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NativeSCAPE

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Discussion of the various restoration projects and how they are of value to you.

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About your membership in the Georgia Native Plant Society

Your membership dues and donations help support our mission which is:

To promote the stewardship and conservation of Georgia's native plants and their habitats -

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 October 2015



President's Message

By Jacqueline McRae

Have you ever considered that the connections we make as we decide what thrives, or what dies, in our own private gardens or how the gardening practices that we follow collectively really do make a difference to nature? Nature is what is all around us and by connecting with good nature, you and I benefit every day regardless of where we live in Georgia -- be it city, country or suburbia.

The native plants that grow in Georgia are connected to the geology of the magnificent rocks deep beneath our feet. The blossoms of these same native plants connect with all sorts of animal and insect migrations across Georgia including the ruby throated hummingbirds, especially in fall as they fuel up for their perilous migration south. There is a direct connection between the leaves of our Georgia native plants and the caterpillars of the butterflies we see. Perhaps the most known connection being that between the monarch butterfly caterpillar and the milkweed plants. Pollinators also connect with Georgia native plants. The birds prey on them to feed their young in the spring and the spiders feast on them to fulfill their role in our ecosystems.

GNPS makes multiple connections all year long between a great many people with a great many aspects of our Society. We helped an out-of-state caller connect with a nursery so that native plants could be sent to the funeral of a dear friend known for her love of native plants here in Georgia. The leaders of our newest restoration site in Newnan connected with the volunteers at our existing Buffalo Creek site and were inspired to establish their new site and in turn connect with members locally in Coweta County.

GNPS is connected with like-minded groups within our state capital and as a result took stewardship of a small area in the Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum in view of the downtown Atlanta skyscrapers! Here we will go on to connect with thousands of passersby as they enjoy the Freedom Parkway and the native trees, shrubs, and perennials we rescue, propagate, and plant.

Our volunteers continue to connect with the public face-to-face at festivals and events to introduce native plants and help people take that first step to connecting their gardening habits with the birds that they see or butterflies they enjoy. You know you can connect with us in any way that you wish; join us on workdays at any time, participate in plant rescues, help out at the Stone Mountain Propagation Project, or step up to support one of our committees.

Thank you for your continued membership of the Georgia Native Plant Society. My hope is that you will continue to connect the dots, learn more, and spread the word about the importance of native plants in Georgia to your families, friends, neighbors, and colleagues at work. It has been a pleasure to serve as president of GNPS and to connect people with people and people with our Georgia native plants.

Jacqueline



Photo by Naomi Smith



A Special Discovery

Text and Photos by Ellen Honeycutt

As a longtime Master Gardener and native plant advocate, GNPS member Marcia Winchester has a passion for and love of plants. Her keen eye helps many a rescuer find special plants on GNPS rescues, but years ago she found a special one in her own yard. Under the shade of a pair of red and white oak trees that the builder left in place, she noticed a pretty goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.) blooming one fall.

I'm a big fan of goldenrods, so she asked me in 2009 if I knew which species it was, but I could not identify it. The leaves were long and noticeably hairier than most of our local goldenrods. I checked the key in the Weakley Flora document available at the time, but that key was incomplete. A key is a set of paired statements about plant characteristics (e.g., leaves are > 5 cm in length or leaves are < 5 cm in length) that help you determine what species within a genus that a plant might be.

She left it there to grow, but eventually the trees shaded the area more and some of the plants she added crowded the plant too. In 2013, she moved it about 8 feet to the sunnier edge of the bed, in front of the oaks. As she moved it, she potted up a few of the stems and gave them to me so that I could research the plant further. After 16 years in her house, it still was the only one there and had never reseeded.

I took more pictures and showed cuttings to other people but still no one could identify it. This spring I purchased a copy of the *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Tennessee* because it had a complete key for *Solidago* (and plants don't always care about state boundaries). When Marcia reminded me in August that we still hadn't identified this plant, I opened up my new book and gave the key a try.

When the plant keyed out to the rarely found species *Solidago porteri*, I decided to seek confirmation from



Tom making a voucher specimen of *Solidago porteri*.



Goldenrod (*Solidago porteri*)

Tom Patrick, one of Georgia's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) botanists. I emailed him detailed pictures of the leaves and flowers. He wrote back that it looked possible and forwarded the pictures on to two specialists.

A week later, Tom came to visit Marcia's plant and take a specimen of the plant to add to the herbarium. Previously the species had only been observed and collected in Georgia two times: once in Jasper County in 1846 and then in Morgan County in 1979. It is not known if those populations still exist.



