



Tree ID, Piedmont Winter Workshop

Photos and text by Rona Cook

This is a report from the February 9th field trip/workshop led by Lisa Kruse at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center in Newton County, GA.

The first part of our workshop was in the classroom and focused on twig and branch characteristics, which were more easily viewed with the aid of a loupe. We looked at leaf buds, flower buds, bud scars, vascular bundle scars, terminal buds and false terminal buds.

Except for a brief, light drizzle, the weather was cool, overcast, and generally pleasant. We walked the trails just outside of the visitor center out to the point at Greenhouse Lake. The forest is mature Piedmont pine-oak forest recovered from agricultural fields.

So many characteristics of trees are easier to observe in the winter, such as seed pods from the previous year, twig diameter, and branch angles.

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Trip leader Lisa Kruse shows an identification point

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President's Perspective



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The first book I ever used to try and identify a plant using a dichotomous key was a little known volume called *The Mosses of Florida, An Illustrated Manual*, by Ruth Schornherst Breen. I was stationed on the Gulf Coast at Eglin Air Force Base and was going to school on the side. Somehow I managed to fall in with a couple of other students studying the moss flora of the Florida Gulf Coast. Those original keys with words like “vaginant lamina” and “costa percurrent” seemed intimidating and a bit alien.

A few years later (and after keying out hundreds of moss and liverwort species - including one new to science), I was finally taught how to use dichotomous keys in a plant taxonomy course. The book we used was the famed *Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas* by Albert E. Radford, Harry Ahles, and C. Ritchie Bell. I'm sure quite a few of you are familiar with this tome as it was the standard flora for much of the southeast for a long time. The keys didn't seem that bad, there were just a lot more of them.

For many years, not much changed. A couple of floras popped up in Florida with good keys. Georgia still seemed to get the short end of everything that came out. In 1989, B. Eugene Wofford published his excellent *Guide to the Vascular Plants of the Blue Ridge* - it was published by the University of Georgia Press and actually covered some Georgia counties. Progress!

Time dragged on, useful keys for most of Georgia didn't budge. Then I started hearing about somebody called 'Weakley' and how he was publishing a flora on the Internet and it was going to be free for everyone. Even better, it was going to cover the entire Southeastern United States. People started asking me, “Do you have Weakley?” The first version came out in 2005 and was titled *Flora of the Carolinas, Virginia, and Georgia* by Alan S. Weakley. The very next year '*and Surrounding Areas*' was added to the title. By 2010, it was *Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States*.

The current version of Weakley's flora, as it is more popularly referred to, came out in May of 2015, though a new update is imminent. However, there are now state versions of the flora (you have to ask for them) and they are updated to 2017. I use Flora of Georgia, working draft of 17 May 2017, far more than I use the full flora.

Why should you have Weakley's flora on your computer (or, really, any device that can read a .pdf)? Even if you aren't a person who regularly keys out plants, there is so much information about our flora in this document that anyone who is interested in native plants should have a copy. Did I mention it is free? It is also searchable. Want to know a common name for *Dirca palustris*? Type in '*Dirca*' and in seconds you'll find one of the fun common names is Wicopee. Can't ever remember the scientific name for a plant with 'Venus' in the name? Type in 'Venus' and every name with Venus pops up.

Continued on next page

President's Perspective (cont'd)

Want to know how many species of goldenrod occur in Georgia? At your fingertips. Want to know if Alabama croton occurs in our state? Bing. It doesn't. When things flower, what general habitats they occur in, which states they occur in, range maps...all there with the tap of a key.

Whether or not a species is native has gotten me into any number of raucous arguments. Weakley's flora is one of the best sources I have found for determining whether a species is native to the state or even to a specific region.

I still pull all those old floras off the shelf now and again, but Alan Weakley's magnificent, and on-going, flora is always my first choice.

To download *Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States* by Alan Weakley, just fire up your computer, tablet, or other device that can handle a large PDF file, and go to:

<http://www.herbarium.unc.edu/flora.htm>.

