



## Year of the Bog: Reed Branch Wet Meadow Preserve

By Hal Massie

2016 is the Society's Year of the Bog and it started out with our Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, where we visited many bogs in South Georgia. One of our most important bogs is at the other end of the state in a dramatic mountain setting less than 2 miles from the North Carolina border.

The Reed Branch Wet Meadow Preserve is a Nature Conservancy preserve that protects Georgia's only known population of the green pitcher plant, *Sarracenia oreophila*. The bog is on the edge of Lake Chatuge, north of Hiawasee, with a clear view of the tower on top of Brasstown Bald to the south. The Nature Conservancy originally acquired a 10-acre tract from the Mull family in 1998, after the death of long-time owner and farmer Carl Mull. Two tracts were sold, including the Mull farmhouse, to help defray the costs of the purchase, thus reducing the size of the preserve to 7 acres.

The green pitcher plant was known from a few other sites in the area, but those populations have all been extirpated. The construction of Lake Chatuge almost certainly drowned some bogs with green pitcher plants. When The Nature Conservancy originally acquired the Mull property, only a few hundred plants were left. Through careful management, including prescribed fire, outplanting, and efforts to improve the hydrology of the site, the population has climbed to over 1,400 plants.

Green pitcher plant is listed, both by the state and the federal government, as an Endangered Species. The specific epithet 'oreophila' means 'mountain lover,' a name that seems so appropriate when standing in the meadow above the pitcher plants looking out over Lake Chatuge with a large piece of the Georgia Blue Ridge as a backdrop.

While the green pitcher plant is the only endangered plant at the preserve, several other rare or unusual plants occur both alongside the pitcher plants and in the drier meadows in the northern portion of the preserve. These include prairie bluehearts, *Buchnera americana*; pink tickseed, *Coreopsis rosea*; mud-babies, *Helianthemum tenellum*; bog-candles, *Lysimachia terrestris*; ragged fringed orchid, *Platanthera lacera*; and northern white beaksedge, *Rhynchospora alba*.

Reed Branch Wet Meadow Preserve is not open to the public, but the Georgia Botanical Society obtains special permission to visit the site on occasion (including a field trip on Memorial Day of this year). The Nature Conservancy also leads tours of the property and holds occasional volunteer workdays. The next workday will be on July 16 – contact the Georgia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy if you are interested in helping to improve and protect this extraordinary piece of Georgia's natural heritage.

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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

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### Subscriptions

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### Editorial Office

Ellen Honeycutt  
ehoneycutt@bellsouth.net

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On the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend, we took a field trip to the Coweeta Hydrological Laboratory in Otto, N.C. All of us have driven past its sign on Hwy 441 and never knew that it's open to the public. The trip leader, Don Hunter, was knowledgeable and enthusiastic. And he wants to lead more trips for us. We are delighted to have a new leader and a new location. Thank you BocSoc board member Debbie Cosgrove for coordinating this trip and making the connections for it to happen.

Now I am coming to the end of my term as President. We have changed the bylaws so that the annual meeting may be held anytime in the third calendar quarter, and I have chosen July 30 for the meeting and election, so that the new vice president may begin working on the Pilgrimage as soon as possible.

I am sad that my term is ending. It has been interesting to be president of this 90-year old, well-respected organization. I am proud of some changes we have made recently. These changes include implementing Paypal for membership, renewals and donations. Thank you to Merrill Morris and Rich Reaves for accomplishing that. Thanks to Rich and Anita Reaves for supporting the idea to separate pilgrimage registration from the Membership Chair's duties. Thank you to Elizabeth King for doing a great job at handling the new registration process and Barrett King for supporting her in that task.

Thank you to Heather Brasell for suggesting the Hugh and Carol Nourse pilgrimage scholarship program for students and for planning and implementing two great pilgrimages. Thank you to Hal Massie for suggesting Chattanooga, TN for our 2017 Pilgrimage - a great idea whose time has come.

