

BotSoc News



Georgia Botanical Society

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2010

BRIEF NOTES FROM THE BOTANICAL WORLD

A little-known Georgia plant is living out its own version of the classical romance of Odysseus and Penelope - lovers separated for 20 years by war and Odysseus' questing while Penelope waited patiently for the Greek hero to come home. But the boys and girls of the dwarf sumac species (*Rhus michauxii*) have been waiting even longer for each other's company, possibly a century or more. Never very abundant, the inconspicuous little plants exist in just three states: Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia and in Georgia, the dwarf sumac had dwindled to just two populations in the 20th century. According to Mincy Moffett, a botanist with the state Department of Natural Resources' nongame conservation section, a group with female flowers lives under a Newton County water tower and a group of male-flowering plants live on a secluded bluff about 80 miles away above the Broad River in Elbert County. But with a little help from a band of dedicated plant conservationists, romance may now blossom at last between the male and female sumacs. After a separation of no one really knows how long, botanists are bringing female sumacs to the males' home in a remote area of the Broad River Wildlife Management Area and hoping that a new generation of sumacs will follow. The planting is a project of the Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance - agencies and volunteers devoted to preserving more than 150 species of threatened, rare or endangered plants in the state such as the dwarf sumac.

Spotted by Vicki Williams in the Marietta Daily Journal (February 20, 2010)

A complete set of county-level maps of the North American vascular flora is now available from the Biota of North America Program on their website (www.bonap.org). The site also contains a Floristic Gazetteer combining Google mapping functions with BONAP phytogeography to produce comprehensive plant species lists for a selected area of the landscape - even for areas as small as a personal home site. BONAP incorporated tens of thousands of plant lists from small florulas throughout North America into larger

floristic units, then linked these data with U.S. postal zip codes, and then to FIPS (Federal Information Processing Standards) codes, then to longitude and latitude coordinates, and finally to all of the North American place names on Google Map. Although the system currently treats only members of National Wetland Flora (approximately half of the North American flora), they plan to include the entire North American flora later this year.

Thanks to Linda Chafin for forwarding information from Dr. John Kartesz, director of the Biota of North America Program (BONAP) of the North Carolina Botanical Garden.

Two new books about American naturalist and artist William Bartram, each featuring paintings by the same artist, will be published in September by Mercer University Press: *Bartram's Living Legacy: The Travels and the Nature of the South*, edited by Dorinda G. Dallmeyer, and *The Flower Seeker: An Epic Poem of William Bartram* by Philip Lee Williams. *Bartram's Living Legacy* republishes *Bartram's Travels* in a new edition, along with essays by some of the South's best writers on the natural world, including Christopher Camuto, Thomas Rain Crowe, Jan DeBlieu, Whit Gibbons, Drew Lanham, Roger Pinckney and Janisse Ray. *The Flower Seeker*, a 454-page poem in 24 cantos is Philip Lee Williams' 15th published book. The poem is the story of William Bartram's life, especially the four years in the 1770s when he traveled across the South learning about its flora, fauna, and native peoples. The covers of both books, as well as a generous insert of color reproductions in the Dallmeyer book, are the work of landscape artist Philip Juras, whose paintings focus on remnant natural landscapes that offer a glimpse of the southeast before European settlement.

More information about both books can be found at www.bartramproject.com.

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BotSoc News

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Society News

GEORGIA BOTANICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2010

PICKETT'S MILL BATTLEFIELD HISTORIC SITE

MEET IN THE THEATRE AT 11:00 AM

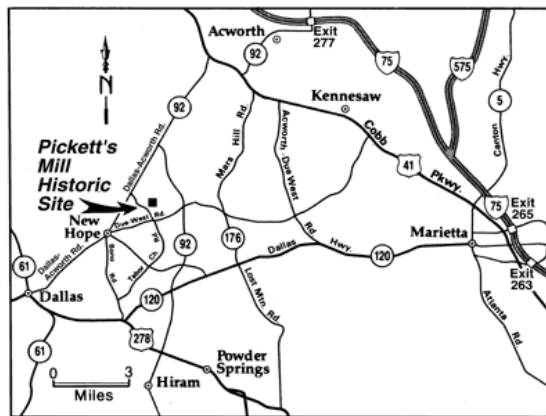
BRING A PICNIC LUNCH.

Please plan to attend our annual meeting. This is an even year and election of new officers will be a major agenda item. After a picnic lunch, Tom Patrick will lead a very interesting hike to see Georgia aster (*Symphytotrichum georgianum*), which should be in flower.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those officers and board members who have served with me these two years. A special thanks goes to the 123 members who have chosen to receive the BotSoc News electronically via the website, thus, saving the Society printing and mailing costs - *Ed McDowell*

Agenda for Annual Meeting

Welcome - Ed
Electronic Newsletter - Ed
2011 Wildflower Pilgrimage - Jim
Membership Report - Anita
Treasurer's Report - Rich
Formal Vote to modify Bylaws Article IV, Section 8, Item 4, Membership Directory (Carry-over action from the canceled 2009 meeting as published in the July 2009 BotSoc News) - Ed
Report from the nominating committee chair and election of officers for 2011 - 2012 - Hugh
Additional items from the floor - Ed
Move to adjourn



Pickett's Mill Battlefield Historic Site

4432 Mt. Tabor Church Rd

Dallas, GA 30157

<http://www.gastateparks.org>

Take I-20 exit #44. Turn left onto Thornton Rd. (Hwy 278) West. Follow Hwy 278 for 10 miles. Make a right onto Hwy 92. Travel North on Hwy 92 for approximately 6 miles. Look for brown Pickett's Mill signs as you continue. Turn left onto Due West Rd. Continue 2 miles. Turn right onto Mt. Tabor Church Rd. The site is 1/2 mile on the right.