Hal Massie



A group photo from Trip #7 (Coweeta Hydrologic Lab) on our 2019 Pilgrimage

Tree ID, Piedmont Winter Workshop (cont'd)

Of course, look for alternate or opposite branch and leaf arrangement, but also look for two-ranked or 3-ranked branch and leaf arrangement. We can focus on bark, looking for texture and lenticels. The opposite-branching mnemonic memory device:

Maple Ash Dogwood Buckeye
M A D Buck

Shortleaf pine needles occur in bundles of both 2 and 3 plus look for resin dots on the bark. Shortleaf pine makes good lumber but is slow growing and prone to fungus.

Watch for early leaves and flower blooms on cherries, maples, alder.



The clues of early winter: seed pods on tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) on the left; and the early flowers of tag alder (*Alnus serrulata*) on the right, showing red female cone flowers and elongated male catkins.

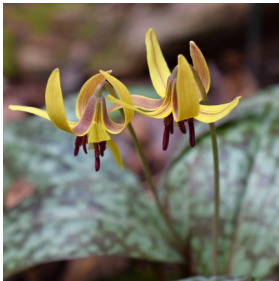
Charlie Elliott Visitors Center has many excellent educational exhibits that are worth spending extra time to view.

Remembering Maureen Donohue

I remember Maureen coming to my house during the 2008 Garden Tour (Georgia Native Plant Society); I didn't know her very well then but she made a big impression on me when she told me that the species name that I had on my trout lilies was wrong: it should be *Erythronium umbilicatum* instead of *E. americanum* because she saw the dimple in the seed pod. I was grateful for the correction.

After that we got to know each other a lot better as I started participating more in BotSoc and she got more involved in the native plant society. I was the newsletter editor while she was VP and President of BotSoc so we coordinated a lot on the News, carpooled on a few field trips, and shared a few glasses of wine on overnight trips. Later she became a rescue facilitator for GNPS and I was her mentor. We shared a love of appreciating native plants in the wild while also encouraging people to grow them in their gardens. Her voice will be missed.

- Ellen Honeycutt



Erythronium umbilicatum, a favorite of Maureen's

I had known Maureen Donohue for a number of years through the Georgia Botanical Society's activities. She was always extremely dedicated and very knowledgeable of wildflowers and the natural environment. She and I had frequently been on the same Botanical Society field trips and at some of the same meetings. While I was president of the Society I had encouraged her to run for office and fortunately she did. While vice president, I was tasked with planning spring wildflower pilgrimages. Finding trip leaders for the numerous trips can sometimes be challenging. However, I knew Maureen could always be counted on to help but I learned not to take her for granted. For the Bainbridge Pilgrimage, there was a trip to the Doerun Pitcher Plant Bog. Knowing Maureen was an aficionado of pitcher plants, I penciled her name in as the trip leader. Problem is, I forgot to tell Maureen until a few days later - mistake. However, fortunately for me, Maureen was a good sport and changed some of her plans to be able to lead the trip. Incidentally, the trip turned out to be a highlight of the Bainbridge Pilgrimage.

I never knew very much about Maureen's personal life until very late. While visiting her at the hospice a few days before she died, I met her wonderful family - sister, brother-in-law and life-long best friend who were at her bedside. Maureen was awake and aware of the goings on. It was her birthday. Her sister and friend told me they had all been born and grew up in Manhattan, but Maureen had traveled extensively with her job in the airline industry and finally settled in Atlanta. Her sister described the time Maureen attended the 1969 Woodstock Festival in upstate New York. As someone who had always wished they could have attended, I was very impressed. Before I left the hospice, Maureen and I said "goodbye" and shook hands. Maureen said to say "hi" to my wife, Candee. Upon arriving home, I told Candee about Maureen's trip to Woodstock. Candee turned to me and said "wild child." Maureen is surely looking down. To quote a verse from a song, Maureen has "...looked at life from both sides now." She really did know life, after all.

- Jim Drake

The thing I loved about Maureen was her enthusiastic embrace of life – she never hesitated to jump in, to speak up, to grab a chance to have a new experience. The story her life-long friend told at the memorial service about Maureen heading off to Woodstock by herself and returning three days later, tired, muddy, and happy, says it all. That was 50 years ago and we saw that same spirit in Maureen in her 60s and 70s. She traveled more than just about anyone I know, she was always planning her next adventure, and always looking for the next opportunity to volunteer her time and boundless energy. I was so impressed by her dedication to becoming a botanist and plant conservationist in the second half of her life, always reading, asking smart questions, and volunteering.

