

BotSoc News



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MARIE MELLINGER GRANT AWARDS

The Georgia Botanical Society continues to receive more high quality grant applications than can be funded through our Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Grant Program. Although the Grant Review Committee* would like to have funded all five of this year's proposals, the two projects selected for 2009 will expand BotSoc's influence in field research in Georgia and encourage more students to choose careers in botany – just what Marie would have wanted.

Patrick Lynch, a graduate student in the Department of Plant Biology at the University of Georgia, was awarded \$1100 to continue his study of one of our most unusual hardwood forests - a South Atlantic Coastal Plain Limestone Forest. This globally imperiled (G2) forest association is known in Georgia only along slopes and bottomlands of the Ocmulgee River. The calcareous rock underlying this area supports diverse and complex vascular plant communities with at least twelve oak (*Quercus*) species (including the state critically imperiled Durand oak (*Q. sinuata*)) and several rare/endangered herbaceous species such as Wagner's spleenwort (*Asplenium x heteroresiliens*) and the lanceleaf wakerobin (*Trillium lancifolium*). The forests are fragmented and extremely limited, primarily as a result of commercial logging operations, and less than 5% of the original habitat remains intact. A large majority of these sites occur on private property and may be subject to future residential development.

Patrick's research objective is a Floristic Quality Assessment of the area, a method of setting future conservation priorities by assigning numeric values to plant communities. Plants with a wide range of ecological tolerances (often opportunistic invaders of natural areas) are given low values while plants with a narrow range of ecological tolerances and specific habitat requirements are given high values. The forest's

land use history (agricultural and forestry use, management practices, disturbances) is also part of the floristic assessment. When complete, the analysis will help drive conservation efforts and recognition of this significant and extremely



Patrick Lynch

vulnerable and endangered Georgia plant community.

We awarded Georgia Southern University professor and BotSoc member Bobby Hattaway \$500 to help fund field trips for a Spring 2009 course he will teach on "The Flora of Georgia". His students will visit natural, minimally disturbed coastal plain ecological communities that are defined mainly by indicator plants. There they will learn how to judge a habitat by its floral composition and vegetation structure and perhaps learn how ecological projects without botanical input are lacking in substance.



Bobby Hattaway

The class will also collect voucher specimens in Bryan and Evans Counties, coastal plain counties that are among Georgia's least studied. Specimens will be maintained by the GSU herbarium and shared with Alan Weakley for his flora of Georgia and with the USDA Plants database.

Thanks to all of you who contributed with your annual renewal or bought a pilgrimage T-shirt. In most years, your donations supply our entire grant funding and allow the reinvestment and growth of the Marie Mellinger Fund.

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*Members of the 2009 Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Grant Review Committee were Hugh Nourse, Wayne Morris, Richard Ware and Elaine Nash, chair.



40th Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage

BotSoc News

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Clockwise from top:
 Josh Mckinley helps Adele Northrup across a slippery spot at Cloudland Canyon (FT1).
 The definitive portrait of Tom Patrick at Carter's Lake (FT19).
 Four shots of BotSocers striking a pose: Vicki Williams listening to Tom describe the fragrance of *Trillium luteum* (FT19), Candee Drake, resplendent in this year's t-shirt, admiring a trillium (FT19), John Manion and others admiring the pocket (FT17) and Mike Christison in the "position of function" (FT5).
 Stu Smith, Susan Richmond & Ginny Howell grateful for the temporary bridge at Ken Davis' farm (FT 5).



Anita Reaves



Jim Drake



Anita Smith



Hal Massie



Anita Smith



Jim Drake



Anita Reaves

Rome, Georgia April 03 - 05, 2009



Anita Smith



Anita Smith



Mike Christison



Jim Drake



Hal Massie



Carol Nourse



Terrell Shaw



Jean Smith

From top left:
 Shooting stars at Richard Wilson's farm (FT18).
 Richard Ware in his element among the big trees at Lock & Dam Park (FT6).
 Friday night's speaker Ron Lance gave us reason to believe that dendrologists in NW GA have the best jobs in the world.
 At James H. Floyd State Park (FT4), the group saw *Trillium pusillum*, one of our rarest plants and the pilgrimage highlight for Hal Massie.
 Keown Falls with red maple and dogwood - lucky participants in FT 13 got to see it in living color!
 Saturday night speaker Alan Weakley talking to John Harrison about taxonomy? Perhaps.
 One of several spectacular views at Little River Canyon.

