

BotSoc News



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In the wake of a hurricane's rains, BotSocers find lots to see in the wet and dry flatwoods of Ceylon WMA

Field Trip: Ceylon Wildlife Management Area

Date: Sept. 3, 2023

Trip Leader: Dr. Robert "Bobby" Hattaway

Trip Report: Bobby Hattaway with assistance from Sarah Kelsey and Leila Dasher

On Sept. 3, a small handful of intrepid botanists and plant enthusiasts took advantage of the cooler weather spawned by the recent passing of Hurricane Idalia and explored parts of Ceylon Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Camden County. This trip was purposefully "sandwiched" between Rich Reaves' Sept. 2 and 4 Late Summer Roadside Botanizing trip for southeast Georgia (see Rich's story on his trips beginning on page 5). And Rich and his attendees joined me at Ceylon.



Above, trip participants included, left to right, Timothy Estep, Kevin Kareis, Rich Reaves, Leila Dasher, Anita Reaves, Sarah Kelsey and Bobby Hattaway. All are BotSoc members with the exception of Kareis, who is a Ceylon WMA technician. Photo by Bobby Hattaway.

had seen elsewhere in south Georgia. We were on the north side of the WMA, so I decided to focus on flatwoods and wet flatwoods. Sometimes they are adjacent to one another in this place.

I say "parts of" above because Ceylon is big (approximately 27,000 acres), and in the few hours we had, we could only scratch the surface. As leader, I had to prioritize where we went, which meant we had to skip the Bartram's airplant (*Tillandsia bartramii*) that

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Happy New Year! It's a time to reflect and plan for the new. In 2023, I attended 14 society field trips, half led by Rich Reaves (fantastic trips). In addition, the annual Spring Pilgrimage added to that number of trips and was the largest plant-themed event I attended this year.

People asked me why I was smiling so much at this year's holiday party. It is because I had a lot of fun, and it was great seeing many of you at the event. And I had a lot of fun this year. In cooperation with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, I helped in three different plant rescues ahead of development for the hooded pitcher plant (*Sarracenia minor*) and Simpson's rain lily (*Zephyranthes simpsonii*). My house and yard plants are more numerous than last year and are looking great. I gave away many Venus flytraps (*Dionaea muscipula*), and a few of those colleagues and friends have kept them growing all year. With all this, can the next year be better?

Let us make this next year the best year yet! Field Trip Chair Shannon Matzke has a great lineup of field trips for 2024. Thank you, trip leaders, and members, do look out for a field trip near you. Vice President Mei Lee Fung has been hard at work on the 2024 BotSoc Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, scheduled this year for April 12-14 in and around LaGrange in western Troup County. I'm excited as this is a new location for the event, and I hope to see many of you there.

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Georgia Botanical

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How are your own house and yard plants doing? Plan to give plants to friends to share in the fun? Or is there a plant event or conference you are looking forward to this year? Does the scientist in you have any neat observations to make or photos of plants to share? Or the artist in you have a painting or poem on plants? Whether your interests are scientific, hobby, amateur, professional, agricultural, native or nonnative species, let us know!

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

Timothy Estep

Ready to enjoy another great year?

Then you'll want to renew your BotSoc membership for 2024 if you haven't already done so. There's so much to enjoy, including a full year of field trips, the always popular BotSoc Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, six issues of *BotSoc News* newsletter, and BotSoc's beautifully written and illustrated annual journal *Tipularia*. Don't miss any of the fun! [Renew online](https://www.gabotsoc.org/?page_id=2) (https://www.gabotsoc.org/?page_id=2) or by mail. Look for mail-in instructions on the same web page.

Field Trip: Ceylon WMA—Continued from Page 1



A side-by-side view of the leaves and fruit of pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*) and mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*) makes it easy to see the differences. Photo by Timothy Estep.

We met at the WMA check station. While awaiting everyone's arrival, we studied oaks and hickories, including a pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*) and mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*) growing within 20 feet of each other. After everyone arrived, we headed out in a small caravan. The hurricane rain had created a couple of mud puddles in the road since the recon the week before, but there was no danger of getting stuck. Kevin Kareis, the technician for the WMA, and his crew had cleared the roads of trees that had fallen during the hurricane a couple of days before. So we had no access problems. Kevin accompanied us and was helpful in pointing out some places.

