BotSoc News

<u>Number 5</u> September 2021

Big Hammock rich in species that thrive in a variety of habitats

On June 6, a party of 10 field trip participants, including the field trip leader and author of this article, Bobby Hattaway, met at the parking lot for Big Hammock Natural Area within the wildlife management area (WMA) of the same name.

Field Trip: Big Hammock Natural Area

Date: June 6, 2021
Trip Leader: Bobby Hattaway
Trip Report: Bobby Hattaway
with input from all participants

Joining me for the trip were Charlie Seabrook, Rona and Steve Cook, Donna and Alex Tootle, John Harrison, Jan Strydom, Christopher Boon and John French. It is notable than most of the attendees came from a considerable distance to attend, and some were also on the previous day's field trip to the

The opportunity to see Georgia plume (*Elliottia racemosa*) in bloom was a primary objective of the June trip to Big Hammock Natural Area in Tattnall County. Photo by Charlie Seabrook.

Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. Early predictions for weather had been dicey, especially with the showers expected in the afternoon, which one reason the field trip started little early 9:30 at a.m. However, despite previous nighttime

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Perspective:

Pp. 2-3

Field Trip Report:

Big Hammock Natural Area Pp. 1, 4-7

Society News:

Remembering Jim Fowler, and also Jose Tallet P. 3

BotSoc's newest members P. 11

Resources:

Richard and Teresa Ware's website is bigger, better than ever Pp. 7-10

Upcoming Field Trips:

P. 11

Continued on Page 4

President's Perspective



BotSoc News

is published seven times a year in the months of Jan, March, May, July, September, and Nov, with a special seventh issue annually for the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage. Note, however, that with the cancellation of this year's Pilgrimage, there will be only six issues this year.

Submission deadline

Is Oct. 1 for the November issue.

Subscriptions

Are included with membership.

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Maybe before I am done with my tenure as president, I will be able to write a president's message without mentioning COVID-19. But I have to still mention it now because it continues to affect our Society, especially our *raison d'être*, and that is primarily field trips. In our last newsletter (July

issue, pp. 3-4), we published our new 2021 Field Trip Policy with an effective date of June 1, 2021. The policy was also published in a special email to members and is on our Society website (https://www.gabotsoc.org/?page_id=3).

With the increasing prevalence of COVID variants, the COVID situation has worsened, and as of this writing, the future looks predictably grim. Vaccine hesitancy continues to be a huge hurdle in shoring up communal protection or herd immunity, especially in southern states like Georgia. Regardless of what happens, our latest field trip policy statement seems appropriate in the face of uncertainty. So I will repeat the most relevant part of it here: "Decisions about trip participant size, preregistration, and masking should rest with the trip leader with the following exception: If the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines become more restrictive than those in this policy, then field trip leaders will follow CDC guidelines, as a minimum, as we have in the past. Otherwise, leaders can limit the size of a group for any reason they see fit --including for ecological considerations or simply for quality of the field trip experience." Questions on this topic can be directed to me via email at botanikman@g-net.net

By the time you read this, we will have had our annual board meeting by Zoom on Saturday, Aug. 14, at 10 a.m., and you all should have received an email invitation. If you missed that, please know that at the present time, we plan to go ahead with plans for Pilgrimage 2022 next spring in the same location planned for the last two, which we had to cancel – that is, in the Savanah area. Expect more details later.

Meanwhile, let me update our initiative to document plant presence in the 18 Georgia counties for which we have the poorest records. The initial work is simply to find and list the plants. Collecting plant samples requires some training, which could be done later.

I introduced this project in the Jan 2021 newsletter (on Page 10), and I have to say that I am both surprised and disappointed that I did not get much of a response. Out of about 400 members, those expressing a willingness to participate include only four people: Beth Lewis, Susan Richmond, Linda Chafin, and Sarah Kelsey. (It is notable that they are all women, too.) I have tried to figure out why there was not more interest, and I still do not know why. Since the article was near the end of the newsletter, I am tempted to excuse folks for overlooking it. Linda Chafin, also noting the poor response, alternatively suggested another approach. What she is proposing is to have members look for individual plants that, though not necessarily rare like lizard's tail (Saururus cernuus), are not

President's Perspective—Continued from Page 2

widely documented in many Georgia counties. I call it a BOLO, or Be-On-the-Lookout, game for plants.

