



*Hydrangea
quercifolia*

NativeSCAPE

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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 July 2017



President's Message

By Lane Conville-Canney



Photo by Lane Conville-Canney

Dear Members,

Our family vacation this summer included a great escape to the Olympic National Park in the Pacific Northwest. I've just returned from a journey through some of the thickest moss carpeted forests I could ever imagine. One of the things I really enjoyed about the trip was recognizing some similarities between our own state and Washington. Both have beautiful and diverse coast lines with vegetation specifically adapted to their particular conditions. Both have wild lands and old growth trees that support a breadth of wildlife endemic to that place. Both have people who greatly value and take immense pride in their environment and enjoy sharing it with visitors.

It energizes me to find people all across our country who understand that we must protect, preserve, and celebrate the flowers, grasses, mosses, shrubs, trees, vines, and fungi that we have all around us. Our members are great advocates for Georgia's native plants and together we can really make an impact throughout our state to not only preserve our environment but teach people to IMPROVE our environment by stopping the planting of harmful plants and increasing the demand for native plants at our local nurseries and garden centers.

Believe it or not, a core group of GNPS volunteers are already working very hard to prepare for our September 23rd fall plant sale. It takes a lot of love and a ton of hours to prepare for a plant sale. I hope you are already planning to shop with us that day and I invite you to look through our website and find a project that looks appealing. Feel free to email me at info@gnps.org to find a way for you to play an important role in GNPS. The more folks we have who are involved and committed, the more we work with others to protect and improve our great state.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next GNPS event!

With much gratitude,

Lane Conville-Canney

GNPS Board of Directors



Saltbush -- Native but Invasive

Text by Ruth Ann Grissom



Saltbush flowering.

Photo: Ruth Ann Grissom

During a recent trip to the beach, I realized a number of plants native to the Coastal Plain have found a home in the Piedmont. Yaupon holly, beautyberry, wax myrtle and sweetbay magnolia have become staples in our gardens. Pitcher plants and longleaf pines occur in the natural landscapes of the Uwharries. A botanist friend jokes that species from the Coastal Plain like to “slum it” in our region. These outlying populations speak to our location on the sloppy margins of two distinct ecosystems. They’re also evidence of our ancient history, recalling a time when the ocean lapped against the Uwharries’ eastern flank.

In more recent times, a species from the beach has expanded its range into the Piedmont. This interloper goes by the names sea myrtle and groundsel tree, but it’s commonly known as saltbush (*Baccharis halimifolia*) because it tolerates salt spray and brackish water. In its native habitat at the edge of a marsh, it remains a somewhat compact, evergreen shrub. The gray-green leaves are small and coarsely-toothed and somewhat leathery to the touch. Saltbush can be a handsome shrub, especially in the fall when it’s covered with fluffy white seeds.

In the Piedmont, saltbush apparently first took root along the shoulders of our major thoroughfares. Some people speculate the seeds traveled in the grilles of automobiles returning from the coast. Perhaps they felt right at home in the briny gravel, a microhabitat we created by salting our icy roads. Others say saltbush found fertile ground in landscapes we have altered – it thrives in waste places and quickly appears after a clear cut – much like the coyote expanded east of the Mississippi after we cleared tracts for agriculture and extirpated the native red wolf.

Much to my dismay, saltbush also loves to insinuate itself in our early successional habitats, plaguing our efforts to restore Piedmont prairies and longleaf pine savannahs. Once established, it upsets a delicate balance. In our experience, it tolerates fire but doesn’t provide sufficient fuel to stoke a hot burn. Even if we manage to knock it back with a top-kill, it sprouts again from the roots. Colonies can grow large and dense, shading out more desirable grasses and forbs and making it even harder to carry a fire.

The N.C. Native Plant Society and N.C. Natural Heritage Program consider saltbush an invasive species, a dubious distinction usually reserved for exotic plants from faraway nations, not a native of our very own state. Invasive plants typically run rampant here because they lack a suite of predators, diseases and growing conditions that kept them in check back home. At first glance, a plant expanding its range by a couple hundred miles might not seem quite as dramatic, but its insidious creep is arguably even more disturbing.



