



Native Plant News

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Native Plant News
Julie Higgle, 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

Spring Trip to Blue Ridge a Big Hit with Members!

By Julie Higgle

Our North Carolina Native Plant Society's Spring Trip on the Blue Ridge Parkway really did turn out to be a grand occasion! With beautiful blue skies over the mountaintops, a record-breaking number of participants – over 100 – and hordes of spring blossoms, this event put a spring in everyone's step. The nostalgic setting of Asheville-based Lutheridge, a Christian camp and conference center, was a huge draw for this event.



Pink Lady's-slipper
(*Cypripedium acaule*)

I heard many participants say they hadn't seen as many Pink and Yellow lady's-slippers and trilliums of all types in one trip. This obviously was a very good year for spring ephemerals. My husband and I enjoyed seeing (and I counted!) 62 species of plants, many for the first time. For example, Wood Betony (*Pedicularis canadensis*) the scarily named Biltmore Carrionflower (*Smilax biltmoreana*) and many other native plants that to us are rare sights, especially growing in colonies.

We also learned to identify plants that had not yet blossomed, such as several varieties of milkweed and lilly. And, we differentiated between the Good (trillium), the Bad (Poison Ivy, ouch!) and the Ugly (Oriental Bittersweet, *Celastrus orbiculatus*, an Asian invasive strangling our forests).

Hiking with expert botanists really does help. (Continued on page 6)

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President's Letter



Jean Woods

As my term as president comes to a close, I remember the amazing work we all did together to promote North Carolina's plethora of native plants. I want to thank each of you for being a member and supporting us with your hours of volunteering, your membership fees, and your donations. When I personally think of the reasons that I am so dedicated to working

for the NCNPS, I know that my motivations go way beyond the plants themselves to the world that they support and make possible. Working to conserve and promote our native plants results in a healthier, more pleasant world, where pollinators thrive, riparian habitats are protected, and birds and other wildlife prosper. We have cleaner air, fresher water, better health for our children, and more beauty to enjoy as a result of sustaining our ecosystems. Supporting the NCNPS makes our world a better place.

At the state level, we supported educational projects, such as the Larry Mellichamp Native Plant Terrace at UNCC, and supported conservation in grants to help preserve the Redlair property near Gastonia and the Carraway tract in McDowell County. Both of these properties contain a diversity of native plants and will be conserved in perpetuity. NCNPS also supports graduate students through yearly scholarships, and gives donations to the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference, to support the conference and provide scholarships for students to attend. At a local level, we have chapters across the state that provide education about native plants and work with local groups to preserve or enhance habitats. The real work of the NCNPS happens in the chapters. It is there where we meet you and work together. It is my hope that the chapters will grow in numbers and continue to increase in capacity to be effective in each area, working to make the world a better place.

Back in the 1990s I took college courses at UNCC to
(Continued on page 3)

Hold the Date for the Fall Outing: Saturday, Oct. 10

The Fall Trip will be a one-day event to visit Riles Creek (an unofficial site), just east of Richfield, NC, in Stanly County. The area is used for hunting and there are housing tracts nearby, but it has a wonderful aura of “rural” if not “wilderness”.

This is an unusually diverse site on circum-neutral, slate-based soils. The site is an upland, dryish woodland dominated by Chestnut Oak and Scarlet Oak (and planted Loblolly Pine). Also present are Sourwood, Witch-hazel, 3 species of Viburnum, Tall Indigo-bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*), Coral Honeysuckle, Cross-vine, lots of dwarf blueberries, Fringe-tree, and Silky Dogwood in the bottomlands. Rare or unusual plants are Conjuror’s-nut (*Nestronia umbellula*), Mountain Laurel on creek bluffs, Chalk Maple (*Acer leucoderme*), Overcup Oak (*Quercus lyrata*), American Plum (*Prunus americana*), Rattan Vine (*Berchemia scandens*), Fragrant Sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), and Sensitive-brier (*Mimosa* sp., formerly *Schrankia*).

Larry Mellichamp notes that in 1980, he saw Monkshood (*Aconitum uncinatum*) there, but



Conjuror’s-nut (*Nestronia umbellula*)

-Stan Gilliam

was never able to find it again—we can look! The site was logged in 1982 and is planted with pines, so there has been some disturbance; however, there are plenty of interesting places to botanize at the site and there is a nice trail along the creek. We’ll use a local park and fast-food places for our lunch and bathroom break, and visit a different spot in the afternoon.

