

Native Plant News

NEWSLETTER OF THE NC NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Native Plant News
Julie Higgle, editor

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MISSION STATEMENT:

Our mission is to promote the enjoyment and conservation of North Carolina's native plants and their habitats through education, protection, cultivation and advocacy.

The Catawba Wildflower Glen *Preserving Our Natural History*

By Mary Stauble

AS A CATAWBA Wildflower Glen (CWG) volunteer steward the past 10 years, I hike the property every month or two, help monitor, take photos, lead hikes and organize workdays. Throughout the pandemic, the CWG has been a source of peace for our family... a beautiful place to hike and release the stress of being housebound. It delights in all seasons.

The CWG is a jewel of biodiversity just below Mountain Island Lake and one of the most botanically diverse pieces of Mecklenburg County, just northwest of downtown Charlotte. In early spring, the white flowers of native Bloodroot cover the hillsides. The list of native wildflowers goes on and on with Jack-in-the-pulpit, Catesby's Trillium,



Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

"It is estimated that less than 1% of the Great Forest that once covered the Eastern United States survives. But old-growth sleuths are still finding fragments that escaped the saw."

***The Charlotte Observer*
—1994**

Foamflower and Windflower. The steep, moist, north-facing slopes along a small creek draining directly into the Catawba River host a rich diversity of herbaceous and woody plant species, including some more common to the mountains like Mountain Laurel, Horsesugar, Turtlehead and Common Silverbell. Due to the sensitive nature of the site, it is open only with permission.

The Glen's history is full of stories (Cont. on P3)

Society News

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Note from the Editor:

IT'S BEEN A REAL pleasure editing our Society's quarterly newsletter all these years. I've met so many interesting people who love plants and wildlife as much as I do, and as a retired journalist, I've enjoyed the artistry of putting it all together. However, the time has come for the Society to change this educational publication to a more modern, mobile-phone-friendly format. So I decided it's time for old-fashioned me to say "goodbye". A committee has been appointed to determine how to best proceed. I want to sincerely thank those kind and generous Society members from all of our chapters who contributed articles and photos, and answered questions for me. And I want to especially thank our Society's highly trained botanists and other skilled specialists who shared their knowledge and their wisdom. A special thank you goes to former president **Jean Woods**, who always made this job easier for me, and **Lisa Lofland Gould**, who is a highly respected botanist and academic professional. Lisa is the one who proofs our newsletters and always keeps an eye out for the proper scientific identification and labeling style of plants. I couldn't have done it without you, Lisa! I am so sorry that limited registration forces me to miss this year's annual meeting and picnic. So as for the rest of my fellow members, I hope to see you all on a future nature hike!

Julie Higgin

jchiggin@yahoo.com

NCNPS Awards Program

Please remember the deadline for NCNPS awards is January 1, 2022. Please refer to <https://ncwildflower.org/ncnps-awards-program/> for more information.

Tom Harville, Awards Chairman



Julie's Coral Honeysuckle

The Catawba Wildflower Glen (cont.)

of people moved to protect the environment. Catawba Lands Conservancy (CLC) purchased this property in 1995, their first land acquisition and a priceless gift to ourselves and future generations. "It is an old-growth type forest - what botanists refer to as a climax stage of forest succession. Its distinctive layered growth consists of canopies and sub-canopies of trees, understory of shrubs and a forest floor rich in herb growth now rare in this part of the Piedmont," said Roy Alexander, a founding CLC board member who took the CWG under his wing in the early years.



At the CWG, people enjoy the beauty of a climax forest.

CWG's original purchase was a "10-acre fragment so outstanding in the number of rare and different species of plant life that the two botanists (Dr. Jim Matthews and Dr. Larry Mellichamp) who inventoried it immediately pledged \$1,000 toward its purchase," states CLC literature. The CWG now contains over 19 acres of purchased land and additional 23.8 acres in a conservation easement to buffer the property.



