



Early Trilliums and Trout Lilies

By Charles Hunter

On Saturday morning February 17, nice weather welcomed a group of 19 who joined Dan Miller at his home in northern Tallahassee, Florida. The majority of attendees were Georgia Bot Soccers, including several of us from north Georgia, trying to get a jump on spring. Ellen Honeycutt from Cherokee County got the long distance award.

We spent the morning touring Dan's 7-acre property on (appropriately named) Trillium Court. This property, just north of Interstate 10, is located within a remnant beech-magnolia old growth forest that is now surrounded on three sides by residential and suburban development. We were here to see his huge native population of one of the earliest of all the North American trillium species, Underwood's trillium (*Trillium underwoodii*), which did not disappoint. Timing was perfect and blooming trillium were growing everywhere on the property, even popping up next to the house. They grow here in such abundance that you had to be careful walking on the woodland paths to avoid stepping on them. We encountered several "freaks" with four leaves and even six leaves. I have seen this species at several locations in north Florida and southwestern Georgia, but Dan's largest ones are bigger than any I had seen elsewhere.

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Dan Miller (left) meets
Bot Soccers at his home
Photo: Charles Hunter

President's Perspective



BotSoc News

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I spent the last weekend visiting bogs in South Georgia as part of Tom Patrick's field trips. I was really inspired to see what different landowners are doing to conserve and restore these important habitats. It got me reflecting on the positive feedback loop between conservationists like BotSoc members and landowners. Enthusiastic interest by BotSocers promotes pride in ownership for the landowners, who become encouraged to learn more about the special plants and habitats they own, which promotes more active management to conserve and restore the habitats, which gets the attention of organizations who can provide technical assistance (and sometimes financial assistance as well), which increases the interest of conservationists and provides more environmental successes to celebrate, which gets the attention of other landowners, etc. The successes also encourage landowners to consider permanent protections such as perpetual conservation easements, as has been started at Canoochee Bogs.

Dixie bog, also known as the Easter Plantation, is in Brooks County. It has an extensive mosaic of bogs with pitcher plants, butterworts and dew threads. I first heard about Dixie bog when I was organizing the 2016 Wildflower Pilgrimage in Valdosta. Tom said he had been to the site about a decade ago but it had changed ownership several times. After some sleuthing, he located the current owners, who are extremely supportive of BotSoc field trips and who are doing a fantastic job of conserving and improving the bogs. It is two years since I first visited the site and saw dew threads for the first time. Since then the pitcher plants have expanded in range and increased in density – a joy to behold! The owners have been systematically mowing and burning (February to mid-April) to remove woody plants and keep the sites open. Late in the afternoon, the owners took us to a part of the property where only last year they discovered pitcher plants struggling to survive in an area overgrown with shrubs and small trees. As a first step to restoring the site, the owners have recently mowed the area and already the pitcher plants are responding to the increased light with vigorous growth. The owners will follow up with prescribed burning later.

We visited two bogs in Turner County. The first is a small bog where the property was donated to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) Foundation, with half the value donated by the previous landowner and half donated by local conservationists. The area is used for teaching purposes. As an ABAC student, I have been to the site for three labs – Herbaceous, Soils, and Fire Ecology. In one class we did a prescribed burn. In the soils lab, groups of students collected soil profiles on a transect from the sandy uplands to the drain at the bottom. They used augers to get a plug of soil about 4' deep. This is an excellent learning opportunity to see a cross section of the clay layer a couple of feet below the surface that creates the perched water table for the bog. Unfortunately, on this visit we saw signs of too much human impact on the site – one of the challenges of opening the site up to visitors.

