



Marie Mellinger Grant Awards

The Georgia Botanical Society received two excellent applications for our Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Grant. The review committee* ranked both applications as equally deserving of funding and distributed the \$1500 allocated in the 2009 budget between the two proposals.

Sean Beeching and Malcolm Hodges applied for funds to “Create an Atlas of the Distribution of All Lichen Species in Georgia”. Their topic is no surprise to those who have had the opportunity to attend one of their workshops and field trips. Sean Beeching is an accomplished amateur lichenologist, recognized by professionals as the most experienced lichenologist in Georgia. Malcolm Hodges is a student of Beeching’s and the second most experienced lichenologist in the state, bringing over 18 years of field experience as a Georgia ecologist to the project.



Malcolm Hodges and Sean Beeching

The Lichen Atlas Project is part of a ten year effort begun in 2006 to gather basic information about the occurrence, range and abundance of Georgia’s lichen species by sampling at least one site in most of Georgia’s 159 counties. Beeching and Hodges expect to document more than 800 species statewide and predict that some sites with significant rock outcrops may be home to as many as 150 different species. By comparing lichen diversity at differently managed sites, their data will provide insight into the best management

practices for lichen diversity.

The information collected from their sampling trips will be disseminated via range maps and species accounts will be accessible on a website associated with the University of Georgia (www.georgialichens.org). Beeching and Hodges will receive \$830 from Marie’s Fund for travel expenses during eight collecting trips.

We are also pleased to award a Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Grant to **Cassandra Plank**, a graduate student in the Plant Biology Lab at Georgia Southern University. Ms. Plank will use the funds to research Edna’s trillium (*Trillium persistens*), a federally endangered species known from only three Georgia locations and one South Carolina site.

Her field studies began in Spring 2009 when plants at study sites at each of the four known locations for *T. persistens* were observed for life



Cassandra Plank

stage and given a numbered metal tag. A follow-up assessment of life stage and any changes in population number in Spring 2010 will allow the trillium’s population size and growth rate to be projected over time.

These population studies are important observations for the trillium’s management at all four of its known sites, but especially critical at a Tallulah Gorge site where a controlled burn was conducted in Spring 2009. At Tallulah Gorge,

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*Hugh Nourse, Richard Ware, Wayne Morris and Elaine Nash served on the 2010 Marie Mellinger Grant Review Committee.

**BotSoc News**

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Society News

LEARN TO USE THE BOTSOC FORUM

SET UP CARPOOLS, EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATE IN INTERESTING DISCUSSIONS

Right now, only a few members regularly use our online forum (<http://www.gabotsoc.org/forum>). Rich Reaves is great about posting information there, but if more members get comfortable with using the forum, I know it would be useful for exchanging info, helping set up carpools or having discussions. The forum may seem confusing if you haven't used something like this before, so here are a few tips:

1. Visit the forum and register. Until you register, you won't be able to use some features, and you won't be able to see certain parts of the forum. You'll receive an activation email, and you can then go ahead and post in the forum. Areas in the forum, such as the carpool section, are open only to registered members. Posting anywhere on the forum is safe – no one will be able to see your email.
2. The forum is organized by board, topic and subject, and post. Right now, we have three boards: Forum Rules, General Plant Discussion, Field Trips and Other Events. I can always add others. Any registered user of the forum can add a subject by creating a post, and when people start replying to posts, you've got a conversation going. That's probably one of the most useful things about a forum – using it for discussing things without cluttering up everyone's email.
3. If you'd like to start a new subject, click on one of the topics, such as Plant Discussions, and you'll see a list of subjects. Click on one of the subjects, and you'll see people's posts on that subject.
4. You may use your name or an alias in your profile on the forum and you can change this at any time by clicking on the profile. In your profile, you control what others see about you. You can also upload a picture that will show when you post a message and you can send individual private messages to other members.

I've set the forum up to avoid having too much spam, but please report any offensive or inappropriate posts or any problems you are having to me. I would also be happy to help you if you'd like to use the forum. Feel free to email me if you have any problems. And please let me know if you have any suggestions about the forum (or web site) and how we can make it better.