Slate of Officers Proposed for 2011-2012

Jim Drake, President
Jerry Hightower, Vice-President
Linda Chafin, Secretary
Rich Reaves, Treasurer

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE BOTSOC ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

Candee and Jim Drake's House

3800 Hickory Branch Trail Suwanee, GA 30024

Saturday, December 4, 2010 10:00 AM

678.482.2127 678.793.2127 cell drake3800@charter.net

Bring: Your favorite dish with enough to feed several people; drinks will be provided. This very informal gathering will have no walk and no formal presentations - but attendees are encouraged to bring botanically related items such as photos, articles, new books, write-ups of new species, or other information for a table display. Because of limited display space, please bring only a small amount of material and plan on informally discussing your topic with interested individuals.

Directions: From I-85, take Suwanee exit 111, Lawrenceville-Suwanee Rd, to go northwest toward Suwanee for ~0.7 mi. Turn right onto Satellite Blvd and travel 0.9 mi to turn left onto Smithtown Rd. Travel 0.8 mi to turn right (across from tree farm) onto Westbrook Rd. Travel 0.7 mi to turn right onto Ridge Rd. Travel 0.6 mi to turn left onto Hickory Branch Trail (Olde Branch sub-division). After 100 ft, turn left onto Hickory Branch Trail (again). 3800 Hickory Branch Trail is down the hill. From Peachtree Industrial Blvd, travel southeast on Suwanee Dam Rd (GA Hwy 317) for 1.6 mi. Turn Left onto Smithtown Rd and travel 0.9 mi to turn left (across from tree farm) onto Westbrook Rd and follow directions above.

Book Review

FLOWER HUNTERS

BY MARY AND JOHN GRIBBIN

The title of this book, *Flower Hunters*, should be of immediate interest to BotSoc members. The greatest appeal of a field trip is to find flowers, particularly new ones. Many members go out on their own, looking for flowers they have never seen. I suspect that many, if not most of those interested in wildflowers keep a life list of plants seen, just like the lists that birders keep. Botanists, professional and amateur, are at the most basic level, flower hunters.

In *Flower Hunters*, Mary and John Gribbin present the work of eleven 18th and 19th century botanical collectors (ten men and one woman) who went on expeditions in search of flowers and plants. Most are British, though Carl Linnaeus and Carl Peter Thunberg, were Swedes. Americans who might have made the list, Lewis and Clark and William Bartram, are marginalized. Lewis and Clark are referred to in a few pages, but Bartram is not mentioned. The book is really about the travels of British botanists and plant collectors who took part in expeditions throughout the world.

Beginning with John Ray (b. 1627) who collected plants in the British Isles, the Gribbins devote a chapter to each flower hunter. Chapters deal with Joseph Banks, who traveled with Cook to Australia; David Douglas, eponym of the Douglas fir, who sent the first seeds of that tree back to England; the Lobb Brothers who were the first to search for plants for a commercial nursery rather than for the government or a scientific society; Marianne North, who traveled around the world twice, painting flowers from every continent except Antarctica; and Richard Spruce, who brought cinchona seeds from Ecuador to establish quinine production in India.

In these accounts and five others, the Gribbins tend to concentrate more on the travels (and travails) of the plant hunters than on the plants they searched for, though both subjects are covered. The difficulties these travelers experienced were overwhelming. Many of them died on these expeditions or from problems developed on the trips.



Flower Hunters.
Oxford:
Oxford University
Press, 2009.
Softcover.

Gribbin, Mary and
John Gribbin.

320 pages
\$19.95

The book does have two problems. First, the Gribbins have done so much research that they try to pack too much information into sentences and paragraphs. Consequently, the sense of what they are saying becomes vague and, at times, lost.

Second, their writing contains many minor stylistic problems and grammatical flaws that not only irritate but, in the case of vague pronouns, cause confusion. I found the book easy to set aside to come back to later.

The Gribbins came to this work from a “hard science” background and their attempt to write for a broader audience may have affected their style. Ultimately, *Flower Hunters* is a work filled with fascinating subjects whose stories reveal the backbreaking and dangerous work of these early “field trips” that provided the foundations for modern botanical knowledge. That being said, the Gribbins’ book would be better if they had a more demanding editor.

Reviewed by Bob Linn

Little Dry Creek Natural Area

LITTLE DRY CREEK NATURAL AREA & ASSOCIATED CALCAREOUS FLATWOODS

by Richard and Teresa Ware

Introduction. The Georgia DNR's Natural Heritage Program has become increasingly interested in the habitat known as "calcareous flatwoods" or "Coosa flatwoods," because of the continuing discovery of many rare plant species found in this habitat and the somewhat similar "Coosa prairies" of western Floyd County. The "calcareous flatwoods" extend from the Carbondale swamp area, south of Dalton, through the Great Valley (Ridge & Valley Physiographic Province), Floyd County, and on into Alabama. The interest in this area exploded in 1998 following our discovery of *Clematis socialis* (Alabama leather flower) a federally endangered species previously only known from two counties in Alabama (Cherokee and St. Clair). I was a co-investigator, along with Tom Govus, on the original survey of the "calcareous flatwoods" area, completed in 1999. We were unsuccessful in locating any additional populations of *Clematis socialis* outside of the original site, but, of course, we did find many other rare plants that were on the Plants of Special Concern and Plant Watch List. The main concentration of this survey (and this article) has been a complete plant inventory of the Little Dry Creek Natural Area (LDCNA), a small site of approximately 7.49 acres, consisting of five parcels (lots) of land northwest of Rome, Georgia. The site was formerly part of an industrial park, but recently purchased by the Georgia Department of Transportation and deeded to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. This article will only report the rare and unusual plants found on the LDCNA and new populations of plants outside the natural area found during this survey, not all rare plants found in Floyd County.

