



Elaine Nash Honored

At the 2019 Cullowhee Native Plant Conference on July 19th, BotSoc member Elaine Nash was honored with the Tom Dodd Jr. Award of Excellence. This award has been presented annually at the conference since 1987, making Elaine the 33rd recipient. The award recognizes those who have excelled in one or more of the following categories: (1) conservation of native flora in situ, (2) studying and promoting the understanding of native flora, (3) building expertise in the propagation/cultivation of native plants, and (4) the use of native plants in a diversity of natural and designed landscapes.

Elaine's contributions touches on every one of those categories through direct efforts as well as through the many people she has taught and inspired over the years through a number of organizations: the Georgia Botanical Society, the Georgia Native Plant Society, the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, as well as chair of the scholarship committee at the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference.

IN THIS ISSUE:

*Society News
- P5*

*Field Trip
Reports - P6*

*Pilgrimage
news - P9*

*Book Review
- P10*

*Upcoming
Field Trips -
P11*



Elaine Nash working on seedlings with Karen McCaustland holding the Tom Dodd Jr. Award of Excellence.

President's Perspective



BotSoc News

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Our annual meeting was held on July 27th at the Newman Wetlands Center in Clayton County. It was sparsely attended, but I think those that did attend had a good time. The annual meeting is a chance to peek in on what the Board of Directors has been doing, hear reports from the various committees and program leaders, find out the state of the Society, and spend a day socializing with like-minded people.

We began the annual meeting with a report from Vice President Bobby Hattaway about next year's Pilgrimage. We'll be going to the coast, probably the Savannah area. Bobby is trying to nail down reasonably priced accommodations. More to come.

We then heard from our treasurer, John French. Without going into detail here, the bottom line is that we are in great financial shape. Jo Anne Romfh filled us in on our current membership status which has been fairly static for many years. We continue to hover around 400 members. Ellen Honeycutt, who is filling in as the newsletter editor, informed us that she has one volunteer but is still looking for help. Elliott Horner, our field trip coordinator, is beginning to work on the schedule for next year. Let him know if you have ideas or suggestions for field trips. Linda Chafin gave us a run-down on the latest Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Grant Fund news. Lastly, Richard Ware, *Tipularia* editor, listed some of the articles coming up in the next issue and let us know that it was coming along on schedule.

The board moved to new business and a motion was made and seconded to rename our Habitat Conservation Fund to the Maureen Donohue Habitat Conservation Fund. The board voted unanimously to make the change. Another motion was made to deposit the funds from the sale of Maureen Donohue's library into the re-named Conservation Fund. After a second, the board voted unanimously to place the proceeds in that fund.

The board then discussed the need to recruit enthusiastic leaders to manage the Conservation Fund and our Pilgrimage scholarship program. We all agreed that a primary goal of the Society should be to recruit younger members. We also discussed raising the funding levels for the Marie Mellinger grant and the Maureen Donohue Conservation Fund. We will be looking into both possibilities soon.

After the meeting was adjourned, Jim Drake spoke eloquently for a few minutes about Maureen, then several member recounted stories about Maureen and her exploits in the field.

Society News

After lunch, which included drinks and cookies provided by the tireless Jo Anne Romfh, we were treated to a slide show of wildflowers and Botanical Society members in the field. The pictures were taken by members, including Richard Ware, Rich Reaves, Ellen Honeycutt, John French, Jim Drake, and your president. We have some amazingly talented wildflower photographers in our group!

Lastly, we ended the day with a tour around the grounds of the Newman Wetland Centers, guided by our hosts - Danielle Bunch and Danielle 'Dani' Davis. Despite it being a typical day for late July (in other words, barely tolerable), we had a surprisingly nice walk. Some highlights included winged monkey-flower, *Mimulus alatus*; several flowering scarlet hibiscus, *Hibiscus coccineus*; climbing hempweed, *Mikania scandens*; and, a new one for me, the tiny-flowered mad-dog skullcap, *Scutellaria lateriflora*, shown below.