Stay tuned for more detail and registration information!

President’s Letter (cont.)

learn more about native plants; all the botany courses were taught by Dr. Mellichamp. Returning from a field trip for one of the classes, I remarked that it was very difficult to find places to learn about native plants. Dr. Mellichamp answered that I should do something about that. At the time I had no idea how to do that. However, that started me on a long and involved path. Along the way, I became a board member of the NCNPS and the Catawba Lands Conservancy, worked along with Carol Buie-Jackson to encourage Dr. Mellichamp to start the Certificate in Native Plant Studies, and eventually became president of the NCNPS. I am grateful for the opportunities I have had to work so that more people can learn about our native flora, appreciate their beauty, and help keep the world a healthy place.

We will elect a new president on June 6 at the Annual Meeting and picnic. See you there!



**Overcup Oak
(*Quercus lyrata*)**

16th NCNPS Picnic and Annual Meeting at Hagan-Stone Park

Saturday, June 6, 2015 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Hagan-Stone Park, Greensboro NC

Shelter #5

FEATURING



Big Bodacious Bog Bowl Building:

A demonstration with native carnivorous plants, with Larry Mellichamp

Bog plants can have beautiful flowers and leaves, form attractive combinations, and provide endless hours of entertainment, especially the carnivorous species. Full sun and moist, acidic soils are generally desirable. American bog plants may include carnivorous species such as pitcher plants (11 species of *Sarracenia*), Venus-flytrap, sundews, and non-carnivorous associates like *Lilium catesbaei*, *Marshallia*, *Polygala*, *Sabatia*, bog hatpins, *Liatris spicata*, milkweeds, and certain orchids (*Pogonia* and *Calopogon*). Choosing non-aggressive, adaptable species is important. We will consider growing such plants in portable containers and constructed in-ground beds. I will demonstrate the creation of a 14-inch bog bowl from scratch.

The Annual Meeting

We will have a short Annual Meeting with a quick review of our past year, introduction and approval of Officers and Board members for the coming term, and approval of a revision to our by-laws.

A Bounty of Beautiful Books

John Neal, Bookseller, will once again be offering a wonderful array of books for sale, including Larry Mellichamp's lovely & informative *Native Plants of the Southeast: A Comprehensive Guide to the Best 460 Species for the Garden*, and Jim Fowler's hot-off-the-press *Orchids, Carnivorous Plants, and Other Wildflowers of the Green Swamp, North Carolina*. Thanks to John's generosity, proceeds of the book sales benefit the NCNPS. Cash or checks are preferred for the books, but credit cards are accepted.

Fabulous Food

We'll have great food, as always. As has been our custom the past few years, **Tom Harville** will stop at Smithfield's on his way to the picnic and pick up chicken and BBQ. YOU will bring your favorite side dish(es) with enough to share: salads, vegetables, fruits, desserts, breads—whatever you enjoy sharing. NCNPS will provide beverages (tea and water—bring your own favorite if you don't fancy those), ice, and paper products. There's always great quantity and quality of the food at the picnic, but we'll be lured away from the table...

(Continued on page 5)

Annual Meeting (cont.)

PLANTS! PLANTS! PLANTS!

This is the auction that fills our coffers with scholarship money and our gardening appetites with exquisite variety. Pot up some plants you'd like to donate (don't use fancy pots) and bring them to the auction, clearly labeled with botanical and/or common name, and if possible, a short description for the auctioneer. To reduce the time that the auction requires, smaller items or duplicates *may* be placed on a sale table, with larger or more unusual plants held for auction. *Reminder:* please do not bring plants that are designated rare, threatened, or endangered (RTE) by the NC Plant Conservation Board unless they were grown on your own land. If you do have such plants, you will be asked to fill out a short form at the picnic.

Don't forget

Food to share

A comfortable chair

Sunscreen and hat

Cash, checkbook, and/or credit card!

Directions: From northeast of Greensboro, take I-40 toward Greensboro. Just outside Greensboro, I-40 and I-85 split. Stay to the left and follow I-85 south for 12–13 miles. Take Exit 126A to merge onto US 421 South. Follow 421 South toward Sanford for a little over 3 miles. Take the exit for Woody Mill Road/Company Mill Road. At the end of the exit ramp go right. Go ~0.6 mile and turn right onto Minden Road. Shortly thereafter turn left on Hagan-Stone Park Road. Go ~2 miles and turn right into the park. Look for signs to Shelter #5.