On a more positive note, on July 10 and 11, after all these years, I was finally able to attend Rich Reaves' Waycross Area Roadside Botany weekend trip. I want to note the following about that trip: In those two days we recorded 90 species of plants, mostly roadside herbaceous ones, with most of them in flower. The main reason I mention that is because two days later, I happened to drive 1,000 miles to Chicago and did not see anywhere near the roadside diversity that we saw in those few miles that weekend. In case you don't understand me, I mean that in the entire two days of driving to Chicago, the total spotted tally of roadside herbaceous species was nowhere close to the number we saw in two days near Waycross and Folkston. I concede that, at times, it was a bit warm on that weekend in July, but what we saw made it worthwhile, including the night-flowering petunia (*Ruellia noctiflora*). Look for a report on Rich's trip in the November newsletter. And if Rich's trip happens again next year, I hope you can attend.

Meanwhile, we still have a few field trips left for this year. I may even offer another trip to Big Hammock in mid-October to catch woody goldenrod in bloom. I hope to see you on one of them.

Bobby Hattaway

Society News—Remembrances

Remembering Jim Fowler for his research, books, photography

Though Jim Fowler was not a member of the Georgia Botanical Society, he was active in similar organizations in his home state of South Carolina, and he was a

Jim Fowler at Mt. Mitchell in 2006 surrounded by small purple-fringed orchids (*Platanthera psycodes*). Photo from Jim Fowler's website.

friend to many of our Georgia

members. He made botanical many contributions which transcend state boundaries, and he needs to be remembered for all did. He especially known for research on native orchids and carnivorous plants, and his photographic

In Memoriam: Jose Tallet

We mourn also the passing of Jose Tallet of Warner Robins, who died in early June at the age of 86. Born in Pinar del Rio, Cuba, he was married to Rosaland for 67 years and was a father and grandfather. He was a member of the Georgia Botanical Society from 2004 to 2018. We are grateful for his membership and support.

images are world famous. In fact, some of his orchid pictures are a part of the US Postal Service Wild Orchids Forever Stamp collection. He also authored two books, Wild Orchids of South Carolina: A Popular Natural History, and Orchids, Carnivorous Plants and Other Wild Flowers of the Green Swamp, North Carolina. He died in June. A link to his obituary can be found at James

Alexander Fowler | WKYK, WTOE ourlocalcommunityonline.com). His website can be found here: https://jfowlerphotography.com/.

What and where is Big Hammock?

The Big Hammock Natural Area (BHNA) is an 801-acre part of the more than 5,500 acre Big Hammock Wildlife Management Area established in 1972. The properties are located in Tattnall County along the Altamaha River just a few miles southwest of Glenville. In 1976, the National Park Service designated the state-owned natural area preserve in the Altamaha River floodplain as a National Natural Landmark because of its variety of natural habitats supporting several rare and endangered species. A marked trail forms a counter-clockwise loop between 1.3 and 1.8 miles long which field trip attendees followed using a brochure available at the trailhead kiosk. The brochure is a self guide, and most of the 20 numbered spots are still valid. Please note that visitors to Big Hammock need to have one of the following either on their person or placed on the dash of their vehicle: a state of Georgia hunting license, fishing license, or lands pass.

shower which made the day a little muggy, we did not get rained on, and most of the entire trip of three hours was shaded. And it was not too buggy. In short, for South Georgia in June, it was not bad.

Those participants that wanted it were supplied, in advance, copies of a two-page plant list I've developed over the years. The list includes common names, scientific names and plant families. We saw most of the 100 species on that list, many of them several times, with repetition being a good thing.

