
BotSoc News



Volume 89
Number 5
September
2014

Annual Meeting Set for September 13

*IN THIS
ISSUE:*

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Georgia Botanical Society will take place at 3:00 PM at the Georgia DNR office at 116 Rum Creek Dr., Forsyth, GA 31029 in Monroe County. This meeting directly follows the field trip to the Fall Line Sandhills WMA located in Taylor County, although attendees are not required to participate in the field trip. Field trip attendees will caravan to Forsyth, GA for the meeting; it is about a 45 minute drive. At the meeting we will serve light refreshments, cold soft drinks and water.

The meeting agenda is:

Welcome/Introduction - Vice President Maureen Donohue

Old Business - We have a proposal to amend the Bylaws as follows:

Currently the bylaws, specifically ARTICLE IV, Section 7, require that the election of officers be held during a meeting in September. At a board meeting on May 4, 2012, a motion was made to amend the Bylaws to delete the words, "in September" and in their place, add the words, "during the third quarter of the calendar year (the months of July, August or September.)"

This proposal was not presented to the full membership at that annual meeting due to low member turnout. Since a bylaws amendment requires a 2/3 vote of the members present, the motion was tabled until we have a meeting with a larger member turnout.

This change will allow the Vice President and the Field Trip Chair to officially begin work on the annual pilgrimage and the next year's field trip schedule earlier in the previous year. The Vice President and the Field Trip Chair do, in fact, begin work earlier on these projects, but may not officially hold these positions due to this timing problem.

This motion will synchronize their elections and/or Board appointments to the actual work schedule necessary to accomplish these tasks in a timely manner.

Officer/Committee Reports: Treasurer, Membership, Field Trips, Pilgrimage, *Tipularia*, Newsletter, Marie Mellinger Grant Program and Holiday Party plans.

New Business

Election of Officers - The Nominating Committee Chair will present the slate of officers and conduct the election. After the election, the new officers will have photos taken and the meeting will be adjourned.

Board Members - Please note that immediately following the general business meeting, there will be a short Board of Directors meeting. Members are invited to stay for the Board Meeting.

*Field Trip
Reports - P3
Upcoming
Field Trips -
P8*

President's Perspective

By Maureen Donohue



BotSoc News

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

Submission deadline

Is October 1 for the November issue.

Subscriptions

Are included with membership.

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www.gabotsoc.org

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Jerry Hightower has asked me to do the pondering for this issue.... so here goes.

As Jerry leaves office after two years as President, I have been pondering the great job he has done for over 30 years "turning on" all kinds of folks to the wonders and joys of nature. Luckily he will continue to use those skills within BotSoc, as he will remain on the board as past president and as a member of the Education Committee.

I am hoping that the Education Committee will be a resource for BotSoc members, most of whom are not professional scientists, but all of whom are curious and eager to learn about the natural world around us. In August, Heather Brasell organized a wonderful South Georgia Bog weekend, and Richard & Teresa Ware led a great Hickory (*Carya*) workshop at the Dunwoody Library. If you missed the Hickory workshop, you might want to read Richard's excellent article about Georgia's hickory trees in the 2012 *Tipularia*, page 19. If you do not have that copy of *Tipularia*, we may still have some available for sale. Contact Richard at gabotany@comcast.net

This month Rich Reaves is leading a Composite Torture workshop on Sept 20th on the Pinhoti Trail in Walker County. Hint: If you review Richard Ware's Aster Workshop materials on the web site (click on Field Trips/Workshops under the BotSoc banner and then select Workshop Materials and scroll down to the Aster Workshop materials), that workshop won't be as tortuous.

If you have a favorite topic you'd like to be a workshop, just let Heather Brasell, chair of the Education Committee, know. You can reach her at heather.brasell@gmail.com. I hope to see you all at the annual meeting on September 13. More detailed information is available in this newsletter and on the web site.

Proposed By-Laws Change

Currently the bylaws, specifically ARTICLE IV, Section 7, require that the election of officers be held during a meeting in September. At a board meeting on May 4, 2012, a motion was made to amend the Bylaws to delete the words, "in September" and in their place, add the words, "during the third quarter of the calendar year (the months of July, August or September.)"

