



Native Plant News

The newsletter of the North Carolina Native Plant Society

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 2 ELECTRONIC

APRIL—MAY 2008

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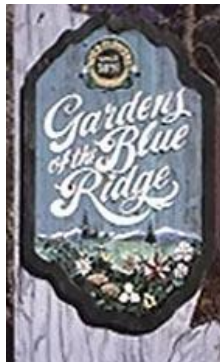
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Chapter

May 9—11 Toe River Trip Details

Our May 9—11 trip to the Toe River area in Avery County includes two presentations you will not want to miss. Details of the hikes were included in the January-February newsletter. Following is information on the presentations:

Friday evening:



Gardens of the Blue Ridge has been in the business of wildflowers for 108 years, and as part of the NCNPS May weekend, Robyn Fletcher, co-owner, will share with NCNPS members the most requested plants that his nursery receives from around the world.

Robyn's talk will take place Friday, May 9, at 7:30 p.m. at the Newland Fire Department's meeting room, as part of the Meet & Greet session where participants can enjoy a beverage and dessert as well as hear about their favorite topic of wildflowers. (No alcohol, please, as Avery is a dry county.)

Currently the nursery is owned by Robyn and his parents, Paul and Katy Fletcher, and is located in Pineola where there are propagation greenhouses and fields for established plants. For details, directions, and plant lists, visit: www.gardensoftheblueridge.com or call 828-733-2417.

Saturday evening:

Dr. Stewart Skeate, Department of Biology, Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk and author of *A Nature Guide to Northwest North Carolina* will speak on "The Natural History of the Southern Appalachians, A Photographic Essay." The talk will take place at 7:30 pm, Saturday, May 10th following dinner.



Dr. Stewart Skeate

Our native plant auction will follow Dr. Skeate's address. Please pot up anything you have to donate (proceeds of the auction go to the stewardship fund) and bring the plants with you to dinner.



Refer to the January-February newsletter for trip details. Directions to the hiking and dinner/presentation sites are on page 4 of this newsletter. For your convenience, a registration form is again included with this newsletter.

President's letter

Tom Harville

Last newsletter I talked about the NC State Fair display and it started me thinking about other gardens that we help. We give our time in manual labor, we contribute plants and our money, we lead tours, we help with plant sales and I'm sure we participate in other facets of volunteering. The point is, that each effort, no matter how small, helps further the public's awareness of our NC native flora and perhaps we influence someone to use more native plants and to help preserve what we have. So as always, get out there, have some fun!

Here's the list of gardens that I know we have helped:

Battle Park, UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC
Blomquist Gardens of the Duke Gardens
Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve, Cary, NC
Hide-N-Woods Garden, Elizabeth City, NC
Howell Woods Environmental Learning Center in Four Oaks, NC
Legacy Garden, Greensboro, NC
Margaret Reid Garden, TLC, Raleigh, NC
McDowell Nature Center, Charlotte, NC
NC Botanical Gardens, Chapel Hill, NC
Penny Road Elementary School, Cary, NC
Prairie Ridge, Raleigh, NC
The Anathoth Community Garden, Cedar Grove, NC
The JC Ralston Arboretum, Raleigh, NC
The Joslin Garden, Raleigh, NC
UNCC Botanical Garden, Charlotte, NC

Wildflower Walk, Greensboro Arboretum, Greensboro, NC

Meadowlark Sanctuary, Greensboro, NC

Haw River State Park, Greensboro, NC

Tom

Membership

renewals are due.

See Renewal form at
the end of this
newsletter.

This will be your
only notice.



Meadowlark sanctuary site, Greensboro

Pre-and post-trip Opportunity: Treetops at the Rosses

Violets were the first wild flowers I remember! I found them in the woods behind our house in Pleasant Garden, and transplanted some to my playhouse. I don't remember thinking about wild flowers during high school and college, but when we bought our first house in upstate New York, I found a Jack-in-the Pulpit! That exquisite native set my thoughts reeling about what else might be out there in the world of nature and I set about developing my first native plant garden at the base of an old apple trees in the back yard.

When we moved back to North Carolina a few years later, I knew I needed a place in the woods. Wilson was a wonderful place to learn about native plants. Living here were some of the giants of the N. C. Wild Flower Preservation Society: Board Members Teeny Stronach, Mercer Hubbard, Gretchen Cozart (treasurer) and Linda Lamm (editor of the newsletter). They taught me, inspired me, introduced me to the classic garden books, shared their plants, took me on rescue missions, and in 1976, took me to my first NC Wildflower Preservation Society meeting at Conner and Herbert Smith's home in Liberty. The society had been organized at this same place, Smithwin Farm, 25 years earlier April 29, 1951. It was at this 25th anniversary meeting, that I met Elizabeth Lawrence, a lady and writer I had heard so much about.

What does all this have to do with our mountain garden? I am deeply grateful for these people and these experiences, which contributed greatly to my love of the land, and my appreciation of natural forms and native plants, thus helping to establish the personality of the mountain garden we have today. When we found these nine acres in 1986 with a rushing stream and a view of the Black Mountains, a mountainside covered with rhododendrons, mountain laurel, galax, foamflower, trillium, and much more, we knew it was right. I believed all the mountains plants in Justice and Bell's book, Wild Flowers of North Carolina, were right here. We were excited to find so many natives in one place and we have tried to landscape with what we found around us.

When Ken Moore and Dot Wilbur of the NC Botanical Garden conducted native plant seminars at Wild Acres Retreat near Little Switzerland, they collected specimens along our trail and in return, added some wonderful natives to our garden including *Penstemon smallii* and *Phacelia bipinnatifida*.

I am not quite the purist I was in the beginning and have allowed a few non-natives to creep in. When I realized that hellebores bloom in zone 6, I just had to add a few. I

am so grateful to see these early Lenten roses bloom, even in the snow.

