



Duncan Ridge Trail - Field Trip Report

Text and Photos By Rich Reaves

The weather on May 2nd was nigh unto perfect as we met at the Park and Ride in Blairsville to carpool to the start point for our fabulous day in the woods. As flower aficionados, our botanical bounty began on the drive up the Forest Service Road to reach Mulky Gap. With the generally low speed on the gravel road, we were able to enjoy crested dwarf iris (*Iris cristata*), large-flowered trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*), sessile-leaved bellwort (*Uvularia sessilifolia*), and wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), among others before we ever got out of the car.

Upon arriving at the trailhead, we made a slight detour in the opposite direction of our planned walk. A short distance down the trail in the other direction was an incredibly nice display of pink ladyslipper (*Cypripedium acaule*). We would encounter several of these on our walk, but the initial viewing certainly was the best display of the day. We also found a nice patch of bird's-foot violet (*Viola pedata*) growing beside where we parked.

The preliminaries over, we set out in earnest along the planned route. The early portion of the walk treated us to several plants that provide nice flowers, just at other times than when we were walking including trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*) bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), featherbells (*Stenanthium gramineum*), rattlesnake plantain orchid (*Goodyera pubescens*), and lovage (*Ligusticum canadense*). Many of the plants we had first spotted along the roadside also occurred along the trail. Ferns were a highlight along the walk as we encountered at least eight species: northern maiden hair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), hay-scented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*), Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), silvery glade fern (*Deparia acrostichoides*), broad beech fern (*Phegopteris hexagonoptera*), New York fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*), interrupted fern (*Osmunda claytoniana* var. *claytoniana*), and cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*).

Foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), which was in magnificent bloom, and non-blooming mountain bunchflower (*Veratrum parviflorum*) were two of our three constant understory companions along the walk. The third constant companion was poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), which was fairly dense along much of the trail. Amazingly, I managed to avoid getting a case even though my exposed calves were continually threatened, through some fancy high stepping and careful foot placement.

White-flowered form of *Iris cristata*



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Editorial Office

Ellen Honeycutt
ehoneycutt@bellsouth.net

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This week I hiked 5 miles up to the Len Foote Hike Inn at Amicalola Falls State Park. I spent a wonderful three nights thanks to an August weeknight special rate for Sun-Thur stays. It was great. I have stayed at the Inn 3 previous times for one night each time, but the last time was 5 or 6 years ago.

Unfortunately, I hiked up there on Tues, Aug 4th, the hottest day of the year so far. Luckily I had 86 ounces of water with me in a frozen bladder and a half liter bottle. My attention was diverted from the heat as I focused on the native plants, birds, butterflies and bugs I saw along the way. I noticed rocks and fungi, mosses, lichens, snakes and the colors and textures of everything. I was totally fascinated by the world immediately around me.

I thought about where this fascination started: my Dad - the constant walker, Carl Icahn - the corporate raider, and BotSoc. This was certainly an interesting combination. I grew up on the east side of Manhattan Island gifted with a father who loved to walk and loved nature. He took his two young daughters for long walks on Sundays to Central Park. We fed squirrels and looked at everything.

Many years later, Carl Icahn executed a hostile takeover of TWA, where I worked. I could have stayed and worked for Carl for less money and benefits. I chose his buyout offer instead. It gave me unlimited travel passes for life, a year of free medical insurance and about a year's salary. Giving myself a year off for my 40th birthday, I went on safari to Kenya for a month and stayed two months. I saw all the animals I expected to see. I saw many birds too, and I was fascinated by them. My guides did not know much about birds. I left Kenya curious about them.

Arriving home in New York, I went to the local library. Someone was offering a free bird watching class in Central Park. I took it and joined NYC Audubon. After a year of traveling more, I went to work for Pan Am. When Pan Am went out of business, I accepted a job with Delta in Atlanta where I joined Atlanta Audubon to meet the local birds and make local friends.

Gail Russell, then President of Atlanta Audubon and a BotSoc member, told me about a spring wildflower pilgrimage that the Georgia Botanical Society was holding in about 3 weeks at the coast. There was still space at the hotel and on some field trips, so I went to Brunswick on my first BotSoc Pilgrimage.

