

THE SOUTHERN RESTORATIONIST

NEWSLETTER OF THE COASTAL PLAIN CHAPTER
OF SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

FALL OF 2003

SER Coastal Plain Chapter Co-Sponsoring Two Regional Restoration Symposia

- Dave Borland

Steve Schaff, our Chapter President, has announced that our Chapter will co-sponsor with the Atlantic Coast Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists a one-day symposium in Savannah, Georgia devoted to isolated wetlands issues. The symposium will discuss the recent SWANCC decision on isolated wetlands that removed them from Corp of Engineers jurisdiction. This decision has wide spread consequences and the effects would be felt in the restoration community especially those engaged with regulatory and mitigation work. Many states have strong laws regulating these small non-connected wetlands but states such as SC and GA do not!

The tentative date is set for Dec 11, 2003. Elizabeth Scherrer, Chapter Treasurer, and other members will be on hand to represent the Coastal Plain Chapter. This is an excellent opportunity for us to encour-

age membership, provide us much needed exposure and to present the services of the Chapter and the larger Society to a receptive audience. This also is an important professional development for the Chapter as it represents the achievement of developing partnerships in our efforts to promote ecological restoration as an essential practice in the region. For more information contact Steve Schaff by email at sschaff@arches.uga.edu.

In addition, The Coastal Plain Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration will be co-sponsoring, with The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, a local area event in mid-November 2004 entitled, A Tri-State Longleaf Ecosystem Restoration Symposium. The event will convene in Quincy, Florida and will draw on the joint restoration expertise of area practitioners and scientists to address the educational needs expressed by county

(continued on page 11)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CHAPTER HEADLINE STORY	1
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
CHAPTER OFFICERS	2
RESTORATION PROJECT FEATURE	3
CHAPER OFFICER FEATURE	5
STUDENT NEWS	5
STATE REPS REPORTS	6
Membership committee	7
ANNUAL CONFERENCE	7
calendar	10
Special Feature	11
Note From Editor	12

"Restoration is a way of achieving an ecologically close relationship with the rest of nature, as well as a context for confronting the most troubling aspects of our relationship with our fellow creatures."

- William R. Jordan III

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Steve Schaff

Greetings! In many ways, this particular issue of the newsletter is a reminder that the chapter is driven by member participation. Included in this edition is the first “call for abstracts” for the annual conference and membership meeting to be held in North Carolina. This is the chapter’s primary yearly event and generates a great deal of intellectual, social and financial capital. On behalf of the Coastal Plain Chapter leadership, I’d like to

invite you to join us for what we guarantee will be a fun and enlightening couple of days! In conjunction, I am sending out a “call to action” – notice I didn’t say a “contemplation call” or any of a dozen other catch phrases! The chapter needs to know what services can be offered to make our organization a powerful entity in the Southeastern United States. Are there benefits that the CPC can provide to better serve its members? Researchers: Can we facilitate access to restoration sites? Practitioners: Can we

offer training workshops? Agencies: Can we provide support for small regional symposia or discussion groups to aid in inter-agency communication? I am asking that you *actively* make suggestions - emails, phone calls, personal communication...use whatever means necessary to get your ideas heard (see the website for contact information for CPC leadership). With your help I believe the Coastal Plain Chapter will continue to be a thriving group of restoration professionals. Feel free to contact me at sschaff@arches.uga.edu



Florida Scrub-Jay
(*Aphelocoma c. coerulescens*)
Photo: J. Phillips

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President · Steve Schaff (GA)
(sschaff@arches.uga.edu)

Vice President · Dave Borland (FL)
(dwboland@att.net)

Secretary · Mary James (FL)
(mjames90@earthlink.net)

Treasurer · Elizabeth Scherrer (NC)
(scherrer@ecosciencenc.com)

Committee Chairs:

Membership · Rosalind Moore (FL)
(rosalindm4@cs.com)

Annual Conference · Carol Helton Denhof
(cdenhof@atlantabotanicalgarden.org)

Communications · Robert Kluson (FL)
(rkluson@scgov.net)

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES

State Representatives:

Alabama · Dale Brockway (dbrockway@fs.fed.us)

Florida · Randy Mejeur (rmejeur@glatting.com)

Georgia · Ken Outcalt (koutcalt@fs.fed.us)

Louisiana · Bob Keeland (bob_keeland@usgs.gov)

Mississippi · George Ramseur (gramseur@tnc.org)