2021 Glen workday with Sharon Wilson, Mary Stauble and Will Ruark.

I've discovered that conserved properties like this one need protection. Just buying the land is not enough. The parcels are at risk from poachers, trespassers, invasive plants and now climate change. Sharon Wilson has been the CLC Land Stewardship Director since 2005 with a staff of three staff, but with over 17,000 acres now conserved, volunteers are critical.

As documented in the [National Climate Assessment](#), rain events have become more ex-

treme due to a changing climate, with large volumes of rain coming in a short period of time. During rain events, the small, gentle creek on site is transformed to a rushing stream, causing erosion and undermining the entrance boardwalk and gathering area built over the stream.

Current plans include redesign of the entrance trail with a large section of boardwalk over the creek removed and the area replanted with native plants. It is a delicate site and will require workers sensitive to this. CLC needs funding, in-kind-donations and volunteers to make it a reality.

It is a privilege to get to know such a beautiful place. I think of its long botanical history and all the people that have worked to protect it. People who love the land. I enjoy sharing it with others and helping them appreciate its biological riches. More people need to understand and be inspired by our connection to the natural world. Native Americans had it right: "The Earth does

not belong to man; man belongs to the Earth."

Join me in spreading this message of conservation and stewardship to the next generation.

I recently asked Dr. Mellichamp, "Do we have a chance to protect these special places?" He said we have to try harder.

Make a difference by volunteering with [Catawba Lands Conservancy](#), or a land trust near you. Look on their website for programs and opportunities to visit the Catawba Wildflower Glen.

A Challenge for Our Planet

I REMEMBER THE FIRST Earth Day. It was April 22, 1970, and I was an Albion College (Michigan) senior. We became aware of the environment and the mounting problems for its health. We had forgotten Rachel Carson and her concerns.

So how did we respond to this awareness? Not nearly enough, according to David Attenborough.

Larry and I became deeply concerned about this when we recently saw David Attenborough's film, "A Life on Our Planet." Attenborough states that in the span of a lifetime—his lifetime of 93 years—the earth is in a spiral downwards with

CO2 increasing and green spaces decreasing. After viewing this film, Larry and I were ALARMED, SOLEMN, A LITTLE BIT HOPEFUL, and INSPIRED TO DO SOMETHING.

But what can we do? What can all of us do?

We CHALLENGE YOU to see this film! "A Life on Our Planet" is on Netflix.

Then ACT:

- Volunteer at land conservancies, parks, our great National Parks.

- Become a land steward or river keeper.

- Give funding for projects to support these natural places.

- Promote greenways, hiking trails and provide bike trails.

What Larry and I have done: we have given money to support our local land conservancies; we have given advice to help with trail construction or plantings along stream banks; we have educated people about plants, particularly native plants, and taught them to get rid of the invasives; and we take young people outdoors and teach them to take care of and respect green places.

Again, we all can do something! So, our CHALLENGE to all of you is to do something to protect our PLANET.



Audrey, Larry and Suzanne Mellichamp enjoy the woods and picking blueberries on Mt. Pisgah, NC.

Audrey and Larry Mellichamp

Grant News

Holy Hedgerow Project

Lena Van Wyk, Farm Director

The Farm at New Garden Park, a ministry of the Church of the Redeemer

(www.ngpfarm.org), which organically farms vegetables, flowers, and fruit on a 9-acre property in Greensboro, wanted to incorporate native plants on the property. A grant from the **B.W. Wells Stewardship Fund** helped them pursue the Holy Hedgerow Project, planting natives in hedgerows, providing habitat for beneficial insects, a wildlife corridor for small animals, wind protection, privacy screening, and edible fruit and leaves for making jams, jellies, teas, drinks, and medicines. They hope their Holy Hedgerow will inspire other local churches to pursue the same. In cooperation with the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, they designed a 200-foot hedgerow made up of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and forbs. After a year of soil preparation, 40 people gathered to put 255 plants in the ground. Planting day also served as an educational day to teach the volunteers about the benefits of native plants.



A Thing of Beauty

– Nancy Shinn, Artist

Turk's-cap Lily (*Lilium superbum*) with a Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly.

