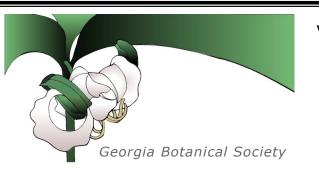
BotSoc News



Volume 90 Number 3 May 2015

Wolf Creek's Stunning Display

By Ellen Corrie

Wolf Creek Trout Lily Preserve, near Cairo in Grady County, is a unique habitat. It is reported to be the densest population of dimpled trout lilies (*Erythronium umbilicatum*) in the world. The lilies migrated there from the Appalachian Mountains during the Pleistocene ice age. As the ice receded 10 to 11,000 years ago, they remained as a Pleistocene refugium at Wolf Creek, along with a few other refugia in Southwest Georgia and North Florida, east of the Chattahoochee, Flint, and Apalachicola Rivers. The Preserve provides just the right spot for trout lilies: north facing slope; hardwood forest; soils of just the right type and depth before underlying clay pipe clay. The yellow and mottled green carpet of trout lilies interspersed with the rich maroon of the spotted trillium (*Trillium maculatum*) is stunning. Seeing these typically mountain beauties blooming under southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), switch cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*), and bluestem palmetto (*Sabal minor*) is a special sight.

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A group of us were lucky to be led through the Preserve on February 7th by Beth Grant, one of the folks who helped preserve this treasure of a place. Beth shared the story of how the 140-acre Preserve was established in 2009. She began with how first, Angus Gholson, then Wilson Baker and Dan Miller identified this special habitat, at the time owned by Flint River Timber Company. Many dedicated volunteers, including members of the Magnolia chapter (Tallahassee) of the Florida Native Plant Society, worked tirelessly to preserve the site from any future logging or development. The property was finally purchased through generous private donations, large and small, combined with a grant from the Georgia Land Grant Conservation Program. Grady County agreed to take the title.

Beth and others continue to volunteer regularly at the Preserve, leading walks and spending much time removing privet and maintaining trails. Rich Barnes has marked many of the trees and plants with informative signs.

Dimpled trout lilies (*Erythronium umbilicatum*)
Photos courtesy of Wolf Creek Trout Lily Preserve



President's Perspective



BotSoc News

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Subscriptions

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Our Field Trip Chair, Bobby Hattaway, is providing us some great information about who goes on BotSoc field trips by tracking participation by members versus non-members. His findings show that 45-50% of participants are non-members on some trips. It is wonderful that there is so much interest in botanical field trips outside the confines of our members.

However it doesn't appear that we are converting very many guests into new members. Our Field Trip Leaders are acknowledging and giving a special welcome to our guests. They are encouraging people to ask questions too. But the rest of us can help leaders in these efforts. Note who the new people are as they are introduced and speak to them some time during the trip. You can help the leader with plant identification for our guests or ask guests why they decided to come on this trip or invite them to sit with you at lunch. Making new people feel comfortable and welcome will help our efforts to increase membership.

It has long been "understood" that if you are already a BotSoc member on a field trip, all you have to do is sign the liability waiver form; you need not provide address or email information on each trip you attend. While this is acceptable, please remember to check the "member" box too. It will save Bobby valuable time checking the membership list to generate participation information.

In a few weeks we'll all be together in Dahlonega for our annual pilgrimage. This year we are going to have live music from 7:00 PM until 8:00 PM at the Friday evening social, a mini exhibit of books we've enjoyed reading or are planning to read (be sure to bring yours), a poster presentation on river cane restoration by our Marie Mellinger Grant winner Thomas Peters, a great Saturday evening program by Leslie Edwards and Bill Witherspoon, and wonderful field trips.

See you all in Dahlonega.

Maureen Donohue

Save the Date! Annual Meeting is July 25th

Plan to join us at 10:00 AM at Lake Winfield Scott for our annual meeting followed by a field trip led by Linda Chafin on the Lakeside Trail. Here is a preview of the field trip:

We will follow the trail around Lake Winfield Scott and, if time permits, through the campground. We will likely see orange-fringed orchid, rattlesnake orchid, starry campion, featherbells, yellow false foxglove (*Aureolaria*), Joe-Pye weed, and many other species of composites in flower.