I remember nothing of what I saw on that trip, but I remember the sense of wonder it stirred in me - and the great time I had. I was hooked. I am so thankful to all the BotSocers who helped me to learn the plants, had the patience to answer my many questions and encouraged my curiosity about the natural world. As BotSoc gets ready to start our 90th year in 2016, I realize that I owe most of what I've learned to many of you and to this wonderful organization. It has been a great experience that I hope many other people will have a chance to enjoy. I know with your help we can make sure that they do.

Maureen Donohue

Duncan Ridge (cont'd from page 1)

We had a nice fauna treat about midway between starting and lunch, when a male scarlet tanager in brilliant plumage was posing and singing away in competition with other males we could hear but not see. He sat in the bright sun for all the world to see, singing his little heart out.

As we walked, we had several discussions of the ecology of the north Georgia mountains, how edaphic conditions combine with aspect and moisture in developing plant communities, gap dynamics (microsite disturbances that contribute to diversity), and forest management. However, we were not completely academic. There were large trees and flowers to be seen.

The forest had many large red oak (*Quercus rubra*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), and basswood (*Tilia americana*). Chestnut oak (*Quercus montana*) was common along the drier ridges we crossed. A nice treat was coming across a cluster of small yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*), a tree I rarely encounter. There were some quite large Fraser magnolias (*Magnolia fraseri*) along the route, with many in bloom. The steep terrain allowed us a nice view of many flowering trees that were well below us. Another treat afforded by the terrain was to be able to look over at blooming Dutchman's pipe (*Isotrema macrophyllum*). We could not get close to the blooms, but they were pretty much at eye level in multiple locations.

Bear corn (*Conopholis americana*) was prolific in areas and in nice bloom. Multiple violets were blooming (Canada violet (*Viola canadensis*), sweet white violet (*Viola blanda*), common blue violet (*Viola sororia*), wood violet (*Viola palmata*), and smooth yellow wood violet (*Viola pennsylvanica*)). We had both large-flowered trillium and Vasey's trillium (*Trillium vaseyi*) blooming along the walk, with an amazing display of large-flowered trillium in the boulderfield at our journey's end. Showy orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*), yellow mandarin (*Prosartes lanuginosa*), meadow parsnip (*Thaspium barbinode*), Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), sweetshrub (*Calycanthus floridus*), blue cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*), Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*), and false Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*) all contributed to a nice floral display as we ambled along. We saw one nice patch of umbrella leaf (*Diphyllia cymosa*) in

bloom in a patch of brilliant sunshine down the hill from the trail. Another non-showy treat was Blue Ridge purple sedge (*Carex manharti*), an upland woodland sedge that I had not previously encountered.

We passed through a lot of nice woods throughout the day. However, the cove boulderfield at the end of the walk was in the jaw-dropping category. We did not encounter any new species for the day in this area, but the lushness and richness was definitely not something you find on a typical mountainside. As I mentioned previously, the sheer number of large-flowered trillium was amazing and easily the largest display I have seen in north Georgia. Definitely a fitting end to a marvelous ramble in the woods.



Large-flowered trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*)

DeSoto Falls - Pilgrimage Trip Report

Text and Photos By Hugh and Carol Nourse

Several things made this walk interesting. First, there were two waterfalls to visit. Second, we had the plant list from Wayne Morris's trip on May 10, 2003, nearly the same time of year, giving us the opportunity to see how this year compared to that. We did not find some of those plants, but we did find others not seen on that trip.

This report is for two separate trips at the Pilgrimage, one on Saturday at 8:30AM and one on Sunday at 8:30AM. For both trips we proceeded the same way. We botanized from the parking lot out to the trailhead, then we walked to the lower falls first. It was 1/4 mile to this falls. Returning to the trailhead, we then went nonstop without botanizing to DeSoto Falls which was another 3/4 mile from the trailhead, doing the botanizing on the way back. If we had stopped along the way out we might not have had time to see the falls, and it was very much worth seeing. Bill Witherspoon talked about its geology during the Saturday evening program. He indicated that the rock at the top of the falls and at the bottom were the same gneiss. It is a stair step falls and quite beautiful. Bill contrasted it with the waterfalls in the northwestern part of the state which have harder sandstone at the top and more easily eroded limestone beneath, so that the falls drop precipitously, rather than down a slope as at DeSoto Falls.

