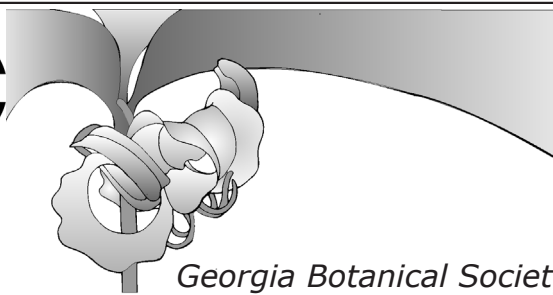


# BotSoc News



Georgia Botanical Society

Volume 87  
Number 2  
March  
2012

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS MARCH 17 - APRIL 29, 2012

### 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 snorklewort 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 Mtn National Battlefield Park, 900 Kennesaw Mtn 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 (C) scott@scotranger.com

### March 17 Saturday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM East Palisades, Chattahoochee NRA, Cobb 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; 4<sup>th</sup> street on right is Indian Trail. For more directions see [www.nps.gov/chat](http://www.nps.gov/chat). **Meet in the Indian Trail parking area at the bulletin board.**

**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](mailto:jerryhightower@hotmail.com) **Please call 678-538-1200 to register.**

**NOTE:** A Georgia Outdoor Recreational Pass (GORP) is required for people ages 16-64 on some WMA properties. Passes may be purchased online (<http://www.georgiawildlife.com/Georgia-Outdoor-Recreational-Pass>) or from a fishing/hunting license retail agent (e.g., Wal-Mart). **Contact your trip leader to see if the trips to Pigeon Mountain WMA in late March require GORPs.**

### 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 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. Afterwards, you can drive to the top of the mountain for an easy hike through Rock Town: 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](mailto: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 and no registration.

**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](mailto:mikepaddler@netscape.net) 770-596-3564 (Cell for day of walk; reception iffy)

## Upcoming Field Trips

### April 1 Sunday 10:00 AM Davidson-Arabia Mtn, DeKalb County REGISTRATION REQUIRED LIMITED TO 25 PARTICIPANTS

**Description:** This National Natural Heritage Area has extraordinary solution pools created by the forces of wind, rain, and ice over geologic time. These amazing gardens contain very rare plants and even wildlife. Although similar in appearance to Panola and Stone Mountains, Davidson- Arabia is different geologically than its neighbors to the west. Expect to see beautiful wildflowers, salamanders, possibly a hawk or two, and this terrific monadnock of migmatite.

**Directions:** 3787 Klondike Road; Lithonia, Georgia, 30038. **Meet at Visitor Center.**

**Walking:** Moderately strenuous with some steep sections.

**Facilities:** Located in the Center.

**Bring:** Water. Dress for the weather, wear hiking shoes.

**Leader:** Jerry Hightower jerryhightower@hotmail.com **Reservations are required by calling 770-845-7997.**

### April 6 Friday 1:00 to 4:00 PM Cochran Shoals, Chattahoochee NRA, Cobb County

**Description:** We'll use the Gumby Creek riverside trail until we reach the boardwalk over the wetlands. Here we'll enter another world populated by southern nodding trillium (*Trillium rugelii*), toadshade trillium (*T. cuneatum*), foam flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), hepatica (*Hepatica americana*) and many other spring wildflowers.

**Directions:** 2080 Interstate North Pkwy NW, Marietta, GA 30339. If traveling east on I-285, take exit 22 Northside Dr and use "through" lane to pick up Interstate North Pkwy. If traveling west on I-285, take exit 22 and turn right to follow directions above. See [www.nps.gov/chat](http://www.nps.gov/chat) or call trip leader for further directions. **Meet at parking area.**

**Difficulty:** Mostly flat terrain with a few hills, ~3-3.5 mi.

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

**Facilities:** Restrooms in parking area. A few picnic tables if you wish to eat lunch on your own before the walk.

**Leader:** Maureen Donohue 678-687-7963(C) macaire75@att.net

### April 7 Saturday 10:00 AM Sosebee Cove *Ranunculus ficaria* Pull, Dawson County REGISTRATION REQUIRED

**Description:** We'll assist the US Forest Service in maintaining Sosebee Cove's flora by removing and disposing of all observable plants of exotic *Ranunculus ficaria* in garbage bags (that I will provide) for proper disposal/destruction. If desired, after the work is done, we'll have lunch and stroll Sosebee Cove for the native wildflowers we just helped along.

**Directions:** Proceed north from Dahlonega on US 19 to turn left on GA 60 to Suches. At Suches, turn right on Hwy 180 and continue to **meet group at Sosebee Cove** in Chattahoochee National Forest (carpools recommended; parking is limited.)

**Difficulty:** Easy walking on good trails to reach the nasty weed, post work party walk will be on the same trails. Considerable kneeling/bending to remove the nasty little bugger – it is short in stature, but prolific and persistent.

