

48TH ANNUAL SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE

APRIL 7-9, 2017

CHATTANOOGA, HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

The 48th Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage of the Georgia Botanical Society offers participants the opportunity to explore the unique terrain and ecosystems of the Tennessee River Valley, Cumberland Plateau, and surrounding areas. The host city is Chattanooga, Tennessee, located just north of the Georgia state line and on the banks of the Tennessee River. The terrain around the city is known as the Ridge and Valley physiographic region of the Appalachian Mountains. The city is bordered to the west by Walden Ridge with its deep gorges to which a number of field trips are planned. To the south is historic Lookout Mountain, also the location of a number of field trips. To the east is Missionary Ridge. In addition, field trips to several well known sites in North Georgia are included such as Cloudland Canyon and Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail. Hotels for the 2017 Pilgrimage are located in scenic Lookout Valley, southwest of city center just off I-24 exit 174. We hope to see you there!

PILGRIMAGE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

- 8:00 am-4:30 pm Morning and full day field trips assemble at the Walmart parking area near the hotels at the times indicated in descriptions for each field trip.
- 1:00 pm Afternoon field trips assemble at their respective trailheads, as described in each description.
- 6:00 pm-9:00 pm Registration and social at the International Towing and Recovery Museum.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

- 7:30 am-8:00 am Early registration at the Clarion Inn.
- 8:00 am -4:30 pm Morning and full day field trips assemble at the Walmart parking area.
- 1:00 pm Afternoon field trips assemble at their respective trailheads as described in each description.
- 4:30 pm-5:00 pm Field trips return.
- 7:00 pm-8:30 pm Banquet dinner at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Restaurant's Roosevelt Hall.
- 8:30 pm-10:00 pm Evening program at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Restaurant's Roosevelt Hall.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

- 8:00 am-4:30 pm Morning and full day field trips assemble at the Walmart parking area near the hotels at the times indicated in descriptions for each field trip.
- 1:00 pm Afternoon field trips assemble at their respective trailheads.
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2 Background

You are cordially invited to attend the Georgia Botanical Society (BotSoc) 2017 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage! This pilgrimage will be different from others in the past. It is the very first BotSoc pilgrimage to have the host city located outside the state of Georgia. The city of Chattanooga, Tennessee is located a few miles north of the Georgia-Tennessee state line. This location will enable members to explore natural sites in East Tennessee, while also having access to perennial favorites in North Georgia.

The word “Chattanooga” is derived from a Cherokee word meaning “rock coming to a point,” possibly referring to Lookout Mountain which is a prominent feature to the south of the city. The city was officially named Chattanooga by the US Post Office in 1838. At that time, the population of Chattanooga was very small and the city was somewhat isolated due to the mountains and ridges surrounding it. Railroad construction in the region during the 1800s helped to end the isolation.

In 1850, the Western and Atlantic Railroad owned by the State of Georgia completed a railroad line from Atlanta to Chattanooga, terminating at Ross’s Landing on the Tennessee River. Wood burning steam engines were used to power trains of that era. Passengers and goods could go by steamboat from Ross’s Landing to other parts of the area. Construction of the Whiteside Tunnel through Missionary Ridge during the decade of the 1850s enabled trains to reach Chattanooga from the east. A few years later, its position as a hub for transatlantic railroads made Chattanooga a strategic location during the Civil War. Consequently several famous battles were fought near the city. By 1900, there were nine railroad lines terminating in Chattanooga, making it an important connecting point for passengers and freight. During World War II, as many as 70 trains passed through Chattanooga each day. The large railroad switching yards can still be seen from highway overpasses in the city. Terminal Station, one of the main railroad terminals in Chattanooga, later became the Chattanooga Choo Choo Historic Hotel, where we will hold the BotSoc Saturday evening banquet. Today, the population of Chattanooga exceeds 170,000 people.



Perfoliate bellwort
Uvularia perfoliata

Start of wildflower season in the Chattanooga area can vary from late February to late March. The dates selected for the 2017 Pilgrimage should ensure that some natural sites are reaching their peak displays. Field trip sites include varied terrain such as mountain top trails, lush cove forests, deep canyons and flowing creeks with waterfalls and cascades. It is possible that participants will see 20 to 30 native species at some of the sites.

Wildflowers and native plants that we may see include bishop’s cap, bloodroot, trout lily, blue-eyed Mary, toothwort, shooting star, multiple species of violet, dwarf larkspur, spring beauty, dwarf crested iris, foamflower, little brown jug, mayapple, perfoliate bellwort, treacle berry, spotted mandarin, multiple species of trillium, wild geranium, wild ginger, jack-in-the-pulpit, Solomon’s seal, blueberry, sweet shrub and many more. Trees include hemlock, red cedar, shagbark hickory, sweet gum, multiple species of oak, pine, yellowwood and others.

A total of 28 field trips have been defined for the 2017 event. We encourage you to review all of the material in the brochure, to choose those field trips of interest, and then submit your registration form. Be sure to include field trip numbers for 1st and 2nd choices for the field trips, as some trips may fill up prior to receiving your registration form. We look forward to seeing you at the 2017 Pilgrimage!

The **Friday Night Social** will be held in a banquet room at the International Towing and Recovery Museum. The Museum is located at 3315 Broad St, in Chattanooga, about 4 miles from the pilgrimage hotels. It can be reached via US 41 (Cummings Highway) then left on Broad Street. Free parking is available near the building. Botanical books will be on display, with some for sale. Book signings may be done by authors. Bring your own favorite field guides and reference books for others to examine. Discounted tickets will be available to tour the museum, if interested. *If you are willing to bring hors d'oeuvre or soft drinks for the Friday social, please contact Joanne Romfh at joannromfh@aol.com or 678-461-4466. No alcohol is allowed on the premises.*

The **Saturday evening banquet** will be held at the famous Chattanooga Choo Choo Restaurant in the Roosevelt Ballroom. Address is 1400 Market St, Chattanooga, TN 37402. To get there from the pilgrimage hotels, travel east on I-24 for about 5 miles and take exit 178 onto US-27 north. Take the West Main Street exit and turn right. Proceed about a quarter of a mile to Market Street to arrive at the Choo Choo Hotel. Free parking is available in the rear of the building.