The other bog was close to Ross Lake on the Riddle property. Ross Lake is geologically interesting. It is a huge limesink through Miocene Hawthorn formations. It drains fairly regularly and people sometimes camp in the dry lake bottom. Dogwoods enjoy the limestone soils and act as calcium pumps to pull

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President's Perspective (cont'd)

calcium from deep in the soils to the surface. Leaves are not very flammable because of high calcium content and this makes dogwoods somewhat resistant to damage by fire. This was the first time BotSoc has visited the bog. When the current owner purchased the property in 2006, he found a few small patches of pitcher plants surviving among woody thickets. After an aggressive program of prescribed burns, the pitcher plants have responded vigorously and are thriving. This was another example of a landowner committed to conservation of valued habitat and willing to let others like BotSoc visit the site.

BotSoc members can play a valuable role in sharing information about interesting sites and interested landowners. This expands options for future field trips, helps locate plants and habitats of special interest, and promotes conservation awareness and practices. This information can also be shared with the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance (GPCA), which documents, monitors, and protects threatened and endangered plants. On this field trip, participants shared information about bogs they know about on other properties. Tom is interested in following up on these leads to visit new sites. In preparation for the Valdosta Pilgrimage in 2016, Tom explored another site in Berrien County and found three species of pitcher plants in an area where there was no history of burning or mowing. The landowner attended Tom's field trip and was very interested in learning about their important bog habitat. We plan to contact them again and see if they would be willing to start burning the site in order to restore the bog habitat.

This discussion also leads me to the upcoming annual meeting. After the meeting, Lisa Kruse will be giving us an update on the process of permanent protection for Canoochee Bogs and the practices they are using to restore the bog habitat. Because Canoochee is dear to our hearts, BotSoc has contributed towards securing a permanent conservation easement on part of the property. Much of the funds we used came directly from member donations to the Conservation Fund. Your donations make a difference.

Heather Brasell

Hooded pitcher plant (*Sarracenia minor*)

Photo: Mike Christison



Early Trilliums and Trout Lilies (cont'd)

While the main attractions here were the indigenous *Trillium underwoodii*, Dan has introduced a couple of other trillium species that are native to north Florida, which he planted near the house. Deceptive trillium (*Trillium decipiens*), also known as Chattahoochee trillium as it grows along the Chattahoochee River in southwest Georgia, has mottled leaves that are virtually identical to those of *Trillium underwoodii*, but the plant is much taller with a long stem, and the flower petals are often a lighter “bronzy” color, as opposed to the deeper maroon of most of the Underwood’s trillium. Dan also has a nice green flowered one. The other introduced trillium is the small southern form of lance-leaved trillium (*Trillium lancifolium*), which is found wild near the town of Chattahoochee, Florida. These very attractive small plants have elongated leaves and lighter colored flowers, almost a tan or yellow. Lance-leaved trillium grows in scattered isolated populations in Alabama and Georgia, including northern Georgia, but the more northerly ones are much larger plants with the darker maroon flowers that are typical of most sessile trillium.

Dan has also planted deciduous azalea species native to his state, including Florida azalea (*Rhododendron austrinum*) and Piedmont azalea (*Rhododendron canescens*), the latter growing wild well south of the Piedmont and which were starting to bloom when we were there. He also has introduced other coastal plain native plants to his property, including some of the trout lilies that we were going to see later in the day.

This part of the lower coastal plain has its own special invasives, and one of the worst is the very attractive coral ardisia (*Ardisia crenata*) with evergreen leaves and large red berries. Originally brought to Florida as a landscape plant, this small Asian shrub has escaped into the wild and is commonly seen in thick stands in the local woodland, taking over and choking out native species. Dan has put a lot of effort into eliminating it from his property, which has really helped the trillium and other native species there. You can tell where his property line is by the ardisia that are growing unchecked beyond it. He waits until the trillium and other spring perennials go dormant, then cuts the ardisia and applies an herbicide, but it is an ongoing challenge needing repeated treatments in subsequent years.

Dan, a retired chemist for the Florida State Crime Lab, has long had an interest in native plants of the lower south. Since his retirement from the State, he has operated Trillium Gardens, although lately his nursery business deals mostly in native azalea and rhododendron species of the southeastern coastal plain.



