

# Field Notes

Friends of Plant Conservation newsletter

September 2016 / Vol. VIII Issue 2

## In this issue:

- Meet The Board
- Preserve Stewards
- 2016 Annual Meeting
- Volunteer Workdays
- Jenny Stanley Report



## Remembering David Welch

David's death on July 4th was not a complete surprise, but at the least it came far earlier than we expected. He spent much of his last month at home, but kept up with work via telephone and email.

David was a man of great personal strength and integrity. He was committed first to his family, his faith, then to conservation. Though his time with us was short, just 3 1/2 years, he learned quickly and accomplished much.

One of the last projects on which he worked was the transfer of a new 30-acre tract to Tater Hill Preserve. The Detore tract was acquired by the Blue Ridge Conservancy and transferred to PCP just days before he died, and he happily shared the news with a quick email: "Good news ☺"

**The Friends proposed that the Detore tract within Tater Hill Preserve be designated the Welch Tract, and the NCPC Board heartily approved the proposal on July 20th.**

Things are moving forward nicely under the direction of Lesley Starke while we wait to find persons to fill the Research Specialist and Program Administrator positions. NCPCP and FoPC have been dependent on Nancy Stewart to keep things running smoothly—she has done an extraordinary job.

Also deserving of our continuing thanks are Vernon Cox, Phil Wilson, Debbie Robertson, Todd Wahler and many other friends both in the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and outside. The NC Natural Heritage Program, Blue Ridge Land Conservancy, Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy, Highlands Land Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, NC Herp Society, Matt Estep at Appalachian State, NC Botanical Garden, the NCPC Board and the Scientific Committee—all have offered assistance in many ways.

We are grateful for all of these friends and many more of you who have offered condolences and help.

Katherine Schlosser, President



Gray's lily at Tater Hill.

VISIT OUR NEW

WEBSITE:

[WWW.NCPLANTFRIENDS.ORG](http://WWW.NCPLANTFRIENDS.ORG)

JOIN OUR

FACEBOOK PAGE

## MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*We asked a few to say a word or two about serving on the Board. We'll hear from more later.*



**Mimi Westervelt, Treasurer**

To quote a fellow board member, "This is a once in a lifetime experience!" Annual meetings and special events offer inspiring speakers and phenomenal hikes on our state's preserves. Included in the many opportunities I have been able to enjoy are: hiking up the steepest (Cedar Mountain) trail I'd ever done and being rewarded by seeing a bald eagle soaring over the river below; replanting confiscated Venus Flytraps on a preserve; learning about the history of Oconee Bells and being thrilled that NC acquired a preserve with that species; seeing the bloom of a rare flower that had not been seen in NC for many decades; observing several prescribed burns and witnessing the resulting proliferation of blooms; working as a steward. A personal favorite was when Rob Evans took us to an old barn one sunny day. As we entered the horse stall, our eyes struggling to adjust to the darkness, there was a loud growl which I was convinced belonged to a mature mountain lion. It turned out to be three turkey vulture fledglings. Who knew? Rob was always quite generous in sharing such experiences.

This year I joined the board as Treasurer and I'm excited to report that FoPC is continuing to grow in our financial support of NCPCP. Currently our books are having their first review by an accountant. A financial advisory board is also being formed. Our fundraising allows us to supply equipment, offer a financial cushion to the 11-month field staff position and to contribute toward matching funds for land acquisition.

I used to be most comfortable being a member who was happy to volunteer as needed. After a year on the Friends Board I've found that there are many jobs to be done and that they really aren't that difficult, nor time-consuming. The greatest reward is knowing I'm supporting plant conservation for the future, working with many knowledge, caring people.



**Alvin Braswell, At Large**

Originally from Union County, N. C., Alvin Braswell received a BS in Wildlife Biology with a Botany minor and a MS in Zoology from N. C. State University. He served in the US Army and reached the rank of E-5. Currently, he is retired from the N. C. State Museum of Natural Sciences, where he spent over 40 years in various curatorial roles with reptiles, amphibians, and freshwater fishes before being the Research Lab Director, and later, assuming a Deputy Museum Director for Operations position. In the Deputy Director role, he was instrumental with the planning, construction and operations of the Nature Research Center wing of the Museum. Now, in an Emeritus Research Curator position with the Museum, he has returned to his primary field biologist love. Publications include co-authorship on *Reptiles of North Carolina* and *Amphibians and Reptiles of the Carolinas and Virginia*, and the booklet *Venomous Snakes of North Carolina*. He served for over 20 years on the Plant Conservation Program's Scientific Committee and chaired that committee for 5 years. Also, he served on the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee for the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission for over 25 years and chaired the Scientific Councils for Amphibians and Reptiles, and Freshwater Fishes for periods during that time. As an Adjunct Instructor with N. C. State University, he co-taught ZO 542 (Herpetology) from 1996 – 2013 with Dr. Harold Heatwole. In retirement, he is involved with the Friends of Plant Conservation, Carolina Wetlands Association, Tar River Land Conservancy, N. C. Herpetological Society, Wake County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space, Triangle Land Conservancy, N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission's Alligator Task Force, and various research projects with the N. C. State Museum of Natural Sciences. As an avid nature photographer, he shares photos with various conservation organizations for both educational and promotional purposes. Honors include Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher from NCSU, Governor's Wildlife Conservationist of the Year, Order of the Longleaf Pine, and Governor's Award for Excellence.





