



42ND ANNUAL SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE

APRIL 15 - 17, 2011

CARROLLTON, CARROLL COUNTY, GEORGIA
&
ADJACENT AREAS IN THE PIEDMONT OF WESTERN GEORGIA
AND EASTERN ALABAMA

Carrollton, our Pilgrimage host city, is the county seat of Carroll County, which encompasses 495 square miles of west Georgia. Named for the longest living signer of the Declaration of Independence, the county was created from lands ceded by the Creek Indian Nation in 1825. The area lies in the southern Piedmont province and is composed of gently rolling hills dissected by the Little Tallapoosa River and tributaries of the Chattahoochee River that create its eastern boundary.

This progressive county has a parks department separate from its recreation department and is preserving hundreds of acres of natural areas for public passive recreation. The crown jewel is McIntosh Reserve on the banks of the Chattahoochee River. The Reserve was once the plantation of Chief McIntosh who was murdered for his part in signing the treaty ceding the Creek lands to the whites. Just downstream is the soon to be opened Chattahoochee Bend State Park. This beautiful area offers many opportunities and boasts great historic and cultural sites such as Banning Mills, the site of the first paper mill in Georgia, and one of Georgia's first gold mines at Stockmar Park.

Pilgrimage Schedule - All times listed for events in GA and AL are Eastern Daylight Savings Time. Friday, April 15

9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Chattahoochee River Float, led by Jerry Hightower and Steve Bowling
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Sweetwater Creek State Park Rookery, led by Phil Delestrez and Leslie Edwards
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Sweetwater Creek State Park Rookery, led by Phil Delestrez and Leslie Edwards
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Tally Mountain, led by Tom Patrick
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Registration and welcoming social (WPA Center)
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Evening presentation "The Snakes of Georgia" by John Jensen
8:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Evening presentation "The Natural Communities of the Georgia Piedmont" by Leslie Edwards
9:30 pm	Late registration

All Friday evening activities are held in the Historic WPA Center.

Saturday April 16

7:30 am - 8:15 am	Early registration at Holiday Inn Express
8:30 am	Field trips assemble at the Holiday Inn Express unless otherwise noted in trip description.
4:30 pm - 5:00 pm	All field trips return to the Holiday Inn Express
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Mini-social (West Georgia University Z6 Banquet Room).
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Banquet dinner
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Evening presentation "Fire and its Role in Georgia Habitats" by Nathan Klaus

Saturday evening events are held in West Georgia University Z6 Banquet Room.

Sunday, April 17

All trips assemble at the Holiday Inn Express at 8:30 am unless otherwise noted.

Special notes:

- All times listed for trips in both Georgia and Alabama are Eastern Daylight Savings Time.
- A list of participants for your field trip(s) will be available at the registration. If you are interested in carpooling, you may sign up by writing your contact information on the list. It is up to you to check back to the list in order to contact others in your group who may be interested in carpooling.
- We will be visiting some parks that require an entrance fee. We have tried to indicate required fees in the trip descriptions; however, we may not have covered every one of those. Be prepared to pay a reasonable entrance fee in case the park requires one.

Evening Programs:

Friday, April 15, 7:00 pm

John Jensen, Senior Wildlife Biologist, GA DNR

The Snakes of Georgia

Georgia is fortunate in having very high snake diversity; unfortunately, this great diversity (at least 42 species) is under-appreciated by many, as are the snakes themselves. This program will introduce those in attendance to the great variety of snakes in Georgia with hopes that increased knowledge will increase interest in their conservation.

Friday, April 15, 8:00 pm

Leslie Edwards

The Natural Communities of the Georgia Piedmont

Abstract: The Georgia Piedmont encompasses many interesting and beautiful natural communities, including granite outcrops that are better expressed here than anywhere else, rare montane longleaf pine forests, mesic forests that glow with spring wildflowers, floodplain communities near rippling streams and much more. This talk describes the unique factors and processes that form natural communities, the forces that threaten them and the plants that inhabit them. In addition, we will briefly look at our Piedmont from the larger context of its past differences and future changes.

Biography: Leslie Edwards, a lecturer in Geosciences at Georgia State University, is co-author and leading editor of the book, "A Guide to the Natural Communities of Georgia", currently in production at the University of Georgia Press. Leslie is a past president of the Georgia Botanical Society. She received a Ph.D. in geography from UGA.

Saturday, April 16, 7:30 pm

Nathan Klaus

Fire and Its Role in Georgia Habitats

Abstract: Fire is important for managing habitat and maintaining many plant communities. The science of prescribed fires is interesting; the prescribed burning process is often hard work, sometimes exciting and occasionally rewarding. Nathan will give us an overview of the state's efforts to maintain and improve habitats for native plants and animals.

Biography: Nathan Klaus developed an interest in bird watching in the Loess Hills of western Iowa where he grew up surrounded by some of the finest remaining examples of tallgrass prairie and oak savanna. At the University of Iowa, he investigated butterfly diversity in prairie restoration sites and at the University of Tennessee he worked on the effects of natural and anthropomorphic disturbance on southern Appalachian bird diversity. He has spent the last 12 years with the GA DNR doing what he loves: working to recover Georgia's rare birds, restoring longleaf pine and native grasslands - and playing with fire.

Pilgrimage Field Trips at a glance...

