



Native Plant News

NC NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

'Street Cred' for Broomsedge

By **Bettina Darveaux**

Really? Are you kidding me? I know Broomsedge (*Andropogon virginicus*) is not the most sophisticated of native grasses, but of all the grasses I have worked or gardened with, I probably have had the most year-round enjoyment from this native species.....and I have been around a lot of grasses!

While living in Minnesota, I worked as a research scientist on several projects involving native prairie grasses including the charming Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) with its inflorescences resembling miniature eyebrows, the colorful orange anthers of Side-oats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), the fluffy Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) and the tall, majestic Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), just to name a few. I also created a prairie garden at my home with these grasses and several more where I could appreciate their beauty up close.

After relocating to North Carolina, I worked in the agricultural biotech industry with yet another grass: Corn (*Zea mays*). OK, it is not native, but it is still a grass and it paid the bills! And since I garden wherever I go, I have incorporated native grasses into my gardens here in North Carolina, as well.

I had brought some Yellow Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) seed with me from Minnesota and planted it here. I love the rich golden brown inflorescences of this grass. And then there is Pink Muhly (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*); who doesn't just adore a pink cloud of puff! Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) grows into a large clump and is especially enjoyable on windy days as it has a nice gentle movement creating a pretty sound when it sways in the breeze. I also like that Switchgrass flowers early in the summer while most of the other grasses are late summer/fall flowering, so this species, like an only child, gets all the attention for a

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President's Report

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Dr. Larry Mellichamp

I am still basking in the afterglow of the success of the nearly flawless fall field trip outing for the Society in the North Carolina Sandhills Game Lands October 23. Though it was a simple one-day trip, it was just about the least confused outing we have done.

Yes, there were only 50 attendees, but only two leaders, and the route was simple and well-defined; but we seemed to organize ourselves well and have a good time. A number of people who had not been on trips came, and some from far away. Once again I will thank Will Stuart for determining the sites and routes, Bobbie Fox for minding the schedule and group dynamics, and of course Jean Woods for computer notices, Lisa Gould for perfecting the description, and Terry for receiving the registrations.

What I really want to write about is the collection of plants that we saw. It was an unparalleled collection of shrubs and rare wildflowers that we would not have encountered anywhere else. I would say that the diversity of shrubs we saw in a small area is not to be found anywhere else in North America. I would be interested to hear from anyone who would propose a similar collection of so many woody species in such a small space. I know that there are areas in the wire-grass savannas of the Green Swamp in southeastern North Carolina (Brunswick County) that have been determined to have as many as 42 species of herbaceous plants per quarter meter square of sample plot, but that is a measure of *herbaceous* plants. In this case, the factors of frequent fire, a moisture gradient, and low nutrient content along with physical differences in the terrain interact to keep any one species from dominating and provide niches for several species to co-exist.

In the Sandhills Game Lands site we visited on Oct. 23, we walked through a sandy Longleaf Pine site bisected by what are called wet stream heads—so the factors of moisture gradient from very wet to very dry, frequent fire,
(Continued next page)

President's Report (cont.)

and perhaps differences in nutrient levels in the soils were again factors leading to the high diversity. I am not saying there were a large number of species in a meter-square plot, but there were many different species in a relatively small area (about 30 x 30 ft.).

The species we saw were the rare **White Wicky**, fairly rare **Coastal Witch-alder**, **Dwarf Azalea**, **Swamp Azalea**, two shrub hollies, **Mountain Sweet-pepperbush**, **Red Chokeberry**, **Titi**, **Coastal Plain Shadbush**, **Blaspheme-vine**, **Poison Sumac**, **Shining Fetterbush**, **Staggerbush**, **Northern Maleberry**, **Horsesugar**, **Honey-cups**, **Southern Sweet Bay**, **Coastal Fetterbush**, **Common Wax-myrtle**, **Sourwood** (technically perhaps a tree), and **Eastern Prickly Pear** (technically a woody plant).



