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Coastal Plain Chapter

Georgia Native Plant Society

Preparing for the Fall Annual Meeting on Nov. 12, 2022

This email contains all the reports of chapter activities through Nov. 5, 2022. At the end of the report, you will see the minutes from our last general meeting, held in Valdosta on March 28, 2022. Minutes were recorded by Jimmy Lindsey, CPC Vice President.

Please look over this report and the minutes before the meeting, so we can allow more time to hear from members on our "Big Picture" plans. We will also ask for members' feedback on a new brochure.

Coastal Plains Chapter Annual Report 2022

CPC Financials—Elizabeth King

In 2022, our total income was \$12,662.30 (from Plant Sales, GNPS contributions, and fees). Total expenses were \$5,798.34 (Communication, supplies, sales tax). Total Net Revenue was \$6,863.96. Income from the 2022 South Georgia Native Plant and Wildlife Symposium was \$3,484.50; expenses were \$1,921.90, for a net revenue of \$1,562.60.

Activities Highlights:

The CPC partnered with the Camellia District, Garden Clubs of Georgia, Inc., to revive the **South Georgia Native Plant and Wildflower Symposium**, held this year in Valdosta. Educational sessions and a plant sale were enjoyed by 88 attendees. Speakers: Amy Carter, "Know it and Grow it, Native Plants in the Landscape;" Allie Snyder and Lisa Giencke: Native Plant Hosts: Attracting Beneficial Insects to your Garden for a Healthy Ecosystem;" and Mary Beth Cary: "Monarchs and Milkweed." **Save the date** for the next SGNPWS, to be held in **Tifton** at the **Georgia Museum of Agriculture**, on **March 15, 2023**.

CPC Plant Propagation and Sales—Amy Heidt

Our chapter provided nine opportunities to purchase native plants from March - November, with plant sales in Valdosta, Darien (2), Tifton (4), Plains, St. Mary's, and Albany. Thanks to major propagation efforts by Amy Heidt and Paul Sumner, along with other CPC members who grew plants, supplied seeds, and volunteered at plant sales, we sold 2,254 plants, grew over 99 species, with gross revenue of \$11,926.27.

We thank Heather Brasell, Karan Rawlins, Erin Cork, Mary Alice Applegate, Marilynne Marshall, Mary Beth Cary, Kylie Tanton, Amy Blackmarr, Carol Gibbs, Lynn and Emma Watkins, Norris Wooten, Jimmy Lindsey, Helen and Jim Dutcher, Colleen Weinkle, Elizabeth King, Gail Farley, Erin Cork, and Katie Antczak for help in propagation, weeding, and volunteering at plant sales.

We are getting plants in yards and public gardens, while earning funds to support other projects. Anyone wishing to learn about native plant propagation is welcome to visit the propagation site and learn from hands-on volunteering in plant propagation. Contact Amy Heidt ammeidty@bellsouth.net.

CPC Supported Public Gardens

In 2022, CPC supported school gardens in Tifton (3), St. Mary's (2), and has approved support for a new elementary school garden and greenhouse in Omega. Our chapter provided plants for the Junior Gardener Butterfly Garden at the Tifton-Tift County Library; the Okefenokee Swamp Park pollinator gardens, planted by kids attending Camp Oscar; and the Fulwood Park native plant habitat in Tifton.

In the works are another school garden in Berrien County and GNPS Restoration Projects at Chehaw Park in Albany, the Alapaha train station in Alapaha, and a new pollinator garden at the Okefenokee Heritage Center in Waycross.

CPC Educational Outreach—Heather Brasell

Our chapter partnered with [Gaskins Forest Education Center](#) to co-host several events, including Day in the Woods, the 2022 Pollinator Census, a Native Grasses Workshop, and a Groundcover Restoration Field Day. We provided educational booths and lectures by Heather Brasell at the Whigham Rattlesnake Roundup, Whigham, GA, and the Water, Wings and Wildlife event, Albany, GA.

For the second summer, we provided native plant activities during three days at Camp OSCAR, a kids camp at the Okefenokee Swamp Park. We donated native plants and brochures for the Earth Day plant sale, conducted by the Tift County Foundation for Educational Excellence in Tifton, GA.

Outreach to New Audiences:

CPC provided five fall-blooming species for a native plant exhibit at the Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie, GA, in partnership with DNR and Quail Forever. Marilynne Marshall, an active member of our chapter and of the Magnolia Garden Club in Tifton, created an educational exhibit “Plant This, Not That” for the Standard Flower Show at the Georgia National Fair. Part of the exhibit was a document titled “Native Substitutes for Common Landscaping Plants,” compiled with input by CPC board members and native plant nursery owners, Greg Lewis and Deb Shepherd.

CPC Conservation

CPC members Amy Heidt, Paul Sumner, Heather Brasell and Marilynne Marshall partnered with Ga. DNR, the Ga. Plant Conservation Alliance and the State Botanical Garden, to identify, rescue and preserve native plants. A highlight this year was a partnership with DNR, DOT, and SBG, where CPC members worked with Fringed Campion Chapter members, to rescue plants that would have been lost due to DOT construction in Twiggs County.

CPC Native Plant Habitat Certification:

During 2022, one garden habitat received silver certification: the residence of Mary Alice Applegate, Tifton.

