You are cordially invited to attend the Georgia Botanical Society’s 50th Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage April 12-14, 2019 to be headquartered in Clayton, GA with field trips nearby and in adjoining areas including the Carolinas. We had our 2012 Pilgrimage in Clayton. In 2019 some of the field trip sites will be the same, but this time we will be about three weeks earlier. This means we will focus more on lower elevation sites. The pilgrimage will consist of a Friday night social with light hors d’oeuvres, a Saturday banquet with a special program and more great food. And as usual, there will be our terrific field trips to some very special places located in the region.

Nestled in the extreme northeastern corner of Georgia, the 377 square miles of Rabun County comprise only 5% of our state’s part of the Blue Ridge Physiographic Province. Sixty percent of the county is in public lands under the management of the US Forest Service or the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. This beautiful mosaic of scenic valleys, high rugged mountains, clear streams, and lush forests is attractive year round, but offers a special floristic bounty each spring.

## PILGRIMAGE SCHEDULE

**FRIDAY, APRIL 12**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Field trips will meet at various times and places. Please consult the description for your particular trip.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 pm - 8:00 pm</td>
<td>Registration and social at The Diner, Rabun County Civic Center, located at 201 W. Savannah St., Clayton. <strong>Note:</strong> this event is only two hours.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SATURDAY, APRIL 13**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 am - 8:00 am</td>
<td>Early registration at the Days Inn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Morning and full day field trips assemble at the Days Inn parking area unless otherwise noted in field trip description.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Afternoon field trips assemble at their respective times and locations as described in each description.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Field trips return.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 pm - 9:30 pm</td>
<td>Banquet dinner and evening presentation at The Diner, Rabun County Civic Center, 201 W. Savannah St., Clayton.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Field trips assemble at the Days Inn parking area, unless otherwise noted in the descriptions for each field trip.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Background

Clayton is situated in the Blue Ridge Mountains of northeast Georgia where our state meets both Carolinas. The Sumter National Forest is to the east, the Nantahala National Forest is to the north, and the Chattahoochee National Forest is all around Clayton. Clayton is the county seat for Rabun County, founded in 1819 from land formerly inhabited by the Cherokee and named for Governor William Rabun.

As detailed later in this brochure, our main motel, Days Inn, is located one-half mile east of the Rabun County Civic Center – where our Friday and Saturday evening activities are centered. Our secondary motel, America’s Best Value Inn, is located less than a mile south on US 441/23.

A total of 25 field trips have been organized for the 2019 Clayton-centered event. We encourage you to review all of the material in the brochure, to choose those field trips of interest, and then submit your registration form. Be sure to include field trip numbers for 1st and 2nd choices for the field trips, as some trips may fill up prior to receiving your registration form. (Some trips have limits and you will be given your second choice if available when your first choice is full.)

Remember, motel reservations are separate from pilgrimage registration and must be made directly with the motel itself.

Some of the plants we might see:

Above: gaywings (*Polygaloides paucifolia*)

Above, top right: showy orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*)

Right: Edna’s trillium (*Trillium persistens*)

Drawing credit: JC Putnam from https://georgiawildlife.com
Pilgrimage Information

Location:

Arrangements have been made with two hotels in the city to provide blocks of rooms for members during the pilgrimage at reasonable rates. These hotels are the Days Inn and America’s Best Value Inn.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days Inn (&lt;$60)</th>
<th>America’s Best Value Inn (&lt;$60)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>54 Highway 441 North</td>
<td>698 Highway 441 South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clayton, GA 30525</td>
<td>Clayton, GA 30525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>706-782-4258 (at the motel)</td>
<td>706-782-4702</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We will use the Days Inn in Clayton as our pilgrimage headquarters because it is closer to the Civic Center. We encourage you to make your hotel reservations early, given the limited number of hotel rooms available in the city. There is no financial obligation for early registration and cancellations are permitted with notice, if your plans should change. Be sure to tell the reservations agent that you are a Georgia Botanical Society member attending the 2019 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage to get the best rate ($59.99 + tax). That rate will no longer be available after March 13, 2019.