It is also hard to refuse friends who want to share, so in a sunny spot at the top of the drive I have added a few non-natives, however the garden is mainly a native garden, not a showy garden, but subtle and peaceful. A friend and I were exclaiming over the bloom of a little wilding once, and a visiting English gentleman asked, "Is that all it does?"



I'm trusting the spring ephemerals will be true to their season and show off a little for you in May. We look forward to your visit.

—Pat Ross

Directions to Treetops

1268 Long Branch Trail

Little Switzerland NC

828-765-9489

828-766-9386 (cell)

Exit the Blue Ridge Parkway at Little Switzerland. You will be facing the Switzerland Inn. Turn right, then right again onto Chestnut Grove Church Rd. which goes under the Parkway. Continue for 1 mile on Chestnut Grove Church Rd. Turn left on McKinney Mine Rd. and travel 7/10 of a mile to Long Branch Trail. Turn right between two pastures with ponds (Christmas trees on the hill), and continue 8/10 of a mile on the gravel road to 1268 Long Branch – ROSS TREETOPS. (Split rail fence and black-top drive)

*Visitors are welcome to enjoy the garden
Friday May 9 or Sunday May 11 from
2:00 to 5:00 p.m.*

Directions for May 9—11 Trip

From the intersection of Hwys. 221/105/181:

For Friday night's meeting:

Continue on Hwy. 181 four miles to the intersection of 181 and 194.

(CVS at corner.) Turn right and continue .6 mi. on 194 to traffic light and turn left on Old Toe River Rd.; go .3 mi. to Newland Fire Department on right. (DAV building immediately before driveway.) Turn into driveway and park in back, if space, as entrance to the meeting room is in the back. You may also park across the street in the front of the Fire Department.

For Sat. hike:

Please try to car pool from motel. You may leave some of your vehicles in front of the Fire Department. From the Fire Department, drive 2 mi. to a bridge across the Toe River, cross the bridge and continue almost another mile to the Toe River Club sign on the right; descend to the parking area. All these areas will be marked with a sign.

For Saturday's dinner:

Coming from Linville, Fabios is on left at the corner of Old Toe River Rd. and 194 and on the right coming from the Toe River Club. (Red awnings.) Park in front or at traffic light around the corner.

For optional (on your own) Fire Department waterfall park:

From the intersection of Old Toe River Rd. and 194 continue one mi. on 194 towards Elk Park. The picnic area/waterfall park is on the right across from Dollar General, Roses, and Ingles. You will have to climb up the path to the level area at the top and follow the trail to view an incredible number of *Trillium undulatum*s.

Also, Elk Park is seven mi. from Newland. Elk River Falls is a scenic place via 194 to US 19E to Elk River Rd. Check www.mountainsofnc.com



At the Rosses Treetops gardens.

PRINT THIS PAGE AND
PACK IT IN YOUR CAR
FOR THE MAY TRIP !!!

NCNPS News

Your Society is a member of the North Carolina Conservation Network, www.ncconservationnetwork.org/.

As a member, we have access to a limited number of slots (approximately 10) to receive their electronic services:

*The News Digest, an electronic media clipping service compiled and distributed each weekday with environmental news stories from over forty North Carolina media sources.

*The Weekly Alert, an update on state, agency, board, and commission actions and upcoming decisions. The Alert includes reports and analysis of policies, summaries from key meetings, and updates from affiliate groups. Posting a notice to the Alert is a fast and easy way to share information with the NC Conservation Network's over 120 affiliates or to rally support for your campaign work.

*The Legislative Update, a weekly e-mail while the NC General Assembly is in session, which provides comprehensive updates, analysis, and insights into all environmental issues being considered.

If you are interested in receiving these updates, please send your email address to **tom@ncwildflower.org**

no later than April 25th. The slots will be given out on a first come first served basis.

Tom

I just picked up a thank you card from the Garden Lovers of Mountainbrook. It contained a check "...to honor Jean Woods, Education Chair, for giving a program to Garden Lovers of Mountainbrook, Charlotte, NC on February 14, 2008."

Tom

LOCAL EXPERTISE SOLICITED TO DOCUMENT PLANT MATERIAL CHANGES

One of the indicators of climate change is the slow shift in the time of year at which plants flower, bud, leaf, drop their leaves, and disperse seeds. Such shifts have been seen in many locations worldwide.

To get a more extensive and consistent handle on the details in the US, a coalition of government agencies, universities, and scientific organizations has teamed up to expand a "citizen scientist" program that allows people all over the country to document the time at which local plants shift from one cycle to another.

"Project BudBurst" launched its program for all 50 states on Feb. 15, 2008.

The more people who participate in the program, the more meaningful will be the results. There were thousands of responses for the pilot program last spring, and now is the time for even more.

To participate, visit the following website:

http://www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst/

Margaret Reid Chapter News

Requests for Volunteers

Volunteers for Open Garden Event hosted by the NCNPS Reid Chapter/Reid Garden Friends and Triangle Land Conservancy:

Saturday, April 12, 1 – 4

Five Raleigh gardens – Joslin, Hooker/Myers, Spearman, Kinney and Reid - will be open that day. These gardens demonstrate various aspects of conservation gardening – use of native plants, water conservation and recycling, soil improvement through mulching and composting, wildlife habitat, permaculture and more. They enrich the lives of those who spend time in them, and contribute to the environmental health of the community through habitat conservation and enhancement, collaboration with natural processes, and frugal use of resources. We are happy to be co-hosting this event – and are in need of volunteers to help welcome visitors at the gardens. Please contact Amy Mackintosh – trkagan@aol.com or Margaret Partridge at margaret@ncwildflower.org if you are interested in helping with this.

Docents for Prather “Rescue Garden” Chapel Hill Spring Garden tour

Saturday, April 12, 10 – 4 and Sunday, April 13, 12 – 4.

