
BotSoc News



Georgia Botanical Society

Volume 92
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2017

Time to Renew!

Thank you for your membership this past year and for helping to share our passion to better understand and appreciate our native plants and their relationship to the environment. Georgia's incredible diversity of plants and natural ecosystems are treasures worth sharing and exploring – something we've been doing since 1926. Our field trips take our members all over the state, and knowledgeable trip leaders and members help turn novices into budding botanists! If you haven't been on a field trip yet, check out the 2017 schedule on the website and on page 10.

Of course, with great learning comes great fun. Our three day annual pilgrimage allows us to study in-depth a particular area of Georgia. Field trips during the pilgrimage explore many of the best natural areas and sometimes areas that are not available to the general public. In 2016, many of you joined us in Valdosta. We hope to see you again this year in and around Chattanooga and the northwest areas of Georgia.

Each year we work to support the preservation of native flora for the enjoyment of the public and encourage the protection of rare and endangered plant species and significant botanical habitats. Our members lead and participate in botanical surveys, organize and support invasive species control efforts in our natural areas, conduct workshops on plant identification and ecological relationships. We serve as botanical guardians for protected species, monitoring plant populations and some of our members have even been lucky enough to discover rare plants and play a part in the preservation of their habitats.

Our Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Grant Program is an annual program that offers scholarships to students and faculty at colleges or universities within the State (or conducting research in Georgia), private consultants, government officials, and other qualified individuals with a demonstrated interest in field botany, who are doing research on the native flora throughout the state. The primary goal of the grant program is to support field-oriented research by investigators in the state of Georgia.

Our *Tipularia* Botanical Journal is a member benefit without equal in the southeastern US. Each annual issue is packed with informative articles and beautiful pictures. We hope you enjoyed this year's selection of articles on Georgia plants, plant communities and two research reports sponsored in part by our grant program. In addition, BotSoc News, our excellent newsletter, is published six times a year and is filled with field trip information and reports, interesting articles and book reviews.

Your membership helps us do these things and reach more people while having fun and learning as we go. We've got new educational plans in store for this year too. We're growing! Please take a moment to renew your membership and keep learning with us in 2017. It's more fun when you're with us.

Renew online at www.gabotsoc.org

IN THIS ISSUE:

*Pilgrimage -
P3*

*Field Trip
Reports P4-7*

*Herbaria
Resource - P8*

*Upcoming
Field Trips -
P10-11*

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

Are included with membership.

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As I write this, wildfires are burning in different places throughout Georgia, particularly in the northwest. The forests are tinder dry. We haven't had rain in well over two months and still none is forecast. As I watch the images, I am filled with concern for the firefighters, the landowners, and others impacted, especially BotSoc members. I see how many of the sites for field trips at our Dahlenega pilgrimage are closed in the Chattahoochee National Forest and hope that none of the sites for the upcoming Chattanooga pilgrimage will be impacted.

In the face of disasters like this, it is helpful for me to think of long term impacts in order to cope with short-term consequences. Wildfires are always devastating. However, they are also rejuvenating. Last summer, I had the chance to visit Yellowstone National Park, travelling with Bobbi Carter before the BotSoc trip in Wyoming led by Rich Reaves. The wildfire in 1988 left thousands of acres blackened and dead. However, the fires were not continuous and less than half of the area was incinerated. Few large mammals were killed, the understory species quickly reestablished, and the ecosystem at the landscape level is in great shape. You can still see the patchy intermix of old and regenerated forests.

Historically, mixed-severity wildfires - where parts of the forests are killed - are natural. In deciduous hardwood forests of the Appalachians, these fires occur at intervals of 35 to 200 years, depending on the site. Even though these forests have trees of different sizes and they look uneven aged, they are really a mosaic of even-aged forests that have resulted from stand-replacing wildfires or similar events. Unfortunately, we have increased the potential risk from wildfires. First, for decades we have excluded and suppressed fires so there is more fuel to burn. Then we have built homes within the forests so that fires cause more damage. I remember a PowerPoint presentation during the course I took for prescribed burning certification. Slide 1: Picture of a lovely cabin in the woods. "What do you call a cabin in the woods?" Slide 2: Picture of the cabin burning during wildfire. "Kindling." I took this seriously and regularly burn the woods around my home to reduce the fuel load.