Or Google: 5920 Hagan Stone Park Road, Pleasant Gardens NC 27313



Larry Mellichamp and Mark Rose at the Spring Trip Plant Auction.



UNCC Bog Garden

Spring Trip (cont. from p1)

Even those participants who shrugged off being called “experts” were very helpful to those of us who are enthusiastic about plants and have the best intentions, but are raw amateurs out in the field. Most of all, it was a great time to be together with people who enjoy nature’s magic.

Speaking of Mother Nature, she provided one of the hiking groups a surprise guest in the form of a Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) which, according to “A Guide to the Snakes of North Carolina” by **Michael E. Dorcus** of Davidson College is a threatened species “typically used by religions that practice snake handling during their services.” The book goes on to say, “Most timber rattlers are reluctant to rattle or bite and, instead, rely on their excellent camouflage for protection.” This one, however, proved to be an exception to that rule.

NCNPS member **Christine Lisiewski**, who provided us with an excellent photograph of this rattler, stated, “We heard her before we saw her – the rattle is like a loud buzzing. We were with professional botanist, guide, author, and outdoorsman **Ron Lance** who made sure we didn’t get too close and helped prod her across the trail so humans and snake could remain safe.”

My husband and I were in a “Bird” group that was hiking with **Mark Rose** on that same trail after our picnic lunch, but we saw no sign of her. Guess she decided we plant-lovers were not worth all the fuss, after all.

Also during that weekend, we were privileged to enjoy Friday dinner with special guest speaker Dr. **Steph Jeffries**, her husband and their two boys. After dinner, she gave a very inspirational keynote talk on “Stories from the Forested Landscape: How to see the Forest



Rattlesnake on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail
-Christine Lisiewski

with the Trees”. This talk was helpful in light of the fact that many plant enthusiasts tend to keep their eyes on the ground, searching for their favorite specimen. Steph instructed us that in looking up to examine the growth patterns of trees, we discover many interesting facts about their forest environment.

Our Saturday morning walk leader, **Jean Woods**, president, was good to remind us of Steph’s advice while on the trail. Jean spoke of logging that took place on the Blue Ridge a century ago and how that influenced the age of the trees we were seeing along the



Examining moss varieties along the trail.

Spring Trip (cont.)

way. It was also both exciting and sad to see remnants of the once-magnificent American Chestnut (*Castanea dentate*) tree that dominated Eastern forests before chestnut blight, a fungal disease, struck its range. Jean pointed out a few doomed specimens which continue to put out shoots, but soon will contract the disease and wither away before reaching a mature height.

Our Saturday evening Plant Auction in Lutheridge's Lineberger Hall was another weekend highlight. Members brought with them native plants that they had grown or purchased at native plant-friendly establishments, and **Larry Mellichamp** used his years of botanical knowledge to entertain us with quips and facts as he auctioned off these donated plants. Proceeds of the auction went toward funding the annual Shinn Grants provided to young scholars.

I don't want to end this article without pointing out that the success of this trip was directly due to diligent planning by our NCNPS board leaders, who worked as a team to ensure participants' needs were met. Great job all!



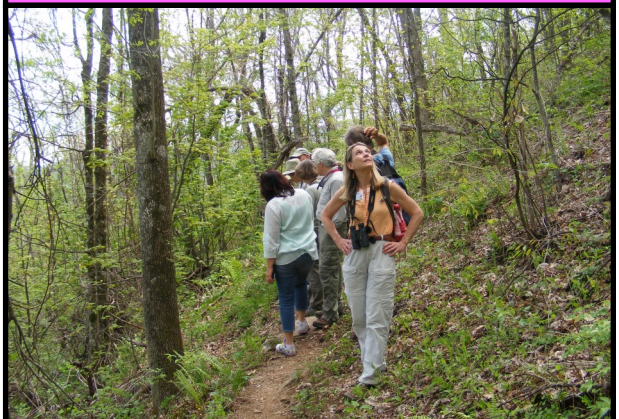
Mountain Maple (Acer spicatum)



Squawroot (Conopholis americana)



Trillium grandiflorum-Lisa Tompkins



NCNPS Hikers on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail with Mark Rose.

