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# BotSoc News



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2015

Georgia Botanical Society

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## Bond Swamp NWR - Field Trip Report

By Mike Christison

*IN THIS  
ISSUE:*

On Sunday, May 17, about 16 people with 9 boats showed up at about 11:00 AM with perfect weather and hardly any bugs to speak of. Stone Creek was our entry point to the magnificent Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge was established in 1989 to protect habitats to benefit fish and wildlife and currently includes about 7,700 acres on the Ocmulgee River floodplain six miles south of Macon.

*Society News  
- P3*

Our initial plan was to head North into Bibb County for a while and then return to the put-in point for lunch and then head south into Twiggs County. But after about 100 yards or so, we had to turn back due to low water and debris blocking our passage. We turned around in a patch of riverweed (*Potamogeton*) and headed back past our entry point. We soon saw spatterdock (*Nuphar advena*), an aquatic plant with floating leaves and bright yellow globular flowers.

*More Field  
Trip Reports -  
P4*

The banks were lined with lots of water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*) towering in the overstory and with huge buttressed bases. Small trees prevalent in the understory were water elm (*Planera aquatica*), Carolina ash (*Fraxinus caroliniana*) and possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*). Before the day was done we did find an occasional overcup oak (*Quercus lyrata*) including one very large specimen.

*Upcoming  
Field Trips -  
P11*

Most of our water pathway was shaded and dappled with ground cover plants like hairy phlox (*Phlox amoena*), *Hymenocallis* sp. (not flowering) and lots of sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*). The phlox was hard to see unless you got up on the bank like I did when I was doing a quick recon of the water passage ahead. We had one portage point that we had to deal with twice.

Two of the boats developed leaks and headed back. The rest of us continued paddling until about 2:00 PM, pausing for a snack and to stop and look at an occasional plant including swamp or stiff dogwood (*Cornus foemina*) and the native but uncommon eastern swamp-privet (*Forestiera acuminata*). Both of these had branches that arched over the waterway in canopy fashion. The dogwood was just past flowering and the swamp-privet was not in flower.

Except for the one portage I mentioned, we had no further passage issues. We returned to the put-in point and loaded up for home about 3:15 PM or so. I encouraged non-members to join us, and Hal Massie talked of the benefits of joining, which include the wonderful journal, *Tipularia*.

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## President's Perspective



### BotSoc News

is published seven times a year (Jan, March, May, July, September, Nov and for the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage).

### Submission deadline

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### Subscriptions

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**Society** is a private nonprofit organization under IRS 501 (c)3. Founded in 1926.

2015 is slowly coming to a close, and it has been a good year for BotSoc. Our membership numbers are increasing. Field trip attendance is good. We are receiving more field trip write-up reports and lots of fantastic photographs.

I'm sure that 2016 will be an excellent year as we celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Georgia Botanical Society. Plans for 2016 are underway already. Vice President Heather Brasell has been organizing the pilgrimage for months. The site has been selected - Valdosta, GA. The Pilgrimage dates are April 15-17. So mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Our Field Trip Chair, Bobby Hattaway, is working on a 2016 list of trips to delight and amaze us all. The Education Committee will sponsor a workshop on bogs and a series of 4 classes on basic plant ID skills. Susan Caster is working on the basic skills classes.

The year of the bog - that will be 2016. The Board of Directors had a planning meeting in Macon on September 29th where we decided to highlight this very special, very fragile natural community. More plans and more information about the year of the bog will be available early next year.

We introduced our pilgrimage scholarship program in Dahlonega this year, and it was a big success. If you attended the Dahlonega pilgrimage, I hope you had a chance to speak to some of our 6 scholarship winners to hear their impressions and reactions to the natural world. They were all enthusiastic and thrilled to be at the pilgrimage and have such a great learning opportunity. The program was such a success that we plan to expand it for 2016. Look for more young eager faces in Valdosta.

If you have any suggestions for board or committee members, please contact one of us. We'd all like to hear your thoughts and suggestions.

Enjoy our final field trips for 2015 in November and plan to attend the Holiday Party on December 5th in Athens, GA. The party will feature a silent auction for the book collection of Wilbur and Marion Duncan. This collection has about 150 books, some of them rare and valuable. So bring your checkbook or cash and come search for a book you have always wanted to own.

After lunch at the party, Walt Cook will lead a walk on the Nature Center's trails. Walt is an Athens resident who retired in 1996 after a long teaching career at the Worrell School of Forestry at UGA. In addition to the walk, you'll get a first peek at the 2016 pilgrimage t-shirt design, have access to our seed exchange (don't forget to bring seeds you'd like to share) and a great lunch with fellow BotSocers. More party information is available on page 3 of this newsletter and at [www.gabotsoc.org](http://www.gabotsoc.org)

See you in the field and in Athens.

