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# BotSoc News



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Georgia Botanical Society

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## 2015 Pilgrimage

The historic city of Dahlonega will be the headquarters for our 46<sup>th</sup> Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage. Located in the Dahlonega Gold Belt at the southern end of the Blue Ridge Province, Dahlonega is the gateway to Georgia's central mountains. The Gold Museum in the heart of the city is only 1,450 feet above sea level, but most of our field trips will be north of town and some will reach altitudes near 4,000 feet.

Field trips this year will include a variety of habitats from mountain laurel and rhododendron crowded stream banks to blue-shrouded vistas of high altitude granite outcrops. Some of the field trips will be to familiar places – Woody Gap, Lake Winfield Scott and Jarrard Gap, Sosebee Cove, and Dawson Forest. Other trips may not be as well known, like a hike to the beautiful Raven Cliff Falls. The vast majority of the field trips will be inside the Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia's largest collection of public land.

Botanical highlights for the central mountains should include pink lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*), small and large yellow lady's-slippers, (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *parviflorum* and var. *pubescens*), mid-season *Trillium*, including the striking painted trillium (*Trillium undulatum*), and nodding mandarin (*Prosartes maculate*). More common species such as may-apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) and wood-betony (*Pedicularis canadensis*) should be flowering in profusion.

Block bookings have been made with three hotels. Call the hotels directly and give them the name of the block which is **GA Botanical Pilgrimage**. Be sure to book early as alternative accommodation is very limited.

**Days Inn - 30 rooms @\$75 per night - 706-864-2338**

**Holiday Inn - 20 rooms @\$129 per night - 706-867-7777**

**Quality Inn - 20 rooms @\$80 per night - 706-864-6191**

Come join the Georgia Botanical Society as we explore the botanical wonders and scenic grandeur of the North Georgia mountains during our 2015 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage! The pilgrimage brochure will be arriving soon.

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## President's Perspective



### BotSoc News

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

### Submission deadline

Is April 1 for the May issue.

### Subscriptions

Are included with membership.

### Website:

[www.gabotsoc.org](http://www.gabotsoc.org)

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It is only two months to the Wildflower Pilgrimage in Dahlonega May 8-10, 2015. I hope you are planning to attend. Our Vice President, Heather Brasell, is busy finalizing plans now, and the pilgrimage newsletter will be available soon. Our mountain pilgrimage will give you an opportunity to learn about natural plant communities in the area, see gorgeous mountain wildflowers and visit with friends from all over the state. Our Friday evening welcome social will be held at the Lumpkin County Parks and Recreation Community Center near City Hall, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

I hope you are all thinking about what special item you will prepare for the social. We will not be able to bring leftover food to our Saturday evening program, so please only prepare enough for Friday evening. Note that no alcoholic beverages will be allowed at the Friday evening venue. BotSoc will provide soft drinks, tea, coffee and water.

We will need a few volunteers to organize the food, plates, flatwear, etc. before the event. We will need several others as the clean-up crew after we are finished at 9:00 p.m. Each volunteer task will take between 30 minutes and one hour.

A few people can help at our mini trade show tables - books, Tipularia, BotSoc merchandise, t-shirts. etc. so that people manning the tables in the early evening can get a break and have something to eat. Please let Heather know which of these tasks you can help with. One of the reasons our costs are so low is because we do all the work ourselves. So be sure to help where you can.

On Saturday morning, we need people to help in the parking lot, making sure our pilgrims find their field trip leaders. We need you! And you will still be able to leave on time for your field trip that morning. Please notify Heather at [heather.brasell@gmail.com](mailto:heather.brasell@gmail.com), provide your email and phone number, and let her know when you are available to help. Thank you in advance for making our 46th annual pilgrimage a success.

See you all in the mountains.

*Maureen Donohue*



## The Curious Colors of Indian Paintbrush

Text and photos by Rich Reaves

The signature flower for our 2015 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage is the eastern Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*). I encourage everyone to get at least one of our shirts, even if you do not plan to attend the Pilgrimage, as paintbrush shirts are not easy to come by and, more importantly, the proceeds support our Marie Mellinger Field Botany research grant program.

Eastern Indian paintbrush typically occurs in open areas over mafic rocks. The species is hemiparasitic, meaning that while they have chlorophyll and carry out photosynthesis for energy, they do have a host/parasite relationship with other plants to obtain nutrients and/or water. Eastern Indian paintbrush also provides some of the most vibrant spring color that we will see. However, the color is not from the petals of the flower, as is typically the case, but rather the bracts associated with the inflorescence. Because the showy color is not the flower petals, paintbrushes retain their brilliant color for a much longer period than typical spring flowers.

If you look at these plants closely, you will note that all bracts are not created equal. There is a difference in morphology and color depending on whether a bract is associated directly with a flower or is in the inflorescence but not associated with a flower. In eastern Indian paintbrush, bracts that do not subtend flowers typically are large and generally flat to moderately curved, while the bracts that subtend flowers are smaller, curl around the flower like a tube, and are colored differently than the bracts not associated with flowers.

It also appears that there is color variation among populations within the species range. The three photographs in this article are eastern Indian paintbrush plants from Georgia, North Carolina, and Maryland.

