



Volume 28, Number 2

Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia

Fall 2020

Environmental Education Needs Your Support!

We know you are passionate about making sure Georgia's youth have environmental awareness and knowledge, and we want to ask if you'd translate that passion into action and help keep EEA's programs going. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many children are stuck on Zoom screens instead of exploring outdoors. A donation to EEA helps bring environmental education to everyone in this time of pandemic. Click on the link below to help EEA meet our fundraising goal and elevate environmental education for all kids in Georgia.

<https://www.mightycause.com/team/Georgia2020>

If you would like to join our fundraising team, please contact eeaenews@gmail.com

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Together
we give.

December 1, 2020

GIVING
TUESDAY



November is the perfect time to plant milkweed seeds, because they require cold, wet stratification to achieve the highest germination rate possible. If you do not want to plant now, in mid January remember to wrap your seeds in a damp paper towel and place them in a sealed container in the fridge, and by mid March your seeds will be ready to plant!

Classroom Extension: Have your students run a germination test, planting milkweed seeds after wet storing them in the fridge for two weeks, four weeks, six weeks, and eight weeks. Plant some seeds without refrigeration as a control. Make sure for each planting to record the number of seeds planted. After 10 weeks, have the students determine the percentage of seeds that actually sprouted.

Calendar

December 1

Giving Tuesday

January

ATEEG Core Course 1

January 25

GreenSleeves

Bringing Nature Home

February 9

Board of Directors Meeting

March 12-13

EEA Virtual

Annual Conference

Symbolic Migration Update

In the August edition of this newsletter, we announced that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Symbolic Migration was going virtual...at least for the submissions made by participants in Canada and the USA. Photocopies of submissions would be made to ship to Mexico as the delivery of the environmental lesson and Class Ambassadors to students in Mexico could not be done via the internet.

As you can imagine with the extra work that teachers have been asked to do with hybrid and virtual learning, the number of participants was lower than last year. In fact, our number is about one-third of last year's.

In order to make the program available to more students in Mexico, we made the decision to make three copies of every Class Ambassador submitted. That means that every Canadian and USA participant will have their Class Ambassador "land" in three locations in Mexico!

Our first shipment to Estela Romero in Mexico was made on Friday, October 30, and is scheduled to arrive on November 4. Since schools are still not officially open this year, Estela plans to begin her deliveries to small groups of students the following week. You can read about and see photos from her visits on her blog site, [Symbolic Monarch Migration](#).

We would like to thank the North Carolina Arboretum for featuring Symbolic Migration as one of the activities in their [EcoEXPLORE](#) Entomology Season. Take a look at the wonderful YouTube video that they made for the [Pollinator Badge: Butterflies](#) (17:24) segment. ☀



The Symbolic Migration project is a partnership project between Journey North, a program of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum, and Monarchs Across Georgia, a committee of The Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia, a 501(c) (3) organization. [Journey North](#) manages the interactive Symbolic Migration Participant Maps and hosts all educational materials on the Journey North website. [Monarchs Across Georgia](#) administers the program and is responsible for all fundraising.

SAVE THE DATE
Our First Virtual
Annual Conference
will be held
March 12-13, 2021

More Details Comings Soon!

EEA Hosted its 24th Outdoor Learning Symposium...Virtually!

This year, EEA's Council of Outdoor Learning (CoOL) hosted a virtual Outdoor Learning Symposium with the theme, "Outdoor Classrooms: The Natural Solution to Pandemic Teaching" to provide new tools and strategies that can be used with both virtual and in-person K-12 students. While it was not the traditional face-to-face, hands-on symposium, it was still an engaging learning experience!

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OLS Goes Virtual? Cont.

Aligning with the research and guidance from The American Academy of Pediatrics on “utilizing outdoor spaces when possible” as a high-priority strategy to combat the spread of COVID-19, fourteen presenters came together to demonstrate how outdoor areas could provide the perfect springboard for hands-on, real-world educational opportunities. From citizen science and litter cleanup to bats and butterflies, participants were encouraged to utilize outdoor spaces for more authentic and meaningful lessons.

