

## Free Gardening Seminar on July 29

The Coalition for Nonnative Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM) is sponsoring a free seminar for property owners and the general public on Friday, July 29, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 at the Community Building, next to the ball park in Highlands. The sponsoring organizations include Highlands Biological Station, Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, Highlands Historical Society, Highlands Plateau Audubon Society, Highlands Plateau Greenway and the Land Stewards of the Highlands Plateau (a conservation arm of the Laurel Garden Club) and the Town of Highlands.

The faculty includes Dr. Timothy Spira, professor emeritus of Botany at Clemson University and author of the book *Wildflowers and Plant Communities of the Southern Appalachian Mountains and Piedmont: A Naturalist's Guide to the Carolinas, Virginia, Tennessee, and Georgia*. He will discuss the extraordinary plant diversity of the Highlands Plateau, how invasive plants are threatening it, and what we will lose if we do not try to manage this threat. Russell Funderburk, Horticulturist at the Highlands Biological Station Botanical Garden, will explain control methods for our "most unwanted" nonnative invasive plants, giving practical advice on control methods and native alternative choices for landscapes. Included in the curriculum will be an open discussion period for questions and dialogue with the faculty and moderator, Dr. Jim Costa.

A light lunch at 12:30 will follow the morning session for those who preregister. Walk-ins are welcome and we encourage you to bring a sandwich and join us. An optional fieldtrip to the Botanical Garden will follow at 1:30 to see examples of eradication and control techniques for the invasive plants at the Botanical Garden. He will also show examples of native alternatives.

To preregister for lunch please email [swansondollie@gmail.com](mailto:swansondollie@gmail.com) or call 828-526-2609 by July 22