Wolf Creek (Cont'd from page 1)

At the beginning of our trip, we were faced with deciding whether to go to the best view of the lilies on the North Slope first or save this for the end of our trip. The North Slope is where the lilies are concentrated. We allowed the only trip member who'd never previously been to the Preserve to make the decision. This young lady will do well in life as she opted to delay gratification and save this view for the end. But trout lilies are plentiful from the very first steps on the trail to the point it can be difficult to avoid stepping on them.



As we walked, Beth described the growth and reproductive cycles of trout lilies. They are dormant most of the year, emerging in January. The emergence and bloom times depend on the temperature and available sun. The plants spread through corms and seeds, forming colonies. The first year plants have only one leaf which looks like a blade of grass. The plants grow slowly, not blooming until they are four to five years old. Beth told us that the corm has to reach a sufficient depth in the soil before it will begin making the second leaf and flower. The first-year lilies were abundant, and Beth said the colony continues to expand.

Individual flowers bloom for four to five days, closing at night and opening in the afternoon, if there is sun. Individual plants bloom at different times, so with such a large colony, the bloom at Wolf Creek can extend for several weeks. The life span of individual plants is not known with certainty but may be decades.

The trillium are not as numerous, not forming colonies like the trout lilies, but are a delight all along the trail. They are another slow growing plant, not maturing until they are seven or eight.

Wolf Creek (Cont'd)

Beth said that there are four-leaved trillium there and a report of one five-leaved plant, but we saw only three-leaved trillium.

Chorus frogs chimed in off and on during our walk, and native pollinators were out enjoying the sun. We enjoyed seeing the tiny southern twayblade orchid



Southern twayblade orchid (Listeria australis)



Spotted trillium (Trillium maculatum)

(Listeria australis). We looked in vain for the leaves of bloodroot (Sanguinaria canandensis) but it should be showing itself soon. We saw Wolf Creek's two evergreen ferns, Christmas fern (Polystichum acrostichoides) and ebony spleenwort (Asplenium platyneuron) along with southern grape (Botrychium biternatum). Elliott's blueberry (Vaccinium elliottii) was eye-catching with almost no leaves and just Trip member Virginia Craig the delicate blossoms. pointed out that the horse-sugar we saw, also known as sweetleaf, (Symplocos tinctoria), is the host of King's hairstreak butterfly (Satyrium kingi).

As we got closer to Wolf Creek itself, we saw needle palm (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*) and green fly orchid (*Epidendrum magnoliae*). The view of the creek has greatly improved since I was last there two years ago. There is dramatically less privet. Volunteers have obviously put in a lot of work. The view at the North Slope was spectacular. Beth claimed the lilies were not at peak bloom, but it was hard to believe. After taking in the view we enjoyed seeing beechdrops (*Epifagus americana*) and the leaves of cranefly orchid (*Tipularia discolor*), the namesake of the Georgia Botanical Society's journal.

Despite some logging, Wolf Creek remains a lovely example of a southern hardwood forest, complete with rattan vine (*Berchemia scandens*) and muscadine grape (*Vitis rotundifolia*). Flint River Timber Company selectively harvested most of the spruce pines (*Pinus glabra*) from the site in 2006, but left other trees. Some spruce pine remains and we also saw American holly (*Ilex opaca*), beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), Florida maple (*Acer floridanum*), hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), laurel oak (*Quercus hemisphaerica*), pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*), shumard oak (*Q. shumardii*), and swamp chestnut oak (*Q. michauxii*). *

Cochran Shoals Field Trip

Text and Photos by Angela Sauvé

netted chain fern

Christmas

Our colorful flowering experience began as we walked across the bridge from Power's Island to the busy parking lot at Cochran Shoals. Our first plants to find were Carolina silverbell (Halesia carolina), Eastern redbud (Cercis canadensis), toadshade trillium (Trillium cuneatum), and Georgia buckeye (Aesculus sylvatica). A leisurely stroll allowed us to enjoy the plants surrounding the park footpath. Some plants, like the giant chickweed (Stellaria pubera), were ready for pollinator visits, yet others only beholding beautiful foliage.

