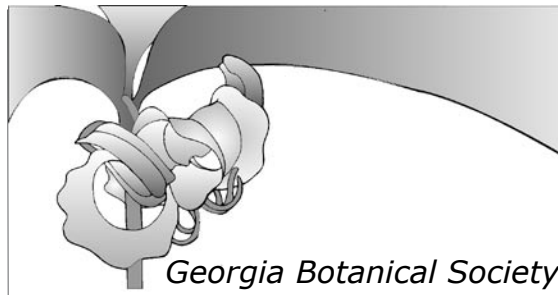


BotSoc News



Volume 86
Number 4
July
2011

2011 SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE

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Jim Drake

Other than Christmas, the event I look forward to the most each year is the Georgia Botanical Society's Wildflower Pilgrimage. The three-day gathering of nature lovers takes place each spring in a different part of the state and offers several field trips to surrounding natural areas, many of which are off the beaten path. This year's pilgrimage was based in Carrollton in west Georgia. As usual, it provided a chance to visit areas that are seldom, if ever, visited by the public because of their remoteness, private ownership or strict protection. A morning field trip that I opted for, for instance, was to a remote, seldom-visited area near the boundary of Sweetwater Creek State Park in Douglas County. We followed park ranger Don Scarbrough to the edge of a large pond, where we came upon a breathtaking view of a great blue heron rookery -- some 50 nests, made of sticks, scattered among several tall sycamore trees. Some of the nests already had chicks, whose heads we could see. We watched

quietly and unobtrusively as the adults tended the nests, perched statuesque on high branches or glided about in graceful flight.

Charles Seabrook, *Atlanta Journal & Constitution*, April 19, 2011



Hal Massie



Jim Drake



Jean Smith

No pilgrimage is successful without at least one photo of a trillium and one photo of Tom Patrick and a trillium. This year's trip to Tally Mountain (Trip 4) gave us a lance leaved trillium (*Trillium lancifolium*) and Tom admiring a southern nodding trillium (*T. rugelii*).

Paula Refi's eagle eye found a new population of the orchid *Listera australis* (photo, right) for trip leader David Morgan on McIntosh Reserve, Trip 8.



James Powers

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Society News

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Sitting on the deck trying to enjoy a relaxing moment in the 90° plus weather left no doubt: Spring has left Georgia for a few months. Gone are the ephemerals we all love to admire, retreated away beneath the dense foliage of deciduous forests. But wait, botanical life goes on. In fact some very favorite bloomers are now, or soon will be, marching in the summer parade of colors. Composites (Asteraceae or Compositae) are a good example. I have a love/hate relationship with composites. I love the morphology, but hate tackling the taxonomy. Oh well, thank goodness for a little help from friends who excel in such scientific nomenclature. Oh yes, some plant family members of which I have acquired rudimentary knowledge will also show up for inspection: *Lilium*, *Sabatia*, *Platanthera* - oh my! Without a doubt, we have a lot more to see before packing away those muddy hiking shoes. A quick glance at the remaining trip schedule will confirm that fact.

Speaking of field trips, the *Cypripedium* Gulch hike that I helped lead was very successful once orientation was achieved. On this gloriously beautiful day, starting out on the trailhead and turning right to bushwhack to the Gulch went well. Turning left onto Heathhellhill instead of *Cypripedium* Gulch (priceless) did require a sweeping U-turn in order to descend into *Cypripedium* Gulch. Please note, the trip description did mention "bushwhacking."

In the Gulch were several yellow lady's slipper leaves as expected; however, many were not blooming this year. Finally, someone found several freshly flowered plants of the large variety (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens*). Farther down the Gulch, members of the group spotted a perennial patch of classic small-flowered yellow lady's slippers (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *parviflorum*). These beauties exhibited, at anthesis, the classic tiny flowers so characteristic of this variety. Some botanists will likely argue that the "large-flowered" and "small-flowered" plants are all the same species. I, on the other hand, contend that these are two varieties and possibly two separate species. During the return trip, Nancy Shofner found another stand of the large variety in perfect bloom and Anita Reaves spotted a rare orchid whose name shall

remain anonymous. Also found on the trip were leaves of kidney-leaved twayblade (*Liparis liliifolia*) not yet blooming and showy orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*) already past bloom. Several of the group stopped at a turnout on the way back to the paved road for a short hike to admire a glorious patch of large-flowered yellow lady's slippers (my fallback option in case of rain). Exiting the site near the paved road, a few of us stopped to admire a pink lady's slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) in fine form.