There are also camping opportunities at Black Rock Mountain State Park (800) 864-7275 for those who may be interested in that option. Note that the park itself is seasonally closed until mid-March so use the 800 number for inquiries on reservations. Those who plan to stay there need to consider the distance, and especially driving time, from Clayton.

What to Bring:

As with all BotSoc field trips, please bring enough water for your whole trip, also lunch or snacks, as appropriate. Bug spray, camera, hand lens, binoculars, field guides, comfortable shoes, and sunscreen are suggested. A hiking pole is recommended for any trip rated as strenuous. You may also wish to bring a jacket or rain gear, depending on the weather.

Friday Evening Social

Please join us for the Friday Night Social that will be held on Friday, April 12th from 6 PM to 8 PM at The Diner in the Rabun County Civic Center which is located at 201 W. Savannah St. in Clayton. A registration table will be available to get your nametag, and registration materials and t-shirts that you may have ordered. No alcohol is allowed on the premises.

If you can bring hors d’oeuvres or soft drinks for the Friday social, please contact Bobby Hattaway (at botanikman@g-net.net or 912-481-3011) as there is no designated social chair for this pilgrimage. Speaking of hors d’oeuvres, think LIGHT (not main courses).
Saturday Evening Program

The Saturday Pilgrimage Banquet will be held at The Diner in the Rabun County Civic Center located at 201 W. Savannah St. in Clayton. A buffet dinner will be served with options for chicken, beef or vegetarian selections. The dinner will also include a salad, vegetables, rolls and a dessert. Tea (sweet & unsweet) and water will be served with the meal. Vegetarian fare will include Tossed (Garden) Salad with assorted dressings and Oriental Stir Fried Vegetables or Homemade Vegetable Marinara with Penne Pasta. NOTE: if you sign up for a non-veggie meal, you are expected to stick to that option and it will be annotated on your name tag. No last minute switcheroos, please!

The evening program will begin immediately after dinner with two presentations:

**Foothills Landscape Community Collaboration: The right work in the right places for the right reasons.**

The Foothills Landscape – 143,419 acres – stretches across the Chattahoochee National Forest and marks the area where the mountains are visibly reduced to foothills. The vision of this project is to create, restore and maintain ecosystems that are more resilient to natural disturbances. Specifically, the Forest Service is seeking to enhance and provide quality habitat for rare and declining species, as well as desired game and non-game species; to reduce hazardous fuel loading across the landscape to diminish damaging wildfires; to improve soil and water quality; to provide sustainable recreation and access opportunities; and to awaken and strengthen a connection to these lands for all people. The Chattahoochee National Forest has been facilitating meetings to draw on the knowledge and insights of partners and other stakeholders in order to plan the right work in the right places for the right reasons.

*Mike Brod is the Staff Officer for Fire and Natural Resources on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests in Georgia. Mike has 17 years of experience working in a variety of positions within the Southern Region of the USDA Forest Service. He provides leadership, oversight and administration of the Forests’ Fire and Natural Resource programs, which includes focus areas such as wildlife and fisheries habitats, rare plants, soil and water conditions, prescribed fire, wildfire, silviculture, and timber management. Mike is happily married with four children, and in his free-time, he enjoys hunting, exercising, and sauntering through the woods.*

**Mountain Bogs: Safeguarding Suites of Threatened Species in a Rare Habitat**

Atlanta Botanical Garden has been involved in the conservation of Southeastern wetlands and associated rare plant species for over three decades. This includes the conservation of mountain bogs and associated rare species. As a founding member of the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance, ABG has spearheaded propagation and cultivation of bog endemic plants *ex situ*, reintroduction of appropriate material *in situ*, and collaborative restoration and management of priority habitats with diverse partners. A centralized database documents these efforts, which have been viewed as a model of success for state, regional, and national groups.

