

47TH ANNUAL SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE

APRIL 15-17, 2016

VALDOSTA, LOWNDES COUNTY, GEORGIA

Valdosta will be the headquarters for the 47th Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage. Located in the lower Coastal Plain in south central Georgia, Valdosta has easy access to several interesting bogs, varied wetlands, and Carolina bays, as well as well-drained upland sites including xeric sandhills.

PILGRIMAGE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

6:00 pm-9:30 pm Pre-pilgrimage field trip to Climax, GA. Meet on site.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

9:00 am-4:30 pm Field trips assemble at locations and times indicated in descriptions for each field trip.

6:00 pm-9:00 pm Registration and social at Valdosta State University Bailey Science Center.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

7:30 am-8:15 am Early registration at Quality Inn.

8:30 am Morning and full day field trips assemble at Quality Inn parking area.

1:00 pm Afternoon field trips assemble at Quality Inn parking area or at site indicated in descriptions for each field trip.

4:30 pm-5:00 pm Field trips return to Quality Inn.

6:30 pm-7:30 pm Banquet dinner at VSU University Center.

7:30 pm-9:30 pm Evening program at VSU University Center.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

8:30 am Field trips assemble at Quality Inn parking area.

2 Background

Nestled in the heart of the Deep South, Valdosta and its surrounding area celebrate a rich southern heritage, balancing big-city convenience with small-town hospitality. Valdosta is the tenth largest city in Georgia. Valdosta is named after a scenic estate owned by Governor Troup in Laurens County. The name is thought to be an Americanization derived from the Valle d'Aosta alpine district in Italy. Valdosta is known as the "Azalea City." Drexel Park, adjacent to the University Center, is named in honor of R.J. Drexel, a parks superintendent who planted azaleas throughout the city and gave five azaleas to each citizen each spring. The pilgrimage will be a bit late to see the azaleas in full bloom.

Valdosta was named by National Geographic as Georgia's "Best Adventure Town" with lots of opportunities for recreation and relaxation. It was also voted by ESPN as "TitleTown USA" in 2008, recognizing the area's excellence in sports.

Valdosta State University houses the state's second largest herbarium, curated by Richard Carter, and has a field station at Lake Louise. Moody Air Force Base, just northeast of Valdosta, was established in 1941 and makes an important contribution to the area's economy and culture. It also contains areas of botanical interest that will be included in our field trips: Grand Bay, Dudley's Hammock and Grassy Pond. North of Valdosta, near Adel, is Reed Bingham State Park on the Little River.

Come join the Georgia Botanical Society as we explore the botanical wonders of varied habitats of the lower Coastal Plain during our 2016 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage! Plan to participate in as many activities as possible to experience the unique natural communities.

Evening programs

The **Friday Social** will be held at the Bailey Science Center, Valdosta State University. Richard Carter and students will conduct tours of VSU's herbarium to highlight the importance of herbaria in promoting understanding of floristic and taxonomic botany. Botanical books will be on display; some will be available for sale; some may be signed by authors who are present. Bring your own favorite field guides and reference books for others to examine. *If you are willing to bring hors d'oeuvre or soft drinks for the Friday social, please contact Joanne Romfh at joannromfh@aol.com or 678-461-4466. No alcohol is allowed on the premises.*

Directions: From the Quality Inn, turn north on Gornto Rd., then right at the first traffic light. Baytree St. takes you straight to Valdosta State University. At the end of Baytree St., turn left on N. Oak St., then take the first right onto Georgia Ave. There are three small parking lots on the left of Georgia Ave. No parking permit is needed after 3 pm on Friday. Bailey is a large building on the right behind Powell Hall.

The **Saturday evening banquet** will be held in the Magnolia Room in the University Center, Valdosta State University. After the Saturday banquet, we will have two speakers. **Lisa Kruse** of GA DNR will briefly describe the importance of Manassas Bog and collaborative efforts to conserve it that demonstrate that we Georgians are serious about caring for our remaining bogs. **Dr. Debbie Folkerts**, Assistant Professor, Auburn University, will speak on "The Fascinating Pitcherplant Bogs: Biology and Conservation." Dr. Folkerts is an expert on animal/plant interactions in pitcherplant bogs and has had a long trail of accomplishments in supervising graduate students, teaching courses, and befriending pitcherplant enthusiasts throughout the Southeast.

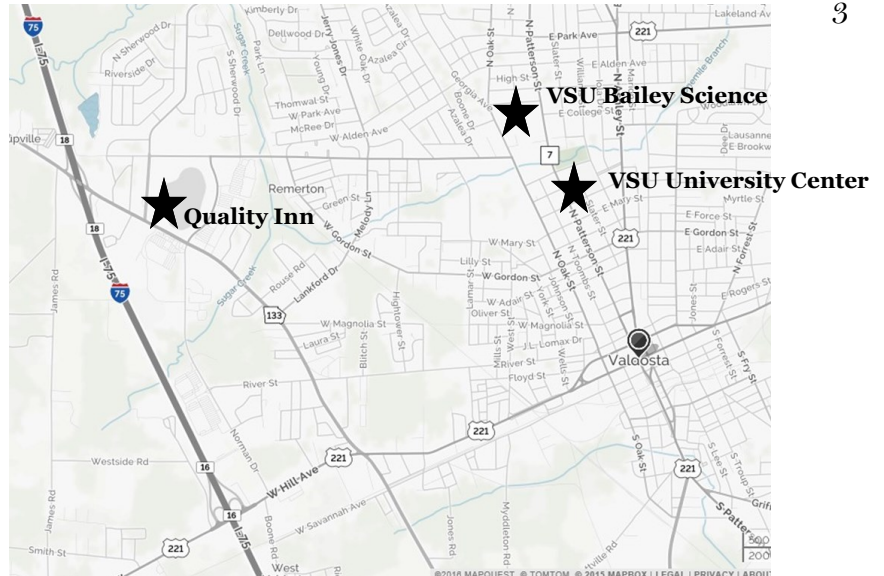
The banquet buffet includes Tuscan style grilled chicken or roasted vegetable and goat cheese turnover, salad, iced tea/water, and dessert. No alcohol will be available or allowed on premises. The evening program begins shortly after dinner.

Directions: From the Quality Inn, turn north on Gornto Rd., then right at the first traffic light. Baytree St. takes you straight to Valdosta State University. At the end of Baytree St., turn right on N. Oak St., then take the first left onto Brookwood Drive. Cross the first traffic light at Patterson St., and turn into the parking lot in front of the University Center. No parking permit is needed.

Pilgrimage Information

Location:

Quality Inn (\$68 + tax)
1705 Gornto Rd
Valdosta, GA 31601
Telephone: 229-244-8800



Directions:

From metro Atlanta, take I-75 South. From Exit 18 on I-75, head east. At the first traffic light, turn left onto Gornto Road. Quality Inn is almost immediately on the right. From other locations, use your favorite internet map program such as Google Maps or MapQuest.

Lodging/Camping:

We have block booked 68 rooms at Quality Inn at 1705 Gornto Rd, Valdosta, GA 31601. Telephone: 229-244-8800 Fax: 229-244-6602. Quality Inn is located next to the Mall close to Exit 18 on highway I-75, with convenient access to Valdosta State University where social functions will be held. The rate (\$68 + tax) includes a hot breakfast, and all rooms have a small refrigerator and free wireless internet access. Call the hotel directly for reservations and provide the name of the block, which is **GA Botanical Pilgrimage**. Block bookings with special rates will be released 30 days before the pilgrimage.