A LEGENDARY HAWTHORN JOURNEYS TO GEORGIA

by Jim Smith

*“Every shepherd tells his tale
Under the hawthorn in the dale”*

John Milton



single-seeded hawthorn
(*Crataegus monogyna*)
Britton & Brown, 1913
USDA Plants Database

The hawthorns I knew growing up in up-state New York had colonized the abandoned pastures of hardscrabble farms. Their owners had forsaken a bucolic life of “cow-tending” to work in World War II defense plants. I did not know their proper names; it was enough at that time to know that these patches of “thorn-apples” were likely coverts for ruffed grouse.

Since then I have seen hawthorns in various places in the eastern United States and have even grown a few from seeds and cuttings but was little more confident to name them than when I was a boy. I enjoyed and was enlightened by Ron Lance’s *Tipularia* article, “The Hawthorns of Georgia” and completely concur in his observations:

“Enigmatic, ambiguous, unworkable – these are some words used to describe the species of Crataegus in the United States... It seems no other group of native plants has reached the equivalent level of taxonomic dread as the hawthorns.”

Lance’s observations and keys have been a great help in identifying some of the hawthorns I have encountered.

On a visit to England and Wales a few years ago, I was impressed by both the beauty and impenetrability of the ubiquitous hawthorn hedges. During the 18th and 19th centuries, the so-called “Enclosure Movement” permitted wealthy landowners to partition common fields for their exclusive use. In the process many rural laborers were displaced and dispersed to industrial urban centers, but the hawthorns remain.

The hawthorn I saw the most in hedges was *Crataegus monogyna*, a single-seeded densely-branched tree that grows to a height of 20 or 30 feet. Occasionally it was joined by *Crataegus laevigata*.

As Dirr notes, “the former is seldom seen in American gardens”. Even rarer are some of its varieties. Probably the most famous of the latter is *Crataegus monogyna* ‘Biflora’, which flowers

Botanical History

in mild seasons in midwinter around Christmas and again in May.

Last summer, on a visit to the environs of my youth, I visited St. Stephen's Church in Olean, New York. While there, I was asked by the Senior Warden, Ms. Olson, to examine a tree in the churchyard. It was a hawthorn that church records identified as the Glastonbury Thorn, one of two successfully rooted by a woman at the National Arboretum in 1975 from cuttings obtained from the National Cathedral in Washington, D. C. It is believed that the Bishop of Bath, England, presented the original tree to the Cathedral in about 1902, and records showed that it first bloomed around Christmas in 1918. The tree at St. Stephens, one of the two rooted in 1975, was given to the Church in commemoration of its 150th incorporation as a parish in 1980.

Like the Shroud of Turin, the Holy Thorn of Glastonbury is surrounded by sacred legend and symbolism. According to the biblical account, Joseph of Arimathea, the great uncle of Jesus donated his own tomb for Christ's interment. After the crucifixion, lore has it that Joseph came to England to found Christianity. He landed on the Isle of Avalon. This was the hill in Glastonbury, Somerset now known as Wearyall Hill. Weary, Joseph thrust his staff into the fertile earth and by the next day the dry hawthorn stick had rooted and was to become the first Glastonbury thorn tree which constantly budded on Christmas Day. It is on this spot that Joseph is reputed to have built the first Christian church in England.

A more skeptical commentator on the tree wrote that

"... the blossoms were esteemed such curiosities by people of all nations, that the Bristol merchants made a traffick of them, and exported them into foreign parts ... it is strange to say how much this tree was sought after by the credulous; and though a common thorn, Queen Anne, King James, and many of the nobility of the realm, even when the times of monkish superstition had ceased, gave large sums of money for small cutting from the original."

All the same, those of us of Celtic heritage know that fairies have an affinity for hawthorns which along with the ash and the oak constitute the three sacred trees.

I was given three cuttings from the churchyard tree and brought them to Georgia. One of them rooted. I planted it in my garden to be a reminder of fond memories of the hawthorns I have known, the Glastonbury legend, the church of my youth - and a habitat for Dryads and Fairies.



one-seed hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
Joseph M. DiTomaso, U. of CA, Davis, Bugwood.org

References:

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- W. Carew Hazlitt. 1972. *Faiths and Folklore of the British Isles*, Vol. I. Ayer Co Pub, London.
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- Michael Dirr, 1975. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, 4th edition. Stipes, Champaign IL.