As shared by Out Teach, in addition to thinking about how a particular lesson can be enhanced by going outside, teachers must also think realistically about equity. While most students have access to an outdoor view or a sidewalk, we should not assume that they all will have access to yards or parks or shovels and garden hoses. Yet, in the outdoors, there is room to integrate almost any subject as well as 21st-century skills and social-

emotional learning. With a bit of creativity, the outdoors can provide unlimited opportunities for exploration. The more educators can be exposed to the benefits of outdoor education, the more they will understand the vital role these areas can play in preparing their students to be productive citizens.

The Council of Outdoor Learning wants educators to realize that outdoor learning allows students to develop a sense of belonging and ownership in their schoolyards and ultimately in their communities. We also want participants to understand that these areas provide numerous real-world learning opportunities that make lessons relevant to students. Creating places of educational value that will foster creative play, inspire a sense of wonder, and encourage good citizenship is a no-risk investment in our future. We hope you join the movement by creating your own outdoor learning centers or by continuing to offering programs to help bridge the gap for educators unsure of how to proceed on their own. ✨

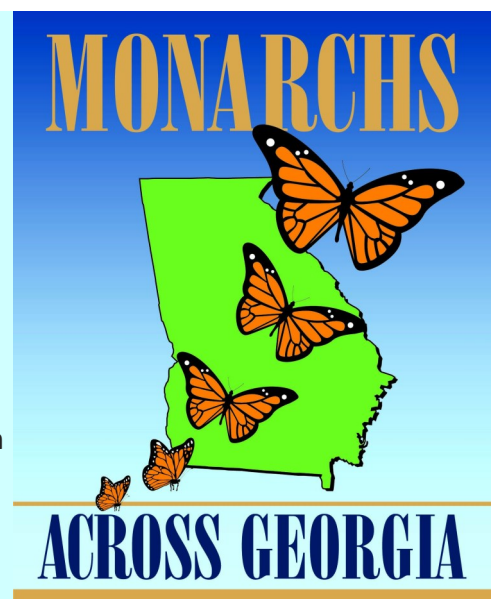
Monarchs Across Georgia is Now Accepting Nominations for Awards!

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond to create habitat for pollinators? Or how about someone or someplace that is ardent about monarch conservation? If so, honor the individual or facility by nominating them for the MAG Service Award or the Pollinator Habitat Award!

The **MAG Service Award** recognizes significant contributions to monarch education, conservation, and/or habitat restoration in the state of Georgia. Two Service Awards are available: one for an individual engaged in formal or informal education, and another to recognize a facility.

The **Pollinator Habitat Award** will recognize a MAG certified pollinator habitat that goes above and beyond the minimal certification criteria and has been established for at least three years.

Links to the award applications and scoring rubrics will be on the awards page at <https://www.eealliance.org/mag-awards.html>. The submission deadline is February 5, 2021. Only one nomination per person or facility, please!



*Conradina canescens*

Photo By: Shannah Montgomery

Georgia Pollinator Plants of The Year

The State Botanical Garden of Georgia at UGA is excited to introduce the new Georgia Pollinator Plants of the Year program (GPPY). It's especially fitting that we do so during the garden's Year of the Pollinator. Modeled after the Georgia Gold Medal Program, GPPY recognizes and promotes four exceptional landscape plants that support pollinator biodiversity in our parks, home gardens, and commercial landscape plantings.

The winning plants, chosen annually by a selection committee, are beautiful, easy to propagate, perform well in gardens across the state, and most importantly, provide valuable resources for insect pollinators such as forage, nesting sites, or larval food. The winners fall into the following categories: Spring Bloomer, Summer Bloomer, Fall Bloomer, and Georgia Native, which align with the gold medal standard for pollinator gardens – successional blooming. The selection committee has already chosen the winning plants for 2021, which provides

interested growers a full year to increase their stock of these plants.