In each one there is a distinct difference in the color of the bracts that subtend flowers. In the Georgia plant, shown at right, there is a rather thick collar of red-orange at the tip of the bract.



Typical eastern Indian paintbrush from north Georgia

Continued on next page



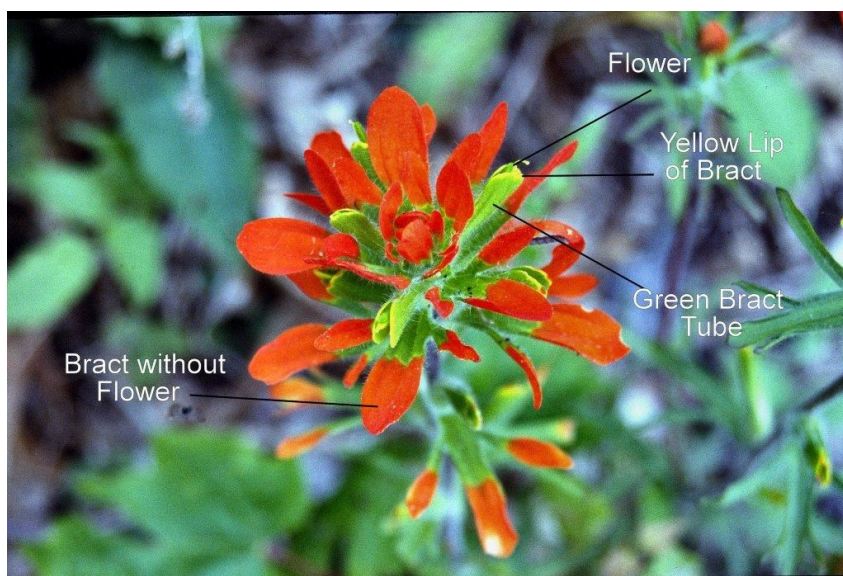
## The Curious Colors of Indian Paintbrush (cont'd)

In the North Carolina plant, shown below, the color at the tip of the bract is reduced to a very thin lip and it is yellow (with a few having a couple of red-orange dots) rather than solid red-orange. In the Maryland plant, bottom picture, the color extends approximately 60 percent of the way down the bract tube throat. There are additional color differences in the Maryland plant – the stem is pigmented a dark purple-brown and the bracts curled around the flowers range from dark brown-green to the dark purple-brown of the stem below the red throat.

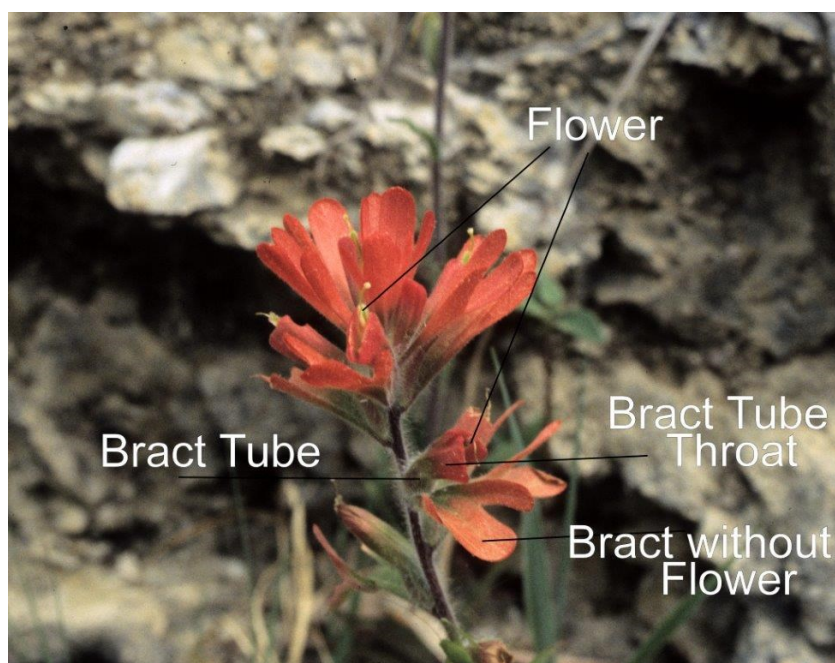
All of the plants in these areas were similar to the ones shown, indicating a high degree of consistency within these local populations.

I find this color variation fascinating. The Eastern Indian paintbrush that I have observed in Ohio were similar in appearance to the ones I have seen in Georgia, with a distinct orange-red collar on the bracts subtending the flowers. While in Virginia, the plants I have seen were more similar to coloration of the plants I have seen in North Carolina, with only a thin lip on the bract.

However, in central Virginia, the lip in a population was yellow like the North Carolina but, in another population from farther north in Shenandoah National Park, the thin lip was red-orange. I have not encountered plants with the color pattern of the Maryland photograph anywhere else.



Typical eastern Indian paintbrush from western North Carolina



Eastern Indian paintbrush from western Maryland

## The Curious Colors of Indian Paintbrush (cont'd)

In the western United States, where there are many species of paintbrush, there are widespread species that consistently show color limited to the ends of the bracts around the flowers (such as *Castilleja sulphurea* and *Castilleja angustifolia*) and other widespread species (such as *Castilleja linariifolia* and *Castilleja rosea*) that consistently display a solid color along the entire length of the bracts that encircle the flowers.

