



Dynamite Disjunct

Text and photos by Richard Ware

Some of you may be asking, "what is a disjunct?" The definition depends on the subject matter being discussed, but botanically speaking, the following definition should suffice, *occurring in widely separated geographic areas, distinctly separate; applies to a discontinuous range in which one or more populations are separated from other potentially interbreeding populations far enough as to preclude gene flow between them.* The discovery of a plant species growing a great distance, sometimes hundreds of miles, from the main population, is very exciting to a botanist. This discovery is usually very important, sometimes on the federal level (if the plant is also rare in the main part of it's range), but especially on the state level, e.g. a plant that may be fairly common in the Great Plains area of the Midwest, if found growing naturally in Georgia, would be considered an S1 (endangered) plant here, unless the population was large but regardless would be rare on the state level.

The number of disjuncts in a county appears to be habitat driven, i.e. counties with rare habitats, such as the Coosa Valley Prairies and Flatwoods (Floyd County), the Blackbelt Prairies (Houston County), and the Chickamauga Cedar Glades (Catoosa County), support the largest number of disjuncts. Therefore, Floyd county has a large number of disjuncts when compared to most other Georgia counties. Some of the important disjunct plant species from Floyd Co. have already received their share of publicity from Georgia Botanical Society publications.

The discovery of the whorled sunflower (*Helianthus verticillatus*) in Georgia was first published in BotSoc News and then was part of an article written by Jim Allison entitled "Prairies.....in Georgia!" in the 1995 edition of *Tipularia*, pg. 2. At the time of it's discovery, it hadn't been seen in the wild since the late 1800s but has since been found down the road from the Georgia habitat in Alabama and in an adjacent county from the original collection in western Tennessee. The discovery and correct identification of Fremont's leatherflower (*Clematis fremontii*), also originally reported in our newsletter, is documented in the article "*Clematis fremontii* in the Southeastern United States" by Meredith Montgomery and Joey Shaw in the 2012 *Tipularia*, pg. 11.

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's
Perspective -
P2

Trip idea -
P3

Field Trip
Report -
P6

Upcoming
Field Trips -
P8



Oligoneuron riddellii

Continued on page 4

Society News**BotSoc News**

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President's Perspective

The Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in Augusta was without a doubt one of the very best Pilgrimages that the members of the Georgia Botanical Society have ever enjoyed. I offer my sincerest thank you to Maureen Donohue and all the folks that assisted in the success.

Spring affords all of us a wonderful opportunity to promote the continued success of BotSoc as we rush about in our vane attempts to see all the amazing floral glories that Georgia offers. We have a great opportunity to introduce others to our organization by inviting them to go along on field trips.

Too often persons think that the Georgia Botanical Society is not an organization that they could be a part of because they are not "botanists". These persons are often quite enthusiastic about the beauty of our native flora and natural habitats. Often these persons enjoy the outdoors, discovering new places, and meeting new folks. These persons could become enthusiastic supporters of BotSoc once they are introduced to the organization, our activities, and our great members.

This is where you play a critical role in our continued success. You are the person that needs to extend the invitation. You are the person that needs to share your enthusiasm about BotSoc, its activities, and its mission. As you mark your calendar and plan your schedule of field trips, please plan to invite at least one new person to accompany you and introduce them to BotSoc. Once someone is introduced to BotSoc, they usually find that they can indeed be a part of the Georgia Botanical Society.

As the 2013 Pilgrimage came to an end on Sunday afternoon, along with the hugs came an admonishment or two: "Why didn't you tell us about BotSoc before?" A very valid question and I did not have a good answer. I will work to insure that no one feels the need to ask me that question again.

Next spring we will find ourselves at the gateway to the Okefenokee Swamp. This Pilgrimage will offer a truly amazing array of field trips to an amazing array of habitats. Now is the time to begin to work toward the success of this Pilgrimage. Please plan on attending and mark your calendars as soon as the dates are confirmed. If you have contacts in the area, field trip ideas, or will volunteer to lead a field trip; please contact our Pilgrimage Chairperson, Maureen Donohue.

