

BotSoc News



Georgia Botanical Society

Volume 93
Number 6
November
2018

Celebrate the Holidays with BotSoc

The 2018 Georgia Botanical Society Holiday Party will be held on Saturday, December 1 at the Newman Wetlands Center in Hampton (same location as last year). Join us for a day of friends, cheer, plant talk, and memories, beginning at 10 AM. We will have a potluck lunch, so bring your favorite dish, non-alcoholic drink, or dessert. After lunch, Rich Reaves will show us pictures from the BotSoc trip to West Texas and New Mexico that he led in October. New members are very welcome; this is a great opportunity to meet other members and to ask questions. What could be better than a festive day with a bunch of fellow plants-people?

The Wetlands Center is an educational facility operated by Clayton County Water Authority. It features wildlife exhibits and a honey bee observation hive. Outside, a half-mile boardwalk provides an opportunity to observe wading birds, woodpeckers, turtles, and a beaver lodge. You can find directions to the Newman Wetlands Center at:

http://www.ccwa.us/system/media_files/attachments/19/original/



BotSoc members enjoy a walk on the Newman Wetlands Center boardwalk at last year's holiday party. Photo: Ellen Honeycutt

IN THIS ISSUE:

*President's
Perspective
P2*

*Wildflower
Pilgrimage P3*

*Monarch
Monitoring P4*

*New Members
P6*

*Name That
Plant P6*

Pawpaws P7

*Foothills
Initiative P8*

*Upcoming
Field Trips
P9*

President's Perspective



BotSoc News

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

Submission deadline

December 1 for the January issue.

Subscriptions

Included with membership.

Website:

www.gabotsoc.org

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By the time you read this, we'll only have a couple more field trips and our holiday party left to cap off a very successful 2018. We managed 43 field trips to every corner of the state, a great Pilgrimage in Thomaston, and an annual meeting in Macon. Hopefully, 2019 will bring just as much adventure, great plants, and friendly people.

It seems like every winter I look at our field trip schedule and resolve to attend every trip I can possibly get to. Yet, it never seems to work out that way. It would probably help if I actually told my wife about that plan and sold her on it. Family events, weather, conflicting desires, even indecision contribute to my negligence. Thinking about having to drive through Atlanta to get to a North Georgia field trip is a major factor.

One of these years, I am going to make an attempt to attend every field trip on our list. I really am. It won't be possible, of course. Sometimes we have two trips on the same day. Higher priorities will fall on the same date. My wife will put her foot down. But...I am going to try.

Field trips are the heart and soul of our organization. Even our major annual event, the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, is built around field trips. A lot of knowledge and effort goes into organizing and leading those trips. I salute all of you who lead trips and work behind the scenes to make our field trips interesting and adventurous events. We truly have the best of two worlds – a large and varied quantity of trips, at a very high level of quality.

I hope to see all of you at the Holiday Party on Dec. 1. Bring a dish and tales of field trips past. Cookies and cakes are fine also. Just for the record, I am particularly fond of dark chocolate.

Hal Massie

2019 Wildflower Pilgrimage

By Bobby Hattaway, BotSoc Vice President



Pale yellow trillium (*Trillium discolor*)

Photo: Chris Upton via Wikimedia Commons

Planning is underway for the Georgia Botanical Society's 2019 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, to be held in Clayton, GA on April 12-14, 2019. We had our 2012 Pilgrimage there, but it was a couple of weeks later in the year.

About 10 field trips are already lined up with more on the way. Since it is earlier in the spring than the 2012 Pilgrimage, we are focusing on different plants at lower elevation sites than in 2012. As in 2012, we plan on involving Carrie Radcliffe and her husband Mike with the US Forest Service since they are knowledgeable locals and are primary ecological custodians in the region.

Swamp-pink (*Helonias bullata*), which was featured on the cover of the 2014 edition of *Tipularia*, will be a plant of interest. Though there is no guarantee it will be in bloom, our chosen weekend favors seeing it in bloom. We also hope to see the rare pale yellow trillium (*Trillium discolor*), which is endemic to the nearby Savannah River drainage.