NCNPS members Jeff and Cheryl Prather’s garden will be one of those featured on the Chapel Hill Spring Garden tour. They would welcome some volunteers at their garden who can point out native plants and will talk with visitors about them. Proceeds from the tour benefit the NC Botanical Garden. Please contact Margaret Partridge at

margaret@ncwildflower.org if you are interested in helping at the Prather garden during the tour. For more information: <http://chapelhillgardentour.net/>

Reid Chapter Report

The Reid Chapter has a strong connection with the Triangle Land Conservancy. Many of our Chapter walks are on TLC properties and TLC has a conservancy easement on the Margaret Reid Wildflower Garden, a rescue garden begun by Margaret Reid and now maintained and enhanced by NCNPS members, Robert and Julia Mackintosh. The Friends of the Reid Garden and our chapter have combined our activities, and both groups are invited to participate. Most of our chapter outings use the Reid Garden as a meeting place for carpooling and we schedule regular workdays there, since it is an ideal place for those new to NC wild plants to learn. This is the 25th Anniversary of TLC and we are encouraging Chapter members to participate in the special outings planned. The first is at Marks Creek on February 23.

At the beginning of this February we visited Prairie Ridge, the outdoor classroom for the NC Science Museum, and learned about the Arboretum of NC Natives planned by Jesse Perry. He has made a start on planting representatives of all the woody plants native to NC. He will be calling on the chapter to provide volunteers for planting more trees in the coming months.

Margaret Partridge
Reid Chapter Chair

Triad Chapter News

Members of the Triad Chapter held a joint meeting in December with members of the Triad Chapter, Carolina Butterfly Society. The meeting featured a slide show of favorite nature photographs of various members.

At our January meeting, members Trena McNabb and Shelley Rutkin shared their seed starting methods and successes, including outdoor winter sowing in a variety of containers.

February brought John Cranford, Mr. Nicholson (both with Greensboro Parks & Rec) and a member of the GSO Water & Sewer office. All talked about hazards that might be encountered on the trail, from snakes, insects, and animals, to old wells and abandoned cemeteries.

Our March 5th meeting featured Lisa Gould who presented "Blessed Earth: Native Plants and their Stories."

March 8th found us at the home of members Jef and Billie Morgan. Jef conducted a shiitake mushroom workshop during which nearly 200 logs were inoculated. Everyone participating took home 5 logs, which will provide an abundance of mushrooms over the next 5 to 6 years. Monica Coleman, of the Triangle Chapter joined us for the event.

On April 2nd, Dennis Burnette will bring the group up to date on the progress of the Meadowlark Sanctuary at Price Park.

May 3rd will find us visiting the gardens of Nell Lewis, longtime NCNPS member and gardener extraordinaire.

We have also fit in walks along Salem Lake and the Lake Townsend Peninsula Trail.

For information on upcoming programs and walks, contact kathys@ncwildflower.org



Triad Chapter members along Peninsula Trail in February



Mel Holland & Gene Schepker drill holes in logs

Northeast Coast Chapter News

The NE coast chapter held a winter meeting at the NC Aquarium on January 26. Two presentations were given: Native Plants for Coastal Gardens (Kathy Mitchell), and Integrated Pest Management (Susan Ruiz-Evans), which had been requested by members who wanted advice on low-impact maintenance for their native landscaping. A brief tour was given of native plantings on exhibit at the Aquarium. Twenty-six members and friends attended, and all non-members were strongly encouraged to join the society. Two trips are on the planning board at this time: Another walk in Nags Head Woods led by Alexander Krings, sponsored by Linda Craney, and a wetlands plant ID trip on the NC National Estuarine Research Reserve boardwalk in Corolla, which will be led by John Cece of the NC Coastal Management Div.

The chapter has begun work on a project to develop guidelines and resources that members can use to help property owners on the Outer Banks identify their existing native vegetation and choose appropriate native plants for new landscaping. Lori DiBernardo has volunteered to start organizing the data, and we've asked other members, especially those who enjoy doing research, to lend a hand. This will be a long-term project, but we hope eventually to create a tool that may help to reduce the loss of native vegetation to development.

Update

The NE Coast chapter has scheduled a Nags Head Woods hike for May 22, from 9am-12pm, led by Alexander Krings, NCSU Herbarium Curator. Dr. Krings has recently completed a *Manual of the Vascular Flora of Nags Head Woods*, to be published by the NY Botanical Garden Press.

Kathy Mitchell, co-chair
NE Coast Chapter
NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island



Looking Ahead

Annual Members Picnic

June 7, 2008 Hagan Stone
Park, Greensboro

Put June 7th on your travel calendar and make plans to head for Greensboro for our annual picnic-business meeting-plant auction.

As a special enticement to attend this longstanding June picnic tradition, longtime member Dr. Larry Mellichamp will be with us—shown in the photo with some of his pitcher plant creations. Larry will talk with us before the picnic on “Collecting, Cleaning, and Storing Seeds.” As you know, seeds will begin developing early in the summer, and provide one of the best ways to increase the number of plants in your garden. Larry’s talk will help us know when seeds are ripe, which ones are good candidates for collecting, and other helpful information, including starting plants from the seeds you have collected.

Plan to arrive at Hagan Stone Park by 10:00 to meet with Dr. Mellichamp. Picnic will begin about 11:30, with plant auction to follow. Dr. Mellichamp, seasoned auctioneer, has also agreed to serve in that role.