Thank you for being a part of the Georgia Botanical Society and I hope to see you on a field trip soon.

Trip Opportunity—Sonoran Desert 2014

In 2012, we had a nice response for a BotSoc trip down to the Everglades and Florida Keys. For 2014, I am setting my sights a bit farther afield for a late-winter excursion. I am investigating interest in a junket to the Sonoran Desert in early March 2014, with the likely target the second full week of March. I have been out there several times for work during this time and took Anita there once. Typically, the spring annuals are putting on a nice show and the weather is rather nice (even potential for light frost at elevation). I anticipate focusing on the Tucson area (Saguaro National Park and Tucson Mountain County Park) and Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (approximately 2 hours west of Tucson).

We will not see the blooms of the large cacti (Saguaro, Organ Pipe, & various barrel cacti). Some of the barrel cacti may have a few blooms, but Saguaro & Organ Pipe typically bloom in May when it is very hot (occasionally with a rebloom in Fall). What we should see – copious amounts of the desert annuals in bloom and blooms beginning on several of the smaller cacti (hedgehog, cholla, beavertail, etc) & desert shrubs.

I have a tentative itinerary, but as many folks can attest, expect a smattering of roadside stops. Also plan on packing lunch and liquids for each day.

Day 1: Arrive in Tucson by evening. Have a BotSoc gathering at a Mexican joint (of course) to go over the plan for the week.

Day 2: Tucson Mountain County Park in the morning - a couple of short trails along with a nice overlook. Afternoon/early evening – Goldmine Trail hike in West portion of Saguaro NP (approximately 2.5 mile loop) or a walk down a dry wash in the northern part of West Saguaro NP.

Day 3: Sonoran Desert Museum - well worth most of a day here. Afterwards we could hit the Saguaro NP Visitors Center and maybe some short trails depending on daylight.

Day 4: East portion of Saguaro NP – long loop drive with short excursions at various locations/trails along the route.

Day 5: Either a drive through Ironwood National Monument or a junket up to the nearby mountains and National Forest (Never been there, but different habitats than low desert).

Day 6: Organ Pipe Cactus NM – Ajo Mountain Drive with a long hike in the middle. Plan on an early start to this day due to the distance. Time permitting, we can do a couple of short hikes in the afternoon.

Note: it is remote after you turn south at Why. No lodging near OPCNM, just camping – An alternative would be to a hotel in Gila Bend, about an hour north of OPCNM, if you want an extra hour of sleep, but you would have to drive over the night before.

Day 7: Depart or consider optional junket to Joshua Tree National Park in California (about 4 hours by road – Strongly consider spending the night in Gila Bend, Yuma, or in Blythe, CA on I-10, if you opt for this – it will save gas and provide more time for roaming in Joshua Tree. This option would likely add a couple of days to the trip.

If you are interested, just let me know and I will keep you in the loop as plans develop. Email me at rich.reaves@att.net or call my cell phone: 770-827-5186 (leave a message if I do not answer).

Dynamite Disjunct (continued from page 1)

Several other of our rare disjuncts probably need to be discussed, but I would like to concentrate on one particular plant for the time being. There is a possibility that the plant that is the subject for the remainder of this article, Riddell's goldenrod (*Solidago* [*Oligoneuron*] *riddellii*), has been overlooked in the Coosa Prairies for around ten years! Jim Allison discovered the prairies in 1991 and I found the whorled sunflower in 1994, but this plant was not noticed until 2002 on a BotSoc field trip.