*Maureen Donohue*

## Society News

### 2015 Holiday Party

Come one and all to the BotSoc annual holiday party on Saturday, December 5, 2015, at the Sandy Creek Nature Center in Athens. It is located at 205 Old Commerce Rd, Athens, GA 30607; the phone number is (706) 613-3615.

The party starts with morning coffee at 10 am and will last until 2 pm. As usual we will enjoy a pot luck luncheon together so bring a festive appetizer, entree or dessert to share. We will have access to the Nature Center at 9:30 Saturday morning for set-up. Please note: no alcoholic beverages are allowed at the Nature Center.

After lunch we will take a leisurely walk led by Walt Cook to explore some of the 225 acres of woodlands and wetlands that contain 4 miles of trails. Should you feel energetic that day, you may wish to continue to North Oconee River Greenway and Cook's Trail which connect with the Nature Center's trails. An informal seed exchange will be held.

**FROM ATLANTA:** Head north on I-85 out of Atlanta. About 13 miles north of I-285, merge right onto GA Hwy 316/ University Parkway toward Athens. Stay on Hwy 316 for about 40 miles. Just outside of Athens, you will cross the Oconee Connector but stay on GA 316, getting into the left lane and bearing NORTH on GA Loop 10 (the Athens bypass). Once on the Loop, headed north, drive 7.5 miles to Exit 12/ US Hwy 441/ Commerce. At the end of the exit ramp, turn left (north) onto US Hwy 441/Commerce Rd. Drive north about 1.5 miles and turn left onto Nature Center Road at the sign for Sandy Creek NATURE CENTER and drive to the T-intersection. Turn left and drive about 0.5 mile to the Education & Visitor Center and the parking lot. (If you go too far north on Hwy 441, and see signs for Sandy Creek PARK, turn around and drive back south for about 2 miles.)

**FROM POINTS NORTH:** Take US Hwy 441 south toward Athens. About 20 miles south of I-85, you will see signs for Sandy Creek PARK on your left. DO NOT TURN IN THERE. Continue south on US 441 for another 2 miles, watching for signs for Sandy Creek NATURE CENTER, and make a right turn onto Nature Center Road. Drive to the T-intersection, then turn left and drive about 0.5 mile to the Education & Visitor Center and the parking lot.

**FROM POINTS SOUTH:** Take US Hwy 441 north toward Athens. Watch for signs for GA Loop 10/Athens Bypass, and turn left onto the Loop heading WEST. Stay on the Loop about 10 miles (the next exit will be numbered 1, then 20, 18, 15, 14, 12.). Leave the Loop at Exit 12 / US Hwy 441/ Commerce. At the end of the exit ramp, turn left (North) onto US Hwy 441/Commerce Rd. Drive north about 1.5 miles and turn left onto Nature Center Road at the sign for Sandy Creek Nature Center and drive to the T-intersection. Turn left and drive about 0.5 mile to the Education & Visitor Center and the parking lot. (If you go too far north on Hwy 441, and see signs for Sandy Creek PARK, turn around and drive back south for about 2 miles.)

**IMPORTANT:** If you get lost on the Loop (and, believe me, it happens a lot), remember that you are looking for US Hwy 441 NORTH out of Athens. AND you are looking for the Nature Center -- NOT the park.

### Save the Date —2016 Spring Pilgrimage

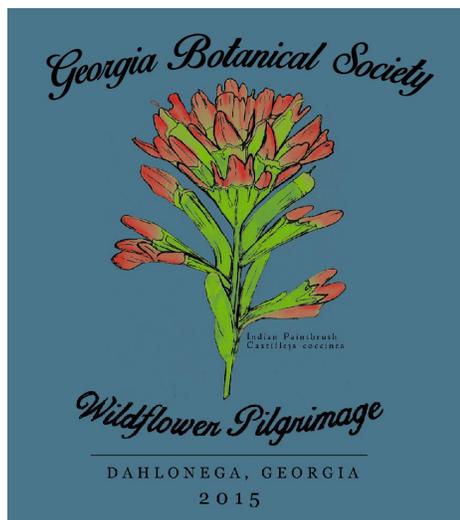
The 2016 Spring Pilgrimage will be held in Valdosta from Friday April 15 through Sunday April 17. Field trips will focus on bog habitats but will explore other Coastal Plains habitats as well. Social events on Friday and Saturday will be held at Valdosta State University.

