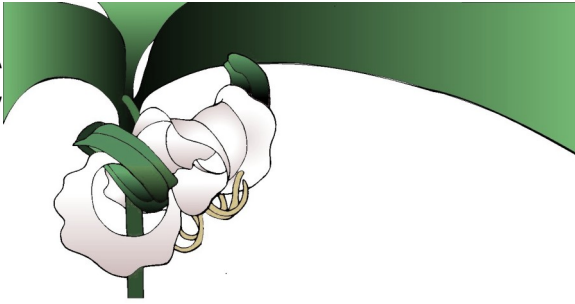


BotSoc News



Volume 97

Number 4

July

2022

Zoom meeting set for Saturday, July 16

BotSoc members meet to confirm new officers

The board of directors of the Georgia Botanical Society (BotSoc) has called a virtual meeting of the society's general membership to confirm new officers at 10 a.m., Saturday, July 16. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom internet video call. All current members will receive an email invitation to attend along with instructions on how to join the call.

BotSoc bylaws require that the society's four officers be confirmed every other year for two-year terms. They also require that the proposed slate of officers be circulated to BotSoc members at least 10 days in advance. This article serves as that notice.

Nominees for the four officer slots are **Timothy Estep** (president); **Mei Lee Fung** (vice president); **Susan Crozier** (treasurer); and **Eddi Minche** (secretary).

Watch for an email with instructions on how to join the meeting!

BotSoc goes kayaking on Ebenezer Creek

By Lynn Hodgson

April 10

dawned very cold (33 degrees) but sunny and calm. As leader, I was a tad worried that registrants might not show up because it was just plain cold. Jim and Teri Pohorsky of Beaufort Kayak Tours had brought a trailer-load of kayaks, and the three



BotSoc member Donna English (right) and daughter Katherine take to kayaks on a trip to Ebenezer Creek, part of this year's Spring Pilgrimage. Photo by Teri Pohorsky of Beaufort Kayak Tours.

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President's Perspective

**BotSoc News**

is published seven times a year in the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November, with a special seventh publication annually for the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage.

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This is the last president's message of my two-year term. As you know, before this job, I was the vice president for two years. In both positions, I tried to follow my Mother's advice: "Son, do the best you can."

I am happy to say that, in spite of COVID, our vice president, Timothy Estep, was able to plan and execute a successful Spring Pilgrimage. If the nomination process goes as I suspect it will, Timothy will be taking over as president, and I know he will give it his all. And as for our next pilgrimage, rumor has it that it might be in a place like Blue Ridge, Hiawassee, or Blairsville. For sure it is time to return to the mountains. That sounds good to me.

During my tenure, the thing that I believe I am most pleased about concerns our society's efforts to get the U.S. Forest Service to modify its approach to controlled burns at Mulky Gap in the Chattahoochee National Forest. Back on April 30, 2021, our Clayton Webster had a trip planned there to see what is probably Georgia's greatest display of pink lady's slippers (*Cypripedium acaule*). Shortly before that date, Clayton found out that the plants appeared to be wiped out by a recent prescribed fire conducted by the Forest Service. Shortly thereafter, Clayton made me aware of what had happened, and on May 11, I wrote a letter, on behalf of the Georgia Botanical Society to the Blue Ridge Ranger District fire management officer for the Chattahoochee National Forest. The letter was well received, and we agreed to meet this spring (2022) at Mulky Gap to assess the condition of the orchid population a year later.

On May 2, Hal Massie, Clayton Webster and I met at Mulky Gap with several Forest Service personnel, including Steverson Moffat, Ph.D.,

acting district ranger for the Blue Ridge Ranger District. Representatives from several other agencies were present also, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance. The meeting went well and was nicely summarized by Dr. Moffat in an email where he put together some steps that should help avoid a similar problem in the future. One of those should be completed by the time you read this. It involves a visit in June by Hal, Clayton, Steve Bowling and myself to map populations of pink lady's slippers at Mulky Gap. Our team of four plans to turn over our data to the Forest Service so it can have a map of the orchid populations. The map product and the likelihood of an earlier burn should help prevent a recurrence of the situation in the future. Perhaps the most noteworthy aspect here is that our society is doing more than just conducting field trips.