I have done a lot of prescribed burning in the last few years and have been amazed at the changes in the composition of the understory and the improvements for wildlife habitat. It is one thing to hear or read about it, but entirely different to see the changes over time - to see how quickly the vegetation responds, to listen to the huge increase in calls of the bobwhite quail and other birds, and to experience a dramatic decrease in ticks and chiggers. One of my forestry professors uses a phrase I like: "Pyrodiversity promotes biodiversity." Different plants require fire at different times of the year to produce viable seed. The wiregrass seed I have just been harvesting is viable only because I burned the stand in May, during the growing season. Of course, I also hope that regular controlled burning will reduce the risk of damage from wildfires. In wildfires around the US, areas that had been managed by controlled burns typically experience only ground fires rather than the deadly crown fires where fire had been excluded.

Having said all that, I hope none of our members or the sites we love have suffered from the wildfires. I do hope you have all renewed your BotSoc membership and have invited friends and colleagues to join us. I look forward to seeing you during upcoming field trips and the next pilgrimage in Chattanooga.

Heather Brasell

Georgia Botanical Society's 2017 Pilgrimage

Planning continues for the 2017 Pilgrimage to be held in Chattanooga, TN on April 7-9, 2017. Chattanooga is located in the Tennessee River Valley within the Ridge and Valley physiographic region of the Appalachian Mountains. The area therefore benefits from the significant variation in terrain from valley floor to deep mountain coves within the Cumberland Plateau to mountain top sites. Field trips have been selected to highlight the botanical diversity and richness of the area.

One consideration for selection of trails for the 2017 Pilgrimage is level of difficulty. Some trails are virtually flat, thus are rated as EASY, such as the trails of Reflection Riding Arboretum. Some trails are rated MODERATE with some flat areas and some elevation changes such as Sitton's Gulch in Cloudland Canyon State Park. Trails with significant elevation change are rated STRENUOUS; such as Collin's Gulf in South Cumberland State Park near Gruetli-Laager, TN. All trails should reward the attendee with a rich array of native wildflowers and plants. Everyone should find trails on the list to their liking.

Below are some of the field trips that are located in East Tennessee and are scheduled for the 2017 Pilgrimage.

1. Big Soddy Gulf / Cumberland Trail near Soddy-Daisy, TN
2. Chattanooga Audubon Society - Audubon Acres in TN
3. Collin's Gulf near Gruetli-Laager, TN
4. Grundy Day Loop Trail near Tracy City, TN
5. Little Cedar Mountain on Nickajack Lake near Sparta, TN
6. Trails of Shackelford Ridge on Signal Mountain in TN
7. Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center near Lookout Mountain, TN
8. Roaring Creek / Cumberland Trail near Graysville, TN
9. Shakerag Hollow in Sewanee, TN
10. Trails in Foster Falls Park near Tracy City, TN

Several perennial favorites of the Georgia Botanical Society that are located in North Georgia are on the list of field trips for the 2017 Pilgrimage. These trips include Lula Lake Land Trust on Lookout Mountain, Sitton's Gulch in Cloudland Canyon State Park, and Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail at the Pocket at Pigeon Mountain, among others. Several special trips have been planned such as a Botanical Motorcade for roadside botanizing and a trip to view the unique geographical features of the Zahnd Natural Area. Thanks to all of those who have agreed to lead pilgrimage field trips next year!

Have you made your hotel reservations in Chattanooga for the 2017 Pilgrimage yet? If not, we encourage you to do so soon. See the November 2016 newsletter for information on available hotel choices and contact information. There is no obligation for early registration and cancellations are permitted with notice, if your plans should change. Register now to obtain significant discounts on room rates.

Development of the 2017 Pilgrimage Brochure is in progress; it will contain much more information, such as expanded field trip information and a form for registration. It should be available in mid-January. In the meantime, feel free to contact Mitchell Kent via email at mkent423@gmail.com with any questions.



Greeter Falls, Tracy City, TN by Mitchell Kent

Graminoids and Wetland Plants of Carolina Bays

By Heather Brasell



Richard Carter

On Saturday September 17th, Dr. Richard Carter, botanist at Valdosta State University, led a field trip to Grand Bay, a Carolina Bay located northeast of Valdosta. Grand Bay Wetland Education Center has a half-mile boardwalk and a 54-ft observation tower that allowed us to see the plants on a transect from the edge to the center of the bay.

