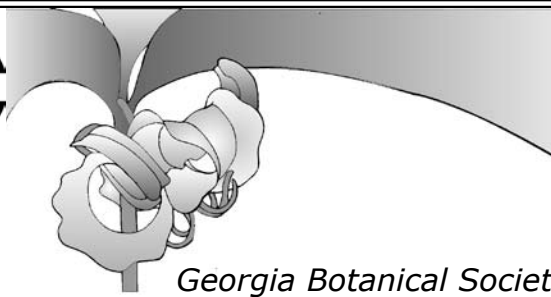


BotSoc News



Volume 84
Number 2
March
2010

BAA - TANY ON ROAN MOUNTAIN

At Carver's Gap, the peaks of Roan Mountain are roughly divided into two sections. To the west are peaks enveloped in the dense spruce-fir forests so common in this part of the Appalachian chain. To the east however, the ridgelines are almost entirely devoid of trees. This curious type of sub alpine meadow, known as a southern Appalachian bald, is a rolling, rock-studded carpet of mountain oat grass and sedges.

Balds are also home to green alder, bronze sedge and greenland sandwort - plants you are much more likely to find in Newfoundland and Quebec than in southern Appalachia. Theories abound as to how the Appalachian balds came to exist, but it is the presence of these oddly misplaced northern plants (the boreal disjuncts) and the fossilized remains of mastodons and woolly mammoths found nearby that offer the best explanation of a balds' origin - and maybe a way to preserve them.

Peter D. Weigl, an ecologist at Wake Forest University, believes that balds originated during the most recent ice age. (Recent, in the time scale of geology, is a relative term. The Pleistocene epoch to which he refers began two million years ago.) The harsh ice age weather inhibited tree growth on the high summits of the southern Appalachians and the semi-tundra and open grasslands that replaced the forests attracted mammoths, mastodons, tapirs and the ox-sized ground sloth. When the ice age ended some 10,000 years ago, these large herbivores vanished, leaving only the eastern subspecies of elk along with bison to graze and maintain the balds. After the elk and bison were extirpated by European settlers, cattle, goats, pigs, and sheep grazed the balds.

In the last century, as more balds are protected as park land, widespread cattle grazing no longer occurs and trees and other woody plants have moved back into the balds. A scarcity of funding and a crowded list of priorities keeps the U.S. Forest and National Park Services from the large-scale effort to remove the encroaching brush and many of the balds will likely disappear within a few more decades.

This leads us to Jamey Donaldson, botanist, long-time volunteer at Roan Mountain, and now goatherd for the Baa - tany Project. Operating under a special use permit and volunteer agreement with the USDA Forest Service, Donaldson and his team of volunteers are using goats as a surrogate for the herbivores no longer present on the balds.

The goats are Angoras, a cold hardy desert breed picked because water is hard to come by at the elevations where the goats are most needed. Their browse is contained by a solar-powered electric fence around one-half to one acre plots that are moved every week or so. The project area covers about 79 acres and overlaps one mile of the Appalachian Trail between Jane Bald and Grassy Ridge.

Donaldson is also conducting scientific studies - surveying vegetation study plots dating to the 1930s to determine how bald plant communities have changed and to establish a reference point for the future. The project will need to continue for three to five consecutive summers to determine if the cycle of rotational grazing is having the desired effect. Donaldson is especially interested to see how grazing affects a bald's population of Gray's lily, the beautiful red lily that attracts throngs of visitors to Roan Mountain highlands every summer.

If this small scale grazing project proves effective, goatherds might be the new hires in the park service. A herd of Angoras could be a lot more economical and certainly would be more environmentally friendly than the weed eaters and bush hogs hauled to the mountain tops every year.

If you've never seen a bald, plan to participate in our BotSoc weekend trip to Roan Mountain on July 9-10 (read the preview of the trip on page 2). We'll join Jamey Donaldson for a day of priceless views among plants you will see nowhere else south of Canada.

And until then, you can help the Baa-tany Project by adopting a goat with a donation to the Friends of Roan Mountain (<http://www.FriendsofRoanMtn.org>).

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To learn more about the Roan Balds and the Baa-tany Project see T. Edward Nickens article in the May-June, 2002 issue of Audubon magazine and Jamey Donaldson's blog at <http://baatanygoatproject.blogspot.com>.

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Society News

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE GEORGIA BOTANICAL SOCIETY

Memorials

With the 2010 membership renewals, we received several donations in memory of recently deceased GBS members:

Helen D. Brown remembered **Vivian Emerson** as "my botanical inspiration and faithful helper when I was active in GBS". Sue and George Upchurch donated "in memory of a dear friend **Margie Troutman Harbin**". Frank and Eileen French donated "in honor of **Kathryn (Jonny) Howell**" as did Eleanor and Frank Lehner who wrote "Jonny Howell, an affable roommate on a Newfoundland field trip - we did see the queen white lady slipper." Vicki Williams donated "in memory of **Fran Kennedy**" as did Hal & Marie Massie, who are donating the proceeds from all of Hal's 26 newspaper columns in 2010 to the Marie Mellinger Field Botany Program in Fran's memory.

Donations:

The Georgia Botanical Society appreciates the generous donations of Nancy L. Barber Waddell and Elizabeth Barnes Ellen and Dan Corrie Susan and Ron Determann Shepherd and Sarah Howell Hugh and Carol Nourse And we wish to thank to the 21 members who generously contributed to the Marie Mellinger and/or Tipularia funds when renewing their memberships.

New Life Members:

In addition to these donations, we welcome Susan Richmond and Anne M. Topple as new Life Members.

Thank you all for supporting the Georgia Botanical Society!