Continued on Page 3

President's Perspective—Continued from Page 2

Before I bow out, I want to express my gratitude to certain key individuals that helped me get through the last two years. I have already mentioned Timothy Estep, who was always ready to encourage, advise and support me. Hal Massie and Richard Ware, both longtime members, have much institutional knowledge that they shared when I needed it. Linda Chafin was always willing to offer her thoughts on how she'd handle some sticky problems. Jo Anne Romfh, our membership chair, assisted me in more ways that I have space here to tell. She kept me from embarrassing myself too. I was happy to find a really great replacement for Ellen Honeycutt as newsletter editor. Ellen did a terrific job, but nine years is long enough. Kevin Doyle graciously accepted my offer to take that job and has already instituted some innovations to our newsletters. In his former paying-type jobs, he had a lot of experience with editing, and he's a consummate professional. Kevin also has kept me from humiliating myself in print.

Above, I have already expressed my gratitude to a few folks who also happen to be on our board of directors, but I want the rest of the board to know that I also very much appreciate their support and encouragement. Lastly, I want to thank my unofficial chief of staff, Steve Cook. Whenever I needed some objective advice on how a decision might be received, I would go to Steve beforehand and get his opinion as sort of an "acid test." And when it comes to computer advice and help, I call him Stevie Wonder.

I almost forgot to mention that I asked our assistant webmaster, Jackie Miller, to review and update our society's webpages. I am happy to say that, with the exception of the newsletter archive page, which is still being updated, she has completed that task, and the website pages look and read much better now. Thanks, Jackie!

Well, bye for now, and I hope to see you on the trails.

Bobby Hattaway

Field Trip—Ebenezer Creek—Continued from Page 1

of us waited in suspense. But not to worry: Ten hardy souls arrived as planned about 8:30 a.m.

It was fairly entertaining to watch all of us rummage through our cars, trying to find that last warm layer or hat or whatever we had to keep warm. We gathered for a pre-paddle plan outlined by Jim and the five-minute paddle clinic by Teri, who reminded us to keep our "noses over our belly buttons" so that we didn't end up in the drink on such a cold day.

Field Trip: Ebenezer Creek, Trip No. 15 on this year's 53rd Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage.

Date: April 10, 2022

Trip Leader: Lynn Hodgson

Trip Report: Lynn Hodgson

Continued on Page 4

Field Trip—Ebenezer Creek—Continued from Page 3

The water was extremely high for this location, which meant that the usual Sunday motorboat contingents could not launch at the now-underwater boat ramp—too bad for them but very pleasant for us. Already, the sun was warming us up, and the exercise of paddling did the rest.

As soon as we were afloat, we encountered bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), although we did discuss whether we might have the pond cypress (*T. ascendens*) instead. It was finally decided that the new needle-bearing branches appeared quite “ascendant” due to their early stage. Next on the agenda was swamp tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*), although that required a bit of discussion as well, since there are two others of that genus that usually have their “feet” wet (*N. biflora* and *N. ogeche*). But the latter two are not usually dominant in bald cypress swamps where there is some water movement like this one.



Kayak tour guide Jim Pohorsky leads a discussion about the differences in appearance between the bark of bald cypress and tupelo trees. Photo by Teri Pohorsky of Beaufort Kayak Tours.

Guide Jim Pohorsky gathered us around the first bend, so we could look at a bald cypress and tupelo growing right next to each other, to be sure we could all tell the differences in the bark, which appears as if shredded in the bald cypress, more ridged in the tupelo. Both have fluted bases for support and the bald cypresses have “knees” which function in support and probably also in the exchange of oxygen and maybe nutrients. On this day,

we could see roughly the upper 2-3 feet of most knees, and the water was about 5 feet deep, so the larger knees were at least 8 feet from base to tip. Most of that depth would be visible here at low water.

Ebenezer Creek has very little flow, and its level depends on the combination of recent rainfall, the height of the Savannah River into which it flows, and the extent of transpiration (greater as the

Field Trip—Ebenezer Creek—Continued from Page 4

leaves mature in spring and much less after the trees have dropped their leaves in fall). The huge old trees block most of the wind, making this a kayaker's delight and excellent for beginners. We spent some time looking at water elms (*Planera aquatica*) which are in the Ulmaceae but have fruits (not present when we saw them) very different from those of other elms. Red maples (*Acer rubrum*) were bright green with new foliage. There



Lovely Ebenezer Creek as viewed over the bow of a kayak.
Photo by Teri Pohorsky.

was plenty of duckweed (*Lemna minor*) on the surface although it was not yet the vast carpet it will become in summer. Clones of marsh pennywort (*Hydrocotyle umbellata*) and a couple of other emergents (which we did not know) reached out from their attachments on tree bases into the creek.