Thank you to Susan Caster and Leslie Edwards for designing and implementing Education Classes for beginners. These classes teach a small number of beginners a set of plants from one family. Thank you to all BOD members for voting to set up a "habitat conservation" category for donations, and thanks for approving the donation of \$5,000 to protect Coastal Plains bogs.

Personally, I want to thank several people who helped me discover and learn native plants: Gail Russell who told me about BotSoc at a 1992 Audubon meeting; Richard and Teresa Ware for fantastic classes on oaks, asters, hickories and winter tree identification; Scott Ranger who answered all my questions with enthusiasm; and David Emory, of whom I asked a simple question about mosses and he told me everything he knew. Too green to understand his reply, I realized that botany was a very complicated subject. Thanks to Tom Patrick whose deep love of plants has always impressed and inspired me; and Ed McDowell, to whom I could turn for help and know that he would get the job done well.

I want to thank all BotSocers with whom I have gone on field trips and pilgrimages, had Mexican dinners, learned Latin plant names, pulled privet, stopped invasive buttercups and learned to love our native plants. You are an intelligent and interesting group of people. Thank you all.

*Maureen Donohue*

## Reed Branch Wet Meadow Preserve

These photos accompany the Year of the Bog profile on page 1.



Top left: Participants on a field trip to Reed Branch Wet Meadow in May of 2012

Top right: Green pitcher plants, *Sarracenia oreophila*

Middle right: A large group of green pitcher plants, *Sarracenia oreophila*

Middle left: Ragged fringed orchid, *Platanthera lacera*

Lower left: Prairie bluehearts, *Buchnera americana*

All photos by Hal Massie

## Book Review

A long-awaited new book authored by our own BotSoc members Linda Chafin and Hugh and Carol Nourse, the **Field Guide to the Wildflowers of Georgia**, is finally available! While this is the first field guide devoted to Georgia's wildflowers, it draws on a wealth of quality data that has been available in a variety of other guides and manuals, making this a solid resource for enthusiasts in Georgia and surrounding states.

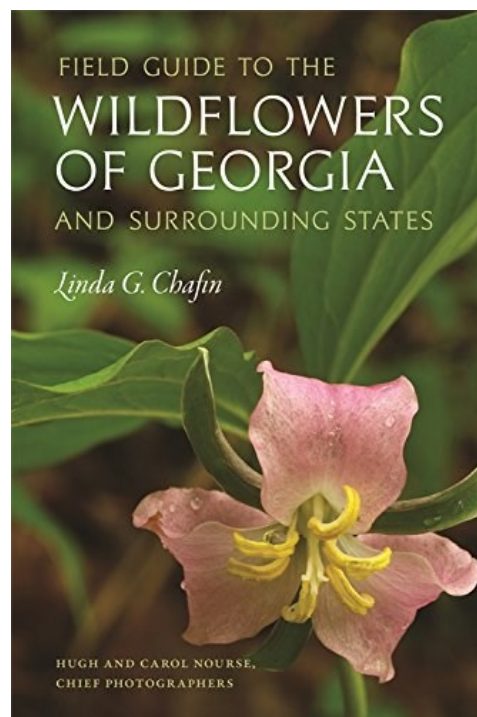
A number of Georgia Botanical Society members helped with this publication – from donating photographs to proofing copy and more – and a paragraph in the acknowledgements section is dedicated to the Society and the inspiring work our members have been doing since 1926 in Georgia. This is a book that BotSoc members of all knowledge levels will find to be of great use for years to come (luckily the format is durable and sturdy enough for field use because that's where a lot of BotSocers will be using it).

The book profiles 770 individual plants; an additional 530 plants are mentioned in a helpful feature called "Similar to." Each plant profile contains a common name, the Latin name, plant family, and a color photograph. In addition, the following characteristics are provided: life cycle (annual, biennial, perennial), the natural communities in which it is found, descriptions of stems, leaves (both basal and stem leaves if necessary), flowers (clusters and heads if appropriate), flowering period, and range.