Friday, April 15, Pre-Pilgrimage Field Trips

- Fri all day FT# 1 Chattahoochee River Float Trip to McIntosh Preserve, led by Jerry Hightower and Steve Bowling
Fri morning FT#2 Heron Rookery at Sweetwater Creek, Douglas County, led by Phil Delestrez and Leslie Edwards
Fri afternoon FT #3 Heron Rookery at Sweetwater Creek, Douglas County, led by Phil Delestrez and Leslie Edwards
Fri afternoon FT #4 Tally Mountain, led by Tom Patrick

Saturday Field Trips

- Sat morning FT#5 Pickett's Mill State Historic Site, led by Ed McDowell
Sat all day FT#6 Tallapoosa River Motorcade, led by Tom Patrick
Sat all day FT#7 Mountain Longleaf National Wildlife Refuge, led by Bill Garland & Jonathan Stober
Sat all day FT#8 McIntosh Reserve, led by Wendell Hoomes & David Morgan
Sat all day FT#9 Dugger Mountain Wilderness Area, led by Al Schotz
Sat all day FT#10 Sweetwater Creek State Park, led by Linda Chafin
Sat all day FT#11 Little River Canyon - Eberhart Point Trail, led by Larry Beane
Sat all day FT#12 Chattahoochee River Float Trip to McIntosh Reserve, led by Jerry Hightower
Sat all day FT#13 Hightower Falls Park, led by Steve Bowling
Sat all day FT#14 Green's Creek Mountain and Hinds Road Outcrop, led by Richard & Teresa Ware
Sat all day FT#15 Desoto State Park, led by Brittney Hughes
Sat all day FT#16 Camp Meeting Rock, led by Malcolm Hodges

Sunday Field Trips

- Sun morning FT#17 Little River Canyon - Beaver Pond Hike, led by Larry Beane
Sun morning FT#18 Mount Cheaha, Cheaha Wilderness Area, led by Al Schotz
Sun morning FT#19 Sweetwater Creek State Park, led by Maureen Donohue
Sun morning FT#20 Cochran Mill Park, led by Jerry Hightower
Sun morning FT#21 Chattahoochee Bend State Park, led by Tom Patrick
Sun morning FT#22 McIntosh Reserve, led by Steve Bowling
Sun morning FT#23 Paulding Forest, led by Rich Reaves

Friday Pre-Pilgrimage Trips

Trip # 1 Chattahoochee River Float Trip (all day) (limited to 30 participants)

**Leaders: Jerry Hightower,
Steve Bowling**

Date and time: Friday April 15, 2011 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Meeting Location: Highway 16 Boat Ramp at 10:00 am to drop off boats/gear and shuttle vehicles to McIntosh Reserve

Special Requirements: Boats can be rented from Georgia Trail Outfitters for \$35; \$10 shuttle fee for all boats (reserve your boats by calling 404-392-8637 www.georgiatrailoutfitters.com; located at entrance to McIntosh Reserve).

Directions: From I-20 west take exit 34 Hwy 5 south and travel to Whitesburg. At Whitesburg turn left onto Georgia Hwy 16 /ALT 27 to the Chattahoochee River. We will meet at the boat ramp next to the bridge.

Bring: Lunch, snacks, sunscreen, hat, rain jacket, and water. Bring a day pack or dry bag to secure items inside your boat.

Facilities: At McIntosh Reserve

Conditions: This is an easy, 7 mile section of river with one class 1 to 2 rapid depending on water level. This section is suitable for beginners with basic canoeing or kayaking experience on a river.

Description: The Chattahoochee River starts high in the north Georgia Mountains, crosses the Dahlonega Plateau, traverses the city of Atlanta, and then begins its journey across the lower Piedmont to the Coastal Plain. This outing will take us past bluffs paralleling the Brevard Fault and Escarpment. For ten thousand years, this environment provided humans with a bounty of plant materials. We will make several stops and closely investigate stream bank flora.

Contact: Jerry Hightower 770-206-0338, cell or jerry_hightower@nps.gov

Trip # 2 - Heron Rookery at Sweetwater Creek, Douglas County (trip limited to 12 participants)

**Leaders: Phil Delestrez
and Leslie Edwards**

Date and time: Friday morning April 15, 2011 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Meeting Location: 10:00 am at Interpretive Center to drive together or caravan to the trail leading to the rookery.

Description: A large blue heron rookery is located near the boundary line of Sweetwater Creek State Park. Up to 50 nests are scattered among large sycamore trees. Although the chicks will not have hatched, the sight of the herons flapping their large wings adroitly to land on the nests and perch on branches, as well as their gliding, graceful flights to and from the rookery make this a memorable experience. Trip size is limited to 12 people to avoid disturbing the birds.

Facilities: Inside Interpretive Center

Bring: \$5.00 parking fee or annual park pass (only \$25 for Seniors 62+), and camera.

Conditions: Trail leading to the rookery is easy to moderate.

Directions: From I-20W exit #44 at Thornton Road, turn south and go 1/4 mile. Turn right on Blairs Bridge Road. After 2 miles, turn left on Mount Vernon Road and follow the signs to the park. Take a left at the main entrance of the park and follow the signs to the Interpretive Center.

Contact: Park Visitor's Center 770 732-5871

Trip # 3 - Heron Rookery at Sweetwater Creek, Douglas County (trip limited to 12 participants)

**Leaders: Phil Delestrez
and Leslie Edwards**

Date and time: Friday afternoon April 15, 2011 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Meeting Location: 1:00 pm at Interpretive Center to drive together or caravan to the trail leading to the rookery.

Description and Directions: Same as Trip #2.

Trip # 4 - Tally Mountain

Leader: Tom Patrick

Date: Friday afternoon April 15, 2011 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Meeting Location/Directions: Meet at 1 pm at Exit 5, Interstate 20, Tallapoosa Exit, last GA exit on way to AL; meet on roadside along GA Hwy 100 going north toward Tallapoosa. Tally Mountain is 25 mi NW of Carrollton.

Bring: Water, snacks, binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera.

Facilities: None

Conditions: Moderate to steep slopes, mostly off trail over rocky terrain; two to three miles total walking.

Description: Trip will be exploratory and will include hardwood bluffs along Limestone Creek and portions of Tally Mountain with post oak-longleaf pine savannas. Spring flora has not been documented from this area, some of which is state property. There are old access roads but some bushwhacking and exploring off trails can be expected. Tally Mountain itself once had a lookout tower and is a prominent landform rising 500 ft above Limestone Creek to its summit of 1500 ft.