ROAN MOUNTAIN WEEKEND - JULY 9 - 10, 2010

We are announcing the Roan Mountain/Blue Ridge Parkway field trips early so that you may make lodging arrangements and participate in one or both days of the trip. There are motels in Spruce Pine and Burnsville NC, but lodging is scarce near our meeting point at Carver's Gap. Four cabins at Roan Mountain State Park (8 miles from Carver's Gap) are reserved for Friday, July 9 and Saturday, July 10. Each cabin has a bath, cooking area, a bedroom with a queen bed and two twin beds in the loft, plus a possibly sleepable couch. The fee (\$113.60 plus tax per night for each cabin) can be split among the 4 or 5 people willing to share a cabin. If interested, notify Jim Drake at drake3800@charter.net no later than **April 2, 2010**. Park cabin fees will be collected in advance. Cabins not used will be un-reserved. Tent and RV camping at the park is on a first-come-first-served basis (make your own reservations). The park website lists details (<http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/parks/RoanMtn/>).

Full details of this weekend trip will appear in the May newsletter, but the following synopsis should help you decide whether to join us. The Saturday hike at Roan Mountain, NC begins at 9:30 am at Carver's Gap to hike along Grassy Ridge, Round Bald, Jane Bald and Grassy Ridge Bald and returns by the same route. We will see the Baa-tany Project goats and the rare Gray's lily the goats are helping to protect. Trip co-leaders are Jamey Donaldson, goat restoration project manager, and Jim Drake. This portion of the Appalachian Trail varies from extended upward inclines to fairly easy stretches along the tops and down ridges to more strenuous climbs with rocky steep trail sections in some areas near the end of the hike. Carpooling from Georgia is highly recommended and will facilitate the Sunday's Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) trip. Sunday's BRP roadside botanizing trip meets at Roan Mountain State Park at 8:00 am to take short hikes and stops at selected sites on the BRP to see black cohosh, possibly Turk's cap and Carolina lilies, Indian pink, monarda sp., impatiens, oenothera sp., chelone, hypericum and possibly some surprise orchids.

INSERT FOR 2009 TIPULARIA: A bibliography and keys to Jim Drake's article "Native Lilies (Genera *Lilium*) of the Eastern United States" were inadvertently omitted from the most recent *Tipularia* (Volume 24, 2009). This information is sent to you as an insert included with this newsletter (if you receive the print edition) and is available as a downloadable file from the BotSoc website for those receiving the online version of the newsletter.

Book Review

Whether or not they are interested in lichens, most Bot Soccers would enjoy reading Sean Beeching's book of essays "I like you but what can you do can you be a bird?"

When I ordered the book I expected a sort of travel guide to Georgia lichens. The title and the quirky cover photos were clues that this was something different. In fact, it is a delightful series of essays about places Sean has visited to collect and identify lichens in Georgia and Florida, and sometimes about his companions on the trips. The places include Kennesaw Mountain, Ocmulgee National Monument, Cumberland Island, Stone Mountain, Pine Mountain (FDR State Park and Sprewell Bluff) and many others as well as several trips to Connecticut where he grew up.

In about ten years, since he went to a BotSoc workshop on lichens led by Carol Schneier, Sean has become the leading lichenologist in Georgia, the person people go to for help in identifying lichens. A new lichen that he found has been named for him.

But do not expect technical descriptions and lists of lichens in this book, although there are a few. Rather, there are descriptions of places and musings on people and their interaction with the environment. These are often thought provoking, sometimes amusing, sometimes fanciful, and occasionally a bit outrageous.

Sean does not wax lyrical about nature in the style of Thoreau or John Muir. This is more like Edward Abbey's *Desert Solitaire*. Sean calls himself a naturalist, a landscape writer, or sometimes a landscape artist, but his imaginative juxtaposition of the past, present, and future of these places in a sort of time warp makes him more than that. For example, at Kennesaw he imagines the Civil War battles taking place around him, then looks at the photos

of soldiers in the museum, and reflects that similar faces are still all around him today. This leads him to wonder if in the future, soldiers may be facing each other again at Kennesaw or elsewhere, since humans seem to require wars.

His discussion of the past and pres-

thought was a buffalo stampede, which turned out to be, when I got my light on him, a single armadillo."

A dead deer makes him muse about his own dying. What if he should die in that place? What would happen? "But compared to the mutilation my father endures while alive at the hands of his doctors and cancer, to have my heart stop in the woods, have a last view of the sky, and that's it, seems, still, a good death, no matter what happens afterwards." In a lighter mood he thinks of Stone Mountain as a girl; a big girl, with a rather rough textured skin, at least rougher than a real girl.

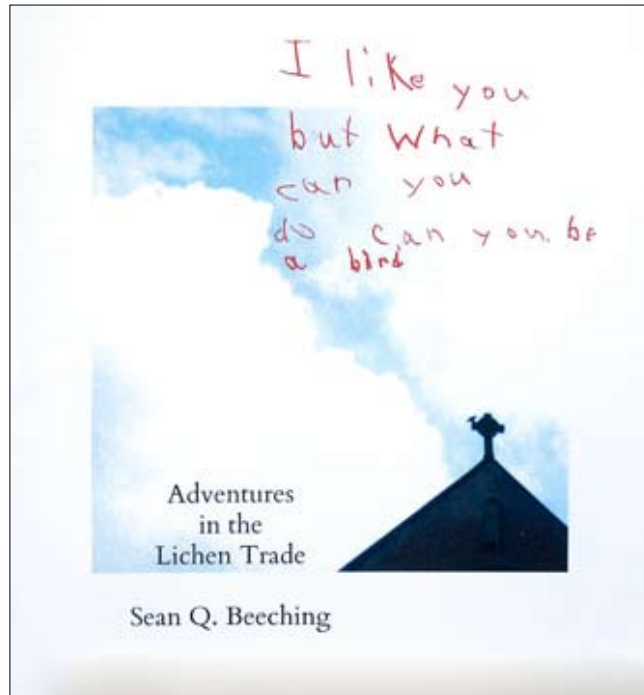
No reader is likely to agree with all of Sean's viewpoints. For example, he finds the fire-adapted longleaf-pine wiregrass community desolate because it has no lichens, mosses, liverworts, or understory like northern hardwoods, while many of us find it beautiful, especially the pitcher plant bogs with their great diversity. Nevertheless, it would be fun to debate some of these points around a campfire.