Plans for the banquet include a plated dinner and an evening program. A plated dinner will be served with options for chicken, beef or vegetarian selections. The dinner will also include a salad, vegetables, rolls, and a dessert. Tea/coffee will be served with the meal. Other beverages (beer, liquor or wine) may be purchased separately from the hotel bar immediately outside the ballroom.

The evening program will begin immediately after dinner. Dr. Larry Pounds will present a talk illustrated with slides about plants of the Cumberland Plateau near Chattanooga. The Cumberland Plateau towers a thousand feet over Chattanooga. It is a land of gorges, roaring streams and tall cliffs with many special habitats for rare plants. Dr. Pounds will discuss some of the special plants found while botanizing. The habitats and distributions of these species will also be covered. The audience will get a chance to guess the "ids" of these plants from photos. Dr. Pounds is co-author of the book "Wildly Strolling Along" that describes a trek along sections of the Cumberland Trail. Book signings will follow.

Other Activities in Chattanooga

There are other activities that you may want to consider while in Chattanooga. The city offers a wealth of attractions for visitors. Accordingly, arrangements have been made with the pilgrimage hotels to provide rooms at the group rate for three days before and three days after the pilgrimage dates to permit members to further explore the Chattanooga area. Downtown hosts an extensive river walk, a river cruise on the Southern Belle, and the Tennessee Aquarium. There is the Bluff View Art District with its museums and art galleries. Many fine restaurants are located nearby. The Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum is a short drive away for train enthusiasts. In addition, there are numerous attractions on and around Lookout Mountain. More details on attractions and local events can be obtained at the website www.chattanooga.fun.org maintained by the Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau. We hope that you will plan some extra time during your visit to explore Chattanooga.

Recognition

We would like to express our appreciation to the Chattanooga Convention and Visitors Bureau for their valuable support of the planning effort for the 2017 Pilgrimage. Their recommendations led to the selection of suitable venues for the Friday night social and Saturday evening banquet. In addition, detailed information on local hotels from the Bureau significantly shortened the search. Thanks also for the welcome kits with tourist information that was provided for our members.

Location:

Clarion Inn (\$89.99)

3641 Cummings Hwy
Chattanooga, TN 37419
Telephone: 423-821-5500
Rate expiration: 2/6/2017

Country Inn and Suites (\$89.00)

3725 Modern Industries Parkway
Chattanooga, TN 37419
Telephone: 423-825-6100
Rate expiration: 3/4/2017

Fairfield Inn and Suites (\$119)

40 Starview Lane
Chattanooga, TN 37419
Telephone: 423-664-4222
Rate expiration: 3/17/2017

Directions:

From Atlanta, take I-75 north to I-24 in Chattanooga. Proceed west on I-24 at the Y for about 12 miles. Take I-24 exit 174 for US-41/US-64 toward US-41/Lookout Valley. Clarion Inn and Fairfield Inn hotels are on the left off US-41. Country Inn and Suites is right off US-41. Use a mapping program such Google Maps or MapQuest for other starting locations. Inform hotel registration that you are a member of Georgia Botanical Society to obtain the discounted rate shown.

Lodging/Camping:

We have blocked rooms at hotels in Lookout Valley on the southwestern side of Chattanooga for the 2017 Pilgrimage. All hotels are near I-24 for ease of travel to the field trip sites. Distance to downtown Chattanooga is about 7 miles, east on I-24, then north on US 27. Due to limited parking at the hotels, we will use a nearby Walmart parking lot as a meetup site for departure to morning and all day field trips. Walmart is at 3550 Cummings Highway near the Clarion Hotel.

Call the hotels directly for reservations and identify yourself as a Georgia Botanical Society member. Note that April is a busy month for hotels in Chattanooga due to other conference and sports events. Alternate hotels may not be available. We suggest that you book the hotel early. Also, the discounted rates associated with the block booking arrangements will begin to expire in early February. All hotels include a full hot breakfast. Free Wi-Fi is also available. Rooms should contain microwaves and small refrigerators.

Camping sites and cabins are available in the Chattanooga area. Below are some names of campgrounds and contact phone numbers:

Battlefield Campground and RV Park at 199 KOA Blvd, Ringgold, GA 30736 (706) 937-4166

Holiday Travel Park in Chattanooga, TN at 1709 South Mack Smith Road, Chattanooga, TN (800) 693-2877

Raccoon Mountain Campground in Chattanooga, TN (423) 821-9403

Cloudland Canyon State Park at 122 Cloudland Canyon Park Rd, Rising Fawn, GA (800) 864-7275

Other camping sites in the Chattanooga area can be found via an internet search. Consider booking early as the number of available sites may be limited.

What to Bring:

As with all BotSoc field trips, please bring enough water for your whole trip, also lunch or snacks, as appropriate. Bug spray, camera, hand lens, binoculars, field guides and sunscreen are suggested. A hiking pole is recommended for any trip rated as strenuous. You may also wish to bring a jacket or rain gear, depending on the weather.

BotSoc Pilgrimage T-shirts

We will have tee shirts and sweatshirts for sale once again, with a unique design for the 2017 Pilgrimage. All profits from the sales of the tee 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, 2017**. Shirts are produced only based 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, styles, and sizes are as follows:

Short sleeve T shirt (unisex)

Color - Purple

sizes S, M, L, XL are \$17.00

size XXL is \$19.00

size XXXL is \$20.00

Short sleeve T shirt (women's)

Color - Purple Rush

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

size XXL is \$20.00

size XXXL is \$21.00

Long sleeve T shirt (unisex only)

Color - Purple

sizes S, M, L, XL are \$19.50

size XXL is \$21.50

size XXXL is 22.50

Long sleeve Sweatshirt (unisex only)

Color - Purple

sizes S, M, L, XL are \$20.00

size XXL is \$22.00

size XXXL is 23.00



General Information

Pilgrimage packets will be available at the Friday night Social. The packet will contain name tags, a field trip schedule and other important information about the pilgrimage. If you are unable to attend the Social, the packets will be available on Saturday morning at the Clarion Inn before 8:00 am.

We encourage you to carpool as much as possible on all field trips. Some venues have limited parking spaces and may have other visitors. In addition, 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.

The roadside botanizing trip will not require carpooling since it is being conducted as one of the last field trips on Sunday after which members may be leaving for home. In any event, please follow your leaders' directions. If you are meeting the leader for your field trip at the trip's beginning (or the trailhead), please let the leader know in advance that you will not be meeting the group at the Walmart parking lot. Likewise, inform the leader if you need to leave the group early.