On Wayne Morris's trip some time was spent in the parking lot looking at ruderal plants that were flowering. But there are now more trees and less weedy areas. In fact the grassy area around the parking lot was mowed. At this time the only flower we saw was robin's plantain (*Erigeron pulchellus*). On both trips we looked for the cucumber tree (*Magnolia acuminata*), but it was on the second one that John Brower pointed out the tree while we were standing in the parking lot. We all got to see that it had leaves without the ears at the base that you find on Fraser's magnolia, which was not seen here. Both were on Wayne's list.

One of the first plants seen walking down the path to the trailhead was climbing hydrangea (*Decumaria barbara*). It was not only climbing up the trees, but was crawling over the primitive fence beside the trail. We also found lyre leaf sage (*Salvia lyrata*) and spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) that were on Wayne's list, but sharp eyes found some new plants: hollow stem Joe-Pye-weed (*Eutrochium fistulosum*) not in bloom; alternate leaf dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*) in bloom; mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) in bloom.



Magnolia acuminata

*Manual of the Trees of
North America*
(Charles Sargent)

(Houghton Mifflin
Company, 1905)
Clipart courtesy of
<http://etc.usf.edu>

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DeSoto Falls (cont'd)



Yellowroot (*Xanthorhiza simplicissima*)

(*Rubus allegheniensis*) which was on Wayne's list.

At this point we turned around and headed back to the trailhead and then continued without stopping up the trail along Frogtown Creek to DeSoto Falls (or middle falls). Here, too, it was a disappointment that the viewing platform was too far from the spray cliff by the waterfall to identify any plants other than *Rhododendron maximum*, not yet in bloom.

Along the run from the falls, John Brower identified a sweet white trillium (*Trillium simile*) that was on Wayne's list. This weekend on the trails, however, there had been many arguments about these trilliums. Mike Christison said that he had learned three things about trilliums: they have three leaves; they have three petals; and the rest of the plant you argue about. It turns out that Tom Patrick, Tom Govus, and Sue Farmer are working on naming "Trillium amicalola" as a new species, and they believed the Trillium similes that we saw here belong to this group. Not on Wayne's list was a blooming sweet shrub (*Calycanthus floridus*).

Foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*)

At the trailhead, beside a bridge crossing Frogtown Creek, a beautiful blooming maple leaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*) greeted us. Across the creek we turned left to the lower falls which is on an unnamed tributary to Frogtown Creek. Along the way we found blooming barren strawberry (*Waldsteinia fragerioides*), Catesby's trillium (*Trillium catesbaei*), dog-hobble (*Leucothoe fontanesiana*) common cinquefoil (*Potentilla simplex*), Solomon seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*), Solomon's plume (*Maianthemum racemosum*), sweet white violet (*Viola blanda*), foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), rattlesnake weed (*Hieracium venosum*), and wild hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*). All of the above were on the list.

As one would expect along Frogtown Creek, yellowroot (*Xanthorhiza simplicissima*) was in bloom. Oddly this was not on the list. Yellowroot is so named because its roots contain a yellow dye. Another plant not on the list was a sanicle (*Sanicula* spp.) that Julie Duncan noticed on the first day.

At the lower waterfall, it was a disappointment not to be close enough to the spray cliffs to identify plants. Nonetheless, we did see, through binoculars, blackberry



Continued on next page

DeSoto Falls (cont'd)

As we returned to the trailhead we botanized and took a slower pace. From the list we found the following plants blooming or with berries: partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*) covering large swaths, bear huckleberry (*Gaylussacia ursina*), Catesby's trillium (*Trillium catesbaei*), Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), Indian cucumber root (*Medeola virginiana*), foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), and sweet white violet (*Viola blanda*). We stopped to note the gold glands on the back side of the huckleberry leaves. While staring at some of these leaves, someone pointed out that a blackish moth that mimics a distasteful beetle was resting on one of the leaves.

While observing one of the Jack-in-the pulpits, Hugh talked about how the plant can change gender. During this year's growth, if it gets enough nutrients and light to store enough energy to produce fruit the next year, then it will be female next season. If not obtaining enough energy, it will be male. The plant can alternate between female and male from season to season based on the nutrients and energy it receives.

An exciting find by Todd Morrell, not on Wayne's list, was a nice group of blooming fairy wand (or devil's bit) (*Chamaelirium luteum*) just off the trail from DeSoto Falls. Amazingly, no one had noticed them before.

We had been worried that the woolly adelgid would have decimated the hemlocks along the stream, but for some reason that was not the case. Perhaps the trees had been treated.