Now you might think that such description categories are pretty standard, but these are no ordinary descriptions. Details are more than just length, color and shape. Words and phrases like "waxy," "margins curled under," and "without stalks" are descriptive but not intimidating. There is a glossary in the back should you come across any unfamiliar terms.

The description section ends with a "similar to" statement that compares and/or contrasts the species with other plants in the same genus or an unrelated species which it resembles. This is a feature that you rarely see in field guides and is just as helpful when it mentions a plant as when it says "similar to no other wildflower in Georgia."

The book is organized into two main plant sections: dicots and monocots. Within those sections, plants are grouped by families (e.g., Asteraceae) and then alphabetically by genus and species. If you are not sure how to find the plant you're trying to identify that way, a color-coded thumbnail section at the back allows you to peruse plants by flower color first.



**Series:** A Wormsloe Foundation Nature Book  
**Paperback:** 528 pages  
**Publisher:** University of Georgia Press (June 1, 2016)  
**Language:** English  
**ISBN-10:** 0820348686  
**ISBN-13:** 978-0820348681  
**Dimensions:** 6 x 0.9 x 8.9 inches

Pick up a copy soon and take it for a test drive on your next BotSoc field trip!



## Society News

### **Georgia Botanical Society's Annual Meeting Saturday, July 30th at 10:00 am Blackrock Mountain State Park, Marie Mellinger Building, Rabun County**

Linda Chafin will lead a walk on the Tennessee Rock Trail, which is 2.2 miles long, beginning at 10 am. Among the plants we hope to see is monkshood (*Aconitum uncinatum*) which may be in bloom. Then we will head to the Marie Mellinger Building at Noon for lunch and a short business meeting, including the election of officers. After business, we will raise a non-alcoholic toast to the Georgia Botanical Society on its 90th anniversary and hear a few stories about the great naturalist, Marie Mellinger, from Steve Bowling and a few other people.

Linda Chafin will conduct a book signing for her new book, Field Guide to the Wildflowers of Georgia, which will be available for sale.

The meeting will end about 3:30 pm. Please see page 9 for directions.

### **Donations**

In the last year, the Georgia Botanical Society received the following memorial or honorary gifts:

- ◇ Elizabeth M. Fox : "In honor of Jennifer Ceska and Eddi Minche."
- ◇ Virginia Harrow : "For Linda Mann of Kingston, TN, my first botanical explorer partner as a child in East Tennessee. We have been in the woods ever since."
- ◇ Eleanor Lehner : "Memorial to Frank and son Bob."

We would like to thank all of the folks who were able to donate their banquet fee from this year's Pilgrimage or additional funds to either the Marie Fund, the Conservation Fund, Tipularia, or the general fund.

We would like to recognize and thank Mack and Julie Duncan for their donation of Wilbur and Marian Duncan's botanical library, which was auctioned off to raise funds for the Conservation fund for Manassas Bog.

Our Donor members this year are: Nancy L. Barber, Heather Brasell, Ellen and Dan Corrie, Amy Delaplaine, Susan and Ron Determann, Maureen Donohue, Leslie A. Edwards, David Farrier, Joan Frierson, Shepherd and Sarah Howell, Donna Lee and Howard Ehni, Eleanor Lehner, Patricia Lowe, Hugh and Carol Nurse, Tom Painter and Maria Roncoli, Bob and Joanne Pemberton, Diana Picklesimer, John and JoAnne Romfh, Jean Smith and Sam Linhart, Betty and Peter Vinten-Johansen, and Kathy Wright.

BotSoc also welcomes new life member, Susan Caster.

