

The Journal of the South Carolina Native Plant Society



Fall 2006

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Name That Native Plant!

This perennial forb is found in the middle Piedmont and throughout the Coastal Plain. It likes sandy, well drained soils and open wooded sites. It has a strong but pleasing fragrance.



The answer is embedded in text somewhere in this newsletter. Photo by Bill Stringer

Visit our website at
www.scnps.org

Botanical Diversity of the Tyger River Watershed in Union County

Charles N. Horn, *Newberry College Biology Department*

The Tyger River rises in Spartanburg County, flows through Union County, and merges with the Enoree River along the Union – Newberry County line. There is a proposal to build a large dam on the Tyger in Union County. The resulting lake would flood about 5,300 acres of the Tyger basin, including portions of the Tyger River and Fairforest Creek. Most of the land to be flooded is in the Sumter National Forest (SNF). Several conservation groups, including the South Carolina Native Plant Society (SCNPS), are concerned about the resulting destruction of the natural flora, fauna, and environment of this Piedmont watershed.

As SCNPS became aware of this proposal, we realized that the biological diversity of the Tyger River watershed is not well documented. The US Forest Service (USFS) has community structure data as a part of its forest management plan, but significant portions of the Tyger River watershed are not included.

When SCNPS approached me in April, 2006 to lead a botanical inventory, I thought about this question: How botanically diverse is the Tyger basin, particularly in comparison to typical forests of the region?

We soon recognized the large time and effort required for a comprehensive survey of the watershed. Detailed botanical surveys generally require at least 12 months, so as to study a community during all seasons. Our mission was to determine plant species diversity, and search for rare plants along the Tyger River and Fairforest Creek. With the help of several PhD botanists, including John Brubaker, Jeff Glitzenstein, Charles Horn, Doug Rayner, and John Schmidt, delineation of plant species and communities in the Tyger basin was accomplished during May, June and early July, 2006. We found some startling results.

A total of 381 species of vascular plants was found in the entire study area (272 herb, 15 woody vine, 37 shrub, and 57 tree species). This diversity is as would be expected for a mature forest. We found more herbaceous species than (See *Tyger River*, page 5)



May white azalea, *Rhododendron eastmanii*.

Photo by Bill Sharpton

The View From Here

I'm Bill Stringer, new president of SC Native Plant Society. This is my first letter to the statewide membership. I am issuing some challenges to our organization, goals that I think are important, timely and do-able, things that will empower us to work more effectively for native plant communities. But before I get into that, you may be thinking "Just who is this guy?" So, a little bit about me...



Bill Stringer

For those of you who don't know me, I'm a professor of crop science at Clemson, with a passion (obsession?) for native plant communities in South Carolina. My training is in forage crops (mostly exotic grasses and legumes, used for pastures and hay). About 12 years ago, while looking through some notes on grass taxonomy, I re-discovered the native grasses. In 1995, Rick Huffman asked if I was interested in helping to start a native plant society, and I said "You betcha!" Since that time, I have been VP and president of the Upstate chapter, State VP, and now State president. I am also coordinator of the SCNPS/USFS native seed collections.

So I've stepped into the presidential shoes of Rick Huffman and John Brubaker, two strong sources of leadership and inspiration for SCNPS. Under these two fellows, the SCNPS has grown into a strong source of leadership and problem-solving for the environment in South Carolina. So how do we maintain and enhance this position? My opinion: An organization's power to do good is in a **large, savvy, motivated membership**. When SCNPS's people-power has been focused on developing, promoting, and helping to execute science-based approaches to natural resource problems, we have been very effective. So, my first priority for us is to increase **the size and know-how of our membership**. I would like for us to grow our existing chapters, and possibly establish new chapters in the state. This increases **our influence in political decisions**, and **enables us to take on new and bigger projects**.

That being said, let me quickly add that you don't need to be a plant expert to get involved. Everything we do, from meetings, speakers, symposia, workshops, field trips, etc., is designed to **bring interested lay-persons up to speed on native plants issues**. We have a large group of knowledgeable members, many of whom were lay-persons who actively participated in Society learning opportunities.

We will pursue this goal of growth by: 1) Assisting our smaller chapters in local visibility and-recruitment; and 2) Increasing our skill at selling our accomplishments, and the benefits of SCNPS membership. Our excellent website (www.scnps.org) will be of great help in this effort. A re-vitalized and attractive statewide newsletter will also be helpful in marketing SCNPS.