We have block bookings at Quality Inn close to the I-75 exit nearest to VSU: 229-244-8800. In addition to making arrangements to attend, please start thinking of locations and leaders for field trips. More details will be in the January newsletter and the Pilgrimage brochure.

If you would like to volunteer as field trip leader or have suggestions, please contact Heather Brasell, Pilgrimage chairperson, via email: [heather.brasell@gmail.com](mailto:heather.brasell@gmail.com) or phone: 229-339-3966

## Big Cedar Mountain - Pilgrimage Trip Report

Text and Photo By Jane Trentin



One of the highlights of this trip for me was the sighting of Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*) on the side of Highway 60 just before Woody Gap. According to Rich Reaves, this is the only population in Georgia, and what was down low had just been mowed. So what we saw was on the rocky side of the road anywhere from six to twelve feet up. They were easy to spot because of their brilliant orange color. Thanks to Shepherd Howell for driving our carpool car, so Cynthia, Barcia and I could see them!

Fourteen pilgrims met their leader Tom Govus at the trailhead of the Appalachian Trail (AT) at Woody Gap. While we were gathering, there was a question about a small tree growing by the picnic table. Tom thought it was a plum, but Jess Riddle correctly identified it as a peach tree. To Tom's credit, he at least had the genus (*Prunus*) correct! We also learned the name of a now common weed in Georgia, Asiatic hawk's-beard (*Youngia japonica*). It looks much like a dandelion and has milky sap. It is in the Asteraceae family and used to be treated as a *Crepis*. Tom says it has only been seen in Georgia for about the last ten to twelve years but is quickly becoming widespread. Jan Blue's husband says they have had it in the Florida Panhandle for about 20 - 25 years.

Since we were a large group, including Jason Scott and two of his students from ABAC, Tom appointed Jess Riddle and Ben Cash as co-leaders. This allowed us to stay mostly single file on the narrow trail as we progressed northward on the AT. Our first find was a showy orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*) in bloom right beside the trail. There were high bush blueberries (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) also present along the trail, some with flowers. Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum lineare*) was also spotted growing close to the trail. Our first big burst of color in the woods came when we spotted a large flame azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*) on the downhill side of the trail. Michaux's lily (*Lilium michauxii*) was coming up, and we observed that many plants also had single leaf first year plants close by them. Ben told us that this is the only fragrant lily east of the Mississippi.

Jess pointed out a very large sourwood tree (*Oxydendrum arboreum*) on the downhill side of the trail. It was an unusually straight and tall specimen. When asked how he could tell it was not a persimmon, he said it had less blocky bark and besides persimmons were not especially common in this area.

We saw *Thalictrum dioicum*, or early meadow rue, and *Galium latifolia* (purple bedstraw), which we noted had purple stems and four leaves that radiated out from those stems. I was glad to finally learn the name of a plant I have been letting grow in my mostly native plant garden at home.

*Viburnum dentatum* or southern arrowwood was noted as a small shrub just off the trail. There was also a *Viburnum cassinoides* (witherod viburnum) in another trailside area. Finally we saw mapleleaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*) growing along the upside of the trail. None of the viburnums were in the same area for comparison.

Continued on next page

## Big Cedar Mountain (cont'd)

We did see wild yam (*Dioscorea quaternata*) growing near a carrion flower (*Smilax herbacea*) for easy comparison of these similar looking plants. We learned that smilax leaves are not glaucous or waxy as are the wild yam leaves. Some of the wild yam was sending out vines from the centers of their whorl of leaves. Later on the trip we saw a cluster of greenish white berries on this whorled leaf type of smilax.

We saw Robin's plantain (*Erigeron pulchellus*) with its sweet pinkish white daisy-like flowers. Tom told us that he was able to identify its species by the clasping leaves. Giant chickweed (*Stellaria pubera*) was another flower we saw blooming, with its small white flowers being much easier to spot and appreciate than those of the common lawn weed we know as chickweed.

Those at the back of the line got a rare treat. According to Ben Cash, ground pine (*Dendrolycopodium obscurum*) is uncommon in Georgia. It differs from common running-cedar (*Diphasiastrum digitatum*) in that it is a more erect plant. It showed bright yellow green new growth on its uppermost parts. Tom pointed it out to people on the walk out later in the day. This is just another case of how often one notices things missed on the first pass by walking in the opposite direction.

This happened too with the small flowered yellow lady slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *parviflora*). None of us noticed it going in, but thanks to a tip from one of the other Woody Gap field trip participants, we saw it coming out! Apparently, Rich Reaves had spotted it for his group, someone told Ben Cash, who had been planning to go back early, and he stayed to point it out to our group. Thanks Ben!