"I started painting watercolors after I saw some in the home of my in-laws, **Tom** and **Bruce Shinn**, and I thought to myself, 'I bet I can learn to do that!' So, I did," Nancy told *Native Plant News*. Talent runs in the Shinn family. Nancy is the widow of **Tom Shinn Jr.** and, of course, her in-laws were native plant enthusiasts who developed and maintained a wildflower garden at their home near Asheville. Tom Shinn's detailed propagation records became the basis for a native plant propagation handbook, first published by the Society in 1977. The Society sponsors two annual Tom & Bruce Shinn Grants for the purpose of supporting basic or applied research on native plants in botanical or horticultural areas that fulfill the mission and/or objectives of the Society. Thank you, Nancy, for sharing your lovely masterpiece!

CHLOROFIENDS!*

Milkweed Conundrums

By Lisa Lofland Gould

AS YOU probably know, NCNPS maintains a list of [North Carolina nurseries](#) that carry native plants and don't sell plants listed on our [invasive species list](#) as "Rank 1—Severe Threat". Both lists are works-in-progress, with new nurseries being added regularly, and on-going assessment of the invasives list, which is now 11 years old and needs updating badly.

Recently NCNPS ran into a conundrum: a nursery asked to be added to our list, but offered two non-native milkweeds, Balloon Cottonbush (*Gomphocarpus physocarpus*, sometimes listed as *Asclepias physocarpa*), and Tropical Milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*), both of which are being promoted to feed Monarch butterfly caterpillars. Neither plant is on our invasives list or known to be naturalized in NC, but both come with serious concerns for the health of Monarch butterflies and the Southeast's ecosystems.

Balloon Cottonbush (also known as Hairy Balls Milkweed, among many other common names) is a shrubby perennial native to southeast Africa; it has been planted widely and has naturalized in many parts of the world. Because Monarch butterflies



Balloon Cottonbush (G. fruticosus) in bloom and fruit.
—Dennis Burnette



are able to lay their eggs on Balloon Cottonbush and the caterpillars can survive, it is being touted as a great plant for Monarchs. This plant thrives in grasslands, pastures and some agricultural fields, roadsides, and

other disturbed waste places, but can also grow in wetlands. It is fast growing, drought tolerant, and like other milkweeds, produces wind-borne seeds, so it is not surprising that it is now considered invasive in many countries, including Australia, China, Hawaii, the Canary Islands, and parts of Polynesia, and is being assessed for invasiveness in India, Cuba, Jamaica, and southern Europe. A close relative, *Gomphocarpus fruticosus*, is also from Africa and planted for Monarchs; it often hybridizes with *G. physocarpus*.

Tropical Milkweed also supports Monarch caterpillars and is widely advertised as a great butterfly plant.



Tropical milkweed

—Dennis Burnette

One concern with this plant is that it is a host for the [protozoan parasite OE](#) (*Ophryocystis elektroscirrha*), which can impair metamorphosis, causing the wings to fail to open completely or weakening the adult butterfly. Both Tropical Milkweed and Balloon Cottonbush have different phenologies from our native milkweeds, so another concern is that these plants may stay green later into the fall than the

(Cont. next page)

CHLOROFIENDS!* (cont.)



Monarch caterpillar on native Butterfly Weed.

—Judy Steirand

natives, fooling Monarchs into laying eggs at a time when they should be migrating, and resulting in caterpillars that may then perish when freezing weather comes.

Scientists agree that more research is needed to understand the impact of these non-native milkweeds on Monarch butterfly populations. The Virginia Native Plant Society has a thoughtful discussion on this: <https://vnps.org/non-native-milkweed-helpful-harmful/>. The Xerces Society does not recommend Tropical Milkweed; for more information see <https://xerces.org/blog/tropical-milkweed-a-no-grow>.

For decades, the USDA Soil Conservation Service promoted Bicolor Lespedeza (*Lespedeza bicolor*) for erosion control and wildlife habitat (especially habitat and food for Northern Bobwhite). In the 1950s, I remember my Girl Scout leader (a tree hugger for sure, but what can I say: she was also my mother) touting the benefits of Bicolor Lespedeza, with no idea of what a pest it would eventually become; it is now *Rank 2—Significant Threat* on the NCNPS invasives list.

