**Members of Coastal Plain Chapter of GNPS**

**July 2021**

**Past Events**

**St Mary’s Garden Club Plant Sale** on June 12 was very successful, with Amy Heidt, Paul Sumner, Erin Cork and Heather Brasell as volunteers for CPC; Gail Farley and Elizabeth King as volunteers for the garden club. We sold lots of plants but also had a wonderful outreach opportunity to engage with local gardeners and talk about why to plant native, what plants to get, where to plant them, and how to maintain them. The Garden Club is considering another plant sale in fall, so we will probably have two plant sales in fall – Darien and St. Marys. For those of you on the coast, this will be a good chance to use preorders and have us deliver your native plants at these sales.

**Wiregrass Farmer’s Market Plant Sale** in Tifton was also held on June 12. Volunteers Amy Blackmarr and Mary Alice Applegate manned the booth, fielding lots of native plant questions and recruiting a couple of new members.

**Doerun Potential Rescue Site**: Mary Whitfield alerted us to road construction on GA-133 south of Doerun Pitcher Plant WMA as a possible site for native plant rescues. Some tree removal has already started so we may be too late to get approvals for a rescue site, but Erin Cork (our conservation director) is working on it. DNR and DOT had already been discussing construction plans when the work gets near the WMA so a lot of groundwork discussion is already in place. If we get approval, this will be a pop-up rescue with short notice. I’ll send out a special email if it works out.

**MAG June 9:** Participants in the Monarchs Across Georgia Workshop: Teaching About Pollinators in Agricultural Education on June 8-9 were excited to see the CPC-GNPS Pollinator Garden around the dog park at historic Fulwood Park in Tifton. Karan Rawlings gave a highly informative tour, describing the plants and providing tidbits about plants and animal pollinators. We were so enthralled that no one remembered to take a picture of her! The workshop was led by Susan Meyers and Mary Beth Cary, Co-chairs of Monarchs Across Georgia. <https://www.eealliance.org/monarchs-across-ga.html>

**Native Plant Field Day - June 26**

Native Plant Field Day, held at Alapaha River WMA on Saturday, June 26th, was very successful with registration filled. The program was led by Erin Cork, DNR biologist and CPC member, supported by Tony Kroeger (DNR), Jennifer Ward (Quail Forever), and other CPC members. We looked at many interesting plants and beautiful flowers in several natural communities from xeric deep sand to hydric cypress swamp.

**Coming Events: July-August ...**

**Great GA Pollinator Census** will be held **August 20-21**. Events are already being scheduled at Gaskins Forest Education Center in Alapaha and at the Butterfly Garden in Thomasville. There are probably many more that I haven’t heard about yet. If you are organizing an event, please share details with Heather Brasell to include in the August email to members. heather.brasell@gnps.org.

**Native Ferns Workshop** will be held on **Saturday, August 7** at Gaskins Forest Education Center in Alapaha. In case of bad weather, the alternate date will be the following Saturday, August 14. Richard Carter, VSU, will lead the program. Register with Heather Brasell – heather.brasell@gnps.org.

Weather permitting, we will conduct a morning field survey for ferns and lycophytes in a variety of habitats, with emphasis on their field identification and habitat associations. After lunch we will work indoors surveying diagnostic features useful in identification of a diverse array of ferns and lycophytes of Georgia, including life history, general aspects of classification, and some use of identification keys.

**Native Grasses Workshop** will be held on **Saturday, October 9** at Gaskins Forest Education Center in Alapaha. It will be presented by Richard Carter, VSU and will consist of field recognition, with follow-up inside workshop – similar format to the Ferns Workshop above. Register with Heather Brasell – heather.brasell@gnps.org.

**CPC Annual Meeting** will be held on **Saturday November 6** at Okefenokee Swamp Park, just 13 miles southeast from Waycross off U.S. 1/23. Save the Date! This is the site of one of our new collaborative projects. Mary Alice Applegate will be working on the program for the meeting so look for more information next month.

**Plant Sales**

The current plant list is at the end of this email and posted on our Facebook page. We use pots from 3” to one gallon**.** If you want to dispose of old pots, consider donating them to us for reuse.

* **In-person sales** are on hold until fall. We are considering sales in Tifton, Darien and St. Marys.
* **Online sales**: Minimum order of $25. See details for ordering and pickup on our Facebook site or at the end of this email.