*Carrie Radcliffe is the Restoration & Safeguarding Database Manager for the Atlanta Botanical Garden Conservation & Research Department. She also serves as the Mountain Bog Coordinator for the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance, as well as project lead for rare species at Tallulah Gorge and other habitats on public lands. Carrie coordinates Southeastern Partners in Plant Conservation, is currently a Co-chair for the Plant Conservation Community of the American Public Gardens Association, and is a Steering Committee member for the Southern Appalachian Bog Learning Network. Carrie works remotely in the North GA Mountains where she resides with her husband and children.*
BotSoc Pilgrimage T-shirts

We will have t-shirts and sweatshirts for sale once again, with a unique design for the 2019 Pilgrimage. All profits from the sales of the t-shirts are designated for the Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Grant Fund. This is a special “limited edition” shirt. Be sure to place your order with your registration. T-shirts are produced based on the orders received, only. If you want to receive your shirt prior to the Pilgrimage or will be unable to attend the Pilgrimage, there is a shipping charge of $5.00 for the first shirt and $1.50 for each additional. Prices, styles and sizes are shown below. Prices, styles, and sizes are as follows:

**Short sleeve** T-shirt (unisex)
- Color - Light blue or natural
- sizes S, M, L, XL are $17.00
- size XXL is $19.00
- size XXXL is $20.00

**Short sleeve** T-shirt (women’s)
- Color - Light blue or natural
- sizes S, M, L, XL are $18.00
- size XXL is $20.00
- size XXXL is $21.00

**Long sleeve** T-shirt (unisex only)
- Color - Light blue or natural
- sizes S, M, L, XL are $19.50
- size XXL is $21.50
- size XXXL is $22.50

**Long sleeve** Sweatshirt (unisex only)
- Color - Light blue or natural
- sizes S, M, L, XL are $20.00
- size XXL is $22.00
- size XXXL is $23.00

**General Information**

Pilgrimage packets will be available at the Friday night Social. The packet will contain name tags, a field trip schedule and other important information about the pilgrimage. Also, pick up your t-shirts then. If you are unable to attend the Social, the packets will be available on Saturday morning at the Days Inn before 8:00 am.

We encourage you to carpool as much as possible on all field trips. Some venues have limited parking spaces and may have other visitors. In addition, we always try to limit the number of cars we bring to sensitive locations. If you have made arrangements to go with different carpools for morning and afternoon trips, be sure you can get to the rendezvous spot in time for the afternoon trip. BotSoc cannot arrange shuttles, if you are stranded.

For Friday’s field trips, pay close attention to the start times and locations so that you arrive at the right place at the right time.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fri AM</th>
<th>Fri PM</th>
<th>Sat AM</th>
<th>Sat PM</th>
<th>Sun AM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Panther Creek</td>
<td>8. Davidson Creek</td>
<td>19. Tallulah Gorge SP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Beech Creek/CWCC</td>
<td>11. Station Cove Falls Trail</td>
<td>22. Cedar Creek</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15. Till Ridge Cove</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25. Lillian Smith Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16. Geology &amp; Natural Communities of Tallulah Gorge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17. Queen Mine Cove</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Field Trip Map

Note: all symbols for field trip locations are approximate.

1. Mulky Gap
2. Panther Creek
3. Camp Creek
4. Hemlock Falls
5. Beech Creek/Charles Wharton Conservation Center
6. Wolf Knob
7. Coweeta Hydrologic Lab
8. Davidson Creek
9. Beech Creek/Charles Wharton Conservation Center
10. Warwoman WMA Bog restoration & safeguarding site
11. Station Cove Falls Trail
12. Warwoman Dell
13. Hambidge Center Cove Trail
14. Till Ridge Cove (morning)
15. Till Ridge Cove (afternoon)
16. Geology & Natural Communities of Tallulah Gorge
17. Queen Mine Cove
18. Hambidge Center Cove Trail
19. Tallulah Gorge State Park
20. Beegum Gap
21. Tallulah Gorge SP (rare plant management site)
22. Cedar Creek
23. Warwoman Dell
24. Popcorn Overlook
25. Lillian Smith Center
### Trip 1: Mulky Gap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Friday full day, 9:15 am to 5 pm (Note: Limit is 25)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Meet the trip leader at the Blairsville Park and Ride @ 391 Blue Ridge Hwy Blairsville, GA 30512. It is located right below the McDonalds in town. We will caravan from there to the location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description:</td>
<td>This a 4 mile walk on an unmaintained old logging road. It is generally level, but there are usually blowdowns. There are also 3 water crossings via strategically placed rocks. To get up to the trail, we must cross the ATV abutment. To get back to the cars, we must descend a short steep hill from the Duncan Ridge Trail. We will see many lady slipper leaves, but it is a little early to see blooms. However we will gaze at Fraser magnolias and many very tall white pines as well as many other trees. We will be looking for early spring ephemerals, such as sweet Betsy trillium, trout lilies, violets, hepatica, little pink pigs, and little brown jugs. In May we saw showy orchis, so we may find leaves and a few starting blooms. There will be lots of Dutchman's pipe but no little pipe blooms plus downy rattlesnake plantain. This is an exploratory trip. We'll look at birds and bugs too if we meet any.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leader:</td>
<td>Dan Rawlins 770-979-3763</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Trip 2: Panther Creek