Field Trips At A Glance

Fri AM	Fri PM	Sat AM	Sat PM	Sun AM	Sun PM
1. Roaring Creek / Cumberland Trail		11. Sitton's Gulch at Cloudland Canyon		21. Sitton's Gulch	
2. Shakerag Hollow		12. Trails of Shackleford Ridge		22. Botanical Motorcade	
3. Collins Gulf		13. Red Clay State Historical Park		23. Hidden Pond @ Carter's Lake	
4. Reflection Riding - Hotspots		14. Little Cedar Mountain		24. Geology and Natural Communities of Zahnd Natural Area	
5. Big Possum Creek Gorge		15. Lula Lake Land Trust		25. Grundy Day Loop Trails + Foster Falls	
	6. Coosawattee Bluffs	16. Big Soddy Creek Gulf		26. Cloudland Canyon - West Rim	
	7. Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail	17. Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail		27. Little Cedar Mountain	
	8. Cedar Glades @ Chickamauga Bat.	18. Grundy Day Loop Trails + Foster Falls			28. Coosawattee Bluffs
	9. Keown Falls	19. Reflection Riding Arboretum	20. Reflection Riding Mtn. Trails		
	10. CAS - Audubon Acres				

Trip 1: Roaring Creek / Cumberland Trail

Date: Friday Full day, 8 am to 3 pm

Location: Meet the trip leader at the Walmart parking lot across US-41 (Cummings Highway) from the Clarion Inn at 8 am. From Walmart, take I-24 east toward Chattanooga for 4.4 miles, Take exit 178 for US 27 toward Chattanooga. Continue north on US-27 for 33 miles. Turn left onto TN 303 near Graysville for 0.4 mile, then right onto Dayton Avenue (still TN 303). Take the first left onto Pikeville Avenue for 1.6 miles as the road becomes Pikeville Blvd/Brayton Mountain Road. Just after a sharp curve left, the dirt and gravel parking area for the trailhead is on the right. A local bar called The Foot is a cinder-block building on the left.

Description: Roaring Creek is a superb location for early spring wildflowers. It is located on Graysville Mountain. The trail follows an old coal mining road up the mountain through various botanical environments. Portions follow Roaring Creek and its tributaries that include cascades and waterfalls. At the far end of the trail, the group will arrive at Roaring Creek Overlook with an excellent view of the town of Graysville and the valley below. The trip will begin and end at the parking area inside the property. Restroom facilities are not available. Hiking distance is about 4 miles. Level of difficulty is rated moderate.

Leader: Dr. Larry Pounds

Trip 2: Shakerag Hollow

Date: Friday Full day, 8 am to 3 pm

Location: Meet the trip assistant at the Walmart parking lot across US-41 (Cummings Highway) from the Clarion Inn at 8 am. From Walmart, take I-24 west for 40 miles. Take exit 134 onto US-41A toward Sewanee, TN. Continue 3.7 miles to the gates of the University of the South. The trailhead is near the University gates on the right at 14120 Sewanee Highway, Sewanee, TN.

Description: Shakerag Hollow ranks as one of the top locations for early spring ephemeral wildflowers in the East Tennessee region. It is located within the boundaries of the University of the South at Sewanee, but is completely undeveloped. Near the beginning of the trip, the trail drops into the Shakerag Hollow and continues for approximately 2 miles to the climb out at Green Point. Numerous scenic features include tall rock faces, caves, waterfalls, and stream beds. Fields of wildflowers await the visitor. Restroom facilities are not available. Hiking distance is about 2 miles. Level of difficulty is rated moderate.

Leader: Dennis Horn

Trip 3: Collins Gulf

7

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- Date:** Friday Full day, 8 am to 3 pm
- Location:** Meet the field trip assistant at the Walmart parking lot across US-41 (Cummings Highway) from the Clarion Inn at 8 am. We will carpool for approximately 1 hour west to site near Gruetli-Laager, TN. From Walmart, take I-24 west for 18.6 miles. Take I-24 exit 155 onto TN-28 N toward Jasper / Dunlap. Turn right on TN-28 N for 11.7 miles. Turn left onto S Main St. at Whitwell. S Main St. becomes TN-108. Continue 17.7 miles to 55th Avenue in Gruetli-Laager. Turn right on 55th Avenue. The trailhead parking lot is approximately 2.7 miles from town on 55th Avenue.
- Description:** Collins Gulf is a favorite destination for many who visit the South Cumberland State Park in the spring. It is a pristine environment within the Savage Gulf Natural Area that offers towering cliffs and an amazing wildflower display for visitors. The trail starts on top, then drops into the gulf, continues to Horsepound Falls and returns along the same route. Numerous scenic features include tall cliffs with rock outcroppings, cascades, waterfalls, rich cove forest and stream beds. Amazing displays wildflowers include over 30 spring ephemerals. Bring food and plenty of water. Sturdy hiking boots and a hiking pole are highly recommended. A latrine is available at the site. Hiking distance is about 3 miles. Level of difficulty is rated strenuous.
- Leaders:** Mary Priestley and Jason Reynolds

Trip 4: Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center – Wildflower Hotspots

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- Date:** Friday Half day, 8 am to 12 pm
- Location:** Meet the trip assistant at the Walmart parking lot across US-41 (Cummings Highway) from the Clarion Inn at 8 am. We will drive to the Reflection Riding Arboretum. From Walmart, travel 1.5 miles east on US-41 (Cummings Highway). Turn right on TN-318 S for 0.1 miles. Turn right on Garden Road for 0.2 miles to the Reflection Riding Visitor Center at 400 Garden Road, Chattanooga. Restrooms are available in the visitor center. Drive time is about 15 minutes. An entrance fee is charged. Map with directions will be available.
- Description:** Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center is a 330 acre site at the base of Lookout Mountain. The field trip will begin at the Reflection Riding Visitor Center. Our trip leader and host will be a horticulturist with Reflection Riding. We will ride a tram along a dirt road that circumnavigates the property and stop at wildflower hotspots. One portion of the road borders Lookout Creek, while others run through the forest on the valley floor. The intent is to visit many wildflowers as possible without having to walk the 3 to 4 miles along the road and trails with the property. Participants should bring food and water. Level of difficulty is rated easy.
- Leader:** Corey Hagan

