



## Spring Wildflowers and Plant Associations at Elachee Nature Center

By Maureen Donohue

On April 14 we started our day in the classroom with Tom Govus and Leslie Edwards explaining how the different forest grades in the Chicopee Woods that surround the Nature Center influence the plants that grow there. Tom presented colorful maps and charts to illustrate his points. Other influencing factors are the amount of moisture and mafic minerals (nutrients) in the soils, which determine if the soil is dry, semi-dry or wet, and whether it is acidic or has a more basic or neutral pH. There is much to consider when hunting for wildflowers and where and why you expect to find them.

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Southern nodding trillium  
(*T. rugelii*)  
Photo: Shirley Andrews

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## President's Perspective



### BotSoc News

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

### Submission deadline

August 1 for the September issue.

### Subscriptions

Included with membership.

### Website:

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

### Editorial Office

Jackie Miller  
Ellen Honeycutt

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When you join BotSoc or renew your membership, you can also donate to four funds: General Fund, *Tipularia*, Marie Mellinger Research, and Habitat Conservation. Over the last few months, several people have asked questions about these funds, so I'm using this opportunity to describe each fund. BotSoc is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, so donations are tax-deductible.

BotSoc encourages research, conservation, and education focusing on native flora throughout the state. BotSoc has been operated intentionally as a no-frills group of people who love plants. Our membership rates cover operating costs for basic services: field trips, newsletter, *Tipularia*, and website. We keep costs low because so many members donate their time in many different ways. We encourage members who have the means and commitment to contribute above basic membership level, directing their donations to specific BotSoc activities.

Donations to the *Tipularia* Fund help support publication of our exceptional magazine. The Fund is overseen by the *Tipularia* Editorial Committee, currently chaired by Richard and Teresa Ware. *Tipularia* began in 1986 and is published once a year. It is a full-color botanical journal documenting the interesting plants, locations and people in Georgia botany. Some of the writers are distinguished botanists and professors; some are long-standing amateurs with expert knowledge; some are students of southeastern botany. Because of the high quality of this publication, the Biodiversity Heritage Library asked us if they could add *Tipularia* to their online collection of literature related to global biodiversity. Issues of the journal will be available online after a two-year delay; newer issues of our beautiful magazine will be available exclusively to members. It will take some time for the digitization of past issues to be completed.

The Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Grant Program supports field-oriented research by investigators in Georgia. This includes students and faculty at colleges or universities, private consultants, government officials, and other qualified people interested in field botany. Interested researchers apply for this grant to the Marie Mellinger Research Committee, which selects recipients. This committee is currently chaired by Linda Chafin. You can help us with this program by sharing information about the grant and encouraging researchers to apply.

Many BotSoc members support conservation in Georgia as volunteers, botanical guardians, and members on many projects around the state. The most recent fund, Habitat Conservation, was added just a few years ago to provide funding support in addition to members' volunteer work. At this time, there is no committee designated with responsibility for these funds. The BotSoc board votes to provide funding support for conservation projects in Georgia. In 2016, the board voted to use funds from both the General Fund and the Habitat Conservation Fund to support DNR efforts to acquire a conservation easement to permanently protect Canoochee bog. This site had been designated as the Georgia site in most critical need for conservation. In 2017, additional funds from the Conservation Fund were used for the same purpose.

*Continued on next page*

## President's Perspective (cont'd)

Since 2014 BotSoc has also maintained an Education Fund. This fund is not listed on the membership form because it has been funded by proceeds from past pilgrimages. The Education Chair, currently Aliya Donnell Davenport, has discretion in developing educational programs and overseeing this fund. The fund has been used to provide scholarships for students attending the annual pilgrimage – registration, T-shirt, and banquet. You can help support this program by encouraging students you know to apply, or by sharing the information with college faculty to nominate students.

*Heather Brasell*

## Nominating Committee Recommendations

By Ed McDowell



**IMPORTANT**

In accordance with the bylaws of the Georgia Botanical Society, the nominating committee composed of Linda Chafin, Eddi Minche, Ed McDowell, Hal Massie, and Mike Christison, offer the following slate of officers to stand for election at the annual meeting of the Society and to serve during calendar years 2019 and 2020.