One particular trillium caught the eye of our leader. It has yet to be officially named, but it is referred to informally as "Amicalola trillium." It has a pink rather than a black ovary like that of *Trillium simile* (sweet white trillium). It is thought perhaps to represent an exchange of genes in the very distant past between *Trillium simile* and *Trillium flexipes*.

After a full day of seeing the plants on the rocks at Cedar Glade and getting two really good views, one from Preacher Rock and one from Big Cedar itself, we were all glad to get back to our motels for a little rest before learning about the geology of the area in which we had been botanizing.

Thanks to Cynthia Patterson and Bruce Northrup for picking up two big bags full of trash from the trail as they botanized!



The "Amicalola" trillium

## Lula Falls and Cloudland Canyon Trip Report

By Rona Cook and Richard Ware

On June 13, a good sized group of 28 enthusiastic individuals gathered at the Ascalon Trail Head to meet trip leaders Richard Ware and Rich Reaves. Even before the trip started, curious BotSoccers were asking both trip leaders to id plants in the parking lot like rose pink (*Sabatia angularis*), whorled loosestrife (*Lysimachia quadrifolia*), Eastern sensitive-briar (*Mimosa microphylla*), and Cumberland rose gentian (*Sabatia capitata*) not yet in bloom. If you want to see the *S. capitata* in bloom go back to this site around mid-July. Once all the significant botanizing was done in the parking lot, we caravanned down the road a piece to the Lula Lake Land Trust parking area.

Our first mission was to check on the mountain camellia (*Stewartia ovata*). On the way, a young American yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*) greeted us at the footbridge (compound leaf with alternate leaflets). Along the creek, we encountered one of the native azaleas promised, sweet azalea (*Rhododendron arborescens*), with a most wonderful fragrance. Along the uphill trail we saw variable-leaf heartleaf (*Hexastylis heterophylla*) in bloom, leaves with contiguous white stripes, and lobed barren strawberry (*Waldsteinia lobata*), not in bloom. The much-anticipated *Stewartia ovata* buds were almost ready to bloom but not quite.

We emerged from the woods and walked the meadow, along the tree line next to the creek, heading toward our next promised plant, Virginia Spiraea (*Spiraea virginiana*), a really rare shrub only found here at Lula Falls and at Little River Canyon (in Georgia), in flood-scoured communities along creeks or rivers.

On the stroll through the meadow we observed such plants as: pencil-flower (*Stylosanthes biflora*), Carolina Phlox (*Phlox carolina*), lanceleaf loosestrife (*Lysimachia lanceolata*) and a rosinweed (*Silphium sp.*). It was identified by a friend the previous week as *S. gatesii*, but would be *S. asteriscus* var. *asteriscus* or var. *dentatum* in the current Weakley.

Eventually we bushwhacked our way through a short section of woods over to Rock Creek and the scour area, where we saw *Spiraea virginiana* and silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*) in full bloom. There were several tall plants with spikes not quite in bloom that were a puzzle for a time until Rich identified them as tassel-rue (*Trautvetteria caroliniensis*) and there was a beautiful umbrella Magnolia (*Magnolia tripetala*) in view across the creek.

Back at the cars we proceeded toward the falls. En route, we stopped at another scour near a small shoal. Some of the group waded across the creek to get a close-up view of more *Spiraea virginiana*. Luck was with all who ventured across the creek; no ungraceful slips, falls, or splashes were observed.



*Spiraea virginiana* (Photo by Richard Ware)

Continued on next page

## Lula Falls and Cloudland Canyon (cont'd)

During the lunch break, at picnic tables above Lula Lake, sweet birch (*Betula lenta*) was observed on the bluff above the falls and the Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) looked healthy (no sign of wooly adelgid infestation). As lunch was winding down, Steve Cook was examining the rock wall on the other side of the gorge with his binoculars and spotted about a half dozen patches of roundleaf fire-pink (*Silene rotundifolia*) on rock ledges above Lula Lake. This was an unexpected find of another rare (S1) Georgia plant. Rich Reaves advised he will be reporting them to the DNR, as this population has not been documented, to his knowledge.

After lunch and the sortie down to the floor of the canyon for better positioning for photos of the *Silene* above, we hiked further along the road to get to a view of Lula Falls and a part of the canyon floor. On the way, some of us walked up the road up the mountain to look at Cumberland azalea (*Rhododendron cumberlandense*), which only had a few late blooms hanging on. We did not walk to the top of the mountain to check on the Menges' fameflower (*Talinum mengesii*), because the flowers do not open until 2:00 pm. After viewing the very beautiful waterfall, a few of the group decided to stay & hike down into the canyon, while the majority hiked back to the picnic area to saddle up & head out to the first of the roadside botanical destinations.