My co-worker Heather Alley tells a great story about Maureen: "Our task was to hike up to a bog to do some brush-clearing. The hike was about 3 miles up a pretty steep mountain. We were with some Forest Service guys we had never met before. One of them was a strong, handsome, quiet man in his late twenties. We spent the first half of the day politely hoofing our way up to the bog. But then during the second half of the day, exhausted, overheated, and hungry, Maureen and I enjoyed plenty of giggles over how cute she thought the FS guy was (ok, I thought he was cute, too, but she started it!). I loved that she was a little boy-crazy, even in her 60's. She was so full of joy and youth in her retirement. And that spirit never faded as our acquaintance continued over the years."

I miss Maureen and her adventurous spirit and always will.

- Linda Chafin

Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Grant Program

By Linda Chafin

After a couple of years' hiatus, the Marie Mellinger grant committee is back in business. Last fall, we blanketed the state with grant information and applications, reaching out to public and private universities and technical colleges statewide. We were rewarded with the highest number of applicants the committee has ever received. Making the final decisions was tough, especially given the small amount of money available, \$2000. Our final decision was to provide partial support to three proposals we felt best reflected the program's mission of supporting field-oriented research that expands our knowledge of Georgia's flora. Here are brief summaries about the grant recipients and their projects:

Andrea Appleton, undergraduate student in the Department of Biological Sciences at Georgia Southern University. Research proposal: Floral Evolution, Species Documentation, and Evolutionary Relationships of *Paronychia* Mill. (Caryophyllaceae) in Georgia.

Andrea, who grew up in Statesboro, found that a "pretty modest appreciation for flowers transformed into a deep respect and admiration for plants and their many talents" when she started a student position in GSU's herbarium and began working with her research advisor, Dr. John Schenk. She says "herbaria are one of the only places in which to study a multitude of species without even leaving a single room, and through this, Dr. Schenk introduced me to the incredible diversity in plants and just how complex they can be. *Paronychia* is a good model of this complexity: these flowers have evolutionarily lost their petals, and many species have staminodes (infertile stamens) that take on a range of structures and functions." Andrea has found that the Department of Biology at Georgia Southern is supportive and encouraging, and she "intends to go on to graduate school to obtain a Ph.D. and serve as a professor of botany in a department which is equally as encouraging to its students."



Paronychia argyrocoma, Photo by Alan Cressler

Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Grant (cont'd)

Josh Pharr, Master's student at Georgia College & State University. Research proposal: A Comprehensive Inventory of Andalusia, the 523-acre home of Flannery O'Connor in Milledgeville."

Baldwin County is one of Georgia's most poorly studied counties, botanically speaking, and Josh is excited to have the opportunity to provide floristic data for this understudied area. The time he has spent thus far at Andalusia has opened his eyes to the "many amazing plant features" he had often overlooked. He says, "particularly now, as so many plants and trees are flowering, I am always excited to stop and observe the unique floral features that reside right outside my doorstep. I'm seeing oak and birch catkins up close for the first time. I'm getting to see little violets pop up in small fields. I am noticing yellow jessamine flowers hanging all over the tree canopy. There are so many incredible plants that I never knew about because I neglected to take a deeper look. As I continue to look closer and collect plant specimens, I become more and more interested in botany and all of its overlooked beauty."

Patrick Smallwood, Ph.D. student in the University of Georgia's Plant Biology Department. Research proposal: "Role of fungal symbionts in the establishment of new populations and range expansion of *Cypripedium acaule*."

Patrick grew up in Grayson, Georgia, in an undeveloped part of Gwinnett County, where he explored the woods and gained an appreciation for nature. His love for plants solidified while an undergraduate, when he became fascinated by the ways that plants interact with the organisms around them and their ingenious solutions to problems in the environment. He was especially intrigued by orchids and "the intricate and beautiful interactions between them and their pollinators." His dissertation research is focused on "the vital relationship between orchids and soil mycorrhizae. The tiny, dust-like seeds of orchid lack the necessary energy to begin the germination process. Instead, their seeds rely on fungi to meet their nutritional requirements. This relationship is then maintained throughout the orchid's lifetime, with some orchids even becoming fungal parasites." After completing his Ph.D., Patrick hopes to continue in a research career focused on how orchids interact with the other organisms in their environment.