The Society extends special appreciation to both Danielle Bunch and Dani Davis for being such cheerful hosts and guides.

Hal Massie



Elaine Nash Honored (cont'd)

She became interested in native plants while a Soil and Water District Supervisor for 10 years. She studied grasses specifically and became an expert. She has shared her knowledge with numerous people and in numerous ways. Her work with the State Botanical Garden to create a Piedmont Prairie in a Georgia Power right-of-way crossing SBG's property has flourished so much that the now-named 'Elaine Nash Prairie Restoration Project' has become a significant part of the Garden's outreach and education programs, hosting classes in pollinator and plant identification and in prairie creation. Her help and guidance at Panola Mountain State Park has similarly grown and the work at Panola is now helping to teach others. According to Linda Chafin, "The grassland is so successful that the park now donates seed from the grassland to other restoration projects around the state. These projects -- restored and created grasslands across the Georgia Piedmont -- are Elaine's "botanical grandchildren" -- a legacy of biodiversity conservation."

She is co-author of [Native Plants for Georgia](#), a comprehensive 4-part web-based publication of the UGA Extension Service that continues to educate people as free downloads from their website. She has personally taught many people through classes in the Native Plant Certificate program at SBG as well as mentoring State Park employees, members of the Georgia Botanical Society, and members of GNPS. Her guidance as chair of scholarship and grant committees has helped to fund important field botany research and nurture the growing interest of numerous students in the study and importance of Georgia's native plants.

She has been a significant contributor to efforts at the Georgia Native Plant Society's Stone Mountain Propagation Project (SMPP). Ten years ago GNPS formed a cooperative alliance with the Stone Mountain Memorial Association (SMMA) to establish a propagation area within Stone Mountain Park to provide native plants through propagation and/or rescue of native plants. Elaine has been instrumental in training volunteers in a variety of propagation essentials such as proper seed collection techniques, collection timing, how to determine maturity and fertility, cleaning, and storage. In addition to propagation by seed, the SMPP has also done root and stem cutting propagation under her guidance.



Of course, Elaine has also been an avid supporter of native plant sales, helping GNPS customers to make appropriate selections for their gardens, especially in the area of native grasses. No matter your question to her about a plant, you're sure to learn the answer and more! Many of us have learned so much from her and could not imagine a more-deserving recipient of this distinguished award.

Note: This article is adapted from one that originally appeared in the August newsletter of the Georgia Native Plant Society.

Society News

The Habitat Conservation Fund was created in 2015 as a new donation category in BotSoc to emphasize the importance of habitat protection. This effort was spearheaded by Maureen Donohue, BotSoc president at the time, in response to efforts by the GA DNR to save the Canoochee Bogs. BotSoc more than matched member donations of \$2300 to create a total donation of \$5000 to this effort in 2016, helping to secure the conservation of these bogs.

This fund was the beginning of BotSoc's efforts towards direct contributions to habitat conservation. BotSoc would later make an additional donation of \$2000 toward the Canoochee Bogs purchase.

As you read in the President's Message, proceeds from the donation of Maureen's books are now designated for the Habitat Conservation Fund, an amount in excess of \$2200. In recognition of Maureen's efforts to create this fund, the board approved at the annual meeting a motion to rename the fund in her honor : The Maureen Donohue Habitat Conservation Fund.

Now's a good time to donate to the Fund in honor of Maureen. You can [donate online using PayPal](#) if you like (she was also president when online payments were implemented), or indicate on your renewal form for 2020.



© 2016 Hal Massie

Photo by Hal Massie. Yellow pitcher plant (*Sarracenia flava*) in the ABAC Turner County Bog (2016)

Roadside Botanizing in SE Georgia July 6 & 7

Text and Photos by Rich Reaves

Southeast Georgia was experiencing a drought during our regular July foray to enjoy the roadside flowers in Brantley, Ware, and Charlton counties. As a result, the floral display was a not as prolific as in typical years but remained quite spectacular.

