

UPSTATE happenings

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www.scnps.org

DEC 2009



October-November: Native Plant Seed Collection Field Trips

Only one weekend of our seed collection outings left this year, this one focusing on the Francis Marion National Forest in Berkeley County. We will collect seed of native grasses and forbs (*yes, you may keep a few for your garden*).

If you would like to participate, please register by Thursday via email (catboyz@nctv.com) or phone (864-979-8034). Provide date(s), name, phone # (cell phone if available), where you will meet the van, number of participants.

SCNPS will provide transportation to and from collection sites. Volunteers may meet the vans at any location indicated as a meeting site. We will eat lunch at nearby restaurants. You might want to pack snacks and water.

Stringer cell phone: 864-979-3169

Saturday, Nov 21, Berkeley County

6:00 Meet at Hardee's @ US 123/US 178 in Liberty; 6:30 Home Depot @ Woodruff Rd in Greenville; 8:00 Parking lot across from Radisson in Columbia; 10:00 Halfway Creek Campground in Francis Marion NF (*overnite**)

Sunday, Nov 22, Berkeley County

9:00 Meet at Halfway Creek Campground in Francis Marion NF

**Unlike in the past, SCNPS cannot help with lodging this year. We will locate inexpensive lodging near the site (probably Moncks Corner).*

Wednesday, December 2

Field Trip: Turkey Creek Trail in the Clemson Forest

Well-known naturalist and NPS member, John Garton, assisted by Ette Ruppert, will lead a late fall outing on the newly designated and marked Turkey Creek Trail in the north Clemson Forest. Easy-to-moderate walking of 3.8 miles. We plan to offer more seasonal hikes on other Clemson Forest trails during this next year.

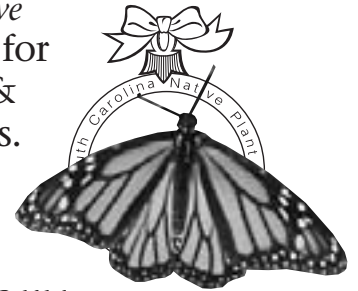
To register, call Janine McCreery at 864-238-3253 and tell her your name, phone number, and email address. Outing limited to 20 participants. Preference given to paid-up NPS members.

... continued on page 2, Upcoming Events

Christmas party!

It's time for the Upstate Chapter's Christmas Party!

Bring finger food! Bring a gift to exchange! (*the gift is optional; those who bring something will receive something*) There will be opportunities for Christmas shopping! books, t-shirts & caps, and some hard-to-find gift ideas.



the Monarch — miracle and mystery

In August John and Carolyn Turner invited us to come and see the butterflies and host plants in their lovely garden in Six Mile. In December they will invite us to come and see — vicariously — the Monarch butterfly wintering grounds in Michoacán, Mexico. Their February 2007 trip, postponed for a year and nearly thwarted by the retirement of their original trip leader, was the fulfillment of a lifetime dream.

John and Carolyn will summarize the natural history of the Monarch butterfly as well as the history of scientific study of the Monarch's flight — research that began with the mystery of its wintering grounds and continues with the mystery of its flight patterns and navigational abilities. Current studies seek to understand how the tenth generation of butterflies born in the US unerringly knows the way to the wintering grounds in Mexico.

The Turners will also describe the threats to the Monarchs as host plants are destroyed in both Mexico and the US, as well as some of the efforts to overcome those threats in both countries. Their butterfly garden is one such effort, but their garden is not the Turners' only activity in behalf of the Monarch population. For the last two years, they have also tagged Monarch butter

... continued on page 2

Carolyn & John Turner
Tuesday, Dec 15, 7:00 pm

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

For more information, visit www.scnps.org

**South Carolina
Native Plant Society**
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Upstate Chapter

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Upcoming Events *... continued from page 1.*

Meet at 9:30 at the Forest gate. Bring lunch and a drink. *Directions:*

If coming from Clemson, turn left off Rt 133 at a water tower just past Maws Grocery Store, a few miles north of Clemson, past Daniel High School, on the way to Six Mile.