Since we live ~1^{1/2} miles from the site, we were able to visit very often and during all stages of the growing season from Oct. 1, 2008 to Oct. 31, 2009. During the previous survey, with the assistance of Carlen Emanuel of the Alabama Natural Heritage Program, all four known stations for *Clematis socialis* in Alabama were visited during the blooming period. Observations were made regarding habitat, associated species and the spatial distribution of these populations. A total of 23 days in the field were spent surveying and cataloging all the different plant species at the site.

Results and Discussion. Despite the fact that the site was very small (7.49 acres), we were able to compile a list of some 255 plant species including eight species with global or state conservation ranking, two new state record species, and a previously undescribed *Clematis* species. We also found an additional seven sites for the federally endangered *Clematis socialis* (Alabama leather flower) and used GPS coordinates to map the 12 sites as stations for this plant. A continuation of the survey outside the LDCNA in associated calcareous

flatwoods found an additional four rare and/or unusual plant species. We have continued to visit the Technology Parkway site (LDCNA) for *Clematis socialis* since my discovery of the federally endangered species there in 1998. It seems conclusive that the species is spreading in its current habitat. An additional seven stations for the plant have been added since the original five locations were documented, during the original study by Tom Govus and myself. The largest station, is now spreading into an adjacent lot which was mistakenly cleared many years ago. This seems to emphasize the fact that *Clematis socialis* needs some kind of disturbance, such as clearing of competing vegetation, mowing, etc., before it will come up, flower and fruit. The seeds seem to lay dormant in the seed bank until such a disturbance occurs. There are several new outplanting sites for *Clematis socialis* on the site which have not been documented. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources and volunteers are also using the LDCNA as a safeguarding site for outplantings of *Trillium pusillum* and *Thalictrum debile* (state listed plants which were not originally located at this site). The locations of all stations of *Clematis socialis*, *Trillium pusillum* and *Thalictrum debile* have been documented on an aerial photograph using Google Earth. Listed below are the 26 rare and unusual plants found in the survey with their global (G) and state (S) rankings. Conservation status is ranked from 1, critically imperiled, to 5, secure; R, rare; T, threatened; E, endangered.

Rare taxa in the LDCNA:

Clematis socialis Kral (Alabama leather flower; G1, S1, LE, E; Federally & State Endangered). In early spring, while most of the other vegetation is still bare, we observed many plants scattered along the front, but mostly through the very wet woods at the back of the site. Almost in every low area (with standing water at the time) *Clematis socialis* could be found, either a single stem or perhaps 5 or more stems. The only things more plentiful at the time were young, mostly single leaves of *Lilium michiganense*. So, it seems, along with the abundant rainfall comes abundant *Clematis socialis*. Unfortunately, once the heavy canopy closes in, these plants mostly turn yellow and fade away, waiting for a time when they have enough light to bloom. So, primarily, the only plants that bloom are the ones around the edge of the woods that are exposed to more sunlight.

Lilium michiganense Farw. (Michigan lily; G5, S1). As stated above this is one of the more abundant plants in the wetter areas in the early spring. But, their case is even worse than that of the *Clematis* - most of these plants are immature young plants with only one leaf, and even the ones who get enough sunlight and have enough vigor to bloom are usually eaten by the large deer population. In fact, this year we did not see a single plant blooming either on the LDCNA or anywhere along the adjoining property. This plant has a G5/S1 ranking, really rare in Georgia, but not so much globally.

Little Dry Creek Natural Area

Trillium pusillum Michaux (Georgia least trillium; G1, S1; State endangered). Planted on the site by GA DNR and volunteers as a safeguarding site because of the precarious situation at the original discovery site below Dalton.

Thalictrum debile Buckl. (meadow rue; G2, S1, T; State threatened). Also planted on the site by GA DNR and volunteers because the other Georgia site is unprotected.

Oenanthe javanica (Blume) DC. (water celery or java waterdropwort; new state record that we do not want). Grows in the creek that flows by the site on the south side, and evidently is a bad escaped aquatic weed, which as I understand is grown and has escaped from water gardens. It is very rampant along the creek in certain sections.

Ptilimnium costatum (Ell.) Raf. (mock-bishops-weed; G3?/S2?; rare on the site). We know of one plant (that bloomed) near station 5, and 5 or 6 plants (non-bloomers) scattered in the wet woods near station 7.

