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# 43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE MAY 04 - 06, 2012

CLAYTON, RABUN COUNTY, GEORGIA  
&  
ADJACENT AREAS

Clayton, our headquarters for the 43rd Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, is nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of northeast Georgia just a stone's throw from the Carolinas. The Sumter National Forest is to the east, the Nantahala National Forest is to the north, and the Chattahoochee National Forest is all around

Clayton. Some of Georgia's highest mountains are but a short drive. A diverse group of interested persons from four or more states are expected to participate. The pilgrimage will consist of a Friday night social with a program and great food, a Saturday banquet with a special presentation program and more great food, and fantastic field trips to some very special places located in the region. Clayton and the surrounding area have a diversity of interesting shops that will entice you to shop for local arts, crafts, and foods. Clayton is the county seat for Rabun County, founded in 1819 from land formally inhabited by the Cherokee and named for Governor William Rabun. The 377 square miles of Rabun County comprise the most northeastern section of Georgia's Blue Ridge Geographical Province, a region that encompasses a mere 5% of Georgia. Sixty percent of the county is public lands under the management of the US Forest Service or the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. This beautiful area of scenic valleys, high rugged mountains, clear streams, and lush forests is attractive year round, but offers a special floristic bounty each spring. Join the Georgia Botanical Society for the Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage and share in this rich and beautiful bounty.

## Pilgrimage Schedule

### Friday, May 4

- 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Waterfalls NW of Clayton with Bill Witherspoon
  - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Scaly Mountain with Carrie Radcliff and Mike Brod
  - 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Black Rock Mountain State Park with Jerry Hightower
  - 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Registration and welcoming social (The Diner, Rabun County Civic Center)
  - 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Evening presentation
  - 9:00 pm Late registration
- All Friday evening activities are held in the The Diner, Rabun County Civic Center.**

### Saturday, May 5

- 7:30 am - 8:15 am Early registration at the Quality Inn
  - 8:30 am Field trips assemble at the Quality Inn **unless** otherwise noted in trip description.
  - 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm All field trips return to the Quality Inn
  - 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Mini-social (The Diner, Rabun County Civic Center).
  - 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Banquet dinner (The Diner, Rabun County Civic Center)
  - 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Evening presentation
- Saturday evening events are held in The Diner, Rabun County Civic Center.**

### Sunday, May 6

All trips assemble at the Quality Inn at 8:30 am unless otherwise noted.

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## Evening Programs

Friday, May 4, 7:30 pm

### THE FLORIDA EVERGLADES ADVENTURE

Rich Reaves

**Abstract:** The week of Valentine's Day of 2012, 17 BotSocers traveled to south Florida to explore Everglades National Park, Big Cypress National Preserve, and the Florida Keys. Those who arrived early on Sunday were treated to a fine afternoon/evening of Socializing at the home (and a local Mexican joint of his choosing) of renowned local naturalist Roger Hammer, who also took us through our first day in the Everglades. A fine week of botanizing, birding, socializing, and feasting ensued, along with a Glass Bottom Boat tour of a coral reef. Join me to relive or vicariously experience some of the memories and camaraderie of The Great Everglades Excursion.

**Biography:** Rich Reaves, a 1976 graduate of Pickens County High School, has been a member of BotSoc since shortly after returning to Georgia for work in 2000. He received his BS in Wildlife and Resource Management from the University of Wyoming and his PhD in Wetland Ecology from Purdue University. He is a Senior Project Scientist for CH2M HILL's Atlanta Office, focusing on National Environmental Policy Act analyses and Threatened and Endangered Species. He is a frequent field trip leader for BotSoc and planted the seed that grew into this year's Everglades Excursion.

Saturday, May 5, 7:30 pm

### Mountain Bogs: Saving Rare Plants, Removing Feral Pigs, and Protecting Unique Blue Ridge Habitats

Mike Brod & Carrie Radcliffe

**Abstract:** This presentation details restoration efforts in mountain bogs, one of Georgia's rarest habitats found in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Bog turtles, purple pitcher plants, swamp pinks, spreading pogonias and Cuthbert's turtleheads are some of the rarities found in the bogs. Mountain bog conservation requires secrecy due to the fragile nature of the mucky peat and trampling impact upon young seedlings that occurs with too many visitors. Most of all, the mountain bogs require intensive management and the collaboration of many volunteers and agencies. Restoration of mountain bogs is the signature project of the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance. Fortunately, many of the sensitive areas are on the Chattahoochee National Forest. Some of the heroic efforts undertaken to protect and enhance these mountain treasures will be discussed.

