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# Coastal Plain Chapter

## *Georgia Native Plant Society*



**2022 December Email to CPC Members**

**CPC Annual Meeting Highlights**

The annual meeting held at the Okefenokee Swamp Park in Waycross offered members an opportunity to learn from speakers, share seeds, and enjoy the

outdoors during a nature walk led by Katie Antczak. See our CPC [Facebook page](#) for more photos.

During the meeting, we discussed a key issue identified in our “**Big Picture**” planning sessions. Our goal to promote native plants requires changing the mindset of homeowners and professional landscapers. We must continue to “Show, Tell and Provide” native plants. See the full [summary](#) of the discussion facilitated by CPC Vice-President Jimmy Lindsey.



Pictured above from left to right are Mincy Moffett, USFWS Biologist, and Jennifer Ceska, GPCA Coordinator, presenting the Good Egg Awards to Amy Heidt and Paul Sumner.

### **Coastal Plain Chapter Members Honored by Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance**

Recently CPC members Amy Heidt and Paul Sumner attended the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance (GPCA) Fall Meeting in Brunswick, Ga. At the meeting, they were surprised and honored to receive two of the first “Good Egg” awards given by the group for their contributions to native plant conservation in the state of Georgia.

Amy and Paul have been members of GPCA as plant guardians/volunteers since about 2016. Amy and Paul serve as GPCA Botanical Guardians and assist with plant rescues and restorations. They are also active with rare plant safeguarding - maintaining both ex-situ plant collections and propagating

additional materials for in-situ conservation on protected lands. They manage propagation projects and contribute directly to the conservation work of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the State Botanical Garden of Georgia.

### **Native Plant Rescues Coming in 2023**

CPC members Heather Brasell, Amy Heidt and Mary Alice Applegate recently scouted two sites on a Berrien County forest property that had been clearcut and is scheduled to be sprayed with herbicide before replanting of pines. The property owner has given permission to rescue plants found on the site. Heather, Amy and Mary Alice collected seeds and identified many species worth saving. Check our newsletter and GNPS calendar for rescue dates to be determined in early 2023.

### **GNPS Restoration Networking Forum**

The GNPS Restoration Subcommittee is hosting a Networking Forum on **Dec. 6, 2022** at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. This will provide an opportunity to ask questions and share ideas on habitat restoration projects. Some of the topics include Gardening vs. Restoration, Volunteers, Plant Sourcing Issues, and Funding Basics. If you are interested, please contact Heather Brasell [heather.brasell@gnps.org](mailto:heather.brasell@gnps.org).

### **Sweet Pepperbush Article by Katie Antczak**

Coastal Plain Chapter members contribute articles on native plants to the digital magazine, *Southern Soil*. Read Katie Antczak's article on Sweet Pepperbush / *Clethra alnifolia*, in the [2022 fall issue](#), found on pages 26-29.

### **Save the Date —March 15, 2023**

The South Georgia Native Plant and Wildflower Symposium is coming for the second year on March 15, 2023, at [Ga. Museum of Agriculture](#) in Tifton. Speakers and other details will be announced at the beginning of the new year.



**Native Plant Gardens Across the Coastal Plain**

New native plant gardens are growing at schools and public places in the Coastal Plain Region. In left photo above: St. Mary’s Middle School life science students install plants at their new pollinator garden. Chapter member Elizabeth King coordinated the CPC grant application for the school. Middle photo: Tiftarea Junior Garden Club members created butterfly-themed stepping stones to embellish the new pollinator garden at the Tifton-Tift County Library. CPC members Ky Tanton and Marilynne Marshall lead students in activities. Right photo: The [Pollinator Garden](#) at Thomasville’s Cherokee Park has lots of pollinators enjoying blooms, even in November. The garden is maintained by Friends of Lost Creek Forest, headed by CPC member Beth Grant.

**CPC Provides Seeds for Fundraiser**

Gretchen Quarterman of WWALS Watershed Coalition (Suwannee Riverkeepers) requested native plant seeds for a fundraising project—a silent auction in Valdosta featuring decorated Christmas trees. She assembled a tree decorated with clear balls containing seed pods and seeds of over 20 native plant species, The balls were labeled with common and scientific plant names. See the [WWALS web post](#) with photos of the balls and a list of the species represented. Proceeds benefit their advocacy activities.

**CPC Board meetings:** <sup>11</sup><sub>SEP</sub> The next meeting of CPC Board of Directors is January 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. via zoom. Board meetings are open to all CPC

members. Contact Mary Alice Applegate [maryalice.applegate@gnps.org](mailto:maryalice.applegate@gnps.org) to request a Zoom link. Minutes of all meetings are available, if requested.

### **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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