

# BotSoc News



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2023

## Puttyroot is one of our less common orchids and one that can be hard to locate

By Rich Reaves

**Editor's Note:** Welcome to the second installment in a series of articles on some of Georgia's best-loved wildflowers. The author is a botanist, a frequent leader of BotSoc field trips (including hugely popular trips to view flora in the western United States), and an inveterate roadside botanizer.

There are many orchid species that grace Georgia roadsides, and we will make the acquaintance of several in the course of these articles. The opening salvo into orchids is one of our less common species and among the most difficult to locate: puttyroot (*Aplectrum hyemale* [Muhlenberg ex Willdenow] Torrey).

I have encountered puttyroot blooming along roadsides a couple of times in north Georgia. Once it was pointed out to me by others, and once I was lucky enough to spot it. Sadly, it seems to like having poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans* Linnaeus Kuntze) as a growing companion, which makes enjoying it along roadsides quite interesting for those of us sensitive to urushiol. Sometimes it is best enjoyed from a distance.



Puttyroot (*Aplectrum hyemale* [Muhlenberg ex Willdenow] Torrey). Photo by Rich Reaves.

This plant can be easier to spot in the woods in winter because the leaves, which are produced in late summer, persist through the winter until flowering time. The leaves have a crinkled appearance and the prominent veins in the wintertime make them quite distinct from the usual brown leaf litter.

Finding them blooming along roadsides is challenging, because typically the other vegetation clutters about obscuring the leaves on the ground and allowing the flowers to blend in with the background. I managed to spot the flowers while driving in the Cohutta Mountains early on a Saturday heading to a BotSoc trip. I noticed in my peripheral vision an unusual bit of vegetation brilliantly illuminated in the morning sun. Naturally, I pulled over to investigate and was rewarded with a puttyroot in full bloom and just begging to be photographed. ■

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**BotSoc News**

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**Georgia Botanical**

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**W**hat have you been doing, Georgia Botanical Society member?

I attended my first and second society field trip of 2023—both were Bobby Hattaway's in southeast

Georgia. The trip and plants seen are always great. From these trips I am now confident on how to positively identify the difference between yellow jessamine *Gelsemium sempervirens* with its winged seeds and swamp jessamine *Gelsemium rankinii* with its wingless seeds (Weakley, *Flora of the Southeastern United States\_Georgia* 2020 p.679). Yet what I really find enjoyable is “talking plants” with other people, and I love hearing about their work, projects, hobbies, gardens, and the successes (even “failures” provide advancement) they have with plants. Many more field trips are scheduled all over Georgia, so look out for one near you!

We're near the timing of this year's Spring Pilgrimage; I hope to see you there and hear of your stories and feedback on the event.

The end of March marked the deadline for the Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Fund submissions. (See *Linda Chafin's article on page 8.*) I look forward to seeing those evaluated and awards given. For future projects you may be thinking about performing, do look online for additional information on this fund (<https://www.gabotsoc.org/>).

We are a step closer in making the Maureen Donohue Habitat Conservation Fund a reality. Thank you to Sarah Kelsey, Tom Govus, Kandy Duke, and Steve Bowling for their hard work and perspectives on that project.

On the discussion of funding, there has been an increase of scam/phishing emails targeting society members. We do not ask you for help with money, if that be through email means or phone calls. Membership dues and pilgrimage registration (and those associated costs, including T-shirts, the banquet dinner, etc.) are the main financial processes we are involved in. If ever something seems strange or you receive a random request for money, do use caution and please reach out to me for additional information and assurances. Do not hesitate or think yourself silly for doing so.

And what have I been doing? Here is a list of some projects I have worked on since October: hooded pitcherplant (*Sarracenia minor*) rescue from a private property to be developed (property owner permission, permitted by Georgia Department of Natural Resources); Simpson's rain lily (*Zephyranthes simpsonii*) rescue from public lands to be developed (Georgia Department of Transportation, assisted by Georgia Department of Natural Resources); specimen collection for

## Member News

### New Member's Name      Hometown

(All members' hometowns are in Georgia unless otherwise noted.)