Asclepias purpurascens L. (purple milkweed; G5?/S1; extremely rare in Georgia outside of the Berry College flatwoods). Only 1 population of this plant on the site. The year of the survey there were a total of 12 stems and 3 blooming plants. *Clematis socialis* Station 1 (where *Asclepias purpurascens* is found) is now completely overrun by poison ivy. This is the original population that I discovered because of the beautiful *A. purpurascens* growing there. In my attempt to bring in more sunlight, I cut down some of the small trees (mostly *Liquidambar styraciflua*) at this location and in the next few years the poison ivy completely took over. So, I'm not sure thinning is a good solution for the *Clematis*, unless we find a way to control the poison ivy.

Prenanthes barbata (Torr. & Gray) Milstead (prairie lions-foot; G2, G3/S1; extremely rare in Georgia). This plant seems to avoid the really wet areas that is enjoyed by *Clematis socialis* and *Lilium michiganense*. Primarily found in the drier section (at the front near the highway) of tract 17 (lot next to the cleared lot) and is also spreading into the cleared lot, because it also has to have a certain amount of sunlight in order to bloom. The ground is covered in basal leaves in that drier section, but none of these matured and we only saw 5-6 plants blooming, all in the cleared lot.

Senecio pauperculus Michx. (balsam ragwort; G5/S1?). We saw around 20 stems of this plant, with 6 blooming. This plant also favors the wet areas on the site and also seems to favor growing in the major deer trails.

Quercus nuttallii Palmer (Nuttall oak; new state record; two small trees in LDCNA). This taxon has not been officially reported for Georgia; however, we have observed it scattered about in Floyd County. I suppose these could be escapes from a huge tree in the Riverside (formerly Celanese) community, that I recently nominated as State Champion.

Collinsonia tuberosa Michx. (deepwoods horsebalm; G3, G4/S3). Small population, perhaps 6-8 stems growing on tract 17 fairly near the front and on the side next to the cleared lot. It didn't bloom the year of the survey at all.

Clematis sp. (leatherflower). We have recently discovered an unknown species of *Clematis* growing on the LDCNA site and also along Jefferson Road (near the Coosa Prairies) and in my yard, which is also flatwoods and the home of *Prenanthes barbata*. Unlike *Clematis socialis* this species is a vine, and more closely resembles *Clematis morefieldii*, which is also a Federally Endangered Species. At this time, this new entity has not been named, but if recognized as a species, could also be very rare. It is scattered in different areas on the site, perhaps not in the wettest areas, and only been observed to bloom on the front of the site where it gets more sun.

Aureolaria patula (Chapman) Pennell (spreading yellow foxglove; G2, G3/S1). Extremely rare on the site. We have only observed 3 clumps, each clump has between 3 and 6 stems. Something (insects, not deer) likes to eat these plants, plus the drought has taken a terrible toll. We did see fruit on one a couple of years ago, but they haven't bloomed in the last 2 years and usually have dried up or been eaten before blooming time.

Rare taxa found outside of the LDCNA in adjacent calcareous flatwoods:

Lysimachia fraseri (Fraser's loosestrife; G2, S1S2, State Rare). Located on the Simms Mtn. section of the Pinhoti trail ~1 mi ESE of the only other known population in Floyd Co., on the same trail, which is an old converted railroad bed.

Prenanthes barbata (prairie lion's foot; G2G3, S1). Located at Berry College, along the old Silver Hill RR grade that runs through the property. Now a trail, it travels north from the old Victory Lake and crosses several Berry dirt roads, including the old C.C.C. road and the O'Brian Gap Road.

Helianthus pauciflorus ssp. *pauciflorus* (stiff sunflower). Mid-western species of sunflower and according to the National Plants Database, not found in any adjoining state to Georgia. There is one other collection from Georgia, Oglethorpe County. We don't know if the identification of this specimen has been verified. At any rate, this collection would be only the second one from Georgia. May be rare enough in Georgia to be on the Tracking or Watch List.

Dipsacus fullonum (wild teasel). A weedy plant in many areas of the US, but evidently this is the first collection from Georgia. Some folks who know this plant from up north may not welcome it to Georgia, but if you're going to do a complete flora of a county, everything needs to be documented as long as it is reproducing naturally in the wild.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Tom Patrick with the Georgia Natural Heritage Program for all of the work he performed in organizing, executing, and answering questions in regard to this project; my wife Teresa, for assisting me in the field and taking some excellent photographs of some of the rare plants on the site; Ron Lance for helping identify some of the more difficult hawthorns; Max Medley for accompanying me on a couple of trips to the site and helping to identify some of the sedges; and Mincey Moffitt who came to the site to survey the outplantings of *Trillium pusillum* and *Thalictrum debile*.