From the Lula Lake Land Trust area, we headed back to the Ascalon trail head for a brief comfort break and organize for carpooling. We then caravanned to the Ascalon Wet Meadow at the corner of Ascalon Rd. and Scenic Hwy (Ga. 189). Due to re-grading of the drainage ditch between the meadow and the "outdoor store" property, the meadow is not as wet as it has historically been. However, there were still a good number of plants to observe, including Carolina thistle (*Cirsium carolinianum*), thimbleweed (*Anemone virginiana*), wild quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*), and white colic-root (*Aletris farinosa*) in full bloom.



*Lilium philadelphicum* (Photo by Richard Ware)

Back in the cars, we proceeded to a power line easement along Scenic Hwy between Ascalon Rd. and Hwy 136. This site supports one of the largest and showiest populations of wood lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*) which was in full bloom. Also at this location we had meadow Phlox (*Phlox maculata*), white milkweed (*Asclepias variegata*), New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*) and yellow flax (*Linum medium*) also in bloom. Also here, we found the three stems of ragged fringed orchid (*Platanthera lacera*) that we had photographed a couple of weeks earlier, but they were pretty well past bloom.

At this point, some folks called it a day, but a small group carried on to the royal catchfly (*Silene regia*) site south of Trenton. We saw no sign of the catchfly but the roughleaf dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*) was plentiful, along with gray-headed prairie coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), field hedge-parsley (*Torilis arvensis*), and in the woods we saw a few American columbo (*Frasera caroliniensis*) plants that had bloomed but were past. And, as with many Ware-Reaves led field trips the day ended at a fine Mexican Restaurant in LaFayette!

## Banks County Field Trip

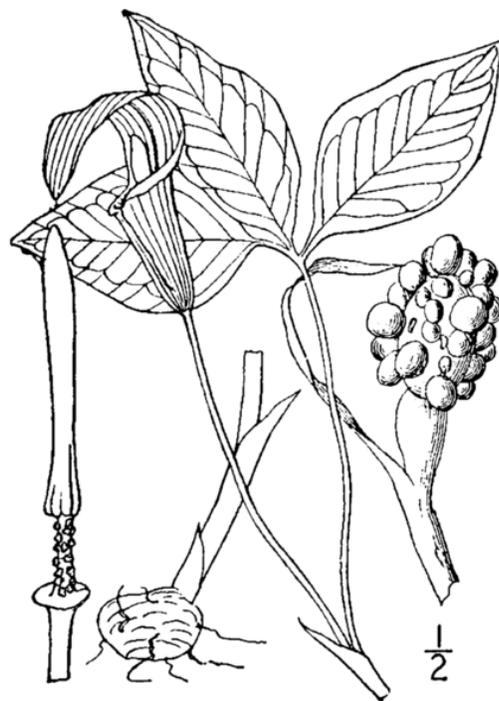
By Bobbi Carter

On Sunday, June 21, 2015, Georgia Botanical Society members visited a private property located in Banks County in the Piedmont region of north Georgia. Our field trip leader was BotSoc member Sue Mager, owner of the property. This property has 100 acres of mature hardwoods, interspersed with some open prairie, and a couple of tributaries that flow into Grove Creek. Entering the driveway, members were met with mature hardwood trees lining both sides of the drive with just enough room for one vehicle to traverse and the feeling of entering a protected sanctuary. After meandering along the scenic driveway, we approached Sue's home and were welcomed inside with an offer of Gatorade & water, and with the added enticement of fresh baked blueberry pies and brownies for our lunch break.

Our plan for the day was to explore 3 different habitats: an old beaver pond wetland area, woods, and open meadows. Our first foray of the morning was a hike through mature hardwoods in route to an old beaver pond wetland. Before leaving the yard, we spotted Carolina Wild Petunia (*Ruellia caroliniensis*) and sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*) trees in bloom. As we entered the woods, one of our members noticed chanterelles growing along our route. Upslope from the wetland, we encountered black cohosh, wild yam, rattlesnake plantain, cucumber magnolia, Georgia buckeye, the native bamboo hill cane (*Arundinaria appalachiana*), and a species that slightly challenged our experts: whorled horsemint (*Collinsonia verticillata*). Dense vegetative cover made the route quite challenging, but fortunately Sue had marked the trail with survey tape prior to our visit.

Approaching the wetland, we found another noticeably taller native bamboo, river cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*). In the old beaver pond area, we encountered a small clear water stream with a sandy/silty substrate, and located in the stream bed/wetland, we spotted American burr reed, hazel alder, star sedge, soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), bulrush (*Scirpus polyphyllus*), and swamp dogwood (*Cornus foemina*).

