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Coastal Plain Chapter

Georgia Native Plant Society

Members of Coastal Plain Chapter of GNPS Newsletter February 2022

President's comments:

During the chilly days of February, CPC members have several opportunities to learn about the role of native plants in biodiversity. Symposium, workshop and field trip opportunities are announced below. For those who garden with native plants in their landscape, February tasks may include giving your Muhly grass a haircut. In the first photo, CPC Member Marilynne Marshall trims Muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*) in Tifton's Fulwood Park. Second photo: Muhly grass has had a good raking, but remains unpruned.



CPC Invites Native Plant Enthusiasts to Symposium in Valdosta:
Registration is open for the **South Georgia Native Plant & Wildflower**

Symposium, set for **Wed., March 30, 2022**, at **The Crescent at Valdosta Garden Center**, located at 904 North Patterson Street. Co-sponsored by the Coastal Plain Chapter of the Georgia Native Plant Society and the Camellia District of the Garden Club of Georgia, Inc., the event features three educational sessions, with ample time to purchase native plants from vendors.

Presentations begin at 9:15 a.m., and topics and speakers include:

Know It and Grow It, Native Plants in the Landscape—Amy Carter
Native Plant Hosts: Attracting Beneficial Insects to Your Garden for a Healthy Ecosystem—Allie Snyder and Lisa Giencke
Monarchs and Milkweed—Mary Beth Cary.

Cost is \$45.00 and includes a boxed lunch. At the end of the symposium, the CPC Chapter will have our annual spring chapter meeting. Non-member guests are welcome. For more information, and to register online, go to www.sgnpws.org. Registration **deadline is March 11, 2022**. We are looking for CPC members to **volunteer** on the day of the symposium. Please contact Amy Heidt (ameidty@bellsouth.net) if you are able to help.

Help Propagate Plants for CPC Plant Sales:

It's a very satisfying process to propagate plants from seeds. In photo below, see a simple set up for propagating swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) indoors. In mid-February, I placed a seed starter tray in front of a south-facing sunny window, with supplemental light from an Ott light. Seeds had been cold/moist stratified in the refrigerator. Note: you can also easily start seeds outdoors in late February, March, and April.



CPC could use your help. Contact **Amy Heidt** (ameidty@bellsouth.net), if you would like seeds, pots, and flats for CPC plant sales. (These are not seed

starter trays with clear covers). You can take one flat or as many as ten, if you will use them! Amy will make them available at the March 30th symposium.

GNPS Annual Symposium—“Healing Our Habitats: At Home and in the Wild”

The annual GNPS symposium is again a two-day online event, presented in partnership with Georgia Audubon. On **Sat., Feb. 19**, and **Sun., Feb. 20, 2022**, five educational sessions will focus on using native plants in our home and community landscapes and conserving them in the wild. Sessions will be recorded for future playback for registrants. Cost is \$10/day for GNPS / Audubon members or \$12 for non-members. For registration and further information:

<https://georgiaaudubon.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/georgiaaudubon/eventRegistration.jsp?event=2199&>. (Ignore the popup asking Audubon members to login.)

CPC Native Plant Education on the Road in Southwest Georgia:

CPC will have an educational booth and offer a short stage presentation on **March 5**, at the **Whigham, Ga. Rattlesnake Roundup**. We will be among other organizations providing conservation and environmental education, including the Department of Natural Resources, Quail Forever, and Southeastern Reptile Rescue. Contact CPC Education Director **Heather Brasell** (heather.brasell@gmail.com) if you can help man the CPC booth. For information about the event, contact **Jess McGuire** (jmcguire@quailforever.org). Note: Snakes may be on display for educational purposes, but they are not harmed or killed.

Four New Pollinator Garden projects in the works:

The CPC chapter has a role in the creation of new pollinator gardens in **Nashville, Waycross, Alapaha, and Albany, Ga.** In Nashville, CPC Members Donna Herrin and Heather Brasell are helping the Berrien Middle School Wildlife Club. In Waycross, CPC members Katherine Melcher, Marilynne Marshall, and Karan Rawlins are involved in the planning at the Okefenokee Heritage Center. In Alapaha, CPC members Heather Brasell and Katherine Melcher are helping the city plan new landscaping at the Alapaha Railroad Depot. In Albany, CPC member Jimmy Lindsey is working with the local Master Gardner group in bringing new life (and new plants) into the Chehaw Native Plant/Pollinator project. Assistance varies by project, but includes advice on native plant selection, design assistance, and provision of native plants propagated by the CPC.

CPC Grants for Pollinator Gardens:

CPC has provided funds for several native plant gardens through a grant of

up to \$100.00. Schools in Tifton and St. Mary's have benefitted in the past. Plants may be purchased from a native plant nursery, but it is preferred that plants are obtained from the CPC plant sale inventory, if available. For information and a grant application, contact **Amy Heidt** (ameidty@bellsouth.net) or **Heather Brasell** (heather.brasell@gmail.com).

Upcoming Educational Opportunities:

The State Botanical Garden of Georgia offers classes for those interested in a Certificate in Native Plants or the Plants & Pollinators Specialization Program. Registration: <https://botgarden.uga.edu/education/adult-programs>. Contact Sean Cameron for questions about registration, cscamero@uga.edu or 706-542-6156.

Feb. 5, 2022: Hidden World: The Survival Systems of Plants (State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens)

Feb. 7, 9, 16, 2022: Natural Communities of Georgia (online)

Feb. 11, 2022: Connect to Protect Leadership Workshop (State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens)

Feb. 18, 2022: Native Plant Propagation (State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens)

Feb. 23, 2022: Native Plant Symposium (State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Athens)

State Botanical Society Field Trip to Wolf Creek Trout Lily Preserve

CPC member Beth Grant invites CPC members to an all day Georgia Botanical Society field trip on **Feb. 19, 2022**, to see Lost Creek Forest, The Big Woods at Greenwood Plantation in Thomas County, and Wolf Creek Trout Lily Preserve in Whigham. To sign up for the field trip, email bethgrant@bellsouth.net. For additional information about **Wolf Creek Trout Lily Preserve**, check their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/wolfcreektroutlilypreserve/>

CPC Board meetings:

The next meeting of CPC Board of Directors is **March 16, 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. The chapter meets as a whole in Valdosta, after the symposium on March 30th.

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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