For lodging, we have reserved blocks of rooms at two motels: 50 rooms at the Days Inn (our headquarters) and 20 rooms at America's Best Value Inn. The former is downtown and the latter is about a mile south at 698 Highway 441 South. America's Best Value was our secondary blocked-room motel in 2012. It is next to the Quality Inn & Suites Mt. Chalet, which we used in 2012. I don't know if the word "Chalet" made them more expensive or what, but they were over \$40 more than either of the motels we picked, so I gave up on them. Though separated by a mile, the two we chose are owned by the same person, and we got the best possible blocked room rates at \$59.55 + taxes. We will also be using the Clayton County Civic Center as before for both the Friday social and the Saturday banquet. The Center is half a mile from the primary motel, the Days Inn. More details on reserving rooms will be in the January newsletter along with a couple of other motel options. I looked into the beautiful Black Rock Mountain State Park for camping. The park is not far from town as the crow flies, but with the winding roads, it takes a while to get there and back.

Back to the Friday night social – we anticipate making two changes: 1) on Friday night – shortening registration time to 6 to 8:30 PM instead of 9PM; and 2) encouraging people who bring refreshments to focus on bringing food that more fits the hors d'oeuvres category instead of major food dishes.

A caterer for the banquet is already laid on and we will have some nice choices including those for vegetarians. The food fare alone is worth signing up for the pilgrimage.

Development of the 2019 Pilgrimage brochure is in progress, and it will contain more information, such as expanded field trip information and a registration form. In the meantime, feel free to contact Bobby Hattaway via email at botanikman@g-net.net with any questions.

The Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program: A New Citizen Science Opportunity

By Susan Meyers

Note: Susan Meyers is Co-Chair of the Monarchs Across Georgia Committee of the Environmental Education Alliance of Georgia, as well as a BotSoc member. In the September issue of BotSoc News, Susan discussed several projects that MAG is asking BotSoc members to assist with, including creating a list of nectar plants for each Georgia county, and designing sample monarch garden plans. This article discusses an additional project, participation in the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program.

The Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program (IMMP) was developed by the [Monarch Conservation Science Partnership](#) (MCSP), a consortium of scientists and conservation professionals who are collectively tackling monarch conservation research questions. It is a national initiative to monitor monarch populations and habitat throughout their breeding range. The IMMP uses a spatially-balanced sampling scheme and draws from existing citizen science programs to deliver a suite of protocols that capture many aspects of habitat quality, threats, and monarch use of that habitat. Data gathered through the IMMP will contribute to existing population and habitat models that inform broad scale monarch conservation!

Citizen scientists, land managers, and researchers are all vital to this effort as researchers alone cannot cover enough ground to capture the information that is needed. We need an all-hands-on-deck approach to conserving and monitoring monarchs. Data collected using these protocols provide a snapshot of monarch activity at a given place and time. Cumulatively, these snapshots form a comprehensive picture of monarch activity and habitat availability that can be used in many ways to inform local, regional, and national conservation efforts.



The IMMP protocol is divided into several activities:

- Site Description
- Milkweed and Blooming Plants Survey
- Monarch Eggs and Larvae Survey
- Adult Monarch Survey
- Tracking Parasitism and Monarch Survival

Continued on next page

Action Items

Monarchs Across Georgia is asking BotSoc members to help with the following:

- **Create a list of nectar plants actually used by monarch butterflies in the counties with which you are familiar.**
- **Design 1 or more sample monarch garden plans with layout and plant list.**
- **Register to participate in the Integrated Monarch Monitoring Program, which involves monthly observations of selected Georgia sites.**