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
Sept 04 10:00 AM Meet at Woody Gap parking area.	Woody Gap, Union/Lumpkin Counties We will walk south from the trailhead and examine the late summer flora and return by the same route. Afterwards, if any are interested, we can walk north and see what is up that way. On the southern walk, we should be treated to a spectacular display of <i>Heuchera parviflora</i> (small-flowered alum-root) and numerous other flowers including <i>Campanulastrum americanum</i> (American bellflower), <i>Silene stellata</i> (starry campion), a host of composites (various aster, coreopsis, joe-pye weed, and goldenrod), <i>Amphicarpaea bracteata</i> (hog peanut), <i>Impatiens capensis</i> (orange jewel weed), and others.	Head north from Dahlonega on US 19. At the "Y" (the rockpile) turn left on GA 60 toward Suches. The Woody Gap parking area is where the Appalachian Trail crosses the road (you will see hiker crossing signs approximately 0.5 mile before the parking area. Parking is on both sides, facilities are on the right as you come up the mountain from Dahlonega. Facilities: Flushless toilets at meeting site. Lunch: Bring to eat along the trail.	Rich Reaves rich.reaves@att.net 770.827.5186
Sept 11 11:00 AM Meet at group shelter.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0e0e0;"> <p>GEORGIA BOTANICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING PICKETT'S MILL BATTLEFIELD HISTORIC SITE <small>DETAILS AND DIRECTIONS ON PAGE 2.</small></p> </div>		Ed McDowell 478.396.8901 (cell) ed.mcdowell@cox.net
Sept 18 10:00 AM Meet at visitor center.	Red Top Mountain Plant Inventory, Bartow County This 6 th inventory features the Georgia aster (<i>Symphyotricum georgianum</i>) and other fall wildflowers. The state park (770 975-0055) has a lodge, tent camping and yurts; nearby Cartersville has abundant motels.	From I-75 take exit 285 Red Top Mountain Rd. and go 1.5 mi east to Visitor Center. Walking: Easy to moderate, some bushwhacking off trails. Facilities: At visitor center and in picnic area for lunch. Bring: Hand lens, notebook, water, picnic lunch	Tom Patrick 706.476.4541 (cell) Tom.Patrick@dnr.state.ga.us
Sept 24 Friday 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM Meet at bulletin board in parking lot.	Indian Trail East Palisades, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Unit We will walk down and up the hills of East Palisades in search of late summer wildflowers and early signs of Fall. Along the way we have lots of beautiful river views, a chance to identify trees and plants perhaps including <i>Fothergilla major</i> .	From I-285 East exit 22, turn right on Northside Dr to Powers Ferry Rd. Go through intersection at Powers Ferry Rd and travel 1.1 mi to Indian Trail. Turn right on Indian Trail (dead end at the unit's entrance). From I-285 West exit 22, go straight to 2nd traffic light. Turn left onto Northside Dr and follow as above. For additional directions, contact leader. Walking: Moderate, ~4-mi with two big hills. Terrain is not difficult. Facilities: None at Indian Trail. Fast food on Powers Ferry Rd. Bring: Water, a hand lens, sunscreen, tree or field guide, camera and notebook, \$3.00 parking fee or annual pass.	Maureen Donohue macaire75@att.net 678.687.7963 cell

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
<p>Sept 25 10:00 AM</p> <p>Meet at parking lot of HJ Gas Station, south of Butler.</p>	<p>Sandhills, Taylor County This exploratory trip to two of our newest Natural Areas - Fall Line Sandhills and Black Creek Natural Area - will target the protected species pond spicebush (<i>Lindera melissifolia</i>) and sandhill golden-aster (<i>Pityopsis pinifolia</i>). Pickering morninglory (<i>Stylisma pickeringii</i> var. <i>pickeringii</i>), another protected species, occurs here but will be past flowering. We may also find sandhill specialties like Carolina pineland-cress (<i>Warea cuneifolia</i>). Fall is the best wildflower season in the sandhills; so many common species, especially members of the aster family, should be in flower. Both Natural Areas had prescribed burns this past winter and spring, allowing us to see the impact of fire on sandhill plants.</p>	<p>Take US 19 south through Butler to light at intersection with GA 96. Cross GA 96 to HJ gas station on the left. From the south, take US 19 north to intersection with GA 96. From the east or west, take GA 96 to US 19 south of Butler. As you turn south onto US 19; gas station is on left. If carpooling is needed, we'll condense into fewer vehicles at Fall Line Sandhills Natural Area. Facilities: At meeting place only. Walking: We'll be walking on old sandy logging roads. Walking will be fairly easy, but the sand will be deep at times and it could be very hot. We may make side trips down old fire lines. Total walking for the day won't exceed 3 miles. Bring: Lunch to eat near vehicles, picnic blanket or something to sit on is recommended, hat, bug spray, water and food.</p>	<p>Hal Massie massiefarm@aol.com 478.836.4907 478.957.6095 (cell for hike, reception not guaranteed)</p>
<p>Sept 26 Sunday 1:00 PM</p> <p>Meet at Floyd County Library lower parking lot.</p>	<p>Fall Flowers, Vines, Fruits & Tree ID, Floyd County We hope to see a wide assortment of vines including honey vine (<i>Cynanchum laeve</i>), balloon-vine (<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i>), melonette (<i>Melothria pendula</i>), bur cucumber (<i>Sicyos angulatus</i>), cupseed (<i>Calycocarpum lyonii</i>), moonseed (<i>Menispermum canadense</i>), coralbeads (<i>Cocculus carolinus</i>) and five-lobed cucumber (<i>Cayaponia quinqueloba</i>). Unusual flowers blooming include fog fruit (<i>Phyla lanceolata</i>), branched foldwing (<i>Dicliptera brachiata</i>), creeping Eryngium (<i>Eryngium prostratum</i>), Peruvian daisy (<i>Galinsoga quadriradiata</i>), wingstem (<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i>), frostweed (<i>Verbesina virginica</i>), turnsole (<i>Heliotropium indicum</i>), valley redstem (<i>Ammannia coccinea</i>), and eastern black nightshade (<i>Solanum americanum</i>). A wonderful variety of trees along the route will also be identified.</p>	<p>Follow GA 20/US 411 to Rome. After 4th light, take right fork on GA 20 to downtown. After 5 lights and up a small hill, look for Days Inn on the left. Turn left at the next light at Riverside Parkway. Library is first turn on right. Turn right again to park near beginning of trail. Walking: Easy stroll of ~1.5-2 mi along the Oostanaula River on a paved walkway. Meal: Optional meal at a Mexican Restaurant after the walk. Facilities: At library and in two places along the walk.</p>	<p>Richard & Teresa Ware 706.232.3435 cell 706.766.5143 gobotany@comcast.net</p>