Saltbush -- Native but Invasive

Continued from previous page.

If a species now thrives in a place where it didn't occur for millennia, it seems to me there has been a cataclysmic shift. While the theories about car grilles and altered landscapes seem plausible, they don't take into account that people cleared the land and traveled back and forth across the state long before this species arrived in our region. Conditions today must be different somehow. Of course, the specter of climate change comes to mind. In an era of global warming, saltbush might be one of many species we will notice moving inland. I'm tempted to abandon our efforts to control it in our early successional habitats. Perhaps the lines between the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain are blurring. If temperatures continue to rise, there might come a time when the ocean once again finds its way to the base of our hills. Saltbush will be here, waiting.



Saltbush growing in the North Carolina Piedmont.

Photo: Ruth Ann Grissom

Article originally printed on the University North Carolina Charlotte Urban Institute website, July 31, 2014; <http://ui.uncc.edu/story/saltbush-%E2%80%93-native-invasive>

Biography

Ruth Ann Grissom, a writer and conservationist, serves on the board of the LandTrust for Central North Carolina. She grew up on a farm in Montgomery County and earned degrees in journalism and social work at UNC. She divides her time between Charlotte and the Uwharries.





2017 GNPS Fall Native Plant Sale

Text by GNPS

Join us Saturday, September 23, 2017, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm for the Georgia Native Plant Society FALL PLANT SALE. A wide variety of perennials, ferns, vines, grasses, shrubs, azaleas, and trees will be available and knowledgeable GNPS volunteers will also be there to answer your questions. The native plants we sell have been rescued with special permission from different sites within the state of Georgia, propagated by our members, donated, or purchased from local nurseries.

Georgia Native Plant Society

ANNUAL FALL 2017
NATIVE PLANT SALE

GO WILD WITH NATIVES!

RADIO FLYER

BRING A WAGON!

Don't Forget!

STONE MOUNTAIN
MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

STONE MOUNTAIN PARK
WALKING TRAILS PARKING LOT

Saturday, September 23
10 AM - 2 PM

DESIGN/ILLUSTRATION: BASS DESIGNS, INC.

Driving Directions:

GPS coordinates 33.812863, -84.158739 to the "Walking Trails" parking lot.

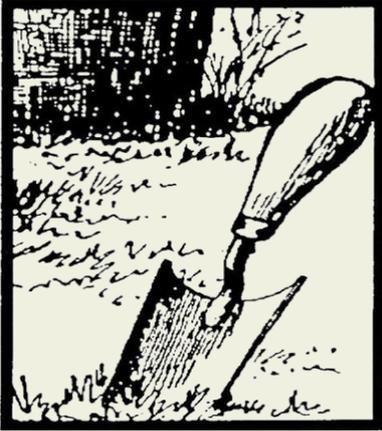
If entering through the **WEST GATE** off Memorial Drive take a left. The parking lot is on the left in approximately 0.2 miles. There will be signs to direct you to the entrance of the sale.

From Hwy 78 and the main or **EAST GATE** go straight then veer right at the Y-intersection (toward Confederate Hall). The parking lot is on the right after approximately 1 mile.



Native Plant Rescue News

Text By Marcia Winchester



A lot of people are installing “Pollinator Gardens” to attract and feed pollinators. When you add rescued plants to your garden or woods you are probably adding native pollinator plants. Nothing is better for a native pollinator than its native food source. While many people only think of honeybees as pollinators, there are many native pollinators. One favorite is hummingbirds. Natives that bloom in spring when hummers are arriving include red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*), alumroot (*Heuchera americana*), and columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*). While we don’t find columbine on rescues, it is easily available at nurseries and native plant sales. Crossvine (*Bignonia caperolata*) is frequently found at rescue sites and hummingbirds enjoy their nectar along with another native vine, coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*). The trumpet shaped flowers on native azaleas (*Rhododendron*) attract hummers plus many bee species. This spring I had 3 different bees on an azalea (*Rhododendron*) at the same time. I counted over 13 bumblebees on one of my rescued butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), which besides providing pollen for bees and butterflies also is a larval food source for Monarch butterfly caterpillars. Pussytoes (*Antennaria plantaginifolia*) and (*A. solitaria*) are both larval food for the American painted lady caterpillar. Summer brings hummers and butterflies to cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*).

