

BotSoc News



Georgia Botanical Society

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2009

PRESIDENT'S REPORT & SOCIETY NEWS

Electronic Version of Newsletter. I hope those of you with internet capability saw the May issue of *BotSoc News* on the Society's website. Rich Reaves and I received many comments (mostly favorable) from members who viewed the newsletter after obtaining a link to the electronic version through the BotSoc email list.

An electronic newsletter offers many advantages over a print version: color images, significant reduction in printing and mailing costs and conservation of natural resources. The savings in printing and mailing costs will benefit our field botany grants and other program functions. My thinking, which will require board approval, is to modify the membership renewal form for 2010 to allow members to select whether they wish to obtain the electronic format of the newsletter through the website or to continue to receive a printed copy in the mail. There will be no change in the current format and printing process for those who opt to continue to receive the printed newsletter.

We hope that 50% or more of our members will choose to support the electronic format and you do not have to wait until January to make the change. If you prefer the electronic format, please contact Rich Reaves at rich.reaves@att.net to receive the link to issues as they go online.

I plan to present more definitive objectives at the annual business meeting in September, but the transition to an online newsletter is 'a work in progress' so please provide your thoughts about the change to Rich or me.

Annual Meeting. The Georgia Botanical Society annual business meeting will be held on Saturday, September 26 at Pickett's Mill Battlefield Historic Site. An agenda for the business meet-

ing will be published in the September *BotSoc News*. Bring a picnic lunch and afterwards, Tom Patrick will lead a short hike. BotSoc has been involved with a plant inventory of Pickett's Mill. One of the plants of interest, Georgia aster (*Symphyotrichum georgianum*), should be in flower. Make your plans now to attend. Information about Pickett's Mill can be found under the historic sites page on Georgia's state park website (<http://www.gastateparks.org>).

2010 Wildflower Pilgrimage. Planning for the 2010 Pilgrimage is well under way. Please

mark your calendars for March 12-14, 2010. We will return to Bainbridge, GA and botanically rich SW Georgia and adjoining areas of the Florida panhandle. BotSoc's vice-president and pilgrimage organizer Jim Drake has done excellent work in compiling a list of candidate field

trips and has secured The Charter House as our headquarters for the pilgrimage. More to come on the Pilgrimage as plans are finalized.

Change to ByLaws. Lastly, please read the proposed change in our bylaws (page 12 of this newsletter). The change formalizes the option offered on last year's membership renewal form for information included in the membership directory. Members attending the September business meeting will vote on this change.

As you can see from the list of upcoming field trips in this issue, the next few months are a good time to get out into the woods and enjoy our wonderful flora.

Ed McDowell, President

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**GEORGIA BOTANICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2009
11:00 AM**

**PICKETT'S MILL BATTLEFIELD
HISTORIC SITE**



BotSoc News

is published seven times a year (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov and for the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage).

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is August 1 for the September issue.

Subscriptions

are included with membership.

Website:

www.gabotsoc.org

Editorial Office

Jean Smith
1135 Barwick Hill Rd
Comer, GA 30629
ph 706.783.2308
email:
jss2holly@
windstream.net

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40th Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage



BLACK'S BLUFF LOCK & DAM PARK PILGRIMAGE TRIPS 2 & 6

Floyd County

As was said many times during the pilgrimage, we were fortunate to have beautiful weather. Just the weekend before we had lots of rain and violent storms moving through the area. Friday was cool, cloudy and windy but Saturday and most of Sunday were warm with abundant sunshine. So, we enjoyed perfect weather for the Black's Bluff and Lock & Dam field trips on Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon. Attendance was excellent with both trips at nearly full capacity. *Rome News Tribune* reporter Kevin Myrick joined the Saturday morning trip and wrote a nice article for the Sunday paper.

Field trip leaders, Richard & Teresa Ware of Rome, began the field trip with a little history of Black's Bluff. Richard listed some of the early botanists who visited the area and the efforts to stop the mining at the site and preserve Black's Bluff as a 132 acre Nature Conservancy Preserve. The push to save the site was because of all the rare or unusual plant species found there, such as large-flowered skullcap (*Scutellaria montana*), limerock arrowwood (*Viburnum bracteatum*), September elm (*Ulmus serotina*), blue ash (*Fraxinus quadrangulata*) and Dutchmen's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*).

The walk started with a stroll back down the road to where everyone could get a good view of the true "Cliffs of the Coosa" as it was known to the early botanists who explored the area. This is the last remaining section that escaped mining and is a near vertical rock wall. This rock wall, or at least the areas in between the rock, supports a very rich carpet of flowers, trees and shrubs, including the limerock arrowwood, September elm and blue ash. The ground was carpeted a week or two

before the pilgrimage with thousands of sharp-lobed hepatica (*Anemone acutiloba*) with their mostly white, but sometimes blue flowers. Today we find early rue (*Thalictrum dioicum*), roundleaf ragwort (*Packera obovata*) and perfoliate bellwort (*Uvularia perfoliata*) blooming. We also observed here several specimens of mockorange (*Philadelphus inodorus*) and oak-leaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*), September elm (*Ulmus serotina*) and blue ash (*Fraxinus quadrangulata*), not flowering.