Contact: Tom Patrick 706-476-4541 (cell) tom.patrick@dnr.state.ga.us

Saturday Pilgrimage Trips (all times for trips are Eastern Daylight Savings Time)

Saturday Morning Trip:

Trip # 5 - Pickett's Mill Battlefield and State Historic Site (trip limited to 15 participants)

Leader: Ed McDowell

Date and time: Saturday April 16, 2011 8:30 am Holiday Inn Express

Meeting location: Holiday Inn Express

Directions: Carpool/Caravan to site; written directions will be available from the leader.

Bring: Bring lunch, water, binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera. Wear sturdy walking shoes.

Facilities: At the trailhead (Visitors' Center)

Conditions: Easy to moderate walking (about 2 miles); 2 minor stream crossings

Description: We will explore the spring flora along the Red Trail, which has the most varied of habitats at the historic site, compared to the other trails. Expect to see typical Piedmont spring flowering forbs: bloodroot, mayapple, trillium, foamflower, many species of ferns, 4 species of terrestrial orchids, flowering shrubs like chokeberry, *Viburnum*, strawberry-bush, and silky dogwood and a stately pristine forest. The 765 acre Pickett's Mill is considered one of the best preserved Civil War Battlefields in the nation. Along our trail you will see Civil War entrenchments, wagon roads and artillery emplacements. The plant list for the Site was developed by the Georgia Botanical Society during many plant surveys over a 3 year period and it is a work of which we are proud.

Contact: Ed McDowell 478.396.8901, cell

Saturday Afternoon Trips:

Because of the distances involved, there are no afternoon trips this year, but you can make a full day of the morning trip. Bring a lunch and spend the afternoon visiting some of the Civil War Battlefields at Pickett's Mill, considered one of the best preserved in the nation.

Saturday All Day Trips (bring lunch and water)

Trip # 6 - Tallapoosa River Motorcade

(trip limited to 16 participants and no more than 4 cars)

Leader: Tom Patrick

Date and time: Saturday, April 16, 2011 8:30 am Holiday Inn Express

Meeting location: All day motorcade event leaving from Holiday Inn Express

Carpooling: Required; limited parking at sites

Bring: Hand lens, camera, notebook, water bottle, picnic lunch, snacks, binoculars, sturdy walking shoes.

Facilities: We will stop for lunch break at a store with facilities.

Conditions: Each stop will include a short, easy to moderate hike, mostly <0.25 mile long, sometimes off trail.

Description: Trip will be a motorcade with at least four short stops along or near the Tallapoosa River. Stop 1 is a stroll up small knoll to see conjurer's nut (*Nestronia umbellula*) and a large colony of a peculiar ring-forming, dioecious (separate male and female plants) sedge (*Carex picta*). Stop 2 is a low terrace forest to see lanceleaf trillium (*Trillium lancifolium*). Stop 3 is a pocket of rich woodland spring flora, including Allegheny spurge (*Pachysandra procumbens*) along Beach Creek. Stop 4 will take us to a wild stretch of the Tallapoosa River and a hardwood bluff forest with chance of seeing yellow ladyslippers (perhaps in bloom, if not too early) and leaves of Ozark bunchflower (*Veratrum woodii*). These are rare plants in west-central Georgia discovered during surveys of land once proposed to be inundated by the West Georgia Regional Reservoir along the Tallapoosa River.

Contact: Tom Patrick, 706-476-4541 (cell) tom.patrick@dnr.state.ga.us

Saturday All Day Trips (cont.)

Trip # 7 - Mountain Longleaf National Wildlife Refuge, Alabama

Leaders: Bill Garland and Jonathan Stober

Date and time: Saturday April 16, 2011 8:30 am Holiday Inn Express

Meeting Location: Holiday Inn Express; carpool/caravan with trip leader.

Carpooling: Recommended

Bring: Lunch, water, binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera.

Facilities: Nearby

Conditions: Easy

Description: A single parking location and ~1.0 mile hike. The old growth mountain longleaf forest is fire maintained with a good native cover and was the study site for Morgan Varner's old growth longleaf studies. The area provides an interesting combination of forest conditions and restoration techniques including: old growth mountain longleaf forest - fire suppressed where most hardwoods were injected with herbicide and a prescribed burn conducted 5 years later; mature longleaf forest - mechanical removal of all hardwoods and prescribed burn several years following treatment; mature longleaf forest - fire suppressed with several differing regeneration layers. The refuge has the advantage of having very little to no silvicultural management. The land was purchased by the Army in 1917 and missed the heavy settlement and logging that came to other mountain areas in Alabama following World War I.

Contact: Bill Garland mtnlongleaf@gmail.com 256-452-0230, cell

Trip # 8 - McIntosh Reserve, Carroll County

Leaders: David Morgan & Wendell Hoomes

Date and Time: Saturday April 16, 2011 8:30 am Holiday Inn Express

Meeting location: Holiday Inn Express; carpool/caravan with trip leader.

Directions: Take U.S. Hwy 27Alt toward Whitesburg. At Whitesburg, turn west at the traffic circle onto State Hwy 5. After ~2.5 miles turn south onto West McIntosh Circle (park sign on Hwy 5) and follow to park entrance. Park staff at entrance can direct you to the old ranger station and will waive nonresident entrance fee if you tell them you are there with the Georgia Botanical Society. Address is 1046 W. McIntosh Circle, Whitesburg, GA 30185.

Carpooling: Recommended

Bring: Bring your lunch, water, binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera.

Conditions: Moderately easy

Facilities: Restrooms at the old ranger station.