This change will allow the Vice President and the Field Trip Chair to officially begin work on the annual pilgrimage and the next year's field trip schedule earlier in the previous year. The Vice President and the Field Trip Chair do, in fact, begin work earlier on these projects, but may not officially hold these positions due to this timing problem.

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Slaughter Mountain Field Trip

Text and Photos by Raina Sheridan

On June 1st, just as the sun broke through the threatening clouds, our group set out along Duncan Ridge Trail in the North Georgia mountains. Leading our travels, up and over Slaughter Mountain, was botanist Tom Govus. Slaughter Mountain, the neighbor of Blood Mountain, earns its name by a famous battle fought by the Cherokee and Creek Indians between the two Mountains.

The hike was about six miles long, starting out at the bottom from a parking area near Lake Winfield Scott. Along the edge of the road, just setting foot on the trail, we stopped to admire healthy patches of grass-of-parnassus (*Parnassia asarifolia*) which were not yet inclined to flower. A few steps into the woods brought us into a lush understory of ferns including royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*), New York fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*), interrupted fern (*Osmunda claytoniana*), and hay-scented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*). Many of us learned that hay-scented fern is identified by its 'blurred' appearance due to the intricate pinnation of the leaflets along with the scent of hay or fresh-mown grass from the crushed blades.

Along the trail and in spaces where the ferns had not totally established in the understory, a number of interesting plants were regarded. We came upon sporadic specimens of fly poison (*Amianthium muscitoxicum*), cucumber root (*Medeola virginiana*), Canadian black snakeroot (*Sanicula canadensis*), mountain meadow rue (*Thalictrum clavatum*), and the irregular foliage of the tall white lettuce (*Prenanthes altissima*).

Adding mid-level structure to the forest scenery were huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata* and *G. ursina*), goatsbeard (*Aruncus dioicus*) and mountain holly (*Ilex montana*). Higher up in the canopy the mountain maple (*Acer spicatum*), American basswood (*Tilia americana*), and yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*) were scattered amongst larger oaks.

Along the way, remnants of the past were admired in patches of root-sprouted American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) struggling to persist alongside the hollowed trunks of larger chestnut stems long past their prime. Some of the old stems have been used at stream crossings as durable conduits under the trails.

Another fun surprise was to come upon a handsome (and lazy) red eft (*Notophthalmus viridescens*), also known as the eastern red-spotted newt, transformed into its terrestrial stage.



Red eft (*Notophthalmus viridescens*), also known as the eastern red-spotted newt.

Slaughter Mountain Field Trip (cont'd)

Further in elevation, transitioning from the lower elevations with acidified soils to the higher, rockier and more basic substrate, the plant communities abruptly changed and the forest opened up for a better view of the ground cover foliage. In this new ecotype, we found more expanses of New York fern and higher up we found large colonies of wood aster (*Eurybia divaricata*) not yet in bloom, but so thick as if to foretell how scenic it would be when in full flower during the fall. Along the higher elevation we also saw the delicate inflorescence of meadow parsnip (*Thaspium barbinode*), swirls of wood betony (*Pedicularis canadensis*), and traces of narrow leaf cow wheat (*Melampyrum lineare*).

Most impressive along our hike were the vibrant blooms of the flame and Cumberland azaleas (*Rhododendron calendulaceum* and *R. cumberlandense*). The two azaleas are very similar in appearance but we learned to tell the difference between the two species more by growth form than morphology characteristics. Cumberland azalea is shorter in stature, about five or six feet tall, and forms larger colonies. Contrary to most botanical keys, our Cumberland azaleas were in full bloom post leaf-out and were not restricted to flowering prior to leaf expansion. The flame azalea is much taller, along our trail growing like a small understory tree, and not clonal. Good to know, right?

Saving the best for last, a few final treasures were discovered along our trail. We found the hairy leaves of the pink lady slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) which were finished flowering. So as not to disappoint, a lovely patch of large yellow lady slippers (*Cypripedium parviflorum*) were in full bloom hiding just out of plain sight behind some shrubbery further down the trail. Around the corner, singing in the canopy, a scarlet tanager was spotted and it graciously posed for us until every last person in the group got a good, appreciating look before dashing off. Maybe not quite as showy, but still a rare find, Tom showed us Manhart's sedge (*Carex manhartii*) a federal candidate and state threatened species found in the Southern Appalachians.

