NEWSLETTER OF THE **FRIENDS OF PLANT CONSERVATION**SUPPORT GROUP OF THE NC PLANT CONSERVATION PROGRAM, NC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES, RALEIGH, NC

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Protecting plants in preserves

orth Carolina's native plants, no matter how rare or endangered, have no legal protection. The Plant Conservation Act of 1979, sets no limits on a landowner's rights to develop his or her property; mowing down or destroying the last population of a rare species is perfectly legal.

While maintaining windowsill pots of Venus Fly Traps and gardens full of rescued, regionally native, and rare plants is becoming more popular, these activities do not necessarily bring us closer to achieving the mission of protecting North Carolina's native plants in their native habitats for future generations. Although North Carolinians are blessed to have many public lands including parks, gamelands, and forests, none of these were established specifically for native plants and their conservation. Consequently, other goals and management objectives take precedence sometimes to the detriment of native plants and their habitats. We cannot take plant conservation for granted. A system of conservation lands designed to protect the full array of native plants in their natural habitats across North Carolina is needed.

In the mid 1990's, such an effort began with the purchase of a few acres of "mountain bog" habitat in the mountains. Arranged by Cecil Frost, this purchase by the Plant Conservation Program indirectly created a land acquisition program specifically for plants. Over the last several years a fledgling program of land acquisition and management has continued to de-



velop. Thanks to the support of the Plant Conservation Program Board, NCDA & CS's Plant Industry Division, and funding from the Natural Heritage Trust Fund, we have slowly but surely added to a growing statewide system of Plant Conservation Preserves and begun to manage these sites.

Each existing or proposed Preserve is designed with a particular rare species and habitat in mind and the overriding goal of each Preserve is to protect this target species and habitat; other possible uses of the Preserves are secondary. In many cases, the numbers of the target species are extremely low and incidental loss of individuals can be a grave concern. For this reason, there has been little public notification about Preserve locations and we expect that visitation to Preserves will continue to be limited by permit only.

In upcoming newsletters we will try to update members on Plant Conservation Preserves, and the Plant Conservation Program's attempt to inventory, manage, and expand this system.

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> VOL. 2, ISSUE 1, SPRING 2010

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

The loss of one plant species is a tragedy. The loss of one habitat is a statistic.

Recently I was invited to speak at the Southern Spring Show in Charlotte, an event attended by thousands and thousands of people. Held in the Merchandise Mart with three or four acres of booths, vendors offered garden design services, plant species of all descriptions, granite counter tops, bamboo flooring, porous and non-porous driveway paving, and dozens of other products related to gardens and housing.

My message was our message*. Delivered through a beautiful PowerPoint program crafted by Kathy Schlosser and titled "Imperiled Plants of the Carolinas", I gave it my best shot. The photographs are exquisite and the message is on target. It is a message every member needs

to deliver to their friends, civic clubs, and neighbors. Our strength as an organization is through our membership, as our numbers grow so does the ability to change the rapid loss of plant and animal habitat. Although my audience was small, two or three new members were signed up in Charlotte, not an army but certainly a start. Members will help us accomplish our goals of habitat preservation and support for Plant Conservation efforts in North Carolina. Talk up "NC Friends of Plant Conservation", but better yet, sign up some new members!

Bruce Williams

* Contact Kathy Schlosser for a copy of the PowerPoint Program.











Continued from page 1

Eno Diabase Sill – Durham:

Planning for this Preserve began in 2003 with the recognition that the Smooth Coneflower (*Echinacea laevigata*), was in severe decline statewide and those left in Durham county were precariously persisting along infrequently mowed roadsides.



The main coneflower population consisted of 30 or so flowering stems and a nearby subpopulation consisted of only a handful of non-flowering rosettes. In addition, the Smooth Coneflower was an indicator of a unique and diverse assemblage of rare species that were being lost to development and lack of appropriate management. Hoary Puccoon, Wild Blue Indigo, Earle's Blazing Star, and Tall Larkspur are a few of the rarities that led to the claim that the land targeted for initial Preserve acquisition harbored more rare species than any other site in the Piedmont.