Trip 5: Big Possum Creek Gorge

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- Date:** Friday Full day, 8 am to 3 pm
- Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Walmart parking lot across US-41 (Cummings Highway) from the Clarion Inn at 8 am. We will caravan north to the trailhead site off Heiss Mountain Road. From Walmart, take I-24 east toward Chattanooga for 4.2 miles, Take exit 178 for US 27 toward Chattanooga. Continue US-27 north for 22.8 miles. Go left at the Y onto TN-111. Ascend the Cumberland Plateau on TN-111 and proceed a total of 5.0 miles and exit right onto Jones Gap Road. Turn right onto Heiss Mountain Road, a paved dead-end road that parallels TN-111. You will see a small store/truck-stop at the turn. Proceed 0.5 mile on Heiss Mountain Road to the end of a guardrail on the left. A sign marks this location, showing "Cumberland Trail State Park". Park on the roadside and walk to trailhead in the edge of the forest. Map with directions will be available.
- Description:** Big Possum Creek Gorge is one of three adjoining gorges north of Soddy Daisy, TN. All offer rich mountain forests, major rock features, scenic overlooks, and rushing streams with waterfalls. The trail starts on top of the gorge, then drops quickly through rock gardens to the valley floor. The trail is well constructed with smooth segments and numerous rock stairs to be negotiated for rapid elevation changes. It is also well marked. This field trip will continue to the 60 foot bridge over Big Possum Creek at a distance of about 1.8 miles with elevation change of over 500 feet, hence the strenuous difficulty rating. Numerous scenic features include tall rock walls, rock ledges, scenic forest vistas, and stream beds. Beautiful displays of ephemeral wildflowers should be present all along the trail. The trip then returns along the same route. Participants should bring food, water, sturdy hiking boots and a hiking pole. Hiking distance should not exceed 4.0 miles, Restroom facilities are not available. Level of difficulty is rated strenuous.
- Leader:** Tom Patrick
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Date: Friday Half day, 1 pm to 3:30 pm (Limit 20 people)

Location: Meet the trip leader at the Re-Regulation Dam Recreation Area on Carter's Lake at 12:45 PM. From Walmart, take I-24 east for 11 miles to I-75 south. Continue for 36.1 miles on I-75 south. Take I-75 exit 320 to GA-136 east. Continue for 21 miles on GA-136. Turn left on Old US Highway 411 for 0.9 miles. Turn right into the Carters Lake Reregulation Dam Recreation Area. Drive time from pilgrimage hotels in Chattanooga is about 65 minutes.

For people travelling from the Atlanta area, here are directions from the I-75 and I-285 interchange. Take I-75 north for 61.5 miles to I-75 exit 320. Follow above directions on GA-136. Drive time from I-75 and I-285 interchange near Atlanta is about 65 minutes.

Description: The Coosawattee Bluffs site has been used for BotSoc field trips in the past. It is on private land owned by the Bland family. Permission has been granted by the owner for us to visit the site. It holds a large array of unusual plants and offers a spectacular display of early season ephemerals. After assembling at the Re-Regulation Dam Recreation Area, the group will travel to the site nearby. Hiking distance for the afternoon trip should not exceed 1 mile. Restrooms are available in the Re-Regulation Dam Recreation Area, Level of difficulty is rated easy.

Leader: Tom Govus

Trip 7: Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail

Date: Friday Half day, 1 pm to 4 pm

Location: Meet the trip leader at the trailhead parking lot off Pocket Road west of Lafayette, GA. From Walmart, head east on US-41 (Cummings Highway) for 3.3 miles. Turn right onto W 37th St. Immediately, turn right on St. Elmo Avenue and continue for 2.1 miles through the town of St. Elmo. At the Tennessee-Georgia state line, the street becomes GA-193. Continue south on GA-193 for about 18.4 miles to a four-way stop at Hog Jowl Road. Turn right on Hog Jowl Road and travel approximately 2.8 miles, watching for Blue Bird Gap Road. Just past Blue Bird Gap Road, at the top of a small rise, turn left onto Pocket Road. Continue for 1.2 miles until it dead ends into the trailhead parking area. The road ends after 1.2 miles at the parking area for the Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail. Be aware that Pocket Road becomes a narrow dirt and gravel road soon after the intersection. Note that a small creek ford exists on the road near the trailhead, so vehicles with higher road clearance may be desirable. Drive time is about 45 minutes. Map with directions will be available.

For those people coming from the Atlanta area, here are directions. From I-75 and I-285 interchange near Atlanta, head north on I-75 for 61.5 miles to I-75 exit 320. Take GA-136 west for 25 miles to US-27 in Lafayette, GA. Cross over US-27 onto GA-193 / W Villanow St. At Main Street in Lafayette, GA-193 turns left, then right, within a few blocks. Follow Hwy 193 west from Lafayette for approximately 7 miles to Davis Crossroads. Turn left on Hog Jowl Road. See remaining directions above. Drive time is about 1.75 hours. Map with directions will be available.

Description: The Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail is located in the Crockford-Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area at Pigeon Mountain. It has been an annual destination for BotSoc field trips over the years due to the excellent coverage of wildflowers in early spring. The trip will begin at the boardwalk near the trailhead. The boardwalk runs for about a quarter mile after which the trail turns rocky, uneven, and often muddy. It continues to a nice waterfall at the end. Total distance to the waterfall is less than one mile which is the turnaround point for return to the parking area. Other nearby trails may be explored, if time permits. A toilet is located at the parking area. Hiking distance should not exceed 2.5 miles. Level of difficulty is rated easy.

Leader: Elliott Horner

Note: A Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass (GORP) is now required for 32 GA WMA properties, including all of Pigeon Mountain. Those under 16 or 65 or older are exempt. It must be purchased in advance either online or by phone. State park passes are not accepted in WMAs, but the GA Sportsman's license is. For more info: <http://www.georgiawildlife.com/Georgia-Outdoor-Recreational-Pass>



Celandine poppy
Stylophorum diphyllum

Trip 8: Cedar Glades at Chickamauga Battlefield Park

9

Date: Friday Half day, 1 pm to 4 pm
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center just south of Fort Oglethorpe, GA at 12:45 PM. Address is: 3370 Lafayette Rd, Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742 Drive time from I-75 and I-285 interchange near Atlanta is about 1.5 hours. Drive time from Pilgrimage hotels is about 25 minutes.

