



*Hydrangea  
quercifolia*

# NativeSCAPE

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Going native just got easier with the annual plant sale. Come out and enjoy fellowship with fellow gardeners, while taking advantage of great finds.

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About your membership in the  
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Your membership dues and  
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To promote the stewardship and  
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By sponsoring meetings, workshops,  
an annual symposium, grants,  
scholarships, the native plant rescue  
program, and this newsletter -  
utilizing an all-volunteer staff of  
dedicated native plant enthusiasts.  
We look forward to and appreciate  
your continued support.  
Membership renewal forms can now  
be completed [online](#) or by  
completing the form on the last  
page of this news letter.

## NativeSCAPE April 2015



### President's Message

*By Jacqueline McRae*



Photo by Naomi Smith

Spring has arrived with no formal announcement from GNPS required! Instead, I'll take this opportunity to announce the arrival of our new state of the art website which, like Spring, has been getting ready to burst into bloom after long months out of sight. It is now ready to amaze us with a fresh new look.

As more and more people become aware of terms such as "native plant", or "exotic non-native invasive species", they head to the internet to learn more. Because of additional and reorganized page tags, GNPS should be the first website people visit as they search for answers about native plants. We have learned that new visitors only have time for three layers of clicking. Keeping this in mind all of our materials gathered over the past 20 years, such as the NativeSCAPE newsletters, planting guides, blooming guides, our fabulous plant gallery, and other photographs, are all reorganized and much easier to find.

All across GNPS, people are constantly busy planning and preparing for events to educate, to gather us together, and to bring awareness to native plants. The new centralized calendar allows you to see these opportunities -- to get involved in one view. You can look ahead and quickly see what's going on when and where in Georgia as well as sign up to join us! Take a minute to check out the new restoration site map to see if you can work with us in your zip code. Our restoration site leaders and committee chairs are being trained in how to update their respective pages as well as make sure that workdays are on the central calendar so it is easier than ever to jump in, get to work and learn.

Of course, a President's message would not be complete without a request for help! To keep the site alive and interesting we must involve members in refreshing the material and helping others manage content. We are one society and one voice across the state of Georgia made up of contributions from each of us. If you would like to be a part of promoting awareness of native plants and assist in any area of the society please let me know.

*Jacqueline*



## Exceptional Native Plant Garden Celebrates 25th Anniversary

*Text by Sharon Blumer*

Did you know that there is an exceptional Native Plant Botanical Garden (NPBG) adjacent to the Decatur campus of Georgia Perimeter College (GPC) on Panthersville Road in southwest DeKalb County? The Garden is open free to the public year-round Monday through Sunday.

The GPC Native Plant Botanical Garden will celebrate its 25th Anniversary during the week of April 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> by hosting garden walks, garden talks, plant sales, raffles, and a silent auction.



Dr. George Sanko

Photo by: [www.vebidoo.com](http://www.vebidoo.com)

The Native Plant Botanical Garden is the outcome of the vision, dedication and devotion of George Sanko, professor of Botany and Biology at GPC for 25 years. In 1990, after retiring as full-time professor, George Sanko committed to repurposing an overgrown waste land adjacent to the southern edge of DeKalb College (now a part of the Georgia Perimeter College system) into a Native Plant Botanical Garden. The Garden presently occupies 4 acres and contains 900 taxa of native plants and ferns, including 390 fern taxa. At any time, there are between 9,500 and 12,000 plant specimens growing in the Garden. The GPC Native Plant Botanical Garden has drawn visits from notable botanists and horticulturists from all over the world. In 2011, the British Pteridological Society scheduled a day-long stop at the Garden.

On May 28, 2010, Professor Sanko was recognized for his creation of one of the top gardens in the nation when the National Garden Club bestowed on him its Award of Excellence during a ceremony in Washington, D.C. The Award of Excellence is offered annually to individuals, organizations, and institutions that have made contributions of national or worldwide significance.

There are actually two Gardens co-located on this site. They are the Native Plant Botanical Garden and the Ferns of the World Garden. The mission of both gardens is to educate the public about US native plants and temperate ferns by providing a teaching environment. A visitor to the Native Plant Botanical Garden will find several unique areas of interest as they tour the Bog Garden, the Shrub Garden, the Shade Garden, the Meadow, the Granite Outcrop Garden, the Sandhill Bed, and the Xeric Perennials Bed. The Ferns of the World Garden contains more species of ferns than any other garden in the United States. The fern collection includes not only ferns common to the United States, but also ferns from temperate areas around the world. The Ferns of the World Garden was designated an affiliate garden of the Hardy Fern Foundation in 2011.

In addition to all the interesting botanical specimens, there are two greenhouses, a nursery, a propagation

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## Exceptional Native Plant Garden Celebrates 25th Anniversary