## Gary Wein, Membership Chair

Gary Wein grew up in western New York in the small city of North Tonawanda. He attended Niagara University earning both a B.S. and an M.S. in Biology. In 1984 he graduated from Rutgers University with a Ph.D. in Botany. Since the mid 1980's Gary has worked in the field of environmental science as a researcher, teacher, and manager in New Jersey, Alabama, New York, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

His professional experiences include forest herb biology, wetland restoration, disturbance ecology, and landscape analysis. He has been the Executive Director for the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, the oldest land trust in North Carolina since May 2006.

"The tree upon which I am leaning is the world's largest Canada Hemlock, the Cheoah."

## NCCPC Preserve Stewards

The Preserve Steward program has been revised, and the following Stewards have been assigned an access permit for one or more of the Preserves. If a workday is being held by staff or by a Steward under the direction of staff, the Steward may call for help. If you are nearby, or willing to travel a little, contact the steward for directions and details.

Access permits for any other purposes must be obtained from Lesley Starke (Lesley.Starke@ncagr.gov), and are granted for research or educational purposes in keeping with the mission of NCCPC. Anyone on a preserve will have a signed permit for the current year on display.

BAT FORK BOG, Henderson Co.:	Tom Baugh
BIG POND BAY, Cumberland Co.:	Joan Schneier
CARAWAY, McDowell Co.:	<i>Pending</i>
CEDAR MOUNTAIN BOG, Transylvania Co:	Torry Nergart
DENSON'S CREEK, Montgomery Co.:	Nancy Adamson
DURHAM PRESERVES, Durham Co.:	Jarrod Morrice
TATER HILL, Watauga County:	Matt Estep
ENO DIABASE, Durham:	Herb and Pat Amyx
HARVEST FIELD, Randolph County:	Kathy Schlosser, Mimi Westervelt
MINERAL SPRING BARRENS, Union Co:	Lisa Tompkins
PONDBERRY BAY, Sampson Co.:	Bill Scott

# ANNUAL MEETING 2016

## MEGAHERBIVORES, GRASSLANDS AND THE DURHAM DIABASE SILL

October 21-22 at the North Carolina Botanical Garden  
3:00 pm – 8:00 pm Friday; 9:00 am—2:30 pm Saturday

### Friday Agenda

- 3:00 Welcome and Introductions, Kathy Schlosser
- 3:15 Status of FoPC Projects
- 3:45 Status of PCP Projects and Staff, Lesley Starke
- 4:15 Pete Schubert—**Geology and Soils of the Durham Diabase Sill**
- 5:00 Introduction to Saturday Field Trip - Lesley Starke
- 5:15 Walk in the NC Botanical Garden Habitats - NCBG staff
- 6:00 Informal Buffet Dinner
- 6:45 Dr. Peter Weigl—**Space, Time and Grass Balds:  
Coping with a Riddle and a Conservation Controversy**
- 7:45 Discussion and Announcements
- 8:00 Adjourn

### Saturday at Penny's Bend, Durham, NC

The Saturday field trip will visit three properties that are part of the Eno Diabase Preserve located on the unique soils derived from the underlying diabase sill. The management techniques used on these properties owned by the NC Plant Conservation Program will be explained during the 2 + mile moderate walk on mainly level terrain beginning at the northern unit on Infinity Road. We will walk south towards the Eno River through several wooded communities, with a stop at a very uncommon example of a prairie soil (a mollisol), and a stop to discuss the recent management activities at the species-rich Harrelson tract. After our picnic lunch, for the last stop of the day, we will drive south, about 2 miles, to the Hebron Road Prairie Remnant, completing the field trip by 2:30.



FRIENDS OF PLANT CONSERVATION, INC.