**Biographies:** **Mike Brod** has 12 years of experience working as an Ecologist and Wildlife Biologist with the USDA Forest Service. A native Arkansan, he graduated from Arkansas Tech University. During his career, he has had the opportunity to practice land management and gain a working knowledge of a variety of different ecosystems in the southeast, which includes the Interior Highlands of Arkansas, the Coastal Plain/Piedmont of North Carolina and the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains of Georgia. Currently, as a Wildlife Biologist on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest in Georgia, his primary focus is working with the public and a variety of interagency partners to restore ecosystem health, improve rare species and wildlife habitat, eradicate invasive species and overcome a variety of land management issues. He currently serves as a Steering Team Member on two multi-state, interagency initiatives focused on restoring ecosystem health in the Southern Blue Ridge Mountains through use of prescribed fire, mechanical tree thinning and invasive species eradication. These initiatives are known as The Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network and the Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists. Mike is happily married with three children and in his free-time enjoys spending time with his family as well as doing just about anything that involves the outdoors.

**Carrie Radcliffe** is from Chattanooga, TN and has lived in Georgia since 1997. She received a Bachelor's degree in Horticulture from UGA and a Master's at UGA studying Conservation Horticulture and Plant Biology. Currently working as a contractor for Atlanta Botanical Garden, Carrie is developing an electronic database with the Georgia DNR for *ex situ* collections of rare plants and *in situ* safe-guarding activities. Carrie is the mountain bog project coordinator for the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance and a project leader for rare species at Tallulah Gorge. Her business alias is FloraUnlimited – Ecological Horticulture & Botanical Services. She conducts field surveys; propagates and grows plants; designs custom, low maintenance gardens utilizing natives, edibles, and medicinals; and is a budding herbalist. She just finished an 18 month internship with the Non-game Conservation Section of Georgia DNR. Carrie has lived in Rabun County since 2010 with her husband, Mike Brod, and her son, Heron Grey. She loves communing with nature, canoeing, cooking, drumming, hiking, prescribed fire, and yoga.

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## Pilgrimage Field Trips at a glance...

### Friday May 4, 2012 Pre-Pilgrimage Field Trips

Fri all day FT# 1 Waterfalls Northwest of Clayton, led by Bill Witherspoon  
Fri all day FT#2 Scaly Mountain, led by Carrie Radcliff and Mike Brod  
Fri afternoon FT #3 Black Rock Mountain State Park, led by Jerry Hightower

### Saturday May 5, 2012 Field Trips

Sat morning FT#4 Scaly Mountain, led by Ben Cash  
Sat morning FT#5 Forest Cove & Hambidge Center, led by Ed McDowell, Hugh & Carol Nourse  
Sat morning FT#6 Warwoman Dell, led by Rich Reaves  
Sat afternoon FT#7 Queen Mine Cove, led by Steve Bowling  
Sat afternoon FT#8 Davidson Creek Botanical Area, led by Leslie Edwards  
Sat afternoon FT#9 Grassy Ridge Trail to Till Ridge Cove, led by Richard Ware  
Sat all day FT#10 Beech Creek/Charles Wharton CC, led by E. Minche, J. McCollum, L. Cruse & T. Tatum  
Sat all day FT#11 Opossum Creek Falls, Sumter NF, led by Jerry Hightower  
Sat all day FT#12 SC Waterfalls near Clayton GA, led by Bill Witherspoon  
Sat all day FT#13 Rabun Bald, led by Tom Patrick  
Sat all day FT#14 Rabun Bald/Chestnut Ridge Seepage, led by Carrie Radcliff and Mike Brod

### Sunday May 6, 2012 Field Trips

Sun morning FT#15 Beegum Gap Boulder Field, led by Rich Reaves  
Sun morning FT#16 Grassy Ridge Trail to Till Ridge, led by Linda Chafin and Brooks Franklin  
Sun morning FT#17 Tallulah Gorge State Park, led by Steve Bowling  
Sun morning FT#18 Waterfalls near Lake Rabun, led by Bill Witherspoon  
Sun morning FT#19 Swallow Creek Mountain Cove, led by Tom Patrick  
Sun morning FT#20 Betty Creek Cove & Joe Gap, led by Carrie Radcliff and Mike Brod  
Sun morning FT#21 Warwoman Dell, led by Richard and Teresa Ware

#### Special notes:

- A list of participants for your field trip(s) will be available at the registration check-in. If you are interested in carpooling, you may sign up by writing your contact information on the list. It is up to you to check back and contact those who may be interested in carpooling.
- Please arrive promptly at the designated meeting site for your trip, find your leader and sign the waiver so that the trips might depart in a timely fashion.
- Most trip leaders will have cell phones and will make their numbers available to trip participants, but cell phone coverage may not be available at many of the trip sites.
- We will be visiting some parks that require an entrance fee. We have tried to indicate any required park or parking fees in the trip descriptions; however, we may not have covered every site. Be prepared to pay a reasonable entrance fee in case the park requires one.