I certainly could not tell the story any better than Wayne Morris, who authored the field trip write-up of my BotSoc trip on September 14, 2002. Here is an excerpt of his write-up, which is still available from the website under the "Resources" heading: *"And then Max Medley, Richard Ware, and I noticed an unusual goldenrod growing intermixed with individuals of stiff goldenrod (Solidago [Oligoneuron] rigida). We knew it was different, but we could not immediately put a name on the plant. The inflorescence was similar to that of the stiff goldenrod's, but the principal stem leaves were very long, narrow, and drooping. Quick and dirty keying in the field brought us to Solidago uliginosa, but that did not fit, either. Jim Allison, later the same month, keyed a specimen to Solidago riddellii (now Oligoneuron riddellii), a species characteristic of moist prairies in the Midwest south to Ohio and Arkansas. As it turns out, this goldenrod had never been reported from Georgia! Jim Allison then sifted through some herbarium specimens of goldenrods he had collected from the Floyd County prairies in recent years and found he had discovered another population along Kanady Creek, the first from Georgia!"*

And so, another new plant for the state of Georgia was recognized! It is easy to see why it was overlooked, if indeed it was here since the discovery of the prairies, the inflorescence is of the same type (flat-topped or corymbiform) as *S. rigida* (which is also in the Coosa Prairies), and, after all, it is a goldenrod, which can be rather difficult to identify and sometimes, to some degree, ignored. The most easily observed differences between the two species are the leaves:

S. rigida - basal abruptly narrowed to long petioles, blades ovate to rhombic, 8–20 × 2.4–5 cm, firm, flat, margins entire to crenate, sometimes undulate; mid cauline leaves sessile, blades ovate, 3–5 × 1.5–1.7 cm, stiff, margins entire or finely serrate, sometimes undulate, tips acute to obtuse.

S. riddellii - basal tapering to long, winged petioles, blades often recurved, linear-lanceolate or -oblanceolate, 10–24 × .8–1.6 cm, folded along midrib (V-shaped in cross section), bases usually with (2–)3–8 prominent lateral nerves; mid cauline leaves sessile, blades recurved, linear-lanceolate, 5–7 × .8–1.1 cm, reduced upward, folded, bases with prominent lateral nerves.



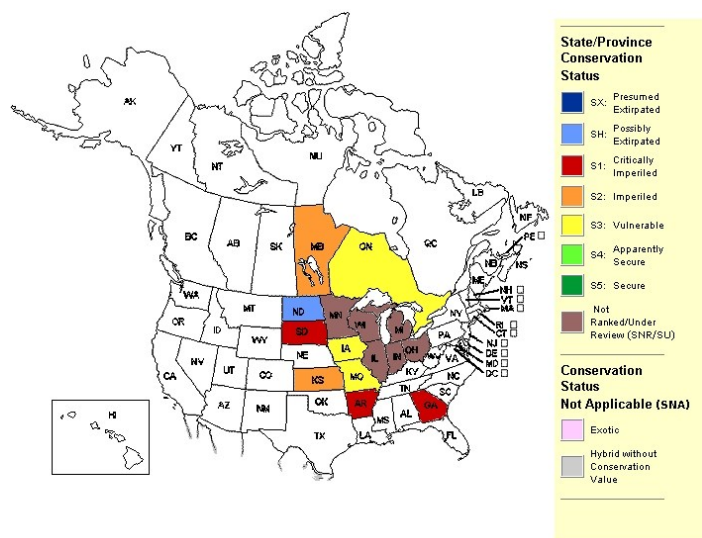
Oligoneuron riddellii

Dynamite Disjunct (continued)

