

South Carolina Native Plant Society

Spring 2020

LOWCOUNTRY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER, Volume 22, Issue 1



Hello, happy new year, and happy new decade!

Our board's goals for 2020 are to coordinate an interesting, informative, and fun slate of lectures and field trips for your edification and enjoyment; to help support local native plant nurseries and to increase the diversity of native plants available to homeowners through our spring native plant sale; to bolster the native plant education and conservation efforts of partner organizations through community grants and by sharing news of partner events on our state-wide SCNPS Tiny Letter e-mail list (to subscribe, visit: <https://tinyletter.com/SCNPS>); to conduct supplemental native plant outreach through creating informative Facebook posts and tabling at selected events; to further develop our "recommended natives for the Lowcountry" resources; and ... drumroll, please... to host the biennial state-wide SCNPS Symposium this fall!

What are your native plant goals for 2020? Perhaps you are planning to add more natives to (and/or remove invasive species from) your home landscape? Or to spend heaps of quality time outdoors enjoying the delightful diversity of native plants and the many species of wildlife supported by them? Either way, we're hoping to see you at some of our events this spring!

Community grants reminder: Please encourage a school or other non-profit organization to apply for an SCNPS Project Grant this spring. The Fall 2019 grants funded native plant garden projects at Charles Towne Montessori, J.B. Edwards Elementary, Lakewood Elementary, and Palmetto Scholars Academy. **The deadline for Spring 2020 applications is February 14th.** School projects (up to \$500) should be directed at educating students about Lowcountry native plants or plant communities, and community projects (up to \$1,000) should be directed at protecting, preserving, restoring, and/or educating the public about native plants or plant communities. For application details, visit: <https://scnps.org/lowcountry-2019-2020-grant-opportunities>.

Sharleen Johnson
Lowcountry President

Spring Native Plant Sale!

Saturday, March 21, 9 am - 12 noon

SCNPS Members can start shopping at 8:30! Volunteers can shop at 8:20!

**Charles Towne Landing parking lot
1500 Old Towne Road, Charleston 29407**

We have a great selection of native plants with many hard-to-find species... colorful perennials, shrubs, trees, grasses, ferns and edibles. Cash, check, or credit card accepted. A plant list will be available before the sale on the SCNPS website. Admission to the plant sale is free. If you wish to explore Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site, please pay admission in the visitor center. To learn more about ways you can volunteer before and at the sale, contact Colette DeGarady at cdegarady17@gmail.com or 843-640-1489.

LECTURE SERIES

Monthly meetings for our lecture series are held on the **third Tuesday of the month** at **6:30 pm** in the **Biology Auditorium, 101 Duckett Hall, at The Citadel**. A map is available at this website: <http://www.citadel.edu/root/visitor-parking>. Yellow indicates visitor parking. ***Please join us after each lecture for a reception, including hors d'oeuvres catered by Fast & French!***

January 21: Native Plant Holdings in the CofC, MUSC, and SC Historical Society Collections

Harlan Greene from the College of Charleston, Dr. Brian Fors from the Medical University of South Carolina, and Virginia Ellison from the SC Historical Society will share information about native plant-related resources contained in their institutions' library collections. Highlights will include how and when selected holdings were acquired, how they have been utilized, and how they relate to other items in each collection. They will also feature resources that may be useful for people who wish to conduct research into native plants, and touch on significant holdings in their respective collections related to botany and natural history.

February 18: Stewardship in the ACE Basin & Coastal Geology at Botany Bay

Blaik Keppler and Katie Luciano, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR)

The ACE Basin is named for the confluence of the Ashepoo, Combahee, and Edisto Rivers, and is renowned for its abundant marshes, rich cultural history, and forward-thinking land conservation strategy. The ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve, a joint SCDNR and NOAA program, provides research and monitoring, education and training, and stewardship in the ACE. Blaik Keppler, ACE Basin NERR Manager, will provide an overview of the Reserve and key activities that support stewardship of our coastal resources. Katie Luciano, a Coastal Geologist with SCDNR, will highlight geologic processes impacting Botany Bay Plantation Heritage Preserve, an SCDNR-managed property in the ACE which is experiencing one of the most rapid rates of coastal erosion in South Carolina, and describe some of the features you'll see on the Botany Bay field trip.

March 17: SCNPS's New Carolina Bay, Graduate Research in Riparian Restoration, and More!