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
May 1 Friday 1:00PM Meet at parking area.	Vickery Creek Unit, Chattahoochee River NRA, Fulton County We'll walk on the trails above Big Creek and cross the footbridge for spectacular views of the creek and the cliffs in bloom.	From I-285 East exit 25, Roswell Road, turn left. Go 7 mi to turn right on Riverside Rd then left into Vickery Creek parking. More detailed instructions at www.nps.gov/chat . Facilities: None. Difficulty: Moderate, easy pace about 3-4 mi. Bring: \$3.00 parking fee or annual pass, water.	Maureen Donohue 770.818.9303 678.687.7963 cell, trip day only macaire75@att.net
May 2 10:00 AM Park above bath house and walk downhill to meet at trailhead.	Lake Winfield Scott, Union County This hemlock-heath, southern Appalachian cove, oak ridge and oak-pine-heath forest includes yellow and pink lady's-slipper, speckled wood lily, doll's-eyes, blue cohosh, toothwort, umbrella leaf, yellow mandarin, perfoliate bellwort, 6 violet species and 4 trillium species. Most of the day's wildflowers are in the 1st mile (Jarrard Gap Trail) - feel free to return when you are ready.	Take GA 400 north to Dahlonega to turn left on GA Hwy 60 toward Suches. At Stone Pile Gap, bear left to stay on GA 60. After Woody Lake turn right on GA Hwy 180 (motorcycle resort/service station at corner) for ~4.5 mi to Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area. Continue to parking area above the lake. Facilities: At meeting site. Walking: 5.5 mi; mostly moderate; some easy. Bring: \$5 entrance fee, lunch to eat on trail, sturdy shoes for hiking, trekking poles, rain gear (you never know!), extra water.	Linda Chafin 706.548.1697 Lchafin@uga.edu
May 3 11:00 AM Meet in parking lot above falls.	The Len Foote Hike Inn, Amicolola State Park, Dawson County April 10 deadline for this walk.	Participants carry personal items to and from the Inn. A large daypack is usually adequate for your belongings.	Maureen Donohue 770.818.9303 macaire75@att.net
May 3 Sunday 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 spring 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 706.468.2805 gapeapatch@bellsouth.net
May 9 10:00 AM Meet at the former Tritt's Store in Suches.	Cypripedium Gulch, Union County Perhaps named by the late Miriam Talmadge who had a cabin nearby, this area is home to a "mother lode" of <i>Cypripedium</i> orchids: both small-flowered and large-flowered yellow lady slippers and pink lady slippers. We may see the easily overlooked lily-leaved twayblade. Optional: hike to Little Cedar Mountain at YJ Gap, a gneiss dome exposure with lots of fameflower and American columbo is on the way up (~1 mi on an old roadbed).	From Dahlonega, take GA 60 north toward Suches and Morganton. At rock cairn, stay left on GA 60. At Woody Gap, you'll head down into Suches and see Woody Lake. We'll gather at an abandoned store on your left at the junction with Cooper Gap Rd. Difficulty: While not physically strenuous, hike requires sure footing and comfort bushwhacking (off trail) the entire day. We'll climb ~300 ft at 2,600 ft elevation. Footing can be slippery on rich cove soil. Facilities: McDonald's in Dahlonega. Bring: Drink, lunch to carry on the hike. Hand lens, binoculars, etc.	Mike Christison 770.973.6482 mikepaddler@netscape.net Jim Drake 678.482.2127 drake3800@charter.net