Then we moved back down the road, past the cars to the really rich wildflower area that supports the most abundant and beautiful display of flowers at Black's Bluff. Here we found Dutchmen's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), giant chickweed (*Stellaria pubera*), rue anemone (*Anemonella thalictroides*), wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), blue phacelia (*Phacelia bipinnatifida*), roundleaf ragwort (*Packera obovata*), blue cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*), toadshade trillium (*Trillium cuneatum*) and others in bloom. We were a little early for the dwarf larkspur (*Delphinium tricorne*) here, and a little late for the hundreds of cut-leaf toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*). The ground was beginning to be carpeted with that beautiful little, delicate fern - brittle fern (*Cystopteris protrusa*). A short walk down the



Teresa Ware

Dutchmen's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)

road revealed two more goodies in bloom: smooth rockcress (*Arabis laevigata*) and early saxifrage (*Saxifraga virginicensis*).

Then we drove down Black's Bluff road for a short distance to Lock & Dam Park. This county owned park is mostly known for fishing, but does have many nice plants especially since the addition of the Coosa River Preserve immediately adjacent to the park upstream along the Coosa River that was recently purchased by the state. We first stopped beside a small rock outcrop that supports a nice population of dwarf larkspur (*Delphinium tricorne*) and found one

Rome, Georgia April 03 - 05, 2009

flower almost fully open. After parking near the river we began to explore the rich alluvial soils along the river banks. First we were impressed by the beautiful silverbells (*Halesia tetraptera*) blooming here and a wonderful group of pawpaws (*Asimina triloba*) in full bloom.

Of course, at that point, Richard had to point out a huge bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*) and a swamp chestnut oak (*Quercus michauxii*). Growing underneath the oak was a plant that really got some folks excited - one-flowered cancer-root (*Orobanche uniflora*). After crossing the bridge onto the Coosa River Preserve we immediately saw a beautiful blooming clump of lance-leaf trilliums (*Trillium lancifolium*) and scrambling across the ground here was a nice patch of Canada wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*) beginning to flower.

Then we walked across a field to a small limestone rock outcrop where we saw a small group of Southern adder's tongue fern (*Ophioglossum*

pycnostichum), a huge Shumard oak (*Quercus shumardii*) that branched really low into 4 huge trunks, the two species of trillium observed earlier and more Canada wild ginger. We also saw excellent examples of male and female flowers of early rue (*Thalictrum dioicum*) growing on the rock. Richard pointed out two rare shrubs growing on the side of the outcrop - American wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpureus*) and Alabama snowwreath (*Neviusia alabamensis*). Teresa pointed out the spring coralroot orchid (*Corallorhiza wisteriana*), almost invisible among the leaf litter. We walked up above the outcrop and found thousands of tiny jack-in-the-pulpits (*Arisaema triphyllum*), violet wood sorrel (*Oxalis violacea*), and a few remaining dissected toothwort (*Dentaria multifida*). Now, it was time to head back to the hotel, looking forward to the banquet and excellent program provided by Alan Weakley.

Richard Ware, Rome



DAVIS FARM

PILGRIMAGE TRIPS 5 & 9

Chattooga County

Despite the fact that seven out of nine days before the Pilgrimage were rainy, bright sunshine greeted our tours for Saturday, April 4, 2009. Two groups set out for the Ken Davis farm for the morning and afternoon sessions. The ranch house sits in the shadow of Simms Mountain and is separated from the flower sites by beautiful pastures and a rushing water creek. Once we fashioned a bridge, the creek was forded and the fun began. Stu and Anita Smith were the tour leaders.

On the north facing slope we found most of the expected early spring varieties. Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium reptans*), hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba*), wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), trout lily (*Erythronium umbilicatum*), spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), rue

anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*), foam flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), lance-leaf trillium (*Trillium lancifolium*), Wister's coralroot (*Corallorhiza wisteriana*), Canada wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), little brown jug (*Hexastylis arifolia*), toadshade trillium (*Trillium cuneatum*), cut-leaf toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*), early saxifrage (*Saxifraga virginensis*), southern adder's tongue fern (*Ophioglossum pycnostichum*), squawroot (*Conopchis americana*), spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*), wild comfrey – leaves only (*Cynoglossum virginianum*) and bird's-foot violet (*Viola pedata*) were all present. We tried, without success, to find showy orchid (*Galearis spectabilis*).

We also had a chance to visit with Dr. Davis and his wife, Laura, who told us about their wonderful farm and its colorful history.

Stuart & Anita Smith,
Rome



Among the early spring blooms on the north facing slope of Simms Mountain was foam flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*).
Photo by Teresa Ware

Pilgrimage Field Trip Reports



WHITMORE'S BLUFF PILGRIMAGE TRIP 12

Floyd County

Saturday morning eleven Bot Soccers joined Tom Govus to explore Whitmore's Bluff. Although privately owned, Richard Ware had secured permission for all of the properties except for an area where shooting stars grow.