Merrill Morris
merrill.morris@gmail.com

DON'T FORGET THE CULLOWHEE NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE

JULY 27-31, 2010

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JULY 9

<http://www.wcu.edu/5033.asp>

Marie Mellinger Grant Recipients (cont. from page 1)

T. persistens is found in the Table Mountain pine (*Pinus pungens*) ecosystem - an ecosystem that requires burning for establishment and maintenance. While reintroducing fire may help restore the pine (whose seeds germinate following a fire), little is known about how the trillium population at the site will respond to the burn. *T. persistens* seeds germinate normally without fire but macronutrients in the ash deposited during the burn may affect plant growth. Ill effects on the trillium's population

dynamics may lead to a management conflict between the conservation of the rare trillium and the threatened Table Mountain pine ecosystem. *T. persistens* and *P. pungens* seeds will also be subjected to heat experiments in a laboratory drying oven to determine the recovery ability of seeds under heat stress.

Cassandra Plank was awarded \$670 from the Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Fund to cover travel and laboratory supplies.

Book Review

OUR WILD ORCHIDS: TRAILS AND PORTRAITS

Frank Morris and Edward A. Eames
(Charles Scribner's & Sons: New York, 1929)

Although trained in literature and Chairman of a college English department, the Canadian Frank Morris had a lifelong fascination with botany and, particularly, wildflowers. Born in England, he initially learned about flowers by hiking in the woods and recording his observations. After moving to Canada in his early twenties, he added a more academic level to this interest by learning taxonomy and scientific description from a fellow teacher. His wife Elma shared this enthusiasm for wildflowers and the two of them spent much of their spare time and their vacations on what were essentially self-arranged BotSoc field trips during which they observed, studied and recorded the plants they encountered. They developed a special interest in wild orchids.

Their trips in search of orchids brought them in contact with another couple, Edward and Belle Eames. Edward Eames was a photographer, and he and his wife, working with unwieldy cameras, had developed ways of taking photographs of various plants in their native habitats. *Our Wild Orchids: Trails and Portraits* emerged from this chance friendship based on mutual interest. The essays on orchids (the Trails of the book's title) were written by Morris; the photographs (Portraits) were taken by Eames. There are 130 photographs, 126 black and white and four in color. Both wives were also involved in this work and the book is dedicated to the two women.

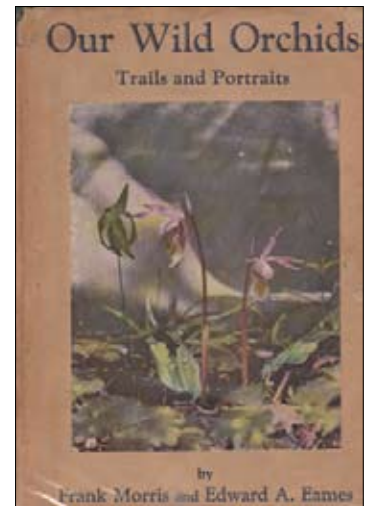
In the first sentence of the Author's Preface, Morris states that the "book is intended first of all for amateurs like ourselves" (ix). Certainly, Morris was an amateur botanist, but there is some false modesty in his insistence on his amateur status. He was by nature a scholar, and while he had studied wild orchids with amateur enthusiasm, he had also worked diligently to acquire the science necessary for deeper understanding. The depth of his knowledge is borne out by the fact that *Our Wild Orchids* is still considered a significant and basic work on wild orchids in eastern North America.

Morris and Eames set as their goal to find and catalog most of the wild orchids east of the Mississippi River from Canada to the American South.

They accomplished this goal through extensive travel and exploration accompanied with their wives.

In the book, orchids are classified into four "Tribes": Lady Slipper (*Cypripedeae*), Eyebrow (*Ophrydeae*), Bird's Nest (*Neottiae*) and Tree (*Epidendreae*). Within these categories Morris writes two part essays on each individual orchid. An initial section of a half page or so presents the scientific information on the plant: Nomenclature (scientific and common), Description of Plant and Flower, Habitat and Bloom Season, and Special Features. With the objective information established, Morris then writes a two to five page essay on the orchid, beginning with a discussion of the plant in the wild but generally moving toward a narrative of his and Eames' first or most memorable encounter with the plant. Eames has produced at least one photograph of each orchid.