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
<p>Stephen Johnson will open his property and cabin on Flat Shoals Creek in Harris County for the weekends May 8-10, May 15-17 and May 22-25 for BotSocers to see shoals spider lilies in bloom. A fairly level 1/4 mi trail leads to the creek. Bring a bathing suit or old tennis shoes and a walking stick to go into the water. The cabin has restrooms, kitchen and picnic tables. A telescope is set up on the deck to view the lilies at a distance, but the deck is not wheelchair accessible. From I-85 exit 2 (GA 18) go east for 1/4 mi to turn right on GA 103. After 2.8 mi and past the new Harris Co. Industrial Park, look for gravel driveway and small white sign on left (#4725) just before mile marker 11. Parking space is limited; carpool if you can. The address is 4725 GA Highway 103, West Point GA. You can contact Stephen at johnson1603@charter.net or 706-643-7851. Stephen opens his property to the public to draw attention to the threat to the lilies posed by the Industrial Park built next door with no opposition from anyone except Stephen and The Nature Conservancy.</p>			
<p>May 16 8:00 AM Meet at the Flint River Outpost near Thomaston.</p>	<p>Flint River & Shoals Spider Lilies, Upson County This all day outing takes us through one of the most beautiful and ecologically diverse sections of the Flint River. At Sprewell Bluff and the Fall Line Ravines, coastal plain flora and fauna intermix with species of the upper piedmont and mountains. We will travel either 6 or 9 miles of river with several easy class 2 rapids, then car caravan to Big Lazar Creek WMA to see the state listed shoals spider lilies.</p>	<p>The Flint River Outpost (706.647.2633) is west of Thomaston on Highway 36. Canoes and kayaks can be rented at the outpost. There is a shuttle fee. Hotels are nearby in Thomaston and camping is available at the Outpost and Big Lazar Creek WMA. Facilities: At the Outpost and at Spruill Bluff State Park. The Outpost has a store. Difficulty: Easy, suitable for beginners with some basic canoeing or kayaking skills. Bring: Pack a lunch to picnic along the river. Sunscreen, a hat, rain jacket, and water. Your camera, binoculars, and maybe a hand lens are all recommended. Bring a day pack or other bag to secure items inside your boat.</p>	<p>Jerry Hightower 770.206.0338, cell 678.538.1245, office jerry_hightower@nps.gov Reservations are required by calling 770.971.8919</p>
<p>May 22 Friday 10:00 AM Meet in parking area, City of Roswell Park.</p>	<p>Vickery Creek Rhododendrons, Chattahoochee River NRA, Fulton County Hike through oak hickory ridge and mesic forests and rhododendron/mountain laurel thickets on the steep slopes above Vickery Creek to see very large big leaved umbrella magnolia, lush ferns, grand native shrubs and wildflowers. An old mill dam on the creek now creates a beautiful waterfall.</p>	<p>From the Historic Roswell Square travel north on Atlanta St (Hwy 9). Oxbow Rd is at bottom of hill on right. We will meet in the parking area/trail head in the City of Roswell Park on Oxbow Rd. Facilities: Trees and thick shrubs. Difficulty: Moderately strenuous with a few steep slopes. Bring: Pack a lunch and we will picnic. Reservations required by calling 678.538.1200</p>	<p>Jerry Hightower 770.206.0338, cell 678.538.1245, office jerry_hightower@nps.gov</p>
<p>May 23 Note date change! 10:00 AM Meet at pavilion, Callaway Building Parking Lot.</p>	<p>Introductory Native Cool Season Grass ID Workshop, Clarke County The State Botanical Garden offers a wide array of cool-season grasses. We'll explore the berms along the river as well as the floodplains in both sun and shade looking for a variety of native cool-season grasses before we go up the power-line line to see both cool-season grasses and forbs. A cool-season grass list will be furnished when you register.</p>	<p>From Atlanta take GA 316. As you approach Athens, stay in the right lane to bear right on GA Loop 10 (signs say south Athens/UGA). Take exit 6, Milledge Ave and turn right. Garden is ~1 mi on right. Meet at the pavilion in the Callaway Building parking lot. Facilities: Full facilities at Visitor's Center. Bring: 10X hand lens, snacks, water, bug spray, sunscreen, lunch or eat at Conservatory after workshop. Limit: 15 people. Pre-registration required.</p>	<p>Elaine Nash 770.922.7292 einash33@bellsouth.net</p>

