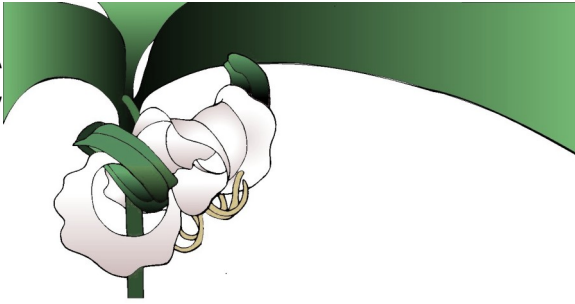


BotSoc News



Volume 97

Number 2

March

2022

Hello, Savannah! The 2022 Spring Pilgrimage is on!

The 53rd Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage is a go! The dates are April 8-10, 2022, in the Savannah area. Currently, 19 trips will be featured throughout the three days. Due to restrictions set in response to the pandemic, the event is limited to 50 registrants, so don't wait to register for a slot. Be on the lookout for emails with more information. Also, periodically check the website [Pilgrimage | Georgia Botanical Society \(gabotsoc.org\)](http://Pilgrimage | Georgia Botanical Society (gabotsoc.org)) for pilgrimage registration information and updates. (For those reading a print copy of this newsletter, that website page is at https://www.gabotsoc.org/?page_id=23.)

Woodland and forest flora highlight fall trip to Big Hammock Natural Area

Field Trip: Big Hammock Natural Area

Date: Oct. 17, 2021

Trip Leader: Dr. Robert "Bobby" Hattaway

Trip Report: Lynn Hodgson

Dr. Bobby Hattaway led this trip to Big Hammock in Tattnall County near Glennville, and he had prepared a two-page plant list which included flora of the Dry Evergreen Oak Woodlands natural community and its adjoining, and

sometimes inseparable, Dry Deciduous Hardwood Forests community, which tends to be a little more moist or mesic. An informational kiosk had a nice



Bobby Hattaway (in cap, center) briefs Big Hammock field trip participants before the group heads out on a crisp fall morning. Photo by Jackie Miller

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**BotSoc News**

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My hopes for the new year and a reminder to read emails closely: You'll save hardworking volunteers precious time

In the military, we used to have an expression: "Hope is not a plan." Despite that, I am thinking of 2022 as a year of hope. I am writing this message on Jan. 20. By the time you read this, I not only hope that the Omicron wave of COVID has passed in the U.S., but also that it has not been replaced already by a new variant. Meanwhile, planning continues for a modified annual Spring Pilgrimage the weekend of April 8-10, and I hope that the horrible January weather we experienced will not deter folks from registering for that event.

I also hope all of you have successfully weathered this winter and are happily waiting for spring to spring. I know I am. The 2022 Field Trip Schedule that Susan Crozier has put together for us is posted to our website. With more than 25 events as of this writing, plus the 19 scheduled for our 2022 Spring Pilgrimage, we have a lot of trips planned. It reflects our attempt to continue to adapt to the COVID environment. Speaking of that, in one of our recent society board meetings, several board members aired the idea that if this organization is going to continue to perform its mission, we are going to have to adapt to COVID. No other board member countered that idea. And I hope most of our society membership agrees with it and makes an effort to adapt too.

We have a number of field trips lined up for March, including four of mine. Mine are in south Georgia. I hope to see you on one of them. They were mentioned at the end of the January newsletter and are listed in the field trip schedule on our website.

There's something else that needs mentioning. Recently, Richard Ware and I conducted an email survey of our members involving their preferences on format for replacement copies of the "lost" *Tipularia*. That's our most recent 2021 issue—Volume 36 with a milkweed on the cover—all issues of which appear to have been lost in mailing. We enlisted the always ready help of Jo Anne Romfh, our membership chair, for that project. She sent a Mailchimp email announcement to all

members who were supposed to receive hard copies of *Tipularia*. As often happens, however, we had some folks wrongly reply to the Georgia Botanical Society email (news@gabotsoc.org).

When you reply to a BotSoc email, it is automatically forwarded to Jo Anne, and she then either responds to the query or forwards it to whomever should have received the response. But this time, nearly 10 percent of recipients replied to Jo Anne instead of Richard and myself. Because Jo Anne is such a nice person, she probably won't like me telling the membership that we have a problem, and the problem is us! Seriously though, more folks need to more carefully read these important announcements. I know everyday we all get more emails than we'd like, and folks tend to skim—not read—them, but that is really no excuse. Failure to follow instructions costs folks on the

President's Perspective—Continued from Page 2

receiving end more time, and it makes more work for an already busy membership chair. If Jo Anne had not forwarded those errant emails to Richard and me, we'd not have known about those responses at all.