Some of the plants on Wayne's list that we could not find in our exploration, even with the help of all the participants on the two field trips, were mountain stewartia (*Stewartia ovata*), spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), cliff saxifrage (*Hydatica petiolaris*), and lilyleaf twayblade (*Liparis lilifolia*). Although Carol did find a fading spring beauty in the campground.

Nonetheless, we saw an unusual collection of plants along a beautiful mountain stream, with wonderful weather. It was just great to be there.



< *Trillium catesbaei*
Catesby's trillium

Chamaelirium luteum >
Fairy wand



Sosebee Cove - Pilgrimage Trip Report

By Heather Bowman Cutway

After the confusion of getting everyone into as few cars as possible, we wound our way up the mountain to Sosebee Cove. Along the way, mountain laurel, flame azalea and Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*) blooms could be seen along the way. We parked in the couple of narrow parking spots along Georgia 180 at the sign for Sosebee Cove. Sosebee Cove is a 175-acre high-elevation, north-facing, cove forest found in the Chattahoochee National Forest. The trail through the cove is dedicated to Arthur Woody, who negotiated the Cove's purchase for the United States Forest Service. Our two leaders, Maureen Donohue and Ellen Honeycutt, led us through the short figure eight path.

One of the first can't miss sights is the state champion yellow buckeye (*Aesculus flava*) which has a circumference of 187 inches and stands 150 feet high. Near the buckeye was one of the first flowers everyone was excited to see – umbrella leaf (*Diphylleia cymosa*). It is not surprising that it is in the same family as mayapple (which was also abundant at the site), however unlike mayapple, umbrella leaf does not try to hide its cyme of white flowers. The banks of the cove were teeming with cascades of Solomon's plume (*Maianthemum racemosum*) and Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*). Many other small white flowers were also on display including sweet cicely (*Myrrhis odorata*), early meadow rue (*Thalictrum clavatum*), foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), and starry chickweed (*Stellaria pubera*).

However, the stars of most spring pilgrimages are trilliums and orchids and we were not disappointed. There were many sweet white trilliums (*Trillium simile*) and large flowered trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*) which had started to fade to pink. At several points along the trail, we also found showy orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*). Once we completed the trail, some trekked up the short trail across the street while others did some roadside botanizing. On our way out, we stopped at the overlook at Woody Gap and puzzled over the alien-looking fleshy stem that stood 5-foot, but had no leaves. Last year's flower stalks offered a clue and after a lot of guesses, we arrived at *Smilax herbacea*. The mystery solved, we were ready to head back for the social.



Showy orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*), left and large flowered trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*), right. Photos: E. Honeycutt

2015 Holiday Party

Come one and all to the BotSoc annual holiday party on Saturday, December 5, 2015, at the Sandy Creek Nature Center in Athens. It is located at 205 Old Commerce Rd, Athens, GA 30607; the phone number is (706) 613-3615. As usual we will enjoy a pot luck luncheon together so bring a festive appetizer, entree or dessert to share.

The party starts with morning coffee at 10 am and will last until 2 pm. We will have access to the Nature Center at 9:30 Saturday morning for set-up. After lunch we will take a leisurely walk led by Walt Cook to explore some of the 225 acres of woodlands and wetlands that contain 4 miles of trails. Should you feel energetic that day, you may wish to continue to North Oconee River Greenway and Cook's Trail which connect with the Nature Center's trails. More information on the walk will be available in the November newsletter, on the web site, and in the weekly email.

National Public Land's Day—September 26, 2015

This year the state parks have claimed public lands day as their own. While this day of volunteer service originated in the National Parks, the Georgia State Parks have fully embraced and rebranded it as "State Parks Day." Now you can choose from many state, federal, county or city parks to offer a half day of volunteer work.

We have not chosen one particular park location as the BotSoc volunteer site. The choice is yours. Check if your favorite park has a work day scheduled. If so, register to volunteer. If you have a BotSoc t-shirt, hat, or logo patch, wear it to the event. Please mention the Georgia Botanical Society programs to other volunteers. That way the park you select and BotSoc will benefit from your service.

Among the state parks that have already listed volunteer events for State Parks Day are: Black Rock Mountain in Mountain City, Don Carter in Gainesville, Cloudland Canyon in Rising Fawn, Fort Mountain in Chatsworth, F.D. Roosevelt in Pine Mountain, Gordonia-Alatamaha in Reidsville, Hard Labor Creek State Park in Rutledge, Indian Springs in Flovilla, Pickett's Mill Battlefield Historic Site in Dallas, and Sweetwater Creek in Lithia Springs to name just a few.