On another note, plans are already well under way for the 2012 Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage. Be sure and stay tuned to the newsletters and web site for more details as time approaches. Also, please mark your calendars for the annual membership meeting scheduled for October 1, 2011 at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center, Buford, Georgia from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM. More details and directions will be provided later.

Looking forward to
a glorious Georgia summer.

Jim Drake



Mike Christison provided this photo featuring the pink lady's slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*).

Book Review

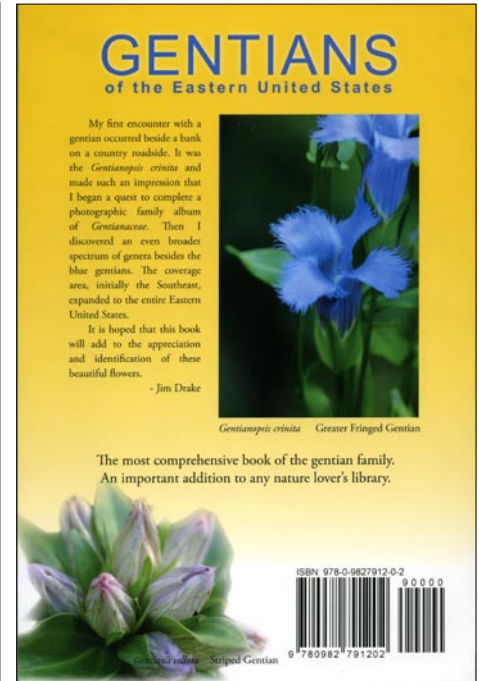
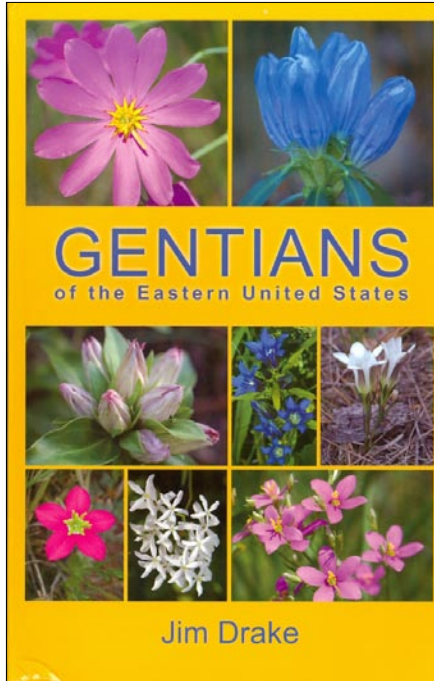
Gentians of the Eastern United States

Jim Drake, the current President of the Georgia Botanical Society, is the author of *Gentians of the Eastern United States*. I met and talked with Drake during the field trip at the Hidden Pond Trail near Carter's Lake. He is very knowledgeable and very patient, willing to put up with all sorts of ignorant questions from a non-science guy who enjoys wildflowers. He taught me about the gentian at Hidden Pond, American columbo (*Frasera carolinensis*). Now, having read Drake's book, I have a new goal of finding the gentians that grow in North Georgia.

Gentians of the Eastern United States covers a wide range and only truly dedicated BotSocers are likely to see all the species discussed. However, many of these gentians grow somewhere in the Southeast, so that a large number and variety are accessible.

The book offers three excellent features. First, the photographs of the various plants are excellent. Besides an attractive photo of each plant, Drake also provides close-up photos of special features that help make the discussions of plant structures clear. The photos accompanying American columbo show the early spring rosette, the plant with the flower spike, a close-up of the typical four-lobed flower and another close-up of the less common five-lobed variation.

Second, Drake provides a full discussion of each gentian that he presents. He lists thirteen different genera in the Gentianaceae family. Each genus has from one to twenty-two species that receive individual presentation. In these individual presentations, besides photographs, the reader is given a basic taxonomic description along with the plant's distinguishing features, life history, habitat, flowering, range and a list of similar species. A short general discussion of each species makes clear the details that distinguish a particular species. For example, the discussion on American columbo offers an explanation for those years when dozens and dozens of plants suddenly bloom. The discussion of Elliott's gentian (*Gentiana catesbaei*) explains in detail how to distinguish that plant from the quite similar harvest bells (*Gentiana saponaria*). Anyone, from amateur to professional



botanist, should be able to identify each of the different species with Drake's information.