**President** – Hal Massie  
**Vice-President** – Bobby Hattaway  
**Secretary** – Karan Rawlins  
**Treasurer** – John French

Nominations from the floor will be accepted, provided the person nominated has verbally agreed to serve. Election will be conducted as outlined in the bylaws and the elected officers will assume their duties following their election.

Elected officers should become familiar with Article IV of the Bylaws (Officers) and, in particular, Section 7 (election of officers).

## In Memoriam—George Sanko

George Sanko, founder of the Georgia Perimeter College Botanical Garden and the Ferns of the World Garden, died on May 23 at age 86. Sanko was a professor of biology and botany at GPC, formerly known as DeKalb College. His achievements earned him an Award of Excellence from the National Garden Club.

He will be missed by family, friends, fellow botanists, and former students.



## Elachee Nature Center (cont'd)

We left the classroom and headed toward the Ed Dodd Trail, a 3/4 mile trail that leaves the Nature Center ridge and descends to the banks of Walnut Creek. We saw many familiar wildflowers including toadshade trillium (*Trillium cuneatum*), Catesby trillium (*T. catesbaei*) and the southern nodding trillium (*T. rugelii*), dwarf crested iris (*Iris cristata*), rue anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*), the scalloped leaves of bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) whose flowers had bloomed a month or more earlier, and bellwort (*Uvularia sp.*)

Looking upward, we did not neglect the trees and shrubs. These included painted buckeye (*Aesculus sylvatica*), devil's walking stick (*Aralia spinosa*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), southern red oak (*Q. falcata*), northern red oak (*Q. rubra*), shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*), eastern white pine (*P. strobus*), and loblolly pine (*P. taeda*), to name a few.

Our walking pace was slow, so there was time to ask questions and have discussions. One of us found a Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), and this led to a good discussion of how to distinguish between male and female jacks. Linda Chafin's book, *Field Guide to the Wildflowers of Georgia and Surrounding States*, discusses plants in the Arum family of which the Jack is the best known. The Arums have unusual flowers. The *Field Guide* states (page 363), "The flower is actually an inflorescence containing many flowers held on a column called a spadix. The female flowers are held at the base of the spadix; they are tiny green balls with a tuft of fuzzy stigmas. The male flowers are above the female flowers and open later to prevent self-pollination. Jack-in-the-pulpit plants may have female flowers or male flowers or both."

*Continued on next page*

*Phlox stolonifera*  
Photo: Shirley Andrews



## Elachee Nature Center (cont'd)

Shortly after the “Jacks” discussion, we found a garter snake near the banks of Walnut Creek. Everyone stopped to get a good look at the handsome snake. Nearby we saw a large patch of smallish blue flowers with five lobes on each flower. We all knew they were phlox, but which one? We shrugged as we looked at each other and then back at the flowers. Tom came to our rescue when he identified them as creeping phlox (*Phlox stolonifera*) due to their trailing properties. They spread via rhizomes.

This field trip was wonderful, and it gave each of us an opportunity to delve a little deeper into why we find certain wildflowers in certain spots. Many thanks to Leslie Edwards and Tom Govus for giving us a better understanding of the natural relationships between plants, soils and the nutrients available to the plants, their aspects, forest grades, and moisture requirements.

### **Resources:**

- Chafin, Linda G., *Field Guide to the Wildflowers of Georgia and Surrounding States* (2013).
- Edwards, Leslie, Jonathan Ambrose, and L. Katherine Kirkman, *The Natural Communities of Georgia* (2011).

Below: Carolina silverbell (*Halesia carolina*)

Photo: Shirley Andrews





**Additional Photos from Elachee Nature Center Trip**

Clockwise from upper left:

Toadshade trillium (*Trillium cuneatum*)

Eastern blue star (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*)

Yellow buckeye (*Aesculus flava*)

Photos: Shirley Andrews

## Annual Meeting



Please join us next month for the Georgia Botanical Society's Annual Meeting. This is your opportunity to learn more about BotSoc activities and to meet old friends and make new ones.

Bring a bag lunch and we'll eat together at noon or earlier. 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.