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
<p>Oct 2</p> <p>10:00 AM</p> <p>Meet at Brass-town Bald parking lot.</p>	<p>Brasstown Bald/ Track Rock, Union County</p> <p>We'll hike the paved trail to the top of Brasstown Mountain with several short side trips (or you can take the shuttle up and wait for the group). We should see <i>Gentiana decora</i>, several autumn flowering composites and others, and maybe a few chestnut burrs. After lunch at the observation tower, we'll hike back down the paved trail (or take the shuttle) to the parking lot to travel to Trackrock Gap for <i>Gentianopsis crinita</i> and other autumn flowers. This portion will be a couple of stops for roadside botanizing; however, you may hike just off the paved road to look for more <i>Gentianopsis</i> blooms.</p>	<p>From the northeast take US129N/GA11N to Cleveland. Go around Old Cleveland Court-house to stay on US129N/GA11N for ~23.5 mi. Turn right onto GA180, go ~7 mi to turn left onto GA180 Spur N and go 2.9 mi to Brasstown Bald parking lot. From Blairsville on US129S/GA11S, turn left onto GA 180 and follow directions above.</p> <p>Walking: Smooth paved trail uphill to observation deck; somewhat strenuous in places.</p> <p>Bring: Water, lunch to take on hike, USFS Pass or \$4 for parking; \$3 round trip shuttle fee.</p>	<p>Jim Drake</p> <p>678.482.2127 678.793.2127 cell</p> <p>drake3800@charter.net</p>
<p>Oct 04 Monday</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM</p> <p>Meet at parking lot.</p>	<p>Gold Branch Unit, Chattahoochee River NRA, Cobb County</p> <p>We will walk a wonderful unit of this national park, enjoying the beautiful fall weather, the leaf colors and the views over Blue Sluice Lake and the Chattahoochee River. We'll expect to see the soapwort gentian (<i>Gentiana saponaria</i>) that bloom lakeside at this time of year.</p>	<p>From I-285 East exit 24, turn left on Riverside Dr and travel 2.3 mi to Johnson Ferry Rd. Continue 2 mi to turn right on Lower Roswell Rd. Park unit is 2.5 mi on the right. From I-285 West exit 24, turn right on Riverside Dr then follow above directions. For other directions, contact leader.</p> <p>Difficulty: Moderate, 3 to 5 miles as desired.</p> <p>Facilities: None. Fast food on Lower Roswell.</p> <p>Bring: Water, good walking shoes, poles (optional), snacks, \$3.00 parking fee or annual pass, camera, hand lens, notebook, field guide.</p>	<p>Maureen Donohue</p> <p>macaire75@att.net</p> <p>678.687.7963 cell</p>
<p>Oct 09</p> <p>10:00 AM</p> <p>Meet at Museum of Aviation parking lot in Warner Robbins AFB.</p>	<p>Ocmulgee Bottomlands, Houston County</p> <p>We'll explore an old growth hardwood forest along the Ocmulgee River during the peak flowering period of the fragrant ladies' tresses (<i>Spiranthes odorata</i>). We may also see Canadian Horseweed (<i>Conyza canadensis</i>), dyersweed goldenrod (<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>), downy lobelia (<i>Lobelia puberula</i>), poison sumac (<i>Toxicodendron vernix</i>), the Florida swamp azalea (<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>), many varieties of ferns, and dwarf pawpaw (<i>Asimina parviflora</i>), horse sugar (<i>Symplacos tinctoria</i>) and laurel oak (<i>Quercus laurifolia</i>) trees.</p>	<p>Take I-75 to Exit 45. Go East on SR 247C to the Museum of Aviation parking lot in Warner Robbins AFB. We will be driving ~5 to 10 mi from the meeting site.</p> <p>Walking: ~1 mi but potential swampy and muddy conditions with several creek crossings. Bring knee high boots or a change of shoes as your feet will get wet!</p> <p>Facilities: At meeting and lunch site.</p> <p>Note: This trip requires pre-registraion. Call or email Tom by Oct 2 with full name and social security number.</p> <p>Also please bring a driver's license or valid government issued photo I.D. with you on the day of the trip.</p>	<p>Tom Patrick</p> <p>Tom.Patrick@dnr.state.ga.us</p> <p>706.468.2508 home</p> <p>770.918.6411 work</p>
<p>The Oct 11 field trip to Pigeon Creek Tract is CANCELLED.</p>			