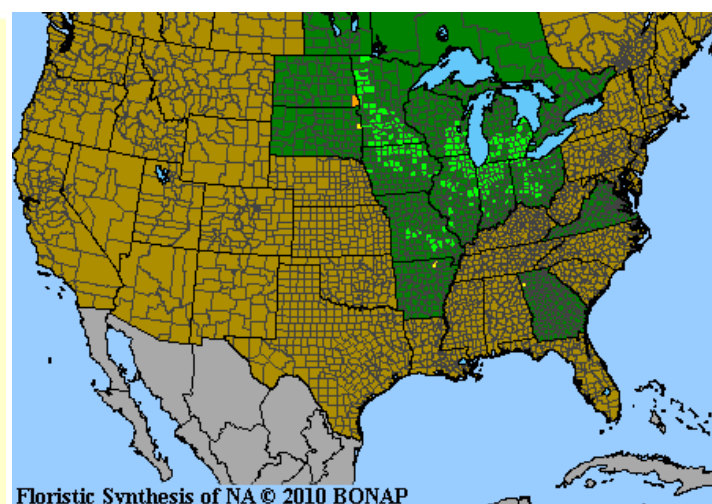
This species of *Solidago* is actually quite showy, with larger, more conspicuous flowers than most goldenrods, arranged in a flat-topped corymb, with 30-45 heads. The heads are radiate, consisting of 7-9 ray flowers and 6-10 disc flowers. The plants themselves are quite attractive with stems glabrous or slightly pubescent above, 3-10 dm. high; leaves numerous, reduced upward, glabrous with scabrous margins, clasping, folded at the midvein and bent backwards. Flowering is from Sept. to Oct. The habitat is wet calcareous prairies and marshy ground at an elevation of 100–400 m. The range is ON and MB south to OH, IN, IL, AR, and KS; disjunct in western VA and NW GA. The NW Georgia population is, as you would expect, growing at a site known as the "Wet Prairie," which is one of at least a dozen named prairies which are part of the Coosa Prairies in Floyd County, Georgia.

In closing, let me say that I don't believe anybody really knows what causes the phenomenon of the "disjunct" plant, but I can think of two possibilities for *S. riddellii*. The first is that the plant may be expanding it's range eastward. Perhaps a strong prevailing wind, which normally blows from the Midwest to the southeast, picked up a seed and it just happened to land in the perfect habitat (far fetched?). The other scenario is that the "prairie" habitat, and associated plants like *S. riddellii*, was much more abundant in the past, even reaching the east coast of the U.S. These habitats were possibly maintained by fires set by the native Indians and grazing Buffaloes. And, now these habitats are disappearing, along with plants like *S. riddellii*.

I would like to encourage everyone to be on the look-out for any plant that could be rare or unusual. Who knows, you may be the next person to find a new state record plant!



Nature Serve range map for
Oligoneuron riddellii



The Biota of North America Program range map
for *Oligoneuron riddellii*

Field Trip Report

Lichens of Sweetwater Creek State Park

By Rich Reaves

The Botanical Society met at Sweetwater Creek State Park on the cool morning of February 16th 2013. Fortunately, the weather was perfect for observing the objects of our interest – lichens. We met our leaders, Malcolm Hodges and Sean Beeching in the parking area by the Visitors Center to begin the walk. During a brief instructional presentation, we learned that lichens are composite organisms, consisting of at least a fungus (that requires the lichen relationship to survive and reproduce) and either an alga or cyanobacterium (that may be capable of living independently of the lichen relationship). It also is possible that other organisms could be included in the composite that makes up the lichen. Because the fungus component of a lichen cannot live outside the lichen relationship, lichen taxonomy is based on the name of the fungus. We also learned that many lichens do not have common names (no surprise there), so anticipate seeing some identified below only by scientific name.

Malcolm and Sean provided a quick primer on lichen terminology, which was conveniently provided as a handout, so we could take advantage of the cheat sheet throughout the day. We also learned the three general types of lichens: crustose (the lichen body grows tightly against its substrate, almost as if painted on the surface), foliose (the lichen body appears somewhat leafy and that is, at least in part, loose from its substrate), and fruticose (the lichen body is stalked or pendulous). They had collected several lichen specimens prior to our arrival and we looked at those specimens as we familiarized ourselves with the terminology.

As we started down the trail, we quickly learned that lichen walks proceed at a pace that makes a normal BotSoc walk seem like speed walking. The first lichen we encountered after we began walking was on the concrete parking stop at the front of the car we had been standing by (maybe four steps from where we started). We saw the sidewalk firedot (*Caloplaca feracissima*), a lichen that grows on calcium-rich substrates and so named because it commonly occurs on concrete surfaces, including sidewalks. At the end of the day, we encountered another member of this genus, the rock firedot, which was growing on the exposed rocks above Sweetwater Creek.