## Pilgrimage Field Trip # 7: Lost Creek

Text by Rona and Steve Cook

Before moving into the canopy of the beech/magnolia/spruce pine forest, we were treated to some rain lilies or atamasco lilies (*Zephyranthes atamasca*) blooming alongside the road. As we gathered at the beginning of the trail, our trip leader Beth Grant explained how this old-growth forest is part of the headwaters of the Aucilla River and that this very special forest was saved from the developer's bulldozer by public outcry.

Early in the walk we were fortunate enough to see a Florida milk vine (*Matelea floridana*) in bloom. One of the common trees in this forest, the spruce pine (*Pinus glabra*), has an interesting adaptation in that it can stay at small stage for years until a larger neighboring tree (or trees) comes down due to wind, age, etc. At that point, the spruce pine will take advantage of the new hole in the canopy and begin growing again. There was a Bumelia (*Sideroxylon*) along the trail, which was mistaken by some of us for *Elaeagnus*. Before anyone could snatch it out of the ground, Beth explained what it was and that this forest is in such untouched condition, that there are very few if any invasive plants found here.

Other plants we saw included switch cane, needle palm, cinnamon fern, horse sugar, squaw root, Elliot's blueberry, and some very tall jack-in-the-pulpits (2 to 3 feet high). The forest floor was carpeted with partridge berry in bloom. So much so that it was difficult to avoid stepping on it in the trail.

Being untouched for so many years, this forest contains some very old trees, including a 150-year old white oak (*Quercus alba*). Beth and Yvonne were barely able to grasp each other's hands as they stood on opposite sides facing the trunk.

The sandy soil and the tea-colored water in the creek were interesting (to me anyway). Pretty normal, I suppose for the Coastal Plain BotSoc'ers but quite unusual for those of us from "up-state." Beth pointed out some roots, extending down from a large, horizontal muscadine vine that was traversing the trail. I believe she said the local term for them is "pig strings," a term which some of us found to be a much more fun & memorable term than the proper name: "adventitious roots."

At one point, the group split up where there was a good bit of water to cross. Those with waterproof boots or who were not worried about wet feet forded the streams & muck and went off in search of wetland rarities. We did find a large native azalea in bloom, but our attention was soon diverted from it as it became necessary to rescue a couple of folks who had fallen victim to some knee-deep "suck mud," which had only recently appeared as a result of all the rain. Fortunately, the only casualties were bruised egos and muddy pants, and we were able to rejoin the rest of the group and complete the trip without further incident.

Aside from all the interesting native plants we saw, another inspiring aspect of this forest is that it was saved from destruction in the name of "economic development," rescued by a few folks who cared enough to take a stand and fight against a fate that many would have treated as unfortunate but inevitable.

Photos for this article are on the next page

## Pilgrimage Photos

Photos at right by  
Rona Cook on Lost  
Creek FT:

Florida milkvine  
(*Matelea floridana*)  
(left) and

Virginia sweetspire  
(*Itea virginica*)  
(right)



Photos left and below by Mike Christison:

Left: Grand Bay WMA

All lower pictures from Dixie Bog FT:

Lower left: Grasspink (*Calopogon tuberosus*)

Lower middle: *Stenanthium densum*

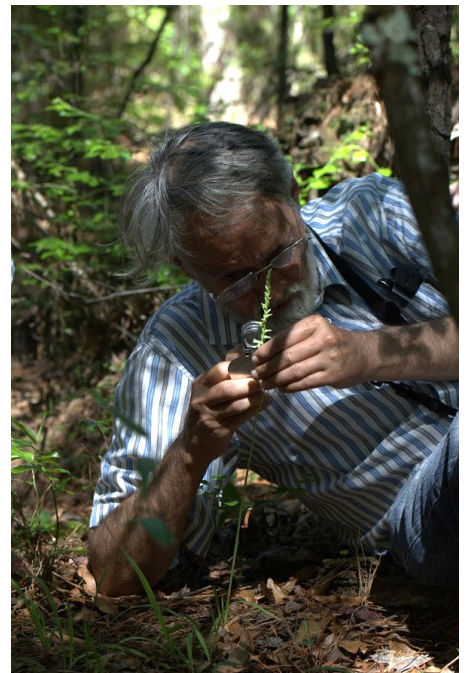
Lower right: Hooded pitcher plant  
(*Sarracenia minor*)