Red Chokeberry (Aronia arbutifolia)

—Will Stuart



Titi (Cyrilla racemiflora)

—Will Stuart

That's some 20 species of true shrubs—with the heath family (*Ericaceae*) the most common family. In addition three pines (**Longleaf**, **Pond** and **Loblolly**) were present. Plus the very rare wildflowers **Pinebarren Gentian** (*G. autumnalis*), **Carolina Bog Asphodel** (*Tofieldia glabra*) and new species of **Sandhill Heartleaf** (*Hexastylis sorriei*) were found. What a glorious experience. Thank you to Brady Beck, game lands management biologist, who joined us at Baggett's Lake and briefly discussed the history, role and importance of the 60,000-plus acres that are home to Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, rare and unusual amphibian and reptile species, and rare plant communities and species.

Share the beauty with your native plant society members—attend field trips at the local and state levels to see plants you never saw and walk with people you never met—for a wonderful experience.

Sandhills Game Lands Field Trip — Oct. 23



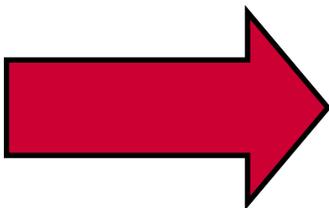
*Photos by:
Daricia
McKnight,
Tracie Jeffries,
Will Stuart*



Sandhills Game Land Field Trip (cont.)



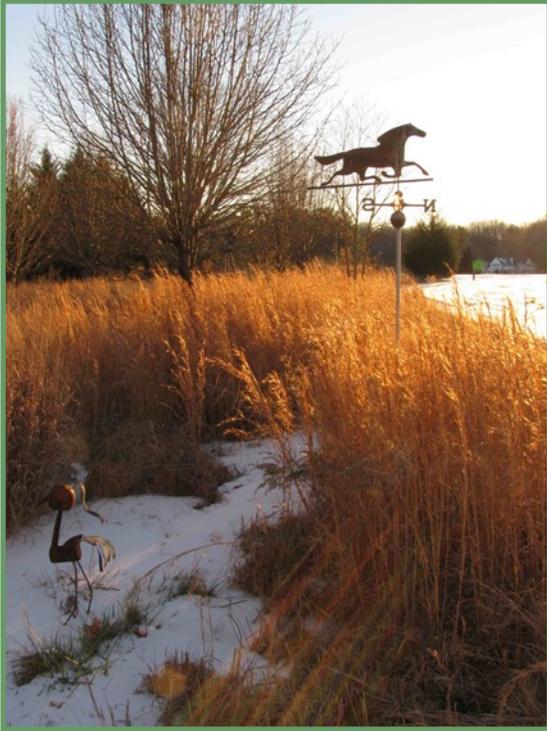
Mark Your Calendar!



NCNPS 2017 Spring Trip April 28-30, 2017 in Boone

This will be a banner event! We will start our Friday afternoon with a pre-outing hike followed by an evening social and speaker starting at 6:30 in the Deerfield United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 1184 Deerfield Road, Boone, NC. After our Saturday hikes, we will again gather at the church for a catered dinner, another speaker, and a new twist: a Silent Auction! A Sunday half-day hike will complete this event. *Look for more details later this winter!*

'Street Cred' for Broomsedge (cont.)



Broomsedge's golden color in the setting sun of January.

—Bettina Darveaux

while. River Oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) is my only shade-loving grass species and it has a pretty inflorescence of flat spikelets that seem to constantly flutter like dangly earrings.

So I have carried on too long about the wonderful attributes of these other native grasses in my gardens, now for the star of our show, Broomsedge. Just so we are perfectly clear, I did not intentionally plant Broomsedge. It was already naturally established on our property. This native grass species is found in open areas, typically on poor soil....hence my yard! In the areas where we let the vegetation go natural (read, too tired to mow anymore), Broomsedge dominates by no effort of mine. Although Broomsedge is a clump-forming species, it forms an endless sea of grass and its beauty surely becomes revealed en masse.

The reason why I love this native grass is for its chameleon-like ability to change colors depending on the light and weather conditions,

becoming most spectacular during the winter months when garden beauty tends to be lacking. I am sure other plants have a different appearance depending on environmental conditions, but Broomsedge surely takes it to the next level. During the winter months with a setting or early rising sun, Broomsedge transforms into a rich reddish-orange-gold color that is intensified when wet. It is also truly amazing what a little (or big) ice storm can do to this grass, the resulting effect being completely different depending on the light angle and light quality. When fully dry, the previous season's culms take on a soft tan color that really does accentuate the bright colors of the newly emerging spring flowers.

