
BotSoc News



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UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS JANUARY 19—MARCH 31, 2013

January 19 Saturday 10:00 am, Big Trees Preserve, Fulton County

Description: Enjoy a stroll along well-defined paths as we identify woody plants like shrubs and trees using their winter characteristics (twigs, buds, old leaves, bark).

Directions: 7645 Roswell Road, Sandy Springs, GA 30350 (<http://www.bigtreesforest.com>)

Bring: Tree and shrub identification references, water, dress for the weather.

Facilities: None on site, but plenty of fast food places nearby

Leader: Ellen Honeycutt 678-576-5667 (C), ehoneycutt@bellsouth.net

January 26 Saturday 10:00 am, Wonders of the Pacific Northwest: The Natural History of Southeast Alaska, Cobb County

Description: From the wonders of the Pacific Northwest temperate rainforest to the richness of the Alexander Archipelago's water that brings hundreds of Humpback Whales to feed on the abundant krill and herring that thrive in the nutrient-rich water and 20+ hours of light in the summer to the geology of the Cordilleran Mountains, Scott will present a visual extravaganza of the natural history of southeast Alaska.

Location: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2922 Sandy Plains Road, Marietta, GA 30066

Directions: From I-75 take exit Exit 267, GA 5 (A from the north, B from the south) onto the Canton Road Connector northbound (not towards downtown Marietta). Go 0.9 miles to the first traffic light and turn RIGHT onto Sandy Plains Road. Continue 3.4 miles. You will pass through 4 traffic lights, passing Sprayberry High School on the left, and continue through shopping areas until you see the brick US Post Office building on the right. The church will be on the right with two entrances, the second at a traffic light. Parking is available on both sides. Our program will take place in "the Upper Room" in the rear building of the church complex. Enter through the breezeway between the buildings. There is a stairs and an elevator to the Upper Room and signs will be posted.

Contact: Scott Ranger scott@scottranger.com

Upcoming Field Trips

February 9 Saturday 12:00 pm Wolf Creek Preserve, Grady County

Description: The Wolf Creek Tract is a 140 acre preserve owned by Grady County, managed by local conservation organizations, and is recognized as the greatest expanse of *Erythronium umbilicatum* anywhere in the world, say the experts. We will see about 4 acres of solid trout lilies. Mixed in with the masses of trout lilies, we will see *Trillium maculatum*, terrestrial orchids - *Listera australis* (southern twayblade), *Corallorhiza wisteriana* (Wister's coral root), and *Tipularia discolor* (crane fly orchid). These along with other spring flowering forbs and the surrounding forest will make this northeast facing seep seem like a botanical wonderland.

Directions: Use any map program and navigate to the Wal-Mart parking lot on US84 in Cairo, Ga. My preferred route from the north is I75 to south of Cordele, Ga300 through Albany to south of Pelham (Meigs). Turn right (southwest) onto Ga111 and proceed to Cairo. At the intersection of US84, turn left (southeast) for about 2 blocks and Wal-Mart will be on your left. We will caravan from the parking lot to the site. There are no facilities at the site. The site will be damp with maybe standing water in a few places so bring appropriate shoes.

Bring: water, land lens, camera, and raingear (just in case). Walking is easy.

Leaders: Beth Grant and Ed McDowell (478.396.8901). If you have questions, please call or email either: bethgrant@bellsouth.net or ed.mcdowell@cox.net.

February 16 Saturday 10:00 am Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas County

Description: we will investigate the lichens of Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas County, concentrating on teaching participants to identify common lichens on bark, soil and rock. We will study foliose and fruticose lichens, and will also point out the obvious crustose lichens. We will also discuss the roles lichens play in forest ecology. This is an easy and slow hike.

Directions: Sweetwater Creek is west of Atlanta and south of I -20. Take I-20 west of the I-285 perimeter, and take exit 41 (Lithia Springs). Follow the signs to Sweetwater Creek State Park. Meet at: The park headquarters/visitors center.

Facilities: yes

Bring: lunch, snacks, and water. Remember to dress for the weather and wear comfortable hiking shoes. Dress in layers so that you can adjust to changes in temperature and your activity level. Hand lenses are a must; we will have a few to share. You may also wish to have a notebook and camera.

