

# Georgia Botanical Society—45th Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage

## March 28-30 - Waycross, Ware County, Georgia

**Trip Registration:** Most trips have a limit to the number of participants. Earlier postmarks receive priority on trip choice; check the website for trip closures. If you choose a full day hike as a first choice, you may choose the half day event as your 2nd choice (and vice versa, but please do not mix half and full-day events as 1st and 2nd choices). Please list choices by number (not name) of trip. Registration must be postmarked by Tuesday, March 4, 2014!

|                         | Trip Choice (#) |       | Participant(s) Names |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------|----------------------|
|                         | 1st             | 2nd   |                      |
| Friday Trip             | _____           | _____ | _____                |
| Saturday Morning Trip   | _____           | _____ | _____                |
| Saturday Afternoon Trip | _____           | _____ | _____                |
| Saturday All Day Trip   | _____           | _____ | _____                |
| Sunday Trip             | _____           | _____ | _____                |

Cost for boat trips other than Sunset : [T10, T13 and/or T19 are \$22.50 per person] and [T18 is \$10 per person] = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Pilgrimage Registration: *Please note—children 12 and under do not pay a registration fee.*

Number of Botanical Society members attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-members attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Optional: Become a Georgia Botanical Society member \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25/family or \$10/student = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(if student membership, indicate College name: \_\_\_\_\_) *in addition to registration fee*

First Pilgrimage? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Participant (s) Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

*(in case we have a question about your registration)*

### Friday Evening Optional Activities (may choose one or both):

Participant (s) Names: \_\_\_\_\_

T5 Low country boil (check veg option if desired) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$22 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Veggie pasta     Eggplant     Vegan

T6 Sunset boat trip \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Saturday Evening Banquet Registration:

Participant (s) Names: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Banquet persons \_\_\_\_\_ x \$14 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal from reverse for canoes/shirts = \$ \_\_\_\_\_



### Total Check amount

(payable to Georgia Botanical Society) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form (both pages) and check to: Rich Reaves 2718 Stillwater Lake Lane Marietta, GA 30066-7906

Registration must be postmarked by **Tuesday, March 4, 2014.**

**Refund policy:** We cannot refund the costs of the banquet, shirts, canoes or the registration fees after March 4, 2014. You must deal directly with the hotel to determine their room cancellation policy.

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### Canoe Registration Details (required for canoe trips even if you are using your own canoe)

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Friday Canoe Partner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday Canoe Partner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday Canoe Partner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Any 3rd Person Passengers: \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply and tally total cost below. Check to reserve the free DNR canoe shuttle; you may use the free DNR shuttle for canoes rented from Okefenokee Adventures.  
Contact Susan Caster at [Susan.Caster@gmail.com](mailto:Susan.Caster@gmail.com) or 404-512-5621 to be matched with a canoe partner.

**T1** Friday all day canoe trip with John Jensen. Green Trail Kingfisher Landing toward Bluff Lake.

\_\_\_ Rent Canoe \$10/person (3rd person no charge)      \_\_\_ Own Canoe

**T3** Friday canoe trip with Steven Emery and Jerry Hightower. Stephen C. Foster State Park to Billy's Island.

\_\_\_ Rent Canoe and Tour \$10/person      \_\_\_ Own Canoe \$5/person for the tour

**T7** Saturday all day canoe trip with Bobby Hattaway. Green Trail Kingfisher Landing toward Bluff Lake.

\_\_\_ Rent Canoe from Okefenokee Adventures      \_\_\_ Own Canoe  
\_\_\_ Will use free DNR shuttle      \_\_\_ Will shuttle canoe with my vehicle

**T8** Saturday all day canoe trip with Scott Ranger. Red Trail Kingfisher Landing toward Double Lake.

\_\_\_ Rent Canoe from Okefenokee Adventures      \_\_\_ Own Canoe  
\_\_\_ Will use free DNR shuttle      \_\_\_ Will shuttle canoe with my vehicle

**T9** Saturday all day canoe trip with Tom Patrick. Visitor Center to Cedar Hammock via Hurrah Run/Old River.

\_\_\_ Rent Canoe \$10/person(3rd person no charge)      \_\_\_ Own Canoe

**T16** Sunday morning short day canoe trip with Steven Emery and Jerry Hightower. Stephen C. Foster State Park on Minnie's Run.

\_\_\_ Rent Canoe and Tour \$10/person      \_\_\_ Own Canoe \$5/person for the tour

**T17** Sunday short day canoe trip with Tom Patrick. Stephen C. Foster along the Suwannee River to the Sill.

\_\_\_ Rent Canoe \$10/person (3rd person no charge)      \_\_\_ Own Canoe

Total for all canoe trips \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Pilgrimage shirts (all profits go to Marie Mellinger Fund):

#### Short sleeve T shirt\* (kiwi green)

sizes S, M, L, XL are \$15.00

size XXL is \$17.00

size XXXL is \$18.00

Sizes desired \_\_\_\_\_

# of shirts desired \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Long sleeve T shirt (sapphire blue)

sizes S, M, L, XL are \$16.00

size XXL is \$18.00

size XXXL is \$19.00

Sizes desired \_\_\_\_\_

# of shirts desired \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Sweatshirt (kiwi green)

sizes S, M, L, XL are \$18.00

size XXL is \$20.00

size XXXL is \$21.00

Sizes desired \_\_\_\_\_

# of shirts desired \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* women's cut is available in **pistachio** (shade lighter than kiwi), please circle **women's cut here** if that style is desired