***Megaherbivores, Grasslands, and the Durham Diabase Sill***

October 21, 2016 at the North Carolina Botanical Garden  
3:00pm – 8:00pm  
Annual Meeting Registration

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Meeting Registration:**

\_\_\_ Registration Fee \$25/person

\_\_\_ Friday Dinner \$20/person

**2016 Membership:**

\_\_\_ Renewal\*      \_\_\_ New Member

\_\_\_ Student Member \$5

\_\_\_ Individual \$15

\_\_\_ Family Member \$25

\_\_\_ Affiliate Member \$25

(Number of members in your organization \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_ Sustaining Member \$50

\_\_\_ Life Member \$500

(Five \$100 yearly installments)

\_\_\_ Additional Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total:**

Registration Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Dinner \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Picnic Lunch \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership/Gift Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Unless you joined or renewed since June 30, 2016, your membership expires Dec. 31*

**Dinner by Mediterranean Deli**

**Preference:**

\_\_\_ Meat      \_\_\_ Vegetarian

**Registration for Optional Preserve Tour on  
Saturday, October 22, 9:00 a.m.:**

*No extra charge to participate in tour, but additional fee if lunch is requested.*

Once you are registered, we will send instructions & directions for the tour visit.

Maximum number of participants is 30 - first come, first served

\_\_\_ Picnic Lunch (\$13 each)

\_\_\_ Meat      \_\_\_ Vegetarian

**Registration Deadline: October 14th**

**Send check and completed form to:**

Nancy Stewart  
c/o Friends of Plant Conservation  
NCDA&CS, Plant Conservation Program  
1060 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1060



## **Directions to the North Carolina Botanical Garden:**

**Address:** 100 Old Mason Farm Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27517

### **From Raleigh and Points East:**

Follow I-40 West to NC 54-W in Durham. Take Exit 273A from I-40W. Merge onto NC-54W. Turn Left on Finley Golf Course Road. Finley Golf Course Road turns slightly right and becomes Old Mason Farm Road. Turn left at Highland Woods Rd.

### **From Greensboro and Points North:**

Follow I-40 E / I-85 Business N toward Burlington/Durham. Take exit 148 for NC-54 toward Chapel Hill/Carrboro. Turn right onto NC-54 E/E Harden St. Keep left to continue on Fordham Blvd S. Turn right onto Old Mason Farm Rd. Turn right at Highland Woods Rd.

**From Charlotte and Points West:** Follow I-77 N/US-21 N. Use the right 2 lanes to take exit 13A to merge onto I-85 N toward Greensboro. Keep left at the fork to stay on I-85 N. Keep right at the fork to continue on I-85BUS N/US-29 N/US-70 E, follow signs for Greensboro. Merge onto I-40 E/I-85 N. Take exit 148 for NC-54 toward Chapel Hill/Carrboro. Turn right onto NC-54 E/E Harden St. Keep left to continue on Fordham Blvd S. Turn right onto Old Mason Farm Rd. Turn right at Highland Woods Rd.