So please try to help us all out by reading more carefully, and that includes scrolling down into the message. I say the latter because—and this is a little bit humorous in retrospect—during the survey, one member told us that they received their copy of *Tipularia* “yesterday.” For a split second, I was elated, but this person lives in Maryland. If so, I wondered why no one in Georgia had gotten theirs yet. So I called the person and asked them for more details. Turns out they were referring to a hard copy of the newsletter, not *Tipularia*. The problem here is one I am guilty of often. The person failed to scroll down far enough into the email to see the cover of *Tipularia*, which was part of the email announcement—sort of LOL, huh? Anyway, this needed to be said, and it was up to me to say it. Unlike Jo Anne, I don't worry much about trying to be nice all the time—after all I did not get elected by popular vote to be president of the society (no one else would do it, LOL!).

In closing, I want to encourage folks to participate in our Name That Plant Contest, which is posted to our website https://www.gabotsoc.org/?page_id=289 at the beginning of every month. One of our two *Tipularia* editors, Richard Ware, has faithfully been at this task every month since August 2008. I recently retired as a participant but was saddened to learn that with 387 eligible members, we currently have only have eight to 10 folks participating. That's not quite 3 percent of our membership, folks! Considering the amount of work Richard puts into the contest each month, I see the low participation as a problem. The contest can be a lot of fun, and we would like to learn why more folks have not participated. So please let us know by emailing Richard Ware at gabotany@comcast.net.

Bobby Hattaway

Upcoming Field Trips

Our website is now the place to go for all the latest on upcoming BotSoc field trips

By Susan Crozier

The months of March and April are chock full of field trips every weekend except Easter. There are more than 10 interesting trips, not including the spring pilgrimage, from the coast to the southwestern part of the state and north to the Atlanta metro area and the Appalachians. Spring is such a lovely time in Georgia to enjoy and learn, as differing geologic regions show their botanical richness and abundance.

View the 2022 Field Trip Schedule at <https://www.gabotsoc.org>. Scroll down past the link to the “Name That Plant Contest” to links under “Upcoming Events” to find detailed information on individual field trips. It is recommended that anyone planning to participate in a field trip also see the link to field trip rules and recommendations below the links to trip details.

Editor's note: Beginning with this issue, *BotSoc News* will no longer include details on upcoming field trips. Planning for trips is dynamic, and newsletter deadlines preclude last-minute changes or additions. Please see the field trip page on our website for all the latest!

Big Hammock—Continued from Page 1

brochure, which though dated, still turned out to be quite useful on a loop trail hike.

A group of 14 Georgia Botanical Society (BotSoc) members arrived to follow “Dr. Bob” over hill and dale on a crisp, beautiful, sunny fall day following the passage of a cold front. The group included Timothy Estep, one of Dr. Bob’s former students and BotSoc vice president. Five of the 14 participants had been on the hike at George L. Smith State Park the day before as well. (Not expecting the sudden temperature drop from the previous day’s 80 degrees to the following day’s 50 degrees, and having spent the night away from all her warm jackets in the Cheerio Inn, a very nice motel in Glennville, this author was freezing. Luckily, Rhonda Durden had an extra sweatshirt to lend.)

The Big Hammock Natural Area lies on ancient sand dunes in the Altamaha River floodplain. It was set aside primarily because of the presence of the Georgia plume (*Elliottia racemosa*) in the Ericaceae, or heath family. This place holds the world’s largest population of the white-flowered tree.

Although Dr. Bob told us when we had arrived in the right habitat for Georgia plume, and though he was very patient in explaining the Georgia plume’s features, we still had a little trouble spotting it among other woody plants such as horse sugar (*Symplocos tinctoria*); sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*); red bay (*Persea borbonia*); southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*); and opposite-leaved trees such as devilwood/wild olive [*Cartrema (Osmanthus) americana*], and even a few flowering dogwoods (*Cornus florida*). However, once we had our brains tuned to the right search image, we

Big Hammock Natural Area is an 801 acre tract within the 5,566 acre Big Hammock Wildlife Management Area in Tattnall County near Glennville. The natural area includes a Dry Evergreen Oak Woodland community, one of the natural communities featured in *The Natural Communities of Georgia* (Edwards, Ambrose & Kirkman, 2013). Such communities are described there as woodlands or forests dominated by broadleaf evergreen species. They may be found as “marginal strands” occurring between xeric sandhill woodlands and seepage swamps where fire has been absent or infrequent.

