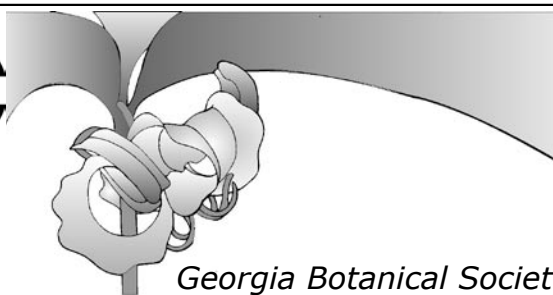


BotSoc News



Volume 87
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New Southeastern Plant Species IN THIS ISSUE:

At some point on just about any BotSoc field trip you will hear the words “weakly” and “flora”. If you are close enough to the conversation, you soon realize the subject is not an under-performing plant community but rather Alan Weakley’s “Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States”, a more than 1000 page descriptive plant list available for free from the website of the University of North Carolina’s Herbarium. The Flora is frequently updated as research uncovers new relationships among plant species and is the go-to resource for plant identification in our region - especially when new species are discovered. The list below includes a few details

from published reports for ten new plants identified for the southeastern United States in 2010 – 2011. The most striking theme in these reports is how often unusual plants were overlooked before some astute (and persistent) observer took the time to look more carefully. Although only one new Georgia species is on the list, many of the new plants were discovered in habitats that also occur in Georgia and are visited on BotSoc field trips. The 2012 field trip schedule is included in this issue of BotSoc News. Find a trip to a natural community near you, download the latest “Weakley”, and help us make more botanical discoveries in Georgia!

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Agalinis flexicaulis Hays Orobanchaceae (Broomrape Family)

The common name for this plant, sprawling false foxglove, and the specific epithet “flexicaulis” describe the sprawling, decumbent branches on mature specimens. Found in mesic to hydric prairies or longleaf pine wiregrass savannas, *Agalinis flexicaulis* does not seem to tolerate the xeric conditions of other *Agalinis*. In his account of the discovery, John Hays remarked that he had “studied *Agalinis* for over 12 years in Florida alone and was more than surprised at his “discovery” within a well known botanical area less than 20 miles from the University of Florida in Gainesville.” This finding, as Hays went on to say, “underscores the fact that there are additional plant species to be described within the remaining intricate natural communities found in Florida”. And elsewhere, we might add! *J. Bot. Res. Inst. Texas* 4(1): 1 – 6. 2010.

Asimina manasota DeLaney Annonaceae (Custard-apple Family)

Manasota pawpaw is endemic to longleaf pine and turkey oak sandhills associated with the Manasota basin (the upper Manatee River, upper Myakka River, and Myakka Head regions of Hardee, Manatee, and Sarasota counties in west-central Florida). *The Botanical Explorer* 4: 2010.

Carex austrodeflexa P.D. McMillan, Sorrie & van Eerden Cyperaceae (Sedge Family)

Independently discovered by six different botanists, the canebrake sedge (*Carex austrodeflexa*) is not a rare plant, just a long overlooked one. Using older keys, the new species keyed to *C. deflexa*, a plant of arctic-boreal and north temperate regions. *C. austrodeflexa* has several morphologic distinctions in newer keys and a range limited to the coastal plain from southeastern VA to northwestern FL, southwestern AL, and northwestern LA. Georgia’s population was found in a wet streamhead on Fort Gordon in Richmond County. *J. Bot. Res. Inst. Texas* 5(1): 45 – 51. 2011.

Eutrochium purpureum var. ***carolinianum*** Sorrie Asteraceae (Aster Family)

This newly described third variety of sweet Joe-Pye-weed differs from *Eutrochium purpureum* var. *purpureum* (the widespread variety in eastern North America) and a midwestern variety (*E. purpureum* var. *holzingeri*) in the shape and marginal teeth morphology of its leaves, and the distribution and amount of pubescence on its lower leaf surface. The range of the new variety lies mostly within the Carolina Slate Belt. The plant has not been found growing with var. *purpureum*, but this may be an artifact of limited fieldwork since var. *purpureum* has been found in virtually all of the counties vouchered for var. *carolinianum*. *Phytoneuron* 43: 1-6. 2010.

The perquisites of an editor include complimentary subscriptions to several botanical society newsletters. This article is inspired by a list of 10 new plants for the Southeastern US, 2010-2011 found in Carol Ann McCormick’s Herbarium Report in the November 2011 Newsletter of the North Carolina Botanical Garden.

Cont. on page 9



BotSoc News

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

The Mamas' and the Papas' lament "All the leaves are brown and the sky is gray" encouraged me today to go "...for a walk. On a winter's day." Actually the walk was in the Brasstown Bald and Vogel State Park areas where I encountered plenty of rain and fog. Although many were, not all the leaves were brown. Of course the poorly kept secret is that winter in the South, unlike those in the northern climes, is merely a brief interlude between warm and warm betwixt which is sandwiched hot, very hot. During my walk, I adhered to the great Yogi Berra's advice "You can observe a lot just by watching." A great deal of "watching" resulted in "observing" a surprising number of green leaves, many of which were on the ground.