But Morris's stories are the highlight of the book since they describe the frustration, tedium, disappointment and exhilaration involved in looking for an elusive orchid and finally finding it. These brief stories are like miniature treasure hunts, and they make this study of wild orchids a particular pleasure to read.



Elma and Frank Morris



One of the 126 black & white photographs by Eames in *Our Wild Orchids*.

Reviewed by Bob Linn

41st Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage

TRIP 16 - MARCH 13 TORREYA STATE PARK LIBERTY COUNTY FLORIDA

Located on the eastern side of the Apalachicola River, Torreya State Park is home to the endangered Florida torrey (*Torreya taxifolia*) as well as a diverse terrain hosting interesting plants and long vistas. Our group consisted of five Bot Soccers: Chris and Jim Powers and Olivia Harris of Atlanta, Tim Booth of Hartwell who was on his very first BotSoc outing and me from Athens. We were met at the gate by our hosts, Pam and Bill Anderson, who comprise fully one half of the volunteer staff at the park. Pam and Bill took us to three areas of the park, two of which are not open to the general public.

Our first hike descended through a ravine along Means Creek. From a starting elevation of 219 feet, we descended nearly 150 feet to the river. Along the way we passed Underwood's trillium (*Trillium underwoodii*) and leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*) in bloom. Walter's violet (*Viola walteri* var. *walteri*) and the longer stemmed Florida violet (*Viola floridana* now *V. sororia*) were also spotted blooming along with mayberry (*Vaccinium elliotii*). Means Creek started as a trickle at the top of the ravine, gradually gaining strength as we descended. By the time we were halfway down, the creek's erosion into the subsurface limestone was evident. In places, the smooth deeply eroded twisting channel resembled a bobsled run. Portions of the nearly vertical sides of the limestone banks were carpeted with a profusion of maidenhair ferns. It was also in this area that we came across several *Torreya taxifolia*, all of which were fairly small root re-growths. The largest torrey along the creek, about 4 to 5 feet tall, had been damaged by deer rubbing and had snapped off in recent winds.

After lunching, we headed to our second stop of the day in a secluded area of moss covered rock outcrops along a sloping stream bed. In this location we saw towering oak-leaf hydrangeas (*Hydrangea quercifolia*)



Olivia Harris, Chris Powers, Mike Wasko, Jim Powers and Tim Booth at Torreya State Park.

8-10 feet tall growing directly out of the limestone rock faces. We also spotted lanceleaf trillium (*Trillium lancifolia*), *Hepatica* sp. and rue-anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*), all in bloom.

Our final stop was in the developed portion of the park. We began at Gregory House, built in 1849 on the opposite side of the Apalachicola River. When the park was established in the 1930s, the house was disassembled and moved across the river to a bluff which commands an impressive view to the west which seems to go on for miles. Descending toward the river on the River Bluff Trail, we quickly entered a forest of towering sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and sycamores (*Platanus occidentalis*) and an understory thick with large needle palms (*Rapidophyllum hystrix*) and bluestem palmettos (*Sabal minor*). In contrast to our previous hikes, this path had a definite tropical feel. On the way we spotted vegetative wild comfrey (*Cynoglossum virginianum*), several large red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*) just days away from full bloom, and several atamasco lilies (*Zephranthes atamasco*) in bloom. As we completed the loop trail, we passed several civil war earthworks on the top of the bluff where six canons were placed to defend the river. After thanking Pam and Bill for a great day we headed to Bainbridge for the Saturday evening banquet.