Several other hotels are located at this exit (18) and also at Exit 16.

The closest campgrounds are Riverpark Campground (Exit 18, Valdosta) 229-244-8397, Shady Oaks Campground (Exit 22, North Valdosta) 229-247-0494, and Eagles Roost Campground (Exit 5, Lake Park) 229-559-5192. Reed Bingham State Park has campground and canoe rentals (Exit 39, Adel) 229-896-3551.

What to Bring:

As with all BotSoc field trips, please bring enough water for your whole trip, lunch or snacks as appropriate, camera, hand lens, binoculars, field guides, sunscreen and bug spray. You may also wish to bring a jacket or rain gear, depending on the weather. **Waterproof footwear** is recommended for trips to bogs and wetland sites.



If you are taking a canoe trip, have a dry sack or water resistant bag to protect your personal items.

If you are going from a canoe or field trip to another event, you may wish to bring a change of clothes or a change of shoes and socks and a sweater.

4 BotSoc Pilgrimage T-shirts

All profits from the sales of these t-shirts are designated for the Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Grant Fund. This is a special “limited edition” shirt. Be sure to place your order by the deadline of **March 16, 2016**. T-shirts are produced based only on the orders received. If you want to receive your shirt prior to the Pilgrimage or will be unable to attend the Pilgrimage, there is a shipping charge of \$5.00 for the first shirt and \$1.50 for each additional.

Color on all styles is Sand. This year we are offering a hoodie (pullover) sweatshirt style which features the design on the back and the Georgia Botanical Society logo on the front (right breast pocket area). Prices and sizes are as follows:

Short sleeve T shirt (unisex)

sizes S, M, L, XL are \$17.00

size XXL is \$19.00

size XXXL is \$20.00

Short sleeve T shirt (women's)

sizes S, M, L, XL are \$18.00

size XXL is \$20.00

size XXXL is \$21.00

Please note that the women's cut shirt runs small and fits closely. Size up if you like a looser fit.

Long sleeve T shirt (unisex only)

sizes S, M, L, XL are \$19.00

size XXL is \$21.00

size XXXL is \$22.00

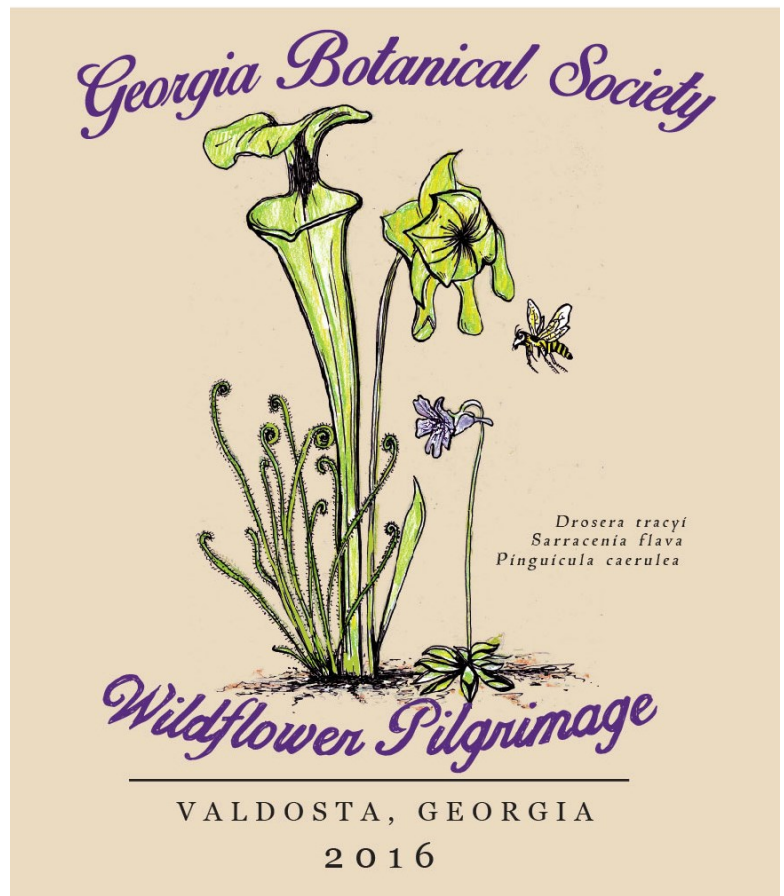
Hoodie Sweatshirt (pullover style)

(picture on back, BotSoc logo on front)

sizes S, M, L, XL are \$30.00

size XXL is \$32.00

size XXXL is \$33.00



General Information

Your pilgrimage packet will contain your name tag and some important information about field trips. It will be available at the Friday evening social. If you are not attending the social, you may pick up your packet in the Quality Inn lobby on Saturday before 8:15 am. Directions for Friday field trips will be emailed to registrants. Directions for Saturday and Sunday field trips will be available during registration.

Carpooling:

Please carpool as much as possible on all field trips. Some venues have limited parking spaces and we are not the only visitors. In addition, we always try to limit the number of cars we bring to sensitive locations. This year, we will have a lot of students from VSU and ABAC who will probably appreciate a ride; it is a good opportunity for them to interact with other participants.

If you have made arrangements to go with different carpools for morning and afternoon trips, be sure you can get to the rendezvous spot in time for the afternoon trip. BotSoc cannot arrange shuttles if you are stranded.

Pre-Pilgrimage Trip: Climax Cave Sinkhole

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An optional addition to your pilgrimage experience is a trip the evening before (Thursday, April 14th) to Climax Cave. The trip leader is Jason Scott from ABAC (706-340-7606, cell).

We will travel to Climax Cave just east of Bainbridge, GA along Old Whigham Road in Decatur County. At Climax Cave we should see cat-tongue liverwort (*Conocephalum salebrosum*) lining the constantly moist walls of the sinkhole habitat. Interestingly, the surrounding vegetation looks like someone used a cookie cutter to take a piedmont community and place it in the middle of the coastal plain! The sinkhole cave is fascinating and the geology of the site is quite remarkable.

What I find most exciting about this site is that you can see so many different stages of plant evolution all in one place, from seedless nonvascular bryophytes to seedless vascular ferns, and naked-seeded gymnosperms to some of the earliest flowering plants like magnolias, and ultimately several examples of our most evolutionarily advanced flowering asters. The range of diversity is tremendous!

Oh, and did I mention the ~50,000 southeastern bats (*Myotis austroriparius*) that will emerge from the cave in the evening! What a natural treasure Climax Cave represents for our state!

The trail is short but traversing the sink hole is difficult and requires good footing. Good boots required! Headlamp (preferred) or flashlight required.

Time and Location: Thursday afternoon, 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Meet trip leader at Kangaroo Express gas station and convenience store parking lot, 2011 Thomasville Road, Bainbridge, GA. The gas station is located at intersection of Thomasville Road and Whigham Dairy Road.



Trip 1: General Coffee State Park

Date: Friday afternoon, 12 pm to 1 pm free time to explore Heritage Farm garden areas; 1 pm to 3 pm Hike along the East River Trail.

