

# Native Plant News

NEWSLETTER OF THE NC NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

**Native Plant News**  
Julie Higgin, editor

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## INSIDE:

P2 President's  
Report

P6 Scholars

P8 Chlorofiends

P11 Habitat

P12 Meeting

P13 Plant Apps

P15 Native Places

## MISSION STATEMENT:

Our mission is to promote the enjoyment and conservation of North Carolina's native plants and their habitats through education, cultivation and advocacy.

[ncwildflower.org](http://ncwildflower.org)

## A Cullowhee Conference Adventure!

### *Roaming the Southern Highlands Reserve*

By **Bettina Darveaux**

**T**his year, my Cullowhee Conference botanical outing took me to Southern Highlands Reserve, located in Lake Toxaway, NC. We had an incredibly warm welcome from the reserve staff, Kelly Holdbrooks, Eric Kimbrel and Bizzie, who were our fearless and informative guides through the reserve history, the beautiful lodge, and of course the native plant gardens.

Although Bizzie was rather shy, and only let out a bark a couple of times, she would be the one we could depend on if we encountered a bear! Yes, I said bear. Kelly had even pointed out a small tree on the premises that had been damaged recently by a couple of bears that were rough-housing.

The naturalistic gardens were designed as garden rooms, with many of the native species already present at the site and additional native species installed. The Reserve keeps detailed records of the plants and we learned of the database the Reserve is implementing for easy data storage and retrieval. The Reserve functions as an invaluable repository of plant information, an important source for research and monitoring plant phenology.

There is a beautiful natural occurrence of Pinkshell Azalea (*Rhododendron vaseyi*) on the Reserve and although we were long past its flowering time, we did still have Rosebay Rhododendron



*Male catkins of Castanea dentata, our American Chestnut.*

(continued on page 5)

# President's Report

## Board of Directors

Jean Woods, President  
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Virginia Curry, Education  
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Trena McNabb, Publications

Larry Mellichamp, Habitat  
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To contact Board members and  
committee chairs, go to;  
[http://ncwildflower.org/about/  
contact](http://ncwildflower.org/about/contact)



Jean Woods

It is exciting and humbling to once again be your President. We have exciting things coming up for the rest of this year and next. In September we will have our Fall Outing of a one-day hike in the Green Swamp, one of the biological hot spots in the US. This will be the day following

the Native Plant Festival at the Wilmington Arboretum, which our SE Coastal Chapter has played a big part in planning. Next April we will be in the mountains in Franklin to view the great biodiversity of the Southern Appalachians.

We are also saying goodbye to people who have served the Society in recent years: Lara Berkley, Laura Domingo, Bobbie Fox, Lisa Gould, Carolyn Ikenberry, Robert Jones, Catherine Luckenbaugh, Kathy Mitchell, Cary Paynter, and Carolyn White. Thanks to all of you for your time, efforts, and willingness to care for our native plants.

We welcome the following people to what we call our "Board Plus": officers, board members-at-large, committee chairs, and chapter chairs. We have a great team to fulfill our mission of *"Promoting the enjoyment and conservation of NC's native plants and their habitats through education, protection, cultivation, and advocacy."*

### Vice President: John Clarke

John retired from the Air Force in 2011, after 34 years of service in the field of Communications, Computers, Command and Control; recent activities include gardening, native plant rescue, golf, swimming, and woodworking. He is currently coordinating rescues on 7,000-acre site under development in Chatham County, as well as working with the developers to incorporate native plants into their landscaping plans.

### Dennis Burnette: Board member-at-large

Dennis is a retired college professor currently volunteering as a nature educator, focusing on birds, butterflies, and native plants. He does numerous presentations and field trips for nature organizations, Master Gardeners, garden clubs, church groups, scouts, etc. He is active in and has

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## President's Report (cont.)

held elected office in several nature organizations. He has looked for native plants and other wildlife in 11 countries. Recently he received North Carolina's Order of the Longleaf Pine in recognition of volunteer service to the state.

### **Sandy Deakins: Secretary**

Sandy came to North Carolina from St. Augustine, Florida, after retiring from the Florida Department of Education in 2012. She also has a sales and marketing background, having worked in educational technology with Apple Computer and major educational software publishers. From her mother and grandmother she inherited a love of gardening and traipsing around in woods identifying native plants, and she has served as president of the Otto Garden Club.