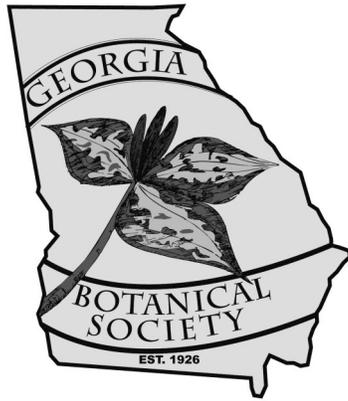
Total for all shirts \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If **NOT** attending Pilgrimage, add shipping (\$5.00 for one shirt and \$1.50 for each additional shirt) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Subtotal shirts/canoes

(carry this over to front and add to registration amount) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

By submitting your registration of this event, you acknowledge and agree to the Outing Liability Waiver as found here: [http://www.gabotsoc.org/BotSoc\\_FieldTripSignup\\_2006.pdf](http://www.gabotsoc.org/BotSoc_FieldTripSignup_2006.pdf).



## 45TH ANNUAL SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE

MARCH 28-30, 2014

WAYCROSS, WARE COUNTY, GEORGIA

The Georgia Botanical Society's 45th Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage features the Okefenokee Swamp—the third largest National Wilderness Area in the Eastern United States. The Okefenokee Swamp contains about 400,000 acres; it is 700 square miles. There are 110 miles of canoe trails inside the wilderness area. The trips and activities planned are within the swamp and its adjacent upland border. The primary purpose of the pilgrimage is to experience the magic and mystery of the swamp. You will see pitcher plants, hear the pig frogs calling in the early night, see a sunset from the middle of a prairie, watch the bubbling peat bogs, experience the trembling earth on a battery and venture into other habitats by land or water.

### PILGRIMAGE SCHEDULE

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 28

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 9:00 am-4:30 pm  | All day canoe trip: Kingfisher Landing on Green Trail with John Jensen   |
| 9:45 am-4:30 pm  | All day roadside botanizing with Rich Reaves                             |
| 11:00 am-2:00 pm | Canoe trip with Steven Emery/Jerry Hightower, Stephen Foster State Park  |
| 1:00 pm-4:30 pm  | Swamp Island Drive field trip with Sheila Willis                         |
| 5:00 pm          | Low country boil, National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, East Entrance |
| 6:30 pm-8:30 pm  | Evening sunset boat trip with guide                                      |

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 29

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 7:30 am-8:15 am  | Early registration at the Quality Inn                                    |
| 8:30 am          | Morning and all day field trips assemble at the Quality Inn              |
| 1:00 pm          | Afternoon field trips assemble. Check specific Trip numbers for details. |
| 4:30 pm-5:00 pm  | Field trips return to Quality Inn  |
| 5:30 pm-7:00 pm  | Poolside Social Hour in Room 163   |
| 7:00 pm-8:30 pm  | Buffet dinner in the Banquet Room (Quality Inn)                          |
| 8:30 pm-10:00 pm | Evening program  |

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 30

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 8:30 am | Field trips assemble. Check specific Trip numbers for details. |
|---------|--|

**Saturday Social:** If you are willing to bring an hors d'oeuvre or soft drinks for the Saturday social, please contact Maureen Donohue at 770-990-7756 or via email: [marinadono67@gmail.com](mailto:marinadono67@gmail.com)

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## Background

Waycross is our host city for the Spring 2014 Wildflower Pilgrimage. It is the northern gateway to the Okefenokee Swamp and offers the most convenient lodging and banquet facilities. There are several ways to access the swamp. We will begin our exploration at the Visitor Center and location of the Okefenokee Adventures concessionaire at the Suwannee Canal or East Entrance. We will also access the swamp from Kingfisher Landing (the Northeast Entrance located between Waycross and Folkston) and from Stephen C. Foster State Park (the West Entrance located on the southwestern edge of the swamp near Fargo).

The peak spring wildflower season usually is mid-April although pitcher plants begin to bloom in late March and may extend into early May. Flag Iris are usually in full bloom in March and our pilgrimage dates are almost April. There are many variables that may eventually modify even the best-made plans for an Okefenokee trip. We hope this trip will be early enough that insects are not problematic and plenty of winter rain will keep the water levels high enough for boat tours and canoeing. Our winter rains so far this year seem destined to provide good luck in that regard. We hope for a great spring with active alligators, singing frogs and brilliantly colored birds as well as wonderful wildflowers.

Please refer to the Georgia Botanical Society website at [www.gabotsoc.org](http://www.gabotsoc.org) and then click on "Articles" found under the heading "Resources" for an excellent description of the vegetation of the Okefenokee Swamp. Thanks to Leslie Edwards for providing the instructive habitat descriptions, including pictures of characteristic plants. Her notes include details on the geological setting and formation of the gentle depression flowing south that forms the Okefenokee Basin. The three factors that most influence the plant life found in the swamp are water, fire and peat. The best way to experience the importance of peat is to see the formation of the vegetation mats for yourself and witness the bubbling gases rising from the tea-colored water.

The slow moving water in the swamp is not only the headwaters for the Suwannee and St. Mary's rivers; it also allows for the accumulation of peat. The peat gradually decays under anaerobic, acidic conditions. Methane or swamp gas is produced by bacteria breaking down the peat. In the Okefenokee Swamp, most of the peat comes from waterlilies, pond cypress and Virginia chainfern (*Woodwardia virginica*) decomposition. Some sphagnum mosses also contribute. The role of fire is much less conspicuous - until one realizes that lightning fires burn for days or weeks in peat accumulations. Thus fires can change the topography of the landscape and potentially create new depressions when large deposits of peat are burned. Some of the larger islands in the swamp have fire-dependent pine forests, with both longleaf and slash pines large enough to attract red-cockaded woodpeckers.