North Carolina · Matt Thomas (mthomas9@nc.rr.com)

South Carolina · Joan Walker (joanwalker@fs.fed.us)

At-Large Representatives:

Nancy Bissett (FL) (natives@gate.net)

Tiffany Troxler Gann (FL) (troxlert@fiu.edu)

Alison McGee (GA) (amcgee@tnc.org)

Carol Helton Denhof (GA)
(cdenhof@atlantabotanicalgarder.org)

Rosalind Moore (FL) (rosalindm4@cs.com)

Student Representative:

Morgan Varner (longleaf@ufl.edu)

RESTORATION PROJECT FEATURE

Restoring the Community-One Wetland a Time

- Ross Andrews and David Jones

On a sunny Saturday morning in November, Walnut Creek floodplain is swarming with volunteers. Voices in the distance are shouting, "There's more over here!" Anxious to help, groups of children quickly turn into herds, stampeding through the brush. Tires, bottles, and cans are quickly lifted from the stream. Like locusts, volunteers descend upon piles of trash. Clean-up days like this one are common in the Rochester Heights community of Raleigh, North Carolina. Less than a mile from the city center, several communities have joined together in a wetland restoration project.

Beginning from springs near Crossroads in Cary, Walnut Creek meanders southeastwardly, flowing through Lake Johnson and Lake Raleigh at the NC State Centennial Campus. The creek then winds its way eastward into the heart of Raleigh before merging with Big Branch Creek and then flowing directly into the Neuse River.

The floodplain of Walnut Creek in urban Raleigh consists of a mosaic of wetland ecosystems. A majestic stand of cypress grows in Hammond Pond, directly west of Garner Road. This natural community is a remnant of a wetland type no longer common in the Piedmont of North Carolina. In addition to the cypress swamp, bottomland hardwood forests dominated by red maple, box elder, green ash, water oak, willow oak and eastern cotton-

wood are present. Mixed among the hardwood stands are areas of shallow open-water where water lily, buttonbush, tag alder, black willow, and various other wetland plants thrive. Swooping Marsh Hawks and perched Great Blue Herons are often seen from the boardwalk overlook at Boneyard Lake north of Walnut Creek between State Street and Rock Quarry Road. Though the area lies within the 440 beltline, deer with large antlers have been seen foraging in the brush east of Rock Quarry Road.

When project leaders first met in 1995, their primary goal was to prevent flooding in the nearby communities. Since that time, they have formed the non-profit organization *Partners for Environmental Justice* (PEJ) and dedicated them-



Volunteers Field Education
(Photo: R. Andrews)

selves to the enhancement of the ecosystem and the community.

PEJ is a local interracial group established to promote the growth and quality of life in Southeast Raleigh. Founders of the organization, Dr. Norman Camp and Ed Milligan, initiated *Walnut Creek 2000*, a wetland restoration project designed to reduce flooding, beautify the landscape, educate the community about the importance of wetlands, and help clean-up part of the Neuse River



Cypress, Seedlings, and Loblolly Pines
(Photo: R. Andrews)

Wetland ecosystems like the Walnut Creek floodplain are critical components in the health and functional benefits of the earth's freshwater ecosystems. Over 50 of North Carolina's federally protected animal species live in wetland habitats.

RESTORATION PROJECT FEATURE CONTINUED

Basin.

A major goal of the PEJ *Walnut Creek 2000* initiative is to create a model Urban Wetland Education Park to promote community interest in protecting and understanding urban wetlands. The design team, headed by Landscape Architect Professor Robin Moore of NC State's College of Design, included community members and graduate students. The vision for the Educational Park. Sketches includes an urban wetland environmental education park and interpretive center, a Frog Maze, a bog garden and an amphitheater. Other areas, such as the wetland that lies east of State Street and south of Walnut Creek are cited for preservation as natural sanctuaries without park visitation.

The components of the environmental education park are carefully designed to get children excited about learning



Walnut Creek
Urban Education Park
(Photo: R. Andrews)

in a natural way. The NC State design team focuses on the "intimate and immediate" interaction of children with the natural world. The park will be a welcoming environment where education comes through hands on activities and where the mind, body, and spirit can roam freely. Once completed, the park will be the first of its kind in the Southeast.