Blue-eyed rosette (*Physcia pumilior*) on left; the sinewy nosegay (*Ramallina americana*) on right.

Pictures by Rich and Anita Reaves

Trip Report

Most of the early part of the walk dealt with lichens that grow on trees and we encountered several common species, including bushy beard (*Usnea strigosa*), common black bark-button (*Buellia erubescens*), perforated ruffle (*Parmotrema perforatum*), bark greenshield (*Flavoparmelia caperata*), and common script (*Graphis scripta*). This last one was so named because of the resemblance to script characters in handwriting. One species I found very interesting in the early going was the treebase stipple-scale (*Placidium arboreum*), which appeared to be growing on the bark at the base of a tree but was actually growing on moss that was growing on the bark at the base of the tree.

The latter part of the trip found us looking at rocks and the ground, or at least the lichens growing on these substrates. These included dust lichens (genus *Lepraria*), the smooth blue jellyskin (*Leptogium cyanescens*), tan turbans (*Cladonia peziziformis*), and the peppered rockshield (*Xanthoparmelia conspersa*). We also got an up close look at a lichen with a different lifestyle. Rather than growing on a rock, *Porpidia subsimplex* grew within the rock. This lifestyle choice is referred to as endolithic (within rock). We were able to observe the reproductive structures, which extended above the rock, but the fungus and its photobiont (symbiotic photosynthetic organism) were inside the rock.

Near the middle of the walk, we found a downed tree with an extensive growth of a polypore fungus on the relatively freshly rotting log. This free living fungus provided a treat, as it was serving as the substrate for another free-living fungus and a free living alga, but no lichens. It was an interesting lesson in how the organisms can live in proximity without forming a lichen relationship.

During the walk, we were treated to a demonstration of how chemicals are used to identify some lichens. A perforated ruffle was cut open and turned its characteristic red when a lye solution was added to it. Later, bleach was added to *Lecanora subpallens*, and the apothecia (spore producing structures) turned a characteristic orange. At the end of the walk we encountered some pine cones that had lichens growing on them. We were able to examine the tiny button (*Amandinia punctata*) and the pine-cone rim (*Lecanora strobilina*) on the scales of the cones.

By the end of the day, we had probably looked at more than 50 lichen species, a few free-living algae, and even some fungal lichen parasites. A thoroughly enjoyable walk led by amiable and knowledgeable leaders. Three other lichens we encountered growing on trees bear mentioning, as the photographs turned out well: the blue-eyed rosette (*Physcia pumilior*), the wrinkled loop (*Hypotrachyna livida*), and the sinewy nosegay (*Ramallina americana*). The latter of these prompted myself and Charlie Seabrook to simultaneously respond, "Who put the ram in the *Ramillina americana*?"



Wrinkled loop (*Hypotrachyna livida*)

