



Georgia Native Plant Society

INTOWN ATLANTA CHAPTER

Annual Meeting - Sunday, November 12, 2023

Agenda

- I. Chapter Year-in-Review
- II. Committee Breakouts
- III. Board Election (*members-only voting*)
- IV. Nikki Belmonte, GNPS Executive Director
- V. Panel: Replacing Lawn with Native Habitat
- VI. Brief History of Kendeda Building's Native Habitat + Optional Tour





Your Chapter Board of Directors

Alex Dileo, Chair

Grace Manning, Vice Chair

Amy Lederberg, Secretary

Wende Crow, Treasurer

Kim Hansen

Baker Owens

Lauren Owens

**With three new members to be determined by vote today!*



Year in Review: Celebrating Wins!

Tabling & Presentations: Buckhead Garden Club, Ormewood Park Festival, Beecatur

Winter Seed Sowing Workshop at Metropolitan Library

Druid Hills Tour of Homes Partnership

Tour of Kendeda Living Building & Native Habitat

Great Southeastern Pollinator Census

Edible Natives Event + Garden Tour at GSU Perimeter College

Landscape Design Event

2nd Annual Native Garden Tour - Sold Out!

Tours of GNPS Certified Properties, led by Certification Committee

Tireless restoration work at Herbert Taylor, Zonolite, Mary Scott

¼ of membership in a Community Pod!

New logo and yard signs



Year in Review: Membership Growth & Community Pods

532 current members, including 174 new members since this time last year. Wow!

Check your membership! We had 79 households lapse last year on December 31. GNPS has since moved to a rolling membership model.

You can do so on the gnps.org site by clicking “login/member portal” in the top right. Affiliate with the Intown chapter to receive our emails.

Membership levels:

Individual (\$30)

Family (\$50)

Senior, 55 and older (\$25)

Full-time Student (\$25)

Corporate/Commercial/Educational (\$250)

Lifetime Individual/Family (\$1000)

Memberships make great gifts for the holidays!



Georgia Native Plant Society

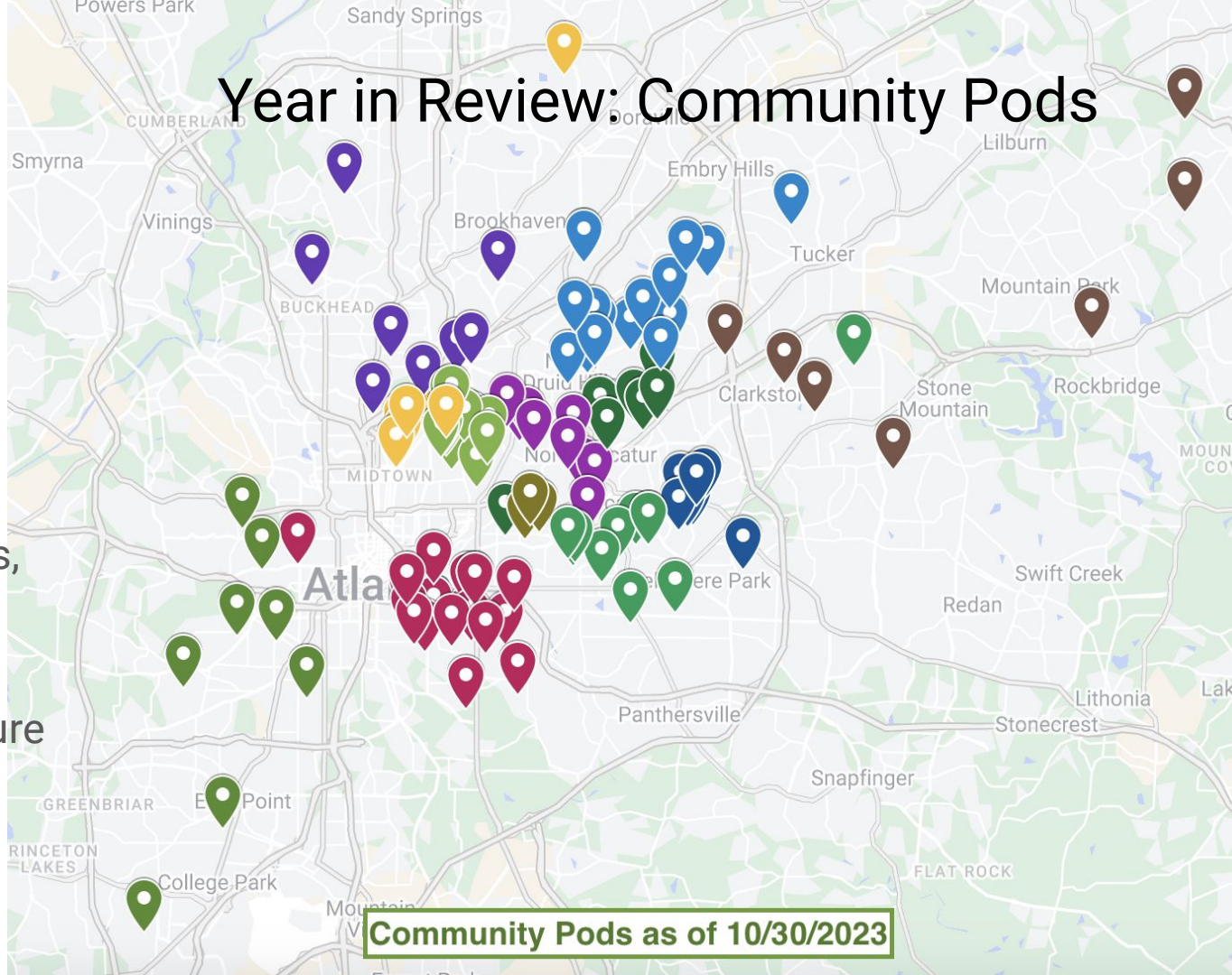
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11 active pods with 111
members