Description: McIntosh Reserve is a 527-acre mixed-use park on the Chattahoochee River. It contains a variety of habitats and 653 species of vascular plants including 14 ferns, 58 trees and five orchids. In mid-April a wide variety of plants will be in flower or making spores. Mostly in pine woods: *Pedicularis canadensis*, *Vaccinium vacillans*, *V. stamineum*, *Antennaria plantaginifolia*, *Viola pedata*, *Hypoxis hirsuta*. Mostly in mixed deciduous woodland: *Geranium maculatum*, *Uvularia perfoliata*, *Ranunculus recurvatus*, *Oxalis violacea*, *Podophyllum peltatum*, *Rhododendron canescens*, *Silene virginica*, *Botrychium dissectum*, *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, *Trillium catesbaei*, *T. rugelii*, *Heuchera americana*. All *Carex* species will be flowering and they occur everywhere. The most impressive ones are *Carex lupulina* and *C. crinita*, which occur in the wetland. Rare plants that have been found in the park include the orchid *Listera australis* and two *Carex* species. Since March 2009 McIntosh Reserve has been the subject of a vascular plant survey and inventory. In September 2009, part of the park was impacted by floodwaters; a follow-up inventory has been conducted to assess the flood's short-term impact on the flora.

Contact: Wendell Hoomes hoomes2@gmail.com; David Morgan dmorgan@westga.edu 678.839.4044

Trip # 9 - Duggar Mountain

Leader: Al Schotz

Date and Time: Saturday April 16, 2011 8:30 am Holiday Inn Express

Meeting location: Holiday Inn Express; carpool/caravan with leader

Carpooling: Recommended

Bring: Bring your lunch, water, binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera.

Facilities: Along route

Conditions: Some trails will be of moderate difficulty.

Description: Participants will be introduced to a rich diversity of habitats indicative to the southern tip of the Appalachian Mountains. Excursions through mesic forests, montane longleaf pine woodlands and rock outcrops will reveal an array of spring wildflowers. If our timing is right, we can expect to witness various trilliums, several kinds of violets, as well as trout lilies, azaleas, alumroots, pink lady's-slippers and many others.

Contact: Al Schotz 334-844-5019 arsoo02@auburn.edu

Saturday All Day Trips: (cont.)

Trip # 10 - Sweetwater Creek State Park, White-Red Trails

Leader: Linda Chafin

Date and Time: Saturday, April 16, 2011 10:00 am at Sweetwater (all day, ending 2:00-3:00 pm)

Meeting location: Sweetwater Creek State Park Visitor's Center Parking Lot at 10:00 a.m.

Carpooling: Recommended

Directions: 35 miles (45 minutes) from hotel. From Holiday Inn Express, turn left out of parking lot, right on Central Rd, then left on S. Park St (US- 27N). After 0.15 mi, turn right onto US-27- Alt S toward GA-16E/GA166E. Continue as it becomes Bankhead Highway for 2.9 mi and continues as Carrollton Villa Rica Hwy (GA-61N) for 8.5 mi. Turn right onto I-20 E toward Atlanta and continue for 17.3 mi. Take Exit 41/Lee Rd Lithia Springs and turn right on Lee Rd, driving for 0.9 mi. Turn left on Cedar Terrace Rd and then right on Mt. Vernon Rd which takes you into Sweetwater Creek State Park. Once inside the park, follow the brown signs to the Visitor's Center.

Facilities: At Visitor's Center.

Bring: \$5.00 fee or annual pass (only \$25 for Seniors 62+), lunch, water, camera, field guide, hand lens, sunscreen.

Description: This 4 mi loop trail begins near the Visitor's Center and passes through Oak-Pine-Hickory Forest, Mesic Forest and Floodplains/Bottomlands. We will visit an old mill ruins and a waterfall, Sweetwater Creek and the Jack's Branch area. Plants likely to be in bloom include toadshade trillium (*Trillium cuneatum*), green-and-gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*), rue anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*), alumroot (*Heuchera americana*), yellowroot (*Xanthorhiza simplicissima*), Carolina rhododendron (*Rhododendron minus*) and Piedmont azalea (*Rhododendron canescens*). Other interesting plants we will see in vegetative condition include skullcap (*Scutellaria elliptica*), painted buckeye (*Aesculus sylvatica*), roundleaf liverwort (*Hepatica americana*), rattlesnake plantain orchid (*Goodyera pubescens*), dimpled trout lily (*Erythronium umbilicatum*), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) and trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*). We will look for pink lady-slippers (*Cypripedium acaule*) in two nearby areas after the main walk. A plant list will be provided at the pilgrimage. Also see pages 116-123 in *Favorite Wildflower Walks of Georgia* by Carol and Hugh Nourse.

Conditions: Moderate with a long climb up or down a staircase, depending which way we go. Rocks and roots at creek.

Contact: Park Visitor's Center 770 732-5871

Trip # 11 - Little River Canyon National Preserve Eberhart Point Trail (trip limited to 15 participants)

Leader: Larry Beane

Date and time: Saturday April 16, 2011 Depart Holiday Inn Express at 8:30 am to be at meeting site by 11:00 am

Meeting Location: 11:00 am at Eberhart Point parking lot, AL Hwy 176, near DeKalb County 48, west of Little River.

Directions: From Carrollton, take US-27/GA-1/GA-16 to Cedartown. Merge onto US-27-BR N/GA-1-BR N/GA-100 N. Turn left onto US-278/GA-100/Canal St/GA-6. Continue to follow GA-100. Turn left onto Prior Station Rd/GA-100. Turn slight right onto GA-100/Cedartown Mt Hope Rd. Continue to follow GA-100. Turn left onto AL St/US-411/GA-100/GA-53. Take the 1st right onto Fosters Mill Rd SW/GA-100. Continue to follow GA-100. Turn left onto AL Hwy NW/AL Hwy SW/GA-100 W/GA-20 W. Continue to cross into AL as highway becomes AL-9. Turn right onto AL-35. Turn left onto AL-176 (first left after crossing Little River bridge). The Little River Canyon Center is the first driveway on the right past the bridge. Eberhart Point Overlook is ~12 miles south on AL Hwy 176.