We also found mayapple (Podophyllum peltatum) and Carolina spring beauty (Claytonia caroliniana) as well as buttercups (non-native as well as Ranunculus recurvatus), lyreleaf sage (Salvia lyrata), annual bluets (Houstonia pusilla), and Robin's plantain (Erigeron pulchellus). Trees around us included red maple (Acer rubrum) and American plum (Prunus americana). Nearby were crossvine (Bignonia capreolata), yucca (Yucca filamentosa), and rivercane (Arundinaria gigantea).



Carolina spring beauty (Claytonia caroliniana)

Lastly, meandering through a faintly apparent footpath, we found more natural wonder. Into the woods... 15 seniors and a few younger hikers, awestruck by a forest floor carpeted with hundreds of Southern nodding trillium (*Trillium rugelii*), showy orchid (Galearis spectabilis) and more of nature's masterpieces in Easter praise.



Next, we stepped onto the boardwalk which

and

areolata)

Showy orchid buds (Galearis spectabilis)



Continued on next page

Cochran Shoals (Cont'd)

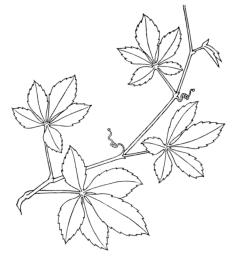
The following plants rounded out a list of the 50 different plants that I noted on this trip: river oats (Chasmanthium latifolium), downy yellow violet (Viola pubescens), rattlesnake fern (Botrychium virginianum), foamflower (Tiarella cordifolia), American lopseed (Phryma leptostachya), broad beech fern (Phegopteris hexagonoptera), climbing hydrangea phlox (Phlox stolonifera), (Decumaria barbara), creeping Northern maidenhair (Adiantum pedatum), houndstongue (the non-native Cynoglassum officinale), spicebush (Lindera benzoin), toothwort (Cardamine sp.), black cohosh (Actaea racemosa), perfoliate bellwort (Uvularia perfoliata), Solomon's plume (Maianthemum racemosum), windflower (Anemone quinquefolia), Virginia creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia), corn salad (Valerianella sp.), dolls' eyes (Actaea pachypoda), southern lady fern (Athyrium filix-femina), round-loped hepatica (Hepatica nobilis var. obtusa), and spotted wild geranium (Geranium maculatum). *





Star chickweed (Stellaria pubera)





Virginia creeper

<- Southern nodding trillium (*Trillium rugelii*)

Plant Genetics Class & Workshop

BotSoc is hosting a plant genetics class at the State Botanical Gardens in Athens, GA on August 1, 2015 at 9:30 AM. This class provides an overview of the world of plant genetics including evolutionary biology, classic genetics (Mendel and his peas) and other topics in this field. The class will be divided into morning and afternoon sections.

Dr. James Hamrick, recently retired from UGA Plant Biology, will teach the class. His lab studies the genetics and evolution of natural plant populations, the genetic structure of plant populations and factors that influence genetic structure development: natural selection, the mating system, pollen movement and seed dispersal. Dr. Hamrick also teaches in the Certificate in Native Plants program at the State Botanical Garden.

He will introduce these topics in the morning session. In the afternoon we will review grant proposals submitted to the Marie Mellinger Research Fund. While this session is mainly for the members of the MMRG Committee, all class members are invited to take part in this session.

There will be a \$10 charge for the class to help defray costs. You may register by sending your check, made payable to the Georgia Botanical Society, to Maureen Donohue 136 Courtyard Circle Apt C-2, Clarkesville, GA 30523. Class size is limited to 20 participants, so register early.

More information will be available in the July newsletter or by contacting Maureen at marinadono67@gmail.com or 770-990-7756.