The focus was on graminoid plants and the characteristics used to distinguish between grasses, sedges, and rushes and the habitats and growth habits used to help with field identification.

Richard also described characteristics to use in distinguishing look-alike species such as bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*), and shrubs that grow together such as fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*), Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*), and mountain sweet pepperbush (*Clethra acuminata*).

Other wetland plants of interest included Mexican mosquito fern (*Azolla caroliniana*), waterspider bog orchid (*Habenaria repens*), southern bladderwort (*Utricularia juncea*), and swamp loosestrife (*Decodon verticillatus*). Rushes found included soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), manyhead rush (*Juncus polycephalus*), lesser creeping rush (*Juncus repens*), needlepod rush (*Juncus scirpoides*) and woolly bulrush (*Scirpus cyperinus*).

There were a large number of sedges, including Walter's sedge (*Carex striata*), southern waxy sedge (*Carex glaucescens*), poorland flatsedge (*Cyperus compressus*), fragrant flatsedge (*Cyperus odoratus*), many-spike flatsedge (*Cyperus polystachyos*), pinebarren flatsedge (*Cyperus retrorsus*), straw-colored nutsedge (*Cyperus strigosus*), purple nutsedge (*Cyperus rotundus*), jointed spikesedge (*Eleocharis equisetoides*), viviparous spikerush (*Eleocharis vivipara*), fragrant spikesedge (*Kyllinga odorata*), and bunched beaksedge (*Rhynchospora cephalantha*).

Grasses identified were bushy bluestem (*Andropogon glomeratus*), water grass (*Luziola fluitans*), redtop panicgrass (*Coleataenia longifolia*), warty panicgrass (*Panicum verrucosum*), American cupscale (*Sacciolepis striata*) and plume grass (*Saccharum giganteum*), as well as non-native torpedo grass (*Panicum repens*) and Vasey grass (*Paspalum urvillei*).

Graminoids and Wetland Plants of Carolina Bays(cont'd)

In the afternoon, we visited a nearby wetland site in a powerline right-of-way. A number of graminoid species were different from the Grand Bay site. Of special interest was Florida goober grass (*Amphicarpum muehlenbergianum*). Sedges there included warty sedge (*Carex verrucosa*), saltmarsh umbrella sedge (*Fuirena breviseta*), shortbeak beaksedge (*Psilocarya nitens*), Carey's horned beaksedge (*Rhynchospora careyana*), sandswamp whitetop (*Rhynchospora latifolia*), tall horned beaksedge (*Rhynchospora macrostachya*), slenderfruit nut-rush (*Scleria georgiana*), and netted nut-rush (*Scleria reticularis*).

Additional grasses included longleaf threeawn (*Aristida palustris*), field lovegrass (*Eragrostis elliotii*), southern cutgrass (*Leersia hexandra*), and pinebarrens fluffgrass (*Tridens ambiguus*). Nongraminoids of interest were pineland rayless goldenrod (*Bigelowia nudata*), clustered bushmint (*Hyptis alata*), hairy primrose-willow (*Ludwigia pilosa*), Mohr's coneflower (*Rudbeckia mohrii*), and Bartram's rosegentian (*Sabatia decandra*).



Carey's horned beaksedge
(*Rhynchospora careyana*)



Southern waxy sedge
(*Carex glaucescens*) from Grand Bay

The next day (Sunday), Dr. Carter conducted a workshop, and we toured the upgraded herbarium at Valdosta State University. After an illustrated overview of basic terminology used to describe and identify sedges and a comparison of the major characteristics of the important graminoid families frequently confused with sedges, we critically examined plants and dissected spikelets under stereo-dissecting microscopes to observe the diagnostic features of selected representatives of the major sedge groups.

Then we used the results of our dissections to analyze structure and identify unknown sedges with dichotomous keys in a floristic manual. The genera we examined included *Scleria*, *Cyperus*, *Rhynchospora*, *Psilocarya*, *Kyllinga*, *Fuirena*, *Fimbristylis*, *Scirpus*, *Schoenoplectus*, *Eleocharis*, and *Carex*. The plant parts were so beautiful under magnification that we want to do this again.