By summer, the new green growth has formed into low mounds and most of the dead culms are now gone. I find this stage to be the most nondescript for Broomsedge (my nice way of saying incredibly boring!). Conversely, this is the time when the majority of other plants on my property peak aesthetically so the timing is just perfect. At the end of summer the grass begins to shoot up in height. The dense,

‘Street Cred’ for Broomsedge (cont.)

straight, green culms are such a pretty sight at a time when other plants in the gardens are now waning. Then in early fall, the feathery-hairy inflorescences develop, adding a soft, peaceful touch to the landscape as it prepares for its winter rest.

Hmm, now let’s think this through. This “weedy” native grass does not need planting and yet establishes itself, has not only low but no maintenance, grows in poor soils and fills in any bare spots, has year-round beauty in various colorful shades, and compliments fellow plant species so each gets its chance in the spotlight. With all these virtues, don’t you think it deserves more respect?



Broomsedge’s colorful culms adds a little warmth during this early spring ice storm.

—Betinna Darveaux



Previous season’s culms of Broomsedge add a soft touch to the spring landscape complimenting the flowering of the Redbuds.

—B. Darveaux

NCNPS Chapter Reports

Triad Chapter

Meadowfest at Reynolda Gardens in Winston Salem celebrated the 5th year anniversary of the beginning of a 16-acre tract of land, previously the golf links for the Reynolds family, converted to meadow. Triad NCNPS members were on hand to help celebrate the big event.

The land had been mowed for years as a grassy foreground leading up to the historic Reynolda House. The savings made from not mowing and not needing to use chemicals was a factor as well in its creation. They were excited about the whole array of native plants they could introduce for the beauty and the wildlife. This project was funded with a Partners for Fish and Wildlife grant through the US Fish and Wildlife Service.



Judy West and **Lynda Waldrep** invited the children who came to the display table to create the wearable antennae of a pollinator, while extolling the virtues of native plants. Adults were provided plenty of information in both handouts and verbal tips on planting natives. The event was free to the public with drone demos, Italian ice, popcorn, hayrides, family-friendly activities and a chance to win a week at summer camp! Much fun was had by all 300 attendees.

The Triad Chapter also participated in another event in September, displaying posters and handouts at the Guilford County Extension Master Gardener Gala, and providing information to over 200 participants in Greensboro.

—Trena McNabb



Southern Piedmont

The Society was well represented at the Wells Fargo Green Team Fall Festival held in Charlotte. On display were a number of fall-blooming natives, including Scarlet Sage, Smooth Aster and Swamp Sunflower. But the most popular native plant by far was a hungry Venus Flytrap, and several feedings were demonstrated to fascinated on-lookers. Visitors also received free native seed packets and information on a variety of natives recommended for home landscaping. —Theresa Morr

NCNPS Board Highlights

In June the Board welcomed a new vice-president, **Catherine McRae Luckenbaugh**, the curator of the J.F. Matthews Center for Biodiversity Studies, and Natural Resources Coordinator at Reedy Creek Park & Nature Preserve. Catherine replaced **David McAdoo**, who had served on the Board since 2007. **Laura Domingo**, naturalist at the Reedy Creek Nature Center, has taken on the mantle of Education Chair, and **Bobbie Fox**, who will receive a degree in horticulture technology this December and hopes to merge this newest skill with her previous degrees in forestry and nursing, is our new Program Chair. **Jean Woods**, who served as president from 2012–2015, now joins us as our Technical Coordinator. We are very fortunate to have such a talented and knowledgeable group of people serving as board members, committee chairs, and chapter chairs!

The Board continues to hone the Policies & Procedures document, and Membership Chair **Diane Laslie** has worked diligently with Jean Woods to make sure our membership policies are keeping pace with modern technology. **Trena McNabb** helped revamp our membership brochure this summer to reflect new membership levels and current chapters (if you have old brochures, please recycle any that do not have “8/2016” on the back panel, and ask Diane for new ones).