The Dedication of the Cherokee Garden

Text and Photos by Ken Gohring

An article in the January 2012 issue of *NativeSCAPE*, [If Plants Could Talk - A Cherokee Relationship](#), discussed the plans of Tony and Carra Harris to develop gardens to feature the native plants used by the Cherokee people in the past. The article discussed the native garden planned for a site near the Cherokee Nation headquarters in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and the ongoing work by the Cobb County Parks Department to develop a similar garden in Cobb County.

The Harris' efforts on the work of the Tahlequah garden includes working with Cherokee Nation personnel in plant selection and providing plants for the garden. Tony indicates that only about 70% of the native plants available to the Cherokee in Georgia and other southeast locations are native to Oklahoma. Some of the natives that were considered significant are not found in the areas where the Cherokee presently reside in Oklahoma. Tony is working on obtaining some of these plants and relocating them to the Tahlequah garden.

A go-ahead to develop the Cherokee garden in a new park site in west Cobb stirred the development of garden design and collection of plants. Green Meadows Preserve is a former farm that the county acquired a few years ago. It is a designated preserve and does not have the athletic fields, playgrounds and other attractions that characterize many public parks. Cobb County Master Gardeners and members of the Georgia Native Plant Society became involved in developing the garden. A weekly program was initiated with Master Gardeners being able to earn required service hours. The garden has been designated a restoration project by GNPS.



Tony and Carra Harris



Dedication Scene

The dedication ceremony, held on August 29, was well attended with good representation by the Cobb County Master Gardeners, several of whom are members of GNPS, and other interested people. Bob Weatherford, the Cobb County District 1 County Commissioner, made remarks in which he related to the Creek Indian heritage in his family. After Commissioner Weatherford's remarks, Tony made dedication remarks that included the purpose and significance of the garden and future plans. He introduced his friend, Troy Poteete, who

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The Dedication of the Cherokee Garden

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serves as Executive Director of the National Trail of Tears and as Chief Justice of the Cherokee Supreme Court. Mr. Poteete's address was interesting and informative, detailing some history of the Cherokee Nation and the infamous Trail of Tears. While his message told of the injustices suffered by the Cherokee people and other Indian tribes, he made a point that there was no resentment against anyone because of past activities against them and the acquisition of their lands.

The garden presently features more than a hundred of the over 700 plants that Tony has designated as having been used. Many of these plants were donated and several were obtained on GNPS rescues.

When questioned regarding the objective of the garden, Tony indicated that his primary goal was to bring together in one location plants used by the Cherokee to meet needs for food, medicine, tools, weapons, shelter and ceremonial activities. Left in the wild, the plants do not allow serious insights and analysis that a single location offers as an educational tool. When quizzed about representative plants for each of the Cherokee uses of natives, Tony offered the following.

Food - Jerusalem Artichoke, *Helianthus tuberosus*. This native plant was cultivated widely and adopted by Europeans and sent back to Europe. The plant's tubers are used for food. These tubers were usually stir fried by the Cherokee.



Bob Weatherford

Medicine - Prairie willow, *Salix humilis*. This plant is also know by the descriptive, "the plant that walks". It was used by many of the Native American Indians in various ways. It was used as a treatment for many diseases. Around the turn of the 20th century, the German company Bayer developed a compound from the chemicals found in willow and named it aspirin. Tony says the prairie willow is hard to find, but he hopes to obtain one for the Cobb garden.

Tools/weapons - Several hardwoods were used to develop tools and weapons. Generally these were hard durable woods like walnut, dogwood and hickory. Arrowwood viburnum, *Viburnum dentatum*, which is currently growing in the Cobb garden, was used for arrows.



Troy Poteete



The Dedication of the Cherokee Garden

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American Beautyberry
Callicarpa americana



Wild Ginger
Asarum canadense

Shelter - River cane, *Arundinaria gigantea*, which can grow to over 25 feet in length, is frequently found in river lowlands in large numbers. The plant was used by Cherokees in the construction of homes and numerous other ways including arrows, fishing equipment and especially woven baskets.

Ceremony - Tony indicates that two of the favorite plants used in ceremonies were Aztec tobacco, *Nicotiana rustica* and red cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*. The Aztec tobacco is a strong form of tobacco and was used extensively in tribe rituals. Red cedar was burned as incense during prayer. In legends told by the Cherokee, the trees held spirits of their ancestors and is thought to have protective spirits. Both of these ceremonial plants had many uses for other purposes.



Shuttleworth ginger
Hexastylis shuttleworthii



American Alumroot
Heuchera americana L.