I invite all members to: 1) read the articles about **native plants** and **SCNPS activities** in this newsletter; and 2) find one activity in an SCNPS chapter or statewide program that you are not knowledgeable about, and give it a try. You'll be glad you did!

Thanx,
Bill Stringer, SCNPS president

PS: We are trying a new approach to a quarterly member newsletter. Please share any impressions and ideas via e-mail to: bstnrngr@clemson.edu

Change in SCNPS Membership Renewal Policy

By Ann Friedel, Membership Chair

Your SCNPS membership provides you the opportunity to participate in field trips, plant rescues and plantings, attend the symposium and other activities and opportunities. Members also receive newsletters and periodic emails apprising them of articles of interest, monthly meetings, activities and opportunities. A primary source of the funding for these and other SCNPS projects is through your annual membership dues.

In order to budget accurately for projects and to minimize the resources associated with membership administration, we are moving to a common renewal date for annual membership in 2007. Previously membership renewal dates were based on the anniversary of the date you initially joined SCNPS. Beginning in 2007, all members will have a common renewal date of January 1. Membership renewal forms for 2007 will be mailed mid-December. Those members whose current renewal date falls in the last quarter of 2006 (October, November and December) will receive their next renewal notice in December for 2007 membership.

The Journal of the South Carolina Native Plant Society

Published quarterly

Editor: Bill Stringer

Design Editor: Charlene Mayfield

Upstate Chapter, Greenville

Lowcountry Chapter,

Charleston

Midlands Chapter, Columbia

Piedmont Chapter, Rock Hill

www.scnps.org

Around Our State Upstate chapter

Station Cove Trail - Station Cove, one of the most precious wildflower spots in the Upstate, is being stressed by foot traffic to the waterfall. After negotiations with SC PRT and the US Forest Service, SCNPS has embarked on an ambitious improvement project that includes kiosks, signage, rock steps, and re-routing the trail.

Tyger River Basin Plant Survey - The Union County Economic Development Board has proposed development of a 5,000-acre lake on the Tyger River on National Forest property. The area would then be subject to residential and commercial development. This plan does not consider the value of the forested landscape for plant and other wildlife habitat. SCNPS worked with area botanists, with the funds from SC Wildlife Federation, to provide the Corps of Engineers with a botanical survey of the potentially impacted area.

Sharpton Roadside Prairie - An unlikely strip of land is home to an amazingly diverse collection of plants, including prairie and other rare species. SCNPS negotiated an agreement with each of the owners – Blue Ridge Electric, SCDOT, and the US Forest Service - that allows us to meet their maintenance requirements while encouraging the development of the prairie community.

Native Plant Seed Collection - We collect seeds of native grasses & wildflowers along country roads in South Carolina so the US Forest Service can use local-source native plant seeds in restoration work. Volunteers are taught to recognize our native plants.

Pickens County Museum Native Plant Garden - The new Pickens Co Museum grounds are home to a “teaching garden” featuring native plants. SCNPS and local
(See *Around Our State*, page 6)

Gardens for Butterfly Watching and Feeding

By Tommie Moody

Native plants are far more important for butterflies than we may think. Native butterflies and their food plants evolved together in a purely native environment. The composition of the food plant is partially a result of eons of feeding activity of native butterfly larvae. Because the butterflies and plants evolved together, they became compatible with each other.

While birds require food, water, and nest sites, butterflies have two needs to grow and reproduce. When the female looks for a spot to lay her eggs, she must choose a plant that her caterpillar can chew on and grow. She lays her eggs on that plant, and the eggs develop and hatch on their own. The resulting caterpillar must survive and grow on the leaves of the plant the female chose.

For example, a monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) lays eggs on plants in the genus *Asclepias*. If she chooses the wrong plant, her larvae will not survive after hatching. When laid on *Asclepias* species, the eggs hatch into tiny caterpillars, which proceed to eat the leaves of the plant; as they grow, they change into a colorful yellow, black and white caterpillar. When they reach a certain size, they quit eating and form a chrysalis. In the chrysalis, the pupa develops into an adult, which then exits the chrysalis, unfolds its wings, pumps blood into them, and after drying the wings, takes flight.

