

NCNPS Native Plant News ~ Addendum

(Note: This addendum is the result of the failure of the editor to include the information in the April/May 2010 issue of the newsletter. Apologies to Mitch Russell and the members of the WNC Chapter. *Kathy Schlosser, ed.*)

Chapter News: Western North Carolina

WNC Symposium a Success

On Saturday, February 22 over 110 native plant enthusiasts gathered for the 2nd, almost annual, WNC Native Plant Symposium at The NC Arboretum in Asheville. It was a glorious day and tough to be inside, but the speakers made it all worth while. The symposium got under way with Tom Baugh, a NCNPS member and biologist, easing us into the morning weaving his poetry into a witty narrative of our place on Earth and in particular in the mountains of the southern Appalachians. Next up was Alan Mizeras, a NCNPS member and Henderson County Native Plant Rescue Group, who shared stories of plant rescues in Henderson and Haywood Counties that had participants salivating over the diverse species. Ed Schwartzman NCNPS member and the NC Natural Heritage Program shared discoveries that he has made while inventorying Macon County in the far west, including some disjunct populations of Bigtooth Aspen, *Populus grandidentata*, that are typically found several hundred miles north from PA to Canada. After lunch Dr. Gary Walker, from Appalachian State, masterfully presented on a seemingly daunting subject, ecology of cliff faces, and in particular the impact of rock climbing on native flora and fauna. I must admit that upon reviewing his PowerPoint presentation loaded with graphs and matrices I was concerned that it would be too technical and dry, but he danced through it like Astaire. Our final speaker was Scott Dean, of WNC Naturally, who took us on a journey along some of his favorite wildflower hikes in our region. A secret, try Big Creek in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park for easy pickins' within the first several hundred yards of a relatively easy hike.

Thank you to everyone who attended and it was a great pleasure to meet Hugh Nourse of the B.W. Wells Association. Also a huge thanks to: NCNPS members and volunteers Andra Nus and Cary Miller for publicity, on site logistics and contacting sponsors; Nancy Fraley, NCNPS member and coordinator of the National Park Service Exotic Plant Management Team and team members: Tony Obenauer (NPS), Eric Clanton, Sarah McGinn, Daniel Stewart, Aaron Vail and Mark Weber and sponsors: Carolina Native Nursery, Asheville Mulch Yard and Gardens of the Blue Ridge for helping us offset costs associated with the event. Look for the symposium again February 2011.

Haywood County Plant Rescue March 2009-October 2009

One of my favorite NCNPS activities is plant rescues especially when there is a variety of levels of plant id experience and there is a diverse plant population. One such site is in Haywood County on property owned by members, Mari & Joe Conneen who are developing about 4 acres and trying to donate 13 or so acres to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park through a land trust. Joe contacted me in late 2008/early 2009 about Roan Mountain sedge, a globally rare species, that he thought might be on a portion of his property. Ed Schwartzman and Dan Pitillo joined me on a scouting trip where we did not find any *Carex roanensis*, but what I did find was 60+ different species of native plants. Needless to say I scheduled 7 rescues in 2009. Some of the more interesting finds:



Topography of rescue site

Umbrella leaf-*Diphylleia cymosa*
Ramps- *Allium tricoccum*
Trillium sp.
Turks cap lily-*Lilium superbum*
Lily of the Valley-*Convallaria majalis*
Yellow mandarin-*Prosartes maculata*
Dutchman's pipe-*Aristolochia elegans*
Flame azalea-*Rhododendron calendulaceum*
Silverbell-*Halesia tetraptera*
Basswood-*Tilia americana*

Thank you to Mari and Joe for allowing us to rescue plants from their property.



Putty root rescue



Orchid rescue

Pearson Falls

The remarkable botanical diversity and the beautiful waterfalls in this peaceful Glen near Tryon, North Carolina, have attracted nature-lovers, botanists and picnickers for many generations. The Oconee Bells (*Shortia galacifolia*) and Showy Orchid (*Galearis spectabilis*) share the Glen with warblers, thrush, redbirds, and mockers. The Glen is classified as a deciduous climax forest, a minority classification in the earth's population. The Huger Trillium, several rare lindens and one variety of rhododendrons that are not seen elsewhere have been found here. In fact, Edwin Way Teal, in his popular book, *North with the Spring*, published in 1951 devoted a chapter to the Trillium Glen which was his name for Pearson's Falls. Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense* var *acuminatum*) and ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) have been spotted in the Glen. In the fall the blue wood aster (*Aster cordifolius*) and the board-leaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis latifolia*) which are listed as threatened plants in North Carolina can be seen.

Visitors today can enjoy the 90 Foot falls and the native wildflower garden, as well as the over 200 ferns, flowering plants, algae and mosses of Pearson's Falls by hiking the quarter mile Glen Trail.

The Glen was purchased after the Civil War by engineer Captain Charles William Pearson who had discovered the falls while scouting for a railroad route from South Carolina to Asheville. In 1931 the Tryon Garden Club offered to buy a portion of Captain Pearson's holdings. By their purchase, "the ancient trees, the stately tulip poplars, grave hemlocks and strong oaks" to quote Donald Culross Peattie, would be preserved. The Tryon Garden Club remains the owner and operator of Pearson's Falls which is now a wildlife preserve.

Over 15000 people visit the property each year. Area colleges and universities use Pearson's Falls as an outdoor laboratory, and it is the site of frequent student field trips. In fact, the Garden House was built to house native Polk Country plants catalogued by UNC – Asheville professor Dr. Oliver Freeman.

The Glen is one of five area NC Birding Trails. Pearson's Falls Glen is recognized in the Smithsonian Institution Archives of American Gardens, and it is part of the Blue Ridge Natural Heritage Trail.

Hours of operation

Open seven days a week 10 AM to 5 PM, Sunday opening at Noon. The gate closes at 6 PM, March 1 to October 31. In December and February the gate closing is shortened one hour to 5 PM. In January the Glen is closed to the public, and it is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Picnicking is always permitted, but fires and pets are not.

Admission Fees

Adults are \$ 5.00 each. Children 6-12 are \$ 1.00 each and Under 6 is free.

Prices are subject to change without notice and from what is listed on the website.

Location

Pearson's Falls is located just off Route 176 four miles north of Tryon, NC or three mile south of Saluda, NC.

2048 Pearson Falls Road

Saluda, NC. 28733

828 749-3031

<http://www:personsfalls.org>

Mitch Russell

Western NC Chapter Chair