### **Ann Walter-Fromson: Scholarships and Grants Committee Chair**

A retired psychology professor (Professor Emerita at Greensboro College), Ann is an active member of the Triad chapter of the NC Native Plant Society, the Piedmont Bird Club, and T. Gilbert Pearson Audubon Society of Guilford County. As part of Audubon North Carolina's Bird-Friendly Communities team she promotes the use of native plants in gardening for birds. Ann has been a certified NC Environmental Educator since 2007 and is a recent graduate of the Certificate in Native Plant Studies program at the NC Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill.

### **Cynthia Lincoln: Education Committee Co-Chair**

Cindy joined the NC Museum of Natural Sciences in 2013 as the Coordinator of the Naturalist Center, an interactive, hands-on collection of over 8,000 natural history specimens. An NC Certified Environmental Educator, Cindy previously worked as a Program Leader at the Walnut Creek Wetland Center in Raleigh, NC. She has a broad botanical background including a Ph.D. in Plant Science & Genetics and over 15 years as a research scientist and instructor at several universities, including Duke, where she created and managed an undergraduate teaching laboratory. Cindy's passion for gardening also led her to pursue a career in landscape horticulture, and she has worked as both a designer and horticulturalist for local and national landscape design firms.

### **Jackie Trickle: Education Committee Co-Chair**

Jackie has worked with Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space for 13 years, and is currently the Assistant Park Manager of Education and Programs at Harris Lake County Park and the American Tobacco Trail. She is a NC certified Environmental Educator, an alumna of Virginia Tech, and has 38 years of experience in environmental and nature education. Her passion for native plants began 34 years ago with the Broward County Native Plant Society. Jackie enjoys learning about all things in nature, and also likes hiking, camping, photography and making things.

### **Virginia Curry: Education Committee Co-Chair**

Finding joy in the great outdoors comes naturally to Virginia, who grew up in the Mississippi Delta making leaf tacos from oaks and watching meteor showers from the back of a pick-up truck. As an adult, she has pursued her passion for a wilder life, frequently exchanging gardening work for room and board and learning to live more symbiotically with the world around her at the Anake Wilderness Awareness School. She gained experience in education teaching science classes to young children in New Orleans, where she designed class themes ranging from termite swarms to exploring the compost pile with

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## President's Report (cont.)

a magnifying glass and practicing farm-to-table gardening in the preschool yard. Virginia is new to the native plant scene, where she is driven to learn and share the crucial and specialized role that native species play in ecology.

### **Marta A. McLeod (Lisy): Program Chair**

Lisy has been an educator in NC for over 30 years and is currently teaching at the elementary level at Covenant Day School in Matthews. Six years ago, she created a butterfly garden for students to observe and raise Monarch butterflies. Eventually the garden ended up in a partnership with the Universities of Georgia and Minnesota, by helping to provide data for their research on migration and **OE** (*Ophryocystis elektroscirrha*, a butterfly parasite). As the garden and interest grew across the campus, it became a strong platform to teach students and their parents about the value and diversity of native plants and pollinators.

### **Jendayi Joell: Program Committee**

Jendayi Joell is a graduating senior at North Carolina State University studying Environmental Science with a focus on applied ecology and a minor in Plant Biology. Jendayi wishes to continue her studies and pursue a Masters in either Ecology or Plant Conservation. Born in the island of Bermuda and raised between there and the small rural town of Winton, NC, Jendayi has always had a passion for the environment and hopes to work closely with preserving native and local flora in North Carolina and Bermuda in her future career. She looks forward to this opportunity to help with the Program Committee and meet people in the NC Native Plant Society who share her passions.

### **Tim Blumenstein: Program Committee**

Tim Blumenstein is a biology teacher and avid outdoorsman located in the Greater Charlotte area. Tim earned his BA in Natural Science with a minor in Secondary Education from Covenant College and his MS in Biological Science from Clemson University. His combined passions for biological science and secondary education have led him into a broad range of scientific and educational commitments. From his ongoing commitment to agricultural development in Grand-Goâve, Haiti, to his research of the Schweinitz's Sunflower (*Helianthus schweinitzii*), Tim is eager to serve students and communities in the stewardship of nature.

### **CHAPTER CHAIRS**

Michael Abicht, *Southeast Coast Co-chair*  
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## Cullowhee Adventure! (cont.)