Before we got to any of the targeted habitats, we passed some interesting plants along the way. One of them, the shrub tarflower or flycatcher (*Bejaria racemosa*), is common at this place, but this little patch was surprisingly still flowering. I told the group that this would likely be the only opportunity today to see and photograph it flowering. I don't think



Two views of the shrub tarflower, or flycatcher (*Bejaria racemosa*): At top, the foliage and flowers, and at bottom, a closeup of its flowers. Top photo by Sarah Kelsey. Bottom photo by Rich Reaves.



Showy milkwort [*Asemeia (Polygala) grandiflora*]. Photo by Bobby Hattaway.

we saw any more. So we lucked out. The common name tells you most of what you need to know except maybe that when the trapped insects fall to the ground, the nitrogen they contribute adds to the plants' natural fertilizer. When not in flower, the stiffly erect and twisted leaves help ID it.

We saw other interesting plants along the road cut, including white tassels (*Dalea albida*), showy milkwort [*Asemeia (Polygala) grandiflora*], netleaf leatherflower (*Clematis reticulata*), and eastern green eyes (*Berlandiera pumila*), to name a few.

On our first scheduled stop, the wet flatwoods, we first had to go through some regular flatwoods first. Before we were done with this visit, we saw two neat plants: the rare Florida toothache grass (*Ctenium floridanum*) and the seldom-seen shrub staggerbush (*Lyonia fruticosa*).

Georgia Roadside Wildflowers

Blue butterwort is a pretty roadside predator in Georgia's coastal plain

By Rich Reaves

Editor's Note: This is the fifth in a series of articles celebrating beautiful flowers that can sometimes be glimpsed along or near our Georgia roads. Author Rich Reaves 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.

Blue butterwort (*Pinguicula caerulea* [Walter]) can be locally common along wet roadsides in southeastern Georgia. Blue butterworts are carnivorous plants that



entrap small arthropods (particularly gnats) on their leaves much like a strip of flypaper. The leaves of blue butterwort are a shiny yellow-green and give the appearance of being covered in butter, which in concert with the blue-purple flower gives rise to the common name. The fuzzy tongue in the flower is a notable feature of this species. The leaves have many short mucilage-secreting glands that provide the material to entrap the prey. Butterwort leaves are thigmotropic, meaning they exhibit a relatively rapid growth response to the physical touch of the prey item. The leaf blades roll inward and cover the prey, both facilitating digestion and protecting the meal from being washed away by a rainstorm.

The carnivorous blue butterwort (*Pinguicula caerulea* [Walter]) is a last stop for some small insects along roadsides in the coastal plain in south Georgia. Photo by Rich Reaves.



Field Trip: Ceylon WMA—Continued from Page 3

At the last scheduled stop, the longleaf pine-dominated flatwoods, Timothy Estep had spotted a few hooded pitcher plants (*Sarracenia minor*) on last week's recon. But this week, little did the group know what awaited us. When we stopped to admire them, Leila Dasher pointed out the leaf damage done by caterpillars of the pitcher plant moth (*Exyra semicrocea*). Leila said this is the method of caterpillar feeding that leaves an outer layer of the plant and is known as "window feeding." Rather than become food for the carnivorous pitcher plants, these caterpillars feed on the tissue of the pitchers themselves. In other words, they are an insect-eating-plant-eating insect. As the group was observing and photographing the feeding damage (caused by the caterpillars' consumption of interior cells only, leaving translucent windows instead of holes), Leila found two adorable yellow and brown moths resting on the wall of a pitcher—adults of the species (see the photos on page 8). There was much rejoicing and awkwardly angled photography.

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Field Trips: Seasonal Southeast Georgia

Three trips to southeast Georgia make it easy to track the seasonal succession of blooms in spring, summer and fall

BotSoc had three trips to the roadsides of southeast Georgia to examine the changes in the flowers as the seasons pass, visiting in April, July, and September. The weather in early 2023 was not typical, and there was a very early spring, which affected what we found in bloom throughout the year. Three species provided blooms on all three trips: bog Cheetos (*Senega lutea*), hooded pitcher plant (*Sarracenia minor*), and night-flowering wild petunia (*Ruellia noctiflora*). It was not unusual to find bog Cheetos in bloom all through the year, but the other two were pleasant surprises. We also saw spoonleaf sundew (*Drosera intermedia*) on all three trips, but never managed to catch it in flower.

