



## Red Jute

Text and photos by Celeste Ray

Like all good detective stories, this one started innocently enough then moved on to have surprising plot developments and unforeseen connections. On September 1, 2012, fellow BotSoc member Susan Yarborough and I were out for our usual walk along the Greenway, a paved public walking and biking path along the bank of the Savannah River in North Augusta, South Carolina.

Because the opposite riverbank is in Georgia, the distinction between Georgia and South Carolina is rather arbitrary here, especially to the local flora. As we were walking, I looked down and saw a plant with a small, bright yellow flower growing right at the edge of the pavement. I took some pictures and collected a sample. The plant evaded all my attempts to identify it, so I called for backup.

I sent some pictures of the plant to Jim Drake who also had trouble identifying it. Jim then contacted Rich Reaves and Richard Ware. Richard did not recognize the plant either and forwarded the pictures to several of his botanical contacts. Tom Patrick was the first to suggest that the plant was “a mallow of some sort--*Triumfetta* or *Corchorus*.” Wayne Webb identified the plant as a species of *Corchorus*, and Brian Keener in Alabama identified it as *Corchorus hirtus* L. (Orinoco jute).

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, Jim Drake visited and we collected some samples for the University of South Carolina and University of North Carolina Herbaria. John Nelson, curator of the USC Herbarium, identified the plant as *Corchorus orinocensis* Kunth (red jute) in the family Tiliaceae. According to Hinsley (2008), *C. orinocensis* Kunth and *C. hirtus* L. are synonymous.

The genus *Corchorus*, commonly called jute, contains roughly 100 tropical and subtropical species found in Africa, Latin America, Australia, and Asia.



*Corchorus orinocensis*, mature fruits

### IN THIS ISSUE:

*President's  
Perspective* -

p2

*Upcoming  
Field Trips* -

p6

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## President's Perspective

We are very fortunate to not only live in the largest state east of the Mississippi River, but to live in a state with such a rich diversity of plants and plant communities. Each region offers a wealth of opportunities for exploration and discovery. We are also very fortunate to have a botanical society with a rich legacy that, through its field trip offerings, also offers a wealth of opportunities for exploration and discovery. BotSoc affords interested individuals wonderful learning experiences with workshops and outings. I have been most fortunate to have discovered the Georgia Botanical Society almost forty years ago. I will always remember my first field trip and asking Marie Mellinger, "tell me this plant's name again" for the third time. She most kindly told me yet again that it was *Trillium grandiflorum*; probably wondering who this young dummy was. I learned quite a bit on that first outing.

I now find myself, a bit to my amazement, with the honor of serving as president. And for me, it is indeed a honor. As such I would like to put forth a challenge to each member of the Georgia Botanical Society. Let us see if we can each recruit one new member before our next annual meeting. In fact let's see if we can show a fifty percent increase in membership by the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in Augusta. BotSoc is an extraordinary organization with very fantastic folks who love to share their knowledge with others. Let's do everything we can to ensure that more people across all of our regions learn about the Georgia Botanical Society. Let's keep the legacy going strong throughout the twenty-first century.

*Jerry Hightower*

## **Annual Pilgrimage**

# 44TH ANNUAL SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE APRIL 5-7, 2013

AUGUSTA, RICHMOND COUNTY, GEORGIA  
AND ADJACENT AREAS IN GA & SC

Augusta, our host city, is along the Savannah River and on the Fall Line that cuts across Georgia from Columbus in the West, through Macon and on to Augusta. From Augusta look north and east to the Piedmont, west and south to the Sandhills to see typical natural communities that are influenced by the soils, geology and climate features of these areas.

The Quality Inn & Suites in Augusta is our headquarters for the 2013 pilgrimage. From this location between the Piedmont and the Coastal Plain, we will journey to granite outcrops, Carolina bays, and a longleaf pine – scrub oak preserve in a sand hills ecosystem.

