



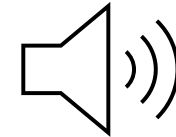
North Carolina Native Plant Society

**75th Anniversary Year
1951-2026**

Celebrate the Past & Look Forward to Our Future

Zoom

- Questions at any time
- Raise your Hand
- When called on, unmute
 - Someone will be watching for questions





North Carolina Native Plant Society

**75th Anniversary Year
1951-2026**

What will happen this year



- **At the State Level**

- A big celebration on Sept 25-27, 2026, in Pittsboro Friday – Sunday
 - Hikes, Talks, Exhibits, Plant Sale, Food Trucks, etc.
- 75 plant id challenge
 - Id 75 plants and turn in for a prize

- **Land of the Sky Chapter**

- Year long classes and hikes to learn and sharpen plant/tree/fern id skills.
- Local Celebration with food, and a bio blitz
- Publish a Booklet on how to handle water runoff and erosion on your property

Draft Calendar for Land of the Sky Chapter for 2026

- Jan
 - Main contact: Jean Woods
 - Idea: **75th Anniversary Challenge & History**
 - Leader: Jean Woods
 - Location: Zoom
 - Date/Time: January 10th 1PM
- Feb
 - Main contact: Carrie Blair
 - Idea: **Winter Tree ID (Indoor)**
 - Leader: Carrie Blair
 - Location: ABG
 - Date/Time: February 7th 1PM
- Mar
 - ID with apps: **iNaturalist and photography (Classroom)**
 - Leader: Brett Hopkins
 - Location: ABG
 - Date/Time: Mar 7th 1PM
- Apr
 - ID with apps: **iNaturalist and photography (Field) Bioblitz**
 - Leader: Brett Hopkins
 - Location: ABG
 - Date/Time: April 4th 1PM
- May
 - Main contact: Ruth Cumberland
 - **Dichotomous Key Plant ID (FloraQuest)**
 - Leader: Ruth Cumberland
 - Location: ???
 - Date/Time: May 2nd 1PM
- June
 - Main contact: Jean Woods
 - Idea: **History of Botanist in NC**
 - Leader: Charlie Williams
 - Location: ABG
 - Date/Time: June 6th 1PM
- July **Culowee native plant conference**
- Aug
 - Idea: **Converting Lawn to Wildlife Habitat**
 - Leader: Brett Hopkins/Ruth Cumberland
 - Location: Brett's house
 - Date/Time: August 1st 1PM

Draft Calendar for the Year

• Sept

- **Main contact: Destini**
- **Destini rain garden workday**
- **Leader: Destini Pettit**
- **Location: 87 Northwood Dr Brevard, NC 28712**
- **Date/Time: May 2nd 1PM**
-

• Oct - 75th celebration

- **Main contact: Destini**
- **Picnic, booklet launch, and bioblitz**
- **Leader: Destini Pettit**
- **Location: Sycamore Flats**
- **Date/Time: October 3rd 1PM**

• Nov

- **Main contact:**
- **Garden ready for winter**
- **Leader:**
- **Location:**
- **Date/Time: November 7th 1PM**

• Dec

- **Main contact: Jean**
- **Seed Swap**
- **Leader: Jean**
- **Location: ABG**
- **Date/Time: December 5th 1PM**

• Additional classes –

- In depth using Flora Quest
 - An App from the UNC Botanical Garden using the latest updated information on native plants in the SE. Very comprehensive and accurate.
 - Fern Id
 - Basic Botany
 - Moss Id
 - Plant Communities
 - Botany History – Women in Botany, Andre Michaux, Asa Gray, etc.
 - Phenology
 - Mountain Bogs
 - Mountain Bald ecology
 - Lilies in the NC
 - Aster Family
- ## • Additional Activities
- Walks to view plants and id them

Sept 25-27 in Pittsboro, NC



- **Saturday: 9-noon:** Field trips and workshops - one speaker for each. (including Harry Phillips, Pete Schubert, Alan Weakley, Karen Rindge, Rachelle Roake, Pat Holder, Maya Barton, John Clarke)
- **Noon-1:** Lunch, socialize, look at exhibits, shop for plants Food Trucks
- **1-2:30:** Introduction History, followed by keynote speaker (Patrick McMillan)
- **2:30-3:** Break for celebratory cake, recognition of key players within NCNPS
- **3-5:** More speakers / panels.
- **5-7:** Dinner (food trucks), socializing, more plant shopping.
- **7-8:** Closing speakers.
- **Sunday morning:** More field trips,