Board member **Will Stuart** is assessing the Plant Gallery on our website and working to simplify the categories and make it easier for people to contribute images to the Gallery. **Darcia McKnight**, **Beth Davis** and **Lisa Tompkins** are helping us explore ways to improve our presence on social media (dragging some of us oldsters along kicking and screaming). And we continue to evaluate our education and outreach efforts, and the coordination of our statewide events. The Board has also been discussing how best to use the legacy gift generously left us by past president **Alice Zawadzki**.

There is always plenty to do and discuss, and we hope that YOU will consider stepping forward if the Nominating Committee comes calling next spring.

—**Lisa Lofland Gould**, Secretary



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CHLOROFIENDS!*

Invasive Plants of the NC Sandhills

By Lisa Lofland Gould

The sandhills region of North Carolina, which many of you visited on our 2016 Fall Trip, occupies a small portion of the state but includes one of our most interesting and dwindling habitats, the Longleaf Pine/Wiregrass community. As Bruce Sorrie explains in his book *A Field Guide to Wildflowers of the Sandhills Region* (UNC Press, 2011) (reviewed in the Winter 2014 *Native News*), many plants that are the basis of this community depend on fire to keep down the underbrush and allow seeds to germinate in the exposed soils; some, like the Wiregrass, won't flower or fruit without being burned.

Other plants in this community are tolerant of fire, even if they don't require it. This fire dependence is a problem where fire is suppressed, but in areas managed by fire, it has many benefits, including keeping out notorious



plant invaders that are not fire tolerant, such as Japanese Stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*), Japanese Honey-suckle (*Lonicera japonica*), and Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*). Photographer and NCNPS board member

Will Stuart states, "Of all the places I visit, the NC Sandhills Game Lands are by far the most pristine".

Other plants pests do invade. According to Brady Beck (Southern Piedmont Management Biologist for the NC Wildlife Resources Commission), who helps to manage the Sandhills Game Lands, Asian Wisteria (*Wisteria* sp.) (whose twining habit can strangle shrubs and trees), is one invader that his department tries to tackle as soon as they find a patch; Kudzu (*Pueraria montana* var. *lobata*) is also kept at bay.

Recently a patch of Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*) was found about a half-mile from the Game Lands, and it is being treated with chemicals and fire. Cogongrass, a native of southern Asia and possibly east Africa, can be extremely difficult to eradicate. It loves disturbed soils and invades pine forests, making it both a serious ecological pest and an economic threat to the timber industry. Large stands are highly flammable and cause fires that wipe out other plants and allow Cogongrass to come back quickly. According to the US Forest Service, glyphosate appears to be the only herbicide that works on Cogongrass; there is concern that it will develop resistance to this chemical and spread into the Midwestern farming regions and up into New England.

Brady Beck notes that the Sandhills Game



Bicolor Lespedeza in Longleaf Pine forest.
Chuck Barger, Bugwood.org

Chlorofiends! (cont.)

Lands were originally part of Fort Bragg and Camp McCall, and were ceded to the state in the 1940s. Wildlife management practices during the ensuing decades included planting patches to support game birds and other wildlife that was popular to hunt; during this time Sericea/Chinese Lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*), Shrub Lespedeza (*Lespedeza bicolor*), and Multiflora Rose were deliberately introduced. While this is no longer the practice, Brady reports that Sericea is ubiquitous and “will never go away”; they are trying to get rid of the Shrub Lespedeza, however, as it can invade pine forests.

In the low-lying, damper areas of the Sandhills region, Chinese Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), Japanese Honeysuckle, Japanese Stiltgrass, and Longbristle Smartweed/Bristly Lady's-thumb (*Persicaria longisetata*; formerly *Polygonum cespitosum* var. *longisetum*) are among common invaders. Longbristle Smartweed, an Asian native, is easily confused with Lady's-thumb/Heart's-ease (*Persicaria maculosa*, formerly *Polygonum persicaria*), but this Eurasian species has very short bristles (up to 2 mm long) extending from the sheath that surrounds the leaf node, while Longbristle Smartweed has bristles that may be as long as 6 mm). A native look-alike, Pennsylvania Smartweed (*Persicaria pennsylvanica*, formerly *Polygonum pennsylvanicum*) lacks the bristles on the leaf sheaths.