Some who had signed up for the hike backed out after hearing about Richard's 25 foot tumble down the mountain. And those who did set out on the hike had second thoughts when Tom announced, "There's a chance I could get us all lost." (His only visit to the bluff was just prior to the pilgrimage.) But the lure of a beautiful day, sweeping views in open woodlands and a botanically rich area kept us forging ahead.

Pine and oak woods, indicating fairly acidic soils, dominated the first hillsides we hiked. Tom said that sandstone rocks underlie this terrain, but that shortly we would encounter limestone bluffs. Soon we could see vibrant blue flowers carpeting the slopes - Virginia spiderworts (*Tradescantia virginiana*) growing at the southern edge of their range.

We climbed to the top of the bluffs where mock orange (*Philadelphus inodorus*) was the predominating understory shrub. At the edge of a cliff with a sharp vertical drop but a great panoramic view of the ridge and valley area, Tom reassured us that just ahead was a safe and easy way out to return to our vehicles.

We examined lush moss covered rocks where resurrection ferns (*Pleopeltis polypodioides*)

thrived, early saxifrage (*Saxifraga virginensis*) bloomed and stonecrop sedum (*Sedum ternatum*) clung. In the calcareous soils at the base of the cliffs, Shumard oak (*Quercus shumardii*), chinquapin oak (*Q. mulhenbergii*), chalk maple (*Acer leucoderme*) and slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*) became more common and hepatica (*Hepatica nobilis*), black cohosh (*Cimicifuga americana*), toadshade trillium (*Trillium cuneatum*), several species of toothworts (*Dentaria lanciniata*, *D. diphylla* and *D. heterophylla*), giant chickweed (*Stellaria pubera*) and green violets (*Hybanthus concolor*) grew. Tom identified the blue phacelias abundant on some rocks as *Phacelia brevistylis*, having been told by Steve Bowling that they grew on Whitmore's Bluff and Pigeon Mountain.

One disgusting area, scattered with pop and beer cans thrown from the top of the bluff and apparently used for target practice, revealed fresh morels (*Morchella semilibera*). Was their emergence amidst the cans a symbiotic relationship?

Farther down the mountain we saw lance-leaf trilliums (*Trillium lancifolium*). A wild ginger identified as *Hexastylis arifolia* var. *ruthii* was distinguished from *H. arifolia* var. *arifolia* by erect rather than spreading calyx lobes. Tom found one large-flowered skullcap (*Scutellaria montana*) and an area with wild borage (*Cynoglossum virginianum*).

Following lunch we reached the Oostanaula River and a groundcover of Allegheny spurge (*Pachysandra procumbens*) with two in bloom. Bladderpods (*Staphylea trifolia*) lined riverbanks where mayapples (*Podophyllum peltatum*) were emerging. Scattered about were spring beauties (*Claytonia virginica*), dwarf larkspur (*Delphinium tricorne*) and small colonies of bulblet fern (*Cystopteris bulbifera*) and broad beech fern (*Thelypteris hexagonoptera*). Tom identified a sapling tree with 3-4" threatening, pinnate thorns protruding from the trunk as honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*).

Then we began the steep and slippery climb back to the top of the bluff. At a cave we saw blooms of columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) and groundsel (*Senecio obovatus*). Tom located one Georgia rockcress (*Arabis georgiana*) where Richard Ware said twelve had once grown.

Finally we arrived at the challenging final ascent. A thick rope was strung in a zig-zag fashion from tree to tree and, hanging on for dear life, one by one we hoisted our way up to the top of the bluff. The only "easy" part of our exit was the final walk of a half-mile back to our vehicles. Thanks to Tom for an enjoyable, informative trip.

Albie Smith, Athens

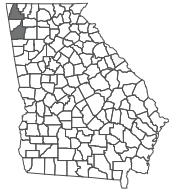
Arguably the most challenging of all the pilgrimage trips, Whitmore's Bluff was well worth the climb.

Among the plants growing there was Virginia spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*). Growing at the southern edge of its range, the spiderworts bloomed in a range of color from purple to pink to white.

Top photo, Albie Smith.
Bottom photo, Jean Smith.



Pilgrimage Field Trip Reports



POCKET RECREATION AREA & KEOWN FALLS

PILGRIMAGE TRIP 13

Floyd & Walker Counties

Leaders Hugh and Carol Nourse and 20 Bot Soccers drove from Rome through a picturesque valley to the Pocket Recreation Area and a 1/2 mile loop through a colluvial north facing cove under Horn and Mill Ridges. As we had learned on Friday from Ron Lance, the ridges are capped with sandstone and the lower elevations have softer limestone. On this cold morning, our first find was giant chickweed (*Stellaria pubera*), but the whole path was lined with bluets (*Houstonia caerulea*) and wood rush (*Luzula* sp.) and we found a nice patch of liverleaf (*Anemone acutiloba*). We were a little early for some of the spring blooms, lousewort (*Pedicularis canadensis*) and Catesby's trillium (*Trillium catesbaei*) were just budding, but violet woodsorrel (*Oxalis violacea*) and toothwort (*Cardamine angustata*, syn. *Dentaria heterophylla*) were in bloom. As one might find in a limestone area, a small limestone sink was full of water, though in summer it is often dry. Along the banks of a small creek, we found a large patch of foam flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*) and wood anemone (*Anemone quinquefolia*).