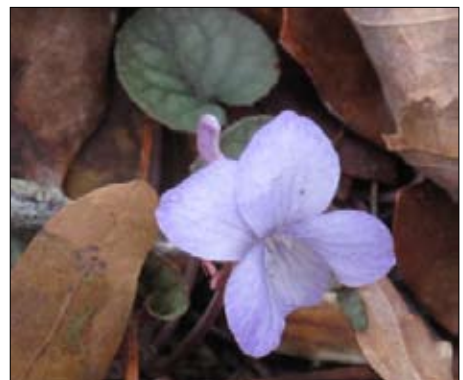
Article and photos by
Mike Wasko, Athens



leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*)



red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*)



Walter's violet (*Viola walteri* var. *walteri*)

March 12-14, 2010 Bainbridge, Decatur County GA

TRIP 23 - MARCH 14 LOST CREEK FOREST THOMAS COUNTY GEORGIA

Sunday morning broke cloudy, windy, and rather cool as we gathered at the Charter House Inn to caravan to the field trip site. This weather seemed better suited to our home town of Rome rather than Bainbridge. Teresa and I, co-leaders of the trip to assist with tree identification, led the caravan. We met the real trip leaders, Beth Grant and her friend Yvonne Stinson, at the Office Depot parking lot just east of Thomasville for the very short drive to Lost Creek Forest, located near the Thomasville airport.

Lost Creek Forest is jointly owned by Thomas County and the City of Thomasville as part of the airport property. The county commission voted unanimously not to sell it for an industrial park after a successful "Save Our Forest" campaign in 2008. Beth and her group are now working on permanent preservation plans, hopefully including a conservation easement.

After an introduction to the site by Beth, we entered the woods and bushwhacked down the hill in the direction of the creek. I couldn't help but notice a greenbrier acting as an attractive groundcover that was unfamiliar to me. This turned out to be the wild sarsaparilla-vine (*Smilax pumila*), a red-berried, thornless cousin of the ones that rip our legs in other areas. Some of the other herbaceous plants in evidence this time of year were partridge-berry (*Mitchella repens*), little brown jugs (*Hexastylis arifolia*), crane-fly orchid (*Tipularia discolor*), beechdrops (*Epifagus virginiana*), early blue violet (*Viola palmata*), and growing on some of the trees, green-fly orchid (*Epidendrum magnoliae*). The rarest plant discovered on the

site, so far, is Florida milkvine (*Matelea floridana*), a twining perennial vine in the milkweed family. It has only been reported from Florida and Georgia, with approximately 16 extant locations in Florida and two in Georgia. The Clay County site is being threatened by a kudzu invasion, leaving the Thomas County site as our best population.

The shrub layer was diverse and fairly dense in spots, with the most

common component by far being sweetleaf or horsesugar (*Symplocos tinctoria*). There was also heart's-a-burstin' (*Euonymus americanus*), Sebastian bush (*Sebastiania fruticosa*), dwarf palmetto (*Sabal minor*), mayberry (*Vaccinium elliotii*), devilwood (*Osmanthus americanus*), and dahoon holly (*Ilex cassine*).

But the real stars of the field trip here were the trees, especially for a tree-lover like me. The place was filled with huge trees, many that two people could barely reach around. So, as you can guess, the day was filled with tree hugging! And, it wasn't just one or two species either, there were large specimens of spruce pine (*Pinus glabra*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), swamp chestnut oak (*Q. michauxii*), water oak (*Q. nigra*), mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*), pignut hickory (*C. glabra*), and bitternut hickory (*C. cordiformis*). We heard estimates that these trees might be 100-150 years old. I wouldn't be surprised, and that number might even be conservative, considering the slow growth of some of the trees involved, especially hickory and oak.

This site needs to be fully preserved by purchase or conservation easement. If anyone would like to be added to an email list for updates on this site please e-mail Beth Grant at bethgrant@bellsouth.net.

Richard Ware, Rome



Lost Creek was filled with huge trees, many that two people could barely reach around. So, as you can guess, the day was filled with tree hugging! Beth Grant joined Yvonne Stinson (top photo) and Gary Winsett (middle photo) to illustrate the point. And as long as big trees are a part of a field trip, Richard Ware (bottom photo) is a happy BotSoccer. Photos by Teresa Ware.

