

# 49TH ANNUAL SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE

MAY 4-6, 2018

THOMASTON, UPSON COUNTY, GEORGIA

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We hope that you will make plans to attend the Georgia Botanical Society's 2018 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage to be headquartered in Thomaston, a historic city in middle Georgia. Founded in 1825, Thomaston is a city of 10,000 residents located on highway US 19 approximately 80 miles south of Atlanta. It is a traditional small southern city complete with a courthouse on the main square. The surrounding area has rolling hills, deep valleys, scenic waterways and managed forest lands. Thomaston sits on the southern edge of the Georgia Piedmont near the Fall Line and its transition to the Georgia Coastal Plain. This location presents excellent opportunities to visit a variety of native habitats during the 2018 Pilgrimage that are quite different from recent pilgrimages. Twenty field trips are scheduled, some of which will include rare plants such as the shoals spider-lily (*Hymenocallis coronaria*) and turkeybeard (*Xerophyllum asphodeloides*).

## PILGRIMAGE SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY, MAY 4

- 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Morning and full day field trips will meet at various times and places. Please consult the description for your particular trip.
- 1:00 pm Afternoon field trips assemble at their respective trailheads, as described in each description.
- 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Registration and social at the Thomaston-Upson Civic Center.

### SATURDAY, MAY 5

- 7:30 am - 8:00 am Early registration at the Quality Inn.
- 8:00 am - 4:30 pm Morning and full day field trips assemble at the Home Depot parking area near the hotels at the times indicated in field trip descriptions.
- 1:00 pm Afternoon field trips assemble at their respective trailheads as described in each description.
- 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm Field trips return.
- 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Banquet dinner at the Park Lane Play Place.
- 8:30 pm - 10:00 pm Evening program at the Park Lane Play Place.

### SUNDAY, MAY 6

- 8:00 am Field trips assemble at the Home Depot parking area near the hotels at the times indicated in descriptions for each field trip.
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## 2 Background

The Thomaston-Upson County area is an excellent choice for the 2018 Pilgrimage due to its diversity of prime habitats. It is located in the southern part of the Georgia Piedmont geographic region. The Piedmont is the second largest of five geographic regions in Georgia; it spans a large area from the mountains in north Georgia to the Fall Line in the south. It is characterized by rolling hills, verdant valleys, and numerous waterways. Most of the 2018 Pilgrimage field trip sites will be located within the Piedmont region. A unique feature of this region is bedrock that occurs relatively near the surface. Areas of exposed bedrock are called rock outcrops. Half of our trips will be on portions of Pine Mountain, including the area collectively known as Sprewell Bluff. Pine Mountain is a unique geological formation - a long, narrow region of a very hard, erosion-resistant rock called Hollis quartzite.

The southern edge of the Georgia Piedmont is bordered by the Fall Line, a narrow band stretching from Augusta to Columbus. The Fall Line serves as a transition between the Piedmont, which is at a higher elevation, and the Coastal Plain. Numerous water-powered mills were built along the Fall Line in previous centuries to take advantage of the available source of energy. Several field trips are scheduled for sites on the Fall Line. South of the Fall Line is the Coastal Plain, the largest geographic region in Georgia.

Native plants and wildflowers expected to be seen during the 2018 Pilgrimage differ from those typically seen in North Georgia. Among those is a rare, aquatic plant known as the shoals spider-lily (*Hymenocallis coronaria*) that blooms in May. It can be found near Thomaston in rocky shoals of the Flint River and its tributaries. One field trip is planned to visit a large colony of the shoals spider-lily, while two trips may visit the site, time permitting.

Other rare plants that we may see during the 2018 Pilgrimage include fringed campion (*Silene catesbaei*), turkeybeard (*Xerophyllum asphodeloides*), showy skullcap (*Scutellaria pseudoserrata*); Pyramid magnolia (*Magnolia pyramidata*), and bigpod wild indigo (*Baptisia megacarpa*).



*Hymenocallis coronaria* at Big Lazer WMA

Photo: Hal Massie

A good example of sites to be visited is the exquisite Sprewell Bluff County Park through which the Flint River runs. This park is located about eight miles south of Thomaston. Just inside the park is an overlook with outstanding views of the Flint River gorge. The park contains trails that travel through longleaf pine forests on top of the bluff, then descend down to the river bank, giving the visitors several types of habitats to explore. One such trail is nicknamed “Widowmaker” for its change in elevation of approximately 265 feet. Another Sprewell Bluff trail starts at the river beach area and travels along the river bank for an opportunity to view plant species at the water’s edge before turning back into the forest. Other major sites to be visited during the 2018 Pilgrimage include the Camp Thunder Boy Scout Camp, Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park, Fall Line Sandhills Wildlife Management Area, Sprewell Bluff Wildlife Management Area, Tanyard Creek, and more.