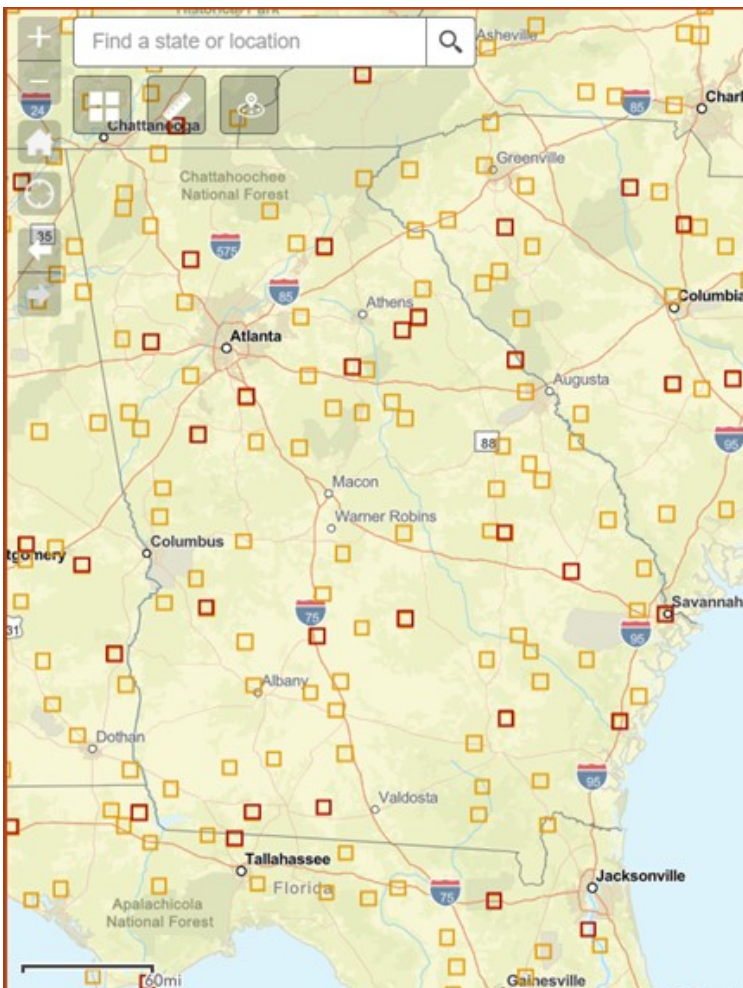
Integrated Monarch Monitoring (cont'd)

[Full descriptions](#) of these are available for review and download. Participants can choose which activities to do at a monitoring site, but they are meant to be conducted at the same site on a routine basis. The only required activity is the annual Site Description but contributing data from additional activities will enrich the research database.

The material in this protocol is rigorous; attending an IMMP training session prior to implementing this protocol is recommended. Contact Monarchs Across Georgia at mag@eealliance.org if you are interested in hosting a training session in your area. The estimated cost of the two-day training is \$50.00 per person which includes lunch each day and a monitoring kit (backpack, clipboard, hand lens, 100-meter measuring tape, sub-plot tool, binder of printed materials) but costs can be reduced by sharing kit materials with a team of monitors, brown-bagging your lunch, etc.

At the training, we will help you select a site, *ideally* one of the high-priority sites (see below) that will provide weighted data or [a site of your own](#). The available land types are Rights-of-way, Agriculture, Protected Grasslands, Unclassified Grasslands, and Developed. Currently protocols do not consider forested land.

Questions can be directed to mag@eealliance.org.



Priority Monarch Blocks

Each Priority Monarch Block is a 10X10 km square within which randomly assigned sampling points have been designated and are used to create monitoring plots. Georgia has 19 Priority Monarch Blocks that are in the top 1% in the nation (red squares) and over 50 more that are in the top 5% (orange squares). You can explore this map in depth at this [link](#).

Welcome New Members

The following new members joined the Botanical Society during August and September. Welcome aboard! We look forward to seeing you on field trips and the Wildflower Pilgrimage.