The way back down was steep and hard on the knees, but at the very end of the trail one final group farewell was had amongst the blooms of the four-leaf milkweed (*Asclepias quadrifolia*) before we left the beaten path to head home. We all had a great time, made new friends, and enjoyed together the beauty of nature. What a special trip to the North Georgia mountains!



Cypripedium parviflorum on the left and *Asclepias quadrifolia* on the right.

Big Hammock Natural Area Field Trip

Text and photos by Bobby Hattaway

Besides the leader, five people showed up at the trailhead. Participants were: Elizabeth Barrett, Heather Brasell, Ann Calhoun, David Farrien, and Wayne Webb. Wayne came the greatest distance (from Alabama). Bobby gave an introduction in which he talked about the ecology of the place. Fire management is an important part of that story. We started at 10 AM and ended about 2:00PM. In order to “beat the heat,” we did not formally stop for lunch, snacking as needed and tried to stay hydrated. Fortunately most of the hike was shaded. Although I think at least two people (leader included) later found either tick or chigger bites, the “bugs” were inconsequential. At least there were no biting flies to speak of.

Bobby distributed a species-by-habitat/community list to attendees. Plant indicator species were an important focal point of this trip. The trailhead boxes were out of trail guides but Bobby had a couple from a prior trip.

The trip was the second trip since Big Hammock was highlighted as a “featured place” in the new (2013) Natural Communities of Georgia book by Leslie Edwards, Jon Ambrose and Kay Kirkman. Last year was the first. Big Hammock Natural Area (BHNA) is home to the largest known population of the rare Georgia or Elliott’s plume (*Elliottia racemosa*). This year we “did” the trip a week later than 2013 in hopes of better coinciding with the flower time for that otherwise rare shrub or small tree. The plan worked, and we even had a small photogenic plant in bloom right on the nature trail. The uncommon (in Georgia) myrtle oak (*Quercus myrtifolia*) also forms a large population there and we saw plenty on this evergreen shrub.

For brevity, in this trip report, we will refer to the book hereafter as simply “the book.” The authors list BHNA as a featured place to see the Dry Evergreen Oak Woodland.

Another community described in the book, Dry Deciduous Hardwood Forest, though not given as a featured place at BHNA, adjoins the woodland. Despite the use of the word “Dry” in both plant community names, the forest here is more mesic than the woodland. Plus the woodland currently has more trees forming a part of the canopy than normally qualifies for a “woodland” (vs. a forest) natural community type. This will hopefully change as fire effects work their magic.

Elliott’s plume (*Elliottia racemosa*)



Continued on next page

Big Hammock Natural Area Field Trip (cont'd)

In addition to those two natural communities, we also saw transitions from Pine Flatwoods (where we started and ended) - which occur on low, flat, or mildly depressional sites, with moist to hydric soils - to dry upland sites like Turkey Oak/Longleaf pine sandhills (with most of the longleaf being previously cut). About three fourths of the way around the trail, we also saw a Cypress-Gum Swamp Depression. If you are counting, this is five natural community types here.

Except for the shade tolerant spruce pine (*Pinus glabra*), a member of the Dry Deciduous Hardwood Forest, we saw and distinguished the three other pine species in the Pine Flatwoods near the beginning, and especially near the end of our hike. These were: *Pinus elliotii* (slash pine), *P. palustris* (longleaf pine) and *P. taeda* (loblolly pine). All three are growing within 10 feet of each other in the parking area.

The 1.3 mile trail was laid out for the DNR by Carol Schneier. Bobby had done a reconnaissance the day before to “test” the timelines but, with a group, the pace is nearly always slower than a recon simply because there was so much to see and on-the-spot questions to answer. Most of the flowering species were towards the end of the trip in the Pine Flatwoods. Longleaf pine, despite earlier logging, is already making a comeback at BHNA.



Pinus palustris [W.D. Brush - USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database]

Although not listed as a member of the Dry Evergreen Oak Woodland, longleaf pine can be present in younger stands of this community type (Daubenmire (1990) citation in the book). It will eventually be diminished in numbers by shade and some natural fire exclusion in this community type. Longleaf pine dominated community types have more frequent fire than the Evergreen Oak Woodlands. Photographs of the species seen on the trip are published in Bobby’s picture album on the DiscoverLife.org website. He currently has over 1800 species of plants in the album. For users of his album, Bobby will be happy to E-mail a 6-step protocol to make viewing easier.