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
May 1 10:00 AM Meet at Ingles parking lot, East 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 and follow the detour signs to turn left onto Stilesboro Road near the entrance to the park on the right. If parking is full, over flow parking is at Old Hwy41 & Stilesboro Road. (Take Stilesboro to stoplight, turn left and drive through the gaps in the road closed barrels/signs. The gaps are there so you can reach overflow parking if necessary). 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 Hiawassee). 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
Stephen Johnson will open his cabin and property on Flat Shoals Creek in Harris County on Friday through Sunday May 14-16, May 21-23 and May 28-30 so the public can see the shoals spider lilies in bloom. A fairly level, easy, 1/4 mi trail leads to the creek. Bring old tennis shoes and walking stick to wade for a closer view if you wish. Restrooms and picnic tables are available at the cabin. From Interstate 85, take exit 2 (GA Hwy 18) to go east for 1/4 mi. Turn right on GA Hwy 103 and travel 2.8 mi south, past Harris County Industrial Park, to gravel driveway just north of mile marker 11. The address is 4725 GA Hwy 103, West Point, GA. You can contact Stephen at 706-643-7851 or by email at johnson1603@charter.net.			
May 15 10:00 AM Meet at old ranger station.	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. McIntosh Reserve Park, 1046 West McIntosh Circle, Whitesburg, GA 30185 770-830-5879	Take U.S. Highway 27Alt SE from Carrollton or 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) and proceed 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 old ranger station. Bring: Water and lunch to eat after hike.	Wendell Homes hoomes2@gmail.com 770.301.2868 cell David Morgan dmorgan@westga.edu
May 16 Sunday 10:00 AM Meet at visitor center.	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	From I-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, picnic lunch	Tom Patrick 706.476.4541 (cell) Tom.Patrick@dnr.state.ga.us
May 22 10:00 AM Meet at parking area.	Panther Creek Cove, Stephens County Visit a mixed mesophytic mountain cove below 1,000 ft elevation. Marble outcrops, rich soils, moisture, and steep bluffs contribute to unusually diverse plant communities. We'll look for <i>Schisandra glabra</i> .	From Toccoa, take Hwy 184 N (Prather Bridge Rd) for ~5 mi. When Hwy 184 turns sharply right, turn left on Yonah Dam Rd and go ~5 mi to turn left onto a narrow unpaved road at sign that says "church." Parking area is at end, ~1 1/4 mi further along Panther Creek. Facilities: In Toccoa. Walking: Wade Panther Creek (~2 ft deep, 40 ft wide and cold), then the ~ 2 mi walk will be along a small mountain stream crossed several times on rocks and boulders. Return by same route. Bring: Lunch to eat during walk, water, raingear, insect repellent, trekking poles for creek crossing.	Ben Cash bencash@hemc.net 706.778.5155 706.968.3841 cell but may not be reliable at the site.
May 22 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Meet at Flint River Outpost.	Flint River and the Shoals Spider Lilies, Talbot County We float through Sprewell Bluff and the Fall Line Ravines where coastal plain flora intermix with upper piedmont and mountain species. Depending on water levels, we will travel ~ 6 to 8 mi of river with several easy class II rapids then car caravan to Big Lazar Creek WMA to see shoals spider lilies.	Flint River Outpost (706.647.2633), west of Thomaston on Hwy 36, rents canoes and kayaks. There is a shuttle fee; please make your own shuttle reservations. Hotels in Thomaston; camping at Outpost and Big Lazar WMA. Facilities: At Outpost and Spruill Bluff State Park. Outpost has a store. Difficulty: Suitable for beginners with basic skills. Bring: Picnic lunch, sunscreen, hat, rain jacket, water, waterproof bag to secure items in boat.	Jerry Hightower 678.538.1245 770-206-0338, cell jerry_hightower@nps.gov Reservations are required by calling 770.971.8919.