Roadsides, fields, and other disturbed areas are always fertile ground for invasive species, and the Sandhills are no exception. Our native Groundsel Tree (*Baccharis halimifolia*) has been able to move from its original brackish marsh edges into inland habitats, especially along salted highways and the edges of farmlands and timber plots. Other roadside weeds in this region include Showy Rattlebox (*Crotalaria spectabilis*), a southern Asian species that doesn't appear to be moving into natural communities; Asian Rockbell



Asian Wisteria girdling tree. Rebekah D. Wallace, Bugwood.org

(*Wahlenbergia marginata*), also from southern Asia as well as Oceania, and a recent colonizer that seems to be spreading rapidly in the Southeast; and Weeping Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*), a southern Africa native that has been planted for erosion control but may be able to spread into natural habitats. Weeping Lovegrass is fire resistant, so its presence is of some concern in the Sandhills. Brady Beck has observed that Weeping Lovegrass seeds sometimes contaminate seed mixes that are used on roadsides.

As always, if you are adding plants to your home landscape, it's best to Go Native!

Chlorofiends is a regular column in Native Plant News.

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

Cullowhee Conference Kudos

Summer has come and gone, but fond memories of the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference never end! Four students received scholarships this year from our Society to attend the conference. Here are their thanks and thoughts.

Want A Scholarship?

Join NCNPS members at Western Carolina University July 19-22, 2017, for hikes, lectures and networking! The Society scholarship pays for the conference registration fee, room and board, and field trip registration fee. Recipients also receive a year's membership to the Society. The applicant must be an NC resident or attending an NC school. Contact Catherine Luckenbaugh for more information:

Catherine.Luckenbaugh@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

As winter draws closer I find that the memories of summer are dimming. The deep green of the world around us has faded and fallen and the copious amounts of sweat have been left behind for frosted fingertips and noses. But the summer still lingers, especially here in the South, and moments from late July keep coming to my mind, moments from the mountains of North Carolina during a certain native plant conference.



For someone like me who is just starting their time in the field, the opportunity to attend Cullowhee was priceless. From hikes in the gorgeous Panthertown Valley to lectures in the frosty stadium of Western Carolina, the information and company was helpful and interesting. Meeting the wide range of people who work with native plants professionally was inspiring and something that has passed through my mind on many occasions since. It is a comfort to know that our native plants have such an invested and educated group of people making sure they survive and thrive in our changing world, and it was an honor to be included in this community. The resources that were gathered and presented were spectacular and are still helpful months later, everything from ethnobotany to identifying grasses.

It is a harsh truth that plants are often overlooked in our academic institutions and it can be disheartening for people like myself to be studying a field that most of the public easily dismisses. Cullowhee gave me hope that we still care enough to change. Hope that there is a positive and kinder future, not only for our native plants but also our environment as a whole. It was a reassurance to meet a diverse group of people working with plants professionally. You all were, and still are, an inspiration to me and I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to have gone to Cullowhee this past year. Thank you so much for the experience.

—Hannah Medford

Cullowhee Conference Kudos (cont.)

Hello, fellow plant folks! I am a grateful recipient of your gracious scholarship to the 2016 Cullowhee Native Plant Conference. I want to express my heart-felt thanks to each of you, and to the North Carolina Native Plant Society, for making my attendance at the 2016 Cullowhee Native Plant Conference possible.

I'm a lifelong "Planthead," to be sure, but, heretofore, the Kingdom *Plantae* was for me more avocation than vocation. I am, in fact, a professional musician and had worked as professor of music in Chicago for several years, but the economic calamity of 2008 — and subsequent unwelcome turn in my life's journey — led me to pursue an encore, or more accurately an additional, professional career.

For me, the obvious point of beginning in imagining an additional vocation was my love for plants, for they are the second bold, bright ribbons threaded through the course of my life. However, I was decidedly unwilling to undertake the multiple degrees necessary to scale the academic ladder for a second time, and I wanted any professional work in a new field to employ my interests and abilities more civilly and more socially than my musical work typically does. I decided on landscape architecture and completed my Masters in the field in 2015. I'm now an apprentice landscape architect ("Site Designer I") at Cole Jenest & Stone in Raleigh, North Carolina

With this background, I headed west to the 2016 Cullowhee Native Plant Conference in the Great Smoky Mountains. Attendees' experience formally began at 7:00 a.m. sharp on Wednesday the 20th — mine with a group hiking through Panthertown Valley guided by ethnobotanist David Cozzo, specialist in Cherokee botanics. Other hikes included Black Balsam Knob, John Rock Trail and Wolf Mountain Overlook, Highlands Botanical Garden and Other Native Plant Gardens, and — for

those who preferred adventures of a different kind— workshops on propagation, drawing, and cast-stone botanical imprints were available at camp.



