

# The End of Summer at the Highlands Biological Station



HIGHLANDS  
BIOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

## Nature Center Programs

If you haven't gotten to experience the Nature Center at the Highlands Biological Station yet this summer, plan to stop by to visit displays relating to the natural history and organisms of the southern Appalachians, as well as daily programs, special events, and summer camps. Upcoming programs include "Know Your Frogs" on Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 pm, and is open to all ages. Come for a presentation about regional frog species and learn to identify species of frogs visually and by their calls. People are invited to stay after the presentation to search for frogs and to participate in a scientific survey of calling frogs at the Station. \$2 per person. Advanced registration is required. Bring a flashlight and rain gear.

There will be Nature Center hike to the upper Chattooga River and environs with Joe Gatins on Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. The hike is free and will be approximately 2 miles and moderate in difficulty; participants will return by lunchtime. Meet at the Nature Center at 9:30am. Plan to bring your own water and snack and wear appropriate clothes and footwear. No dogs. Children welcome. Rain/thunderstorms or threat of thunderstorms cancels.

Don't forget to take advantage of the daily programs offered at the Nature Center through the end of the season

- Mondays: Tour of the Botanical Garden, 10-11:30am
- Tuesdays: Family Nature Activity, 3-4pm
- Wednesdays: Storybook Science, 2:30-3pm
- Thursdays: Zahner Conservation Lecture Series, 7-8pm
- Fridays: Animal Feeding, 11am-12pm
- Saturdays: Featured Creature, 11:30am-12pm

The Nature Center is open from 10am - 5pm, Monday – Saturday. Visit [www.wcu.edu/hbs](http://www.wcu.edu/hbs) or call 828-526-2623 for times, program information, directions, and more.

## Native Plant Conference benefits the Botanical Garden

If you've never visited the Highlands Botanical Garden, you are missing out on one of the greatest treasures in Highlands. The Garden covers approximately 12 acres within the Town limits and is free and open to the public year-round. The Garden features hundreds of species of labeled native plants in a variety of natural ecosystems from bog to hemlock to mixed forest communities. You will find visitors and residents of all ages exploring the Garden each summer, eating lunch by Lindenwood Lake or strolling the Garden paths. The Garden is located at the Highlands Biological Station, and surrounds the Station's popular Nature Center; it is supported in part through its Annual Conference on Landscaping and Gardening with Native Plants.

This year's Conference will take place Thursday and Friday September 10-11. The experience includes a field trip, lectures, a luncheon, and a native plant auction. Choose among field trips that visit spectacular local private gardens landscaped extensively with native plants, a pilgrimage to view 400+ year old hemlocks near Highlands, or a hike in Panthertown Valley or on Whiteside Mountain with experienced botanists. If hiking is not your thing, workshops will be offered on creating butterfly waystation gardens or growing rare southern Appalachian heirloom vegetable and fruit varieties.

This year's featured speaker is Patrick McMillan, botanist from Clemson University, but probably best known as the "The Plant Hunter" from SC-ETV's series "Expeditions." Other speakers will include John Turner, director of the private Southern Highlands Reserve on Toxaway Mountain, who will discuss the creation of the Reserve; Jim Veteto, an ethnobotanist who will demonstrate the great diversity of southern Appalachian vegetable and fruit cultivars; John Calabria, landscape architect at the NC Arboretum who will present strategies for water conservation; and Katherine Elliott, ecologist from Coweeta Hydrologic Lab, who will highlight the many changes in recent centuries to the forests of the southern Mountains. These insightful and inspiring talks are followed by a fun and informative native plant auction and wine reception, with proceeds going to the Botanical Garden to support the collections, student interns, and public programs.

For more information visit [www.wcu.edu/hbs](http://www.wcu.edu/hbs) or call the Highlands Biological Station at 828-526-2602.



The Highlands  
Biological Foundation, Inc.  
presents:

The Tenth Annual  
Conference on

Landscaping  
&  
Gardening  
with Native  
Plants

and  
Native Plant Auction

Thursday & Friday  
September 10-11, 2009

Marvin-Lipscomb  
Performing Arts Center  
607 Chestnut Street  
Highlands, NC