Today, however, ignorance of the impact of

widely introducing non-native species should be no excuse: we KNOW a great deal about which plants are likely to become invasive, and we have myriad examples all around us of the economic and ecological impact of their spread. One recent article estimated the global 2017 cost of invasive species at \$162.7 billion; such figures do not account for biodiversity loss due to invasive species.

North Carolina is home to 17 species of native milkweed, a wealth of beauty for us and nourishment for many species of insects. It is my hope that in our desire to save single species, such as the Monarch butterfly, we will not lose focus on the bigger picture: maintaining healthy ecosystems so that the full panoply of organisms can be supported.

As always, GO NATIVE!

Chlorofiends! is a regular column in *Native Plant News*. If you have information or comments on invasive species in North Carolina, please share them with Lisa Gould (lisal Gould@gmail.com).

*Thanks to Jim Butcher's *The Dresden Files* for the column title.



Native Poke Milkweed (Asclepias exaltata) with pollinators.

—Lisa Gould

Swamp Bliss at Merchants Millpond

By **Bettina Darveaux**

I AM SO GRATEFUL that I have 10 acres to safely explore nature at my home during the pandemic. But after months of hunkering down last spring and summer, I just needed a change of scenery. We decided to take a chance and set forth on a camping/canoeing trip. My son pre-quarantined and joined my husband and me on our excursion to Merchants Millpond State Park, located in Gatesville, NC.

I couldn't have asked for a more dramatic scenery change! I have never been inside swamplands before and the best word I can come up with to describe it is magical. I felt like I was living within a storybook and this was just standing on the boat launch area before actually getting into our boats! Looking out over the very dark-colored shallow waters filled with floating duckweeds (*Lemna* sp.) and surrounded by beautiful Bald-cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and Water Tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*) trees with their large buttressed trunks festooned with Spanish-moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), was just breathtaking.

We camped at the Merchants Millpond campgrounds and we were the only campers there for those several days during the week, which was perfect for social distancing! It was pretty hot, as it was August, so we ventured out into the water towards the end of the day to escape the blazing hot sun, my son in his

kayak and my husband and I in the canoe. While on the water, you immediately felt "one with the swamp" as you drifted deeper into the pages of this real-time storybook, complete

with gnarly, deformed tree branches, (caused by American Mistletoe, *Phoradendron leucarpum*), that looked like mythical creatures.

What became quickly apparent was the lack of reference to a shoreline, as you would have with a typical open body of water, and no real distinct landmarks to help you navigate. This pond was beset with so many islands, peninsulas, and narrow watery passageways around the vegetated hummocks and trees that it would be difficult to "retrace your steps" and find your way back to the boat launch. Luckily for cell phones with GPS, and the

fact that the park had color-coded buoys to designate "canoe trails" within the pond, I figured we would be just fine.

Trying to take pictures with my cell phone, being careful not to get it wet, or worse yet, drop it into the water while paddling, was quite the challenge. Keeping the canoe perfectly still for those close-up plant shots was equally difficult. I did get a few blurry pictures of Broadleaf Pondlily (*Nuphar advena*) in the water and a nice picture of American Groundnut (*Apios americana*) growing on a hummock. I think next time I will just concentrate on enjoying the moments and forget about taking pictures while out on the water.

There are plenty of hiking trails in the park with boardwalks (Cont. next page) that take you



Our adventure begins! —Shawn Darveaux

Swamp Bliss (cont.)

into the swamp and through patches of Netted Chain-fern (*Lorinseria areolata*) and by Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), so there are easier opportunities to take nice pictures. I even saw some beautiful Spotted Beebalm (*Monarda punctata*) right near the entrance to the boat launch.

If all this swamp bliss wasn't enough, I actually spotted an alligator in the water, a species known to be present but rarely seen by park visitors. It was large! My son captured some video of it but we did not want to paddle closer as that would constitute wildlife harassment. This was his or her home and we needed to respect that. I felt honored that this alligator chose to reveal him or herself to us to make our trip that much more special.