## Pilgrimage Photos



Pictures above by Hal Massie. Upper left: *Sarracenia flava* in the ABAC Turner County Bog; Upper right: Alice Jensen in ABAC; Lower left: Doerun bog BotSoccers; Lower right: Michaux's milkweed (*Asclepias michauxii*) at ABAC



Pictures by Susan Caster:

Upper left: *Eubotrys racemosa* on Grand Bay FT

Upper middle: toothache grass (*Ctenium aromaticum*), Quail Ridge FT

Lower left: Examining plants at Dudley's Hammock FT

Right: A *Spiranthes* orchid at Dudley's Hammock FT



## Upcoming Field Trips

<p>July 16 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Montgomery Creek</b></p> <p>We will first wade upstream into Penitentiary Cove, then, if time-permitting, we will hike downstream to a little-known waterfall on the West Fork of Montgomery Creek. This wade will be in a beautiful trout stream in the Etowah River drainage. The summer flora along the creek is well known so we will expand that and add spring blooming species. Also, several interesting fungi have been seen here, such as the gelatinous stalked puffball.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> From Holiday Inn Express in Dahlonega, turn right onto S Chestatee St/US-19 N/GA-60/GA-249. Continue 0.8 mi. Turn slight right onto Public Sq/US-19 Bus N/GA-60 Bus/GA-52 Bus. Continue 0.1 mi. Turn left onto Grove St N/US-19 Bus N/GA-60 Bus. Continue 2.2 mi. Turn left onto Camp Wahsega Rd. (sign to Camp Merrill) Continue 8.4 mi. At orange barricades, Mt Zion Church will be on left, army post ahead and Cooper's Gap Rd to the right. Turn left, meet at church parking lot.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Walking in the creek. <b>Facilities:</b> None</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Suitable footwear for wading and water, lunch, snacks.</p>	<p>Elliott Horner</p> <p>polygala@encee.org 678-249-8856</p>
<p>July 30 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Annual Meeting—Blackrock Mountain State Park, Marie Mellinger Building, Rabun County</b></p> <p>Linda Chafin will lead a walk on the Tennessee Rock Trail, which is 2.2 miles long, beginning at 10 am. Among the plants we hope to see is Monk's hood (<i>Aconitum uncinatum</i>) which may be in bloom. Then we will head to the Marie Mellinger Building at Noon for lunch and a short business meeting, including the election of officers. After business, we will raise a non-alcoholic toast to the Georgia Botanical Society on its 90th anniversary and hear a few stories about the great naturalist, Marie Mellinger, from Steve Bowling and a few other people.</p> <p>Linda Chafin will conduct a book signing for her new book, <u>Field Guide to the Wildflowers of Georgia</u>, which will be available for sale.</p> <p>The meeting will end about 3:30 pm when members will be reunited with their cars at Ingles. Note that you might want to take a 1 mile detour (North on 441) to Osage Farms, a great farmers market with very fresh produce, although not organic.</p> <p><b>Please Note: We will meet at the Ingles Store Parking lot at 9:30 am near the fence on the south side for carpooling to the site, since there is very little parking at the Marie Mellinger building in the park.</b></p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> Follow I-85 N and I-985 N/Lanier Pkwy to US-23 N /441N to Clayton. The Ingles Store is on the right side at 176 Hwy. 441, just after the BP station. Please park along the right side fence. Car pool drivers will meet you there.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> camera, good walking shoes, field guide and poles, notebook, lunch to eat at the meeting. Note: the society will provide a salad and fruit along with cookies by JoAnne as part of the celebration.</p>	<p>Maureen Donohue</p> <p>marinadono67@gmail.com</p> <p>770-990-7756</p>
<p>Aug 20 9:30 AM</p> <p>Note: early start time.</p>	<p><b>Summer Meadow (Powerline)</b></p> <p>A powerline field provides a good opportunity to examine a number of sun-loving perennials. We should see seven species of goldenrod (<i>Solidago</i>), several species of sunflower (<i>Helianthus</i>) and asters (<i>Symphotrichum</i>), mountain mints (<i>Pycnanthemum</i>), <i>Rudbeckia</i>, rosinweed (<i>Silphium</i>), <i>Angelica</i> and many others. If it gets too hot, we could wander into the nearby woods to cool off while we continue to botanize.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> We will meet at the Canton campus of Chattahoochee Tech, 1645 Bluffs Pkwy. Canton, GA 30114</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> No</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Easy walking but may be hot.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Water, sunscreen, bug spray, hat, snacks, camera, notebook and hand lens.</p>	<p>Ellen Honeycutt</p> <p>ehoneycutt@bellsouth.net</p> <p>678-576-5667</p>