(*Rhododendron maximum*) blooming. At an elevation of 4500 feet, the cooler conditions cause flowering to be later compared to plants living at lower elevations. Large boulders and stones were brought on-site and strategically placed throughout the gardens to create wonderful focal points or used to build steps providing natural settings for showcasing our native species. We even stumbled upon a fairy garden as we crossed a bridge over a little stream! Some parts of the garden floor were blanketed in moss and absolutely gorgeous. I find being totally surrounded in green to be incredibly peaceful. I had visions of these mossy areas on my mind the next day as I took part in Mossin' Annie's workshop.

Our leaders suggested we delay lunch and finish the entire tour before the weather got bad. I was a little perplexed by this as I looked up and saw a Carolina blue sky. After the tour, which also included the Reserve's greenhouse and nursery area, we enjoyed eating our lunch outside in the cool mountain air. Kelly then offered to take a group up to an area of the property having a nice mountaintop view and in sight of an old fire lookout tower. Sure enough, we got caught in a downpour! The weather pattern all summer included an afternoon rain shower and this day was no different.

Upon leaving, our van took a wrong turn and ended up temporarily stuck. While we waited for Reserve staff to come help, I had the opportunity to take additional pictures and spend more time in the gardens. I would have been happy to be stuck there forever! What a wonderful sense of place that envelops you while at the Reserve. Eric even shared his experience being there at night when the moonlight reflects off the distant lakes and mountain peaks. This is truly a special place.

(All photos by Bettina Darveaux.)



A grouping of *Lilium superbum* with *Hydrangea arborescens*.

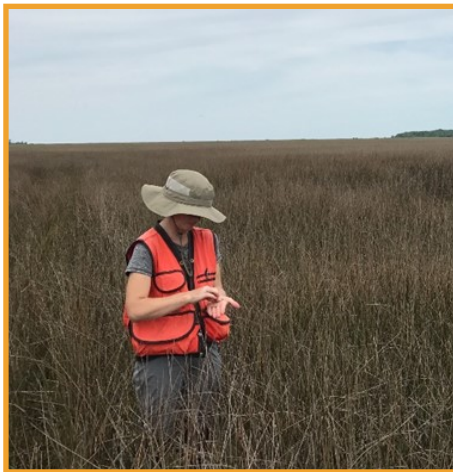
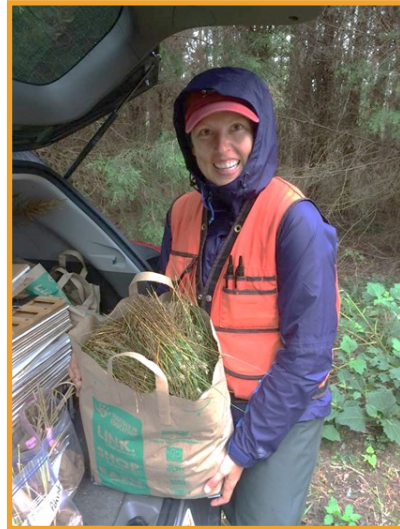


A beautiful carpet of moss.

## NCNPS Cullowhee Conference Scholars

### Amanda Faucette

I received my MS in Plant Biology from NC State University in 2016 for creating a Flora of Buxton Woods Coastal Reserve. Though I have worked at the NC Botanical Garden as their conservation botanist for three years, my work has primarily been within the Piedmont and Coastal Plain. So naturally, I was thrilled to learn I had received an Early Professionals Scholarship from NCNPS to attend the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference this year. I had been looking forward to learning about NC's mountain flora for a long time. Therefore, the highlight of my experience at Cullowhee was the two field trips I attended, one to the Buck Creek Serpentine Barrens and one along the Blue Ridge Parkway. I loved learning how the plant species found in the Serpentine Barrens is directly related to the pH and magnesium content of its soils. And I was blown away by the sundews living in the high elevation outcrops along the parkway. Thank you NCNPS!



### Caroline Healy

Having decided to turn my passion for native plant conservation and habitat restoration into a mid-life career change, I am completing my second year as a Conservation and Land Management Intern with Seeds of Success East at the North Carolina Botanical Garden. Prior to moving in 2016 from Brooklyn to Chapel Hill, I was an intern at Brooklyn Botanic Garden, specializing in native plants. While there, I also successfully completed their Horticulture Certificate and was a committed volunteer. It was a privilege to be awarded a scholarship to attend this year's Cullowhee Native Plant Conference and to meet and learn from so many knowledgeable, passionate native plant enthusiasts. I made many connections, and learned invaluable lessons. The warmth with which everyone was welcomed, supported and encouraged was striking. For me, the highlight of the conference was the Panthertown Valley Ethnobotanical Tour led by David Cozzo and Adam Bigelow. This is a strenuous hike, yet as even as we dragged ourselves back uphill and onto the awaiting bus I was invigorated, inspired and (almost) ready for another lap. There was no more time that day, but I feel certain some of us will meet at that place again soon.