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
<p>May 23</p> <p>10:00 AM</p> <p>Meet at Pinhoti Trail Parking Area on FS90.</p>	<p>Roadside Botanizing: Cohutta Mountains, Gilmer & Fanin Counties</p> <p>During this time of year we can expect to find 4 - 6 species of trillium, 4-leaved milkweed, wild geranium, Solomon's seal, lily-of-the-valley, spotted wood lily, wood betony, fire pink and much more.</p> <p>Carpooling at the meeting place will be a necessity on these narrow unpaved roads.</p>	<p>Take I-575/ GA 515 north to East Ellijay to turn left on GA 52. At ~5 mi west of the square on GA 52, turn right on Gates Chapel Rd. When pavement ends, take Wilderness Trail/ FR 90 (dirt road to the right almost straight ahead). At ~0.9 mi do not turn left at WMA sign for Pinhoti Trail. Continue 0.1 mi to a Pinhoti Trail Parking on right on FS90.</p> <p>Walking: Easy, probably 500 feet from cars. Facilities: Only what nature provides. Bring: Lunch, water, bug spray.</p>	<p>Rich Reaves</p> <p>770.827.5186</p> <p>rich.reaves@att.net</p>
<p>May 24 Sunday</p> <p>9:30 AM</p> <p>Note early time</p> <p>Meet at Dally Gap but prior carpools strongly encouraged.</p>	<p>Exploratory Trip: Hemp Top Trail, Cohutta Wilderness, Fannin County</p> <p>In <i>The Hiking Trails of North Georgia</i>, Tim Homan describes Hemp Top as "the least traveled trail in the Cohutta Wilderness. Walked along during the week, Hemp Top's woods can become big and lonely." It is an 8.2 mi round trip; expect to spend a little time on the north side of Hemp Top at lunch. Serious hikers can go on to make the 12.4 mile round trip to Big Frog Mountain, TN. Carpools strongly encouraged. FS 22 is one lane to meeting spot at Dally Gap.</p>	<p>From the US 76 - GA Hwy 5 intersection just north of Blue Ridge, travel north on GA Hwy 5 toward McCaysville for 3.7 mi. Turn left onto Old GA 2 at the "Old State Route 2" sign. Continue on this road for ~10.5 mi (pavement ends at mile 9.0) to the major Forest Service intersection at Watson Gap. Take a hard right at the Gap onto FS22, a one-lane road. Continue for 3.6 mi to the trailhead at Dally Gap.</p> <p>Walking: Tim Homan says moderate to strenuous, but we will walk along an old roadbed. Elevation differential between the trailhead and Hemp Top is ~650 ft. Facilities: Only those that nature provides. Bring: Lunch, water, bug spray, sunscreen/hat.</p>	<p>Rich Reaves</p> <p>770.827.5186</p> <p>rich.reaves@att.net</p>
<p>May 24 Sunday</p> <p>10:00 AM to 4:00 PM</p> <p>Meet at Appalachian Outfitters on Highway 60 near Dahlonega.</p>	<p>Chestatee Canoe Float & Spring Flora, Lumpkin County</p> <p>This beautiful tributary of the Chattahoochee River provides an easy 6.3 mi float punctuated with very mild rapids. We'll paddle past banks covered with rhododendron, mountain laurel, ferns and wildflowers. River birch, oaks and sycamores tower overhead draped with muscadine, Virginia creeper and cross vine. Shear cliffs slip into currents that flow around old gold mining operations. We will picnic at Big Bend Beach and perhaps swim. This river is more beautiful than the gold beneath its waters.</p>	<p>We will meet at the Appalachian Outfitters Outpost on Highway 60 near Dahlonega. Bring your own boat (small shuttle fee) or rent canoes and kayaks for the outfitters. Get more information and reserve a canoe or kayak by calling Appalachian Outfitters at 1.800.426.7117.</p> <p>Facilities: Restrooms and changing rooms are available at Appalachian Outfitters Outpost. Difficulty: Suitable for beginners with some experience on rivers. Class 1.5 Bring: Pack a lunch for a picnic along the river, sunscreen, a hat, rain jacket, and water. A camera, binoculars, and maybe a hand lens are all recommended. Bring a day pack or other bag to secure items inside your boat. Secure valuables in a water proof container or bag.</p>	<p>Jerry Hightower</p> <p>770.206.0338, cell</p> <p>678.538.1245, office</p> <p>jerry_hightower@nps.gov</p> <p>Reservations are required (770.971.8919); trip limited to 26 persons.</p>