This is a book to savor and reread. I have enjoyed it even more the second time than the first. In a short review I cannot possibly summarize all there is; I can only give you an inkling and hope that will induce you to read it too.

reviewed by Hugh Nourse

*I like you but what can you do
can you be a bird?*
Adventures in the Lichen Trade
written by Sean Q. Beeching
Paperback
185 pages
\$21.40

The book can be purchased
as an on-line download, or a
printed book at Lulu.com.



ent at Ocmulgee National Monument is a devastating indictment of people for not preserving this site and many others in the past, and of the Park Service's "improvements" in the name of caring for it. "The recommended course of action is forgiveness, of our ancestors, and contemporaries, and studious inattention to the degradations they have brought about; a practice we naturalists cultivate, of necessity, or in order to avoid anger, recrimination and other unpleasant and distracting emotions." After which Sean soars into speculation about the Indians who built the mounds, imagining the journey of a priest/king required to float down the Ochoopee River to the coast every 11th year for religious rites as an introduction to his own canoe trip down the Ochoopee River with three friends. "One night I was jerked awake by what I

Georgia's Trees

MAGNOLIA VIRGINIANA L. (SWEET BAY)

by Richard Ware

Weakley's Flora now recognizes two varieties of sweet bay, *Magnolia virginiana* L. var. *australis* Sargent (southern sweet bay) and *M. virginiana* L. var. *virginiana* (northern sweet bay). The vast majority of this article uses the classic treatment; i.e., both varieties lumped together, but we will also use Weakley's keys to separate the two varieties.

Synonyms: *Magnolia virginiana* L. var. *australis* Sarg., *Magnolia virginiana* L. var. *virginiana* Ashe

Other Common Names: bay magnolia, swamp bay, small magnolia, swamp magnolia, swamp laurel, white bay, laurel magnolia, beaver-tree, and swamp sassafras.

Taxonomy: Sweet bay is in the Magnolia (Magnoliaceae) family, a medium-size family of ~190 species of trees and shrubs found in temperate and tropical areas of the world. There are 12 genera worldwide, but only two are native to North America: *Magnolia*, with 8 species and two varieties, and *Liriodendron* (tulip tree) with only one species. All 8 magnolia species and varieties are found in Georgia except Ashe's Magnolia (*M. ashei* Weatherby).

Because of the unusual flower and wood characteristics, the magnolia family is considered by most botanists to be the most primitive of the flowering plant families. Fossil records indicate that members of this family were once distributed more widely than they are today. Members of the magnolia family may be evergreen or deciduous trees or shrubs with simple alternate leaves. The flowers are usually perfect or bisexual (include both sexes) and they are usually large and showy. Generally the flowers are

produced singly at or near the tips of the branchlets. The fruits can vary from winged seeds to fleshy berries to being cone-like. The seeds are large and usually are surrounded by a fleshy outer coat.

The genus *Magnolia* was named for Pierre Magnol, 1638-1715, professor of botany at Montpellier. The species name *virginiana* means Virginian or of Virginia, referring to where the plant



sweet bay (*Magnolia virginiana*)
photo by Alan Cressler

was first collected and named. The variety name *australis* means southern, referring to the more southern distribution of this variety.

Appearance: A shrub or tree growing 20 to 65 ft. tall with smooth, pale light brown bark and very fragrant blossoms. In the South the tree is tall and

straight, with small, ultimately spreading branches. At the northern limit of its range, sweet bay often becomes a many-stemmed shrub. It is evergreen in the South, becoming deciduous as you move further north. **Leaves** are lanceolate, thick, leathery, bright green, shiny above pale silky below, 4 to 6 in. long, 1 1/2 to 3 in. wide. **Flowers**

are perfect, white, fragrant, 3 sepals, 6 to 9 petals, 2 to 3 in. in diameter. Instead of producing all its flowers at one time, this magnolia spreads out its blooming period from April until July, sometimes even until August. **Cones** are elliptical, woody, 2 in. long, light colored, few carpels. As the capsules of the cone open, the scarlet seeds are released and hang on slender threads. **Twigs** are slender, bright green and fine hairy when they first appear, later becoming smooth and reddish brown. **Buds** are covered with fine silky hairs and the terminal buds are from 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch long. **Bark** of young trees is light gray and smooth; on older trees, the bark is light brown and scaly.

Habitat: Pocosins, bay forests, and swamps in the Coastal Plain, streamhead pocosins, swamps, and sandhill seeps in the Sandhills, bogs and peaty swamps in the Piedmont and Mountains; common (rare in Piedmont and Mountains).

Distribution: The distribution (including both varieties) is from MA and NY south to FL, and across the southern states to TX. The variety *australis* is primarily a species of the Southeastern Coastal Plain: s. SC (se. NC?) south to s. FL, and west to e. TX, rarely extending into adjacent, more interior provinces. The variety *virginiana*

Georgia's Trees

iana is found from MA south to w. NC, s. SC, and e. GA.

Uses: Practically all the sweet bay trees felled in logging operations are sawed into lumber which is marketed as magnolia, together with southern magnolia, because the wood of the two species is much alike. It is used mostly for furniture because it keeps its shape well and takes stains and other finishes readily. Because of the light color, good nailing qualities, and suitability for food containers, much of the wood goes into boxes. A specialty use is venetian blinds because the wood holds its shape. Sweet bay is occasionally used locally in the southern states in

the manufacture of broom handles and other articles of woodenware because it turns well on a lathe and finishes smoothly. But, the main claim to fame of sweet bay is as an ornamental shrub/tree. With "flowers large as roses and fragrant as lilies" (as Charlotte Green describes them in *Trees of the South*) and a blossom period extending over many weeks, sometimes into months, is it any wonder the sweet bay is beloved wherever it is known? The tree's chief value is the beauty it adds to the countryside. In that respect it is popular as an ornamental tree both in this country and in Europe. To know the sweet bay at its best one should see it growing

