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UPSTATE happenings

JULY 2010

Saturday, July 17, 8:00 am
Field Trip: Lee Falls

Joe Townsend will lead us to a 75-foot falls which has been called Oconee County's most scenic waterfall. To see it we travel through a hardwood hollow wealth of botanical rarities such as Oconee Bell (*Shortia galacifolia*) and Bulblet Fern (*Cystopteris bulbifera*). A spray cliff buttresses the waterfall allowing a quasi aquatic habitat for amphibians, mosses and ferns that thrive in the moist coolness. There is no official trail but a path has been worn over time. It is 1.5 miles. Difficulty will be determined before hike date.

Meet at the Holly Springs Store dirt parking area at 8:00 am. For more information and registration contact Mary at mmcnettles@gmail.com.

Thursday, July 22
Field Trip: Coon Branch Trail /
Lower Whitewater Falls

After hearing Richard Figlar at the July 20th meeting you may want to see the largest Fraser Magnolia in the state. It is located in a 20-acre virgin forest of aging hardwoods and rhododendrons. We will cross five footbridges as we travel through the habitat of raccoons, beaver, bobcats, bear and feral hogs and we will probably be serenaded by warblers, tanagers and vireos. Oh, and did I mention this is also the location of Whitewater Falls?

This is an easy outing and a good place for a picnic. Registration and details provided at mmcnettles@gmail.com

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

Johnny Stowe learned about land management from his Grandpa, Daddy, and several wise old men and women, added to that with years of living close to the land, then capped it with degrees in Wildlife Ecology and Timber Management. Since 1996 he has been Heritage Preserve Manager for SC DNR's Heritage Trust Program. Greenville Tec @ McAlister Square, 225 S Pleasantburg Dr, Greenville.

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

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Magnolias of South Carolina – Their Origin, Distribution and Complex Evolutionary History

South Carolina could legitimately have chosen the magnolia as the state tree. All six US species are represented here, and magnolias grow in nearly every South Carolina county. Although the palmetto is our state tree and Mississippi claims the magnolia, magnolias are an important and fascinating part of the South Carolina environment.

While magnolias are not really common anywhere, they are nevertheless widely distributed. In some ways, their success is surprising. This species is comparatively inefficient at reproduction. Unlike oaks and maples, magnolias do not mass-produce seeds and distribute them widely; instead they depend on birds for seed distribution. Magnolias can't compete in a forest canopy; they must have sunlight to grow. And these trees are slow growers even in sunny spots.

But the magnolia is a survivor. It is still here after 60 million years and it managed to migrate south to a warmer climate during the last Ice Age. Somehow, one species, *M. tripetala*, which is related more closely to Asian species than to any American species, got here long before humans did. It didn't need human help to cross oceans. Magnolias survive severe winters in the northeastern states, where they are popular, and also grow as far south as the Caribbean. And magnolias do get some human help these days: *M. grandiflora* is the most-planted American tree in other countries.

Richard Figlar, magnolia researcher and enthusiast, thoroughly enjoys sharing his extensive knowledge of the magnolia. His July program, while providing a solid basis of knowledge about magnolia characteristics, distribution, and status, is sure to include delightful descriptions of the species' unusual and surprising characteristics.

Figlar will discuss each of South Carolina's magnolia species and varieties, including their habitats, phylogenetic relationships, and conservation status. He will describe the latest developments regarding the origin and evolution of South Carolina's magnolias within the context of the 240 species that are found worldwide. Finally, he will review the current efforts of the Global Trees Campaign, Fauna & Flora International, and Botanic Gardens Conservation International in their "Red List of Magnoliaceae" campaign

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Richard Figlar

Tuesday, July 20, 7:00 pm

Founders Hall in Dining Commons, Southern Wesleyan University, Central

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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Magnolias of South Carolina ... cont from page 1

which puts 121 of the 240 known magnolia species under variously threatened to critically endangered status. — Amy Fendley

Richard Figlar has been growing and studying magnolias for 35 years and has published numerous popular and scientific papers on the subject. He has appeared on Walter Edgar's Journal (SC ETV radio), NPR segments, and other programs. For the past 15 years his focus has been magnolia taxonomy. He and a colleague, Dr. Hans Nooteboom of National Herbarium of The Netherlands, are responsible for the new classification of Magnoliaceae which is now widely used in science and horticulture.

Figlar's garden near Six Mile serves as both a test garden for untried species of magnolia and an ex situ collection of rare species for conservation and further study.

Tentative settlement regarding the North Saluda River

A tentative agreement has been reached between the Cliffs Communities and several conservation organizations resolving the dispute about wastewater treatment and golf course design at the Cliffs at Mountain Park, a development off of scenic Hwy 11 in northern Greenville County.

Originally, the Cliffs planned to discharge treated wastewater into the North Saluda River, which currently supports a population of trout. Their golf course was to have 16 bridges and 9 playovers spanning the river, unlimited use of river water for irrigation, substantial river rechannelization, and very limited vegetative buffers. There was an outcry

from the public; and concerned conservation groups, including Upstate Forever, the South Carolina Native Plant Society, Trout Unlimited, the Sierra Club, and Save Our Saluda, mounted a legal appeal.

The revised plan allows 8 bridges and 9 playovers, sets limits on the amount of water that can be withdrawn from the river, and eliminates most of the channel alteration. Treated wastewater will be discharged onto nearby land.

There will be a continuous conservation buffer along both sides of the river, most of which will be at least 30' wide, consisting of trees and other plants native to the Blue Ridge Mountains. This will help to protect the river from chemical pollutants typical of golf course runoff, as well as providing a wildlife corridor through the development.

"We continue to believe that this is not a good site for a golf course, but at least the impacts on the North Saluda will be substantially reduced," said Brad Wyche, Executive Director of Upstate Forever.

Native Plants in the Landscape Scholarships

Two South Carolina applicants have been awarded scholarships, funded by SCNPS, to this summer's Native Plants in the Landscape Conference in Cullowhee, NC.

A scholarship was awarded to Nancy Martin in the beginning professional category. A retired educator, Martin and her son, Michael, recently started a native plant nursery in Seneca called Natural Natives Inc, producing plants from seeds and cuttings.

Also in the beginning professional category, a scholarship was awarded to Chad Hoffman of Cayce, SC. He and his wife recently established Greener Habitats Inc, a sustainable design/build landscape architectural firm in Cayce.

The annual Cullowhee Conference: Native Plants in the Landscape will be held July 28-31, 2010, on the campus of Western Carolina University. Scholarship are awarded each year to students, young professionals and educators in related fields. Now in its 27th year, the regional gathering attracts a wide array of professional folks and home gardeners for field trips, lectures, networking sessions and fun. This year's keynote speaker is renowned botanist Peter H. Raven, hailed by Time magazine as a "Hero for the Planet" for his advocacy of biodiversity and conservation.

For more information and/or registration, see <http://nativeplantconference.wcu.edu>.

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botany and has won numerous awards for his teaching and research. He is the author of *Ecology and Evolution of Plant Reproduction*. Southern Wesleyan University, Central.