John Eadle
Morgan Fray
Jason Paul Joines

Marietta GA
Decatur GA
Athens GA

Jennifer Komder
Melanie Pollard
Bill Witherspoon

Tucker GA
Appling GA
Decatur GA

Name That Plant

Each month the **NAME THAT PLANT** contest appears on the Georgia Botanical Society's website, courtesy of Richard Ware. A prize is awarded to the first person to get all of the plants correct, as well as the person with the most correct answers for the year. You may use reference books or the Internet to help you identify the plants, and you must submit the scientific names before midnight on the last day of the month.

Below are the plants from the September contest, and the answers are on page 11 of this newsletter. For the current contest, please see http://www.gabotsoc.org/?page_id=289. Good luck!

Plant #1



Habitat: Savannas, pine flatwoods, seepages, other moist, nutrient-poor places. Aug-Oct.

Range: Se. VA and e. NC south to ne. FL and Panhandle FL, west to OK and TX, inland in c. TN.

Plant #2



Habitat: Sandhills, sandy fields, sandy roadsides. Jun-Oct.

Range: S. NC south to FL, and west to LA, north to w. TN; disjunct in DE and E MD.

Plant #3



Habitat: Forests, grassy balds. Late Aug-Oct.

Range: ME west to w. NY and s. ON, south to n. GA and sc. TN.

Pawpawpalooza

By Rona Cook

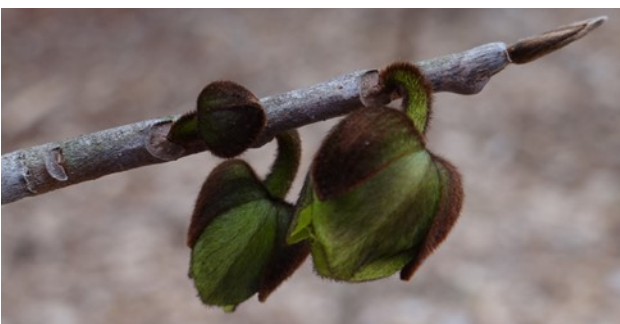
After years of searching for a ripe pawpaw, I finally got to taste delicious, orange pawpaw puree during Pawpawpalooza, held on September 1 at Night Song Native Plant Nursery in Canton GA. For me, it was a refreshing blend of apple and banana flavors. According to Bonner and Halls 1974, "Those with white flesh are barely edible, whereas others are larger and have a yellowish or orange flesh with a much better taste."¹ To get the best flavor, you have to know when to pick 'em and you can't eat 'em when they're green and rock hard. Wildlife often patrol pawpaw patches and get the best ripe fruit as they drop.

Leaves of the pawpaw are large, 6-18 cm long, deep green, alternate, and obovate. When crushed, the leaves are sometimes described as having the odor of green pepper.

My husband and I walked past a field of ironweed full of butterflies to the creek. Just past the waterfall was---yes---the pawpaw patch. Pawpaws prefer the moist lowlands near creeks and rivers. They are tolerant of shade and frequently form colonies. Although the USDA website lists nine species of *Asimina*, the two most common are *Asimina triloba* and *A. parviflora*. *A. triloba* is a tree form that is rarely more than 25 feet high and *A. parviflora* is a shrub form less than 10 feet high.

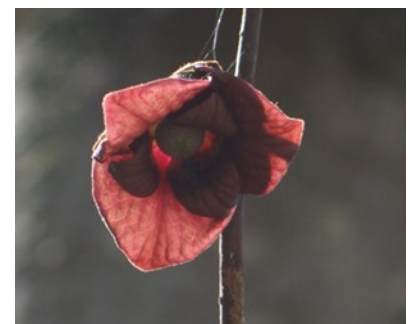
Pawpaws form small maroon flowers, less than 2 inches across, in March and early April. The flower is described as having a faint fetid odor of rotting meat so it makes sense that they are primarily pollinated by flies and beetles. This also explains the pictures I have seen with fish heads in pawpaw trees. Pawpaws are the host plant for the zebra swallowtail butterfly.