Check the web site for your favorite state park or volunteer at a location that is new to you. Just go to <http://gastateparks.org>. Under Locations, click on "Park List" to discover the volunteer project scheduled for State Park Day at each location.

Whichever park location you choose for your volunteer work, please, take photos and/or write a trip report or describe a special encounter to share with the rest of us. We'd love to hear about it.




Upcoming Field Trips

<p>Sep 12 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Hinds Road Outcrop / Little River Canyon NP, AL</p> <p>This trip will feature visits to several sandstone rock outcrops in northeast Alabama to see a variety of wildflowers (and trees) that are rare or not even found in Georgia. We will explore Hinds Road Outcrop near Gadsden, then travel to Little River Canyon to Lynn Overlook and possibly other sites for Nuttall's rayless-goldenrod (<i>Bigelovia nuttallii</i>), Sandstone Tickseed (<i>Coreopsis pulchra</i>), Longleaf Sunflower (<i>Helianthus longifolius</i>), Small-head Blazing Star (<i>Liatris microcephala</i>), Menges' Fameflower (<i>Talinum mengesii</i>), Boynton Oak (<i>Quercus boyntonii</i>) and other goodies.</p> <p>Meet at Jack's Restaurant, 1502 Noccalula Road, Gadsden, AL 35901</p>	<p>Directions: From I-75, exit 290 and take Ga. 20 and then US 411 to Rome. At first traffic signal turn right onto Ga. Loop 1. Follow Loop 1 around Rome, making 1 left turn at intersection of Garden Lakes Blvd. and Mathis Dr. Go past Walmart and Sam's Club, turn right onto Ga. 20. Go 14.2 mi., enter AL (Hwy. becomes AL-9). Go 14.7 mi. turn right on AL-68. Go 2.2 mi. turn right on US 411. Stay on US 411 to Gadsden, AL (21.4 mi.). At Gadsden turn right on US 431, continue on US 431 for 1.5 mi. turn right on AL 211 (Noccalula Road). Go approx. 1.5 mi. and look for Jack's Restaurant on left.</p> <p>Facilities: At meeting and lunch place.</p> <p>Difficulty: Mostly short distances on relatively flat rock outcrops, however, very rough terrain.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch, snacks, water, camera, etc.</p>	<p>Richard Ware & Mike Christison</p> <p>gabotany@comcast.net</p> <p>706-766-5143</p> <p>mikepaddler@netscape.net</p> <p>770-596-3564</p>
<p>Sept 19 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Moody Forest Natural Area – Sandhill Community</p> <p>We will explore one of the richest sandhill communities in the southeastern US. Moody Forest Natural Area is one of the three most ecologically important old-growth longleaf pine forests in Georgia. Adjacent to the Altamaha River in Appling County, the 4,500-acre the Moody Forest tracts contain some of Georgia's richest examples of the Sandhill plant community including the only known example of the longleaf pine-blackjack oak forest. As many as 300 to 350 acres of the property contain longleaf and slash pine trees that are 200 to 300 years old. In 2014, some of Moody Forest NA sandhill communities were part of a University of Florida research project that is looking at which restoration techniques have been most effective in North Florida and South Georgia. Moody Forest sandhill ranked 3rd out of 22 sites with 112 species. (Apalachicola National Forest was #1 at 130 species, and River Rise State Park in FL was #2 at 114 species). Other significant ecological jewels on the property include forests found on bluffs overlooking the Altamaha floodplain, cypress-tupelo sloughs with trees over 600 years old, and bottomland hardwoods.