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I am guessing I am not alone in being thoroughly annoyed with a world in which digital communications have become the norm. We can blame COVID-19 for this phenomenon; one more issue from the resultant and disruptive pandemic. Call me old-fashioned, but I feel strongly that nothing can replace the personal communications made possible within a face-to-face format. Interactions acquired through Zoom, Teams, or any other of our efficient, but socially deficient computerized delivery systems just seem to lack depth. I do not want you to think I am ungrateful with regard to these technological tools. In many ways, I think they have saved us from extreme professional isolation. But home-based digital communication, with its inherent distractions, and lack of personal engagement, simply does not come up to the standards of interactions found in an attention-demanding professional setting. Oh well, at least we are still communicating.

I routinely provide educational presentations to the public on topics related to native plants and their potential value within our everyday lives. Such presentations were historically delivered in person to a live audience. Currently, they are broadcast across a Zoom platform. One result is that ease of attendance has created larger audiences—with the potential to reach many more people. But again, the quality of the educational experience is lessened. It's more difficult to engage and have a two-way exchange. I know that during my presentation, audience members are engaged on Facebook, walking to the kitchen for a snack, taking restroom breaks, multi-tasking to meet other professional deadlines, and sometimes, simply zoning out. How do I know this? Because these are the things I sometimes do when participating in a Zoom conference. Communication is happening, but quality is sacrificed to meet demands of social distancing and personal convenience.

But COVID-19 has not disrupted everything within our professional lives. Strategies employed for written communications remain largely unchanged. We still have opportunities to establish a permanent record of our best research efforts and to share this information with interested colleagues. Publications such as the *Native Plants Journal* are essential to this form of communication. We look forward to your continued article submissions.



Dr Stephen L Love
Editor-in-Chief

On the cover: The genus commonly known as goldenaster (*Chrysopsis* (Nutt.) Elliott [Asteraceae]) includes 11 species of US southeastern native sunflowers, 2 of which are candidates for component restoration of imperiled Florida Panhandle coastal communities. See the associated articles within this issue for more information. Photo by Mack Thetford