Native trees like oaks (*Quercus*) and cherries (*Prunus*) feed hundreds of caterpillars. Check out Doug Tallamy’s book *Bringing Nature Home* for tons of information on native caterpillars and what native plants they use. I love to watch dozens of tiny bees pollinating black cohosh (*Actaea racemosa*). Joe-pye weed (*Eutrochium fistulosum*) and ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*) flowers attract a huge number of bees, beetles, and butterflies. Be sure to group your plants together so the pollinator can go from one plant to the next for continuous nectar. How fun it is to attract pollinators to your pollinator garden using rescued plants.



Butterfly Weed
Asclepias tuberosa
Photo by Ellen Honeycutt



Chapter News: Redbud Chapter (CPC)

Text by Margaret Rasmussen

Linwood Nature Preserve Ecology Center: The Ecology Center was dedicated Friday, April 28th, and will serve as headquarters for Redbud Chapter Georgia Native Plant Society to conduct activities that support education and conservation of native plants in the upper Piedmont. Dr. Joan Maloof, founding executive director of the Old-Growth National Forest Network, recognized the work of the Redbud Project to promote stewardship of the earth. Gainesville Parks and Recreation acknowledged the Redbud Project to be custodians of the community ecology center in partnership with UGA Hall County Extension.

Under the Redbud Project GNPS, groups and individuals working for conservation of the region's ecosystems will hold activities and meetings in the ecology center. All future programs and meetings will be held in the ecology center located at 160 Springview Drive. The building is located on Linwood Nature Preserve, which is the native plant restoration site for Redbud GNPS. For the past three weeks, we have worked with the contractor to complete renovation of the building and move into the building. Our first meeting in the building was Gainesville Friends of Parks and Greenways. On June 13th, the first meeting of Redbud Chapter GNPS was held in the building.

GNPS Conservation

Azalea Project: Redbud Conservation Committee launched the *Azalea Project* at Linwood Nature Preserve -- our first major attempt at site restoration! After a program by native azalea authority Charles Andrews, we launched the *Azalea Project* to restore the 32-acre Linwood Nature Preserve. With over 40 plants donated by propagator Vernon Bush at Huntsville Botanical Garden in Alabama, members of the conservation committee and volunteers established a perimeter of native azaleas at both the Linwood Drive and Springview Drive trailheads of our restoration site.

Native Plant Conservatory: The seven beds of native species understory trees, shrubs and herbs around the ecology center building demonstrate native plants of the region and their potential for use in residential or commercial landscapes. Team members prepared the beds for the opening and continue to enhance the demonstration gardens. An addition to the building is being prepared to house the native plant conservatory team members' work.

Native Plant Rescues: The Glades Farm rescue on June 16th was attended by 10 GNPS members with Maureen Donohue as lead facilitator and Sarah Krouse, co-facilitator. Hardman Farm Historic Site has invited Redbud GNPS Chapter to rescue native plants in the path of a proposed impermeable ADA trail along the Chattahoochee River. Three rescues are being organized. The four facilitators in training from the Redbud chapter are being mentored to organize and conduct these rescues to complete their certification as facilitators. Longstreet 1875 Heritage Landscape is under construction with the "Angel" garden designed by GNPS member Nathan Wilson prepared for planting in the next two weeks.