</p>	<p>Directions: <u>From Atlanta</u> (approximately 3.5 hours travel time): Take I-75 S to Macon to I-16 East (Exit 165) towards Savannah. After 90 miles, take the US Hwy. 1/SR 4 exit (Exit 90) to Lyons. Turn right onto US 1/SR 4 south and stay on this road for approximately 35 miles, passing through the town of Lyons, to the Altamaha River bridge. Continue another 3.0 miles past the bridge, and watch on the left for Asbury Church Road. Turn left at Asbury Church Rd and travel 1.7 miles to Spring Branch Rd. and turn left (dirt road). Travel 0.8 mile and turn right onto East River Rd. (dirt road). Travel 0.7 mile and just past the "Tavia's Trail" parking lot, stay left to remain on East River Rd. Go 1.0 mile and turn left into The Nature Conservancy office parking lot.</p> <p>Facilities: At meeting place.</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy to moderate walk.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch, snacks, insect repellent, sunscreen & water. Wear comfortable hiking shoes. You may wish to bring binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera.</p>	<p>Bobby Hattaway</p> <p>botanikman@g-net.net</p> <p>912-481-3011</p> <p>Contact the trip leader for alternate directions or check the website.</p>
<p>Sept 19 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Buck Creek Serpentine Barren in Clay County, NC</p> <p>Buck Creek Serpentine Barren in Clay County, NC just west of the Macon County line in the Chunky Gal Mountains. The dominant rock types, serpentized dunite and olivine, influence the striking vegetation present on this site. One hundred acres within the site is managed by the Tusquitee Ranger District as a Special Interest Area and registered as a Natural Heritage Area with the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program. Plants of interest include <i>Gentianopsis crinata</i>, <i>Parnassia grandifolia</i>, <i>Symphotrichum rhiannon</i>, <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> and <i>Packera serpenticola</i>.</p> <p>Meet At: By the gated road, Forest Service Road (FSR) 6269, which is about 0.6 mile north of US 64 off FSR 350 along Buck Creek.</p>	<p>Directions: From Blairsville, GA to meeting site approximately 34.3 miles. Follow Young Harris Highway for about 11.5 miles taking a left onto GA-515 which becomes NC-69. Follow for about 4.5 miles to intersection with US 64 in Hayesville, NC. Turn right following US 64 for about 16.5 miles to a left on Buck Creek road.</p> <p>Facilities: None.</p> <p>Difficulty: The hike will follow FSR 6269 for 0.3 mile, an easy climb with an elevation change of 150 feet. Off trail in the barren the hike about a 0.1 mile hike will progress through a moderate grade with uneven terrain. A 1-mile hike in similar terrain will be undertaken on the west side of Buck Creek.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch, snacks, & water. Remember to dress for the weather and wear comfortable hiking shoes. You may wish to bring binoculars, hand</p>	<p>Gary Kaufman</p> <p>gkauffman@fs.fed.us</p> <p>828-231-5354</p>
<p>Sept 26</p>	<p>National Public Lands Day</p>	<p>See Page 8 for ideas on where you can help.</p>	<p>Georgia State Parks</p>