The mature butterfly feeds on flower nectar and other nutrient-rich juices or liquids, using a long feeding tube (proboscis). With ample nectar, adults will dine and then search for mates. After mating, the females look for suitable host plants for egg laying. A butterfly habitat must contain plants suitable for caterpillar feeding, as well as suitable nectar plants or other liquid food sources for the adults. Almost all the caterpillar host plants are native species.

Diverse flower gardens usually provide plenty of plants suitable as butterfly food sources. The best host plants are species that are native to where a particular butterfly is found. Tropical butterflies won't grow here in South Carolina just because you plant tropical plants. You can have more native butterfly species in your space by providing native host plants for the local native butterflies.

Fortunately some of our native trees provide just the right caterpillar food source for many local butterfly species. If we maintain a variety of tree species in our forests and yards, we will promote a variety of butterfly species. Many shrubby and herbaceous species serve well as caterpillar hosts.

Gardening for butterflies means providing both nectar plants and caterpillar host plants. We need a variety of herbaceous flowering species, such as sunflowers, coneflowers, milkweeds, lobelias, and many others. These nectar plants bring in the beautiful adult butterflies. Nectar plants don't all have to be native plants. Then we do need to go beyond providing nectar plants. Ample nectar plants attract lots of mating butterflies, and we need to provide for the resulting butterfly caterpillar populations. This means the proper native plants, and we must

(See *Butterfly*, page 7)



Adult monarch butterfly. Photo by Nancy Baldwin

The Lisa Matthews Memorial Carolina Bay

John Brubaker and Jeff Glitzenstein, SCNPS, LowCountry

We reported to the membership last year that SCNPS obtained a 52-acre property near Bamberg from The Nature Conservancy. The parcel consists of a diverse Carolina bay surrounded by degraded upland communities. The most noteworthy feature of the property is a population of endangered *Oxypolis canbyi* (Canby's dropwort) in the bay depression. We have two interrelated management goals for the property: to enhance the dropwort community; and to restore the wetland and upland vegetation. The uplands were a loblolly pine plantation. We are in the process of restoring a longleaf pine community, the predominant vegetation type on the land historically. This will involve re-introduction of a natural historic fire regime via periodic controlled burns. Burns started in the uplands will likely penetrate into the bay, occasionally throughout the entire depression area. Fire in the depression area will be critical to preserving the herbaceous nature of the community, and improve the performance of the *O. canbyi*.

The state board voted in June 2006 to name this property the Lisa Matthews Memorial Bay in memory of Lisa Mathews, a Lowcountry member who died in an automobile accident. Lisa's husband Terry has contributed \$7,500 to the Society in her memory for use in the bay project. That donation is the foundation of the Lisa Mathews Memorial Fund, which enables us to finance Bay restoration and maintenance.

Our initial expenses, primarily legal and other title transfer costs, were covered by generous contributions of members. Jeff Glitzenstein obtained a US

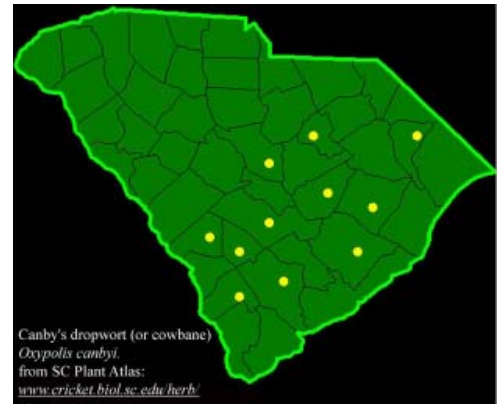
Fish & Wildlife Service grant of \$10,000 for the bay restoration, which requires SCNPS to match with dollars or in-kind services. We have retained Guy San Fratello, registered forester / land manager, to help with the project. The past fall and summer, Guy oversaw logging of the loblolly plantation and invasive hardwoods areas. The harvest was the first step in restoration, and timber proceeds helped us to meet our funds matching requirement. In spring we hired laborers to hand-remove weedy hardwood trees around the margin of the bay wetland. Wet soil prevented logging at the initial timber harvest. *O. canbyi* has already responded to this hand clearing. New populations appeared in mid-August of this year in the area of the hand clearing.