Underwood's trillium (*T. underwoodii*)
with 6 leaves

Photo: Charles Hunter

Continued on next page

Early Trilliums and Trout Lilies (cont'd)

After lunch at the nearby Chicken Salad Chick, Dan led a caravan one county north to Grady County, Georgia where we spent the afternoon at Wolf Creek Trout Lily Preserve, a few miles west of the county seat of Cairo. Here, the stars of the show are thousands of dimpled trout lilies (*Erythronium umbilicatum*), which carpet large sections of the forest floor. In some areas you could see nothing but yellow blooms on the ground as far as you could see. This area is reputed to be the largest single population of these trout lilies and is at the southern extent of the species' natural range. You have to see this to believe it.

A number of years ago Dan and others were instrumental in raising funds to purchase this 140-acre tract, saving it from development that undoubtedly would have decimated this colony of plants. Now owned by Grady County, the preserve is entirely run and staffed by enthusiastic local volunteers, who appear to have done a great job eliminating the invasives as well as marking and maintaining the trails.

While this is a trout lily preserve, protected here also are spotted trillium (*Trillium maculatum*) which grows in with the trout lilies. This very attractive coastal plain species can be identified by its clear maroon (rarely yellow or bicolored) flower petals held straight upward from the three leaves, each flower petal being clearly spatulate (spoon-shaped or wider at the top than at the base). We even found a four-leafed one.

New here since my last visit were signs with color pictures pointing out other plants along the trails. This made it easy to see the usually hard-to-spot small southern tway-blade orchid (*Neottia bifolia*, formerly called *Listera australis*). Growing on a tree leaning over Wolf Creek was a conspicuous epiphytic green-fly orchid (*Epidendrum magnoliae*, formerly called *Epidendrum conopseum*), but too early to see it flower, as its blooming begins in late spring. We also saw several needle palms (still called *Rhapidophyllum hystrix*), one of the most cold hardy native palms, which can grow to about 6 feet. Dan said that both Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) and green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*) grow here, but we were too early to see them.

The lilies grow almost to the west bank of Wolf Creek, but interestingly none at all grow in the protected area east of the creek. The preserve extends to the south right-of-way of U.S. 84 (the large four lane that connects Cairo to Bainbridge), but none are found in the unprotected wooded area just north of the highway.

This is a field trip likely to be repeated in future years, so if you like to see a LOT of early blooms, it is worth the trip to the Georgia-Florida line.

Underwood's trillium (*T. underwoodii*) covering
the forest floor

Photo: Charles Hunter



Annual Meeting—Save the Date!



Please plan on attending the Georgia Botanical Society's Annual Meeting in August. This is your opportunity to learn more about BotSoc activities, meet old friends and make new ones, and get an update on the Canoochee Bogs conservation program.

When: Saturday, August 11, 2018, 10:00 AM.

Where: GA Forestry Commission Headquarters Auditorium, 5645 Riggins Mill Rd, Dry Branch GA 31020. Note: This is the same location as last year. There is an excellent map online at: <http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/about-us/directions/GFCDirections.pdf>

Please bring a bag lunch, and we'll eat together at noon or sooner.

After lunch, Lisa Kruse from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources will give us an update on plans to protect Canoochee Bogs and strategies they are using to restore and conserve bog areas.

Herbarium Specimens Destroyed

Thanks to Jerry Hightower for sharing an article from the *Sydney Morning Herald* concerning the tragic destruction last year in Australia of irreplaceable plant specimens on loan from the Jardin des Plantes in Paris.

The 200-year-old specimens of Australian plants, including 6 type specimens, were requested by a botanist at the Queensland Herbarium in Australia. They were mailed to him by the Jardin and arrived in Australia in January 2017. However, the package did not include a quarantine form required by Australian Customs. Staff at the Jardin des Plantes sent the form once they were notified that it was missing, but by the time it was received in Australia in March, the specimens had been destroyed by a contractor for the Australian Department of Agriculture.