Upcoming Field Trips

<p>Oct 3 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Ohoopee Dunes WMA</p> <p>We will explore various habitats, as well as view wildflowers and interesting flora found at the Ohoopee Dunes Wildlife Management Area (ODWMA). Diverse habitats include classic Kershaw-sand xeric dunes, sub-xeric dunes and sub-xeric ecotones with longleaf pine, hillside pocosins, broadleaf evergreen/ericaceous drains, slope (hammock) forests, rosemary balds, beaver ponds, pitcher plant seeps, and a beautiful blackwater stream floodplain.</p> <p>We will begin our field trip at the northernmost unit, the ODWMA-McLeod Bridge Tract. We will next explore the ODWMA-Halls Bridge Tract as time permits. The drive time between the two tracts is 10 minutes. The location and timing of lunch can be a group decision made on site.</p> <p>Meet At: The parking area/kiosk for the McLeod Bridge Tract (ODWMA) .</p>	<p>Directions: Locate the intersection of US-80 and Old McLeod Bridge Road (CR456). Old McLeod Br. Rd. is located 2.75 miles west of downtown Swainsboro (US-80/US-1 Intersection); 1.5 miles west of the US-80/US-1By-Pass; and 6 miles east of US-80/US-221(SR171) intersection. From the intersection of Old McLeod Br. Rd and US-80, travel northwest on Old McLeod Br. Rd for 2.6 miles. The ODWMA parking area will be on the right. Landmarks include Woodchuck Rd. (dirt) at 1.1 miles and a powerline r-o-w at 1.7 miles. If you cross the Little Ohoopee River (on Old McLeod Br. Rd), you have gone too far.</p> <p>Facilities: None. Difficulty: Easy to moderate hike. Bring: Lunch, snacks, & water. Remember to dress for the weather – early October on the dunes can bring temps in the 80's. Wear comfortable hiking shoes.</p>	<p>Mincy Moffett mincy.moffett@dnr.ga.gov 706-338-9154</p> <p>Contact the trip leader for other directions or check the website.</p>
<p>Oct 3 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Chattahoochee Bend State Park</p> <p>We will explore granite outcrops for fall flowers and have a special guest to identify lichens. This new state park has several hiking trails, some of which have montane longleaf woodlands with numerous herbs reminiscent of a prairie landscape. Also of interest is the floodplain and low terrace along the Chattahoochee River. We will have access to park facilities and you can see the unusual raised platforms used for riverside camping, plus observe the huge nest of a bald eagle.</p>	<p>Directions: From Carrollton and north, take Hwy. 16 east crossing into Coweta Co., toward Newnan, pass the power plant area and take the first right, Wagers Mill Road to the second stop sign. Follow signs to park. From south or east take I-85 to Newnan, exit at Hwy. 34 (Exit 47), follow Hwy. 16 west (or the bypass) thru Newnan, but connect again with Hwy. 34 west toward Franklin, take a right at Thomas Powers Road for 6.5 miles, turn right onto Flat Rock Road. Follow signs to park and meet at Visitor Center.</p> <p>Facilities: Yes. Difficulty: Easy to moderate hikes. Bring: Lunch, snacks, & water. Remember to dress for the weather and wear comfortable hiking shoes. You may wish to bring binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera.</p>	<p>Tom Patrick tom.patrick@dnr.state.ga.us 706-476-4541</p>
<p>Oct 24 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Longleaf Pine Understory and its Restoration</p> <p>We'll look at the fields of native plants (such as <i>Tephrosia</i>, <i>Desmodium</i>, <i>Aristida</i>, <i>Sorghastrum</i>), which are used for seed-gathering for Lolly Creek's ground cover restoration business. We'll hear about the work they're doing in collecting and cleaning seeds and understory planting as they work to create a southern ecotype seed source for native plants. In the afternoon we'll explore Oakridge Farm's longleaf pine understory and look at a diversity sampling plot. Lisa Giencke of Jones Ecological Research Center will talk about the Longleaf pine understory at 4:30.</p>	<p>Directions: 1684 Wrights Chapel Rd. Sumner GA 31789 Link to map: http://lollycreek.com/Contact/index.html</p> <p>Facilities: None Difficulty: Easy. Bring: Lunch, snacks, water, & bug spray. Remember to dress for the weather and wear comfortable hiking shoes.</p>	<p>Ellen Corrie Ellennet@aol.com 404-374-2633</p>
<p>Oct 25 10:00 AM Note: This is a Sunday</p>	<p>Gaskins Forest Educational Center</p> <p>We'll see and discuss the work Heather Brasell and Karla Gaskins do on this family property to preserve and restore the variety of natural communities focusing on the longleaf pine understory. They use a variety of management techniques to improve the understory: an active prescribe fire regime; transplanting intensively for pollinators; herbiciding, invasives, and planting seeds.</p>	<p>Directions: Gaskins Forest Education Center, 3359 Moore Sawmill Rd. Alapaha, GA 31622. Alapaha is 20 miles east of Tifton on US 82. From Alapaha (junction US 82 and GA 129): Go south on GA 129 - 0.6 mi. Turn left on E Brunswick St. E Brunswick St becomes Moore Sawmill Rd. - 3.2 mi.; Gaskins Forest Education Center is on the left.</p> <p>Facilities: Yes Difficulty: Easy. Bring: Same as Saturday.</p>	<p>Heather Brasell Bobby Hattaway heather.brasell@gmail.com 229-339-3966</p>

