



For updates and more
information, go to
www.scnps.org

UPSTATE happenings

MAY 2010

Saturday, April 24, 11:00-3:00
Annual Friends Day

at Paris Mountain State Park

NPS will have a display table at this event, which showcases conservation, good resource management, and environmental education. Volunteers? Contact Cathy Foster (catreas@charter.net).

May 7-8-9

12th Annual Symposium

**NUR
NATURE**
It's our turn

**Magnolia Plantation & Gardens
Charleston, SC**

Come enjoy a delightful and insightful weekend along the banks of the beautiful Ashley River.

Our guest lecturer, co-sponsored by the Charleston Parks Conservancy, will be Doug Tallamy, author of Bringing Nature Home. Doug will also guide a butterfly walk during our broad array of afternoon programs.

We will end the weekend with a choice of field trips: Francis Beidler Forest, tranquil Mepkin Abbey, historic Hampton Park, a few heritage preserves, Magnolia Plantation and more. For more information, go to www.scnps.org/symposium.html

Saturday, May 8, 9:45 am
**Field Trip: Sassafras Mountain to
Chimneytop Gap, Foothills Trail**

Diane Creaton will lead us to Pink Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*), Fairy Wand (*Chamaelirium luteum*), Showy Orchis (*Orchis spectabilis*), Flame Azeala (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*), and other native plants. We may also see a lot of butterflies and birds as Sassafras trees (*Sassafras albidum*) are a larval &/or food source for Promethea Silkmoth and Spicebush and Pale Swallowtails, and provide nesting sites and food for a variety of birds.

This is a moderate hike of 2.7 miles (mostly downhill) that begins at the highest point (3,554') in SC. May take 2-1/2 hours so pack a lunch.

To sign up, email Mary Nettles mmcnettles@gmail.com or call Janine McCreery at 864-238-3253. Please give your name, phone number, e-address and which outing you wish to attend.

We will meet at Holly Springs Store at the intersection of Hwys 178 & 11 in the unpaved parking area at 9:45 am.

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Cast in Stone - Ancient Plants

South Carolina has a great variety of habitats – mountains, piedmont, sand hills, coastal plain, tidal marsh, and more – and a corresponding variety of plant life. We know that some of the plants found in damp, shady mountain coves are remnants of an earlier ice age when the climate was much cooler and wetter. But what about other species found in our state? Did they live here in prehistoric times or are they recent arrivals?

Paleontologist Chris Cicimurri, Curator of Education at Clemson University's Bob Campbell Geology Museum, says that most plants on the long list of South Carolina natives are represented in the fossil record by an ancestral form. As part of her program, "Cast in Stone – Ancient Plants," Chris will compare some of our modern species to the fossil records of their ancient ancestors.

Chris plans to begin her presentation with an overview of plants from the first simple organisms to the complex variety of species that we see around us. She will describe the evolution of types of plants – grasses or flowering plants, for instance – in the context of other developments that took place at the same time.

With that background in place, she will discuss specific plants. She will show us "living fossil" plants that have changed very little with time, such as the Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*), which was thought to be extinct until the 1940's, when living specimens were discovered in China. Chris will also discuss some local plants with interesting fossil histories, illustrating with photos, drawings, and the fossils themselves.

If this intrigues you, several of the spring walks and seminars offered by Bob Campbell Museum will provide more information about the geologic history of this part of the country. On May 25, Chris will lead a nature discovery walk: "Living Fossils of the Garden," to find living examples of ancient species. The museum's June 9 seminar, "Backyard Geology – Carolina Fossils," will answer questions about where to find fossils in South Carolina and how to identify fossils you have found. See www.clemson.edu/public/geomuseum for more information about these and other programs at the museum. — Amy Fendley

Christian Cicimurri has been the Curator of Education at Clemson University's Bob Campbell Geology
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Chris Cicimurri

Clemson University's Bob Campbell Geology Museum

Tuesday, May 18, 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
PO Box 491
Norris, SC 29667
Upstate Chapter**

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Upcoming Events... cont from p 1

Tuesday, May 18, 7:00 pm
Cast in Stone — Ancient Plants
See story on page 1.

Saturday, May 22, 10:00 am
**Woodruff School District Cross-Country
Trail, in Spartanburg County**

See the northern-most population of the sweet-smelling May White Azalea (*Rhododendron eastmanii*) in bloom, and more, guided by Newberry College's Dr Charles Horn, assisted by Kathleen Soza.

Register by emailing Eva Pratt: evaoncompton@gmail.com, providing name, phone number, email address, and which outing. (Ask Eva for directions if you need them.)

Meet in the parking lot of Woodruff High School at 710 Cross Anchor Hwy in Woodruff. Hey-where-are-you-guys phone number for the day is 864-529-8890.

**Saturday, June 5, &
Sunday, June 6**
Spring Natives

Seed Collection Field Trips

We will tour country roadsides and see lots of native grass and wildflower species, including silky oatgrass, needlegrass, Indiangrass and several of the bluestems, at least two species of false indigo, goat's rue, sunflowers, milkweeds, ragwort, compass plant, penstemon, asters, columbine, as well as a few spring ephemerals in the edge of the woods. We will collect seeds of native perennial forbs and grasses with matured seed. (Meeting sites, times, and other details to come.)

Also of interest:

Registration is now open for the 27th annual Cullowhee Conference: Native Plants in the Landscape, set July 27-31, 2010, on the campus of Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC. Featured speakers include renowned diversity expert Peter H. Raven (hailed as a "Hero for the Planet" by Time magazine), who will deliver the keynote address; and botanist Patrick McMillan, the effervescent host of the Emmy-nominated TV show "Expeditions," which airs on PBS stations around the country. Many of the conference participants return to Cullowhee year after year to relish its field trips, workshops, fascinating programs, native plant and book sales, unparalleled networking opportunities and decidedly casual atmosphere. Attendees include botanists, ecologists, backyard gardeners, educators, designers, growers and horticulturalists from around the Southeast.

For more information about scholarships, the conference or registration, visit <http://nativeplantconference.wcu.edu>



PHOTO BY STEVE MARLOW

Plant Sale report & thank you!

I want to thank personally everyone who helped make our Spring plant sale a huge success!! Our new location proved a good site and the weather couldn't have been better. BUT it was the faithful Upstate Chapter members who made it happen! You helped haul, price, arrange, and sell a beautiful selection of native plants for the increasingly aware public. Without this effort on YOUR part, the sale could not have gone so smoothly nor have been as successful. You have helped generate funds to support our educational programs, restoration projects, and outreach efforts. You can be as proud of yourselves as I am proud of you!

Thank you for everything,
Susan Lochridge, Plant Sale Chair

Ancient Plants

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Museum since 2000. Chris earned her B.S. in Anthropology from Rutgers University and her Master's in Paleontology from the South Dakota School of Mines in Rapid City, SD, and has worked in museums in NJ and MN. She has also worked at several national parks in western states, where she says it was much easier to find interesting rocks and fossils than it is around here – western rocks aren't all covered up by plants!