Besides the plants on that list, in the parking lot I steered them to a species that was new for me and previously undocumented in the natural area. It is lanceleaf loosetrife [Steironema (Lysimachia)

lanceolatum] in the Primrose family (Primulaceae), according to Weakley's Flora, and it is rare in the coastal plain.

The word "hammock" has several meanings, but as used here it is a rise in the elevation in an otherwise flat landscape. Here at Big Hammock, that gradual climb took us up and over an ancient



A carpet of powder-puff lichen (Cladonia evansii). Photo by Donna Tootle.

river dune that gently rises 100 feet above sea level and now supports different types of mostly woodydominated plant habitats depending on soil moisture. The most notable natural community there is the dry evergreen woodland. oak Hammock has such a fine example of this plant community that it is listed as a featured place in The Natural Communities of Georgia (2013).

The evergreen aspect of the place is mainly due to sand live oak (Quercus geminata) in the overstory and the rare (in Georgia) myrtle oak (Quercus myrtifolia), a shrubby



Above, false earthstar (*Astraeus morganii*) among sand live oak leaves (*Quercus geminata*). Credit to Dr. Eiliott Horner for identifying the fungus. Photo by Christopher Boon. Below, titi (*Cyrilla racemiflora*) in bloom. Photo by John French.



evergreen oak in the understory that rarely gets taller than 15 feet. The driest part of the dune ridge had deep, white sands with scattered turkey oak (Quercus pine (Pinus longleaf laevis), palustris) and sand spike-moss [Bryodesma (Selaginella) arenicola]. Another adjacent xeric (dry) community is dominated on the ground by a snow white, powder-puff-like fruticose lichen, (Cladonia evansii), with occasional slightly green lookalike called southern reindeer lichen (C. subtenuis). Both have been used to simulate shrubs in the model train trade, and their presence here indicates not only that fire has not touched this spot for some time, but also indicates he paucity of foot traffic. At the foot of the ridge lies a lush longleaf pine wiregrass woodland with slash pine flatwoods in wetter spots culminating in a cypresstupelo depression "pond" in the wettest areas. The last was mostly dry on our visit.

One of the main objectives of our field trip was to see Georgia plume (*Elliottia racemosa*) in flower. It normally flowers in early June at this location and this spot is the world's largest known concentration of the small tree. As it turned out, we only saw it coming into bloom a few times with no plant in full bloom. Charlie Seabrook seems to have gotten the best photo of the flowers (see accompanying photo on Page 1).

Including the two main evergreen oaks mentioned above (sand live oak in the overstory and the rare myrtle oak in the understory), we saw 11 of the 12 species of oaks on the checklist. It was a

treat for the Piedmonters of the group to observe those two evergreen oaks. Other mainly Coastal Plain oaks they got excited about were sand laurel oak (Q. hemisphaerica), bluejack oak (Q. incana), and sand post oak (Q. margarettae).

We saw also three species of hickory (Carya), pignut hickory (C. glabra), mockernut hickory (C. tomentosa), and sand hickory (C. pallida). The last was least familiar to most of the group. It is distinguished from other Georgia hickories by its scurfy, silver-tan-to -rusty-brown scales that cover the buds, twigs and leaves. This feature is best seen when viewed with a 10X magnifier, and it is especially apparent the undersides of the leaves. The only hickory with a similar surface coating is nutmeg hickory (Carya myristiciformis), which initially has silver scales too that later turn bronze. However, nutmeg hickory is very rare in Georgia. It has been found only twice in Georgia (Cnidoscolus stimulosus). before - once in a calcareous Photo by Rona Cook. habitat in Floyd County near Rome Right, Bobby Hattaway in 1999 by our own Richard Ware holds trumpet creeper and earlier (1965) near an old (Campsis radicans). railroad bed in Bartow County near Cartersville by Philip Greear. the ID tool I wrote about in Tipularia

2016 known as HIPDAD comes in handy here if you lose your hand lens, especially considering the usefulness here of three of the criteria in the acronym: Habitat. Distribution and Abundance.