Upcoming Field Trips

<p>Nov 11 10:00 AM Note: this is Wednesday</p>	<p>Spark's Creek, FDR State Park</p> <p>The focus of this trip to FDR State Park will be to see a spectacular display of kidney-leaf grass-of-Parnassus, <i>Parnassia asarifolia</i>. In past years, this display has been at its best on or about Veteran's Day. The site is a boggy springhead on the south side of Pine Mountain. <i>Gentiana saponaria</i>, soapwort gentian is another possibility for this wet area.</p> <p>We'll walk down part of the Pine Mountain Trail to Sparks Creek, hopefully with colorful fall foliage and a late wildflower or two along the way. After the grass-of-Parnassus population, we will cross Sparks Creek and walk upslope on the trail to see a couple of American chestnuts, <i>Castanea dentata</i>. Near the crest of the ridge we will see scattered montane longleaf pine. Eventually, we will come out at the Boot Top Trail parking area on the road to Dowdell Knob.</p>	<p>Directions: From the Atlanta area, take I-85 S to Exit 41 (I-185), and head south on US 27Alt. Stay on US 27Alt all the way through the town of Warm Springs, then just as you top the crest of Pine Mountain, you will see GA 190 and the eastern entrance to FDR State Park. Turn right onto 190 (heading west) and go just under 2 miles to the Rocky Point Trailhead parking lot on the left. From the south, take US 27A north from Columbus until you crest Pine Mountain. Turn left onto GA 190 and go to the Rocky Point Trailhead parking lot.</p> <p>Facilities: At west end of the park but there are trees and bushes along the way.</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy to moderately strenuous, total distance is 2.4 miles. The trail is rocky, but well-used and well maintained. Will take a shuttle at end back to the parking area.</p> <p>Bring: Parking fee, lunch, snacks, water, binoculars. Dress for the weather.</p>	<p>Hal Massie massiefarm@aol.com 478-957-6095</p>
<p>Nov 14 11:00 AM Note: Later start time.</p>	<p>Oxbow Meadows and Providence Canyon</p> <p>Geology and Natural Communities: Contrasts across the Fall Line and the Story of Providence Canyon: First, a talk at Oxbow Meadows will describe the geology of the Fall Line and ways in which that geology influences the formation of different natural communities. This will be followed by a walk at 2:00 PM in Providence Canyon that will explore the geologic story of the Canyon and some of the natural communities there.</p>	<p>Directions: Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center: http://oxbow.columbusstate.edu/driving_directions.php Providence Canyon Outdoor Recreation Area: http://gastateparks.org/ProvidenceCanyon#directions</p> <p>Facilities: Yes.</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy to moderate.</p> <p>Bring: Parking fee, lunch, snacks, and water. Dress for the weather.</p>	<p>Leslie Edwards Bill Witherspoon edwa1616@bellsouth.net</p>
<p>Dec 5 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Holiday Party</p> <p>Come one and all to the BotSoc annual holiday party on Saturday, December 5, 2015, at the Sandy Creek Nature Center in Athens.</p> <p>Walt Cook will be leading our walk and will join us for lunch that day. He has a BS, MS in Forestry and a Ph.D in Forest Aesthetics. He moved to Athens in 1971 to teach at the Worrell School of Forestry at UGA, and he retired in 1996. Since then, he has been designing, building, maintaining and hiking foot trails in Georgia and South Carolina. He co-founded the Sandy Creek Nature Center in 1973. He has been an Active Board member of the Oconee River Land Trust for 22 years, is a member of the Benton MacKaye Trail Association, and currently maintains trails at the Botanical Garden of Georgia in Athens once a week.</p>	<p>Location: Sandy Creek Nature Center 205 Old Commerce Rd, Athens, GA 30607; the phone number is (706) 613-3615.</p> <p>More information on the walk will be available in the November newsletter, on the web site and in the weekly email.</p>	

If you haven't been on a BotSoc field trip yet this year, please join us for one of the fall trips. We always have a lot of fun and everyone learns something - even the leaders! The cooler fall temps bring out some beautiful fall wildflowers. Please email or call the trip leader in advance if you have any questions about what it might be like. Hope to see you soon!

Society Contacts



2718 Stillwater Lake Lane
 Marietta, GA 30066-7906
www.gabotsoc.org

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 Newsletter Editor - Ellen Honeycutt ehoneycutt@bellsouth.net
 Field Trip Chair - Bobby Hattaway (912.653.2228) botanikman@g-net.net
 Teresa Ware (706.232.3435) teresaaware@comcast.net
 Ed McDowell ed.mcdowell@cox.net
 Susan Caster susan.caster@gmail.com
 Hal Massie massiefarm@aol.com
 Debbie Cosgrove debcosgrove55@gmail.com
 Ellen Corrie ellennet@aol.com
 Joel Hitt joel@hitt.com

Chair Representatives

Membership - Anita Reaves (770.827.5186) rich.reaves@att.net
 BotSoc Boutique - Jenneke Somerville (706.714.2889) jenneke1@hotmail.com
 Marie Mellinger Grant Fund - Teri Nye nyeteri@gmail.com

Chapter Representatives

Bobby Hattaway (912.653.2228) botanikman@g-net.net