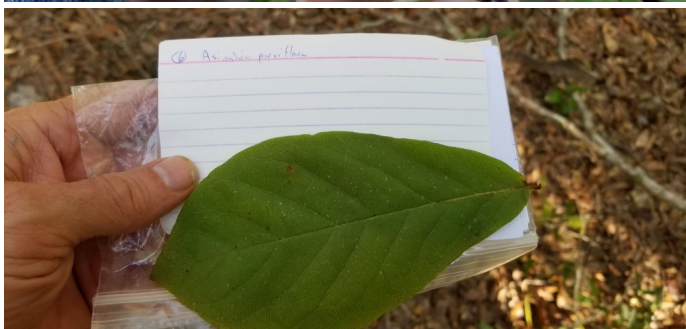
In the “cross-walk” (a cross-reference between different plant community names in two different books) in their 2013 book, authors Leslie Edwards, Jonathan Ambrose and L. Katherine Kirkman connect their work to a 44-year-old classic text. They equate the Dry Evergreen Oak Woodland to community No. 91—Upland Broadleaf Evergreen Forest—in Dr. Charles H. Wharton’s 1978 classic, *Natural Environments of Georgia*. Pages 189 and 192 of that book include mentions of the Phillips’ Tract, which is this place.

—Lynn Hodgson



A close-up of the foliage of red bay (*Persea borbonia*) Photo by Rona Cook.

Big Hammock—Continued from Page 4



Top, the foliage of the myrtle oak (*Quercus myrtifolia*), a shrubby oak. Photo by Rona Cook. Middle, the impressed veins of a sand live oak (*Quercus geminata*) leaf. Photo by Jackie Miller. Bottom, the leaf of a dwarf pawpaw (*Asimina parviflora*). Photo by Mark Ogilvie.

found lots of the Georgia plume. It normally blooms the second week in June and is much easier to spot then, but it was still in full leaf, so we had good looks. And we eventually found some of its woody capsular fruit, but it was out of reach.

Much of this woodland is dominated by evergreen oaks, mainly sand live oak (*Quercus geminata*) in the overstory and myrtle oak (*Quercus myrtifolia*), a shrubby oak, in the understory. Dr. Bob explained that it is hard to burn this habitat because the abundant sand live oak has leaves which are curved inward on themselves, and they tend to land upside down, presenting a tiny cup which holds water. So, the sand live oak areas do not easily carry fire. Besides these two evergreen oaks, we also saw many sand laurel oaks (*Quercus hemisphaerica*), which tend to be tardily deciduous.

Near the highest point of the trail on a ridge, we found woody goldenrod (*Chrysoma pauciflosculosa*) as promised. Dr. Bob—by his own admission—had previously thought that the unusual gray-green color of the plant was due to grayish hair, but upon closer examination, he was disappointed to find nary a hair. The plant is glabrous (smooth), but he'd never looked at it close-up (with a loupe). We all, including him, got a good laugh because up till then, he thought it could be also called *woolly* goldenrod instead of *woody* goldenrod!

We stopped for a brief rest, water, and whatever lunch we had brought with us. Nearby some of us found, the hard way, a plant Dr. Bob had mentioned, the evergreen and very thorny eastern gum bully (*Sideroxylon lanuginosum*), a temperate representative of a mostly tropical family of woody

plants (Sapotaceae) and the source of the original ingredient in Chiclets Gum.

On our way to lower elevation, we briefly stepped off the trail into a small example—about 2 acres—of a cypress-gum pond, or depression swamp, with “gum” in this case meaning swamp tupelo

Big Hammock—Continued from Page 5

(*Nyssa biflora*). Here we got a good close-up look at swamp tupelo and pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*) as well as a small tree that is associated with this habitat, myrtle holly (*Ilex myrtifolia*), with females having red berries.