The full story is available at:

<https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/would-you-burn-the-mona-lisa-if-it-was-sent-our-horror-bureaucratic-bungle-20180213-h0w0w3.html>

Leading a Field Trip in July or August?

Thanks so much for agreeing to share your time and knowledge. Field trips are publicized through the BotSoc website, email, and the newsletter, and for some of our members, the newsletter is their primary source of information. In order to ensure that your trip is included in the July newsletter, please send the trip description to Jackie Miller (millchamga@gmail.com), as well as to Field Trip Chair Mike Christison, no later than **JUNE 7**.

Scull Shoals Mushroom Walk

By Bretta Perkins

On Saturday, March 17, 2018, Elliott Horner and Bill Sheehan led a joint hike of the Georgia Mushroom Club and Georgia Botanical Society near Scull Shoals, Oconee National Forest, Greene County. Tom Patrick, Bretta Perkins, Andy Patrick and Evan Patrick represented the BotSoc, and there were about 8 mushroom club hikers.

The woods surrounding the historical site appeared to have been control burned the previous day. The rain ended before 10 AM and the weather became a perfect early spring St. Patrick's Day.

After a look at the ruins of this early Georgia fort and town, we drove to nearby woods outside the historical area and burned area, and spread out to look for fungi and wildflowers. Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), Carolina jasmine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), and common blue violet (*Viola sororia*) were in bloom with common toadshade (*Trillium cuneatum*) and mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) mostly in bud. Fungi included turkey tail, false turkey tail, urn ascomycete (*Urnula*), black-footed polypore, and *Pluteus* (a common winter mushroom on decaying logs, with cap tan and spores pink). Morels were not to be seen.

We walked back towards the historic area and found the remains of two large chimneys in a black walnut and honey locust grove. We returned to the historical site ruins and found in full bloom on the bank of the Oconee River, the botanical find of the day, *Corydalis flavula* (common names include yellow fumewort, yellow harlequin and yellow corydalis) among large old Osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*) trees.

The next joint hike for mushrooms and wildflowers will be in November at Lake Winfield Scott.