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Cathy Ashberry       | Thomaston      |
| Marjorie Awai        | Atlanta        |
| Donna Bennet         | Milledgeville  |
| Janet Blackmon       | Lilburn        |
| Christina Blanchette | Savannah       |
| Marti Breen          | Atlanta        |
| Rupa Brooks          | Marietta       |
| Bruce Carlson        | Atlanta        |
| Pat Carson           | Roswell        |
| Beth Chance          | Carrollton     |
| Susan Corpus         | Pine Mountain  |
| Sheryl Davis         | Forsyth        |
| Dr. Alex Garrett     | Hamilton       |
| Christa Hayes        | Townsend       |
| William Hembree      | Winston        |
| Michael Hickman      | Cumming        |
| Allen Jones          | Covington      |
| Elliott Jones        | Atlanta        |
| Jake Knox            | Athens         |
| Lissa Leege          | Statesboro     |
| Nona Martini         | Rising Fawn    |
| Martha Miller        | Blairsville    |
| Dean Moore           | Clarkston      |
| Paul Murray          | Kennesaw       |
| Cat Ordway           | Atlanta        |
| Lauren Orem          | Dawsonville    |
| Lynda Pollock        | Lilburn        |
| Dan Rawlins          | Hiawassee      |
| Lynn Razaitis        | Clarkston      |
| Rosalyn Reilley      | Sandy Springs  |
| Katherine Russell    | Moultrie       |
| Karen Seminary       | Bluffton, S.C. |
| Elizabeth Thomas     | Arcade, N.Y.   |
| Hannah Umstead       | Gainesville    |
| Pam Watkins          | Thomaston      |
| Virginia White       | Adairsville    |

### A note from our membership chair

## 36 new members join since November!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the 36 new members who've joined the Georgia Botanical Society since November 19! If you find yourself at an event with them, please do help extend our welcome to them and assist them with any questions that they might have.

Meanwhile, our renewal season has ended, and we have 392 Members as categorized below.

*Jo Anne Romfh*

| Member Type                | Member Count | Member Type                       | Member Count |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Individual (eNewsletter)   | 125          | Individual (Printed Newsletter)   | 61           |
| Family/Group (eNewsletter) | 59           | Family/Group (Printed Newsletter) | 28           |
| Life                       | 57           | Complimentary                     | 37           |
| Donor                      | 11           | Exchange                          | 8            |
| New Life Members           | 4            | Honorary                          | 2            |
| <b>Total Membership</b>    |              | <b>392</b>                        |              |

## Corrections and Addenda

David (Dave) Chamberlain, husband of Jackie Miller, BotSoc's assistant webmaster, was misidentified in a photo caption that accompanied an article on a field trip to FDR State Park in the January issue of *BotSoc News*.

A hyperlink added in editing sent readers to an outdated edition of the authoritative *Weakley Flora of the Southeastern United States* in the March issue story "Want help identifying trees (and any other plant)?" on page 10. The better link should have been [New Edition Released: Flora of the Southeastern U.S. - North Carolina Botanical Garden \(unc.edu\)](https://ncbg.unc.edu/2022/04/26/new-edition-released-flora-of-the-southeastern-u-s/) (<https://ncbg.unc.edu/2022/04/26/new-edition-released-flora-of-the-southeastern-u-s/>) To find downloadable versions of *Flora* and state-specific extracts such as the one for Georgia, scroll down the landing page and look for the words "Request the 2022 Flora of the Southeastern U.S. here." Click there. On the new page, scroll down past the query boxes asking for your name and address, to find options to download both the latest *Weakley Flora* and/or state-specific extracts.. ▣

## Field Trip: Paces Mill Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

# A break in the rain gives BotSocers a chance to hunt for trout lilies and so much more

The rain paused for a field trip to the Chattahoochee Nature Recreation Area at the Paces Mill Unit on Feb. 25 led by Susan Hanson. The group of 14 had intended to seek out the trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*), since it is known to be in bloom in this area of Cobb County at the end of winter. As at all field trips, perhaps, we discovered so much more!

**Field Trip:** Paces Mill unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

**Date:** Feb. 25, 2023

**Trip Leader:** Susan Hanson

**Trip Report:** Camille Greeley



The day's quarry—the trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*).

The group had initially noticed that the trail head bordered an apartment complex up on a hill that was filled with pine trees and nonnative undesirables like Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), nandina (*Nandina domestica*), and down the path a bit, Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*). We did have to go about a quarter mile down the path before the first of several sightings of the star of the day—trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*)! Once our eyes adjusted to green bits atop the brown dried leaf background, we noticed other plants in bloom on the woodland floor, including mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) and at least one species of trillium.