As noted in the July *BotSoc News*, the Georgia DOT established “ecologically sensitive areas” at two of the sites we routinely visit so that mowing and other roadside management activities can be geared to benefitting the rare plants at these locations. By our trip in July, both areas were signed and they had not been mowed. As stated previously, we appreciate GA DOT making this effort to benefit out native plants.

On Saturday, we made multiple stops along GA 177 heading in to the entrance of Okefenokee Swamp Park. GA DOT established an ESA along both sides of this road from the railroad crossing to the park entrance. We spent most of the day along this stretch of road, with a couple of additional stops along US23/1 just north of Waycross. The flowers did not disappoint. Amongst the species we enjoyed were *Marshallia tenuifolia* (Barbara’s buttons), *Sabatia decandra* (Bartram’s rose gentian), *Sabatia campanulata* (slender rose gentian), *Sabatia difformis* (lanceleaf rose-gentian), *Sabatia grandiflora* (large flowered rose gentian), *Aletris lutea* (yellow colic root), *Kalmia hirsuta* (hairy wicky), *Bacopa caroliniana* (blue water hyssop), multiple species of meadow beauty [*Rhexia parviflora* (fringed meadow beauty), *R. lutea* (yellow meadow beauty), *R. virginica* (handsome Harry), *R. nashii* (maid Marian), *R. mariana* var. *mariana* (Maryland meadow beauty), and *R. var. exalbida* (small white meadow beauty)], *Asclepias lanceolata* (lanceleaf milkweed), *Gordonia lasianthus* (loblolly bay), and *Drosera capillaris* (sundew).

We also saw the leaves of some of other notable species – *Sarracenia minor* (hooded pitcher plant), *Sarracenia psitticina* (parrot pitcher plant), as well as *Peltandra sagittifolia* (spoonflower), *Polygala cruciata* (drumheads), and *Drosera intermedia* (spoonleaf sundew, which was in bud).



Bartram’s rose gentian (*Sabatia decandra*)

Roadside Botanizing (cont'd)



Sunday began with the usual early morning visit to see *Ruellia noctiflora* (night-flowering wild petunia) at the second designated ecologically sensitive area. I feared that we would not see any flowers, as the plants had been in bloom in mid-May when I visited the site with GA DOT. My fears were unfounded – it was the most prolific bloom I have seen there, well over 100 flowers and many buds still to bloom. In addition to many of the plants we had seen the day before, we also found *Asclepias longifolia* (longleaf milkweed), *Scutellaria integrifolia* (narrowleaf skullcap), and *Polygala chapmanii* (Chapman's milkwort).

Left: *Ruellia noctiflora*

After this, we turned north and went to a new spot (many thanks to Timothy Estep for taking the lead on this junket). We visited a spot on a road north of Nahunta where we saw a few new species in addition to reacquainting ourselves with many of the plants from previous stops. The highlight of this roadside stop was *Baptisia arachnifera* (hairy rattleweed), an endemic species to

southeast Georgia that is federally protected under the Endangered Species Act. Other new finds at this spot included *Sabatia macrophylla* var. *recurvans* (large leaf rose gentian) and *Asclepias cinerea* (Carolina milkweed). It was an excellent way to cap two great days of exploring the mid-summer flora of southeast Georgia.



Right: *Baptisia arachnifera*

Photos from our Annual Meeting



Above right: Swamp rose mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) was one of two hibiscus species in the wetland



Top: BotSocers along the wetland path.
 Above middle left: Silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*) was full of fruit; Above right: winged monkey-flower (*Mimulus alatus*); Left: Least skipper butterflies were abundant in the wetland, shown here on buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)

Pilgrimage 2020

Planning is underway for the Georgia Botanical Society's 2020 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage to be held in the Coastal Empire near Savannah, March 20-22, 2020. The 1996 Pilgrimage was there, but members stayed in the Midtown area of Savannah. This year the plan is to have our hub on the northern outskirts of Savannah in Port Wentworth.