The most intriguing aspect of the Okefenokee is the presence of the so-called prairies in the swamp. Alligator movements and swamp gas bubbles cause peat to rise to the surface of the water. Clumps of floating peat are blown by the wind and mass together to form batteries. Gradually these herb and sedge dominated mats merge into prairie-like areas that then become more shrubby. Pond cypress and swamp blackgum (*Nyssa biflora*) eventually help to form cypress domes and cypress-gum swamps. With water fluctuations and occasional fire, plus the presence of sandy islands (perhaps remnants of sand dunes or barrier islands), longleaf pine, saw palmetto, slash pine, or mixed pine-hardwood vegetation can develop. This is why there are fire-dependent plant communities in the middle of the swamp.

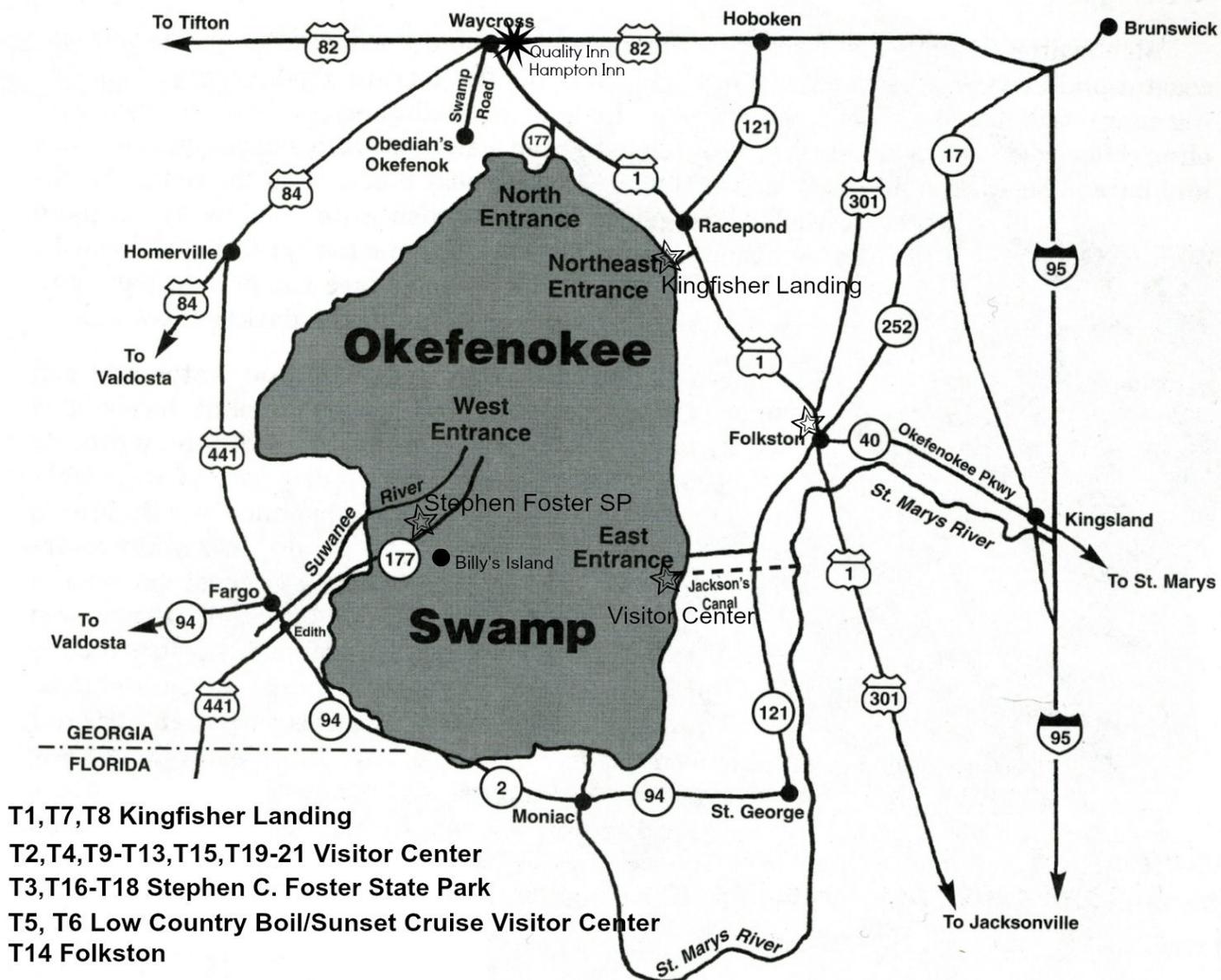
Plan to participate in as many activities as possible to experience the swamp. Our trip schedule will begin Friday morning and run through most of Sunday. We have a chance to go into the swamp after the low country boil on Friday evening. Listen carefully to the sounds of the swamp. By the end of the weekend, you will see and hear many of its unique and unforgettable aspects.

## Evening program

The banquet buffet includes a choice of 4 meats, 5 vegetables, salad bar, tea/coffee, Pepsi products and dessert.

The evening program begins shortly after dinner with a talk about "Fire and its Impact on Plant and Animal Life in the Coastal Plain." Our speaker is Wayne Taylor, a land manager for The Longleaf Alliance. Following Wayne's presentation, we will hear from a staff member at the National Wildlife Refuge about fire's impact on the flora and fauna of the Okefenokee Swamp.