## Scholars (cont.)



### Anna Kelly

As I arrived at the 2017 Cullowhee Native Plant Conference, I could spot the Chaco shoes and plant-themed T-shirts from across the parking lot. I already knew by the professional conference attire that I was in the right place. That feeling of community persisted through the whole week, as we attended seminars on topics from river restoration to successful invasive species removal (whoever thought there was such a thing?!). As I enter my Junior year studying Environmental Science at UNC Chapel Hill, I'm very thankful for the opportunity to attend the conference and not only gain valuable information and connections for a career in conservation, but also join in the camaraderie of the native plant community. There are few places where you can conversationally use only the scientific names of plants, and Cullowhee is one of them!

### Rachel Martin

I am currently attending North Carolina State University, and am pursuing a degree in Horticultural Sciences with a concentration in Landscape Design. Previously, I have had the pleasure of interning at the North Carolina Arboretum and the Biltmore Estate, both of which are located in Asheville, where I was born and raised. As a student at NC State, I serve on the Sustainability Council Student Leadership Working Group and have also recently accepted a position at the Natural Learning Initiative. One of the many highlights from attending this year's conference was gaining the opportunity to connect with so many brilliant and passionate people. I was blown away by the dedication of some attendees (over 15 years!) and the zeal of novice attendees like myself. It was a wonderful and memorable experience, and one that I hope to continue for years to come.



*(continued on page 10)*

# CHLOROFIENDS!\*

## Hitchhikers!

By Lisa Lofland Gould

Plants are experts at moving themselves around, despite the lack of evident locomotory equipment. The invasive plant literature is full of examples of plants being carted all over the world for food, medicine, and ornament, and then spreading happily in their new, pest-free homes. But not all invasive plants are deliberate introductions, and many seeds or plant fragments have snuck in via packing material, shoes, tires, boats, nursery pots, and myriad other transporters.

NCNPS members have noted several new “hitchhikers” in recent years, most of which seem to have come into their yards hidden with plants that they have purchased (some at NCNPS sales). Lawn Water-pennywort (*Hydrocotyle sibthorpioides*), for example, has its epicenter in my yard at the base of a Dixie Woodfern (*Dryopteris X australis*) I purchased. Alan Weakley notes in his publication *Flora* (2015) that this perennial Asian and African member of the Parsley Family is “greatly increasing as a lawn and garden weed”. Its tiny (usually <1/2”) rounded leaves have 7 lobes, with the petiole attached at the base of the leaf (unlike many other members of this genus, whose petioles attach at the center of the leaf); the plants form a thick, low mat.



Another low-growing creeper, Carolina Ponyfoot (*Dichondra carolinensis*) is a perennial member of the Morning Glory Family. Native to pinelands in the North Carolina coastal plain, it is

used commercially as a groundcover and is spreading into lawns and mowed areas outside its natural range (I have wondered if its seeds might also come in via purchased pine needles). Its round- to kidney-shaped leaves are usually less than an inch across, with smooth margins.

A mimosa look-alike in the Spurge Family, Chamber Bitter (*Phyllanthus urinaria*, also called Little Mimosa, Gripeweed, Leaf-flower, and Shatterstone) is a summer annual with many medicinal uses in its native range in tropical Asia; the plant and extracts of it are available via the Internet. It was first recorded in the southern US in the 1940s and now grows from Virginia south to Florida, west to Texas, and in Illinois, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Chamber Bitter can reach up to 2’ in height; it grows rapidly and is a prolific seed producer. Its small leaves (< 1/2” long) are simple and alternate, although at



Chamber Bitter  
-Rebekah D. Wallace

first glance the plant appears to have pinnately compound leaves. Like other members of this family, it produces a sap that can be irritating. The tiny flowers are yellowish-white; the fruits may be green, red, or red-

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## Chlorofiends! (cont.)

dish-green; and the stems are often red. This plant seems to thrive in nitrogen-rich soils and is found in fields, roadsides, and the edges of forests.