**Bring:** Gloves, appropriate footwear, water, snacks, lunch (if you wish to stick around for the post-work walk. Recommend wearing clothes you do not mind getting muddy – some of the plants to be removed grow along/within the stream and liquid dirt is a strong favorite to make an appearance.

**Facilities:** None at site.

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

### April 14 Saturday 9:30 AM Amicalola Falls State Park, Dawson County Note early start time!

**Description:** We'll make a loop up the trail to the top of the falls (hoping to spy the sweet pinesap (*Monotropsis odorata*), but the bulk of the flowers will be as we descend the falls and along the trail at the bottom of the falls: trilliums, toothworts, bloodroot, green violets, trout lilies, and more. This is one of the busiest State Parks relative to available parking. Carpooling is encouraged and is the reason for the early start time.

**Directions:** There are literally a myriad of ways to get to this park. Easiest route from Atlanta is GA 400 to GA 53, then west (left) on GA 53 through Dawsonville to GA 183 at Juno. Then, northwest (right) on GA 183 to GA 52 and east (right) on GA 52 to the park. Alternately - north on 575-515 to Hwy 53 at Tate. East on 53 to Juno and then as above to the park. **Meet at the Visitor's Center parking area.**

**Bring:** \$5 or annual park pass, lunch to eat at park.

**Facilities:** Yes

**Difficulty:** Moderately strenuous uphill all the way to the top of the falls. Knee-aching stair descent and steep paved trail at the bottom of the falls.

**Leader:** Rich Reaves 770.827.5186 rich.reaves@att.net

## Upcoming Field Trips

**April 14 Saturday 1:30 to 4:30 PM Sope Creek, Chattahoochee NRA, Cobb County REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**Description:** We'll walk through a beautiful hardwood forest amidst ferns, flowering shrubs, and wildflowers and learn facts and a fable or two about Native American and Colonial uses of native plants. We'll imagine this area as farm fields instead of forest as we walk along the traces of nineteenth century farm roads and look for paw prints of the many species of wildlife that thrive here. Perhaps we'll see a salamander or two from the tiny tributaries.

**Directions:** 3670 Paper Mill Road, Marietta, Georgia 30067. **Meet at parking area bulletin board.** For directions see [www.nps.gov/chat](http://www.nps.gov/chat).

**Facilities:** None.

**Walking:** Moderate with a bit of off trail meandering included.

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

**Leader:** Jerry Hightower 770.206.0338 (C) 678.538.1245, office [jerry\\_hightower@nps.gov](mailto:jerry_hightower@nps.gov)  
Limited to 25 participants. **Reservations are required;** please call 678.538.1200.

**April 18 Wednesday 1:00 to 4:30 PM Sope Creek, Chattahoochee NRA, Cobb County REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**Description and Directions:** Same as April 14. 25 participants. Please call 678.538.1200 for reservations.

**Leader:** Jerry Hightower 770.206.0338 (C) 678.538.1245, office; or [jerry\\_hightower@nps.gov](mailto:jerry_hightower@nps.gov)

**Atlanta Botanical Garden Field Trip will be held on Saturday, May 19.**

**April 21 Saturday 10:00 AM Ramp Cove, Rabun County**

**Description:** We'll hike up 1,800 ft elevation starting along beautiful north-flowing Stroud Creek and onto Kelly Ridge at 4,000 ft elevation. Expect leatherwood, large black birches, showy orchis, sugar maple, yellowwood and a noticable cucumbertree. Descend into a high-elevation cove with ramps emerging underneath huge yellow buckeyes with acres of squirrel corn, trilliums, Dutchman's britches, and Carolina spring beauty.

**Directions:** We will **meet at Ingles in Hiawassee** to carpool ~5 mi to the trailhead where parking is very limited. US Hwy 76 / GA Hwy 75 runs through Hiawassee with 2 traffic signals. From either direction, Ingles is on the north past the 1<sup>st</sup> traffic signal.

**Bring:** Lunch and drink to eat on the trail. Wear sturdy footwear, bring rain protection.

**Facilities:** None.

**Walking:** Strenuous, ~6 mi loop bushwhack with 1,800 ft elevation difference between lowest and highest points on hike. No maintained trails; stream crossings, briers, etc.

**Leader:** Ben Cash 706.778.5155 [bencash@hemc.net](mailto:bencash@hemc.net) 706.968.3841 cell for day of hike, but service iffy.

**April 22 Sunday 10:00 AM Chicamauga Cedar Glades, Catoosa County**

**Description:** Spring is a great time to visit Chickamauga National Battlefield Park, one of the nation's largest and best preserved Civil War sites, and also home to Cedar Glades, one of Georgia's rarest habitats. Here, the thin layer of soil covering a limestone bedrock restricts trees to red cedars growing at the edge of the glades and in cracks between the rocks. The wildflowers, while generally not numerous, include some found nowhere else in Georgia. We will explore a few of the two dozen glades in the park and look for some of the rare wildflowers found there, such as Nashville breadroot (*Pedimelum subacaule*), least glade cress (*Leavenworthia exigua* var. *exigua*), and *Plantago cordata*. Afterwards, some of us may wish to take a short drive up Lookout Mountain to see if a rare orchid is blooming early.