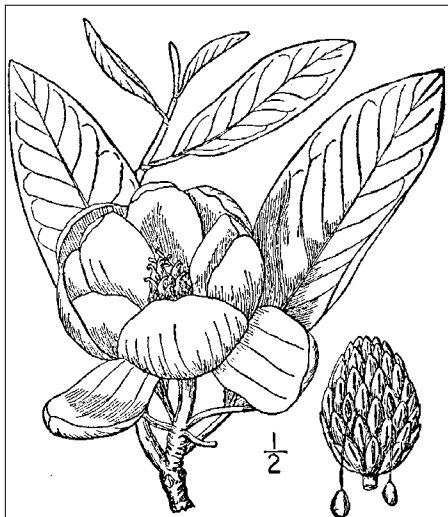
wild along the borders of watercourses, in swamps and ravines and fertile bottomlands. There it is usually found with the red bay, wild olive, holly, yaupon, and red maple. Often, too, it is associated with the southern white cedars in what are called "juniper bays."

Rarity: Massachusetts, endangered; New York, endangered; Pennsylvania, threatened; Tennessee, threatened.

Champion Sweet Bays: This time around it's an easy process: the National and State Champion are the same tree in Camden County, GA! Circumference: 174 inches (14' 6"), Height: 65 feet, Spread: 70 feet, Points: 257.

Differences between *Magnolia virginiana* var. *australis* and *M. virginiana* var. *virginiana*:

- 1. Leaves evergreen; previous year's stems densely pubescent; mature leaves with pubescent midveins; flowers opening near sundown (2-5 hours later than var. *virginiana*); medium to large tree, to >20 m tall; [of the Gulf Coast and inland, north and east to s. SC (e. NC?)] *M. virginiana* var. *australis*
- 1. Leaves evergreen to deciduous (at least tardily); previous year's stems glabrous; mature leaves with few hairs along the midvein below; flowers opening mid-afternoon; shrub to multi-stemmed small tree, to 10 m (rarely to 15 m) tall; [of the Atlantic Coastal Plain and inland, south and west to s. SC and w. NC] *M. virginiana* var. *virginiana*



sweet bay (*Magnolia virginiana*)
 illustration by Britton & Brown, 1913 from USDA-
 NRCS PLANTS Database

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Weakley, Alan S., Flora of the Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, northern Florida, and surrounding areas.

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
Mar 5 Friday 1:00 pm Note date & time! Meet at Paces Mill park- ing lot.	West Palisades, Paces Mill, Chatta- hoochee River NRA, Cobb County We'll walk to Rottenwood Creek to see the trout lilies, toothwort, blood- root and toadshade trillium in bloom. Eastern redbud will start flowering now too. Green-and-gold leaves will be out and black cohosh will reappear, although not blooming yet. Afterwards, depending on time and weather, we may head upriver via foot or car to the next unit about a mile away to find wild geranium and other forest delights. Paces Mill Unit, 3445 Cobb Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30339.	From I-75 south exit 258, turn right on Cumberland Blvd and then left on Cobb Parkway(US 41). Go through the light at Paces Mill Rd and past the BP Station on the right to NPS entrance sign. From I-75 north, take Mount Paran Rd to turn left and then turn right onto Northside Dr. Go north across the river. Park entrance is on the left, just before BP station. For other directions, contact leader. Walking: 1 mi on paved easy trail. Optional 2nd walk is easy downhill, but uphill return. Facilities: At Paces Mill. Bring: Comfortable walking shoes, hand lens, \$3.00 parking fee or annual pass, water, camera, field guide.	Maureen Donohue 770.818.9303 678.687.7963 cell phone for day of walk only macaire75@ att.net
Mar 7 Sunday Note date! Meet at 10 AM at Walk Up Trail parking or at 9:45 at the Marta lot on 4th street.	Trout Lilies at Stone Mountain Park, DeKalb County We will see areas of Stone Mountain Park that are carpeted in blooming trout lilies. There should also be some hepatica in bloom at this time. There will be an option for those who do not want to walk the whole way around the mountain on the Cherokee Trail to view the trout lilies a short distance beyond the Nature Garden and then return to their cars on their own. For those who wish to walk the 6.2 miles around the moun- tain, plan to bring a trail lunch.	Take US 78 Stone Mountain Park exit. From East Gate (Athens), bear right at fork before depot. Continue to Confederate Hall and the Walk Up Trail parking lot on left. From West Gate (Atlanta), bear right and turn left into the Walk Up Trail parking lot. To avoid parking fee, meet outside the park at Marta lot on 4th St in Stone Mountain Village. Facilities: Bathrooms at the meeting place and spaced at intervals along the trail Walking: Mostly easy with some rocky, root crossed sections on well maintained trails. Some areas where we walk on rock may be slick if there has been rain. Bring: \$8 to \$10 parking fee inside Park.	Jane Trentin janetrentin@ yahoo.com 770.978.1839 770.598.5291 cell Susan Cowan 770.483.6523 770.313.0145 cell Susan will meet people at 4th Street at 9:45 to walk into park.

GEORGIA BOTANICAL SOCIETY SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE - Bainbridge and SW Georgia
 March 12 - 14, 2010 (Registration deadline was February 16, 2010.)