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## Friday Pre-Pilgrimage Trips

### Trip # 1 Waterfalls NW of Clayton (all day) (unlimited participation)

**Leader: Bill Witherspoon**

**Date and time:** Friday May 4, 2012 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

**Meeting Location:** Quality Inn, Clayton

**Carpooling:** Must Carpool/Caravan

**Special Circumstances:** Bill Witherspoon is the Executive Director of Georgia Adventurers Club and is not a botanist, but is a good trip leader who thought that BotSoccers might enjoy seeing these exceptional natural areas. The flora might be pretty good at these sites as well.

**Bring:** Water, lunch or snacks, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Facilities:** Will take breaks at commercial facilities.

**Description:** This waterfall group, some 10-20 miles NW of Clayton, will take us to: Wildcat Falls (0.1 mi), Denton Branch Falls (2 mi), Bull Cove Falls (2 mi), Kibly Mill Falls (.25 mi), to end at Upper & Lower Hemlock Falls.

**Conditions:** Rough terrain and moderate to fairly strenuous with often wet trail conditions

**Contact:** Bill Witherspoon Cell: 251-454-9243

### Trip # 2 - Scaly Mountain (all day) (trip limited to 10 participants)

**Leaders: Carrie Radcliff  
and Mike Brod**

**Date and time:** Friday May 4, 2012 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

**Meeting Location:** 9:00 am at Osage Overlook Parking Area, NC Route 106 (~5 mi west of Highlands).

**Directions:** Take Hwy 441N to Dillard then turn right on Hwy 246, which will become NC 106 at the state line. This road crosses the state line a few times along the way. Park at the Osage Overlook on the right (signs for Bartram Trail crossing).

**Facilities:** None

**Bring:** Water, lunch or snacks, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Conditions:** Moderate hiking on steep terrain, 3 mi round-trip.

**Description:** Scaly Mountain, NC is just outside of GA with spectacular views of both states. The ascent up this diverse portion of the Bartram Trail will take you through a multitude of high elevation plant communities brimming with oaks and wildflowers. The rocky summits are expansive with numerous seepages that support Biltmore sedge (*Carex biltmoreana*), bog goldenrod (*Solidago uliginosa*), and kidney-leaved grass-of-parnassus (*Parnassia asarifolia*).

**Contact:** Carrie Radcliffe (FloraUnlimited@gmail.com, 706-247-6866)

### Trip # 3 - Black Rock Mountain State Park (afternoon) Leader: Jerry Hightower (trip limited to 25 participants)

**Date and time:** Friday afternoon May 4, 2012 1:00 pm

**Meeting Location:** Black Rock Mountain State Park Mellinger Center

**Directions:** From Clayton travel north on Hwy 441 ~3 miles to Mountain City and turn left onto Black Rock Mountain Parkway.

**Carpooling:** Recommended

**Bring:** \$5 fee or park pass, water, lunch or snacks, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Conditions:** Moderate to moderately strenuous

**Facilities:** Restrooms at overlook

**Description:** We will spend the afternoon exploring several short trails in this beautiful state park. We hope to see a fairly diverse array of ferns and wildflowers. The Ada Hi-Falls trail with its north facing cove, the Tennessee Rock Trail, and the Norma Campbell Cove Trail Loop are on the agenda if time permits.

**Contact:** Jerry Hightower, 770-206-0338 or jerryhightower@hotmail.com

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## Saturday Pilgrimage Trips

### Saturday Morning Trip:

#### Trip # 4 - Scaly Mountain (unlimited participation)

**Leader: Ben Cash**

**Date and time:** Saturday May 5, 2012 8:30 am to noon

**Meeting location:** Quality Inn, Clayton

**Directions:** Traveling north from Clayton on US 441, turn right, north of Dillard at the traffic signal, onto GA 246 which becomes NC 106. Approximately 8 mi from US 441, park at the Osage Mt Overlook on the right.

**Bring:** Water, lunch or snacks, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Facilities:** None

**Conditions/Description:** 2 miles of slow, uphill hiking on a steep, rocky, section of the Bartram Trail to reach the peak. Parts of the trail are always wet (and seeps are always interesting). Return on same path.