Carpooling: Recommended

Facilities: Restrooms at Little River Canyon Center; pit toilets are available at Eberhart Point Picnic Area.

Bring: Bring your lunch, water, binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera.

Conditions: Very steep ¾ mile in and very strenuous out trail. Canyon bottom path is hard to moderate.

Description: Trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*) and violets occur in the bottom of the canyon. The hike in the bottom of the canyon is rugged and can go for a couple of miles downstream, depending on water levels.

Contact: Larry Beane, (256) 504-4841 (cell, but service in the park is limited), office (256) 845-9605. Larry_Beane@nps.gov Mary Shew, (256) 845-9605, office, Mary_Shew@nps.gov

Trip # 12 - Chattahoochee River Float to McIntosh Reserve (trip limited to 30 participants)

Leader: Jerry Hightower

Date and time: Saturday April 16, 2011 8:30 am at Holiday Inn Express

Meeting Location: Holiday Inn Express; carpool/caravan to Hwy 16 Boat Ramp to drop off boats/gear and take vehicles to McIntosh Reserve for shuttle.

See Friday Pre-Pilgrimage Trip #1 for details

Saturday All Day Trips: (cont.)

Trip # 13 - Hightower Falls Park

Leader: Steve Bowling

Date and Time: Saturday April 16, 2011 Holiday Inn Express at 8:30 am.

Meeting Location: Holiday Inn Express to carpool/caravan. Directions provided by leader.

Carpooling: Recommended

Bring: Lunch, water, binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera.

Facilities: In Park

Conditions: Easy

Description: A former home site of one of Jerry Hightower's ancestors, it is now a very scenic private park with mill ruins and a beautiful waterfall. The site has interesting topography and geology. We will walk the trails looking for spring wildflowers and ferns.

Contact: Steve Bowling botanybowling@gmail.com 404.317.2817

Trip # 14 - Green's Creek Mountain and Hinds Road Rock Outcrop

Leaders: Richard & Teresa Ware

Date and time: Saturday April 16, 2011 8:30 am Holiday Inn Express

Meeting Location: Holiday Inn Express to carpool/caravan. Directions provided by leader.

Bring: Water and insect repellent (if desired).

Lunch: Multiple dining options in Gadsden or bring lunch.

Conditions: Mostly easy, some hillside walking among boulders at Green's Creek Mountain, outcrop slippery if wet.

Description: This trip will take us to two completely different habitats near Gadsden, AL. Green's Creek Mountain is a mountain slope south of Gadsden with plants adapted to its strongly limestone soils and boulders. The last time BotSoc visited this site was in 1996. Some of the more interesting plants we hope to find there are Dutchman's britches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), false rue-anemone (*Enemion [Isopyrum] biternatum*), Ohio buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*) and decumbent trillium (*Trillium decumbens*). Hind's Road Sandstone Outcrop, near Gadsden and Nocalula Falls, is the most expansive sandstone outcrop in Alabama. Due to the thin soil of the outcrop, few trees and shrubs are able to grow there. The scrub pines (*Pinus virginiana*) and rare Boynton's Oaks (*Quercus boyntonii*) that survive here are stunted giving them a "bonsai" appearance. On the bare sedimentary rocks of Mississippian origin, beauty-berry (*Callicarpa americana*), rush-foil (*Crotonopsis elliptica*), Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), violets (*Viola sp.*) and bluets (*Houstonia sp.*) are found where a little soil accumulates. Various microhabitats result in a diverse herbaceous plant community.

Contact: Richard Ware 706-766-5143 cell; Teresa Ware 706-766-4228 cell or gabotany@comcast.net

Trip # 15 - DeSoto State Park Azalea Cascade Trail

Leader: Brittney Hughes

Date and time: Saturday April 16, 2011 8:30 at Holiday Inn Express

Meeting Location: Holiday Inn Express to carpool/caravan to site.

Carpooling: Recommended

Directions: From Carrollton: Take US-27/GA-1/GA-16 to Cedartown. Merge onto US-27-BR N/GA-1-BR N/GA-100 N. Turn left onto US-278/GA-100/Canal St/GA-6. Continue to follow GA-100. Turn left onto Prior Station Rd/GA-100. Turn slight right onto GA-100/Cedartown Mt Hope Rd. Continue to follow GA-100. Turn left onto AL St/US-411/GA-100/GA-53. Take the 1st right onto Fosters Mill Rd SW/GA-100. Continue to follow GA-100. Turn left onto AL Hwy NW/AL Hwy SW/GA-100 W/GA-20 W. Continue to cross into AL as highway becomes AL-9. Turn right onto AL-35. Continue to follow AL-35 past Little River Canyon National Preserve, turn right onto Desoto Pkwy NE/County Rd-89. Follow 5.2 miles until you reach DeSoto State Park, go past Lodge and follow road around a large curve. Trailhead is on the left at the bottom of the curve. If you reach a T-intersection you have gone too far. Meet in the parking lot of the Talmadge Butler Boardwalk Trail (otherwise known as the Azalea Cascade Boardwalk Trail).

Bring: \$5.00 parking fee or annual pass, lunch, water, binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera.

Facilities: DSP's Country Store & Information Center is located just past the boardwalk trail for restroom breaks.

Difficulty: Easy to moderate. Some hills & rocky terrain.

Description: Trail will start on Talmadge Butler Boardwalk Trail, which is a 360 yard elevated boardwalk trail that proceeds to Azalea Cascade, a small cascade made up of Laurel Creek. Hike meanders off the boardwalk trail and loops around the area on the red trail. Hike features Laurel Creek, Azalea Cascade, Needle-eye Rock and several different plant environments such as a sandstone rock glade with plants such as elf orpine, flatrock onion and fringed phacelia. April is peak season for wild azaleas and the pink lady slippers are just starting to bloom. Other plants such as redbud, dogwood, serviceberry, trailing arbutus, Catesby's trillium, galax and several varieties of ferns can be seen as well.

