

## 2018 PRESERVE WORKDAYS/FIELD TRIPS

**February 24— 10 am McIntosh/Tunstall Bay** We will venture to Scotland County to plant wiregrass plugs at Tunstall bay as part of the upland longleaf restoration of McIntosh Bay. Directions to the site will be sent to registered participants; bring a lunch. TNC will provide all the equipment needed plus drinks and snacks. No experience necessary; expect moderately strenuous work (carrying metal dibble bar and bucket of seedlings, repeated bending over to plant seedlings). Tunstall Bay is one of the few remaining Carolina Bays that supports a large population of tiger salamanders and other rare amphibians, and the adjacent Big Cypress Meadow bay is the only known location in NC for the federally endangered Canby's dropwort.

If you are willing to help, please send a note to Gretchen Coll at [gcoll@TNC.ORG](mailto:gcoll@TNC.ORG)

**March 23— 10 am Ring The Bells!** The blooming season for Oconee bells at Caraway Preserve in McDowell County will soon be upon us. We will assist the NCPCP staff with a count of plants in bloom so there is a base from which to judge the health of the population over time. As it is difficult to pin down the date of blooming, we will confirm with those registered as the season progresses.

**May 11— 10 am Big Flower, Bigger Leaf** Our annual trek to Redlair Preserve in Gaston County to see the Bigleaf magnolias in bloom will include a couple of hours pulling privet or another task that is on Haywood Rankin's To Do list. This is a popular event in a beautiful place that we hope with our hands we can make even a little more beautiful. Sign up soon, and bring a bag lunch.

**May TBA — 10 am Harmon Knob** A visit to this Preserve is in the planning stages for May. Eric Hiegl with the Blue Ridge Conservancy is in charge of the planning and will handle registration. As soon as details are finalized, FOPC will send an email via MailChimp to the membership.

**June 15 — 10 am Tater Hill** — There is a growing population of Knapweed at Tater Hill that has been tackled a time or two by students at Appalachian State Univ. We will add our efforts to the task and spend a part of our time at Tater Hill ridding it of the noxious weed. If knapweed is not in bloom, Matt Estep will lead us to an area in need of some trash removal—another project started by Appalachian students. If energy remains, we will take a look at needs in other areas of the Preserve.

**July 27 -- 9:30 am International Bog Day** In celebration of this day, we will tackle microstegium at Bat Fork Bog. When we have completed what we can of that task, we will make note of the plants on the Preserve and any frogs, turtles, salamanders, butterflies, dragonflies and birds that may be residing among the rare plant species. **Rain Date August 3.**

**August 10 — 9:30 am McIntosh Bay** Back to McIntosh Bay in Scotland County, this time to assist NCPCP staff with a search for Canby's dropwort, *Oxypolis canbyi*. It hasn't been seen in years but we are hopeful that the restoration efforts that have been underway by TNC and volunteers may result in its return. While we explore the Bay for its rare plant species, we will keep an eye out for plants and animals of interest.

**September 21— 9:30 am Picture Creek Seed Collecting** Picture Creek, in Granville County, has a few species from which seed need to be collected for augmentation efforts on the site. We can all go and see the site, learn about the plants protected there, the plant community that supports them, and assist NCPCP staff with seed collection. Easy walking, not too much bending.

**October 8-11 - 9 am One-Two Tie Your Boots, Three-Four Sharpen Your Pencil...** Monitoring *Helianthus schweinitzii* (Schweinitz's sunflowers) populations is conducted annually on several NCPCP Preserves and related areas. Volunteers will be instructed where and how to proceed, and assigned to a team, an area, and a day to work. Some sites can be completed in one-half day, others take a little longer. Any time you can give will be appreciated. Just tell us which day/days you will be available to help. The work is easy and the sites easy to reach.

**REGISTER EARLY AS SPACE IS LIMITED.** Directions and other details will be emailed about a week before the event. Please also leave a telephone/cell number so we can reach you.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Dates and meeting times may need to be adjusted depending on weather and bloom times. We will advise you as best we can.

**TO REGISTER:** Send an email to Nancy Stewart ... [Nancy.Stewart@ncagr.gov](mailto:Nancy.Stewart@ncagr.gov) or CALL 919 –707-3755