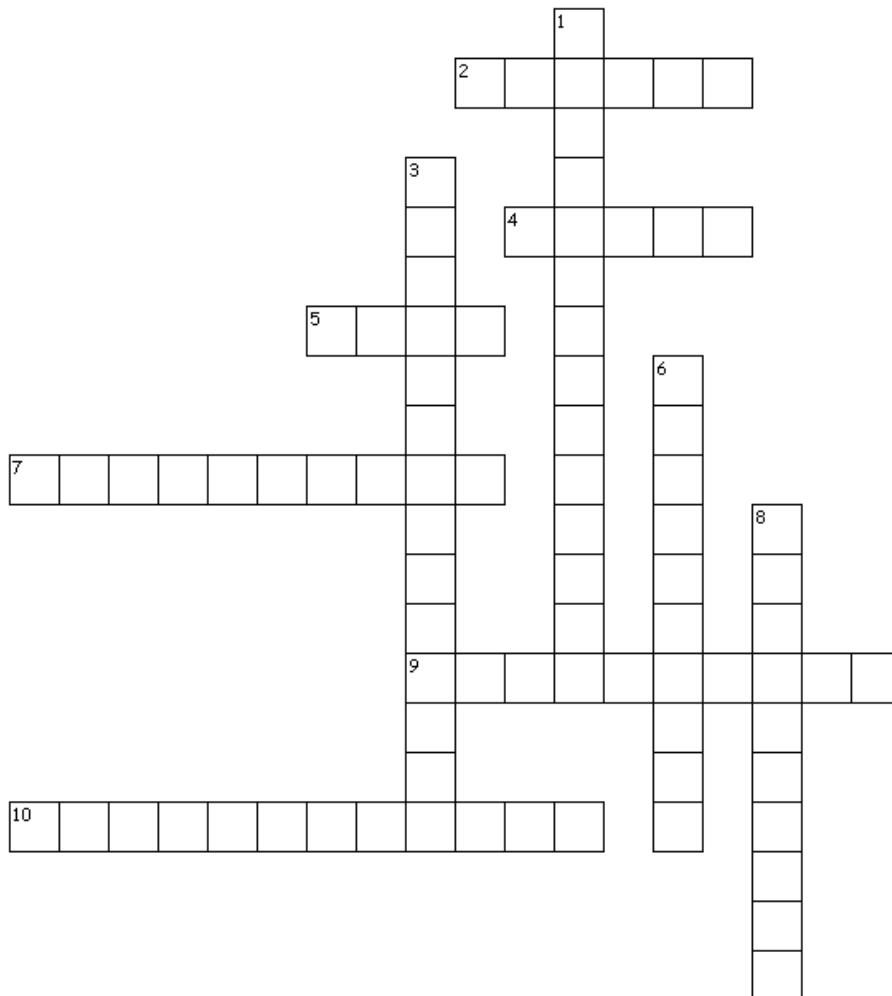
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area, an outdoor plant growing area, and a plant sale area. These facilities provide the Garden with many plants for use in the Garden and for public purchase during the Garden Spring and Fall Plant Sales.

For directions to the Garden and to see the schedule for the free 2015 Spring Lunch and Learn Talks and Plant Sale dates visit the GPC Native Garden web site at [www.gpcnativegarden.org](http://www.gpcnativegarden.org).

[illegible]

## Native Criss-Cross Puzzle



### Across

2. Time to enjoy a plant sale
4. Found in Georgia and Siberia
5. Study and preserve Georgia's flora
7. Contains most species of ferns in US
9. Must have summer wear for 2015
10. Earliest of the phlox to bloom

## Down

1. Freely gave permission to use pictures
3. Cannot be sold
6. Ready to amaze with a fresh look
8. Overharvested for cancer-fighting compounds

*Answers in July issue.*

**January Answers:** 1. Georgia aster; 2. natives; 3. silverbell; 4. field; 5. Audubon; 6. aster; 7. witch hazel; 8. spicebush; 9. Belt-line; 10. snowbell; 11. Walden; 12. Atlanta; 13. *Trees*.





## Favorite Native Plant -- Phlox

Text by Ken Gohring



Hairy Phlox, *Phlox amoena*

Photo: John Lonsdale, Edgewoodgardens.net

Technically, phlox are members of the Polemoniaceae plant family which includes members such as Jacob's-ladder, *Gilia* and *Linanthus* among about 25 genera with over 300 species. This family's members are found primarily in North America with a single species native to Siberia. California and other western states are home to many of the phlox species.

While in the United States the majority of native phlox are found west of the Mississippi River, there are several species found east of the Mississippi River with 14 species said to be native to Georgia. The exact number of Georgia native phlox is not fully known because of differences in taxonomical designation and lack of precise location knowledge. The phlox genus is quite diverse in form. Forms range from low-growth and creeping plants to erect plants that can grow over a yard high. While there is

significant diversity in phlox plant form, this is not present in phlox flowers. Phlox flowers have 5 petals at the end of a narrow tube. These petals are flat in nature and vary in width with some species having overlapping petals and others having disjointed appearance, which some say resemble spokes on a wheel. Flower colors range from white to pink or purple with some red or yellow forms. The blooms sometimes feature colored lines near their base, most likely nectar guides for pollinating insects and birds. Moths and butterflies are the primary pollinators of phlox. Many of the phlox are fragrant.

The diverse forms of phlox are closely related to their habitat. Most of the native phlox found in the eastern United States are larger than those found farther west. Where drier conditions exist, smaller plant structure and less vigorous growth results. Phlox are generally characterized as belonging to one of three classifications. While there are several species in each category, this discussion includes those found in Georgia.

### Small Low-Growing Forms

*Phlox subulata* is said to be found in native sites in Georgia, but the USDA website, that many native plant enthusiasts use, does not show any specific Georgia locations. It is known as Moss Pink or simply Moss Phlox. It appears in a spreading form that looks like a mat. It grows most vigorously in a sunny location to a height of 6 inches and spreads up to 24 inches wide. Its natural range is from New York west to Michigan and south to North Carolina. Some references indicate a range as far south as Florida. Possibly, the forms credited to Georgia were found in counties near the



Smooth Phlox, *Phlox glaberrima*

Photo: John Lonsdale, Edgewoodgardens.net

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## Favorite Native Plant -- Phlox