First noted was the winter attire of *Tipularia discolor* followed farther along by the evergreen leaves of *Galax urceolata*. Both species seem to like the cold but delay flowering until the heat of summer. Another summer bloomer and winter endurer, spotted wintergreen or pipsissewa (*Chimaphila maculate*) poked its leaves up through the litter. Less showy, but equally alert was a small strip of trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*) leaves clinging to the bankside. A patch of bright-green leaves of *Hexastylis arifolia* could hardly contain its enthusiasm to produce those early-spring little brown jugs. A huge dark green wall of *Rhododendron* patiently awaited, with

buds in hand, the advent of spring. Among the boulders, large sprigs of Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) garnished a steep hill. An occasional American holly (*Ilex opaca*) punctuated the forest of deciduous trees. Partridgeberry



Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*) was decked out with bright red berries almost luminescent on a gloomy December day in Vogel State Park. Photo by Jim Drake.

(*Mitchella repens*) was decked out with bright red berries almost luminescent on this gloomy day. Lichens, the nomenclature of which I know next to nothing, embellished almost every rock and tree trunk in sight. Sounds like I have another bucket list goal provided I can still lift my copy of "Lichens of North America."

On another note, several members were in attendance at the Georgia Botanical Society's annual Holiday party at the Drake house on December 3, 2011. Candee and I really delighted in seeing and talking to all who came. We had a great time and hope everyone else did also. There was plenty of good food and interesting conversation. Jenneke Somerville presented the 2012 pilgrimage t-shirt design and Eddi Minche provided the proposed 2012 trip schedule. I had some example logo shirts on display. Door prizes consisted of several new botanically related books, a couple of framed wildflower prints, a madonna lily (*Lilium candidum*) bulb with its winter rosette, a water bottle waist pack and some bee's wax lip balm sticks supplied by Eddi Minche. Thanks to everyone who attended for helping make the Holiday party an enjoyable event. Since this will be my last Holiday as a Society officer, I wanted it to be special, and all the attendees contributed greatly to that goal.

Have a great winter
and enjoy the cool weather.
Jim Drake



Grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia asarifolia*). Our January BotSoc News feature photo of the month was taken by Hal Massie on a fine November Saturday at FDR State Park.

Book Review

THE SECRETS OF WILDFLOWERS

reviewed by Bob Linn

Wildflower secrets are not usually in the same league with human secrets. Hepaticas do not run Ponzi schemes, and goldenrods do not claim to be hiking the Appalachian Trail when, in fact, they are visiting some exotic lily in Argentina. Wildflower secrets are more prosaic. For example, a lotion to soothe poison ivy outbreaks can be made from jewelweed, or there are more than 1, 700, 000 black-eyed Susan seeds in a pound. Still, knowing some of the secrets of wildflowers can be quite entertaining.

At first glance, Jack Sanders' *The Secrets of Wildflowers* seems to be another field guide – it begins with skunk cabbage (*Syplocarpus foetidus*) and ends with various gentians. In between are most of the usual suspects. But Sanders' goal is not to provide an ordinary field guide. Instead, he offers an anecdotal portrait of four or five pages for each plant. He includes most standard information but also information that is not so commonly known.

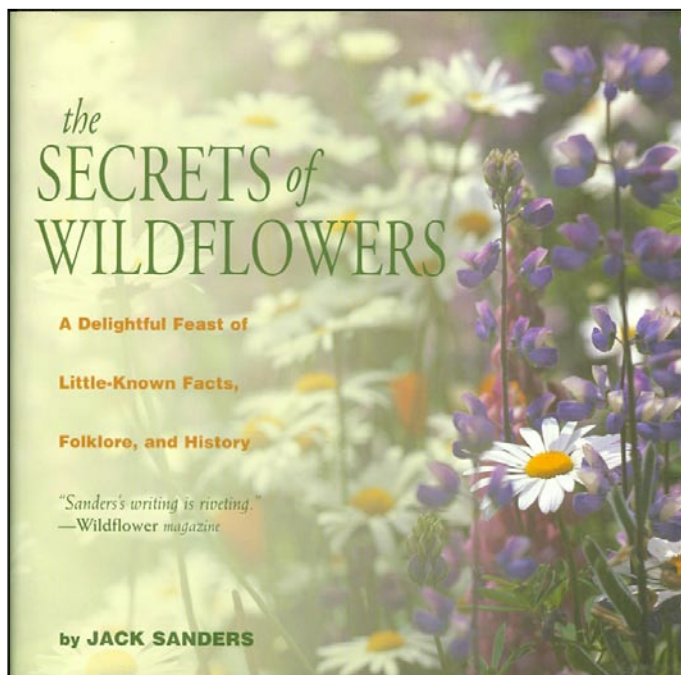
For each plant that Sanders considers, he tends to explain secrets, or lesser known facts, about the plant in several categories: common and scientific names, Indian or pioneer uses, and finally other miscellaneous information. He provides one photograph of each flower.