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Friday full day, 8 am to 5 pm (Note: Limit is 25 and carpooling is recommended)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Meet the trip leader at the Days Inn parking lot (contact the trip leader in advance if you prefer to meet at the trailhead but parking there is very limited).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description:</td>
<td>An exploration of a mesic Piedmont forest with complex bedrock geology, including mica schist, amphibolite, metagraywacke. We will walk downstream to a 60-foot cascading waterfall. Along the way we pass through hemlock-white pine forests and hardwood forests dominated by yellow poplar and oaks. Early flowering plants along the way include trailing arbutus (<em>Epigaea repens</em>) and gay wings (<em>Polygaloides paucifolia</em>), plus many more common wildflowers. Total distance to walk is about 7 mi. This hike is Moderate-Strenuous. Path is narrow in places along rock ledges that could be slippery; possibly some small tributary creek crossings The scenic waterfalls is at 3.5 mi. where we will eat lunch; then return along same trail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leader:</td>
<td>Tom Patrick 706-476-4541 (C)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Trip 3: Camp Creek

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Friday Half day, 1 pm to 5 pm (Note: Limit is 25 and carpooling is recommended)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Meet the trip leader at the Days Inn parking lot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description:</td>
<td>This mostly easy, two-mile-round-trip walk will take us down to the Chattooga River and along one of its tributaries. Spring will be in full swing at this low-elevation site. We should see at least half-a-dozen species of violets, sweet Betsy trillium, and lobed barren strawberry in bloom. We will also stop by the river and see 170-foot tall white pines, some of the tallest trees in Georgia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leader:</td>
<td>Jess Riddle 315-350-1179 (Pilgrimage Weekend only and coverage not guaranteed).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trip 4: Hemlock Falls at Moccasin Creek SP

Date: Friday Half day, 1 pm to 5 pm (Note: Limit is 20 and carpooling is recommended)
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Days Inn parking lot.

Description: This trip follows a trail beside Moccasin Creek to Hemlock Falls. The trail is lush with mountain shrubs like rhododendron, mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), and doghobble (*Leucothoe fontanesiana*) and groundcovers like Christmas fern, partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*), foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), ginger (*Heracleum*), and galax. We'll see other spring flowering plants like violets, trillium, Robin's plantain (*Erigeron pulchellus*), pussytoes (*Antennaria*) and more. The trail can be narrow at times and roots and rocks are present, so this hike is considered moderate but has no strenuous climbs; the in-and-out total trip is 2.4 miles.

Leader: Ellen Honeycutt 678-576-5667 (C)

Trip 5: Beech Creek/Charles Wharton CC

Date: Friday Half day, 1 pm to 5 pm (Note: Limit is 25 and carpooling is recommended)
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Days Inn parking lot.

Description: Though we can’t guarantee all will be in full flower, we should see at least four species of *Trillium* (*vaseyi, catesbaei, luteum, cuneatum*), sharp loped hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba*), showy orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*), dwarf crested iris (*Iris cristata*), Dutchman’s pipevine (*Aristolochia*), and numerous other flowering and/or interesting herbaceous and shrubby plants. Our trek will be primarily hiking on informal and unmaintained forest paths to visit the two lovely waterfalls on Denton Creek. From there, time permitting, we will do a short road side botanizing trip to visit the Charles C. Wharton Conservation Center and another very large and rarely visited waterfall.

Our trek will be on a rugged non-maintained wilderness trail. As such, expect uneven footing, water crossings, and fallen trees.

