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# NativeSCAPE

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If you want to learn sustainable gardening techniques using everyday environmentally friendly methods, this is a must-have for your library.

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A discussion of the in-season spring ephemerals. These beautiful and colorful wildflowers will delight the senses.

## 2016 Spring Plant Sale

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

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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 newsletter.

## NativeSCAPE April 2016



### President's Message

By Lane Conville-Canney



Photo by Lane Conville-Canney

Dear Members,

I hope you are all enjoying some outdoor activities this early spring. My last message included an introduction of myself and an intent to get to know more members and introduce you to them.

During this past symposium, I had the privilege to learn a bit more about a remarkable person who has spearheaded the development of the latest GNPS chapter. Her name is Margaret Rasmussen, and she has been a member for 10 years. In 2007 she helped create the Redbud Project to preserve and restore the [Linwood Nature Preserve](#) in Gainesville, Georgia. The Redbud Project is a replicable model for conservation in Hall County. It is a non-profit citizen's conservation group whose mission is to promote awareness of the biodiversity of the area's unique ecosystems and extol their economic value. Their three-pronged initiative involves promoting awareness of Hall County's treasure trove of native plants, the studying and rescuing of native plants (Redbud Chapter of Georgia Native Plant Society), and modeling environmental conservation methods to benefit economic development. Margaret has inspired hundreds of residents to volunteer with this project. She took the project into a full blown chapter of GNPS and has grown this chapter to nearly 50 members.

I will be visiting this site and meeting several members of the chapter in the coming weeks to thank them for their dedication to educating their community in the ecological benefits of restoring lands with native plants of Georgia. This is such an exciting time to be a part of the movement to educate communities, groups and individuals on the great importance of using native plants in our civic and residential landscapes. Thank you for your part in helping spread the word far and wide. Please contact me at [info@gnps.org](mailto:info@gnps.org) if you are interested in joining me and members of the Board when we visit the Redbud Chapter of Georgia Native Plant Society.

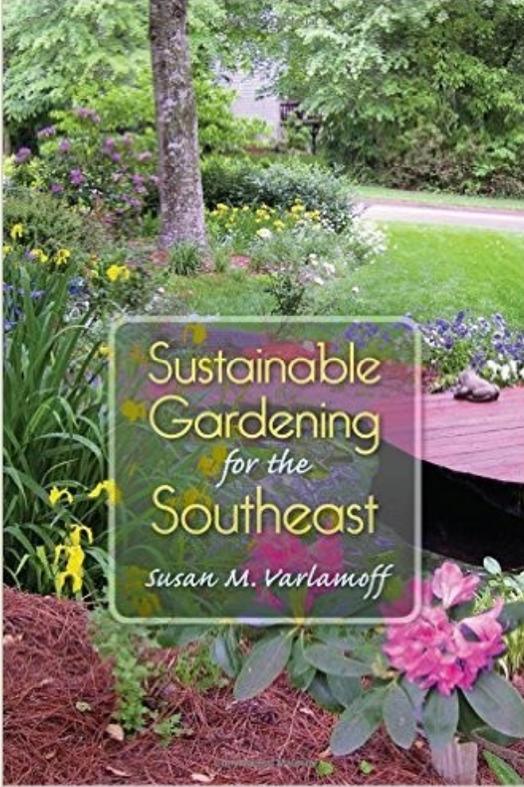
With much gratitude,

*Lane Conville-Canney*



## Book Review: “Sustainable Gardening for the Southeast”

Text by Carole Teja



Publisher: University Press of Florida (2016)  
ISBN: 978-0-8130-6180-1

Earth-friendly gardening is not new, but it is receiving increasing attention as we become more aware of nature’s biodiversity in maintaining the local ecology and its importance to our well-being. This book is therefore a welcome addition to the literature on sustainable gardening because it provides everyday methods that can be used to practice environmentally friendly gardening in the Southeast.