IJ	ncom	ına	Field	l Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
May 2 10:00 AM	Duncan Ridge Wildflowers We will explore a series of north aspect rich mesic coves on the central portion of Duncan ridge just east of Mulky Gap.	Please see write up in March issue or on website.	Tom Govus tgovus @ellijay.com 706-669-1491 (c)
May 2 10:00 AM	Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (Canoe) 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.	Please see write up in March issue or on website.	Ed McDowell ed.mcdowell @cox.net 478-396-8901 (c)
May 2 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM	Wild Edibles Workshop Join us at the Chattahoochee River Environmental Education Center. Note: Early start time.	Please see write up in March issue or on website.	Jerry Hightower jerryhightower @hotmail.com

May 8-10	Spring Pilgrimage (Dahlonega)	Please see write up in Pilgrimage issue or on website under Pilgrimage: http://www.gabotsoc.org/?page_id=23	
May 16	Lexington Lake	Directions: 397 Old Epps Bridge Rd, Athens,	Thomas Peters
10:00 AM	Less than three miles from the heart of downtown Athens lies a fifty acre tract in perpetual conservation with the Athens Land Trust. The forest and trails around Lexington Lake include old growth hardwoods, native wildflowers and pristine wetlands.	30606. Coming from Hwy 316 turn right on red light at Old Epps Bridge Rd/Abbey West. Take second right into River Station Townhomes and continue through gate marked private rd. Lake will be on right approaching gate. Park at end of driveway. Blue Ranch Style house with gardens and rabbit hutches.	trpeters @uga.edu 706-207-6913
	The site also serves as a "basecamp" for canebrake ecosystem research and propagation. Conservation	Facilities: Yes	
	ecologist, Thomas Peters, is growing large numbers of rivercane and actively restoring floodplain ecosystems onsite. Some of his other projects include work at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia and Cowpens National Battlefield.	Difficulty: Easy	
		Bring : Lunch, water, snacks, camera, insect repellent, clothing appropriate for the weather.	
	Come see this beautiful location and learn about the innovative horticultural practices employed in growing our unique and mysterious native bamboo.		
May 17	Palisades Canoe Float Spring Flora	Location: Meet at Powers Island, 5862 Interstate North Pkwy., Sandy Springs, Georgia at 10:00 a.m.	Jerry Hightowe
10:00 AM Note: This is a Sunday	Bring your own canoe or kayak and join the Georgia Botanical Society and naturalist Jerry Hightower for a leisurely float on the Chattahoochee River. We will float a three-mile section of the river from Powers Island to Paces Mill at US Hwy 41, exploring plants,	to unload equipment. We will then take the majority of the vehicles to Paces Mill and shuttle the drivers back to Powers Island. Please let Jerry know if you have a multi-passenger vehicle and could help with the shuttle.	jerryhightower @hotmail.com 770-206-0338
	geology, and wildlife, including an extraordinary array of late spring wildflowers. There are three mild Class 1.5 rapids suitable for beginners along this part of the river.	Facilities: At Powers Island, our lunch stop, and at Paces Mill.	
	The Palisades have narrow floodplains and steep ridges rising to over 1,000 feet. The area offers a great diversity of habitats and includes oak-hickory forest, steep north-facing slopes, mesic ravine forest, and floodplain forest. Created by the geologic action of the Brevard Fault, the river, and the effects of weather, this is a rugged and beautiful section of the river. We will stop at Devil's Stair Step Beach (Diving Rock) for lunch and a short loop walk.	Difficulty: There are three mild Class 1.5 rapids suitable for beginners along this part of the river. Bring: Lunch, sunscreen, hat, rain gear, and water. Camera, binoculars, and hand lens are recommended. Bring a day pack or other bag to secure items inside your boat. \$3.00 daily parking pass or annual parking pass needed.	
	Reservations are required: Contact Jerry Hightower at <jerryhightower@hotmail.com 678-538-1200<="" or="" td=""><td></td><td></td></jerryhightower@hotmail.com>		

Late add to the schedule - Basic Plant ID Workshop in Middle Georgia

June 6th (Saturday): Workshop will be held at Jarrell Plantation Historic Site Visitor Center in Juliette, GA from 10 AM to approximately 4 PM. Registration is required and limited to 20 participants. For questions and inquiries, contact the workshop leader Bobby Hattaway (email botanikman@g-net.net); cell phone 912-481-3011 or see the website schedule for more details.

