**Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Fund – April 2024 Applicant Guidelines**

*Sponsored by the Georgia Botanical Society*

The Georgia Botanical Society encourages research, conservation, and education that focuses on native flora throughout Georgia. The primary goal of the Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Fund is to support **field-oriented** research that is focused on documenting, protecting, and conserving native plants by investigators in the state of Georgia. **Please note that the application deadline has been extended to May 12, 2024.**

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?**

Students and faculty at colleges or universities within the State (or conducting research in Georgia), private consultants, government scientists, and other qualified individuals with a demonstrated interest in field botany are eligible to apply for funding. Studies should be conducted in Georgia. Projects eligible for funding include, but are not limited to, the following:

* Floristic studies/vegetation inventories
* Species/habitat restoration projects
* Field-based studies in plant systematics
* Quantitative analyses of vegetation
* Life history studies
* Research focusing on exotic pest plants and their eradication or control
* Surveys for and conservation of state protected species and of federally endangered and threatened species
* Inventory and management of significant natural communities
* Conservation-oriented horticultural studies of native plant species
* Education programming focused on plant conservation

Please note that projects primarily focused on molecular research are not eligible.

**PROPOSAL GUIDELINES:** The proposal must be typed, double-spaced, **in PDF format**, in a font no smaller than 12, with 1 inch-wide margins, and be no more than 4 pages in length, including the references which shall not exceed one page. The cover page and applicant profile are not included in the four-page limit. The proposal MUST INCLUDE:

1. Cover page with project title, applicant’s name, date the proposal is submitted, institution (if any), mailing address, e-mail address, and phone number.
2. Description of the proposed study, including objectives and methods.
3. Description of intent to acquire relevant state, federal, and landowner permits if required, including details and copies of permits already in hand (copies of permits are not counted in the four-page limit).
4. Complete and detailed project schedule (normally one to two years).
5. Anticipated benefits to research, education, and conservation of native plants in Georgia.
6. Detailed budget, **not to exceed $3,000.00**, which may include travel expenses in the U.S, expendable supplies, small field research equipment (such as gps units, diameter tapes), fees for equipment rental, laboratory services, printing costs, and costs associated with preparation of oral presentations in the U.S. The budget ***may not*** include funds to purchase large-ticket permanent items such as computers, software and software applications, or cameras. Expenses related to molecular genetics research, e.g. DNA extraction, DNA sequencing, genotype assays, and oligo purchases***will not***be funded.
7. A profile or resume of the applicant, no more than one page in length (not included in the four-page limit).
8. The following statement must be included: “By submitting this proposal, I agree to submit an article, following the Society’s guidelines, about my funded research to the Society’s annual journal, *Tipularia*, as described under ‘Responsibilities of Award Recipients,’ below.”

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Proposals must be submitted via email or U. S. mail postmarked no later than **May 12, 2024**, for projects beginning or continuing in 2024. Proposals are reviewed by a Georgia Botanical Society evaluation committee; announcements of awards will be made by June 31, 2024.

**AWARDS:** Funding requests up to **$3,000.00** may be submitted. Smaller budgets are encouraged and *will receive preferential consideration*. If the funded project is not substantially completed within two years of receipt of the award, a certain amount of the original award, to be determined by the Georgia Botanical Society Marie Mellinger Fund committee, must be refunded. The Marie Mellinger fund does not pay indirect costs (also called “overhead” or “facilities and administrative” costs). We recommend checking **before submitting your application** that your institution does not require indirect costs.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF AWARD RECIPIENTS:**

* A final report is required and is due at the end of the project. The report shall be in the form of an article, complete with images, tables, etc., that will be published in the Society’s journal, *Tipularia*,at the discretion of the editors. The article **must** be written in a style that is accessible to the general public, avoids overly technical language, and includes illustrative images. Before submitting the article, the investigator **must** contact *Tipularia* editors, Ellen Honeycutt (ganatives@gmail.com) and Linda Chafin (lchafin@uga.edu), for manuscript format guidelines and image requirements.
* A project begun in 2024 should be completed by the end of 2025. If the project will not be completed by the end of 2025, a one-page progress report must be submitted by December 1, 2025, describing progress to date, problems encountered, future plans, and anticipated completion date.
* Award recipients must acknowledge the Georgia Botanical Society in any popular or scientific articles as well as in oral presentations delivered at professional meetings resulting from the work supported.
* Award recipients are encouraged to lead a field trip to the study site(s) for members of the Society.
* Any data collected on Georgia’s rare plants and natural communities must be submitted to the Wildlife Conservation Division Biotics database maintained by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Program in Social Circle, Georgia. Guidelines for data submission are here: https://georgiawildlife.com/conservation/species-of-concern#submit

**WHO WAS MARIE MELLINGER?** For information on the life of this botanist and conservationist, see: https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/atlanta/obituary.aspx?n=marie-mellinger&pid=85900199

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION, CONTACT:**

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