Location: Meet at General Coffee State Park at noon at the parking lot area next to Picnic Shelter #5. Directions to the park are available on the website <http://gastateparks.org/GeneralCoffee>

Description: Seventeen-Mile River and a boardwalk wind through cypress swamp where rare and endangered plants grow. Pitcher plants, shy Indigo Snakes and Gopher Turtles make their homes in this wiregrass community.

The Ranger will be on duty at the Heritage Farm to help you explore our farm gardens and our educational programs. At 1:00 pm, participants will meet the Ranger for the guided hike. Maps will be available in the park office. We will see a blackwater swamp habitat with pitcher plants and rare and endangered plants as we cross the Seventeen Mile River along the park's 1/4 mile boardwalk. The trail will then wind through an area of turkey oak sandhill area, home to gopher tortoises and indigo snakes, and then along the east side of the Seventeen Mile River. We will end the hike at what was once the second largest Magnolia tree in Georgia (it split in a storm last year) and discuss the park's efforts to save the population of green fly orchids that lived in this tree. Opportunities for birding and nature photography are exceptional at the park. Be sure to wear good walking shoes. The trail is an easy trail but the walk will be about 1 1/2 miles long.

This hike is limited to 25 participants.

Leader: Jackie Clay, Interpretive Ranger, General Coffee State Park. 912-384-7082 (office)

For all field trips, please note: Contact the trip leader if you plan to meet onsite instead of at the designated meeting place. Because of driving distance, some trips involve a combination of two sites. Be sure to check times and meeting locations before you register for trips.



Date: Friday, all day, 11 am to 3 pm, driving to Valdosta from here is 1.5 hour drive.
Location: Meet trip leaders on site, approximately 10 mi NE of Tifton, in Irwin County. Directions will be sent to registrants.

Description: The site is mostly flat terrain, with occasional thick vegetation. The trip will include a variety of short (less than ¼ mile) hikes from several stopping points. Optional sampling for amphibians will require wading in knee- to thigh-deep water, otherwise most botanizing will result in wet feet only if you don't have waterproof boots or waders.

The Lentile Tract is set to become Georgia's newest Wildlife Management Area this October - get a sneak preview of this soon-to-be public treasure. Much of the site is composed of xeric sandhills in varying degree of alteration and restoration. The rare Pickering's morning-glory (*Sylisma pickeringii*) is readily found here. Embedded within the sandhills are numerous isolated wetlands that include such rarities as pondspice (*Litsea aestivalis*) and panhandle meadowbeauty (*Rhexia salicifolia*). Those who are interested will have the opportunity to use dip nets to sample for pond-breeding amphibians, including the threatened striped newt (*Nothophthalmus perstriatus*). Pitcher plants and other bog specialties will be examined along a power line right of way. The bluff above the Alapaha River provides a rich beech-magnolia (*Fagus grandiflora*-*Magnolia grandiflora*) forest where participants will see silky camellia (*Stewartia malacodendron*) and greenfly orchid (*Epidendrum magnoliae*).

Leaders: Tom Patrick 706-318-3529 (cell), Lisa Kruse 706-318-3287 (cell), and John Jensen.

Trip 3: Grand Bay Wildlife Management Area

Date: Friday, afternoon 1 pm to 4:30 pm.
Location: Meet leader in Quality Inn parking area to leave at 1 pm.

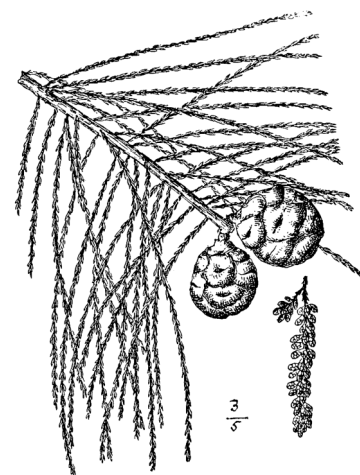
Description: The Grand Bay WMA access road bisects several ephemeral depressional wetlands, dominated by *Taxodium ascendens* (pond cypress) and *Nyssa biflora* (swamp tupelo) with an understory of *Ilex myrtifolia* (myrtle dahoon holly). The central feature of Grand Bay WMA is a large Carolina Bay wetland traversed by a ½ mile boardwalk providing access to a 40 foot tower with spectacular aerial views of the swamp.

In open shallow marginal zones, certain areas are predominated by nearly monotypic stands of the clonal sedge *Carex striata* (Walter's sedge) while others exhibit a diverse mixture of aquatic herbs including *Dulichium arundinaceum* (threeway sedge), and a host of other sedges, rushes, forbs and fern. The shrub *Hypericum fasciculatum* (sandweed or peelbark St. John's wort) is also common in these marginal shallows. Extensive forested wetlands have a canopy of *Taxodium ascendens*, *Nyssa biflora*, and *Acer rubrum* (red maple), and a shrub layer - often dense - of *Lyonia lucida* (fetterbush lyonia or hemleaf), *Eubotrys racemosus* (coastal fetterbush), *Clethra alnifolia* (coastal sweetpepperbush or white-alder), *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (buttonbush), and *Itea virginica* (Virginia sweetspire). In deeper water these shrubs are rooted on emergent bases of canopy trees, as are the common woody vine *Smilax walteri* (coral greenbrier) and the rare climbing heath *Pieris phyllreifolia* (climbing fetterbush).

Many common emergent or floating aquatic herbs such as *Brasenia schreberi* (water shield), *Eichhornia crassipes* (water hyacinth), *Habenaria repens* (waterspider bog orchid), various ludwigias, many sedges and rushes occur here. In addition, various duckweeds, mosquito fern, and the fan-shaped thallose liverwort *Ricciocarpus natans* are also present. Mistletoe, *Phorodendron leucarpum* is a common parasite on *Nyssa biflora*, and the epiphyte *Tillandsia usneoides* (Spanish moss) is abundant. Although not yet observed along the boardwalk, the epiphytes *Epidendrum conopseum* (green-fly orchid) and *Tillandsia recurvata* (ball moss) are known from sites nearby.

Leader: Bobby Hattaway 912-481-3011 (cell)

Taxodium ascendens (pond cypress)



Trip 4: ABAC Turner County Bog

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Date: Friday, afternoon, 1:00 pm to 3 pm, driving to Valdosta from here is 1.5 hour drive.
Location: Meet at the site at 1 pm. Directions will be emailed to registered participants in advance. From the Ashburn exit on I-75, turn east on GA-107 for about 3.5 miles, stay right on GA-107 when you get to the intersection with GA-122. The ABAC bog will be about 1 mile on the right.

Description: The ABAC Bog in Turner County is an 8 acre patch of relatively undisturbed prairie with a fairly intact seedbank and unusual assortment of plant species. The site is maintained by periodic fire. The entrance starts at a midpoint between a dry, xeric upland with longleaf pines and a hardwood dominated drainage. Cracks in the underlying hardpan result in small wet areas along the slope dominated by yellow pitcher plant (*Sarracenia flava*), hooded pitcher plant (*Sarracenia minor*), ten-angled pipewort (*Eriocaulon decangulare*), and yellow-eyed grass. Depending on fire conditions from the previous year, species such as big and little bluestem, toothache grass, and wiregrass may be seeding. The area also contains lady's tresses (*Spiranthes* spp.), parrot pitcher plant (*Sarracenia psittacina*), and wild indigo (*Baptisia* spp.).