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
<p>May 25 Monday Memorial Day 10:00 AM Meet near entrance booth in parking lot on top of Brasstown Bald.</p>	<p>Arkaquah Trail, Brasstown Bald, Union County We'll hike through a wide range of plant communities from Georgia's highest elevation down to the ultra mafic area at Track Rock Gap. We should see plenty of Vasey's trillium, and a few pink lady's slipper, as well as Cumberland rhododendron. As many as six species of trilliums are possible! One particular outcrop is a consistent spot for flowering rock harlequin. At lower elevations, we might find the tall flowering stalks of American columbo.</p>	<p>Take US 19 south from Blairsville for 8 mi to turn left onto GA 180 for another 8 mi. At Brasstown Bald sign, turn left onto GA 180 Spur to parking area. From south, take GA 60/US 19 north from Dahlonega. Veer to the right at Stonepile Gap, turn left at Turner's Corner at the Chestatee River and cross Neel's Gap. After Vogel SP, look for GA 180 to the right - GA 180 Spur will be 8 mi on the left. We will shuttle a few vehicles from here. Parking: \$4 park fee or National Forest Pass. Facilities: At meeting place only. Walking: Strenuous 5.4 mi rocky, high mountain trail not suitable for those with physical impairments. Bring: Lunch to eat at a lovely rock outcrop and plenty of snacks. Trip leader is particularly fond of dark chocolate.</p>	<p>Hal Massie 478.836.4907 478.957.6095 (cell, day of hike) massiefarm@aol.com If interested in helping set up the shuttle earlier that morning, please contact Hal.</p>
<p>May 30 10:00 AM Meet at Visitor Center.</p>	<p>Red Top Mountain Plant Inventory, Bartow County This second 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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Tom Patrick 706.468.2805 gapeapatch@bellsouth.net</p>
<p>June 6 10:00 AM Meet at Flash Foods in Bonaire, to car-pool to site.</p>	<p>Blackbelt Prairies, Oaky Woods WMA, Houston County The calcareous clay soils of our remnant blackland prairies are home to >20 rare plants, some found nowhere else in GA. We should see expanses of pinnate prairie coneflower, Dakota mock vervain (a recent USDA PLANTS database plant of the week), prairie larkspur, Florida milkvine, green milkweed, and much more.</p>	<p>From I-75 in south Macon, take exit 160A toward Warner Robins. Continue south on GA 247, past Robins AFB to intersection with GA 96 at Flash Foods in Bonaire. Alternately, take I-475 south of Forsyth, rejoining I-75 south of Macon. Continue south to exit 142, GA 96/Houser's Mill Road. Proceed east on GA 96 to Bonaire. Lunch: Bring to eat in the field. Facilities: Only at meeting location. Walking: Easy, level, <0.5 mi from vehicles. Bring: Bug spray, sunscreen, water, hiking shoes.</p>	<p>Ed McDowell 478.396.8901 ed.mcdowell@cox.net Flash Food 130, 498 GA Hwy 247S Bonaire, GA 31005</p>
<p>June 13 10:00 AM Meet at Pine Mountain Trail parking lot.</p>	<p>Pine Mountain Recreation Area, Bartow County Pine Mountain Trail (just how many of them are in GA?) is a recent addition to the City of Cartersville park system with a wonderful 5-mile trail circumscribing a figure-8 over Pine Mountain and Hurricane Hollow through mountain laurel thickets, stream canyons, piney woods and rocky crevices. We'll be out for an enjoyable early summer walk enjoying rocks, bots and birds.</p>	<p>From I-75 exit 290 head east (toward Canton) on GA 20. Turn right onto Rowland Springs Rd, GA Spur 20, (marked for Allatoona Dam on a Corps of Engineers sign - look for McDonald's near turn). Continue south ~3.5 mi; parking area is on right. NOT Cooper Furnace parking! Facilities: None at site. Walking: Well-graded trail climbs and descends ~700 ft. Entire loop is 5 mi, but you can choose a 3 mi hike. We'll share the trail with mountain bikers who can be aggressive! Bring: Drink and lunch to carry on the hike and camera, hand lens and binoculars.</p>	<p>Annette Ranger 770.429.1836 770.639.8465 (cell, day of hike) annetteranger@comcast.net</p>

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
<p>June 20</p> <p>10:00 AM</p> <p>Meet at Visitor Center, Vogel State Park.</p>	<p>Wolf Cove Boulderfield Exploration, Union County</p> <p>This is bushwhacking slowly through steep cove hardwood slopes among boulders and rocky seeps to look for purple fringed orchids, lilies, and the rare mountain honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera dioica</i>). We will car pool to Wolf Cove.</p>	<p>Vogel State Park on US Hwy 129, 3 mi south of Neel's Gap or 11 mi north of Blairsville. Park (706.745.2628) has excellent cabins and camping.</p> <p>Walking: Strenuous, on steep, bouldery slopes and slick rocks.</p> <p>Facilities: At Visitor Center</p> <p>Bring: Hand lens, notebook, water bottle, picnic lunch, sturdy waterproof boots with ankle support.</p>	<p>Tom Patrick</p> <p>706.476.4541 (cell)</p> <p>tom.patrick@gadnr.org</p>
<p>July 11</p> <p>10:00 AM</p> <p>Meet in parking lot of the Hampton Inn at Waycross.</p>	<p>Roadside Botanizing: Waycross/Okefenokee Area, Ware County</p> <p>We will travel along Hwy 84, loop toward the Okefenokee Swamp and return to the hotel at days end. We will investigate interesting stuff along the road such as <i>Platanthera nivea</i>, <i>Peltandra saggitifolia</i>, <i>Befaria racemosa</i>, <i>Rhexia lutea</i>, and <i>Sabatia bartramii</i> and <i>dodecandra</i>. We also will attempt to locate <i>S. grandiflora</i>, which has never been documented from Georgia but I think I found along this route before.</p>	<p>Take I-75 south to US 84. Take US 84 east to Waycross.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch to eat on the road - purchase along the way will be difficult due to extremely sparse pickings.</p> <p>Walking: Short excursions along the roadside, never out of sight of the vehicles.</p> <p>Facilities: Possible at stores/stops along route, but unlikely after leaving hotel.</p> <p>Carpooling is encouraged to make pulling off easier for our roadside botanizing.</p>	<p>Rich Reaves</p> <p>770.827.5186</p> <p>rich.reaves@att.net</p>
<p>July 24</p> <p>10:00 AM</p> <p>Friday</p> <p>Meet at corner of Old GA60 (GA60 Bus) and Camp Washega Rd.</p>	<p>Montgomery Creek Wade, Lumpkin County</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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)).</p> <p>Facilities: Dahlonega. None on site.</p> <p>Walking: Actually, mostly wading. Bring shoes for rocky, slippery, cool, mountain stream. We may walk back out along a fisherman's path.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch to eat on creek & hiking boots if you want to walk at Cooper's Gap later.</p>	<p>Hal Massie</p> <p>478.836.4907</p> <p>478.957.6095 (cell, day of hike; reception iffy)</p> <p>massiefarm@aol.com</p>
<p>July 25</p> <p>9:30 AM</p> <p>Note: new date and early time!</p> <p>Meet in the training room of the Delta CCU.</p>	<p>Tree I. D. Workshop & Walk Chattahoochee NRA, Cobb County</p> <p>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</p>	<p>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 west on Cumberland and follow directions above.</p> <p>Facilities: At Delta CCU.</p> <p>Walking: Optional</p> <p>Bring: Kirkman tree books, hand lens and measuring tool, if you have them. Lunch will be at a nearby Mexican restaurant.</p>	<p>Richard Ware</p> <p>706.232.3435</p> <p>706.766.5143 cell</p> <p>gabotany@earthlink.net</p> <p>Maureen Donohue</p> <p>770.818.9303</p> <p>macaire75@att.net</p>