Sanders most frequently provides information about the various names for a plant. Trout lily (*Erythronium* sp.) has three common names – trout lily, adder's tongue and dogtooth violet. "Trout lily" may come from the plant's bloom time near the start of trout season, the trout-like speckles on the leaves or the fact that the plant often grows near trout streams. The name 'dogtooth violet' comes from a European variety of the plant. And "adder's tongue" seems to refer to the forked, snake-like leaves of the plant, the markings on the leaves, or the purplish point of the plant as it emerges in early spring. The scientific name for the Genus, "*Erythronium*" is also a little odd, since the root, "*erythro*-" means "red," and the flowers are yellow. However, this scientific name comes from a red species not common to the Southeast.

A second area of secrets involves ways that Indians or early settlers used the plant for medicine or food. Celandine poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), though extremely bitter to taste, was used to cleanse the eyes – don't try this at home. It was also used as a liver stimulant and as a means to cause a rotting tooth to fall out. Modern medicine often has a better plan.

Finally, for most plants Sanders offers some other, more unusual, information. People on the Isle of Wight thought that if a person stepped on a St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum*), a fairy horse would rise up and carry the person away. The Chinese used yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) to predict the future. This sort of information makes the book endlessly fascinating.

Secrets of Wildflowers is fun to read and adds much extra information for the enjoyment, and even edification, of the wildflower enthusiast.



Sanders, Jack.
The Secrets of Wildflowers.
Guilford: The Globe Pequot Press,
2003.
304 pp.

Discoveries

A NEW JOE-PYE FOR GEORGIA

Spotted Joe-Pye-weed *Eutrochium maculatum* (Linnaeus) E.E. Lamont

by Hal Massie

After the Botanical Society field trip on the Freeman Trail on August 20, 2011, Rich Reaves and I agreed to go eat a well-deserved supper at a Mexican restaurant in Dahlonega. One of the things I admire about Rich, besides his incredible ability to see rare plants while barreling down highways at high speed, is the fact that he never quits botanizing. So, we decided to stop along the way and look at a couple of likely places, especially in a ditch where Rich thought he had seen hairy sunflower (*Helianthus mollis*) on his way up the mountain that morning. I've developed a recent interest in sunflowers, so hairy sunflower was a plant I dearly wanted to see.

We left the Byron Herbert Reece Memorial parking area and headed south on US 19, over Neel's Gap and down the long zig-zagging highway past Desoto Falls. Just above Turner's Corner, we stopped along the highway next to a lovely stream and walked across the pavement to peer into a ditch which was, of course, full of hairy sunflower, as well as hollow Joe-Pye-weed (*Eutrochium fistulosum*).

Rich and I snapped a few pictures of both the sunflower and the hollow Joe-Pye-weed, some with our official State butterfly, the eastern tiger swallowtail, nectaring on the flowers. As we were about to leave, I noticed that a few of the Joe-Pye-weeds didn't have the characteristic large, rounded inflorescence typical of hollow Joe-Pye-weed and the other Joe-Pye of our area, *Eutrochium purpureum*, sweet Joe-Pye-weed. Instead, a few plants had flat-topped flower heads.

A few months earlier, that difference would have aroused only mild curiosity for me. However, the Freeman Trail field trip was the second mountain trip I'd led since July 22. As I'm not exactly Georgia's greatest botanist, leading field trips means lots of prepping and just a bit of anxiety beforehand. In preparing for the two field trips, both of which occurred during the season of Joe-Pye-weed flowering, I'd spent a lot of time looking at differences between the species using various keys. For Joe-Pye-weed, that means looking at *Eutrochium fistulosum*, hollow-stem Joe-Pye-weed and *E. purpureum*, sweet Joe-Pye-weed, the two species



The flower heads of *Eutrochium maculatum* are flat and more sparse compared to *E. fistulosum*. Photo by Rich Reaves.

that occur in Georgia. (Some books still have Joe-Pye-weed listed under the genus *Eupatorium*, a large and confusing group of plants.) Poring through those keys, I kept stumbling over *E. maculatum*, which occurs in the mountains of North Carolina and Virginia, but not Georgia. I remembered one thing about *E. maculatum* from those keys – it has flat-topped flower heads. It was a classic case of 'fortune favors the prepared', even if that preparation was somewhat accidental.

We didn't collect a specimen at the time, but Rich went back the next week and collected it. He passed that specimen on to Tom Patrick, DNR botanist and Botanical Society legend, who confirmed the identification. Tom then passed the specimen on to the University of Georgia herbarium, thus making it the first documented occurrence of *Eutrochium maculatum* in Georgia – a state record!

Joe-Pye-weeds are tall perennials that flower in late summer through mid-autumn. They are closely related to *Eupatoriums*, which generally are smaller and have opposite leaves, or, if whorled leaves, much smaller than the Joe-Pye leaves. Joe-Pye plants have leaves usually in whorls of 3-7.

The stems of *Eutrochium maculatum* are normally spotted with purple, hence both the common name and the



Hollow Joe-pye-weed (*Eutrochium fistulosum*), here growing in the same ditch as *E. maculatum*, has flower heads that are rounded or domed, more cylindrical, and more dense than *E. maculatum*. Photo by Hal Massie

Discoveries

specific epithet '*maculatum*'. Occasionally, the stems may be solid purple, or so heavily spotted that they appear purple from a distance. In contrast, *E. fistulosum* has stems that are solid purple, while *E. purpureum* has stems that are, usually, only purple at the nodes.