In late February, 2006, Mr. San Fratello assisted us in burning the majority of the uplands. This post-harvest fire consumed most of the logging debris and exposed the soil, which will aid in restoration plantings. We were not able to burn near the Highway, so we plan to burn the remaining areas early this fall.

Wiregrass (*Aristida beyrichiana*) was a dominant under-story plant in much of the longleaf pine range, most likely including our Preserve.



The depression area of the bay. Photo by Bill Sharpton



Yellow dots mark counties with populations of *O. canbyi*

Wiregrass is a fine wiry grass, high in silica, high in flammability. Thus it promotes the propagation of fire through its habitat, and is a key factor into helping maintain fire-dependent communities. We plan to re-establish longleaf pine and wiregrass on the uplands of the Preserve. The nearby Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Trust Preserve (SCDNR) has a very healthy longleaf pine-wiregrass community, so we petitioned SC DNR for permission to harvest wiregrass and other herbaceous species seeds from the Heritage Preserve. We asked them to do a growing season burn on the Heritage site, to promote wiregrass seed production. In fall 2005, Jeff and SCNPS volunteers collected seeds of wiregrass and other important longleaf

pine under-story species. We distributed the seed to several nurseries to produce seedlings for us. We thus have a large number of wiregrass and other herbaceous seedling plugs ready to out-plant this fall. We will transplant wiregrass, starting in mid-September and continuing through December, 2006. We may have to hire professional help to plant the large number of seedlings, but we plan to do as much as possible with the help

(See *Carolina Bay*, page 7)

Tyger River from page 1

tree species, even though the area was all forested. We found the largest number of species on the floodplains (233 species), with 178 species found on slope areas, and 100 species in the uplands. This was visually apparent, as the floodplain floor was covered with many herbaceous species, while much of the upland forest floor was bare soil or leaf litter.

Only 32 introduced species, or 8.4% of the total, were found. This proportion of introduced species is much lower than for the statewide flora (18% introduced). This predominance of native species is most likely due to the area being largely undisturbed and isolated from developed areas.

The survey turned up several very large trees in the watershed. On the floodplain, there are several cottonwoods (*Populus deltoides*) in the area of 65 inches in diameter. On the slopes were several white oaks (*Quercus alba*) of more than 50 inches in diameter. Other large trees included red oaks (*Q. rubra*), and beech (*Fagus grandiflora*). None of these are state records, but they have been in the landscape for well over 100 years.

We also found eleven rare species within the study area. Three of these, though rare in the state, were found to be common in the study area: drooping sedge (*Carex prasina*) at four sites; Southern Adder's tongue (*Ophioglossum pycnostichum*) at four sites; and May-white azalea (*Rhododendron eastmanii*) at eight sites. The other eight species were found at only one or two locations and typically in small numbers of specimens.

The May-white azalea (*Rhododendron eastmanii*) deserves a special note. This species has only recently (1999) been described as new to science. Up to this point, only 25 sites had been documented in 10 South Carolina Counties, and apparently it occurs nowhere else on the planet. The eight new locations found in our study area add significantly to the knowledge on this species. This species appears to be most abundant in the Enoree and Tyger River basins in Laurens and Union Counties.



Lizard's tail, *Saururus cernuus*.
Photo by Bill Sharpton

Nine plots were set up for a detailed characterization of plant communities. Five of the plots were on the Tyger River or Fairforest Creek floodplains, and four were on adjacent slopes. All the sites had more herbaceous than shrub or tree species. The floodplain canopy is largely sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and ash (*Fraxinus* sp). Other common canopy trees

include hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*), river birch (*Betula nigra*), and cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*). Some of the plots are elevated (on natural levees) and probably are not flooded often. These sites contained American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), and several species of oaks (*Quercus* sp). Ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*) is a common sub-canopy tree throughout the floodplains.

The flora on slopes was distinctly different from floodplain flora. Abundant white oak (*Quercus alba*) was common to all slopes. Beyond that, each slope site had a unique assemblage of

canopy species. The sub-canopy commonly includes hop hornbeam (*Ostrya caroliniana*) and chalk maple (*Acer leucoderme*). The diversity on sloping sites probably relates to soil moisture and exposure differences.