Trip limit 15. Although there are no trails, walking is easy. Waterproof boots are recommended. No restroom facilities at the site.

Leader: Karan Rawlins 912-599-9450 (cell)

Trip 5: Broxton Rocks

Date: Friday, 12 pm to 3 pm, driving to Valdosta from here is 1.5 hour drive.
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Broxton Post Office at noon. Bring lunch to eat there.

Description: The Nature Conservancy preserve size is about 1400 acres. The preserve protects a rugged sandstone outcrop that extends for several miles. Broxton Rocks is a haven of unique habitats that harbors plants rarely found in the southern United States. More than 550 species of plants have been found here, including grit portulaca (*Portulaca biloba*) and the silky creeping morning glory (*Evolvulus sericeus*), which is endangered in Georgia. The state-threatened Georgia Plume (*Elliottia racemosa*) is found here. The damp, shaded crevices between the rocks provide perfect growing conditions for two rare ferns: Peter's filmy fern (*Trichomanes petersii*), and shoestring fern (*Vittaria graminifolia*). The green-fly orchid (*Epidendrum conopseum*) normally grows upon trees but here it is pendant on rock walls. We should also see feather-leaf beardtongue (*Penstemon dissectus*), wild azaleas (*Rhododendron canescens*), wintergrape Fern (*Botrychium lunarioides*), and little people (*Lepuropetalon spathulatum*). Trip limit is 20 people. Total hike 1-2 miles, some strenuous, rocky terrain.

Leader: Frankie Snow, South Georgia State College

Trip 6: Doerun Bog

Date: Friday, 11 am to 3 pm, driving to Valdosta from here is 1 hour drive.
Location: Meet leader at the site parking lot. Directions for the Doerun Pitcherplant Bog Natural Area are available at <http://www.georgiawildlife.com/node/2377> The coordinates for your GPS for the entry road to the parking area are N31.28625°, W83.88801°.

Description: **Trip limit is 20.** The Doerun Pitcherplant Bog is a mosaic of upland and wetland habitats. Longleaf pine and wiregrass dominate the uplands while swamp tupelo, Ogeechee lime, slash pine and red maple occur along the drains. In between are seepy transition areas inhabited by carnivorous plants. Three species of pitcherplants can be found in the bog – hooded (*Sarracenia minor*), parrot (*Sarracenia psittacina*), and yellow (*Sarracenia flava*), plus butterworts, sundews, and other bog treasures. We will be visiting the site at a prime time for pitcherplant flowering. Other special plants in the area include chaffseed, and purple honeycombhead (*Balduina atropurpurea*). Gopher tortoises and diamondback rattlesnakes are occasionally seen along with fox squirrels. Quail nests in the dense wiregrass and deer trails abound through the property.

There are no restroom facilities on site. Moderate difficulty. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. Waterproof footwear is advisable for bogs and seepage areas.

Leader: Ed McDowell 478-396-8901 (cell)

Trip 7: Lost Creek and Greenwood

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Date: Friday, this field trip is a combination of two half-day trips. Lost Creek Forest 9 am to noon; Greenwood Plantation 1 pm to 3:30 pm. Then 1 hour drive to Valdosta.

Location: Meet the trip leaders at 8:45 am at Lost Creek Forest on Airport Rd, Thomasville. About 12:15 pm continue to Greenwood Plantation. Meet trip leaders at Greenwood Plantation at 1 pm. Directions to both sites will be sent to registrants. Please contact Beth Grant if will not be present for the morning trip. Trip limit 25 people.

Description: **Lost Creek Forest** is an approximately 200 acre old growth hardwood slope forest and wetlands. As a climax forest, the canopy of massive beech; magnolia; spruce pine; white, swamp chestnut, black, Southern red, and live oaks; pignut and mockernut hickories; and others such as wild cherry protect the understory trees and herbaceous and woody plants, creating a naturally open landscape. Understory trees and shrubs include hop hornbeam, hornbeam, sourwood, red maple, holly, dogwood, wild cherry, hawthorns, bumelia, mulberry, wild olive, horsesugar, Sebastian's bush, and pawpaw. The predominance of sarsaparilla vine, *Smilax pumila*, and partridgeberry vines confirms the lack of significant disturbance. The forest floor features Jack-in-the-pulpit, redwing milkweed, beechdrops, squaw root, Indian pipe, wild ginger, nodding nixie, crane fly and green fly (on magnolia trees) orchids. There are large varieties of fungi and lichen. The endangered Florida milkvine appears in its largest population documented in GA, and one of the largest populations anywhere.

Greenwood Plantation: The Big Woods has about 500 acres of old growth longleaf pine woodlands, the largest stand still left in private hands. As The Big Woods understory has never been significantly disturbed and has been maintained with prescribed fire, it contains a very high diversity of wildflowers and other plants. Standing among the centuries-old trees, feeling the breeze and hearing it sing through the long needles, makes for a very special afternoon indeed! We should see in bloom the hooded pitcher plant, both blue and yellow butterworts, Pinxter azalea, pawpaw, coralbean, milkweed species, skullcap species, and possibly one-flowered cancerroot and dwarf Iris.

We will be walking on and off-trail, moderate difficulty, possibly in wet or open areas, so wear a hat, boots or closed-toed shoes, and long pants. Be sure to bring insect repellent, as well as snacks and water. Bring lunch to eat en route. Restrooms are available at the Thomasville airport, a short drive From Lost Creek Forest.

Leaders: Beth Grant, Founder and President, Friends of Lost Creek Forest 229-200-2564 and Virginia Craig 850-445-2226 (cell)

Trip 8: Grassy Pond

Date: Saturday morning, 8:30 am to 12 pm

Location: Meet the trip leader at Quality Inn parking area to leave at 8:30 am.

Description: This is a moderate walk with 3 miles on trails and boardwalks. Grassy Pond is a natural sinkhole pond. Grassy Pond supports a diverse assemblage of aquatic and wetland plants including swamp loosestrife (*Decodon verticillatus*), Dahoon holly (*Ilex cassine*), American lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*), fragrant water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*), watershield (*Brasenia schreberi*), frogbit (*Limnobium spongia*), the noxious weed hydrilla (*Hydrilla* sp.), mosquito fern (*Azolla caroliniana*), and various aquatic bryophytes.

Steep bluffs and flatwoods adjacent to the pond are predominated by an overstory of bullbay magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), sweetgum (*Liquidamber styraciflua*), mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*), pignut hickory (*C. glabra*), live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), and laurel oak (*Q. hemisphaerica*), and an understory of horsesugar (*Symplocos tinctoria*), gum bumelia (*Bumelia lanuginosa*), dwarf pawpaw (*Asimina parviflora*), American holly (*Ilex opaca*), red mulberry (*Morus rubra*), and wax myrtle (*Morella cerifera*).

Leader: Linda Chafin, State Botanical Garden, 706-548-1697 (cell)

Trip 9: Sedge Workshop

Date: Saturday, afternoon, 1pm
Location: Meet the workshop leader at Valdosta State University Bailey Science Center (same location as for Friday Social) in the Botany Laboratory Room 2040 at 1 pm.