Formal, high-quality presentations sating broad interests began the following day. My favorites were: *New Horizons for The Native Plant Movement*, by Thomas Rainer; *Where Horticulture Meets Ecology*, by Claudia West; *Why Do Plant Names Keep Changing?* by Alan Weakley; and *Carolina Rice and Sea Island Cotton: How They Changed The Ecology of The Carolina Lowcountry*, by Richard Porcher.

Cullowhee days were filled with more information, opportunity and fun than any one person could absorb, and Cullowhee evenings were similarly eventful: surprisingly good food, contra dancing, impromptu music making, a slapstick talent show (apparently a perennial favorite), a live band and, perhaps most importantly, old friends renewed and new friends gingerly teased from bract and stamen, petiole and stigma.

I left well-nigh exhausted, and if I have opportunity to return (and I hope I do), I'll make provisions to pace my time and to parse my emotional expenditure, and I'll make sure to get enough sleep! Fatigue aside, I left Cullowhee with gratitude in my heart and with affirmation that there yet may be wonderful things ahead for me. I suspect that's most folks' Cullowhee experience. What more could one want?

—Paul Sayre

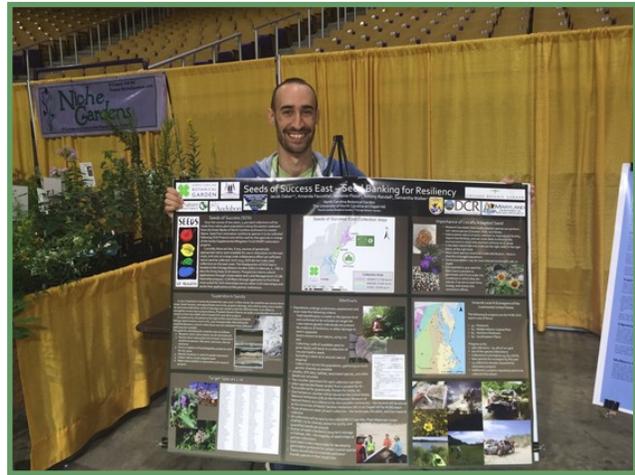
Cullowhee Conference Kudos (cont.)

I was so incredibly delighted to learn that I had been chosen as a recipient for the C. Ritchie Bell Scholarship to attend the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference—little did I know how enjoyable, informative, and memorable a week I would have.

My week started off with a meet-and-greet for all of the scholarship recipients from both within and outside of NC. Everyone was extremely friendly and it was a great way to kick off the week. The following day I spent learning how to do Botanical Illustration. It was a blast! I'll admit, I was pretty intimidated when it came to drawing plants, but with a little encouragement and a lot of practice, I came to enjoy it. Everyone in the class had such unique skillsets when it came to drawing, and I feel as though by the end of it, everyone came out the other end feeling proud of the work they had produced.

The next couple of days were a frenzy of activity—I attended numerous talks, a tour of the native plant sellers on the main floor of the Ramsey Center, had great lunches and dinners, and most importantly, talked to such nice people about a common passion—native plants. I even had the honor of presenting a poster alongside Tamara Jones from the Wylde Center in Decatur, GA, and a few of my fellow colleagues at the North Carolina Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill, NC.

I presented a poster on Seeds of Success (SOS), a native seed collection program of which I have been a part of for the past two years. I spoke to so many enthusiastic people about conservation through the collection of seeds of local ecotypes for large scale restoration projects all along the Mid-Atlantic region. Everyone seemed in agreement



about the necessity for a broadening of this sort of practice down the East Coast and along the Gulf Coast in the near future.

So many great conversations were had, and I made lots of fantastic, mutually beneficial connections. A big thank you must go out to the folks with the NCNPS for giving me the opportunity to attend my first of many conferences. I look forward to seeing familiar faces next year and hopefully lots of new ones as well.