In conclusion, the greatest plant diversity was found on the floodplains; which would all be inundated by an impoundment. The slopes are very diverse, and species composition changes dramatically from one site to another. The low percentage of introduced species (8.4%) indicated that the watershed ecosystems are relatively intact and undisturbed. The biodiversity was highlighted by the presence of 11 **state-listed rare plant species**. We found the Tyger River Basin in Union County to be botanically unique, having escaped the heavy exploitation and development so common on much of the Piedmont, by being under the stewardship of the US Forest Service.

As we consider the future of the Tyger River and the proposal for a large impoundment, we must remember that this watershed is a very diverse region of floodplains, slopes and upland forests. Our findings highlight a very high level of biological diversity clothing the topographically diverse Tyger River landscape. We trust that our findings will highlight what a special place will be lost if the Tyger River basin is not retained in its current natural state. Building a lake here would drown forever a rare biological treasure, the kind that South Carolina has lost far too much of already.



Tyger River floodplain vegetation. Photo by Charles Horn

Around Our State from page 3

Master Gardeners are keeping the garden tidy.

Home & Garden Show - At our booth in this once-a-year show, show attendees can learn about native plants and about the Society.

Publications - We've generated several educational pieces to hand out at meetings, talks, plant sales, the Home Show, etc, such as "Native Plant Alternatives to Invasive Exotics" and "Native Plants for Wildlife."

Plant Rescues - Greenville Co. Landfill and Glassy Mtn. property

Public Plantings - Public lands along the Reedy River and SC Welcome Center at Fair Play.

Piedmont Chapter

July 30, 2006 Over 25 members of the **SC & NC Native Plant Societies** met for a joint tour of the Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens. Doug Rurhren, Head Gardener, emphasized native plants used in the gardens. We stopped at the "white gardens" and continued throughout the remainder of the grounds highlighting plants in bloom.

October 7, 2006: Tour of the Prairie Restoration at Latta Plantation (<http://www.lattaplantation.org/>) (Charlotte, NC) by **SC and NC Native Plant Societies**. We'll meet at 9:30 am at the Plantation nature center. A Parks and Recreation person will be on hand to talk about the prairie and the restoration. This will be a fine fall walk and an opportunity to see the **Schweinitz's sunflower** and the **Georgia aster**, both rare wildflowers. . The fee is \$1.50 per person . Please e-mail Mary Morrison at maryrobl@comporium.net if you plan to attend or if you need additional information.

May 4-7, 2007: Plants without Borders. Joint Native Plant Society Symposium, Museum of York County - Rock Hill, SC (<http://www.sciway.net/city/rockhill.html>). We invite you to attend the first joint

NC- SC Native Plant Society Symposium. On Saturday, lectures and work- shops include: Orchard gardening, Rocky Shoal Spider lily lecture, rain gardening, organic composting, plus many more. Sunday field trips include: Canoeing the Shoals, Nature Hike in Landsford Canal State Park, Botanical Gardens at UNCC, and a Nature hike to a Big Leaf Magnolia site. The **Museum of York County** (<http://www.chmuseums.org/ourmuseums/myco/index.htm>) will host the 2007 Joint Native Plant Society Symposium and looks to partner with the Native Plant Societies on a regular basis.

Midlands Chapter

SCNPS in Lake Murray Magazine - Anne Moore of Lake Murray Magazine recently contacted the Midlands Chapter to request information on native plants for landscape. This kind of assistance is a part of our chapter's mission that we emphasize. We worked closely with Anne, and the result is an upcoming article in the magazine focusing on the beautifully landscaped suburban backyard of one of our own members, Tommie Moody.

Rocky Shoals Spider Lilies Getting Some Attention - Judy Gordon of Augusta State University has been assisting with a study of the lilies in the Augusta area. She has been working with students and volunteers to assess the health of Savanna River and Stevens Creek populations.

On the Broad and Congaree Rivers the lilies were recognized as a priority for monitoring and enhancement in the Columbia Canal Hydroelectric Plant re-licensing process of 2002. Bert Pitman of SCDNR and SCNPS have been leading this effort and is currently meeting with SCE&G personnel in a continuing effort to partially restore this Columbia population that has been historically impacted by dams and other factors.