Left: Andalusia (Photo: Wikipedia); Right: *Cypripedium acaule*, Photo by Alan Cressler

Upcoming Field Trips

<p>May 4 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Sprewell Bluff WMA</p> <p>This trip will be to a part of Sprewell Bluff that was purchased by the DNR in late 2016. Extensive restoration efforts have begun on most of the tract, including planting nearly a million montane longleaf pine seedlings. Included in the new area is a bluff overlooking Pigeon Creek that may have the largest population of turkeybeard, <i>Xerophyllum asphodeloides</i>, in the state. The slopes are a heath bluff with mountain laurel and Piedmont rhododendron, <i>Rhododendron minus</i>, both of which should be in flower. Montane longleaf pines are the dominant tree on much of the bluff. We should also see showy skullcap, <i>Scutellaria pseudoserrata</i>, which has the largest flowers of all Georgia's skullcap species. After the Turkeybeard Bluff, we will drive toward the confluence of Pigeon Creek and the Flint River. Along the way, we should encounter a good variety of wildflowers, including squareheads, <i>Tetragonotheca helianthoides</i>.</p>	<p>Directions: From the Atlanta area, take I-85 south to Exit 41, US 27 Alt, and head south. Stay on US 27 Alt through Warm Springs, and 3 more miles to the crest of Pine Mountain. Turn left onto GA 190 and take it to GA 41, just outside of Manchester. Turn right on GA 41, heading south. In about 5 miles, just as you are approaching the small town of Woodland, turn left onto Pleasant Valley Road. There is a sign here for Old South Farm Museum. Take Pleasant Valley Rd. to where it dead ends at Chalybeate Springs Rd. Turn left and take Chalybeate Springs to where it crests Pine Mountain at Mitchell Gap. There is a large brown and white sign for Sprewell Bluff WMA at the gap. Turn right on to the dirt road and park along the road at the bottom of the hill. If you are using Google for navigation, you can search for Mitchell Gap.</p> <p>Facilities: None</p> <p>Difficulty: Mostly easy.</p> <p>Bring: Water, lunch, bug spray, hand lens, dress for the weather. Bring a camera for some spectacular views. This is a Georgia WMA, therefore a fishing license, hunting license, Lands Pass, or Lifetime Sportsman's pass is required.</p>	<p>Hal Massie massiefarm@aol.com</p> <p>478-550-1062</p>
<p>May 10 10:15 AM</p> <p>Note: This is a Friday</p>	<p>Elachee Nature Center</p> <p>Elachee is a 1,440 acre Regional Environmental Center with 12 miles of trails and a great nature center. It is in the National Old Growth Forest Network and is designated by the Audubon Society as an Important Bird Area. It has woodland, lake, stream, and wetland habitats. The hike will be about a 5.5-mile loop through a beautiful hardwood forest, across clear streams, and past a nice lake.</p> <p>This trip is limited to 20 people; you must register with the trip leader in advance.</p>	<p>Directions: Meet at 10:15 am in the Visitor Center parking lot at the Elachee Nature Center, 2125 Elachee Drive, Gainesville, GA 30504.</p> <p>Facilities: Yes.</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy to moderate.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch, water, etc. \$5 parking fee for Elachee (cash).</p>	<p>Clayton Webster webs4740@bellsouth.net</p> <p>404-633-8955</p>
<p>May 11 9:30 AM</p> <p>Note: early start time</p>	<p>Lula Lake Land Trust</p> <p>Description: Lula Lake Land Trust is a beautiful property consisting of 8,000 acres of protected forest land on top of Lookout Mountain in northwest Georgia. Wildflowers we may see include bluets, dwarf crested iris, fire pink, Indian pink, little brown jug, jack-in-the-pulpit, solitary pussytoes, spring beauty, Solomon seal, trailing arbutus, wild ginger and others. Numerous species of native trees and shrubs may be seen also.</p> <p>Email the trip leader if you plan to attend; the entrance gate will only be unlocked between 9 AM and 9:30 AM, so be on time.</p>	<p>Directions: The Land Trust is located at 5000 Lula Lake Road, Lookout Mountain, GA 30750.</p> <p>Facilities: Limited.</p> <p>Difficulty: Moderate</p> <p>Bring: Food, water, sturdy hiking boots, and a hiking pole.</p>	<p>Mitchell Kent mkent423@gmail.com</p>