## Upcoming Field Trips

<p>Sep 3 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Big Dukes Pond Natural Area</b></p> <p>Big Dukes Pond is a 1,800-acre Carolina bay. It contains good examples of pond cypress swamp, pond cypress savanna, slash pine-mixed hardwoods, bay swamp, and sandhill scrub communities. The bay supports two species federally listed as endangered, a small population of the Canby's dropwort (<i>Oxypolis canbyi</i>) and one of Georgia's largest breeding colonies of wood stork (<i>Mycteria americana</i>). Other rare or uncommon species known from this site include awned meadowbeauty (<i>Rhexia aristosa</i>), blue maidencane (<i>Amphicarpum muehlenbergianum</i>), and spotted turtle (<i>Clemmys guttata</i>).</p> <p>The trip will consist of two parts. In the morning we will caravan from Millen to the bay's south side to see slash pine-pond cypress savanna, an extremely rare vegetation community and home to <i>Oxypolis canbyi</i>, which will be near the end of its flowering. We will observe small-scale restoration of this savanna that GA DNR is conducting. For lunch we will head for shade and then visit the bay's eastern sand rim with gnarled hawthorn draped in lichens, and if the water level allows we will take a peak at the woodstork rookery, where much of the seminal research on this endangered species was conducted in the 1980s. We will plan to finish up about 2 or 3 PM.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> Meet at McDonalds 227 Highway 25 North, Millen, GA, Jenkins County, at the SW corner of the intersection of State Hwys. 17 and 25.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> No.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Off-trail walking through the wetland will be the best way to see some of the habitats. There is potential for knee-deep water, so be prepared with boots/shoes and clothing that can get wet. You may consider chaps or other protection against snake-bite hazards. However, there is also plenty to see along old logging roads within the preserve. The level of "off-road walking" will be determined by the preferences of the group.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Water, snacks, camera, lunch, bug spray.</p> <p><b>Email the trip leader in advance if you plan to attend.</b></p>	<p>Lisa Kruse lisa.kruse@dnr.ga.gov</p>
<p>Sep 17 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Grand Bay WMA &amp; Lake Louise</b></p> <p>In preparation for the sedge identification workshop Sunday (September 18<sup>th</sup>), the focus of this field trip will be graminoids – especially sedges – of Grand Bay Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and the Lake Louise Field Station, with selected roadside stops between. The central feature of Grand Bay WMA is a large Carolina Bay wetland traversed by a ½ mile boardwalk providing access to a 40 foot tower with spectacular aerial views of the swamp.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> Take Hwy. GA 125 (Bemiss Road) north from Valdosta toward Moody AFB. Turn right on Knights Academy Road and travel 4.9 miles east to the gate to Grand Bay WMA. The gate is on the left side of Knights Academy Road. Turn left onto the gravel road into Grand Bay WMA and travel north 0.8 mile. At the T-intersection turn left and travel west 0.1 mile to the parking area at the Robert Patton Wetlands Education Center. The Knights Academy Road gate to Grand Bay WMA is at 30.920538, -83.192793. The parking area for the Robert Patton Wetlands Education Center at Grand Bay WMA area is at 30.932697, -83.194219.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Lunch, snacks, water, insect repellent, &amp; hand lens. Remember to dress for the weather and wear comfortable hiking shoes. You may wish to bring binoculars, notebook, and camera.</p>	<p>Richard Carter rcarter@valdosta.edu 229- 333-5338 229-506-2099</p>
<p>Sep 18 9:30 AM</p> <p>Note: This is a Sunday</p>	<p><b>Sedge Workshop at VSU</b></p> <p>Complementing Saturday's field trip (September 17<sup>th</sup>) that emphasized sedges and other graminoids, this workshop involves a hands-on survey of the taxonomy of the sedge family (Cyperaceae), with emphasis on specialized terminology and structure. Participants will dissect and analyze structure of representative species from Georgia, with emphasis on diagnostic features of the genera. Results of dissections and analytical dichotomous keys will be used to identify unknown specimens. Dissecting microscopes, equipment, and materials for dissection will be provided.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> The workshop will be held in the General Botany Laboratory located in Room 2040 on the second floor of Bailey Science Center at Valdosta State University. Please gather in the portico at the east (main) entrance to Bailey Science Center at 9:30 am.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Classroom workshop</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Lunch, drink, snacks.</p>	<p>Richard Carter rcarter@valdosta.edu 229- 333-5338 229-506-2099</p>

