

2014 ~ LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD ~ 2015

The last half of 2013 and all of 2014 saw the Friends of Plant Conservation take a leap forward in its' role of supporting the NC Plant Conservation Program. Fundraising efforts have resulted in a stable fund for supporting temporary field technicians when they take a mandatory, unpaid 30-day leave each 12 months. We also, with your help and a generous hand from an anonymous Friend, completed fundraising to secure the Caraway Tract for the protection of *Shortia galacifolia* var. *brevistyla*. The paperwork continues and we hope the project will be completed in the coming months.

MEMBERSHIP

Under the leadership of Gary Wein, FoPC established a new membership year (July 1 – June 30) that avoids end of year activities. He also created membership renewal envelopes which have proven to be successful. Membership growth continues, thanks to Gary's efforts as well as other board members and the general increasing visibility of FoPC.



PCP PRESERVE TOURS AND EDUCATION

During the course of the year, PCP and FoPC offered tours of Cedar Mountain Bog, Pondberry Bay, Caraway Tract (proposed preserve), Morgan's Bluff, Hebron Road, Redlair, Picture Creek Barrens, and to a hardwood forest upstream of Penny's Bend. Members of the public were also invited to participate in these events. The schedule of tours for 2015 is at the end of this newsletter.

REDLAIR PRESERVE

The new PCP Redlair Stewardship Committee continues to meet to provide land management recommendations. The Redlair Foundation Board directs the endowment created by the Rankin Family for the management of Redlair Preserve. Members of the Board include Haywood Rankin, Katherine Rankin, Johanna Rankin; Dave Cable; Tom Okel; Bob Peet; Katherine Schlosser; David Welch.

The dedication of Redlair as PCPs newest Preserve was organized by FoPC and featured comments from Dr. Richard Reich (NCDA&CS), Haywood Rankin, Tom Okel, Bob Peet, Dave Cable, Rob Evans, and David Welch. A walk to see Big leaf magnolias in bloom followed the dedication and refreshments.



Board of Directors

Katherine Schlosser, President
kathyschlosser@triad.rr.com

Ola M. Lewis, Vice President
Ola.M.Lewis@nccourts.org

Catherine Luckenbaugh, Secretary
Catherine.Luckenbaugh
@mecklenburgcountync.gov

Crystal Cockman, Treasurer
Crystal@landtrustcnc.org

Andy Wood, Education, Program
awood@coastalplaincng.org

Bob Shepherd
shepb@bellsouth.net

Gary Wein
hitrust@earthlink.net

Charlie Williams
macrophylla@bellsouth.net

Alice Zawadzki
alice.ncwildflower@gmail.com

Walter Clark
walter@blueridgeconservancy.org

Paul Hosier, Past President
hosier@uncw.edu

C. Bruce Williams, Past President
cbw.3@earthlink.net

Advisors & Staff

Rob Evans, PCP Coordinator
Rob.Evans@ncagr.gov

Lesley Starke, Research Specialist
Lesley.Starke@ncagr.gov

Nancy Stewart
Info. Processing Tech., Ginseng Coord.
Nancy.Stewart@ncagr.gov

David Welch, PCP Administrator
David.Welch@ncagr.gov

Vernon Cox, Director
NCDA&CS, Plant Industry Division
Vernon.Cox@ncagr.gov

Phil Wilson, Plant Pest Admin.
Phil.Wilson@ncagr.gov



CONTRIBUTIONS SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

Anonymous
Anonymous
Dale Batchelor
Tom & Penny Baugh
Dick & Susan Bir
Catherine Bollinger
A.J. Bullard
Elizabeth Burdett
James Coke
Sue Cole
Monica Coleman
Arthur & Jean Cooper
Paul Hosier
David Hyatt
Nell Joslin
Mary Ann Lawler
Ola Lewis
Jim & Elizabeth Matthews

Cary Paynter
Haywood & Sabine Rankin
Charlotte Jones-Roe
Steve & Kathy Schlosser
Robert Shepherd
Deborah Staves
Judy Stierand
Robert & Jacqueline Trickel
Len and Joyce Tufts
Charlie Williams

Thank You!

*If your name does not appear here and should,
please contact me:
kathyschlosser@triad.rr.com
336-855-8022*

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LOOKING BACK 2014



ENDANGERED PLANTS DAY – MAY

Activities for the day included a field trip in the morning to the Eno Diabiose Preserve, during which a previously unknown population of *Rhus michauxii* was found by Lesley Starke. Lunch at NCBG followed; then an afternoon symposium featuring Misty Buchanan, Rob Evans, Johnny Randall, and Herb Amyx. After the symposium, participants were invited to assist with planting seeds of *Echinacea laevigata*.

PRESERVE STEWARDS

Herb and Pat Amyx continue their work at Hebron Road. Kathy Schlosser and Mimi Westervelt continue their work at Harvest Field. Jean Woods continues her work at Cedar Mountain Bog (Bog remains closed to foot traffic). Haywood Rankin works daily on Redlair Preserve. Dale Batchelor and John Thomas work at Pondberry, and Dale presents programs highlighting their work.



ANNUAL MEETING 2014

Crystal Cockman took the lead planning and organizing the 2014 Annual Meeting held at the NC Zoo and surrounding areas.