Keeping watch down low, we found crinkleroot (*Cardamine diphylla*), crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*), and on a felled tree, resurrection fern (*Pleopeltis polypodioides*). A *Vaccinium* with its tiny blush-pink bells blooming and a short American holly (*Ilex opaca*) hid behind a mix of branches and vines that were difficult to identify at this time of year. Moving along the trail, looking up, we noticed the yellow flowers of Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium semprevirens*) and the puffy white flowers of a serviceberry, downy serviceberry or shadbush (*Amelanchier arborea*).



A downy serviceberry, or shadbush, [*Amelanchier arborea* (Michaux f.) Fernald *A. laevis* Wiegand] shows off its puffy white blooms.

Continued on Page 5

## Field Trip: Paces Mill—Continued from Page 4



Top left, a bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) bloom about to open. Bottom left, a group photo captures an even dozen of the 14 Paces Mill field trip participants.

We had discussions regarding the identification of the plants, especially noticing two hollies near each other—*Ilex opaca* and *I. cornuta*, the former having ovate leaves with serrated edges and the latter having just four points with sharp needles. Other topics included native vs. nonnative species, conservation projects, landscape projects, resources, and where we traveled from to get to the hike (as far as Gwinnett county).

Among those who made the trip were Anna Tabke, Camille Greeley, Dan Enger, Nancy Kennell, Chris Cravens, Nancy Hamburger, Donna English, Katherine English, Sam Smart, Johnny & Laurie Craig, Avis Winfield, Simon Gabice and Susan Hanson.

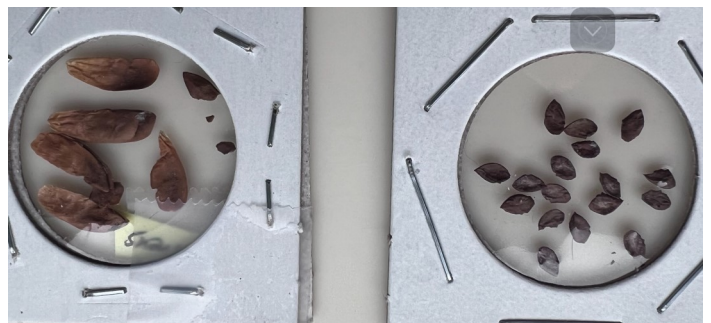
Thank you to our photographers of the day: Johnnie Craig (with patient wife, Laurie) and Daniel Enger. 📷

## President's Perspective—Continued from Page 2

herbarium (National Park Service, University of Georgia); writing an article for the Georgia Native Plant Society; and giving a presentation to the Southeast Georgia Geospatial Association. Similarly, do you know of rare plants soon to be destroyed by development and do you want to help? Want information on submitting specimens to a herbarium? Have you written an article or will give/have given a presentation on plants? Then let us know what you have been doing.

Go out and look at some plants. Have a great day!

*Timothy Estep*



With magnification, it becomes easy to see the difference between the seeds of yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) on the left and swamp jessamine (*Gelsemium rankinii*) on the right. Photo by Timothy Estep.

## Field Trip: Harold Cox Nature Garden at Stone Mountain

### February walk at Stone Mountain reward hikers with sightings of elf orpine, trout lilies much more

On Saturday morning, Feb. 18, 12 of us toured the area in and around the Harold Cox Nature Garden at Stone Mountain Park. We started with a walk in the winter woods across from the Nature Garden and saw where Georgia Native Plant Society (GNPS) volunteers had removed many leatherleaf mahonia (*Mahonia bealei*) and southern magnolias (*Magnolia grandiflora*) as well as the usual thugs, Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) and Chinese holly (*Ilex cornuta*).

**Field Trip:** Harold Cox Nature Garden and other nearby trails at Stone Mountain

**Date:** Feb. 18 and 19, 2023.

**Trip Leader:** Jane Trentin

**Trip Report:** Jane Trentin



Trout lily (*Erythronium umbilicatum*). Photo by Jane Trentin.

On Sunday afternoon, Feb. 19, 12 of us followed approximately the same route minus the Connecting Trail. We saw somewhat more open trout lily blooms, since they do tend to open more toward afternoon. Many of Sunday's group and several from Saturday's group had learned about the field trip through the State Botanical Garden of Georgia's Certificate in Native Plants, a University of Georgia in Athens certificate program. They received credit toward their certificate for attending this BotSoc event. ■

By the time we got to the trails in the Nature Garden, the trout lilies (*Erythronium umbilicatum*) had started to open. On the trail going toward the mountain, we encountered an especially large and old tulip-poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and a heavily autographed old beech tree (*Fagus grandifolia*).