Since we are in South Georgia, the date is earlier than for our locations in North Georgia. Also, even though we are near the coast, not all our trips will emphasize coastal landscapes. Some of our trips will be similar to, if not the same location as those in 1996. These include a canoe trip to Ebenezer Creek, Savannah/Ogeechee Canal (hike), and a botanical tour of Fort Stewart. A trip to Wormsloe Plantation is in the works as well as some spots down near Darien. The Savannah River NWR is 11 miles from our motel and is a viable spot especially for birding botanists. Due to South Georgia's wider geographical stance, travel times for a few field trips could approach 75 minutes.

We do not have a speaker(s) yet. So I am herein asking the membership what their thoughts or preferences are for an after-dinner activity which could include a speaker or two or some other activity, say a game or even a contest that involves tables or individuals. Florida Native Plant Society does (or used to do) these latter kinds of activities. Let me know your thoughts or preferences on a topic or topics by emailing me (see below). Also if you have the names of possible speakers, send me their contact info and their specialty.

An update on our progress will be in the November newsletter, including hotel details. Development of the 2020 Pilgrimage brochure is in progress as usual. In the meantime, feel free to contact Bobby Hattaway via email at botanikman@g-net.net with any questions.

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Okefenokee Mining Proposal

By Charles Seabrook

An Alabama-based company, Twin Pines Minerals, has applied for a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers to strip-mine for titanium and zirconium in a 12,000-acre tract near the eastern edge of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. To get to the ores, miners would have to dig an average of 50 feet in a geological feature known as Trail Ridge. Botanists, environmentalists, wildlife biologists and others warn that such a massive operation so close to the Okefenokee poses substantial risks of ruining the famed wetland's hydrology and causing ecological disaster. "Should impacts occur they may not be able to be reversed, repaired, or mitigated for," said the US Fish and Wildlife Service. A similar proposal 20 years ago by DuPont to open a huge mine next to the refuge was halted amid protests from environmental organizations.

The 438,000-acre Okefenokee's ecological importance cannot be overstated. It teems with birds, reptiles, amphibians and other wildlife, including several protected species. Botanically, a high diversity of habitats results in an array of plant species. Grasses, sedges, ferns, and rushes thrive in the drier areas; water lilies, pickerel weed, yellow-eyed grass, and golden club are found in wetter sites. Many kinds of shrubs and trees grow on floating mats of peat.

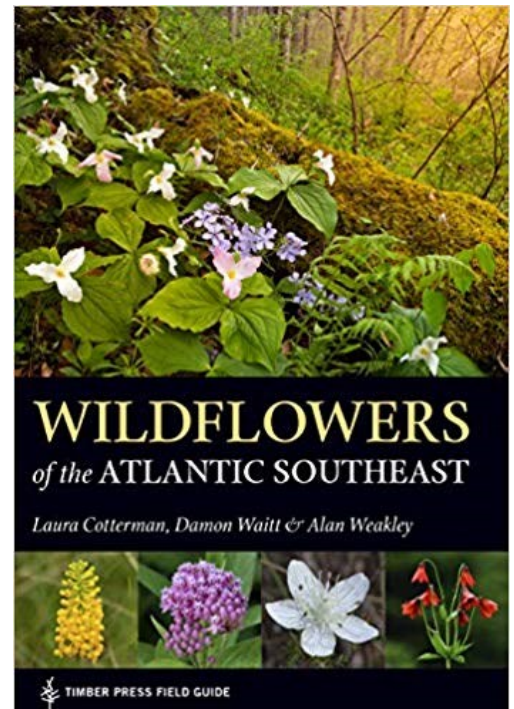
The official comment period to voice your concern about the new mining proposal runs through Sept. 12. Here's where to file your comment: -- In writing: Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Ms. Holly Ross, 1104 N. Westover Blvd., Suite 9, Albany, GA, 31707 **or** -- Email: holly.a.ross@usace.army.mil

Note: In your comments, reference the applicant's name -- Steven R. Ingle, Twin Pines Minerals and the application number -- SAS-2018-00554.