We were fortunate that the several very knowledgeable botanists with us (Dennis Horn, John and Tee Brower and Sarah Corbett) allowed smaller groups so everyone could learn about the plants. Dennis corrected our mis-identification of southern wood violet (*Viola hirsutula*) as common violet (*Viola sororia*) and since both were present, showed us the difference: *V. hirsutula* leaves are purplish and smooth underneath whereas those of the common violet are green and hairy underneath.

The last major find was a group of pink lady's slippers (*Cypripedium acaule*) just poking their leaves above ground. Water levels were high so we had to go around the last stream. That was a good thing because as we cut through the picnic area we found some marvelous examples of wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), wood anemone and foam flower.

In the picnic area we found blooms of another southern wood violet, as well as sweet Betsy (*Trillium cuneatum*), giant chickweed and violet wood-sorrel. As at the previous site, Catesby's trillium was not yet in flower. The perfoliate bellflower (*Uvularia perfoliata*) was in bloom. We spent some time showing how the orange, rough inner surface of the tepals of *U. perfoliata* distinguishes it from *U. grandiflora* which also has perfoliate leaves. A wonderful find along one of the many streams was dwarf iris (*Iris cristata*) and sweet shrub (*Calycanthus floridus*).

We next climbed to the waterfall along a slope recently burned by a wild fire to find leaves of pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*), rattlesnake-weed (*Hieracium venosum*) and whorled-leaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis major*), but no blooms. Bluets and trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*) were in flower. Several participants turned back at the slope. One of them, Windy Smith, found a huge patch of liverleaf (*Anemone acutiloba*) in the picnic area at the beginning of the trail.

At the observation platform we had a great view of the main falls picturesquely surrounded by flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) and the red seeds and new leaves of a red maple (*Acer rubrum*). As we walked under the falls and looked back, Piedmont azalea (*Rhododendron canescens*) framed the falls and climbing hydrangea (*Decumaria barbara*) covered the walls. Chris Powers spent time photographing the falls and Dennis Horn found plants to investigate above the falls.

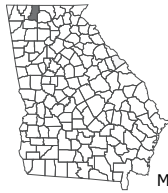
Early saxifrage (*Saxifraga virginensis*) and spear-leaved violet (*Viola hastata*) grew along the wet slippery path along the bluffs and several nice clumps of little brown jugs (*Hexastylis arifolia*) bloomed on the dry slope to the parking area. We returned to Rome in plenty of time to get ready for the evening activities.

Hugh Nourse, Athens

From underneath (top photo), the falls appear framed by Piedmont azalea (*Rhododendron canescens*). From the observation platform (bottom photo), the falls are surrounded by flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) and the red seeds and new leaves of a red maple (*Acer rubrum*).
Photos by Hugh and Carol Nourse.



Pilgrimage Field Trip Reports



CARTER'S LAKE RECLAMATION DAM PILGRIMAGE TRIP 19

Murray County

Though rain was predicted for Sunday morning, sunshine prevailed as Bot Soccers explored the floral displays near the Carter Lake Reclamation Dam. And what a treat this was!

Tom Patrick and Max Medley invited us to meander through a field just adjacent to the entrance road where we discovered a meadow of Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*). Their vibrant blue provided the grounded cover and perfect setting for the contrasting yellows of clumps of yellow trillium (*Trillium luteum*). Some of the yellow trillium were especially robust - knee-high with large leaves and flowers. Who can resist taking yet another photo to attempt to capture the exquisite beauty of these flowers?

Tom Patrick eventually urged us to continue with the field trip and pointed out several miniature doves-foot crane's-bill (*Geranium molle*) that grew in the grasses along the side of the entrance road. These could be easily overlooked, but on closer examination of their tiny magenta flowers, I found that they also were worthy of a photo. Another miniature, *Mazus miquelii*, with tiny blue-lavender flowers was nearby.

The floral display at Carter's Lake included (clockwise from top) Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) and the easily overlooked miniature doves-foot crane's-bill (*Geranium molle*).

Photos by Jim Drake (bluebells and columbine) and Albie Smith (crane's bill).



Spring elaeagnus (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), a non-native, in full bloom lined the trail and had a nice fragrance. There were numerous bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*), and Windy Smith found some seed pods that we examined. There were many black haw viburnums (*Viburnum prunifolium*) in full bloom, and Tom compared these glabrous leaves to a twig of blue haw viburnum (*V. rufidulum*) which had rusty brown pubescence on the underside.

As we headed down the trail near the lake, tree swallows were twittering and swooping all around us, seemingly competing for the one birdhouse in the area. Thread-leaf toothwort (*Dentaria multifida*) and the large basal rosettes of columbo (*Frasera caroliniensis*) were very common ground covers as we entered a more wooded terrain. Tom spotted a rock with rock cress (*Boechera laevigata*) growing upon it. He said its petals are as long as its sepals, and the flower remains constricted. Native foxgloves, not yet in bloom, surrounded the rock, and one red fire pink (*Silene virginica*) was spotted. Then Carl Emmanuel found a purple cliffbrake fern (*Pellaea atropurpurea*). It was a first for me and a real highlight of the day. It is usually found growing on calcareous rocks or on ledges.