Description: A visit to the cedar glades at Chickamauga Battlefield will be unlike any other pilgrimage field trip due to the unique geologic and botanical environments found there. This is one of the rarest plant habitats in Georgia. It contains a thin layer of soil covering limestone bedrock that restricts indigenous trees to red cedars growing at the edge of the glades and in cracks between the rocks. Likewise, the wildflowers found there are unique to the cedar glade environment. The trip will begin at the Park Visitor Center. We will caravan to several of the glades. Restrooms are available at the Visitor Center. Hiking distance should not exceed two miles. Level of difficulty is rated easy.

Leader: Mike Christison

Trip 9: Keown Falls

Date: Friday Half day, 1 pm to 4 pm
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Keown Falls Trailhead at 12:45 PM. From Walmart, take I-24 east for 11.0 miles to I-75 South. Continue on I-75 south for 36.4 miles. Take I-75 exit 320 onto GA-136 travelling west. Drive 7 miles and turn right at the stop sign to stay on state road 136. Drive another 7 miles and turn left onto Pocket Road. Drive 5 miles and turn right onto Forest Service Road 702 (a gravel road) and proceed a quarter mile to the Keown Falls Picnic Area. Drive time from pilgrimage hotels is 65 minutes. For those coming from the Atlanta area, here are directions. From I-75 and I-285 interchange near Atlanta, head north on I-75 for 61.5 miles to exit 320. Then, follow above directions on GA-136. Drive time from Atlanta area is about 75 minutes.

Description: The Keown Falls Trail is within the Chattahoochee National Forest. It has been a frequent destination for BotSoc field trips over the years due to the excellent coverage of wildflowers in early spring. The trip will begin at the Keown Falls Picnic Area. This is a loop trail of about 1.7 miles in length. The trail is in good condition with gentle slopes for most of the route. There are rock stairs to be negotiated near the waterfall and a few other places. Total elevation change along the trail is about 430 feet. Participants should plan to bring food, water, sturdy hiking boots and a hiking pole. Restrooms are available at the trailhead. Hiking distance should not exceed 2.0 miles. Level of difficulty is rated moderate.



Leader: Hal Massie

Geranium maculatum

Trip 10: Chattanooga Audubon Society—Audubon Acres Park

Date: Friday Half day, 1 pm to 4 pm
Location: Meet the trip leader at Audubon Acres Park. From Walmart, take I-24 east for 11 miles and take exit 185B to merge onto I-75 north. Continue for 2.3 miles and take I-75 exit number 3A to TN-320 E / E Brainerd Road. Travel east on East Brainerd Road for 1 mile. Turn right onto Gunbarrel Road for 1.1 miles. Turn right on North Sanctuary Road and travel 0.5 miles to the Park. Drive time from Walmart is about 20 minutes. Drive time from the interchange at I-75 and I-285 in Atlanta is about 1.5 hours. Address is 900 North Sanctuary Road, Chattanooga, TN. Drive time from the Pilgrimage hotels is about 25 minutes.

Description: Chattanooga Audubon Society's Audubon Acres Park is a beautiful 130 acre site that contains the Elise Chapin Wildlife Sanctuary. The field trip will begin at the Visitor Center. We will walk through an arboretum to the South Chickamauga Creek and then continue along the creek as we view numerous wildflowers. We will cross the creek on a pedestrian swinging bridge, then hike along the other side of the creek to a Cherokee Indian site known as Little Owl Village. We will return along the same trail. Restrooms are available in the Visitor Center. Hiking distance should not exceed 2.0 miles. The field trip will conclude no later than 3:00 pm. Level of difficulty is rated moderate.

Leader: Mitchell Kent

Trip 11: Sitton's Gulch at Cloudland Canyon State Park

10

Date: Saturday, Full day 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Walmart parking lot across US-41 (Cummings Highway) from the Clarion Inn at 8 am. We will caravan to the Cloudland Canyon State Park near Trenton, GA. We will drop cars at the exit point on the way in and then carpool back to the mountaintop in the park at the end of the day. There is a fee for parking at the State park (both top and bottom of the canyon), but a State Park Pass can be used in lieu of paying the fee.

Description: Expect to be amazed at the number and variety of wildflowers at this site. It is a prime location for early spring ephemeral wildflowers. The trip will begin on top of the mountain within the Park at the main trailhead near the Interpretive Center. We will hike along the Waterfall Trail to Hemlock Falls (the lower falls) and then on to the Sitton's Gulch Trail. We will explore the main trail and several side trails. There are numerous stairs (approximately 575 steps) from the top down into Sitton's Gulch with a total elevation change along the trail of about 400 feet. We will eat lunch on the trail. Total hiking distance will not exceed 5 miles. Restrooms are available at the start, but no other restrooms until after we return to the top at the end of the day. Level of difficulty is rated moderate.

Leader: Rich Reaves

Trip 12: Trails of Shackleford Ridge

Date: Saturday, Full or half day 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
Location: This is a self guided field trip. Enter "Shackleford Ridge County Park, Signal Mountain" into Google Maps for turn-by- turn directions to the site. Distance from hotels is 18 miles north on Signal Mountain. Travel time is about 30 minutes.

Description: Shackleford Ridge County Park is a large wooded park on top of Signal Mountain. It has several well used trails to be explored. A suggested trail for the field trip is called the Mushroom Rock Trail due to a spectacular geologic formation shaped like a mushroom that exists at the far end. From the parking area, the trail head is to the right of the pavilion at the back corner of a soccer field. The trail goes through mountain woodlands to Mushroom Rock. Several small creeks are crossed along the trail. The trip will begin at the parking area near the pavilion. There are restrooms in the pavilion; however, be aware that these are sometimes locked. The one way trail distance to Mushroom Rock is about 1.1 miles. Total elevation change is about 200 feet. Return is along the same route. Attendees may have lunch at the pavilion on the return. Other trails may be explored after lunch, if desired. Level of difficulty is rated moderate.

Leader: Self-guided

Trip 13: Red Clay State Park

Date: Saturday, Half day 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Walmart parking lot across US-41 (Cummings Highway) from the Clarion Inn at 8 am. We will drive to the site east of Chattanooga near Cleveland, TN.

Description: Red Clay State Park is 260 acre property known for its historical significance. It was once the seat of government for the Cherokee Indian nation. It is a family-friendly site with a small museum filled with Indian artifacts, a council house and other buildings depicting past history of the area. A small spring exists on the property. The field trip will traverse the Council of Trees Trail from the park into the forest to a stone lookout structure. It is a loop trail of approximately 2 miles in length. The trip will begin and end at the parking area inside the property. There are restrooms at the Visitor Center. Participants can eat lunch in the park and stay to explore the various structures and exhibits or proceed to other afternoon field trips. Trail is rated easy.