Third, and finally, Drake offers a brief and cogent introductory section on the Gentianaceae family that explains his personal interest in these plants, the common characteristics, a survey of scientific studies, a discussion of taxonomy, and a group of labeled photographs showing the various parts of typical gentians - along with a photo of some bumblebees hard at the work of pollination. As a non-science person who is trying to learn about taxonomy, I found this introductory section very illuminating. The specific information on gentians has much broader application to the study of other plants.

If you are looking for information on gentians, particularly in the Southeast, this book is probably the place to start. But, even if you have never thought much about gentians, *Gentians of the Eastern United States* is such a beautiful and informative work that you will most likely become a student of the plants.

Gentians of the Eastern United States
Drake, Jim.
Suwanee:
Breath O'Spring, Inc.,
2011.
220 pp.

Georgia Botanical Society members can purchase the book for \$24.99 (\$5 of the purchase price goes to the Marie Mellinger Fund). Jim Drake's contact information is on page 12 of this newsletter.

reviewed by Bob Linn

Discoveries

RECENT RARE PLANT DISCOVERIES AT LULA LAKE LAND TRUST

PART II

by
Richard Ware
and
Max Medley

Introduction: This article continues a report of the new finds on the Lula Lake Land Trust, a privately owned 4,000 acre preserve on Lookout Mountain in Northwest Georgia. The Land Trust is open to the public one day a month. Please visit their website (<http://www.lulalake.org/>) for more information.

Chelone lyonii Pursh. Appalachian turtlehead

On September 25, 2010, after looking at the Cumberland sandreed (*Calamovilfa arcuata*) and black warrior goldenrod (*Solidago arenicola*) on the cobble bar below the ford on Rock Creek, Max Medley continued alone to the banks of Rock Creek below Lula Falls to observe the population of Virginia spiraea (*Spiraea virginiana*) and look for habitat for broadleaf Barbara's buttons (*Marshallia trinervia* (Walt.) Trel). So late in the season, he failed to find the *Marshallia* but while perusing the base of the bluff that Lula Falls falls over he found a few plants of Appalachian turtlehead (*Chelone lyonii*). This species, new for Georgia, was growing in sparsely vegetated moist sand directly at the cliff base, but well outside the normal spray zone of the falls. The broadly truncate leaf blade bases

with 3-4 centimeter long petioles and deep pink flowers were a very clear indicator of this species. Appalachian turtlehead was previously known from Maine south in the mountains to the high Blue Ridge of North Carolina and Tennessee and Piedmont of North and South Carolina, and disjunct on the Cumberland Plateau in Warren, Grundy, and Marion counties in Tennessee and Jackson County in Alabama. In the Blue Ridge and Piedmont it occurs in spruce-fir forests, grassy balds, moist

ravine forests and along streams. In Jackson County, Alabama, it occurs on sandstone rubble with hemlock in a deep sinkhole in the cap of the Cumberland Plateau.

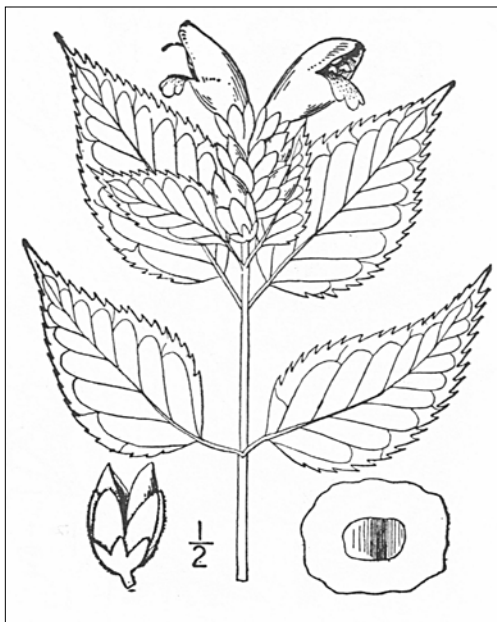
Paronychia argyrocoma (Michx.) Nutt. silverling, silver whitlow-wort