Tom Patrick then noticed a single lily-like rosette of leaves emerging, which he identified as a false aloe (*Manfreda virginica*), another first for many of us. Hal Massie said he has seen it on Sprewell Bluff and Pine Mountain.

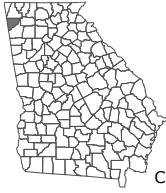
As we approached a wetland area, Max mentioned he had once found green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*) growing here. Thanks to Paula Reith for locating one baby plant.

Several other plants of interest that were pointed out included the green violet (*Hybanthus concolor*), black cohosh (*Cimicifuga racemosa*), Philadelphia daisy fleabane (*Erigeron philadelphicus*), waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum macrophyllum*), columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), red buckeyes (*Aesculus pavia*) in bloom and the evergreen southern grape fern (*Botrychium biternatum*). We also saw a few brittle ferns (*Cystopteris protrusa*). Tom said the "protrusa" refers to the rabbit-foot-like rhizome that extends away from the fern stipe.

The southern shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*) was our last lingering photo stop of the day. Their stately presence, many in their prime of bloom, captivated us all and will motivate us to return again another spring.

Albie Smith, Athens

Pilgrimage Field Trip Reports



JAMES H. FLOYD STATE PARK

PILGRIMAGE TRIPS 20

Chattooga County

Five Bot Soccers with leader Linda Chafin went to James H. Floyd State Park for a half-day field trip. Scouting out the site earlier, Linda had found that only one site in the park was worth a visit at this time, so she led us first to a Technology Parkway flatwoods to see a DNR safeguarding site for several rare plants.

The flatwoods were wet with ponding water amid small hammocks. The canopy was loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), cherrybark oak (*Quercus pagoda*) and willow oak (*Q. laurifolia*). Understory shrubs observed in this area included swamp dogwood (*Cornus foemina*) and possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*). Linda showed us how to identify the genus *Cornus* by its opposite leaves, the arching veins in the leaves and the stretching filaments as you pull a leaf apart.

We also found in bloom dwarf trillium (*Trillium pusillum*) and trailing meadowrue (*Thalictrum debile*). Other plants identified were Alabama leather flower (*Clematis socialis*) and Michigan lily (*Lilium michiganense*).

We then left the flatwoods and drove to James H. Floyd State Park, where we parked at a Pinhoti trailhead and walked through an interior mesophytic forest. Hundreds of mayapples (*Podophyllum peltatum*), many of which were in bloom, covered the ground. Amidst the mayapples were a number of other plants in bloom: violet wood-sorrel (*Oxalis violacea*), toothwort (*Cardamine angustata*, syn. *Dentaria heterophylla*), rue anemone (*Anemonella thalictroides*) and sweet Betsy (*Trillium cuneatum*), all punctuated by the bright wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*).

Hot shot Hugh had been calling the toothwort *Cardamine diphylla* for several days, but was much abashed to learn that in *C. diphylla* the stem leaves are similar to the ovate basal leaves but smaller, and in the case of *C. angustata* the stem leaves are linear and the basal leaves obovate. I am always learning.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of this habitat was the red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*), the yellow buckeye (*Aesculus flava*) and the definite observable hybrids of the two. All three were quite common in this woods area.

Now it was time to look up at the canopy. Among the trees identified were southern sugar maple (*Acer barbatum*), shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), Shumard oak (*Quercus shumardii*), northern red oak (*Q. rubra*), cherrybark oak (*Q. pagoda*), mockernut hickory (*C. tomentosa*) and white oak (*Q. alba*).

Two trees that were instructive to see were basswood (*Tilia americana*) with its multiple trunks and persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) with deep furrows in its bark. Linda pointed out that persimmon grows in many different habitats. Walnuts were found on the ground, so everyone searched for and found a number of black walnut trees (*Juglans nigra*).

Most of the group decided to go back to Rome and look for a nutmeg hickory (*Carya myristiciformis*) that Richard Ware had discovered. But to Carol and me it was lunch time, 11:45 AM. We stayed in the park and ate lunch in the picnic ground overlooking the lake - a beautiful setting.

Hugh Nourse, Athens



Perhaps the most interesting feature of the mesophytic forest at James H. Floyd State Park was the red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*), the yellow buckeye (*Aesculus flava*), and the definite observable hybrids of the two. All three were quite common in this woods area.

Photo by Hugh & Carol Nourse.