Corydalis flavula
Photo: Alan Cressler

Upcoming Field Trips

<p>May 4-6 Friday through Sunday</p>	<p>Georgia BotSoc 2018 Wildflower Pilgrimage Thomaston, GA</p>	<p>Registration deadline was April 5. Please see the Pilgrimage brochure for details of individual trips.</p>	
<p>May 12 Saturday 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Gordonia-Altamaha State Park, Tattnell County</p> <p>On a powerline right of way, there is a large population of sweet pitcher plant (<i>Sarracenia rubra</i>). This is a state protected species that is being monitored by GPCA and managed by burning and hand clearing. Other species of interest are a newly discovered bigleaf witch hazel (<i>Hamamelis ovata</i>). We will also look for Ashe's calamint (<i>Calamintha ashei</i>) and Ohoopie bumelia (<i>Sideroxylon macrocarpum</i>). The park has a very nice woodland trail through coastal plain wetland forest that we will explore.</p> <p>Anyone interested in staying overnight should consider the cabins and campsites on the park. For information contact Park Manager Al Alford, 912-557-7744, or go to www.gastateparks.org.</p>	<p>Location: Meet at the state park office just beyond the entrance kiosk on the right. From Atlanta/Athens, go east on I-16 to exit 90, US Hwy 1. Go south through Oak Park to Lyons, then take US Hwy 280 south. As you come into Reidsville, Hwy 280 becomes Brazell St. Just after you enter the outskirts of Reidsville, you will see the park entrance on your left. From Savannah, take US Hwy 280 west to Reidsville. Entrance to park will be on your right, just past intersection with GA Hwy 121.</p> <p>Facilities: The park has nice restrooms in several locations.</p> <p>Difficulty: We will be walking on a golf cart path to the pitcher plant bog area. Other trails are dirt and can be wet.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch to eat in picnic area. There is a \$5 parking fee per vehicle if you do not have a state park pass. Wear boots and long pants for brushy, brambly habitat with ticks, and bring tick and mosquito repellent.</p>	<p>Martha Joiner marthajoiner41@gmail.com 912-481-1623</p>
<p>May 20 Sunday 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM</p>	<p>Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, East Palisades Unit</p> <p>We will travel down Indian Ridge Trail to Charlie's Trapping Creek, across the floodplain, and then up to the summit of Overlook Ridge along the Salamander Creek Trail. After enjoying the grand view above Devil's Race Course Shoals, we will take Cabin Creek Trail north to Mountain Heath Creek and the Bamboo Grove. We will return to Indian Ridge along the south fork of the Cabin Creek Trail. We will travel above rock cliffs, past Civil War gun emplacements, through mature oak-hickory forest, mesic ravine forest, and floodplain forest. Our hike will take us over and past extraordinary rock outcrops and formations influenced by the Brevard Fault, which runs through the Unit. This is a special opportunity to explore the East Palisades from the south to the north and back.</p> <p>This trip is limited to 30 participants. To register, please contact Jerry Hightower at 770-206-0338 or jerryhightower.chat@gmail.com.</p>	<p>Directions: Meet at the bulletin board in the Indian Trail parking area and trailhead, 1425 Indian Trail NW, Atlanta GA 30327. Going south on Northside Drive, Indian Trail is the fourth street on the right and goes directly into the park.</p> <p>Facilities: None</p> <p>Difficulty: Moderately strenuous. There are several steep ascents and descents, but the pace will be very leisurely.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch to eat in the forest, water, binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera. A daily \$5 entrance fee or \$40 annual pass is required.</p>	<p>Jerry Hightower jerryhightower.chat@gmail.com 770-206-0338</p>



Upcoming Field Trips

<p>May 26 Saturday 9:30 AM (Note early start time)</p>	<p>Roadside Botanizing: Cohutta Mountains</p> <p>We will drive along 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 trilliums, 4-leaved milkweed (<i>Asclepias quadrifolia</i>), wild geranium (<i>Geranium maculatum</i>), Solomon's seal (<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>), lily-of-the-valley (<i>Convallaria majuscula</i>), wood betony (<i>Pedicularis canadensis</i>), fire pink (<i>Silene virginica</i>), and much more. Some years the Indian pink (<i>Spigelia marilandica</i>) is been very nice and occasionally we come across yellow ladyslippers. We will stop for lunch somewhere along the road.</p>	<p>Directions: Meet at the Pinhoti Trail parking area on FS 90. Take I-575/ GA 515 north to East Ellijay and take GA 52 west (toward Fort Mountain/ Chatsworth). Stay on HWY 52 through the square in Ellijay. Approximately 5 miles 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). After approximately 0.9 mi do not turn left at WMA sign for Pinhoti Trail. Continue past this sign another 0.1 mi to Pinhoti Trail Parking on the right on FS90. Carpooling is encouraged to minimize our parking footprint on the narrow unpaved roads.</p> <p>Facilities: None.</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy, probably all within 500 feet of cars.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch, water, bug spray.</p>	<p>Rich Reaves rich.reaves @att.net 770-827-5186</p> <p>Hal Massie massiefarm @aol.com 478-957-6095</p>
<p>May 27 Sunday 9:30 AM (Note early start time)</p>	<p>Grassy Mountain, Cohuttas</p> <p>We will walk an old road bed up to the fire tower on Grassy Mountain. In past years we have seen small yellow lady's-slippers (<i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i> var. <i>parviflorum</i>) beside the trail on the way up. Banks of <i>Phacelia</i> grace another portion of the trail. American lily-of-the-valley (<i>Convallaria pseudomajalis</i>), puttyroot (<i>Aplectrum hyemale</i>), horse-gentian (<i>Triosteum perfoliatum</i>), and up to six species of trillium were recorded on previous trips. Time permitting, and bodies willing, we might make an optional short, but steep, off-trail hike from Grassy Mountain tower to observe the state endangered starflower (<i>Trientalis borealis</i>) and other cove species.</p>	<p>Directions: Meet at 9:30 AM where Forest Service Road 49 dead-ends at a gate. Allow about 1 hour from Chatsworth or Ellijay to reach Grassy Mountain.</p> <p>From Chatsworth: US 411 north to Eton. Turn right at light onto CCC Camp Road (Holly Creek Rd) to FS Rd 68 toward Conasauga Lake. At the next intersection, Potatopatch Mountain, turn left, staying on FS 68, then left on FS Rd 49. Park at end of road.</p> <p>From Ellijay: Take GA 52 west approximately 5 miles to Gates Chapel Rd. Turn right and follow FS Rd 90 to FS Rd 68 at Holly Creek Gap, turn right and stay on FS 68. turning left at the next intersection, Potatopatch Mountain. Turn left on FS 49. Park near the gate where the road ends.</p> <p>Facilities: None.</p> <p>Difficulty: Mostly moderate. The optional off-trail hike from the tower is strenuous. Total distance is a bit over 2 miles.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch to eat at the tower, sturdy footwear, bug spray, water, and camera.</p>	<p>Hal Massie massiefarm @aol.com 478-957-6095</p> <p>Rich Reaves rich.reaves @att.net 770-827-5186</p>