Mulberry-weed (*Fatoua villosa*, also called Crabweed) is the only herbaceous member of the Mulberry Family in our region. Native to eastern Asia, Mulberry-weed came into the New Orleans area in the late 1940s or early 1950s, where it was initially observed around nurseries and greenhouses; it has now spread to over 30 US states. We first found it at the Emily Allen Preserve in Winston-Salem in 2015 and suspect horticultural introduction there as well. Mulberry-weed is an erect, branching annual that may grow to over 2' in height. The alternate leaves are ovate, with broad bases and acute tips; the leaf margins are bluntly toothed, the petioles are as long as the leaves, and the stems have hooked hairs. The greenish flowers are in dense cymes in the axils of the leaves, and the female flowers have purple stigmas, giving the flower cluster a purplish cast. It is often mistaken for the native Clearweed (*Pilea pumila*), which has opposite leaves and shiny foliage.

Many of you are already unhappily familiar with Asiatic Hawk's-beard (*Youngia japonica*), which may also have had a horticultural introduction. This highly variable southeast-Asian annual is now a pantropical weed. It can grow from 3–35" tall, with an inflorescence of numerous small dandelion-like flowers. The leaves are mostly basal and range from shal-



Carolina Ponyfoot

-Lisa Gould



Hammerhead Flatworm  
(Pinterest)

lowly lobed to deeply cut; the petioles may be somewhat rough, slightly hairy, or densely hairy. It grows on roadsides and in other disturbed areas, but is beginning to move into less-disturbed habitats and appears to be spreading rapidly in our region.

Not all accidental horticultural introductions are plants. The southeast-Asian Hammerhead Flatworm (*Bipalium kewense*) is a terrestrial planarian that seems to have snuck in with horticultural plants around 1901. It's been recorded in greenhouses as far north as New Hampshire and Michigan, and appears to have naturalized from North Carolina south to Florida and west to Texas; it's also in California. This flatworm prefers damp, shaded habitats and is often found under shrubs, flowerpots, and leaf litter. Although it can reproduce sexually, in our region it reproduces by fragmentation: a few times a month a rear portion of the worm breaks off and forms a new head within 10 days or so (so if you come across one, don't chop it up!). While it is known to eat earthworms, little else is known about other food sources and its ecological impact.

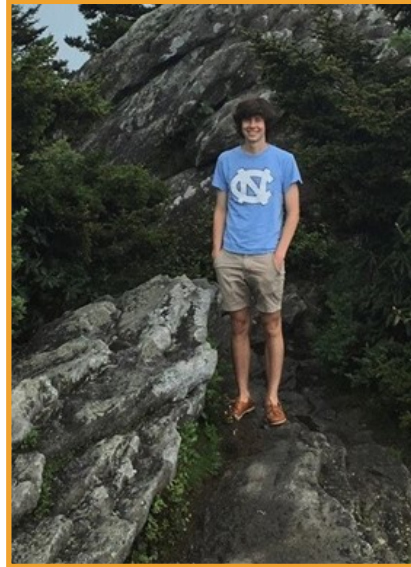
The plants we plant can also bring in native weeds, of course; as our member John Neal noted, the goal is "to have all the weeds be native plants". **Go native!**

*If you have information or comments on invasive species in North Carolina, please share them with Lisa Gould (lisalgould@gmail.com). \*Thanks to Jim Butcher's The Dresden Files for the column title.*

## Cullowhee Scholars (cont.) & Other Attendees

### Andrew Zachman

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Cullowhee Conference this summer. I learned an extensive amount about native plants through a whole host of educational talks ranging from hawthorns to measures being made to improve stream conditions. In addition, I was also able to go on an exciting and informative field trip to Black Balsam Knob, which is now one of my favorite locations in North Carolina. I found my time at Cullowhee to be informative and enjoyable, and I look forward to attending once again in the future.



*The Society always has a large contingent attending the Cullowhee Conference.*

*-John Clarke*



# Native Plant Habitat Certification

By **Lisy McLeod** and **Kelly Keesling**

**N**ine years ago, **Covenant Day School** in Matthews (a suburb of Charlotte) began a study on Monarch butterfly migration. Soon, students were tagging and sending information to researchers at the universities of Minnesota and Georgia. As student learning increased and campus interest grew, the garden took a wonderful twist. Thanks to the trove of information found in the NC Native Plant Society's website and Carolyn Ikenberry's suggestion to contact Dr. Larry Mellichamp, we began to concentrate on native plants.