Joe-Pye-weeds are members of the Asteraceae, so their flowers are in composite heads or 'florets' consisting of many individual flowers. Besides the shape of the flower heads, spotted Joe-Pye-weed can easily be identified by the number of flowers in each floret – generally 9 or more, up to 22, as opposed to only 4-7 flowers per head in both hollow Joe-Pye-weed and sweet Joe-Pye-weed.

The common name for *Eutrochium maculatum* is spotted Joe-Pye-weed (with various iterations of dashes and no dashes), but this plant has also been known as Queen-of-the-Meadow, trumpet weed, spotted trumpet weed, and just Joe-Pye-weed. J.K. Small also called it 'smokeweed', which actually makes sense to me. Especially as they fade, the flower heads can have a wispy or smoky appearance.

The name 'Joe Pye' is obscured by the mists of history. According to some authors, Joe Pye was a colonial doctor in New England. Joe Pye was supposedly expert with using medicinal herbs, including the plant that now bears his name, to treat a variety of ailments, particularly fevers. Presumably he learned about using local plants from the Native Americans of the region. Others claim that Joe Pye was a Native American medicine man who was adept at using native herbs to treat illnesses.

Until recently, all of the Joe-Pye-weeds were placed in the genus *Eupatorium*. Molecular evidence has warranted separating the Joe-Pye's from *Eupatorium*, resulting in the name originally given to them by Rafinesque in 1838 – *Eutrochium*. Another earlier name for these plants was *Eupatoriadelphus*. Curiously, the USDA Plants website still lists spotted Joe-Pye-weed as *Eupatoriadelphus maculatus*, while the Flora of North America and Weakley's more progressive and more recent Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States has it as *Eutrochium maculatum*.

Spotted Joe-Pye-weed has a more northerly distribution, reaching as far north as Quebec. It reaches its southern limits in the Southern Appalachians. Like the scientific name, the distribution of spotted Joe-Pye-weed is somewhat confused in our area. Weakley only lists it as occurring in the mountains of Virginia, North Carolina, and West Virginia, as well as the Piedmont of Virginia. USDA Plants shows it occurring in Tennessee and all of the Tennessee wildflower guides

that I checked consider it a native plant. Neither Weakley nor USDA Plants indicate that it occurs in South Carolina, but the South Carolina wildflower guides, like Porcher and Rayner's A Guide to the Wildflowers of South Carolina do consider it to be a native species. The range map in Flora of North America does not show *Eutrochium maculatum* as occurring in Tennessee, Georgia, or South Carolina!

Three varieties of *Eutrochium maculatum* are recognized – *E. maculatum* var. *maculatum*, which is the most widespread variety and the one that occurs in the southern portion of the range; *E. maculatum* var. *foliosum*, which is found in the extreme northern portion of the species' range; and *E. maculatum* var. *bruneri*, which occurs mostly west of the Mississippi River.

Spotted Joe-Pye-weed is found in mesic uplands, often at high altitudes, including cove forests and balds. In Virginia, it is associated with calcareous meadows and marl fens, curious to say the least. Weakley suggests that the odd distribution of habitats – from wet calcareous sites to very acidic coves and mountain slopes may indicate "...the presence of an unrecognized, cryptic taxon in the Southern Appalachians".

Our Georgia specimen was certainly growing in a mesic upland, albeit a ditch. The fact that the plants we found were not at a particularly high elevation and were close to a road, may suggest that they were introduced to North Georgia in some convoluted and vehicular fashion. Searching for spotted Joe-Pye-weed up slope from where Rich and I found these plants is warranted and might prove interesting, not to mention that it provides both the incentive and the excuse for another great field trip!



On a recent BotSoc field trip, Rich Reaves was overheard to say with genuine enthusiasm: "Look! A ditch! There's always something interesting in a ditch!" And there usually is. The original reason for stopping at the roadside ditch on this field trip was hairy sunflower (*Helianthus mollis*). Photo by Hal Massie

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Upcoming Field Trips

January 16 Monday (MLK Day) 10:00 AM Looking for Remnant Montane Longleaf Harris County

Description: During this mid-winter botanical excursion we'll explore 2 or 3 sites in FDR State Park that still have old-growth montane longleaf pine. We'll look for a few pines that show evidence of past red-cockaded woodpecker activity, possibly visit longleaf pines planted by Roosevelt on his personal farm, and examine some of the extensive damage done by a tornado in April of 2011. Will we see anything in flower? You just never know...

Directions: From the Atlanta area, Take I-85 south to Exit 21 (I-185), I-185 south to Exit 42 (US 27), then south on US 27. Go through the town of Pine Mountain, past Callaway Gardens and up the side of Pine Mountain. As you crest Pine Mountain, turn left onto GA 190 and into FDR State Park. Go ~4 mi (past the park headquarters on the right and across the stone Roosevelt Memorial Bridge) to the Fox Den Cove Parking Lot on the left. **Meet in the parking lot.** Contact trip leader for directions from other areas.

Walking: Easy. We'll drive to 2 or 3 spots then take short hikes in to see the trees. Total walking for the day probably won't exceed 3 miles. Trails will be rocky, but no excessive grades.