Contact: Brittney Hughes (256) 997-5025(office) & (256) 601-7593(cell) Brittney.Hughes@dnr.alabama.gov

Saturday All Day Trips (cont.)

Trip # 16 - Camp Meeting Rock

Leader: Malcolm Hodges

Date and Time: Saturday April 16, 2011 Depart from Holiday Inn Express at 8:30 am

Meeting Location: Entrance to Camp Meeting Rock Preserve

Carpooling: Recommended

Directions: Drive south from Carrollton on US 27 for about 20 miles. Watch for US 27 business route toward downtown Franklin, and turn right. Travel 2.5 miles to state route 34 west, and turn right. Stay on 34 west 4.5 miles, passing the Flat Rock Camp Meeting grounds on the left, to Woodbine Circle, and turn left. Follow Woodbine Circle 0.3 miles; after it makes a sharp turning to the right, watch for a narrow dirt drive on the left bordered by low-growing ornamental evergreens, which leads to a small derelict house perched on the rock outcrop, and park around the house.

Bring: Lunch, water, binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera.

Facilities: None

Conditions: Easy

Description: Camp Meeting Rock includes 110 acres of granite flatrock in Heard County. While such outcrops occur from Virginia to Alabama, 90% of them are in Georgia, and this site is one of the largest in the southeast, although the preserve covers only a small portion of the overall rock surface. Several plant species found in no other habitat thrive in the preserve, including the endangered black-spored quillwort. The vernal pools are habitat to the threatened pool sprite. Camp Meeting Rock is also home to the rare longleaf flower, the stonecrop plant, and the state-threatened dwarf granite stonecrop (alternately called puck orpine).

Contact: Malcolm Hodges 770.206.0338 mhodges@TNC.ORG

Sunday Pilgrimage Trips - We will not return to Carrollton.

Trip # 17 - Little River Canyon National Preserve - Beaver Pond Hike (trip limited to 15 participants)

Leader: Larry Beane

Date and time: Sunday April 17, 2011 Depart from Holiday Inn Express 8:30 am

Meeting location: Hike will start at 11:00 am in the parking lot at Lynn Overlook on Alabama Highway 176, just off Alabama Highway 35 and west of Little River. Lynn Overlook is the second overlook with a sign on the left. Extra parking is just past the overlook on the right, under the power lines. If you reach the rock in the middle of the road you've gone too far.

Directions: See Trip #11 for directions to Alabama Highways 35 and 176.

Conditions: Moderate, about 2 miles, and often takes about 1-2 hours depending on how many wildflower people are present. The walk will be on a small trail, after we spend some time at Lynn Overlook. This will also allow any stragglers to catch up.

Description: Spring flowers include a carnivorous plant, dwarf sundews (*Drosera brevifolia*), Little River (aka Owns-bey's) onions (*Allium speculae*) and elf orpine (*Diamorpha smallii*) at Lynn Overlook. The hike around the beaver pond trail includes Shuttleworth's ginger (*Hexastylis shuttleworthii*) and Catesby's trillium (*Trillium catesbaei*).

Contact: Larry Beane (256) 504-4841 (cell, but service in the canyon is limited); office (256) 845-9605 Larry_Beane@nps.gov; Mary Shew (256) 845-9605, office Mary_Shew@nps.gov

Trip # 18 - Mount Cheaha, Alabama

Leader: Al Schotz

Date and Time: Sunday April 17, 2011 8:30 am at Holiday Inn Express

Meeting Location: Holiday Inn Express to carpool/caravan with leader. May have stops along route.

Bring: Lunch, water, binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera.

Facilities: Along route.

Conditions: Trails are relatively easy, but rocky in places.

Description: At 2,407 feet, Mt. Cheaha is Alabama's highest peak. Its forests serve as the southern-most limit for several species including the black birch, prickly gooseberry and pink lady's-slipper, all of which will be observed during this trip. Other colorful and unusual species to be observed include several types of violets, various trilliums, long-flowered alumroot, azaleas, irises, Wherry's pink and many more.

Contact: Al Schotz 334-844-5019 arsoo02@auburn.edu

Sunday Pilgrimage Trips (cont.)

Trip # 19 - Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas County (trip limited to 20 participants)

Leader: Maureen Donohue

Date and Time: Sunday, April 17, 2011 meet at 9:45 am at Sweetwater (all day trip, ending 2:00-3:00 pm)

Meeting location: Sweetwater Creek State Park Visitor's Center Parking Lot at 9:45 a.m.

Description: See Trip # 10 for details and directions.

Contacts: Park Visitor's Center 770 732-5871; Maureen Donohue 678-687-7963 cell (reception may be limited)

Trip # 20 - Cochran Mill Park and Nature Center (trip limited to 35 participants)

Leader: Jerry Hightower

Date and Time: Sunday, April 17, 2011 leave Holiday Inn at 8:30 am to meet on site at 10:00 am

Meeting location: We will car pool caravan from the Holiday Inn Express to 600 Cochran Mill Road, Palmetto, GA.

Bring: \$3 entrance fee, lunch, water, binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera.

Facilities: Inside Center

Conditions: Moderate

Directions: Take Hwy 166 toward Union City. Cross the Chattahoochee River and turn right at the 4-way stop onto Cascade-Palmetto Hwy. Then turn right onto Cochran Mill Rd. Go ~5 mi (through two 4-way stops). The Nature Center is 200 yards on the left after the second 4-way stop.