Book Review

The range for this field guide includes Georgia as the southern end while the northern end reaches New Jersey. West Virginia is included, but Tennessee is not. The trio of authors paired up their excellent plant knowledge with some of the best plant photographers (including some BotSoc members!) to include details for over 1200 wildflower species (including a few non-native ones that you might find).

It has an excellent overview section that discusses the 'ecological factors that determine where plants grow' from sun/shade to moisture, elevation, soil makeup, and more. These are very important considerations, and I like that it was included. This book also includes a thoroughly useful description of plant families (grouped by Magnoliids, Monocots, and True Dicots), and the genera that they include. This section, as well as the over 60 pages that precede the plant profiles, is wonderfully educational. I felt like I was in a class, but it was a class *that I wanted to be in!*



At first you might think this is another flower-color-oriented seek-and-find field guide. It has that capability, pictures are arranged by color, but this field guide has smarts too – a simple key that walks you through characteristics to a specific section of that color. After identifying the flower color, the key directs you to choose the flower shape (bilateral, radial, composite, or undistinguishable – the inside cover of the book has good pictures of these); if it's radial (a round-shaped flower), then determine the number of petals (anywhere from 2 to 7+). The next step is to determine leaf shape (simple vs. divided), leaf arrangement (alternate, opposite, whorled, basal), and leaf margins (entire, toothed, lobed). I recommend taking a flower that you know and running through the key to get familiar with using it. I used *Penstemon digitalis*, the common garden beardtongue. It is white and the flower shape is **bilateral** (e.g., you could cut it in half and the two sides would match through the center of the flower). The leaves are **simple** and **opposite** and the leaf margins are **toothed**. Using the key on page 48, that directs us to page 77 which is the start of the section of white flowers that match that criteria (and which continues through page 81). The plant we're looking to identify is the third one on page 79: *Penstemon digitalis*.

Plant details include a photo, a range map (purple shading on the map means indigenous to that area, orange means it's outside of its natural range when present), as well as flowering timeframe, size, and a very detailed description of the plant and its natural habitat.

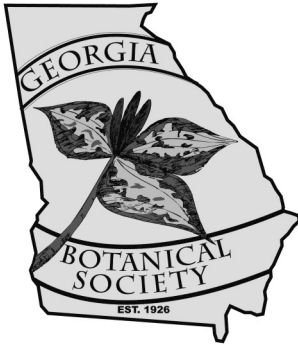
So, if you're in the mood for new field guide with all the current names, fabulous pictures, and a heaping helping of good knowledge, check out [Wildflowers of the Atlantic Southeast](#) by Laura Cotterman, Damon Waitt, and Alan Weakley. It would also make a great gift for someone just getting started with learning about native plants or perhaps a hiker who enjoys knowing what's on the trail.

This was adapted from a review by Ellen Honeycutt on her [native plant blog](#).