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
May 2 10:00 am Thursday Note: unusual weekday field trip	Fort Stewart Military Installation Ft Stewart is a mosaic of many habitats including longleaf pine-wiregrass sandhill, and longleaf, loblolly, and slash pine flatwoods communities. There are hardwood/cypress/gum drains, swamp forest, seeps, bogs, and bottomland. Facilities: none Walking Difficulty: This hike is easy to moderate.	Directions: From I – 16: Take I-16 to exit 127 GA Hwy 67. Take Hwy 67 south to Pembroke. Stay straight through traffic light – note road number will change to GA Hwy 119. Continue south for 17.5 miles to the intersection of GA Hwy 119/144. From I-95: Take Exit 90 in Richmond Hill. Go west on GA Hwy 144 for 20 miles to GA Hwy 119. Turn north (right) onto GA Hwy 119 and travel for about 0.5 miles to the intersection of 119/144.	Larry Carlile Lawrence.d.carlile.civ@mail.mil 912-767-8241 Dee Mincey Henry.d.mincey2.civ@mail.mil 912-531-2124
May 4 10:00 am to 4:00 pm	Chestatee River Canoe Float & Spring Flora Paddle past banks covered with ferns, rhododendron and mountain laurel, and wildflowers. Suitable for beginners with some experience on rivers. Class 1.5 Facilities: Restrooms and changing rooms are available. IMPORTANT: Trip limited to 26 persons. Reservations are required: write or call trip leader.	Meet at: Appalachian Outfitters Outpost on Highway 60 near Dahlonega at 10:00 a.m. There is a small shuttle fee. Bring your own boat or rent canoes and kayaks from the outfitters. If you would like more information on rentals or to reserve a canoe or kayak please call Appalachian Outfitters at 1-800-426-7117. Bring: Lunch, snacks, sunscreen, hat, rain gear, and water. Camera, binoculars, and hand lens are recommended. Bring a day pack or other bag and also a water proof container or bag for your valuables.	Jerry Hightower jerryhightower@hotmail.com 770-845-7997
May 4 10:00 am to 4:00 pm	Southern Limits of Northern Flora: A Walk on the Flanks of Brasstown Bald The Arkaquah Trail is probably the highest trail in Georgia, and provides a glimpse of an ecosystem one would find much farther north. Moderately difficult hike. This hike is limited to 15 people. Contact the trip leader to register.	Directions: From Atlanta, take I-85 north, then left on I-985 to US 129 at Gainesville. Go north on 129 and over Neels Gap to Ga 180, near Vogel State Park. Turn right on Ga 180 to Ga 180 Spur. Go left on 180 Spur to Brasstown Bald parking lot. Meet at the northwest corner of the parking lot. Bring: Lunch, water, camera, binoculars. A light jacket and/or raingear may be good to have.	Walt Cook WalterLCook@att.net 706-424-6748
May 5 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Note: this is a Sunday trip.	Lake Winfield Scott Six-Mile Loop We will hike through hemlock-heath forest, southern Appalachian cove forest, oak ridge forest, and oak-pine-heath forest. We will see most of the day's wildflower species during the first mile (Jarrard Gap Trail) – feel free to come for the first mile and return when you are ready. Facilities: Toilets near meeting site.	Meet At: Park in the parking lot above Lake Winfield Scott bath house and walk back downhill to meet at the trailhead by 10:00 AM. Walking: Mostly moderate with some strenuous stretches. Total distance 5.5 to 6 miles. Bring: Lunch to eat on the trail, \$5 (per car) for entrance fee, sturdy shoes, water.	Linda Chafin Lchafin@uga.edu 706-548-1697

Due to space considerations, please check the website for more details on some of these trips.