Liatris squarrulosa www.ncwildflower.org

After successful meetings and agreements with landowners, efforts to restore habitat began in earnest. Today, after several prescribed fires, extensive hand clearing of brush and invasive species, the main Coneflower population has grown to over 1,100 flowering stems and the subpopulation has flowered for the first time on record.

It also appears that several other rare species have substantially increased on managed portions of the Preserve.

Prairie Dock (Silphium terebinthinaceum) and Earle's Blazing Star (Liatris squarrulosa) are notable examples, while Glade

Wild Quinine (*Parthenium auriculatum*) and Hoary Puccon (*Lithospermum cansescens*) are also thriving under our protection and management program. Native grasses and legumes are increasing, Wild turkey have become regular visitors, and neighbors report hearing the calls of Bobwhite Quail for the first time in years.

However, much work remains. We have seen that simply setting land aside is not enough. Managing the Preserve is an ongoing need and challenge.



Silphium terebinthinaceum C. Tom Harville

The need to manage the species and habitats through thinning, prescribed burning, invasive species removal, and other activities, and develop a more aggressive education campaign will not go away. In addition, we hope to add a few more key parcels to the Preserve, with the consent of willing landowners and availability of funding.

If you would like to find out more about the Eno Diabase Sill Preserve or find out how you can volunteer to help, please contact the Plant Conservation Program.

Rob Evans N.C. Plant Conservation Program



Lithospermum cansescens www.epa.gov

NC Prescribed Fire Council – A Match for Native Plant Lovers

John Ann Shearer, US Fish & Wildlife Service



s a new member of North Carolina Friends of Plant Conservation I eagerly attended the annual meeting in the fall and was genuinely satisfied to see so many involved natural resource supporters and hear such engaging speakers and thoughtful discussion focusing on our state's native plants. As a wildlife biologist with a focus on habitat management and restoration I was particularly interested in gleaning the experts' views on what can be done on the ground to benefit our native plants. Over and over I heard fire. Indeed many of our endemic plants evolved with fire and rely on fire as part of their life cycle. The benefits of prescribed fire are no surprise to any native plant lover, but are the native plant lovers aware of the many challenges facing the use of prescribed fire? Burning our native habitats is becoming more and more difficult and acres burned will only decrease if we don't work hard as a natural resource community to promote prescribed burning.

The North Carolina Prescribed Fire Council was officially launched in 2006 to do just this. The mission of the Council is to $^{\sim}\,$

- Promote public education about the benefits of prescribed fire.
- Advocate for the ability to use prescribed fire as a land management tool now and in the future.
- Increase expertise in prescribed fire by sharing technical and biological information.
- Promote safety, training, and research in the art and science of prescribed fire.
- · Review prescribed fire practices, regulations, and policies

and suggest improvements.

 Promote best management practices that minimize smoke and air quality impacts from prescribed fires.

Many of the founding organizations of the NC Prescribed Fire Council are also represented among the members of NC Friends of Plant Conservation (The Nature Conservancy, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, NC State Parks, NC Natural Heritage Program, North Carolina State University, and US Fish & Wildlife Service). I wonder, though, if the same individuals active in one organization are fully aware of the other. And how many among NC Friends of Plant Conservation are familiar with the NC Prescribed Fire Council? You don't have to be a practitioner to be a member, just a supporter of prescribed burning.

In NC about 120,000 acres a year are burned by prescription with another nearly 40,000 acres burned annually by wildfire. However, the estimated fire need is well over 1 million acres a year. With 90% of our state in private land ownership, prescribed fire must extend beyond public lands. At the same time, NC is the ranked third in the nation for its wildland urban interface or WUI which exceeds 5 million acres, further adding to the burning challenge. Our state is peppered with smoke sensitive areas and inundated with negative messages about fire such as the "Breathe – Don't Burn" campaign led by the NC Division of Air Quality in 2006.



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NC Prescribed Fire Council continued

In the face of these and many other obstacles, the NC Prescribed Fire Council's approach is to recruit diverse members, increase awareness of the benefits of fire, comment on proposed laws, gather and share data, promote safety, and recognize successes. The Council successfully established the first ever State Forester's Prescribed Burning Award to encourage prescribed burning within the Division of Forest Resources. The committees of the council have also made accomplishments. The Outreach Committee developed a communication plan which includes some goals that have been met such as a brochure and a web site.