**Bring:** Water, lunch or snacks, sturdy footwear & rain protection

**Contact:** Ben Cash (706) 778-5155, bencash@hemc.net, (706) 968-3841 cell, day of hike

#### Trip # 5 - Forest Cove & Hambidge Center (trip limited to 20 participants)

**Leader: Ed McDowell, Hugh & Carol Nourse**

**Date and time:** Saturday May 5, 2012 8:30 am to noon

**Meeting location:** Quality Inn, Clayton

**Carpooling:** Required; limited parking at sites

**Directions:** US Hwy 441 north to Betty Creek Road. Left on Betty Creek Road to Patterson Gap Road. Left onto Patterson Gap Road, cross the bridge at Betty Creek to park just past the bridge.

**Bring:** \$5 per person for the Hambidge Center, water, lunch or snacks, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Facilities:** None

**Conditions:** Easy.

**Description:** One of the finest short wildflower walks in Georgia. This rich mountain cove contains trilliums, Jack-in-the-pulpit, dwarf crested iris, wild geraniums, blue cohosh, showy orchis, Mayapple, putty root, cancer root, - perhaps over 30 species in all.

**Contact:** Ed McDowell 478.396.8901, cell

#### Trip # 6 - Warwoman Dell (unlimited participation)

**Leader: Rich Reaves**

**Date and time:** Saturday May 5, 2012 8:30 am to noon

**Meeting location:** Quality Inn, Clayton

**Carpooling:** Recommended

**Directions:** Proceed north on US441 from the 441-76 intersection to Rickman Road (just over 0.25 mile). Turn east (right) on Rickman Road and proceed to the intersection with Warwoman Road (0.5 - 0.6 mile). Turn east (right) on Warwoman Road and proceed ~2.3 miles to the Warwoman Dell Sign on your right (You will have just come around a sharp downhill curve and the road will be at an awkward (approximately 150 degree) angle to the right and behind your direction of travel. Proceed to the end of the gravel road to the parking area.

**Bring:** Water, lunch or snacks, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Facilities:** None

**Conditions:** Walking is generally easy, but includes some uneven terrain..

**Description:** Short walk to a waterfall through rich woods. Expect to see dolls eye, Vasey's and Catesby's trillium, Jack-in-the-pulpit, foamflower, roundleaf violet leaves (blooms too early for flowers). After the walk to the waterfall, we will likely stop along the gravel road as we leave to look at rosebay rhododendron and other roadside flowers.

**Contact:** Rich Reaves 770-827-5186, rich.reaves@att.net

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## Saturday Afternoon Trips:

### Trip # 7 - Queen Mine Cove (unlimited participation)

**Leader: Steve Bowling**

**Date and time:** Saturday May 5, 2012 1:00 pm (Note start time!)

**Meeting Location:** US Hwy 441 north to Betty Creek Road. Left on Betty Creek Road to Patterson Gap Road. Left onto Patterson Gap Road, cross the bridge at Betty Creek to park just past the bridge. (This is a good trip for those on trip #5 to Hambidge Center)

**Carpooling:** Required; limited parking

**Bring:** Water, snacks, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Facilities:** None

**Conditions:** Moderate to moderately strenuous

**Description:** This is a beautiful moist mountain cove with quite interesting flora.

**Contact:** Steve Bowling 404-317-2817

### Trip # 8 - Davidson Creek Botanical Area (unlimited participation)

**Leader: Leslie Edwards**

**Date and Time:** Saturday May 5, 2012 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

**Meeting location:** Popcorn overlook on US 76 (picnic tables and interpretive signs)

**Directions:** From Main St. in Clayton, go west toward Hiawassee on U.S. 76/GA Hwy 2/Lookout Mountain Scenic Hwy ~12 miles. The overlook where we will meet is on the right.

**Carpooling:** Optional

**Bring:** Water, snacks, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Conditions:** Moderately easy; no formal trail.

**Facilities:** Restrooms at overlook

**Description:** This trip will highlight the ecology of Georgia's best Appalachian serpentine woodland, an area that is fascinating to ecologists because of its unusual bedrock. Ninebark and teaberry are two unusual plants found here, and pitch pines and stunted blackjack oaks grow above a dense, grassy groundcover strewn with gray-green boulders laced with lichen. Dry-site spring flowers and rattlesnake master will be present in this rare habitat, as well.

**Contact:** Leslie Edwards edwa1616@bellsouth.net

### Trip # 9 - Grassy Ridge Trail to Till Ridge Cove (unlimited participation)

**Leader: Richard Ware**

**Date and Time:** Saturday May 5, 2012 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

**Meeting location:** Quality Inn, Clayton

**Carpooling:** Recommended

**Directions:** Trail begins at Patterson Gap, off Betty Creek Road in northern Rabun County.

**Bring:** Water, snacks, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Facilities:** None

**Conditions:** Moderate to easy. Total walk 1.5 to 2 mi, some steep uphill.

**Description:** Grassy Ridge Trail leads along a dry slope with Carolina rhododendron and culminates in Till Ridge Cove, famous for its huge population of large white trillium (which will be past peak), as well as bloodroot, blue cohosh, doll's eyes, yellow mandarin, Clinton's bead lily, dwarf larkspur, tassel rue, and other Southern Blue Ridge delights.