The book provides university-based research examples and charts, and explains how we can plant appropriately, capture rainwater, compost and enjoy the abundance of our long growing season. It also outlines an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan in harmony with nature’s own cycles, and suggests ways in which we can restore biodiversity with areas of native plants that provide shelter, nesting and foraging areas for wildlife. There are also suggestions for developing resilient landscapes with colorful plants that provide vivid displays for long periods. The book is loaded with easy-to-achieve tasks that every homeowner can undertake using readily available resources and leave this world a better place for future generations.

University of Delaware Professor Doug Tallamy calls this book “*A timely, accessible guide to responsible landscaping that convincingly explains how and why our home landscapes must participate in local ecosystems.*” UGA horticulture professor Allan Armitage, in the “Forward” to this book, states that it is a “ . . . *book promoting sustainable gardening that is practical and concise.*” I agree with both these statements and recommend this book to every homeowner in the Southeast for its many suggestions.

\*\*\*\*\*

Susan M. Varlamoff will be the program speaker for the Gwinnett County Master Gardeners third Monday monthly program series on Monday, May 16th at 7:00 p.m. A book signing will follow the meeting. Third Monday programs are free open to the public - please join us. For more information on the time and location of the program, visit [www.gwinnettmastergardeners.com](http://www.gwinnettmastergardeners.com).



## Blue Heron Nature Preserve Restoration Underway

Text and Photos by Kevin McCauley

We are excited to report work has begun on the restoration at the newest part of the Blue Heron Nature Preserve ([bhnp.org](http://bhnp.org)). The nature preserve is located a stone's throw away from Phipps Plaza on Peachtree Street and within sight of the Buckhead skyline. We are working to restore a heavily disturbed former home site to a native habitat.

The project is an official GNPS Restoration site. Our first project is to take an ivy-covered, wooded area filled with nandina (*Nandina domestica*/sacred bamboo), leatherleaf



Oglethorpe University APO Service Fraternity volunteers and BHNPP Board member Robert Cook hand pull English ivy.

and other non-native landscape plants and replace them with natives found in a woodland habit. The site already has yellow buckeye (*Aesculus flava*), leucothoe (*Leucothoe axillaris*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and other natives. We plan to supplement with natives obtained from GNPS plant rescues. The stone terracing on the hillside will provide an ideal spot to highlight native plants.

In February, groups from Oglethorpe University's Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, the Lovett Lacrosse team and nearby neighbors helped remove English ivy from a wooded area near the former home site on Land O Lakes Drive. Next, we will plant native, shade-loving plants. Work is being done in conjunction with our partners at Hands On Atlanta and with grant funding from the Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council. All are welcome to come to our next volunteer event on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 10am to 1pm. To sign up for the event, go to [handsonatlanta.org](http://handsonatlanta.org) and search for "Blue Heron Nature Preserve" under "Find Volunteer Opportunities". If you can't make the volunteer events, we'd love to have any extra plants you get at the GNPS plant rescues. For plant donations or more information, contact Kevin McCauley at [kevinm@bhnp.org](mailto:kevinm@bhnp.org) or call (404) 455 - 3650.

A satisfied group of volunteers proudly stand in front of what will become our woodland restoration site.