On May 25, 2010 Max Medley and Noel Durant (land manager at Lula Lake) drove up Tower Road to near the top of Lookout Mountain on a foray to High Point. With hopes of finding Lookout Mountain coreopsis (*Coreopsis pulchra*), they checked out some sandstone flatrock surrounded by grassy, prairie-like vegetation that had been reported to Max. On the way up on a mesic slope they found a single flowering plant of large-flowered skullcap (*Scutellaria montana*) in a large colony of mountain bunchflower (*Veratrum parviflorum*). They didn't find the coreopsis but found a large population of silverling (*Paronychia argyrocoma*) growing in the cracks of the flatrock and on ledges below the lip of the escarpment and cliff. On Sept. 25 we returned to High Point and the silverling was very much in evidence, fruiting as well as still flowering. Other than this site on the Cumberland Plateau, *P. argyrocoma* is currently known in Georgia only from Blood and Slaughter Mountains in the Blue Ridge. The range of the species is on rock outcrops in the Appalachians from Southern Canada to Georgia, but is widely scattered. Apparently the only other population on the Cumberland Plateau is in Cumberland County, Tennessee.



silverling (*Paronychia argyrocoma*)

photo by C. Paynter, NC Native Plant Society, www.ncwildflower.org



Appalachian turtlehead
(*Chelone lyonii*)

Illustration from USDA-NRCS
PLANTS Database.
Britton, N.L., and A. Brown.
1913.

Discoveries

Cladrastis kentukea (Dum.-Cours.) Rudd yellowwood

Yellowwood is a small to large tree with a native range primarily in the Southern Appalachians (mostly on the west side), the Ozarks, and limestone regions in-between (such as c. TN), but is cultivated more widely. The SC occurrence on Fall Line bluffs of the Savannah River is an interesting disjunction, apparently relictual. Max Medley discovered a single small tree found near the banks of Rock Creek across from the parking area. Yellowwood is one of the rarest trees in Georgia, nowhere abundant, and reported only from Stephens, Towns, Union, Fannin, and Walker counties in extreme north Ga. It usually prefers the soils of rich, north facing slopes and coves, or limestone soils such as those of the Pocket of Pigeon Mtn. There are several nice specimens in the pocket that are usually highlighted on BotSoc trips in early spring. Yellowwood is a very distinctive tree, in the legume family, with smooth dark gray bark, similar to beech, but darker; compound leaves with alternate leaflets; and pendent panicles of white flowers with a yellow splotch at the center base of the standard.

Scutellaria montana Chapm. large-flowered skullcap

Discovered on Lookout Mountain (described with the *Paronychia argyrocoma* discovery above), this skullcap is ranked G3/S2S3, US threatened and GA threatened. For many years *Scutellaria montana* was listed as federally endangered, but its status was just recently changed to threatened due to the finding of a very large population in the Tennessee River Gorge north of Chattanooga. *S. montana* is only known from a limited area of the Ridge and Valley and Cumberland Plateau provinces of Tennessee and Georgia and listed as imperiled in both states. It has been reported from 8 counties in northwest GA and 4 counties in south-east TN in the Chattanooga vicinity. This genus of the Mint Family (Lamiaceae) is called "skullcap" because of the "tractor seat" or "dish" shaped protuberance on the upper calyx. Large-flowered skullcap is quite showy and aptly named for having the largest flower in the genus.



large flowered skullcap
(*Scutellaria montana*)
photo by Richard & Teresa Ware



yellowwood
(*Cladrastis kentukea*)
leaf, flower and bark
photos by
Richard & Teresa
Ware



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Upcoming Field Trips

July 16 - 17 Saturday & Sunday Roadside Botanizing near Waycross and the Okefenokee Swamp

Saturday: Waycross to the St. Marys River; meet at 10:00 AM Hampton Inn, Waycross

Description: We will travel along Hwy 82 take 301 south to Folkston, then take GA 23 south past the entrance to the Okefenokee all the way to the St. Marys River (the southernmost point in GA). Then take GA 185 north to GA 94, then east on GA 94 back to GA 23 and a return to the hotel We will investigate interesting stuff along the road such as few-flowered milkweed (*Asclepias lanceolata*), short-stemmed meadow beauty (*Rhexia petiolata*), Pickering's daisy (*Stylisma pickeringii*), snowy orchid (*Platanthera nivea*), yellow meadow beauty (*Rhexia lutea*), and Bartram's rose gentian (*Sabatia bartramii*). We also may re-encounter the large-flowered rose gentian (*Sabatia grandiflora*) that we documented on this route two years ago.

Directions: Take I-75 south to US 82. Take US 82 east to Waycross. Hampton Inn is on US 82 just past intersection with US 1. **Meet at 10:00 AM, Hampton Inn.** Carpooling is encouraged to make pulling off easier for our roadside botanizing.

Bring: Lunch to eat on the road (purchase along the way will be difficult due to extremely sparse pickings), water, bug spray, shoes for possible muddy roadsides.

Walking: Short excursions along the roadside, never out of sight of the vehicles – can be muddy or wet.