Plant ID Challenge



🌿 **Let's Celebrate 75 Years of Native Plant Love!** 🌿

Join the NC Native Plant Society's 75th Anniversary Challenge

We're turning 75—and we want YOU to be part of the celebration!
In honor of the North Carolina Native Plant Society's milestone year, we're inviting members to take on **a fun and meaningful challenge:**

👉 **Find and record 75 North Carolina native plants in 2026!**

Whether you're strolling through a forest, hiking a mountain trail, or spotting wildflowers on the roadside, there's a whole world of native plants waiting for you to discover.





Plant ID Challenge



How It Works

Your mission (and joy!) is to find **75 different native plant species** growing wild in North Carolina during the 2026 calendar year.

An iNaturalist Project will be set up for the NCNPS (all Chapters) to record your identifications. However, you must turn in the form (shown next) to receive a prize.

A Few Guidelines:

- **Membership required** – You must be an NCNPS member to participate.
- **What counts?** – Any native NC plant species, including trees, shrubs, wildflowers (forbs), mosses, lichens, and ferns.
- **Where to look** – Plants must be found in the wild, not in gardens or any cultivated areas.
- **What to record** – Common name, scientific name, date, and location for each plant.
- **Deadline** – Submit your completed form by **September 1, 2026.**





Plant ID Challenge



How to Submit:

Use our fillable PDF on your computer, tablet, or phone—or print and fill it out by hand.
Then email it to 75challenge@ncwildflower.org



Join the NC Native Plant Society's 75th Anniversary Challenge

Name: _____ Email: _____
Chapter: _____ Email complete forms to 75C@ncwildflower.org

	Date	Common Name	Scientific Name	Location	Notes
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
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22					
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24					
25					



Plant ID Challenge



Prizes & Bragging Rights!

Complete the challenge and earn a special prize that proudly proclaims:

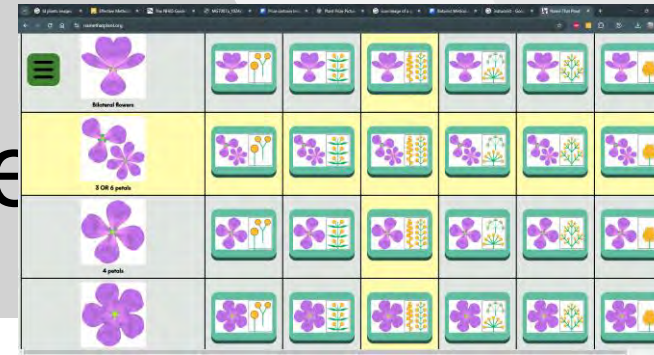
“I Know North Carolina’s Native Plants!”

Feeling ambitious? Go beyond 75! The person who documents the most species will receive a **special award**.





Plant ID Challenge



Need Help Identifying Plants?

Check out these great resources:

Tree Finder and Fern Finder

Any favorite wildflower guide

Newcomb's Wildflower Guide

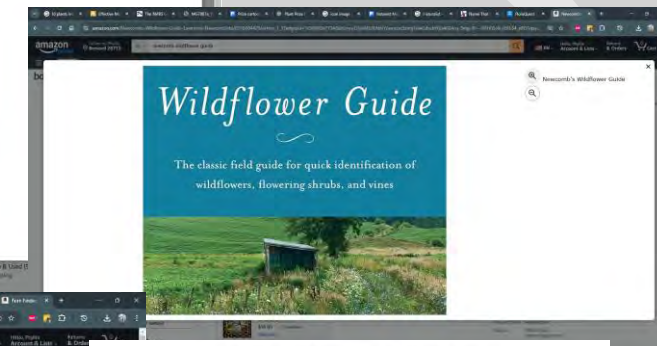
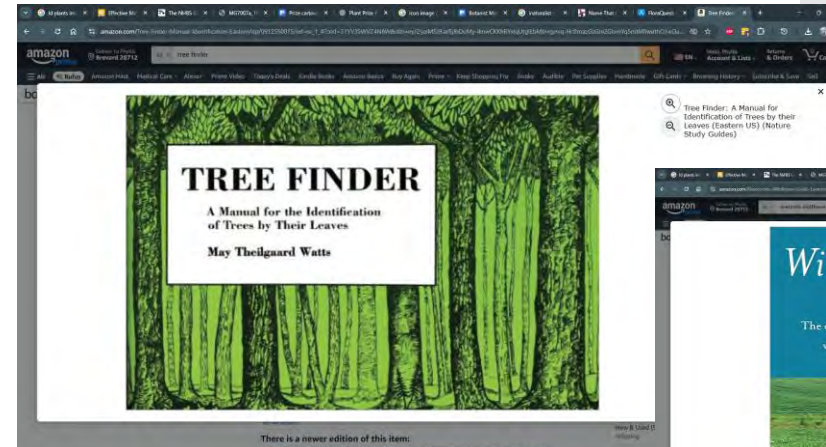
The Plant Gallery at ncwildflower.org –
lists if it's a NC native plant

Name that Plant web site

iNaturalist app

FloraQuest

Land of the Sky Chapter meetings,
classes, and walks



FLORAQUEST: CAROLINAS & GEORGIA

A guide to more than 5,800 wildflowers, trees, shrubs, grasses, and other vascular plants occurring in North Carolina, South Carolina & Georgia.
Partner: University of North Carolina's Southeastern Flora Team. (\$19.99)



University of North Carolina's Southeastern Flora Team is pleased to present FloraQuest™. Carolinas & Georgia, a new plant identification and discovery app covering more than 5,800 wildflowers, trees, shrubs, grasses, and other vascular plants occurring in southeast part of our Floras areas (North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia).



History of the North Carolina Native Plant Society

- The North Carolina Native Plant Society began as the
- North Carolina Wild Flower Preservation Society in 1951
 - and was the brainchild of Mary Tate Graham of Ramseur, Director of the Sixth District of the Garden Club of North Carolina, and Conner Smith (another woman).
- The Society was incorporated in 1956 as a nonprofit organization
 - the Articles of Incorporation were signed by H.L. Blomquist (Duke University Botany Department Chairman), Alfred Mordecai (medical doctor and horticulturalist), H.R. Totten (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Botany Professor), Lionel Melvin (North Carolina nurseryman and one of the first to recommend using native plants in the home landscape), and Herbert P. Smith (husband of Conner Smith, one of the founders).



History of the North Carolina Native Plant Society



- The Society was initially very active in
 - Conservation efforts and
 - Native plant gardens across the state,
 - Working to conserve habitat for Pixie moss in the Sandhills and support for the Daniel Boone Botanical Garden in Boone. – **A major reason to become incorporated was the ability to acquire land to protect the endangered Pixie Moss**
- By 1958 the efforts to acquire the land to protect Pixie Moss had fallen through.



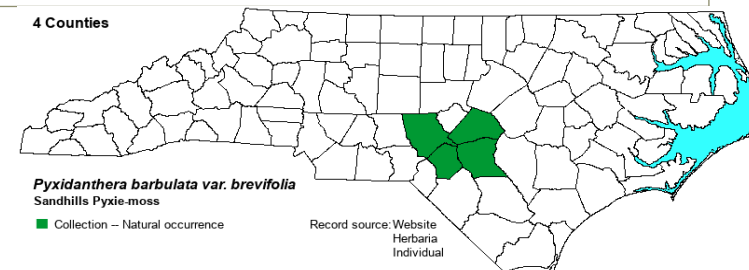
History of the North Carolina Native Plant Society

- **Pixie Moss**

- Rare, small flowering plants (not true mosses)
- Found only in the Sandhills region, and within that area it has yet to be found in the southern counties of Richmond or Scotland;

found only in Moore, Harnett, Hoke, and Cumberland counties.

This is a very narrow endemic, found only in NC and adjacent SC, all in the Sandhills region.