I would like to thank BotSoc member Jenneke Somerville, who designed the 2015 Pilgrimage shirt, for bringing this color variation to my attention, which led me to take a closer look at one of my favorite plants. Jenneke noticed that photographs of *Castilleja coccinea* from the internet indicated a fairly strong yellow component to the color. I had never seen this color aspect in plants from Georgia, so I went back and took a much closer look at my photographs of various paintbrushes from around the country, with particular emphasis on photographs of eastern Indian paintbrush. A chance discussion on flower color for a t-shirt has provided me with a new perspective that allows me to get greater enjoyment from looking at these plants. ✨

### Congratulations to 2015 Graduates in the Certificate in Native Plants Program

Eleven students completed this program at the State Botanical Garden in Athens and were awarded their CNP certificates in January, fittingly at the Native Plants Symposium on January 21, 2015. Graduates included BotSoc members Nicholas Douglas, Joan Frierson and Elaine Nash. Certificates were also awarded to Dana Skelton, Jared Bailey, Elizabeth Bloemer, Caterina Dillard, Carolyn Ingraham, Monika Kapousouz, Deborah Myers, and Angela Sauve.

In recognition of their achievements, the Georgia Botanical Society has offered each of them a year's free membership. We have sent them a letter of congratulations, and we look forward to seeing them on field trips soon.





## Upcoming Field Trips

<p>Mar 7 10:00 AM</p> <p><b>Note: This trip has changed from the January newsletter</b></p>	<p><b>Trout Lilies at Paces Mill Unit-West Palisades</b></p> <p>We will peruse the parking lot gardens - the Georgia aster prairie, the shade garden and the pollinator garden. Then we will look at the perimeter woods for signs of toad shade trilliums (<i>Trillium cuneatum</i>), bloodroot (<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>) and cut leaf toothwort (<i>Cardamine laciniata</i>). Soon we'll begin to see the wonderful yellow flowers of the trout lilies. But it will be ~ another 200 feet before we see the full hillside display - thousands of trout lilies along the creek. Green 'n' gold leaves will be out nearby, but there will be no flowers for another week or two. For those who wish to go on, we'll head north on the dirt riverside trail, seeing horse sugar trees (<i>Symplocos tinctoria</i>) with their tardily deciduous leaves and other early trees /shrubs in bud. Hopefully the river will be sparking blue in the late winter sun, and Great Blue Herons will be fishing on the river. <b>This walk is suitable for beginners.</b></p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> Traveling south on I-75, take Exit 258, turning right on Cumberland Blvd and then left on Cobb Parkway (US41S). Go through the light at Paces Mill Rd. The park entrance is now on the left. Due to construction, you may have to pass the entrance and turn around on Cobb Parkway or Northside Dr to come north and enter the park. From I-75N, exit at Mount Paran Rd, turning left, then turning right onto Northside Drive which becomes Cobb Parkway when you cross the river. The entrance to the park is shortly after you enter Cobb on the right.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> Paces Mill parking lot.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> The first part is 1 mile round trip on a paved easy trail along the river and creek. Maximum walk will be no more than 2.5 -3 miles.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Comfortable walking shoes, hand lens, \$3.00 parking fee or annual or senior pass, water, camera, field guide. Bring a lunch to carry on the trail.</p>	<p>Maureen Donohue marinadono67@gmail.com 770-990-7756 (c)</p>
<p>Mar 15 2:00 PM</p> <p>Note: This is a Sunday with a late start time</p>	<p><b>Montezuma Bluffs Natural Area</b></p> <p>Montezuma Bluffs Natural Area, located on bluffs overlooking the Flint River, contains beautiful stands of mature hardwood forest. Cool, moist ravines contrast with dry exposed limestone bluffs and provide a high degree of species diversity. A ramble around the bluffs and ravines should provide ample viewing of the federally listed relict trillium and the more common spotted trillium as well as many other spring wildflowers including woodland phlox, hepatica, wild geranium, Solomon's seal, and Atamasco lilies. We may even spot the rare orchid, southern twayblade.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> Montezuma Bluffs Natural Area is located approximately 1 mile north of the city limits of Montezuma off of State Highway 49. From Hwy 49, turn west on Crook's Landing Road and follow this short paved road half way down the hill (about a half mile). Meet at the kiosk in the gravel parking area on the north side of the road.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> The first half of the walk will be easy and non-strenuous. During the second half, we will venture along some steep banks and the walk will be more challenging. If you require a staff to walk, you may wish to skip the second half.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> None.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Lunch, insect repellent (there are always ticks), and rain gear; camera, hand lens, field guide, notepad, binoculars optional. Wear comfortable sturdy walking shoes.</p>	<p>Chris Inhulsen cinhulsen@yahoo.com 478-396-4941 (c)</p>
<p>Mar 21 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Cloudland Canyon</b></p> <p>As a prelude to a later walk in the spring, we will visit the mouth of Cloudland Canyon to enjoy the really early flowers. We will walk the trail up into the canyon and loop back to the parking area. Then we will walk down to the cave near the parking area. The grade is gentle unless you walk to the upper cave entrance, but all trails in the lower canyon are very rocky. This area is one of Georgia's botanical wonders and we should enjoy decumbent trillium (<i>Trillium decumbens</i>), three species of toothwort: cut-leaf (<i>Cardamine concatenata</i>), eastern slender toothwort (<i>C. angustata</i>), and dissected (<i>C. dissecta</i>), harbinger-of-spring (<i>Erigenia bulbosa</i>), green violet (<i>Hybanthus concolor</i>), and others. Larkspur (<i>Delphinium tricorne</i>) and toadshade trillium (<i>Trillium cuneatum</i>) may be out – but likely those two will wait until the subsequent trip to provide a display. We also will see trout lilies (<i>Erythronium americanum</i> ssp. <i>harperi</i>) in fine bloom if the sun cooperates.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> From Atlanta take I-75 to exit 320. Go west on GA 136 through Villanow and Naomi. At Lafayette, take US 27 bypass around town to the north and follow the signs to stay on 136 past the Park's main entrance and down the west side of the escarpment. At the bottom of the hill, the first road to the right (it turns off between the sides of a rock-lined entrance) is Canyon Park Drive (a loop). Take the first 90-degree turn you encounter to bear right on the loop and the entrance is an unpaved drive to the right in the first big curve. Alternately, you can take interstate to Trenton (I-75 north to I-24 West to I59 South) and then follow 136 from the west side back to the park.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Moderate, primarily due to the rocky and uneven footing. No stairs on this trip! Sturdy shoes recommended because of the rocky, uneven ground and one parts of the walk to the cave may be wet depending on the recent weather.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> None at meeting site – facilities at the top of the canyon at the visitor center and at the overlook or at fast food joints in Trenton.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Lunch, water, bug spray.</p>	<p>Rich Reaves rich.reaves@att.net 770-827-5186 (c)</p>