Bring: Comfortable walking shoes, \$5.00 parking fee or annual pass, water, camera, binoculars to see features high in the trees, a lunch to eat at a picnic area. You can probably leave the bug spray at home this time. Dress for the weather.

Facilities: At the park headquarters, none once the trip starts, other than, of course, strategically placed trees and shrubs.

Leader: Hal Massie 478-836-4907 (H) 478-957-6095 (C) massiefarm@aol.com

January 21 Saturday 10:00 AM Winter Woody Walk, Cherokee County REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Description: This is a winter walk through a soon to be developed tract of land that contains six oak species (*Quercus*), at least two hickory species (*Carya*) and the understory woody plants that thrive beneath them: understory trees like red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier*), dogwood (*Cornus florida*), umbrella magnolia (*Magnolia tripetala*), silverbell (*Halesia*), and Sassafras; and shrubs like blueberries (*Vaccinium*), azaleas (*Rhododendron*), witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), beaked hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*), mapleleaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), sweetshrub (*Calycanthus floridus*) and mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*). We'll explore both uplands and flat areas, driving between areas as terrain permits. Come explore woody plants in their winter forms, learning and talking about how to identify them at this time of year. **Registration required; email preferred.** If you have questions, please call or email me.

Directions: Meet in South Canton, Cherokee County (directions will be given on registration).

Difficulty: Easy; off trail but driving between sites.

Bring: A hand lens and woody plant identification books that you may have.

Facilities: None on site, gas station within 0.2 mile.

Leader: Ellen Honeycutt 678.576.5667 ehoneycutt@bellsouth.net

February 13-17 Everglades National Park Field Excursion (Register by January 31, 2011)

We will be taking a trip down to the Everglades National Park, probably also into Big Cypress Preserve as well as a trip down into the Keys. I have selected mid February for the trip for the following reasons:

- I have been there around this time in the past (for work and pleasure) and nice flowers are available for the viewing.
- Mid February is the dry season and winter birds (and gators!) concentrate around water areas - the birding will be spectacular.
- I remain a member of the workforce and this time fits into my projected work load after the first of the year.
- Low bug irritation quotient.

Camping is available in the park in the Long Pine Key Campground on a first-come, first-serve basis only. The Flamingo Campground allows sites reservation after November 20th, either online (<http://www.recreation.gov/>) or by calling 1-877-444-6777. Hotels/motels are available in nearby Homestead. It can get chilly down there at this time of year - I have encountered frost on previous visits.

If you might be interested, please get in touch with me via email (rich.reaves@att.net). Thanks, Rich Reeves.

Upcoming Field Trips

February 18 Saturday 12:00 noon Wolf Creek Preserve Grady County REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Description: The Wolf Creek Tract is a 140 acre preserve owned by Grady County, managed by local conservation organizations, and recognized as the greatest expanse of the trout lily (*Erythronium umbilicatum*) anywhere in the world, say the experts. We will see about 8 acres of solid trout lilies mixed in with *Trillium maculatum* and terrestrial orchids such as southern twayblade (*Listera australis*), Wister's coral root (*Corallorhiza wisteriana*) and crane fly orchid (*Tipularia discolor*). These along with other spring flowering forbs and the surrounding forest will make this northeast facing seep seem like a botanical wonderland. Additional information about the rendezvous location and a possible side trip will be given when you register.

Directions: Use any map program to navigate to the Wal-Mart parking lot on US 84 in Cairo, GA. My preferred route from the north is I-75 to south of Cordele, GA 300 through Albany to south of Pelham (Meigs). Turn right (south-west) onto GA 111 and proceed to Cairo. At the intersection of US 84, turn left (southeast) for about 2 blocks and Wal-Mart will be on your left. **Meet at Wal-Mart parking lot.** We will caravan to the site.

Walking: Easy, but site may have standing water, so bring appropriate footwear.

Bring: Water, land lens, camera, and raingear (just in case).

Facilities: None at the site.

Leader: Ed McDowell 478.396.8901 ed.mcdowell@cox.net **Registration is required, email preferred.**

March 2 Friday 2:00 to 4:00 PM Paces Mill, Chattahoochee NRA, Fulton County REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Description: We'll hike along the river, across Rottenwood Creek, and around Blood Rock Ridge in the West Palisades in search of wildlife and signs of spring. Enjoy grand views of the East Palisades, including the site of "Nancy Old Towne", a Woodland Culture Village site, and the Chattahoochee River. Returning to Rottenwood Creek we will venture a short distance on the paved multi-use trail to see trout lilies and other harbingers of spring.

Directions: From I-75 south exit 258, turn right on Cumberland Blvd and then left on Cobb Pkwy. NPS sign is on right just past BP Station. From I-75 north, Mount Paran Rd exit, turn left and then right onto Northside Dr. NPS sign will be on left just past BP Station. **Meet at the bench planter next to the restroom** in the Paces Mill Unit 3445 Cobb Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30339. See www.nps.gov/chat or call trip leader for further directions.

Difficulty: Moderate, about 2.5 miles. The first part is via a flat paved trail; the second half is a dirt trail with one large hill that we will walk slowly. You may elect to do the first part only for a walk of ~1 mile round trip.

Bring: Water. Dress for the weather, wear hiking shoes. \$3 daily entrance fee or \$25 annual pass is required.