CHLOROFIENDS!*

Emerging Invasive Plants



By Lisa Lofland Gould

Ecosystems and the communities that form them are dynamic systems, constantly changing in response to environmental conditions. Human activities put lots of pressure on natural communities, with the on-going introduction of new, non-native species being one of the biggest of those pressures.

About 10 years ago, Misty Franklin Buchanan (currently Director of the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program [NHP]), compiled a ranked list of invasive plants in North Carolina. The list was reviewed by people from a variety of NC's agencies and organizations, as well as by NCNPS members (with Tom Harville helping to spearhead the NCNPS input). A revised version was compiled in 2010 and has been posted on the NCNPS website [<http://www.ncwildflower.org/invasives/list.htm>]. Now it's time for yet another revision, as new plants have moved in and other plants that were only "Watch List" in 2010 have become bigger problems. Stay tuned for the latest version, sometime this summer.

Recently I asked Misty Buchanan if she could give us some examples of emerging invasive plants in North Carolina, and how those plants were affecting rare native species. Here's her response:

1) Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) (native to Asia) is rapidly spreading through NC's wa-

terways, including some of our highest priority natural areas. This plant readily reproduces by fragmentation: a small fragment can get transported on the feet of waterfowl or boat motors and grow into a whole new plant, which can then quickly spread into a large infestation in a matter of weeks. Large colonies can impede waterways, damage fisheries, and displace native plants by filling the water column with vegetation. Hydrilla has been known to occur in the Eno River, Cape Fear River, and many of NC's manmade ponds for several years, but it was found in Lake Waccamaw in Columbus County, just a couple of years ago. The presence of Hydrilla in Lake Waccamaw is especially troubling because, according to the NHP Columbus County Inventory (1994), Lake Waccamaw contains the largest concentration of endemic animal species of any site in North Carolina. Nine species are globally restricted to the lake and/or its immediately adjacent waters. Among fishes, the Waccamaw Darter (*Etheostoma perlongum*), the Waccamaw Silverside (*Menidia extensa*), the Carolina Pigmy Sunfish (*Elassoma boehlkei*), and the Waccamaw Killifish (*Fundulus waccamensis*) are found only in Lake Waccamaw and adjacent waters, and nowhere else in the world. Two bivalves are known only from the lake and adjacent waters: the Waccamaw Spike (*Elliptio*

Threat!



Mud-annie
(*Murdannia keisak*)

-Stan Gilliam

Chlorofiends! (cont.)

waccamawensis), and the Waccamaw Fatmucket (*L. fullerhati*). Among freshwater gastropod mollusks, the Waccamaw Snail (*Amnicola sp. 1*) and the Waccamaw Siltsnail (*Cincinnatia sp. 1*) are known only from the lake and adjacent Big Creek. The near-shore waters of Lake Waccamaw, particularly at the southeast shore adjacent to Lake Waccamaw State Park, support one of the most diverse and best developed natural lake shoreline plant communities in the state.



Rare and Threatened!

***Virginia Spiraea*
(*Spiraea virginiana*)**

virginiana) are already known to be invaded with Japanese Knotweed. I would like to gather comments from NCNPS members who know of other rare species that are being threatened by Japanese Knotweed.

The time is ripe for a NC government entity to begin mapping and tracking invasive exotic spe-

2) **Bottomlands and levee forests** are particularly infested with invasive exotic plants, especially the herb layer (including Japanese Stilt-grass [*Microsegium vimineum*], Common Chickweed [*Stellaria media*], and Asian Spiderwort [*Murdannia keisak*]) and shrub layer (especially Japanese Privet [*Ligustrum japonicum*], Japanese Honeysuckle [*Lonicera japonica*], and Multiflora Rose [*Rosa multiflora*]). These invasive plants create special problems for the rare plants that inhabit these habitats. State Threatened Wild Hyacinth (*Camassia scilloides*) and Sessile Trillium (*Trillium sessile*), and state Endangered Dwarf Stinging Nettle (*Urtica chamaedryoides*), are examples of plants that are rare in NC, and whose habitats are especially threatened by invasive exotic plants.

