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Coastal Plain Chapter

Georgia Native Plant Society

**Members of Coastal Plain Chapter of GNPS
Newsletter April 2022**



In photo above, Amy Carter (center), one of the founders of the South Georgia Native Plant & Wildflower Symposium, holds the plaque presented

by Amy Heidt (left), CPC and GNPS Board member, and Rita Hightower, President of the Camellia District, Garden Clubs of Georgia, Inc.

South Georgia Native Plant & Wildflower Symposium returns

The Coastal Plain Chapter GNPS and the Camellia District of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. successfully resurrected the South Georgia Native Plant & Wildflower Symposium on March 30. Eighty-one attendees enjoyed presentations, native plant sales, educational booths, and a recognition of one of the symposium's founders.

Over a dozen door prizes added to the excitement of attending an in-person event after two years of cancellations due to Covid. The grounds and buildings of The Crescent at Valdosta Garden Center were open as a bonus attraction for symposium attendees. The event was well-attended by garden club members, and Peggy Tucker, President of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., drove down from Hartwell for the event.

The symposium committee plans to re-group and discuss what worked or can be improved after evaluations are reviewed.

Check out the [@CoastalPlainGNPS](#) Facebook page for more symposium photos. Presentations will be shared on the [Coastal Plain GNPS website](#) in a few days.

Big thanks to all who worked so hard on this!



It's the season for native plant sales

Amy Heidt and Paul Sumner have been gearing up for months (see their greenhouse / nursery setup above) ; UGA Tifton students have been propagating seeds as part of their studies; CPC members Heather Brasell, Marilynne Marshall, Mary Alice Applegate and others have contributed seedlings; and recently, CPC members Helene Dutcher, Mary Beth Cary and others have weeded the plants to make sure they look their best. Propagation efforts require lots of hands!

Here's the plant sale schedule for the April and May 2022:

- April 9—Coastal WildScapes Plant Sale, Darien
- April 16— Wiregrass Farmers Market, Tifton
- May 5—Rosalynn Carter Butterfly Symposium, Plains
- May 14—Wiregrass Farmers Market, Tifton
- May 21—St. Mary's Garden Club, St. Mary's

The inventory of plants will be posted on the [@CoastalPlainGNPS](#) Facebook page; online sales add convenience.

Check the [GNPS Events](#) page for location details about each sale.

Day in the Woods

Marilynne Marshall is organizing activities with a booth at A Day in the Woods event at [Gaskins Forest Education Center](#) in Alapaha on Saturday, April 23. CPC will be donating native plants and doing a leaf print activity. CPC has supported this community event since its inception in 2015. Contact Mary Alice Applegate (maapple@mac.com) if you would like to assist.

Camp OSCAR

Marilynne Marshall and Heather Brasell are coordinating our support for [Camp OSCAR](#) (Okefenokee Sustainability, Conservation, Advocacy, and Respect) at Okefenokee Swamp Park this summer. We have scheduled sessions on May 24 morning, May 26 morning, and May 27 morning and afternoon. We are planning to lead the children with plant identification and leaf print activities, then each child will plant a native plant in the garden area. Contact Heather Brasell (heather.brasell@gmail.com) if you would like to assist.

Other Earth Day activities

The Coastal Plain Chapter is donating two flats of native plants to the Earth Day Plant Sale on April 23 at the Wiregrass Farmers Market in Tifton. The plant sale funds the Environmental Studies Chair of the Tift County Foundation for Educational Excellence. Last year, the CPC received all unsold native plants propagated in the Tift County High School greenhouse.

Congrats are in order:

The State Botanical Garden of Georgia recently awarded Gail Farley of St. Mary's her Certificate in Native Plants. In addition, CPC members Paul Sumner and Marilynne Marshall of Tifton received their certificate at the SBGG Symposium in Athens in February. Over the years, 11 Coastal Plain Chapter members have completed this program. For more information about the certificate program and other classes see <https://botgarden.uga.edu/education/adult-programs/>.

DNR Grants to Promote Wildlife Viewing

Georgia Department of Natural Resources recently awarded six Wildlife Viewing Grants. Congrats to Friends of Lost Creek Forest in Thomasville, one of the six grant recipients. The \$3,000 grant will add trail markers and two kiosks to improve access and outreach to the publicly owned, old-growth slope forest.

Wildlife Viewing Grants help develop wildlife-viewing opportunities that increase public awareness and appreciation of nongame wildlife, rare native plant species and natural habitats. The program emphasizes species and

habitats considered conservation priorities in Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan.

Consider applying for the grant for a project in your area—even an elementary school has been funded for a pollinator garden. Check the DNR website; details for 2023 applications will be released in the fall:

<https://georgiawildlife.com/WildlifeViewingGrants>.

Looking for another way to support wildlife, including native plants?

Buy a DNR license plate to support conservation:

georgiawildlife.com/licenseplates.

CPC Board Spotlight: Elizabeth King, Treasurer

Elizabeth King is a retired high school science teacher living in St. Marys. She is a long time member of the Georgia Botanical Society, inspired to do so by her UGA professor Wilbur Duncan. She is the BotSoc Spring Pilgrimage registrar. Elizabeth is president of the St. Marys Garden Club. In addition to working in her own garden, she received a National Garden Club Plant America grant for restoring a pollinator area at Crooked River State Park. Elizabeth helped St. Marys Middle School receive a DNR grant to start a native plant garden which spring-boarded SMMS gaining an ag teacher. Elizabeth completed the Certificate in Native Plants offered by the State Botanical Garden of Georgia in 2016.

CPC Board meetings: ^{SEP}The next meeting of CPC Board of Directors is May 18, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. via zoom. Board meetings are open to all CPC members. Contact Mary Alice Applegate maryalice.applegate@gnps.org to request a zoom link.

CPC Board of Directors

Mary Alice Applegate, President

Jimmy Lindsey, Vice President

Katie Antczak, Secretary

Elizabeth King, Treasurer

Heather Brasell, Past President and CPC Education Committee Chair

Erin Cork, CPC Conservation Chair

Paul Sumner, CPC Membership Chair

Amy Heidt, CPC Propagation Chair

Gail Farley, Representative, East Coast

Mary Beth Cary, Representative, West Georgia

The Coastal Plain Chapter of the Georgia Native Plant Society focuses on native plant species and ecosystem issues in the Coastal Plain region of Georgia.



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