Our evening programs are meant to help you understand the diverse habitats we'll see on field trips. Be sure to attend both evenings. We have two speakers on Friday evening and one on Saturday. Our Friday night program opens with a look at the Atlanta Botanical Garden's conservation programs to protect and restore the habitat of threatened plant communities throughout the southeast. Then we'll learn about the natural communities of Georgia and DNR programs and work they are doing in the area of invasive species.

The evening will end with a book sale and signing for *The Natural Communities of Georgia* by Leslie Edwards, L.Kay Kirkman and Jon Ambrose with photography by Carol and Hugh Nourse, published by the University of Georgia Press.

Please register by Friday, March 8, 2013. Full brochure and registration form is available on the website: [http://www.gabotsoc.org/?page\\_id=23](http://www.gabotsoc.org/?page_id=23)

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## Red Jute (continued from page 1)

The primary center of origin for *Corchorus* is thought to be Africa, with Australia being identified as a secondary center (Sinha *et al.* 2011). *C. orinocensis* is a native of Latin America from Peru to northern Mexico. In the United States, it has been found in Arizona, Texas, Florida, and Alabama. The plants from the North Augusta Greenway are not only the first *C. orinocensis* documented in South Carolina, but are also the first *Corchorus* of any species found in the state. Although most *Corchorus* species, including *C. orinocensis*, are herbaceous weeds, two economically important species, *C. capsularis* and *C. olitorius*, have been cultivated in Africa and Asia for centuries.

These two species are used for both food and fiber. Jute fiber is the cheapest and second most important vegetable fiber after cotton in terms of global production, consumption, and availability (Sinha *et al.* 2011).

In parts of the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, *Corchorus* leaves are consumed as vegetables. The leaves are rich in protein, beta-carotene, iron, calcium, and vitamins B and C. They have also been shown to have antioxidant activity (Sinha *et al.* 2011). Jute leaves are also used as thickeners for soups, stews, and sauces. The consistency of sauces made with jute leaves is said to be somewhat slimy, like okra, and a common name for *C. olitorius* is “bush okra.”

The family placement of *Corchorus* is still a matter of controversy. The family Tiliaceae was established by A.L. de Jussie in 1789 based on stamen and fruit morphologies (Colmenero-Robles *et al.* 2010). *Corchorus* was included in this family, and was still included in the Tiliaceae in the 1981 classification system of Cronquist. In the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, botanists began using molecular genetic techniques to describe phylogenetic relationships between different plant groups. Based on the DNA sequences of the plastid genes *atpB* and *rbcl*, Bayer *et al.* (1999) expanded the Malvaceae to include the formerly separate families Bombacaceae, Sterculiaceae, and Tiliaceae. This expanded view of the Malvaceae was accepted by the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group II classification system published in 2003.

Although supported by DNA studies, this expansion of Malvaceae has yet to be fully supported by morphological studies (Forest and Chase 2009). For this reason, some botanists continue to follow Cronquist's system and place *Corchorus* in Tiliaceae, while others, using the APG II system place it in Malvaceae. In botanical literature, the terms Malvaceae *sensu lato* (Latin for “in the broad sense”) and Malvaceae *sensu APG* are sometimes used to indicate the expanded family described in the APG II system. The terms Malvaceae *sensu stricto* and Malvaceae *sensu Cronquist* indicate the narrower definition of Malvaceae as described by Cronquist.



*C. orinocensis* Flower and Immature Fruit.

## A Rare Southeastern Plant

What started as a walk in the park on September 1<sup>st</sup> led to the making of several new botanical friends and the first documentation of *C. orinocensis* in South Carolina. The fate of the plants found along the Greenway is problematic. Two other small *C. orinocensis* populations were found near the original one, but these areas are subject to occasional mowing. Several plants showed signs of having been previously cut, and by late October 2012, all the populations had been mowed. The plants produced many seeds, so hopefully there will be more plants in the same areas next year.

Recently, a plan was unveiled to build a baseball stadium, hotel, and conference center where the *C. orinocensis* populations were found (McCord 2012). If this project is completed, the populations unfortunately will be destroyed.