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
<p>May 29 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM</p> <p>Meet at Appalachian Outfitters Outpost.</p>	<p>Chestatee Canoe Float & Flora, Lumpkin County</p> <p>This easy 6.3 mi float (very mild rapids) flows under vine draped hardwoods along banks covered with rhododendron, mountain laurel, ferns, and wildflowers. Shear cliffs slip into the currents around the remains of old gold mining operations. We will stop at Big Bend Beach for a picnic lunch and perhaps a swim.</p>	<p>The Appalachian Outfitters Outpost (800.426.7117), Hwy 60, Dahlonega, rents canoes and kayaks Shuttle fee; please make your own shuttle reservations.</p> <p>Facilities: Restrooms/changing rooms at Outpost. Difficulty: Easy paddling suitable for beginners, but persons must have basic skills. Bring: Picnic lunch, sunscreen, hat, rain gear, water, and waterproof bag to secure items in boat. Limit: 26 persons.</p>	<p>Jerry Hightower 678.538.1245 770-206-0338, cell jerry_hightower@nps.gov Reservations are required by calling 770.971.8919.</p>
<p>May 29 10:00 AM</p> <p>Meet at Burrell's Ford parking lot.</p>	<p>Chattooga River Hike, Oconee County, SC</p> <p>Hike a section of the Foothills Trail on the South Carolina side of the Chattooga River, mostly within the Wild & Scenic River corridor and often alongside the river. This area is changing drastically with the demise of the eastern hemlock.</p>	<p>From US Hwy 441 in Clayton, turn east onto Warwoman Rd (ends at GA Hwy 28 after 14 curvy miles). Turn right onto GA Hwy 28 toward Walhalla and go 1¼ mi to Burrell's Ford Rd (FS Rd 646) on the left. Follow unpaved Burrell's Ford Rd 7 mi to the bridge. Parking lot is on right, ~¼ mi beyond bridge. Allow ~1 hour drive from Clayton to Burrell's Ford parking lot. We'll shuttle to the start of the hike. Facilities: At Burrell's Ford. Gas/food in Clayton. Walking: Moderate to strenuous 9 mi. Expect slippery rocks and exposed roots especially when the trail is near the river. Bring: Water, lunch to eat during walk, raingear, insect repellent, sturdy footwear.</p>	<p>Ben Cash bencash@hemc.net 706.778.5155 706.968.3841 cell but may not be reliable at the site.</p>
<p>May 30 Sunday 10:00 AM</p> <p>Meet near fee collection booth in parking lot on top of Brasstown Bald.</p>	<p>Wagon Train Trail, Towns/Union County</p> <p>We will only do a 5 mile portion of this long trail, then hike back. With no shuttle, we'll have more time to linger. Winding down the north side of Brasstown Bald in a cloud forest habitat, we'll pass rock cuts dripping with moss, saxifrage, and lichens. We should see 3 or 4 trilliums, including <i>Trillium vaseyi</i>. <i>Cypripedium acaule</i> are possible, as well as <i>Rhododendron bakeri</i>, <i>Maianthemum canadense</i> and <i>Trientalis borealis</i>. As always, we will search rock outcrops for <i>Capnoides sempervirens</i>.</p>	<p>From Blairsville, take US 19 south for 8 mi, then turn left onto GA 180 for 8 mi. At Brasstown Bald sign, turn left onto GA 180 Spur to parking area. From Dahlonega, take GA 60/US 19 north, veering right at Stonepile Gap to stay on US 19. Turn left at the Chestatee River. After Vogel SP, turn right onto GA 180 and follow directions above. Facilities: At meeting place only. Walking: 5 mile hike is easy 2.5 mi going down; moderately strenuous 2.5 mi coming back up. High mountain trail; hikers should be reasonably fit. Bring: Lunch to eat on hike, parking fee.</p>	<p>Hal Massie massiefarm@aol.com 478.836.4907 478.957.6095 (cell for hike, reception not guaranteed)</p>
<p>May 31 Monday Memorial Day 10:00 AM</p> <p>Meet at trailhead.</p>	<p>Blackrock Mountain State Park, Rabun County</p> <p>Hike the Tennessee Rock Trail, a 2.2 mile loop trail profiled in Hugh and Carol Nourse's book, Favorite Wildflower Walks in Georgia. Black Rock Mountain State Park, 3085 Black Rock Mountain Pkwy, Mountain City, GA 30562.</p>	<p>From Clayton, drive 3 mi north on US 441 to Mountain City. Turn left on Black Rock Mountain Pkwy (brown directional signs in Mountain City.) Trailhead is 0.5 mi before Visitor Center. Facilities: At Visitor Center. Gas/food in Clayton. Walking: 2.2 mi, moderate with steep sections including a 440 ft climb. Part of trail is along ridgeline and steeply downhill on both sides. Bring: Lunch to eat during walk, water, raingear, insect repellent, sturdy footwear.</p>	<p>Rich Reaves rich.reaves@att.net 770.827.5186 cell but may not have service in park.</p>