(Continued on next page)



The Dedication of the Cherokee Garden

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Prairie Willow
Salix humilis

When asked what was the most used native found in the Cobb garden, Tony indicated ginger, *Asarum canadense*, also known as mule footprint because of the shape of its leaves. Its primary usage was as a medicine.

Future plans for the Cobb Cherokee garden include improved signage. The signs will include common, Latin, and Cherokee plant names as well as descriptions of the plants. Plans include the use of On-Cell technology which allows garden visitors with cell phones to make contact with a service that will give vocal information about a selected plant. The user would note a number on a plant's ID tag, enter it into their phone, and get a description of the plant. Additional plans include expanding the garden's plantings. Tony is particularly interested in obtaining native fruit trees.

The Cobb garden has been designated a Trail of Tears Certified Interpretive Site. This designation will help educate the public on the history and details of this dark period in our history. The future for the garden is bright and will remain so with leadership of the Harrises, and their fellow Master Gardeners and GNPS volunteers.



River Cane
Arundinaria gigantea





Restoration News

Text by Susan Hanson

Conservation of native plants and native plant habitats is a core value of GNPS. Restoration sites are an important commitment to conservation. Many places that are “natural woodlands” do not resemble the woodlands of 100 years ago. Homesteads and subdivisions have brought plants from other places in the world. Most of the woodlands are covered with non-native invasive plants that do not allow the native plants to grow. The purpose of a GNPS restoration site is to return an area to a place where natives can grow.

Working on a restoration site is a way that you can contribute to conservation in a place that is important to you. There are now 12 restoration sites in the Greater Atlanta area. Our first site was Heritage Park in Cobb county, which is a very large park with a heavy infestation of privet hedge, *Ligustrum sinense*. Some GNPS leaders contacted the county parks department and committed to work on a 2 acre space at the beginning of the trail.

In 2015, we have added two new restoration sites to our inventory. Work will begin at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve, a 30 acre City of Atlanta park in North Buckhead this fall. Work has already begun at the area designated for restoration at the James E. McGuffey Nature Center in Coweta County.

Perhaps there is a place that you have seen that needs to be restored? Check out the guidelines and application form available online under [Conservation/Restoration](#) to learn more. Otherwise, if you would consider committing your time and energy to one of the sites, look for our workdays on the GNPS calendar to find a restoration site near you. Leaders will be there to direct the work using your skills and abilities so come on over to join us.

Eight Reasons to Work on a Restoration Site

1. Beautify an area that you visit and/or see frequently.
2. Remove invasive non-native plants that are not useful to native birds and butterflies.
3. Plant native plants to provide food for our birds, butterflies, bees, and pollinators.
4. Create an area for others to learn about the importance and beauty of native plants.
5. Experience a hands-on learning opportunity.
6. Meet other plant enthusiasts who may have plants and/or information to share.
7. Opportunity to learn how to identify trees and plants -- native, non-native, and invasive.
8. Excitement of allowing a native plant to grow that has been dormant in that area for many years.

Please check our [Restoration](#) website for more information.



Native Plant Rescue News

Text and Photos By Denise Hartline



Plant Rescue Surprises

Among the numerous beneficial aspects of participating in a GNPS plant rescue is the possibility of finding a surprise. We're talking about good surprises here, not unpleasant ones like insect bites or entanglement with sharp thorns. Using insect repellent, dressing appropriately and being aware of your surroundings reduce the risk of

encountering those unwelcome surprises. The good surprises are painless, also involve awareness of your surroundings, and are 100% serendipity.

Many of the good surprises are plants. It's fairly common to find plants that are not on the plant list for a rescue site. This is because it's simply not possible for GNPS's rescue site scouts, as knowledgeable and intrepid as they are, to list all of the plants on a site since they can't explore every nook and cranny of a site every month of the year. So as you walk around on a rescue, look for different textures, shapes, sizes, or colors and investigate what catches your eye. Try to look from ground level all the way up into the trees at times. It's a good idea to stop walking while you look up into the trees to avoid tripping on one of the 3 "R"s...an unexpected rock, root, or rut. A memorable and delightful surprise for me this spring while I stopped to look up was an unexpected smattering of blooming fringe trees (*Chionanthus virginicus*) that were not on the plant list for the site. Another surprise, this time on the ground, was a small plant about 5 inches tall with a single leaf that was growing in a very rotten tree stump. I dug it up and planted it in the midst of a rotten tree stump in our back yard. This year it bloomed and turned out to be green adder's mouth orchid (*Malaxis unifolia*), a tiny treasure of a plant.