About two-thirds of the way around the trail (#17 on the brochure, labeled as a cypress-gum swamp), a small detour off the trail took us into a small floodplain depression (which was dry when we visited), where pond cypress (Taxodium ascendens) and swamp tupelo (Nyssa biflora) abound with an occasional multi-

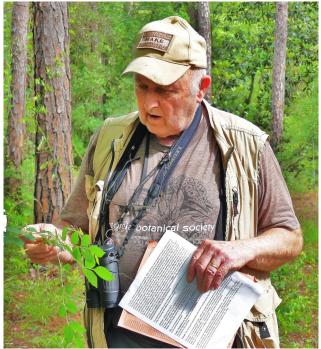
OK, so tell me again what HIPDAD stands for?

As explained in an article in the 2016 issue of BotSoc journal Tipularia, HIPDAD is an acronym coined by Bobby Hattaway for "a set of steps or tools that can be used to identify an unknown plant." The letter H is for habitat; I for illustration or image; P for phenology, usually at flowering and/or fruiting time; D for distribution or range; A for abundance; and the second D is for description. For a full explanation of how to use these concepts for plant identification, see Bobby's article "HIPDAD: A New Set of Tools for Identifying Plants" in the 2016 Tipularia.



Above, tread-softly

Photo by Charlie Sea-



Continued on Page 7

trunked myrtle-leaved holly (*Ilex myrtifolia*). These mostly wet microhabitats differ markedly from those we saw on sand ridges just a few hundred feet away, where the xeric colonies of miniature fruticose (shrub-like) lichens described above dominate the ground.

By the end of our stroll, we found the trail clear of impediment except in the last 75 yards or so, which is overgrown with vegetation. So we stepped 20 yards off onto the adjacent Mack Phillips Road to finish our walk to the parking lot. Our strategy was to avoid bushwhacking and picking up hitchhiker ticks. Our good fortune in doing this was to find at the roadside ditch a titi (*Cyrilla racemiflora*) flowering in great profusion at a convenient stature for photographs.

Overall, the trail is a good hike to take most of the year, but the months July through early September might be too hot for most folks. When we were done, Donna and Alex Tootle graciously invited us to eat our lunches and make use of the facilities at their nearby cabin, and most of us took them up on the offer.

Resources

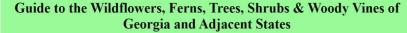
Richard and Teresa Ware expand an already vast, splendid photo website Photos displayed at website ngaflora.com include nearly 1,600 species

If you haven't visited the website ngaflora.com lately, do.

Richard and Teresa Ware have recently expanded their already astonishing collection of botanical photos.

Some of us who were lucky enough to remain healthy during the past year -and-a-half of worldwide pandemic may have found time to organize closets, sort family photos, paint a room or use learn to use Zoom video calling without cursing out loud. Meanwhile, the Wares' progress was noted in a string of emails from Richard:

 On Dec. 20, 2020: "I have finally completed the Wildflower (U, V, W, X, Y and Z) sections of our website!"



This site should be useful in the identification of the plants found in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

Click on the headings or photos below to go to the 3 major categories of plants



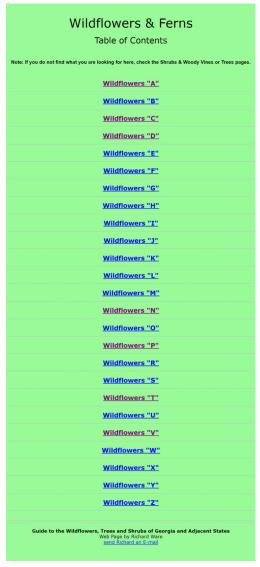
Photo use policy: Photos on the site are a relatively small size and can be used without permission. If you require the original size, send me an e-mail (below), stating proposed use, for permission.

Guide to the Wildflowers, Trees & Shrubs of Georgia and Adjacent States
Web Page © Richard Ware

send Richard an E-mail

A view of the home page for Richard and Teresa Ware's website ngaflora.com.

Resources—Continued from Page 7



A click on the "Wildflowers & Ferns" link brings you to this table of contents. Links to the other two sections of the website work the same way. Source: Screen capture from ngaflora.com.