While planning for the Urban Wetland Education Park continues, the community keeps busy by organizing clean-up events and tree plantings to restore the wetland ecosystem. Each fall and spring, Ross Andrews, a graduate student studying ecological restoration at NC State University coordinates native tree plantings to meet three defined restoration goals: 1) Remove invasive exotic shrubs and vines in certain areas and replace with native Piedmont Alluvial Forest species absent in the floodplain (Ex: spring ephemeral wildflowers) 2) Plant wetland appropriate species in artificially inundated areas with standing water due to road embankments on 440 (Example: south of Walnut Creek and east of State Street) 3) Restore sections of Walnut Creek where channel is degraded.

In November 2001, local youth, church volunteers and fraternity members helped plant over 50 bottomland hardwood trees, including swamp chestnut oak, cherry bark oak, and tulip poplar. In the next two plantings over 200 wetland trees including swamp tupelo and bald cypress were planted along the edge of an open marsh just west of Rock Quarry



Young Tree Planters
(Photo: R. Andrews)

Road. This planting took place along the northern edge of the greenway boardwalk to create cover for water fowl and to provide resistance from Walnut Creek flood waters. The spring 2003 planting was designed to

(continued on page 9)

At a time when precious ecosystems are being destroyed and social class divisions make community improvement difficult, Partners for Environmental Justice is determined to persevere and restore the Walnut Creek Wetlands. Hopeful that more people will come to love and respect the environment. Hopeful that one day we will all feel connected to our surroundings. Hopeful that generations to come will have a clean and healthy environment. Hopeful that we can make a difference.

CHAPTER OFFICER FEATURE

* Editor: This column features an introduction series of our Chapter Officers to all of us members. Enjoy.

Dave Borland

Vice President

David Borland is currently a Research Associate with A.F. Clewell, Inc. in Quincy, Florida and conducts contract services for area firms and clients. He has a specific educational background concentrated on southeastern US forest ecology, emphasizing regeneration, vegetation recovery and ecological assessment, and holds a BS degree in Forest Regeneration from Auburn University. His past experiences with native plant nursery production, soils and field establishment issues have resulted in successful vegetation recov-

ery applications and methodologies, involving both upland and wetland communities, for private, public and non-profit interests. Having a familiarity and practice with regional natural areas and ecosystems, his experience in resource conservation issues and ecosystem management provides the foundation for specific management of ecological restoration projects. He has consulted on and conducted several upland and wetland restoration efforts involving disturbed communities across the southern US region, including projects in north Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia. These projects have incorporated practices including restoration design planning, wetland mitigation, reference ecosystem research &

documentation, critical element survey, long-term monitoring, performance compliance, fire ecology, technical reporting and project administration. Specific areas of applied expertise include vegetation community characterization, historical reference ecosystem documentation, environmental assessment, wetland delineation, soil analysis, and natural community inventories and monitoring.

David is professionally active in the Society for Ecological Restoration International, currently serving as the Southeastern US Representative for the Board of Directors and as Chair of its Board Development Committee. He is also Vice President and advocate for the Coastal Plains Chapter of SER.

STUDENT MEMBERS NEWS

SER Students Assist Restoration in Florida

- *Morgan Varner*

Student Representative

Florida poses some of the most acute restoration challenges we face in the southeast including the Everglades, invasive species, Kissimmee River restoration, and reversing the effects of fire suppression. Student involvement in these projects plays a pivotal role in understanding these complex circumstances and their restoration. This issue of Southern Restorationists will highlight the efforts of students from Florida.

Amy Miller Jenkins recently completed a M.S. at the University of Florida on upland restoration of pastures at The Nature Conservancy's Disney Wilderness Preserve in central Florida to the longleaf pine flatwoods community. She investigated native relict seed banks in pastures and the effect of pasture restoration efforts on beneficial soil mycorrhizae fungi.

Morgan Varner, a shameless self-promoter, is a Ph.D. candidate in the University of Florida's Ecology Program. My research focuses on problems with reintroducing

fire to long-unburned longleaf pine forests, a project with co-operators from the USDA Forest Service, Department of Defense, The Nature Conservancy, Universities, and state agencies.

Student members make up an integral part of our regional membership and restoration community. If you are a student and interested in SER's Coastal Plain chapter, please contact me or attend an upcoming SER meeting.