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
May 11 10:00 am	Flat Shoals Creek Spider Lilies Flat Shoals Creek is shallow and rocky at this location. It contains one of the few large populations of the Shoals Spider Lily (<i>Hymenocallis coronaria</i>) in Georgia, threatened and found only in 3 states. A number of other species such as mountain laurel, water willow, and oakleaf hydrangea should also be in bloom. Bathroom Facilities: Inside the log cabin on the property. Refrigerator and kitchen also available.	Meet At: The site, #4725 Ga. Hwy. 103 in Harris County. Carpooling is encouraged since the site will be open to the public this weekend also. Walking Difficulty: Easy ¼ mile walk, mostly level. Bring: Lunch, snacks, and water. Camera and binoculars optional. If you want to wade in the creek, bring old tennis shoes and maybe a change of clothes. Bring good walking shoes if you want to explore the property further.	Stephen Johnson johnson1603@charter.net 706-590-0964 (cell)
May 11 10:00 am	Beech Creek Trail An impressive diversity of species treats the hiker. Vasey's trillium, large-flowered trillium, Catesby's trillium, speckled wood lily, waterleaf, may apple, yellow mandarin, umbrella-leaf, showy orchis, and blue cohosh are some of the wildflowers to be seen. A species of <i>Equisetum</i> can be seen across the creek. Two beautiful waterfalls on (optional) short side trails add to the quality of this hike. We also pass an old corundum mining site.	Directions: see website Bathroom facilities: US Forest Service campground along the road. Walking difficulty: Strenuous. The total length of the hike is 7.2 miles. Bring: Lunch, water, snacks, camera. A walking stick may prove its worth. The usual rain gear and good hiking boots that can get wet in crossing a stream are also recommended.	Walt Cook WalterLCook@att.net Eddi Minche eddmmin@gmail.com
May 11 10:00 am	Oaky Woods Prairies and Woodlands Known for its blackland prairie wildflowers and forested ravines and bottomlands, we will explore newly burned areas to look for prairie plants. Also, short hikes into other sites known for yellow milkvine (<i>Matelea flavidula</i>), green violet (<i>Hybanthus concolor</i>) and other unusual flora. Mostly short hikes not far from cars, followed in afternoon by a longer hike to the Grand Prairie about 3 miles total, easy walking along jeep trails mostly.	Directions: Meet in Bonaire northeast corner gas station/Taco Bell at the intersection of GA Hwy. 96 and US Hwy. 129. Take Exit 142 east from I-75, or travel south 5 miles from Warner Robins on US Hwy. 129. Difficulty: Easy to moderate, on roadsides and following trails. Facilities: Meeting place has ample facilities. None on site. Bring: Lunch or snacks, tick repellent, easy walking shoes or hiking boots, with two pair of socks.	Tom Patrick tom.patrick@dnr.state.ga.us 706-476-4541 (cell)
May 11 10:00 am	Spring Canoe Float, Palisades Bring your own canoe or kayak and join us for a very leisurely float on the Chattahoochee River. Discover the spring wildflowers along the river as we float a 3 mile section of the river from Powers Island to Paces Mill at US Highway 41.	Meet At: Powers Island, 5862 Interstate North Pkwy., Sandy Springs, Georgia 30328 Please see the website for more details. Reservations are required for this trip.	Jerry Hightower jerryhightower@hotmail.com 770-845-7997

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
May 12 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM Note: Sunday event	Wild Edibles Workshop & Walk Join us at 8:30 a.m. for a great breakfast on the upper deck of the lodge. Hot coffee, tea, cereal, muffins & baked eggs will be offered. We will begin in the downstairs classroom with a very brief slide program and general discussion of wild edibles found in the Chattahoochee River Corridor and the Piedmont and mountains of Georgia. Returning to the upper deck we will closely examine an edible or two, followed by lunch on the upper deck. After lunch we will walk the grounds of the Lodge and the Lutra Loop Trail seeking wild edibles. Limit 30 persons, 18 years or older. Reservations are required by calling 678-538-1200.	Location: Chattahoochee River Environmental Education Center; 8615 Barnwell Road; Johns Creek, 30022. Facilities: On site Difficulty: This will be a leisurely walk. Bring: Please bring your own lunch to enjoy on the upper deck with it views of River Glen Pond and the Choestoe Meadow. Sunscreen, a hat, and water are recommended, also camera, binoculars, guide books, notebook and hand lens.	Jerry Hightower jerryhightower@hotmail.com 770-845-7997
May 18 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Flint River Canoe Float This outing will take us through one of the most beautiful and ecologically diverse sections, Sprewell Bluff and the Fall Line Ravines. Note: Reservations are required jerryhightower@hotmail.com	Location: We will meet at the Flint River Outpost (706-647-2633), west of Thomaston on Highway 36 at 8 am. Canoes and kayaks can be rented at the outpost. There is a shuttle fee. Note: Please make your own reservations for the morning shuttle. Hotels are nearby in Thomaston and camping is available at the Outpost and the WMA.	Jerry Hightower jerryhightower@hotmail.com 770-845-7997 Cell for day of walk: 770-596-3564
May 18-19	Townsend Wildlife Management Area, Altamaha River floodplain	** Please see the website for details	James Holland
May 25-27	Grassy Mountain—25th Cohutta Roadside Botanizing—26th Panther Creek Falls, Cohutta Wilderness Area—27th	** Please see the website for details on this very extensive set of trips **	Rich Reaves rich.reaves@att.net 770-827-5186 Hal Massie massiefarm@aol.com 478-957-6095