Upcoming Field Trips

May 23 Roadside Botanizing in Cohuttas Directions: Take I-575/ GA 515 north to East Rich Reaves Ellijay to turn left on GA 52 west. At approximately 5 rich.reaves 9:30 AM miles west of the square on GA 52, turn right on We will drive along the Forest Service roads stopping @att.net Gates Chapel Road. When pavement ends, take to look at flowers along the way. There will be several Note: Early the right fork (Wilderness Trail/ FR 90 – which is 770-827-5186 short excursions form the cars, always along the road. start time almost straight ahead); Gates Chapel continues as We can expect to find several trilliums, 4-leaved the left fork and you do not want to continue on that. milkweed (Asclepias quadrifolia), wild geranium At approximately 0.9 mile, continue straight on FR (Geranium maculatum), Solomon's seal (Polygonatum 90 (DO NOT turn left at WMA sign for Pinhoti Trail) biflorum), lily-of-the-valley (Convallaria majuscula), and continue another 0.1 mile to Pinhoti Trail wood betony (Pedicularis canadensis), fire pink (Silene Parking on right side of FR 90(really just a wide turn virginica), and much more. Some years the Indian pink out at a gated service road). (Spigelia marilandica) is spectacular. Facilities: None Carpooling is encouraged to minimize our parking footprint on the narrow unpaved roads. Difficulty: Easy Bring: Lunch, snacks, insect repellent (just in case) and water. Directions: From Clayton, drive 3 mi north on US May 24 **Blackrock Mountain State Park** Rich Reaves 441 to Mountain City. Turn left on Black Rock rich.reaves 10:00 AM Mountain Pkwy (brown directional signs in Mountain We will hike the Tennessee Rock Trail, a 2.2 mile loop @att.net City.) Trailhead is 0.5 mi before Visitor Center. trail profiled in Hugh and Carol Nourse's Note: This is 770-827-5186 book, Favorite Wildflower Walks in Georgia. We a Sunday should see Trilliums, monkshood (vegetative only), Facilities: At visitors center. mayapple, cucumber root, azaleas, rosebay rhododendron, firepink, poke milkweed and others. Difficulty: 2.2 mi, moderate with steep sections including a 440 ft climb. Part of trail is along Black Rock Mountain State Park, 3085 Black Rock ridgeline and steeply downhill on both sides. Mountain Pkwy, Mountain City, GA 30562. Bring: Lunch to eat during walk, water, raingear, insect repellent, sturdy footwear. Directions: Take GA 60 north from Dahlonega for May 25 **Cooper Creek Big Trees** Hal Massie & approximately 20 miles. GA 180 will intersect from Rich Reaves This short trail in the Cooper Creek Scenic Area will 10:00 AM the right in Suches. Meet at the service station on take us through stands of old-growth forest including the corner (usually has lots of motorcycles in the massiefarm yellow poplars with circumferences up to 18 feet. Note: This is parking lot). Meet at the Woody Gap School @aol.com Large black birch, red oak, white oak, and hemlocks a Monday parking lot, just north of the intersection of GA 60 also grow in this area. and GA 180 in Suches. Be prepared to carpool 478-957-6095 from that point due to limited parking at the Old The trail runs parallel to Cooper Creek, through moist rich.reaves Growth Forest Trail. north-facing coves harboring nice wildflower displays, @att.net including Trillium vaseyii, masses of Viola canadensis, Facilities: None. and a dizzying array of herbs with ternately compound 770-827-5186 leaves - black cohosh (Actaea), blue cohosh Difficulty: Easy. The trail follows an old logging (Caulophyllum), spikenard (Aralia), doll's eyes road that is fairly level. We may wander off the trail (Actaea), Astilbe, goat's-beard at times to look for particularly large trees. We'll (Aruncus), Angelica and Ligusticum. We will walk a mile in and a mile back, but it will take us at eventually come to an area known as the 'Valley of the least three miles to do that. Giants' where the largest trees, yellow poplars, occur Bring: Lunch, snacks, & water. Remember to on this trail. 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.