Leader: Eddi Minche eddmin@gmail.com or 678-313-2582

Trip 6: Wolf Knob

Date: Friday Half day, 1 pm to 5 pm (Note: Limit is 20)
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Days Inn parking lot.

Description: Short trip next to Patterson Gap out to Wolf Knob, focusing on lichens and plants; 300+ year-old trees present. Great views; Biltmore sedge; rock outcrops. Because of the focus on lichens, a hand lens is recommended. In addition, due to the terrain, hiking boots with lugs are also recommended.

Leader: Malcolm Hodges 770-776-9194

A hand lens (see right) and a macro camera lens are good for examining lichens and photographing them.
Trip 7: Coweeta Hydrologic Lab

Date: Saturday Full day, 8:45 am to 5 pm  (Note: Limit is 25)
Location: Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory, directions provided.

Description: We will be seeing many of the typical early spring wildflowers, including dimpled trout lilies, pink ladies' slippers, wood anemone, Catesby's and red trillium, showy orchis, and a variety of cardamines, perhaps also Fraser's sedge and rock harlequin. Some species may be before or after prime. Time allowing, we may also take a short hike out to see the Rock House cliffs and shelter. Much of the trip will be true roadside botanizing. We will, on occasion, leave the road and go overland for short distances, ranging up to several hundred yards, with minor amounts of scrambling over boulders or downed trees. I would rate the most extreme conditions moderate at the worst.

Directions: From Days Inn in Clayton, drive north on U.S. 441/U.S. 23. After crossing into North Carolina, drive 3.4 miles and turn left on to Coweeta Lab Road (you will see the lab's USFS sign, on the left, at the turn. Drive 3.0 miles to the entrance to the lab. At the fork in the road, go right. Just past the dorms, you will see a detour sign at a maintenance building on the left. Follow the detour to the left, past the motor pool building and across the stream. You will see the main building ahead on the left. We will be parking in the large parking lot behind and to the side of the main building.

Leader: Don Hunter  706-207-0013 (Coverage not guaranteed at the lab)

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Trip 8: Davidson Creek

Date: Saturday Full day, 8 am to 5 pm  (Note: Limit is 25 and carpooling is recommended)
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Days Inn parking lot.

Description: Davidson Creek follows the Brevard Fault and the combination of low elevation and carbonate bedrock (limestone/dolomite) creates habitat for several species rare or absent from surrounding areas on northeast Georgia. We should see common cove wildflowers like rue anemone, may-apple, and foam flower as well as less common ones like bishop's cap, and even bladdernut (a shrub). Trees will also be interesting with red bud in bloom, uncommon chinquapin oaks, and a huge butternut. We may also visit an old lime kiln. Most of this 2-mile walk will be easy, but there will be a moderately steep climb to get back to the vehicles (400 ft elevation gain). Getting to the best botanical areas will require fording a calf to knee deep stream with steep banks.

Leader: Jess Riddle  315-350-1179 (Pilgrimage Weekend only and coverage not guaranteed).

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Trip 9: Beech Creek/Charles Wharton CC

Date: Saturday Full day, 8 am to 3 pm  (Note: Limit is 20)
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Days Inn parking lot.

Description: The area, generally referred to as the Tallulah Basin is wild and lovely and provides one of the few easy entry points into the Southern Nantahala Wilderness. We should see at least four species of Trillium (vaseyi, catesbaei, luteum, cuneatum), sharp loped hepatica (Hepatica acutiloba), showy orchis (Galearis spectabilis), putty root (Aplectrum hyemale), pennywort (Obolaria virginica), horsetail (Equisetum), ramp (Allium tricoccum) dwarf crested iris (Iris cristata), Dutchman's pipevine (Aristolochia), mountain sweet-pepperbush or cinnamon clethra (Clethra acuminata), and numerous other flowering and/or interesting herbaceous and shrubby plants.

The surrounding forest and understory includes, yellow buckeye, silverbell, hemlock (sadly dying), yellow birch, and of course, beech. Besides the floral displays, there are waterfalls. We will hike approximately 4 miles on the Beech Creek Trail ending our trek with a visit to the 129-acre Charles C. Wharton Conservation Center (WCC) and a rarely seen 94-foot waterfall. At the WCC, we will meet with Center Directors to hear about plans to develop the center into a research and education center to honor the memory of Dr. Wharton. The trail is a rugged non-maintained wilderness trail. As such, expect uneven footing, water crossings, and fallen trees.