## Upcoming Field Trips

<p>Mar 22</p> <p>10:00 AM</p> <p>Note: This is a Sunday</p>	<p><b>Sosebee Cove - Invasive Plant Eradication</b></p> <p>Round three in our continuing effort at controlling this pernicious weed, which became established around the large buckeye tree, where it was displacing trout lilies and Dutchman's breeches, and had expanded down the hill along the stream for quite a ways where additional displacement of native spring ephemerals was occurring. We did not get it all in our previous efforts (It is never easy winning these battles), but we are making headway. The density and extent of the plan has definitely been reduced and we are in the process of winning. We need to strike early before seed set this spring. We will start the day by removing all observable plants and underground tubers of the exotic <i>Ficaria verna</i> (fig buttercup). Our efforts will assist the US Forest Service in maintaining the spectacular flora of Sosebee Cove. We will collect all plant materials in garbage bags (I will provide) for proper disposal/destruction by US Forest Service personnel.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> Proceed north from Dahlonega on US 19. Turn left on GA 60 to Suches. At Suches, turn right on Hwy 180 and continue to Sosebee Cove. Note: Carpooling is encouraged due to limited parking area</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Easy, but you will spend a good deal of time on your knees.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> None after you get out of Suches.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> gloves, appropriate footwear, water, snacks, lunch (if you wish to stick around for the post-work walk. Recommend wearing clothes you do not mind getting muddy – some of the plants to be removed grow along/within the stream and liquid dirt is a strong favorite to make an appearance.</p> <p><b>Pre-registration is REQUIRED.</b></p>	<p>Rich Reaves</p> <p>rich.reaves@att.net</p> <p>770-827-5186 (c)</p> <p><b>Pre-registration REQUIRED.</b> <b>Email trip leader</b></p>
<p>Mar 28</p> <p>10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>The Pocket of Pigeon Mountain</b></p> <p>Every year we look forward to spring and a trip to what is perhaps Georgia's premier spot for early spring wildflowers. This area, part of the Cumberland Plateau, contains many species rare to our state. We should see Virginia bluebells (<i>Mertensia virginica</i>), celandine poppy (<i>Stylophorum diphyllosum</i>), Dutchman's-breeches (<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>), Wild Columbine (<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>) and a large number of other wildflowers.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> A Georgia Outdoor Recreational Pass (GORP) is required for GA WMA properties, including all of Pigeon Mountain, but is not required for those under 16 or over 64. It may be purchased on-line and by phone, but not at the site.</p> <p>For more info: <a href="http://www.georgiawildlife.com/Georgia-Outdoor-Recreational-Pass">http://www.georgiawildlife.com/Georgia-Outdoor-Recreational-Pass</a></p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> From I-75 exit 320, go west on GA 136, crossing US 27 onto GA 193 into downtown LaFayette. From South Main Street, follow GA 193 for 8 mi. to Davis Crossroads, at intersection with GA 341. Turn left on Hog Jowl Rd (sometimes unmarked but paved), and go south 2.6 mi passing Mt Herman Baptist Church. At top of next hill, turn left on Pocket Rd and drive 1.2 mi to end. Parking is on left and handicapped parking is on the right.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Short and easy around parking lot and on boardwalk.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> None at site. Fast food restaurants on North Main Street in LaFayette.</p> <p><b>Lunch:</b> Bring to eat in parking lot.</p>	<p>Mike Christison</p> <p>mikepaddler@netscape.net</p> <p>770-596-3564</p>
<p>Mar 28-29</p> <p>9:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Tall Timbers - Red Hills Fire Ecology Weekend</b></p> <p>We'll spend the weekend exploring the role of fire in the Red Hills' longleaf pine ecosystem, one of the richest ecosystems in North America. We'll begin Saturday at Pebble Hill Plantation and then go on to Tall Timbers. Kevin Robertson, Tall Timbers Fire Ecology Program Director, will guide us as we look at research carried out by Tall Timbers on the effects of differing schedules of prescribed burning (fire regimes). After lunch Wilson Baker will lead us as we look at other sites where fire (or lack of) is one of the primary factors in understory composition. At 4:00 at Tall Timbers Jim Cox, Tall Timbers Vertebrate Ecology Program Director will discuss <i>Herbert Stoddard: Foundations of Ecosystem Management</i>. Our plans for Sunday March 29 are not final but we know we'll visit her area plantation. It is likely that our numbers for the Sunday trip will be limited to 20 – 25. We will send out more details.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> Take Hwy 319 south of Thomasville to the service entrance of Pebble Hill Plantation (1251 US Highway 319 S, Thomasville, GA 31792) which is just past the main gate of Pebble Hill Plantation. Both are on the west side of Hwy 319, on your right heading south. We'll car pool from here to Tall Timbers around 10:30.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> at Tall Timbers</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> easy to moderate.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Lunch, snacks, &amp; 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.</p>	<p>Ellen Corrie, Wilson Baker, Kevin Robertson</p> <p>ellenNet@aol.com</p> <p>404-374-2633</p>