Dr. Larry Mellichamp is a Professor of Botany at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte where he teaches botany and horticulture courses, and does research on pitcher plants and Southeastern endangered species. He is also director of the UNCCCharlotte Botanical Gardens, with 10 acres of outdoor gardens containing natives and exotics, and two greenhouses displaying the wonders of the world’s diverse flora. He speaks on such topics as pollination biology, bog gardening, the winter garden, orchids, and landscaping with native plants. He has been a director of the Cullowhee Native Plants symposium, and has spoken at several such symposia. Dr. Mellichamp has traveled and collected plants in Mexico, Costa Rica, Borneo, Hawaii, South Africa, and China. He has received several teaching awards and was the 2003 recipient of the Thomas Roland Medal of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. He is co-author of the textbook *Practical Botany* (1983) and the books *The Winter Garden* (1997, with Peter Loewer) and *Wildflowers of the Western Great Lakes Region* (1999).



Watch for picnic details and directions in May-June newsletter

Looking for Seeds?

Board members were recently polled for the best places to find native wildflower seeds. None of these are North Carolina businesses, but some carry seed appropriate for our climate and soil. All were highly rated.

Ernst Conservation Seeds
9006 Mercer Pike
Meadville, PA 16335
800-873-3321
814-336-2404
Fax 814-336-5191
www.ernstseed.com

Prairie Nursery
PO Box 306
Westfield, WI 53964
800-476-9543
Fax 608-296-2741
www.prairienursery.com

Native Seeds
7327 Haefork Ln.
Gloucester Point, VA 23062
804.642.0736

Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve
PO Box 685
New Hope, PA 18938-0685
215.862.2924
bhwp@bhwp.org
http://www.bhwp.org/seed_catalog/seeds.htm

Ohio Prairie Nursery
PO Box 174
Hiram, Ohio 44234
866.569.3380
330.569.3380
Fax 330.569.7090
<http://www.ohioprairienursery.com>

Easyliving Wildflowers
PO Box 522
Willow Springs, Mo. 65793
phone-fax 417-469-2611
<http://www.easylivingwildflowers.com/>

Native American Seed
Mail Order Station
3791 N US Hwy 377
Junction, TX 76849
800-728-4043
www.seedsource.com

Baker Environmental Nursery
949 Marshall Clark Rd.
Hoschton, GA 30548
P 706-654-9072
Fax 706-658-2347
sales@bakerenvironmentalnursery.com
www.bakerenvironmentalnursery.com



NATIVE AMERICAN SEED



Misty's Column: Q and A from the NC Natural Heritage Program

We are fortunate to have the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, of the Office of Conservation and Community Affairs within the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Now that's a long introduction for an office that is a veritable goldmine of NC native plant information. As you can imagine they are besieged with all sorts of questions. Members of NCNPS have access to some of these questions and answers through the courtesy of Misty Franklin Buchanan, botanist with the Natural Heritage Program and NCNPS member.

We hope this simple Q&A format will make it easy for you to learn more about our native flora.

What are the common names of some of the rare plants at World's Edge and Elk Knob park?

World's Edge:

Globally Rare plants: Biltmore Sedge, Broad-leaved Coreopsis, Small Whorled Pogonia

Federally Threatened, State Endangered, Sweet Pinesap, White Irisette

Federally and state Endangered, Granite Dome Goldenrod, and Sweet White Trillium

Rare in NC but common somewhere else in the USA: Roundleaf Serviceberry, Bradley's Spleenwort, Lobed Spleenwort, Porter's Reed Grass, Earle's Blazing Star, Yellow Honeysuckle

Elk Knob:

Globally Rare Plants: Trailing Wolfsbane, Blue Ridge Goldenrod

Federally Threatened, State Endangered, Gray's Lily

Rare in NC but common somewhere else in the USA: Meehanian

What are the common names of some alpine, or ice age, relics in Western N.C.?

We presume that many of the high elevation rare plants are ice-age relics. Many of these are more common in northern latitudes and reach the southern end of their range in NC. Some are endemic to the high elevations of the southern Appalachians. These include Fringed Gentian, Arctic Bentgrass, Mountain paper birch, Fringed

Brome, Caine's Reed Grass, Canada Reed Grass, Wretched Sedge, Fragile Fern, Bent Avena, Spreading Avena, Highland Rush, Roseroot, Deerhair Bulrush.

What are the common names of some of the species that have disappeared from Western N.C. in the past 30 years? And what caused their disappearance?

Appalachian Bog Asphodel, Barratt's Sedge, Large-flowered Barbara's Buttons, White Fringeless Orchid, and Kelsey's locust - The last place in NC these were known to occur was a bog in Henderson County. It was drained to make way for an industrial development park, and 10 species of rare plants were extirpated from the bog (the 5 listed above were extirpated from the state). One federally endangered plant survives in drainage ditches nearby. The sad thing is, that industrial plant is now a superfund site. Not only did it destroy one of the most important places for plants in NC, it polluted the groundwater and made a permanent scar on the landscape. It should have never been permitted in the first place. Many other projects have either drained or filled bogs, killing the rare species that occurred there, but this was the most destructive of plant diversity in NC. There are many more rare species that are considered "historical" for the state, meaning no botanist has seen them in at least 30 years. We can't say for sure that they have been extirpated, because in most cases, no one has done a thorough survey for them. They may still be out there, but we can't say for sure. These are listed as "SH" in the 2006 Natural Heritage Program List of Rare Plant Species of North Carolina.

Look for more information from Misty and the N.C. Natural Heritage Program in future newsletters.



Isotria medeoloides, small whorled pogonia. Recently reported in Guilford County.

Featured Plant: *Aralia spinosa*, Devil's Walking Stick, Hercules'-club

The following description is taken from *A Natural History of Trees of Eastern and Central North America*, Donald Culross Peattie (1948), from a Houghton Mifflin Co. reprint, 1991. pages 493-494.