Twenty field trips have been defined for the 2018 Pilgrimage. We encourage you to review all of the material in the brochure, to choose those field trips of interest and then to submit your registration form as soon as possible, no later than April 5th. Note that field trips will be designated as easy, moderate or strenuous based on established trail difficulty rating criteria, for your convenience. Please include trip numbers for 1st and 2nd choices for the field trips, as some trips may fill up prior to receipt of your registration form.

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Join us for the **Friday Night Social** that will be held on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 6 PM to 9 PM at the Thomaston – Upson County Civic Center. The Civic Center is located at 101 Civic Center Dr, Thomaston, GA 30286, about 4 miles from the pilgrimage hotels. Parking is available on the side of the building. A registration table will be available in the entrance for your convenience. Botanical books will be on display, with some for sale. Book signings may be held by authors. Bring your own favorite field guides and reference books for others to examine. No alcohol is allowed on the premises. If you can bring hors d'oeuvres or soft drinks for the Friday social, please contact JoAnne Romfh at (678-461-4466) or joannromfh@aol.com

Directions from the Quality Inn: Drive south on US-19 for 2.3 miles. Turn left onto GA 74 E for 0.2 miles. Turn left at the third cross street onto S. Bethel St for 300 feet, continuing to follow GA 74 E. Turn right at the first cross street onto E. Main St (GA 74 E). for 0.7 miles. Turn right on to Civic Center Drive. The Civic Center is the last building on the left. Park in the parking lot on the right side of the building. Google: Thomaston Upson Recreation Department

The **Saturday Pilgrimage Banquet** will be held at the Park Lane Play Place. This is a multi-purpose facility frequently used for wedding receptions, anniversary parties and other similar functions. Address is 202 Park Lane, Thomaston, GA 30286. Distance is about 2.5 miles from hotels. Parking is available in front of the building. A buffet dinner will be served with options for chicken, beef or vegetarian selections. The dinner will also include a salad, vegetables, rolls and a dessert. Tea/coffee will be served with the meal.

Directions from the Quality Inn: Drive south on US-19 for 1.1 miles. Turn left onto 6th Avenue (beside the Ingles) for 0.4 miles until it ends at a T with N. Bethel. Turn right onto N. Bethel and go .4 miles. Turn left onto Joe White St. for .2 miles and then right on Park Lane. You will see three old brick buildings on the right, Park Lane Play Place is the center building. Google: Park Lane Play Place.

The evening program will begin immediately after dinner. The subject for the program will be “An Ecological History of Sprewell Bluff.” The program will be presented jointly by senior wildlife biologist, Nathan Klaus and BotSoc member, Hal Massie.

**Nathan Klaus** grew up in the Loess Hills near Council Bluffs, Iowa, among some of the best remaining examples of tallgrass prairie and oak savanna in the world. An early connection with this ecosystem has continued to shape him for decades, giving him strong convictions about saving rare communities. He has a BS from the University of Iowa, and a Masters in Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries from the University of Tennessee. He has worked for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Nongame Natural Heritage Section for nineteen years. He is a senior wildlife biologist and currently oversees restoration of longleaf pine, oak woodlands and prairies on state lands.

**Hal Massie** is a long-time member of the Georgia Botanical Society and serves on the Board of Directors. He is a retired US Air Force veteran and currently works for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in the Nongame Conservation Section. Hal's roles with the DNR include rare plant monitoring, studying fire effects on vegetation, and a variety of ecological restoration activities, including prescribed fire. He has extensive knowledge of the Thomaston area due to his field work for DNR and a life-long association with the Pine Mountain region. Hal is a graduate of the University of Georgia, where he studied botany.

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## Location:

Hotel options in Thomaston are very limited. Arrangements have been made with the two main hotels in the city to provide blocks of rooms for members during the pilgrimage at reasonable rates. These hotels are the Quality Inn and the Days Inn.

Quality Inn (<\$70)	Days Inn (<\$70)
1010 Highway19 North	1211 Highway19 North
Thomaston GA 30286	Thomaston GA 30286
706-648-2232	706-648-9260

We will use the Quality Inn in Thomaston as our pilgrimage headquarters. We encourage you to make your hotel reservations early, given the limited number of hotel rooms available in the city. There is no financial obligation for early registration and cancellations are permitted with notice, if your plans should change. Be sure to tell the reservations agent that you are a Georgia Botanical Society member attending the 2018 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage to get the best rate.

Be aware that depending on the number of people attending the 2018 Pilgrimage there may not be enough hotel rooms for us in the city. Other cities in the area are Forsyth, Macon and Warm Springs where more hotel options exist.

There are also camping opportunities at the Sprewell Bluff County Park and Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park (914) 245-4434 for those who may be interested in that option.