The Georgia Botanical Society is on Facebook. Please follow us for fabulous plant photos, interesting taxonomic discussions, and BotSoc events.



Upcoming Field Trips

<p>May 28 Monday 9:30 AM (Note early start time)</p>	<p>Woody Gap, Appalachian Trail</p> <p>We will explore the Appalachian Trail in both directions from the Woody Gap parking area. We will start out going southwest along the trail for approximately 0.5-mile to a large wet rockface. This portion of the walk is primarily through mesic forest on an east-facing slope. After examining the plants on the rockface, we will continue a short distance into more xeric forest and note the change in plant community. Then we will return to the parking area for lunch around noon. After lunch we will proceed to the northeast toward Jacob's Knob. Our rate of travel will dictate how far we go, but folks can return to the parking area at any time if there is a need to leave early. The plan is to traverse approximately 1 mile (maybe a little more) before returning.</p>	<p>Directions: Head north from Dahlonega on US 19/ GA 60. At the "Y" (the rockpile) north of Dahlonega, turn left on GA 60 toward Suches (US 19 continues to the right). After a good climb, you will pass the Chestatee Overlook on the right side just after you pass the turn to the right for Dockery Lake – continue on GA 60. The Woody Gap parking area is at the top of the mountain, where the Appalachian Trail crosses the road. (You will see hiker crossing signs approximately 0.5 mile before the parking area.) Parking is on both sides, facilities are at the back of the right-side parking as you come up the mountain from Dahlonega. Be aware and watch for bicyclists, as this is a popular biking route.</p> <p>Facilities: Pit toilets at the meeting site.</p> <p>Difficulty: Moderate. Not steep, but the trail is quite rocky and footing can be uneven.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch to eat along the trail.</p>	<p>Rich Reaves rich.reaves@att.net 770-827-5186</p> <p>Hal Massie massiefarm@aol.com 478-957-6095</p>
<p>June 2 Saturday 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Palisades Canoe Float, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area</p> <p>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, 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. 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.</p> <p>Reservations are required. Please contact Jerry Hightower at 770-206-0338 or jerryhightower.chat@gmail.com.</p>	<p>Directions: Meet at Powers Island, 5862 Interstate North Parkway, Sandy Springs GA at 10:00 AM. For directions, see www.nps.gov/chat or call 678-538-1200. After unloading equipment, we will 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.</p> <p>Facilities: At Powers Island, our lunch stop, and at Paces Mill.</p> <p>Difficulty: Must have at least a beginner's level of river experience, Class 1.5.</p> <p>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. \$5.00 daily parking pass or annual parking pass needed.</p>	<p>Jerry Hightower jerry.hightower.chat@gmail.com 770-206-0338</p>