—Jacob Dakar

Jacob is a Conservation and Land Management Intern for the North Carolina Botanical Garden.



Emily Allen Preserve Benefits from Grant

Thanks to a grant from the NCNPS's B.W. Wells Stewardship Fund, and a gift from the Lovett Foundation, Piedmont Land Conservancy [PLC] has secured the funding to complete the construction of a new trail and a rain garden at PLC's Emily Allen Wildflower Preserve in Winston-Salem.

The new trail replaces a steep, eroding path that was often too slippery and unsafe for visitors to use. The improved path meanders down the hillside and should provide great views of Eastern Shooting Star, Mountain Pachysandra, several Trillium species, and other botanical gems.

The rain garden will serve both as an educational tool and a key way to manage rainwater and protect surrounding trails. It will be planted with both relocated plants from the Preserve, and newly purchased native plants.

The Emily Allen Wildflower Preserve is home to over 500 species of native trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, and herbaceous plants. This 5.5-acre preserve is now owned and managed by the PLC, with PLC staff members and a dedicated group of volunteers who work hundreds of hours each year in the garden. Many of the volunteers are NCNPS members.



New path on the hill at the Emily Allen Wildflower Preserve.

PLC and the Preserve volunteers are very grateful for the grant from the B.W. Stewardship Fund!

Don't Forget Amazon Smile this Christmas!

If you order from Amazon, you can support the NC Native Plant Society! We are now set up with Amazon's Smile program for donations to charities.

Go to

<https://smile.amazon.com/>

Log into your Amazon account and type in North Carolina Native Plant Society, which will bring up our name. Click on North Carolina Native Plant Society.

You are now set up. When you order, we will get .5% of your eligible Amazonsmile purchases!

Our New Society Members

Welcome, new NCNPS members!

Unless otherwise noted, all towns are in NC

Karen Ashburner, Liberty
Terry Ashley, Lake Toxaway
Katie Baer, Pittsboro
Laura Bannister, Hendersonville
Helga Barna, Greensboro
John Bartlett, Summerfield
John Curry & Deborah Bender, Chapel Hill
David Bilger, Sumter SC
Frasier O Bingham, Blowing Rock
Carol Bowman, Pinehurst
Caryl Brt, Waynesville
Jaqui Brumm, Fairview
Sherrel Bunn, Wilmington
Ryan Cadwalader, Pittsboro
Scott Caggiano, Fuquay Varina
Elaine Camp, Charlotte
Steve Carroll, Charlotte
Kathleen Casey, Greensboro
Rhonda Cato, Charlotte
Christina Connell, Dobson
Fred Crawford
Sam & Alice Davis, Concord
Sandy Deakins, Otto
William Perry Deans, Sr., Raleigh
James Denzier, Asheville
Nancy Devereux, Raleigh
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Maggie Farrell, Cornelius
Carrie Fawcett, Mint Hill
Renee Fortner, Greenville

Jim Fowler
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Helen Halliday, Cornelius
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William Lester, III, Clover SC
Cathy Loughlin, Lincolnton
Debra Bye Ludas, Wake Forest
Garry Maness, Greensboro
Marshall Native Garden, Hot Springs
Carolyn McCormick, York SC
Kathryn McGovern, Charlotte
Lisy McLeod, Waxhaw
Rosalind McMillan, Durham
Marie Meckman, Cary
Hector Merchan, Durham
Laura Mol, Silver Spring MD
Katie Niver, Pittsboro

(Continued next page)

I Spy.....Something Green! Plant ID Quiz

By Mark Rose

Something old and something new! This quarter's article is about your knowledge of plant leaves. There are two different species shown in the photo. Two opposite leaves each of two different species. This contest comes with a prize—something a little different than past articles. *The person correctly identifying BOTH species exactly as to genus and species will receive a plant of each of them for your garden.* Now a little about the two plants. Each grows in fairly dense shade in a woodland setting. Both prefer acidic soils that are well drained and both are evergreen. They both flower in early summer—one under their foliage and the other with flowers held erect and well above their leaves. Both have aromatic leaves that smell especially when handled, one pleasant and the other somewhat foul. Please send your ideas on their identity to me at trilliumboy@yahoo.com with a subject line of **NCNPS Plant ID**. I'll notify the person who correctly identifies the two plants and will follow-up in the next newsletter to let everyone know what the plants are and who correctly named them. Good luck.