Mar 20 10:00 AM Meet at the parking lot for the gift shop.	Monastery of Our Lady of the Holy Spirit, Conyers, Rockdale County Assisted by naturalist Francis Michael Stiteler, we will tour some developed areas and then hike to see wildflowers on the nearly 2000 acres of this Trappist monastery. At least one plant rare in Georgia should be in bloom, <i>Corydalis flavula</i> (yellow fumewort) during BotSoc's 1 st field trip here. Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Monastery 2625 Highway 212 SW Conyers, GA 30094-4044 770-483-8705 http://www.trappist.net/	From I-20 exit 82, turn south onto Hwy 20/138. Proceed 1.2 mi to 4th light; turn right on Hwy 138. Proceed 4 mi to turn left on Hwy 212 at light. Entrance is 2.5 mi on left. Gift shop parking is on right at end of a long entry drive. From I-75 exit 216, turn left onto GA Hwy 155. In McDonough continue straight onto GA Hwy 20 and continue for 11 mi. Turn left onto GA Hwy 212 (Kinnet Rd). Immediately after turning left onto Hwy 212, turn left again to stay on 212. In ~4 mi, the Monastery entrance is on right. Facilities: Rest rooms at meeting and lunch sites. Walking: Easy to moderate; some carpooling. Lunch: Bring a picnic lunch. Bring: Entry and parking are free.	Jim Allison 706.818.0210 jimbotany@ aol.com
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Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
Mar 21 Sunday Note day! 10:00 AM Meet at Paces Mill parking to shuttle to Akers Mill trail head.	Spring Wildflowers at West Palisades, Chattahoochee River NRA, Fulton County We'll celebrate the start of spring and look at the early spring forest and great views from atop West Palisades Ridge. The hike will lead us across the upper section of Trout Lily Creek, through a mature oak-hickory forest. Paces Mill Parking Area 3445 Cobb Pkwy, Atlanta GA 30339	From I-75S Cumberland Blvd exit, turn right to reach Cobb Pkwy, US41. Turn left just beyond BP station at Paces Mill Rd. Entrance on right. From I-75N Mt Paran Rd exit, turn left then right on Northside/US41 (Cobb Pkwy after the river). Entrance on left before Paces Mill Rd. Walking: Moderately strenuous Facilities: At Paces Mill and Akers Mill. Bring: Annual pass or \$3 parking fee. Lunch for forest picnic. Camera, hand lens and binoculars are recommended.	Jerry Hightower 678.538.1245 jerry_hightower@nps.gov 770.206.0338 cell phone for day of walk only Reservations required: 678-538-1200
Mar 27 10:00 AM Meet at Indian Trail parking area at bulletin board.	Indian Trails East Palisades, Chattahoochee River NRA. Fulton County We'll look for spring wildflowers along Indian Trail Ridge, Salamander Creek and Cabin Creek Trails. Along the way we hope to see hepatica, hastate violet, toothwort, trilliums, May apple and more. Jerry has been roaming these ridges since childhood, but don't believe all of his tales. East Palisades Unit / Indian Trail 1425 Indian Trail NW, Atlanta GA 30327	From I-285 East: Take exit 22, Northside Drive/ New Northside Dr/ Powers Ferry Rd. Turn right on Northside Dr, then left to go under I-285. Go through intersection at Powers Ferry Rd where the name changes to Northside Dr. Travel ~1 mi to Indian Trail. Turn right on Indian Trail which goes directly to the park. From I-285 West : Take exit 22, and go straight to turn right at Northside Dr, in front of McDonalds. Continue ~1 mi, turning right on Indian Trail and follow as above. Facilities: Big trees and lots of bushes. Difficulty: Moderately strenuous, some off trail. Bring: Annual pass or \$3 park fee; picnic lunch.	Jerry Hightower 770.206.0338 678.538.1245 cell phone for day of walk only jerry_hightower@nps.gov Reservations required: 678-538-1200
Mar 27 10:00 AM Meet at Pocket Cove parking area.	Pocket at Pigeon Mountain, Walker County Every year we look forward to spring and our return to the premier spot in Georgia for early wildflowers! This area, part of the Cumberland Plateau, contains many plant species rare to our state. We will be looking for Virginia bluebells, celandine poppy, bent trillium, Ohio buckeye, twin leaf and a variety of other early spring flowers.	Take I-75 exit 320. Go west on GA136, crossing US27 onto GA193 west into downtown Lafayette. From South Main St, follow GA193 for 8 mi to Davis Crossroads at intersection with GA341. Turn left on Hog Jowl Rd (maybe unmarked, but paved), go south 2.6 mi passing Mt Herman Baptist Church. At next hill top, turn left onto Pocket Rd. Parking lot is 1.2 mi on left. Facilities: None; restaurants in Lafayette. Difficulty: Short, easy from parking lot. Optional moderately strenuous to falls and twin leaf site. Bring: Lunch for parking lot picnic.	Mike Christison 770.973.6482 770.596.3564 cell for day of walk only mikepaddler@netscape.net
Mar 28 Sunday 1:00 PM Note day and time! Meet in parking lot near Visitor's Center.	Spring Wildflowers, Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas County A moderate 5 mi walk with some strenuous spots over rocks. The "White" hiking trail has a wonderful display of spring wildflowers: bloodroot, toadshade trillium, toothwort, green and gold, wild geranium and many more. The wonderful views of Sweetwater Creek, which rivals the Chattahoochee River in size may include turtles sunning themselves on logs and rocks.	From Atlanta take I-20 West to Exit 44, Thornton Road. Turn left and go ¼ mile. Turn right on Blairs Bridge Rd. After 2 miles, turn left on Mt. Vernon Rd and proceed to the park. Facilities: At the Visitor's Center. Bring: \$5.00 daily parking fee or annual state park pass, snack, water, sunscreen, hat, field guide, hand lens. Wear sturdy walking shoes. Sweetwater Creek State Park 1750 Mt. Vernon Rd Lithia Springs, GA 30122 770 732-5871	John Manion 540.894.6551 phone for day of walk jmanion@atlantahistory-center.com