3) **In the mountains**, Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) has been spreading like wildfire along roadsides and waterways. The species is also common along creeks and bridges in the Coastal Plain and Piedmont, but I think its spread has been especially noticeable in the mountains. Populations of federally and state-threatened Virginia Spiraea (*Spiraea*

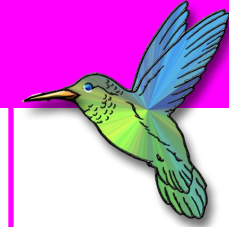
cies populations in natural areas. This will help us understand the scope of the problem and prioritize management actions. The NC Natural Heritage Program may be an appropriate agency for taking responsibility of this task, as it is our mission to maintain an inventory and map of all the natural resources within NC. However, any agency that takes on this responsibility would need funding for at least one new staff position and the appropriate software licenses. Other Natural Heritage Programs that map invasive exotic species recommend iMap Invasives as the best software for mapping occurrences of invasive plants and animals (<http://www.imapinvasives.org/>). iMap Invasives has a citizen-science component to which NCNPS members could contribute.

If you would like to be part of the review process for the NCNPS Invasive Species list, please contact Lisa Gould at lisalg@ncwildflower.org.

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

Support Our Native Pollinators!

Hummingbirds



By **Theresa Morr**

The sight of a jeweled hummingbird sipping nectar from garden flowers is welcome in spring and summer, and an instant day-brightener. Most common is the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, although each year visits from the Rufous and Allen's hummingbird are recorded in North Carolina. But these tiny "flying flowers" are also hard workers, patiently pollinating individual blossoms one at a time.

Hummingbirds seek out tubular flowers that are primarily red or orange in color. We put out a great variety of hummingbird feeders that mimic nectar-producing flowers, and the hummingbirds fearlessly sip our sweet offerings. There are even ardent admirers who tempt a hummingbird's "kiss" by holding sugar water in red-lipsticked, pursed lips and standing very still in a cluster of feeders.

What if our gardens were so filled with flowers favored by hummingbirds that we didn't need to put out feeders? Though vast meadows and flower-filled natural areas along migration paths have been lost due to development, we can strive to restore that sustaining habitat in our own yards by the propagation and cultivation of native nectar-producing flowers that hummingbirds recognize as food plants.

Below are just a few of the summer-blooming hummingbird favorites we can offer in our gardens. Place some of these natives near your vegetable garden or fruiting shrubs and see if they can help boost your harvest this year!

Bee Balm (*Monarda*) - Several varieties of *Monarda* attract hummingbirds and many other pollinators from the mountains to the coast:

* **Scarlet Beebalm, Oswego Tea (*Monarda didyma*)** - Scarlet Beebalm is a favorite summer bloomer. It likes sun and moisture and lots of room to roam. Hummingbirds love its bright red tubular flower. The flowers have no scent, but crush the seed head or leaves for a spicy rush of scent.

* **Spotted Beebalm, Eastern Horse-Mint (*Monarda punctata*)** - This Bee Balm species is characterized by pink bracts, surrounding unusual yellow and purple flowers produced from late July through September. More common in coastal North Carolina, it is an annual that likes very dry conditions, but grows in either sun or shade.

* **White Bergamot (*Monarda clinopodia*)** - This beautiful white *Monarda* can be found along sunny mountain roadsides, and blooms from May through September.

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) - The tall spikes of Cardinal Flower grow in the moist soil of sunny drainage ditches and creeksides. It is a short-lived perennial but readily reseeds each year. Its tall spikes of bright red flowers are visited many times in a day by hummingbirds, and blooms mid- to late summer, when hummers are "carb-loading" in preparation for migration.

Butterfly-weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) - This perennial produces bright yellow to orange bloom clusters that are a preferred destination for hummingbirds and is one of the host plants for the Monarch butterfly. This is a meadow plant that likes full sun and moist to

(Continued on p 11)

Pollinators! (cont.)

dry soil.

Fire Pink (*Silene virginica*) – The showy Fire Pink is the North Carolina Botanical Society's Wildflower of the Year. Its brilliant red flowers bloom from late Spring in the Piedmont and can be seen in clusters along the rocky and partially shaded mountain highways well into July and August.

Blazing Star, Gayfeather (*Liatris spicata*) – Liatris blooms in early summer, producing purple to white flowers bunched along tall (2-3') individual stalks. A striking and easy to grow perennial, it needs lots of sun and well-drained but moist soil in the garden.

Coral Bean (*Erythrina herbacea*) - Coral Bean blooms from late spring through the summer in the sandy coastal plain. Its bright red tubular flowers are 2-3" long on erect stems, unusual for a legume but a magnet for hummingbirds.

