



## FAMG Quarterly Meeting

**When:** Monday, May 6, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Polk County Extension Office  
79 Carmel Lane, Columbus

**Subject:** The Amazing Biodiversity of Polk County

**Presenter:** David Campbell, Botanist/Ecologist/Wetland Delineator

Do you know how special Polk County is? Our guest lecturer on May 6, botanist and ecologist David Campbell, does. As a boy growing up in Toronto, David thought “Appalachia sounded like a magical word.” He came to North Carolina to work as a botanist in 1999 and never left. He is a certified wetland delineator for Habitat Assessment & Restoration Professionals in Charlotte and has over 25 years of experience studying the flora and fauna of North America, the United Kingdom and areas of the Neotropics. David is particularly interested in rare and threatened species throughout the southeastern United States.

David is the author of the publication “An Inventory of the Significant Areas of Polk County, North Carolina,” the result of seven years of field work and the work of citizen scientists. His study explains that Polk County’s great biodiversity is due to factors like sharp elevation changes, warm and wet climate, diverse rock types and proximity to coastal, Piedmont and mountain ecosystems. His inventory lists 127 rare or watch-list plant species in Polk County. Polk County is listed as the only recorded site in the world for Bigleaf Scurfpea, a mysterious plant collected twice in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century on White Oak Mountain and not seen since!

David will talk to our group about his studies of the impressive flora and fauna of Polk County, with an emphasis on those species that are rare, threatened or endangered.

As always, the presentation will be open to the public. Please invite your friends and neighbors to attend this important and interesting presentation. A short FAMG business meeting will take place after the presentation.