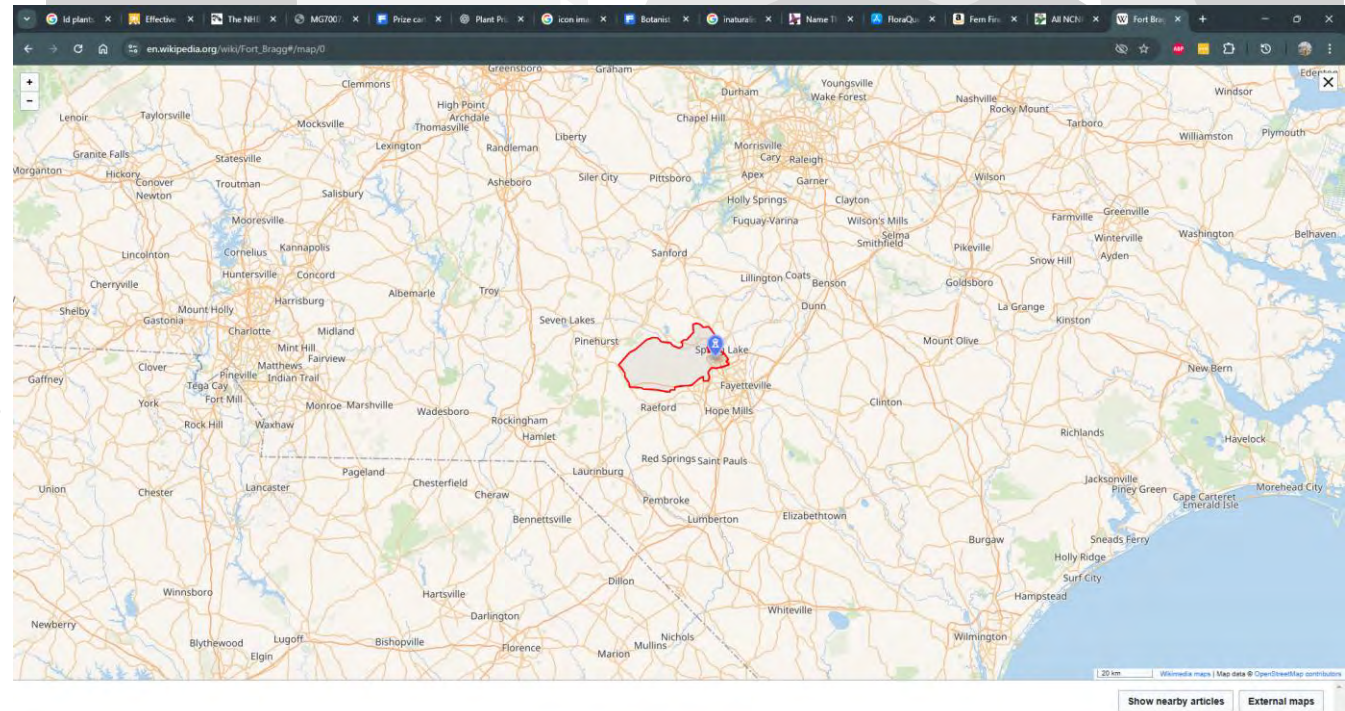




History of the North Carolina Native Plant Society

Pixie Moss

- Very restricted in range, but it is fairly common on Fort Bragg.
- Rare away from Fort Bragg,
- Restricted to sandy soil on clay hardpans within the Sandhills region, typically on ridges and hilltops.
- Blooms from February into March



History of the North Carolina Native Plant Society

- This is a tiny sub-shrub with **narrow evergreen leaves, resembling a moss. Grows flat on the ground, in dense stands, can occur in mounds**
- Colonies can extend for **several feet across. The tiny leaves are needle-like, barely 1/8-inch long, densely covering the stems.**
- The **white flowers (about 1/4-inch across)**, though quite small, are so abundant that the plants looks like patches of snow when in bloom.
- You have to be extremely observant and likely you will need **to go down to your knees or your belly** to get a convincing look.





History of the North Carolina Native Plant Society

- **By 2000**

- The Board recognized

- its small numbers could not respond to the needs across the state and several chapters were formed, including the Charlotte (later Southern Piedmont), Triangle, and Triad chapters.
- Charlotte was the first new chapter formed. The chapter in Raleigh is the first and original chapter.