The Implementation Subcommittee provided input on the NC Smoke Management Plan and the State Forest Resource Assessment. They worked with NC State University Extension Service on a "Forestry Practitioners Series," provided insurance information for consultants, and are pursuing a Prescribed Fire Training Center and a Landowner Association for Prescribed Fire.

The Government Relations and Policy Subcommittee reached out to Governor's staff, inviting them to council steering committee as an ad-hoc member. A proclamation by the Governor will establish the first Prescribe Burn Awareness Week Feb 8-12, 2010!

Please check out the NC Prescribed Fire Council at www.ncprescribedfirecouncil.org and consider becoming a member. With your free membership you will add to the strength of the organization. You will also receive a quarterly newsletter that always includes a "Plants on Fire" feature article by

Johnny Randall, Assistant Director of the NC Botanical Garden. You'll receive an invitation to the annual meeting and you'll have the opportunity to become involved in the active committee structure of the organization. Please support prescribed burning, a threatened management tool essential for the well being of our native flora!

www.ncprescribedfirecouncil.org

John Ann Shearer



Field Notes

From the Legislative Committee: Talking points

ost of us, regardless of our station or position in life, try to do the 'right thing' as defined by the culture and society in which we find ourselves. We do this because the right thing is the morally, ethically, and legally correct path.

Some are more swayed by one or the other of these variables. A few, however, take the opportunity to manipulate these variables in order to serve their self-interests. And some take self-interest so far that they violate ethics, morality, and sometimes the law. These latter are the ones who cause the rest of us problems.

It is worth remembering several things when relating to and working with law makers.

Always keep your message framed as educational.

Do not ask a legislator to do anything other than take an interest in our state's natural resources, including imperiled plants and the state agency responsible for protecting them.

We should not ask a legislator for funding or for his or her help with land acquisition. We can, however, talk about the biological and environmental value of lands being explored for acquisition, and even offer a guided tour of a site.

We must never provide gifts to a legislator or policy maker.

Remember that appearances can cause as much difficulty as the real thing. For this reason we can share our lunch with a legislator or policy-maker but we should never buy them lunch.

We hope this is helpful to you. You may have other suggestions that will help keep the operation of the Friends of Plant Conservation well within the strictest moral, ethical, and legal guidelines required by good citizens and the State of North Carolina. If so please share them.

Tom Baugh Andy Wood



Preserve Partners

YOU CAN HELP!

Would you like to help the NCPCP in setting up a Preserve Partner program for the existing preserves?

Would you like to directly contribute to the well being of our existing preserves?

We are looking for people who will be Rob Evans' eyes and ears on these preserves: currently there are 18 preserves in 13 counties -

County **PCP Preserve** (≈ Acreage) Ashe Tater Hill 900 acres Brunswick **Boiling Spring Lakes** 6.500 acres Brunswick Hog Branch Ponds 516 acres Cumberland Big Pond Bay 75 acres Durham **Eno River Diabase** 300 acres Durham Hebron Road 58 acres Henderson Bat Fork & Ochlawaha Bogs 20 acres Jackson **Dulany Bog** 100 acres Cedar Cliff 60 acres Jackson Denson's Creek Montgomery 60 acres Moore Eastwood 180 acres Polk Melrose Mountain 318 acres Polk White Oak Mountain 1,000 acres Randolph Long Mountain/Poison Fork 78 acres Randolph Harvest Field 30 acres Sampson Pondberry Bay 2.090 acres Union Mineral Springs Barrens 60 acres Paddy Mountain Watauga 263 acres

Now you can see that this is not a one person job and multiple folks would be welcome for each preserve. You can also guess that each site has its own set of needs and characteristics so while we would have general guidelines, it will take coordination with Rob to iron out specifics.

If you really want to make a difference, call Rob Evans at 919-218-5774 or email him at Rob.Evans@ncagr.gov.

HELP!

Does anyone out there know how to use ArcGIS software?

Would you be willing to work in Rob's office on this system?