Description: A hands-on survey of the taxonomy of the sedge family (Cyperaceae), with emphasis on specialized terminology and structure. Participants will dissect and analyze structure of representative species from Georgia, with emphasis on diagnostic features of the genera. Results of dissections will be used to identify unknown specimens, employing analytical dichotomous keys. Dissecting microscopes, equipment, and materials for dissection will be provided.

Course Outline: Overview of Cyperaceae; Comparison of sedges, rushes, and grasses; Introduction to basic morphology of sedges; Systematic survey of sedge genera; Identification of unknown sedges.

Leader: Richard Carter, Valdosta State University, 229-506-2099 (cell)

Trip 10: Lake Louise

Date: Saturday, morning, 8:30 am to 12 pm
Location: Meet the trip leader in the Quality Inn parking lot to leave at 8:30 am.

Description: Easy walk with boardwalk. Comprising 170 acres, the Lake Louise Field Station is owned and maintained by Valdosta State University as an outdoor teaching laboratory and a research site. Lake Louise is a 13 acre blackwater karst (lime-sink) pond, surrounded by a bayswamp forest. Lake and bayswamp are embedded in a matrix of upland plant communities. Starting just north of the lake, the boardwalk traverses an extensive bayswamp along the eastern bank of Lake Louise. At the southern end of the lake, the boardwalk ascends into a live oak hammock, with massive specimens of live oak loaded with epiphytes. The disturbed upland woods to the west and north of Lake Louise are in various stages of ecological succession, the less disturbed generally dominated by hardwoods and the more disturbed by pines. Rare or unusual plants occur in each of these habitats: *Ilex cassine* and the rare endemic tree, *Pinckneya bracteata* occur in the bayswamp, the rare aquatic sedge *Carex decomposita* grows along the lake margin, the epiphytic ball moss, *Tillandsia recurvata* exists in the live oak hammock, *Baptisia lecontei* and the narrow endemic *Baptisia arachnifera* occur in the uplands, and the rare fall-flowering grass, *Eustachys floridana*, and the composite, *Palafoxia integrifolia*, are occasional in the remnant longleaf pine-wiregrass community.

Leader: Phillip Lowe 678-877-6558 (cell)

Trip 11: Lake Louise

Date: Saturday, afternoon, 1 pm to 4:30
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Quality Inn parking lot to leave at 1 pm.

Description: See Description and Leader for #10

Trip 12: Grand Bay

Date: Saturday, morning, 8:30 am to 12 pm
Location: Meet the trip leader in the Quality Inn parking lot to leave at 8:30 am.

Description: See Description and Leader for #3

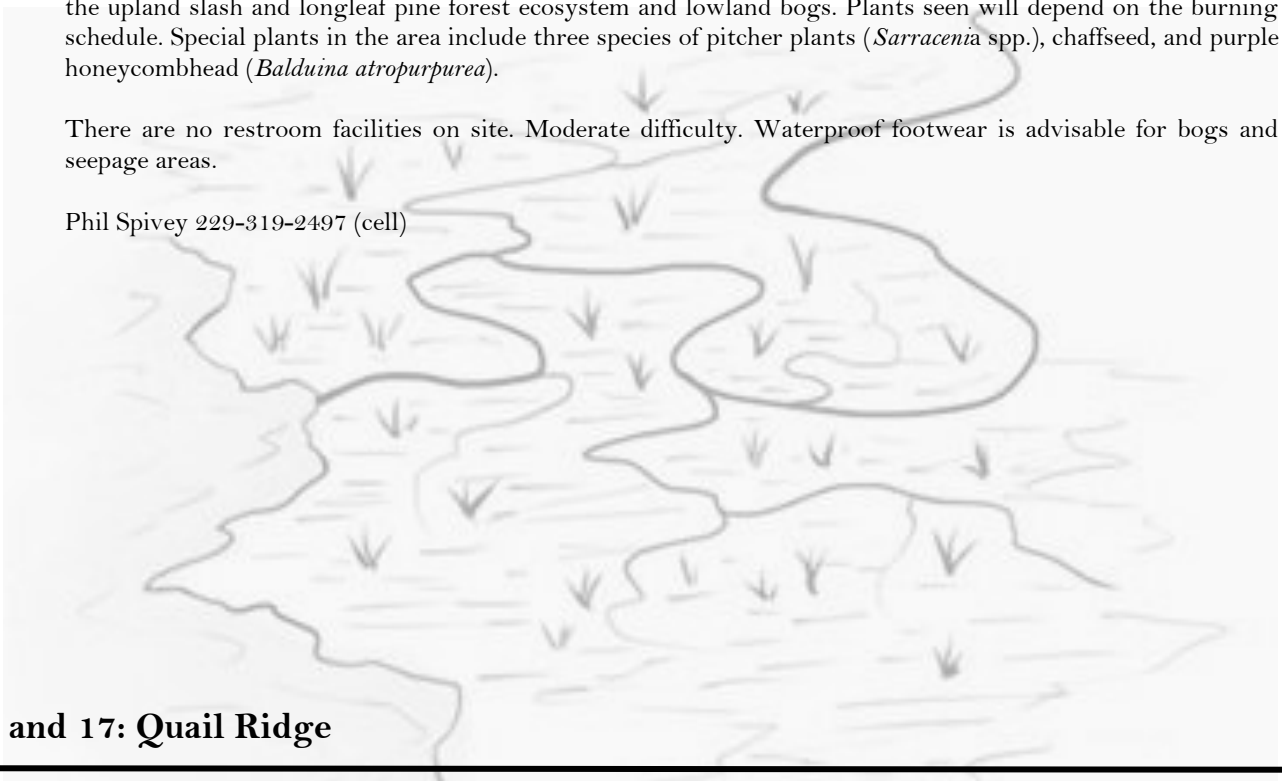
Trip 13: Grand Bay

10

- Date:** Saturday, afternoon, 1 pm to 4:30 pm
Location: Meet trip leader at Quality Inn parking lot to leave at 1 pm.
Description: See Description for #3
Leader: Elliott Horner, 678-249-8856 (cell)

Trips 14 & 15: Doerun Bog

- Date:** Saturday, morning (#14) and afternoon (#15) - Quail Ridge makes a nice combo with this one.
Location: **Morning:** Meet at the Quality Inn parking area at 8:30 am to caravan to Doerun Pitcher Plant Bog (58 miles from Valdosta), where you will meet your trip leader.
Afternoon: Meet the trip leader on site at 1 pm.
Description: Doerun Pitcher Plant Bog is a state-owned natural area about 12 miles NW from Moultrie. We will focus on the upland slash and longleaf pine forest ecosystem and lowland bogs. Plants seen will depend on the burning schedule. Special plants in the area include three species of pitcher plants (*Sarracenia* spp.), chaffseed, and purple honeycombhead (*Balduina atropurpurea*).
There are no restroom facilities on site. Moderate difficulty. Waterproof footwear is advisable for bogs and seepage areas.
Leader: Phil Spivey 229-319-2497 (cell)



Trips 16 and 17: Quail Ridge

- Date:** Saturday, morning 8:30 am - noon (#16) and afternoon 1 pm to 4 pm (#17) - Doerun Bog makes a nice combo.
Location: **Morning:** Meet at the Quality Inn parking area at 8:30 am to caravan to Doerun Pitcher Plant Bog (58 miles from Valdosta), where you will meet your trip leader.
Afternoon: Meet the trip leader **on site** (not at Quality Inn) at 1 pm. Quail Ridge Plantation is located at 3281 Moye Rd, Moultrie. Directions will be provided.
Description: Quail Ridge Plantation is a quail-hunting plantation near Norman Park. We will focus on bogs and ecotones in a longleaf pine forest. Plants seen will depend on the burn schedule. Some specialties in the area include three species of pitcher plants, chaffseed, Virginia bunchflower, Stokes aster, purple honeycombhead, and miscellaneous orchids.
Restroom facilities are available at the meeting site (lodge). Moderate difficulty. Waterproof footwear is advised for wet bog areas.
Leaders: Wilson Baker 850-212-1106 (cell) and Guy Anglin
-

Trip 18: Seepage-Slope Pitcher Plant Bog

11

Date: Saturday, morning , 8:30 am to 12 pm (Reed Bingham State Park makes a nice combo with this one.)
Location: Meet leaders at Quality Inn to leave at 8:30 am. We will caravan to this **bog on private property** near Adel, about 30 miles north on I-75. PLEASE PLAN TO CARPOOL.