**Directions:** From I-75 exit 350, take Battlefield Parkway (GA 2) west for 7 mi to Fort Oglethorpe. Turn left at the intersection to go 1 mi on Lafayette Rd (US 27 south) to the park entrance. **Meet at visitor center on the right.** GPS address: 3370 LaFayette Road, Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742.

**Bring:** Lunch to eat in the park. Pick up the excellent park trail map in the office upon arriving in the park, if desired.

**Leaders:** Mike Christison 770.973.6482 [mikepaddler@aol.com](mailto:mikepaddler@aol.com) 770.596.3564(C), day of hike  
Richard Ware 706.232.3435 [gabotany@comcast.net](mailto:gabotany@comcast.net) 706.766.5143(C), day of hike

## Upcoming Field Trips

### April 25 Wednesday 1:00 to 4:30 PM Sope Creek, Chattahoochee NRA, Cobb County REGISTRATION REQUIRED

**Description and Directions:** Same as April 14 fieldtrip. **Meet at parking area bulletin board.** Limited to 25 participants. **Reservations are required;** please call 678-538-1200.

**Facilities:** None.

**Walking:** Moderate with a bit of off trail meandering included.

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

**Leader:** Jerry Hightower 770.206.0338 (C) 678.538.1245, office jerry\_hightower@nps.gov

### April 28 Saturday 10:00 AM Meredith Woodlands Flame Azalea Garden, Hall County

**Description:** This northern Hall County woodlands is probably the most southern location for *Rhododendron calendulaeum*, of which there are ~200 on the 13 acres. The owner is lovingly restoring this property and it is an amazing display of the flame azalea in every shade imaginable. Other native azalea species on the property are *R. canescens* and *R. arborescens*. One native azalea grower believes there is a least one plant of *R. periclymenoides* near the stream. In addition, the owner of the property has added ~100 deciduous azalea species and hybrids. The azaleas are the stars for this field trip, but there are a number of shrubby natives keeping them company, such as mapleleaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerfolium*) and dwarf pawpaw (*Asimina parviflora*). And of course, as you would expect in a woodland, lots of ferns and forbs are underfoot. This fieldtrip will allow visitors to see a large quantity and a wide variety of native azaleas and hybrids as well as some other interesting plants, native and non native.

**Directions:** 5848 Henson Road, Gainesville, GA 30506. The property is 1 mi east of GA 129 on GA 52. The junction of GA 129/52 is known as Quillians Corner. Go 1 mi east of Quillians Corner on GA 52 to turn south on Fields Road. Then, go 100 yards to turn right on Henson Rd. Look for a large sign with the numbers 5848, ~0.5 mi on Henson Rd. Turn right at the sign and up a small incline into a vacant lot. **Meet on site.**

**Facilities:** Portable toilet on site.

**Difficulty:** Enjoy a beautiful and easy hike on established trails.

**Bring:** The owner and host will treat visitors to snacks and drinks. Bring water for hike, if you like.

**Leaders:** Ted Meredith tedmeredith@yahoo.com 770.983.5800 & Eddi Minche eddmin@gmail.com 678.313.2582

### April 29 Sunday 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM East Palisades, Chattahoochee NRA, Fulton County REGISTRATION REQUIRED

**Description:** We'll look at spring wildflowers as we hike to the top of Overlook Ridge for the grand view above Devil's Race Course Shoals. We will then take Cabin Creek Trail past Civil War gun emplacements through a beautiful forest along Cabin Creek. We will travel above rock cliffs, through mature oak-hickory forest, mesic ravine forest, and floodplain forest. Our hike will take us over and past extraordinary rock outcrops and formations influenced by the Brevard Fault, which runs through the East Palisades Unit.

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

**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.**

### April 29 Sunday 10:00 AM Appalachian Trail, Fannin County REGISTRATION REQUIRED

**Description:** Come explore wildflowers on the Appalachian Trail (AT) from the Springer Mt parking area to Stover Creek Shelter where we will have lunch. We'll see pink ladies slippers, great white trillium (*Trillium grandiflora*), hundreds of crested iris (*Iris cristata*) and an undetermined lily as well as many other spring wildflowers. This section of the trail has hemlock, rhododendron, witch hazel, and small American chestnut trees. We will return via the Benton MacKaye trail to Springer Mt and take the AT back to the parking area. On the way home we'll look for the Amicolola trillium along a nearby road.

**Directions:** Provided upon registration; limited to 16 participants.

**Facilities:** Privy at Stover Creek Shelter. Facilities in East Ellijay and at Amicolola State Park.

**Difficulty:** Moderate for the Stover Creek round trip (3mi); moderate/strenuous with extension to Springer Mt (~5mi).

**Bring:** Pack lunch to carry, water, hand lens, camera and walking sticks. Dress in layers as we will be at ~3000 ft and it can be windy even on a lovely spring day.

**Leader:** Maureen Donohue macaire75@att.net 678 687-7963