## Field Trip Map



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## 4 Pilgrimage Information

### Locations:

Quality Inn & Suites  
U.S. Hwy 1 & U. S. Hwy 82 West  
1725 Memorial Dr  
Waycross, GA 31501  
Telephone: 912 283-4490

Hampton Inn (additional lodging location)  
1720 Brunswick Highway  
Waycross, Ga 31501  
Telephone: 912 285-5515

### Directions:

From metro Atlanta, Take I-75 south to Tifton and U.S 82 .East to Waycross. You may wish to fill your gas tank before you start on U.S. 82, particularly if you are traveling at night. It is a long road and most of the gas stations close early. From Brunswick, take I-82W to Waycross. Note: Hwy 82 is also called the Brunswick Highway. For other locations, use your favorite internet map program such as Google Maps or Mapquest.

### Lodging/Camping:

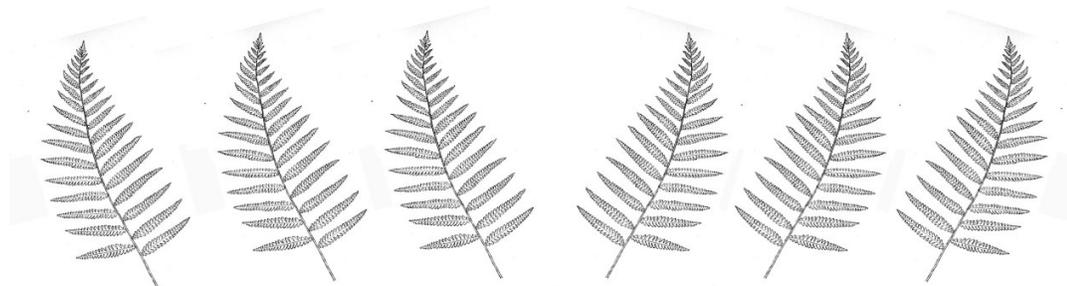
We have a block of 40 rooms at the Quality Inn in Waycross which is our headquarters hotel. At the nearby Hampton Inn, we have a block of 20 rooms. The poolside social hour is on Saturday, followed by the buffet banquet and evening program. All will be held at the Quality Inn. It is a very easy walk between the two hotels.

Both hotels include a free hot breakfast. Breakfast hours are from 6 a.m. until 10 a.m. 7 days a week. All rooms in both hotels include a refrigerator and free wireless internet. Our room rate at the Quality Inn is \$52.95 for one or two people in the room; the room rate at the Hampton is \$70 per room. There is 12% tax on the rooms. The hotels will extend the rate for early arrivals on Thursday, Mar 28, 2014. Deal directly with the hotel for reservations and cancellations.

Please book your room reservations as soon as possible and before **March 4, 2014** to secure these special Georgia Botanical Society rates. BotSoc receives a rebate on our meeting facilities rental based on the number of hotel rooms we occupy. We have total use of the restaurant room and the meeting room for our Saturday programs.

There is camping available at Laura S. Walker State Park, located 9 miles southeast along US Hwy 1, then left on Georgia Hwy 177, opposite the entrance to Okefenokee Swamp Park. Fees are \$25 to \$28 per night. Reservations are recommended and may be made by calling 1-800-864-7275 or 912-287-4900, 8 am to 5 pm.

There are also several private camp sites: Okefenokee Pastimes (912-496-4472) is opposite the entrance to the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge; Traders Hill Recreation Area is located on the St. Marys River (912-496-3412).



## When You Arrive:

Please pick up your pilgrimage packets on the coffee table in the Quality Inn lobby if you are not attending the Friday evening event or at the low country boil Friday evening. On Saturday, you may get them early morning, before 8:15 am, when the field trips gather for departure. Please pick up your packets as early as possible. We may have important information regarding your field trips. This packet will also contain your name tag and some information about our destination.

## Carpooling:

Please carpool as much as possible on all field trips. We always try to limit the number of cars we bring to sensitive locations. If you have made arrangements to go with different carpools for morning and afternoon trips, be sure you can get to the rendezvous spot in time for the afternoon trip. BotSoc cannot arrange shuttles if you are stranded.

Carpooling will be even more important than usual because some venues have limited parking spaces and we are not the only visitors. All of the roadside botanizing trips will require carpooling because there are few "pull off" areas on the roadside with ditches. Please follow your leaders' directions.

## Parking:

Parking passes are required to enter the National Wildlife Refuge, except for Kingfisher Landing. If you have a canoe trip from Kingfisher Landing and then go to the low country boil or another location within the refuge, a parking pass is required at the next location.

The basic pass for private, non-commercial vehicles entering Okefenokee NWR is \$5.00 and is good for 7 days from issuance. There are other types of passes that are accepted including the annual refuge pass, the federal Duck Stamp for \$15 and the Interagency Senior Pass for \$10. More information is available at <http://www.fws.gov/okefenokee/> and click on "plan your visit".

You may purchase your parking pass from Okefenokee Adventures at the low country boil Friday evening. However you must pay by cash or check. They are required to pay the refuge \$5 for every pass they issue and would need to charge you any credit card fees they incur in issuing a pass against a credit card.

## What to Bring:

As with all BotSoc field trips, please bring enough water for your whole trip, lunch or snacks as appropriate, camera, hand lens, binoculars, field guides, sunscreen and bug spray. You may also wish to bring a jacket or rain gear, depending on the weather. If you are taking a canoe trip, have a dry sack or water resistant bag to protect your personal items.

If you are going from a canoe or field trip to another event, you may wish to bring a change of clothes or a change of shoes and socks and a sweater. The venue for the low country boil has a roof but no side walls.