Field Trip Report



COOSA PRAIRIE

PART II

SEPTEMBER 27, 2008

Floyd County

We encountered the prairie remnants of the Coosa Flatwoods of western Floyd County on a lovely day with a high thin cloud layer just perfect for photographs of the sometimes small and beautifully intricate flowers. As I drove to the rendezvous point near Cave Spring, banners were going up for the annual BBQ cook-off. "Hmm," I thought, "that field lunch I packed suddenly doesn't sound so good." Oh well, it was botany not BBQ we were after today so I pressed on. In attendance for this foray: Richard and Teresa Ware, Wil and Dottie Starr, Max Medley, Mike Christison, Al Good, Susi Hobgood, Mark Ray and Daniel Ramsay. Our destination: sites in the vicinity of and within a 929-acre Temple Inland/The Nature Conservancy cooperative conservation easement lying in the heart of extensive managed forestlands.

Although never out of the company of rumbling lumber trucks, we were immersed in areas of high biodiversity. On short jaunts into a natural area, my habit is to jot down observations on a 3x5 card, transferring the data to a journal later. On this day, I used eight cards, front and back - they became a journal by themselves! My list, by no means complete, had 207 species. Perhaps I should not have been surprised. Richard's *Checklist of the Vascular Flora of Floyd County, Georgia* is now 1,347 species - up 28 species from June 7, 2006. Indeed, as the day unfolded, there were more astounding surprises for the members of this field trip than just number of species alone.

This trip was in Richard and Teresa's backyard, so to speak. Another evidence of their longtime familiarity with this bailiwick is that every advertised

special in the September BotSoc News announcement of this field trip was "on the shelves." The announcement noted at least 9 species of asters; I ended up with 11 on my list. The special deliveries from the announcement included: the rare whorled sunflower (*Helianthus verticillatus*), New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum (Aster) novae-angliae*), swamp thistle (*Cirsium muticum*), narrow-leaf sunflower (*H. angustifolius*), blazing star (*Liatrix spicata*, *L. squarrosa*, and an as yet unnamed new species of *Liatrix!*), prairie lion's foot (*Prenanthes barbata*), and orange coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*). Five species of goldenrod were also delivered: white-flowered



Led by Richard Ware, Daniel Ramsey, Al Good and Susi Hobgood walk into the Wet Prairie, the rarest acre in GA. Photo by Mark Ray.

(*Solidago ptarmicoides*), Riddell's (*S. riddellii*), stiff (*S. rigida*), sweet (*S. odora*), and Canada (*S. canadensis*).