*Lisa Lord, Past State SCNPS President, Project Coordinator/Project Director with The Longleaf Alliance
Rebecca Fanning, Master's Student in Environmental Studies at the College of Charleston*

Lisa Lord will share information about the South Carolina Native Plant Society's newest conservation acquisition: Kingsburg Bay. Rebecca Fanning will present on her Master's thesis research using hand-built structures made of logs and tree limbs to repair erosion-incised streams (slow the water, drop out sediment, build stream beds back up) and to envision what restoration should look like from a plant community perspective.

April 21: Audubon South Carolina: Native Plants for the Birds!

Jen McCarthey Tyrrell, Bird-Friendly Communities Coordinator for Audubon South Carolina

Jen Tyrrell will discuss why Audubon, a bird-focused organization, works with native plants for habitat restoration at multiple different scales. Recent studies have shown sharp declines in the populations of many bird species. One solution for bringing birds back is through the use of native plants. Jen will describe how Audubon SC works statewide on large scale projects, review active habitat restoration sites, and discuss the society's urban and suburban planting, outreach, and education programs.

May 19: Using Native Plants to Delineate Wetlands, *Jake Duncan (Co-Owner, Wetlands Instructor, Consulting Botanist and Wildlife Biologist with Duncan & Duncan Wetland & Endangered Species Training; DD WEST)*

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, February 1, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Francis Marion National Forest Cleanup (volunteer opportunity; lunch provided)

Meeting Location: *US Forest Service Office, 2967 Steed Creek Rd, Huger, SC*

On-going cleanup efforts can make a difference. We will join Palmetto Pride, the US Forest Service, and other partner organizations for the 13th annual Francis Marion National Forest Cleanup. Volunteers are encouraged to wear long pants, long-sleeve shirts, and sturdy shoes. Gloves, bags, and vests will be provided. Weather-appropriate outerwear is recommended. Lunch will be served to all volunteers and staff. Contact smorgan@palmettopride.org for more information. To assist with planning, registration at <https://www.palmettopride.org/get-involved/pickup-programs/francis-marion-national-forest-cleanup/> is appreciated.

Saturday, February 22, 10:30 am – 1:30 pm

Botany Bay Plantation Heritage Preserve: Ghost Forest, Coastal Geology, Archeology, and More!

Leaders: Billy McCord, Bess Kellett, and Katie Luciano from the SC Department of Natural Resources

Botany Bay, an SCDNR-managed 3,363-acre Heritage Preserve and Wildlife Management Area on the northern end of Edisto Island, encompasses diverse habitats including barrier island beach, maritime forest, coastal scrub/shrub, upland forest, tidal marshes, and managed wetlands. The preserve also features significant cultural resources such as shell rings (one of which is being actively excavated), Bleak Hall Plantation outbuildings, and elements of the Alexander Bache U.S. Coast Survey Line. We'll start by exploring the uplands with Billy McCord; learn about preserve/WMA management, cultural resources, and birds of Botany Bay from Bess Kellett; enjoy a BYO lunch at picnic tables outside of the preserve office; and wrap up near low tide on Pockoy Island's rapidly eroding beach (up to 75 feet/yr from 2015-2017 as a result of Joaquin, Matthew, and Irma!) to explore the intertidal ghost forest and discuss coastal geological processes and ongoing research with Katie Luciano.

Saturday, March 7, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Partner Event: 2020 Sewee Fire Fest (The Sewee Longleaf Conservation Cooperative)

Location: Awendaw Green, Awendaw, SC

Enjoy live music, food, and games in a family-friendly environment while learning about local organizations that bring safe, controlled prescribed fire to South Carolina's forests. The event will wrap up with a live burn presentation to explain (and then show) how prescribed fires are a safe and effective means to a healthier ecosystem.

Saturday, March 21: Spring Native Plant Sale! Charles Towne Landing. See front page for details.

Saturday, April 25: 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Francis Beidler: Restored Native Grasslands and Old-Growth Cypress-Tupelo Swamp

In the morning, we'll hike the newly opened and developing trail network through former agricultural fields now converted to native grasslands. Following a BYO lunch, options include participating in a 2-hour canoe tour through Four Holes Swamp or exploring the 1.75-mile boardwalk trail.

May: Still in the planning stages... Stay tuned for more details!

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