We are planning to come back in the Fall when the air would be cooler so that we could spend the entire day exploring the pond. I can just imagine how beautiful the Bald-cypress and Water Tupelo trees will be with their fall colors reflecting off the black-colored water. Plus, our alligator friend might be eager to see us again!



Mistletoe on Water Tupelo

-Bettina Darveaux



Paddling through a maze of seemingly endless shallow channels.

=Bettina Darveaux



The attainment of swamp bliss!

=Bettina Darveaux

New Native Plant Habitats!

NCNPS has certified four Native Plant Habitats in the last three months. Three are on private properties and one is a large public garden connected to Cone Health Cancer Center in Greensboro. The applicants have graciously submitted writeups and photos for inclusion in this issue of the *Native Plant News*.

Pat Holder, Native Plant Habitat Certification Chair

Many Ways Farm White Cross, NC Kurt Riitters and Megan Granda

In 2017, we finally found an ideal site for our new home. We were attracted to this 10-acre parcel, once part of the original Durham family farms near White Cross, because it is relatively remote (for Orange County) and it contains a remarkable variety of forested habitats. We set about learning the plants on the property, noticing the differences in the riparian area as the creek transitioned from a sandy and slow section to a rocky and fast section, and along the gradients of elevation and aspect in the adjacent 20-year-old cutover hardwood-pine forest.

Our evolving native plant list now includes about 75 herbaceous species, 10 vines, and 30 trees, and we're getting better at identifying other plant forms, including fungi (we've tentatively identified 25 different species with the help of the iNaturalist app). Our most unexpected discovery was Bald-cypress "knees" in the creek, but it turned out these out-of-range individuals were planted 20 years ago by the neighbor.

After moving in two years ago, we began to create, within a "home zone," a series of plant communities according to micro-habitats, along with some space for vegetables. While

the home zone focus is on native North Carolina plants, for aesthetic and seasonal interest we do include some non-invasive ornamentals. Our evolving list of planted material now includes more than 100 species across the range of plant forms.

Apart from a heavy hand in the septic field (wildflower seeding) and in the old pasture (planted fruit and ornamental trees and shrubs, and a butterfly garden), we are attempting to minimize our impact outside the home zone. Our experiences have been very satisfying and rewarding, and we look forward to a continuing journey with nature in the years to come.



***Downy
Rattle-
snake
Plantain
and
Striped
Gentian***

New Native Plant Habitats! (cont.)

Wendy's Journey to Natives

By Wendy Diaz

It wasn't my intention to plant invasive plants in my yard when we moved to Durham from Canada 22 years ago. I just loved landscaping and I was uneducated about the plants, soil and climate of North Carolina. I was so happy that I could finally plant ornamentals in my yard that would struggle or not even survive in Canada due to its more severe winter, and I was also not prepared for the rapid plant growth rate in this state of both exotic and native species. So, I spent a lot of time pulling up unwanted seedlings.

However, in 2015, I received Durham Master Gardener Extension Volunteer training and also attended talks at various garden centers, such as the North Carolina Botanical Garden. Then the New Hope Audubon Society was very helpful and they pointed out native wildflowers that I already had in my natural area that I did not know existed. I became inspired to build on what I had naturally, which was about 33 native species. After I received the Platinum Certification for Bird Friendly Habitat in July 2020, I became aware of our Society's Native Plant Habitat Certification, and applied for and received certification this March.

I keep an inventory of both native and ornamental plants in a spreadsheet which I update after each spring or fall plant purchase or when a new native 'volunteer' emerges thanks to the help of birds and squirrels or because mulch and invasive plants were removed. We did the removal work in about three stages to avoid feeling overwhelmed. During a few weekends between the summer of 2018 and 2020, armed with hand pruners, lopper, shovel, mulching lawnmower and chainsaw, my husband and I removed the invasive species. I did not use herbicides, but instead pulled up plants by the roots where possible after a good rain. I acquired native plants from reliable



sources. I amended the clay soil with mulched leaves, and hand weeded and protected them from rabbits and deer until they became established. I let the moss spread in areas if it was growing vigorously and it flanked the native plantings for a neat appearance. Dead trees were topped and left to provide forage and shelter for birds.