Tel: (352) 392-1891

Email: longleaf@ufl.edu

STATE REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

LOUISIANA

- *Bob Keeland*

Megan La Peyre of the USGS Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Research Unit, School of Renewable Natural Resources, Louisiana State University has been examining the effects of coastal restoration on nekton (fish and decapod crustaceans) habitat. Research projects include examining a popular marsh restoration technique known as terracing, and evaluating the success of artificial reef creation efforts in providing nekton habitat. A general pattern emerging suggests that the structure created by restoration projects is a key element determining nekton use of restored habitat. In an initial study of marsh terraces in southwest Louisiana, substrate differences (% silt, % organic matter) between natural and terrace marsh edges were the key habitat factor hypothesized to explain the lower abundances of benthic species in the restored habitat. Similarly, construction material (limestone, clam shell, oyster shell) and reef location were the key factors explaining differences in finfish community diversity and abundances in created reefs in Terrebonne Bay, LA.

FLORIDA

- *Randy Mejeur*

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS), with whom Florida chapter member **Rosalind Moore** is employed, provides technical and monetary assistance through a voluntary program known as the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) to assist landowners in the protection and restoration of wetlands occurring on their property. The NRCS is funding restoration activities on a $\pm 15,000$ acre portion of the Allapattah Ranch, one of the largest WRP projects in the country. The project includes the restoration of more natural water levels in the wetlands on the site, removal of exotic plant species, and the re-introduction of fire into the landscape. More details about the project are included on the web at <http://www.fl.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/flwrp.html>.

Restoration activities, including efforts by **Mike Renda** from The Nature Conservancy, on the ± 73 acre Blowing Rocks Preserve on Jupiter Island in Martin have been ongoing since 1985 and have included the restoration of 40 acres of coastal strand, mangrove swamp, tropical and oak



Lopsided Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum secundum*) Fall Bloom,

Photo: R. Kluson

hammock, and beach/dune systems. During the next two years, 14 more acres of intensive restoration including extensive removal of non-native plants, removal of dredged sand and shell, site grading, installation of culverts, creation of tidal creeks, extensive native plantings and irrigation installation will continue at the northwest quadrant of the preserve. Blowing Rocks Preserve accomplishes restoration tasks by utilizing thousands of volunteer hours annually, hiring contractors, and using staff.

Mary James is the ecologist for the Kingsford & Hopewell mines at IMC, which total $\sim 60,000$ acres, and has been involved in miscellaneous projects at other IMC mines throughout the Bone Valley region. She is responsible for keeping restoration activities in compliance with the various permit requirements of federal, state, county, and water management agencies. This includes a variety of different

(continued on page 8)

I have come to terms with the future. From this day onward I will walk easy on the earth. Plant trees. Kill no living things. Live in harmony with all creatures. I will restore the earth where I am. Use no more of its resources than I need. And listen, listen to what it is telling me.

- **M.J. Slim Hooley**

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

- *Rosalind Moore*

I am excited and honored to take over the reins as CPC Membership Chair from Adam Watts, who recently accepted a position with the Peace Corps overseas. Congratulations, Adam, and thanks for helping me get up to speed in my new position!

I am a wetland specialist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Gainesville, Florida and have been a member of the CPC for about three years. I have been doing federal wetland policy

work for over twelve years now. About five years ago, my work began to entail more wetland restoration project development, and that soon became my favorite aspect of the job. After joining SER and the CPC, my enthusiasm and knowledge increased by leaps and bounds! I hope I can spread this same enthusiasm about our Chapter to others who may be new to the field of ecological restoration, as well as those who are seasoned professionals.

I am already looking forward to our annual Chapter conference in Raleigh next March as

an unprecedented opportunity to meet and hear from current, and I hope, future, members from the northeast corner of our region. To ensure that you receive notification of this enriching and enjoyable event, be sure your membership stays current! Annual national and chapter membership renewal happens in January 2004. If you are not yet a member, contact me for more information about the Chapter, or go to the "Join SER" link on our homepage. See you in Raleigh!

Email: rosalindm4@cs.com

ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

- *Carol Denhof*

Conference Committee Chair

The Coastal Plains Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration is seeking abstracts for presentations at the Annual Symposium and Membership Meeting to be held on March 25 & 26, 2004 at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, NC. Participants will be provided current project and research updates from around the southeastern US during two days of presentations and an evening poster session. A third day, Saturday March 27 is

scheduled for field trips to restoration sites in the research triangle area of North Carolina.

Topics should focus on current restoration projects in the southeastern US; these may include (but aren't limited to) upland restoration, wetland restoration, rare species restoration, landscape-scale ecosystem restoration, impacts of restoration on wildlife, monitoring of restoration projects, invasive species eradication, philosophy of restoration and case studies.