At or near marker #3 we saw some huge specimens of sand live oak (*Quercus geminata*). This evergreen tree and the semi-evergreen sand laurel oak or Darlington oak (*Quercus hemisphaerica*) dominate the canopy. In the understory, along with the ever-abundant *Elliottia*, we find lots of sparkleberry or farkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*). Associated with these species we encounter witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), devilwood or wild olive (*Osmanthus americanus* – now *Cartrema americana* in Weakley’s 2012 on-line Flora), spruce pine (*Pinus glabra*) and *Asimina parviflora* (small-flowered pawpaw, erroneously called small-fruited pawpaw in the book).

Here and once more on the trip, we encountered *Ilex ambigua* (Carolina holly). I think the reason this upland somewhat xerophytic species is often overlooked is because when it is sterile, it is rather nondescript. This is especially true of the “male” trees which do not have red berries. The many species of heaths especially vacciniums, including the often-ignored, black or hairy highbush blueberry [*Vaccinium fuscatum* (syn. *V. atrococcum*)], bear testimony to why Dr. John Bozeman (who co-led the trip last year) included the acid-loving heaths in his earlier publications as important components of the Oak-Pine-Heath forest type.

Big Hammock Natural Area Field Trip (cont'd)

Before trail marker #6 (Dune Ridge Crest) near the crest of the ridge, Wayne Webb pointed out sand hickory (*Carya pallida*). After that, we descended into a more mesic community that best fits the description of the book's Dry Deciduous Hardwood Forest. In the canopy we saw *Quercus alba*, (white oak), pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*) and even a few scattered loblolly pines. The understory featured hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*) and flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*). *Elliottia* was still with us.

Trail marker #8 highlights the "Old Field Site." At this stage of recovery, this part of the site is designated as a hammock. That is because of its evergreen oak canopy. As was explained on the hike, a hammock is band or island of evergreen vegetation within a surrounding different vegetation type. *Elliottia* is sparse to absent here. The hypothesis behind its absence here offered by Dr. John Bozeman is that when the site was cleared to plant corn more than 75 years ago, the mycorrhizae in the soil were destroyed. Since the members of the heath family (Ericaceae) are known for having a strong tie with fungi, this seems to be the most plausible explanation. Before leaving the old field site, we saw two notable species, not necessarily associated with this disturbed habitat – gum bully (*Sideroxylon lanuginosum*) and woody goldenrod (*Chrysoma pauciflosculosa*).

Trail marker #12 highlighted an armadillo burrow but, as Elizabeth Barrett noted, the animal obviously did not read the sign because we did not see one scampering about until the next trail marker. Shortly thereafter, we encountered some sand spike moss (*Selaginella arenicola*) along with two species of *Cladonia* (*C. subtenuis*, and *C. evansii*) which we had been seeing, here and there, earlier. The first is not a true moss but a fern relative. *Cladonia subtenuis* is commonly called reindeer lichen and *C. evansii* is often singled out as powder puff lichen. It is whiter and slightly smaller than the greener *Cladonia subtenuis*. The very presence of these three slow-growing cryptogams (non-seed plants) indicates that fire has been absent from places where they grow for some time.



Myrtleleaf St. Johnswort (*Hypericum myrtifolium*)

We then took a short detour into a dry Cypress-Gum Swamp depression (#17 on the trail maker and brochure) that had myrtleleaf St. Johnswort (*Hypericum myrtifolium*) in bloom and a fifth species of holly which is typical of this habitat, myrtle dahoon (*Ilex myrtifolia*). Roads and trails are often built along ecotones. This was especially apparent near the end of our hike where, on the left side of the trail is the xeric ancient dune ridge vegetation and on the right is moist flatwoods with slash and longleaf pines.

Except for the slight tick and chigger bite "aftermath" noted earlier, the trip had no notable negative aspects and folks seem to have enjoyed themselves. At about 2:15PM we said our good-byes and headed home. Later in the week, Bobby sent participants an updated Excel spreadsheet of the plants we had seen according to their respective natural communities.