CPC Publications—Heather Brasell, Education Chair

In 2022, Coastal Plain Chapter members contributed four articles featuring native plants to Southern Soil Magazine: Heather Brasell, [cinnamon fern](#) and [red buckeye](#); Mary Alice Applegate, [wild bergamot](#); Katie Antczak, sweet pepperbush (awaiting publishing). Katie Antczak wrote “Why Plant Native” for Southern Georgia Magazine (print only). Marilynne Marshall compiled information for a new brochure, [“Native Substitutions for Common Landscape Plants,”](#) with input from CPC Board members and native nursery owners, Greg Lewis and Deb Shepherd. Additional comments will be welcomed at our annual meeting.

Our brochure, [“Landscaping with Native Plants in the Georgia Coastal Plain”](#) was re-printed for us by GNPS. The brochure was prepared by Amy Heidt, with Heather Brasell and Paul Sumner contributing. It is being used as a model for the rest of the state.

CPC Membership & Communications—Paul Sumner

We now have 108 members, an increase of 16 over the past year. (In 2015, chapter membership was 49.) Paul Sumner and Mary Alice Applegate manage our [Facebook](#) page. We now have 1,744 Facebook page followers. Mary Alice Applegate compiles information and sends our monthly email newsletters. Paul Sumner has re-built and transitioned our website from GNPS to our own chapter website. cpcgnps.org, which links off of the GNPS website: gnps.org.

Certificate in Native Plants:

This year, three more CPC members have achieved their [Certificate in Native Plants](#) from the State Botanical Garden of Georgia: Paul Sumner, Marilynne Marshall and Gail Farley. Eleven CPC members have achieved this since the program was started in 2009. Heather Brasell continues to teach elective courses for the program. Core courses are online, with electives on site in Athens and other locations, including the [Gaskins Forest Education Center](#) in Alapaha.

CPC Board Planning:

This summer we took time to reflect on our priorities, based on our mission statement. We developed a “Big Picture” document that recorded our plans. CPC Vice-chair Jimmy Lindsey conducted our session and will ask for member input during our annual meeting.

GNPS Board and Committees

The CPC has two representatives on the GNPS board: Amy Heidt and Karan Rawlins. Amy Heidt is also Chair of the GNPS Conservation Committee. Heather Brasell serves on the GNPS Education Committee and the Restoration Committee. Mary Alice Applegate and Gail Farley serve on the GNPS Membership / Chapter Relations Committee. Marilynne Marshall and Colleen Weinkle attend the GNPS Chapter Council Meetings as representatives of our Chapter.

Coastal Plain Chapter GNPS Meeting Minutes, Valdosta, GA 3/28/2022

Following the South Georgia Native Plant & Wildlife Symposium in Valdosta, Georgia, members of the Coastal Plain Chapter of GNPS convened for the purpose of conducting a business meeting. The meeting was presided over

by President Mary Alice Applegate.

The President introduced Marilynne Marshal and Lisa Wheeler.

The minutes from the Fall Meeting were approved. Elizabeth King, Treasurer, reported that the current balance is \$15,896. The May Treasurer's Report will include the results of today's event.

Paul Sumner reported that we currently have 93 paid members. Despite having lost some members when the Macon/Perry group formed, the Coastal Plain Chapter membership is still up. Our Chapter Website has successfully been migrated to our own server (@ GoDaddy). Our banners and business cards have been printed and the cards have been distributed.

It was announced that GNPS will be printing our brochures. Those brochures will state:

- Prepared by Coastal Plains Chapter
- Printed by GNPS
- Our logo, name and other important, proprietary information will be prominently displayed.

Amy Heidt reviewed upcoming plant sales:

- April 9, Darien
- April 16, Tifton
- May 5, Plains
- May 14, Tifton
- May 21, St. Mary's

Current CPC assisted projects include Pollinator Gardens in Waycross, Alapaha, Nashville, and Albany. Heather and Jimmy have both independently submitted grant proposals to the Georgia Native Plant Society.

Heather discussed scheduled and other possible field trips and educational classes/events

- Pitcher Plant Bogs (3 were named – Turner County, Doerun, Tifton)
- Jones Center (possibly with the help of today's two speakers from the Jones Center)
 - Ochoopee Dunes WMA
 - Day in the Woods
 - Camp Oscar (Okefenokee Sustainability, Conservation, Advocacy and Respect)
- Pollinator census
- Native grasses workshop
- Invasive species
- Understory restoration

- Partnering with the Georgia Botanical Society
- Any other suggestions?

An update on the Native Plant Certificate Program clarified that core classes will be offered on-line, while electives will be made available through in-person classes.

A report on the recent Chapter Council Meeting emphasized that the Council is very committed to assisting new chapters in successfully getting established.

In the near future, a special meeting (via zoom) will be called in order to vote on a proposed affiliation agreement.

On a happy note, it appears that we had 81 pre-paid attendees and 3 walk-ons, for a total of 84 paid people at today's symposium!


The meeting concluded with a preliminary discussion about the Fall Conference. Some of the preliminary ideas include: a date of late October or early November. A target date of Saturday, November 12 was suggested.


Other suggestions targeted the Okefenokee as a location. Thoughts were to have two speakers in the morning (Chuck Barger, Bugwood) followed by lunch, which would include a general business meeting. A field trip would follow lunch, possibly including the William Bartram Trail. There would be no plant sales.

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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