Upcoming Field Trips

May 30 Directions: From the West, take I-285E to Exit 29. Fern Identification and Anatomy Workshop Teri Nye Turn left onto Ashford-Dunwoody Rd. Bear right 10:00 AM tnye The morning session at the library will teach onto Mt. Vernon Rd. Turn right on Chambleeparticipants how to identify several species of ferns Dunwoody Rd. The Library is on the left. From the @terinye.com found in Georgia, using leaf, sori and spore East, take I-285 North or West to Exit 29. Turn right 404-664-8224 characteristics. General fern anatomy will also be onto Ashford-Dunwoody Rd. Continue right on Mt. covered. Vernon Rd. Follow as above. Library address: 5339 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road, Dunwoody, This session will last until ~1:00pm. Then most will GA 30338. The workshop will be in the Williams enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Following lunch Room. (weather permitting) we will drive to the Big Trees Forest Preserve in Sandy Springs for a walk and to Facilities: Yes apply the knowledge gained at the workshop in the field. Bring: If you have these items, please bring: hand lens, measuring tool, fine tweezers, and fern field guides of your choosing. You may bring your lunch or join the group at a local restaurant before the field portion. Jun 6 May Prairie & AEDC (Arnold Engineering Directions: Meet in the Wendy's parking lot in Dennis Horn **Development Center)** Manchester, TN. Leave I-24 at exit 114 in 11:00 AM 931-461-0262 Manchester TN. Turn left coming from Chattanooga ET This trip is a joint hike with the Georgia Botanical (right from Nashville) onto US 41 heading NW toward town. Turn right at the 1st traffic light Society (GBS) and the TNPS. The "Oak Barrens" of Note: This Coffee County provide some of the best examples of (Raceway at that intersection) beyond the rare plants that have migrated here from the Gulf interstate. Wendy's is half a block on the right. trip starts at Coastal Plain and from the prairies of the Midwest. As 10:00 AM in a result, Coffee County is one of only three counties Facilities: Only at meeting place. Central in Tennessee with 50 or more rare plant species. We Time Zone. will visit the AEDC first to see native orchids: Difficulty: Easy to moderate walking in low Calopogon tuberosus, Cleistes bifaria (now vegetation. Cleistesiopsis), and possibly Platanthera lacera and Pogonia ophioglossoides. We should also find death Bring: Bring water, insect repellent, sunscreen, camas (Zigadenus leimanthoides) and hyssop-leaved snacks, and camera. skullcap (Scutellaria integrifolia). After lunch time permitting we will visit May Prairie. We should see mock bishop's weed (Ptilimnium costatum), enyngo (Eryngium integrifolium), coppery St. Johnswort (Hypericum denticulatum), marsh pea (Lathyrus palustris), horned bladderpod (Utricularia cornuta), and swamp candles (Lysimachia terrestris). Jun 13 Richard Ware & Directions: From I-75 (exit 320) at Resaca, Ga. Lula Falls / Cloudland Canyon SP Richard Reaves (next exit north of Calhoun exits), go west on Ga. 10:00 AM 136. You will make 3 turns to stay on Ga. 136. At We will, for the first time since 2006, be able to visit LaFayette turn right to follow Ga. 136 (and US 27). gabotany the rare river-scour community found at Lula Lake Turn right to exit bypass and then shortly turn left to @comcast.net Land Trust on the Cumberland Plateau in extreme follow Ga. 136. At the top of Lookout Mtn. turn right northwest Ga. This is the preferred habitat for the rare 706-766-5143 onto Ga. 157. Travel approx. 3.7 mi., then turn left Virginia Meadowsweet (Spiraea virginiana). Also at on Ascalon Road (Ascalon Baptist Church on left). Lula we hope to see mountain camellia (Stewartia Look for gated / freshly graveled parking area on rich.reaves ovata), Menges' Fameflower (Talinum mengesii), two right (Ascalon Trailhead). Meet at back near @att.net species of Azaleas (R. cumberlandense & R. restrooms. 770-827-5186 arborescens) and many others. Then we will visit Ascalon Wet Meadow, a Ga. 189 roadside and Facilities: Yes Cloudland Canyon for another spectacular rarity wood lily (Lilium philadelphicum). We may visit a powerline right-of-way for wildflowers and the lower Difficulty: Lula: less than 2 mi., some uphill to see section of the canyon for more mountain camellia. Fameflower (if we can't drive). Cloudland: mostly roadside stops. We will have to wade a creek to see the Spiraea, depth depending on rainfall. Meet at the parking area for Ascalon Trail Head, Lula Lake Land Trust on Lookout Mountain Bring: Lunch, water, snacks, camera, insect repellent, clothing appropriate for the weather.