GNPS Education Committee

Two programs have been held in the past quarter include *Bug Your Pardon? How Insects Depend on Native Plants to Thrive in Georgia* by; Dr. Evan Lampert, Associate Professor of Biology, UNG-G, April 11, 2017 and *Dalea-Prairie Clovers: What can they tell us about the evolution of Southeastern landscapes* by Dr. James "Tom" Diggs, Assistant Professor of Biology, UNG-G. Redbud GNPS held a booth at the Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's *Wild and Scenic* Film Festival May 13th. An organizational meeting to revive the Forest Explorers program to introduce at-risk youth to nature was held June 7th. Research is being conducted to determine scheduling and programming of the project. Azalea authority Ted Meredith, opened his property for a native azalea field trip on April 24th.



Chapter News: West Georgia

Text by Mac LaFountain

We continue working on the completion of the area, now known as the “Meadow Entrance”, where the Buffalo Creek Trail meets the Carrollton Green Belt (an 18 mile walking/biking trail that circles Carrollton through both public and private land). Vines and trellises have been added and work on a split rail fence and boardwalk began in June. A generous donation from Gina and Mike Strickland will allow us to add the boardwalk and plants for the rain garden in the meadow. Our chapter also has been assisting the Green Belt with native plantings at the Maple Street entrance near the University of West Georgia. The installation of five beehives in our apiary has been completed.

The April public meeting, *Gardening and Landscaping with Mosses*, was presented by Dr. Robert Wyatt, Department of Botany & Ecology, UGA. The June 20th public meeting featured Linda Fraser, GNPS, who presented *The Fascinating History of Botanical Illustration, from 1450 BC to Present Day*. On June 24th, we held our first annual spring workshop, *BUILD A HOME FOR A BUG-EATIN' BOG PLANT!! Learn to Build a Container Bog and Take It Home with a Real, Live Carnivorous Pitcher Plant!*, highlightrd a hands on workshop on building bog gardens for containers and home landscapes. Robert Barr, an expert on bog and carnivorous pitcher plants, was the instructor. For those who were interested in attending, were asked to contact Robert at rbarr@mindspring.com or 770.298.1398.

Several of our members have made presentations to local groups. Carol Hight discussed the history and future of the Buffalo Creek Trail with the Carrollton Woman's Club. Robert Barr offered presentations to the Little Tallapoosa Botanical Society and the Ranburne (Alabama) Garden Club and conducted a container bog garden workshop for the Troup County Master Gardeners. Diane Rooks and Ann Ethridge demonstrated native plant container gardening for the 6th grade class at Carrollton Central Middle School. Several members of our chapter also readied our native plant bed in the Master Gardener's Buffalo Creek Gardens for their annual Art in the Garden event.



Upcoming Events and Announcements

GNPS Board of Directors Meeting on August 8th, from 6:00p - 7:00p. Meeting in the Hardin Conference Room in the Atlanta Botanical Gardens. All members are invited to join the meeting of the Board of Directors.

West Georgia Chapter Meeting on August 15th, from 6:30p - 8:00p. The topic will be *Native Plants Rock! or what geology can teach you about preserving Georgia's native flora* – Leslie Edwards & Bill Witherspoon. Meet and Greet is at 6:30p and program starts at 7:00p. Native Plants will be available for purchase. Our meetings are free and open to the public. Come get to know us! Come early and enjoy a walk on the Buffalo Creek Trail: entrance visible from Ag Center parking area.

Volunteer at the 2017 Fall Native Plant Sale on September 22nd. Many hands make light work for sure and it would be our pleasure to have you join us at Stone Mountain Park on the day of the Native Plant Sale to help with set up, welcome shoppers, enjoy your day performing any number of tasks with native plants and then put in a little extra energy to participate in clean up after the sale. GNPS cannot run this event on September 23, 2017, without volunteers so please come along to lend a hand keeping in mind the plant sale can be a great learning experience for you too. To sign up and volunteer click this link: **[Volunteer for Fall Native Plant Sale](#)**

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)
- Family (\$50)
- Business /Commercial/Educational (\$250)
- Senior, 55 and older (\$25)
- Full-Time Student (\$25)
- 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