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
Apr 2 Friday 1 to 4 PM Meet at parking area.	Cochran Shoals, West Palisades, Chattahoochee River NRA, Cobb County This is where Atlantans come to run, jog and walk. Beyond the boardwalk, we'll enter another world of southern nodding and toad shade trilliums, foam flower and other spring wildflowers. If the group wishes, we can go toward Sope Creek for 1-2 mi more.	From I-285 East exit 22/Northside Dr: at 2nd light, go left on New Northside Dr to use "through" lane to Interstate North Pkwy. Entrance is 0.8 mi on right after the river. From I-285 West exit 22, go right on New Northside Dr and follow as above. For other directions: www.nps.gov/chat or contact leader. Walking: Easy 1-2 mi at river; hills to Sope Creek. Facilities: At parking. Picnic tables. Bring: \$3.00 parking fee or annual pass, water.	Maureen Donohue 678.687.7963 cell phone for day of walk only macaire75@att.net
Apr 2 Friday 5:30 PM Meet at Quarry Garden.	Georgia's Native Flora, Quarry Garden, Fulton County The abandoned 3-acre quarry at the Atlanta History Center, is 25 ft below the surrounding terrain, has a stream, a pond, a bog, a waterfall and has the state's most comprehensive documented collection of plants from all of Georgia's physiographic regions, many of which are rare or endangered. Plants are represented in a naturalized setting and a multitude of species will be in bloom at the time. This walk has been timed to take advantage of the beautiful early-evening light.	From I-75 South exit 255/West Paces Ferry Rd, turn left to travel ~2.7 mi to Atlanta History Center (AHC) on right (130 West Paces Ferry Road NE Atlanta, GA 30305). From I-85 South exit 88/Cheshire Bridge/Lenox Rd, turn right on Lenox Rd. After ~1.9 mi, turn left onto Peachtree Rd at Lenox Square Mall. After ~two mi, turn right onto West Paces Ferry Rd. After 2 traffic lights, AHC will be on your left. From I-75 North exit 255/West Paces Ferry Rd, turn left onto Northside Pkwy. At light, turn right onto West Paces Ferry Rd to follow directions above. Park in the AHC parking structure and follow signs to the Quarry Garden. Walking: Easy walking on mulched paths. Facilities: On site.	John Manion 540.894.6551 phone for day of walk jmanion@atlantahistorycenter.com Limited to 30 participants; registraion required; email preferred.
Apr 10 10:00 AM Meet at Broxton Post Office.	Broxton Rocks Nature Preserve (TNC), Coffee County We will walk along, among, and beneath sandstone outcrops to see several unusual South GA plants. Fern enthusiasts will enjoy winter grape, dwarf adders tongue, shoe-string and Peters filmy ferns. Florida bellwort, little people and native azaleas should be flowering.	From I-16 Dublin exit, travel US 441 South for 63 mi to Broxton. The post office is 1 block north of Ocmulgee St intersection on GA 268. Facilities: None on preserve. Difficulty: Moderately strenuous. Bring: Lunch to eat at the waterfalls.	Frankie Snow 912.260.4343 fsnow@sgc.edu
Apr 13 Tuesday 1- 5 PM Meet at Visitor's Center parking lot.	Kennesaw Mountain, Cobb County Development over the last several decades has left Kennesaw Mountain as an oasis. The Federally protected habitat and adjacent battlefields preserve a significant remnant of both flora and fauna in this mostly urban area. Trip limited to 10 participants; registration required.	From I-75 North exit 269 turn left onto Barrett Pkwy. Travel ~3 miles to turn left onto Old Hwy 41. Turn right at next light, Stilesboro Rd. Visitor center is on left. From I-75 South exit 269 turn right onto Barrett Pkwy. Follow directions above. Bring: Water and comfortable hiking shoes. Facilities: At visitor center. Walking: Easy to steep terrain, ~4 mi.	Doug Davis 678.873.3443 ddavis@kennesaw-ga.gov Registration required; contact Doug.

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
<p>Apr 17 10:00 AM</p> <p>Meet at service road to utility line.</p>	<p>Paulding Forest Exploratory Hike, Paulding County At over 7,000 acres and one of the largest forests left in metro Atlanta, Paulding Forest contains a rare Montane Longleaf ecosystem that was included in the 2008 Federal Legacy Program to ensure its protection. I've never been there, so can not vouch for how spectacular things will be.</p>	<p>We'll meet between Willow Springs and Brushy Mountain Rds at a utility line service road on the north side of the road, ~12 mi west of the US278/Hwy 120 East intersection on the east side of Dallas (~¾ mi east of the Paulding/Polk County line). Ample parking. Walking: 4 to 6 mi depending on exploration. Facilities: Only those Mother Nature provides. Bring: Lunch for hike, suitable clothing/footwear for bushwhacking, bug spray.</p>	<p>Rich Reaves 770.827.5186 rich.reaves@att.net</p>
<p>Apr 18 10:00 AM</p> <p>Meet at Burger King in downtown Clayton.</p>	<p>Till Ridge Cove & Hambridge Center, Rabun County Some consider this Blue Ridge cove forest and breathtaking sweep of spring wildflowers as one of the finest botanical areas in the state. Afterwards, we will drive ~4 mi to the Hambridge Center's Forest Cove trail.</p>	<p>The Burger King in downtown Clayton is just off the intersection of Hwy 76 and 441 across from Wendy's and on the far side of the Day's Inn on Hwy 76. Bring: Lunch to eat in the field, hand lens, water, and prepare for unpredictable weather. Walking: Easy. Facilities: None.</p>	<p>Patty Lowe 706.754.0701 rocketroy@windstream.net</p>
<p>Apr 21 Wednesday 10:00 AM</p> <p>Meet at the parking area bulletin board.</p>	<p>Sope Creek Unit & Fox Creek, Chattahoochee River NRA, Cobb County The xeric oak-hickory forest and mesic ravine forests along Fox Creek support a diversity of native ferns, flowering shrubs, and wildflowers. As you hike along the traces of nineteenth century farm roads, imagine this area as fields or pine plantation for the mills instead of forest.</p>	<p>We will meet at the parking area bulletin board: 3670 Paper Mill Road, Marietta, Georgia 30067 Facilities: At Terrell Mill Park. Difficulty: Moderate, one 0.25 mi accent. Bring: \$3 entrance fee or annual pass. Dress for weather and wear comfortable hiking shoes. Limit: 25 persons. Reservations required: 678-538-1200</p>	<p>Jerry Hightower 678.538.1245 jerry_hightower@nps.gov 770.206.0338 cell phone for day of walk only</p>

April 21 - 25, 2010 - Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage at Great Smoky Mountains National Park - Gatlinburg TN

Enjoy the Smokies in bloom. Pick from a variety of trips and workshops. Learn about flowers, trees, birds, bats, bears, settlers, photography and more. Camp with a group from GA BotSoc from Thursday to Sunday in Elkmont Campground or stay in a motel and enjoy our campfire and Sunday camp breakfast. Pilgrimage registration required (www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.com) or on site at Mills Auditorium in Gatlinburg. Bring warm clothes, hiking boots and raingear. Bring food if you plan to camp. Contact Amy Delaplaine for details or questions about get-togethers (404.352.2558, home or 404.388.0197, cell or amydel@mindspring.com).