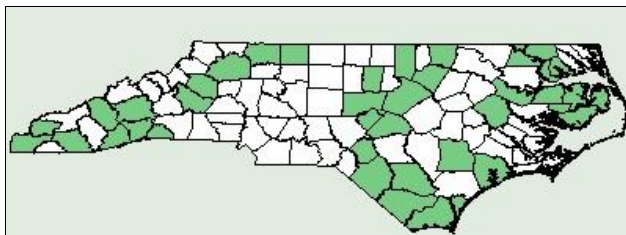
Back in the last century when trees were often cultivated for their very grotesqueness, this strange, clumsy, disproportionate, at once pretentious and yet somehow insignificant little tree or tall shrub was in fashion. With the cast-iron mastiff on the lawn, the wooden gingerbread on the eaves, or—if the mansion were stone—the castellations on the roof, a fine, flourishing, horrendous specimen of Hercules'-club produced an effect which might wake envy in the bosoms of less fortunate neighbors.

To any who can remember this tree thus used as the acme of ostentatious ugliness, it is odd to see it growing innocently in the forest. Even to those with briefer memories, it may look strangely foreign, as though it came from some other flora, or some past geologic age. But it is in truth a North American species belonging to a genus found all around the northern hemisphere except in Europe, and to a family no older than most.

Though this tree of many names and curious appearance may attain 35 feet on the Great Smokies, it is often only a shrub 6 feet high. Its wood, of many poor qualities, does not appear in commercial statistics, though it is said to take a very high polish and “is made into small shop articles, like button boxes, photograph frames, pen racks, stools, and arms for rocking chairs.” In our day of ten-cent store plastic items like the above, one cannot imagine such use to be abundant, nor can one easily find current reference to the medicinal use of berries and bark of the root mentioned by Sargent in his *Silva*. Perhaps no one, any more, relies on this species in case of toothache, but Le Page Du Pratz in his *History of Louisiana* (1758) states that the “inner bark has the property of curing the tooth-ach. The patient rolls it up to the size of a bean, puts it upon the aching tooth, and chews it till the pain ceases. Sailors and other such people powder it, and use it as pepper.” This awkward little tree, that in autumn looks bowed with the weight of its own fruits, seems to have had its day, and though it may flourish contentedly in its natural stations, few select it now for the lawn or try to cure toothache or rheumatism with it.



This large, upright, suckering, deciduous shrub gets its name from the sharp spines on leaf stalks and stems. Flowering in June and producing fruit, favored by birds, in September, it grows in upland and low woods, pocosins and savannahs throughout North Carolina.



USDA Plants Database.. *A. spinosa* is reported in the shaded counties within North Carolina.

This plant is in the same family (*Araliaceae*) as *Hedera helix* (English ivy!), and *Panax spp.* (ginseng!). In the same genus are *A. nudicaulis*, wild sarsaparilla, and *A. racemosa*, spikenard.



Ted Bodner @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Miller, J.H. and K.V. Miller. 2005. Forest plants of the southeast and their wildlife uses. University of Georgia Press, Athens.

Calendar

April 12, Raleigh

Garden Tour co-sponsored by Margaret Reid Chapter and Triangle Land Conservancy. For details: margaret@ncwildflower.org

April 12—13, Chapel Hill

Saturday, April 12, 10 – 4

Sunday, April 13, 12 – 4.

NCNPS members Jeff and Cheryl Prather's garden will be one of those featured on the Chapel Hill Spring Garden tour.

April 17, Greensboro

Herb Sale. Sponsored by NC Unit of The Herb Society of America. Proceeds support NC gardens and scholarships for NC students. Information: rosemary@swva.net

April 18– 19, Charlotte NC:

UNCCharlotte Botanical Gardens annual Plant Sale Fri April 18 - Sat April 19. 8 am – 3 pm at the McMillan Greenhouse on the UNCCharlotte Campus. See our website at <http://gardens.uncc.edu> for directions. Our plant sale is heavy with dozens of our own-grown native wildflowers, ferns and shrubs of the Carolinas. Call 704-687-2870 for information. [Directions: take exit 46 off I-85 north of Charlotte, head southeast for 1.5 miles, then right onto Mary Alexander Road.]

April 20, Charlotte NC:

UNCCharlotte Botanical Gardens spring open house and wildflower walks in the Van Landingham Glen. 1-4 pm, Sunday April 20, 2008. Meet at the McMillan Greenhouse, corner Mary Alexander and Craver Roads on the east side of the UNCCharlotte Campus, off NC 49. or take exit 46 off I-85 northeast of Charlotte, and head southeast for 1.5 miles, then turn right onto Mary Alexander Rd. See our website at <http://gardens.uncc.edu> for details.

May 3, Greensboro

NCNPS Board meeting, 12:30 lunch, 1pm—4pm, meeting

May 3, Greensboro

Triad Chapter visit to Nell Lewis's garden, 10 am—12 noon. Contact kathys@ncwildflower.org for details

May 9-11, Avery County NC

NCNPS Field Trip

May 22, Nags Head

Nags Head Woods hike, 9am-12pm, led by Alexander Krings, NCSU Herbarium Curator.

June 7, Greensboro, NC

Annual Members Picnic

July 23—26, Cullowhee NC

Cullowhee Native Plant Conference
<http://www.wcu.edu/5033.asp>

Native Plant News

Contribute! Deadline for next issue: April 25

Contact the editor:

*Katherine Schlosser,
1402 Bearhollow Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410*

kathys@ncwildflower.org

From the Archives... Wildflowers from Seed

There is a fascination as well as a mystery about growing wild flowers from seeds. The mystery is usually due to a few unknown factors, a knowledge of which will contribute to success. The seeds of many perennials should be planted as soon as they are received or gathered, for if they are kept dry over winter and planted in the spring, they may fail to germinate quickly. In this case, we are likely to say that such seeds have lost their vitality.