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
Sept 6 10:00 AM	<p>Williams Bluffs Preserve</p> <p>We will meet at the preserve gate, and carpool around the 1000-acre preserve, hitting the major habitats. The preserve includes longleaf pine sandhill woodlands (regularly burned), isolated limesink depressional wetlands, mixed-pine flatwoods, rich hardwood bluff forests, and various bottomland swamp communities along the Chattahoochee River.</p> <p>We should see at least two rare species, Florida willow (<i>Salix floridana</i>) and swamp black-eyed Susan (<i>Rudbeckia auriculata</i>), the latter in flower. We will drive to the different habitats and explore from the vehicles on foot.</p>	<p>Directions: I-85 South to I-185 (Exit 21, about 63 miles); I-185 South to End at U.S. 27 south of Columbus, about 50 miles; U.S. 27 south to S.R. 62 in Blakely, about 90 miles. West (right) on S.R. 62 to Hilton, about 11 miles; In Hilton, turn left on S.R. 370 south, just before RR crossing; About 6 miles down the road watch on the right for a small white switching shack along the railroad line that parallels the road on that side. Shortly after the shack, turn right onto a dirt driveway leading across the tracks and through a field to a gated fence. (If the railroad track is no longer visible on the right side of the road, or you have come to the GP plant entrance on the right, you have gone too far.)</p> <p>Facilities: None at the preserve. Nearest bathroom at convenience store 1.5 mi S.</p> <p>Walking: Most walking will be in flat or slightly sloping land. Some bluff forests can be steep and difficult to traverse.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch, snacks, and water. Dress for predicted weather, in layers.</p>	Malcolm Hodges mhodges@tnc.org 770-776-9194
Sept 13 10:00 AM	<p>Fall Line Sandhills WMA</p> <p>Fall Line Sandhills contains the highest density of state-listed species (animals and plants) of all. No less than 12 listed species, including at least six plants, are found here. The state's largest population of federally listed pondberry is among them. Its bright red fruits are a rare sight and should be present.</p> <p>Other specialties at this site include sandhills golden aster, Pickering's morning-glory, lax water-milfoil, and dwarf witch-alder. Late summer and early fall is a great time to visit the sandhills due to the high diversity of colorful composites in bloom. We'll also explore depressional wetlands and seepage slopes.</p>	<p>Directions: From the junction of GA Hwy 96 and US Hwy 19 in the town square of Butler (Taylor County), travel west on GA Hwy 96 for 2.6 miles (turn right at a stop sign to remain on 96 at about 2.4 miles) to Taylor County Industrial Park; turn right. Meet at the entrance kiosk for the WMA.</p> <p>Facilities: None</p> <p>Walking: Easy</p> <p>Bring: Lunch, snacks, water, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, and rain gear.</p>	John Jensen, Nathan Klaus, Hal Massie john.jensen@gadnr.org 478-550-4406
Sept 13 3:00 PM Note: unusual start time	<p>Annual Meeting</p> <p>This meeting follows the nearby field trip to the Fall Line Sandhills, but attendance at the field trip is not required.</p> <p>Feel free to bring a friend!</p>	<p>Location: The Forysth DNR office located at 116 Rum Creek Drive, Forsyth, GA 31029 .</p> <p>Facilities: Yes</p>	See Page 1 or website for details