**Contact:** Richard Ware, 706-766-5143(C), gabotany@comcast.com

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## Saturday All Day Trips (bring lunch and water)

### Trip # 10 - Beech Creek/Charles Wharton CC (unlimited participation)

Leaders: E. Minche, J. McCollum,  
L. Cruse & T. Tatum

**Date and Time:** Saturday, May 5, 2012 8:30 am (all day, ending 2:00-3:00 pm)

**Meeting location:** Quality Inn, Clayton

**Carpooling:** Recommended

**Directions:** From leader at meeting location.

**Facilities:** At Conservation Center.

**Bring:** Lunch, water, snacks, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Description:** We should see at least four species of trillium (*vaseii*, *catesbaei*, *luteum*, *cuneatum*), sharp loped hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba*), showy orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*), putty root (*Aplectrum hyemale*), pennywort (*Obolaria virginica*), horsetail (*Equisetum*), ramp (*Allium tricoccum*) dwarf crested iris (*Iris crestata*), Dutchman's pipe vine (*Aristolochia*), cinnamon clethra (*Clethra acuminata*), and numerous other flowering and/or interesting herbaceous and shrubby plants. The surrounding forest and understory includes in addition to the usual suspects, yellow buckeye, silverbell, hemlock (sadly dying), yellow birch, pitch pine and of course, beech. Besides the floral displays, there are two waterfalls: Highfalls and Bullcove. The former is over 80 feet tall. We will visit both waterfalls if time permits, but Highfalls is a must.

**Conditions:** A seven mile hike on the Beech Creek Trail to explore its botanical richness and primitive beauty. The rugged trail ascends steeply, gaining over 1,200 feet in the first three miles.

**Contact:** Eddi Minche eddmin@gmail.com or 678-313-2582

### Trip # 11 - Opossum Creek Falls, Sumter NF (unlimited participation)

Leader: Jerry Hightower

**Date and time:** Saturday, May 5, 2012 8:30 am (all day, ending 2:00-3:00 pm)

**Meeting Location:** Quality Inn, Clayton

**Directions:** From Clayton take Highway 76 east and cross the Chattooga River. Proceed to Long Creek, SC and turn right onto Damascus Church Road; then bear right onto Battle Creek Road. After 1.9 miles turn right onto Turkey Ridge Road and travel 2.3 miles to trail head.

**Carpooling:** Required, limited parking

**Conditions:** Moderate to moderately strenuous. Four to five miles round trip.

**Facilities:** None

**Bring:** Lunch, water, snacks, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Description:** This beautiful trail leads to the Chattooga River just above the last rapid before Lake Tugaloo. Opossum Creek is a beautiful tributary of the river with barren lobed strawberry, rattlesnake plantain orchid, trilliums, ferns, and much more.

**Contact:** Jerry Hightower 770-206-0338 or jerryhightower@hotmail.com

### Trip # 12 South Carolina Waterfalls near Clayton (unlimited participation)

Leader: Bill Witherspoon

**Date and time:** Saturday, May 5, 2012 8:30 am (all day, ending 4:00 pm)

**Meeting Location:** Quality Inn, Clayton

**Directions:** Must carpool / caravan

**Facilities:** Will take breaks at commercial establishments

**Bring:** Lunch, water, snacks, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Description:** This trip will visit the Falls at Falls Creek, Brasstown Falls (2 miles), Chauga Narrows (1 mile), and Issaquena Falls. Time permitting there might be a short walk from the USFS parking area on Highway 76 to Bull Sluice Rapid.

**Conditions:** Rough terrain and moderate to fairly strenuous with often wet trail conditions

**Contact:** Bill Witherspoon Cell: 251-454-9243

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## Saturday All Day Trips: (cont.)

### Trip # 13 - Rabun Bald (longer hike with two trails) (unlimited participation)

Leader: Tom Patrick

**Date and time:** Saturday, May 5, 2012 8:30 am (all day, ending 4:30 pm)

**Meeting Location:** Quality Inn, Clayton to carpool/caravan to site

**Carpooling:** Recommended

**Bring:** Pack lunch to eat at summit with participants in trip # 14, water, snacks, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Facilities:** None.