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
<p>Oct 16 10:00 AM</p> <p>Meet at parking lot. Meet at south edge (farthest from Confederate Hall) for the walkup trail.</p>	<p>Stone Mountain Park, Dekalb County We'll start by walking part way up Stone Mountain, probably the most botanically rich area in the metro area and a well kept secret! Leaving the walkup trail, we'll first see typical granite outcrop plants at the site where botanists discovered them and then meander back down the botanically rich, unique forest on the mountain's NW flank (see the 1994 <i>Tipularia</i>) to enjoy fall wildflowers and unusual shrubs - especially the granite gooseberry (<i>Ribes curvatum</i>) and Rafinesque's haw (<i>Viburnum rafinesquianum</i>). After lunch, we'll leisurely explore the mountain's NE "cove" forest to enjoy carpets of ferns (including hayscented fern - rare so far south), a resprouting American chestnut and another rare shrub, Schwerin's leadbush (<i>Amorpha schwerinii</i>). En route back to the East Gate we will make a brief stop to see yet another rare shrub, state-protected <i>Nestronia umbellula</i> (called conjurer's-nut, Jove's fruit, etc.).</p>	<p>The park is south of US78, 16 mi east of Atlanta. From US78 (Stone Mountain Freeway) take exit 8 and enter park at East Gate (admission is \$10/car or \$35/year). Keep straight onto Jefferson Davis Dr; after 1 mi bear right onto Robert E. Lee Blvd. Continue ~1 mi (past the West Gate) to turn left into large parking lot. Make an immediate right and head to far end to park end-to-end along the (wooded) far edge. More directions available at http://www.stonemountainpark.com/maps-directions/driving-directions.aspx. Walking: Moderate, ~1 mi before lunch, less afterward. We will not walk to the summit. Lunch: At picnic area beside Old U.S. 78 E. Facilities: Confederate Hall, close to meeting spot; porta-johns at lunch stop.</p>	<p>Jim Allison 706.818.0210 jimbotany@aol.com</p>
<p>Oct 23 11:00 AM note time!</p> <p>Meet at McDonalds in Glennville.</p>	<p>Big Hammock Natural Area, Appling County Experience the little known autumn beauty of our sandhills. This state-owned Natural Area rises from the flat Altamaha floodplain and features a 15,000 to 30,000 yr old relict riverine sand dune. The extremely xeric conditions create fascinating vegetation communities. Plants abundant on the Florida coast, such as myrtle oak and woody goldenrod, thrive here. It is also home to pine flatwoods, cypress tupelo swamps and dwarfed evergreen forest with the largest known population of state-endemic Georgia plume (<i>Elliottia racemosa</i>). Pine-oak woodlands are showy in autumn with tansy-colored woody goldenrod flowering against a backdrop of golden grasses and gray-green soil lichens. We'll also explore changes due to a prescribed burn of March 2010.</p>	<p>I-75 South to Exit 165, Jim L Gillis Hwy/Savannah onto I-16E for ~115 mi to Exit 116, Statesboro/Claxton. Turn right on US-25S. Continue for ~26 mi to the McDonalds in Glennville. For other directions, contact leader. Walking: Distance determined by the group; base hike is 1-mi loop, but we can traverse the sandhills to the Altamaha floodplain terrace - a 3 to 5 mi walk. No need to get wet, unless you're an avid swamper and want to go in on your own. Bring: Abundant water, lunch/snacks, insect repellent, and sun protection. Closed-toe shoes help prevent chigger bites.</p>	<p>Lisa Kruse, GA DNR lisa.kruse@dnr.state.ga.us 770.918.6411 work</p> <p>Maureen Donohue 678.687.7963 cell</p>

A **Sunday morning, Oct 24**, follow-up field trip to Moody Forest is a possibility, but not final as of the newsletter deadline. Please check the web site and look for emails about this trip. We'll also have hotels recommendations. If you are interested, but don't have internet access, please contact Maureen Donohue at 678.687.7963 in early October.