**Certificate of Native Plants** has several online courses scheduled. See the websites for more information or contact Sean Cameron at **cscamero@uga.edu** or 706-542-6156*.*

* **Medicinal Plants of the Southeast (Elective):** Thursday, July 15 & Tuesday, July 20, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. [**https://t.uga.edu/6R6**](https://t.uga.edu/6R6)
* **Plant Conservation (CNP Core):** Saturday, August 7, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., self-paced exercises, and Wednesday, August 11, 5:30-6:30 p.m.  [**https://t.uga.edu/67N**](https://t.uga.edu/67N)

**Coastal Wildscapes** has lots of events scheduled for the rest of the year. Check out their website for details <https://www.coastalwildscapes.org/EVENTS>

* **July 12th: 8:30am: Invasive Species Walk: Jekyll Island**
* **August 14th: 11am-1pm: Birds of Prey Lunch & Learn: Skidaway Institute of Oceanography (SKIO), Savannah**

**New and Ongoing Community Projects**

**New – Waycross area:** We arestarting two new collaborative projects in the Waycross area (1) Okefenokee Swamp Park and (2)Okefenokee Heritage Center. Both projects were described briefly in the CPC June email. Please contact us if you would like to be part of these projects or if you know someone we should contact --Heather Brasell – heather.brasell@gnps.org.

**Ongoing – Crooked River State Park Meadow Project:** After the St. Marys plant sale, most of our CPC group went to take a look at the meadow project at Crooked River State Park – featured as one of the presentations at last annual meeting. Elizabeth King and Gail Farley are working on a fairly large site that transitions from a natural wooded area with diverse native plants to roadside area with bad encroachment of turf grasses. The area next to the road that they solarized last year is looking fantastic! There is not too much turf grass and lots of germinating forbs, although they are too small to tell what species. They plan to solarize an additional area this summer and they are organizing a group of volunteers to hand remove bahia grass. Great job!

**Ongoing: The Pines RV Pollinator Garden, Tifton**. Karan Rawlins is continuing work on this project collecting plants from many sources and engaging help from different volunteer groups. I look forward to seeing it next year. This will be a joy to behold!

**Ongoing Reminders**

* Community Projects: Consider starting an individual project of your own, but keep us posted on what you are doing and share photos with us at **heather.brasell@gnps.org**.
* Plant Rescues**:** If you know of a place where a plant rescue is warranted, contact Erin Cork at **erin.cork@gmail.com**
* Field Trips: Contact us if you have suggestions or requests for field trips or workshops at **heather.brasell@gnps.org**.
* Facebook**:** If you have information you’d like to post, send it to Paul Sumner at **psum@bellsouth.net**.
* Save the Date: Please let us know about events you’d like to have included in next month’s email to members at **heather.brasell@gnps.org**.
* Presentations and Publications: Please let us know about any presentations, publications, newspaper articles or other outreach activities. **heather.brasell@gnps.org***.*
* Certificate of Native Plants: GNPS has started a new scholarship program to support the Native Plant Certificate program administered by the State Botanical Garden. Two annual scholarships will be funded: one for a Piedmont resident, **one for a Coastal Plain resident**.

**Current Coastal Plain Chapter (CPC) Board**

Get to Know Your Board Member – Eamonn Leonard (Treasurer)

Eamonn, born and raised in Huntsville, Alabama, earned a BS in Horticulture (2000) from Auburn University. He worked at the J.W. Jones Ecological Research Center at Ichauway, then for the USGS in Idaho before attending graduate school at Utah State University and obtained an MS in Plant Ecology (2007) with a focus on invasive species. Eamonn currently works with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and completed a habitat mapping project that covered the 11 coastal counties of Georgia. Eamonn is now working on projects focused on assessment and management of invasive species on state lands in coastal Georgia, groundcover restoration and promoting the use of native species. Eamonn sits on the Conservation Task force for Cannons Point on Saint Simons Island, past-chairman of Coastal WildScapes, chairman of the Coastal Georgia Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, member of the Savannah Pest Risk Committee, treasurer for the Georgia Exotic Pest Plant Council, and treasurer for the Coastal Plain Chapter of the Georgia Native Plant Society. He is also on the GNPS Conservation Committee, leading the subcommittee reviewing restoration policies and protocols.

Eamonn currently resides in downtown Brunswick and enjoys being out in nature as much as possible be it hiking, camping, kayaking, or gardening.

* President: Heather Brasell – also member of GNPS Conservation Committee and Education 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: Erin Cork
* Membership and Communication: Paul Sumner
* Representative for North CPC: Greg Lewis
* Representative for West CPC: Mary Beth Cary
* Advisors: Ed McDowell, Karan Rawlins

I would like to encourageother 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****.**

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