Leader: Elliott Horner

Trip 14: Little Cedar Mountain

11

Date: Saturday, Full day 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Location: Meet the trip leader at the Walmart parking lot across US-41 (Cummings Highway) from the Clarion Inn at 8 am.

Description: Little Cedar Mountain is a TVA property that offers a number of diverse ecosystems. It is located on Lake Nickajack, a Tennessee River impoundment. The property is about 320 acres in size and has about 4 miles of well-maintained trails. Little Cedar Mountain is home to several rare plants. From the parking area, the trail proceeds across the mountain and then circles the property near the lakeshore. There are two climbs and two descents with elevation change of about 250 feet. Features include large boulder fields on the central ridge, wetlands, hardwood-pine forest and scenic lakeshore vistas. Due to the varied environment from wetlands to exposed limestone boulders on the central ridge, numerous plant habitats are in close proximity. We will hike along a loop trail and may explore side trails, if time permits. The total elevation change along the trail is about 250 feet with a few short uphill climbs. Participants should bring food, water and sturdy hiking boots. We will eat lunch on the trail. There are no restroom facilities. Hiking distance should not exceed 4.0 miles. Level of difficulty is rated moderate.

Leader: Jimmy Groton

Trip 15: Lula Lake Land Trust

Date: Saturday, Full day 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Location: Meet the trip leader at the Walmart parking lot across US-41 (Cummings Highway) from the Clarion Inn at 8 am.

Description: Lula Lake Land Trust is a beautiful property on the top of Lookout Mountain that is a frequent hiking destination for people living in the Chattanooga area. It consists of the main trail along an old railroad bed that follows Rock Creek and contains several picturesque waterfalls. There are several side trails through the forest including one trail that runs along a bluff overlooking the area near Flintstone, GA. Lula Lake Land Trust is private property that is usually open to the public one weekend each month. Georgia Botanical Society has obtained permission to use the property for a field trip. We will hike along the main trail that follows the Rock Creek to the boundary of the property. We may also explore several side trails. Much of the trail system is level, but there are a few short uphill climbs. Bring food and water. We will eat lunch on the trail. Hiking distance should not exceed 4 miles. A portable restroom is available down the main trail near a bridge crossing Rock Creek. Level of difficulty is rated easy to moderate, depending on trails taken.

Leader: Tom Patrick

Trip 16: Big Soddy Creek Gulf

Date: Saturday, Full day 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Location: Meet the trip leader at the Walmart parking lot across US-41 (Cummings Highway) from the Clarion Inn at 8 am.

Description: The Big Soddy Creek Gulf tract was purchased by the city of Soddy Daisy in 2014 to preserve its natural beauty. The site contains varied botanical environments including stream beds, waterfalls, mountain woodlands and high rock faces. The initial portion of the trip follows an old railroad bed along Little Soddy Creek for 1.25 miles. It is practically flat. From there, the trail crosses Little Soddy Creek and proceeds up the mountain to connect with the Cumberland Trail. For those who hike to the far end of the trail, the group will arrive at a new 100' long pedestrian swinging bridge over Big Soddy Creek. People wishing to take a different afternoon field trip may want to turn around at the creek ford. The next portion climbs along mountain ridges to the pedestrian bridge. Bring food and water. We will eat lunch on the trail. Total elevation change is about 500 feet, if the full field trip is taken. Total hiking distance should not exceed 5 miles for those who hike to the pedestrian bridge and back. Level of difficulty is rated easy to moderate, depending on portion of the trail taken.

Leader: Mitchell Kent

Trip 17: Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail

12

Date: Saturday, Full day 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Walmart parking lot across US-41 (Cummings Highway) from the Clarion Inn at 8 am.

Description: This is a repeat of trip #7. The Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail is located in the Crockford-Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area at Pigeon Mountain. It has been an annual destination for BotSoc field trips over the years due to the excellent coverage of wildflowers in early spring. The trip will begin at the boardwalk near the trailhead. The boardwalk runs for about a quarter mile after which the trail turns rocky, uneven, and often muddy. It continues to a nice waterfall at the end. Total distance to the waterfall is less than one mile which is the turnaround point for return to the parking area. Other nearby trails may be explored, if time permits. A toilet is located at the parking area. Hiking distance should not exceed 2.5 miles. Level of difficulty is rated easy.

Leader: Mike Christison

Note: A Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass (GORP) is now required for 32 GA WMA properties, including all of Pigeon Mountain. Those under 16 or 65 or older are exempt. It must be purchased in advance either online or by phone. State park passes are not accepted in WMAs, but the GA Sportsman's license is.

Trip 18: Grundy Day Loop Trail & Foster Falls

Date: Saturday, Full day 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Walmart parking lot across US-41 (Cummings Highway) from the Clarion Inn at 8 am.

Description: The Grundy County Day Loop Trail is within the Grundy Forest State Natural Area and offers varied forest habitats. The initial section traverses a dry woodland while and a latter section follows the banks of Little Fiery Gizzard Creek deep within the cove. Numerous scenic features include a cove forest, tall rock faces, rock house, huge trees, waterfalls, and stream beds. The field trip will begin at the picnic area at the end of Fiery Gizzard Road in Tracy City, TN. The site is known for beautiful spring ephemeral wildflowers. The total elevation change along the trail is about 300 feet with a steep climb out at the end near the waterfall. Bring food, water, sturdy hiking boots and a hiking pole. We will eat lunch on the trail. Hiking distance should not exceed 4.0 miles, We will stop by Foster Falls briefly on the return trip, time permitting. Level of difficulty is rated moderate.

Leader: South Cumberland State Park Guide

Trip 19: Reflection Riding Arboretum - Trees

Date: Saturday, Half day 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Walmart parking lot across US-41 (Cummings Highway) from the Clarion Inn at 8 am.