At the tour's turnaround site, Jim spoke about

A Civil War tragedy and its aftermath put Ebenezer Creek in the history books

Guide Jim Pohorsky spoke about the 1864 "massacre at Ebenezer Creek" at the turnaround point for the tour. He explained that as Union General William T. Sherman "marched to the sea" through Georgia, he freed many slaves. A number of those slaves then began following Sherman's army as it marched east. After crossing Ebenezer Creek with his men, one of Sherman's corps commanders made a fateful decision. A Georgia Historical Society marker erected near the creek in 2010 explains what happened next:

"One mile north [of the marker location], on December 9, 1864, during the American Civil War, U.S. Gen. Jeff. C. Davis crossed Ebenezer Creek with his 14th Army Corps as it advanced toward Savannah during Gen. William T. Sherman's March to the Sea. Davis [then] hastily removed the pontoon bridges over the creek, and hundreds of freed slaves following his army drowned trying to swim the swollen waters to escape the pursuing Confederates. Following a public outcry, Sec. of War Edwin Stanton met with Sherman and local black leaders in Savannah on January 12, 1865. Four days later, President Lincoln approved Sherman's Special Field Orders No. 15, confiscating over 400,000 acres of coastal property and redistributing it to former slaves in 40-acre tracts."

the 1864 "massacre at Ebenezer Creek" (see sidebar story above right), and then after our history lesson, we headed back up the creek.

Jim led us on a shortcut outside the creek proper into the cypress trees—testing our steering skills in the kayaks, and bringing us into much more intimate contact (oof!) with ancient trees. This led us to thinking about deeper history and what these trees had "seen" and lived through.

By the time we got back to the cars, it was 64 degrees and sunny. Even those of us who got a bit wet from paddle-drip had managed to stay warm and had a wonderful time in this serene and ancient forest. Thanks so much to Jim and Teri for their equipment, expertise, and enthusiasm!

Trees of Georgia—Tuliptree

A giant of the Magnolia Family has always been useful and pop(u)lar in the eastern U.S.

By Richard Ware

The tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) made such a favorable impression on our early settlers that it was one of the first trees sent back to Europe for cultivation, at least as early as 1687. The Indians of Pennsylvania and Virginia and early pioneers made dugout canoes of the long, clean boles, as did Daniel Boone, who made one 60 feet long. The wood was also used to build houses for the pioneers and to line wells since the wood imparts no taste to water.

Taxonomy: Member of the Magnolia Family (Magnoliaceae). *Liriodendron* is from the Greek *lirion* meaning “lily” or “tulip,” and *dendron*, meaning “tree.” *Tulipifera* is the old generic name for “tulip-bearing” or “having tulip-like flowers.”

Other Names: Tulip, yellow, or white poplar; poplar; popple; canoewood; whitewood; or beetro.

Uses: Tuliptree is used in many kinds of construction, for interior finish, the manufacture of boxes, baskets and woodenware, crates, veneer wood, excelsior, and as a core upon which to glue veneers of other wood. Some is cut for pulpwood to make into paper. Periodically, planks 60 inches or wider are produced. The inner bark of the root and trunk is intensely acrid, bitter and

Editor’s note: Some 25 years ago, Richard Ware introduced in this newsletter a series of articles on native trees in Georgia. Today, we continue with the third installment of “Trees of Georgia,” an occasional series that will refresh and rerun Richard’s series for a new generation of BotSoc members. Hope you enjoy!



Leaves of the tuliptree are unusual and quite unmistakable, with the end of the leaf being chopped off, or truncate, to slightly indented toward the center. Photo by Richard and Teresa Ware.

Trees of Georgia—Tuliptree—Continued from Page 6



The chalice, or bowl, shape of the tuliptree flower calls to mind the shape of a tulip and accounts for the tree's name. Some also see a tulip in the profile of the tuliptree's distinctive leaf (previous page). Photo by Richard and Teresa Ware.

has been used as a tonic and stimulant. Of course, it is also used ornamentally as a shade or specimen tree, wherever the location is large enough to sustain such a giant!

Description: This is the king of the Magnolia Family, a large—or on fertile sites, very large—tree, one that in the southern Appalachians historically attained heights of nearly 200 feet, with a long straight trunk 8 to 10 feet in diameter that can be clear of branches for the first 100 feet. On old trees, the trunk will be hollow, hence the name bectree. The leaves are unusual and quite unmistakable, with the end of the leaf being chopped off, or truncate, to slightly indented toward the center.