One of the highlights of the spring trip was spotting coastal Carolina spider-lily (*Hymenocallis crassifolia*) blooming as we drove down the road, resulting in an



Above top, coastal plain spreading pogonia (*Cleisteslopsis oricamporum*) in spring, and below, spoonflower (*Peltandra sagittifolia*) in spring. Photos by Rich Reaves. At left, a perennial star of midsummer trips to southeast Georgia is Bartram's rose-gentian (*Sabatia decandra*). All photos by Rich Reaves.



abrupt and unplanned stop to enjoy. Pink orchids were abundant, and we encountered bearded grasspink (*Calopogon barbatus*), rose pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*), and coastal plain spreading pogonia (*Cleisteslopsis oricamporum*) in show-stopping abundance.

A spring surprise bloomer was spoonflower (*Peltandra sagittifolia*), but it had completed its bloom by

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Field Trips: Seasonal Southeast Georgia—Continued from Page 5

its typical bloom time in midsummer. Atamasco lilies (*Zephyranthes atamasco*) adorned the roadsides in some areas.

Always the star of the midsummer trips, Bartram's rose-gentian (*Sabatia decandra*) did not disappoint. Snowy orchid (*Platanthera nivea*) also was putting on a good show along with its cohort narrow-leaf Barbara's buttons (*Marshallia angustifolia*). We also found a small population of green water spider orchid (*Habenaria repens*). There were a couple of nice milkweeds, few-flowered milkweed (*Asclepias lanceolata*)

and longleaf milkweed (*Asclepias longifolia*). We saw the southeast Georgia endemic and federally endangered hairy rattleweed (*Baptisia arachnifera*) fruit, where we typically see it in flower at this time.

Labor Day weekend provided us with more floral abundance. Pine lilies (*Lilium catesbyi*) had mostly



Pine lilies (*Lilium catesbyi*) had mostly finished their bloom by Labor Day Weekend, but there were still a few to be seen. Photo by Rich Reaves.

finished their bloom, but we were able to locate a few. Yellow-fringed orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*) and yellow-crested orchid (*Platanthera cristata*) provided nice blooms. We saw eight taxa of meadow beauties (*Rhexia* species) on this trip, including a new one for me nearing the end of Saturday: Nuttall's meadow beauty (*Rhexia nuttallii*). The tiny flowers of southern bluethead (*Burmannia capitata*) were observed at one of our stops. We also found spurred butterfly pea (*Centrosema virginianum*).

Each trip provided a nice snapshot of the roadside flora of southeast Georgia. For those that were able to make all three trips, we got

to see how the bloom changes throughout the year. ▣



Trip participants carefully walk a field in southeast Georgia in summer looking for target species. Photo by Rich Reaves.

Society News: Awards and Recognition*Fall brings special recognition to seven BotSoc members*

Seven members of our Georgia Botanical Society won awards this fall for their achievements in the field of botany.

Five were recognized by the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance (GPCA), a network of more than 40 Georgia universities, botanical gardens, zoos, state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, and private companies that are committed to ecological land management, native plant conservation, and protection of rare and endangered plants. GPCA is headquartered at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, but its projects range statewide.

Four BotSoc members were winners of GPCA's prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award Medal, which is also known as the Tom Patrick Medal in honor of the late renowned and beloved field botanist (<https://www.gabotsoc.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/BotSoc-November-2019.pdf>). The four are:

- **Richard and the late Teresa Ware.** No one who has been involved with BotSoc anytime since the late 1980s needs an introduction to this dynamic and inseparable couple. Together, they have served BotSoc in numerous leadership positions; as leaders of countless field trip and workshops; as consummate photographers of all things botanical; and as editors for 20 years of BotSoc's journal *Tipularia*. Teresa passed away less than a year ago and is deeply mourned. Richard continues serving BotSoc in myriad ways. For much more about Richard and Teresa's life and work together, please see the wonderful article "Richard and Teresa Ware: Three Decades of Dedication to the Georgia Botanical Society" in the 2023 issue of *Tipularia*.
- **Ron Determann**, the longtime and now retired conservator and conservatory vice president for the Atlanta Botanical Garden.
- **Elaine Nash**, whose extensive, decades-long work has touched numerous people and organizations, including: BotSoc, the State Botanical Gardens in Athens, the Georgia Native Plant Society, Panola Mountain State Park and more. For much more about Elaine, please see the article about her in the September 2019 BotSoc News (<https://www.gabotsoc.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/BotSoc-September-2019.pdf>) and Linda Chafin's and Ellen Honeycutt's profile of her in the March 2014 BotSoc News (<https://www.gabotsoc.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/march2014.pdf>).

