

Account: South Carolina State Parks

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South Carolina State Parks

at 19:30:06 on 10/02/2012 UTC · 🌐

The sourwood trees (*Oxydendrum arboreum*) are getting colorful this week at Paris Mountain State Park! There is so much to like about this tree, in every season. It heralds in the fall with pink-tinted red leaves starting in late August through November. In the winter, sourwood honey is a great addition to hot tea. Shiny green leaves emerge in the spring, and as summer approaches, the panicles of flowers are seen high in the treetops – flowers which drop to the ground most of the summer, looking remarkably like baby teeth. At the park, some kids have called it the tooth fairy tree. Best of all, the sourwood is an understory tree that has a characteristically curvy trunk, twisting through the undergrowth as it reaches for the sun. On a walk through the forest, this curving trunk attracts the eye any time of year, and following it, we are led to look upward, toward the light.



Justin Greene My backyard literally!

at 19:41:08 on 10/02/2012 UTC