



GNPS Symposium Q&A Transcript Sunday Session - February 28, 2021

Question	Answer(s)
How many people signed on to attend.	live answered
<p>Hi! I am a new member of GNPS. I am also a TN Naturalist. As such, I am getting continuing education hours when I attend a symposium such as this. One thing that I must report is the email address and/or telephone numbers of the speakers. Could you please provide me with this information. I can usually get this from the internet, but I was unable to for yesterday's speakers. Thank you, Jere Thompson</p>	<p>email me at ellenhoneycutt@gnps.org and I'll get those</p>
what is a "WMA"	Wildlife Management Area
Is Oaky Woods in Houston County a good example of these i.e. prairie, savanna and/or woodlands?	live answered
Is there a book we can buy that focuses on this topic? Places to go; hikes, etc. descriptions of different georgia grasslands?	<p>The Natural Communities of Georgia book is a great resource to learn more about our various habitats including grasslands. The book also notes specific places that represent the different habitat types. Our speakers may be able to recommend some books as well. https://www.naturalcommunitiesofgeorgia.com/</p>

<p>Are there air pollution concerns with burns?</p>	<p>Air pollution is certainly considered during burn planning and is regulated in some ways. The benefits of the fire generally outweigh the temporary pollution issues.</p>
<p>Dr. Hodges, Crooked River State Park has a one acre field where we've stopped mowing in 2019. It's next to 500 acres of longleaf pine/saw palmetto woodland. Wiregrass clumps popped up in good numbers, gopher apple (yes, many gopher tortoise live in this one acre field), asimina pygmeae (rare), and usual suspects shrubs.</p>	
<p>Can we visit the Coosa Prairies? Is it all private?</p>	<p>Georgia Botanical Society usually gets permission at least once a year to go there on field trips</p>
<p>Dr. Hodges: We have solarized most recently 5000 square feet and overseeded with many native seeds purchased from Florida Wildflower Growers Co-op (ecotypes typical of southern longleaf woodlands and outer coastal plain (St Marys, GA just north of JAX, FL). Depending on where you live...would you consider visiting our Park or having email discussion about what we're doing right vs what we may be doing wrong. Our goal is a meadow with native wildflowers and grasses that supports local pollinators (we also have honey bee hives onsite). We're getting mixed messages about successful outcome of planting seeds. There is NO irrigation. Thank You, Gail Farley, pgailfarley@gmail.com, Friends of Crooked River State Park</p>	<p>Hello Gail, I will send your message to Mr. Hodges after the presentation. Thank you.</p>
<p>Is there a conservancy guide to these locations?</p>	<p>Check their website, especially the 'get involved' tab: https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/georgia/</p>
<p>What is a black prairie?</p>	<p>live answered</p>
<p>Is there an interactive map online somewhere where I can see the type of ecological system/region I live in?</p>	<p>If you search for Georgia ecoregion maps, you'll see lots of choices, varying in complexity.</p>

How and who can small landowners participate in fire management? For 2-3 acres up to 100's? Can Malcolm speak on recommendations for this?	live answered
Does The Nature Conservancy plan fieldtrips to these areas that we could attend to see these varied plant habitats?	They do and they also have work days there. Also check Georgia Botanical Society for planned field trips.
we live in a suburban area with less than an acre of land in northwest GA (Bartow County). Fire management is not a viable process for us. What do you suggest as a potentially successful plant community for us to propagate?	live answered
On Pigeon Hill - at Kennesaw Mt. National Park - we have seen cacti up there! It seems so strange. Were they brought in by a person? Surely they aren't native.	Prickly ear cactus is native to Georgia and is likely what you saw! They are relatively common on rock outcrops and sandhills in the state.
Thanks, Gabe!!! That is so cool!	
Mr. Hodges, can you give us some examples of grasses that we could use in our yards at home to start little grassland areas to replace our traditional lawns?	live answered
what are the primary grass species in the Piedmont grasslands?	live answered
*lawns	
Any experience doing burning in a graveyard? Quite overgrown and neglected.	live answered
In the Atlanta Metro Area	live answered
If burning isn't an option, when should mowing be done to best replicate a natural cycle?	live answered
Grassland plant recommendations for a morning sun area with clay soil?	live answered

For those of us with a backyard backed up to large woodlands — is it better to mow less frequently? We don't have native grasses. But do creatures just enjoy longer grass, in general?	One benefit of mowing less frequently is that even turf grass can perform better and shade out weeds trying to germinate.
Groundsel (baccharis?) has been moving inland and into the Piedmont over the last couple of decades. Do inland groundsel also have the groundsel beetles?	live answered
Are cattails considered invasive? It is my understanding they are not native. If so, what is the best way to control their proliferation? We have a bioretention area they took over and we are struggling to re-establish other plants.	live answered
Can these plants be listed at the end, or a link provided?	We will be providing a recording of this talk, but we do not have lists to provide.
What is it about a mountain bog that makes it so acidic???	Low levels of oxygen and cold temperatures make it more difficult for fungi and bacteria to decompose dead plants quickly. This helps peat form. Because decomposition happens so slowly, the soil and water in bogs is very acidic. (from google, I'm not that smart)
Giff, how did you learn so much about nature while staying busy flying us in and out of Georgia on Delta planes?	live answered
Is there an App that identifies bugs and dragonflies	Bug Guide is awesome, not sure if they have an app; you might also try iNaturalist (which does have an app)
Tell me about dragonflies and importance.	live answered
Can you recommend some good beginner books or web links for the wetlands of Georgia?	live answered
Are the shoals lilies in Alabama too?	Yes
Do either Malcolm or Giff know how to control aligator weed in ponds? We have a large invasion in the ponds in Mason Mill Park.	live answered

Thank you Giff and Malcolm. Excellent presentations.	
Please show books again Giff	live answered
Can Gif please hold those books up again now that he's full-screen?	
Do you guys organize field tours these days?	Georgia Audubon offers trips to a number of these locations as part of Georgia Bird Fest. Registration for those events opens on Tuesday, March 2 at 10 AM for Georgia Audubon members. Both Giff and Malcolm will be leading trips for us. You can view events at https://www.georgiaaudubon.org/birdfestevents.html
Please show the slide again that had the recommended places to visit by the county in GA/	We will be sending out a link to a recording later this week and you can review then and pause so that you can make notes. We have another webinar beginning at 3:30 so time is of essence today.
Which part of the cattail do you eat?	Young cattail shoots and roots are also edible parts of cattail plants. The young shoots are found once the outer leaves are stripped and can then be used stir fried or sautéed.
Can Giff or Malcom offer any advice on Parrot Feather removal that has invaded our wetland from the stream? Our research has not produced any effective solutions. I read that it's classified invasive and illegal in Alabama.	live answered
How long does a vernal pool need to last for frog/etc eggs to become adults?	Depends on the sepcies, but usually 2-3 weeks
You can also contact your local extension service for guideance on using any type of herbicide. UGA publishes herbicide recommendations each year.	
Do You have any comments about the Grand Bay Wildlife Management Area wetlands?	live answered