About four-fifths of the way around the loop trail, we stopped in to explore a good example of pine flatwoods with the understory dominated by little gallberry holly (*Ilex glabra*). Though this was the first plant community we met coming out of the parking lot in the morning, this later example was spatially easier to observe. The plant community has pines in the



Woody goldenrod (*Chrysoma pauciflosculosa*). Photo by Rona Cook.

canopy and is further characterized by rather poor drainage so that it is sometimes very wet. We compared slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*), loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), and longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), but the day was getting away from us, so we pressed on down the ecotone trail that had pine flatwoods on our right and sandhill on our left. Though longleaf pine was in both plant communities, we could see that it was making a comeback in the sandhill after being previously cut.

We had started shortly after 10 a.m. and arrived back at the cars just shy of 3 p.m., having covered about 2 miles. Time sure does fly when you are having fun with friends!



Left, sand spikemoss [*Bryodesma (Selaginella) arenicola*]. Photo by Mark Ogilvie. Right, wind-blown broom forkmoss (*Dicranum scoparium*). Photo by Jackie Miller.



Trees of Georgia: Shagbark hickory

A distinctly American tree, shagbark hickory is the most important and widespread of our hickories

By Richard Ware

During pre-glacial periods in history, hickories covered Europe and the Mediterranean countries. Today, only one hickory species exists beyond our continent, and this in eastern China. And of all the hickories on our continent, none is as important or widespread as the shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), a distinctly American tree.

To everyone with a feeling for things American, the shagbark seems like a symbol of the pioneer age, with its hard, sinewy limbs and rude, shaggy coat, like the pioneer himself in fringed deerskin hunting shirt.

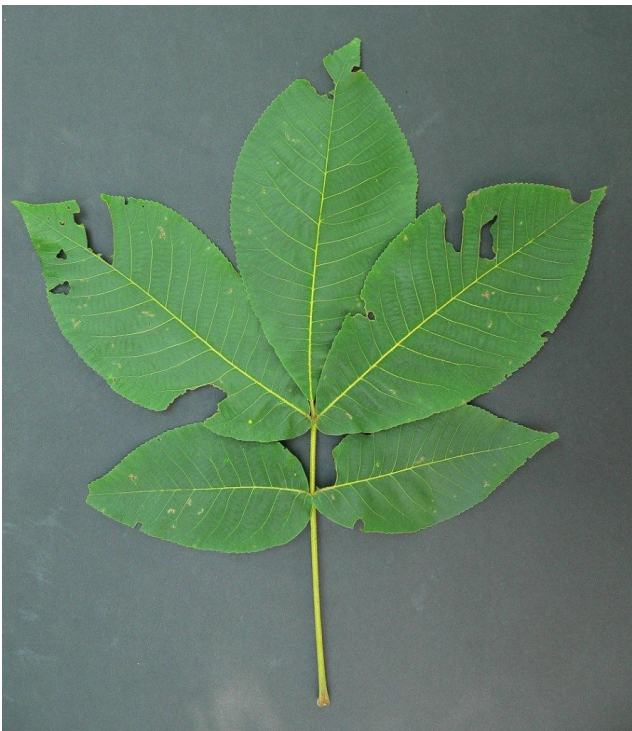
“The fruit,” wrote William Bartram in his *Travels in North America*, “is in great estimation with the Indians. The Creeks store the nuts in their towns. I have seen above a hundred bushels of these nuts belonging to one family. They pound them to pieces and then cast them into boiling water,

which, after passing through fine strainers, preserves the most oily part of the liquid; this they call by a name which signifies ‘hiccory milk’; it is as sweet and rich as fresh cream, and is an ingredient in most of their cookery, especially homony and corn cakes.’ ”

The fuel value of shagbark is higher than that of any other American wood except locust. A cord of hickory is almost the equivalent in thermal units of a ton of coal, and even today costs less. Untold millions of cords of this wood were chucked into the hearths and stoves of our early pioneers. Green wood of hickory is considered the perfect fuel for the preparation of smoked hams, for the aroma of burning hickory enters into the ultimate taste of the ham.

The pioneers made boxes of the shaggy bark, ramrods for their guns, split-rail fences, hinges for their cabin doors, yellow dye from the inner bark, and hickory hoops for the ubiquitous pork barrel. No other commercial wood has the combination of strength,

Editor’s note: Nearly 25 years ago, Richard Ware authored for this newsletter the first of a series of articles on identifying native trees in Georgia. That’s nearly a generation ago, and newer members of the Georgia Botanical Society may have seen none of the original – and timeless and still very helpful – articles. Today, we continue with the second installment of “Trees of Georgia,” an occasional series that will refresh and rerun the series for everyone’s benefit. Hope you enjoy!



Shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*) leaf. Photo by Richard & Teresa Ware.

Trees of Georgia: Shagbark hickory—Continued from Page 7

toughness, and elasticity, and no other American hardwood could adequately substitute for hickory in case of shortage of supply. Hickory lumber is used for handles of axes, picks, hammers, and hatchets, and previously for spokes and rims of wheels, singletrees, and buggy shafts. Increasing quantities are used in athletic equipment. It weighs about sixty-three pounds to the cubic foot when air dry. Trees of seedling origin grow slowly but may reach 150 to 200 years in age. Hickories are attacked by various insects, but suffer greatest harm from the hickory bark beetle.

Should you ever visit President Andrew Jackson's home, the Hermitage near Nashville, Tenn., you'll find in the burying ground to the east of the president's tomb six shagbark hickories varying in diameter from 16 to 24 inches, planted from nuts received in December of 1830 from Colonel Charles E. Dudley of New York. Inasmuch as the president's well-known nickname was "Old Hickory," Colonel Dudley's gift was a pleasant compliment. The Hermitage, a cherished historic landmark, is owned by the State of Tennessee.

Taxonomy: *Carya ovata* (P. Mill.) K. Koch. From "karya," an ancient Greek name of the walnut tree, and "ovata" for ovate or egg-shaped (one source says this refers to the fruit, and one says the leaves).

Other Common Names: Shellbark or scalybark hickory

Family: Walnut Family (Juglandaceae)

Description: *Habit:* A moderately large tree, 60-80 feet in height and 1-2 feet in diameter (maximum 120 feet by 4 feet); in a forest, developing a long, clear bole with a small, open crown; in open situations, distinguished by the long, oblong crown so characteristic of many hickories. The



Top, twig and terminal bud of shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*). Bottom, twig and terminal bud of the southern shagbark hickory (*C. caroliniae-septentrionalis*). Photos by Richard & Teresa Ware.

Trees of Georgia: Shagbark hickory—Continued from Page 8



Top, the bark on the trunk of a shagbark hickory (*C. ovata*). Bottom, the bark of the southern shagbark hickory (*C. carolinae-septentrionalis*). Photos by Richard & Teresa Ware.

root system includes a long taproot, which renders the tree unusually wind firm. *Leaves*: Deciduous, pinnately compound, alternate; 8-14 inches long; leaflets usually five, 3-7 inches long, margins serrate with persistent tufts of hairs on teeth; lower surfaces sometimes pubescent, petiole and leaf rachis persistent into fall; crushed leaves have faint apple smell rather than astringent odor of other hickories. *Flowers*: Unisexual, both sexes borne in separate clusters on the same tree; the staminate, borne in hairy catkins of 4-5 inches in length; individual flowers, with four hairy stamens; pistillate flowers, in two- to five-flowered, rusty-red, woolly spikes. *Fruit*: A four-ribbed, thin-shelled, oblong, light-brownish-white nut, about 1 inch long; encased in a nearly black, dehiscent husk, about 1/2-inch thick, depressed at the apex and depressed or rounded at the base; seed, sweet, light brown. *Twigs*: Stout, pubescent, dark brown, lenticels long, pale; terminal bud chestnut brown, 3/4-inch long, hairy; bud scales imbricate; leaf scars heart-shaped, with many scattered bundle scars; pith, homogeneous. *Bark*: Bluish gray to slate-gray in color, smooth on young stems and trunks, but on larger trunks exfoliating in long, narrow plates which are often detached at both ends, resulting in a conspicuously shaggy appearance.

Habitat & Distribution: It occurs on low hills and in the neighborhood of streams and swamps in rich, deep, moderately moist soil; southern Maine to Georgia and western Florida; northern Louisiana and eastern Texas; eastern Kansas, to Iowa and southeastern Minnesota; Michigan, Ontario and New York, and in the Carolinas ascending to 3,000 feet above the sea in valleys on the western slope of the Blue Ridge. In Georgia, it is found in the Blue Ridge, Ridge & Valley, Cumberland Plateau and Piedmont Plateau regions, and in the western part of the state down to western Florida. Pure stands are rare, and best growth is achieved in mixture with oaks and other broad-leaved trees in the Cumberland Mountains and Mississippi River bottoms. Under forest conditions, the straight trunk may be clear of branches for 50 or 60 feet.