Since some people wanted to get onto the granite to look for *Diamorpha*, we split up and three of us headed out to the orange-blazed Connector Trail where we did indeed see the red newly emerging elf orpine (*Diamorpha smallii*). Hal Massie had driven all the way from middle Georgia and wanted to climb Stone Mountain. So he, Meg Mauro and I walked with him part way up the Walk-Up Trail seeing more cool plants, mosses and lichens along the way.



Field trip participants in a group photo taken by trip leader and reporter Jane Trentin.

## Getting Started: More Pitfalls in Tree ID

It can be tough sometimes to distinguish simple from compound leaves  
 ... *And then there's the matter of those doggone tiny stipules ...*

By Bobby Hattaway

**Editor's Note:** This is the fourth and second-to-last installment in a series based on Bobby's *The Pitfalls and Other Problems Associated with Tree Identification in Georgia*. For print copies of the entire work, including the full text and all 23 illustrations, contact Bobby via his email address, [botanikman@g-net.net](mailto:botanikman@g-net.net).

**W**oody Plant ID Problem Number 3: *Distinguishing simple from compound leaves*. This is usually easy to do on most woody plants. The definitive way to tell is to look for the bud in the leaf axil (the upper angle between the leaf and the stem). As can barely be seen in the accompanying photograph below, there are no buds at the base of the leaflets. However, I might add that the growth is so new on this seedling, that the bud at the base of the leaves is nearly microscopic in size at this point.

Before we go further, it helps to know what a rachis is. (For pronunciation of rachis, the "ch" is pronounced as a "k," as in chameleon.) The rachis is the

technical term for the part of a compound leaf where the leaflets are attached. The rachis can be seen on the compound leaf in this photo of a pecan (*Carya illinoensis*) seedling. Leaflets won't have a bud where leaflets are attached. This problem is particularly encountered when dealing with plants that have compound leaves with many leaflets. Specifically, pinnately compound leaves (as opposed to the uncommon palmately compound ones like species of buckeye) that have lots of leaflets are the ones that seem to give novices the most trouble.

Related to this topic, when identifying woody plants, avoid juveniles as some compound-leaved species have simple juvenile leaves. In juvenile specimens of pecan (*Carya illinoensis*), which is actually in the hickory genus, the first leaves that are not seed leaves (i.e., not cotyledons) are simple, not compound like the mature leaves. Again see the adjacent photo of the pecan (*Carya illinoensis*) seedling. Juveniles of green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) do this too.



Juvenile pecan (*Carya illinoensis*) compound leaf with rachis. There will never be buds at the base of the leaflets. And the buds on the leaves (including simple leaves here) are microscopic this early. Photo by Bobby Hattaway.

Woody Plant ID Problem Number 4: *Understanding stipules*. Stipules are leaf-like appendages, usually small and in pairs, at the base of a leaf. This concept is, for most readers, likely to be the least familiar one so far. There are several reasons for this, including the fact that not all plants have stipules. Like some of the problems already addressed, this problem is not limited to woody plants. When it comes to the ID of woody plants, those folks that go to the trouble to try to understand stipules have a distinct advantage over those that are content to stay ignorant (i.e., uninformed). The small size of most stipules is another reason for their obscurity. The easiest way to observe stipules is to use a 10X loupe or hand lens on younger

## Society News: *An update on Marie Mellinger applications*

### Eight applications submitted for Marie Mellinger awards this year

By Linda Chafin

The Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Award Committee—Timothy Estep, Bill Goldstrohm, Richard Ware, and Linda Chafin—sent out a request for proposals for the Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Award to several hundred people in the conservation and academic communities in Georgia in February.

We are happy to report that, by our March 31 deadline, we received eight applications. All are extremely interesting and reflect the committee's priorities of exploring and conserving Georgia's native flora and plant communities. Research topics proposed for funding this year include:

- Collecting seeds of endangered species.
- Removing invasive plants from otherwise high quality habitats.
- Learning more about the American chestnut [(*Castanea dentata*) (Marshal) Borkhausen].
- Investigating the impact of climate change on native plants.
- Establishing native plant gardens.
- Supporting pollinators.
- Surveying for rare plants.
- Conducting floristic inventories.

The committee will report on its decisions later this year.