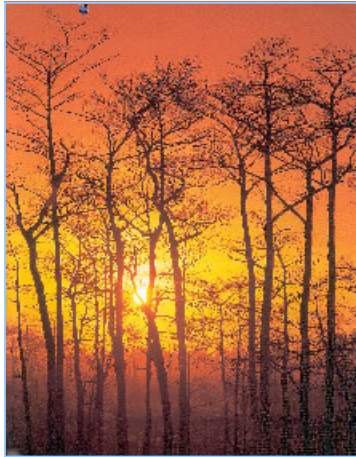
Please submit abstracts

of no more than 250 words to Carol Denhof, Conference Committee Chair, by January 31, 2004. Abstracts should include contact information, presentation type (poster or oral presentation) and preferred length of presentation (20 min or 30 min.) Email (preferred) abstracts in Microsoft Word format to cdenhof@atlantabotanicalgarden.org or mail them to Carol Denhof at 1345 Piedmont Ave. NE
Atlanta, GA 30309

STATE REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS CONTINUED

activities such as meeting with various contractors and/or co-workers to arrange for native species plantings or transplanting, nuisance/exotic control, earthwork, or listed species surveys.

Ray Kurz, a senior environmental scientist with the Sarasota office of PBS&J, has been involved in the coordination, initiation, and/or implementation of several restoration projects in recent years. His firm coordinated a feasibility study for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to evaluate the reconnection of wetlands and oxbows along the North Fork of the St. Lucie River in St. Lucie County, Florida, which included activities such as the identification of berms created during the channelization of the river, development of construction drawings for a pilot reconnection project, and hydrologic modeling of the North Fork to assess overall project effects on water levels and salinity. He has also provided coordination and technical oversight of a 1.16-acre seagrass transplanting project for the Town of Longboat Key. A third project, which was conducted for the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and FDEP, involved the coordination of the final design, permitting, and development of construction bid specifications for several parcels in the 1,600-acre Charlotte Harbor Buffer Preserve. This project includes the restoration of several historic wetland areas by the removal of exotic vegetation, back-filling of mosquito ditches, and regrading of altered landscapes to restore sheetflow.



Sunset at Big Cypress National Preserve, FL

Photo: Resource Mgt., Sarasota Co., FL

Karen Hill, a senior environmental specialist with Pinellas County, has been involved with the development of restoration plans for several projects occurring on conservation lands owned or managed by Pinellas County. The restoration plan for the Alligator Lake Management Area is currently being developed with the restoration activities scheduled to begin in the next year. Restoration activities on the Alligator Lake Management Area will include the removal of large spoil areas that will be re-graded to wetland elevations, the realignment of ditches to improve water flow and quality within the lake, the removal of exotic vegetation, and roller-chopping/prescribed fires within natural uplands on the site. Conceptual design for the restoration of a 14 acre site on Allen's Creek, a ditched and partially drained tidal creek in Largo, Florida, is underway with restoration activities scheduled for May

2004. Plans for restoration activities on the site include the partial removal of concrete rip rap from banks of the creek, stormwater retrofits to improve water quality, and restoration of a coastal marsh system. Conceptual plans for restoration activities in the Mobbly Bay Wilderness Preserve in Oldsmar, Florida are underway. Restoration activities anticipated include upland restoration, removal of exotic plant species and plantings of native species in an estuarine salt marsh, and restoration of historic tidal circulation patterns through the filling of mosquito ditches.

Randy Mejeur, an associate ecologist with Glatting Jackson, is working with **Nancy Bissett**, on a ± 21 acre upland restoration project adjacent to the ± 1000 acre Boggy Creek Swamp south of Orlando, Florida. **Randy** helped to develop the restoration plan, which includes herbiciding and disking the current improved pasture and the seeding of native plant species, as part of an overall mitigation program for the Ginn Property DRI. **Nancy** will be conducting the native seed introduction within the upland restoration area during the fall/winter of 2003/2004.