Continued on next page



Clockwise, from top left: Ripe pawpaw fruits; pawpaw leaves; pawpaw blossoms; and pawpaw buds.

Photos: Rona Cook



Pawpawpalooza (cont'd)

Night Song Native Plant Nursery (www.nightsongnatives.com) is only open to the public by appointment, for special events, or if the gate is open and they are working, people are welcome to stop in. In addition to pawpaws, they also have a great selection of other native plants. I am looking forward to another open house event in November.

¹ Bonner FT, Halls LK. 1974. Asimina, pawpaw. In: Schopmeyer CS, tech. coord. "Seeds of woody plants of the United States." *Agriculture Handbook* 450. Washington, DC: USDA Forest Service: 238–239.



Night Song owner, Katy Ross, bringing more pawpaw trees out of the screen house. Photo: Rona Cook

Foothills Landscape Initiative

The Foothills Landscape Project was initiated by the National Forest Service in October of 2017 to “maintain or restore biologic integrity, connectivity, resilience, and soil and water quality on the 143,419 acres of the Foothills Landscape.” The term “Foothills Landscape” refers to the portion of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests where the mountains transition to smaller hills covered with pine and hardwood forests. This large tract of land contains nearly 200 miles of trails and numerous recreation sites.

According to the Forest Service website, project activities may include road decommissioning, developed site management, fuel treatments, forest vegetation improvements, dispersed recreation management, species habitat improvements, trail management, road improvements or construction, and watershed improvements.

The official comment period on the scope of the Foothills Landscape Project ended in December 2017. During 2018 the Forest Service has been working on effects analysis and an environmental document and has also been holding workshops and meetings with stakeholders. You can find project documents and event announcements on the Foothills Landscape web page at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=52509&exp=detail>

Upcoming Field Trips

<p>November 10 Saturday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM</p>	<p>Canoochee Bog Work Day</p> <p>This is a pitcherplant habitat restoration work day as well as an opportunity for learning about herbaceous bog ecology and plants. The task will be to cut shrubs to increase pitcherplant habitat. You can't beat a (hopefully) cool November day for getting a lot of work done.</p> <p>We will work in a regularly burned bog and native longleaf pine sandhill with incredible floristic diversity. Canoochee Bogs are the one Georgia location for <i>Sarracenia purpurea</i> var. <i>venosa</i> (Coastal Plain purple pitcher plant). We'll also see <i>S. flava</i> (trumpet pitcher plant) and <i>S. minor</i> (hooded pitcher plant). Most of the fall wildflower show will be over, but the unique structures of autumn grasses and flower seed-heads couldn't be lovelier when fresh in November. We'll keep eyes open for seed-heads of state-protected <i>Balduina atropurpurea</i> (purple honeycomb head) and <i>Macranthera flammea</i> (hummingbird flower).</p> <p>We expect to work for 3-4 hours. We will have a short but rich botanical foray after the work party and expect to finish by 4 or 4:30 PM. Afterwards, for those who are able, we will continue in the bogging spirit by diving into delicious Harry's Barbeque nearby in the town of Hagen.</p> <p>Please email Lisa if you plan to attend.</p>	<p>Directions: Meet at 10:00 AM in the town of Bellville, Evans County, at the SW corner of the intersection of State Hwys. 292 and 169. There is a good parking lot here at a restored train depot.</p> <p>Note: Cabins and camping are available at Gordonia-Alatamaha State Park in Reidsville. THESE ARE POPULAR ON FALL WEEKENDS. Make reservations soon.</p> <p>Facilities: There are no facilities at the work party sites. Bernie's Grocery at the meeting location in Bellville has a basic restroom and snacks.</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy to moderate. We will be able to drive near to the bog edges. Total walking distance is about 1 mile. However there are no trails to access the pitcher plant habitats, so off-trail walking on uneven, moist terrain through 1-2 foot tall vegetation is required. There is a possibility for walking across shallow water or small streams.</p> <p>Bring: Work gloves, loppers, hand saw, and/or hand-pruners and/or loppers. Sun protection is critical, as well as lunch and water!</p>	<p>Lisa Kruse lisa.kruse @dnr.ga.gov 706-318-3287</p>
<p>November 11 Sunday 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Pine Mountain Trail, 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 Veterans Day. The site is a boggy springhead on the south side of Pine Mountain. Soapwort gentian (<i>Gentiana saponaria</i>) is another possibility for this wet area. We'll walk part of the Pine Mountain Trail, hopefully with colorful fall foliage and late wildflowers like southern harebell (<i>Campanula divaricata</i>) and clasping aster (<i>Symphotrichum patens</i>). We should see a couple of American chestnuts (<i>Castanea dentata</i>) on the way to the grass-of-Parnassus site.</p>	<p>Directions: Meet at 10:00 at Rocky Point Trailhead Parking Lot, FDR State Park. We will leave a few cars, then carpool to the Boottop Trail Parking Area. From the Atlanta area, take I-85 south 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 up the side of Pine Mountain. Just as you top the crest of Pine Mountain, you will see GA 190 and the western 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.</p> <p>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: There are no facilities at the western end of FDR State Park. Last facilities will be in Warm Springs.</p> <p>Difficulty: Moderate. We'll walk approximately 2.4 miles of the Pine Mountain Trail, with the grass-of-Parnassus site just past midway. The trail is rocky, but well-used and well maintained.</p> <p>Bring: Comfortable walking shoes, \$5.00 parking fee or annual pass, water, camera, binoculars to see features high in the trees, and a lunch to eat somewhere along the trail. You can probably leave the bug spray at home this time. Dress for the weather.</p>	<p>Hal Massie 478-550-1062 massiefarm @aol.com</p>