Leaders: Malcolm Hodges, cell 770-776-9194, mhodges@tnc.org; Sean Beeching, ssqbb@aol.com.

Upcoming Field Trips

March 2 Saturday, 9:00 am Chattahoochee River NRA – Powers Island, Cochran Shoals & Paces Mill Units -Gumby & Rottenwood Creek Trails, Fulton & Cobb Counties

Description: We'll use the busy riverside trail to reach the Wildlife Viewing boardwalk over the wetlands. Here we'll enter another world with toadshade trillium (*T. cuneatum*), foam flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), Hepatica (*Hepatica americana*) and many other spring wildflowers. Then we'll drive 5 minutes to the Paces Mill Unit and see thousands of trout lilies (*Erythronium umbilicatum*) covering hillsides on both sides of Rottenwood Creek. There is also the option of seeing bay star vine (*Schisandra glabra*) and the ruins of Akers Mill by walking a mile on a somewhat steep trail.

Directions: Our trip starts at Cochran Shoals, but we will meet across the river at the Powers Island parking lot and simply walk across the footbridge. The meeting point is off Interstate North Parkway, near Exit 22 on I-285. See www.nps.gov/chat for complete directions to **Powers Island** or contact leader.

Walking: Mostly flat terrain with a few short hills, 3-3.5 miles. Last mile is on a flat paved trail at Paces Mill. Add 1 more mile to see the Bay star vine .

Facilities: Restrooms in parking areas. Lunch near cars at picnic area.

Bring: \$3.00 parking fee or annual pass. Water. Lunch, camera, hand lens, field guide, notepad, binoculars optional. Walking poles advisable for Akers Mill ruins option.

Leader: Maureen Donohue. Email: macaire75@att.net or 678 687-7963-cell

March 3 Sunday, 1:00 pm Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Cobb County

Description: We'll hike up the Mountain Trail, head across to Little Kennesaw Mountain, down to Pigeon Hill and back to the visitor center via the CCC camp trail. The trip will be a 'natural history' walk dealing with fungi, lichens, plants, animals, geology and human history of the area. There could be some early flowering plants up such as bloodroot and hepatica.

We should return to the visitor center about 4:00 p.m. For those interested, we'll have dinner at Rancho Grande Mexican restaurant just around the corner from the park. The total length of the hike will be 5 miles and should be considered moderately strenuous.

Directions: Meet at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park visitor center.

Bring: Good walking shoes, water.

Facilities: At the visitor's center.

Leader: Scott Ranger, scott@scottranger.com

Upcoming Field Trips

A look ahead at field trips coming up—check the website or the next newsletter for more details.

Note: A Georgia Outdoor Recreational Pass (GORP) is required for people ages 16-64 on some WMA properties. Contact your trip leader if you are unsure if one is required.

Passes may be purchased online (<http://www.georgiawildlife.com/licenses-permits-passes#GORP>) and from a fishing/hunting licensed retailer.

March 9 Saturday, Broad River WMA, Elbert County

Description: Spring wildflowers.

Leader: Hugh Nourse, Jean Smith

March 16 Saturday, Devil's Fork and Oconee Station State Park, Oconee, SC

Description: Shortia, spotted trillium

Leader: Walt Cook

March 23 Saturday, Cloudland Canyon State Park, Dade County

Description: Trout lilies, decumbent trillium, Harbinger-of-spring, toothworts, and other spring wildflowers. Also included Sittons Gulch Trail and the flats at bottom of the Canyon.

Leader: Rich Reaves, rich.reaves@att.net

March 24 Sunday, Pocket of Pigeon Mountain (WMA), Walker County

Description: Exceptional spring wildflower display. Limited to 25 people, registration required.

Leader: Jerry Hightower, jerryhightower@hotmail.com

March 30 Saturday, Pocket of Pigeon Mountain (WMA), Walker County

Description: Exceptional spring wildflower display.

Leader: Mike Christison, mikepaddler@netscape.net

March 31 Sunday, Monticello Glades, Oconee National Forest, Jasper County

Description: Exceptional spring wildflower display.

Leader: Sabrina Sewell, Walt Cook