We have noticed more mammals, reptiles and birds in our yard these past few years and it is very rewarding to see the transformation. The native plants I have now (90 different species including trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, vines and wildflowers) and along with my conservation practices have produced a pretty and natural-looking garden. In 1999, I didn't have time to obtain certifications when I moved to Durham with three young children and I only can imagine how mature and beautiful my garden would have been if I had that education back then or asked a Master Gardener.

Knowledge is power when landscaping a garden. Fortunately, we had abundant rainfall in the last few years and the North Carolina growth rate did not disappoint. I recommend removing invasive species from your yard and planting some natives. It will be a rewarding experience. My native plant garden is colorful, diverse and busy, and soon the ground surface will be covered so I will have less weeding work. My garden is now my muse and not my job.

(Habitats cont. next page.)

New Native Plant Habitats! (cont.)

Laurel Millaci

Mint Hill, NC

I have always had a love of flowers and gardening, instilled in me by my grandmother. Seeing the growth of a seedling into a beautiful flower, attracting a butterfly or bee, is true magic. That image still resonates, but now I realize the importance of the relationship of all aspects of nature.

When I moved to Mint Hill four years ago, I completed the UNCC Native Plant Certificate Program and through the classes and projects, I learned the critical importance of planting natives as a key to strengthening our entire environment. Without native plants as a base, there would not be the insects that live on them, and the birds and wildlife, which need them to survive for food and shelter.

One of my favorite natives is Coral Honeysuckle. Not only is it beautiful, but it gives all of the hummingbirds by my home a natural source of nectar, in addition to my hummingbird feeders. I have a great appreciation for all birds, as I am the Supervisor for the Baby Bird Rescue at Carolina Waterfowl Rescue. We rehab and release thousands of songbirds each summer season. I love that my passion for plants and animals is totally entwined through the importance of native plants.



Left two photos, top and bottom, show a UNCC class project to create a dry river bed from a swale which flooded during heavy rains.

Photos taken by the author.



During the winter, piled branches provide cover and shelter for small animals and birds.

(Habitats cont. next page)

New Native Plant Habitats! (cont.)

The Healing Gardens Mary Magrinat

It was a gorgeous spring in the Healing Gardens, located next to the Cone Health Center on the campus of Wesley Long Hospital in Greensboro. The gardens provide respite for patients, families and hospital staff, alike! With varied topography, the gardens are nearly 2 acres, including a large wetland with a stream and Buffalo Creek at the border. In addition to many native plant species, the gardens include a labyrinth, a Japanese Maple Grove, a rock garden with a boulder fountain, three patios, 32 benches, and numerous lookouts. The main path is wheelchair accessible, but there are many other, smaller walking paths leading to quiet garden nooks replete with benches and views. Visitors are welcome!



Labyrinths are thought to inspire a peaceful mind and healing spirit.



Chapter Updates

TRIAD CHAPTER

Spring activities for the Triad Chapter focused on viewing the wonderful emerging native plants in our area. Twenty-six members traveled a short distance to neighboring Alamance County to visit the newly created Cane Creek Natural Area to hike two different trails. This site provides public access to a state significant natural heritage area, and participants saw not only a variety of ferns, but also emerging Carolina Lily (*Lilium michauxii*) and Fairy Wand (*Chamaelirium luteum*), great finds but not yet photo worthy.

Early in April, a small group traveled to Winston-Salem to visit the Emily Allen Wildflower Preserve. Thanks to Piedmont Land Conservancy for their work, not only with Emily's garden but also for being instrumental with the creation of the Cane Creek project. Ken Bridle was on hand at Cane Creek to give some history and details of the property.

Members were encouraged to share their gardens this spring, as no official meeting has been planned.

Lynda Waldrep



Cane Creek Hike

-Julianne Knight

Exciting news!