We made our way along the stream where the old beaver pond had been and encountered musclewood (*Carpinus caroliniana*) trees, spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) in fruit, southern lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*) with their red stems and herringbone spore patterns, New York fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*), 3-ranked sedge (*Dulichium arundinaceum*), and an abundance of very large & impressive Jack in the Pulpits (*Arisaema triphyllum*), some reaching more than 2 feet tall and in fruit. Virgin's bower (*Clematis virginiana*) hung from the trees above and intertwined with hog peanut vine (*Amphicarpaea bracteata*).



Drawing of *Arisaema triphyllum*: Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913

Continued on next page

## Banks County Field Trip (cont'd)

As we climbed the wooded ridge for a scenic view of the beaver pond, we saw rusty haw (*Viburnum rufidulum*), Carolina buckthorn, palespike lobelia (*Lobelia spicata*) with delicate white blooms, a very large white ash with blocky bark, and a new sighting for many of our members, green adder's-mouth orchid (*Malaxis unifolia*). Standing on the ridge, with rattlesnake plantain (*Goodyera pubescens*) and rattlesnake ferns (*Botrychium virginianum*) at our feet, we looked through the mature American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), oak (*Quercus* spp.), hickory (*Carya* spp.), and flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) trees to the beaver pond below, hoping to catch a glimpse of water turtles. No turtle sightings were made, but we saw a number of white-tailed dragonflies displaying a touch and go flight pattern above the pond. One of our members also found a beautiful green caterpillar which was photographed and identified later to be an Eastern tiger swallowtail 4th instar. As we descended the ridge in route to the power line, we saw Virginia snakeroot (*Aristolochia serpentaria*) and American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*).

Approaching the power line clearing, we saw duck potato (*Sagittaria latifolia*) in bloom. Growing among the power line vegetation we saw the tallest bulrush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*) ever observed by our experts, some greater than 4' tall. There was also woolgrass (*Scirpus cyperinus*), lovage (*Ligusticum canadense*), and some very plump and tasty blackberries (*Rubus* sp.). Walking back up the ridge, we spooked a very small fawn from its resting place. Then we passed through an open meadow and headed back to the house for lunch. And yes, the blueberry pie and brownies were absolutely delicious.

After lunch, we explored our first open prairie and found lanceleaf tickseed (*Coreopsis major*), whorled loosestrife (*Lysimachia quadrifolia*), yellow stargrass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*), ground cedar (*Diphasiastrum digitatum*), pencil flower (*Stylosanthes biflora*), smooth phlox (*Phlox glaberrima*), gama grass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*), sensitive brier (*Mimosa microphylla*), butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), pale Indian plantain (*Arnoglossum atriplicifolium*), and more lobelia. At the prairie edge, under towering white and red oaks, members mingled with small toads and frogs. In the open prairie, sightings included white avens (*Geum canadense*), clustered snakeroot (*Sanicula odorata*), skullcap (*Scutellaria elliptica*), and lyreleaf sage (*Salvia lyrata*).

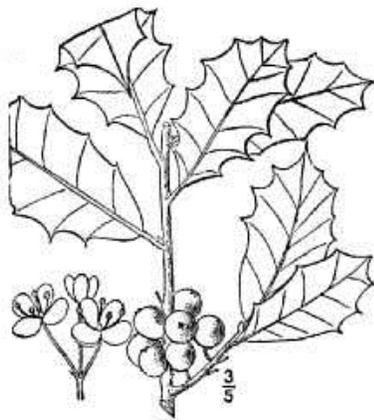
The low-lying prairie/flood plain was our next stop, with a tributary running between the prairies that flowed into Grove Creek. Very large poplars bordered the tributary, along with tall meadow rue (*Thalictrum pubescens*) in bloom, wingstem (*Verbesina alternifolia*), and horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*). Grove Creek, 20-30 feet wide with a sandy bottom, was bordered with black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), musclewood, and poplar trees. Yellow passionflower (*Passiflora lutea*) leaves were identified, but no blooms were present. Then we cautiously crossed a small wooden foot bridge which emptied into a field of gama grass and Johnson grass with clustered black snakeroot, false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*), and bugle weed (*Lycopus americanus*) at prairie edges. And one very fortunate member, Ben Cash, found a pottery shard with a very interesting pattern/texture. Then we proceeded up a small hill to another open prairie to see Carolina milkvine (*Matelea carolinensis*), butterfly weed, beardtongue (*Penstemon* sp.), and nettleleaf noseburn (*Tragia urticifolia*). Our route back to the house was inhabited with butterflies, buckeyes (*Aesculus* sp.), lovage in bloom, and winged elms (*Ulmus alata*). Our grand finale was a look at ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes tuberosa*) in bloom.