## Upcoming Field Trips

<p>Mar 29 10:00 AM Note: This is a Sunday</p>	<p><b>Akers Mill to Paces Mill – Harbinger of Spring Discovery Hike</b></p> <p>We'll look at the mid- spring forest, signs of wildlife, and great views from atop the West Palisades Ridge. This will be an excellent opportunity to better learn this area with the leaves not yet fully obstructing the views of the rugged topography. The hike will lead us across the upper section of Trout Lily Creek, though a mature oak – hickory forest, around Blood Rock Ridge, along Rottenwood Creek to the ruins of Akers Mill, and along the river to Paces Mill. We will see the dramatic effects of the Brevard Fault, great botanical areas, and the site of "Nancy Old Towne", a Woodland Culture Village site. Please note: persons wishing a shorter hike have the option of leaving the group at Rottenwood Creek and proceeding directly to Paces Mill, which is .5 miles by multi-use trail.</p> <p><b>Registration is required in advance with leader.</b></p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, West Palisades Unit: We will meet at Paces Mill parking area; 3445 Cobb Parkway, Atlanta, Georgia 30339 and shuttle everyone to our starting location at Akers Drive. We will leave as many cars as possible at Paces Mill. If you drive a multi-passenger vehicle and could help with the shuttle, please let me know. We will conclude our walk at Paces Mill. For directions see <a href="http://www.nps.gov/chat">www.nps.gov/chat</a></p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> Restrooms are located at Paces Mill.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> This hike will be moderately strenuous.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> A lunch and water to carry along and we will picnic in the forest. You may wish to bring binoculars, hand lens, and camera. \$3.00 daily parking fee or annual parking pass needed.</p>	<p>Jerry Hightower jerryhightower@hotmail.com 678-538-1200</p>
<p>Apr 4 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Power's Island and Cochran Shoals</b></p> <p>At Cochran Shoals, we'll use the busy riverside trail to reach the Wildlife Viewing boardwalk over the wetlands. If we're lucky, we may see 'Hooch, our local alligator, enjoying life in the north country. Soon we'll enter a world away from the joggers and dog walkers at the river.</p> <p>The southern nodding trillium (<i>Trillium rugelii</i>) will be in full bloom. We will find by the hundreds along Gumby Creek. As we walk deeper and deeper in the woods, we see hepatica leaves, whose flowers have bloomed a month ago, foam flower (<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>), the toadshade trillium (<i>Triullium cuneatum.</i>), mayapple(<i>Podephyllum peltatum</i>), showy orchis (<i>Orchis spectabilis</i>), and even Atamasco lilies (<i>Zephyranthes atamasco</i>) thriving far from their coastal plains habitat. As we move up the hill, we'll notice Catesby's trillium (<i>T. catesbaei</i>), bellwort (<i>Uvularia</i> spp.) and other upland species.</p> <p><b>Note:</b>This trip is suited for beginners. Please contact the leader with any questions. The trail along the creek may be muddy in several places.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> Meet at the Powers Island NPS Unit where parking is plentiful and then walk over the bridge to Cochran Shoals. From I-285 East, take Exit 22, Northside Drive, New Northside Drive, Powers Ferry Road. Go to second traffic light and turn left onto New Northside Drive. Use "through" lane to pick up Interstate North Parkway. The Powers Ferry Unit is just before the bridge across the Chattahoochee River. There is a large brown National Park Service sign. From I-285 West, take Exit 22, turning left on New Northside Drive. Use "through" lane to pick up Interstate North Parkway and follow directions above.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> Restrooms in parking areas at both units.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Mostly flat terrain with a few short hills, ~ 4 miles</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> \$3.00 parking fee or annual /senior pass. water and a pack lunch to eat along the way. Bring camera, hand lens, field guide, notepad, binoculars optional. Wear comfortable sturdy walking shoe and bring walking poles if you use them.</p>	<p>Maureen Donohue marinadono67@gmail.com 770-990-7756 (c)</p>
<p>Apr 5 10:00 AM Note: This is a Sunday</p>	<p><b>Arabia Mountain National Natural Heritage Site Mountain Loop, Lake Loop, and Salamanders Pools</b></p> <p>A leisurely paced hike up and around the mountain to view the solution pool gardens, the amazing mosaic of lichens, and small, but interesting, patches of trees and shrubs. Sculpted over geologic time by wind, rain, cold, and heat; these extraordinary gardens are beautiful to behold. After lunch we will take the forest loop to the lake and then on to the salamander pools. This DeKalb County park is both a geological and botanical treasure.</p> <p><b>Registration is required in advance with leader. Limit 26 people.</b></p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Park Visitor Center, Arabia Mountain</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> In Visitor Center</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Moderate with some fairly steep, but short, accents and decents.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> A lunch and water to carry along and we will picnic in the forest. You may wish to bring binoculars, hand lens, and camera.</p>	<p>Jerry Hightower jerryhightower@hotmail.com 770-206-0338</p>