**Conditions:** Mostly moderate with short steep sections; slow, steady pace easy return to cars by 4:30 PM.

**Description:** Rabun Bald is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest mountain in GA at 4696 ft. This is an all day hike going up the Bartram Trail (4.2 mi) on the north side and coming down the east side on the Three Forks Trail (3.0 mi) for ~7.2 miles total - with lunch on the summit and plenty of time to explore. We will shuttle between trailheads, both of which are along Hale Ridge Rd. On the way up, the trail joins the short trail to the summit from Bee Gum Gap. The summit area has many high elevation wildflowers, including color forms of red trillium (*Trillium erectum*). The Three Forks Trail portion is a relatively easy descent and passes over some rocky cliffs.

**Contact:** Tom Patrick 706-468-2805(H) 706-476-4541(C) gapeapatch@bellsouth.net

### Trip # 14 - Rabun Bald (shorter hike with cliffside trip) (trip limited to 10 participants)

Leaders: Carrie Radcliff  
& Mike Brod

**Date and time:** Saturday, May 5, 2012 8:30 am (all day, ending 2:00-3:00 pm)

**Meeting Location:** Quality Inn, Clayton to carpool/caravan to site

**Directions:** Take 441N to Dillard then turn right on 246, which will become NC 106 at the state line. Turn right on Old Mud Creek Rd, which becomes Bald Mountain Rd. as it crosses back into Georgia. Turn right on Kelsey Mtn. Rd and park at Bee Gum Gap.

**Carpooling:** Required, limited parking

**Facilities:** None

**Bring:** Pack lunch to eat at summit with participants in trip # 14, water, snacks, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Conditions:** Strenuous.

**Description:** Rabun Bald is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest point in Georgia, but quite possibly the best. The 360 degree view includes Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Ravens are often seen soaring playfully above the observation deck, which was constructed from an old fire-tower. A rich cove forest containing a plethora of spring ephemerals surrounds the high, rocky summit. Many trees characteristic of northern forests reach their southern limit here. Umbrella leaf (*Diphylleia cymosa*), false hellebore (*Veratrum viride*), rosy twisted-stalk (*Streptopus roseus*), ground juniper (*Juniperous communis* var. *depressa*), three-birds orchid (*Triphora trianthophora*), and others exist here. Sneaking around the NE slope of Chestnut Ridge reveals a magnificent seepage cliff donning Canada burnette (*Sanguisorba canadensis*) and wretched sedge (*Carex misera*). We could also see the endangered rock gnome lichen (*Gynoderma lineare*). Participation is limited because of the fragile nature of this habitat.

**Contact:** Carrie Radcliffe FloraUnlimited@gmail.com, 706-247-6866

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## Sunday Pilgrimage Trips

### **Trip # 15 - Beegum Gap Boulder Field** **Leader: Rich Reaves** (unlimited participation)

**Date and time:** Sunday, May 6, 2012 8:30 am to noon

**Meeting Location:** Quality Inn, Clayton

**Directions:** Traveling north from Dillard on US 441, turn right at traffic signal onto GA 246 which becomes NC 106. Approximately 4 mi from US 441, turn right onto Old Mill Creek Rd. Pass the entrance into Sky Valley on your right at 1 mi from NC 106, proceed to the bottom of the hill and before you reach the top of the next hill turn sharply right onto Kelsey Mountain Road and proceed to the parking area at the dead end.

**Carpooling:** Recommended

**Facilities:** None

**Bring:** Lunch or snacks, water, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Conditions:** Moderate uphill walk along old deteriorated roadbed with a couple of small creek crossings

**Description:** We will walk up an old roadbed looking at flowers and end at a wet boulderfield where we will poke around and explore off-trail. Total distance is less than 1.5 mi.

**Contact:** Rich Reaves 770-827-5186, rich.reaves@att.net

### **Trip # 16 - Grassy Ridge Trail to Till Ridge** **Leaders: Linda Chafin** **& Brooks Franklin** (unlimited participation)

**Date and time:** Sunday, May 6, 2012 8:30 am

**Meeting Location:** Quality Inn, Clayton

**Carpooling:** Recommended

**Bring:** Lunch or snacks, water, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Facilities:** None

**Description/Directions:** Same as Trip 9, but different leaders.

**Contact:** Linda Chafin 706-548-1697 lchafin@uga.edu

### **Trip # 17 - Tallulah Gorge State Park** **Leader: Steve Bowling** (unlimited participation)

**Date and time:** Sunday, May 6, 2012 8:30 am

**Meeting Location:** Quality Inn, Clayton

**Directions:** Tallulah Gorge State Park is south of Clayton on Hwy 441

**Bring:** \$5 fee or park pass, lunch or snacks, water, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Facilities:** At Visitor's Center