Upcoming Field Trips

<p>November 18 Sunday 9:00 AM Please note early start time.</p>	<p>Arabia Mountain—Fall Color and Hike</p> <p>Have you wanted to actually hike on a BotSoc field trip? Then this one is for you. We will explore various habitats within this 2,250 acre nature preserve in DeKalb County. There should be relatively little climbing, since the peak of Arabia Mountain is less than 1,000 feet in elevation. We will be on open rock part of the time and in the woods or along streams and lakes the rest of the time. There are even a couple of road walks. We will see a newly restored grassland at the Wilburn farm and a stretch of Georgia savory (<i>Clinopodium georgianum</i>) on the trail leading to it. Anyone wanting to see lichens will have plenty of opportunity to do so on this hike. Elf-orphine (<i>Diamorpha smallii</i>), though not in bloom at this time of year, abounds on the granite, as does Stone Mountain daisy (<i>Helianthus porteri</i>).</p>	<p>Directions: Meet at the Nature Center parking area at 3787 Klondike Road, Lithonia GA.</p> <p>Facilities: Toilets available at this parking lot and at two other places along our route.</p> <p>Difficulty: See description.</p> <p>Bring: Bring lunch and plenty of water. Wear hiking boots or whatever you usually wear for hiking. Poles are not necessary, although there is one water crossing. Come prepared to explore!</p>	<p>Jane Trentin janetrentin@yahoo.com 770-598-5291</p>
<p>November 23 Friday 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Providence Canyon in Autumn</p> <p>Providence Canyon is a famous Georgia landmark, consisting of a network of erosion gullies formed when agricultural practices, such as plowing up and down slopes, destroyed the hardened clay cap above the deep sand layers below. Although this sounds ugly, the exposed sandy layers come in all colors and at the bottom of the canyon are seeps lined with the red-orange, summer-blooming, plumleaf azalea (<i>Rhododendron prunifolium</i>). From the bottom of the canyon flows a creek with hardwood ravines reminiscent of coves in the mountains, while the crest of the canyon has drier habitats with typical sandhill species.</p> <p>This is billed as an after-Thanksgiving walk-off-all-that-extra-dessert kind of hike. So, instead of the usual sweltering summer hike, we will enjoy a longer and cooler fall hike and walk the perimeter trail and see areas of the park that are far from the maddening crowd. The loop trail is about 7 miles long and is officially rated strenuous.</p> <p>We will see fall foliage of a multitude of trees. There should still be plenty of fall asters and hopefully a <i>Gentiana saponaria</i> or two. In the past we have seen piedmont rhododendron and plumleaf azalea blooming out of season. Maybe someone that specializes in bryophytes and/or lichens will come and help us out.</p>	<p>Directions: Meet at the Visitor Center, Providence Canyon State Outdoor Recreation Area, 8930 Canyon Rd., Lumpkin, GA 31815. From US 27 in Lumpkin, take GA 37 Connector west for about 7.5 miles to the park's Visitor Center, pass the picnic area and look for access road to left.</p> <p>Facilities: At the Visitor Center.</p> <p>Difficulty: The loop trail is about 7 miles long and is officially rated strenuous.</p> <p>Bring: The canyon floors are prone to be wet or muddy, so wear appropriate footwear. Bring lunch (leftover turkey sandwiches) and Parkpass or \$5 parking fee.</p>	<p>Chris Inhulsen cinhulsen@yahoo.com 478-396-4941</p>