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### **Trip 1: Canoe trip from Kingfisher Landing on Green Trail toward Double Lake**

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**Date:** Friday, all day  
**Location:** Meet leader at Quality Inn parking lot at 9:00 am; if you plan to meet the trip at Kingfisher Landing, advise the trip leader in advance via email: [John.Jensen@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:John.Jensen@dnr.state.ga.us)

**Description:** Trip Limit - 6-8 canoes, 12 to 16 people. This trip is suitable for paddlers with previous experience.

Trip will arrive back at Kingfisher Landing between 4-4:30 pm, in time for the low country boil at the East Entrance National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center at 5:00 pm. You may wish to bring additional clothes and a change of shoes if going to this event.

**Leader:** John Jensen is senior wildlife biologist with Georgia DNR, cell phone 478-994-1438

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### **Trip 2: Roadside Botanizing**

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**Date:** Friday, 9:45 am to 4:30 pm

**Location:** Meet leader at Quality Inn parking lot at 9:45 am to arrange car pooling due to limited "pull off" parking areas.

**Description:** Trip Limit - 8 cars/30 people.

The leader will scout the roads and ditches days before the trip and select a route that has the most potential for wildflower viewing. Expect to see pitcher plants, blue flag iris and many other spring wildflowers.

Note: The trip will end at the National Wildlife Visitor Center (East Entrance) in time for the low country boil at 5:00 pm. You may wish to bring a change of shoes and socks since your feet may get wet in roadside ditches. You can pick up your registration packet there.

**Leader:** Rich Reaves, environmental consultant, cell phone 770-827-5186

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### **Trip 3: Canoe Trip from Stephen C. Foster State Park to Billy's Island**

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**Date:** Friday, 10:30 am to 2:00 pm

**Location:** Meet at Stephen C. Foster State Park, West Entrance at 10:30 am.

**Description:** Trip Limit - 8-10 canoes, 16-20 people.

This trip to Billy's Island is suitable for beginning paddlers. It is a 2 mile paddle each way. Billy's Island covers 3,000 acres and is the second largest island in the swamp. We will walk the 3/4 long trail to discover the history, flora and fauna there.

Note: You may wish to bring additional clothes and a change of shoes if going directly to the low country boil at the East Entrance National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center at 5:00 pm.

**Leaders:** Steven Emery, State Park Ranger, and Jerry Hightower, BotSoc President, cell for Jerry Hightower is 770-206-0338.

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## Trip 4: Swamp Island Drive Field Trip

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**Date:** Friday, 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm  
**Location:** Meet in the Quality Inn parking lot at 1:00 pm.

**Description:** Trip Limit - 20 people.

This trip passes mostly through pine flatlands typical of the southeastern Coastal Plain. It crosses two hardwood hammocks: the Canal Diggers Trail enters one and the Chesser Homestead was built in another. The boardwalk to Owl's Roost Tower passes through cypress, gum, and bay forests and prairies and finally, to a view of the open water of Seagrove Lake.

All the walks along this road are flat and easy. Plants we may see include water lilies and golden-club, stagger bush, rose pogonia and pawpaw, violet butterworts, grass-pink, climbing fetter bush and pitcher plants.

**Note:** If you are attending the low country boil, it is nearby at the Visitor Center (East Entrance). You may go directly from this field trip which ends at about 4:00-4:30pm.

**Leader:** Sheila Willis, former National Refuge Ranger & Waycross resident. Contact: 912-285-0419

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## Trip 5: Low Country Boil

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**Date:** Friday, 5:00 pm, cost is \$22 per person (includes gratuity), pay on BotSoc registration form as advance registration is required and no walk-ins are allowed.

**Location:** The Pavilion at the National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center concessionaire building. Look for the Okefenokee Adventures logo. The Pavilion is directly behind their building. **Note:** You may wish to bring a sweater or light jacket. The Pavilion has a roof but is open on the side. Although we do not expect insects to be a problem in March, you may wish to bring bug spray.

**Description:** This traditional low country feast includes an all-you-can-eat meal of shrimp, potatoes, corn, sausage, dessert, and drinks (iced tea - sweet or unsweet, hot coffee and tea.) Soft drinks are available at an additional charge. No doggie bags. Vegetarian options are available, but must be ordered in advance on the registration form. They offer pasta and veggies, eggplant parmesan or a vegan option. **Note:** If you wish to bring your own alcoholic beverages, you may do so discreetly. Please do not walk around the Visitor Center with bottles in hand. Use plastic/paper cups.

There is a \$5 parking fee at the Visitor Center. You may purchase a parking pass good for 7 days at the event from Okefenokee Adventures.

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## Trip 6: Sunset Boat Trip to Chesser Prairie

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**Date:** Friday, 6:30 pm, cost is \$25 per person, pay on BotSoc registration. No walk-ins allowed.  
**Location:** National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center boat dock; boat leaves at 6:30 pm

**Description:** This is a two hour guided boat ride to see the sunset over Chesser prairie and hear the night sounds of the swamp. Our guide is a staff member of Okefenokee Adventures, the National Wildlife Refuge's concessionaire.

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### Trip 7: Canoe trip from Kingfisher Landing on Green Trail toward Bluff Lake

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**Date:** Saturday, all day

**Location:** Meet leader in Quality Inn parking lot at 8:30 am. Will return by 4:30 pm.

**Description:** Trip Limit: 8-10 canoes/16-20 people. This trip is suitable for paddlers with previous experience. Distance to Bluff Lake is 7.6 miles. Depending on actual conditions (water levels, current etc.) and the experience (and size) of the group, the leader may decide not to go the entire distance to Bluff Lake.