## Upcoming Field Trips

<p>Apr 11 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Cloudland Canyon - Mid-spring flowers</b></p> <p>We will do a walk-through from the top of the Canyon down to Sifton Gulch – including descending the stairs. If you have a car that can easily ferry people, please try and arrive a bit early and we will ferry a few vehicles to the bottom to provide a soft trip back up at the end of the day. We should see sulcate trillium (<i>Trillium sulcatum</i>), sweet little Betsy (<i>Trillium cuneatum</i>), decumbent Trillium (<i>Trillium decumbens</i>), doll's eyes (<i>Actea pachypoda</i>), deciduous magnolias, azaleas, wild geranium (<i>Geranium maculatum</i>), larkspur (<i>Delphinium tricorne</i>), 6 - 10 species of violets, and more.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> From Atlanta take I-75 to exit 320. Go west on GA 136 through Villanow and Naomi (slight jog to left and then right). At Lafayette, take US 27 bypass around town to the north and follow the signs to stay on 136 the Park's main entrance. Turn into the park and proceed to the East Rim Overlook parking area. Meet promptly at the Overlook parking area.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> None at meeting site – facilities at the top of the canyon at the visitor center.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Lunch, water, bug spray.</p>	<p>Rich Reaves rich.reaves@att.net 770-827-5186 (c)</p>
<p>Apr 11 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Broxton Rocks</b></p> <p>We will visit an unusual sandstone outcrop on Georgia's coastal plain. Broxton Rocks is a late Miocene rock formation owned by The Nature Conservancy. It harbors over 560 plant species, many of which are not normally seen on the coastal plain. Disjunct species, mostly from the piedmont, include: <i>Delphinium carolinianum</i>, <i>Schoenolirion croceum</i>, <i>Pakera tomentosum</i>, <i>Minuartia uniflora</i> and <i>Evolvulus sericeus</i>. Unusual ferns include <i>Vittaria lineata</i>, <i>Trichomanes petersii</i> and <i>Cheilanthes lanosa</i>. Two undescribed species are currently being named from here, an Isoetes and an Oxalis.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> We will meet at the Broxton, GA Post Office at 10:00AM. From Atlanta go south on I-75. At Macon get on I-16 and go to the US 441 exit at Dublin, GA. Go south on US 441 to Broxton, GA. The post office is located on GA 268 in Broxton.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> None</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Moderate with some uneven rocky slopes.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Lunch, snacks, insect repellent (just in case) and water.</p>	<p>Frankie Snow Frankie.Snow@SGSC.edu 912-260-4343</p>
<p>Apr 12 10:00 AM Note: This is a Sunday</p>	<p><b>Lillian E. Smith Center</b></p> <p>We will explore the grounds of the Lillian E. Smith Center, which includes a minimally traversed 100 acre tract on the west slope of Screamer Mountain in Rabun County. It is a low mountain slope mesic forest with elevations ranging between 2,000 and 2,600 feet. The slope is divided into several low ridges and wet coves which are bound to be rich with plant life, including trillium, orchids and who knows what else! The Center and its properties were recently acquired by Piedmont College, and this trip will be the first spring venture to discover what botanical riches lay in its deep coves.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> The property is located approximately one mile east of Highway 441 off Route 76 in Clayton, Georgia. From Highway 76 make a left on Old Chechero Road and then a right onto Hershey Lane (there will be signs at both intersections). Follow Hersey Lane as it climbs the ridge to the Center's main buildings. Be careful, the road gets narrow near the top. <b>Facilities:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> The hike will be short in distance but could be strenuous at times. We will be exploring coves and ridges without the benefit of trails.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Lunch, snacks, &amp; 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.</p>	<p>Tim Menzel tmenzel@piedmont.edu 662-324-9039</p>
<p>Apr 18 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Oconee National Forest, Piedmont wildflowers</b></p> <p>This 1.5 mile trail in the Oconee forest is a bottomland trail and is mainly flat until a moderate hill at the end. We plan to park at least one vehicle at the end of the trail to take people back to their cars. It has been several years since I have surveyed the trail, but I remember at least 10-15 native wildflowers including two species of <i>Trillium</i>. This will be a fun trip for those that want to explore a new area near Athens. This trail is currently part of a horse trail so I don't know how horses have impacted the flora. I know the latter part of the trail has a few Dolls' eyes or white baneberry (<i>Actaea pachypoda</i>) and <i>Hepatica</i>. Some of the trail goes beside Falling Creek.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> From Athens, drive to Watkinsville and take highway 15 towards Greensboro for around 17 miles. Cross the Oconee River and go to the second road on the left, Macedonia. Travel 2.5 miles to the gravel road FS 1234 on left. You should see a sign to Scull Shoals. We will meet at this junction. If traveling from Greensboro you will take highway 15 towards Athens. Macedonia Rd. will be on the right after 12 miles.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> None.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Trail-easy to moderate (the latter towards the end) but it could be muddy.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Lunch, snacks, &amp; 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.</p>	<p>Debbie Cosgrove 706-338-4964 (c)</p>