Description: Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center is a 330 acre site at the foot of Lookout Mountain. It has numerous botanical environments from mountainside to valley floor. While there are many features and exhibits to be enjoyed at Reflection Riding, this field trip will focus on the numerous fine trees located on the property. The field trip will begin at the Visitor Center. We will hike along a dirt road that circumnavigates the property. One portion of the road borders Lookout Creek, while others run through the forest on the valley floor. Participants should plan to bring food and water. Hiking distance should not exceed 3.0 miles. The terrain for this field trip is relatively flat. Attendees may wish to stay after the field trip, have lunch and enjoy many of the other features and exhibits at Reflection Riding including exhibits containing wild birds and red wolves. Another option to consider for the afternoon is field trip #20 that will be conducted at Reflection Riding. It will explore wildflowers and native plants along in a mountainous area. Restrooms are available in the Visitor Center. Level of difficulty for trip #19 is rated easy.

Leader: Ellen Honeycutt

Date: Saturday, Half day 1:00 pm to 4 pm

Location: Meet the field trip leader at the Reflection Riding Arboretum Visitor Center. From Walmart, travel 1.5 miles east on US-41 (Cummings Highway). Turn right on TN-318 S for 0.1 miles. Turn right on Garden Road for 0.2 miles to the Reflection Riding Visitor Center at 400 Garden Road, Chattanooga. An entrance fee is charged per day: adults, \$8; children, \$5; and seniors, \$5. Persons paying the entrance fee for trip #19 in the morning will not be charged the fee for trip #20.

Description: See trip #19 for property details. The afternoon field trip will begin at the Reflection Riding visitor center. We will hike a short way up the mountainside to connect with a trail that takes us to the back of the property. There are several options for the return trip, depending on time. For instance, one portion is a road that borders Lookout Creek, while other segments run through the forest or the valley floor. The intent is to see as many wildflowers as possible. Participants should plan to bring food, water, and hiking boots. The terrain has some uphill portions on the mountainside, but is otherwise relatively flat. Total distance will be about 3.5 miles. Restrooms are available in the Visitor Center. Level of difficulty for trip #20 is rated easy to moderate, depending on route taken.

Leader: Corey Hagen

Trip 21: Sitton's Gulch at Cloudland Canyon State Park

Date: Sunday, Half day 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Location: Meet the trip leader at the Walmart parking lot across US-41 (Cummings Highway) from the Clarion Inn at 8 am. We will caravan to the lower level of Cloudland Canyon State Park near Trenton, GA. There is a fee for parking if you don't have a Georgia State Park Pass.

Description: This trip is similar to trip #11, except that it is scheduled as a half day trip for participants who may be leaving for home afterwards. It also will begin at the Sitton's Gulch parking lot off Canyon Drive Road, rather than on top of the mountain. As stated earlier, Sitton's Gulch is a prime location for early spring ephemeral wildflowers. We will hike from the trailhead along the main trail to Hemlock Falls (the lower falls). This route avoids the numerous stairs (approximately 575 steps) required if hiking from the top down into Sitton's Gulch. The initial part of the trail is fairly level with short uphill sections on the far end near Hemlock Falls. The total elevation change along the trail is less than 100 feet. Participants should plan to bring food, water, and sturdy hiking boots. Hiking distance should not exceed 4.5 miles, depending on the trails taken. No restroom facilities are available. The field trip will conclude no later than 1 pm. Participants may be headed home after this field trip and may exit this trip prior to the end, if desired. The trail difficulty is rated easy to moderate.

Leader: Halle Henderson



Toothwort (*Cardamine*)

Trip 22: Botanical Motorcade

Date: Sunday, Full day 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Location: Meet the trip leader at the Walmart parking lot across US-41 (Cummings Highway) from the Clarion Inn at 8 am. We will caravan to various botanical sites in north and central Georgia. Drive time is expected to be about 6 hours. The route to be taken will be communicated by the trip leader at time of trip. Participants may leave the field trip at any point for their return trip home, as desired.

Description: This field trip involves roadside botanizing. Participants should plan to bring food and water. Interesting sights will be visited in North Georgia. Walking distance should not exceed 0.25 miles from the automobiles at any time. We will eat lunch along the way. The trail difficulty is rated easy.

Leader: Tom Patrick

Trip 23: Hidden Pond Trail

- Date:** Sunday, Half day 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Walmart parking lot across US-41 (Cummings Highway) from the Clarion Inn at 8 am. We will caravan to the trailhead at the Re-regulation Dam on Carter's Lake. From Walmart, take I-24 east for 11.0 miles to I-75 South. Continue on I-75 for 36.1 miles. Take I-75 exit 320 to GA-136 east. Continue for 17.5 miles on GA-136. Turn left on Old US Highway 411 for 0.9 miles. Turn right into the Carters Lake Reregulation Dam Recreation Area. Drive time is about 72 minutes from Walmart. Map with directions will be available.
- Description:** The Hidden Pond Trail is a favorite of both wildflower enthusiasts and birders. The trail starts at the Re-regulation Dam facility and winds through forested areas and wetlands. It offers a fine array of spring ephemeral wildflowers, as well as numerous native trees and shrubs. Other nearby trails may be explored, if time permits. Participants should bring food and water. We will eat lunch at the picnic area near the dam. This field trip is paired with afternoon trip #28 to the nearby Coosawattee Bluffs for those who wish to go. Hiking distance should not exceed 1.5 miles for the morning trip. Restroom facilities are available at the picnic area. The trail difficulty is rated easy.
- Leader:** Richard Ware

Trip 24: Geology and Natural Communities of the Zahnd Natural Area

- Date:** Sunday, Full day 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Location:** Meet the field trip leaders at the Walmart parking lot across US-41 (Cummings Highway) from the Clarion Inn at 8 am. From Walmart, take I-24 west for 6.1 miles. Take exit 167 to I-59 south. Continue for 7.6 miles. Take I-59 exit 11 toward Trenton. Exit onto GA-136 east, travel through Trenton on 136 and continue for 9.2 miles. Turn right on GA-157 south. Continue on GA-157 for 10.3 miles to the Zahnd Natural Area trailhead at the parking area along Georgia State Road 157 at the top of the Plateau. A map with directions will be available.
- Description:** The Zahnd Natural Area covers 1380 acres on the eastern edge of Lookout Mountain, and ranges from the ridge top to the valley floor. The trip will highlight the diverse bedrock and how it fosters a variety of natural communities. On the ridge top, which consists of conglomerate and sandstone that form fascinating outcroppings, natural communities include a sagpond, acidic cliff faces, acidic glades and barrens, dry oak-pine forests and a riparian corridor. The calcareous valley floor will range from dry to mesic calcareous forest natural communities, which reportedly support a lush herbaceous layer. Wildflowers here are not well documented so this is an exploratory trip.
- Leaders:** Bill Witherspoon and Leslie Edwards
- Note: A Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass (GORP) is required for this trip.