Habitats: wet prairies (grasses and sedge dominated) with *Orontium aquaticum* (neverwet or golden club) and water lily, shrub-dominated communities principally members of the heath family such as *Lyonia lucida* (fetterbush or hemleaf) or titi family, cypress-dominated swamps (cypress bays), wet pine flatwoods and occasional lakes (such as Elder, Grassy, Flag and Durden lakes). We will see floating island features which give the Okefenokee the "trembling earth" label, namely blow-ups, batteries, some of which develop into a stable form known as a "house".

**Leader:** Bobby Hattaway, botanist, Georgia Southern University, cell 912-481-3011

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### Trip 8: Canoe trip from Kingfisher Landing on Red Trail toward Double Lake

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**Date:** Saturday, all day

**Location:** Meet leader in Quality Inn parking lot at 8:30 am. Will return by 4:30 pm.

**Description:** Trip Limit: 8-10 canoes/16-20 people. Distance to Double Lake is 5 miles. This trip is suitable for paddlers with previous experience. Depending on water conditions and group size/experience level, we will travel as far as possible to return in time for the Saturday evening events. See habitat details on Trip 7.

**Leader:** Scott Ranger, tour guide in Juneau, AK, cell 404-210-3088

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### Trip 9: Canoe trip from Visitor Center dock to Cedar Hammock

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**Date:** Saturday all day

**Location:** Meet leader at 9:00 am at NWR dock at Visitor Center (East Entrance). Will return by 4:30 pm.

**Description:** Trip Limit: 8-10 canoes/16-20 people. This trip is suitable for paddlers with previous experience.

Cedar Hammock is located 2 miles north of the Suwannee Canal. A one mile access via Hurrah Run/Old River parallels but avoids the busy canal. There is a back country platform for picnicking with facilities. After the first mile, the trail turns north through excellent examples of open prairie (Mizell Prairie). It is likely that most of the larger red cedars on the hammock were impacted by recent wildfires. Response of the prairie vegetation will be interesting to see from canoes. Traveling beyond the platform will be optional depending on time, but minimum meandering is 3 miles out and back.

Pitcher plants, irises, purple bladderworts, and birding will be featured. Older books call this route the Yellow Trail, a trail that has been abandoned as a through trail. It now represents a pristine, little-visited site away from the more popular activity along the canal itself.

**Leader:** Tom Patrick is a botanist with Georgia DNR, cell 706-476-4541

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## Trip 10: Boat Trip to Chesser Prairie

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**Date:** Saturday morning, 10:00 am, 2 hours duration, cost is \$22.50 per person, pay on BotSoc registration.  
**Location:** National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center boat dock; boat leaves at 10:00 am.

**Description:** This is a guided 2 hour trip to Chesser Prairie to see and hear the sights and sounds of the swamp. Our guide is a staff member of Okefenokee Adventures, the National Wildlife Refuge's concessionaire.

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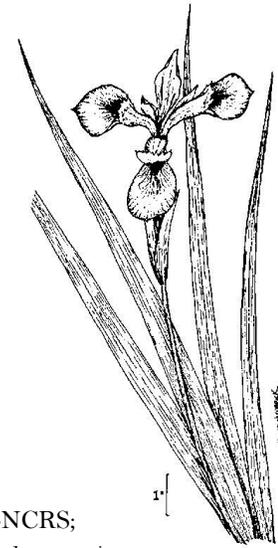
## Trip 11: Roadside Botanizing

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**Date:** Saturday morning, half day  
**Location:** Meet leader in Quality Inn parking lot at 8:30 am; will return by 12:30 pm.

**Description:** Trip Limit: 20 people/5 cars.

Roadways and roadside ditches are our destination looking for wildflowers. The leader will scout possible areas before the trip and select a route that has the most potential for wildflower viewing. Expect to see pitcher plants, southern blue flag iris and many other spring wildflowers.



**Leader:** Matt Stoddard, Georgia DNR, phone (not cell) 912-670-0809

Southern blue flag iris (*Iris virginica*), courtesy of USDA-NCRS;  
 original from *Wetland flora: Field office illustrated guide to plant species*.

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## Trip 12: Roadside Botanizing Walkabout

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**Date:** Saturday morning, half day  
**Location:** Meet leader in Quality Inn parking lot at 8:30 am.

**Description:** Trip Limit: 30 people/8 cars. Roadside botanizing walkabout. Patrol the edges of the Ridley Island trail and other areas near Swamp Island Drive. Forest edges are a great place to find wildflowers.

**Leader:** Rich Reaves, environmental consultant, cell 770-827-5186

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## Trip 13: Boat Trip to Chesser Prairie

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**Date:** Saturday afternoon, 2:00 pm, 2 hours duration, cost is \$22.50 per person, pay on BotSoc registration.  
**Location:** National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center boat dock; boat leaves at 2:00 pm.

**Description:** This is a guided 2 hour trip to Chesser Prairie to see and hear the sights and sounds of the swamp. Our guide is a staff member of Okefenokee Adventures, the National Wildlife Refuge's concessionaire.

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### Trip 14: Spanish Creek

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**Date:** Saturday afternoon, half day, 1:30 pm

**Location:** Parking lot of the Train Museum, Railroad Depot in Folkston, 2 blocks west of US Hwy 1, where the railroad tracks cross Main Street at 1:30 p.m.