## Upcoming Field Trips

<p>Sep 24 9:30 AM</p> <p>Note: Early start time</p>	<p><b>Roadside Botanizing: Cohutta Mountains, Gilmer &amp; Fannin Counties</b></p> <p>We will drive along the Forest Service roads stopping to look at flowers along the way. There will be several short excursions from the cars, always along the road. We can expect to find several forget-me-nots (<i>Impatiens capensis</i> and <i>I. pallida</i>), grass-of-Parnassus (<i>Parnassia asarifolia</i>), gentians (<i>Gentianella quinquefolia</i> and <i>Gentiana decora</i>), several composites, and likely a few other early fall species. Plus we may catch several typical spring plants in fruit such as Jack-in-the pulpit (<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>) and speckled wood lily (<i>Clintonia umbellulata</i>).</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> Take I-575/ GA 515 north to East Ellijay to turn left on GA 52. At ~5 mi west of the square on GA 52, turn right on Gates Chapel Rd. When pavement ends the road will fork, take Wilderness Trail/ FR 90 (dirt road to the right). At ~0.9 mi do not turn left at WMA sign for Pinhoti Trail. Continue 0.1 mi to Pinhoti Trail Parking on right on FS90. Carpooling is encouraged to minimize our parking footprint on the narrow unpaved roads.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> No</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Easy.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Lunch water, bug spray.</p>	<p>Rich Reaves</p> <p>rich.reaves@att.net</p> <p>770-827-5186</p>
<p>Sep 25 10:00 AM</p> <p>Note: This is a Sunday</p>	<p><b>Tallasse Forest</b></p> <p>We will visit Tallasse Forest, a 310-acre tract of land on the Middle Oconee River in northwest Athens-Clarke County. Large size, high environmental quality, and relatively little recent disturbance allow it support a diversity of native plants, wildlife, and eight of Georgia DNR's high priority habitats: mature oak-hickory-pine forest, mesic hardwood forest, freshwater marsh, bottomland forest, canebrakes, springs and spring runs, small streams, and a medium-sized river. Of special interest is an unusual upland American holly (<i>Ilex opaca</i>) forest and a bottomland forest with canebrakes and minimal invasives. The utility easements are covered with diverse fall wildflowers and grasses.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Tallasse Forest is off Tallasse Road in northwest Athens-Clarke County—we will meet at a nearby school and carpool from there to the Forest. From Atlanta, take I-85 north to Exit 137 - Jefferson/US Hwy 129. Drive south on US 129 for about 20 miles. Just outside Athens, turn right onto GA Hwy 10/Loop 10 South (aka "the bypass") and drive SW about 1 mile to Exit 15 (Tallasse Rd-Oglethorpe Avenue). Turn right/west onto Tallasse Road. Proceed 4.3 miles and turn right into the Burney-Harris-Lyons Middle School parking lot. Park in the school lot. We will carpool from there.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> No</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> We will be walking on old roads and utility easements. Plan for at least 3½ hours of slow walking.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Lunch, snacks, and water. Dress for the weather, it will probably be hot in September, and wear sturdy walking shoes or boots. You may also want to bring binoculars, hand lens, and cameras.</p>	<p>Linda Chafin</p> <p>lchafin@uga.edu</p> <p>Karen Porter</p> <p>karengporter@gmail.com</p>