This leaf shape is supposedly an adaptation to the manner of folding within the bud. The leaf has from four to six lobes, is 5 to 6 inches long and as broad or broader, deciduous, simple, alternate, turning bright yellow in autumn. The flowers are beautifully tulip-shaped, greenish-yellow, blotched with orange, with five petals which are 2-3 inches across, with three sepals, and many stamens and pistils spirally arranged. Blooming is after the leaves in April-May. The fruit is an upright cone with many dry, winged samaras, which mature in early autumn, with the cone itself persisting through winter. Fruiting is usual prolific, with the ground being covered with seeds around mature trees. Twigs are red-brown with round to elongate pale lenticels. Buds are flattened, valvate, with two scales, about ½ half inch long, glaucous. Leaf scars large, almost circular, several bundle scars, with stipule scars encircling twig, with a diaphragmed pith. Bark is light gray and smooth on young trunks with older bark gray, thick and deeply furrowed. The wood is light yellow to brown with a creamy white margin of sapwood. It is soft, easily worked and takes paint well. When air dry, it weighs only about 26 pounds per cubic foot.

Habitat and Distribution: Most abundant on moist but well drained, loose-textured soils of flats, slopes, along streams, and in coves. Often forming small, nearly pure stands during juvenile development and in coves, but usually mixed with other species in old stands. It is very intolerant of shade and requires almost full light for successful reproduction and rapid early growth. It ranges from southern New England west to Michigan, south to Florida and west to Louisiana. It grows at elevations up to 5,000 feet in the Appalachians.

Trees of Georgia—Tuliptree—Continued from Page 7

Famous Tuliptrees include:

- The Franklin D. Roosevelt Tuliptree, which is part of the President's Grove in Eden Park near Cincinnati, Ohio, was planted on April 27, 1882 (Arbor Day), to commemorate the first American Forestry Congress.
- The tuliptrees of President Thomas Jefferson at Monticello. Of the five remaining trees planted by Jefferson at Monticello, two are tuliptrees. He began clearing the site in 1768 and in 1807 drew up a planting plan for the placing of trees, shrubs, and flower beds.
- Of the trees George Washington Planted at Mt. Vernon, there are 12 specimens surviving today, and the largest of these are two tuliptrees planted in February of 1785. The largest of the two has a diameter of 62 inches.
- The Annapolis Liberty Tree. In front of Woodward Hall, the library of historic St. John's College in Annapolis, Md., is a famed tuliptree. The tree was standing when the college, first named King William's School, was founded in 1696. The liberty tree was known to Francis Scott Key, author of "The Star-Spangled Banner," who was graduated from St. John's in 1796, and to George Washington in 1797 when his two nephews were students there.
- The Davie Poplar stands in the center of the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is a tall, aged tuliptree. It is named for William Richardson Davie, who was the founder of the University of North Carolina.
- The Presbyterian Poplar. In the summer of 1790, a commission from the presbytery, the ruling body of Presbyterian churches, met in the town of Washington, Ga., and ordained Georgia's first Presbyterian minister. Because there was no church building, the new minister, the Rev. John Springer, knelt beneath a tremendous tuliptree and assumed his duties. Though the tree is long since dead, a portion of its trunk still stands. It once attained a height of 155 feet and had a trunk



Bark is light gray and smooth on young trunks, thick and deeply furrowed on older trees as above Photo by Richard and Teresa Ware.

Trees of Georgia—Tuliptree—Continued from Page 8



A tuliptree twig with its red-brown color and other distinguishing characteristics. Photo by Richard and Teresa Ware.

that measured 28 feet in circumference. The offering plates in the present Presbyterian Church of Washington, Ga., are made from wood of the Presbyterian Poplar.

Other Huge Tuliptrees: On May 3, members of the Georgia Botanical Society hiked down to see the Wasilik Memorial Tree located in the Standing Indian Area of the Nantahala River Basin. This is truly an impressive specimen and, I was told, is the second largest tuliptree in the country. The Gennett Poplar is a 0.9-mile walk

along the Bear Creek Trail just east of the Cohutta Wilderness Area. It is 17 feet, 8 inches in circumference and nearly 100 feet tall. The giant grove of trees in the Cooper Creek Scenic Area includes the second largest tuliptree in Georgia and many other large specimen trees.

Champion Tuliptrees: The national champion tuliptree (*L. tulipifera*) has a circumference of 362 inches, a height of 139 feet, a crown spread of 78 feet, a score of 521 points and is located in Bedford County, Va. The Georgia champion has a circumference of 288 inches, a height of 95 feet, a crown spread of 112 feet, a score of 411 points, and is located in Wilkes County.

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Society News

New members, gifts and more: Welcome, and thank you!

