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UPSTATE happenings

AUGUST 2010

Tuesday, Aug 17, 7:00 pm
**The Natural and Cultural Heritage of
Fire in the Southlands**

See story at right. Also, visit www.scnps.org/activities_ups.html to read Johnny Stowe's writings on the interesting ecosystem where he grew up in the mountains, ridges and valleys of northern Georgia, and on woods burning in South Carolina. These are not your average scientific journals.

Tuesday, Sept 21, 7:00 pm
Mosses in the Landscape

Dr. Robert Wyatt, former Director of the Highlands Biological Station, will focus his talk on ten native moss species that make attractive subjects for a range of garden sites. Topics will include where mosses typically grow, how to grow them, which ones to grow, where to obtain them, and beneficial reasons to grow them. Robert has had a long academic career in the field of botany and has won numerous awards for his teaching and research. He is the author of *Ecology and Evolution of Plant Reproduction*. Founders Hall in Dining Commons, Southern Wesleyan University, Central.

Saturday, Oct 2, 9:00-1:00
Fall Native Plant Sale

Fall is the best time to plant. *Save the date!*

Volunteer Needed
Plant Sale Committee
Chair/Coordinator

The Upstate Chapter of SCNPS seeks a volunteer to serve as the Committee Chair/Coordinator of the Plant Sale. The biannual plant sale is the Upstate Chapter's major source of funds. The next sale will be held on Oct 2, 2010, and the new Committee Chair/Coordinator will work with ample assistance from Susan Lochridge, the outgoing Committee Chair, and the Upstate Board as well as an enthusiastic crew of volunteers.

The position allows the incumbent opportunity to become familiar with commercially valuable native plants, their production and marketing as well as professional and amateur suppliers in the region.

Applicants for the Committee Chair/Coordinator of the Plant Sale as well as others interested in holding responsible positions of the Plant Sale Committee should contact Rick Huffman, President of the Upstate Chapter 864-901-7583 or huffmanv@bellsouth.net

The Natural and Cultural Heritage of

Fire in the Southlands

"Wildfire Spreads in Arizona Backcountry," "California Wildfire Threatens Towns," "Fires Burn in Dry Grasslands" ...

Familiar summer headlines like these lead us to think of fire as a destructive force that always changes the landscape for the worse and that must be stopped as soon as possible. Certainly fire is destructive in the short-term, but our understanding of its effects is limited by our own limited life-span, our short written history, and our relatively brief tenure on planet earth.

From a long-term perspective, earth is a "fire planet." Earth is unique among the known planets in having fire. Fire requires a heat source, fuel, and oxygen, and earth alone among the known planets has all three. Humans and fire are inextricably linked, having shaped one another over many millennia.

We humans attempt to control fire for our own purposes — and extinguish it when it doesn't suit our purposes. Our technology, from the simplest and most basic to the most complex and sophisticated, is based on the controlled use of fire in a great variety of forms. From a bonfire for warmth to a rocket trip to the moon, mankind has used fire to make his life more comfortable and interesting. But fire can also make human life uncomfortable, frightening, and dangerous when it burns out of human control.

According to Department of Natural Resources Heritage Preserve Manager Johnny Stowe, our global fire situation today can be summed up as a problem of misdistribution in time and place. We have too much fire in some places/times and not enough in others.

As an outdoorsman, land manager, and DNR biologist, Johnny Stowe has experienced, studied, and managed fire in the Southeastern landscape. He enjoys conducting controlled burns and seeing the results in a renewed meadow, prairie, or long-leaf pine forest, but he is truly fascinated by the natural and human history of fire and the philosophies behind human perceptions and uses of fire.

In August, Johnny will discuss "The Natural and Cultural Heritage
... continued on page 2

Johnny Stowe

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

Tuesday, August 17, 7:00 pm

Greenville Tec @ McAlister Square, 225 S. Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville

For a map and more information, visit http://www.scnps.org/activities_ups.html

South Carolina
Native Plant Society
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Upstate Chapter

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Fire in the Southlands

of Fire in the Southlands." He will touch on philosophies and benefits of burning, both historically and currently, with a look at changes over time. Johnny will illustrate his points with photos of many types of ecosystems. — *Amy Fendley*

Johnny Stowe is a native of the ridge and valley physiographic region of NW Georgia and NE Alabama, where he learned about land management from his Grandpa, Daddy and other wise old timers. He also learned a lot from years of hunting, fishing, hiking, and working in the woods.

Johnny earned his BS in Timber Management and his MFR in Wildlife Ecology and Management from the University of Georgia. Since 1996 he has been Heritage Preserve Manager for the South Carolina DNR's Heritage Trust Program, restoring and managing longleaf pine sandhills and wet savannas, switchcane and other grassland species, and wetland ecosystems.

Plant-hunting...

One great thing about Greenville County's letting SCNPS rescue plants at Twin Chimneys landfill is that this site encompasses 1000 acres of varying habitat. This fall we'll be working in an area new to us, and since plants are easier to recognize now than they will be in December, a scouting trip was in order. In late June Bill Sharpton, Janine McCreery, and Janie Marlow set out to do that, finding among other things Late-flowering Boneset (*Eupatorium serotinum*), Skullcap (*Scutellaria*), Spiked Hoarypea (*Tephrosia spicata*), Butterfly Pea (*Clitoria mariana*), and something else interesting and unfamiliar .

Its leaves were easy to overlook, lying pretty much flat on the ground, but 2 feet up, on a mostly leafless stem, was a loose corymb of intensely purple flowers. Striking! Investigation proved this to be Stemless Ironweed (*Vernonia acaulis*), a plant never before recorded as having been found in Greenville County. Pretty soon there'll be a new dot on the map!

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EMAIL.LISTSERV

keeping us connected

If you are a member of the South Carolina Native Plant Society and are not subscribed to our Yahoo email group, you are missing out on timely information about upcoming meetings, field trips, plant rescues, calls to action, and other activities.

How do I sign up?

YahooGroups offers several ways to sign up — and can seem a bit intimidating. Following the steps below should take you straight through the maze!

- 1) Using the email address that you want to use on the ListServ, send an email to scnps-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
- 2) You will receive an automatic response:
"Subject: Please confirm your request to join scnps"
- 3) Click the link provided in this email, which will take you to a web page which gives you the opportunity to
 - a) join this YahooGroup
 - b) join this mailing list only
- 4) Click "Join this mailing list."
- 5) In 200 characters or less, tell the Moderator your name and

address so that he can verify that you are a current member of SCNPS, then submit the form.

6) You will then receive two emails:

a) one from YahooGroups with notes on using the ListServ and an invitation to join YahooGroups.

Joining YahooGroups is optional.

b) one from the SCNPS Moderator welcoming you and providing tips on using the SCNPS ListServ.

7) You're done!

What if I want out?

To remove yourself from the list at any time, send an email to scnps-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

How do I update my email address?

If you were subscribed previously but stopped receiving messages because of an email address change, simply subscribe again from your new email address.

What if I have a question?

If you have any questions or concerns about your subscription, please address them to scnps-owner@yahoogroups.com