At UGA, we advocate for these ecologically valuable plants on all levels of the gardening supply chain, from growers, to retailers, to consumers. And we are building upon the work of existing programs, such as Georgia Grown, and UGA's Connect to Protect, with a focus on plant and pollinator conservation. Our goals are simple: to increase availability of biodiversity-supporting landscape plants statewide and to provide the public with more opportunities to engage in pollinator conservation. In order to do this, the garden is strengthening the network of green industry and conservation partners by sharing propagation protocols for the winning plants while also providing access to seeds for hard-to-source selections. We are developing eye-catching branding to help consumers easily identify these pollinator plants at the point of sale.

*Asclepias tuberosa*

Photo By: Don Hunter

Collaboration is key to the success of the GPPY program. The selection committee includes experts at UGA and beyond in horticulture, entomology, botany, ecological restoration, and the green

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GPPY Cont.

Partners work together to share horticultural knowledge and plant material and to encourage consumers to include pollinator-supporting plants in their gardens.

Concerns about pollinator declines and species extinctions continue to grow. The recently published "Status of Pollinators in North America" (<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/11761/status-of-pollinators-in-north-america>) paints a grim picture. We are facing a loss of valuable insect species that are foundational to almost all ecosystems, including our food supply. The responsibility to conserve pollinators falls on all of our shoulders. Each and every one of us has a chance to contribute to pollinator conservation, and it can start in our gardens and home landscapes.



Solidago petiolaris

Photo By: Hugh and Carol Nourse



Clethra alnifolia

This is a call to action. As plant lovers, supporters of the botanical garden, and bird and butterfly watchers, we are asking for your contributions. Your involvement is invaluable to the success of this program. Take action by nominating your favorite pollinator plants, asking for your local garden center to carry the winning plants, and by infusing your home garden or landscape with biodiversity-supporting pollinator plants. Visit <https://botgarden.uga.edu/conservation-science/pollinator-plant-program/> for program updates, to see the winning plants for 2021, and to access the nomination form. 🌟

**This article was reprinted with the permission of the Georgia State Botanical Garden.*

MAG's Virtual Biennial Pollinator Symposium

Monarchs Across Georgia (MAG) ventured into parts unknown with a virtual Pollinator Symposium on October 3-4, 2020. The State Botanical Garden of Georgia (SBG) hosted the event for participants to learn more about what is being done throughout the state to conserve, protect, and educate the public about important insect pollinators. The first day featured an entertaining keynote address from Brannen Basham, of Spriggly's Beescaping on "Restoring Pollinator Habitat." Other topics on Day 1 included presentations about *Project Monarch*

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Pollinator Symposium Cont.

Health by Paola Barriga, Cora Keber's introduction to Bee Smart Eat Smart and the Connect to Protect Coloring Books, a demonstration by Lauren Muller of how to create Pocket Pollinator Gardens, and Katie McCullom's Children's Garden tour.

"The number of resources given. Each presenter's passion and enthusiasm for this subject was absolutely over the top. I learned so much from both the Monarchs Across Georgia, EEA, and the State Botanical Garden of Georgia. I especially enjoyed Brannen Basham, Spriggly.com. ... super helpful! Thank You!"

– Comment by participant on the most valuable aspect of the Pollinator Symposium

"Wonderful event - loved the two day structure. Powerful impact in terms of inspiring participants to create and restore habitats for pollinators."




–Comment from evaluation of Pollinator Symposium

Day 2 featured three virtual field trips with pollinator and plant conservation experts. Walter Bland of Rock Springs Restoration introduced the new prairie at the SBG, Becky Griffin from The Great Pollinator Census acquainted participants with a variety of garden critters, and Don Hunter shared detailed photographs of pollinators.

MAG extends a heartfelt thanks to all presenters and attendees for making the symposium a success. 🌟

Volunteers Needed

Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia is seeking volunteers to:

-  Serve on committees
-  Assist with events
-  Help with special projects or campaigns

For list of committees, events, and projects visit www.eealliance.org/volunteer or email volunteer@eealliance.org



Identification Contest

Flex your identification skills! The first person to identify the host plant pictured below will win \$10 off registration to an EEA event, workshop, or webinar. Second and Third place will win milkweed seeds. Email your identification guess and contact info to eeaenews@gmail.com.