The **Cullowhee Native Plant Conference** will be held this year as a virtual event July 16 and 17. The organizers have lined up an impressive array of speakers. If you've never been because of travel distance or time commitment, this year is the perfect opportunity to tune in and soak up knowledge on incorporating native plants into the landscape or take a virtual hike with expert botanists. NCNPS is pleased to sponsor this event.

Registration started on May 3. Please visit the website to register.

Cullowhee Sponsorship Opportunity

NCNPS sponsors several scholarships to attend the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference. This year scholarship awards will cover the entire registration cost and are available to students, beginning professionals, and science and environmental educators. Deadline to apply is June 6. Look for the application link on the conference website.

<https://www.wcu.edu/engage/professional-enrichment/conferences-and-community-classes/the-cullowhee-native-plant-conference/index.aspx>

Chapter Updates (cont.)

BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER

Add natural beauty with environmental benefits to your landscape!

The Blue Ridge Chapter is holding two native plant sale events this spring at the Daniel Boone Native Gardens located at 651 Horn in the West Drive, Boone. The first sale was held in May and the second is slated for Saturday June 26, rain or shine, from 8:00am to 12:00 p.m. In the event of rain, the location will be moved across the street to the picnic shelter in Boone Park.

At least 80 different varieties of perennials, ferns, grasses, sedges, trees and shrubs native to this region and well suited to our local growing conditions will be offered. Some rare species will be available. Growing native plants benefits both the environment and the gardener. Native plants readily provide food, shelter and protection for the insects, birds and other wildlife in their given region, and by providing plants that are native to their region, the gardener ensures that the local pollinators, birds and wildlife will thrive. The gardener benefits because native plants are well suited to their particular climate, annual rainfall, soil conditions and elevation; they require less fertilizer or additional watering.

Finding sources for native plants has traditionally been difficult and buyers have to be careful to ensure that plants were legally propagated and not illegally removed from their wild habitat. All the plants provided for this sale have been responsibly propagated in accordance with all plant protection laws.

According to Dr. Annkatrin Rose, Chair of the Blue Ridge Chapter, "We will have some rare and endangered species for sale again, such as Venus Flytrap and Oconee Bells, all propagated legally. Our flytraps, for example, were started in tissue culture by students at Appala-



chian State University. When buying endangered plants like this, it is important that buyers ask for their origin to make sure they are not contributing to the problem of poaching by purchasing plants that have been illegally dug from the wild."

Transforming one's entire property into a native plant community may seem daunting and may not even be practical in some situations, but these plant sales provide a great opportunity for someone to try out just a few species at a time, and even that is valuable to the environment. Knowledge of the importance of pollinators is growing and more people are gaining appreciation of the value of growing native plants. Hopefully this will lead to greater availability of native plant species for the average gardener.

Most perennials will be sold in \$5.00 quart and \$10.00 gallon containers. Trees, shrubs and rare species will be individually priced. This is a non-profit fundraiser with proceeds from the sales benefitting the Daniel Boone Native Gardens and the NC Native Plant Society.



North Carolina Native Plant Society

C/O Julie Higgle

209 Hanks Bluff Drive

Mooreville, NC 28117

Member Spotlight: GAIL CLARK

Gail is a member of the Triangle Chapter.

What is your background and how did you get interested in native plants?

I grew up in Delaware and have an MBA. My career included teaching school-age children a variety of STEM nature classes.

How did you get interested in native plants?

My father was an avid gardener and introduced me to natives. In Modesto, CA, I created a native plant garden in an abandoned lot, with the help of kids growing plants in classrooms as well as numerous donations from the community.

How do you support native plants in your chapter?

I set up our Facebook page, and recently hosted a walk at the Flower Hill Nature Preserve. I enjoy going on the walks and learn so much from the leaders and those who attend.

Do you have a favorite native plant?

The Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) is my favorite because it is a native that most people recognize and treasure on their properties. Recently, I have been creating a rain garden and learning to appreciate so many wonderful natives that support pollinators, butterflies and birds.

