

Georgia Botanical Society, Inc.

Maureen Donohue Habitat Conservation Fund Committee

Applicant Guidelines

The Georgia Botanical Society encourages research, conservation, and education focusing on native flora throughout the state. The primary goal of the Maureen Donohue Habitat Conservation Fund is to fund efforts to conserve rare and threatened native plant habitat in the State of Georgia, primarily through purchasing or assisting with the purchase of potential public conservation lands, but also with additional projects and activities considered as outlined below.

CRITERIA FOR APPLICATION

- I. Eligibility**

Preference will be given to applicants with a demonstrated commitment to conservation of native plant species and their habitat. For purchase of potential public conservation lands, preference will be given to applicants with experience and capacity to manage the conserved area.
- II. Geographical range**

The purchase or project must take place in the State of Georgia, or primarily in the State of Georgia.
- III. Projects Funded**

Projects related to the conservation of native plants will be considered, including:

 - a) to fund the purchase, or assist with the purchase, of potential public conservation land that is the habitat for rare or threatened native plant species;
 - b) control and eradication of exotic animals and plants on conservation land holdings that impact rare, threatened and endangered and special concern species.
 - c) fund conservation efforts to protect rare, threatened and endangered plant species.
 - d) assist in the acquisition or protection of rare plant associations and plant habitats (cedar glades, granitic outcrops, longleaf pine savannahs, calcareous flatwoods, others).
- IV. Amount of Award**

The maximum financial assistance provided by the Fund is \$10,000. Co-funding is possible and encouraged. Applications for budgets under \$10,000 are encouraged. Applicants are asked to provide a copy of the co-funding agreements with other organizations, if applicable.
- V. Application Process and Deadlines**

Applications are considered on a rolling basis. The Committee meets quarterly to review applications. To be mindful of applicants' limited resources and ensure those resources can be fully devoted to their mission, the Committee will accept applications provided to other organizations, as long as the application provides all of the information requested below.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

I. Format

The proposal must be typed and submitted as a PDF. Any font and format that is clear and easy to read will be accepted.

II. Applicant Information

Please provide the applicant's name, the name of the main contact for an organizational/institutional applicant, website, mailing address, e-mail address, phone number, mission/vision statement, and a brief statement of your organization's qualifications and capacity to implement the proposed purchase or project.

III. Project Description

Please provide a description of the proposed purchase or project, including the anticipated benefits to conservation of native plant habitat in Georgia. Provide a list of the species present in the proposed project and/or purchase area.

For purchases, please provide:

- A. Map(s) of the proposed purchase area, showing the location of the proposed purchase area as well as any nearby areas that are legally protected;
- B. Address and/or geographic coordinates of the proposed purchase area;
- C. Size of the proposed purchase area;
- D. Current owners of the proposed purchase area, including a brief description of
 - a. current owners' willingness to sell,
 - b. estimated land purchase price, and
 - c. status of title (i.e., are the current owners the only owners of the property? is ownership or partial ownership in dispute?)
- E. Description of the threats to habitat at the proposed purchase area, the urgency of the proposed purchase, and why purchase of the habitat is the best way to protect it;
- F. Rare or threatened species present in the proposed purchase area;
- G. A budget including the amount needed to purchase the land, other related expenses, and any co-funding or potential co-funding of the proposed purchase;
- H. Description of how the habitat will be maintained and how maintenance and management is anticipated to be funded long-term;
- I. A copy of the co-funding agreements with other organizations, if applicable;
- J. Any other information that you feel is relevant for the Committee to consider, such as presence of rare or threatened non-plant species in the proposed purchase area, historical or cultural significance of the proposed purchase area, project partners, and local stakeholders; and
- K. Any supporting documentation, such as photographs, that you feel is relevant for the Committee to consider.

For projects other than purchases (items III b–d above), please provide:

- A. Description of the proposed project, including objectives and methods;
- B. Resources needed for the proposed project;
- C. Description of intent to acquire relevant state, federal, and landowner permits if required, including details and copies of permits already in hand;

- D. Complete and detailed project/purchase schedule and budget including co-funding or potential co-funding of the project;
- E. Anticipated benefits to conservation of native plant habitat in Georgia, including species present in the proposed project/purchase area; and
- F. Any other information or supporting documents that you feel is relevant for the Committee to consider.

IV. References

Please provide the name and contact information for individuals whom we can contact about your work.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF AWARD RECIPIENTS:

- 1) Please provide a simple report within one year documenting progress and results achieved.
- 2) Award recipients are encouraged to provide photographs and updates for publication in the Georgia Botanical Society newsletter.
- 3) Award recipients are encouraged to lead or assist in the coordination of a field trip to the purchase/project site(s) for members of the Society.
- 5) Award recipients are encouraged to submit any data collected on Georgia's rare plants and natural communities to the Wildlife Conservation Division Biotics database maintained by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Program in Social Circle, Georgia.