**WHEN:** Saturday, August 11, 2018, 10:00 AM.

**WHERE:** Georgia Forestry Commission Headquarters Auditorium, 5645 Riggins Mill Rd, Dry Branch GA 31020.

Note: This is the same location as last year. Take I-16 to Exit 6, then north on US 23 (Ocmulgee East Boulevard). Go right

on Joe Tamplin Industrial Boulevard, then right at the caution light onto Riggins Mill Road. The GFC is on the right. Use the second entrance, which is next to the guard shack.

There is an excellent map on the GFC website at:

<http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/about-us/directions/GFCDirections.pdf>

## Thank You!

Many thanks to Jo Anne and John Romfh for the delicious homemade cookies they provided to Wildflower Pilgrimage participants! Each participant received a bundle containing 2 cookies for each day of the Pilgrimage.

Many BotSocers enjoyed the cookies as a trailside snack. Tragically, some cookies did not survive long enough to make it to the trailhead, since the odor of chocolate chips was irresistible.



Photo: Ellen Honeycutt

## Donations

In the last year, the Georgia Botanical Society received the following **MEMORIAL OR HONORARY GIFTS**:

Lawrence & Katherine Coleman In memory of Tige Coleman  
 Elizabeth Fox In honor of my Tate City neighbors, Jennifer Ceska and Eddi Minche  
 Eleanor Lehner, In Honor of David Emory  
 Jane MacGregor In Memory of Mom  
 John and Jo Anne Romfh In Memory of Murray Gaskins

BotSoc welcomes our 2018 new **LIFE MEMBERS**:

Denise Hartline  
 Janet Ivaarie  
 John & Jo Anne Romfh  
 Janie Seglund

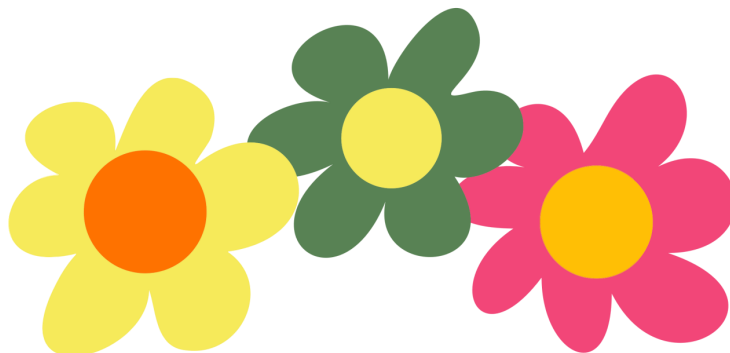
Our **DONOR MEMBERS** (donations of \$100 or more):

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 John and Jo Anne Romfh  
 Betty & Peter Vinten-Johansen  
 Patricia Warren  
 Sharon Worsham & David Dusenbery

Thank  
 You

We would also like to thank all the other members who supported **BOTSOC'S FUNDS**:

MMR Grant Annual Fund - 19 donations  
 Tipularia - 27 donations  
 General Fund - 16 donations  
 Habitat Conservation - 28 donations





## Legislative Update from GPCA

BotSoc President Heather Brasell recently attended the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance's spring planning session at the State Botanical Garden. During the meeting, Mincy Moffet from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources summarized two important legislative initiatives, the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act (GOSA) and the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA). Both acts involve redirection of existing public funds - not an additional tax - to support conservation.

At the state level, GOSA (HB 332) passed and was signed by the governor on May 7. The act allows voters to fund conservation programs using part of the existing sales and use tax on outdoor sporting goods. If Georgia voters approve the measure in the November election, up to 80% of the outdoor sporting goods taxes could be used for conservation, with an initial dedicated amount of approximately \$20 million annually, according to the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Coalition. The Coalition states that funds dedicated through GOSA would be used "to protect clean drinking water supplies and wildlife habitats, acquire and improve parks and trails, and protect and maintain wildlife management areas and state parks." Projects must be approved by the Department of Natural Resources and must be consistent with Georgia's established conservation goals. For more information on GOSA, please see [www.georgiaoutdoorstewardship.org](http://www.georgiaoutdoorstewardship.org).

At the federal level, Congress is considering RAWA. This act would divert \$1.3 billion of existing revenue to wildlife conservation programs. The money would come from existing energy and mineral fees on federal lands and waters and would be distributed to state fish and wildlife agencies for implementing their Wildlife Action Plans. Each state's Wildlife Action Plan identifies the state's at-risk species and the steps required for their protection and recovery.