As always, the committee thanks the BotSoc board for allocating the funds that make this award program possible. Funding for botanical and ecological field projects is often in short supply, with the big granting agencies usually favoring molecular research. Marie Mellinger funds can really make a difference. ▣

## Field Notes: *News from Hal Massie on rare plants in West Central Georgia ...*

**H**al Massie, past president of the Georgia Botanical Society and frequent field trip leader, writes us this issue with “some botanical notes from West Central Georgia”:

**Tawny cottongrass** (*Eriophorum virginicum*) is a rare sedge in Georgia. In 2014 only one flowering plant was known from a small bog in Taylor County. Due to intensive restoration efforts (mechanical clearing, fire, and growing seedlings for replanting) involving the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Conservation

**Editor's Note:** *Field Notes* is a place for BotSoc members to swap news about plants, the places important to plants, and the people who love those plants and places. Past items have included group hikes, online classes, updates on projects and more. But you don't have to lead a walk, teach a class or find a rare plant to have something interesting to contribute. A field note can be as simple as a sentence on something you've seen, done or just want to share. So: Do you have a news brief you want to share? What have you seen or done lately that you want to share with other BotSocers? What plants, places or people are on your mind? We want to hear about it. Drop a note to Kevin Doyle, newsletter editor at [kdadoyle@bellsouth.net](mailto:kdadoyle@bellsouth.net). We look forward to hearing from you!

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## Field Notes—Continued from Page 8

Section and the Atlanta Botanical Gardens, the latest census for this species in the fall of 2022 found 186 flowering plants!

... **Nathan Klaus**, senior wildlife biologist for the DNR, recently found **rosinweed sunflower** (*Helianthus silphioides*) at three sites in the Pine Mountain region (one site each in Harris, Upson, and Talbot counties). This species occurs in eastern Alabama near the Georgia border but wasn't previously known from Georgia ...

... **Eastern bergamot** (*Monarda fistulosa* var. *mollis*) was also recently found on Pine Mountain in the Sprewell Bluff area. This species occurs in North Georgia and in East Central Alabama, but wasn't previously known from Pine Mountain ...

... **Pine Mountain leatherflower** (*Clematis terminalis*) is a new species of *Clematis* endemic to Pine Mountain, where it is only known from three sites. It was recently described by **Thomas Murphy**, a graduate student at Austin Peay State University, and **Dr. Dwayne Estes**, a professor at Austin Peay and executive director of the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative ...

... A survey for **pyramid magnolia** (*Magnolia pyramidata*) on Pine Mountain conducted by members of a DNR seasonal fire crew found dozens of plants in the Sprewell Bluff area. Most were found associated with ravines near the Flint River. Pyramid magnolia is often listed in floras as "endemic to the Coastal Plain," but the plants scattered in the Pine Mountain region are well into the Piedmont ...

... Another very rare plant that only occurs on Pine Mountain is **Indian Grave Mountain wild basil**, listed in Weakley's Flora as *Clinopodium* species 1. Despite the fact that this plant was discovered a number of years ago, it still has not been described. An informal survey found dozens of plants growing in a linear area of Pine Mountain less than 2 miles in length. Unfortunately, all of the plants are found on private property and, thus, not protected. ■

## Getting Started: More Pitfalls—Continued from Page 7

twigs and focus on the newest leaves. The final reason I give for why people miss stipules is that many, if not most, species have stipules that fall off early. These are called nonpersistent or caducous stipules. To better visualize typical stipules which come in pairs, looking at photos such as the adjoining one of the Eastern wild black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) may help you visualize them.

As just stated, stipules usually come in pairs. That means one stipule on each side of the leaf stalk (petiole) where it joins the stem. For woody plants with caducous, or nonpersistent, stipules like species of *Prunus* (plums and cherries), to see stipules it is especially important to focus on the very newest growth. Near the end of the growing season, you may have to rely on just the stipular scars described next.



Eastern wild black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) stipules.  
Photo by Bobby Hattaway.

Stipular scars. A lot of plants just do not have stipules, but those that do, show scars when the stipules fall off. When stipulate plants lose their stipules, caducous or not, they usually leave, a scar. Stipules are

*Continued on Page 11*

## Field Trips: Pigeon Mountain and Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail

# Annual Pigeon Mountain trip delivers sunshine, warm temperatures and premier wildflower display

**Field Trip:** Pigeon Mountain and Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail

**Date:** March 25, 2023

**Trip Leaders:** Mike Christison and Richard Ware

**Trip Report:** Richard Ware

Once again, we were lucky that the rains were long gone before field trip time! You couldn't ask for a more beautiful day with bright sunshine and warm, but not too hot, temperatures. However, the rain did make for a spectacular waterfall and abundant creek flow on Pocket Creek! Ten folks joined field trip leaders Mike Christison and Richard Ware for the annual field trip to Georgia's premier early spring wildflower spot, Pigeon Mountain and the Shirley Miller Wildflower Trail.