Spring Field Trips and Activities - The Midlands Chapter thanks trip

leaders and organizers who helped to make Spring 2006 a productive time: *Nipper Creek Plant Rescue* - Bert Pitman
USC Campus Field Trip - Dr. John Nelson

Steven's Creek Field Trip - Judy Gordon
Forty Acre Rock Field Trip - Kathy Boyle
Fort Jackson Field Trip - Mark Dutton
Field Trip Organization - Wayne Grooms
Relict Trillium Rescue - Brett Moule
Board Meeting - Tommie Moody, Ron Chicone

Earth Fair at Saluda Shoals Park - Ron Chicone, John Brubaker, Tommie Moody, Ellen Blundy, Sudie Daves, Wayne Grooms

LowCountry Chapter

The Lowcountry chapter is forming new partnerships this season on the heels of our 9th annual symposium back in April:

We will be working with the Sewee Visitor and Environmental Education Center in Awendaw to establish monthly wildflower walks in the Francis Marion National Forest led by Lowcountry member-volunteers.

SC Department of Natural Resources staff from the ACE Basin have been tapping SCNPS members for advice on plant communities, and about future joint projects.

Other members are helping with the landscaping of the renovated Charlestown Landing due to reopen later this Fall. By being more visible in the community we hope to bring further awareness of the importance of native plant communities.

Restoration is also a theme of our Fall field trips, as we have trips planned to Richard Porcher's Carolina Bay restoration project and our own Canby's Dropwort Preserve, which is to be planted with wiregrass and longleaf pine seedling plugs this fall. Other trips include: Bluff Trail in the ACE Basin and native grass identification in the FMNF. Lecture topics this fall include: invasive plant species, flora of the sandhill creeks, and designing Lowcountry landscapes. For more info visit www.scnps.org

Carolina Bay from page 4

of volunteers. We will be posting a schedule of transplant days on the website and we will send out e-mail notices to the members. If you can schedule a day or two to help with this project, this will be of great assistance. Contact John Brubaker (brubakerj@tds.net) if you can help with this habitat restoration work.

Status of the Dropwort population:

On October 3, 2005, Jeff and John did an inventory of *Oxypolis canbyi* at the Bay. We found a total of 217 plants, 202 in flower, 15 non-flowering. This is robust population, possibly the largest, most robust population of this endangered plant in SC. We are monitoring the encroachment by pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*), hardwood trees and shrubs on the bay area. We need to achieve a controlled burn through the bay wetland area in the near future. We hope that the burn scheduled for September, 2006 will carry through the *Oxypolis* habitat. This would be greatly beneficial to the success of the *Oxypolis* population. Spotted bee-balm, *Monarda punctata*. Promoting the *Oxypolis* is a major objective of our management of the Bay Preserve. Jeff and John will monitor the status of the population again soon, and do hand removal of encroaching woody plants near the *Oxypolis* clumps.

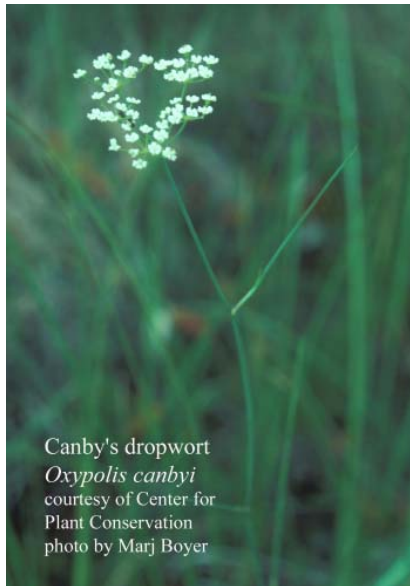
The Lisa Mathews Memorial Carolina Bay is an exciting opportunity for SCNPS to grow in native plant restoration. Our goal is to re-create a thriving *Oxypolis* community, and associated longleaf pine-wiregrass savanna upland at this site. If we are successful, this project will be an outreach opportunity to demonstrate good restoration methods, an opportunity for South Carolina Native Plant Society to lead from the front in native community restoration. Your contribution of time or funds to this project will greatly assist in this effort.

Butterfly from page 3

accept the chewed foliage, to support the entire butterfly growth cycle. Also, many of our herb plants, such as parsley, dill, and fennel, will be covered with caterpillars of the black swallowtail butterfly, so learn to live with it if you want the butterflies later. To save some herbs for your table, cover a few plants to keep the eggs from being laid on them. Transparent covers of light-weight screen, or other light-weight, transparent, breathable material, will screen your herbs from egg-laying females.