Actually, the seeds of many wildlings retain their vitality for a long time but may lie dormant over one entire growing season and germinate quite nonchalantly after some eighteen months. Fall planting is usually as advantageous as stratification if the winter is not too rainy, or if a mulch of some light material is used to prevent disturbance of the surface covering over the seeds.



The best time to locate seed sources is during the blooming season, at which time the flowers are easily spotted. Seeds of spring beauty, Hepatica, Erythronium, wild ginger, and Dutchman's breeches are planted as soon as ripe, usually in late May or early June. With the mertensias, of which *M. lanceolata* and *M. longiflora* are western natives, a different method is used. We cut the stems before the seeds shatter and lay the branches in a shady spot where the soil will not be disturbed. Then we cover with just enough soil to prevent the branches from blowing away. The next spring there will be "umpteen" seedlings which may bloom the second year. The above mentioned varieties are dwarf, blooming in early spring, 4"-6" high with 2-3 stems carrying bell-shaped blue flowers.

Most members of the *Corydalis* group are spring flowering and notorious for their numerous offspring which appear in every nook and cranny in the garden. Others to be included in the fall sowing group are: anemone, clematis, callirhoe, aconitum, dodecatheon, gilia, liatris,

phlox, trillium, penstemon, verbascum, and violets. To this group may be added *Oenothera missouriensis* (yellow) and *O. caespitosa* (white) which are western natives but gems in any wild garden. Because *Gentiana acaulis* refuses to stay with us, we substituted *Phacelia campanularia* with clusters of miniature cups of the gentian's sapphire blue. These should be sown now (about March 15) for late spring bloom; they will germinate in 10-12 days. The plants develop rapidly when given a warm place in the sun.

For many years many of us have carefully collected and planted the dust-like seed of various varieties of our charming lady-slippers, but our efforts have met with bitter disappointment. An average-sized pod of lady-slipper contains many thousands of minute seed without endosperm, or food supply for germination. A very successful German gardener, transplanted to North Carolina, once recommended a successful method for raising *Cypripedium* from seed. He scattered finely chopped sphagnum moss around the adult plants and sowed the freshly gathered seeds on this moss. The variety selected was of small importance as long as the seeds were sown where germination could take place on the roots of adult *Cypripediums*. He further advised leaving the small seedling in their family circle for at least two years before transplanting. It really works! Try it!

Mrs. J. Robert Chrismon
NC Wild Flower Preservation
Society Newsletter
Vol. III, No. 1, April 1957

Photos: *Penstemon canescens*, MB Baumeister

Off The Shelf

Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife In Our Gardens

By Douglas W. Tallamy

Hardcover; 288 pp.; 308 color photos, 4 diagrams. ISBN-13:9780881928549; ISBN-10: 0881928542. \$27.95

With the accelerating pace of development and subsequent habitat disruption, the pressures on wildlife populations are greater than they have ever been in our nation's history. As Doug Tallamy has confirmed through extensive research, there is an unbreakable link between native plant species and native wildlife. When native plant species disappear, or are replaced by alien exotics, the insects disappear, thus impoverishing the food source for birds and other animals. Fortunately, there is still time to reverse this alarming trend, and gardeners have the power to make a significant contribution toward sustaining biodiversity. By favoring native plants, gardeners can provide a welcoming environment for wildlife of all kinds. —Timber Press

This book was brought to our attention by Lynda Waldrep.

BRINGING NATURE HOME



How Native Plants
Sustain Wildlife
in Our Gardens

DOUGLAS W. TALLAMY

Of Interest...

"Trestle Bridge," Robert Sterling Ginger

Triad Chapter member Bob Ginger's "Trestle Bridge" print was selected from over 860 entries in the preliminary round for the 2008 Appalachian Mountain Photography Competition. It is in the Blue Ridge Parkway Vistas category and will hang in the Mezzanine Gallery March 7 through June 7. Later comes a "best in category" and "best in show" judging.

The exhibit is being held at the Turchin Center for the Visual Arts on the Appalachian State University campus, 423 W. King St. (downtown Boone) and open Tues.-Sat.

The opportunity to see the exhibit (and to be able to proudly stand in front of Bob's work and say "I know him") is added incentive to attend the May NCNPS trip to the Toe River area. A Friday afternoon gallery visit would be perfect and close by.

Of Interest.....



Herb Sale

April 19th, 7:30 am—2:30 pm

Thousands of herbs (culinary, fragrant, medicinal, and ornamental) and Heritage Plants. Proceeds support North Carolina gardens and provide scholarships to North Carolina horticulture students.

Location: Greek Orthodox Church Fellowship Hall, corner of Friendly Avenue and Westridge Road, Greensboro, NC.

A community service project of the N.C. Unit of The Herb Society of America. For information, contact Dorothy Bonitz at rosemary@swva.net.

Asian Bittersweet

The US Geological Survey has released a fact sheet on identifying American and Asian bittersweet. The fact sheets are reproduced on the following pages.

Thanks to Misty Buchanan for bringing this to our attention. To see a clearer copy, visit:

http://www.glsc.usgs.gov/_files/factsheets/2007-2%20Identifying%20Bittersweet.pdf

Garden Manners

The person I could cheerfully slay (and probably will some day) is the visitor who, on passing up and down the border and among the rare seedlings in my miniature nursery, answers, with a lofty air, to the name of each unusual plant. "Oh, yes, I have that." The fisherman is a proverbial prevaricator, and one who doesn't stretch the truth seems a poor fisherman. To the golfer and the hunter are allowed their legitimate margins of exaggeration. Custom has never given this license of fibbing to gardeners, however. We are supposed, we gardeners, to be a truthful race, but a terrible lot of the sestern and brethren have backslidden.

It should be written in the Book of Garden Manners that well-brought-up gardeners never say, "Oh, yes, I have that." I trust it is, for I would be saved from the habit of muttering into my moustache, "Cheerful liar." Which, also, is bad manners.