- **In 2004**

- The Society's name was changed to

- the North Carolina Native Plant Society
 - to show our interest in and commitment to all native plants, not just wildflowers.



North Carolina Native Plant Society

C/O North Carolina Botanical Garden

CB 3375, Totten Center, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3375



History of the North Carolina Native Plant Society

Our Chapters to day

- 1.1.Blue Ridge(Boone area)
- 2.2.Central Coastal Plain(New Bern area)
- 3.3.Land of the Sky(Asheville area)
- 4.4.Oconee Bell Chapter(Cashiers area)
- 5.5.Southern Piedmont(Charlotte area)
- 6.6.SE Coast(Wilmington area)
- 7.7.Triad(Greensboro, Winston-Salem)
- 8.8.Margaret Reid (Triangle)(Raleigh area)
- 9.9.Uwharrie (Uwharrie Forest area)





History of the North Carolina Native Plant Society

Statewide Activities

- Grants and Scholarships
- Garden Certification 225 across the state
- Spring Trip
- Publish quarterly Newsletters
- Maintain the ncwildflower.org web site
- Maintain a list of plant nurseries
- Speaker bureau
- List of invasive plants in NC
- Recommended native plants for garden
- Recommended books on native plants
- Native plant resources for NC

Chapter activities

- Hold meetings
- Plan field trips
- Plant rescues
- Volunteer workdays
- Arrange and give talks
- Plant exchanges and Seed Exchanges
- Have a booth at local events
- Local projects

History of the North Carolina Native Plant Society

Conservation work in 2014

Shortia galacifolia var. *brevistyla*

Northern Oconee bells, *Shortia galacifolia* var. *brevistyla*, is one of North Carolina's rarest plants .

Found only in McDowell County, growing along a few streambanks, is at great risk.

Most of you know its close cousin, *Shortia galacifolia*, found in western NC

2014 NCNPS Donated \$3000 to conserve the Carraway Track to protect *Shortia galacifolia* var. *brevistyla*



History of the North Carolina Native Plant Society

Conservation work in 2014

***Shortia galacifolia* var. *brevistyla* Location**

The approximately 30-acre site is north of Marion bordered on one side by the Pisgah National Forest and on the other three by private lands.

It is accessible by a single gated gravel road off the paved highway that has an easement.

A small spring-fed branch flows through the property and the *Shortia* hugs the banks of this small stream for perhaps 3/8 of a mile.