Description: Trip Limit - 15 people. Easy walking. We will be traversing flat terrain with generally open vegetation.

We will walk 1/2 mile walk TOTAL along a woods road to get in and out of the bog. There are no trails interior and we will navigate some old fence-line and firebreaks. A jewel on a seepage slope, at 30 acres this bog is relatively large for Georgia. Abundant are seams of stately trumpet pitchers (*Sarracenia flava*) and clusters of dwarf pitchers (*Sarracenia minor*), plus a striking hybrid of the two. We will hunt for parrot pitcher, a mystery for this bog, and other bog gems such as dwarf sundew, yellow colic-root, yellow meadow-beauty, and the state-tracked grass wireleaf dropseed.

Please bring insect repellent, sunscreen and/or hat, and plenty of water. There are no facilities.

Leaders: Lisa Kruse, 706-318-3287 (cell), Hal Massie 478-957-6095 (cell)

Trip 19: Reed Bingham State Park: Sandhills and seepage slopes

Date: Saturday, afternoon, 1 pm to 4:30 pm
Location: Meet leaders at the parking lot for the visitor center of Reed Bingham State Park at 1 pm.

Description: Easy walking. We will be traversing flat terrain by nature trail.

We will walk 1-2 miles on a flat nature trail with short forays into the woods, if desired. We will traverse dry longleaf uplands, mesic slopes, with option to include bottomland hardwoods (would increase the walk to total 3 miles), and observe different upland fire management regimes and a wiregrass restoration site. We expect to see a diversity of oaks and abundant longleaf-wiregrass associates—wildflowers and grasses.

Please bring insect repellent, lunch, sunscreen and/or hat, and plenty of water. Restrooms and water are available at the state park. A park pass of \$5 per vehicle will be required.

Leaders: Lisa Kruse, 706-318-3287 (cell), Hal Massie 478-957-6095 (cell)

Trip 20: Dixie Bog

Date: Saturday, afternoon, 1 pm to 4:30
Location: Meet the trip leaders at Quality Inn parking area to leave at 1 pm.

Description: The hiking will be only 0.5 mile and easy, with the terrain being flat to slightly rolling. Wear rubber boots, old sneakers, or old shoes and expect muddy, wet areas that may otherwise get your feet wet.

During the late 1990s, the property that is home to Dixie Bog was managed as a quail plantation, and is one of the best remaining pitcherplant bogs, but it has been impacted by harrowing and food plots due to many landowners. Recently, new ownership and frequent prescribed burning have improved habitats. During this field trip we will explore and uncover the current condition of the bog. Plan on seeing pitcherplants (*Sarracenia minor* and *S. flava*), sundews and dewthreads (*Drosera capillaris*, *D. tracyi*), early orchids (rose pogonia, *Pogonia ophioglossoides*), and butterworts (*Pinguicula caerulea*), among many other less conspicuous bog plants. We should see the remains, perhaps resilient and recovered, of several interesting seepy areas, depending on the amount of food plot disturbances and fire management over the last several years.

No restroom facilities. Bring waterproof footwear.

Leaders: Rebecca Byrd , DNR, 770-369-5710 (cell) and Max Medley

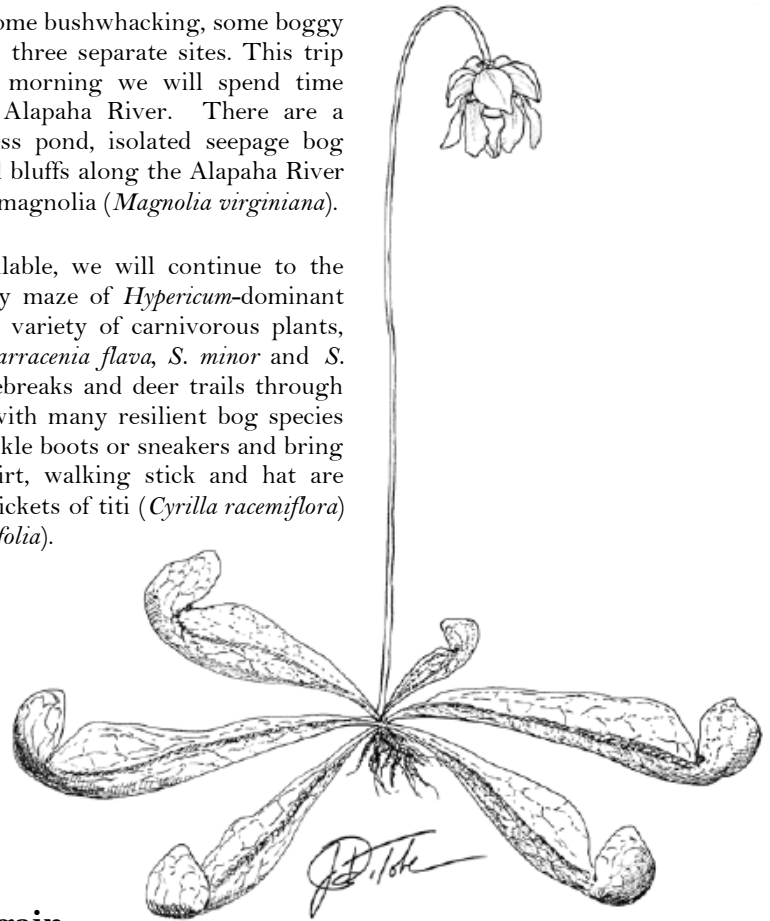
Date: Saturday, all day, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Location: Meet trip leader at Quality Inn parking area to leave at 8:30 am. Three sites are located just east of Alapaha, Berrien Co., near the Alapaha River, 40 mi. northeast of Valdosta.

Description: Moderate, adventuresome, short walks, some bushwhacking, some boggy unmarked old trails, up to 3 miles total, three separate sites. This trip features a variety of habitats. In the morning we will spend time exploring Gaskins property along the Alapaha River. There are a variety of habitats including pondcypress pond, isolated seepage bog with yellow flytrap (*Sarracenia flava*), and bluffs along the Alapaha River featuring a mixture of oaks and southern magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*).