Membership-driven

Building native plant
community through swaps,
work days, neighborhood
restoration (e.g., Walker
Park, Clyde Shepherd Nature
Preserve), tabling, etc.

Join: email
intown@gnps.org





Year in Review: Financial Snapshot

\$5,481.99 in the bank as of January 2023

\$16,554.24 balance as of October 30, 2023

Major revenue sources:

- 25% of Intown membership dues come to the chapter annually
- 2nd annual habitat tour ticket sales
- Donations and sponsorships (special thank you to our native nurseries + retailers!)

Major expenses:

- Program costs: materials, venues, speaker fees
- Board reserve for future signature programs: booking high-profile speakers, etc.



Year in Review: Bylaws Revision - Approved!

APPROVED CHANGE TO ARTICLE 5, SECTION 2:

“Membership. **The CBOD shall consist of between seven and ten members**, which number shall include all the officers as set out in Article 8, all of whom shall be GNPS members in good standing. Directors will be elected by procedures set forth in Article 9.”

APPROVED CHANGE TO ARTICLE 5, SECTION 3:

“Terms. **Directors shall be elected for a term of three years**. The term of office shall commence on January 1 following the election and shall end on December 31 three years later. Directors may be reelected and may succeed themselves for one additional term and may be re-elected as Directors after a one-year absence from the CBOD.”



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INTOWN ATLANTA CHAPTER

Committee Reports: Programming & Education

Co-Chairs: Donna Shapiro & Matt Westbrook

Goals: To dream up and implement creative programs and events to advance the GNPS mission.

Wins: Druid Hills Tour of Homes support and staffing, Winter Sowing, Invasive Plants; Native Plant Swap; Field trip to the Keneda Building at GaTec; Landscape Designing with Native Plants; Pollinator Census and the Garden Tour.

What's Next? For 2024, we plan to repeat some of 2023 programs like the Native Plant Swap, Native Plant Landscape Design and the Garden Tour. We are working on adding new programs and tweaking others. For example, in January we are putting together a program called Your Year in Native Gardening which will include information on monthly tasks and blooming times.