A warm, light breeze kept us comfortable and swept insects away, even if it did present the occasional challenge to close up photography. Although all the areas we visited were dry at the beginning of fall, the first prairie opening we entered had obviously been wetter earlier in the year as evidenced by the plants themselves and the large cracks in a previously wet surface. The thin, infertile soils there tend to limit the potential for trees to survive regardless of whether the weather has been unusually wet or dry. In places where the topsoil is underlain

by an impervious material such as flat limestone parent material or hardpan clays, rainwater cannot drain into deeper soil layers; in wet weather, a plant's roots suffocate in this perched groundwater. In other areas where the rock is fissured, rainwater drains away quickly and the thin soils become very dry. These wet or dry conditions create unique herbaceous ecological niches.

In addition, the limestone base produces calcareous soils that tend to be alkaline (limy). Some of the plants we encountered live only in areas with these particular chemical and physical characteristics, while others live in other nutrient limited soils. One interesting thing to me is that many of the species were familiar to me from my early days of prairie restoration in limy glacial till plains of the Midwest.

The first half of the day was spent outside the conservation area, yet still yielded a lot of interesting plants including the white goldenrod, Pringle's aster (*Symphyotrichum pilosum*), the Maryland goldenaster (*Chrysopsis mariana*), a very small scroph (*Mecardonia acuminata*) and 3 species of yellow false foxgloves (*Aureolaria flava*, *A. virginica*, and the state-threatened *A. patula*). The

prairie lion's foot and prairie dock were also found before we got to the managed prairies. On a small creek terrace, we also discovered a ripening pod of one of the more unusual of the four anglepods known for the area - the limerock milkvine (*Matelea obliqua*). We enjoyed the elegant vegetative geometry of Carolina leaf-flower (*Phyllanthus caroliniensis*) and the ripe red berries of Carolina coralbead (*Cocculus carolinus*).

Once we entered the conservation area, the first prairie we entered was the Wet Prairie. This place has been called the "rarest acre in Georgia." This prairie (along with all the other prairie sites) was first found by Jim

Field Trip Report (cont)

Allison in 1991 while he was searching for the federally threatened plant Mohr's Barbara's buttons (*Marshallia mohrii*). Then, in 1994, Richard discovered the rarest plant on any of the prairies - the whorled sunflower (*Helianthus verticillatus*). Planted in Teresa's garden, it grew to 18 feet tall the first year. This was the first record of this species since its original discovery in Chester Co., TN in 1888. This area harbors a diversity of grasses, grass-likes, and forbs. An example of each is little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), a species of *Rhynchospora* yet to be described, and *Solidago riddellii*.

Next we explored a drier opening named Grand Prairie. This area supported hairy sunflower (*Helianthus mollis*), Eurybia (*Aster*) *surculosus*, wild quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*), purpledisk sunflower (*H. atrorubens*), Eastern silver aster (*Symphotrichum concolor*), and some additional blazingstar species (*Liatris squarrosa*, *L. asper*, *L. squarrosa*). We looked at another species of *Liatris* that Alan

Weakley, Tom Govus, Guy Neesom, Max Medley and Richard Ware are working on describing and naming.

Lastly, we took a peek into Ladies Tresses Prairie and were delighted to find remnants of the rare wavyleaf purple coneflower (*Echinacea simulata*), slender stalked gaura (*Gaura filipes*), rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) and big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*). We also viewed showy goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa* var. *rigidiuscula*), the only known location in GA for this plant. Richard and Max were very excited to find fewleaf sunflower (*Helianthus occidentalis* var. *occidentalis*) still here. Richard made a collection many years ago here, the only GA site for this plant, but the plant had since disappeared. But thanks to the Nature Conservancy's burning regime, this plant is prospering again!

Unique plants tend to be accompanied by unusual creatures. Both white and yellow crab spiders, black blister beetles, unusual grasshoppers,

and a fiery skipper were encountered on the plants. Representatives of the dragonfly clan joined us at our lunch stop near Mud Creek; great spreadwings (*Archilestes grandis*) and a blue-faced meadowhawk (*Sympetrum ambiguum*) tolerated a prolonged photo session. Even while a summer tanager heading south called in the distant oaks, some green tree frogs that have been spreading northward in their range were spied among the large leaves of the prairie dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*) in the Wet Prairie. We also found beautiful black swallowtail larvae (*Papilio polyxenes*) on stiff cowbane (*Oxypolis rigidior*) in the Wet prairie.

At Max Medley's suggestion, I hoped to see *Hypericum interior* and *Bidens laevis* in a quaint park in Cave Spring, but the streambanks had been mown. I did fill my water bottle from the clear profusion of water gushing out of the cave to form the stream - a satisfying end to a satisfying day.

Mark Ray, Marietta

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