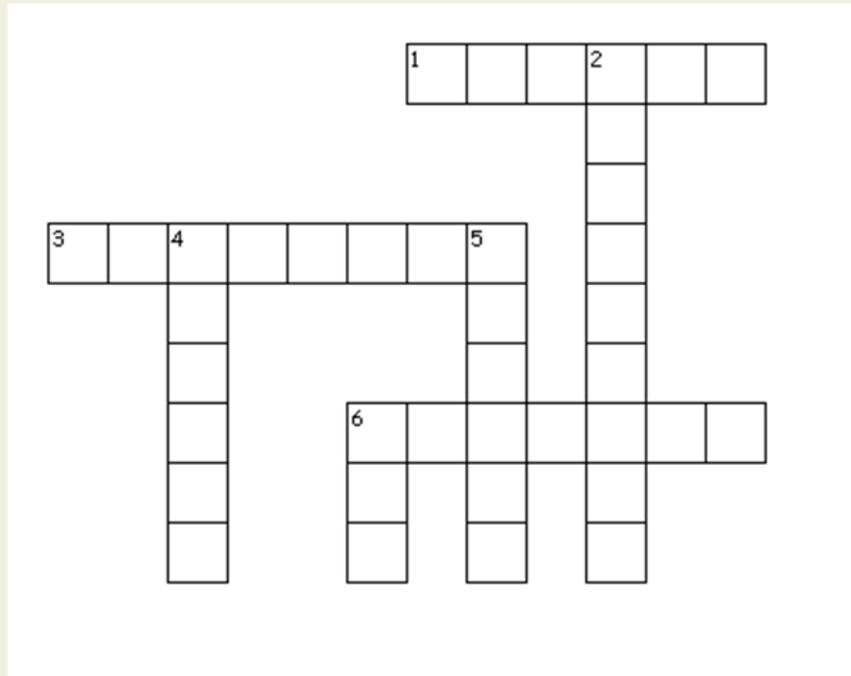


The Lovett Lacrosse team members led by John Moffett (center) remove wheat straw to be replaced by native broomsedge bluestem straw in the hopes of establishing a native grass meadow.





## Native Criss-Cross Puzzle



Answers in July issue.

### Across

1. Leading workshop
3. Plant field identification
6. Georgia exotic pest plant council

### Down

2. Fish or flower
4. Replicable model project
5. GNPS always need
6. Expect to have when saving plants

### January Answers:

**Across:** 4. journal; 5. pictures; 8. grape; 9. fern

**Down:** 1. wood walk; 2. goals; 3. arbor day; 5. purpose; 6. trees; 7. root; 10. nectar



## New! Introductory Plant Identification Workshop Series

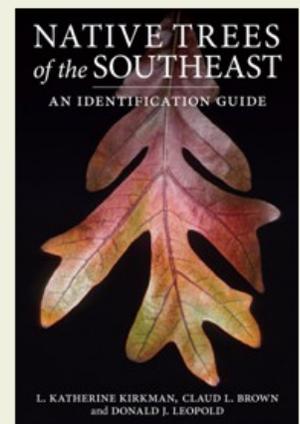
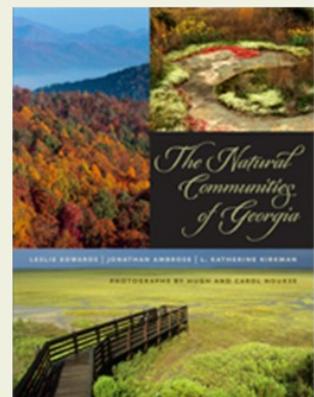
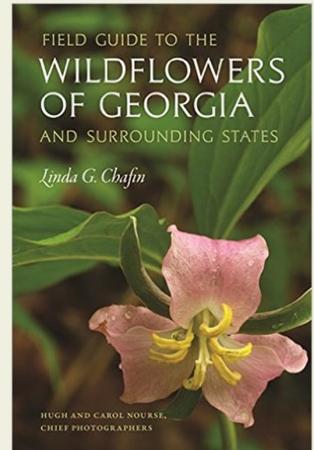
Text by Susan Caster and Leslie Edwards

The Georgia Native Plant Society is partnering with the Georgia Botanical Society to offer an ongoing Introductory Plant Field ID Workshop series, beginning this year. The goal is to enable beginners and non-botanists to identify many common native plants of Georgia in the field and to understand how the plants relate to their environment. The workshops will cover particular plant families and how to recognize common Georgia plants within the families. Field ID, rather than keys, will be the means of identification for this introductory series, and the workshops will emphasize common names in addition to teaching the scientific names. During the first year, we will start in the Georgia Piedmont and learn about the Heath family (Ericaceae), Aster family (Asteraceae), Grass family (Poaceae) and Pine family (Pinaceae).