The Tom Patrick Medals are inscribed: "From GPCA: With love and gratitude for a lifetime of study, teaching, innovation and service in benefit of Georgia's native flora."

Three other BotSoc members were winners of GPCA's Good Egg Award. They are:

- **Heather Brasell**, BotSoc field trip and workshop organizer and leader and former BotSoc president.

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- **Bruce Roberts.**
- **Pandra Williams.**

Heather Brasell was also honored this fall by the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) for the Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year for the Southeastern United States (SE-USA). As reported in *The Berrien Press* in November, the award Heather won “recognizes private landowners who grow renewable forest resources while protecting environmental benefits of clean water, wildlife habitat, and recreation” and promoting “public awareness of best forest management practices.” As also reported in *The Berrien Press*, Heather manages property near Alapaha that has been in the Gaskins family for two centuries, taking over management of the property after the death of her late husband, Murray Gaskins. Heather’s management practices include “doing prescribed burns, controlling invasive plants, and restoring a diverse groundcover of native plants to improve wildlife habitat.”

BotSoc extends enthusiastic congratulations to all seven of our member winners for their well-deserved recognition. 🍷

Field Trip: Ceylon WMA—Continued from Page 4



Above left is a photo of hooded pitcher plants (*Sarracenia minor*), and if you look closely, you’ll see that there’s a lot going on. In the leaf at far left in that photo, you see the shadows of two moths inside the stalk. Looking low in the photo and just right of center, you can find a black-with-yellow-spots caterpillar positioned vertically on a short leaf. Finally, higher in the same photo, see the effects of “window feeding” in the two hoods of the pitcher plants. And in the photo above right, you can see the two moths whose shadows are seen in the photo above left. Both photos by Leila Dasher. Meanwhile, at right is a photo of green eyes (*Berlandiera pumila*) by Bobby Hattaway.

Before we left the last site, in an effort to find suitable flatwood chaffhead (*Carphephorus corymbosus*) in flower, instead we found gopher-apple (*Geobalanus oblongifolius*) with its white

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Field Trip: Ceylon WMA—Continued from Page 8



fruit. Among the approximately half-dozen species of St. John’s-wort (*Hypericum*) we saw that day, here we found two small and often overlooked species: short-leaf St. John’s-wort (*H. brachyphyllum*) and pineland St. John’s-wort (*H. suffruticosum*). This spot was also a good place to point out how to easily distinguish three of south Georgia’s most common pines: longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*); slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*) and the common loblolly or old field pine (*P. taeda*).



On our way back to the entrance, we finally found some flatwood chaffhead (*Carphephorus corymbosus*) that was far enough along to allow us to photograph some flowering heads. I say “heads” because this is the Aster Family, where what appears to be flowers are inflorescences called heads. At the last scheduled stop, we had found the better-known deer’s-tongue or vanilla-leaf (*Trilisa odoratissima*).



Though the plants were photogenic, the harsh ultraviolet light that prevails in the early afternoon precluded decent photography of this one.



In the photo immediately above is pineland St. John’s-wort (*Hypericum suffruticosum*). Photo by Leila Dasher.

In the photos on the lefthand side of the page, beginning at top, netleaf leatherflower (*Clematis reticulata*). Note the achene fruits showing persistent hairy styles. Photo by Bobby Hattaway.

At left middle, gopher-apple (*Geobalanus oblongifolius*) and its fruit. Photo by Rich Reaves.

At left bottom, flatwood chaffhead (*Carphephorus corymbosus*). Photo by Bobby Hattaway.

This was my third time leading a trip here and the first non-spring trip. Perhaps on the next trip we can visit the maritime hammocks at the southern entrance. ◻

Field Trip: Atlanta History Center/Cherokee Garden Library

In the heart of Atlanta's busy Buckhead neighborhood, a garden, woodland and magical botanical library flourish

Field Trip: Atlanta History Center grounds and Cherokee Garden Library

Date: Sept. 21, 2023

Trip Leaders: Travis Fisher and Rosemary Bathurst led the garden tour. Staci Catron and Jennie Oldfield spoke in depth about the history of the library and its holdings.