- ◆ Jan. 14, 2021: "I have added 18 new pages and updated 103 other pages to include photos taken in 2020 in the 'Wildflowers' section of my website! Also, I have added 2 new pages and updated 14 others in the 'Trees' section."
- ◆ March 7, 2021: "I have now added a 'Shrubs & Woody Vines' section to our website!"

Though their website is the sort that is likely to grow continually, the Wares' site now includes photos of:

- ◆ 1,220 species of wildflowers and ferns in 524 genera.
- ◆ 138 species of shrubs and woody vines in 84 genera.
- 218 species of trees in 84 genera.

As the website name indicates, their site began as a collection of photos of North Georgia flora. It has since been amended to include photos of flora from throughout Georgia and north Florida. Richard and Teresa's hope is that the site will help anyone wishing to identify plants.

BotSoc News recently interviewed Richard to get a sense of all that has gone into creating ngaflora.com.

BSN: How long have you been working on this project?

RW: My oldest HTML (hypertext markup language) folder is dated 2012, but we probably have been really seriously working on the project since 2016 or 2017. I bought the URL (uniform resource locator, or website name) in May 2019 and according to my e-mail, I sent out the first notice of the Trees section going live on June 26, 2019.

BSN: In what year would the first photographs have been taken?

RW: I believe almost all, if not all, the photos are digital. Teresa started taking digital photos in 2004 and me around 2007.

BSN: Were you both photographers before starting to document these plants?

RW: Yes, both of us have been taking wildflower photos since around 1986 and trees since 1972.

BSN: Did you have mentors along the way?

RW: In the very early years (i.e., trees), my mentors were Dr. Philip Greear and Dr. Lewis Lipps

Resources—Continued from Page 8

from Shorter College. Dr. Greear told us about the Georgia Botanical Society, and we joined around 1987. I learned the wildflowers from BotSoc field trips with folks like David Emory, Tom Patrick, Steve Bowling, and Scott Ranger.

BSN: If you had to guess at the number of work hours you and Teresa have dedicated to the project, what would you guess?

RW: I would say at the height of trying to get the wildflowers or shrubs up it could be as high as 30 or 40 hours a week.

BSN: What special equipment or lenses did you rely on?

RW: Actually, no. Teresa and I both have relatively inexpensive (~ \$300-\$400) Panasonic cameras; hers is a DMC-FZ20, and mine is a DMC-FZ28.

BSN: Do you have tips or suggestions for others who want to document their explorations?

RW: The best thing to do is make a plant list and enter it in a database or spreadsheet with a location code.

BSN: Equipment to recommend?

RW: I recommend a monopod unless you have the patience to use a tripod (which I don't).

BSN: Advice?

RW: Learn to use your camera, no matter the model or expense. Also, you can learn everything else you need from BotSoc field trips and a few reference books.

BSN: Reference books or classes?

RW: Take any classes offered by BotSoc. Download the 2020 version of Alan Weakley's "Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States" to your computer. If you really need a list of flower and tree books, I can provide one.

BSN: You taught yourself HTML – the computer language use to create websites – rather than use off-the-shelf

Wildflowers & Ferns Table of Contents Common Scientific Name Achillea Achillea borealis Aconitum Monkshood Aconitum uncinatum Actaea pachypoda Actaea racemosa Dolls'-eyes Black Cohosh Adiantum Adiantum capillus-veneris Adiantum pedatum Agalinis / Purple-foxglove Beach Foxglove Flaxleaf False Foxglove Purple False Foxglove Threadleaf False Foxglove Agalinis Agalinis fasciculata Agalinis linifolia Agalinis purpurea Agalinis setacea Slenderleaf False Foxglove Agalinis tenuifolia Agastache nepetoides White Snakeroot Ageratina Ageratina altissima Aletris Colic-root White Colic-root Wild Onion Flatrock Onion Glade or Prairie Onion Field Garlic Allium canadense Allium speculae Alternanthera Alternanthera philoxeroides Amaranth, Pigweed Green Amaranth Spiny Pigweed Amaranthus powellii Amaranthus spinosus Ragweed Common Ragweed Ambrosia artemisiifolia Fly-poison Ammannia Ammannia coccinea Toothcup Valley Redstem Amorphophallus Voodoo Lily, Devil's Tongue Amorphophallus konjac Hog-peanut Amsonia Iudoviciana Amsonia tabernaemontana