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
Sept 20 10:00 AM	<p>Grand Bay and Lake Louise</p> <p>Imagine a walk through a Carolina Bay swamp without getting your feet wet, including spectacular aerial views! A quarter-mile boardwalk and 50 foot observation tower at Grand Bay Wetland Education Center afford the opportunity to observe a great diversity of aquatic vegetation and interesting patterns of zonation, including lots of graminoids and floating mats with water-spider orchid.</p> <p>At another site, we will observe the vegetation along the margin of a lime-sink pond, with a boardwalk providing easy access through a dense evergreen shrub bog, featuring such specialties as Georgia fever-bark, loblolly bay, cypress-knee sedge, white-arrow arum, and ball moss.</p>	<p>Directions: From I-75 exit 22, take North Valdosta Road east 3.9 miles to Inner Perimeter Road and turn left. Travel 1.5 miles to Bemiss Road and turn left/north (Hwy. GA 125). Travel about 1 mile to Knights Academy Road and turn right (east). Travel 4.9 miles until you reach the Grand Bay WMA gate on the left. Turn left (north) onto the gravel road, and go 0.8 mile until you reach a T-intersection. Turn left (west) and go about 0.1 mile to the Grand Bay Wetland Education Center parking area.</p> <p>Facilities: none</p> <p>Walking: This hike is easy to moderate.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch, snacks, & water. We will eat lunch at the Grand Bay Wetland Education Center parking area. Remember to dress for the weather and wear comfortable hiking shoes. You may wish to bring binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera.</p>	Richard Carter rcarter@valdosta.edu 229- 506-2099 (cell)
Sept 27 9:00 AM Note: early start time	<p>National Public Lands Day - Panola Mountain State Park grassland restoration</p> <p>We will join park staff and volunteers in planting wildflowers at a significant grassland restoration area in the park. Some of us worked on this restoration two years so we will see how the work is progressing.</p> <p>After lunch, Phil Delestrez, Resource Manager for Panola, will guide us on a brief walk up the mountain to see the pristine 100 acre granite outcrop that has never been quarried, a rare untouched ecosystem.</p> <p>Special Requests: The park asks that we pre-register. Send me your name so I can register the group. Please wear some BotSoc identification - a favorite t-shirt or hat or a logo patch. It may invite conversation about our organization. If you are talking to other volunteers, mention our great field trip program and invite them to join us. Field trips are free and open to the public. You may wish to bring friends and family. This is a nice event.</p>	<p>Directions: The park is located 18 miles southeast to Atlanta. Take I-20 to Exit 68, Snapfinger Road/ Hwy 155. Travel south on Georgia Hwy 155 to the main park entrance. Take the first road to the left after entering the main gate. This is Alexander Lake Road. It is a small road (and easily missed) that runs along the side of the park. Alexander Lake Road will dead end into Flat Shoals Road. That road is also called Klondike Road. Turn right. The park entrance to the Alexander's Lake area will be on the left and is marked as an entrance to PMSP.</p> <p>Facilities: In the park</p> <p>Walking: Easy/moderate.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch to eat near the parking area, water. You may wish to bring work or garden gloves as well as a camera, hand lens, notebook. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather.</p>	Maureen Donohue marinadono67@gmail.com 770-990-7756 (cell)
Sept 28 10:00 AM	<p>Tallassee Forest</p> <p>Tallassee Forest is a 310-acre tract of land on the Middle Oconee River in northwest Athens-Clarke County. Large size, high environmental quality, and relatively little recent disturbance allow it to support a diversity of native plants, nongame wildlife, and eight of Georgia DNR's high priority habitats: mature oak-hickory-pine forest, mesic hardwood forest, wetlands including a freshwater marsh, bottomland forest, canebrakes, springs and spring runs, small streams, and a medium-sized river. Of special interest is an unusual upland American holly forest and a bottomland forest with canebrakes and minimal invasives. The utility easements are covered with diverse fall wildflowers and grasses.</p>	<p>Directions: Meet at Burney-Harris-Lyons Middle School and carpool from there to the Forest. From Atlanta, take I-85 north to Exit 137 - Jefferson/US Hwy 129. Drive south on US 129 for about 20 miles. Just outside Athens, turn right onto GA Hwy 10/ Loop 10 South (aka "the bypass") and drive SW about 1 mile to Exit 15 (Tallassee Rd-Oglethorpe Avenue). Turn right/west onto Tallassee Road. Proceed 4.3 miles and turn right into the school lot and park there.</p> <p>Facilities: none</p> <p>Walking: Moderate. We will be walking on old roads and utility easements. The walk is long so plan for 3½ hours.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch, snacks, and water. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy walking shoes or boots. You may also want to bring binoculars, hand lens, and camera.</p>	Linda Chafin and Karen Porter lchafin@uga.edu karenporter@gmail.com