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northern state line, if in fact they are natural populations. Its wide use as a cultivated plant could possibly have led to naturalized sites on escape from cultivation. The species has a wide range of colors and shapes of petals. The epithet *subulata* means awl (needle) shaped and refers to the species leaves. The species colors range from near white to pink, blue and shades of purple. There are over 20 named cultivars with primary distinguishing features being blooming action, size and the aforementioned color and petal shape. It is primarily a spring bloomer but the cultivar 'Appleblossom' reblooms in the fall. It is said to be the earliest of the phlox to bloom. Years ago, before the massive growth of housing in the Atlanta area, it was common to see many homes with yards bordered with what apparently was *P. subulata*. The term 'thrift' was used to describe these pleasant flower beds. A source on the Georgia Department of Agriculture web site indicates that these plants were indeed *P. subulata* and not the plant *Armeria maritima*, which is also known as thrift. The source indicates that this latter thrift is hard to grow in Georgia. Apparently the *Armeria*, unlike the phlox, stays green year round. Another interesting thing about this species is the odor of the plant. Sources indicate that, in some areas, homes have been raided by law enforcement personnel because the plant smells like marijuana.



Moss Phlox, *Phlox subulata*

Photo: John Lonsdale, Edgewoodgardens.net

*Phlox nivalis* is another low growing form found in natural areas throughout Georgia. It is found in wooded areas frequently on sandy soil. It blooms later than *P. subulata*. The two species are quite similar in form but differ in the length of their style, which is the stalk of the bloom's pistil. Close examination is required to make a proper species determination.

*Phlox stolonifera*, Creeping Phlox, is a third Georgia phlox with low growing habit. Its range is primarily in the northeast counties of the state. It is usually found in shaded woodlands. While usually light lavender in color, its color range includes white, pink, blue and violet. It is a fragrant spring blooming plant. In the native garden it should be planted in light shade. Full shade suppresses the blooming properties of the species. Creeping phlox achieves rapid spread growth forming mats by stolons. It has good drought tolerance.

*Phlox latifolia (ovata)*, Mountain Phlox, is native to those states that are part of the Appalachian Mountains. In Georgia it occurs in the state's northernmost counties. It has low, spreading growth with pink flowers about 1 inch across. It blooms in May to July, depending on location. The epithet was changed in 1982 to *latifolia*, because of an earlier naming error. The plants grow to a height of 6 inches. It has wide use in rock gardens. Its growth nature has been described as "an almost evergreen creeper".

### Medium-Sized Phlox

*Phlox divaricata*, Wild Blue Phlox, is one of the more popular species of medium sized phlox. There are several species in this category. The range of this species is the eastern United States west to New

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## Favorite Native Plant -- Phlox

*Continued from previous page.*

Mexico and north to Manitoba, Canada. The USDA location map shows only 9 counties in Georgia where it is found, mostly along the state border with Alabama. Like many location maps, this map may be incomplete. The Wild Blue Phlox generally grows to a height of 10 to 15 inches but some shorter varieties are known. Unlike the smaller phlox, which form mats of plants, *P. divaricata* is an upright grower with fragrant blue flowers. Like most phlox, there are some forms that are shorter and have different colored flowers.



Wild Blue Phlox, *Phlox divaricata*

Photo by: John Lonsdale, Edgewoodgardens.net

*Phlox amoena*, Hairy Phlox, another phlox in this classification is found throughout Georgia, including the metro Atlanta area. The species plants have hairs on their leaves and stems. The plants grow to a height up to 20 inches and their blooms range in color from magenta to light pink.

This species is very similar to the Downy Phlox, *Phlox pilosa*. Richard Ware, the editor of the Georgia Botanical Society's *Tipularia*, was consulted regarding Georgia's native phlox. He is an authority on native plants in general and in particular plants indigenous to northwest Georgia, where he lives. He indicated that *P. amoena* is fairly common along roadsides and in the Coosa Prairies of Floyd County. Richard also indicated that many Georgia botanists use Dr. Alan Weakley's Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States as their authority on native plants. Dr. Weakley, who was GNPS's symposium keynote speaker this year, indicates another phlox as native to Georgia. That is *P. lighthipei*, which other sources classify as a subspecies of *P. amoena*. *P. lighthipei* is found in several lower south counties.

*Phlox pilosa* is found in various Georgia counties, primarily in the western part of the state. It is fairly common in the Atlanta area. The size and flower colors match *P. amoena*. While both species have hairy features, these features are much more pronounced on *P. pilosa*. Downy Phlox is found in basic neutral soil types while the Hairy Phlox is usually found in dry sandstone type soils. Both are found along roadsides and withstand drought well. *P. pilosa* has a wide geographical distribution, covering almost the entire eastern section of the country, west to Texas and north to Manitoba Canada. This is likely a factor in the large number of subspecies and varieties of *P. pilosa*.



Creeping Phlox, *Phlox stolonifera*

Photo: by John Lonsdale, Edgewoodgardens.net

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## Favorite Native Plant -- Phlox

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Downy Phlox, *Phlox pilosa*

Photo by: John Lonsdale, Edgewoodgardens.net

Take note -- subspecies and variety are largely equivalent. The USDA web site lists over a dozen such sub-classifications. Perhaps of interest to GNPS members is the *P. pilosa* cultivar 'Eco Happy Traveler', an introduction by the late, well respected plantsman, Don Jacobs, who educated Atlanta gardeners for years and co-authored a well respected book on trilliums. Dr. Jacobs continued to lecture gardeners into his nineties. This cultivar grows to a height of 10 inches and has dark pink flowers. Hybrids of *P. pilosa* and *P. divaricata* have been reported in Alabama and Tennessee. Such hybridization is thought to be a contributor to the large set of subspecies and varieties of *P. pilosa*.