For those who don't believe in global warming, some of the wildflowers which normally start blooming in mid-March began blooming in late February this year with the result that some species had bloomed already or had a few late blooms hanging on such as harbinger-of-spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*), Carolina spring beauty (*Claytonia caroliniana*), Harper's trout lily (*Erythronium americanum* var. *harperi*), golden seal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*), sharp-lobed hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba*), Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) and bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*).

But, because the Pocket normally (in previous years) always has a wonderful display until mid-April, our late March trip still had a spectacular display mainly consisting of: bent trillium (*Trillium flexipes*), decumbent trillium (*Trillium decumbens*), Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), purple phacelia (*Phacelia bipinnatifida*), wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) and wood poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*).

In addition, along the boardwalk, we did spot a few doll's eyes (*Actaea pachypoda*); wild hyacinth (*Camassia scilloides*) just starting to bloom; blue cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*); wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*); miterwort or bishop's cap (*Mitella diphylla*); nodding or yellow mandarin (*Prosartes lanuginosa*); foam flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*); little sweet Betsy (*Trillium cuneatum*); large-flowered bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*); and Canada violet (*Viola canadensis*).

After lunch we walked the old road to above the falls. This road, with its spectacular wildflower displays and impressive rock wall, is one of my favorite places to go. There were nice displays of wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*); purple phacelia (*Phacelia bipinnatifida*); wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*); robin's plantain (*Erigeron*



Top, bent trillium (*Trillium flexipes*); middle, decumbent trillium (*Trillium decumbens*); bottom, Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*). All photos by Richard & Teresa Ware.

## Field Trips: Pigeon Mountain—Continued from Page 10

*pulchellus*); stonecrop sedum (*Sedum ternatum*); little sweet Betsy, (*Trillium cuneatum*); and long-spurred violet (*Viola rostrata*).

Lastly, we drove around to the eastern side of the mountain to Blue Hole Road. There we did find spring coralroot (*Corallorhiza wisteriana*), thanks to Chuck Wilson, and dissected toothwort (*Cardamine dissecta*). The twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*) was not in bloom nor was the golden seal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), which we think had already bloomed. We did find lance-leaf trillium (*Trillium lancifolium*) just beginning to bloom.



Above, three-fourths of the field trip participants, with co-leader Richard Ware in center. Photo by Mike Christison. Right above, wild blue flox (*Phlox divaricata*), photo by Richard & Teresa Ware. Right below, purple phacelia (*Phacelia bipinnatifida*), photo by Richard & Teresa Ware.



As I get older, I realize that one of the greatest joys of attending field trips like this one is seeing old friends like Mike Christison, Sue McConnell, John Harrison and my longtime friends from Tennessee, Dennis Horn and Chuck Wilson!

As usual the day was capped off by a visit to our favorite Mexican restaurant in LaFayette! ☐

## Getting Started: More Pitfalls—Continued from Page 9

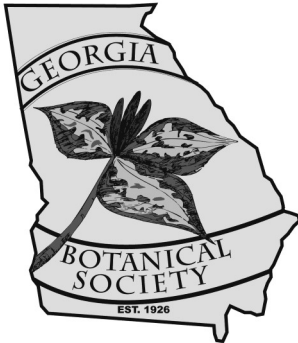
related to the anatomy of the node. As stated previously, the node is the place on a stem where leaves occur. So leaf scars are also at the nodes. There are two rules from plant anatomy that are useful here:

- 1) Most woody plants that have three vascular bundles in their leaf scars have stipules. Species of tupelo (*Nyssa*), are an exception.
- 2) The second rule is that in almost all woody plants with one vascular bundle in the leaf scar, stipules are absent, with species of holly (*Ilex*) being the notable exception. In the adjacent photo, though it does not show the one vascular bundle scar within the leaf scar, it does show one of the stipules in a holly. In a future installment in this series, I will explain where these rules might come in handy for identification of two relatively nondescript plants or plant groups. ☐



Little gallberry holly (*Ilex glabra*). Photo by Bobby Hattaway.

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