## Upcoming Workshops

The first beginner plant family field id workshop on the heath family was well received by an enthusiastic group of Georgia Botanical Society and Georgia Native Plant Society members. The schedule for upcoming workshops follows. Email workshop leaders to register. There is a maximum of 14 participants in each workshop, 7 from each Society.

Plant Family	Presenter	Date
Asters	Ellen Honeycutt ehoneycutt@bellsouth.net	August 13, 2016
Heaths (repeat)	Susan Caster SusanCaster@gmail.com	September 11, 2016
Grasses	Linda Chafin lchafin@uga.edu	October 12, 2016
Pines and Hemlocks	Leslie Edwards edwa1616@bellsouth.net	October 29, 2016

If you have general questions or if you would like to be a workshop presenter please contact Susan Caster at SusanCaster@gmail.com.

## Society Contacts



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

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**Secretary** - Linda Chafin (706.548.1697) [lchafin@uga.edu](mailto:lchafin@uga.edu)  
**Past President** - Jerry Hightower (678.538.1245) [jerry\\_hightower@nps.gov](mailto:jerry_hightower@nps.gov)  
 Tipularia Editor - Richard Ware (706.232.3435) [gabotany@comcast.net](mailto:gabotany@comcast.net)  
 Webmaster - Merrill Morris (706.354.4139) [merrill.morris@gmail.com](mailto:merrill.morris@gmail.com)  
 Newsletter Editor - Ellen Honeycutt [ehoneycutt@bellsouth.net](mailto:ehoneycutt@bellsouth.net)  
 Field Trip Chair - Bobby Hattaway (912.653.2228) [botanikman@g-net.net](mailto:botanikman@g-net.net)  
 Teresa Ware (706.232.3435) [teresaaware@comcast.net](mailto:teresaaware@comcast.net)  
 Ed McDowell [ed.mcdowell@cox.net](mailto:ed.mcdowell@cox.net)  
 Susan Caster [susan.caster@gmail.com](mailto:susan.caster@gmail.com)  
 Hal Massie [massiefarm@aol.com](mailto:massiefarm@aol.com)  
 Debbie Cosgrove [debcosgrove55@gmail.com](mailto:debcosgrove55@gmail.com)  
 Ellen Corrie [ellennet@aol.com](mailto:ellennet@aol.com)  
 Joel Hitt [joel@hitt.com](mailto:joel@hitt.com)

### Chair Representatives

Membership - Anita Reaves (770.827.5186) [rich.reaves@att.net](mailto:rich.reaves@att.net)  
 BotSoc Boutique - Jenneke Somerville (706.714.2889) [jenneke1@hotmail.com](mailto:jenneke1@hotmail.com)  
 Marie Mellinger Grant Fund - Linda Chafin [lchafin@uga.edu](mailto:lchafin@uga.edu)