*C. orinocensis* Flower. The inflorescence has five rounded petals and five, slightly longer pointed sepals.

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## Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
Mar 9 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	<p><b>Broad River Walk, Madison County</b></p> <p>We will walk 1 – 2 miles on private land fronting the Broad River. The river takes a big bend here and exposure and habitat change rapidly over short distances. Although this is an exploratory trip, we expect to see many of the plants we saw in 2008 when we hiked across the river at the Broad River Natural Area. Mountain laurel (<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>) and Christmas fern (<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>) are abundant here.</p> <p>The hillsides are strewn with large boulders where we should find bloodroot (<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>), liverleaf (<i>Anemone americana</i>), and star chickweed (<i>Stellaria pubera</i>), and a small spring-fed bog could yield some interesting finds. After lunch we can visit the Broad River Natural Area if you wish.</p> <p><b>NOTE: Pre-registration required and participation is limited to 12 cars; carpooling is encouraged; register by calling Jean Smith at 706-340-3187</b></p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> Meet at large parking lot across Hwy 29 from courthouse in Danielsville to caravan to site.</p> <p><b>From Athens:</b> Travel north on US Hwy 29 to Danielsville. Go around the traffic circle at the courthouse to park in the large parking lot on the left (across from Subway).</p> <p><b>From Atlanta:</b> Take I-85 north approx 50 miles to US Hwy 441 (Banks Crossing Outlet exit). Take US 441 south toward Athens approx 4 miles, then turn left (east) on GA Hwy 98 toward Danielsville. At intersection (traffic light) of GA 98 and US 29 in Danielsville, turn right (south) on US 29 to park in the parking lot on the right near the courthouse.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Easy 1 - 2 miles along well-maintained trail; gradual downhill slope to river, then flat along river. Short climbs to explore boulders, if desired.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> None. Fast-food restaurants in Danielsville; BRWA office will be open.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Comfortable walking shoes. Dress for the weather. Water and snacks. We will return to Danielsville for Chinese food after.</p>	Jean Smith jss2holly@windstream.net 706-340-3187 (cell) Hugh and Carol Nourse hughandcarol@att.net 706-353-8222 706-340-1765 (cell, day of trip)
Mar 16 10:00 am	<p><b>Oconee Bells and Pygmy Pipes Devils Fork State Park, South Carolina</b></p> <p>See the rare Oconee bells (<i>Shortia galacifolia</i>) almost without leaving your car. Oconee bells was once more common, but Lake Jocassee covered most of its population. Follow an easy, short trail along a branch within 100 feet of the parking lot. The “Bells” are common along the trail and stream. Another rare plant, sweet pinesap (<i>Monotropsis odorata</i>), has been found along the same short trail. Unless you have an acute sense of smell, or a really good eye, however, you may never find it; it is tiny and it blends perfectly with the leaf litter.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> If time and interest allow, on the return trip we can also visit the Station Cove Falls Trail.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> Take I-85 north to the first exit in South Carolina, SC 11. Go north past Walhalla. After passing SC130, watch for the sign to Lake Jocassee and Devils Fork State Park. Enter the Park (fee req'd), park, and meet at the east end of the parking lot.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> If you cross Lake Keowee, you have missed the turn; go back and look for the turn.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Very short, easy trail.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> The Park also has restrooms.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Park entrance fee. Lunch, water, snacks. Dress for the weather and wear hiking shoes. Dress in layers so that you can adjust to changes in the temperature and your activity level. You may wish to bring binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera.</p>	Walt Cook WalterLCook@att.net

## Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
Mar 23 10:00 am	<p><b>Cloudland Canyon State Park</b></p> <p>As a prelude to a later walk in the spring, we will visit the mouth of Cloudland Canyon to enjoy the really early flowers. We will walk the trail up into the canyon and loop back to the parking area. Then we will walk down to the cave near the parking area. The grade is gentle unless you walk to the upper cave entrance, but all trails in the lower canyon are very rocky. This area is one of Georgia's botanical wonders and we should enjoy decumbent trillium (<i>Trillium decumbens</i>), three species of toothwort: cut-leaf (<i>Cardamine concatenata</i>), eastern slender toothwort (<i>C. angustata</i>), and dissected (<i>C. dissecta</i>), harbinger-of-spring (<i>Erigenia bulbosa</i>), green violet (<i>Hybanthus concolor</i>), and others. Larkspur (<i>Delphinium tricorne</i>) and toadshade trillium (<i>Trillium cuneatum</i>) may be out – but likely those two will wait until the subsequent trip to provide a display. We also will see trout lilies in fine bloom if the sun cooperates and hope to definitively ascertain whether they are <i>Erythronium americanum</i> ssp. <i>harperi</i> (which occurs at Pigeon Mountain) or <i>E. umbilicatum</i> ssp. <i>umbilicatum</i>.</p> <p>At the end of the day, for those interested, we will drive up to the top and look at trailing arbutus (<i>Epigaea repens</i>), halberd-leaved violet (<i>Viola hastata</i>), and the view from the overlook.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> From Atlanta take I-75 to exit 320. Go west on GA 136 through Villanow and Naomi (slight jog to left and then right). At Lafayette, take US 27 bypass around town to the north and follow the signs to stay on 136 past the Park's main entrance and down the west side of the escarpment. At the bottom of the hill, the first road to the right (between a rock entrance) is Canyon Park Drive (a loop). Take the first 90-degree turn you encounter to bear right on the loop and the entrance is an unpaved drive to the right in the first big curve.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The bridge on Hwy. 136 in Walker County between Cloudland Canyon and LaFayette (Little Chickamauga Creek) is being worked on by GA DOT. A detour is in place and DOT indicates the bridge will be closed for at least another year. Please allow extra time if following this route to accommodate the detour.</p> <p>Alternately, you can take interstate to Trenton (I-75 north to I-24 West to I59 South) and then follow 136 from the west side back to the park.</p> <p><b>Walking:</b> Moderate, primarily due to the rocky and uneven footing. No stairs on this trip! Sturdy shoes recommended because of the rocky, uneven ground and one parts of the walk to the cave may be wet depending on the recent weather.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> None at meeting site – facilities at the top of the canyon at the visitor center and at the overlook or at fast food joints in Trenton.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Lunch, water, bug spray.</p>	<p>Rich Reaves            rich.reaves@att.net            770-827-5186            - cell but may not have service at trailhead</p>

## Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
Mar 24 10:00 am <b>Note:</b> this is a Sunday trip.	<p><b>Pocket of Pigeon Mountain</b></p> <p>We will explore the Pocket at the Crockford Wildlife Management Area/Pigeon Mountain, including a beautiful mountain stream, glorious wildflowers, a fantastic waterfall, and a hike along the cliff trail above the falls to the old homestead. Amid breathtaking scenery enjoy your picnic lunch along Pocket Creek. After the Pocket, we will 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, textured stone, and massive boulders sculpted by wind, rain, freezing, and thawing over geologic time.</p> <p><b>NOTE: Some persons find the cliff trail leading from the waterfall to the old road beyond what they feel comfortable doing.</b> If you wish a leisurely return to the parking area from the falls that is fine.</p> <p><b>IMPORTANT:</b> Trip limited to 25 persons. Reservations are required, see leader.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> Take I-75 north to exit 320 for Lafayette/Hwy 136 . Take Hwy 136 to Hwy 27. Cross over Hwy 27 onto Hwy 193. At Main Street in Lafayette, Hwy 193 turns left, then right, within a few blocks. Follow Hwy 193 west from Lafayette for approx 7 miles to Davis Crossroads. Turn left on Hog Jowl Road and travel approx 2.5 miles, watching for Blue Bird Road. Just past Blue Bird Road, at the top of a small rise, turn left onto Pocket Road. This road is narrow and soon becomes gravel. The road ends after 1.2 miles at the parking area for the Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> None after Lafayette.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> This hike is moderate to moderately strenuous. The cliff trail is narrow and moderately hazardous.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Lunch, snacks, water, rain gear. Remember to dress for the weather and wear hiking shoes. Dress in layers. You may wish to bring binoculars, hand lens,</p>	Jerry Hightower  jerryhightower @hotmail.com  770-845-7997
Mar 30 10:00 am	<p><b>Pocket of Pigeon Mountain</b></p> <p>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. Note, too, that there is a newly discovered population of Miami mist (<i>Phacelia purshii</i>) located nearby.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> registration is not required for this trip.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> None at site.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Short and easy around parking lot and on boardwalk. Optional moderate walk to falls and easy bushwhacking to twin leaf and Miami Mist sites.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Lunch to eat in the parking lot. You may wish to bring binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera.</p>	Mike Christison  mikepaddler @netscape.net 770-973-6482  Cell for day of walk: 770-596-3564 (reception not guaranteed!)