Facilities: Possible at stores/stops along route, but unlikely after leaving hotel.

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

Sunday: Eastern Okefenokee Swamp; meet at 8:30 AM Hampton Inn, Waycross - note early start time!

Description: We will take US 1/23 to Folkston, making a short excursion along GA 177 along the way. At Folkston, we will continue on GA 23 to the Okefenokee NWR (**entry free required**). At the Okefenokee, we will drive to the Chesser Island parking area and walk the boardwalk. We will investigate interesting stuff along the road such as non-blooming pitcher plants (*Sarracenia minor* and *S. psitticina*), more snowy orchids and rose gentians, spoonflower (*Peltandra sagittifolia*), narrow-leaf barbara's buttons (*Marshallia tenuifolia*) loblolly bay (*Gordonia lasianthus*) and others.

Directions: Same as Saturday, **but meet at 8:30 AM, Hampton Inn.** Carpooling is encouraged to make pulling off easier for our roadside botanizing.

Bring: Lunch to eat on the road, water, bug spray, entrance fee to Okefenokee NWR.

Walking: Short excursions along the roadside and the prairie boardwalk at Okefenokee NWR. Usually not out of sight of the vehicles (other than the boardwalk), but it can be muddy or wet.

Facilities: Possible at stores/stops along route, but unlikely after leaving hotel.

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

July 22 Friday 10:00 AM West Fork Montgomery Creek Wade, Lumpkin County - Note day and time!

Description: On this two-part trip, we will first hike 0.4 mi down to a little-known waterfall on the West Fork of Montgomery Creek. We will then walk back to our vehicles, eat lunch, then begin wading up the creek into Penitentiary Cove. This will be an exploratory trip in a beautiful trout stream that is part of the Etowah River drainage. The last time we waded Montgomery Creek, we found mountain stewartia (*Stewartia ovata*) and butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) growing beside the creek. Who knows what wildflowers we might see, but we will definitely stay cool doing it! If you were on the last Montgomery Creek wade and had a hard time - this wade is on a branch of that creek and will be much easier.

Directions: Take GA 60 north to Dahlonega. Go through downtown Dahlonega and take Old GA 60 (Business 60) through the square and north out of town. About 3 mi after leaving the square, look for a sign for Camp Frank D. Merrill, the US Army Ranger camp on Camp Washlega Rd. Turn left onto Camp Washlega Rd and go 9 mi until the road ends right in front of the Army Ranger Camp. Turn left and Mt. Zion Church is immediately on your left.

Meet at Mt. Zion Church.

Facilities: Last facilities will be in Dahlonega. Large trees, boulders and dense foliage will be made available.

Walking: Actually, it will be mostly wading. Bring river shoes or whatever you are comfortable wearing in a rocky, slippery, cool, mountain stream. The walk down to the waterfall in the morning is easy on a good trail, though the last 30 yards down to the waterfall are fairly steep.

Conditions: Easy, but slippery during the wade. Participants are welcome to come just for the waterfall hike, or to wade any portion of the creek with us.

Bring: Lunch to eat near the vehicles, snacks, a good sense of humor, curiosity.

Leader: Hal Massie massiefarm@aol.com 478-836-4907 478-957-6095 (cell for day of hike; reception iffy).

Upcoming Field Trips

August 13 Saturday 10:00 AM Rare Plants Slide Show (with emphasis on Floyd County)

Description: We will present a program of many of the endangered, threatened, rare and unusual plants found in Georgia with a special emphasis on the myriad of rare plants found in Floyd County, Ga. Rarity ranks will be explained and given for each species shown. Please join Richard and Teresa Ware for a presentation of their best photographs of each rare plant displayed.

Directions: From the West, take I-285E to Exit 29. Turn left onto Ashford-Dunwoody Rd. Bear right onto Mt. Vernon Rd. Turn right on Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd. The Library is on the left. From the East, take I-285 North or West to Exit 29. Turn right onto Ashford-Dunwoody Rd. Continue right on Mt. Vernon Rd. Follow as above. **Meet at library in the Williams Room.**

Facilities: On site.

Lunch: Optional at local Mexican Restaurant.