Note: A Georgia Outdoor Recreational Pass (GORP) is now required for 32 GA WMA properties, including all of Pigeon Mountain, but is not required for those under 16 or over 64. For more info:

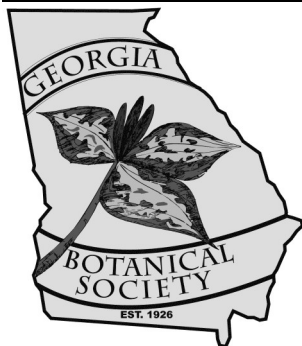
<http://www.georgiawildlife.com/Georgia-Outdoor-Recreational-Pass>

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Description	Directions	Leader
June 8 10:00 AM	Kimsey Creek (NC) This outing ambles along the Kimsey Creek Trail which is a wonderfully varied path that follows creeks, crosses a meadow and has a variety of wildflowers, even in June. The path ends at the Appalachian Trail just below Standing Indian. The distance is 3.7 to that point but we may decide to turn around before that point.	Location: Standing Indian Campground, west of Franklin, NC. Go north on Hwy 441 to Franklin, NC then west on Hwy 64 for apx 12 miles. Turn left on Old Hwy 64 (sign for Standing Indian at intersection). Go apx 3 miles, turn right on FS 67 (sign for Standing Indian Campgrd). Take left fork at sign – Backcountry Information Center. Meet at bulletin board. Bring: rain gear/boots, water, lunch, personal items.	Eddi Minche eddmin@gmail.com 678-313-2582
June 9 10:00 AM	Wildcat Ridge and Cowrock Mountains We will first hike up to the crest of Wildcat Ridge and examine rock outcrop communities and a dwarf oak – purple rhododendron woodland, taking in spectacular views of the Southern Blue Ridge. We will then use the AT to climb to the summit of Cowrock Mountain and look at a basic cedar woodland and additional outcrops.	Meet At: The parking area for the AT at Hogpen Gap on the Richard Russell Scenic Highway. Facilities: none Walking Difficulty: This hike is moderately strenuous and will involve a walk of about 4 miles, and climbs of about 800 feet in elevation twice. Bring: Lunch, snacks, and water. Remember to dress for the weather and wear comfortable hiking shoes. You may wish to bring hiking poles, binoculars, hand lens, notebook, and camera.	Tom Govus tgovus@ellijay.com 706-669-1491
June 15 10:00 AM	Big Hammock Natural Area The Big Hammock Natural Area, acquired by the state in 1972, includes an ancient sand dune system adjacent to the Altamaha River floodplain. Our trip will follow a 1.3 mile trail through several different plant communities that are controlled by available water and fire. Among other interesting plants, we will see Georgia plume (<i>Elliottia racemosa</i>), possibly in flower, and myrtle oak (<i>Quercus myrtifolia</i>), a disjunct population of a Florida species. More info is at: http://www.georgiawildlife.com/node/2658	Location and Directions: Big Hammock Natural Area is located 12 miles SW of Glennville. From Glennville, take GA Hwy 144 for about 6 miles to an intersection known as five points. At the stop sign, veer to the left and continue (still on GA 144) for about another 3.5 miles to Mack Phillips Rd. Take a left onto that road and travel 1.8 miles to the parking area on the right. This is the location of the trail head. Facilities: None at the natural area. You may want to stop in Glennville. Walking Difficulty: Easy to moderate. Bring: Lunch, snacks, and water. Insect repellent and tick spray are also advisable. Good walking shoes, long pants, and a hat would also be appropriate. We should be in the shade most of the time.	Bobby Hattaway botanikman@g-net.net 912-481-3011 (cell)

Due to space considerations, please check the website for more details on some of these trips.

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