Cross-vine (*Bignonia capreolata*) - This woody vine thrives in sun and moist soil. Es-

tablished plants produce masses of tubular flowers in the yellow-red-orange range in early summer – what a find for thirsty hummingbirds!

Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) - This pretty native honeysuckle vine can thrive in part sun to full sun. Prune after flowering to produce more flowers through the summer on new green stems.

Passionflower (*Passiflora incarnata*) – This hardy vine flowers from June through October. Its unusual lavender flowers are attractive to many pollinators, and it is also the host plant sought out by the Gulf Fritillary butterfly for egg-laying. Fruits are the egg-shaped "maypops" that if allowed to ripen to a greenish-yellow are sweet enough to brew a delicious tea.

Buttonbush – (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) - This shrub likes wet feet and sun. In summer it produces round white orbs of closely packed flower tubes that are irresistible to a wide variety of pollinators.

Hummingbird

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Scarlet Bee Balm
—Cary Paynter



Spotted Bee Balm
—Lara Berkley



White Bergamot
—Martha Baskin

(Continued on p 12)

Hummingbird Plants (cont.)



Cardinal Flower
—NCNPS



Butterfly Weed
—Baskin



Blazing Star
—Wikimedia



Fire Pink
—NCNPS



Coral Bean
—C. Paynter



Crossvine
—Cook



Passionflower
—Wikimedia



Coral Honeysuckle
—MB Baumeister



Buttonbush
—David Paynter

NCNPS News

Recipients of the 2015 NCNPS Tom & Bruce Shinn Grant

To: Michelle D'Aguillo, Duke University

**Germination ecology of two southern
Appalachian natives, *Houstonia
caerulea* and *H. serpyllifolia*
(Rubiaceae)**

Advisor: Dr. Kathleen Donohue

To: Rebecca M. Dalton, Duke University

**Changes to flowering phenology in na-
tive wildflower communities in North
Carolina**

Advisor: Dr. William F. Morris

To: Gary Perlmutter, NC State University

**Traffic Emissions Effects on Forest Li-
chen Communities in North Carolina**

Advisor: Dr. Gary Blank



“Earth laughs in flowers.”
Ralph Waldo Emerson
“Hamatreya”

In our continuing effort to promote and educate people about native plants, we are asking you to send quotes that botanists, artists and writers have made relating to the environment or native plants. These quotes could become a part of the upcoming 2016 exhibit at the Blowing Rock Art and History Museum.

***The Art of Native Plants,*
May 2016 - July 2016**

If you are an artist, or if you know of an artist who should be included on the invitation to submit, please ask them to send me a note. All submissions will be done online at a future date. All artistic media are to be included.

If you have a favorite quote or artist that you think is appropriate, please send it to trena@tmcnabb.com.

Thank you!



Planting Seeds of Knowledge - Earth Day



Children had fun making native flowers out of Playdough at the Earth Day event in Matthews. Thanks to NCNPS members **Loretta Melancon**, **Will Stuart** and **Pat Lyke** for hosting the booth!



Children planted milkweed at the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden with the help of NCNPS members **Beth Davis** and **Katie Metz**.



Member **Theresa Morr** helped at several Earth Day events, including this one sponsored by Wells Fargo. "NCNPS got a lot of interest at each," she told us.



Christy Larson hosted booths at the Lake Norman Wildlife Conservationists Spring Fling and the Davidson Farmers Market, with the help of her daughter dressed as a butterfly!

Chapter Reports



The Triad Chapter's booth at the Greensboro Earth Day event was a big hit, thanks to the help of NCNPS members **Lynda Waldrep** and **Judy West**.

Blue Ridge Chapter

Spring brought us a new chapter! The **Blue Ridge Chapter**, led by **Mark Rose**, held its first chapter meeting with 31 people in attendance. There were two from Burke County, six from Avery Co., four from Ashe Co., one from Caldwell Co. and the remainder from Watauga.

According to Mark, "We had eight students (the future of the organization) with several who had told me they could not attend due to previous commitments but would attend later. Appalachian State University was well represented and will be a strong supporter as four professors were in attendance. We talked hiking, hospitality, plant rescues, future programs, and committee structure.

"I went on the NCNPS website, and with our new projector, showed folks how to use the site with all the dropdown boxes. Folks seemed most excited about the state events calendar and the photo galleries. My program of the native wildflowers of the state was well received and followed by lots of questions. Overall, it was a big success! Thanks to everyone who helped get this new chapter off and running."