## Upcoming Field Trips

<p>Apr 18 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Ebenezer Creek</b></p> <p>Ebenezer Creek is a small creek in Effingham County that flows into the Savannah River. Its banks and channel can be likened to a cathedral lined with some of the most spectacular giant water tupelos (<i>Nyssa aquatica</i>) and baldcypresses (<i>Taxodium distichum</i>) anywhere. Some of the buttresses run 8-12 feet in diameter at the low water level. We might see Oconee azalea (<i>Rhododendron flammeum</i>) in bloom.</p> <p>Backwater Expeditions will be our canoe livery. They will also rent canoes and kayaks. Contact Bobby for details (have not gotten a price yet). Plans are for about 10 canoes (slightly more if solo kayaks). So please contact Bobby Hattaway <u>in advance preferably by email</u>.</p> <p><b>Canoeing/Kayaking:</b> Easy – between 5-6 miles.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> From the north, take I-75 South to I-16, E to Exit 143, turn left, E on Hwy 280 for 1.8 mi., then right onto Hwy 80 for 2.5 mi., left on Sandhill Rd. for 1.9 mi., then right on Bluejay Rd for ca. 9.8 mi. till it turns into Blandford Rd, then go 1.8 mi. to Hwy 21 and turn left; go N 3.5 mi. to Ebenezer Rd (GA 275). Turn right (E) &amp; go 2.3 mi. to Long Bridge Rd. (caution light). Turn left &amp; go 1.1 mi. to Long Bridge Landing.</p> <p><b>From Savannah:</b> Go north on I-95 to Exit 109, then north on GA-21 for 11.4 miles to N of Rincon, Georgia, then turn right (E) on GA-275 (Ebenezer Rd) &amp; go 2.3 mi. to Long Bridge Rd. (caution light). Turn left &amp; go 1.1 mi. to Long Bridge Landing.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> At beginning and end of trip.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> H<sub>2</sub>O, sunscreen, insect repellent, snacks, lunch, change of clothes, camera.</p>	<p>Bobby Hattaway botanikman @g-net.net 912-481-3011 (c)</p>
<p>Apr 25 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Stroud Creek</b></p> <p>We'll follow a steep abandoned roadbed up a north-facing cove to an elevation of about 3,400 feet. Expect to see yellowwood, abundant leatherwood and large black birch, northern red oak, American beech, yellow buckeye, black walnut and sugar maple. While admiring the trees we'll try to avoid stepping on <i>Actaeas</i>, <i>Cardamines</i>, <i>Dicentras</i>, <i>Prosartes</i>, <i>Stellarias</i>, <i>Trilliums</i> and <i>Violas</i>. Expect to step on a few <i>Erythronium americanum</i> at the least and maybe some <i>Galearis spectabilis</i> or <i>Claytonia caroliniana</i> without ever realizing it.</p> <p>Stroud Creek is within the Chattahoochee National Forest, Swallow Creek Wildlife Management Area, Towns County and the Kelly Ridge Inventoried Roadless Area and appears on the Macedonia, GA - NC USGS Quadrangle.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> 10:00 am in SE corner of Ingles parking lot in Hiawassee on the north side of US Hwy 76 / GA Hwy 75. From there we'll carpool for the 5 mile drive to the site where parking is very limited.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> None outside of Hiawassee.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Total distance, up the creek and back, is less than 3 mi. Moderately difficult due to approximately 1,000 feet of elevation change and stream crossings.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Snacks, water &amp; lunch to eat beside a beautiful mountain stream. Remember to dress for the weather &amp; wear comfortable hiking shoes. Dress in layers so that you can adjust to changes in the temperature &amp; your activity level. You may wish to bring hiking poles, binoculars, hand lens, notebook, &amp; camera.</p>	<p>Ben Cash bencash @hemc.net 706-968-3841 (c)</p>
<p>Apr 26 10:00 AM Note: This is a Sunday</p>	<p><b>Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area</b> <b>East Palisades, Indian Ridge to Cabin Creek Loop Trail - Spring Flora, Ferns, and Fun</b></p> <p>We will travel above rock cliffs, through mature oak-hickory forest, mesic ravine forest, and floodplain forest. Our hike will take us over and past extraordinary rock outcrops and formations influenced by the Brevard Fault, which runs through the Unit.</p> <p><b>Pre-registration with trip leader is required. Limit 30 people.</b></p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, East Palisades Unit; meet in the Indian Trail parking area and trail head; 1425 Indian Trail NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30327 at the bulletin board. Go south on Northside Drive and Indian Trail is the fourth street on the right. Indian Trail goes directly into the park.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> None</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Moderately strenuous. There are several steep accents and descents.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Remember to dress for the weather and wear very comfortable hiking shoes. Dress in layers so that you can adjust to changes in the temperature and your activity level. Carry water. You may wish to bring binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera. Note: A \$3. daily entrance fee or \$25 annual pass is required.</p>	<p>Jerry Hightower jerryhightower @hotmail.com 678-538-1200</p>

