

Members of Coastal Plain Chapter of GNPS

This is my second email to all members of Coastal Plain Chapter. I'm planning to distribute a monthly email so look for one each month around the first day of the month. I want this to be a system for you to share information with other members of the chapter and let us know what you are doing as well as for me to provide updates on future events and report on past events. *If you have information to include, please send it to me (heather.brasell@gnps.org) at least a week ahead of the coming month.*

[Note: Items in italics are things you can do.]

Coming Events (March & April):

Coastal Plain Chapter Events

- March 18: **South Georgia Native Plant and Wildflower Symposium (SGNPWS)** in Tifton. CPC-GNPS meeting follows the event. Details: <http://www.sgnpws.org/>
- March 18: **Coastal Plain Chapter Spring Meeting:** To be held immediately following **SGNPWS** at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture, Tifton.
- April 18: **A Day in the Woods** in Alapaha. This counts as a field trip for Certificate in Native Plants. This is a free community event with activities related to forestry, wildlife, and traditional crafts. CPC-GNPS has tables with activities, providing information and plants for attendees. *If you can volunteer to help with the CPC table, contact Amy Heidt (ameidty@bellsouth.net). If you'd like information about presenting a different activity or attending, contact Heather Brasell (heather.brasell@gnps.org).*
- April 25: **Earth Day Program in Albany**. This is a new event and important for members in our western area. For this to be successful, we will need volunteers for table and plant sales. *If you can help with this event, contact Heather Brasell at (heather.brasell@gnps.org)*

Other Events

- March 7: Certificate in Native Plants core course **Natural Communities** in Alapaha. Contact: Sean Cameron at GA Botanic Gardens at cscamero@uga.edu or 706-542-6156.
- March 17: Certificate in Native Plants elective course **Native Plants for your Garden and Landscaping** in Tifton. Contact: Sean Cameron at GA Botanic Gardens at cscamero@uga.edu or 706-542-6156.
- April 4: Certificate in Native Plants elective course **Pollinator Insect Ecology in the Garden** in Tifton. Contact: Sean Cameron at GA Botanic Gardens at cscamero@uga.edu or 706-542-6156.

- March 28: **Middle Georgia State University's Spring Garden Symposium**, Macon. Details: <https://cherryblossom.com/event/middle-georgia-state-universitys-spring-garden-symposium/>
- April 3-5: **GA Botanical Society Annual Pilgrimage** at Port Wentworth. Details: https://www.gabotsoc.org/?page_id=23
- April 4: **Coastal Wildscapes Plant Sale** at Ashantilly /Center. Details: <https://www.coastalwildscapes.org/EVENTS>
- April 25: Certificate in Native Plants elective course **Longleaf Groundcover Restoration** in Tifton. Contact: Sean Cameron at GA Botanic Gardens at cscamero@uga.edu or 706-542-6156.

Ongoing CPC Activities

CPC Plant Sales:

Sales of native plants at Tifton Farmer's Market are expected to start in April. Dates have not yet been decided. We will need volunteers. We would also like to have at least one plant sale in each part of the Coastal Plain. We will gladly help you set up plant sales in your local community. *If you are willing to help propagate native plants or assist with plant sales in Tifton or your area, contact Amy Heidt (ameidty@bellsouth.net)*

CPC Plant Rescues:

Our goal for rescued plants is to prioritize using them for conservation projects, community projects and propagation for plant sales, rather than personal gardens. *If you know of a place where we could do a plant rescue, contact Karan Rawlins (krawlins@uga.edu)*

CPC Facebook:

Paul Sumner has been posting information about CPC events on our Facebook page. Paul will edit and upload posts sent to him by members. He is going to develop guidelines for sharing information on this page. In the meantime, *if you have information you'd like to post, send it to Paul Sumner (psum@bellsouth.net).*

Community Projects:

The CPC board has developed protocols for supporting community projects planting native plants. We want to prioritize sharing plants before providing cash donations. Of course, we also want the project leader to provide a report and signage with photos to promote what we do in local newspapers, Facebook, our webpage and in the GNPS newsletter.

Three ongoing community projects are listed below.

- St. Mary's Crooked River State Park: Pollinator restoration project.
- Tifton, Fulwood Dog Park: Native plant pollinator garden
- Tifton, Len Lastinger Elementary School. Native plant pollinator garden

If you can help with any of these projects or would like to find out how we can support you in starting a new project in your community, contact Heather Brasell at (heather.brasell@gnps.org).

Useful Information

Habitat Certification:

Several organizations provide certification for your garden.

- GNPS: <https://gnps.org/conservation/native-plant-habitat-certification/>
- Monarchs Across GA: <https://www.eealliance.org/pollinator-habitat-certification-program>
- National Wildlife Federation: <https://www.nwf.org/garden-for-wildlife/certify>
- GA Audubon: <http://www.aswp.org/pages/backyard-habitat-program>

Environmental Education Opportunities

Plant enthusiasts are often interested in other environmental education programs.

- **Certificate in Native Plants** includes courses, field trips and community service projects. <https://gnps.org/certificate-native-plants/>
- **Master Gardeners:** <https://extension.uga.edu/programs-services/georgia-master-gardener-extension-volunteer-program/volunteer/becoming-a-mgev.html>
- **Master Naturalist** courses explore habitats and ecosystems in Georgia and human impacts on those environments. <https://www.warnell.uga.edu/outreach/georgia-master-naturalist>
- **Adopt-a-Stream** is a citizen science program with training for volunteers who monitor streams for chemicals, biological (coliform) organisms, and macroinvertebrates. <https://adoptastream.georgia.gov/>

Scholarship Opportunities:

- GNPS provides scholarships for students attending **Cullowhee Native Plant Conference** July 22-25 at Cullowhee, NC. <https://www.wcu.edu/engage/professional-enrichment/conferences-and-community-classes/the-cullowhee-native-plant-conference/index.aspx>
- **GA Botanical Society** provides scholarships for students attending their annual pilgrimage April 3-5 in Port Wentworth. https://www.gabotsoc.org/?page_id=23
- CPC provides scholarships for students attending **Certificate in Native Plants** program. Contact: Heather Brasell (heather.brasell@gnps.org)
- **Advanced Training in Environmental Education** includes people working with native plants. Scholarships are available for educators from 20 counties in south GA. <https://www.eealliance.org/advanced-training-for-ee>

Current Coastal Plain Chapter (CPC) Board:

- President: Heather Brasell – also member of GNPS Conservation Committee
- Vice President: Mary Alice Applegate – also member of GNPS Membership Committee and Representative for Central CPC
- Past President: Gail Farley – also Representative for East CPC
- Secretary: Amy Heidt – also Chair for GNPS Conservation Committee
- Treasurer: Eamonn Leonard – also member of GNPS Conservation Committee
- Conservation: Karan Rawlins
- Membership and Communication: Paul Sumner
- Representative for North CPC: Greg Lewis
- Representative for West CPC: tbd
- Advisor: Ed McDowell

I would like to encourage other members to serve on the board in the future. New people bring new ideas and fresh commitment. *If you would like to become more involved in our chapter, contact Heather Brasell at heather.brasell@gnps.org.*