Upcoming Field Trips

<p>Sept 28 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Tree ID Walk (AM) Wildflowers/Vines (PM)</p> <p>Morning will be spent with late summer/early fall tree identification. A very great variety of native trees grow naturally in Rome's Ridge Ferry Park, extending 1 1/2 – 2 miles along the Oostanaula River. Here we have many species of oaks (<i>Quercus</i>), hickories (<i>Carya</i>), maples (<i>Acer</i>), sweetgum (<i>Liquidambar</i>), tuliptree (<i>Liriodendron</i>), sycamore (<i>Platanus</i>), silverbell (<i>Halesia</i>) and more.</p> <p>After lunch we will take a short walk from the other end of the trail and hopefully see many flowers and vines that most folks haven't seen on a field trip before such as honey vine (<i>Cynanchum laeve</i>), bur cucumber (<i>Sicyos angulatus</i>), cupseed (<i>Calycocarpum lyonii</i>), moonseed (<i>Menispermum canadense</i>), fog fruit (<i>Phyla lanceolata</i>), branched foldwing (<i>Dicliptera brachiata</i>), turnsole (<i>Heliotropium indicum</i>), and many other possibilities.</p>	<p>Directions: Follow GA 20/US 411 to Rome. At 1st traffic signal turn right onto GA Loop 1. Follow GA Loop 1 around Rome, crossing GA 293 and GA 53. After passing the traffic signal at Rome High School / Heritage Honda go about 1/2 mi. and turn right between Bella Roma and Line-X (if you reach Riverside Pkwy. you've gone too far). Immediately turn right on Braves Blvd. / Armuchee Connector. Immediately turn left into the parking lot behind Rome Braves Stadium (if you cross the Oostanaula River you've gone too far). Park at far end near beginning of hiking trail.</p> <p>Facilities: Only at lunch site.</p> <p>Difficulty: Walking will be easy on relatively level paved trail or along the river. Total distance approx. a mile in the morning and the same in the afternoon.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch to eat on the road, water, bug spray.</p>	<p>Richard Ware gobotany@comcast.net 706-232-3435 706-766-5143 (c)</p>
<p>Oct 5 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Gentians and Grass of Parnassus</p> <p>We plan on visiting 3 locations in north GA in the vicinity of Young Harris and Suches. Plants we hope to see in bloom include 3 gentians: the beautiful and rare fringed gentian (<i>Gentianopsis crinita</i>), stiff gentian (<i>Gentianella quinquefolia</i>), and soapwort gentian (<i>Gentiana saponaria</i>). Also, 2 species of <i>Parnassia</i>: kidney-leaf grass-of-Parnassus (<i>Parnassia asarifolia</i>) and the rare and ornately veined large-leaf grass-of-Parnassus (<i>Parnassia grandifolia</i>). In addition, we may come across monkshood (<i>Aconitum uncinatum</i>), white goldenrod (<i>Solidago bicolor</i>), and perhaps a couple species of ladies' tresses (<i>Spiranthes</i> sp.).</p> <p>Time and flowers permitting, we will make an additional stop for white turtlehead (<i>Chelone glabra</i>). Note: We will caravan from the meeting site to the various locations.</p>	<p>Directions: Meet at the Chevron station near the intersection of US-76 and Track Rock Gap Rd. between Blairsville and Young Harris, lat/long 34.911228, -83.870127 in WGS 84 datum. Take I-75 to I-575 north to GA 5/515 to Blue Ridge, GA, then east on US 76/ GA 515 to Blairsville. From the intersection of US 76 and US 19/129 in Blairsville, continue east on HY 76/515 toward Clayton, GA for about 6.4 miles. If you get to Track Rock Gap Rd (or to Young Harris, GA) you have missed the meeting site and gone too far.</p> <p>Facilities: Only at meeting site.</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy at the first site (roadside), moderate at the second site (trail for the most part, but a steep slope) and somewhere in between if we make the third site (minor bushwhacking on generally level ground). Sturdy shoes with good tread are recommended.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch, water, bug spray. We will eat at the second site. You also may wish to bring binoculars, hand lens, and camera.</p>	<p>Rich Reaves rich.reaves@att.net 770-827-5186</p>
<p>Nov 11 10:00 AM</p> <p>Note: This is a Monday</p>	<p>Pine Mountain Trail, F.D. Roosevelt 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. <i>Gentiana saponaria</i>, soapwort gentian, 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>Meet at 10:00 am at Rocky Point Trailhead parking lot, FDR State Park. We will carpool to the Boottop Trail parking area.</p>	<p>Directions: From the Atlanta area, take I-85 south to Exit 41 (I-185), and head south on US 27 Alt. Stay on US 27 Alt all the way through the town of Warm Springs, then up the side of Pine Mountain. Turn right onto 190 (heading west) and go just under 2 miles to the Rocky Point Trailhead parking lot on the left. From the south, take US 27A north from Columbus. Turn left onto GA 190 and go to the Rocky Point Trailhead parking lot.</p> <p>Facilities: None</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.</p>	<p>Hal Massie massiefarm@aol.com 478-550-1062</p>

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