Facilities: At Paces Mill.

Leader: Maureen Donohue 678-687-7963(C) macaire75@att.net **Limited to 25; please call 678-538-1200 to register.**

March 3 Saturday 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM Paces Mill, Chattahoochee NRA, Fulton County REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Description and Directions: Same as March 2 field trip but with different leader.

Leader: Jerry Hightower jerryhightower@hotmail.com **Limited to 25; please call 678-538-1200 to register.**

March 7 Wednesday 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM East Palisades, Chattahoochee NRA, Fulton County REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Description: We'll hike to the top of Overlook Ridge then take Cabin Creek Trail through mature oak-hickory forest, mesic ravine forest, and floodplain forest.

Directions: 1425 Indian Trail NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30327. Go south on Northside Dr; 4th street on right is Indian Trail. **Meet in the Indian Trail parking area at the bulletin board.** For more directions see www.nps.gov/chat.

Facilities: None

Difficulty: Moderately strenuous. There are several short steep accents and descents.

Bring: Water. Dress for the weather, wear hiking shoes. \$3 daily entrance fee or \$25 annual pass is required.

Leader: Jerry Hightower jerryhightower@hotmail.com **Limited to 30; please call 678-538-1200 to register.**

March 10 Saturday 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM Akers Mill, Chattahoochee NRA, Fulton County REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Description: We'll hike across Trout Lily Creek, along Rottenwood Creek to the ruins of Akers Mill, and along the river to Paces Mill. Those wishing a shorter hike can leave at Rottenwood Creek to go directly to Paces Mill (0.5 mi).

Directions: See March 2 trip for directions. **Meet at the bench planter next to the restroom** in the Paces Mill Unit to shuttle to Akers Drive. If you can help with the shuttle, please let Jerry know. Walk ends at Paces Mill.

Facilities: Restrooms are located at Paces Mill.

Difficulty: This hike will be moderately strenuous.

Bring: Water, lunch for picnic in the forest. \$3.00 daily parking fee or annual parking pass needed.

Leader: Jerry Hightower jerryhightower@hotmail.com **Please call 678-538-1200 to register.**

Upcoming Field Trips

March 17 Saturday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM East Palisades, Chattahoochee NRA, Fulton County REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Description: We'll hike through a beautiful forest along Cabin Creek and hope to see deep blue-purple hepatica, yellow flowered hastate violet, white early saxifrage, toothwort, trilliums, May apple, and more.

Directions: 1425 Indian Trail NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30327. Go south on Northside Dr; 4th street on right is Indian Trail. **Meet in the Indian Trail parking area at the bulletin board.** For more directions see www.nps.gov/chat.

Facilities: None

Difficulty: Moderately strenuous, off trail for short sections. Several short steep accents and descents.

Bring: Water, lunch for picnic in the forest. \$3.00 daily parking fee or annual parking pass needed.

Leader: Jerry Hightower jerryhightower@hotmail.com **Please call 678-538-1200 to register.**

March 17 Saturday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Kennesaw Mountain, Cobb County

Description: We should see an interesting assortment of early flowers such as bloodroot, early saxifrage and maybe an early snarkwort flower, if its been a warmish late winter. The woods in late winter-early spring have a fully open canopy and the first tentative sprouts of spring green.

Directions: Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, 900 Kennesaw Mountain Dr., Kennesaw, GA. **Meet at Visitor Center.**

Bring: Lunch to eat on the trail

Walking: 5.8 mi loop includes 1.1 mi up to summit and over the saddle to Little Kennesaw Mtn and Pigeon Hill. The trail is mostly well-graded but requires good walking ability. The return trail from Pigeon Hill is fairly flat.

Leader: Scott Ranger, 404-210-3088 (cell) scott@scottranger.com

NOTE: As of January 1, 2012, a Georgia Outdoor Recreational Pass (GORP) is required for some WMA properties, including the two trips to Pigeon Mountain WMA listed below. Funds generated from the pass will help pay for upkeep of the WMAs. A GORP may be purchased online (<http://www.georgiawildlife.com/Georgia-Outdoor-Recreational-Pass>) or from a fishing/hunting license retail agent (e.g., Wal-Mart). A 3-day GORP is \$3.50; an annual GORP is \$19. Passes are required for people ages 16-64, but not needed if you are in possession of a valid WMA License, Honorary License, Sportsmen's License, Lifetime License or Three-Day Hunting and Fishing License. Some larger groups will qualify for a Right-of-Entry agreement and be exempt from the fee. **Contact your trip leader to see if the BotSoc Pigeon Mountain trips qualify for the exemption.**

March 25 Sunday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Pocket at Pigeon Mountain WMA, Walker County REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Description: Every year we look forward to spring and a trip to Georgia's premier spot for early spring wildflowers. This area, part of the Cumberland Plateau, contains many species rare to our state: Virginia bluebells, celandine poppy, bent trillium, Ohio buckeye, twin leaf, and a huge variety of other wildflowers. Pigeon Mountain's sandstone and limestone interior is a labyrinth of subterranean passages and rooms. Above ground it is one of Georgia's scenic gems. After the Pocket, you might wish to drive to the top of the mountain for an easy hike through Rock Town, a gallery of natural works of art in the medium of lichen, moss, and textured stone and massive boulders sculpted by wind, rain, freeze and thaw over geologic time.