**Note:** A Georgia Outdoor Recreational Pass (GORP) is now required for 32 GA WMA properties, including all of Pigeon Mountain, but is not required for those under 16 or over 64. For more info:

<http://www.georgiawildlife.com/Georgia-Outdoor-Recreational-Pass>

## Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
Mar 31 10:00 am  <b>Note:</b> this is a Sunday trip.	<p><b>Oconee National Forest: Monticello Glades and Hitchiti Trail Field</b></p> <p>We will explore two premiere sites in the Oconee National Forest.</p> <p>Monticello Glades, a prime example of a gabbro upland depression forest, is an uncommon wetland type occurring on unusual mafic soils.</p> <p>Hitachi Trail Field is a beautiful mature Piedmont Oak-Hickory forest with occasional old-growth loblolly pine. The winding trail follows Falling Creek to join the Ocmulgee River. A varied topography – lower slopes, bottomlands, rock cliffs, and bare rock outcrops – provides for a variety of vegetation.</p>	<p><b>Meet at Location:</b> Feldspar Corporation, 1879 Feldspar Road, Monticello, GA 31064.</p> <p>After the morning trip to the Monticello Glades, we will leave from the Feldspar Corporation parking lot to drive to the Hitchiti trail head. <b>If you want to join us only for the afternoon walk at Hitchiti, you must email Walt Cook to let him know.</b> WalterLCook@att.net</p>	<p>Walt Cook</p> <p>WalterLCook@att.net</p> <p>Sabrina Sewell</p> <p>SabrinaYSSewell@gmail.com</p> <p>859-338-9296 (cell)</p>

Due to space considerations, please check the website for more details on some of these trips.