Leader(s): Richard & Teresa Ware 706-232-3435 (H), 706-766-5143 (C), gabotany@comcast.net

August 20 Saturday 10:00 AM Freeman Trail, Union County

Description: We will meet at the Byron Herbert Reese (BHR) Parking Area and hike the first 0.7 mi on the BHR Trail, which switchbacks through rhododendron and mountain laurel up stone staircases to Flatrock Gap, where the Freeman Trail begins. The Freeman Trail winds around the south side of Blood Mountain, over a mostly level but rugged and rocky terrain, crossing several small rocky streams and rock outcrops. Outcrops should be ablaze with late summer wildflowers, such as sunflowers, tickseeds, goldenrods, and lobelias. We should see two rare species, ovate catchfly (*Silene ovata*) and eastern figwort (*Scrophularia marilandica*), in flower. After 1.8 mi, we will reach Bird Gap and the AT. At this point, some of us may want to return to the parking lot on the Freeman Trail (for a gentle to moderate round-trip hike of 5 mi) and others may want to continue on the AT to the summit of Blood Mountain and then return to the parking lot on the AT (for a strenuous hike of 6.8 mi).

Directions: **Meet at the Byron Herbert Reese parking area** (\$5.00 parking fee) on the west side of U.S. Hwy 129N, ~0.5 mi north of the Walasy-i Mountain Crossing Appalachian Trail Store at Neel's Gap. Neel's Gap is 18 (slow) mi north of Cleveland.

Facilities: None on trail; bathrooms, snacks, water, etc at the Mountain Crossing store.

Difficulty: BHR Trail is of moderate steepness; Freeman Trail is nearly level but very rocky, requiring scrambling over and around boulders. Hiking pole strongly advised.

Bring: Lunch, water, sunscreen, hat, insect repellent, and hiking poles, \$5.00 parking fee. Rain gear if needed.

Leader: Linda Chafin 706-548-1697 Lchafin@uga.edu

August 27 Saturday 10:00 AM to 3:00 AM Palisades Canoe Float & Late Summer Flora, Fulton County

Description: Bring your own canoe or kayak and join us for a very leisurely float on the Chattahoochee River. We will float a 3 mi section from Powers Island to Paces Mill at US Highway 41 with 3 mild class 1.5 rapids suitable for beginners. The Palisades have narrow floodplains and steep ridges rising to over 1,000 feet. The area offers oak-hickory forest, steep north facing slopes, mesic ravine forest, and floodplain forest. Created by the geologic action of the Brevard Fault, the river, and the effects of weather, this rugged and beautiful section of the river will offer an extraordinary array of late summer wildflowers and will be a great trip for butterflies as well. We will stop at Devil's Stair Step Beach (Diving Rock) for lunch and a short loop walk.

Directions: We will meet at Powers Island, 5862 Interstate North Pkwy, Sandy Springs, Georgia 30328 at 10:00 to quickly unload equipment. We will then take the majority of the vehicles to Paces Mill and shuttle the drivers back to Powers Island. Please let me know if you have a multi-passenger vehicle and could help with the shuttle. For detailed directions and info on boat rentals, call or 678-538-1200 or visit www.nps.gov/chat.

Bring: Pack a lunch and we will picnic along the river. Sunscreen, a hat, rain jacket, and water should be brought along. Your camera, binoculars, and maybe a hand lens are all recommended. Bring a day pack or other bag to secure items inside your boat. \$3.00 daily parking pass or annual parking pass needed.

Facilities: Restrooms are located at Powers Island, our lunch stop, and Paces Mill.

Leader: Jerry Hightower, 770-678-0338 cell 678-538-1245 office or jerry_hightower@nps.gov

Reservations required for Jerry's floats - please call 678-538-1200.

Upcoming Field Trips

September 10 Saturday Montezuma Bluffs & *Silene ovata* Macon County

Look for details in the September BotSoc News.

ovate catchfly (*Silene ovata*)
photo by Hugh Nourse



September 17 Saturday 10:00 AM Asters, Asters, Asters ID Workshop at Berry College, Floyd County

Description: We will learn how to identify late summer flowers, with emphasis on the aster family (Asteraceae) or whatever is in bloom in September, using dissecting scopes and keys. After lunch, we will continue keying as long as folks want, possibly followed by a wildflower walk, if desired and weather permitting.

Reservations required.

Directions: Take I-75 to exit 290 (GA 20). Follow GA 20 and US 411 to Rome. At first traffic light (GA Loop 1) turn right, go to US 27, turn right. At next traffic light, turn left into the main entrance to Berry College. Pass guard house, go $\frac{3}{4}$ way around the circle; turn right between Hermann Hall and the Plant Sciences Building. Take first left, park in lot on right anywhere not marked "F/S." Enter via back door on left side and follow BotSoc signs. **Meet in Room 147, Plant Sciences Bldg, Berry College.**

Facilities: Yes

Lunch: Bring to eat outside bldg., weather permitting.