It was obvious to all that Sue pours her heart and soul into enhancing the natural beauty of her property. We appreciate her hospitality and her continuing efforts to actively promote and enhance the growth of native species.

## Banks County Field Trip (cont'd)

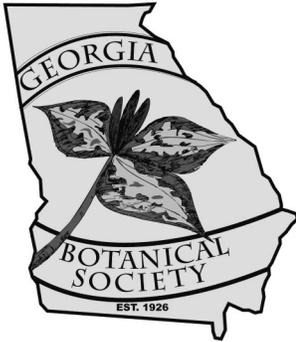
Common Name	Genus	Species	Habitat
Carolina Wild Petunia	Ruellia	caroliniensis	Open prairie / yard
Sourwood	Oxydendrum	arboreum	Upland woods
Black Cohosh	Actaea	racemosa	Upland woods
Wild Yam	Dioscoria	villosa	Upland woods
Downy rattlesnake plantain	Goodyera	pubescens	Upland woods
Whorled horsemint	Collinsonia	verticillata	Upland woods
Cucumber magnolia	Magnolia	acuminata	Upland woods
Georgia or red buckeye	Aesculus	sp.	Upland woods
Hill cane, native bamboo	Arundinaria	appalachiana	Upland woods
Carolina vetch	Vicia	caroliniana	Woods
River cane, giant cane	Arundinaria	gigantea	Low woods
Cutleaf coneflower	Rudbeckia	laciniata	Woods
Sallow sedge	Carex	lurida	Wetland
St. John's wort	Hypericum	spp.	Wetland
American burr reed	Sparganium	americanum	Wetland / stream
Hazel alder	Alnus	serrulata	Wetland
Star sedge	Carex	radiata	Wetland
Soft rush	Juncus	effusus	Wetland
Leafy bulrush	Scirpus	polyphyllus	Wetland
Swamp dogwood	Cornus	foemina	Wetland
Musclewood	Carpinus	caroliniana	Wetland
New York Fern	Thelypteris	noveboracensis	Wetland
Jack in the pulpit	Arisaema	triphyllum	Wetland
Spicebush	Lindera	benzoin	Wetland
Virgins bower	Clematis	virginiana	Wetland
Hog peanut, ground bean	Amphicarpaea	bracteata	Wetland
Rusty haw	Viburnum	rufidulum	Woods/ridge
Palespike lobelia	Lobelia	spicata	Woods
White Ash	Fraxinus	americana	Woods
Carolina buckthorn	Rhamnus	caroliniana	Woods
Green Adder's Mouth orchid	Malaxis	unifolia	Woods
Rattlesnake fern	Botrypus	virginianus	Woods
Virginia snakeroot, pipevine	Aristolochia	serpentaria	Woods
American hazelnut	Corylus	americana	Low woods
Broadleaf arrowhead	Sagittaria	latifolia	Wetland
Bulrush	Schoenoplectus	tabernaemontani	Wetland
Woolgrass	Scirpus	cyperinus	Wetland
Lovage	Ligusticum	canadense	Woods
Trifoliate orange	Poncirus	trifoliata	Uplands
Mockernut hickory	Carya	tomentosa	Woods
Lanceleaf tickseed	Coreopsis	major	Open prairie
Four leaf milkweed	Asclepias	quadrifolia	Woods/prairie
Yellow stargrass	Hypoxis	hirsuta	Open prairie
Ground cedar	Diphasiastrum	digitatum	Woods edge
Smooth phlox	Phlox	glaberrima	Prairie
Gamma grass	Tripsacum	dactyloides	Prairie
Sensitive brier	Mimosa	microphylla	Prairie
Butterfly weed	Asclepias	tuberosa	Prairie
Rattlesnake master	Eryngium	yuccifolium	Prairie
Pale Indian plantain	Arnoglossum	atriplicifolium	Prairie
Palespike lobelia	Lobelia	spicata	Prairie
White avens	Geum	canadense	Prairie
Skullcap	Scutellaria	elliptica	Prairie
Lyreleaf sage	Salvia	lyrata	Prairie
Mulberry tree	Morus	rubra	Streamside
Tall meadow rue	Thalictrum	pubescens	Streamside
Horsetail	Equisetum	arvense	Streamside
Black walnut	Juglans	nigra	Streamside
Yellow Passionflower	Passiflora	lutea	Streamside
Wingstem	Verbesina	alternifolia	Streamside
Clustered snakeroot	Sanicula	odorata	Prairie/floodplain
False nettle	Boehmeria	cylindrical	Prairie edge
Bugleweed	Lycopus	americanus	Prairie edge
Carolina milkvine	Matelea	carolinensis	Prairie
Beardtongue	Penstemon	sp.	Prairie
Nettleleaf noseburn	Tragia	urticifolia	Prairie
Winged elm	Ulmus	alata	Driveway edge
Ladies' tresses	Spiranthes	tuberosa	Prairie