**Conditions:** Moderate to moderately strenuous.

**Description:** The gorge and falls at this state park offer spectacular views and interesting wildflowers.

**Contact:** Steve Bowling 404-317-2817

### **Trip # 18 - Waterfalls near Lake Rabun** **Leader: Bill Witherspoon** (unlimited participation)

**Date and time:** Sunday, May 6, 2012 8:30 am to 2:00 pm

**Meeting Location:** Quality Inn, Clayton

**Carpooling:** Carpool recommended and must caravan

**Bring:** Lunch or snacks, water, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Facilities:** Will take breaks at commercial facilities

**Conditions:** Rough terrain and moderate to fairly strenuous with often wet trail conditions

**Description:** We'll see Upper & Lower Hemlock Falls (2 miles), Bad Branch Falls, Upper & Lower Crow Creek Falls, and Minnehaha Falls. If we have time, we'll also stop at Panther & Angel Falls in the Rabun Beach area.

**Contact:** Bill Witherspoon Cell: 251-454-9243

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## Sunday Pilgrimage Trips (cont.)

### Trip # 19 - Swallow Creek Mountain Cove

**Leader: Tom Patrick**

**(unlimited participation)**

**Date and time:** Sunday, May 6, 2012 8:30 am

**Meeting Location:** Quality Inn, Clayton

**Carpooling:** Recommended

**Directions:** Provided by leader.

**Bring:** Lunch or snacks, water, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Facilities:** None

**Conditions:** Mostly easy to moderate with off the trail excursions into wildflower hotspots; some boulder areas

**Description:** Located south of the Clayton-Hiawasse Road, US Hwy. 76, in Towns Co., Swallow Creek Wildlife Management Area offers a rich mountain cove flora. Some of the highlights are large yellowwood, northern sugar maple and buckeye trees. Beneath this mature canopy is a wealth of wildflowers, including ramps (*Allium tricoccum*) and many trilliums. The trip will involve a short approach trail before reaching the rich mountain cove for a total of 3 to 4 miles up and back on the same trail so folks may leave the hike as desired. The cove is extensive and also has abundant ferns, such as Goldie's wood fern (*Dryopteris goldiana*).

**Contact:** Tom Patrick 706-468-2805(H) 706-476-4541(C) gapeapatch@bellsouth.net

### Trip # 20 - Betty Creek & Joe Gap

**Leaders: Carrie Radcliff**

**(unlimited participation)**

**& Mike Brod**

**Date and time:** Sunday, May 6, 2012 8:30 am; people can stay as long as they like

**Meeting Location:** Quality Inn, Clayton

**Carpooling:** Recommended

**Directions:** Take 441N to Dillard then turn left on Betty's Creek Rd. Turn left on Patterson Gap Rd. and park in the pull off on the right. Joe Gap is further down Patterson Gap Rd., past Moon Valley Resort. Parking is limited at both places.

**Bring:** Lunch or snacks, water, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Facilities:** None

**Conditions:** Moderate to easy.

**Description:** Both of these sites are in the picturesque valley of Betty's Creek. This is part of the Tennessee River drainage, unlike most of Rabun County which drains into the Chattooga and Tallulah Rivers (Savannah River drainage). There is a delightful array of spring-bloomers lining the Betty's Creek footpath including numerous species of trillium. Also found along this streamside cove trail are showy orchis (*Orchis spectabilis*) and blue cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*). The trail to Joe Gap is through an acidic cove, and ascends through remnants of a chestnut forest that contains traces of northern tree species and interesting plant communities.

**Conditions:** Betty's Creek is relatively flat, 0.5 mile round-trip. Joe Gap can be moderate or strenuous, depending on how high we decide to go 2-3 mi + round-trip.

**Contact:** Carrie Radcliffe FloraUnlimited@gmail.com, 706-247-6866

### Trip # 21 - Warwoman Dell

**Leaders: Richard &**

**(unlimited participation)**

**Teresa Ware**

**Date and time:** Sunday, May 6, 2012 8:30 am

**Meeting location:** Quality Inn, Clayton

**Carpooling:** Recommended

**Directions and Description:** Same as Trip 6, but different leaders.

**Bring:** Lunch or snacks, water, sturdy footwear & rain protection, binoculars, hand lens

**Contact:** Richard Ware, 706-766-5143(C), gabotany@comcast.com

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## Registration and Lodging:

### **REGISTRATION: MUST BE MAILED (POSTMARKED) BY FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2012.**

Complete the enclosed registration form clearly indicating your field trip choices by number not by name. Make your check payable to the Georgia Botanical Society and return it to Rich Reaves at the address on the form.