Apr 13 10:00 am	<p><b>Panther Creek Trail</b></p> <p>Take a leisurely seven-mile round trip walk on the Panther Creek trail to an 80-foot waterfall while enjoying an array of spring ephemerals. The botanical highlight will be the uncommon <i>Polygala paucifolia</i>, Fringed Polygala, a.k.a. Gay Wings. Also expect to see <i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>, green-and-gold, <i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>, foamflower, Anemones, Trilliums, and Carolina silverbells. In addition to the flowers and waterfalls, the beautiful, rock-lined creek is in view most of the way.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> Take I-85 north to US 441 at Banks Crossing. Go north on 441 to and through Hollywood. Watch for a sign to Panther Creek that will direct you to Old 441 (“Historic 441”). Meet at the parking lot at Panther Creek picnic area, a US Forest Service recreation area, meaning you may have to pay to park. Note: If you get to Tallulah Falls, you have missed the turn; go back south and turn right on Old 441.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> The trail is within sight of the creek most of the way. It is easy walking until about 100 yards or so from the end (of our part of the trail) at the bottom of the largest portion of the waterfall. The last part can be tricky, but not dangerous – take it slow and careful.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> Panther Creek picnic area.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> US Forest Service parking fee, lunch, water, snacks, camera, raingear.</p>	<p>Walt Cook</p> <p>WalterLCook@att.net</p>
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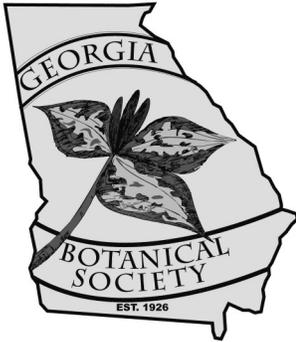
## Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
Apr 13 10:00 am to 3:30 pm	<p><b>Akers Mill to Paces Mill Chattahoochee River NRA</b>            Celebrate spring with a look at the mid-spring forest, signs of wildlife, and great views from atop the West Palisades Ridge. See website for more description.</p> <p>Please note: persons wishing a shorter hike have the option of leaving the group at Rottenwood Creek and proceeding directly to Paces Mill, which is .5 miles by multi-use trail.</p> <p><b>Reservations are required:</b>            jerryhightower@hotmail.com            or 770-845-7997</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, West Palisades Unit: We will meet at Paces Mill parking area; 3445 Cobb Parkway, Atlanta, Georgia 30339 and shuttle everyone to our starting location at Akers Drive. We will leave as many cars as possible at Paces Mill.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> Restrooms at Paces Mill.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Moderately strenuous.  <b>Bring:</b> A lunch and water to carry along and we will picnic in the forest. You may wish to bring binoculars, hand lens, and camera. \$3.00 daily parking fee or annual parking pass needed.</p>	Jerry Hightower jerryhightower@hotmail.com 770-845-7997
Apr 14 10:00 am <b>Note:</b> this is a Sunday trip	<p><b>Cloudland Canyon State Park</b></p> <p>We will do a walk-through from the top of the Canyon down to Sitton Gulch – including descending the stairs. If you have a car that can easily ferry people, please try and arrive a bit early and we will ferry a few vehicles to the bottom to provide a soft trip back up at the end of the day.</p> <p>We should see sulcate trillium (<i>Trillium sulcatum</i>), doll's eyes (<i>Actea pachypoda</i>), deciduous magnolias, azaleas, wild geranium (<i>Geranium maculatum</i>), larkspur (<i>Delphinium tricornis</i>), and more.</p>	<p><b>See directions for March 23rd trip on page 7 of this issue.</b></p> <p><b>Walking:</b> Moderate, but a lot of steps (575) on a maintained trail with stairs (we hope to only go down the stairs). Sturdy shoes recommended as there will be rocky, uneven ground and one small stream to rock-hop or wade.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> Only at the overlook parking area.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Lunch, water, bug spray.</p>	Rich Reaves rich.reaves@att.net 770-827-5186 - cell but may not have service at trailhead
Apr 20 10:00 am	<p><b>Loggy Branch</b></p> <p>We begin hiking at about 2,400 ft. elevation in North Carolina but after a mile or so we enter the Southern Nantahala Wilderness at the Georgia state line on the north-facing slopes of Hightower Bald, Georgia's fourth-highest mountain at 4,568 ft. Sugar maple, yellow birch, yellow buckeye, butternut &amp; yellowwood occur here. Before we reach the state line we'll see brook lettuce, monkshood, bishops cap, umbrella leaf &amp; tinder fungus. Eventually we'll encounter gooseberry, mountain maple &amp; red elder.</p> <p><b>Meet At:</b> 10:00 am at Ingles in Hiawassee to carpool to the trailhead in the Shooting Creek community of NC.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> US Hwy 76 / GA Hwy 75 runs through Hiawassee with 2 traffic signals; Ingles is on the north between the signals.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> None outside of Hiawassee.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> This hike is difficult with steep slopes, stream walking, and no maintained trails. We can often follow abandoned roadbeds which have lots of loose rocks.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Lunch, snacks, &amp; water. Remember to dress for the weather and wear comfortable, sturdy hiking shoes. Dress in layers so that you can adjust to changes in the temperature and your activity level. You may wish to bring binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera.</p>	Ben Cash bencash@hemc.net 706-778-5155 706-968-3841 cell, day of hike although service may not be available

## Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
Apr 27 10:00 am	<p><b>Meredith Woodlands Flame Azalea Garden</b></p> <p>This northern Hall County woodland is probably the southernmost location for flame azalea (<i>Rhododendron calendulaceum</i>), of which there are approx 200 plants on the 13 acres. Other native azalea species on the property are Piedmont azalea (<i>R. canescens</i>) and sweet azalea (<i>R. arborescens</i>), and possibly pinxter flower azalea (<i>R. periclymenoides</i>). The azaleas are the stars for this field trip, but there are a number of shrubby natives keeping them company, such as mapleleaf viburnum (<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>) and dwarf pawpaw (<i>Asimina parviflora</i>). And of course, as you would expect in a woodland, lots of ferns and forbs are underfoot.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> 5848 Henson Road, Gainesville, GA 30506. The property is 1 mile east of US Hwy 129 on GA Hwy 52. The junction of Hwys 129/52 is known as Quillians Corner. Go 1 mile east of there on GA 52 and turn south on Fields Road. Then, go 100 yards and turn right on Henson Road. Look for a large sign with the numbers 5848, approx 0.5 mile on Henson Rd. Turn right at the sign and drive up a small incline into a vacant lot. Meet on site.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> Portable toilet on site.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Easy trails.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> The owner and trip leader will treat visitors to snacks and drinks. Bring water for hike, and camera, hand lens, and binoculars if you like.</p>	Ted Meredith tedmeredith@yahoo.com 770-983-5800
Apr 27 12:00 pm <b>and</b> Apr 28 9:00 am	<p><b>Mill's Bog (Apr 27) and Ann Barber Wildflower Trail, Doerun Pitcher Plant Bog Natural Area (Apr 28)</b></p> <p>At Mill's Bog we expect to see pitcher plants – the hooded pitcher (<i>Sarracenia minor</i>), the yellow pitcher (<i>S. flava</i>), and the parrot (<i>S. psittacina</i>). We may also see dwarf sundews (<i>Drosera brevifolia</i>), swamp leather flower (<i>Clematis crispa</i>) woolly sunbonnets (<i>Chaptalia tomentosa</i>), blazing star (<i>Liatrix tenuifolia</i>), blueflower butterwort (<i>Pinguicula caerulea</i>) and many more.</p> <p>On Sunday morning we will head to the Doerun Pitcher Plant Bog Natural Area, located not far from Moultrie, GA outside the town of Doerun. It is a very special place. The area is burned frequently and there are three separate bogs to explore. In addition to pitcher plants, we will see some lilies and orchids including white colicroot (<i>Aletris farinosa</i>), yellow stargrass (<i>Hypoxis</i> sp.), greenvein ladies tresses (<i>Spiranthes praecox</i>), pale grasspink (<i>Calopogon pallidus</i>), pencil flower (<i>Stylosanthes biflora</i>), sunnybell (<i>Schoenolirion croceum</i>), milkweed (<i>Asclepias michauxii</i>) and other spring wildflowers. This longleaf wiregrass community trail is one of the most beautiful wildflower walks in the Coastal Plain.</p>	<p><b>Walking:</b> Although there are no trails at Mill's Bog at this point, the walking is relatively easy with tall grasses and blackberries as the main obstacles. The trail can be very wet with standing water at this time of the year. At Doerun - it is easy and level. In the wet season, parts of the trail may be under water, and you may get your feet wet. Wear boots or bring a change of shoes and socks for the ride home.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> For both bog areas, bring water, sunscreen, hat, <b>insect repellent</b> and pack lunch which will be eaten near the cars. Field guides, cameras, sunglasses, binoculars, notebook are optional.</p> <p><b>Special Note:</b> You may do either trip as a single day trip or you may do the whole weekend. When you register for the trip, please specify whether you are registering for both days OR specific one day trip.</p> <p><b>Registration is required and limited to 30 people. This is a joint trip with BotSoc and GNPS. Directions and meeting place to be provided at registration.</b></p>	Maureen Donohue macaire75@att.net 678-687-7963 (Cell phone for day of trip only) Karan Rawlins will join us as a leader for the Mill's Bog.

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