Upcoming Field Trips

<p>May 11 1:00 PM</p> <p>Note: afternoon start time</p>	<p>Lost Creek Forest</p> <p>Lost Creek Forest in Thomas County, an original old growth hardwood slope forest, has the largest population of Florida milkvine, <i>Matelea floridana</i>, in Georgia, and possibly in the world. Join Scott Davis, milkweed and milkvine expert, founder and director of the Monarch-Milkweed Initiative at St. Mark's National Wildlife Refuge, as we explore for flowering vines and attempt to hand-pollinate them. Their natural pollinators are a tiny fly, but as we have found no seedpods in 10 years, it seems likely they are not getting pollinated.</p>	<p>Directions: From Hwy 122, turn onto Airport Rd. This is about 5 miles northeast from Hwy 19 in Thomasville. Office Depot is on that corner. We will meet about halfway down the hill on the left at 1:00 pm. Park on the roadside.</p> <p>Facilities: No.</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy.</p> <p>Bring: Snacks and water.</p>	<p>Beth Grant</p> <p>bethgrant @bellsouth.net</p>
<p>May 18 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Canoe Trip to Shoals Spiderlilies</p> <p>The purpose of this paddle on the Flint River will be to get up close and personal with the shoals spiderlily, or Cahaba lily, <i>Hymenocallis coronaria</i>. At normal water levels, the lilies are difficult to reach by wading into the river, so we are going to paddle right into the heart of a very large population of this lovely wildflower. We should also see American Water-willow, <i>Justicia americana</i>, flowering among the hundreds of shoals lilies. Southern catalpa, <i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>, which has remarkably showy flowers, may also be in flower along the banks of the river. Because we are only paddling about a mile downstream, we'll have plenty of time to spend mingling with the lilies. This trip will be an excellent opportunity to photograph the shoal lilies.</p> <p>Note: you must bring your own boat.</p>	<p>Directions: Meet at Big Lazer Creek WMA Check Station (the portion of Big Lazer Creek WMA we will be paddling does not require any type of pass). From Thomaston, take US 19 south for about 3.5 miles. Turn right onto Indian Trail Rd. At the first stop sign, stay to the right. Follow Indian Trail Rd. to Pobiddy Rd. and turn left onto Pobiddy. Stay on Pobiddy Rd. for several miles. You will cross the Flint River on a new bridge and head uphill. After about 3 miles, turn right onto Bunkham Rd (there is a sign for Big Lazer Creek WMA at the intersection). Drive until you see the DNR Check Station on the left. After everyone gathers at the Check Station, we will drive to the actual ramp.</p> <p>Facilities: No.</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy, downstream paddling.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch, water, camera, sense of adventure. Oh, and bring a boat.</p>	<p>Hal Massie massiefarm @aol.com</p> <p>478-550-1062</p>
<p>May 25 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Reed Branch Wet Meadow</p> <p>Reed Branch Wet Meadow is a Nature Conservancy Preserve that protects the only natural population of Federally Endangered green pitcher plant, <i>Sarracenia oreophila</i>, in Georgia. It is also the last example in Georgia of a low mountain bog. Besides pitcher plants, Reed Branch is host to numerous plants normally associated with the coastal plain, such as colic root (<i>Aletris farinosa</i>) and sundew (<i>Drosera</i> sp.), among others. If we are lucky, we will find a beautiful, if ghostly, orchid – ragged fringed orchid, <i>Platanthera lacera</i>. The preserve encompasses 8 acres, with the green pitcher plants concentrated into about 1 acre of the property.</p> <p>After visiting Reed Branch, if enough people are interested, we may visit another wetland area known as Brasstown Seeps, just a few miles away near Young Harris. The Brasstown Seeps are shaping up to be an exciting new botanical area.</p>	<p>Directions: Meet at the Reed Branch Wet Meadow Preserve on Mull Road. Reed Branch is between Hiawassee and the North Carolina state line. Take US 76 to Hiawassee from either the west or east. In Hiawassee, turn north on GA 75 and go approximately 3 miles to Mull Rd., which will be on the left. If you see a sign that says 'Welcome to North Carolina', you have gone too far. Almost immediately after turning left onto Mull Road, there will be a parking area on the left just behind a gate.</p> <p>Facilities: No.</p> <p>Difficulty: This will be a very easy walk. The preserve is only slightly sloped toward Lake Chatuge. The upper portion of the Preserve may require that we walk through a very narrow trail in dense vegetation. It will be important to stay in single file and be careful where you step. Reed Branch is not open to the public and we have special permission for this trip. This is a very sensitive area – please follow the guidance of the trip leaders and obey all restrictions.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch, water, camera, hat, hand lens, etc.</p>	<p>Hal Massie massiefarm @aol.com</p> <p>478-550-1062</p> <p>Rich Reaves rich.reaves @att.net</p> <p>770-827-5186</p>