**Lodging:** Everyone is responsible for making their own room reservations and paying for their own room including canceling the room if that is necessary. The Quality Inn located at 834 Highway 441 South in Clayton will be the point of departure for most of this year's field trips. The spacious rooms at this hotel have the usual amenities including microwaves and refrigerators and the hotel is strategically located on the west side of US 441 just south of Highway 76 and only 20 minutes from the Sumter and Chattahoochee National Forests. The special Pilgrimage room rate is \$59.95 per night. Rooms must be reserved by April 15th to receive this rate. You must make your room reservations separately from the pilgrimage reservations. Forty rooms have been blocked at the Quality Inn. The overflow motel is America's Best Value with ten rooms blocked until April 15th at \$49.95. Please reserve your accommodations as soon as possible.

Quality Inn  
834 Highway 441 South; Clayton, GA 30527  
706-782-2214  
[www.qualityinn.com/hotel-clayton-georgia](http://www.qualityinn.com/hotel-clayton-georgia).

America's Best Value Inn Clayton  
698 Highway 441 South  
706-782-4702

Other Clayton hotels are:

Days Inn Clayton at 54 Highway 441 (706-782-4258)  
Old Clayton Inn at 60 South Main Street (706-782-7722)  
Regal Inn Clayton at 707 Highway 441 South (706-7820-4269)

**Event Headquarters:** The Diner of the Rabun County Civic Center will be our evening headquarters for the Friday and Saturday evening socials, the speaker presentations, and the Saturday banquet. Also, Pilgrimage check in and T-shirt pick up will be available at The Diner on Friday evening. (*Early Saturday morning Pilgrimage check in and T-shirt pick up will be at the Quality Inn, Clayton.*)

The Diner is the lower floor of the Rabun County Civic Center (201 West Savannah Street in downtown Clayton just off of Hwy 441). More information about the facility can be found at [www.rabuncountyciviccenter.com](http://www.rabuncountyciviccenter.com). Join us at The Diner for a wonderful meal, great socializing, and a very interesting presentation.

**Friday and Saturday Night Social:** If you are willing to bring an hors d'oeuvre or soft drinks to these social events, please mark the check box on the registration form and contact Candee Drake to describe your contribution before May 1 (678-482-2127 or [Cdrake3800@charter.net](mailto:Cdrake3800@charter.net)). There are no restrictions on wine or beer at this facility, BYOB.

## General Pilgrimage Information:

All participants are expected to sign a liability waiver as a condition of attending. Please be aware that these are outdoor field trips with some risk involved. We indicate the physical nature of the trip in the description so that you may determine if the trip is appropriate for your abilities. Most involve easy to moderate walking at a leisurely pace suitable for virtually anyone who goes outdoors. Trips marked "exploration" can be strenuous, in difficult terrain where we don't know what we'll find. Dress for an entire day in the field – sturdy shoes and layers of clothing. Bring rain gear and an extra pair of socks in case your feet get wet. Bring a lunch for all day trips – there are refrigerators in your rooms. Evening dress is casual.

### **Our rules are minimal:**

No plant collecting - please don't use our trips to "scout" for plants for your garden or for any other purpose.

No picking of plants - please, no bouquets!

Stay on the trails - when we have to walk on vegetation, we spread out so that we do not all stomp the same plants.

No smoking - except in your privately owned vehicle.

No pets on the trail.

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# BotSoc Pilgrimage Shirts - 2012 Limited Edition

All profits from the sales of Pilgrimage shirts benefit  
the Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Grant Fund



Our beautiful 2012 t-shirts and sweatshirt, designed and drawn by Jenneke Somerville, depict the lovely mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) that can be found blooming in the Clayton area during the spring season. The mountain laurel is depicted as a black ink drawing with white text lettering. The short sleeve t-shirt color is a medium BROWN (as shown on page 1); the long sleeve t-shirt and the sweatshirt are GREY (as shown here). Shirts are 100% soft cotton. The shirts will be a special limited edition production based ONLY on the number of orders received. To order, please use the Pilgrimage Registration Form and place your order by the April 13 deadline. Short sleeve t-shirts are \$13.50 (\$15.50 for XXL and \$16.50 XXXL); long sleeve t-shirts are \$15.50 (\$17.50 for XXL and \$18.50 for XXXL); sweatshirts are \$17.50 (\$19.50 for XXL and \$20.50 for XXXL).

If you will not attend the pilgrimage but would like a shirt, please include \$5.00 for postage for the first shirt and \$1.50 for each additional shirt with your order.



2718 Stillwater Lake Lane  
Marietta, GA 30066-7906  
[www.gabotsoc.org](http://www.gabotsoc.org)

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper

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