Next year, workshops will be added for more families, as well as for particular natural communities, such as cove forests, oak-hickory forests, prairies, and river bottomlands. The geographic range will also potentially expand beyond the Piedmont. If there is enough interest, we will later offer Intermediate and/or Advanced Workshops that will teach keying and advanced terminology. The ultimate goal is to offer a Plant Identification Certificate under the auspices of GNPS and GBS.

The workshops this year will follow a standard approach. We will start with a trailhead or classroom introduction to the family, including key traits that are observable in the field; ways to distinguish them from similar looking families; and a brief discussion of their ecology. On the trail we will stop at about ten plants and learn how to recognize them, some interesting facts about them, and the natural community they are in. The course resources will include *Field Guide to the Wildflowers of Georgia and Surrounding States* by Linda Chafin, *The Natural Communities of Georgia* by Leslie Edwards, Jonathan Ambrose, and L. Katherine Kirkman, and *Native Trees of the Southeast* by L. Katherine Kirkman, Claud L. Brown, and Donald J. Leopold.

Each workshop will be limited to 14 participants. The first workshop will focus on the Heath family (Ericaceae), including azaleas, pipsissewa, sourwood, and mountain laurel. It will be held on May 7, 2016, at 10 am in the Chattahoochee River National Recreational Area. Susan Caster will lead the workshop. The first seven requests to participate from each organization will be sent details on the meeting place location. The workshops are free, and are open ONLY to members of GNPS or GBS. Membership will be verified prior to acceptance into the workshop. To sign up email [Susan.Caster@gmail.com](mailto:Susan.Caster@gmail.com).





## Spring Ephemerals

Text and Photos by Ellen Honeycutt



Trout Lily  
*Erythronium umbilicatum*

This is the season of the spring ephemerals – beautiful, colorful wildflowers that delight our flower-starved senses. As their seemingly delicate petals pierce through the dead, dried leaves of winter, the juxtaposition of their fresh, new growth against the drab forest floor makes their beauty all the more amazing.

Spring ephemerals primarily grow in deciduous forests. Their growth pattern – new growth early in the spring – allows them to take advantage of the plentiful early spring sunshine before the trees leaf out. From February to April, these plants send up leaves, flower, and set fruit while the sun shines through the bare twigs above. As the canopy trees leaf out, the available sun diminishes and the plants finish this phase of their life. If moisture levels are good, the foliage can persist for several more months. But if the ground is dry or the air temperature is too high, the foliage withers for the year. The underground structure, often a corm or a rhizome, remains alive, allowing the plant to stay dormant until the next spring.

Georgia's forests have many spring ephemerals. I will describe some of the ones near me, but there are many more throughout the state. Areas like the Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail in Walker County have paths that allow visitors to see these beautiful flowers both up close and in breathtaking views that contain thousands of them.

Trout lily (*Erythronium umbilicatum*) is the first ephemeral to flower in my area. Trout lily foliage and blooms emerge as pointed spears. The spears easily pierce through the leaves on the ground. The dried leaves provide support for the delicate stems while the foliage appears to perch just above them.

As the trout lily petals fall away, revealing their dimpled seed pod, bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) emerges. Bright white petals stand out against the brown leaves around them. Some flowers appear to be alone, others are wrapped in a single leaf which unfurls over the course of several days. The textured, blue-green leaf is every bit as striking as the flowers. I enjoy the appearance of the foliage long after the flowers have gone, and a large patch of it can produce a groundcover effect.