We quickly realized that as more native plants were incorporated, more butterflies and pollinators were seen, and the garden burst into greater blooms.



The garden is now not only a place for our lower-school children to observe butterflies, but it has also become an outdoor learning space for our older students. Where else could these students come out of their classroom and walk a short distance to see up-close the dispersion strategy of a log fern or gather specimens from a *Helianthus* for a genetics study?

This wonderful and convenient place is where our students can understand the magic of native carnivorous plants thriving in a bog and marvel at the leaves of a *Magnolia ashei*.

The garden has grown to about one third of an acre. As a result, we were able to divide it into three sections: sunny, semi-shade, and full shade, to represent the native species' environments. We have also added a bee house to teach the value and respect for the various native pollinators and a bulletin board highlighting monthly species.

The garden has become a favorite gathering place not only in our school and church, but our neighboring community as well. The garden, located at 800 Fullwood LN, Matthews 28105, is open to the public on weekends.

To get advice on certifying your property as a Native Plant Habitat, contact Larry Mellichamp at : [lmellichamp@carolina.rr.com](mailto:lmellichamp@carolina.rr.com)



# NCNPS Annual Meeting — June 3, 2017



Advice



Plants



Food



Friends



# Focus on Education: PLANT ID APPS

By **Cindy Lincoln**, Education Co-chair

**W**hen I sat down to write about plant identification apps, I realized there is one app that stands out above all the rest—and even better, it can help you identify *any living thing!* Meet iNaturalist. Accessible via smartphone app or website ([www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org)), iNaturalist is really a global network of people sharing observations of the natural world. Through this online community of naturalists, citizen scientists, field biologists and research scientists, an inventory of the earth's biodiversity is being created one photo at a time. iNaturalist launched in 2008 and, in 2014, merged with the California Academy of Natural Sciences. So far, over 5 million photos (total plant observations are almost 1.9 million) representing 117,000 species have been posted. These observations are available as open data and are being shared with scientific data repositories such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), so when you use iNaturalist, you are contributing to science!

Using iNaturalist requires first creating an account. Next, there are 6-7 simple steps to follow in order to post an observation. *If you email me at [cynthia.lincoln@naturalciences.org](mailto:cynthia.lincoln@naturalciences.org), I will send you a step-by-step guide.* After you post a photo, additional information such as date and location are added. Finally, if you know the species name, you can add that or you can leave this field blank and iNaturalist will help you with the identification (more about this in a minute). An advantage of iNaturalist is that it

is relatively easy to download all of your observations from the site and save elsewhere. All observations are verified by experts, called “curators”, who insure that identification and taxonomy are correct. Once a photo has been verified, it is marked “research grade”. Photos that can't be verified are designated “casual grade”.

iNaturalist recently added a new feature that can, in many cases, instantly identify the species in your photo. This feature is being developed using artificial intelligence or AI. Verified or “research grade” observations are being used to train iNaturalist so that it will be able to identify as many different species

as possible. As more and more observations are added, this feature will constantly improve. Currently, if iNaturalist is unsure of the identification, you will see the following: “we're not confident enough to make a recommendation, but here are our top 10 suggestions”. I experimented with iNaturalist's identification feature during a recent visit to the JC Raulston Arboretum and was surprised by how many plants it could identify. Of course, an up-close, in-focus photo is essential.

When you post a photo, you can add it to a specific “project”. Many of the projects are focused on plants such as “North Carolina Piedmont Roadside Native Plants”, “Rare Plants of North Carolina” and “Invasive Exotic Plants of North Carolina”. “Natural North Carolina” covers all species and is a project maintained by Chris Goforth at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences.



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## Chapter News

### Fall Outing

The Society will partner with the **Southeast Coast Chapter** for an outing that begins Saturday, Sept. 16th, with the 3rd Annual Native Plant Festival, sponsored by the Native Plant Alliance, to be held at New Hanover County Arboretum in Wilmington. Then the next day, Society participants will enjoy half-day hikes to the nearby EV-Henwood Nature Preserve and the Green Swamp Preserve. All Saturday events are free and open to the public, and no registration is required. Sunday hikes require reservation via [www.NCWildflower.org](http://www.NCWildflower.org) with a fee of \$10 per person. Contact **Charley Winterbauer**, chapter chair, for information about the festival.