Creating Grassland Habitats Workshop

By Heather Brasell

Walter Bland developed this September 24th workshop to focus on management options for restoring or creating grass-dominated habitats in varied environments. In the morning he focused the classroom part of the workshop on considering different environments, and he provided foundational information about establishing grasses. He stressed the importance of making sure seeds are a local ecotype and that the species would exist naturally in local habitats.

He suggested making an inventory of plants occurring at a relatively undisturbed site with similar habitat in the locale (as a reference site) and using this inventory as a planting guide. Site preparation is important; nonnative plants and aggressive agricultural weeds, like bahia grass, need to be eliminated from the site before planting native grasses and forbs. Walter discussed different methods of mechanical and chemical site preparation and the timing for establishing grasses and forbs.

In the afternoon, we visited four habitats, three on a powerline right-of-way and one at Ellen Corrie's property. Focus was on site assessment and management rather than plant identification. At each site, we discussed the ratio of desirable to undesirable species, the presence of specific plants that should be protected, and methods for treating the site to remove undesirable species with minimum impact on desirable species.

The first site on the powerline right-of-way was very sandy with many gopher tortoise burrows. Vegetation was dominated by bahia grass, with less than 5% of the cover consisting of desirable species. The second site, further down slope, was also well-drained, but it had more species diversity and about 20% desirable species. The third site was lower on the slope, with wetland indicators such as sphagnum. The abrupt change from well-drained soils to mesic and poorly-drained conditions suggested the presence of an aquitard to restrict drainage of water through the soil. This last area had considerable species diversity with more than 90% of the cover consisting of desirable species. Walter was excited to see the diversity and suggested we should try to get permission to actively manage the site to improve the habitat quality.



The fourth site (the Corrie property) was a gently sloping stand of mature longleaf pine (at least 100 years old) with wiregrass-dominated groundcover, ranging from well-drained soils at the top of the slope to poorly drained soils at the bottom of the slope. The herbaceous understory was in excellent condition, having been burned regularly for many years. It consisted of over 90% desirable species, including a very diverse mix of grasses, legumes, composites, orchids, ferns and other forbs.

The workshop provided a great opportunity for membership recruitment, with participants from GA Forestry Commission, landscape consultants, and local landowners in addition to BotSoc members. We hope to have more workshops in 2017, so keep an eye on the field trip schedule, newsletter advisements, and email notifications.

Field Trip Photos from Nov 11 trip to FDR State Park

Photos by Rona Cook

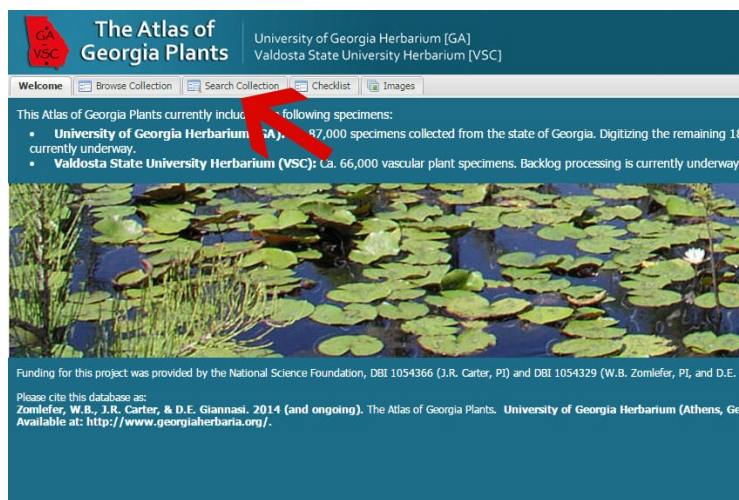


Plants pictured include grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia asarifolia*), top right, longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) middle row, and ferns - including Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), bottom left.

New Online Herbaria Resource

By Ellen Honeycutt

An exciting new tool is available online to botanical hobbyists and researchers of Georgia's native plants. Using a series of grants (NSF grants to UGA and a large collaborative NSF grant to UGA (Wendy B. Zomlefer & David Giannasi) and VSU (Richard Carter)), the *Atlas of Georgia Plants* portal, with specimen images from University of Georgia and Valdosta State University herbariums, is now available. If you ever wished that you could see vouchered plant specimens, now you can. The website is <http://www.georgiaherbaria.org/>



Choose Browse or Search from this page

You can browse the collection by Family, by Genus, and by County. From the navigation menu, choose "Browse Collection" to get started. Some collections are quite large and some are quite small. As a resident of Cherokee county, I feel like my county is under-collected. Other counties have very large numbers of specimens. The same is true for certain plant species. As more specimens are digitized, I'm sure that will change.