A click on the letter "A" (see previous page) brings up a list sorted alphabetically by scientific name. Note that common names, while not sorted alphabetically, link to the same illustrations. Partial screen capture, ngaflora.com.

Resources—Continued from Page 9

ASTERACEAE - - Aster Family

Achillea borealis Bongard — American Yarrow















software like WordPress because you wanted more control over your website. How long did that take?

RW: That is correct! Several years, off and on, and I'm still a novice.

BSN: How do you envision people using the site?

RW: Of course, the main purpose was to help folks ID any wildflower, shrub or tree that they may have a question about.

BSN: Any tips for navigating or searching the website?

RW: No, it is relatively simple, just click on one of the three links or photos on the main page to go to the Wildflowers & Ferns, Trees, or Shrubs & Woody Vines sections. The plants are arranged in alphabetical order by genus and then species. If you need to go back to the main page, just click your back arrow.

BSN: What are your wishes regarding members' use of the photographs on the site?

RW: This is at the bottom of the main page: "Photo use policy: Photos on the site are a relatively small size and can be used without permission. If you require the original size, send me an e-mail ... stating proposed use for permission." (See image of ngaflora.com home page on Page 7.)

At left, the payoff. Clicking on a scientific name or matching common name on the list of species at ngaflora.com (see the illustration on Page 9) brings up beautiful illustrations, comments on habitat, and maps showing distribution/range. Screen capture, ngaflora.com website.

Upcoming Field Trips

Information for the field trips listed below was that available when this issue of the newsletter was composed. Check the BotSoc website's <u>2021 Field Trip Schedule page</u> (https://www.gabotsoc.org/? page_id=10537) regularly for updates and additions. Email addresses for the trip leaders listed below may be found on the following page (page 12).

BOTSOC FIELD TRIP GUIDELINES

You'll find the Georgia Botanical Society Field Trip Policy Rules and Recommendations, effective June 1, 2021, on our <u>website</u> (https://www.gabotsoc.org/?page_id=3). Note that the guidelines give considerable discretion to trip leaders. It's good practice always to reach out to trip leaders via email in advance of a trip, even when there is no stated requirement to do so. Remember also that cell phone reception may be spotty in some locales, making it hard to reach trip leaders by phone the day of the trip.

Oct. 2 Hal Massie	We'll explore the Sandhills Wildlife Management Area's West Tract in Tay- lor County searching for Sandhills' wildflowers.	Watch BotSoc website's 2021 Field Trip Schedule page for details of this upcoming trip.
Nov. 11 Hal Massie	This trip will take us to F.D. Roosevelt State Park (FDR State Park) in Harris and Meriwether counties for fall foliage and wildflowers.	Watch BotSoc website's 2021 Field Trip Schedule page for details of this upcoming trip.
Nov. 26 Hal Massie	We'll explore Pine Mountain in Harris and Meriwether counties on a "Black Friday Botanical Ramble."	Watch BotSoc website's 2021 Field Trip Schedule page for details of this upcoming trip.

Society News—New Members

Please welcome the newest members of the Georgia Botanical Society!

Listed below are the names and hometowns of GaBotSoc's newest members, all of whom joined between May 23 and August 9 of this year.

Rhonda Eggert	Acworth, Ga.
Jessica McAlpine	Athens, Ga.
Dana Johns	Bogart, Ga.
Stephanie Ramsey	Chamblee, Ga.
Stephanie Koontz	Nicholson, Ga.
Lena Hall	Rocky Face, Ga.
Michelle Henson	Watkinsville, Ga.
Joshua Billings	White Oak, Ga.

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