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| **Members of Coastal Plain Chapter of GNPS**  **August 2021**  **Past Events**  **Pondberry Conservation:** Pondberry (Lindera melissifolia) is a listed plant species. Amy Heidt and Heather Brasell joined Lisa Kruse and other DNR biologists together with Lisa Ginke and other Jones Center biologists to monitor populations of pondberry in SW GA. They also planned future conservation management, including collecting seeds for banking and plant material for DNA testing. Pondberry forms colonies, so genetic analysis is needed to determine if a large clump consists of a single plant or multiple plants. This is important for deciding on management strategies.    **Coming Events: August-September ...**  **Native Ferns Workshop** will be held on **Saturday, 9 am to 3 pm on 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](mailto: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.  **Great GA Pollinator Census** will be held **August 20-21**. Events are already being scheduled at several sites:   * Alapaha: Tony Kroeger (DNR) and Jennifer Ward (Quail Forever) will lead an event at Gaskins Forest Education Center at 3359 Moore Sawmill Rd, Alapaha. Friday and Saturday 10 am to 2 pm. Contact (229) 420-1183 to register. * Midway: Erin Cork (DNR) will lead an event at Cay Creek Wetlands Interpretive Center at 189 Charlie Butler Rd, Midway, GA 31320. Friday and Saturday 10 am to 2 pm. Hosted by DNR Private Lands Program and Coastal WildScapes. Contact (229) 420-1183 to register. * There are probably other events that I haven’t heard about. In past years, there has been a public event at the Butterfly Garden in Thomasville.   **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](mailto:heather.brasell@gnps.org).  **CPC Annual Meeting Update:**Plans are shaping up for the CPC annual meeting, set for **Saturday, November 6** at the Okefenokee Swamp Park, 13 miles southeast from Waycross. Presentation speakers and topics are:   * Eamonn Leonard, Invasive Plants in the Urban Landscape & How to Treat Them * Erin Cork, Wildlife Habitat Garden Ponds * Heather Brasell, Wetland Restoration.   Following our business session and educational presentations, our group will be treated to a nature walk led by Katie Antczak, Environmental Science Education Coordinator with the Okefenokee Swamp Park. Katie is also a CPC GNPS member.  **Plant Sales:**Our inventory of available native plants changes throughout the year. **Check our Facebook page for the most up-to-date inventory.**   * **In-person sales** are on hold until fall We are considering sales in Tifton Wiregrass Farmers Market and Darien. We will need volunteers and a coordinator for the Tifton plant sales. * **Online sales**: Minimum order of $25. See details for ordering and pickup 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.  **Conservation Project Volunteering:**Interested in getting your hands dirty for plant conservation? Reach out to CPC Conservation Director Erin Cork at [**erin.cork@gmail.com**](mailto:erin.cork@gmail.com) to learn about opportunities to assist with native plant conservation projects near you.  **Certificate of Native Plants** has several online courses scheduled. See the websites for more information or contact Sean Cameron at [**cscamero@uga.edu**](mailto:cscamero@uga.edu) or 706-542-6156.   * **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://api.neonemails.com/emails/tracking/click-link/8iBlgyEATcFqYKnt2lTU0z273OkoWN7ySE2X2-0tibY=/NV07NEbdj9pPD4z0b6HMlpSayszQCcKHv-GX1llv01I=)   **Coastal Wildscapes** has lots of events scheduled for the rest of the year. Check out their website for details: [https://www.coastalwildscapes.org/EVENTS](https://api.neonemails.com/emails/tracking/click-link/8iBlgyEATcFqYKnt2lTU0z273OkoWN7ySE2X2-0tibY=/NV07NEbdj9pPD4z0b6HMlucBAHaKAByiYpW44_7W89o=)   * **August 14th: 11am-1pm:** Birds of Prey Lunch & Learn: Skidaway Institute of Oceanography (SKIO), Savannah     **New and Ongoing Community Projects**  **New Project: Okefenokee Heritage Center:** Katherine Melcher recently met with the Carla King, director of the Okefenokee Heritage Center, and others involved in planning a project to replace non-native plants before developing a native plant pollinator garden. Katherine is a CPC member and teaches landscaping courses at UGA.    **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 [**brasell@gnps.org**](mailto:heather.brasell@gnps.org). * Plant Rescues**:** If you know of a place where a plant rescue is warranted, contact Erin Cork at [**cork@gmail.com**](mailto:erin.cork@gmail.com) * Field Trips: Contact us if you have suggestions or requests for field trips or workshops at [**brasell@gnps.org**](mailto:heather.brasell@gnps.org). * Facebook**:** If you have information you’d like to post, send it to Paul Sumner at [**psum@bellsouth.net**](mailto: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 [**brasell@gnps.org**](mailto:heather.brasell@gnps.org). * Presentations and Publications: Please let us know about any presentations, publications, newspaper articles or other outreach activities. [**brasell@gnps.org**](mailto: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**.     **Coastal Plain Chapter (CPC) Board**  **Get to Know Your Board Member – Erin Cork Conservation Director**  As a wildlife biologist with Georgia DNR’s Private Lands Program, Erin provides technical assistance to private landowners interested in improving or creating wildlife habitat in their forests, farms, and backyards. Erin completed her M.S. in Wildlife Ecology from The University of Georgia, where her master’s research focused on habitat associations and management considerations for rare amphibians in longleaf pine communities. She has worked on amphibian conservation projects since 2013, which is around the same time she began to take an interest in the native plant communities that she regularly wandered or waded through in South Georgia’s forests, wetlands, and sandhills. She previously served as a wetland and wildlife consultant on the Oconee Rivers Greenway Commission in her hometown of Athens, Georgia and more recently joined the board of Coastal WildScapes. In her role as the Conservation Director for the Coastal Plain Chapter of GNPS, she coordinates opportunities for CPC volunteers to assist local and state agencies with conservation activities.  A recent transplant to the coast, she stays busy exploring the many natural areas in her new part of the state; photographing tiny things; inventorying her backyard wildlife; mediating terrier-wildlife disputes; and studying, propagating, and gardening with native plants on her property.  **CPC Nominating Committee Update**:  The CPC Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to put together a slate of officers to be voted on at our annual meeting. The committee consists of Gail Farley, Paula Wheatley, Mary Beth Cary, and Mary Alice Applegate. We encourage new members to serve on the board. New people bring new ideas and fresh commitment.  If you would like to become more involved in our chapter or if you would like to nominate someone else, contact Mary Alice Applegate at [*maapple@mac.com*](mailto:maapple@mac.com).  **Current CPC Board Members**   * 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 |

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