Following lunch with full facilities available, we will continue to the nearby Sutton Tract. This is a shrubby maze of *Hypericum*-dominant boggy seeps and small openings with a variety of carnivorous plants, including three pitcherplant species (*Sarracenia flava*, *S. minor* and *S. psittacina*). We will be following old firebreaks and deer trails through extensive cutover slash pine flatwoods with many resilient bog species scattered throughout. Be sure to wear ankle boots or sneakers and bring a change of shoes. A long-sleeved shirt, walking stick and hat are recommended due to occasional shrub thickets of titi (*Cyrilla racemiflora*) and occasional bamboo-vine (*Smilax laurifolia*).

Leader: Tom Patrick 706-318-3529 (cell)

Sarracenia psittacina
Picture courtesy of Florida Department of
Environmental Protection



Trip 22: The Roadside Botanist Rides Again

Date: Saturday, full day, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Quality Inn parking lot to arrange carpooling and leave at 8:30 am.

Description: This will be an all-day trip to explore the roadsides in the general vicinity. We have one target roadside bog that we will visit, where some of the highlights we expect to see are pitcher plants (*Sarracenia flava* & *S. minor*), blue butterwort (*Pinguicula caerulea*), sundew (*Drosera capillaris*), candyroots (*Polygala lutea*, *P. ramosa*, & *P. cymosa*), red root (*Lachnanthes caroliniana*), lance-leaved violet (*Viola lanceolata*), Virginia chain fern (*Woodwardia virginica*) and a host of other bogophiles.

On the side away from the road, the bog grades into a swamp where we should encounter pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*), swamp tupelo (*Nyssa biflora*), sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*), slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*) and more. There is a lot of *Sphagnum*, which means the bog will be soupy at best and downright wet if it has been raining. Also, swamp will be very wet at the time of the pilgrimage, so dress to do some wading if you plan to explore the swamp and more than the periphery of the bog. We also will be stopping at other interesting locations we come across where ample parking is available.

Bring: Water, lunch (no guarantee we will be passing by a store/eatery so be prepared to eat in the field), snacks, bug spray, sunscreen, and a charming personality. Also, a change of shoes/socks will likely be in order after the bog/swamp.

Leader: Rich Reaves, environmental consultant, 770-827-5186 (cell)

Trip 23: Dudley's Hammock

Date: Sunday, afternoon, 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Location: Meet at Quality Inn parking lot to leave at 12:30 pm. Dudley's Hammock is located about 10.5 airmiles NE of the Valdosta city center. We will travel to gate to Grand Bay Wildlife Management on Lakeland Highway and be escorted in by Moody AFB personnel.

Description: Dudley's Hammock, owned and managed by Moody Air Force Base, is a relatively undisturbed, 174-acre elevated area within the Grand Bay wetland complex comprising 17,000 acres of shallow Carolina bays and pocosins. The hammock rises 2–3 m above the surrounding cypress-gum swamps and is noted as a rare inland example in Georgia of undisturbed mesic hardwood hammock.

Dominant trees include *Magnolia grandifolia*, *Quercus virginiana*, *Q. nigra*, *Q. alba*, *Q. michauxii*, *Ilex opaca*, *Carya glabra*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Nyssa sylvatica*, *Pinus glabra*, and *P. taeda*. Common shrubs are *Lyonia ferruginea*, *Serenoa repens*, *Ilex coriacea*, *Symplocos tinctoria*, *Vaccinium corymbosum*, *V. elliotii*, and *V. stamineum*. *Fagus grandifolia* is conspicuously absent, presumably because of the small size and isolation of the site or edaphic factors. *Tillandsia usneoides*, *Pleopeltis polypodioides* var. *michauxiana*, and *Epidendrum conopseum* are common vascular epiphytes.

Dudley's Hammock supports a large population (112 host trees of 8 species) of the rare epiphytic green-fly orchid, *Epidendrum conopseum*, and a small population of the rare needle palm, *Rhapidophyllum hystrix*. Located mostly about the margin of the hammock are large clones of the rare climbing heath, *Pieris phillyreifolia*, nearly all of which on the elevated hammock is the unusual clonal, low shrubby form. The rare fall-flowering orchid, *Triphora trianthophoros*, is also known from this site. Access to Dudley's Hammock is limited by locked gates and requires official permission from authorized Moody AFB personnel. Except for limited hunting, Dudley's Hammock receives little use and human impact is minimal.

Leader: Richard Carter, Valdosta State University, 229-506-2099 (cell)

Trip 24: Grassy Pond Birding

Date: Sunday, 7:30 am to 12 pm (note **early** start time!) - this trip makes a good combo with #23
Location: Meet leaders at the Quality Inn parking lot to leave at **7:30 am**.

Description: This trip will be a combination of birding and botanizing. The trip leaders will be able to point out bird species we see and hear along the way for a more rounded naturalizing experience. The morning hours in spring are an ideal time to learn more about the local avifauna, so please bring a nice set of binoculars with you if you'd like to make birding a part of your experience. This is a moderate walk with 3 miles on trails and boardwalks. Grassy Pond supports a diverse assemblage of aquatic and wetland plants including swamp loosestrife (*Decodon verticillatus*), Dahoon holly (*Ilex cassine*), American lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*), fragrant water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*), watershield (*Brasenia schreberi*), frogbit (*Limnobium spongia*), the noxious weed hydrilla (*Hydrilla* sp.), mosquito fern (*Azolla caroliniana*), and various aquatic bryophytes. Steep bluffs and flatwoods adjacent to the pond are predominated by an overstory of bullbay magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*), pignut hickory (*C. glabra*), live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), and laurel oak (*Q. hemisphaerica*), and an understory of horsesugar (*Symplocos tinctoria*), gum bumelia (*Bumelia lanuginosa*), dwarf pawpaw (*Asimina parviflora*), American holly (*Ilex opaca*), red mulberry (*Morus rubra*), and wax myrtle (*Morella cerifera*).

Leaders: Rebecca Byrd, DNR, 770-369-5710 (cell) and Max Medley

Trip 25: Grand Bay

Date: Sunday, 8:30 am to 12 pm (this trip makes a good combo with #23)
Location: Meet trip leader at Quality Inn parking lot to leave at 8:30 am.

Description: See description for #3

Leader: Elliott Horner, 678-249-8856 (cell)

Trip 26: ABAC Turner County Bog

Date: Sunday, morning, 8:30 am to 12 pm
Location: Meet in the Quality Inn parking lot to leave at 8:30 am to caravan to the site.

Description: See trip description #4

Leaders: Vanessa Lane, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, 845-594-8415 (cell)

Trip 27: Broxton Rocks

Date: Sunday, 8:30 am to 3 pm
Location: Meet in the Quality Inn parking lot at 8:30 am to caravan to site. Trip limit 40 people.

Description: See trip description #5; leaders are Frankie Snow and Malcolm Hodges, The Nature Conservancy, 770-776-9194

Trip 28: Brumby/Tift

Date: Sunday, all day, 9:30 am to 2 pm
Location: Meet at Quality Inn parking area at 9:30 am to caravan to the site or meet the trip leader on site at 11:00 am. Brumby property is located just north of Tifton, 51 miles from Valdosta.