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
Apr 24 10:00 AM Meet at Elachee Nature Science Center.	Natural Environments/Plant Communities of the GAPiedmont, Hall County This workshop begins with a brief indoor session followed by a walk to see examples of Piedmont communities at the Elachee Nature Science Center (2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504 770.535.1976 (http://www.elachee.org/)).	From Atlanta: I-85 N to I-985 toward Gainesville. Take exit 17, turn left onto GA 13 (Atlanta Hwy). Continue north past Chicopee Woods Golf Course to turn right, then a quick right onto Elachee Dr. If coming Hwy 365/I-985 south, take exit 17, turn right and follow directions above. Bring: Lunch to eat prior to walk. Walking: Moderate. Limited to 25 students; registration required.	Leslie Edwards & Tom Govus Registration required; Please contact Leslie at edwa1616@bellsouth.net
May 1 10:00 AM Meet at Ingles parking lot, Ellijay.	Devil's Den, Chohutta Mountains, Fannin County First mentioned by Charlie Wharton, this is one of the richer coves in North GA with one of the best GA populations of <i>Trillium erectum</i> and ramps. It also has relictual flora such as yellow wood and mountain maple as well as rich site uncommon species like monkshood.	Take Hwy 515 north into East Ellijay. Ingles and adjacent Burger King are at 2 nd stoplight (1 st light is Walmart, south of town). Facilities: At the Burger King. Bring: Water, lunch to carry. Wear long pants, as stinging nettle is dense in rich areas of the cove. Walking: Moderately strenuous >2 mi, 700 ft climb, rugged terrain. Additional optional cove. Carpooling: We will use only 3 vehicles.	Tom Govus 706.276.3360 tgovus@ellijay.com Trip limited to 11 folks. Please register with Tom.
May 2 Sunday Note day! 10:00 AM Park above lake bath house to walk downhill to meet at trailhead.	Lake Winfield Scott, Union County On this moderately strenuous 1 mi hike on the Jarrard Gap Trail (mostly uphill), 2 mi on the Appalachian Trail (mostly level), and 2.5 mi on the Slaughter Creek Trail (mostly downhill), we should see pink lady's-slipper, speckled wood lily, doll's-eyes, blue cohosh, toothwort, umbrella leaf, yellow mandarin, two species of bellwort, six species of violet and four of trillium - most during the first mile. Feel free to return when you are ready.	From Atlanta, take GA 400 north for ~60 mi to its end. Turn left on Hwy 60 toward Dahlonega and Suches. At Stone Pile Gap, bear left to stay on Hwy 60. Shortly after Woody Lake on the right, turn right on Hwy 180 (motorcycle resort/service station at corner) and go ~4.5 mi to turn right into Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area, pay \$5 entrance fee, and continue to the parking area above lake. Facilities: At meeting site. Walking: Moderately strenuous stretches. 5.5 mi. Bring: Lunch to eat on trail, \$5 entrance fee, sturdy shoes for hiking, trekking poles, rain gear (you never know!), extra water.	Linda Chafin Lchafin@uga.edu 706.548.1697
May 2 Sunday Note day! 10:00 AM Meet at Hampton Inn parking lot, Waycross.	SE GA Wildflowers, Ware County We will carpool south on US 1 to turn onto GA 23 and botanize toward St George, hoping to find a splendid display of spring flowering orchids and other forbs. If our mission is hampered by early mowing by the DOT, we will botanize the US 84/US 301/US 1 loop, which will produce excellent flowers but not as spectacular as GA 23.	Take I-75 south to Tifton and US82 southeast to Waycross. The Hampton Inn is southeast of the city center and on US 1/US 82/US 23. Bring: Lunch to eat on the road (GA 23 is desolate after Waycross), hand lens, and plenty of water. Walking: Short, along roadsides. Maybe wet, bring rubber boots or a change of shoes. Facilities: Sparse after leaving Folkston. Carpooling encouraged to facilitate roadside botanizing.	Ed McDowell 478.396.8901 (cell) Registration required. Email preferred. ed.mcdowell@cox.net
May 4 Tuesday 1- 5 PM Meet at Visitor Center parking lot.	Kennesaw Mountain, Cobb County Development has left Kennesaw Mountain as an oasis of federally protected habitat and preserved a significant remnant of both flora and fauna in this mostly urban area. Registration required; trip limited to ten attendees.	From I-75 North exit 269 turn left onto Barrett Pkwy. Travel ~3 miles to turn left onto Old Hwy 41. Turn right at next light, Stilesboro Rd. Visitor center is on left. From I-75 South exit 269 turn right onto Barrett Pkwy. Follow directions above. Bring: Water and comfortable hiking shoes. Facilities: At visitor center. Walking: Easy to steep terrain, ~4 mi.	Doug Davis 678.873.3443 ddavis@kennesaw-ga.gov Registration required; contact Doug.