Next Meeting: Sunday, January 7, 2024 from 10am - noon at Donna Shapiro's Home



Our fabulous panelists from the
Landscaping Design with Native
Plants event.

Committee Reports: Restoration

Co-Chairs: Suzy Nicksic, Jane Trentin, Marti Breen

Goals: Invasive removal and native plantings at four certified sites; ongoing park stewardship; volunteer education in restoration best practices

Sites: Mary Scott Nature Preserve, Herbert Taylor and Daniel Johnson Park, Zonolite Park, W. D. Thomson Park

Sign up for a work day via the gnps.org events calendar.



Dedicated Intown restoration leaders
after a day of hard work!



Committee Reports: Advocacy

Co-Chairs: Kathleen Darling & Sally Phipps

Focuses: Influencing commercial plant trade; working with public partners on native plantings in right-of-ways, etc; local developers

Next Meeting: January 10, 2024 from 6-7pm on Zoom

Call to Action: Join tomorrow's virtual rally at 2pm EST. See November NativeScape email newsletter for link.

**GROWING BIPARTISAN
SUPPORT FOR PLANTS**

WITH OVER \$1 TRILLION BILLION FOR
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

NOVEMBER 13

2-3 PM EST

**PLANT CONSERVATIONISTS'
VIRTUAL RALLY**

IN SUPPORT OF
RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE ACT

HOSTED BY

SEPCA
SE PLANT CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

NATURESERVE

**ATLANTA
BOTANICAL
GARDEN**



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Committee Reports: Certification

Co-Chairs: Sharon Worsham & Rita Gowler

Seven certified garden visits for small groups of GNPS members to talk with homeowners about how to become certified. Another series will begin in March.

Certified six Intown properties as native plant habitats this year (3 Gold and 3 Silver awards), and there are 5 properties pending certification (3 Gold and 2 Silver).

To apply for Native Plant Habitat Certification, go to the GNPS website, gnps.org, and search under Conservation for 'Native Plant Habitat Certification' to get complete information and how to apply.



GNPS member Cathy Rouse in her home habitat with her Silver award.



Committee Reports: Communications

Chair: Baker Owens

Goals: Spreading the word about native plant events, news, and educational resources. Making fun and engaging content to attract new members and event participants.

Wins: Bi-monthly Intown newsletter, social media presence, new Intown-specific Facebook group for local plant community, new logo and yard signs + more “swag” to come

Next Meeting: TBD



Committee breakout session (10 minutes)

Use this time to meet a new committee of interest, or reconnect with an existing.



**Members may also
nominate from the floor.*

Voting: Slate of Directors Proposed by Intown Board

Taryn Heidel has experience leading volunteer projects specifically for planting, teaching plant identification, and invasive plant removal projects, as well as managing program budgets. Taryn is the Senior Arborist with the City of Atlanta's Department of Parks and Recreation, and was previously the Forest Restoration Manager for Trees Atlanta.

Sarah Lawrence runs her own design agency and has a great cross-section of knowledge about nonprofit functions, from programming to communications. She would love to apply those skills to native plant gardening. Sarah recently completed a year-long apprenticeship at the Wylde Center.

Laura Qadri has experience collaborating with municipalities and community members for restoration projects and is completing the Forest Stewardship training with Trees Atlanta. Laura also led a native plant gardening initiative at a local elementary school and is working with our chapter's Programming & Education committee to provide additional workshops and garden installations.



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CONSERVATION • EDUCATION • STEWARDSHIP