Another “shagbark hickory”: Ranging from North Carolina, northern Georgia, northern Alabama, eastern Mississippi, to eastern Tennessee we have a different shagbark. This tree, southern shagbark hickory (*C. carolinae-septentrionalis*), now confirmed to be a separate species from *C. ovata*, was previously considered a variety of that species, and was called Carolina hickory (*C. ovata* var. *australis*). It is easily distinguished from *C. ovata* by its slender twigs, chocolate brown and glabrous, with shiny black bud scales, and by its smaller leaves and fruit, with a thinner husk. This tree doesn't seem as particular about its habitat as *C. ovata*, for it will grow on drier slopes and

Trees of Georgia: Shagbark hickory—Continued from Page 9

in floodplains with hard pan clay soils. I am of the opinion that *C. carolinae-septentrionalis* is much more common than *C. ovata*, the latter being confined to rich soil near streams and the lower slopes.

Species champions: The National Champion Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*) has a circumference of 191 inches, a height of 104 feet, a crown spread of 99 feet, with a total of 320 points and is located in Anne Arundel, Md. The state champion is located in Polk County, has a circumference of 156 inches,



Leaves of the southern shagbark hickory (*C. carolinae-septentrionalis*). Photo by Richard & Teresa Ware.

a height of 120 feet, a crown spread of 100 feet and a score of 301 points. The National Champion Southern Shagbark (*Carya carolinae-septentrionalis*) has a circumference of 106 inches, a height of 140 feet, a crown spread of 71 feet, a score of 264 points and is found in Etowah, Ala. There are co-champions in Georgia, both located in Oaky Woods, Houston County. One tree has a circumference of 84 inches, a height of 141 feet, a crown spread of 58 feet and a score of 240 points. The other tree has a circumference of 80 inches, a height of 141 feet, a crown spread of 60 feet and 236 points.

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Society News—In Memoriam

We remember three Georgia Botanical Society members ...



Jean Feitshans died December 20, 2021. She was 91. Jean was an Indiana native but resided in the Perry area for the majority of her life. She joined the society in 2003, and, as one fellow BotSoc member recalls, was a “bold spirit.” Many remember her stamina and mental acuity.

Jean had a master’s degree in plant physiology from Purdue, graduating top in her class. After she and her husband moved from Ohio to Georgia, she put her training in plant physiology to great use in their new farming operation, Mossy Creek Farms, near

Perry, and also taught briefly at Perry High School.



Daisy S. Arrington, passed away January 16. Among her many gifts to the society were decades of membership and years of service as membership and field trips chairs. Of her work as field trip chair in the 1970s, Dr. Helen Brown, a past president of the society, remembers that Daisy “was always very thorough and hard-working and did an excellent job in a position that was by far the most important one in the Georgia Botanical Society at that time.” Her sister, Suzanne Jackson, notes that “her love of flowers and nature was obvious in her beautiful photographs.”

Noonyean “Tee” Smallidge Brower was born in Bar Harbor, Maine, on March 14, 1934 and passed away in July 2021 after a long bout with Alzheimer’s. Tee majored in botany at the University of Maine, where she met and married her husband John. She received her Master of Science degree at the University of Massachusetts with an anatomic study of the effects of gamma radiation on oak leaves in an irradiated forest.

Tee and John moved to Savannah, where Tee was an associate professor of biology at Armstrong State University of the Atlantic until her retirement in 1996 after 30 years. Tee and John were avid members of the Georgia Botanical Society, which they joined in 1986, and participated in many field trips and pilgrimages. They relocated to Clayton, Georgia, in 1996, where their favorite activities were wildflower hikes in the North Georgia mountains.

Any remembrances in her name can be directed to the *Tipularia* fund or the Marie Mellinger Fund.

Society News—New Members

... And welcome new ones

New Member(s)	Hometown and State	New Member(s)	Hometown and State
Mary Applegate	Tifton, Georgia	Jim & Donna Gawlas	Berkeley Lake, Georgia
Carol Bokros	Macon, Georgia	Susan Mitchell-Ketzer	Atlanta, Georgia
Pamela Crawford	Jasper, Georgia	Richard E. Perry	Stockbridge, Georgia
Dena Hynes DiMonda	Lawrenceville, Georgia	Cahti Stroud	Cleveland, Tenn.

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