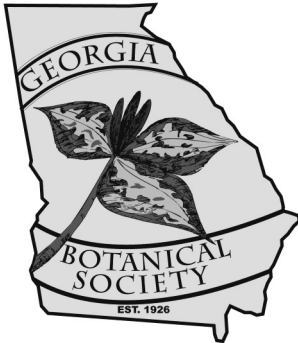
Name That Plant

Don't forget to check out BotSoc's monthly [Name That Plant](#) contest. Prizes are awarded to the first person to get all of the month's plants correct as well as to the person with the most correct answers for the year. Our thanks to Richard Ware for these brain teasers.

Upcoming Field Trips

<p>June 16 Saturday 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Rock Mountain Ramble, Towns County</p> <p>In the Fall of 2016 the Rock Mountain fire burned hundreds of acres in both the Chattahoochee and Nantahala Forests. Some areas were lightly scorched, other areas burned significantly. This Tate City ramble offers an opportunity to see how the forest is returning but is also a great time to search for early summer flora along the path to two lovely waterfalls, a 2 mile or so roundtrip. If time permits and folks are interested, we can also visit a third rarely seen waterfall on private property. Hydrangea and lousewort are 2 certainties, but we are sure to find other interesting plants and critters. Several species of salamanders are found in the streams and rock face of the waterfalls. Brook lettuce and saxifrage are also usually clinging to the rocky ledges at the sides of the wet rocks.</p> <p>Although registration is not a requirement, a courtesy RSVP will be appreciated so the trip leader knows to expect you.</p>	<p>Directions: From Clayton, GA, head west on Hwy 76 (towards Hiawassee) for approx. 8 miles. Turn right onto Persimmon Rd. and travel approximately 4 miles to Tallulah River Rd. Turn left and travel approx. 6.5 miles to Valley Community Church. Park along the lower gravel lot. Trip leader Eddi Minche will meet you there. Use extra caution driving the Tallulah River Rd., it turns to gravel after one mile where it becomes very narrow, curvy and is frequented by anglers, campers and slow-moving vehicles.</p> <p>Anyone coming from the west (Hiawassee) should use the directions above. DO NOT USE GPS. Google Maps and most GPS will send you on a route that starts out fine but ends up impassable for anything other than a Humvee or Jeep).</p> <p>Facilities: No facilities or cell service. Three Forest Service campgrounds along the last 6 miles offer restroom facilities.</p> <p>Bring: The paths are informal so long pants and socks are highly recommended due to ticks, poison ivy and briars. Insect repellent is highly recommended. One wet crossing to mid calf is possible, depending on recent rains, so wading shoes/sandals are another item to consider.</p>	<p>Eddi Minche eddm @gmail.com 678-313-2582</p>
<p>June 17 Sunday 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Chestatee River Canoe Float, Summer Flora</p> <p>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. This will be a very leisurely float with multiple investigative stops to fondle plants, terrorize turtles, and startle snakes.</p> <p>This trip is limited to 30 participants. To register, please contact Jerry Hightower at 770-206-0338 or jerryhightower.chat@gmail.com.</p>	<p>Directions: We will meet at the Appalachian 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 from 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. Please, no rafts.</p> <p>Facilities: Restrooms and changing rooms are available at Appalachian Outfitters Outpost.</p> <p>Difficulty: Must have at least a beginner's level of river experience. Class 1.5.</p> <p>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 waterproof container or bag for your valuables.</p>	<p>Jerry Hightower jerry.hightower.ch at@gmail.com 770-206-0338</p>



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