Fungi, lichens, and mosses enrich any outing into nature. Their colors, textures, and forms are always a delight. It's a challenge to dig these surprises to see if they will survive



Green Adder's-Mouth Orchid
Malaxis unifolia



White Fringetree
Chionanthus virginicus



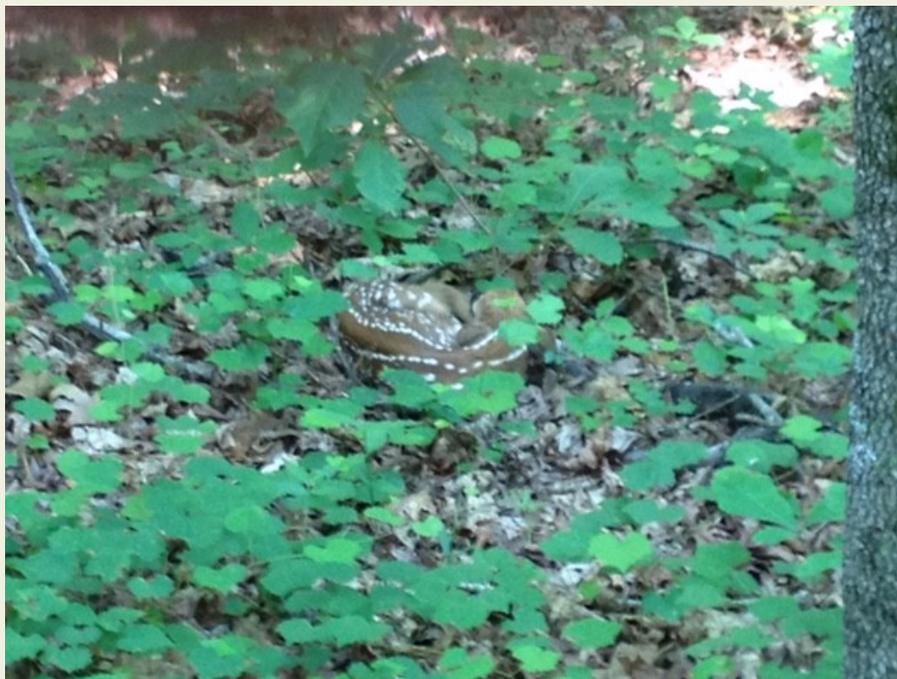
Native Plant Rescue News

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where you plant them. Usually birds, squirrels, and chipmunks will scratch around in, and dig up, clumps of moss, destroying them. Once in a very blue moon, though, you'll get lucky and your rescued treasure will escape their curiosity and survive.

Wild creatures on rescue sites are always special surprises. There is something about a beautifully colored skink or an impressive hawk that makes seeing them special. Several years ago our keen-eyed facilitator, Lola Halpin, noticed a fawn "playing possum" on a rescue site. Fawns have been known to play dead while waiting for their mother to return when they've been surprised by people or predators. The rescuers circled the fawn at a respectful distance while it executed an almost scary performance of playing dead. With careful observation, we could see its chest slowly rising and falling as it took deliberate and barely perceptible breaths. After experiencing these special few moments, we all tip-toed away as quietly as possible, hoping that this fawn could reunite with its mother and get back to real life.

After all, we all had to get home to tend to our plant treasures, and surely that little fawn breathed a HUGE sigh of relief after we left!



Fawn Playing Possum

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 — Redbud Chapter

Meetings:

Community Meeting for GNPS: 8/11

Report on Blue Heron Preserve field trip

Speaker: Dr. James L Hamrick

UGA Regents Professor (ret)

“Using Genetic Analyses to Better Conserve Rare Southeastern Plant Species”

Native Plants available for sale—Cheryl Ellenberg

Special Project:

Work Session at Linwood Preserve 9/17

Preparation for Official opening of Linwood Preserve in October

Submitted by:

Margaret Rasmussen
Executive Director
The Redbud Project

Jody Sanders
President
The Redbud Project



Chapter News – West Georgia Chapter

Events that occurred during the month of September included:

Students from University of West Georgia's College of Social Sciences Service Day volunteer to help clean up Buffalo Creek Trail as part of the University's community service project.

A 6th annual fall workshop, which featured Ken Zinkand, "Mushrooms: Foraging, Gourmet, Medicinal, and the Dangers of Poisonous Mushrooms", as well as concurrent sessions on fern identification and creating a fern glen (Flo Hayes), creating container bog gardens (Robert & Patsy Barr), and creating a butterfly and pollinator habitat (Carol Hight).