Upcoming Field Trips

<p>May 26 9:30 AM</p> <p>Note: this is a Sunday and an early time and a longer trip than usual.</p>	<p>Roadside Botanizing in the Cohutta Mountains</p> <p>We will drive along the Forest Service roads stopping to look at flowers along the way. There will be several short excursions from the cars, always along the road. We can expect to find several 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>) has been very nice and occasionally we come across Yellow Ladyslippers. We will stop for lunch somewhere along the road.</p> <p>Limit 20 persons. Please contact the trip leader if you are planning to join this trip.</p>	<p>Directions: 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, but continue past this sign another 0.1 mi to Pinhoti Trail crossing of FS90. Carpooling is encouraged to minimize our parking footprint on the narrow unpaved roads.</p> <p>Facilities: None</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy walking from cars.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch, snacks, & water for a full day trip; we will picnic along the route. You may wish to bring bug spray, binoculars, hand lens, and camera.</p>	<p>Hal Massie massiefarm@aol.com</p> <p>478-550-1062</p> <p>Rich Reaves rich.reaves@att.net</p> <p>770-827-5186</p>
<p>May 27 10:00 AM</p> <p>Note: this is a Monday</p>	<p>Woody Gap: Indian Paint-brush, Outcrops and Lady's-slippers</p> <p>This trip will start at Woody Gap and follow a little-known trail southeast along Cedar Ridge. We will first stop to see a huge population of wood betony, <i>Pedicularis canadensis</i> which will probably be past prime. Afterward, we'll hike about a quarter mile uphill to a site where you can actually see eastern Indian-paintbrush, <i>Castilleja coccinea</i>, up close and in relative safety. Eventually, we will continue to the top of the ridge to a rock outcrop with magnificent views to the south. In the gap, at the outcrop, and along the trails, we'll search for late spring wildflowers, with, hopefully, a few surprises.</p>	<p>Directions: Woody Gap is north of Dahlonega in the Chattahoochee National Forest. Take GA 60 (either the Bypass or the Business route) north from Dahlonega. US 19 and GA 60 split at Rockpile Gap, take GA 60 to the left. The parking lot is on the right side just as you crest the ridgeline after a long, winding uphill stretch. Woody Gap is approximately 14 miles from Dahlonega. Meet on the side with the latrines.</p> <p>Facilities: Yes.</p> <p>Difficulty: This hike is mostly easy with a moderate uphill climb in the beginning. The Indian paint-brush is off-trail and will require walking through some serious poison ivy, as well as uneven rocky ground and deep leaf litter. Total walking will be less than 2 miles.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch, water, camera.</p>	<p>Hal Massie massiefarm@aol.com</p> <p>478-550-1062</p> <p>Rich Reaves rich.reaves@att.net</p> <p>770-827-5186</p>

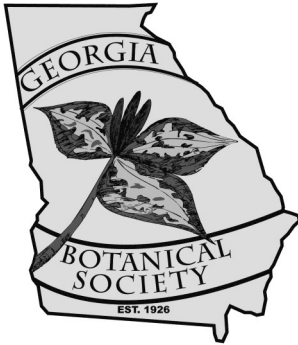


Indian-paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*) as seen on the BotSoc 2015 Pilgrimage trip to Woody Gap.