New Members! (cont.)

Sue Ellen Ott, Apex
Harold & Cathy Pace, Winston-Salem
Darin Penneys, Wilmington
kelly prelipp lojk, Charlotte
Lucy Quintilliano, Charlotte
Nancy Rigsby, Fletcher
Kathleen Romanovich, Swansboro
Jo Anne Sanford, Raleigh
Christine Sibona, Wilmington
Susan Sink, Raleigh
David A. Toops, Hendersonville
Sue Wagner, Madison

Melissa Walker, Seagrove
David & Kathy Walmer, Chapel Hill
Paul Weathers, Houston TX
James Wells, Hillsborough
Charles Wheeler, Winston-Salem
Debra Whitehurst, Hobgood
Brenda Withmann
Coral Lisa Woods, Weaverville
Ted Worrell, Durham
T.Peter Worthy, Highlands
Kaylie Yankura, Asheville
Leigh Yokeley, Apex

Member Spotlight!



*We're doing something a little different in this edition. We're highlighting **four** members who recently agreed to hold volunteer positions. We LOVE our volunteers! Thank you!*



Catherine Luckenbaugh is our new Vice President

Curator of the Mecklenburg County Herbarium at the James F. Matthews Center for Biodiversity Studies at Reedy Creek Nature Center in Charlotte, Catherine grew up in the Longleaf Pine region of southeastern NC where she loved searching for carnivorous plants, orchids and ferns in the sandhills seeps. She holds a BS in biology from UNC-Chapel Hill and an MS in biology from UNC-Charlotte, where she specialized in plant ecology. In her current role, Catherine is working to keep up with the ever-changing world of plant taxonomy while managing the daily activities of a 44,000+ specimen herbarium. In her free time, she enjoys sharing meals with family and friends; learning to be a new mother to daughter Elizabeth; and backpacking, running, cycling and traveling with her husband, George.



Bobbie Fox is our new Program Chair

After 20 years of nursing, Bobbie went back to school for her first love: Plants, conservation and all things outdoors! She will graduate this month with a horticulture technology degree from Central Piedmont Community College. Bobbie joined NCNPS last year, she told us, "Because of my great desire to learn as much as I can about North Carolina native plants from a diverse group of people who have made native plants their career and their hobby. I find new favorite plants every time I go out with a group of native plant enthusiasts. Currently, I'm into gentians (last year it was trilliums). Can't wait to see what it will be next year!"

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

jchiggie@yahoo.com

Member Spotlight! (cont.)



Laura Domingo is our new Education Chair

Originally from St. Petersburg, Florida, Laura grew up immersed in all things nature and spending as much time out of doors as possible. She received a BS in zoology/chemistry at Southern Utah University, and her background includes wildlife technician, zookeeper, and wildlife rehabilitation before landing in a classroom as a science teacher. In 2007, Laura joined Mecklenburg County as a naturalist/environmental educator. She says, “My skills as a naturalist have grown and are now expanding more into the world of plants. I have recently taken on responsibility of our native gardens at Reedy Creek Nature Center. I believe there is no better way to learn something than to jump right in the middle, which is what I am doing with my involvement in the Native Plant Society. I am constantly learning something new and hope to pass that, as well as my passion, along to others.”

Diane Laslie is our new Membership Chair

Native to Rockingham County, where her paternal grandparents farmed 85 acres, Diane said her grandmother was a big influence for developing her interest in plants. “At a young age, she would take me and my brother on walks down to the creek and introduced me to Jack-in-the-pulpits, and I often think of her when I see them,” Diane said. She has a background in finance and marketing, and lives in Pleasant Garden with her husband and two cats on 13 mostly wooded acres, where she spends much of her time removing invasives, gardening and promoting wildlife habitat. “I have been an NCNPS member since 2001 and have attended the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference since that time. The fellowship with plant folks has been the best part of the journey.”





North Carolina Native Plant Society

C/O Julie Higgin

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Mooresville, NC 28117

**We're
Wild
About
Natives!**