Upcoming Field Trips

Canon Float & Spring Flora	Location: We will meet at the Appalachian	Jerry Hightower
The beautiful Chestatee River flows out of the mountains north of Dahlonega into the Chattahoochee and is an easy 6.3 mile float punctuated with several very mild rapids. Paddle past banks covered with rhododendron and mountain laurel, ferns, and wildflowers. River birch, oaks, and sycamores tower overhead, draped with muscadine, Virginia creeper, and cross vine. Sheer cliffs slip into currents that flow around the remains of old gold mining operations. We will stop at Big Bend Beach for a picnic lunch and perhaps a swim. This river is more beautiful than the gold beneath its waters. Please contact the trip leader if you are planning to attend.	Outfitters Outpost on Highway 60 near Dahlonega at 10:00 a.m. There is a small shuttle fee. Bring your own boat or rent canoes and kayaks for the outfitters. If you would like more information on rentals or to reserve a canoe or kayak please call Appalachian Outfitters at 1-800-426-7117. Facilities: Restrooms and changing rooms are available at Appalachian Outfitters Outpost. Difficulty: Suitable for beginners with some experience on rivers. Class 1.5 Bring: Lunch, snacks, sunscreen, hat, rain gear, and water. Camera, binoculars, and hand lens are recommended. Bring a day pack or other bag and also a water proof container or bag for your valuables.	jerryhightower @hotmail.com 404-953-9331
Whitley Gap & Dukes Creek This workshop/field trip will explore some Blue Ridge natural communities in sites that provide beautiful settings and excellent examples of the environmental factors that work together to form some higher-elevation natural communities. At Whitley Gap on Wild Cat Mountain, we will explore variants of Blue Ridge montane oak (grading to northern hardwood or cove forest) and high elevation outcrop communities. If we have time, we will then proceed to Duke's Creek just down the mountain to explore seepage, mesic cove (acidic variant), and spray cliff communities. We will start at Whitley Gap Trail, and then proceed to Dukes Creek.	Directions: From downtown Helen, take GA. Hwy. 17/Unicoi Turnpike north approximately 1.3 miles. Turn left (southwest) onto Ga. Hwy. 75 Alt.; proceed about 2.3 miles. Turn right onto Ga. Hwy 348/Richard B. Russell Scenic Hwy and proceed about 7 miles to parking for the trail on the right. Facilities: None at meeting place; facilities at Dukes Creek. Difficulty: This hike is moderate, with some somewhat steep ascents in places. Bring: Lunch, snacks, & 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.	Leslie Edwards edwa1616 @bellsouth.net 404-915-9944
GA Piedmont Property of Sue Mager	Directions: GPS might work if you use neighbor's address: 285 Moccasin Gap Rd Lula GA 30554	Sue Mager
We will explore 3 different habitats: Open meadows, woods, and an old beaver pond wetland area. In the morning, we will take an easy walk through several meadows and along a creek, where we will likely see St. Johnswort, Rose Pink and Rattlesnake Master, along with a variety of grasses. After lunch we will hike through the woods, perhaps catching pipsissewa and foamflower in bloom. We may travel through some short, steep woods areas to maximize our viewing pleasure. Then we will tiptoe/wade along 20 year old beaver habitat, and look for seedbox in bloom, budding white turtlehead and cardinal flower, and identify other pond flora along the way. For those who may be concerned about trail steepness, there will be an alternate trail to the pond area with an easier downhill grade.	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.	Backacres00 @yahoo.com 770-365-5197 (cell)