Leader: Eddi Minche eddmin@gmail.com or 678-313-2582
Trip 10: Warwoman WMA Bog

Date: Saturday Half day, 8 am to 12 pm  (Limit is 12)
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Days Inn parking lot.

Description: We will tour a restored bog that protects multiple rare plant species that have been successfully established in a cooperatively managed site on the Chattahoochee National Forest near Clayton. Swamp pink (*Helonias bullata*) may be in bloom, and we can see the many seedling recruits of this and Purple Mountain Pitcher Plant that have been taking hold as the site has been opened to enhance the habitat for the sun-loving bog denizens. Visitors will be required to sign and honor a secrecy agreement that protects the location of sensitive species and habitat (per Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance guidelines).

We will carpool and/or caravan to the site (~13 miles), travel a very short distance on foot along flat ground, but rubber boots are recommended for the bog itself.

Leader: Carrie Radcliffe (706-247-6866 (C) on Pilgrimage weekend only, cell service will be limited in the field.)

Trip 11: Station Cove Falls Trail

Date: Saturday Half day, 8 am to 12 pm  (Limit is 20 and carpooling will be encouraged)
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Days Inn parking lot.

Description: An exploration of a mesic Piedmont foothills forest within the Brevard Fault Zone with complex bedrock geology, including mica schist, amphibolite, metagraywacke. We will hike to Station Creek Falls from the historic Oconee Station. Many wildflowers here; special ones include sweet white trillium (*Trillium simile*), Canada violet (*Viola canadensis*) and acute-leaved hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba*). This is an easy walking trip of about 2 miles.

Leader: Tom Patrick (706-476-4541 (C)

Trip 12: Warwoman Dell

Date: Saturday Half day, 8 am to 12 pm  (Limit is 25 and carpooling will be encouraged)
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Days Inn parking lot.

Description: Short walk to a waterfall through rich woods. Expect to see Dolls Eye, Vasey's and Catesby's trillium, Jack-in-the-pulpit, foamflower, roundleaf violets and other violets. After the walk to the waterfall, we will likely stop along the gravel road as we leave to look at rosebay rhododendron and other roadside flowers. Walking is generally easy but includes some uneven terrain.

Leader: Richard Ware 706-232-3435, gabotany@comcast.net
Trip 13: Hambidge Center Cove Trail

**Date:** Saturday Half day, 8 am to 12 pm (Limited to 20 people and carpooling will be required)

**Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Days Inn parking lot.

**Description:** The Cove Trail has some of the best and most accessible wildflower displays in the mountains, including several trillium species, bellwort, putty root, showy orchis, meadow-parsnip, pink lady slipper, may-apple, and many more. The trail is easy but narrow so this hike is limited to 20 people. The Hambidge Center asks for a $5 donation from each hiker, which will be collected at the beginning of the hike.

**Leader:** Linda Chafin 706-548-1697 (mobile phone on Pilgrimage weekend only)

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Trip 14: Till Ridge Cove

**Date:** Saturday Half day, 8 am to 12 pm  (Limited to 20 people and carpooling will be required)

**Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Days Inn parking lot.

**Description:** Grassy Ridge Trail leads along a dry slope with Carolina rhododendron and culminates in Till Ridge Cove, famous for its huge population of large white trillium, as well as bloodroot, blue cohosh, doll’s eyes, yellow mandarin, Clinton’s beard lily, dwarf larkspur, tassel rue, and other Southern Blue Ridge delights. Depending on how early the spring is, we may catch the Cove at its peak. Moderate to easy walk about 1.5 to 2 miles, some steep uphill.