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
June 1 Tuesday 10:00 AM Meet at Chestnut Lodge.	Southern Highlands Reserve (SHR), North Carolina SHR, a private native plant garden open by invitation only, has invited BotSoc and the Georgia Native Plant Society (GNPS) to tour their 100+ acre native plant gardens. SHR is home to spray cliff communities and many rare and unusual mountain plants; Vaseyi azaleas should be at their peak. Get a glimpse of SHR at http://southernhighlandsreserve.org .	SHR is ~3.5 hours from Atlanta. Participants may consider staying in Cashiers or Brevard and combining this trip with the Memorial Day weekend trips. GNPS is coordinating this trip. Participation is limited; registration is required. Please email fieldtrips@gnps.org with your telephone number, area of state in which you live, and that you are a BotSoc member. You may also request their help in arranging a carpool for the trip. Walking: Invigorating, but easy hike. Optional strenuous walk with vertical climbs to waterfall. Bring: Lunch to be eaten at Chestnut Lodge, water, walking stick for waterfall walk.	John Turner & Richard Bryson SHR staff GNPS is coordinating this trip.
June 5 10:00 AM Meet at Flash Foods, Bonaire, GA Hwy 96/247 intersection.	Blackbelt Prairies, Oaky Woods WMA, Houston County This remnant Blackland Prairie is an extremely rare collection of habitat types related to similar vegetation found in neighboring Alabama. The calcareous clay soils are home to over 20 rare plant species, some of which are found nowhere else in the state. We should see expanses of <i>Ratibida pinnata</i> , <i>Glandularia bipinnatifida</i> , <i>Delphinium carolinianum</i> , <i>Matelea flavidula</i> , <i>Asclepias viridiflora</i> and much, much more.	From I-75, take exit 160A toward Warner Robins. Continue south on GA 247, past Robins AFB to intersection with GA 96 in Bonaire. Alternately, take I-475 to I-75 south of Macon. Continue south to exit 142, GA 96/Houser's Mill Road. Proceed east on GA 96 to Bonaire. Meet at Flash Foods/ Taco Bell parking lot to carpool to site. Flash Food 130, 498 GA Hwy 247S Bonaire GA 31005 Bring: Lunch to eat in the field, bug spray, sunscreen, water, hiking shoes. Facilities: At meeting location. Walking: Easy, level, never more than 1/2 mile from vehicles.	Ed McDowell ed.mcdowell@cox.net 478.396.8901
June 19 10:00 AM Meet at visitor center.	Red Top Mountain Plant Inventory, Bartow County This sixth inventory trip features early summer wildflowers. The state park has a lodge (770.975.0055) tent camping and yurts; Cartersville has abundant motels.	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	Tom Patrick 706.476.4541 (cell) Tom.Patrick@dnr.state.ga.us
JULY 10 - 11 ROAN MOUNTAIN AND BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY WEEKEND DETAILS ON PAGE 11.			
July 17 10:00 AM Meet at visitor center.	Providence Canyon State Park, Stewart County A midsummer stroll to see plumleaf azalea in full bloom and a downstream walk through hardwood forests reminiscent of the Blue Ridge Mountains' lower slopes. Mostly on trails and walking in a shallow streambed. Tremendous tree and shrub diversity with at least 4 magnolia species, leatherwood, and oakleaf hydrangea.	From Columbus take US Hwy 27 south 40 mi to Lumpkin, then go west on GA Hwy 39C ~7 mi to Visitor Center. From elsewhere, go to Lumpkin, take US Hwy 27 (bypass) and follow signs to park. Walking: Moderate to steep walk into canyon, then mostly downstream to shuttle, ~3 mi total. Facilities: At Visitor Center and day use areas. Lodging/restaurants in Lumpkin; Florence Marina State Park offers camping and cottages. Bring: Hand lens, notebook, water, picnic lunch, sturdy waterproof boots or wading shoes.	Tom Patrick 706.476.4541 (cell) Tom.Patrick@dnr.state.ga.us

Upcoming Field Trips

July 10 - 11 Roan Mountain and Blue Ridge Parkway Weekend

The Roan Mountain and Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) trips on July 10 - 11 can be combined as a weekend trip or enjoyed as a one day trip. Some cabin space is still available (see the March issue of BotSoc News for details). Lodging can also be found in Spruce Pine, Burnsville and Johnson City and tent and RV camping are available at Roan Mountain State Park on a first-come-first-served basis. Campers must make their own reservations. The park website has further information <http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/parks/RoanMtn/>.