Participated in Heritage Days at Buffalo Creek Trail, sponsored by the Carroll County Master Gardeners, which brings approximately 1400 local 4th Graders to walk the trail, learn about native plants and their habitats, view educational displays, and learn about tools and crafts people used years ago (e.g., saw mill, grist mill, dyes made with native plants).

Flo Hayes led a walk & talk on the Buffalo Creek Trail for members of the Sprig & Dig Garden Club of Bowdon and for the Paulding County Master Gardeners.

Submitted by:

Marc LaFountain, President



Upcoming Events and Announcements

Stone Mountain Propagation Project Workday = October 2nd, 15th, 24th, and 29th, at 10:00am - 12:00pm. NOTE: We will be starting our cool weather (October to March) hours 10am to noon. Stock maintenance and water, if necessary. We'll also be making plans for seed starts, seed collection, etc. Remember to use the entrance code SG05GNPS at the gate to have the entrance fee waived. Learn more about native plants and propagation at our workday.

Heritage Park Workday in Smyrna = October 10th, November 14th at 10:00am - 12:00pm. Join us for a planting day using rescued native plants. Volunteers can learn how to go native with their own gardens and avoid the cookie-cutter look with beautiful native plants that increase the number of birds and butterflies in their gardens.

GNPS Board of Directors Meeting = October 13th and December 8th at 6:00pm - 7:30pm. Atlanta Botanical Garden, 1345 Piedmont Avenue Northeast, Atlanta, GA 30309.

GNPS BeltLine Site Cleanup = Please join us for one final cleanup day on Friday, October 16 at 9am ahead of our planting days on Friday, November 6th and Saturday, November 7th . There will be lots of encouragement and questions from the folks using the BeltLine. It's fun! What – Bring your own water, sunscreen, hat, bug spray, snacks, as needed. Bring your gloves and hand tools – pruner, lopper, saw, hand hoe. We'll have a few larger tools like a shovels, mattocks and a pole saw. Where – the exact site does not have an address. The closest intersection is one block north of N. Highland and Elizabeth Street at Bernina Avenue and Elizabeth Street, in Inman Park. From this intersection (where Elizabeth Street dead-ends) enter the BeltLine park on the paved walkway, then turn right and walk up the hill to the Beech Circle, a circle of granite stones right next to the trail. That's where we will meet. Parking – There are several options: Street parking is difficult but available on nearby streets – especially early in the morning. Be sure to read all the signs about parking limitations. Some people park at the Carter Center and walk down the trail to the site. There are a few parking decks along N. Highland – cost will be about \$6. Free parking is available at the BeltLine Skate park – a short walk along the trail under the Freedom Parkway Bridge will get you to our site. You can find BeltLine maps on their website.

Grass ID Workshop = On October 17th at the Holy Spirit Monastery, 2625 Hwy 212 SW Conyers, GA 30094 from 10:00am - 2:00pm. Leader: Walter Bland. The workshop will be capped at 15 participants, and open on a first come, first serve basis. We will spend the first 1.5 hours with keys, line drawings and samples to learn the most common warm season grasses. We will break for lunch and then go out to see the grasses in the field. For more information call 770-483-8705.



Upcoming Events and Announcements

Continued from previous page.

West Georgia Chapter Meeting =October 20th at 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm at the Carroll County Ag Center on 900 Newnan Road Carrollton, GA. Presentation on “Leaf Color Change: How and Why?” Our guest speaker will be Dr. Kim Coder, Professor of Tree Biology and Health Care at the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia in Athens. He is a world-renowned speaker and educator for arboriculture and urban forestry and recipient of many awards including the 2014 Arbor Day Awards-J. Sterling Morton Award. Meet and Greet begins at 6:30pm. Program begins at 7:00pm. Our meetings are free and open to the public. Native Plants will be available for purchase. Come early and enjoy a walk on the Buffalo Creek Trail: entrance visible from Ag Center parking area.

GNPS BeltLine Arboretum Fall Planting = November 6th and 7th at 9:00am - 12:00pm Join us to plant at our site in the BeltLine Arboretum Friday, November 6th. There will be lots of encouragement and questions from the folks using the BeltLine. It’s fun and we need as many pairs of hands as possible to get all of these plants into the ground! What to bring and parking details located in the BeltLine Cleanup announcement.

GNPS November Meeting = November 10th at 6:00pm - 8:45pm. Our speaker for the November meeting will be Tim Spira, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Clemson University. This is also our annual business meeting where we will vote on Plant of the Year and elect new officers. This program will be held in Day Hall at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. A social hour starts at 6:00pm and the program begins at 7:00pm. There is a fee for parking, but GNPS is happy to provide vouchers for a reduced rate for all who carpool.

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!



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