### About GPCA

The Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance is a network of 40 Georgia organizations that are committed to conservation of native plants. In addition to the Georgia Botanical Society, GPCA members include institutions such as the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Native Plant Society, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, The Nature Conservancy of Georgia, and the Atlanta Botanical Garden. GPCA meets each year in late winter to prioritize projects for the growing season, and in the fall to share results and conduct educational symposia.



This funding will address the need for proactive conservation measures to protect more than 12,000 species and their habitats. For more information on RAWA, see <https://www.nwf.org/Our-Work/Wildlife-Conservation/Policy/Recovering-Americas-Wildlife-Act>.

## Upcoming Field Trips

<p>July 14 Saturday 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Oaky Woods Prairies, Houston County</b></p> <p>By early July the chalk prairies of Oaky Woods are ablaze with the drooping yellow ray flowers of the gray-headed coneflower, <i>Ratibida pinnatifida</i>. We will explore several prairies for unusual plants. Depending on summer heat, we will also explore limestone bluffs and cooler places. Afterwards, dinner at Yoder's in Montezuma and pastry shop visit.</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Meet at 10 AM at Flash Foods/Taco Bell in Bonaire, corner of GA Hwy 247 and 96. From Macon, take Exit 160A, Interstate 75, then south on GA Hwy 247, pass Robins Air Force Base, continue to Bonaire, junction with GA Hwy 96, about 5 miles south of Warner Robins.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> At the meeting site only. Participants are invited to nearby Yoder's Mennonite restaurant for dining afterwards and the bakery shop.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Easy to moderate, lasting all day, some bushwhacking, covering up to 3 miles, mostly in grassy habitat and along jeep trails.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Snacks, water, lunch, butterfly binoculars, notebook, hat, sunscreen. Wear long pants, hiking shoes for ankle support and double socks to avoid ticks and chiggers.</p>	<p>Tom Patrick tom.patrick@dnr.state.ga.us 706-476-4541</p>
<p>July 14 Saturday 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>West Fork of Montgomery Creek</b></p> <p>On this two-part trip, we will first wade upstream into Penitentiary Cove and then, 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 will be typical of the north Georgia mountains. It will be much cooler though, with your feet wet. Also, several interesting fungi have been seen here, such as the gelatinous stalked puffball.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> From the Holiday Inn Express in Dahlonega, turn right onto S. Chestatee St./US 19 N/GA 60/GA 249. Continue 0.8 miles.</p> <p>Turn slight right onto Public Square/US 19 Bus N/ GA 60 Bus/GA 52 Bus. Continue 0.1 mile.</p> <p>Turn left onto Grove St. N/US 19 Bus N/GA 60 Bus. Continue 2.2 miles.</p> <p>Turn left onto Camp Wahsega Rd. (sign to Camp Merrill). Continue 8.4 miles.</p> <p>At orange barricades, Mt. Zion Church will be on left, army post ahead, and Cooper's Gap Rd. to the right.</p> <p>Turn left, and meet at church parking lot.</p> <p>Coordinates: 34.5321, -83.9846</p>	<p>Elliott Horner elliott.horner@encee.org 678-249-8856</p>
<p>August 4 Saturday 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Sassafras Mountain, Lumpkin/Union Counties</b></p> <p>We'll hike the Appalachian Trail from Horse Gap to the top of Sassafras Mountain.</p> <p>If we've timed things right, we should see American bellflower (<i>Campanulastrum americanum</i>), stary campion (<i>Silene stellata</i>), the rare broadleaf tickseed (<i>Coreopsis latifolia</i>), and a couple dozen other wildflowers. There's also a rock outcrop with a nice view along the way.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> Meet at 10 AM at the Walmart in Dahlonega GA (270 Walmart Way, Dahlonega GA 30533). We will carpool from Walmart.</p> <p>From the intersection of US 19/GA 60 and GA 9/52 in Dahlonega, go north on GA 60 0.7 miles to the second traffic light and turn right.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> None.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Moderately strenuous. The trail has some steep stretches and total elevation gain will be around 600 feet. However, we will stop often and the trail is well maintained. Round trip is about one mile.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Lunch, sturdy footwear, raincoat, and plenty of water.</p>	<p>Jess Riddle jess.riddle@gmail.com 315-350-1179</p>
<p>August 11 Saturday 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>BotSoc Annual Meeting</b></p> <p>Georgia Forestry Commission, Dry Branch, GA.</p>	<p>Please see page 7 for details and directions.</p>	