*Phlox floridana*, Florida Phlox, is a medium growth phlox found primarily in Florida but is also found in southwest Georgia and southeast Alabama. In the wild it grows in open sandy

woods to a height of about 20 inches. Its blooms which appear in the summer have colors that range from pink to purple. It is very similar to *P. pilosa* and difficult to identify. Unlike many of the eastern phlox this species has not been used much in commercial horticulture.



Fall Phlox, *Phlox paniculata*

Photo: by John Lonsdale, Edgewoodgardens.net

*Phlox drummondii*, Annual Phlox, is another mid-sized phlox found in natural areas in Georgia along the Georgia Florida line and in coastal counties. Usually references to this phlox refer to its large populations in Texas, where the Scottish botanist Thomas Drummond collected it and sent its seeds to Britain where it was well received and propagated. In Europe this species has been cultivated for over 150 years and many commercial cultivars originated there. It has been widely collected and grown in the Southeast and is one of those plants that has escaped cultivation and established itself in road sides and natural areas, not unlike several other popular ornamentals. The species grows to a height of 15 inches and has a wide range of colors. Some cultivars

have smaller stature. Many cultivars have been selected for ornamental purposes and its ease of cultivation accounts for its wide acceptance as an ornamental plant. Many flower seed companies offer seed of the species. It grows best in sunny locations and will re-seed in desirable situations.

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## Favorite Native Plant -- Phlox

*Continued from previous page.*

### Large Phlox

*Phlox carolina*, Carolina Phlox, is an erect growing plant that some have said can grow up to 4 feet high. The more attractive forms are smaller in size. It is found in natural areas across the eastern states. In Georgia it is found through the state with concentrations in north central counties. While several different forms exist, most are vigorous plants with good disease resistance, something lacking in many phlox species. This species is somewhat difficult to distinguish from other phlox species. It is also known as 'Thick Leaved Phlox' because of the leaves characteristics. Edgar Wherry, who did extensive work in studying phlox, lists four subspecies of *P. carolina*. Former GNPS member Jan Midgley, who has conducted programs on plant propagation for the Society, is credited with discovering at least two cultivars of this species.

'Kim' is one of these cultivars and the other, 'Lil' Cahaba', was discovered as she canoed down the beautiful Cahaba River in central Alabama. These two cultivars are available from commercial nurseries. These two cultivars are in the *Phlox carolina* subspecies *carolina*. The subspecies *alta*, found predominately in the southern Appalachians, has dark green foliage and blooms later than subspecies *carolina*. It is common along the Blue Ridge Parkway near Asheville. The other two subspecies are lowland plants and are different in size and leaf shape. The cultivar 'Miss Lingard' is an old selection that has solid white blooms and is sometimes called Wedding Phlox.



Carolina Phlox, *Phlox carolina*

Photo by: John Lonsdale, Edgewoodgardens.net



Wild Sweet William, *Phlox maculata*

Photo by: Richard and Teresa Ware, NamethatPlant.net

*Phlox glaberrima* is another Georgia phlox, very similar to *P. carolina*. It is somewhat difficult to distinguish between the two as the differences are minimal. *P. glaberrima* is also found in the northern part of the state.

*Phlox maculata*, Wild Sweet William Phlox, is found in the northern areas of the state with some distribution maps showing some outliers in 2 other locations. Apparently it is rather rare in Georgia. It has been seen in roadsides in Dade and Walker Counties. Its popular name is derived from its similarity to the Europe-Asia Caryophyllaceae family member *Dianthus barbatus*, Sweet William. It is found in moist meadows, woods and along stream banks. It is an upright perennial that can reach 3 feet in height. It has fragrant, usually pink-purple flowers that have the typical long tubes in

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## Favorite Native Plant -- Phlox

*Continued from previous page.*

relatively long, cylindrical clusters reaching 12 inches in length. Its stiff stems have purple or sometimes red spots. The Latin epithet *maculata* means spotted. It is a summer bloomer. Its lance shaped leaves grow up to 5 inches in length. *P. maculata* as well as *P. paniculata*, discussed below are considered to be border phlox in cultivation. They have similar growth habits.

*Phlox paniculata*, Fall or Garden Phlox, is a native phlox that has found wide acceptance as an ornamental, grown in many gardens. Its wide use as a cultivated ornamental has led to it being referenced as "garden phlox". The native form has wide distribution in the eastern states and is found in natural areas of northern Georgia. Its natural range has been extended by escaping from gardens. It grows from 2 to 3 feet tall in clumps that expand in width to 2 to 3 feet. It has stiff stems and leaves that are veined, opposite and pointed and grow up to 6 inches. The flowers are fragrant and range in color from white to pinkish purple. Like most phlox, the flower tubes are long cylinders terminating with 5 petal florets which form dome shaped clusters up to 8 inches long. This species like *P. maculata* has problems with powdery mildew, spider mites and drought. *P. paniculata* has been used as a medicinal herb to treat constipation.

*Phlox amplifolia*, Large Leaf Phlox, is similar to *P. paniculata* in that they both have marginal veins in their leaves. The range for this species is primarily southern Appalachian Mountain states west to Missouri and Arkansas and south to Mississippi. Its northern range includes Indiana. One source indicates that its Georgia range is the northwest area of the state but that it is rare. It is found in moist open woods and sunny areas along roadsides. It is a late spring, early summer bloomer. It has not been used much commercially. Richard Ware reports having seen it in Floyd County and down the western incline of Lookout Mountain near Cloudland Canyon.



