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information, go to
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UPSTATE happenings

FEB 2010

Saturday, January 23 Prairie Restoration Conestee Nature Park

with a Plant Rescue at Twin Chimneys
We will 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 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.conesteeperk.com): 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, Feb 16, 7:00 pm
Against the Grain: Crisis and Hope in our Grasslands
See story at right.

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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Against the Grain: Crisis and Hope in our Grasslands

Patrick McMillan says his education really began in Alleghany County, NC. His childhood there consisted of one long walk through the woods, punctuated by pesky daily tasks like school and dinner. He spent every day familiarizing himself with the area's woods, fields and streams. By the time he entered UNC his explorations had already documented plants formerly unknown in North Carolina. Patrick is still walking, exploring, learning, and discovering....



The grassy balds found on Appalachian peaks such as Roan Mountain are wonderful places. These high altitude wonders give visitors breathtaking sights both far — miles & miles of mountains and valleys — and near — unusual plants and flowers at their feet.

While no species are recognized as unique to grassy balds, there are regionally endemic and rare species of mammals, birds, and vascular plants associated with grasslands and high-elevation climates. The list of plants includes the spectacular Gray's lily (*Lilium grayi*), Blue Ridge goldenrod (*Solidago spithamaea*), Roan Mountain bluet (*Houstonia montana*), Spreading avens (*Geum radiatum*), rock gnome lichen (*Gymnoderma lineare*), and alder flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*).

Big grazing animals — “mega-herbivores” — may be the salvation of the Appalachian Mountains' disappearing grassy balds.

Invading brush and trees are changing and destroying these unique grassland communities. Land managers have tried burning, mowing, even grazing goats, with limited success. Now, The Nature Conservancy, in conjunction with other groups, is working on plans to re-introduce an historic mega-herbivore — bison — to a North Carolina grassy bald. Their hope is that bison, found to be essential to the restoration and maintenance

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PLEASE NOTE
THAT WE ARE
NOT MEETING
IN OUR USUAL
LOCATION!

Patrick McMillan Tuesday, Feb 16, 7:00 pm

J Verne Smith Technical Resource Center Auditorium
Main Campus of Greenville Tec, 620 South Pleasantburg Dr,
Greenville

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

plant sale!
Save the date!



APRIL	1	2	3
4	5	6	7
8	9	10	
11	12	13	14
15	16	17	
18	19	20	21
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29	30		

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Upstate Chapter

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PATRICK McMILLAN

Against the Grain: Crisis and Hope in our Grasslands ...from page 1

of Great Plains grasslands, will be the salvation of our grassy balds.

In February, Patrick McMillan will explain this exciting and controversial experiment. He will also introduce us to grasslands in general and grassy balds in particular, with their histories, unique plant and animal communities, and current status.

Patrick, who writes and hosts the ETV nature program *Expeditions*, has spent years exploring and documenting plant and animal life in the Southern Appalachians. Through *Expeditions*, he has also worked in grasslands across the continent and reports "Their story has had a profound impact on my view of ecology and the environmental movement here in the US."

Unique Video Footage

We will be among the first to see unique video footage capturing a riveting duel between black-footed ferret and prairie dog. Patrick recorded this on a recent trip to the grasslands of South Dakota, where he was with a team inoculating black-footed ferrets (*Mustela nigripes*) against bubonic plague.

The endangered ferrets, which had been re-introduced following a captive-breeding program, were thriving until a new threat arose: Plague ravaging the prairie dog colonies is spreading to the prairie dogs' predators, the ferrets. Patrick's exciting video, the first to capture a confrontation between ferret and prairie dog, vividly illustrates the vitality — and the challenges — of life for the many creatures that depend on the health of our grasslands. — *Amy Fendley*

Patrick McMillan is well-known as a botanist, naturalist, and host and co-creator of the award-winning ETV nature program Expeditions. He received his BS in Biology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and his PhD in Biological Sciences from Clemson University, where he is currently Director of the Campbell Museum of Natural History.

Other events of interest

Thursday, Feb 18, 5:30 pm Meet the Natives!

SCNPS charter member Joe Townsend will present a sort of "Native Plants 101," an introduction to the familiar wildflowers of our area. Hosted by the Pickens County Museum of Art & History located at the corner of Hwy 178 at 307 Johnson St in Pickens. See www.co.pickens.sc.us/culturalcommission/events.asp

Saturday, Feb 20, 1:00 pm Wildflower Propagation Workshop

There's something magical about plant propagation, and natives have their special needs. Joe Townsend will share his techniques in this 3-hour workshop presented by the Pickens County Museum of Art & History, Hwy 178 at 307 Johnson St in Pickens. See www.co.pickens.sc.us/culturalcommission/events.asp

Upcoming Events

... continued from page 1.

Saturday, Feb 20, 10:00 am Workday: Station Cove

Station Cove is perhaps the Upstate's premier wildflower site, and Spring is around the corner. Before it comes, we'd like to clear out some honeysuckle and do a little maintenance on that great trail that SCNPS members built!

Meet at the trailhead* at 10:00. We will work til "lunchtime." Bring your lunch & drink, gloves, and loppers if you have them.

Sign up (be sure to give your phone #) with John Garton, kgjg59@hotmail.com

*Directions: Travel north on Hwy 11 above Walhalla, turn left at Picketts Post Community at the sign for Oconee Station. Drive past the park entrance on your right; the trailhead will be on your left.

March 5-6-7 Home & Garden Show

Thanks to the generosity of the Home Builders Association of Greenville, we again have a 20-ft booth. Almost twenty thousand people at Greenville's Carolina First Center have an opportunity to learn about native plants and about SCNPS — *if you will help staff our booth!* Participants receive an exhibitor's badge and a pass to the exhibitor's parking lot, both good for the duration of the show.

Show hours/Volunteer shifts:

March 5, Friday, 12 noon to 8 pm
Shift: 12-3 or 3-6 or 6-8

March 6, Saturday, 10 am to 8 pm
Shift: 10-1 or 1-3 or 3-6 or 6-8

March 7, Sunday, 1 pm to 6 pm
Shift: 1-3 or 3-6

Sign up at a meeting, or email Bill Sharpton: gsharpton@aol.com

Tuesday, March 16, 7:00 pm More Natives in Home Landscapes — Lawn, Meadow, Prairie

You can bring more songbirds into your landscape with modified lawn plantings, meadow and prairie areas, and Bill Stringer will show us native grass and wildflower species that can best contribute in these scenarios. Central.