Folks arriving from Hwy 11 should take 133 south through Six Mile and a few miles beyond to the right turn just before Maws Grocery Store.

Carpooling is encouraged: Greenville folks can meet at the Walmart @ 6119 White Horse Rd, in the corner of the parking lot nearest Ryans, leaving there at 8:30 am. Travel on Hwy 123 to Clemson. Turn right onto Rt 133 at the railroad viaduct on Clemson Blvd.

Saturday, Dec 5, 8:30 am **Prairie Restoration** & Invasive Species Work Day at **Conestee Nature Park.**

Plant Rescue at Twin Chimneys

Today we will learn techniques for removing invasive species such as Chinese Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) and Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*).

We will also rescue plants from Twin Chimneys in the morning (*yes, volunteers do get to take a few plants home :-)*, and we will continue our prairie restoration at Conestee Nature Park in the afternoon.

A carpool will leave at 8:00 am from the Home Depot parking lot on South Pleasantburg Dr in Greenville. For those coming from other areas and wanting to carpool, meet at the Clock Restaurant on SC Hwy 25 south just past the 185 toll road, ready to depart at 8:10.

We'll be at the Greenville County landfill at 8:30 and remove plants until about 11:00, then have lunch at the Clock. (If you cannot be there in the morning, you can meet us at the Conestee site a little

before 1:00.) At Conestee we will put these plants into the ground, and plan to be done by mid-afternoon.

Please sign up with Bill Sharpton, gsharpton@aol.com This will allow us to better plan the day's agenda, and it is the only way we can know whom to contact if there is a change of plans, rain delay, etc! Be sure to provide a phone number!

Bring gloves, shovel or sharp-shooter; wear long pants.

Directions to the Twin Chimneys Landfill plant rescue site: From Greenville, take US Hwy 25 South to Ware Place (where 418 & 8 intersect 25). Go south approximately 7.5 miles; turn left onto West Ridgeway; bear right onto Traynham Rd.

Directions to Conestee Nature Park (see map at www.conestee.org): From the intersection of I-85 and South Pleasantburg Dr/Hwy 291 (Exit 46), follow SC 291 South for 1.1 miles and turn left at the traffic light onto Old Augusta Rd; after 0.4 miles turn left (gas station on corner) onto Fork Shoals Rd. Follow Fork Shoals Rd 0.2 miles then turn left onto Henderson Ave and follow til it ends (~ 0.6 miles); the entrance to the parking lot is on the right.

The prairie is located northeast of the Henderson Ave parking lot off an old road bed.

Signs will be posted.

Hey-where-are-you-guys phone number for the day: Cathy Foster 864-202-5062.

Tuesday, Dec 15, 7:00 pm **Christmas Party! & the fascinating mystery of the Monarch butterfly** *See story page 1.*

Tuesday, Jan 19, 7:00 pm **Green Blessings Everywhere: Medicine at Our Feet**

Anderson herbalist Robin McGee will discuss some of our local plants and trees

and how she uses them for medicine. She will share stories of clients, family, and friends she has helped with the medicine that grows around us. Founders Hall, Southern Wesleyan University, Central.

Tuesday, Feb 16, 7:00 pm **Against the Grain: Crisis and Hope in our Grasslands**

Our speaker is Patrick McMillan, botanist, naturalist, host and co-creator of the award-winning ETV nature program, *Expeditions*. Greenville.

the Monarch — miracle and mystery

... continued from page 1.

flies. The tags are provided by *Monarch Watch*, an organization involved in tagging, research, education, and preservation efforts (to learn more, see www.monarchwatch.com).

Most of all, Carolyn and John want their listeners to share the awe and amazement they felt at the sight of millions of Monarchs clinging in layers to the trees high in the Michoacán mountains and in flight down the mountains as the day warmed. Come and see the Monarch butterflies in Mexico — your tour guides are ready, and plane flights, bus rides and mountain climbing are not required!

— Amy Fendley