Bring: Radford's Flora of the Carolinas (if you have it).

Leader(s): Richard & Teresa Ware 706-232-3435 (H), 706-766-5143 (C), gabotany@comcast.net

Reservations required by Sept 12 - please contact Richard or Teresa

September 24 Saturday 10:00 AM Stamp Creek Road/Pine Log WMA, Bartow County

Description: This is a new trip location and is offered primarily to see and learn to ID fall composites, including several of those NYC's ("Dang" Yellow Composites). Several different species of native *Helianthus* and other fall bloomers grow along Stamp Creek Road between U. S. 411 and Georgia 20 in eastern Bartow County. Roadside *Spiranthes* orchids should be in bloom then also. Copies of the Weakley key for *Helianthus* will be provided to participants.

Directions: Take I-75 exit #293, US 411 north of Cartersville, and go northeast on 411 towards White for 2.2 mi. **Meet behind the Dollar General Store** on the left (north side) of 411, across from U.S. Post Office.

Lunch: Bring lunch, can eat in cars as there is no real hiking on this trip.

Walking: Very little, this is mostly easy roadside botanizing.

Facilities: Citgo, next to Dollar General store on 411. Plenty right at the next I-75 exit south of 411 at Georgia 20, which is also on the way out from the field trip. None along Stamp Creek Road.

Leaders: Charles Hunter 770-433-8117, home 770-843-8117, cell 2csh@bellsouth.net; Richard Ware

THE 2011 GEORGIA BOTANICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE OCTOBER 1ST

AT THE GWINNETT ENVIRONMENTAL AND HERITAGE CENTER, BUFORD, GEORGIA.

LOOK FOR DETAILS IN THE SEPTEMBER BOTSOC NEWS.

Field Trip Report



TAYLOR COUNTY TRILLIUMS AND CROOMIA

MARCH 20, 2011

Taylor County

A crowd of about 30 eager Botsoccers gathered gathered on a Sunday afternoon at Dr. Greg Mincey's bluff overlooking the Flint River in northeast Taylor County. We were hoping for a repeat of last year's sightings of rare and unusual plants and were not unrewarded.

Relict trillium (*Trillium reliquum*), was present en masse and in full flower up and down the river bluff as well as on the slopes of a creek that we explored on the north border of the property. Healthy populations in all stages of maturity - from tiny unifoliate plants to big buxom, yea voluptuous, ones mantled in their pied cloaks of mottled green - were to the right and to the left, almost rendering it impossible not to tread on them. We saw variations in foliage from very light silvery barely spotted leaves to dark, dare I say "forest", green foliaged ones which cried out for horticultural introduction. We even saw a triple foliaged one with parts of three layers of foliage. Other trilliums identified were sweet Betsy (*T. cuneatum*) and Catesby's trillium (*T. catesbaei*).

In addition to the trilliums we saw patches of the uncommon Croomia (*Croomia pauciflora*), albeit the plants were not very far along. Last year we admired them in April, a



Relict trillium (*Trillium reliquum*) was present en masse and in full flower up and down the river bluff. Hal Massie photographed this one with two sets of leaves, then sepals that are half leaf/half petal, then a flower.

full 4 weeks later. Maybe we can go back to inspect the flowers at a later date. Down on the floodplain was southern adder's tongue (*Ophioglossum pycnostichum*), and what was probably Southern rein orchid (*Platanthera flava*). These plants will require another visit to correctly identify them. We saw several patches of fringed campion (*Silene polypetala*), again not blooming. Also adorning the slopes were Carolina snowbell (*Halesia caroliniana*), mayapple (*Podophyllum*

phyllum peltatum), Eastern blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), and red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*).

On the dry rocky bluff behind the house were trout lily (*Erythronium umbilicatum*), rue anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*), wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), Appalachian mock-orange (*Philadelphus inodorus*), American alumroot (*Heuchera americana*) and more. We had such a good time exploring the slopes that we did not have time to go to the other section of the property where the toothworts and large populations of Atamasco-lily (*Zephyranthes sp.*) were growing. So many plants, so little time...

Chris Inhulsen, Montezuma



James Powers

Participants in Friday's Pre-Pilgrimage Chattahoochee River Float were interviewed and photographed by Jeff Bishop for Carrollton's newspaper.