The Natural Areas Training Academy (a project managed by The Nature Conservancy in partnership with the University of Florida) is offering "Managing for Diversity Across Florida's Unique Landscapes", December 2-4, 2003 at TNC's Disney Wilderness Preserve in Kissimmee. Led by **Doria Gordon**, the state ecologist for Florida for TNC, this workshop will

(continued on page 9)

STATE REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS CONTINUED

focus on restoration techniques, both upland and wetland, using the restoration projects at the preserve as case studies. This workshop is part of the Certificate in Natural Areas Management, a qualification created by the Academy that is earned after completion of 5 workshops. A second workshop of particular relevance to SER members offered by the Academy is Restoration Planning and Techniques for Forested Lands, scheduled for April 6-8, 2004. The location has not been determined yet but will certainly be in north Florida. You can discover more about both of these workshops and on the workshop series by visiting the academy's website at

<http://snre.ufl.edu/nata/>. For additional information on the Natural Areas Training Academy, please contact Peter Colverson at pcolverson@tnc.org.

The 30th Annual Conference on Ecosystems Restoration and Creation held by Hillsborough Community College was held on October 30-31, 2003 in Tampa Florida. This year's conference focused on the restoration of entire ecosystem areas, including both wetland and upland areas. It included both oral and poster presentations. Several SER Coastal Plain chapter members including **Ray Kurz**, **Erica Hernandez**, and **Steve Richardson** made oral presentations at this conference.

"I know there are people who worry that tuning in to the Earth means you're not sufficiently interested in human problems, social problems. That's not my experience. My experience is that compassion grows in all directions simultaneously. For me the best entry point is this opening into the living wisdom of the Earth that simply starts opening itself once you get quiet in it and let the heart open."

- James Thornton

RESTORATION PROJECT FEATURE CONTINUED

help regeneration in the alluvial forest community, near the future site of the Urban Wetland Education Center.

During restoration activities, presentations are made in order for the community and young volunteers to learn about the unique characteristics of wetland soils, survival adaptations of wetland plants, watershed ecology, tree identification, and the impact of the ecological footprint of the individual person.

For more information on the project and the plants and

soils of the Walnut Creek Wetlands visit the website: <http://www.naturalearning.org/walnutcreek.html>

Those specifically interested in restoration ecology and tree planting please contact Ross Andrews at rlandre@unity.ncsu.edu

- Ross Andrews is a graduate student studying community-based restoration ecology in the Forestry department at NC State

- David Jones is a forest ecology and water resources researcher at International Paper, Southlands Forest in Bainbridge Georgia



Wetland Tree Planting at Walnut Creek Restoration

Photo: R. Andrews

2003	Course Title	LOCATION	ORGANIZATION	Type of Event
November 3 - 7	Invasive Plants in Natural and Managed Systems and The 7th Int. Conf. on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Ecological Society of America	Conference
Nov 11 -	Basic Wetland Delineation	Charleston, SC	Duncan & Duncan Wetland and Endangered Species Training (D&D W.E.S.T.)	Training
Nov 18 - 20	Interagency Consultation for Endangered Species (Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act)	Charleston, SC	Duncan & Duncan Wetland and Endangered Species Training (D&D W.E.S.T.)	Training
Nov 19 - 22	Assembling the Pieces: Restoration, Design & Landscape Ecology	Austin, TX	Society for Ecological Restoration International	Conference
December 2 - 4	Managing for Diversity across Florida's Unique Landscapes	TNC Disney Wilderness Preserve,	Center for Natural Resources: Natural Areas Training Academy	Training Workshop
Dec 6 - 9	2003 National Public Land Acquisition and Management Conference	Ritz Carlton, Amelia Island, FL	Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Conference
Dec 11	Isolated Wetlands Symposium	Savannah, GA	Atlantic Coast Chapter of Society of Wetland Scientist & SER Coast Plain Chapter	Symposia
Dec 12	Nationwide Permitting	Baton Rouge, LA	Whitenton Group, Inc. Environmental Consulting & Training	Training
2004				
January 7-9	St. Lucie Estuary & South Indian River Lagoon Watershed Symposium: Watershed in Transition 2004	Mariott Resort, South Hutchinson Island	South Florida Water Management	Conference
February				
March 5-7	Southeastern Ecology and Evolution Conference	Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA	Georgia Institute of Technology	Conference
25-26	SER Coastal Plain Chapter Annual Symposium and Membership Meeting	North Carolina Museum of Art Raleigh, NC	Society for Ecological Restoration International Coastal Plain Chapter	Conference