## Upcoming Field Trips

<p>Nov 11 10:00 AM Note: this is <b>Wednesday</b></p>	<p><b>Spark's Creek, FDR State Park</b></p> <p>The focus of this trip to FDR State Park will be to see a spectacular display of kidney-leaf grass-of-Parnassus, <i>Parnassia asarifolia</i>. In past years, this display has been at its best on or about Veteran's Day. The site is a boggy springhead on the south side of Pine Mountain. <i>Gentiana saponaria</i>, soapwort gentian is another possibility for this wet area.</p> <p>We'll walk down part of the Pine Mountain Trail to Sparks Creek, hopefully with colorful fall foliage and a late wildflower or two along the way. After the grass-of-Parnassus population, we will cross Sparks Creek and walk upslope on the trail to see a couple of American chestnuts, <i>Castanea dentata</i>. Near the crest of the ridge we will see scattered montane longleaf pine. Eventually, we will come out at the Boot Top Trail parking area on the road to Dowdell Knob.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> From the Atlanta area, take I-85 S to Exit 41 (I-185), and head south on US 27Alt. Stay on US 27Alt all the way through the town of Warm Springs, then just as you top the crest of Pine Mountain, you will see GA 190 and the eastern entrance to FDR State Park. Turn right onto 190 (heading west) and go just under 2 miles to the Rocky Point Trailhead parking lot on the left. From the south, take US 27A north from Columbus until you crest Pine Mountain. Turn left onto GA 190 and go to the Rocky Point Trailhead parking lot.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> At west end of the park but there are trees and bushes along the way.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Easy to moderately strenuous, total distance is 2.4 miles. The trail is rocky, but well-used and well maintained. Will take a shuttle at end back to the parking area.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Parking fee, lunch, snacks, water, binoculars. Dress for the weather.</p>	<p>Hal Massie massiefarm@aol.com 478-957-6095</p>
<p>Nov 14 11:00 AM Note: Later start time.</p>	<p><b>Oxbow Meadows and Providence Canyon</b></p> <p>Geology and Natural Communities: Contrasts across the Fall Line and the Story of Providence Canyon: First, a talk at Oxbow Meadows will describe the geology of the Fall Line and ways in which that geology influences the formation of different natural communities. This will be followed by a walk at 2:00 PM in Providence Canyon that will explore the geologic story of the Canyon and some of the natural communities there.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center: <a href="http://oxbow.columbusstate.edu/driving_directions.php">http://oxbow.columbusstate.edu/driving_directions.php</a> Providence Canyon Outdoor Recreation Area: <a href="http://gastateparks.org/ProvidenceCanyon#directions">http://gastateparks.org/ProvidenceCanyon#directions</a></p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Easy to moderate.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Parking fee, lunch, snacks, and water. Dress for the weather.</p>	<p>Leslie Edwards Bill Witherspoon edwa1616@bellsouth.net</p>
<p>Dec 5 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Holiday Party</b></p> <p>Come one and all to the BotSoc annual holiday party on Saturday, December 5, 2015, at the Sandy Creek Nature Center in Athens.</p> <p>Walt Cook will be leading our walk and will join us for lunch that day. He has a BS, MS in Forestry and a Ph.D in Forest Aesthetics. He moved to Athens in 1971 to teach at the Worrell School of Forestry at UGA, and he retired in 1996. Since then, he has been designing, building, maintaining and hiking foot trails in Georgia and South Carolina. He co-founded the Sandy Creek Nature Center in 1973. He has been an Active Board member of the Oconee River Land Trust for 22 years, is a member of the Benton MacKaye Trail Association, and currently maintains trails at the Botanical Garden of Georgia in Athens once a week.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Sandy Creek Nature Center 205 Old Commerce Rd, Athens, GA 30607; the phone number is (706) 613-3615.</p> <p>See page 3 for directions.</p>	 <p>Drawing of <i>Ilex opaca</i>: Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913</p>

If you haven't been on a BotSoc field trip yet this year, please join us for one of the remaining trips or pledge to do more next year. We always have a lot of fun and everyone learns something - even the leaders! Please email or call the trip leader in advance if you have any questions about what it might be like. Hope to see you soon!

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