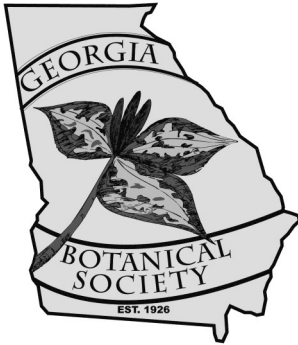
Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
Oct 4 10:00 AM	<p>Early Fall Wildflowers of North Georgia</p> <p>This trip will take us to at least three locations in the north central part of the state, including areas near Young Harris and Suches. Plants we hope to see in bloom include 3 gentians: the beautiful and rare fringed gentian (<i>Gentianopsis crinita</i>), stiff gentian (<i>Gentianella quinquefolia</i>), and soapwort gentian (<i>Gentiana saponaria</i>). Two species of <i>Parnassia</i>: kidney-leaf Grass-of-Parnassus (<i>P. asarifolia</i>), and the rare and ornately veined large-leaf Grass-of-Parnassus (<i>Parnassia grandifolia</i>). Two aptly named plants: monkshood (<i>Aconitum uncinatum</i>), and white turtlehead (<i>Chelone glabra</i>). We also hope to see white goldenrod (<i>Solidago bicolor</i>), and perhaps a couple species of ladies' tresses (<i>Spiranthes</i> sp.).</p>	<p>Directions: I-75 to I-575 north to GA 5/515 to Blue Ridge, GA, then east on US 76/ GA 515 to Blairsville. From the intersection of US 76 and US 19/129 in Blairsville, continue heading east on HY 76/515 toward Clayton, GA for about 6.4 miles. Meet at the Chevron Station on the left. If you come to Track Rock Gap Rd (or to Young Harris), you have come too far.</p> <p>Facilities: At meeting site.</p> <p>Walking: Easy, near cars, with a short bushwhack walk near the monkshood site.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch to eat on the house porch of Gene and Joyce Hall near Young Harris.</p>	<p>Mike Christison mikepaddler@aol.com 770-596-3564 (Cell phone for day of trip), Richard & Teresa Ware gabotany@comcast.net 706-766-5143 (c)</p>
Oct 11/12 10:00 AM both days	<p>Oaky Woods Weekend: Prairies and Butterflies</p> <p>We will explore blackland prairies for unusual plants and conduct a butterfly count. Each day will offer new prairies to explore. Butterfly experts will be on hand. Depending on summer heat, we will also explore limestone bluffs and cooler places.</p>	<p>Directions: From Macon, take Exit 160A, Interstate 75, then south on GA Hwy. 247, pass Robins Air Force Base, continue to Bonaire, jct. with GA Hwy. 96, ca. 5 miles south of Warner Robins. Flash Foods/Taco Bell in Bonaire, corner of GA Hwy. 247 and 96.</p> <p>Facilities: none at the natural area.</p> <p>Walking: Easy to moderate, lasting all day, some bushwhacking, covering up to 3 miles, mostly in grassy habitat and along jeep trails.</p> <p>Bring: Snacks, water, lunch, butterfly binoculars, notebook, hat, sunscreen. Wear long pants, hiking shoes for ankle support and double socks to avoid ticks and chiggers.</p>	<p>Tom Patrick tom.patrick@dnr.state.ga.us 706-476-4541 (cell)</p>
Oct 13 10:00 AM	<p>Black Creek Natural Area</p> <p>Fall is the best wildflower season in the sandhills and many unique species, especially members of the aster family, should be in flower. Black Creek Natural Area is managed with prescribed fire and we will be able to see the impact of recent fires on sandhill plants. Target species will include sandhills golden-aster (<i>Pityopsis pinifolia</i>), and Pickering's daisy (<i>Stylisma pickeringii</i> var. <i>pickeringii</i>), both protected plants. We should also find sandhill specialties like Michaux's Whitlow-wort (<i>Paronychia herniarioides</i>), elegant blazing-star (<i>Liatris elegans</i>), and lopsided Indiangrass (<i>Sorghastrum secundum</i>).</p> <p>If we have time and a couple of 4-wheel drive vehicles, we'll enter the edge of a large bog containing many sweet pitcher plants (<i>Sarracenia rubra</i>) as well as one of the rarest plants in Georgia, tawny cottongrass (<i>Eriophorum virginicum</i>).</p>	<p>Directions: Take US 19 south to Butler. Pass through the town on US 19 to the light at the intersection of US 19 and GA 96. Turn right onto GA 96 and go approximately 7 miles. You will pass Culverhouse Rd. and Grace Mill Rd. The next three roads to the right (Brown, Watson, and the other end of Brown) all lead to the small village of Howard. If you are coming from the south, take US 19 north to the intersection with GA 96 and turn left and then use the directions above. We will meet across the road from the post office in Howard, then carpool to Black Creek WMA.</p> <p>Facilities: None.</p> <p>Walking: We'll be walking on old sand logging roads. Walking will be fairly easy, but the sand will be deep at times and it could be hot. We may walk into the edge of a bog, which will be mucky. Total walking for the day shouldn't exceed 2 miles.</p> <p>Bring: Hat, bug spray, hand lens, water and food. Bring a lunch – we'll try to eat near the vehicles, but be prepared to carry your food. A picnic blanket or some other cover to sit on is recommended.</p>	<p>Hal Massie massiefarm@aol.com 478-957-6095 (cell)</p>