This is the primary software used by the Plant Conservation Program and helps them manage and manipulate all the details of the preserves that they currently manage and the sites that contain imperiled plants.

If you can help, call Rob Evans at 919-218-5774 or email him at Rob.Evans@ncagr.gov.

Wish List

- 50 pounds of aluminum nails (to hang Preserve boundary signs)
- A portable box of supplies for volunteers:

 several pairs of workgloves
 handtools pruners, loppers and such

To donate items, contact:

Bruce Williams, Pres. (910) 313-6785 (910) 264-1286 (cell) cbwilliams3@gmail.com

Off The Shelf....

Plant conservation: An ecosystem approach

Hamilton, A. and P. Hamilton. 2006. Earthscan. London, UK.

This publication is one of a number of books in the People and Plant Conservation Series/People and Plant Initiative of the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), the United Nations Educational, Social, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the Royal Botanic Gardens, KEW (RBG).

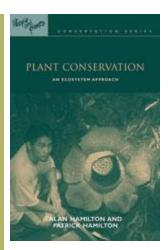
The authors state that the purpose of the book is an exploration of how to save the world's plants. Their journey toward this objective takes them 14 chapters passing through the territory of Perspectives on Plant Conservation; Threats to Plants; Actors and Stages; Information, Knowledge, Learning and Research; Plant Life; The Management of Plants and Land; Meanings, Values, and Uses of Plants; The Patterns of Plants; Plants and Places: Choices, Priorities and Standards; Possession, Property and Protection; Approaches to In Situ Conservation; Projects With Communities; Ex Situ Conservation; and Plant Trade. Six of the 14 chapters offer a case study specific to the subject under consideration. In addition to the conventional figures and tables, the authors use boxes (graphic inserts) that present information is a capsule form, such as the number of plant species used by human cultures for various purposes or some notable global patterns of plant species. The material is drawn from a number of locations such as the UK, Pakistan, Nepal, Malaysia, India, and other areas.

The content of this work is an interesting tapestry of plant biology and culture. This makes a lot of sense given that the situation facing plants and plant communities worldwide lies, primarily, in the hands of humanity. Even climate, a variable that has influenced plant distribution and even the existence of plant species in the past, appears to be responding substantially to anthropocentric climate change and is discussed in this volume.

In keeping with being in the People and Plant Series, a significant portion of the text is dedicated to the conservation of those plants used by humans for food or medicine including a chapter on the various aspects of community involvement in plant conservation. Ethnobotany is a theme that appears in several of the chapters as is cultural knowledge used to determine not only the use of a plant and its products but also its distribution and frequency. The authors rightly place the key to plant conservation at the local where the plant is found. Seed banks, genebanks, and conventional plant collections, such as in arboreta, are the focus of the chapter on ex situ plant conservation.

Given the subject, I was very pleased that the writing was mostly clear and understandable. The book was obviously prepared and the material assembled so that it can be used as a field training manual.

Tom Baugh Hidden Springs



North Carolina Protected Plants: understanding the classifications



Anemone berlandieri, Southern anemone
NCPCP—Endangered
Photo: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower



Diervilla rivularis, riverbank bush honeysuckle NCPCP—Threatened Photo: USDA Plants Database



Platanthera integra, yellow fringeless orchid NCPCP—Special Concern, Vulnerable Photo: David McAdoo

The sun is low, planting is finished for the day, and the phones are quiet; it seems like a good time to settle down and take a look at an issue that has been nagging me for a while. Perhaps this will prove helpful to you as well. Kathy

The NC Plant Conservation Program (NCPCP) maintains a list of plants under its protection. Those plants are divided according to definitions contained in the Plant Conservation Act of the NC General Statutes (Article 19B, § 106-202.12.):

"Endangered species" means any species or higher taxon of plant whose continued existence as a viable component of the State's flora is determined to be in jeopardy by the [NCPCP] Board; also, any species of plant determined to be an "endangered species" pursuant to the [Federal [Endangered Species Act.

"Protected plant" means a species or higher taxon of plant adopted by the [NCPCP] Board to protect, conserve, and/or enhance the plant species and includes those the Board has designated as endangered, threatened, or of special concern.