Growing a Better Landscape in Georgia: Where We Are and Where We're Going

Nikki Belmonte, Executive Director



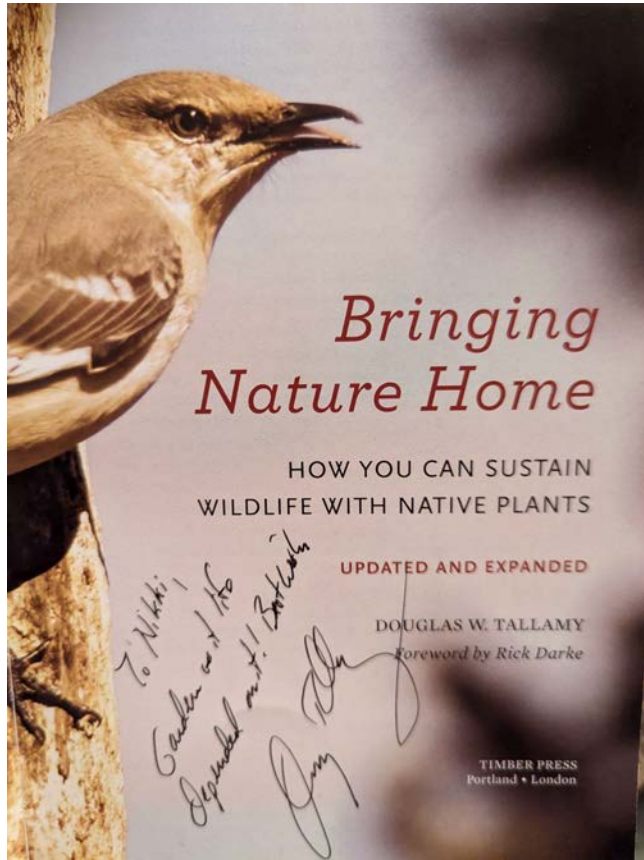
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Native plants are having a moment.



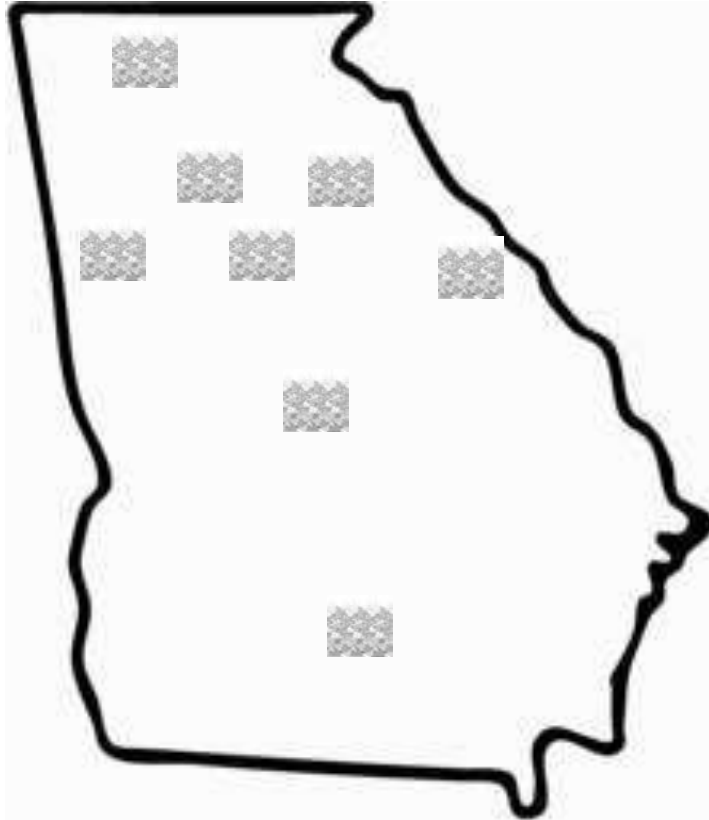
Trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*) along the Chattahoochee River.



“Garden as if life depended on it!”