Description: Discover this 1000 acre natural area hidden away in south Fulton County as your ending to a great Pilgrimage. We will see early spring wildflowers in a hardwood oak-hickory forest. This area offers a good diversity of ferns and wildflowers, including toadshade trillium (*Trillium cuneatum*), green-and-gold (*Chrysogonum virginianum*), rue anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*), the shrub yellowroot (*Xanthorhiza simplicissima*), hairy skullcap (*Scutellaria elliptica*), hepatica (*Hepatica americana*), Piedmont rhododendron (*Rhododendron minus*), alumroot (*Heuchera villosa*), rattlesnake plantain (*Goodyera pubescens*) and much more. We will look for the foliage of trout lilies (*Erythronium umbilicatum*), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) and trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*). We might find pink lady slippers (*Cypripedium acaule*) in the woods near the old moonshine still. Our rambles will take us along Big Bear Creek past the remains of a mid-nineteenth century mill and early twentieth century stone work for recreational enhancement.

Contact: Jerry Hightower 770-206-0338, cell or jerry_hightower@nps.gov

Trip # 21 - Chattahoochee Bend State Park

Leader: Tom Patrick

Date and time: Sunday, April 17, 2011 8:30 am Holiday Inn Express

Meeting location: Holiday Inn Express to carpool/caravan with leader.

Bring: Hike ends by 1 pm, but you may eat lunch or snack along the river and linger longer.

Facilities: None

Directions: Provided by leader.

Conditions: Easy to moderate, mostly level terrain; one to two miles total walking.

Description: Trip features granite outcrops, montane longleaf pine forests, bottomlands and levee forest along the Chattahoochee. Be among the first to view the newly developed state park that offers river recreation, camping and hiking. Early spring flora will be evident on the granite flatrocks - especially sandwort (*Minuartia uniflora*) and woolly ragwort (*Packera tomentosa*). The levee forest along the river has beech, basswood, white oak and loblolly pine and spring flowers, including mayapples and common pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*). A heron rookery and beaver ponds can be seen in adjacent bottomlands.

Contact: Tom Patrick 706-476-4541 (cell) tom.patrick@dnr.state.ga.us

Trip # 22 - McIntosh Reserve

Leader: Steve Bowling

Date and Time: Sunday, April 17, 2011 meet at 9:15 am at McIntosh Reserve

Meeting location: 9:15 am Old Ranger Station, McIntosh Reserve

Directions: See Trip # 8 for details.

Sunday Pilgrimage Trips (cont.)

Trip # 23 - Paulding Forest

Leader: Rich Reaves

Date: Sunday April 17, 2011 Holiday Inn Express 8:30 am

Meeting Location: We will carpool from the Holiday Inn Express to an old logging road on the north side of US-278 between the Bennie and Cora Jones Preserve signs, ~0.5 mi east of the Paulding/Polk County line. The shoulder is wide and firm and will provide ample parking.

Directions: Provided at the pilgrimage.

Description: We will hike through relatively open woods downstream along a tributary of Raccoon Creek and then back upstream along Raccoon Creek. We did an exploratory hike along part of this route April 17, 2010, and found large yellow lady slippers (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var *pubescens*), columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), various violets (*Viola* spp.) and other spring ephemerals, along with spectacular displays of Piedmont azaleas (*Rhododendron canescens*) and red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*)/buckeye hybrids.

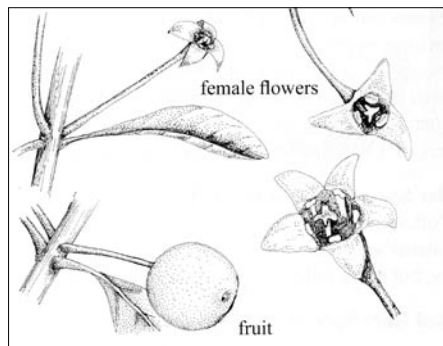
Conditions: We will do a loop of approximately 2.5 - 3 miles. On the first leg, we will cross a small tributary of Raccoon Creek several times to look at stuff on each side or to select the easiest walking path. Once we reach the confluence with Raccoon Creek, we will head upstream. Again, because certain areas will not be passable, we will cross this (larger) stream four or more times. Should be able to do with minimal foot wetting, but be prepared if the streams are up. This walk will not be as tough as we did here (farther south) last spring, but there will be moderate to strenuous stretches and some limited steep side-slope scrambling near the end. Note there are no trails, so it will be cross-country - but there is little undergrowth so the trip/tangle hazards are slight and portions will follow old logging roads.

Facilities: Only those Mother Nature provides.

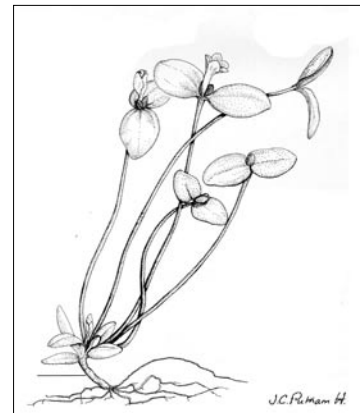
Bring: Bug spray, orange vest (If you have one - it's turkey season and hunters use the area), water, and snacks Also, wear suitable clothing/footwear for moderate bushwhacking. If you would like to poke around some more after the hike, bring a field lunch and some extra water.

Leader: Rich Reaves – 770-827-5186, rich.reaves@att.net

Conjurer's nut and snorkelwort - weird names for rare plants we hope to see at this year's Pilgrimage. Illustrations by Jean C. Putnam Hancock in Linda Chafin's "Field Guide to the Rare Plants of Georgia."