## Upcoming Field Trips

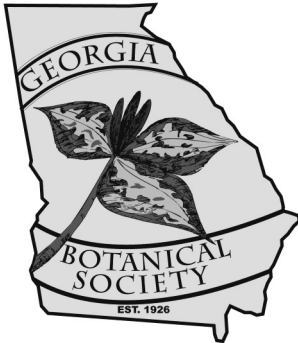
<p>September 8 Saturday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM</p>	<p><b>Sweetwater Creek</b></p> <p>We will explore Sweetwater Creek's diverse natural communities, including the park's rarely visited montane longleaf, prairies, dry and mesic forests, and the rocky, picturesque riparian streamside.</p> <p>Note: Watch for a more detailed description of this trip in the September BotSoc News.</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> The park is located at 1750 Mount Vernon Road, Lithia Springs, GA 30122. GPS coordinates are N 33.753783   W -084.639000. For a map, please see: <a href="https://gastateparks.org/SweetwaterCreek">https://gastateparks.org/SweetwaterCreek</a></p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> Available at Visitor Center.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Moderate to slightly strenuous in short stretches.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Hat, sunscreen, camera, bug spray as needed, and lunch to eat by the stream.</p>	<p>Leslie Edwards edwa1616@bellsouth.net</p>
<p>September 9 Sunday 10:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Lake Winfield Scott Fungal Foray</b></p> <p>This is an easy to moderate walk with some easy off-trail walking in and about Lake Winfield Scott National Recreation Area. We will be looking for fleshy mushrooms and any other fungi we come across, both large and small. Our emphasis will be on diversity and ecology. We have permission to collect one or two samples of what we find, which we will bring back to a central location, spread out, and review at the end. Fungi are the primary decay organisms that cycle plants back into plants. Other fungi – most of the mushrooms growing on the ground in the woods -- are critical enablers of plant nutrition through roots. With perhaps 4,000 species of fungi (not to mention slime molds) in the Georgia mountains, we'll have lots to work with! For botanists, come learn about "the rest of the story..."</p>	<p><b>Directions:</b> Meet at 10 AM at the trailhead. From Atlanta, take GA 400 north for about 60 miles, until it ends just south of Dahlonega. Turn left there onto GA Hwy 60 and take GA 60 toward and around Dahlonega. Continue for about 15 miles on Hwy 60, heading toward Suches through the National Forest. You will drive through Stone Pile Gap, bearing to the left at the pile of rocks to stay on GA 60. Continue uphill, crossing Woody Gap, then going downhill, passing Woody Lake on the right. Shortly after the lake, watch for GA Hwy 180 on the right (there is a service station/convenience store at that corner). Turn right on Hwy 180 and go for about 4.5 miles. Turn right into Lake Winfield Scott Recreation Area, stop to pay the \$5 entrance fee, then continue to the parking area above the lake. Park in the parking lot above the bath house and walk back downhill to the trailhead.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> At the convenience store and at the bathhouse on the lake near the meeting site.</p> <p><b>Difficulty:</b> Mostly easy to moderate, slow, poking about in the woods. Total distance about 1.5 miles, about 3 hours.</p> <p><b>Bring:</b> Lunch to eat when we review our "haul." Also bring \$5.00 per vehicle for entrance fee to Lake Winfield Scott (less with federal senior pass), sturdy shoes for walking, rain gear (you never know!), lunch, extra water. A hand lens and small basket would be useful.</p>	<p>Bill Sheehan bill@productpolicy.org 706-247-2500</p>

### Leading a Field Trip in September or October?

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 September newsletter, please send the trip description to Jackie Miller ([millchamga@gmail.com](mailto:millchamga@gmail.com)), as well as to Field Trip Chair Mike Christison, no later than **AUGUST 7**.



## Society Contacts



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