<u>"Special concern species"</u> means any species of plant in North Carolina which requires monitoring but which may be collected and sold under regulations adopted under the provisions of this Article.

"Threatened species" means any resident species of plant which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range, or one that is designated as threatened by the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service. (1979, c. 964, s. 1.)

That is, any plant species in North Carolina that is on the Federal lists of endangered and threatened species is automatically added to the NCPCP list of protected plants, in addition to those designated endangered by the NCPCP board.

In addition, any plant species in NC, regardless of its Federal designation, may be considered for listing by NCPCP as of special concern based on threats to its viability in the state. There are proposed amendments to the Plant Conservation Act that would add two categories to the special concern designation: special concern-vulnerable and special concernhistoric.

Special concern-vulnerable are those plants, in North Carolina, that are likely to be classed as endangered or threatened in the foreseeable future. Special concern-historic are those plants already lost from North Carolina. The designation would allow NCPCP to act immediately if the species is re-discovered.

Other than those plant species on the federal lists, and that grow in North Carolina, plants that are listed must be approved for listing by the NCPCP board, with input from the Scientific Committee.

Plant Protection and Conservation Act. § 106-202.12. Definitions.

As used in this Article, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (1) "Board" means the North Carolina Plant Conservation Board as provided in this Article.
- (2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture.
- (3) "Conserve" and "conservation" mean to use, and the use of, all methods and procedures for the purposes of increasing the number of individuals of resident species of plants up to adequate levels to assure their continuity in their ecosystems. These methods and procedures include all activities associated with scientific resource conservation such as research,

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Classifications cont.

census, law enforcement, habitat protection, acquisition and maintenance, propagation, and transplantation into unoccupied parts of historic range. With respect to endangered and threatened species, the terms mean to use, and the use of, methods and procedures to bring any endangered or threatened species to the point at which the measures provided for the species are no longer necessary.

- (5) "Endangered Species Act" means the Endangered Species Act of 1973, Public Law 93-205 (87 Stat. 884), as it may be subsequently amended.
- (6) "Exotic species" means a species or higher taxon of plant not native or naturalized in North Carolina but appearing in the Federal Endangered and Threatened Species List or in the appendices to the International Treaty on Endangered and Threatened Species.
- (7) "Plant" means any member of the plant kingdom, including seeds, roots and other parts or their propagules.
- (9) "Resident plant or resident species" means a native species or higher taxon of plant growing in North Carolina.
- (10) "Scientific committee" means the North Carolina Plant Conservation Scientific Committee.

It is important to remember that all of this information refers specifically to plants within North Carolina.



Large Item Wish List

General Office supplies \$3000

Gasoline \$3800

(4) portable 2-way radios \$1148

PC/Printer \$6500

(2) GPS Units \$3000

(2)Digital cameras \$2200

(2) 4X4 Super duty cab trucks \$48000

Books \$1000

Membership subscriptions and dues

\$1000

Weed Witches

Jaw Capacity: Up to 2" Height: 53 inches Weight: 17.5

lbs \$155

Jaw Capacity: Up to 1.5" Height: 43 inches Weight: 11.5

lbs. \$130

To donate items, contact:

Bruce Williams, Pres. (910) 313-6785

(910) 264-1286 (cell)

cbwilliams3@gmail.com

Unprotected: Carya myristiciformis

In Missouri rheumatism is prevented by carrying in the pocket a nutmeg or a walnut. In other localities a hickory-nut is used, in others still a buckeye, while perhaps the commonest of all these amulets is the near relative of the buckeyes, the horse-chestnut. One of the rarest might be *C. myristiciformis*, or nutmeg hickory, which grows in Pender County in North Carolina.

Heading east on Interstate 40, about five miles northeast of Castle Hayne, adjacent to the East right of way along Interstate 40, stands a tall tree from which the specimen below was taken in 1985. (The North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service also reports a tree(s) growing in Brunswick Co., near Calabash.)²

The tree grows in a community described as "wet marl forest" (marl is a calcerous clay-based soil; red marl is the clay often used in pottery). Such communities are generally flat or slightly sloping and poorly drained. Marl lies just beneath the surface, and the areas are periodically flooded.