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
<p>Oct 30</p> <p>10:00 AM</p> <p>Meet at park office parking lot.</p>	<p>Georgia Aster Count, Pickett's Mill Historic Site, Paulding County</p> <p>This 4th annual count will survey the corn and wheat field to track the status of one of GA's largest populations of the state endangered Georgia aster (<i>Symphotrichum georgianum</i>). This year is particularly important because of a prescribed burn this past winter. With their beautiful purple flowers, the asters are easy to see and a fun and valuable activity for beginner wildflower enthusiasts as well as professional botanists. We look forward to a glorious autumn day in the fields.</p>	<p>Take I-75 to Exit 277. Actworth/GA Hwy 92. GA 92 make several turns and an unexpected right just off the freeway. Proceed for 12 mi south to turn right at small brown sign for Pickett's Mill at Due West Rd (NOT Due West Street). Go 1.8 mi to turn right onto Mt Tabor Church Rd. The park entrance is on the right.</p> <p>Walking: Easy to moderate, some off trails</p> <p>Facilities: At Visitor's Center</p> <p>Bring: Lunch, hand lens, notebook, and water.</p>	<p>Maureen Donohue macaire75@att.net 678.687.7963 cell</p> <p>Elaine Nash 770.922.7292 einash33@bellsouth.net</p>
<p>Nov 05 Friday</p> <p>1:00 PM - 4:00 PM</p> <p>Meet at parking lot.</p>	<p>East Palisades, Whitewater Creek Unit - Chattahoochee River NRA, Fulton County</p> <p>We'll walk along the Chattahoochee River, watching ducks, geese and great blue herons on the river as we soak in the fall colors that surround us. Along the way we'll identify leaves for early spring wildflowers that will delight us in March. We'll climb one large hill for breathtaking fall views from the Palisades' cliffs. As we walk back to our cars, we can practice our tree I.D. skills using fall leaf colors as our guide.</p>	<p>From I-75 North take exit 256, Mount Paran Rd. Turn right then take 1st left, Sentinel Post (small green sign). After several speed bumps take 1st right onto Whitewater Creek Rd (sign often hidden by shrubs). From I-75 South take exit 258, Cumberland Blvd. Turn right to then turn left on Cobb Pkwy, US 41 and travel south, across the river (name changes to Northside Dr). Turn left on Mount Paran Rd (traffic light and enormous church on right) to follow directions above. Note: No left turn off I-75 South exit to Mount Paran.</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy 3 to 3.5 mi; one moderate hill.</p> <p>Facilities: None.</p> <p>Bring: Water, snacks, tree guide and hand lens, \$3.00 parking fee or annual pass.</p>	<p>Maureen Donohue macaire75@att.net 678.687.7963 cell</p>
<p>Nov 06</p> <p>10:00 AM</p> <p>Meet at Pocket Picnic Shelter.</p>	<p>Fall Color Hike & Tree ID Walk, Floyd County</p> <p>We will hike either the Pocket Nature Trail (~1½ mi) or the Pocket Hiking Trail (~ 2.7 mi), depending on interest and enthusiasm. Hopefully the fall color will be spectacular and at peak! We will also identify the fall wildflowers that might still be in bloom along the trail and the good variety of trees, including some very large specimens of yellow buckeye (<i>Aesculus flava</i>). After the walk, if time permits, we may visit John's Mtn. Overlook for spectacular views of the Ridge and Valley.</p>	<p>From Atlanta on I-75 take exit 320 west (La-Fayette/Resaca). Turn left on GA 136 toward LaFayette. After ~14 mi, turn left onto Pocket Rd. Recreation area is on the left after ~7 mi. The 2nd driveway goes to the Picnic Shelter. Pocket of Floyd County (not Pigeon Mtn.) 6044 Everett Springs Rd, Armuchee, GA 30105.</p> <p>Facilities: At meeting site.</p> <p>Walking: Either 1½ mi or 2.7 mi depending on trail taken; relatively flat, easy.</p> <p>Bring: Lunch to eat at picnic tables after walk (preferable). Late lunch, so bring snacks.</p>	<p>Richard & Teresa Ware</p> <p>706.232.3435 cell, but probably no service at field trip</p> <p>706.766.5143</p> <p>gabotany@comcast.net</p>

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
Nov 11 Thursday 10:00 AM Meet at parking lot.	Chattahoochee River NRA, Paces Mill Unit, Cobb County We'll enjoy the fall colors of the trees this Veterans Day with a beautiful walk along the West Palisades from Paces Mill to the next unit at Akers Mill. On the way, we'll see some Georgia asters (<i>Symphyotrichum georgianum</i>) in bloom, and great views of the Devils' staircase, the East Palisades and the river. We'll also visit two wetlands and Rottenwood creek enroute. The Paces Mill Unit is located at 3445 Cobb Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30339	From I-75 South exit 258, turn right on Cumberland Blvd and then left on Cobb Pkwy (US 41). Go downhill thru light at Paces Mill Rd. Brown NPS sign is just beyond BP Station on right. From I-75 North exit at Mount Paran Rd, turn left and then turn right onto Northside drive (US41N). Continue north over the river; park entrance is on left, just before BP station and just after you enter Cobb County. For other directions, contact leader. Walking: Moderate 4-5 mi; two long somewhat strenuous hills to walk slowly. Easy terrain. Facilities: At Paces Mill. Bring: Sack lunch, \$3.00 parking or annual pass, poles (optional), tree book and hand lens.	Maureen Donohue macaire75@att.net 678.687.7963 cell

Field Trip Report

FLORIDA CAVERNS (PILGRIMAGE FIELD TRIP 15) MARCH 13, 2010

The descriptions of the field trips for the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage all seemed to emphasize / feature trees. Fortunately, a friend suggested the Florida Caverns trip as the one that should provide the opportunity to see the most wildflowers. Indeed Linda Chafin did an excellent job as our leader.

Despite the cold spring and the early date for the Pilgrimage we did see some lovely and interesting plants. Early in the trip we saw needle palm (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*) and dwarf palmetto (*Sabal minor*). There were ferns and trillium, May-apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) and false rue anemone (*Enemion biternatum*).

There were many limestone outcrops and several barred entrances to the caverns. Perhaps some were tempted to explore.

There were many *Bignonia* plants. Somehow they reminded me of *Tipularia*, but there was always someone there to correct me. We passed one large outcrop, perhaps the size of a box car. In every nook and cranny there were thousands of eastern columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) in various stages of growth. Some did show a little color and I could only imagine how stunning the area will appear when many of them would be in full color.

Just past that display the view changed dramatically. On our left we could look down many feet and see water in the flood plain of the Chipola River. Huge, bare trees, many with buttressed trunks, were there in a



The group heading into Florida Caverns.

Teresa Ware

gloomy atmosphere. For a moment the area seemed like a place where you might encounter "other-worldly" creatures. Fortunately Richard Ware and Gil Nelson were on the trip. Richard was helpful in identifying black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) and laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*).

Then we made a turn on the path and the scene changed. Large clumps of shiny foliage appeared with a few of the Atamasco lilies (*Zephyranthes atamasca*) in flower. There were many oakleaf hydrangeas (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) with only the top leaves showing green. We did see various violets, blueberries showing bright green foliage, ferns in abundance, river cane, and various grasses. We also saw magnificent spruce pines (*Pinus glabra*).

Windy Smith, Warner Robins

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