Jim Drake

Contact: Jim Drake 678-482-2127 drake3800@charter.net

Directions: From Asheville, take US 19N (Future I-26) north toward Johnson City, TN. Take Exit 9 toward Burnsville (US 19). Continue on US 19E to just past (bypass) Burnsville. Turn left onto NC 197 toward Bakersville. At Red Hill, turn right onto NC 226 toward Bakersville. At traffic light in Bakersville, turn left onto NC 261 toward Roan Mountain. Follow NC 261 to Carver's Gap (the Saturday meeting spot). This is also the NC/TN state line and NC 261 becomes TN 143 as it crosses the state line. The Roan Mountain State Park cabins and Sunday's meeting site are 8 miles farther along in Tennessee on TN 143. Carpooling is highly recommended and will facilitate the BRP trip on Sunday.

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Roan Mountain, North Carolina - Saturday, July 10 - Meet at 9:30 AM (note early time!) at Carver's Gap parking lot.

Saturday's hike begins at Carver's Gap on the Tennessee/North Carolina border and proceeds along the Appalachian Trail up Grassy Ridge, over Round Bald, up and over Jane Bald, up Grassy Ridge Bald leaving the Appalachian Trail and bearing right up the ridge; return by the same route. Along the way we will see the Baa-tany Project and the rare Gray's lily the project hopes to protect, Roan Mountain bluets, *Geum radiatum* (maybe not in bloom), Roan Mountain hypericum and several other rare species. The Catawba rhododendrons and flame azaleas will be just past peak but we will likely see a few late bloomers. Co-leader Jamey Donaldson manages the goat restoration project and as he practically and actually lives on the Bald, he is intimately familiar with the species and ecosystem (balds, spruce fir) on Roan Mountain. Between us, we should have some interesting stories about the Roan – like the time I carried a dehydrated and homeless beagle several miles off the Roan. We named him "Carver."

Difficulty: Hiking varies from extended upward inclines to fairly easy stretches along the tops and down ridges to more strenuous climbs, and rocky steep trail sections in some areas near the end of the hike.

Bring: Lunch, water, good hiking shoes, rain gear, sunscreen, insect repellent. Also, Jamey has asked us to adopt a goat, so bring a \$4.00 per person contribution. The goat does not go home with you.

Facilities: At Carver's Gap parking area.

Blue Ridge Parkway, North Carolina - Sunday, July 11 - Meet at 8:00 AM (note early time!) at Roan Mountain State Park.

This will be a full day of roadside botanizing along the scenic route back to Georgia. We will caravan to the junction of the BRP at mile post 330 (Gillespie Gap) to travel south with stops and some short hikes at selected overlooks (plus Mt. Mitchell, Craggy Gardens, and possibly the Folk Art Center). Depending upon time, we will investigate the wet rock outcrop at MP 425 before leaving the BRP to return home. Some wildflowers we have seen in the past are: black cohosh (blooms), possibly Turk's Cap and Carolina Lilies (although maybe too early for blooms), Indian pink, monarda species, impatiens, oenothera species, chelone, hypericum and possibly some surprise orchids.

Difficulty: Mostly easy at overlooks and short hikes.

Bring: Water, sturdy footwear, lunch.

Facilities: At Roan Mountain SP and at some stops.

41st Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage



With his customary enthusiasm, Scott Ranger explained the sex life of mosses at Doerun Pitcherplant Bog (Trip 24, Sunday, March 14). Photos by Hugh Nourse.

At Faceville Ravines (Trip 20, Sunday, March 14), Hal Massie demonstrated the new age of field botany: searching a digital flora for a plant ID. Photo by Janie Marlow.

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