New Native Plant Habitat Certifications

NCNPS certified four new applicants for their Native Habitat program earlier this year. Two are public spaces and two are private gardens.

The **Warren Wilson College** campus in Swannanoa, NC, is the largest space certified to date - 65 acres with 80 percent of the area planted with natives. This was a joint project between an ecology class and the landscaping crew at Warren Wilson College. This project is particularly exciting because of the involvement of a large number of students and its adherence to all of the conservation practices listed on the application.

The second public space certified is the **Sandy Creek Park** in Durham. The park is 103 acres with approximately 10 acres dedicated to native plants. It is on the site of a former sewer treatment plant which, with the help of many volunteers, has been transformed into a much-visited park featuring a butterfly garden, a wetlands area and walking trails. It is also certified as a Monarch Waystation and a Wildlife Habitat. If you go



Joe-pye weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*) at Sandy Creek Park.



Sandy Creek Park Butterfly Garden

to their Facebook page (Friends of Sandy Creek), you will see stunning photos of wildlife. Please visit this lovely park if you are in the Durham area.

The third certified site is the private garden of **Matthew Arnsberger** in Carrboro. His garden is 60 percent dedicated to natives and features a wide variety of species in almost all the categories listed for certification. On a primarily wooded lot, he has many of the iconic trees and plants of the Piedmont.

The last garden certified recently is at the home of **Betty Lou** and **David Chaika** in Chapel Hill. A special feature of this habitat is an extensive area of 14 identified mosses and lichen. Heavily shaded by a large number of both canopy and understory native trees and shrubs, this property has a profusion of wildflowers blooming in summer, spring and fall. A stream running through the garden adds to the beauty of this woodland setting.

-Carolyn Ikenberry

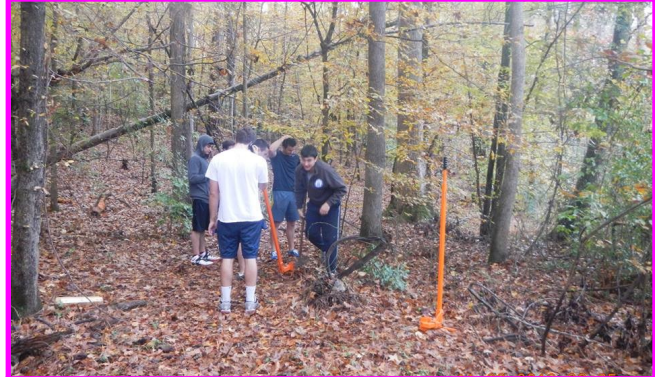
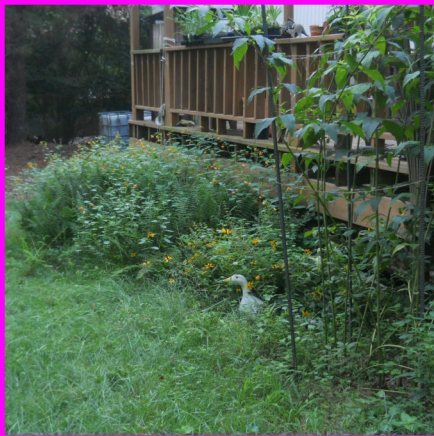
Members wishing to have their properties certified as a Native Plant Habitat can contact Carolyn at cikenberry@earthlink.net

(Photos continue on p17)

Habitat Certifications (cont.)



A lovely setting for natives at the home of Matthew Arnsberger (above and below).



Volunteers remove invasive plants at Sandy Creek Park.



Lush mosses and lichen characterize the Chaika garden.

Member Spotlight!



Mark Rose

There's just no end to the list of plant-focused activities performed by this NCNPS member! Born in Roanoke, VA, Mark operated a certified orchid nursery from 1965 until 2007. He developed an orchid breeding program in 1969 and has produced thousands of successful hybrids. He serves as a speaker and consultant on orchid culture and hybridization, as well as native wildflowers, having made more than 600 presentations across the US and Canada. He's on the board of directors of several organizations and has received several honors, including the Holland Trophy in an international competition sponsored by the Dutch Embassy. "One of my favorite native plants is Pink Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*), which is the plant that in 1953 got my interest in natives started. My goal with natives is to see all the species in their native habitat so as to be able to grow them better."