FOPC LICENSE TAG Work continued over the year to get legislative approval for a license tag featuring Venus flytraps. If approved, funds raised by sale of the plates will support land acquisition and management needs of PCP. Dennis Neimeyer has been assisting with this effort, and Johnny Randall

(NCBG) has offered to help us make considerable headway with sales if the legislature approves.

CARAWAY/OCONEE BELLS TRACT

Work has proceeded to complete a transaction that will protect one of the two remaining populations of *Shortia galacifolia* var. *brevistyla*, Oconee bells. Fundraising by FoPC continued, achieving our goal in the earliest days of 2015. Dave Cable (Trees Charlotte) has worked with us toward the completion of this effort. We hope to make an announcement in the coming months.

ANNUAL APPEAL

For the past 3 years, our annual appeal has sought funds to provide assistance to PCP temporary field specialists. These employees are essential to PCP's stewardship efforts across the state. However, they receive low wages, limited benefits, and are required to take a mandatory, unpaid 30-day leave. For those who will return to PCP, we will offer a check to help them through their required leave. An unexpected anonymous donation allows us to now turn our full attention to fundraising for land acquisition and management.



BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings changed slightly, increasing the opportunity for face-to-face meetings and membership participation. The quarterly meetings will move around the state, with a goal of having meetings in the far western part of the state, foothills area, Piedmont, southern Piedmont, and coastal plain.

The Board welcomed new members Walter Clark, Catherine Luckenbaugh, Charlie Williams, and Alice Zawadzki. We said good-bye to Camille Collins, who leaves us to start her family. Paul Hosier serves in an advisory capacity as our past president, and we look forward to his continued guidance.

LOOKING AHEAD ~

CONTACT NANCY STEWART TO RSVP,
(919) 707-3755 OR NANCY.STEWART@NCAGR.GOV.

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| March 25 12:45 meet at Boiling Spring Lakes Community Center | Venus flytrap repatriation | Join us in planting flytraps seized from poachers last spring in the Boiling Spring Lakes area of Brunswick County. Meet at the Boiling Spring Lakes Community Center on Leeds Road, 28461. |
| April 7 meet at 10:00 11:00-3:00 | Spring Wildflowers at Camassia Slopes Hosts: Harry LeGrand (NC NHP) and PCP Staff along the Roanoke River in Northampton County. | Join us for one of eastern Carolina's richest spring wildflower displays along the lower Roanoke River floodplain. We will meet in downtown Jackson at the courthouse- more details and directions will be provided to registrants. No developed trails or facilities on site. |
| April 22 9:30-12:30 | Earth Day Hike Hosts :PCP Staff at the Redlair Preserve in Gaston Co. | Join us for a guided hike through one of the Piedmont's special places. There are developed and primitive trails on site, however, no facilities are available. |
| May 12 Workshop 9:00-5:00 May 13 Field Trip 9:00-12:00 | Shortleaf Pine "101" Work- shop Hosts: Greater Uwharries Con- servation Partnership at the James Garner Center in Troy, NC | Presentations will cover ecological restoration, artificial regenera- tion, landowner incentives, etc. There will be a field trip to the Uwharrie National Forest to see shortleaf pine stands with varying management regimes. See link for more details. |
| May 14 10:00-1:00 Details TBA | Endangered Plant Symposium Hosts: PCP Staff, Friends of Plant Conservation, NCNPS Southeast Coast Chapter. | Join us for a Lunch and Lecture where you'll hear about Venus flytraps and their habitat from Rob Evans (NC Plant Conservation Program). |
| May 20 Meet at 10:00 10:30-2:30 | Wildflower Hike @ Paddy Mountain Preserve Hosts: Rob Evans (PCP) and FoPC in Ashe County. | Join Friends of Plant Conservation and PCP Staff on an easy to moderate hike to see spring wildflowers. No facilities are available on site. |
| June, date TBA Meet at 9:30 10:00-12:00 | Endangered Plants and Polli- nators Hosts: PCP Staff at Eno Dia- base Preserve in Durham Coun- ty. In conjunction with PCP Sci- entific Committee Meeting | Join us on site for an easy hike through our Eno Diabase Pre- serve as we discuss imperiled plant habitat protection, active management to support imperiled plants, and considerations for pollinators. No facilities are available on site. |
| July 29 6:00pm-7:30pm | International Bog Day: Moun- tain Bogs Evening Presenta- tion Host: Rob Evans at the Cedar Mountain Community Center in Cedar Mountain, Transylvania County. | Join us for an evening of talking about mountain bogs of the southern Appalachians and what PCP has accomplished in our attempts to restore one such site. |
| August 7 Time TBA | Imperiled Plants of Carolina Bays Hosts: Harry LeGrand (NC NHP) and Rob Evans of PCP in Scotland County. | Join us for a botany walk at McIntosh Bay in Scotland County to hear about the imperiled plants associated with this habitat type and the specifics of this site. No facilities are available on site. |
| August 11 Time TBA | Wildflowers of Mountain Balds Hosts:PCP Staff at the Tater Hill Preserve in Watauga County. | Join us for a botany hike to see the wildflowers of a rich mountain bald. No facilities are available on site. |
| September TBD | Longleaf Pine and Naval Stores History in Sampson Co. Hosts:PCP Staff and AJ Bullard at White Woods Preserve in Sampson County. | Explore historic relics of the business of turpentine and the im- portance of longleaf pine. No facilities are available on site. |