Ga. Botanical Society group canoes down Chattahoochee — see page 2A



Jean Smith

The Times-Herald
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 Sunday, April 17, 2011 Coweta's Local Daily

Field Trip Report

COOSAWATTEE BLUFFS, CARTER'S LAKE, LIMESTONE OUTCROPS APRIL 2, 2011



It
never
rained
on Vivian!

Tipularia, 1986

Finally the sun shown down on Bot Soc! It was a great relief to the field trips leaders to see that, unlike the week before at Pigeon Mountain, where it had the audacity to rain on a Georgia Botanical Society field trip, that this day would be perfect, with not a cloud in the sky. We certainly do miss Vivian Emerson, because BotSoc lore says "it never rained on Vivian!" (see "Botany For Breakfast" by Marie B. Mellinger, *Tipularia* Nov. 1986). So, it was a beautiful day, other than a stiff wind to aggravate the photographers in the group.

After initially meeting at the parking area for the Hidden Pond Trail, we drove the short

distance west on Hiawassee Road to our 1st stop: a short 1/4 to 1/2 mi walk to the Coosawattee River and limestone bluff. The property, owned by a cousin of Walter Bland, a Bot Soc member who was in attendance, will someday, we hope, be a conservation easement to protect the site. The nearer we

got to the bluff, the more spectacular the display. In my opinion the area rivals some of the best in north Georgia, such as the Pocket of Pigeon Mountain, Cloudland Canyon, and Till Ridge Cove, perhaps not by a spectacular flower display alone, but with its large mass of rare and unusual wildflowers. Just as we approached the bluff, Richard Ware pointed out the rare yellow giant-hyssop (*Agastache nepetoides*), in vegetative condition. Here we have the largest population of Dutchmen's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) that I've ever seen anywhere, and also very abundant displays of the rare yellow fumewort (*Corydalis flavula*) and Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium reptans*). The floodplain just below the slope was filled with the Dutchmen's breeches, yellow trillium (*Trillium luteum*), southern nodding trillium (*T. rugelii*), decumbent trillium (*T. decumbens*), Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), blue

cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*), narrowleaf toothwort (*Dentaria multifida*), Canada wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), great Indian plantain (*Arnoglossum reniforme* [*Cacalia muhlenbergii*]), large-leaf waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum macrophyllum*) (not blooming), huge paw-paw trees (*Asimina triloba*) and just above the river we found the largest displays of the yellow fumewort. There were some yellow buckeyes (*Aesculus flava*) blooming and on the side of the bluff we saw a few shooting stars (*Dodecatheon meadia*) and rue anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*) in bloom. The place was spectacular, but a low grumbling by the crowd announced it was lunchtime.

We lunched at the picnic tables near the Carter's Lake Rereg Dam and some folks fed the very hungry kitty cats that inhabit the area. After everyone had quenched their appetites we assembled for our 2nd walk of the day. The Hidden Pond Trail afforded views of lots of the same wonderful plants we saw on the morning walk but, in addition, this trail also had green violet (*Hybanthus concolor*), wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), dove's foot cranebill (*Geranium molle*), in bloom, plus we saw Southern adder's tongue fern (*Ophioglossum pycnostichum*). We also saw a grouping of Atamasco lily (*Zephyranthes atamasca*), not in bloom, plus there were lots of dwarf larkspur (*Delphinium tricorne*), and thousands of columbo (*Frasera caroliniensis*) plants, also not blooming yet.

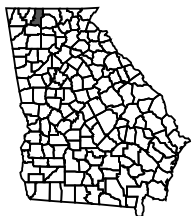
The 3rd stop involved following Walter Bland to Rock Spring Farm for a hike to two different limestone rock outcrops on his property. These outcrops are very similar to the cedar glades at Chickamauga National Battlefield. The first outcrop was rather a small opening in the woods, but the second was a good size and seemed to stretch for several hundred feet. At this time of year, the two plants that were blooming, in both outcrops, had really small white flowers, but both are pretty rare in Georgia. The first one is the lime-barren sandwort (*Minuartia patula*), and the other, even rarer (GA Special Concern) plant is gladecress (*Leavenworthia uniflora*).

There was even a 4th stop, for those six die-hard Bot Soccers (Rich & Anita Reaves, Mike Christison, Susan McConnell and Teresa and Richard Ware) who chose to hang around ... the Cracker Barrel in Adairsville, where good food and great conversation was had by all! This proves Richard can go somewhere other than a Mexican restaurant.

Teresa A. Ware, Rome



southern nodding
trillium
(*Trillium rugelii*)
photo by Teresa and
Richard Ware



Murray County

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