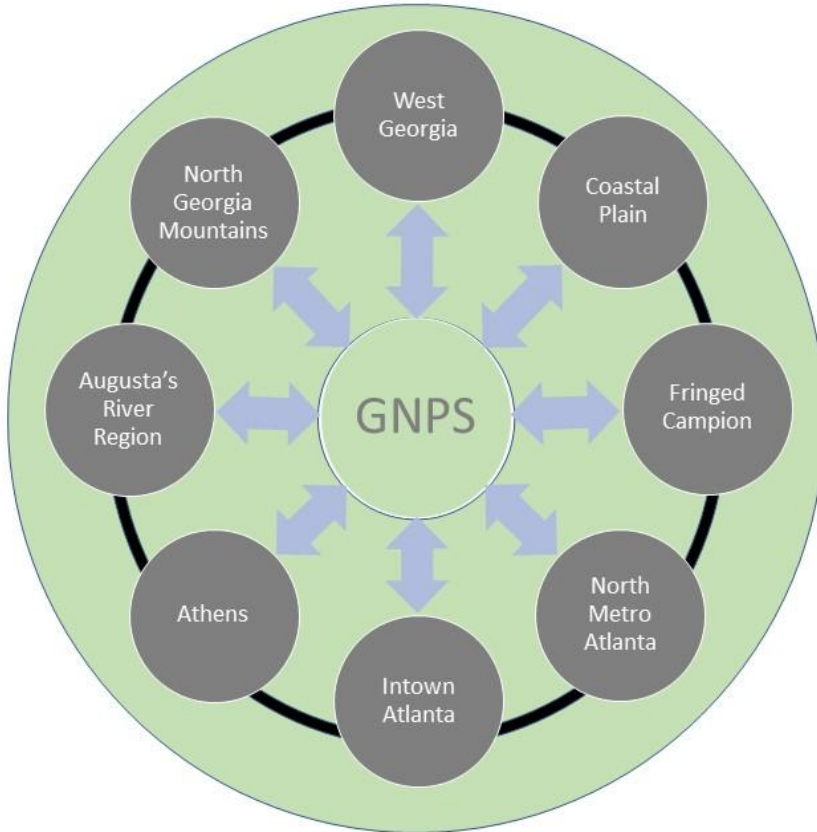
**Let's share the load with
our fellowship.**



GNPS Chapters

1. North Georgia Mountains
2. North Metro Atlanta
3. West Georgia
4. Intown Atlanta
5. Athens-East Piedmont
6. Augusta's River Region
7. Fringed Campion (Middle GA/Macon)
8. Coastal Plain (entire ecoregion)