**Description:** Trip Limit is 20 people. The Graham Family Tract along Spanish Creek near Folkston lies near the edge of Okefenokee Swamp. Habitats include a pitcher plant bog, a seasonally ponded bay swamp loaded with epiphytes, and well-managed wiregrass uplands. The site is managed as a hunting preserve with conservation easements on sensitive habitats.

The trip includes 1.5 miles of hiking along jeep trails, sometimes moist, and some bushwhacking thru wiregrass on dry sandhills. Expect to see bog plants and Bartram's air plant (*Tillandsia bartramii*).

**Leader:** Jacob Thompson, Georgia DNR, cell 912-481-7944

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### Trip 15: Roadside Botanizing Walkabout

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**Date:** Saturday afternoon, half day

**Location:** Meet leader at National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center at 1:30 pm.

**Description:** Trip Limit: 30 people/8 cars. Roadside botanizing walkabout. Patrol the edges of the Ridley Island trail and other areas near Swamp Island Drive. Forest edges are a great place to find wildflowers.

**Leader:** Rich Reaves, environmental consultant, cell phone 770-827-5186

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### Trip 16: Canoe Paddle Minnie's Run

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**Date:** Sunday, short day

**Location:** Meet Jerry in Quality Inn parking lot at 8:30 am.

**Description:** Trip Limit - 8-10 canoes, 16-20 people. A 3-4 mile scenic paddle through a narrow channel into a bald cypress forest.

**Leader:** Steven Emery, State Park Ranger, and Jerry Hightower, BotSoc President, cell for Jerry Hightower is 770-206-0338.

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### Trip 17: Canoe Trip Stephen C. Foster to Suwannee Sill

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**Date:** Sunday, short day, return at 2:00 pm

**Location:** Meet leader at Stephen C. Foster State Park at 9:00 am.

**Description:** Trip Limit: 8-10 canoes/16-20 people. This trip is suitable for paddlers with some experience. This is a picturesque route from the state park to the earthen dam or sill that was constructed in the 1950's to keep more water in the swamp. We travel down-stream with a slight current, viewing scenic Billy's Lake and winding through the densely forested channel of the Suwannee River. Some parts of the river resemble tunnels covered by overarching branches. The Narrows is one stretch where the river twists and turns, requiring talent to maneuver swiftly. Paddling through an Ogeechee Lime swamp and an abundance of alligators are some of the experiences anticipated. This is an easy excursion with at minimum 5 miles of paddling. Some faster canoeists may be out by 2 pm; others may wish to do more exploring; the possibilities are endless.

**Leader:** Tom Patrick is a botanist with Georgia DNR, cell 706-476-4541

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## Trip 18: Boat Trip to Billy's Island

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**Date:** Sunday, all day, cost is \$10 per person, pay on BotSoc registration.

**Location:** Meet at Stephen C. Foster State Park (West Entrance) at 9:00 am.

**Description:** Trip limit 14 people. Many of the natural plant communities of the Okefenokee are represented at Billy's Island. It will be especially interesting to observe the effects of recent fires that burned much of the island. In addition to aquatic plant communities and extensive pine flatwoods, there are hardwood hammock communities and swamp forests.

**Leader:** Richard Carter, Botany Professor and Herbarium Curator, Valdosta State University.

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## Trip 19: Boat Trip to Chesser Prairie

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**Date:** Sunday morning, 10:00 am, 2 hours duration, cost is \$22.50 per person, pay on BotSoc registration.

**Location:** National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center boat dock; boat leaves at 10:00 am.

This is a guided 2 hour trip to Chesser Prairie to see and hear the sights and sounds of the swamp. Our guide is a staff member of Okefenokee Adventures, the National Wildlife Refuge's concessionaire.

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## Trip 20: Swamp Island Drive Field Trip

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**Date:** Sunday morning, half day

**Location:** Meet leaders in Quality Inn parking lot at 8:30 am.

**Description:** Trip Limit - 20 people. This trip passes mostly through pine flatlands typical of the southeastern Coastal Plain. It crosses two hardwood hammocks: the Canal Diggers Trail enters one and the Chesser Homestead was built in another. The boardwalk to Owl's Roost Tower passes through cypress, gum, and bay forests and prairies and finally, to a view of the open water of Seagrove Lake.

All the walks along this road are flat and easy. Plants we may see include water lilies and golden-club, stagger bush, rose pogonia and pawpaw, violet butterworts, grass-pink, climbing fetter bush and pitcher plants.

**Leaders:** Hugh and Carol Nourse, authors and nature photographers.

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## Trip 21: Roadside Botanizing

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**Date:** Sunday morning, half day

**Location:** Meet leader in Quality Inn parking lot at 8:30 am to arrange carpooling; will return to hotel for final departure.

**Description:** Trip Limit - 8 cars/ 30 people. The leader will scout the roads and ditches days before the trip and select a route that has the most potential for wildflower viewing. Expect to see pitcher plants, blue flag iris and many other spring wildflowers.

**Leader:** Linda Chafin, conservation botanist, State Botanical Garden of Georgia, cell 706-548-1697



*Sarracenia flava*  
Richard Wettstein - Handbuch der  
Systematischen Botanik (1924)

Abb. 430. *Sarracenia flava*, Blüte. -  
Nat. Gr. - Original.

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Field trips that use canoes require you either use your own or arrange for a canoe rental. Canoe rental is for a single trip only, so each trip requires its own rental arrangements. All rentals come with lifejackets.

DNR canoe rentals are available for \$10 per person for three of the trips: T1 (Friday), T9 (Saturday) and T17 (Sunday). Payment is due with your BotSoc reservation. Space for these trips (and others) is limited. Information will be posted on the website once these trips fill up so you might want to check first. If you miss the cut-off and you paid for a DNR rental, your money will be refunded at the Pilgrimage.