Trailing Phlox, *Phlox nivalis*

Photo by: John Lonsdale, Edgewoodgardens.net



Large Leaf Phlox, *Phlox amplifolia*

Photo by: Richard and Teresa Ware, NamethatPlant.net

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## Favorite Native Plant -- Phlox

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Characteristics of Phlox Native to Georgia						
Species	Popular Name	Class	Height	Color(s)	Georgia Location	Garden Use
<i>amplifolia</i>	Large Leaf	Large	3 ft.	Pink to Purple	Northwest	Unused
<i>amoena</i>	Hairy	Medium	18 in.	Purple to Pink	Throughout	Sun; Light shade
<i>carolina</i>	Carolina	Large	4 ft.	Pink to Red-purple	Throughout	Excellent Flower Garden Plant
<i>divaricata</i>	Wild Blue	Medium	15 in.	Lilac to Violet	Diverse, west state line	Dappled Sun
<i>drummandii</i>	Annual	Medium	15 in.	Red to Purple or Lavender	GA FL Line Coastal	Multiple; Rock Garden
<i>floridana</i>	Florida	Medium	20 in.	Purple to Pink	Southwest	Unused
<i>glaberrima</i>	Smooth	Large	4 ft.	Pink to Purple	Northern Half	Naturalized Areas
<i>latifolia (ovata)</i>	Widflower	Small	6 in.	Pink to Pink-purple	=====	Rock Garden
<i>maculata</i>	Wild Sweet William	Large	3 ft.	Purple-pink	Northern Border	Native Plant Garden
<i>nivalis</i>	Trailing	Small	8 in.	Purple to Pink to White	Throughout	Ground Cover
<i>paniculaa</i>	Fall	Large	3 ft.	Pink to Purple-pink	Northern Border	Perennial Border
<i>pilosa</i>	Downy	Medium	15 in.	Pink to Purple	Throughout	Native Plant Gardens; Rock Gardens
<i>stolonifera</i>	Creeping	Small	12 in.	Purple to Pink	Northeast	Shaded Garden
<i>subulata</i>	Moss	Small	6 in.	Lilac and Pink to White	=====	Ground Cover

### Resources

The author has had personal experience with only a few of the phlox species, so external sources were used in compiling the information used in this paper. The Internet is a good source, with some sites being quite authoritative. The list below includes some of the sources used.

**Native and Naturalized Plants of the Carolinas and Georgia** (<http://www.namethatplant.net/>). The pictures in this paper by Richard and Teresa Ware were obtained from this site, which shares its pictures for educational purposes. Currently it features 3,255 plants and 16,909 images.

**Edgewood The Lonsdale Family Garden** (<http://www.edgewoodgardens.net/>). This excellent site contains 169 pictures of various phlox plus hundreds of other plants taken at the garden. There are a large number of garden pictures as well as individual plants. Dr. John Lonsdale is in charge of the web site and gardens. He freely gave permission to use his pictures in this paper.

**The Primrose Path** (<http://www.theprimrosepath.com/>). These folks are the breeders and selectors of the Primrose Path™ line of perennials. One section of the site is devoted to detailed information on phlox.

**The United States Department of Agriculture Plant Data Base** (<http://plants.usda.gov/java/>). While likely not complete, the site offers plant distribution maps of vascular plants, mosses, liverworts, hornworts, and lichens of the U.S. and its territories.





## Certificate in Native Plants Program Graduate Interview

Text by Rhonda Barlow

During the recent Native Plant Symposium sponsored by the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, twelve candidates received the piece of paper that acknowledges their hard work to become experts in the conservation and identification of native plants in Georgia. Julie Newell first reported on the Certification of Native Plants Program (CNP) in the NativeSCAPE in October 2009. The program was started in the fall of 2007 in response to requests from individuals to have a focused education experience that would teach the skills needed for the identification and care of Georgia native plants. The Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance (GPCA) states the mission of the program is to “study and preserve Georgia’s flora through multi-disciplinary research, education, and advocacy; to facilitate the recovery of rare, threatened, and endangered plants of Georgia and the southeastern parts of the U.S. through collaborative efforts in our state; and to communicate the importance of preserving biodiversity worldwide.”

Over the years, the program has graduated between 10 and 19 students each year. The typical program completion time is two to three years. The program’s participants and graduates hail from 40 of the 159 counties in Georgia. A continued call for knowledge has resulted in the Georgia Department of Education granting approval for Georgia teachers to earn 8 PLUs (Professional Learning Units) when they complete the CNP in two years.

In a gesture of celebration, the graduates receive a one year membership in the Georgia Native Plant Society.

In a recent interview, Debbie Myers, one of the 2015 CNP graduates, shared her story of becoming a native plant expert.

**What is your gardening story?** “I didn’t get interested in gardening until after college, not long after I had started my first job. A friend gave me some Vinca seeds that he had collected from his garden. I tossed the seeds into several long containers that I sat on the porch railing of my apartment. Amazingly, the seeds sprouted and I was fascinated as I watched them grow, bloom and go to seed. From there, I became interested in learning about plants and tried growing everything I could get my hands on! That was 20 years ago and while the types of plants that I grow have changed over the years, my general love of plants just continues to increase.”

**What sparked your interest in native plants?** “Actually, I got interested in native plants because of the CNP classes! When I started the program, I knew very little about plants in general and nothing about native plants. Now my primary interest is our native plants!”

**How did you learn about the CNP?** “I saw it advertised in a newsletter from Georgia Wildlife Federation.”



*Thalictrum thalictroides* (Rue-anemone)  
Pilgrimage trip to Savannah River Bluffs in GA  
Photo by: Debbie Myers



# Certificate in Native Plants Program Graduate Interview

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**What year did you start the CNP?** “I started the program near the very beginning, in 2008, and I have been so grateful that they allow you to take all the time you need. I live in Augusta and work full time - so scheduling time off and traveling have always been a bit of a challenge.”

