

South Carolina Native Plant Society

Lowcountry Chapter Newsletter

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1721 Babington Way
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Happy 2009! We've got some great programs lined up to kick-start a fabulous new year! We are also resuming our Native Plant Sale this spring at Charles Towne Landing. Mark your calendar for April 18th! Be sure to renew your membership this January because current NPS members can shop early at our plant sale. See details below.

The Lowcountry chapter is doing our part to help reduce unnecessary paper use and spending. If you'd like to stop receiving paper newsletters and postcards in the mail, email our Membership Chair, Nat Benson, at nat@cothranandbenson.com. You can check for updates and download our entire newsletter on our website www.scnps.org. We also use the NPS listserv to contact members via email with field trip changes or to post last-minute opportunities. If you're a member and want to be added to the email listserv, contact harry.davis@scnps.org to sign-up.

Our Fall 2008 \$500 Community Project grant was awarded to Nikki Seibert with Sea Island Habitat for Humanity. Nikki is spearheading several projects to help raise awareness for native plant gardening through her work with Sea Island Habitat for Humanity. To learn more about these grants, see details in this newsletter. The deadline for the Spring grant is February 1st.

Colette DeGarady
President, Lowcountry Chapter of the SC Native Plant Society

Spring 2008 Native Plant Sale!
Saturday, April 18th, 9am-12pm
SCNPS Members can start shopping at 8:30!
Charles Towne Landing, parking lot
1500 Old Towne Road, Charleston

We continue to hold our plant sales in the parking lot of Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site. Come and buy those hard-to-find plants! This year we will have pitcher plants for sale and will hold a bog garden seminar at 10 am so you can learn how to create this unique garden in your backyard. Admission to the plant sale and seminar are free. If you wish to explore the park on your own, please pay admission in the Visitor Center. For more information, contact Colette DeGarady, cdegarady@tnc.org, 937-8807 ext 15; or visit www.scnps.org.

MEETING LOCATION FOR LECTURE SERIES

Monthly meetings for our lecture series are typically held on the **third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm** at the **Biology Auditorium, 101 Duckett Hall, at The Citadel**. There is ample visitor parking along the west and south sides of Summerall Field directly across from Duckett. Visitors can also park free after 5 pm in faculty lots behind Duckett and Bond Hall. For directions and further information visit: <http://www.citadel.edu/publicsafety/citadelmaps.html> Please join after each lecture for a reception including hors d'oeuvres and wine, plus free native plant give-aways!

LECTURE SERIES SCHEDULE

January 20, 6:30 pm Biology Auditorium, 101 Duckett Hall at The Citadel

(Don't) pick your poison: poisonous plants of South Carolina

Joel Gramling, Botanist and Assistant Professor at The Citadel

The flora of South Carolina is full of plant species with many useful properties. Unfortunately, some well-known and not-so-well-known plants can be harmful. This talk reveals the dirty little secrets of some commonly found plants in our region, how this may benefit the plants and how to identify the good from the bad.

February 17, 6:30 pm Biology Auditorium, 101 Duckett Hall at The Citadel

English Gardens and Conservation efforts

Colette DeGarady, Conservation Ecologist at The Nature Conservancy

After a four-week trip to Great Britain (Thanks Rotary International and East Cooper Breakfast Club!), Colette will share ideas and pictures of English gardens and protected lands from the East Anglia region of England. This is a unique area of peat fenlands and quaint farmlands competing for space. On her travels, Colette met with conservation biologists, naturalists, farmers, gardeners and nurserymen to understand how land conservation was conducted in England and where native plant communities fit in.

March 17, 6:30 pm Biology Auditorium, 101 Duckett Hall at The Citadel

Tom Johnson, Director of Gardens at Magnolia Plantation

Learn about the planning for and care of the romantic gardens of Magnolia Plantation. Many types of plants adorn the paths, including one of the largest collections of ancient camellias in the country. Many varieties of older camellias can be seen here that cannot be found anywhere else. The azalea collection is unequalled anywhere, and this year they have installed a new garden of native azaleas.

April 21, 6:30 pm Biology Auditorium, 101 Duckett Hall at The Citadel

Butterfly Observations from Cypress Gardens

Dwight Williams, Director at Cypress Gardens

Dwight Williams is the Director and Entomologist at Cypress Gardens in Moncks Corner. He has been an avid butterfly observer for over ten years and will talk about the long-term butterfly surveys that have been conducted at Cypress Gardens. Dwight will also identify and discuss the plants, both native and exotic, that are being used as nectar and host plants around the gardens.

May 19, 2008 Biology Auditorium, 101 Duckett Hall at The Citadel

Native Plants in the Urban Landscape

Greg Paige, Arboretum Curator at Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories

Diversity in our gardens and landscape is very important. Greg will discuss incorporating native trees and shrubs into urban landscapes. Planting, cultural care, selecting for quality and some good performers will also be discussed. Greg has a long and diverse career working in public horticulture for over 15 years. This span includes working at Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden in Belmont, North Carolina; the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College outside Philadelphia; and the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC.