Pilgrimage Field Trip Reports



BUCKEYE TRAIL PILGRIMAGE TRIP 21

Floyd County

The weather was fine for Sunday's field trips as trip leaders Richard & Teresa Ware led a group into the wilds of Texas Valley in northwestern Floyd County. The area can be a bit confusing (there is a Texas Valley Road, a Little Texas Valley Road, and a Big Texas Valley Road) but is generally the valley between Lavender & Rock Mountains and Simms Mountain, which divides Floyd and Chattooga Counties. Our destination was old Antioch Road, a dirt road gated on both ends after construction of the Rocky Mountain Project. Thanks to Berry College's land management, Richard was able to secure a key, enabling us to avoid the mile walk into and out of the site.

We first explored upstream along a beautiful little creek and very boggy springhead. Although early for most blooms, we saw toadshade trillium (*Trillium cuneatum*), watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*) in the water and mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) above the spring. Following the creek downstream, we saw leaves of rattlesnake plantain (*Goodyera pubescens*) and lots of foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*) and silverbells (*Halesia tetraptera*) in bloom.

Even before we crossed the creek we began to see the signature plant for the trail. Scattered along the trail, buckeyes exhibited various degrees of hybridization between red buckeye

(*Aesculus pavia*) and yellow buckeye (*A. flava*). Some displayed almost pure red flowers and toward the end of the trail, some much bigger trees showed almost all yellow flowers.

Crossing the creek to see the really good stuff was a bit of a challenge because of recent rains. Those who made it were definitely rewarded, however. The trip was billed as an exploration because many years had passed since the trip leaders had seen most of the plants here and to tell the truth, they hadn't been able to find them in recent years. But, to everyone's surprise (especially Richard & Teresa) everything advertised was there - and even more! The biggest surprise of the day occurred almost immediately after crossing the creek when Marty Dominy saw a Southern nodding trillium (*Trillium rugelii*) - not seen at this site before.

Walking downstream, a search began in earnest for the elusive showy orchid (*Galearis spectabilis*). Bushwhacking through spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) sprouts, we began at creek edge where we had seen the orchid previously. After everyone had stepped right over it, Teresa Ware said, "Here it is." We found three plants with two perhaps only a week from full bloom.

A patch of Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) bloomed across the creek. A young cucumbertree (*Magnolia acuminata*) grew near the end of the trail, where leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*), already in fruit, and the beautiful and delicate Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium reptans*) were found. The Buckeye Trail is the only known site in Floyd County for Jacob's ladder, showy orchid, leatherwood and cucumbertree, and only the second site for Southern nodding trillium.

Some of the other plants observed on the trip were: trout lily (*Erythronium umbilicatum*) in fruit, windflower (*Anemone quinquefolia*), blue cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*), nodding mandarin (*Disporum lanuginosum*), wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), dwarf crested iris (*Iris cristata*), wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), Catesby's trillium (*Trillium catesbaei*) and three-parted violet (*Viola tripartita*).

After the field trip officially ended, the trip leaders and Wil & Dottie Starr stopped along Texas Valley Road to search for spatterdock (*Nuphar advena*), previously observed growing in the creek there. Alas, the water was too high; however, we did see a ton of red buckeye in full bloom. Thanks to Dottie for sending the author her plant list for the trip.

Richard Ware, Rome

The biggest surprise on the Buckeye Trail was the Southern nodding trillium (*Trillium rugelii*) found by Marty Dominy - a trillium not seen at this site before!
Photo by Teresa Ware.



Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
July 11 10:00 AM Meet in parking lot of the Hampton Inn at Waycross.	Roadside Botanizing: Waycross/Okefenokee Area, Ware County We'll travel Hwy 84, loop toward the Okefenokee Swamp & return to the hotel. We'll expect to find <i>Platanthera nivea</i> , <i>Peltandra saggitifolia</i> , <i>Befaria racemosa</i> , <i>Rhexia lutea</i> , <i>Sabatia bartramii</i> and <i>dodecandra</i> and try to locate <i>S. grandiflora</i> (never documented from Georgia but I think I found it along this route before).	Take I-75 south to US 84. Take US 84 east to Waycross. Bring: Lunch to eat on the road - purchase along the way will be difficult due to extremely sparse pickings. Walking: Short excursions along the roadside, never out of sight of the vehicles. Facilities: Possible at stores/stops along route, but unlikely after leaving hotel. Carpooling is encouraged to make pulling off easier for our roadside botanizing.	Rich Reaves 770.827.5186 rich.reaves@att.net
July 24 10:00 AM Friday Meet at corner of Old GA60 (GA60 Bus) and Camp Washega Rd.	Montgomery Creek Wade, Lumpkin County We will wade in Montgomery Creek, a beautiful trout stream in the Etowah River drainage, under a dense canopy of eastern hemlock and other trees to a small waterfall. Who knows what wildflowers we might see, but we will definitely stay cool doing it! In the afternoon, if time permits, we'll drive to Cooper's Gap and explore a section of the Appalachian Trail.	Take GA 60 north to Dahlonega to take Old GA 60 through the square and north out of town. Look for sign for Camp Frank D. Merrill ~3 mi after leaving the square (at intersection of Camp Washega Rd and GA 60 (Bus)). Facilities: Dahlonega. None on site. Walking: Actually, mostly wading. Bring shoes for rocky, slippery, cool, mountain stream. We may walk back out along a fisherman's path. Bring: Lunch to eat on creek & hiking boots if you want to walk at Cooper's Gap later.	Hal Massie 478.836.4907 478.957.6095 (cell, day of hike; reception iffy) massiefarm@aol.com
July 25 9:30 AM Note: new date and early time! Meet in the training room of the Delta CCU.	Tree I. D. Workshop & Walk Chattahoochee NRA, Cobb County The morning classroom session will ID major groups of north GA trees using mainly leaf characters. Our text will be <i>Native Trees of the Southeast, an Identification Guide</i> by Kirkman et al. or their earlier publication <i>Trees of Georgia and Adjacent States</i> . After lunch, Maureen will lead an optional walk in the NRA. The class is held at Delta Community Credit Union 3250 Riverwood Parkway Atlanta GA 30339	From I-75 North, take exit 258 to turn left on Cumberland Blvd, right on Cobb Pkwy and left on Riverwood Pkwy to Credit Union on left. From I-75 South, take exit 258 to turn right on Cumberland Blvd and continue as above. From I-285 West, take exit 20 and follow signs as if taking I-75 south. Do not get on I-75, but follow signs to Cumberland Blvd. Turn right on Cumberland and follow directions above. Facilities: At Delta CCU. Walking: Optional Bring: Kirkman tree books, hand lens and measuring tool, if you have them. Lunch will be at a nearby Mexican restaurant.	Richard Ware 706.232.3435 706.766.5143 cell gabotany@earthlink.net Maureen Donohue 770.818.9303 macaire75@att.net
Aug 8 10:00 AM Meet in room 147 in the Plant Sciences Building.	Wildflower Identification Workshop, Floyd County We will learn to identify late summer flowers, with an emphasis on the composites (Asteraceae), depending on what's blooming in early August, using dissecting scopes and keys. After lunch, we will continue keying as long as folks want, possibly followed by a wildflower walk, if desired and weather permitting. Registration required. Please contact Richard/Teresa before August 3.	Take I-75 to exit 290 (GA 20). Follow GA 20 and US 411 to Rome. At first traffic light (GA Loop 1) turn right, go to US 27, turn right. At next traffic light, turn left into the main entrance of Berry College. Pass guard house, go 3/4 way around the circle; turn right between Hermann Hall and the Plant Sciences Building. Take first left, park in lot on right anywhere not marked "F/S". Enter via door on left side at back of bldg., follow BotSoc signs to Room 147. Bring: Radford's Flora of the Carolinas (if you have it) and lunch to eat near classroom. Facilities: Yes	Richard & Teresa Ware 706.232.3435 706.766.5143 cell 706-766-4228 cell gabotany@earthlink.net

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
Aug 12 10:00 AM Meet at Visitor Center.	Red Top Mountain Plant Inventory, Bartow County This third inventory trip features lakeshore and ravine explorations. The state park has a lodge (770.975.0055) tent camping and yurts; otherwise Cartersville is nearby with abundant motels.	From Interstate 75, take exit 285, Red Top Mountain Rd. and go 1.5 mi east to Visitor Center. Walking: Easy to moderate, some bush-whacking off trails. Facilities: At Visitor Center and in picnic area for lunch. Bring: Hand lens, notebook, water bottle, picnic lunch.	Tom Patrick 706.476.4541 (cell) tom.patrick@gadnr.org
Aug 15 10:00 AM Meet at park office parking lot.	Plant Inventory - Pickett's Mill Historic Site, Paulding County The nearly completed inventory list will be checked for summer flora, especially in the hardwood ravines. No camping at this park; nearest is at Red Top Mountain State Park; motels in Kennesaw and Dallas. A list of plants found to date is available from the leader.	Take I-75 to exit 277, Acworth/GA Hwy 92. GA 92 makes several turns and an unexpected right just off the freeway. Proceed for 12 mi south to turn right at small brown sign for Pickett's Mill at Due West Road (NOT Due West Street). Go 1.8 mi to turn right onto Mt. Tabor Church Rd to entrance on right. Walking: Easy to moderate, some off trails. Facilities: At Visitor Center. Bring: Hand lens, notebook, water, lunch.	Tom Patrick 706.476.4541 (cell) tom.patrick@gadnr.org
The August 22 trip to Fort Mountain State Park is cancelled.			
Aug 29 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Meet at Powers Island.	Palisades Canoe Float, Chattahoochee River NRA, Fulton County Join us for a leisurely 3 mi float on the Chattahoochee from Powers Island to Paces Mill at US Highway 41 (suitable for beginner paddlers). Created by the geologic action of the Brevard Fault and the effects of weather and river flow, this rugged and beautiful section is habitat for an extraordinary array of late summer wildflowers and butterflies. We will make stops at the Chinese bamboo grove, Sandy Point and then at Devil's Stair Step Beach (Diving Rock) for lunch and a short loop walk.	We will meet at Powers Island (5862 Interstate North Pkwy, Sandy Springs, GA 30328) to unload equipment and shuttle vehicles to Paces Mill. From I-285 east, take exit 22 (Northside Dr) toward New Northside/Powers Ferry. Keep left at fork to follow I-285 signs. Turn left at New Northside Dr and continue to Interstate North Pkwy. From I-285 west, take exit 22, turn right at New Northside Dr and continue to Interstate North Pkwy. Walking: Easy. Facilities: At Powers Island, our lunch stop and Paces Mill. Bring: Picnic lunch, sunscreen, hat, rain jacket and water. Camera, binoculars and hand lens are recommended as is a day pack or other bag to secure items in your boat. \$3.00 daily parking pass or annual parking pass. You can obtain rental information for canoes and kayaks from 678.538.1200 or www.nps.gov/chat.	Jerry Hightower 770.206.0338, cell 678.538.1245, office jerry_hightower@nps.gov
			Reservations are required by calling 678.538.1200.