Richardson Wright
The Gardener's Bed Book
J. B. Lippincott Co., 1920



American and Oriental Bittersweet Identification

Invasive species are one of the greatest threats to native ecosystems. They can crowd out native species and change the natural nutrient cycling processes that take place in ecosystems.



Oriental bittersweet

One of the best ways to combat invasive species is by identifying small infestations and removing them.

One invader threatening midwestern ecosystems is oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*). This woody vine was introduced to the eastern United States in the mid-1800s. It has spread from the east to the south and west and is now moving into midwestern natural areas. Oriental bittersweet can be found in a variety of habitats, from roadsides to interior forests and sand dunes. It has the ability to girdle and overtop adjacent vegetation – often to the detriment of native species. To halt the spread of oriental bittersweet, significant control measures are needed.

However, a native bittersweet species, American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*), can be mistaken for oriental bittersweet. Although American bittersweet is also a

which plants to target for control. Using fruit and leaf characters, the two species can be discriminated from each other. However, certain traits are more reliable for correct identification than others. Classically, the position of the fruit and flowers on the stems has been cited as the most definitive means of discriminating between the species.

Oriental bittersweet has fruit and flowers located in the leaf axils along the length of the stem. American bittersweet, however, only has fruit and flowers in terminal clusters. There is also a difference in the color of the capsules surrounding the ripened fruit in the fall. Oriental bittersweet has yellow capsules, while those of American bittersweet are orange. Another difference in color is the pollen color of the male flowers. The pollen of oriental bittersweet is white while that of American bittersweet is yellow.

Some less definitive fruit traits for discrimination are size of the fruits and number of seeds per fruit. American bittersweet has generally larger fruit than oriental bittersweet. If fruits have a volume of greater than 250 mm³, there is a 90% probability of a plant being American bittersweet, while if the fruit has a volume of 115 mm³ or less, it has a 90% chance of being oriental bittersweet. Values in between these numbers overlap to some extent between the species. Similarly, if the fruit has one or fewer seeds, it is 90% likely to be American bittersweet, while five or more seeds have a 90% chance of being oriental bittersweet. The greater number of seeds of oriental bittersweet gives it a reproductive advantage over the native species.

The problem with using fruit and flower traits for discriminating between the two species is that, for fruits, only mature

female plants have this character available for identification. In terms of flowers, only mature male and female plants have these present, and only for a brief time of the year during the spring.

Vegetative traits apply to plants regardless of their sex or maturity. The most definitive vegetative trait is the posture of the leaves at leaf out of the first buds in the spring. The leaves of oriental bittersweet are conduplicate (two sides of the leaf folded against each other) and tightly packed in the bud when they emerge in the spring. The leaves of American bittersweet are involute (leaf margins rolled in like a scroll) and not as tightly packed in the bud.

Other leaf traits are not as reliable as the leaf-out posture. Although the ratio of length-to-width (length:width) of the leaves is generally greater for American bittersweet, this trait is quite variable. If the length:width of the leaf is greater than or equal to 2, there is a 90% chance of the plant being American bittersweet, while if the ratio is less than or equal to 1.4, there is a 90% chance of it being oriental bittersweet. The tips of the leaves of American bittersweet are also generally longer than those of oriental bittersweet. Plants with leaf tips of 1.5 cm or greater have a 90% chance of being American bittersweet, while plants with leaf tips of 0.3 cm or less have a 90% chance of being oriental bittersweet.

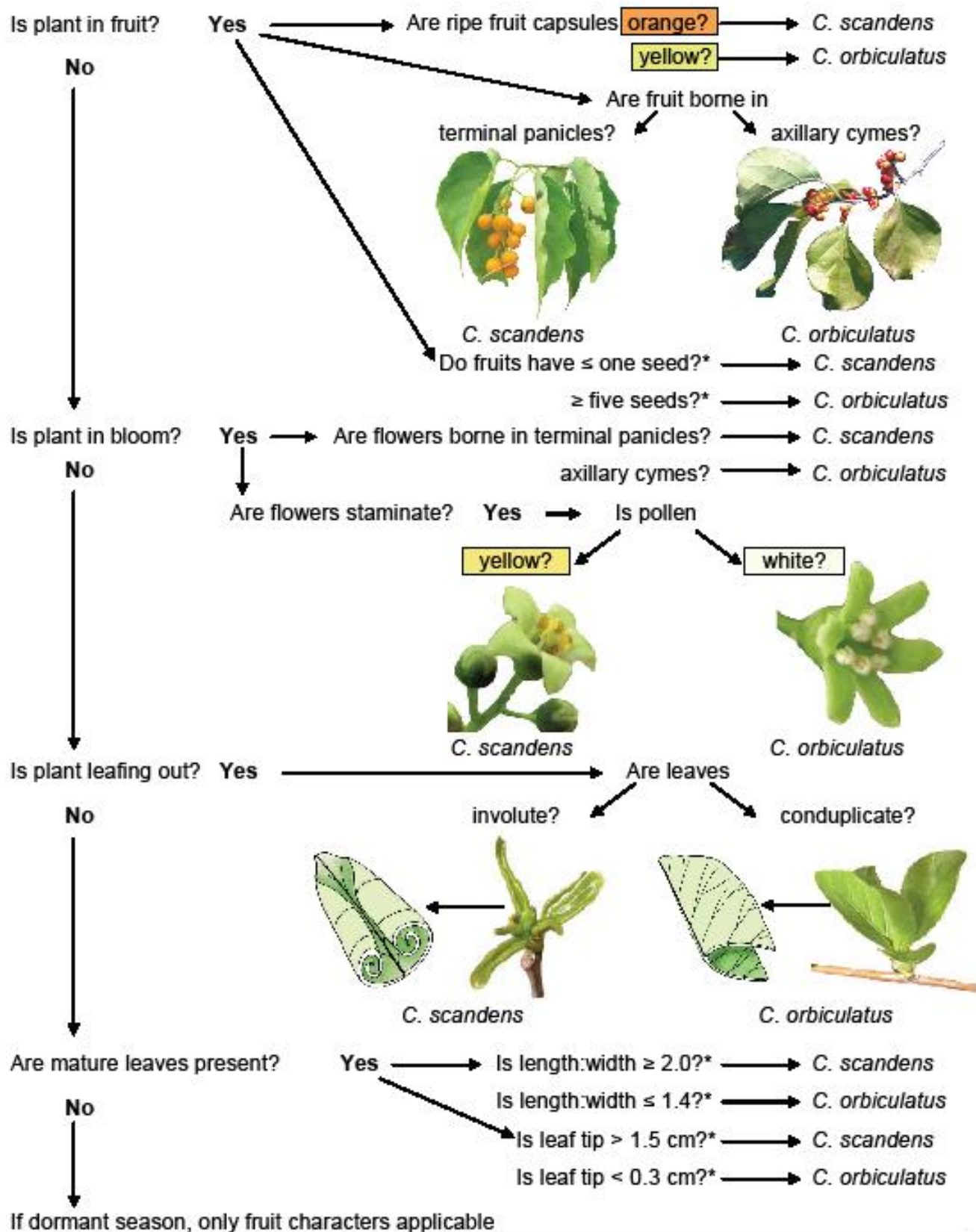
By using these traits, plants could be marked at the appropriate time of year (spring or fall) for control at a later point. In this manner the invasive species can be targeted without harming the native. The key on the next page summarizes the key traits for discrimination of these two species in the field.