Trip 25: Grundy Day Loop Trail & Foster Falls

- Date:** Sunday, Full day 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Location:** Meet the field trip leaders at the Walmart parking lot across US-41 (Cummings Highway) from the Clarion Inn at 8 am.
- Description:** This is a repeat of trip #18. The Grundy County Day Loop Trail is within the Grundy Forest State Natural Area and offers varied forest habitats. The initial section traverses a dry woodland, while a latter section follows the banks of Little Fiery Gizzard Creek deep within the cove. Numerous scenic features include a cove forest, tall rock faces, rock house, huge trees, waterfalls, and stream beds. The field trip will begin at the picnic area at the end of Fiery Gizzard Road in Tracy City, TN. The site is known for beautiful spring ephemeral wildflowers. Bring food, water, sturdy hiking boots and a hiking pole. We will eat lunch on the trail. Hiking distance should not exceed 4.0 miles. We will stop by Foster Falls briefly on the return trip, time permitting. Level of difficulty is rated moderate.
- Leader:** Jimmy Groton
-

Trip 26: Cloudland Canyon - West Rim Trail

15

Date: Sunday, Half day 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Walmart parking lot across US-41 (Cummings Highway) from the Clarion Inn at 8 am. There is a fee for parking if you don't have a Georgia State Park Pass.

Description: This trip differs from other Cloudland Canyon field trips. The trail follows the bluffs for beautiful views of the canyon from the opposite side. The trip will begin on top of the mountain within the Park at the main trailhead near the Interpretive Center. We will cross Sitton's Gulch Creek near the top of Cherokee Falls. From there the trail route winds around the bluffs until it reaches a large rock outcrop at 2 miles. Some members may choose to continue on the trail as it goes into the forest and returns along the original route. The total trail length including the loop at the far end is about 5 miles. Note that numerous stairs must be negotiated on outbound and inbound routes. The total elevation change along the trail is about 400 feet. We will eat lunch on the trail. Participants should bring food, plenty of water, sturdy hiking boots and a hiking pole. Hiking distance should not exceed 5.0 miles. Restrooms are available at the start. Level of difficulty is rated moderate.

Leader: Elliott Horner

Trip 27: Little Cedar Mountain

Date: Sunday, Half day 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Walmart parking lot across US-41 (Cummings Highway) from the Clarion Inn at 8 am.

Description: This is similar to trip #14, except that it is scheduled for a half day. Little Cedar Mountain is a TVA property that offers a number of diverse ecosystems. It is located on Lake Nickajack, a Tennessee River impoundment. The property has about 4 miles of well-maintained trails. It is home to several rare plants. From the parking area, the trail proceeds across the mountain and then circles the property near the lakeshore. There are two climbs and two descents with elevation change of about 250 feet. Features include large boulder fields on the central ridge, wetlands, hardwood-pine forest and scenic lakeshore vistas. Due to the varied environment from wetlands to exposed limestone boulders on the central ridge, numerous plant habitats are in close proximity. The total elevation change along the trail is about 250 feet with a few short uphill climbs. Participants should bring food, water and sturdy hiking boots. We will eat lunch on the trail. Hiking distance should not exceed 4.0 miles. There are no restroom facilities. Level of difficulty is rated moderate.

Leader: Dr. Larry Pounds

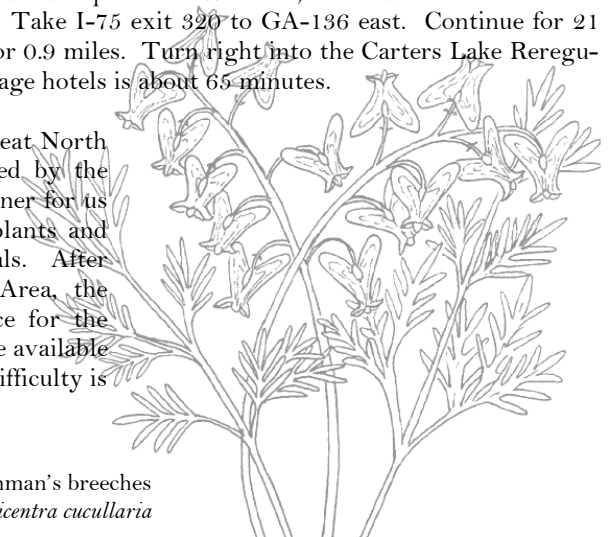
Trip 28: Coosawattee Bluffs

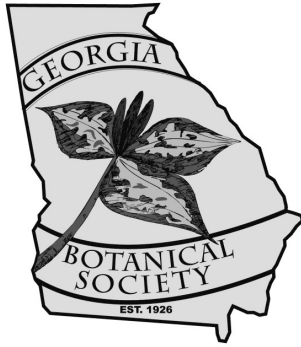
Date: Sunday, Half day 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Re-Regulation Dam Recreation Area on Carter's Lake at 12:45 PM. This trip is similar to trip #6 listed above, except that it is an afternoon trip. From Walmart, take I-24 east for 11 miles to I-75 south. Continue for 36.1 miles on I-75 south. Take I-75 exit 320 to GA-136 east. Continue for 21 miles on GA-136. Turn left on Old US Highway 411 for 0.9 miles. Turn right into the Carters Lake Reregulation Dam Recreation Area. Drive time from pilgrimage hotels is about 65 minutes.

Description: This is a repeat of trip #6. Coosawattee Bluffs is a great North Georgia wildflower site. It is on private land owned by the Bland family. Permission has been granted by the owner for us to visit the site. It holds a large array of unusual plants and offers a spectacular display of early season ephemerals. After assembling at the Re-Regulation Dam Recreation Area, the group will travel to the site nearby. Hiking distance for the afternoon trip should not exceed 1 mile. Restrooms are available in the Re-Regulation Dam Recreation Area. Level of difficulty is rated easy. **This trip is limited to 20 people.**

Leader: Richard Ware

Dutchman's breeches
Dicentra cucullaria





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For all field trips, please note: Contact the trip leader if you plan to meet onsite instead of at the designated meeting place. Because of driving distance, some trips involve a combination of two sites. Be sure to check times and meeting locations before you register for trips.