**What made you decide to participate?** “I decided to participate because it looked interesting and fun. I really wanted to learn more about plants and this seemed like a great place to start. The CNP has actually inspired me to continue my education - I completed the Master Gardener program in 2013 and Master Naturalist in 2014.”

**What was the most interesting part of the CNP?** “This is a hard one because I truly loved it all! My all-time favorite class was about butterflies and I still have milkweed growing in my yard that I received as part of the class. Really, all of the classes were wonderful - everyone's knowledge and passion for native plants is so infectious that you can't help but become excited yourself!”

**What was the hardest part of the CNP?** “For me, the hardest part was fulfilling the volunteer requirements. This was because I live in Augusta and I really wanted to find something local that I could become involved with. I didn't want to drive to Athens a few times and that be the end of it. I knew I wasn't knowledgeable enough to start something on my own and couldn't find anyone doing anything with natives in the area. Finally in 2013, I was able to get my Field Trips when the Georgia Botanical Society came to Augusta for their Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage. I took tons of pictures and wrote everything in a little notebook - just so excited trying to absorb everything. I must give special thanks here to Hugh Nourse who patiently pointed out so much to me on two of the field trips, which then gave me the foundation to develop a presentation which became my Volunteer Project.”

**What are your plans for using the Certification?** “As I was going through my pictures from the Pilgrimage, I thought, ‘This would make a great presentation for my garden club!’ So I developed a PowerPoint presentation entitled *Spring Wildflowers of the CSRA*. It goes over three local hiking trails and 27 spring ephemerals that can be found there. I discuss identification, pollinators, seed dispersal, medicinal uses, how the plant got its name - anything that I can find that's interesting. The presentation has been very well received - so far I've given it at three garden clubs and at the Home and Garden Show with three more garden clubs and a Master Gardener Association to come. People even ask if I'll go hiking with them and point stuff out. Everyone is amazed and excited that we have wildflowers in the area - they all say, ‘I didn't know any of this!’ So I have become passionate about sharing my knowledge so that more people in this area will become excited too. Also, on a personal level, I am working on replacing the plants in my yard with natives. I'm trying to make good habitat for wildlife using native plants and organic gardening methods, and at the same time, be able to show people that it can still be pretty and fulfill the requirements of the Homeowner's Association.”

[illegible]

If you are Interested in earning a Certificate in Native Plants visit the State Botanical Garden of Georgia website at <http://botgarden.uga.edu> .



## Native Plant Rescue News

Text By Denise Hartline



### What's not to love about rescuing native plants?

Have you ever thought about going on a GNPS Plant Rescue but just haven't gotten around to it yet? Or maybe you've wondered what plant rescues are all about? Spring is a great time to experience a plant rescue. The GNPS Plant Rescue schedule, including a list of plants found at each site, is posted at [www.gnps.org](http://www.gnps.org) in the "Plant Rescue" section of the menu on the left of the screen. Log in to the website and simply click on Rescue Schedule to sign up for a rescue. The rescue section also has a helpful Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page. Some of these sites may be quite a drive from your home, but after the rescue you'll probably agree that the rescue was worth the drive.

There are many things to love about rescuing our native plants! Here are just a dozen of them:

1. You will save wonderful plants from destruction. Your rescued plants cannot be sold, but can be planted in your garden, given to friends and relatives, donated to the GNPS plant sale or to one of GNPS's nine restoration projects.
2. Using rescued native plants in your garden and sharing them with others is a way to spread the word about native plants as well as the benefits they provide for wildlife.
3. Going on plant rescues is good exercise!
4. You'll probably get a chance to rescue more than one of some plants. This allows you to plant it in several locations in your garden to see where it does best.
5. Other than sweat equity and gas money, these plants are free.
6. The plants you rescue will probably be different from most of the plants in your neighbors' yards, that's a good thing.
7. You'll be introduced to plants that you didn't know about, and may possibly fall in love with them.
8. You can rescue beautiful mosses, if you are so inclined.
9. Often, there are other plants at each site than those listed. You might even be the one who discovers something new!
10. You'll meet other like-minded people, one of whom might even find a nice clump of green-and-gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*) or a patch of Cranesbill (*Geranium maculatum*) that they'd share with you.
11. All rescues are led by trained facilitators and co-facilitators, who love nothing better than to help rescuers find great native plants in need of a new home.
12. After the rescue, when all of your rescued plants have been planted, potted, or given away, you'll have the satisfying feeling of knowing that you've saved wonderful plants that needed to be saved.

(Continued on next page)





## Native Plant Rescue News

*Continued from previous page.*

GNPS organizes plant rescues throughout the year except for January, July, and August, when weather conditions are generally not favorable for plants or rescuers. Pop-up rescues (rescues organized on short notice) are sometimes held during these months for sites on which construction is imminent.

Some of the goals of the GNPS Plant Rescue Program are to:

- ♦ Relocate our native species from property threatened by development to safe locations.
- ♦ Guide rescue participants in accomplishing plant rescue through education on plant identification and plant relocation techniques.
- ♦ Work in a professional and congenial manner with developers and builders.
- ♦ Perform all plant rescue activities in a consistent, professional, safe, legal, and ethical manner.
- ♦ Follow established GNPS policies and procedures on all rescues.

Happy Rescuing!

*Ellen Honeycutt and Marcia Winchester*

Remember, never dig native plants on public property, or on private property without the permission of the owner, and ONLY if the plants will be lost to development. Join a GNPS rescue instead and help us save the plants legally with other people who love native plants.