Welcome to our **new members** who joined from March 1 through May 31, 2022:

Rebecca Grace	Saint Marys	Ga.
Michelle & Patrick Hall	Tucker	Ga.
Charles Allen Haynes	Atlanta	Ga.
Nancy Kennell	Roswell	Ga.
Kathryn Kinev	Atlanta	Ga.
Patrick Mawhy	Duluth	Ga.
Daniel Sizemore	Athens	Ga.

Please welcome also our **newest Life Member** (since June 2021): *Brandi Griffin.*

Memorial gifts received from June 2021 to June 2022:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| • In memory of Daisy Arrington: | Helen D. Brown |
| • In memory of Maureen Donohue: | Frank French |
| • In memory of Ernest Koone III: | Daniel Miller |
| • In memory of Tom Patrick: | Gail Russell |

Please note:

If any member's donation has been inadvertently omitted, don't hesitate to contact Membership Chair Jo Anne Romfh at joannromfh@aol.com.

Other Gifts were also made in honor of:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Jennifer Ceska and Eddi Minche: | Elizabeth M. Fox |
| • My mother, Jan Mitchell: | Susan Mitchell-Ketzes |
| • Debo Boddiford: | Caroline Boddiford |

Members who joined or contributed at the donor level (\$100-plus):

Heather Brasell	Sam and Laura Breyfogle	Ron and Susan Determann
Elizabeth Dominy	Elizabeth M. Fox	Frank and Eileen French
Mei Lee Fung	Sue Mager	Daniel Miller
Ward Milner	Andrew Patrick	James and Christina Powers
Cindy Roesel	Nancy G. Waldrop	Wendy B. Zomlefer

We would also like to thank all the other members who supported BotSoc funds not already included above. The funds and number of contributions to each include:

Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Grant Annual Fund	9
General Fund	18
Tipularia	9
Maureen Donohue Habitat Conservation	15

Society News

April's Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage a welcome, long-awaited success!

Thanks to all who made this year's Pilgrimage a success!

The 53rd Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage featuring The Coastal Empire—Chatham County took place April 8-10. There were 19 trips throughout the three days for the roughly 50 participants and 20 leaders and facilitators.

Feedback I've received has been positive; the event was enjoyed.

Society President Bobby Hattaway was the main architect for this pilgrimage, planned during his time as vice president. Because of the two-year delay due to the pandemic, I took over the responsibility of implementing the event with some modifications.

In addition to Bobby's well-designed plans, I had a great amount of help from Elizabeth King with registration, Hal Massie with shirts, and Ellen Honeycutt with the brochure. I had additional help from the society treasurer, John French, and artist Jenneke Sommerville. Helpful assistance with ideas came from the society board. Also appreciated were the efforts of the host hotel, Wingate by Wyndham Port Wentworth. I give a special "thank you" to Tiffany Lancaster of the Leisure Services Department at Port Wentworth and to the City of Port Wentworth by helping provide a venue for our socially distanced gathering. Yet those that made all this possible are the trip leaders for hosting and guiding tours and the participants for their support of the event. To you all, I say thank you!

Timothy Estep

BotSoc Vice President and coordinator of the 53rd Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage

Remember: Look to BotSoc's website for details on upcoming field trips

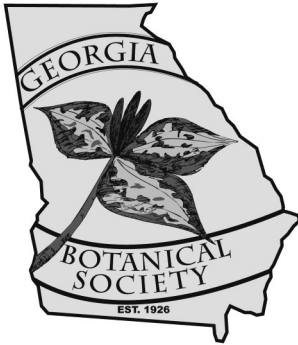
Planning for BotSoc field trips is dynamic, which is why field trip information is available online, where updates and changes can be made quickly. To view all scheduled field trips, please visit the [2022 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE](https://www.gabotsoc.org/?page_id=12) (https://www.gabotsoc.org/?page_id=12).

BotSoc's COVID precautions now generally optional for outdoor events, but trip leaders still have discretion to set policy for their events

Effective March 10 of this year, COVID masks and social distancing are still encouraged but are now optional at BotSoc-sponsored outdoor events unless the trip leader decides otherwise. In other words, while it's now BotSoc's general guidance that such precautions are optional, field trip leaders still have discretion to impose conditions for their trips. They are free to set policy for the trips they lead.

BotSoc officers and board ask that all event participants be respectful of the rights and feelings of trip leaders and other participants. Current guidance is a policy recommendation, not a mandate, and is in effect unless conditions require a change. BotSoc officers and board continue to monitor those conditions and may adjust guidance accordingly in the future.

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