!**