Nutmeg hickory, called such because the seed resembles a nutmeg, is a small, relict population tree across the South and into northeastern Mexico. Numbers have declined due to disease or insects, logging, habitat loss from development, or possibly a closing canopy cover in succession forest growth. (Nutmeg hickory was not sought specifically as a lumber source as the wood is inferior in strength to other Carya species. Still, it was taken and sold along with other species.) Young seedlings and saplings grow well under the canopy of taller trees, but do not grow with vigor unless the canopy is opened. At maturity, and with some sun, the trees can reach 100 ft, with a narrow crown and a straight trunk.

Distinguishing characters of the nutmeg hickory are its yellow, ovoid buds, its 5-9 leaflets that are minutely scaly, with a silverygold color on the lower surface, and its ellipsoid fruit up to $1\,3/4$ inches long.

C. myristiciformis is rare not only in North Carolina, but in each of the states where it grows. In spite of being listed by NCPCP as endangered, we have none on preserves where they can be protected, making the fate of remaining trees questionable.

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References

¹Bergen, Fanny D., "Some Bits of Plant Lore," The Journal of American Folklore, Vol 5, No. 16 (Jan. – Mar. 1892), American Folklore Society. pp. 19-22. Http://www.jstor.org/stable/533444. Accessed Mar.3,2010.

²North Carolina State University, NC Cooperative Extension Services. Urban Horticulture, Plant Fact Sheets: *Carya myristformis*



C. myristiciformis distribution. http://www.herbarium.unc.edu/MiscellaneousFlora/ Carya_myristiciformis.htm

Name: Carya myristiciformis ID: NCU-555089 Series Name: NCU State: North Carolina County: Pender Date: 09-00-1985 Cultivated: no



http:// www.ces.ncsu.edu/ depts/hort/consumer/

factsheets/trees-new/carya_myristicaeformis.html Accessed 04-03 -2010.

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⁵Maisenhelder, L. C. and John K. Francis, "Carya myristiciformis (Michx. f.) Nutt., Nutmeg Hickory," Silvics of North America, Volume II, Hardwoods. Forest Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, 1990. P. 119-120/

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Burns, Russell M. and Barbara H. Honkala. Silvics of North America, Agriculture Handbook 654, US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/silvics_manual/

Field Notes

A Visit to Pondberry Bay—March 18, 2010



Pondberry Bay, the site's namesake





Sister bay across the road



Lindera melissafolia



Rob teaching management



Female flower?

Pond cypress good—scrub oak not so good

For Members

Membership in Friends of Plant Conservation brings certain benefits, among them:

- ★ Association with others committed to plant conservation;
- ★ Recognition in annual reports;
- ★ Quarterly electronic newsletter;
- ★ Reviews of technical and popular books on plant conservation;
- ★ Electronic notification of pending legislation that concerns plant and habitat conservation;
- ★ Preserve steward opportunities (under development);
- ★ Visits to NC Plant Conservation Program preserves;
- ★ Annual meeting addressing current issues with prominent speakers;
- Knowledge that you are assisting with the conservation of North Carolina's imperiled plants in their habitats.

Time to Renew your membership!

FRIENDS OF PLANT CONSERVATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

□ New Membership, □ Renewal (Check One)

Nan	ne:	
Add	lress:	
City	:	
Stat	e: Zip:	
Pho	ne:	
Ema	ail:	
	am willing to receive the	newsletter via email to conserve resources.
	am interested in a FoPCI	license plate when available.
Me	mberships/Gifts:	
	Student Member	\$5
	Individual Member	
	Family Member	
	Affiliate Member	
	Please include the n	umber of members in your organization
	Sustaining Member	\$50
	Life Member	\$500
	(Five (5), \$100 yearly in	stallments)
	Gift	\$

Indicate activities of interest:

- Volunteer to assist PCP staff
- Policy Committee
- □ Legislative Committee
- □ Membership Committee
- Financial Stewardship Committee
- □ Strategic Planning Committee
- □ Program Committee
- Communications Committee

Send completed form and check to:

Friends of Plant Conservation Mail Service Center 1060 Raleigh, NC 27699-1060