FIELD TRIPS and WORKSHOPS

Saturday, January 24 1-3pm \$5 members/ \$10 non-members

***Indigo Dye Workshop* Hampton Park Greenhouse, 30 Mary Murray Drive Charleston**

Hosted by the City of Charleston Horticulture Division with guest Artisan Arianne King-Comer.

Arianne will show us how to batik (with wax) designs onto fabric using dye made from the indigo plant *Indigofera*. Bring a natural material you would like to dye (hemp, wool, cotton, muslin). Contact Colette DeGarady to register 937-8807 x-15 or cdegarady@tnc.org. **Reservations and payments must be made by January 14, 2009.** Checks should be made out to "City of Charleston Hampton Park Fund".

Saturday, February 7, 9-11 am

Dynamic Mushroom Workshop, The Citadel 101 Duckett Hall Biology Auditorium

Tradd Cotter, Owner of Mushroom Mountain and project manager for Earth Design Environmental Landscape Architecture

If you want to learn more about the ecology of mushrooms in South Carolina, now is the time to do it! Tradd Cotter has been growing mushrooms commercially and for research since 1994. He has recently designed bioremediation systems for removing fecal coliforms for the Furman University Lake Restoration Project, and currently consults and lectures throughout the Southeast. Tradd will discuss the benefits of native fungi in your garden and how to create high-energy compost to increase your planting yields. Don't miss this special workshop event! Visit www.mushroommountain.com to learn more about Tradd's work.

Saturday, March 21 9 am

Magnolia Cypress Swamp, Magnolia Gardens

Tom Johnson, Director of Gardens at Magnolia Plantation

After learning about the gardens from Tom on Tuesday, we'll travel to Magnolia Plantation and get a guided tour of the gardens and swamp area. This will be a great opportunity to see how you can incorporate elements of this beautiful garden into your own backyard. For directions or more information contact Lisa Lord at (843) 909-8808, llord@tnc.org.



Saturday, April 18 9am-1pm (Members can shop early at 8:30am!)

Spring Native Plant Sale and Bog Garden Workshop

Charles Towne Landing, 1500 Old Towne Road, Charleston

The Lowcountry chapter of the SC Native Plant Society will hold a Native plant sale in the parking lot of Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site. Perennials, shrubs, and trees native to Lowcountry landscapes will be for sale. Come and buy those hard-to-find plants! Members will be available to give advice about choosing the right plant, and Jeff Jackson will conduct a Bog Garden Workshop at 10:00 to demonstrate how to create your own native bog garden.

Saturday, April 25

Butterfly and Native Plant Walk,

Cypress Gardens 3030 Cypress Gardens Road, Moncks Corner, SC

Dwight Williams, Director and Entomologist at Cypress Gardens

Dwight will lead the group on a butterfly observation and plant identification tour through the nature trails and planted gardens. He will also demonstrate techniques and give tips for identifying butterflies in the field. Bring your binoculars, field guide, lunch, and wear comfortable walking shoes. Meet at 10:30 at the entrance to the gardens. For directions or more information, contact Lisa Lord at (843) 909-8808, llord@tnc.org.

Saturday, May 23

USC Belser Arboretum, Columbia, SC

We'll spend the morning touring fifteen exhibit areas, including a prairie with native wiregrass and wildflowers, a native azalea garden, and the Loop Trail in one of the most beautiful and unusual properties in Columbia. The topography is highly diverse with an upland forest in the highlands and a bottomland forest in the valley. Bring water and lunch, and wear comfortable walking shoes. Meet in the Wal-Mart parking lot near the Hardee's in Summerville, at the 17-A exit, at 8:15 am for an 8:30 departure. For more information contact Lisa Lord at llord@tnc.org or (843) 909-8808. Visit the arboretum website at <http://zebra.biol.sc.edu/arboretum/>.

Lowcountry Chapter NPS Community Project Grant

In an effort to provide increased opportunities for Lowcountry native plant conservation, we are sponsoring community projects. Projects must be directed at protecting, preserving, restoring, and/or educating the public about native plants or plant communities in the Lowcountry of SC. Individual award amounts will not exceed \$500. Winter/Spring proposals will be accepted until **February 1, 2009** and awarded by March 1st. Visit http://www.scnps.org/news_low.html for application information.

SE-Exotic Pest Plant Council Symposium

The SC EPPC group will be hosting the Southeast EPPC symposium in Georgetown, SC, May 13-15, 2009. Mark it on your calendar! The symposium will feature lectures and field trips focused on managing coastal invasives. One of our plenary speakers, Kari Whitley, will discuss "Sense and Sustainability: The Impact of Ornamental Nurseries on Native, Exotic and Invasive Species." Don't miss this interesting lecture and others! Visit <http://www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/> to register and find more information.

Lowcountry Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs

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