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
Oct 18 10:00 AM	Panther Creek Starting on a dry ridge with table mountain pine, mountain laurel, dwarf rhododendron and bigleaf storax, we'll descend into the rugged and scenic corridor carved by Panther Creek. We'll follow the creek upstream to the pool below Panther Creek Falls and return by the same route. We'll eat lunch by the water. Plant diversity increases nearer to the water with yellow buckeye, black birch and magnolias appearing. Virginia willow, silky cornel, hazel alder, yellowroot and ferns flourish. We may see log fern, Blue Ridge bittercress and brook saxifrage.	Directions: Traveling north on US 23 / US 441 in Habersham County, go through the intersection with GA 17 Alternate at the traffic signal in Hollywood then take the next right onto John Wood Rd. which ends at an intersection after approx 1.5 mi. Continue straight ahead onto unpaved Camp Yonah Rd. and follow it about 3 mi to the east end. We have permission to park and walk across private property to reach Panther Creek within the Chatt. National Forest. Facilities: None Walking: Total distance, in and back, is about 3 mi. The first portion of the walk is easy but the Forest Service hiking trail along Panther Creek is often rocky, overgrown and treacherous. Bring: Lunch, snacks, & water. Remember to dress for the weather & wear comfortable hiking shoes. Dress in layers so that you can adjust to changes in the temperature & your activity level. You may wish to bring hiking poles, binoculars, hand lens, notebook, & camera.	Ben Cash bencash@hemc.net 706-968-3841 (cell)
Oct 25 10:00 AM	GA Piedmont Property of Sue Mager We will explore meadows and beaver ponds/wetland areas on this trip. In the morning, we will take an easy walk through several open fields to see a variety of fall wildflowers (mostly asters), including the Georgia Aster. We will also see a variety of grasses. After lunch we will hike/wade along 20 year old beaver habitat, identifying pond flora and fauna along the way.	Directions: GPS might work if you use neighbor's address: 285 Moccasin Gap Rd, Lula, GA 30554 Turn into driveway with mailbox for #285. Bear right at fork and go to the second field to the house. (see detailed directions on website if needed) Facilities: Yes Walking: The morning part through the fields is easy, one hill, less than a mile; afternoon is moderate with some steep up/downhill areas, also less than a mile, and may have to cross shallow water, depending on recent rainfall. Bring: Lunch, snacks, & water. We will eat on the porch at the house. Remember to dress for the weather and wear comfortable hiking shoes. Will need water boots or waders, or bring old boots that you don't mind getting wet for the afternoon part to the beaver ponds. You may wish to bring binoculars, hand lens, and camera.	Sue Mager Backacres00@yahoo.com 770-365-5197 (cell)
Nov 1 10:00 AM	Fall Color/Tree Id We hope to see some actual fall color and ID trees along the way on this trip, timed for the same date when color peaked last year. The plan right now is to walk around Victory Lake at Berry College for the brilliant red / orange leaves of the chalk maple (<i>Acer leucoderme</i>) and a bunch of other trees and around the campus for the brilliant reds of the red maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>), the vibrant yellows of American yellowwood (<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>), and hickory (<i>Carya sp.</i>). We may see the national champion southern sugar maple (<i>Acer floridanum</i>), the state champion northern catalpa (<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>) and other Berry College unique sites.	Directions: Meet and park in the first parking lot, behind Krannert Center. See web for more details. Facilities: Meeting site only. Walking: This hike is on flat terrain ~ 1 to 1 ½ mi. Bring: Lunch (to eat at picnic tables) & water. Remember to dress for the weather and wear comfortable hiking shoes. Dress in layers so that you can adjust to changes in the temperature and your activity level. You may wish to bring binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera.	Richard & Teresa Ware gabotany@comcast.net 706-766-5143 (Cell phone for day of trip).

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