Remember: you can have a reasonable number of butterflies by growing a few flowering plants; but to really entice these “flying flowers” into your space, the garden should include a wide variety of adult and larval host plants. Since so many of the host species are trees and “weeds” which occur naturally in our forests, the best way to promote butterflies is to have the natural areas around you be left in their natural state.

And remember: **NATIVE BUTTERFLIES LIKE NATIVE PLANTS!**



Canby's dropwort
Oxypolis canbyi
courtesy of Center for
Plant Conservation
photo by Marj Boyer



Monarch caterpillar. Photo by Nancy Baldwin

SC's Exotic Pest Plant Council

Colette DeGarady

Invasive plants are becoming a bigger issue in all parts of the world as we document problems developing from their growth and proliferation. The SC Exotic Pest Plant Council (SC-EPPC) was formed in 2003 as a chapter of the Southeastern Exotic Pest Plant Council. The purpose was to provide a focus for issues and concerns regarding non-native invasive terrestrial plants in SC, to facilitate action campaigns to monitor and control these invasives, and promote public understanding. Committees established within SC-EPPC include: *Early Detection and Rapid Response*, *Education/Outreach*, *Data Coordination*, *Privet Control taskforce*, *Kudzu Control taskforce*, and the *SC Invasive Plant List committee*. We need the support of partners and property owners throughout the state to continue moving forward and eradicating invasive plant species. We also need additional motivated EPPC members to help carry out this important mission. You can learn more about the activities of SC-EPPC and becoming a member by visiting www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/ or by contacting Colette DeGarady, cdegarady@tnc.org or 843-937-8807 ext 15. Membership includes updates on the organization's activities and the quarterly *Wildland Weeds* magazine.

A SAD NOTE: The work of the South Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Council will be more challenging with the untimely passing of our colleague and friend, Dr. Larry Nelson, Extension Forester of Clemson University. Larry was a strong force in guiding SC-EPPC through its formative years. His energy, experience and enthusiasm will be sorely missed by our Council.

The SC Native Plant Society E-mail Group

by Harry Davis, SCNPS Webmaster

One of our most important tools for keeping members informed about meetings, field trips and other activities is our e-mail group sponsored by Yahoo. This e-mail group allows participating SCNPS members to “broadcast” messages to all other SCNPS members statewide. Of course, you can’t send or receive announcements unless you are a member of the group. So, if you aren’t already participating... please join! A big benefit to our society is that we can reduce mailing costs by sending announcements electronically. Also, if there are last minute changes with a field trip or meeting due to weather or illness, we can quickly inform everyone with one simple message.

To join the SCNPS e-mail group, visit our Yahoo page at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scnps/>, then click on the “join this group” button. If you don’t already have a Yahoo ID, you will be asked to register. Registration is FREE, easy, and secure... and only takes a minute.

The group is open ONLY to members of SCNPS so you don’t have to worry about receiving spam or junk e-mail. Also, it is very simple to “unsubscribe” at any time (instructions are included at the bottom of every group e-mail).

Here are some helpful guidelines for participation in the group:

- To send a message to the entire SCNPS group, address your e-mail to: scnps@yahoo.com. If your announcement pertains to one particular chapter, please include the chapter name in the SUBJECT line.
- If you are announcing a group activity, **please be specific** and include all details such as: date, time, meeting place, carpooling arrangements, and the contact person’s name, phone number, and e-mail address etc.
- When you reply to a message, **your reply goes out to everyone on the**

list. If you only need to reply to the original sender, please remove the group e-mail address -

scnps@yahoo.com - from the address line on your reply. Always

remember that you are communicating with a large group of folks when you send a message or a reply. The members in other chapters may have very little interest in your efforts to arrange a carpool to a local field trip.

- To contact a state or local chapter officers, please go to our website at www.scnps.org/contact.html to find a complete list of e-mail addresses. A question about your renewal status should be directed to the membership chairman, not to every member of SCNPS!

If you have any questions or encounter any problems, please feel free to contact Harry Davis by e-mail at harry.davis@scnps.org.

This publication is the result of a new approach to publishing a quarterly statewide newsletter for our members. We would like to hear your impressions, suggestions and ideas. Please send feedback via e-mail to: bstrngr@clemson.edu.



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