Trip Report: Jane Trentin

On Wednesday, Sept. 21, 13 BotSocers met at the Atlanta History Center for tours of parts of the 33-acre grounds and of the Cherokee Garden Library. Travis Fisher, senior horticulturist and plant records manager, led us on the first part of the tour. He pointed out the trees, mainly oaks, that inhabit the dry ridge above the Quarry Garden. The oldest trees date to the 1870s with the biggest oaks being the white oaks (*Quercus alba*) in front of the Swan House, the historic 1928 home whose grounds are now also the home of the Atlanta History Center and Cherokee Garden Library.



Charlie Brown shows the leaf of a post oak (*Quercus stellata*) with its characteristic cross shape. Photo by Jane Trentin.

We learned that umbrella magnolia (*Magnolia tripetala*) is actually native to Atlanta and that mockernut hickory (*Carya tomentosa*) is the most common hickory in our area.

The pines on the property are mainly loblolly (*Pinus taeda*) but also some shortleaf (*P. echinata*). Loblollies tend to fall more in winter storms because of their longer needles that hold more frozen precipitation. When the oldest ones on the property have fallen, they were about 100 years old. The oldest ones still standing are thought to be 115-120 years old. Sadly, the plants around the Swan House, which was built for the prominent Atlanta couple Edward and Emily Inman, include the nonnative invasives eleagnus, bamboo and mimosa which were called for by the architect who designed the landscape there in 1932.



Rosemary Bathurst (center) points out Fraser's sedge (*Carex fraseriana*) in the woodlands adjoining the Atlanta History Center and Cherokee Garden Library. Looking on are (left) BotSoc member Kevin Doyle, Travis Fisher, and, on the right facing away from the camera, BotSoc member Bob Pemberton. Photo by Jane Trentin.

Rosemary Bathurst, plant recorder and senior horticulturist for the Quarry Garden, led us through that part of the grounds, which is actually below the level of the rest of the gardens since it was quarried up until 1910. It became overgrown until the 1970s when the niece of Mrs. Inman decided it should be a

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Field Trip: Atlanta History Center/Cherokee Garden Library—from Page 10



Rosemary Bathurst brought Fraser's sedge (*Carex fraseriana*) from the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference to the garden, where it is thriving. Photo by Jane Trentin.

native plant garden. Other than a large Atlantic white cedar and the usual garden weeds, it is now maintained as a native plant habitat. Rosemary brought back Fraser's sedge (*Carex fraseriana*) from the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference, and it is now thriving in its southernmost range.

Moving inside for the rest of our tour, we met Staci Catron, director of the Cherokee Garden Library, and Jennie Oldfield, the library's cataloging librarian and archivist. They had laid out a wide array of materials they thought



would be of interest to us. All of the Georgia Botanical Society records are kept safely archived in the library, including the first directory from 1926 when the organization was formed. Our mission then was "to promote the study of botany, to promote botanical gardens for Georgia, to encourage the use of native Georgia species in landscaping and to encourage youth to study and practice botany." Membership was by invitation only until 1970 when Marie Mellinger became president and opened membership to all interested persons.

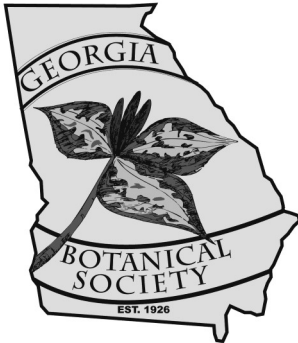


Two of the oldest books related to gardening were on display, and we were even encouraged to touch the leather cover of one. A quote from the 1586 book, *The Arte of Gardening* read "for the health of the body and the delight and pleasure of the eye." A 1670 book *Sylva* was about the forests being torn down in England to build naval forces. A quote from that book read: "If England loses her trees, she will be lost." A more recent book on display for us was our own society's 1984 *The Atlas of the Vascular Flora of Georgia*. It was based on surveys in each county in the state beginning in the 1960s.

Above top, a view inside the Cherokee Garden Library as Staci Catron, left, speaks about the library's history and holdings while Kevin Doyle (center) Jennie Oldfield (center background) and Bob Pemberton listen. Immediately above, Staci Catron, Travis Fisher and Rosemary Bathurst gather for a picture. Photos by Jane Trentin.

Staci said how important the BotSoc has been in the conservation and preservation movement in Georgia. Apparently, our society was instrumental in stopping the Blue Ridge Parkway extension and road construction over Brasstown Bald and Pine Log Mountain. This trip made me proud to be a member of the Georgia Botanical Society. ◼

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