**Leader:** Rich Reaves 770-827-5186 (C), rich.reaves@att.net (no email during the pilgrimage)

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Trip 15: Till Ridge Cove

**Date:** Saturday Half day, 1 pm to 5 pm

**Location:** Meet at the Days Inn parking lot; a designated person will be there to meet you.

**Description:** See description from #14 above

**Leader:** Rich Reaves 770-827-5186 (C), rich.reaves@att.net (no email during the pilgrimage)

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Trip 16: Geology & Natural Communities of Tallulah Gorge

**Date:** Saturday Half day, 1 pm to 5 pm (Limit 15 people)

**Location:** Meet at the front entrance of the upper level of Tallulah Gorge State Park Visitor Center (338 Jane Hurt Yarn Rd, Tallulah Falls, GA 30573)

**Description:** Tallulah Gorge’s spectacular, deep and narrow gorge is carved into tough quartzite that supports excellent examples of cliff and pine-oak natural communities. We’ll discuss the geology of the gorge and how it formed while observing the plant communities and ecology. We will walk along the north rim, and descend the stairs to cross the river on the swinging bridge, then continue descending to a viewpoint near the base of Hurricane Falls. We will then ascend to the south rim to view Carolina hemlock and possibly persistent trillium. This is a moderate to difficult 1.5 mile loop, including 400 feet elevation change into and out of the gorge.

**Leaders:** Leslie Edwards  404-915-9944 (C) Pilgrimage weekend only; and Bill Witherspoon
Trip 17: Queen Mine Cove

Date: Saturday Half day, 1 pm to 5 pm (Limit is 20 and carpooling will be required)
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Days Inn parking lot.
Description: This is a beautiful moist mountain cove with quite interesting flora. This will be a moderate to moderately strenuous trip.
Leader: Steve Bowling 404-317-2817 (Pilgrimage weekend only; coverage may vary.)

Trip 18: Hambidge Center Cove Trail

Date: Sunday, Full day 8am to 12 pm (Limit is 20 and carpooling will be required)
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Days Inn parking lot.
Description: The Cove Trail has some of the best and most accessible wildflower displays in the mountains, including several trillium species, bellwort, putty root, showy orchis, meadow-parsnip, pink lady slipper, mayapple, and many more. The trail is easy but narrow. The Hambidge Center asks for a $5 donation from each hiker, which will be collected at the beginning of the hike.
Leader: Linda Chafin 706-548-1697 (C)
Pilgrimage weekend only

Fig. 201.

Podophyllum peltatum; with rhizome and fruit.

Mayapple (Podophyllum peltatum) This image is from King's American Dispensatory, 1898

Trip 19: Tallulah Gorge State Park

Date: Sunday, 8am to 12 pm (Limit is 20)
Location: Meet the trip leader at the Days Inn parking lot.
Description: The gorge and falls at this state park offer spectacular views and interesting wildflowers. Moderate to moderately strenuous. $5 fee or Annual State Parks pass required.
Leader: Steve Bowling 404-317-2817 (Pilgrimage weekend only; coverage may vary.)
**Trip 20: Beegum Gap**

**Date:** Sunday, 8am to 12 pm or longer  
**Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Days Inn parking lot.  
**Description:** We will walk up an old roadbed looking at flowers and end at a wet boulderfield where we will poke around and explore off-trail. Total distance is less than 1.5 mi. Moderate uphill walk along old deteriorated roadbed with a couple of small creek crossings.  
**Leader:** Rich Reaves 770-827-5186 (C), rich.reaves@att.net (no email during the pilgrimage)

**Trip 21: Tallulah Gorge SP rare plant site**

**Date:** Sunday, 8am to 12 pm (*Limit is 15 and carpooling is recommended*)  
**Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Days Inn parking lot.  
**Description:** We will tour the South Rim area of Tallulah Gorge to look at Carolina hemlock, persistent trillium, sweet pinesap, and gaywings (*The latter 2 may be past peak flowering at this time*). Peregrine Falcons are often visible creating or preparing to create their nest on cliffs across from this trail, where we could see them with scopes and binoculars. A description of monitoring, management, and research could be discussed in relation to persistent trillium, Eastern hemlock, and Carolina hemlock. This trip could be extended, with increased exertion, to include a walk down the stairs to the bottom of the gorge and river, passing the state champion Carolina hemlock near the bottom. Easy (difficult if extending trip down stairs as described above). We will carpool and/or caravan to the site (~12 miles), travel a very short distance on foot along flat ground, mulched trails, wooded, and rocky areas.  
**Leader:** Carrie Radcliffe (706-247-6866 – mobile phone on Pilgrimage weekend only, cell service will be limited in the field.)