Wood Lily or Sweet Betsy  
*Trillium cuneatum*

(Continued on next page)



## Spring Ephemerals

*Continued from previous page.*

Trilliums (*Trillium* spp.) are certainly one of the most well-known families of spring wildflowers. I think the name of the plant itself is so easy to understand that it sticks with people: Trilliums have plant parts in 3's. There are three leaves, three petals, and three sepals – it is a concept that even a child can grasp. Georgia naturally has more species of Trillium than any other state – 22 species have been identified so far from the mountains to the Coastal Plain. The ones most commonly found near me are Catesby's trillium (*Trillium catesbaei*), Sweet Betsy trillium (*T. cuneatum*), and Southern nodding trillium (*T. rugelii*).



Virginia Bluebells  
*Mertensia virginica*

Other beautiful spring flowers that don't stick around much past June include mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), woodland phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), and toothwort (*Cardamine* spp.), whose foliage is among the first to emerge.

As fleeting as they are, these flowers provide an important role: they provide early flowers for early pollinator insects. And for flower-hungry, winter-weary humans, they provide a cheerful announcement of spring's arrival.

Enjoy them while they last, and be sure to mark their location so that you don't dig into them come summer and fall!



Spring Beauty  
*Claytonia virginica*



Bloodroot  
*Sanguinaria canadensis*



## Native Plant Rescue News: *Fun, Learning, and Sharing*

Text By Denise Hartline



What we all learned in kindergarten serves us well on GNPS plant rescues!

**Fun:** Spring's arrival kicks off "high season" for GNPS plant rescues along with our spring plant sale. Whether you're an experienced rescuer or a first time rescuer who is curious about what a plant rescue is like, check out the rescue schedule on our website (<http://gnps.org/conservation/plant-rescue/>) and sign up to reserve yourself a spot. Expect to have fun while saving wonderful plants from destruction and enjoying the outdoors!

**Learning:** It's a given that you'll learn new things on a plant rescue. Another place to learn more about our native plants is "A Rescuer's Guide to Georgia Native Plants" (<http://georgianatives.net>). It's the creation of GNPS member Mike Strickland, and has photos of many Georgia plants as they appear in each month of the year. It's especially helpful when you need to see what a plant looks like not only in its prime season, but before and after its prime season as well. For example, black cohosh (*Actaea racemosa*) is easily recognized from late spring to mid-summer by its almost fern-like leaves and impressive flower stalks, but if you need to rescue it in March or April before its leaves have even unfurled, check out <http://georgianatives.net> for photos of how black cohosh looks in March or April. This website was profiled in NativeSCAPE in 2009 but it's a resource worth mentioning again. Mike is always updating and adding photos to this website which is now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year.

**Sharing:** Boost your karma and pay it forward by digging a few extra plants on each rescue to share with a good cause. GNPS always needs plants for both the spring and fall plant sales and for our restoration projects. In addition, some of our members come to rescues to dig plants for other non-profit endeavors in which they are involved, such as nature preserves and walking trails. If this is the case, usually the rescuer or the facilitator will mention the organization and what plants they need. To donate any plants you dug for their cause, you can usually give the plants to the person whose organization needs them at the rescue. They will make sure that your donated plants get to where they need to be in time to be planted. For donations to GNPS, sometimes the rescue facilitator will have a wish-list of plants needed for plant sales or restorations, and they will ask for donations. If there is no wish-list for the rescue that you are on, ask the facilitator for suggestions of what to dig and share. Ferns and trilliums are always welcomed as donations.

To prepare your plants for donation, please do the following:

Step 1: Ask the rescue facilitator what would be the best way to get the plants where they need to be. Sometimes it's possible for the facilitator or another rescuer to take the plants directly where they need to be from the rescue. If that is not the case, contact either the Plant Sale chairperson or GNPS's Stone Mountain Propagation Project (SMPP).

Step 2: Pot them up. Several weeks before you donate them is best— this gives the roots time to recover and the plant time to settle in. Put some topdressing or shredded leaves on top of the potting soil for the best look. Label them with their common name and their Latin name; masking tape on the pot with a Sharpie works well.