American bittersweet

vine and climbs on nearby vegetation, it does not appear to grow as rapidly or as large as oriental bittersweet. In the northeastern United States, American bittersweet is declining because of habitat change and possible hybridization, while in the Midwest, it is still common.

Because the two bittersweet species look so similar, there can be difficulty knowing



* Indicates a 90% probability of correct identification based on the data collected for this study.
 Colors in text boxes are to be used as a guide only, actual colors seen in the field may differ.

Collaborators: Noel B. Pavlovic, Stacey Leicht Young, Ralph Grundel, and Krystalynn J. Frohnapple



North Carolina Native Plant Society

Membership Application

☐ New Membership, ☐ Renewal
(Check One)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Send completed form and check to:

NCNPS

Hugh Partridge, Treasurer

736 Linda Court

Cary, NC 27513

- ☐ I do **not** want my contact information printed in the membership directory.
- ☐ I am willing to receive the newsletter via email to conserve resources.
- ☐ I am interested in NCNPS Native Plant Habitat Certification Program.
(Recognizing your use of native plants in your landscape)

Save and help the Society with a 3-year renewal!

- ☐ Family: \$100 for 3 years
- ☐ Individual: \$70 for 3 years

Membership/Gifts

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| ☐ Limited Income | \$15 per year |
| ☐ Individual | \$25 per year |
| ☐ Family | \$35 per year |
| Sustaining | \$50 per year |
| Life Membership | \$1000 |
| Gift– undesignated | _____ |
| Gift– scholarship | _____ |
| Gift– stewardship | _____ |

Join Local Chapter

- ☐ Charlotte
- ☐ Triad
- ☐ Triangle
- ☐ NE Coast
- ☐ SE Coast
- ☐ Uwharrie
- ☐ Asheville

Interest Areas

- ☐ Volunteer
- ☐ Meetings
- ☐ Field Trips
- ☐ Plant Auctions
- ☐ Helping with newsletter
- ☐ Rare Plant Preservation
- ☐ Publicity
- ☐ Education/Advocacy
- ☐ Scholarship/Grants
- ☐ Board of Directors
- ☐ Plant Rescue
- ☐ Speakers Bureau

Membership Year runs from June 1st to May 31st.

New members who join after December 1st of a fiscal year will be considered paid for the following fiscal year.

*Toe River Trip Registration**May 9-11, 2008*

45 person limit – Members will have priority

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

☐ Registration fee: NCNPS member - \$20.00 per person (\$10.00 limited income) \$ _____

☐ Registration: non NCNPS member - \$30.00 per person \$ _____

Hiker's Lunch for Saturday, your choice

☐ meat sandwich, \$8.00, \$ _____

☐ vegetarian sandwich \$8.00 \$ _____

Saturday Dinner

☐ Vegetarian, \$12.00 per person \$ _____

☐ Meat, \$12.00 per person \$ _____

☐ Join the NCNPS - \$25.00 for an individual membership \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

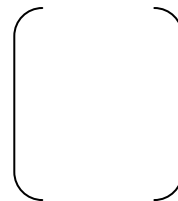
Registration deadline: April 30, 2008

☐ I/we will bring a food item for the Friday evening reception and roundtable discussion.

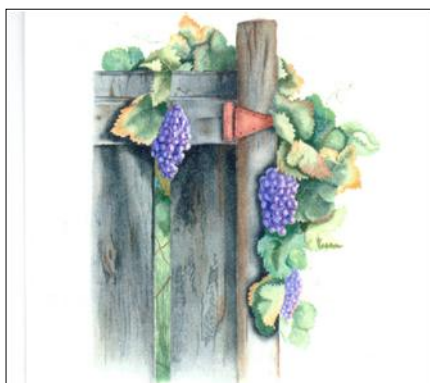
☐ I/we understand that we will be required to sign a liability waiver before the hike on Saturday morning.

Please make checks payable to NC Native Plant Society and mail to: Hugh Partridge, Treasurer
736 Linda Court
Cary NC 27513

NC Native Plant Society
1402 Bearhollow Road
Greensboro, NC 27410



Time to renew your membership. Renewal form enclosed.



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