Description: **This trip is limited to 15 participants.**

The Brumby/Tift Property is 1800 acres with a 300 acre manmade lake, managed for timber, pine straw and is leased for hunting. The land is protected under a conservation covenant. The area we will be visiting is natural longleaf and slash pine that has never been used for agriculture. The site is maintained by frequent prescribed burns. Plants include four *Asclepias* species, *Agalinis* species, forked bluecurls, *Dyschoriste*, *Ruellia*, *Lygodesmia*, and many legume and grass species. The bog area has yellow trumpet and hooded pitcher plants, pipewort, *Polygala* species, rosebud orchid, hibiscus and yellow-eyed grass. This area has a large population of gopher tortoises and we will visit "Gopher Village." The site also has populations of diamondback rattlesnakes, king snakes, coachwhips, Southeastern Slimy Salamander, and softshell turtles. Birders identified 58 species of birds on the property in 2013 including Bachman's sparrow and common moorhen.

We will drive into the property relatively close to where we will be exploring. Although there are no trails, walking is moderate on gently sloping terrain. Dress for the woods and have footwear appropriate for the bog. Bring water and lunch. There are no restroom facilities on site.

Leaders: Karan Rawlins 912-599-9450 (cell) and Ed McDowell 478-396-8901 (cell)

Trip 29: Little River Paddle on a Coastal Plain Blackwater river

Date: Sunday, full day (2 hour paddle plus shuttle time)
Location: Meet trip leader on site: at the very north end of Reed Bingham State Park at Red Roberts Landing on the east side of Roundtree Bridge at 8:30 am.

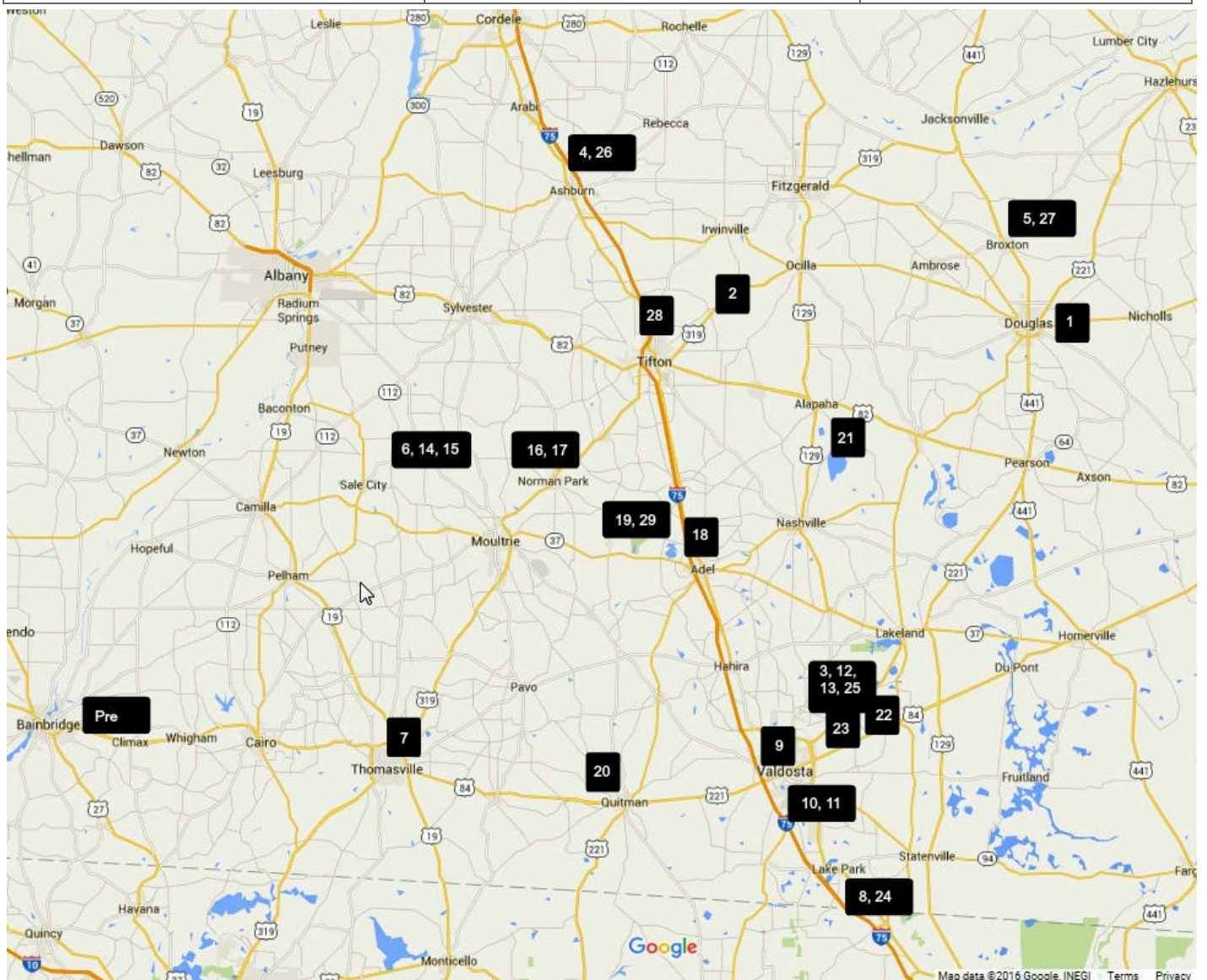
Description: Must bring your own canoe or kayak (no motors) or make your own arrangements to rent a boat from Reed Bingham State Park 229-896-3551 (\$25/4 hr). Each participant must have a life jacket and know how to swim. We will paddle approximately four miles downstream. The water is flat with no rapids, but there may be trees and deadfalls to negotiate around. Novice paddlers generally have no problem on this stretch of river.

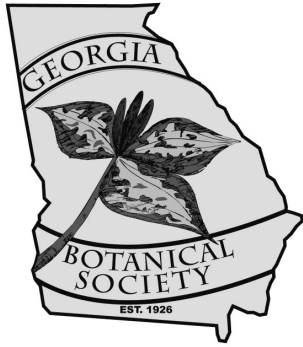
Along the way you may see ogeechee tupelo, saw palmetto, cypress, maple, live oak, ash, fringe tree, mayhaw, native azaleas, jessamine, crossvine, native blueberries, golden club, spatterdock. Near the takeout you may see examples of invasive plants such as elephant ear and water primrose.

Leader: Bret Wagenhorst, 229 392-5513 (cell)

Field Trip Schedule at a Glance

Thurs	Fri AM	Fri PM	Sat AM	Sat PM	Sun AM	Sun PM
Pre-	1. General Coffee State Park		8. Grassy Pond	9. Sedge Workshop	23. Dudley's Hammock (PM)	
Trip:	2. Lentile Tract		10. Lake Louise	11. Lake Louise	24. Grassy Pond Birding	
Climax		3. Grand Bay	12. Grand Bay	13. Grand Bay	25. Grand Bay	
Cave		4. ABAC Turner Co. Bog	14. Doerun Bog	15. Doerun Bog	26. ABAC Turner County Bog	
&	5. Broxton Rocks		16. Quail Ridge	17. Quail Ridge	27. Broxton Rocks	
Sink-	6. Doerun Bog		18. Seepage-Slope	19. Reed Bingham	28. Brumby/Tift Bog	
	7. Lost Creek and Greenwood			20. Dixie Bog	29. Little River Paddle	
			21. Sutton & Gaskins properties			
			22. Roadside Botanizing			





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