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

jchiggie@yahoo.com



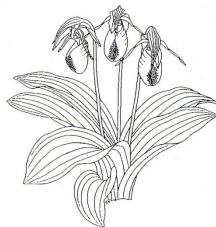
Mark Rose examines one of his favorite native plants, *Pixie Moss* (*Pyxidantha barbulate* var. *brevifolia*).

Welcome New Members!

Robert Abney, Mooresville
James Amoroso, Apex
Sieglind Anderson, Fairview
Matthew Arnberger, Carrboro
Jacob Bachman, Charlotte
Nancy Barnett, Saluda
Becky Blomgren
Carl Bock, Durham
Ruby Boc, Marshall
Emilie Booker, Charlotte
Christopher Boyce, Durham
Christi Brinson, Holly Springs
Ellen Brown, Chapel Hill
Kimberly Brown, Arden
Jason Buchanan, Cary
Judith Bush, Mountain View
Patty Campbell, Chapel Hill
Donald & Virginia Clay, Oxford
Laurie Cousart, Chapel Hill
Ann Cutter, Greensboro
Cindi Davis, Mocksville
Maria de Bruyn, Chapel Hill
William Derr, Asheville
Jason Dittrich, Asheville
Laura Domingo, Kannapolis
Amanda Duncan, Matthews
Terrie Easley, Lowgap
Patricia Elliott, Oxford
Louis Eubanks, Matthews
David Farrier, Kernersville
Heather Fisher, Hillsborough
Corisa Ford, Cary
Roberta Fox, Denver
Suzanne Gill, Charlotte
Tracy Grimm, Mooresville
Paula Gross, Charlotte
Laurette Guay, Jamestown

Don Higgin, Mooresville
Joel Hitt, Clayton
Louise Hord, Matthews
Grant Houlihan, Charlotte
Susan Howe, Morrisville
Joyce Huguelet, Wilmington
WallickThanh Huynh, Charlotte
Jaclyn Inkster, Greenville
Marie James, Wilmington
Larry Jansen, Holly Ridge
Steph Jeffries, Raleigh
Kenneth & Ginger Karb
of Greensboro
Bud Katter, Cornelius
Aleatha Kieffer, Charlotte
Freya Kinner, Sylva
Jeffrey Kline, Charleston
Barb Koch, Chapel Hill
Ron Lance, Mills River
Janice Lewis, Winston Salem
Virginia MacDonald, Brevard
Mona Mandour, Winterville
Tamara Matheson, Carrboro
Nancy Miller, Chapel Hill
JoAnne Miller, Huntersville
Preston Montague, Raleigh
Joan Monte, Charlotte
Michael Morrissey, Durham
Anita Murphy, Mooresville
Judy Murray, Chapel Hill
Ann Noack, Wilmington
Jane Page
Janice & Richard Palmer
of Hillsborough
Phyllis Putnam, Harrisburg
Hal Rubin, Huntersville
Alice Russell, Raleigh

Jim Sams, London
Kate Schiappa, Weaverville
Mary Schneider, Hendersonville
Lee Schrader, Greensboro
Ruta Schuller, Pittsboro
Marilyn Schwabenton
of Greensboro
Ed Schwartzman, Ashville
Iris Schwintzer, Chapel Hill
Robert Shaw, Chapel Hill
Neal Sigmon, Charlotte
Martha Smith, Asheville
Ann Berry Somers, Greensboro
Joanne Sorn, Leicester
Monte Sorrells, Fairview
Katie Stokes, Chapel Hill
Marilyn Sullivan
Carrolyn Taylor, Surf City
Catherine Thomas, Morganton
Roberta Tousey, Mars Hill
Susan Trabka, Durham
Lorelei Trumfio, New London
Ursula Vernon, Pittsboro
Torey Wahlstrom, Chapel Hill
Debra Wallick
Christopher Waltz, Palm Bay
Donnie Werner, Raleigh
Sally Werner, Winston Salem
Marjorie Wiley, Concord
Virginia Willard, Cashiers
Rosemary Wilson, Hillsborough
Robert Wise, Leicester
Loti Woods, Tryon
Steve Young, Pfafftown





North Carolina Native Plant Society

C/O Julie Higgin

176 Huntington LN

Mooresville, NC 28117

**We're
Wild
About
Natives!**



NCNPS members compare notes during the Spring Trip to the Blue Ridge Parkway.