	mountains north of Dahlonega into the Chattahoochee and is an easy 6.3 mile float punctuated with several very mild rapids. Paddle past banks covered with rhododendron and mountain laurel, ferns, and wildflowers. River birch, oaks, and sycamores tower overhead, draped with muscadine, Virginia creeper, and cross vine. Sheer cliffs slip into currents that flow around the remains of old gold mining operations. We will stop at Big Bend Beach for a picnic lunch and perhaps a swim. This river is more beautiful than the gold beneath its waters. Please contact the trip leader if you are planning to attend. Whitley Gap & Dukes Creek This workshop/field trip will explore some Blue Ridge natural communities in sites that provide beautiful settings and excellent examples of the environmental factors that work together to form some higherelevation natural communities. At Whitley Gap on Wild Cat Mountain, we will explore variants of Blue Ridge montane oak (grading to northern hardwood or cove forest) and high elevation outcrop communities. If we have time, we will then proceed to Duke's Creek just down the mountain to explore seepage, mesic cove (acidic variant), and spray cliff communities. We will start at Whitley Gap Trail, and then proceed to Dukes Creek. GA Piedmont Property of Sue Mager We will explore 3 different habitats: Open meadows, woods, and an old beaver pond wetland area. In the morning, we will take an easy walk through several meadows and along a creek, where we will likely see St. Johnswort, Rose Pink and Rattlesnake Master, along with a variety of grasses. After lunch we will hike through the woods, perhaps catching pipsissewa and foamflower in bloom. We may travel through some short, steep woods areas to maximize our viewing pleasure. Then we will tiptoe/ wade along 20 year old beaver habitat, and look for seedbox in bloom, budding white turtlehead and cardinal flower, and identify other pond flora along the way. For those who may be concerned about trail steepness, there will be an alternate trail	Duffiters Cutpost on Highway 60 near Dahlonega and the Mountains north of Dahlonega into the Chattahoochee and is an easy 6.3 mile float punctuated with several very mild rapids. Paddle past banks covered with rhododendron and mountain laurel, ferns, and wildflowers. River birch, oaks, and sycamores tower overhead, draped with muscadine, Virginia creeper, and cross vine. Sheer cliffs slip into currents that flow around the remains of old gold mining operations. We will stop at Big Bend Beach for a pienci funch and perhaps a swim. This river is more beautiful than the gold beneath its waters. Please contact the trip leader if you are planning to attend. Whittey Gap & Dukes Creek This workshop/field trip will explore some Blue Ridge shural communities. At Whitley Gap or Wild Cat Mountain, we will explore some bipherelevation natural communities. At Whitley Gap or Wild Cat Mountain, we will explore variants of Blue Ridge montane oak (grading to northern hardwood or cove forest) and high elevation outcrop communities. If we have time, we will then proceed to blues 3 Creek just down the mountain to explore seepage, mesic cove (acidic variant), and spay cliff communities. We will start at Whitley Gap Trail, and then proceed to Dukes Creek. GA Pledmont Property of Sue Mager We will explore 3 different habitats. Open meadows, woods, and an old beaver pond weltand area. In the morning, we will take an easy walk through several meadows and along a creek, where we will likely sec Stopes (acidic variant), and spray cliff communities. After funch we will hist through the woods, perhaps catching pipsissewa and foamflower in bloom. We may travel through some short, steep woods areas to maximize our viewing pleasure. Then we will likely sec atching pipsissewa and foamflower in bloom. We may travel through some short, steep woods areas to maximize our viewing pleasure. Then we will likely sec atching pipsissewa and foamflower in bloom. We may travel through some short, steep woods areas to maximize our viewing pleasure.

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