Directions: From I-75 exit 320, go west on GA 136, crossing US 27 onto GA 193 into downtown LaFayette. From South Main Street, follow GA 193 for 8 mi to Davis Crossroads at intersection with GA 341. Turn left on Hog Jowl Rd (sometimes unmarked but paved), go south 2.6 mi passing Mt Herman Baptist Church. At top of next hill, turn left on Pocket Rd and drive 1.2 mi to end. Parking is on left. **Meet at the Parking Lot.**

Facilities: None at site. Fast food restaurants on North Main St in LaFayette.

Walking: Moderate

Bring: GORP (see note above), lunch & water for picnic in the forest, hiking shoes.

Leader: Jerry Hightower jerryhightower@hotmail.com **Reservations are required; please call 770-206-0338.**

March 31 Saturday 10:00 AM Pocket at Pigeon Mountain WMA, Walker County

Description and Directions: Same as March 25 field trip but with different trip leader.

Walking: Short, easy around parking lot; optional moderate walk to falls and easy bushwhacking to twin leaf site.

Facilities: None at site. Fast food restaurants on North Main St in LaFayette.

Bring: GORP (see note above); lunch to eat in parking lot.

Leader: Mike Christison 770-973-6482 mikepaddler@netscape.net 770-596-3564 (Cell for day of walk; reception iffy)

New Plant Species (cont. from page 1)

Ten New Southeastern Plant Species (cont. from page 1)

Hexastylis sorriei L.L. Gaddy Aristolochiaceae (Birthwort Family)

It took L.L. Gaddy six years of observing sandhills heartleaf (*Hexastylis sorriei*) at various wet, acidic habitats along the margins of streamhead pocosins in North and South Carolina before he concluded that the populations represented a new species. The flowers of *H. sorriei* are generally smaller and have greater color variation than the flowers of *H. minor* and the leaves of *H. sorriei* display sparse to no variegation, while those of *H. minor* are densely variegated. Gaddy also believes that *H. virginica* probably does not occur in South Carolina; its herbarium specimen from Darlington County, was collected along the boggy edges of a sandhill pond and is probably *H. sorriei*. The species name honors Bruce A. Sorrie, Research Associate at the UNC-Chapel Hill Herbarium, sandhill botanist and naturalist. *Phytoneuron* 47: 1–5. 2011.

Hypericum radfordiorum Weakley ex J.R. Allison Hypericaceae (St. John's Wort Family)

In 1988, when Jim Allison first saw the Brushy Mountain St. John's-wort (*Hypericum radfordiorum*), he was unaware that earlier botanists had regarded these granite outcrop populations as distinct from *H. virgatum*. After reading about the plant in an early version of Weakley's Flora, he returned in 2003 to study the plants and in 2006 to collect herbarium samples from a granite outcrop in the Brushy Mountains in Alexander County, North Carolina (inner Piedmont). A Marie Mellinger Field Botany Grant from the Georgia Botanical Society defrayed the cost of his field studies. The species name honors North Carolina botanists Laurie and Al Radford. *Castanea* 76(1):99-115. 2011

Paronychia discoveryi DeLaney Caryophyllaceae (Pink Family)

Florida nailwort (*Paronychia discoveryi*) is endemic to six counties in central and eastern north Florida and adapted to low scrub and scrubby flatwoods habitats. *The Botanical Explorer* 4: 2010.

Phemeranthus piedmontanus S. Ware Portulacaceae (Purslane Family)

The newest, Piedmont flameflower (*Phemeranthus piedmontanus*), is found on mafic and ultramafic rock outcrops in the Piedmont of Virginia and North Carolina. It differs from *P. teretifolius* in having more stamens, stamens that are much shorter than the style, and in having a subcapitate stigma. It differs from *P. mengesii* in having fewer stamens and in being much smaller throughout. *J. Bot. Res. Inst. Texas* 5(1): 1 – 7. 2011.

Polymnia johnbeckii D. Estes Asteraceae (Aster Family)

In September 2008, a Marion County, TN population of leafcup (*Polymnia*) with extremely dissected leaves, hirsute stems and leaves, and relatively large showy flower heads was discovered growing on moderate to gentle slopes of karst limestone outcrops near a sinkhole-cave on top of prominent mossy limestone rocks. The plant had been collected twice before: once in 1994, but identified as *Polymnia canadensis* because of its pubescence and again in 2004, but identified as *P. laevigata* because of its dissected leaves. The plant is named for John Beck, a graduate student at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga who conducted a floristic inventory of Prentice Cooper State Forest and Wildlife Management Area and who made the second discovery of the plant. *Systematic Botany* (2011), 36(2): pp. 481–486.

Tephrosia mysteriosa DeLaney Fabaceae (Bean Family)

Sandhill tippitoes (*Tephrosia mysteriosa*) is a small, prostrate herb adapted to longleaf pine and turkey oak sandhills, and narrowly endemic to four counties in the Lake Wales Ridge and Mount Dora Ridge area of central Florida. *The Botanical Explorer* 4: 2010.