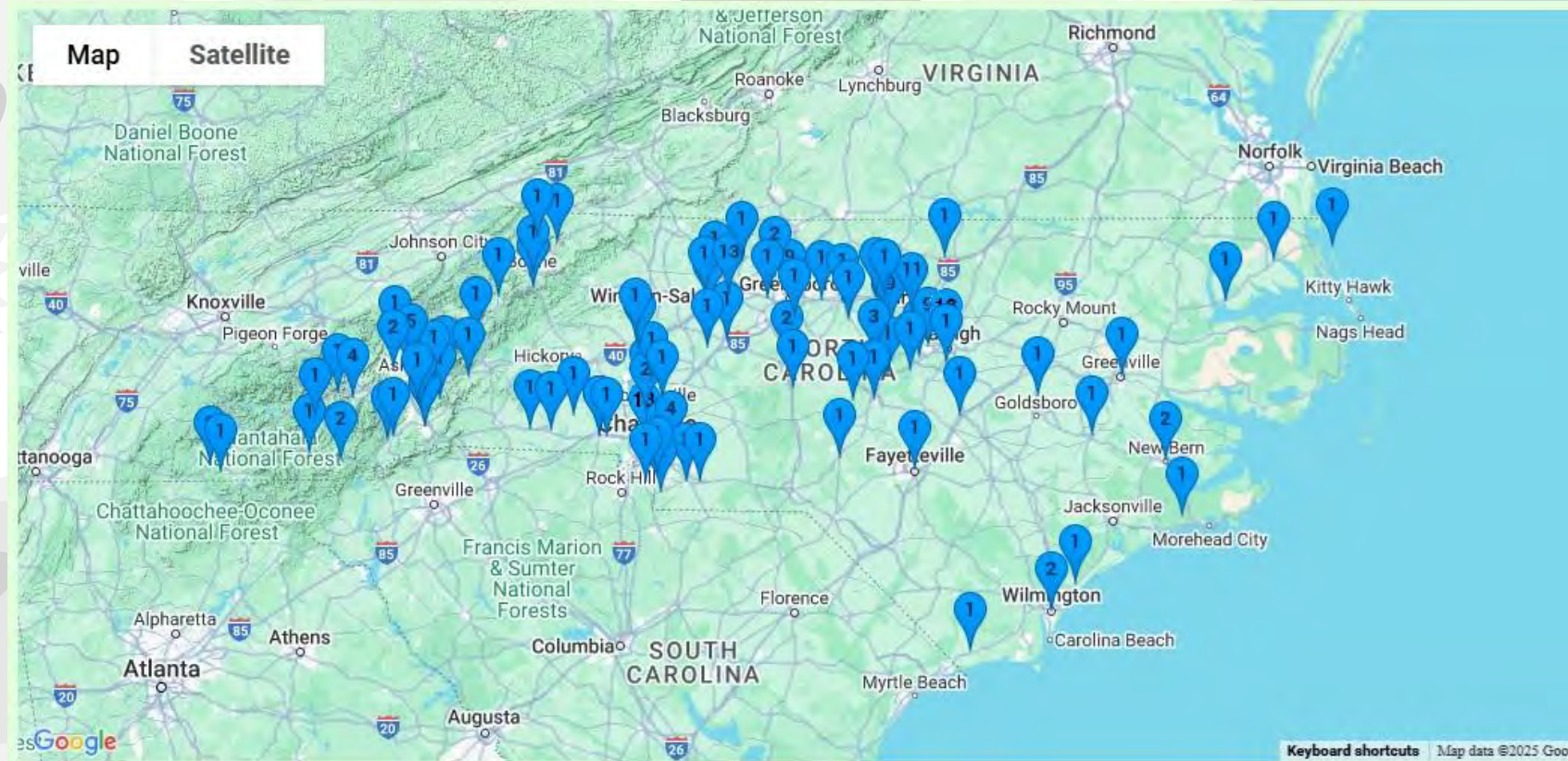
The springs feeding the stream are on the property so this entire small watershed could be protected.