Providence Canyon State Outdoor Recreation Area
Photo courtesy GA Department of Natural Resources

Upcoming Field Trips

<p>November 25 Sunday 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Camp Thunder VPA Camp Thunder Voluntary Public Access Area is owned by the Boy Scouts of America, but jointly managed by the Scouts and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The VPA is 1,627 acres of rocky ridges, montane longleaf pine and steep bluffs above the Flint River. We probably won't see a lot of wildflowers this late in the season, but there may still be some fall foliage color and we will see old longleaf pines. One highlight of the trip will be a visit to the tallest waterfall on Pine Mountain, Moss Falls.</p>	<p>Directions: From Woodbury, take GA 74 5.7 miles to Thundering Springs Road. Turn right onto Thundering Springs Rd and follow it for 2.3 miles (you will pass a lake and the scout base on the right). The pavement will end just past the scout camp. Turn right at the top of a long hill at a gate. The kiosk is just inside the gate. From Thomaston, follow GA 74 west for 13 miles. Turn left onto Thundering Springs Rd. Go 2.3 miles to the dirt road and kiosk on the right.</p> <p>Facilities: None at the VPA.</p> <p>Difficulty: We will be walking from the top of the Pine Mountain Ridge, down to the Flint River. So, half of the walk will be moderate, but we have to climb back up eventually and that will be strenuous. Total distance will be just under 3 miles.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch to eat on the trail, hand lens, camera, and curiosity. Dress for the weather. We will be walking on gravel roads and rocky, sometimes faint, trails. Sturdy boots are recommended.</p>	<p>Hal Massie 478-550-1062 massiefarm@aol.com</p>
<p>December 1 Saturday 10:00 AM</p>	<p>BotSoc Holiday Party</p>	<p>Please see page 1 of this issue for location and details.</p>	

Name That Plant Answers

Here are the names of the plants pictured on page 6 of this issue. These plants were featured in the September 2018 online edition of "Name That Plant." Please see the BotSoc website for the current month's contest.

Eryngium integrifolium
(Blueflower eryngo)



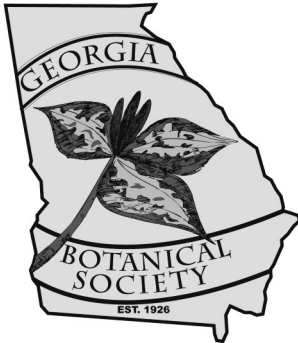
Froelichia floridana
(Snake cotton)



Gentianella quinquefolia
(Stiff gentian)



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