Okefenokee Adventures canoe rentals are available for \$30 per canoe (can be used for 2 people). You must book directly with the company by calling: 866-THE-SWAMP (843-7926) or 912-496-7156. For info, visit their website at <http://www.okefenokeeadventures.com/canoe-and-kayak-rentals/>. You can use these canoes for Saturday trips T7 or T8 only. Refunds/cancellations for these canoes is by March 15, 2014. You can either shuttle the canoe yourself or request to use the free DNR shuttle (see canoe form).

For trips T3 (Friday) and T16 (Sunday), canoes can be rented through Stephen C. Foster State Park for \$10 per person. Or you can use your own canoe, but there will still be a \$5/person tour fee. Payment is due with your BotSoc reservation.

If you bring your own canoe, you will be responsible for shuttling it to the trip locations. All participants for canoe trips must fill out page 2 of the registration form, even if you are bringing your own canoe.

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## BotSoc Pilgrimage T-shirts

All profits from the sales of these t-shirts are designated for the Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Grant Fund. This is a special "limited edition" shirt. Be sure to place your order by the deadline of March 4, 2014. T-shirts are produced based only on the orders received. If you want to receive your shirt prior to the Pilgrimage or will be unable to attend the Pilgrimage, there is a shipping charge of 5.00 for the first shirt and \$1.50 for each additional.

Prices, sizes and colors are as follows:

### Short sleeve T shirt (unisex and women's cut available)

sizes S, M, L, XL are \$15.00

size XXL is \$17.00

size XXXL is \$18.00

Unisex color is kiwi green; women's cut is pistachio green (a shade lighter than kiwi)

### Long sleeve T shirt

sizes S, M, L, XL are \$16.00

size XXL is \$18.00

size XXXL is \$19.00

Color is sapphire blue. A sample of the color will be posted on the BotSoc website.

### Sweatshirt

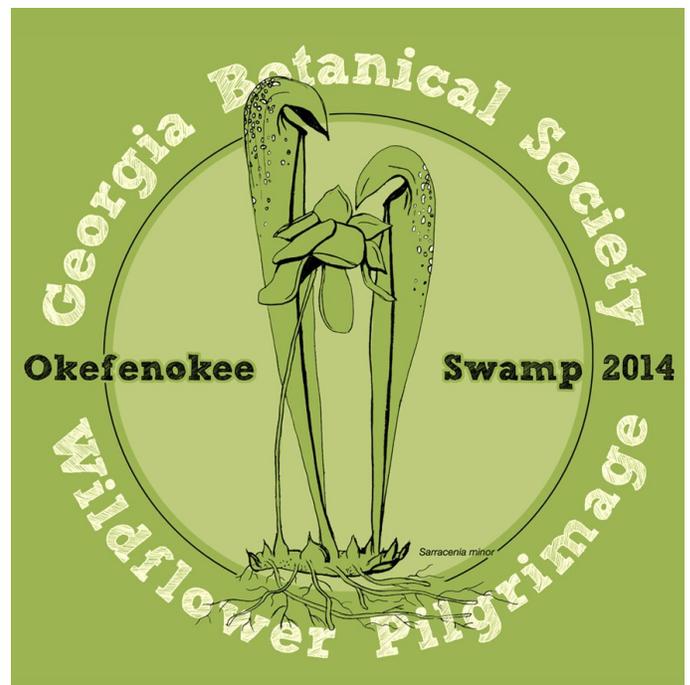
sizes S, M, L, XL are \$18.00

size XXL is \$20.00

size XXXL is \$21.00

Color is kiwi green (shown right).

Order your t-shirts on page 2 of the registration form.



We are planning a 2 or 3-day canoe trip (March 26-28) depending on interest and permit availability. Reservations can only be obtained 60 days in advance. Please let Amy Delaplaine know if you are interested by January 22th. [Email her at amydel@mindspring.com](mailto:amydel@mindspring.com). Amy will be sending more information and details (by email) as the trip firms up.

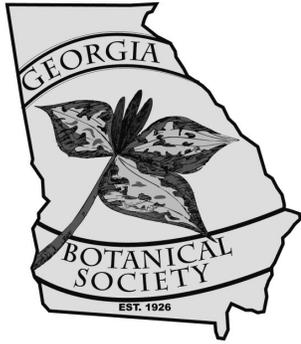
There is a 20 person maximum for this trips. Platform space is extremely limited, and we'll have to share square freestanding tents. We may do group food but bring lunch items to eat in your boat.

This is a wilderness trip. You must be prepared for all conditions. Spring can bring sun, rain, cold, or warm. Participants need to furnish their own equipment and water (3-6 quarts/person/day) and be able to paddle 8 miles of flat water in 7 hours. Pack in dry bags or stuff garbage bags inside your packs. Some spots may be available in another person's canoe or tent. Meeting time is 8:00 am probably at Kingfisher Landing on Wednesday or Thursday. Facilities are available only at put-in and on platform.

There will be a charge for the trip permit (\$10 per person per day) and supper/breakfast if we do group meals. Your reservation is confirmed with a check for \$20. In order to obtain required permits, the deadline is January 22, 2014 for confirming your participation, canoeing partners, number of cars and tents. We need to know if you have space or need space in canoe, car or tent. If you have already made canoe/car/tent arrangements, please let me know.

Send your check to Amy Delaplaine, 2900 Chamblee Tucker Rd., Building 9, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30341.





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