Conjurer's nut (*Nestronia umbellula*)



snorkelwort (*Amphianthus pusillus*)

General Pilgrimage Information:

All participants are expected to sign a liability waiver as a condition of attending. Please be aware that these are outdoor field trips with some risk involved. We indicate the physical nature of the trip in the description so that you may determine if the trip is appropriate for your abilities. Most involve easy to moderate walking at a leisurely pace suitable for virtually anyone who goes outdoors. Trips marked "exploration" can be strenuous, in difficult terrain where we don't know what we'll find. Canoe trips expect that all attending can swim and have at least novice ability at canoeing (these trips are not the time to learn to paddle a canoe!). Personal flotation devices will be worn when on the water. Dress for an entire day in the field – sturdy shoes and layers of clothing. Bring rain gear and an extra pair of socks in case your feet get wet. Bring a lunch for all day trips – there are refrigerators in your rooms. Evening dress is casual.

Our rules are minimal:

No plant collecting - please don't use our trips to "scout" for plants for your garden or for any other purpose.

No picking of plants - please, no bouquets!

Stay on the trails - when we have to walk on vegetation, we spread out so that we do not all stomp the same plants.

No smoking - except in your privately owned vehicle.

No pets on the trail.

Registration and Lodging:

REGISTRATION MUST BE MAILED (POSTMARKED) BY TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011.

Complete the enclosed registration form clearly indicating your field trip choices by number not by name. Make your check payable to the Georgia Botanical Society and return it to Rich Reaves at the address on the form.

Headquarters: The Holiday Inn Express in Carrollton, Georgia will be the headquarters for the 2011 Pilgrimage; however, all Friday evening activities (including registration) are held in the Historic WPA Center. All Saturday evening activities will be held in the Food Services Building on the campus of West Georgia University.

Lodging: Everyone is responsible for making their own room reservations and paying for their own room including canceling the room if that is necessary. We have 35 rooms blocked with Holiday Inn Express, 20 rooms blocked at the nearby Hampton Inn, and 20 rooms at Jameson Inn at special room rates. All blocked rooms have in-room refrigerators and microwaves. All hotels are accessed from Hwy 27/Martha Berry Hwy/S Park Street. The Holiday Inn Express and Hampton Inn are adjacent to each other on South Cottage Hill Rd, near the intersection with Central Rd; the Jameson Inn is directly off Hwy 27/South Park St. **To receive the special room rates, you must call by April 1st and inform the reservations agent that you are with the Georgia Botanical Society.**

Holiday Inn Express, 35 rooms, \$79 plus tax
hospitality/registration room free
104 South Cottage Hill Road, Carrollton, GA 30117
770-838-0508
www.holidayinnexpress.com/carrolltonga
hiexpress@charter.net

Jameson Inn, 20 rooms, \$65.99 plus tax
700 South Park Street/Hwy 27, Carrollton, GA
30117
770-834-2600
carrollton.ga@jamesoninns.com
www.jamesoninns.com

Hampton Inn, 20 rooms, \$84 plus tax
102 South Cottage Hill Road, Carrollton, GA 30117
770-838-7722
www.carrollton.hamptoninn.com
carga_hampton@hilton.com

For further lodging, dining, shopping or other visitor information, please contact the Carrollton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau at 800-292-0871 or www.visitcarrollton.com.

WPA Center: Pilgrimage registration and all Friday evening activities will be held at the historic WPA Center (590 N. Cliff Street, Carrollton, GA 30117). Built in 1936 by the Works Progress Administration, a relief measure established in 1935 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, this facility is within five miles of the Holiday Inn Express.

Directions: Exit the Holiday Inn Express parking lot to the Carrollton Crossroads Shopping Center (Kroger) lot across Cottage Hill Rd. Turn left (north) onto US Hwy 27 from the shopping center outlet at the light at Central Rd (Chick Fil-A across street). Follow US 27 north through 7 traffic light intersections. After passing the Alabama St intersection (city cemetery on left) you will come to a flashing caution light intersection at the bottom of a hill (Spring St). WPA Center and Safari Park Playground are on your right between Spring and Chandler streets. Parking lot access is off Chandler.

Food Services Building (Lower Level Z-6): All Saturday evening activities will be held on the campus of West Georgia University (now the State University of West Georgia) at the Food Services Building (Lower Level Z-6).

Directions: Exit the Holiday Inn parking lot and turn left as above onto Central Rd. Stay in the left lane and turn left onto the GA Hwy 166 Bypass immediately after crossing the overpass bridge. Take the Bypass to the 3rd traffic light intersection (Maple St) and turn right (east). Turn left onto West GA Dr at the 2nd traffic light. Z-6 is on the left a few hundred yards from the Maple Street intersection. Parking access is from West GA Drive

Friday and Saturday Night Social: If you are willing to bring an hors d'oeuvre or soft drinks to these social events, please mark the check box on the registration form and contact Candee or Jim Drake to describe your contribution before April 1 (678-482-2127 or drake3800@charter.net). **No alcohol, please.** Both facilities required permitting and an additional expense for alcohol.

BotSoc Pilgrimage Shirts - 2011 Limited Edition

All profits from the sales of Pilgrimage shirts benefit
the Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Grant Fund



Our beautiful 2011 t-shirts and sweatshirt, designed and drawn by Jenneke Somerville, depict the lovely crested iris (*Iris cristata*), which can be found blooming in the Carrollton area during mid-April. The iris is a lovely blue with grass like foliage; the shirt color is 'Sand' and is a higher quality shirt with a thinner collar and softer cotton than previous years. The shirts will be a special limited edition production based ONLY on the number of orders received. To order, please use the Pilgrimage Registration Form and place your order by the March 15 deadline. Short sleeve t-shirts are \$13.50 (\$15.50 for XXL and \$16.50 XXXL); long sleeve t-shirts are \$15.50 (\$17.50 for XXL and \$18.50 for XXXL); sweatshirts are \$17.50 (\$19.50 for XXL and \$20.50 for XXXL).

If you will not attend the pilgrimage but would like a shirt, please include \$5.00 for postage for the first shirt and \$1.50 for each additional shirt with your order.

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

2718 Stillwater Lake Lane
Marietta, GA 30066-7906
www.gabotsoc.org



NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ATHENS, GA
PERMIT NO. 1