

## **SC NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY: MIDLANDS CHAPTER UPDATE**

**January, 6 2007**

**This is a preliminary news bulletin to let our Midlands Chapter Members know that we have been working toward developing local field trips for this spring as well as planning a formal Midlands Organizational Meeting at Congaree Bluffs. We don't want you to feel nothing has been done over the winter, and we would like to suggest you hold certain dates as we develop the activity/field trip lists.**

- **We are looking for a different site than last year for a Ft. Jackson visit this month: date and time will be dependent upon our contact person at the Fort**
- **March 10: Spring ephemerals at Stevens Creek (which we hope to follow by one or two more visits there to observe the monthly changes in this extremely rare plant community )**
- **March 31: Late March is perfect to see the *Leiophyllum buxifolium* (Sand Myrtle) in full bloom at Peachtree Rock Heritage Preserve, and trip leader Wayne Grooms (Preserve Manager) knows where to find all the other cool plants there too**
- **April 14: Organizational Meeting and field trip at Congaree Bluffs Heritage Preserve. This unique 200 foot river bluff overlooking the Congaree Swamp has one of the highest diversity plant communities in the Coastal Plain**
- **May 4-6: 10<sup>th</sup> Annual SCNPS State Symposium in Rock Hill**
- **May 12: Another trip to Stevens Creek to see some dramatic changes since our previous visit to this beautiful site**
- **June 9: a Flood Plain site to be determined**
- **Mid to Late June: Rocky Shoals Spider Lilies (*Hymenocallis coronaria*) on the Broad and Congaree Rivers in Columbia. Historically this may have been one of the largest populations**

**of this rare plant in the world until canals, dams, and cotton farming came along. We will venture into the vast shoals to search out and document our remaining stalwarts**

- **July: Bert Pitman plans to announce a date for seed collection of the rare Rocky Shoals Spider Lilies in the River Vista Area; stay tuned for a request for volunteers to help in this endeavor.**
- **July and August: Nothing pre-scheduled (due to heat in Midlands) but we can always get together an unscheduled group activity as requested by members with notification via the list serve**
- **September and October: Sparkleberry Swamp (canoes, kayaks). A visit to newly discovered Georgia Aster populations, a remnant Piedmont Prairie plant, in northern Richland County**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Please feel free to contact those of us working to schedule our activities (in alphabetical order): Ron Chicone (rchicone@yahoo.com), Sudie Daves, Wayne Grooms (Wayne.Grooms@cmc.com), Johnny Hardaway, Tommie Moody (tommiefmr@bellsouth.net), and Bert Pittman. We need feedback relative to the above plans and other thoughts you wish to share.**

**Stay tuned!**