## Chapter News – Coastal Plain Georgia Chapter

Since our last board meeting CPC GNPS has had a Plant Identification class at Gaskins Forestry Education Center taught by Bobby Hattaway. It was a great success with 25 in attendance. Bobby does a wonderful job with the class.

Gaskins Forestry Education Center, located in Alapaha, Georgia, is a bright new addition to our area. Its purpose is to educate the public about the native environment and to provide a place for those who want to learn and teach about South Georgia native habitats. It also serves as a place to meet and learn. It is owned and run by Heather Brasell and her daughter. For more information contact Heather at: [heather.brasell@gmail.com](mailto:heather.brasell@gmail.com).

Trout lilies at Wolf Creek were gorgeous this year and there seemed to be more trillium in bloom than last year. Clearing and cleanup of invasive plants has continued and has opened up more of the preserve. If you did not get to see it this year it is worth the trip to see Wolf Creek next year. Beth Grant is doing a fantastic job of taking care of the preserve with the help of volunteers and donations.

Broxton Rocks is another unique site that has been preserved in South Georgia. Visitors can see plants not seen anywhere else in South Georgia. Seeing the preserve is also well worth a trip to South Georgia in April. Malcolm Hodges is holding two trainings this year for guides to lead groups at Broxton Rocks, near Douglas in Coffee County. Reply to [mhodes@tnc.org](mailto:mhodes@tnc.org). More information is available at <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/georgia/events/tour-guide-training-at-broxton-rocks.xml>.

**March 25<sup>th</sup>** was the date for the **South Georgia Native Plant & Wildflower Symposium** held at NESPAL on the UGA Tifton Campus. There were speakers, a native plants sale, and an award presented for a local entity that incorporated native plants into its landscape. For more information about this event go to <http://www.sgnpws.org/>. The Coastal Plains Chapter of GNPS held a meeting for members immediately following the symposium.

Thanks,  
*Karan*



Pennsylvania Sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)

Photo by: Kim Cooper



## Chapter News — Redbud Chapter

Since 2009, the Redbud Project: Model for Green Space Preservation has operated as an all-volunteer, conservation organization with a mission to promote education and stewardship of the unique ecosystems of native plants in the Hall County region. With this shared mission concept, the Organization has been accepted as a provisional chapter of Georgia Native Plant Society and is taking steps toward full chapter status.

The objective of the Redbud Project in affiliating with Georgia Native Plant Society is to provide benefits of membership to residents of the North Georgia region through educational programs on the importance of native plants as the key element to biodiversity of the natural ecosystems. The Executive Director and Board of Directors are working to adapt the Organization's bylaws as needed to comply with GNPS bylaws without compromising established elements of the Redbud Project, which received IRS non-profit status March 9, 2010 (EIN 80-0555098). The adapted Articles of Corporation and Bylaws are under review by the Redbud Project Board of Directors and will subsequently be submitted to GNPS for review.

GNPS members in the Redbud Chapter geographic area have been identified; members in areas surrounding Hall County have been identified and expressed interest in affiliating with the Redbud Chapter, and a number of other potential members intend to register at the beginning of the year. Chapter membership of at least 40 members is expected from this initial effort to establish the Redbud Chapter.

While efforts are underway to comply with all requirements for official chapter status, work to complete development by May 2015 of a 32-acre urban forest nature preserve for the City of Gainesville is nearing completion after five years. The Redbud Project Executive Committee appreciates the understanding and patience of Georgia Native Plant Society for the delay in completing requirements for full membership. The adapted bylaws are under review, the organizing committee is scheduled to meet with appointing of chairpersons; and the first organized meeting will be scheduled in early Spring.

Submitted by  
Margaret Rasmussen  
Executive Director  
The Redbud Project

Jody Sanders  
President  
The Redbud Project



Pennsylvania Sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)

Photo by: Kim Cooper





## Chapter News — West Georgia Chapter

West Georgia Chapter held a special plant rescue on March 9 where all plants dug were dedicated to the Buffalo Creek Nature Trail restoration project. We rescued in the morning and then planted them in the afternoon.

The chapter continues its restoration activities in conjunction with the Carroll County Master Gardeners and the Carrollton Greenbelt which will soon have an entrance at the Buffalo Creek Nature Trail. Planning for this new entrance's landscaping and signage, as well as cleanup of the immediate area to remove non-native invasive plants, is underway.

A volunteer workday schedule can be found on the chapter [website](#) for anyone interested in helping with this project.

The chapter public meeting on February 17th had a guest speaker, Jim Ozier (GA DNR), who gave an engaging presentation on "Conservation of Eagles in Georgia - Successes and Challenges".

Submitted by:

*Marc LaFountain, President*



Carol Hight and Marc LaFountain  
Restoration Committee Co-Chair

Photo by: Kim Cooper



Lola Halpin

Photo by: Kim Cooper



Lola Halpin and Frank Bennett

Photo by: Kim Cooper



## 2015 Annual Spring Native Plant Sale

Saturday, April 18

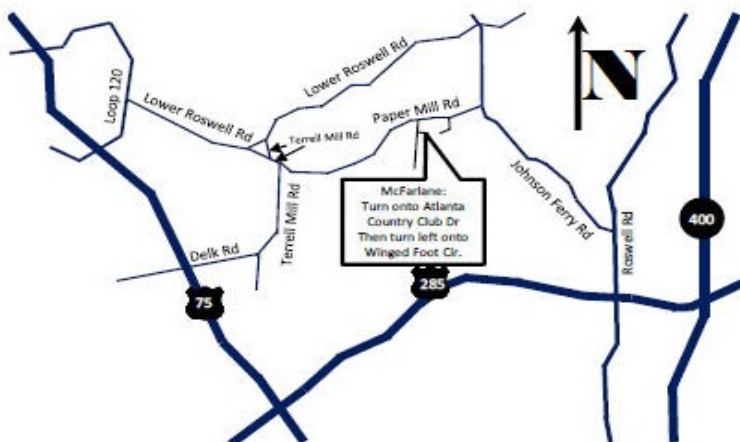
10:00am - 2:00pm

### McFarlane Nature Park

280 Farm Road SE, Marietta, GA 30067

Select from thousands of sun and shade loving native plants: trees, shrubs, perennials and ferns for all growing conditions and to help attract wildlife. Knowledgeable volunteers to assist in making your selections.