Some people might find it more efficient to use the search capability. From the navigation menu, choose "Search Collection" to enter your search criteria such as Genus and Species (e.g., *Quercus* for genus and *coccinea* for species).

This screen has a nice feature: as you type, the webpage is finding matches for you. For example, after having typed "coc" in the species field, you have seven choices already and can choose "coccinea" from the list.

Example of search results

New Online Herbaria Resource (cont'd)

Once you have found a specimen that you want to examine, double click on it to open it. This opens the “general info” tab. To see the specimen, click on “image sheet” in the secondary menu. Once you’re in the image sheet, you can zoom in on the specimen if you first choose the option “Switch to interactive view” at the bottom of the page. Go back to the “Static view” when you are done.

When you are ready to close the specimen, close it from the top menu by x'ing the specimen number (this is a 1958 specimen of *Symphotrichum pilosum* collected by Marie Mellinger, numbered as “GA082217”). You can keep multiple specimens open at once; just click “Search Collection” again to get another one without closing this one.

The Atlas of Georgia Plants
University of Georgia Herbarium [GA]
Valdosta State University Herbarium [VSC]

Welcome | Browse Collection | Search Collection | Checklist | Images | GA082217

General Info | Image Sheet

Choose Template: Field

Taxonomy

Phylum Magnoliophyta
Class Magnolopsida
Order Asterales
Family Asteraceae
Genus Symphyotrichum
Scientific Name Symphyotrichum pilosum var. pilosum (Willd.) Nesom
Common Name hairy white oldfield aster

Locality

Country United States
State Georgia
County Chatham County
Locality Chatham County, GA
Collector Mellinger, M
Date Collected 6 Oct 1958
Collector # s.n.
Cultivation Not in Cultivation

Record Info

Global Unique Id UGA-GA:GA082217
Basis of Record PreservedSpecimen
Institution Code UGA
Collection Code GA
Catalog # GA082217
Accession Number 164510

Printable Format | Additional Links

The Atlas of Georgia Plants
University of Georgia Herbarium [GA]
Valdosta State University Herbarium [VSC]

Welcome | Browse Collection | Search Collection | Checklist | Images | GA082217

General Info | Image Sheet

Symphotrichum pilosum (Willd.) Nesom var. pilosum

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
HERBARIUM

Specimen Examined for Georgia Atlas Project
24 October 2013

164510

6 October 1958

IMAGED 2013

View Original Image | Switch to Interactive View

General Info tab on left; Image sheet on right

You can also see distribution information at the bottom of the species page (before you select a specimen), see previous page of this article. In addition, you can find pictorial depictions of distributions at the link: <http://www.georgiaherbaria.org/atlas/>

That link has Alphabetical letters for plant families (e.g., choose “F” to go to Fagaceae if you want to search for *Quercus* (oaks) or “C” for Caprifoliaceae for *Lonicera* (honeysuckle)). From there, choose the species you want in order to go to the distribution maps. I like the list of county names so that I can quickly check which counties have presence rather than trying to figure out the counties by staring at a map but have a look for yourself to see what this new tool can do for you.