2014 NCNPS Donated \$3000 to conserve the Carraway Track to protect *Shortia galacifolia* var. *brevistyla*



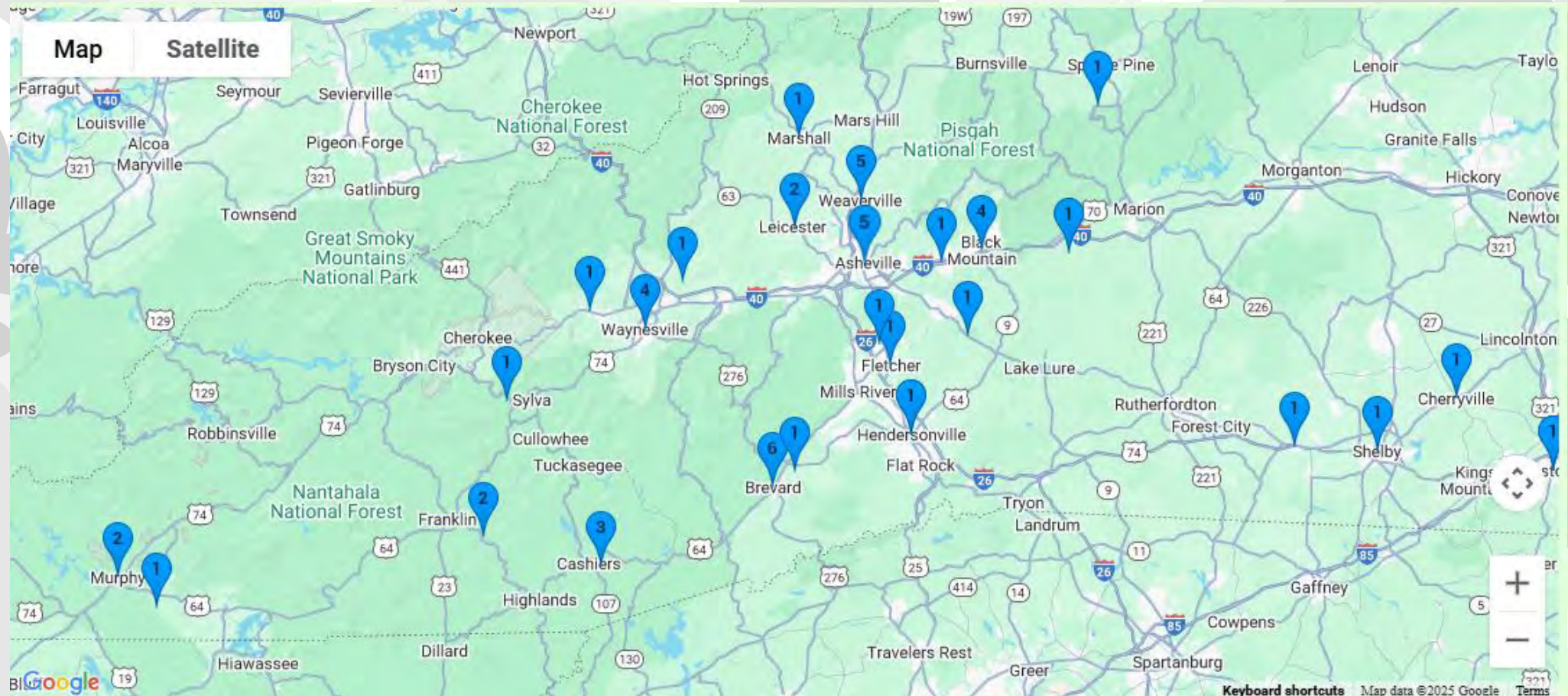
History of the North Carolina Native Plant Society

Certified Gardens 225 across the State



History of the North Carolina Native Plant Society

Certified Gardens in Western NC





History of the North Carolina Native Plant Society

Certified Gardens

For NCNPS certification, a native garden must have representation in

A minimum of 5 of the 11 plant categories listed below.

Plants listed should be native to North Carolina. List both scientific and common names on this application.

Categories – Must have at least 3 in a category

1. Canopy Trees
2. Understory Trees
3. Shrubs
4. Herbaceous Flowering Plants – Spring-Blooming
5. Herbaceous Flowering Plants – Summer Blooming
6. Herbaceous Flowering Plants – Fall Blooming
7. Ferns
8. Grasses
9. Vines Herbaceous or Woody
10. Mosses and Lichens
11. Water/Bog Plants



History of the North Carolina Native Plant Society

Certified Gardens

At least 6 of the conservation practices are required

- Avoid chemical use where possible
- Control pests naturally by encouraging beneficial insects - No broad-spectrum insecticides
- Minimize or eliminate lawn areas
- Allow leaves to remain where they fall
- Capture and utilize rainwater
- Compost plant material, such as grass clippings and vegetable peels, in a bin or pile
- Install native plants facing destruction, obtained through organized rescues.
- Check with your local chapter for rescue events
- Provide water sources for habitat support such as water features, bird bath
- Use groundcover, leaves or hardwood mulch to retain moisture
- Use soaker hoses or hand watering rather than overhead sprinkling
- Leave older and non-hazardous dead trees in the landscape
- Guard against human-made hazards including window collisions, light pollution,
- don't use poisonous or glue pest traps, or plastic netting
- Reduce use of yard maintenance equipment, such as fossil fuel powered mowers & blowers



History of the North Carolina Native Plant Society

Grants in 2025

Summary

Received 45 applications

Funded 22

- Special western grants funded - 11
- Fully funded - 12
- Partially funded - 10

Funds awarded \$36,419

- **Special western grants - \$26,869**
- **Western proposals reviewed as standard - \$6,000**
- Standard grants from the rest of the state - \$3,550



History of the North Carolina Native Plant Society

Grants in 2025

[List of Grants](#)



History of the North Carolina Native Plant Society

See you on the Trail and in Class!