Upcoming Field Trips

<p>June 1 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Botany and Birds at Cascade Springs Nature Preserve</p> <p>Cascade Springs Nature Preserve is a beautiful, small preserve located within Atlanta, with a small, picturesque waterfall and an historic springs site. Plants include very old beeches and white oaks, big-leaf magnolias, Solomon's seal, and Solomon's plume. We will also look for bay-star vine. We will be joined by Lillie Kline of Atlanta Audubon. We'll listen for breeding warblers high in the canopy and keep an eye out for resident birds as well. Binoculars are encouraged.</p> <p>Registration is required. Please email the trip leader (edwa1617@yahoo.com) to register.</p>	<p>Directions: Cascade Springs Nature Preserve is located at 2852 Cascade Rd. SW, Atlanta, GA 30311.</p> <p>Facilities: None.</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy to moderate difficulty, about 2 miles.</p> <p>Bring: Camera, lunch, snacks, bug spray, binoculars as desired.</p>	<p>Leslie Edwards edwa1617@yahoo.com</p>
<p>June 8 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Lula Falls/Cloudland Canyon SP</p> <p>We will visit the rare river-scour community found at Lula Falls (Lula Lake Land Trust) on the Cumberland Plateau in extreme northwest Ga. This is the preferred habitat for the rare Virginia meadowsweet (<i>Spiraea virginiana</i>). Also at Lula we hope to see mountain camellia (<i>Stewartia ovata</i>), two species of azaleas (<i>Rhododendron cumberlandense</i> & <i>R. arborescens</i>) and others. Then we will drive to Cloudland Canyon SP, visiting several roadsides for the rare and beautiful wood lily (<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i>) and many other wildflowers, then to the lower section of the canyon for more mountain camellia. Other sites may be visited, time permitting.</p>	<p>Directions: Meet at 10:00 am at the upper parking lot for Lula Falls (Lula Lake Land Trust). From I-75 (exit 320) at Resaca, GA (next exit north of Calhoun exits), go west on GA 136. You will make 3 turns to stay on GA 136. At LaFayette turn right to follow GA 136 (and US 27). Turn right to exit bypass and then shortly turn left to follow GA 136. At the top of Lookout Mountain turn right onto GA 157. Go approximately 9.37 miles. Stay straight to go onto Lula Lake Road (and leave GA 157). Go approximately 1.03 miles and look for entrance to Lula Falls on right. We will meet in the upper parking lot and then drive down to the meadow.</p> <p>Facilities: Yes.</p> <p>Difficulty: Lula: ~ 1 mile of walking. We will have to wade a creek to see the largest population of the <i>Spiraea</i>, possibly knee deep, depending on rainfall. Cloudland: mostly roadside stops, then ½ mi. to the mountain camellia.</p> <p>Bring: State park entrance fee required. Lunch to eat at picnic tables, shoes for wading creek, water, bug spray.</p>	<p>Richard Ware gabotany@comcast.net 706-766-5143 Rich Reaves rich.reaves@att.net 770-827-5186</p>
<p>June 15 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Thompson Mills Forest Arboretum</p> <p>The 330-acre Thompson Mills Forest in Braselton is Georgia's official state arboretum, operated by the University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. Ninety percent of all native tree species in Georgia are grown here. A guided walk will be led by Bill Lott, the site manager, and will include the pinetum, which contains all Georgia native conifer species, the Native Tree Trail, and an 8-acre granite outcrop. The total should be less than 3 miles of walking.</p> <p>Note: There is a limit of 25 participants. If you plan on going on this trip, please contact the trip leader.</p>	<p>Directions: 1740 New Liberty Church Road, Braselton GA 30517. (Note: Most mapping resources will not take you there correctly, so please use the following directions.) Take I-85N exit 126. Go north on GA 211 for 1.3 miles. Turn right on Liberty Church Road (becomes Thompson Mill Road in .3 mile). Go one mile. You will see a Methodist Church on the right. Take slight left on Ednaville Road. In a very short distance take another slight left on N. Liberty Church Road. The arboretum will be on your left.</p> <p>Facilities: Yes, if they are open.</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy.</p> <p>Bring: Plenty of water and a trail snack. Have sunscreen and bug repellent. You may wish to bring binoculars, hand lens, and camera.</p>	<p>Clayton Webster webs4740@bellsouth.net 404-633-8955</p>

Society Contacts



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