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
Sept 5 10:00 AM Meet at the parking lot just below Buford Dam.	Bowman's Island, Chattahoochee River NRA, Forsyth County This largest and most northerly of the 16 units composing the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area is also the least known and will be an exploratory trip for us. We know that it contains several types of "aster" including Georgia aster, many tree species and at least two bluets: purple (<i>Houstonia purpurea</i>) and thin leaved bluet (<i>H. tenuifolia</i>). If you have taken the tree id and/or the wildflower workshops this summer, this is the place to practice your skills.	The best access point to this portion of the NRA will not be known until just before the hike. Please call or email Maureen for directions during the first week of September. Bring: Park pass or \$3 or \$4 parking fee (depending on where we park) water and lunch to eat in the field. Hand lens, field guide, camera, binoculars, bug spray, sunscreen and hat. Walking: Moderate, 3-4 mile exploratory trip. Facilities: Unknown at present but probable at parking area.	Maureen Donohue 770.818.9303 678.687.7963 cell, trip day only macaire75@att.net
The September 12 trip to Kennesaw Mountain State Park is cancelled.			
Sept 19 10:00 AM Meet at at parking lot across from Bernie's store in Bellville.	Manassas Bog, Tattnall County This site is a 5 mile stretch of power line ROW consisting of alternating sandhill and bog areas. Many rare species should be found including purple pitcher plant (<i>Sarracenia purpurea</i>), hummingbird flower (<i>Macranthera flammea</i>), yellow fringed orchid (<i>Platanthera ciliaris</i>), Southern white fringed orchid <i>P. conspicua</i> , purple honeycomb-head (<i>Balduina atropurpurea</i>) as well as gorgeous Coastal Plain grasses and other fall bloomers.	From Atlanta: take I-75 south to I-16. East on I-16 to exit 98/GA 57. Right/South on GA 57 to Cobbtown and Collins. In Collins take GA 292 left/E through Manassas to Bellville. From Savannah: Take I-16 west to exit 116/US 301. Turn left/S on US 301 to right turn onto GA 169. Continue on GA 169 to Bellville and intersection with GA 292 at Bernie's. Lunch: Bring to eat in field. Some food at Bernie's. Walking: Easy. Prepare for wet feet, full sun, and burned conditions. Facilities: At Bernie's. Bring: Water, insect/tick repellent, sunscreen, long pants, hat.	Martha Joiner 912.764.6329 912.481.1623 cell joiners@frontiernet.net
Sept 26 11:00 AM Meet at Visitor's Center.	Annual Meeting - Pickett's Mill Historic Site, Paulding County Join us for a short business meeting at the Visitor's Center. After lunch Tom Patrick will lead a short hike to see some of the plants on the inventory BotSoc has compiled for Pickett's Mill, including Georgia aster (<i>Symphotrichum georgianum</i>) and threebirds orchid (<i>Triphora trianthophora</i>).	Take I-75 to exit 277, Acworth/GA Hwy 92. GA 92 makes several turns and an unexpected right just off the freeway. Proceed for 12 mi south to turn right at small brown sign for Pickett's Mill at Due West Road (NOT Due West Street). Go 1.8 mi to turn right onto Mt. Tabor Church Rd to entrance on right. Walking: Easy to moderate, some off trails. Facilities: At Visitor Center. Bring: Water, lunch.	Ed McDowell 478.929.1267 478.396.8901 (cell) ed.mcdowell@cox.net

Change to Georgia Botanical Society ByLaws

THE GEORGIA BOTANICAL SOCIETY BYLAWS (JANUARY 2004)

ARTICLE IV, SECTION 8, ITEM 4 CURRENTLY READS:

The Membership Chairman receives and registers all membership applications, maintains the membership mailing list, sends periodic updates of the membership to the Newsletter Editor, and publishes a membership directory in the Spring of even-numbered years.

AS PROPOSED, ITEM 4 WOULD BE CHANGED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

The Membership Chairman receives and registers all membership applications, maintains the membership mailing list, sends periodic updates of the membership to the Newsletter Editor, and makes available, upon request, an electronic copy of the membership directory to any member (or a paper copy for those without an internet connection). During the membership renewal process, members may elect to suppress specific contact information in this directory.

Please contact BotSoc President Ed McDowell (478.929.1267 or ed.mcdowell@cox.net) if you have any questions about this change to our ByLaws.

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