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
May 8 10:30 AM Meet at Valley Community Church parking lot.	Beech Creek & Wharton Conservation Center, Towns County The trail along lush Beech Creek to a waterfall is carpeted with hepatica, trilliums are abundant, and ramps are possible. A researcher investigating the health of the area's amphibian population will join us. We'll also visit the 129 acre Wharton Conservation Center administered by the GA Wildlife Federation. Afterwards, hikers are invited to Eddi's home, ~1 mi from the Center, for a light lunch/social hour.	I-985N/365/441 to Clayton. Turn west (left) on Hwy 76 (towards Hiawasse). Travel ~8 mi to Persimmon Rd. Turn north (right) and travel 4 mi to Tallulah River Rd (aka Tate City Rd, FS #70). Turn left and travel 6.5 mi to Valley Community Church (on right). Park in upper parking lot. Note: Tallulah River Road becomes a narrow, heavily travelled gravel road; use extreme caution. Walking: Moderately strenuous ~1 mi to waterfall. Facilities: At meeting place & leaders residence. Bring: Sturdy shoes or hiking boots, water, snack. Sandals for wading creek suggested.	Eddi Minche 678.313.2582 706-896-7884 day of hike no cell service on trip eddmin@gmail.com Registration required; email preferred.
May 8 8:30 AM Note early time! Meet at Education Center.	Wild Edibles Workshop & Walk, Fulton County Join us for a great breakfast on the upper deck of the lodge, followed by a very brief slide program and discussion of wild edibles in our area of GA and a walk to find them. Chattahoochee River Environmental Education Center 8615 Barnwell Road Johns Creek GA 30022	From Hwy 400 exit 7: turn east and travel ~ 4 mi on Holcomb Bridge Rd, Hwy. 140. Turn left on Barnwell Rd (at Kroger on left). Entrance is ~0.7 mi on right. From I-85 exit 99: turn west on Jimmy Carter Blvd (becomes Holcomb Bridge Rd at river). Cross the river and turn right onto Barnwell Rd. Entrance is ~0.7 mi on right. Facilities: In the Center's Lodge. Walking: Easy; less than two miles. Bring: Breakfast provided but bring your own lunch and water. Don't forget your notebook.	Jerry Hightower 678.538.1245 jerry_hightower@nps.gov Reservations required: 678-538-1200
May 9 Sunday 1:00 PM Meet at Trail parking lot.	Pine Mountain Recreation Area, Bartow County Part of the Cartersville park system, this wonderful 5 mi - figure 8 trail over Pine Mountain and Hurricane Hollow has mountain laurel thickets, stream canyons, piney woods, rocky crevices with a mountain top view. You can choose a 3 or 5 mi hike.	From I-75 exit 290, go east toward Canton on GA 20. Turn right near a McDonald's onto Rowland Springs Rd/GA Spur 20 (marked for Allatoona Dam). Continue ~3.5 mi; parking area on right is hard to see. Not Cooper Furnace parking! Facilities: None at site. Walking: Well-graded trail, ~700 ft climb. Bring: Water, insect repellent, camera, hand lens and binoculars.	Annette Ranger 770.429.1836 770.639.8465 cell, day of hike annetteranger@comcast.net
May 14 Friday 10:00 AM Meet at trail head, Roswell City Park.	Vickery Creek, Chattahoochee River NRA, Fulton County This loop hike through the oak hickory ridge forest, mesic forest and the ridge top trail at Vickery Creek has very large big leaved umbrella magnolia, We will observe a succession area after a pine beetle kill.	We will meet in the parking area and trail head in the City of Roswell Park on Oxbow Road. From the Historic Roswell Square travel north on Atlanta Street (Hwy 9) and Oxbow Road is at the bottom of the hill on the right. Facilities: Trees and thick shrubs. Walking: Moderate, some steep slopes. Bring: Lunch for forest picnic.	Jerry Hightower 678.538.1245 jerry_hightower@nps.gov 770.206.0338 cell, day of walk
Trip participation limited; reservations required for both of Jerry's trips: 678-538-1200			
May 14 Friday 3:00 PM Meet at lower parking.	Vickery Creek, Chattahoochee River NRA, Fulton County The Rhododendron Loop and Mill Dam Waterfall area has an abundance of native azaleas, rhododendron, and mountain laurel.	Meet in the lower parking area off Roswell Square (across from Hwy 120 - Atlanta Street/Hwy 9 intersection) at the trail entrance arbor. Facilities: In Roswell Visitor Center on Square. Walking: Moderate; several short steep sections. Bring: Dress for the weather.	Jerry Hightower 678.538.1245 jerry_hightower@nps.gov 770.206.0338 cell, day of walk

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
<p>May 15 10:00 AM Meet at old ranger station.</p>	<p>McIntosh Reserve Park, Carroll County This 527-acre mixed-use park on the Chattahoochee River contains a variety of habitats and over 600 species of vascular plants, including <i>Listera australis</i> and two rare <i>Carex</i> species.</p>	<p>Take U.S. Highway 27Alt SE out of Carrollton or NW out of Newnan toward Whitesburg. At Whitesburg turn west at the traffic circle onto Hwy 5. After ~2.5 mi turn south onto West McIntosh Circle (sign on Hwy 5). Follow West McIntosh Circle to park entrance; staff can direct you to old ranger station. Nonresident entrance fee waived for BotSoc. Walking: Easy to moderate on trails. Facilities: Restrooms at the old ranger station. Bring: Water and lunch to eat after hike.</p>	<p>Wendell Hoomes hoomes2@gmail.com David Morgan dmorgan@westga.edu</p>
<p>May 16 Sunday 10:00 AM Meet at visitor center.</p>	<p>Red Top Mountain Plant Inventory, Bartow County This fifth inventory trip features spring wildflowers. The state park has a lodge (770 975-0055) tent camping and yurts; otherwise Cartersville is nearby with abundant motels</p>	<p>From I-75 take exit 285 Red Top Mountain Rd. and go 1.5 mi east to Visitor Center. Walking: Easy to moderate, some bushwhacking off trails. Facilities: At visitor center and in picnic area for lunch. Bring: Hand lens, notebook, water, picnic lunch</p>	<p>Tom Patrick 706.476.4541 (cell) Tom.Patrick@dnr.state.ga.us</p>

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