2017 Field Trip Schedule

Date	Title	Leader(s)	County
Jan 21	Winter Woody Walk	Ellen Honeycutt	Fulton
Feb 4	Vegetation Management Workshop	Walter Bland	Tift
Feb 4	Rare Plant Habitat Protection on Private GA Lands (talk)	Lisa Kruse	Rockdale
Feb 19	Lost Creek Forest (9 am)	Beth Grant	Thomas
Feb 19	Wolf Creek (1:30 pm)	Beth Grant	Grady
Feb 25	Paces Mill, CRNRA	Mike Christison	Cobb
Mar 18	Japanese Paper Plant	Louis Schweizer	Rabun
Mar 26	Mushroom walk	Elliott Horner	Putnam/Greene
Apr 1	Cochran Shoals	Maureen Donohue	Cobb
Apr 2	Violets Workshop and Hike	Aliya Davenport	Dade
Apr 2	Arabia Mountain	Jerry Hightower	DeKalb
Apr 7-9	Botsoc Pilgrimage (Chattanooga area)	Mitchell Kent	
Apr 15	Shooting Stars, Jacob's Ladder	Jennifer Kearns	Floyd
Apr 15	Large Cypress (Townsend WMA)	Mincy Moffet	Long
Apr 15-16	Carnivores: Pitcher Plants & Pinguiculas	Rich Reaves	Charlton
Apr 22	Trilliums	Clayton Webster	Rabun
Apr 23	Spring Wildflowers	Jerry Hightower	Cobb
Apr 29	Michaux's Saxifrage & other spring wildflowers	Maureen Donohue	Rabun
Apr 29	Cay Creek Wetland Park	Eamonn Leonard	Liberty
Apr 30	Helonias bullata	Carrie Radcliffe	Rabun/Towns
May 6	Turkeybeard	Hal Massie	Meriweather
May 7	Spring Wildflowers	John French	Union
May 13	Spring Wildflowers	Rachel Ann Perez	Union
May 14	Canoeing	Jerry Hightower	Cobb
May 20	Shoals Spider Lily (by canoe)	Hal Massie	Talbot/Upson
May 20	Pitcher Plants, Dew Threads	Tom Patrick	Brooks
May 21	Cypress Ponds, Sandhills	Tom Patrick	Irwin
May 27-29	Memorial Day Trilogy	Hal Massie, Rich Reaves	TBD
Jun 3	Floyd Prairies	Richard Ware	Floyd
Jun 17	Elliottia racemosa & Hybrid Pitcher Plants	Lisa Kruse	Tatnall
Jun 18	Chestatee River Canoe Trip	Jerry Hightower	Lumpkin
Jun 24	Gray's Lily	Jim Drake	
Jun 25	Roadside Botany & Asheville Botanical Gardens	Jim Drake	
July 8-9	Okefenokee Area	Rich Reaves	Charlton
July 15	Providence Canyon	Tom Patrick	Stewart
July 16	Limestone Outcrop Flora	Tom Patrick	Randolph
July 22	Botsoc Trip to Wyoming's Snowy Range (slide show)	Rich Reaves	TBD
Aug 19	Plentiful Platanthera and more (Florida panhandle)	Jim Drake, Virginia Craig	
Aug 20	Coastal Plants, Wildflowers & Old Growth Longleaf	Jim Drake, Wilson Baker	Thomas
Aug 27	Montane purple pitcher plant, Cuthbert's Turtlehead	Carrie Radcliffe	Towns
Sep 2-3	Okefenokee Area	Rich Reaves	Charlton
Sep 9-10	Invasive Plants Workshop	Walter Bland	Berrien
Sep 16	Cottongrass, Pocket Gophers (Black Creek Bog)	Tom Patrick	Taylor
Sep 17	Shadow Witch Orchids, Pawpaws (Oak Woods)	Tom Patrick	Houston
Sep 23	Late Summer Wildflowers	Richard Ware	Floyd
Oct 7	Early Fall Wildflowers: Gentians, Parnassia, Aconitum	Mike Christison	Union
Oct 8	Mushroom walk	Bill Sheehan	Union
Oct 9	Columbus Day, Chattahoochee Fall Line WMA	Hal Massie	Talbot
Oct 14	Hemlocks/Pines Plant Workshop	Leslie Edwards	Rabun
Oct 19	Bog restoration work party	Lisa Kruse	Tatnall
Nov 10	Veterans Day (Observed) Fall Color Walk	Hal Massie	Meriweather
Dec 2	Holiday Party	TBD	TBD

Please see the website for more details on the field trips as the list was compressed to fit this space.