- ☘ Over 600 native azaleas.
- ☘ Cash, checks and credit cards accepted.
- ☘ Bring wagons or carts to carry plants.
- ☘ For more information visit: [www.GNPS.org](http://www.GNPS.org)



McFarlane Nature Park is easily accessed from 285 and 75.

Follow the GNPS signs!

Plenty of free parking.

The park is not handicapped accessible.



## Upcoming Events and Announcements

**Annual Spring Plant Sale** - Saturday, April 18. Our annual spring plant sale will again be held at McFarlane Nature Park in Marietta, GA from 10 am to 2 pm.

**Vanishing Acts: Trees Under Threat Exhibition** - is an 18-panel outdoor exhibit created by the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL. The installation is on loan to McFarlane Nature Park in East Cobb through June 28<sup>th</sup>. McFarlane, at 280 Farm Rd., Marietta, is the site of the annual GNPS Native Plant Sale and is open every day during daylight hours. "To save trees, we can accomplish more together than we can individually," said Gerard Donnelly, President and CEO of the Morton Arboretum. "With 8,000 endangered tree species worldwide, it's a huge issue with a direct link to climate change and other factors affecting the health of plants, people, and the planet." Some of the trees you will learn about are:

**Wild Apple tree** -- whose last members are being cut down to make room for houses.

**Fraser fir** -- whose population has been decimated by the non-native insect, the Balsam woolly adelgid .

**Pacific yew** -- which was overharvested after its cancer-fighting compounds were discovered.

**Franklin tree** -- which was discovered in the Altamaha River valley here in GA and has been extinct in the wild since the early 19th century.

The Park is home to over 100 Piedmont native trees, most of which are tagged for identification. An inventory is available at [www.cobblandtrust.org](http://www.cobblandtrust.org).

### Restoration Workdays

GNPS has regularly scheduled workdays at a variety of locations in the metro Atlanta area: Smyrna, Marietta, Stone Mountain and others. Chapters have restoration projects as well. You can learn a lot about native and invasive plants and take pride in helping to restore areas back to their natural state. Our Stone Mountain Propagation Project helps you learn more about propagating native plants. Come join us anytime.

Learn about [our restoration projects here](#).

Find regularly scheduled workdays on [our calendar here](#).

Please refer to our [website](#) for more details and current information on announcements and events.

Thank you!





## Upcoming Events and Announcements

*Continued from previous page.*

**New 2015 T-Shirts Available** - Our new Georgia aster t-shirts are now available. Georgia aster (*Symphyotrichum georgianum*) is our 2015 Plant of the Year and our new shirt celebrates this beautiful native plant. You can buy a t-shirt at our next member meeting or you can order them online at [www.gnps.org](http://www.gnps.org).

**WGA Chapter Meeting** - Tuesday, April 21. Native Azaleas - 6 pm, Azalea walk, talk at 7 PM. Special Guest Speaker Ernest Koone, owner of Lazy K Nursery and Garden Delights Garden Center, in Pine Mountain, Georgia, is a second generation azalea grower who has been selecting and cultivating deciduous azaleas for many years. He has supplied native azaleas to many public gardens and arboreta throughout the U.S. Native Azaleas will be available for purchase. Carroll County Ag Center, 900 Newnan Road, Carrollton, Georgia. Our meetings are free and open to everyone.



*Trillium reliquum* (Relict trillium)

Pilgrimage trip to Savannah River Bluffs in GA

Photo by: Debbie Myers  
2015 CNP Graduate

Please refer to our [website](#) for more details and current information on announcements and events.  
Thank you!



## Georgia Native Plant Society Membership & Renewal

Memberships are effective for one calendar year, beginning January 1st.

### Choose membership level: (Select one)

- ☐ Individual/Family (\$25/1 year or \$60/3 years)      ☐ Senior, 55 and older (\$20/1 year or \$45/3 years)  
☐ Full-Time Student (\$15)      ☐ Corporate/Commercial/Educational (\$50)  
☐ Lifetime Individual/Family (\$250)

### Chapter Affiliation:

- ☐ No Affiliation      ☐ West Georgia Chapter      ☐ Coastal Plain Chapter      ☐ Redbud Project Chapter

☐ Check here if in addition to your membership renewal, you have included \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be distributed as follows:

- ☐ Education      ☐ Conservation/Propagation/Restoration  
☐ Jeane Reeves Memorial Grants and Scholarship Program      ☐ Unrestricted

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

Trade Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If Family, list additional names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Email address is required if you wish to receive the Listserv and/or Electronic Newsletter.)

☐ Check here if you prefer NOT to receive emails from our list server which contain information about meetings, plant rescues, work parties and other items of interest to the membership.

The full-color newsletter will be sent electronically. If you require a print version, which will be black and white, check here: ☐

Please mail completed renewal form to the following address: GNPS, PO Box 422085, Atlanta, GA 30342-2085