### **Hotel Suggestions:**

#### Carolina Inn

211 Pittsboro St.  
Chapel Hill NC 27516  
(919) 933-2001

#### Courtyard Marriott

100 Marriott Way  
Chapel Hill NC 27517  
(919) 883-0700

#### Quality Inn Chapel Hill

1740 Fordham Blvd.  
919-468-3000  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

#### Hampton Inn

6121 Farrington Road  
Chapel Hill NC 27517  
(888) 370-0981







## WORKDAYS !!!

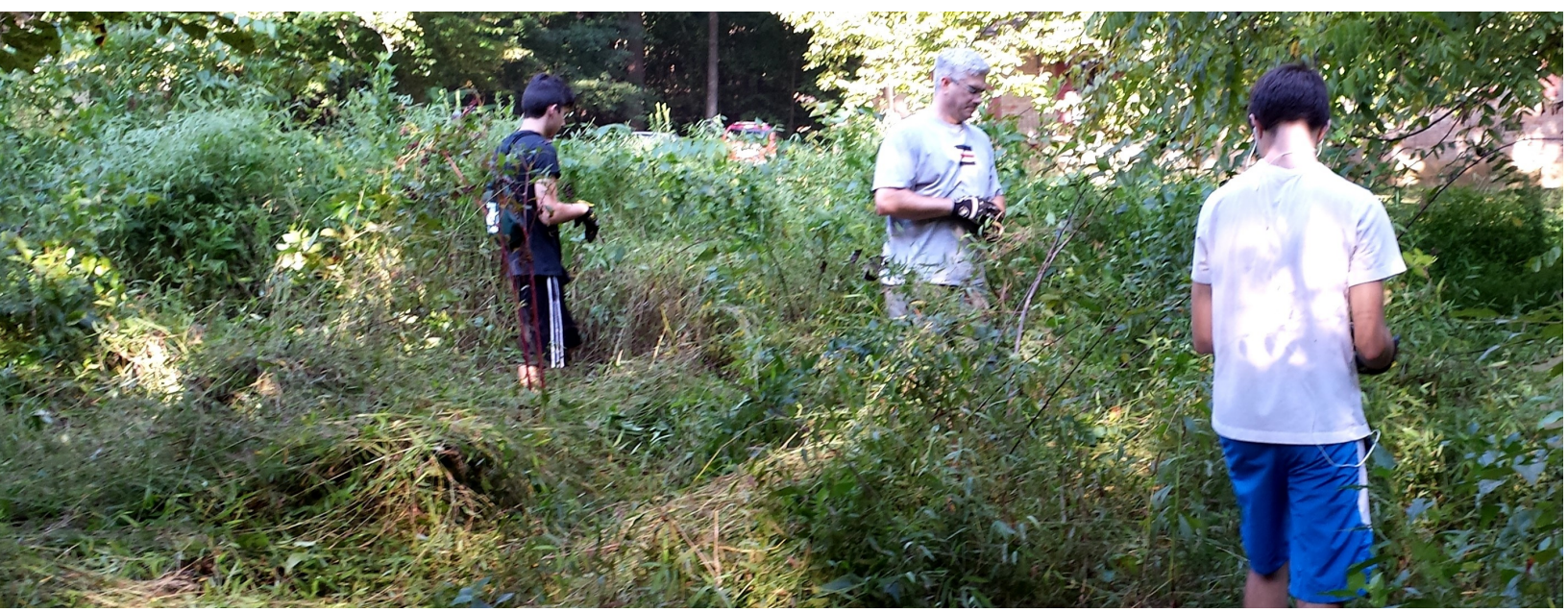
On Saturday, August 20th, A fabulous group of Friends answered the call of Lesley and Jenny to lend a hand getting Japanese stiltgrass, *Microstegium vimineum*, under control on the Eno Diabase Preserves in Durham. Gathering at 8:00 am, they worked until 11:00 on a HOT and humid day, with enthusiasm and great attitudes.

Sometimes a job is just too big to tackle alone, and a little help makes the work easier. Help was abundant, and we are all grateful for those who gave up a weekend morning to free the preserve of this menace. They are all living proof for Lesley and Jenny that they have lots of people willing to help out.

On August 26th, a second group gathered to continue the work on the Goldston section, again working from 8 to 11 on a humid day. This time we were lucky to have the assistance of Patrick Poovey and 2 of the Boy Scouts from Troop 52, who were performing their required 3 hours of conservation community service.

*Microstegium*, as many of you know, produces thousands of seeds per plant. As it is an annual, it is imperative to get rid of it before it sets seed, which in this area is usually around mid-August. Weed-eating was not an option as growing around and among the stiltgrass are a number of desirable plants, including some rare species. On day 2 we spotted a population of *Fleishmannia incarnana* (T), known only in Durham, Warren, Madison, and Polk counties. Can't risk cutting those down, so we hand pull.

It's easy work, but done at a tough time of year in terms of human comfort. Being around dedicated friends makes the work go by quickly. **OUR THANKS TO ALL!!!**





## JENNY STANLEY: RECENT FINDS...



Jenny: Best camouflage ever!! No idea who this guy is. His tail looks like a thorn!  
Can you spot him?



### *Fleischmannia incarnata*, pink thoroughwort.

Perennial, Threatened in NC, grows to as much as 4 feet tall though usually has a sprawling habit.

**Stems** lax, sprawling or scandent.

**Leaves:** petioles (0.5–)1–3.5(–4) cm; blades triangular-deltate, (1–)2–5(–7) × (1–)1.5–3.5 (–5) cm, bases usually truncate to cordate, sometimes obtuse, margins coarse-ly serrate to crenate-serrate, apices acute to acuminate. **Involucres** 4–5 mm.

**Phyllaries:** outer lanceolate, inner lanceolate to narrowly oblong-lanceolate, glabrous or sparsely puberulent, apices usually acute to attenuate, sometimes rounded.

**Corollas** usually pink-purple or whitish with pink to lilac lobes, rarely all white.

Located on a previously unknown site on an Eno Diabase Preserve, August 2016.



Yellow-necked Caterpillar (*Datana ministra*) is common now and seems to love oaks.  
ID by Alvin Braswell

### *Cirsium altissimum*