Our **Spring Outing** will take us to the mountains. Stay tuned for details!

### Western Chapter

Mt. Mitchell, the highest peak east of the Mississippi at 6,684 feet and North Carolina's first state park, gave us a wonderful day of botanizing! Due to its high altitude the weather can change quickly and dramatically, and visitors and hikers should be prepared. We were! When we met to start the hike it was overcast and in the low 70's but by the time we finished it was 58 degrees, foggy and raining.



We shuttled a car to the top, did the obligatory walk up to the highest point, and paid our respects to Dr. Mitchell's grave. Hiking downward along the Camp Alice and Commissary trails we were immersed in a sensory bliss. The high elevation Spruce-Fir forest was cool and dark as we hiked under the dense evergreen trees. Everything was green — green with algae, liverworts, mosses, and ferns. The nose was delighted with the smell of "Christmas trees", the cut-grass odor of Hay-scented Ferns (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*), the fragrant smell of orchids, and an occasional unidentified sweet odor wafting on the breeze.

At the end of the hike we visited the park restaurant and warmed ourselves with a hot bowl of soup and a grilled cheese. Then several of us traveled south along the Blue Ridge Parkway to a short hike on part of the Mountain-to-the-Sea Trail. Along the trail we saw both Gray's Lily (*Lilium grayii*) and the Large Purple Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera grandiflora*) in bloom. The Small and Large Purple Fringed Orchids look very similar, and according to Jim Fowler, one way to separate the two species is to look in the throat. The Large Purple Fringed Orchid has a round nectary opening, while the Small Purple Fringed Orchid has a pinched or barbell-shaped nectary opening. So, in spite of the weather, all participants agreed it was a wonderful hike!

-**Tracie Jeffries**, Chapter Chair

### Plant ID Apps (cont.)

In April 2017, the Triangle area participated in iNaturalist's City Nature Challenge. Volunteers from 16 different cities across the United States posted observations for 5 days, competing to see which city could post the most photos. The Triangle area came in 6<sup>th</sup> overall (Dallas, TX won). The total number of observations posted from all 16 cities combined was around 125,000 with 8557 species reported and over 4000 people participating. Next year's City Nature Challenge will be an international competition so please join and use iNaturalist — we'll need all the help we can get!

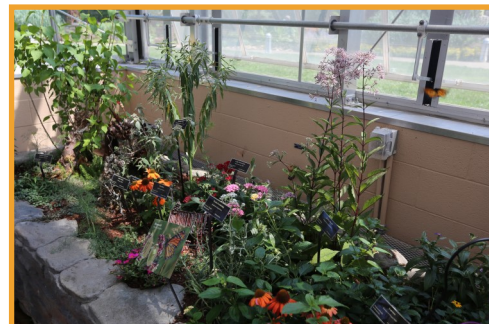
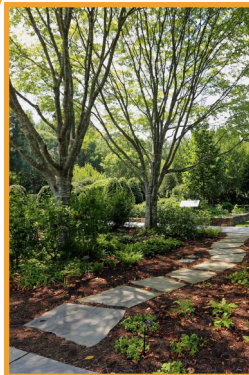


# Native Places



I enjoyed a recent visit to the **North Carolina Arboretum**, 65 acres of handsome and beautifully maintained gardens within a 434-acre park south of Asheville. New visitors want to start at the Baker Exhibit Center, where friendly volunteers offer maps and helpful suggestions. The parking lot stands out with its Franklinia and Kentucky Coffee-trees. I admired the rain garden before exploring along the central promenade toward the Education Center and cafe at the garden's southern end. The Bonsai Garden is world-class with native stone and native trees throughout. The Stream Garden is redone with an emphasis on native plants. The Quilt Garden is always a visual delight. The Plants of Promise Garden is cool and shady on warm summer days. The Arboretum is family friendly. Visit the butterfly house. Ask about Discovery Backpacks or Geocaching, both free of charge. Non-members pay a \$14 parking fee. There is no admission charge. While the N.C. Arboretum is not a native plant garden, I think you will agree they are doing some magnificent gardening with native plants!

—Will Stuart



## Visit

[www.NCArboretum.org](http://www.NCArboretum.org)

**To Plan a Visit!**

*All photos by Will Stuart*



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**We're  
Wild  
About  
Natives!**



*-Tracie Jeffries*