Demonstrating Interest
Savannah



State Committees

Executive Committee

Governance Committee

Education Committee

Habitat Certification Subcommittee

Conservation Committee

Rescue Subcommittee

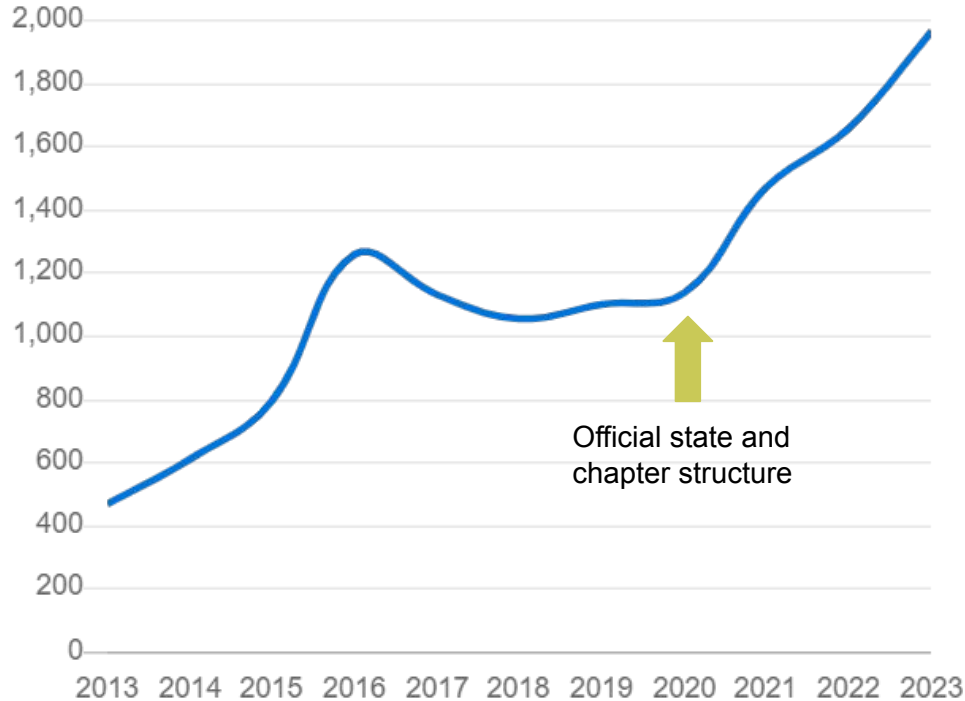
Restoration Subcommittee

Propagation Subcommittee

Advocacy Committee

Chapter Council

10 Year Growth



October 2023
1,730 memberships
1,963 members

***This is a
movement!***

How do we keep spreading our rhizomes and seeds with gusto?



Ironweed (*Vernonia* spp.)



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Georgia Native Plant Society
2022-2025 Strategic Plan

Grow a Better Landscape



With that settled,
we wondered how we can
leverage what we do best?

How can we best
serve our members,
grow statewide,
and help Georgians
grow a better landscape?

Focus Area: Education

1. Create an educational pathway.
2. Educate traditional landscaping professionals, municipalities, and developers.
3. Empower our chapters for success through training and other state-level support.



Focus Area: Conservation

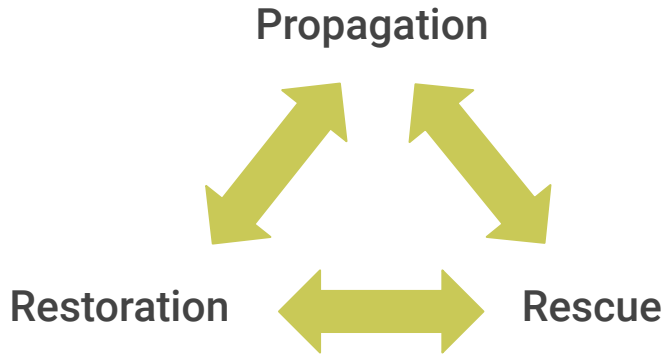
1. Create a “Habitat Corridor” and promote a map with partner.
2. Expand the GNPS Plant Rescue program.
3. Expand the GNPS Habitat Restoration program.

** Propagation strategies weaved into Rescue & Restoration.*



Focus Area: Conservation

What does robust and impactful conservation look like?



Focus Area: Advocacy

1. Work with municipalities on favorable plant policies.
2. Be an active voice in state and regional policy and legislation.



Focus Area:

Organizational Sustainability

1. Increase supporters.
2. Develop and secure resources so GNPS and its chapter network may grow and thrive.



GNPS grows people who love native plants.



Let's normalize native plants in our communities.



Let's join in
fellowship and grow
a better landscape in
Georgia together!

Nikki Belmonte
Executive Director
nbelmonte@gnps.org

Panel: Replacing Non-Native Lawn with Native Plant Habitat



Alex's House - July 2020 -> October 2023



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Tres Crow | Roots Down, Greenbox Homes



Cottages on Vaughn



Old Crow Hill Suburban Experiment





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Roxann Drew | Shades of Green Permaculture

Lawn transformation doesn't happen overnight. "Shrinking" your lawn is a great way to begin.



Tea Povolny | EcoLogic



Who needs a headshot when you could picture your favorite native plant? Splitbeard Bluestem Grass (*Andropogon ternarius*)



Rain garden magic. What a difference a year (or three!) makes!



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Mandy Fisher | The Gentle Gardener

Maintenance! Lawn conversion is not a “one and done”



Retaining wall, before and after



Common natives that might be
“hiding” in your lawn





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Volunteer appreciation - You are GNPS!





And we still need you! You bring our mission to life.

Existing committees - join something!

Lend your skills - graphic design, photography, event planning, tabling, native plant subject matter expertise, proposed + lead a workshop

Start something new within our chapter - Intown plant rescues

Financial support - make a tax-deductible donation

Interested but not sure where you fit? See Alex or another board member after the meeting, or email intown@gnps.org