Happy Rescuing!

*The Plant Rescue Committee*



## 2016 Annual Spring Native Plant Sale

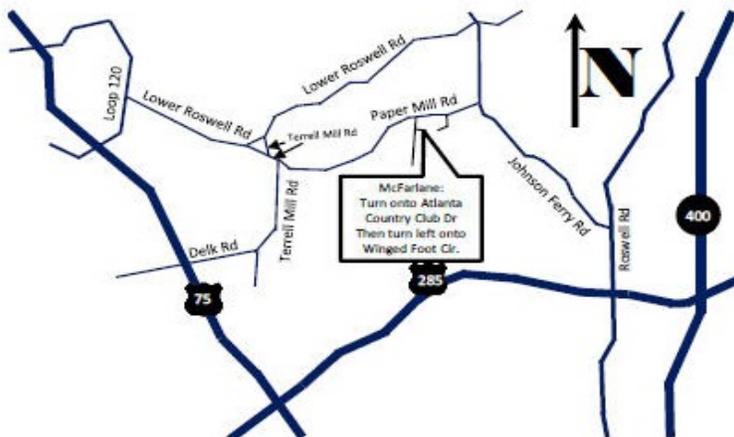
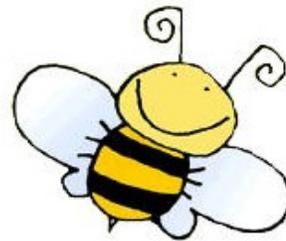
Saturday, April 16  
10:00am - 2:00pm

### 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 Native Plant Sale** on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Join us for our annual Spring Native Plant Sale. Each year our volunteers come together to offer thousands of native plants for sale. These plants come from a variety of sources: they are propagated by our volunteers, rescued from local construction sites, donated from our members' gardens, donated by nurseries and purchased from reputable sources.

**GNPS Members Only Garden Tour** on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00a to 5:00p. The Georgia Native Plant Society is bringing back the annual member garden tour for 2016. Member Charles Hunter has agreed to chair this project and we would very much like to hear from you if you can help. This year's tour will be a little earlier than recent tours -- the week after our plant sale. Our hope is that this will catch a lot of the early spring ephemerals, trilliums, early native azaleas and other early bloomers. The gardens for 2016 will be in Cherokee County. There are three gardens set for the tour. We'll need a few volunteers at each garden to help welcome members, direct them to sign in, and get them started on the tour itself. The garden owner will be moving among the guests, answering questions and pointing out plants of interest. If you can help, please contact Charles Hunter at (770) 433-8117 or [2csh@bellsouth.net](mailto:2csh@bellsouth.net). Members will be given a description of the gardens and the addresses of them about 2 weeks prior to the tour. If you're not a member, join today!

**GNPS May Meeting** on May 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:30p to 8:30p at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. Join us for a special presentation by Claudia West entitled *Creating Stunning Plant Communities that Stand the Test of Time*. Plants are the foundation of healthy ecosystems and they bring beauty and joy to our lives. But great native plants alone don't automatically create lasting ecological benefits in our gardens. It is time for a new approach to planting design that works with natural principles and marries horticulture with ecology. Join us as we explore how native plants fit into the built landscape and learn how plant community-based design strategies can help you meet aesthetic and ecological goals during your next planting project.

**Grasses and Wildflowers for Pollinators Workshop** on May 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00a to 1:00p. Walter Bland is leading a workshop on grasses and wildflowers for pollinators at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit. Meet at the gatehouse. Workshop is limited to 20 participants. To register, please email Walter at [jwbland3@gmail.com](mailto:jwbland3@gmail.com).

### 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 (\$30)

Senior, 55 and older (\$25)

Family (\$50)

Full-Time Student (\$25)

Business /Commercial/Educational (\$250)

Lifetime Individual/Family (\$1,000)

**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