Chapter headline Story CONTINUED

agents in Georgia, Florida & Alabama, and other natural resource managers,

who work with and advise private landowners interested in longleaf pine ecosystem restoration and conservation forestry. The event will include a single day symposia combined with field visits to area project

sites to provide information regarding methods and practices. Program format and content issues remain to be finalized. Chapter members Kay Kirkman and Greg Seamon have been prominent in the steering committee efforts for this meeting and provide valuable guidance in the process. This event also is important to the Chap-

ter's exposure and its relationship with partner organizations, which include the area's major natural resource institutions, State & Federal Agencies, and research centers. For more information contact David Borland, dwborland@att.net.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Book review

- Dave Borland

Ecological restoration has often been viewed as either a fringe discipline where a few aficionados recreate a patch of prairie, a section of marsh, some native groundcover here or an area forest planting there OR viewed as a distraction from the vital and politically charged work of preserving more or less undisturbed landscapes. Of course to others, it provides the great promise of long-term sustainability. These perceptions have their urgency in an urgent world.

In his latest book, *The Sunflower Forest: Ecological Restoration and the New Communion with Nature* (2003, Univ. of CA Press), William R. Jordan III argues that it is vital to the ultimate preservation of the Earth's ecosystems, and also, essential to ourselves as active participants in and integral to the functions of nature. Jordan, a

restoration philosopher & founder of the journal *Ecological Restoration*, writes that restoration is a way of achieving an ecologically close relationship with the rest of nature, as well as, a context for confronting the most troubling aspects of our relationship with our fellow creatures.

In these essays, he suggests the fundamental re-connection of, and effectively removes the distinction between, nature and culture. Jordan encourages us to rethink the practice of ecological restoration as a positive performance for our human engagement in the natural environment, as understood through our personal action, project connections & symbolic thought, but importantly, as a very fundamental part of our very being. Reminiscent ideas from thinkers as Ed Komarek Sr. and Carl Smith come to mind, reminding us that this essential understanding of the ecology of

man and the critical need to provide a nurturing relationship with nature directly influences the path of our culture and determines its success.

In an increasingly developed world where threatened natural services influence our very existence, *The Sunflower Forest* is an important lesson about a practice that is bound to become one of the most important ways we deal with our surroundings. Thanks to Jordan's wide-ranging intellect and compelling writing, it is also a great pleasure to read.

I am one

Who eats his breakfast

Gazing at the

morning-glories.

- Basho

THE COASTAL PLAIN
CHAPTER OF SOCIETY
FOR ECOLOGICAL
RESTORATION

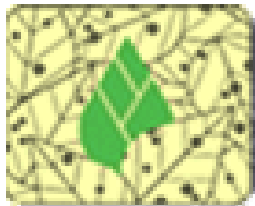
Address

c/o Steve Schaff,

Savannah River Ecology Lab,

Drawer E, Aiken, SC 29802

<http://www.ser-coastalplains.org/>



SER

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

- *Robert Kluson*

Fall greetings to all fellow Southern Restorationists! Another issue of our chapter's newsletter is finished to continue our progress in providing this vital service for our members. We were very glad to hear that so many of you were pleased with our last issue and the improved format. We are confident that you will be pleased with this current issue.

A couple of personal notes to inform you about first. **Marti McGuire** of our Communications Committee has started an Oak Ridge fellowship with NOAA in Washington, DC as of September 22nd. She is working in the Habitat Restoration group on a national estuary restoration program. **Adam**

Watts, former Membership Committee Chair, has accepted an upcoming Peace Corps assignment along with recently getting married. We sincerely wish them the best in their new endeavors and hope to include their input in upcoming issues.

Our feature articles truly demonstrate the strengths of our Chapter, such as our growing regional outreach and the participatory nature of our restoration projects. These were especially pertinent to our featured review of the most recent book by one of our foremost leaders, Bill Jordan. Please, continue to send us your stories and reports that show how we all are embodying and defining this restoration vision.

Finally, here's three important reminders that I would like to

pass along. **F**irst, take the time to complete the membership survey on the national SER website. Needless to say, the requested information is critical to continue improving SER for all of its members and chapters. **S**econd, there's still time to register for **the 15th Annual International SER Conference** in Austin, Texas, on November 19-22, 2003. SER's 2003 Conference will focus on the design aspects of restoration, with the expectation of significant participation by landscape architecture, land planning, civil engineering, and landscape ecology professionals. **T**hird, make plans for and participate in your chapter's annual meeting scheduled for March 25-26, 2004 in Raleigh, NC. ONWARD!

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.