## Upcoming Field Trips

<p>May 2 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Duncan Ridge Wildflowers</b></p> <p>We will explore a series of north aspect rich mesic coves on the central portion of Duncan ridge just east of Mulky Gap. Several species of trillium and yellow ladies slipper are known from this site – but an extensive botanical assessment of the old forests here (over 100 years of age) has not been made. We can expect an array of Blue Ridge Spring ephemerals and hope to find some rare and showy species. There is a rich boulderfield forest (not yellow birch) at the end of our hike and we may explore the periphery as safely as we can.</p> <p><b>Limited to 12 people. Please contact the trip leader to confirm.</b></p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> We will meet at the Park &amp; Ride on the west side of Blairsville adjacent 515. This parking area is one block west of the last traffic light on 515 where US 19 heads north to Murphy, NC. Go one block west of traffic light and turn onto old US 76 (Blue Ridge Hwy) and the parking area is on your immediate left. From here we will leave some vehicles and carpool to Mulky Gap (about 9.5) mi.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> None on site but there is a McDonalds adjacent to the meet place.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> This hike is easy to moderate, we will follow an old woods road from Mulkey Gap and walk about 3 miles (or slightly more) round trip.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Lunch, snacks, &amp; 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.</p>	<p>Tom Govus tgovus@ellijay.com 706-669-1491 (c)</p>
<p>May 2 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (Canoe)</b></p> <p>Bond Swamp consists of 6,500 acres of mixed hardwood-pine, bottomland hardwoods, tupelo gum swamp forests, creeks, tributaries, beaver swamps, and oxbow lakes. Extensive bottomland hardwoods provide critical habitat for neotropical songbirds of concern, such as Swainson's warbler, wood thrush, prothonotary warbler, and yellow-billed cuckoo.</p> <p>We will explore Stone Creek, both north and south from the launching, time permitting. Plan to spend about 3 hours on the water with a couple of beaches. Bond Swamp is a classic coastal plain blackwater bottomland swamp very similar to Ebenezer Creek minus the huge bald cypress.</p> <p><b>Pre-registration with trip leader is required.</b></p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> The Bond Swamp NWR is 6 miles south of Macon. From Macon, take Interstate 16 SE toward Savannah to Exit #6, US Hwy 23 and US 129 South toward Cochran. Go 4.2 miles to the Bond Swamp NWR at the Stone Creek entrance on the west side of the highway. Meet just inside the entrance at the kiosk and parking area.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> None at the Refuge.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Your own canoe or kayak and life preservers, snacks, water, insect repellent, binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera. Early May is summertime in south Georgia so dress accordingly. Bring water shoes and other comfortable shoes (and maybe a change of clothes). The trip will go unless the FWS closes the Refuge due to river flooding or there is a period of thunderstorms and lightening at launch time. In order to pass on timely last minute information on the status of the trip, I request pre-registration.</p>	<p>Ed McDowell ed.mcdowell@cox.net 478-396-8901 (c)</p>
<p>May 2 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM Note: Early start time</p>	<p><b>Wild Edibles Workshop</b></p> <p>Join us for breakfast on the upper deck of the lodge at the Chattahoochee River Environmental Education Center. Hot coffee, tea, cereal, muffins, and baked eggs will be offered followed by a brief slide program and discussion of wild edibles found in the Chattahoochee River corridor of Georgia's piedmont and mountains. We will closely examine some edibles, followed by a bring-your-own lunch. After lunch, we will leisurely walk the grounds of the Lodge and Lutra Loop Trail seeking wild edibles.</p> <p><b>Pre-registration with trip leader is required. Limit 30 people.</b></p>	<p><b>Location:</b> : Chattahoochee River Environmental Education Center, 8615 Barnwell Road, Johns Creek, Georgia 30022. 678-538-1200. For directions see: <a href="http://www.nps.gov/chat/index.htm">http://www.nps.gov/chat/index.htm</a></p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Easy, walk is less than 2 miles.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Please bring your own lunch to enjoy on the upper deck with its views of River Glen Pond and the Choestoe Meadow. Sunscreen, a hat, and water are recommended as well as camera, binoculars, guide books, hand lens, notebook, and pen.</p>	<p>Jerry Hightower jerryhightower@hotmail.com jerry_hightower@nps.gov 678-538-1245 (w) 770-206-0338 (c)</p>

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