**Trip 22: Cedar Creek**

**Date:** Sunday, 8am to 12 pm (*Limit is 20 and carpooling will be required*)  
**Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Days Inn parking lot. Will drive from parking lot to Camp Mikell and carpool from there.  
**Description:** An exploration of a mesic Piedmont forest with complex bedrock geology, including mica schist, amphibolite, metagraywacke. We will walk upstream to large vertical cliff face with unusual ferns, such as walking fern (*Asplenium rhizophyllum*) and Peter's filmy fern (*Didymoglossum petersii*). At least two wild gingers (*Hexastylis arifolia*, *Hexastylis heterophylla*) will be evident among the rhododendron and mountain laurel. The canopy is diverse with cucumbertree, Fraser magnolia, white basswood, beech, blackgum, oaks, hemlock and white pine. Sedges are conspicuous – some easily recognized as plantain-leaf sedge (*Carex plantaginea*), others obscure such as Tugaloo sedge (*Carex radfordii*), restricted to the Tugaloo Mosaic region. Possible side trips along the roadside to see pale yellow trillium (*Trillium discolor*).  
**Leader:** Tom Patrick 706-476-4541 (C)

Walking fern (*Asplenium rhizophyllum*)
**Trip 24: Popcorn Overlook**

**Date:** Sunday, 8 am to 12 pm  *(Limit is 20)*  
**Location:** Meet the trip leaders at the overlook on Highway 76W/Lookout Mountain Scenic Hwy as described below.  
**Description:** This trip will highlight the geology and ecology of Georgia’s best Appalachian serpentine woodland. The ultramafic rock here probably originated in Earth’s mantle beneath the ocean floor, and was thrust upon the continent during the origin of the Appalachians. The unusual soil chemistry, low in silicon and aluminum and rich in magnesium, calcium, iron, and nickel, greatly affects the plant life, creating a unique natural community. Pitch pines and stunted blackjack oaks grow above a dense, grassy groundcover strewn with gray-green boulders laced with lichen. Dry-site spring flowers, teaberry, ninebark, and rattlesnake master will be present in this rare habitat, as well. This is an easy to moderate hike, with some off-trail moments.  
**Directions:** From Main St. in Clayton, go west toward Hiawassee on U.S. 76/GA Hwy 2/Lookout Mountain Scenic Hwy ~12 miles. The overlook where we will meet is on the right.  
**Leaders:** Leslie Edwards 404-915-9944 (C) Pilgrimage weekend only; and Bill Witherspoon

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**Trip 25: Lillian Smith Center**

**Date:** Sunday, 8 am to 12 pm  *(Limit is 25)*  
**Location:** The large circular parking area at top of ridge at 496 Hershey Lane, Clayton, GA 30525. See Directions.  
**Description:** We will explore the grounds of the Lillian E. Smith Center, which includes a minimally traversed 100-acre tract on the west slope of Screamer Mountain in Rabun County. It is a low mountain slope mesic forest with elevations ranging between 2,000 and 2,600 feet. The slope is divided into several low ridges and wet coves which are rich with plant life, including trillium, orchids and who knows what else! The LES Center is in the process of developing a biological inventory, and it is our hope that participants in this foray can contribute their expertise to that mission. LES is also a great place to hear and sometimes view migrating neo-tropical migrant songbirds. The visit will also include a brief tour of the buildings and lodgings of Lillian Smith, a civil rights activist and highly-acclaimed author of *Strange Fruit* and *Killers of the Dream*.  
The hike will be short in distance but could be strenuous at times. We will be exploring coves and ridges with and without trails.  
**Directions:** The property is located approximately one mile east of Highway 441 off Route 76 in Clayton, Georgia. From Highway 76 make a left on Old Chechero Road and then a right onto Hershey Lane (there will be signs at both intersections). Follow Hersey Lane as it climbs the ridge to the Center’s main buildings. Be careful, the road gets narrow near the top.  
**Leader:** Tim Menzel 662-324-9039 (C) tmenzel@piedmont.edu
For all field trips, please note: Contact the trip leader if you plan to meet onsite instead of at the designated meeting place. Because of driving distance, some trips involve a combination of two sites. Be sure to check times and meeting locations before you register for trips.