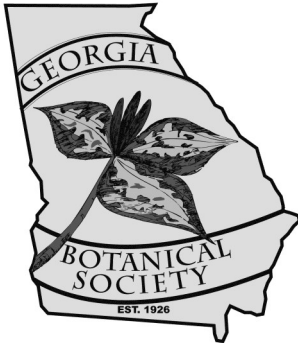
Upcoming Field Trips

Jan 21 10:00 AM	<p>Winter Woody Walk</p> <p>A casual stroll among deciduous hardwood trees and shrubs will give us plenty of opportunity to practice our woody plant identification using bark, old leaves and bare twigs at Big Trees Forest Preserve in Sandy</p>	<p>Directions: Meet in the parking lot at 7645 Roswell Rd, Sandy Springs, GA 30350</p> <p>Facilities: Yes.</p> <p>Walking: Easy, wear sturdy shoes.</p> <p>Bring: Water, snacks, camera, notebook.</p>	Ellen Honeycutt ehoneycutt @bellsouth.net 678-576-5667 (c)
Feb 4 10:00 AM	<p>Protecting Rare Plants on Private Lands (Presentation and Discussion)</p> <p>Lisa will give an update on the Georgia Botanical Society's pitcherplant bog protection project, where GA Bot Soc is partnering with GA DNR and the Oconee River Land Trust to purchase permanent conservation easements on one of Georgia's most diverse coastal plain pitcher plant bogs. Lisa will also touch on other ways rare plant habitats are being protected on private lands, and the fascinating individual stories that develop around each site.</p> <p>Lisa is also interested in feedback from participants on the pitcherplant bog project and ideas for building relationships with landowners.</p> <p>After an hour-long presentation we can enjoy a nature</p>	<p>Location: Visitors' Center at Panola Mountain State Park, 2620 Highway 155 SW, Stockbridge, GA 30281</p> <p>Facilities: Yes</p> <p>Bring: Lunch and snacks.</p> <p>Please email Lisa Kruse if you plan to attend.</p> <p>About the speaker: Lisa Kruse has worked for the GA DNR since 2006. One of the parts of her job that she is most passionate about is outreach to landowners who have special rare plant habitats. She assists interested landowners to navigate various agencies and resources to bring conservation and protection to rare plants and their habitats. Lisa believes this is critical for effective conservation in Georgia, since over 90% of the land</p>	Lisa Kruse lisa.kruse @dnr.ga.gov 706-318-3287
Feb 25 12:00 PM Note: Late start time	<p>Trout Lilies</p> <p>What better way to anticipate spring than to wonder at the site of hundreds of trout lilies, <i>Erythronium umbilicatum</i>, covering the hillsides above Rottenwood Creek in the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. The 12:00 pm meeting time is scheduled to coincide with the early afternoon opening of these exquisite wildflowers. There will be an optional walk to see the ruins at the old Akers Mill grist mill, which is also covered with Trout Lilies. We may also see the rare bay star vine, <i>Schisandra glabra</i>, although it will not yet be in bloom.</p>	<p>Directions: Palisades Unit, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, Paces Mill parking area: 3445 Cobb Parkway, Atlanta, Georgia 30339. The Paces Mill parking area is located on the north side of the Chattahoochee River and on the east side of S. Cobb Parkway, US Hwy 41 in Smyrna, 1.4 miles south of I-285. For map, see www.nps.gov/chat</p> <p>Facilities: Restrooms at parking area.</p> <p>Difficulty: About 3 miles, flat except for the short but steep climb up to the old mill ruins.</p> <p>Bring: \$3.00 parking fee or annual or senior national park pass; water and snack to eat on the</p>	Mike Christison mikepaddler @netscape.net 770-596-3564 (c)
March 18 10:00 AM	<p>Japanese Paper Plants</p> <p>A visit to see Japanese Paper Plants located in the National Forest of Rabun Co. They were introduced into Georgia in the early 1900's and planted at an old home site. They have naturalized along Wolf Creek for 4 miles. They bloom the first 3 weeks of March. This site is near the Wolf Creek Baptist Church which was built in 1851. The largest patch of plants are one half mile from the church.</p>	<p>Directions: From Tallulah Falls, GA., proceed N on 441 approx. 4 miles to the Lakemont sign, turn R on Wolf Creek Rd., go 3.6 miles to Wolf Creek Baptist Church sign, turn onto the church road and go 1 mile to the church parking lot.</p> <p>Facilities: No</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy</p> <p>Bring: Lunch, water, camera.</p>	Louis Schweizer louis30576 @gmail.com

If you haven't been on a BotSoc field trip recently, please join us in 2017. We always have a lot of fun and everyone learns something - even the leaders! 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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