Mark your calendars!

May 4 - 6, 2012

43rd Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage
Clayton, Georgia

Lessons from a Native Plant Garden

LEARNING BY DOING: MY NATIVE PLANT EDUCATION

by Ellen
Honeycutt

Next month marks eleven years that I've been involved with the Georgia Native Plant Society. My first activity was a plant rescue in Cobb County. I knew nothing of native plants then except they were in need of saving. I was fortunate to attend my first rescue under the instruction of Jeane Reeves. Jeane was the founder of the rescue program and her enthusiasm knew no bounds. She was happy to teach new people about native plants and how to save them.

I still have my notes from that first rescue: I rescued a big leaf magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*), heartleaf ginger (*Hexastylis arifolia*), crane fly orchid (*Tipularia discolor*), Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) and several other things. I remember coming back home and parking my car in the driveway so that I could use the warmer space in the garage to pot things up, carefully making labels for these plants so that I could remember their names.

Of course I don't need labels for these plants now – I can recognize them all easily at 20 paces and rattle off the botanical name as fast as I can say the common names. Now it's my turn to lead folks on rescues and help them learn more

about native plants and how to save them. Jeane is gone now, but she left behind a veritable army of rescue leaders ("facilitators") in an organized program that saves thousands of plants each year in Georgia.

Three years ago I joined the Georgia Botanical Society after hearing about it from other GNPS members. Activities with GBS has helped me learn even more. A hand lens has become an invaluable tool for me now.

Eleven years of doing this and yet I still learn new things all the time. Everyone has their own learning style – learning by doing is the best way for me. If that's a style that works for you, I'd like to share some of the things that have helped me go from zero to here in the last few years.

Repeat exposure:

I have gone on dozens of plant rescues since February 2000, many of them within 50 miles of each other. Therefore, I have been seeing and rescuing some of the same plants over and over. Doing so has allowed me to see the plants in all different stages of growth, from early spring emergence to the withered foliage and bare twigs of dormancy.

Using my own plants to learn:

Identifying a plant in the winter forces you to look at different characteristics like the bark, the twigs, and the leaf buds. I use the plants that I already know in my own yard for study in the winter so that I can recognize them elsewhere. For example, I photographed a mapleleaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*) in my yard after someone asked how they could distinguish a bloom bud from a leaf bud. I photographed an azalea (*Rhododendron* sp.) bud so that I could associate it with the bloom appearance – in hopes of recognizing a particular azalea species by the appearance of the winter buds.

Looking up things I don't know:

When I'm introduced to a new plant, I often take that as an opportunity to learn more about it. I have a bookshelf of plant reference books that I use, and I also use the internet (use the scientific name if possible when searching). I might also ask more knowledgeable folks if I cannot find enough



Identifying a plant like mapleleaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*) in the winter forces you to look at characteristics like the leaf bud (left) and bloom bud (right) in this photo. Use the plants that you know from your own yard for study in the winter so that you can recognize them elsewhere.

Lessons from a Native Plant Garden



Learn to associate the winter flower buds of an azalea (*Rhododendron* sp.) with its bloom appearance – in hopes of recognizing a particular azalea species before it blooms.

information. If I don't know the name of the plant, then I try to use plant keys to identify it.

Workshops, field trips:

I have attended workshops and field trips with both the Georgia Botanical Society and the Georgia Native Plant Society. Often these trips are available for very little cost if any at all. I have taken both the aster and the oak workshops offered by GBS as well as Twig Identification and Propagation workshops with GNPS. Field trips offer trips to interesting places and are guided by experienced botanists, naturalists and trip leaders.

Taking pictures of plants:

I find that I notice more details when I am taking pictures of plants. Until I took pictures of it, I did not notice the way the leaves of late purple aster (*Symphyotrichum patens*) were sessile, clasping, and auriculate. I'll have an easier time distinguishing it from other asters now in the field.

Growing them:

In spring I find seedlings in my yard, and I let them grow until I can identify them. When I watch plants grow up, I learn to recognize them when they are young. In the summer, I see the variations in the leaves and the blooms. In the fall, I learn how to harvest seed and what kind of fall color I might expect. In the winter, I learn what the leaf buds look like. Each season brings new surprises and variations.

That's how I've spent the last eleven years. I look forward to learning more each year, making new friends and meeting new plants along the way.



You may notice more details if you take pictures of the plants you are trying to learn. The sessile, clasping, and auriculate leaves of late purple aster (*Symphyotrichum patens*) evident in this photo are characteristics that help distinguish it from other asters.

Ellen Honeycutt is past president of the Georgia Native Plant Society. She also writes a seasonal blog about native plants in her garden - one post per week for the last 52 weeks! This article and the accompanying photographs are excerpted from her post on January 16, 2011 at <http://usinggeorgianativeplants.blogspot.com/>.

Society Contacts

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE GEORGIA BOTANICAL SOCIETY.

Memberships are effective for one calendar year, January 1st to December 31st. A renewal form was inserted in the print version of the November newsletter. (If the form was missing, please call or email Jean Smith at 706-783-2308 or jss2holly@windstream.net.) Members receiving the electronic version of the newsletter can download a renewal form from our website (gabotsoc.org).

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