## What to Bring:

As with all BotSoc field trips, please bring enough water for your whole trip, also lunch or snacks, as appropriate. Bug spray, camera, hand lens, binoculars, field guides, comfortable shoes, and sunscreen are suggested. A hiking pole is recommended for any trip rated as strenuous. You may also wish to bring a jacket or rain gear, depending on the weather.

Several of the 2018 pilgrimage sites are Georgia Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). If you are 16 years or older and born after June 30, 1952, you will need to have one of the following licenses to access Georgia WMAs: hunting license (\$15), fishing license (\$15) or a lands pass permit (\$30). Fees listed are for Georgia residents. For more information: <http://www.eregulations.com/georgia/hunting/license-permits-passes/>

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# BotSoc Pilgrimage T-shirts

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We will have t-shirts and sweatshirts for sale once again, with a unique design for the 2018 Pilgrimage. All profits from the sales of the t-shirts are designated for the Marie Mellinger Field Botany Research Grant Fund. This is a special “limited edition” shirt. Be sure to place your order with your registration. T-shirts are produced based on the orders received, only. If you want to receive your shirt prior to the Pilgrimage or will be unable to attend the Pilgrimage, there is a shipping charge of \$5.00 for the first shirt and \$1.50 for each additional. Prices, styles and sizes are shown below.

## Short sleeve T shirt (unisex)

Color - Heather blue

sizes S, M, L, XL are \$17.00

size XXL is \$19.00

size XXXL is \$20.00

## Short sleeve T shirt (women's)

Color - Heather blue

sizes S, M, L, XL are \$18.00

size XXL is \$20.00

size XXXL is \$21.00

## Long sleeve T shirt (unisex only)

Color - Heather blue

sizes S, M, L, XL are \$19.50

size XXL is \$21.50

size XXXL is 22.50

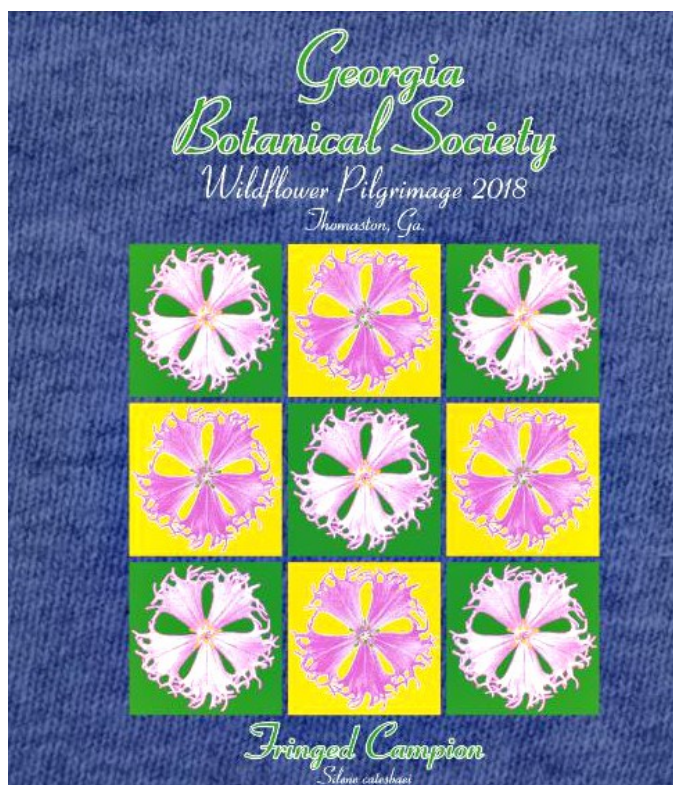
## Long sleeve Sweatshirt (unisex only)

Color - Heather blue

sizes S, M, L, XL are \$20.00

size XXL is \$22.00

size XXXL is 23.00



## General Information

Pilgrimage packets will be available at the Friday night Social. The packet will contain name tags, a field trip schedule and other important information about the pilgrimage. If you are unable to attend the Social, the packets will be available on Saturday morning at the Quality Inn before 8:00 am.

We encourage you to carpool as much as possible on all field trips. Some venues have limited parking spaces and may have other visitors. In addition, we always try to limit the number of cars we bring to sensitive locations. If you have made arrangements to go with different carpools for morning and afternoon trips, be sure you can get to the rendezvous spot in time for the afternoon trip. BotSoc cannot arrange shuttles, if you are stranded.

For Friday's field trips, pay close attention to the start times and locations so that you arrive at the right place at the right time.

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# Field Trips At A Glance

Fri AM	Fri PM	Sat AM	Sat PM	Sun AM	Sun PM
1. Canoe Trip to Big Lazer Creek		6. Camp Thunder VPA and Moss Falls		14. FDR State Park	
	2. Potato Creek	7. Fall Line Sandhills/West Tract Black Creek Bog		15. Pasley Shoals	
3. Longleaf Loop Trail		8. Brynwood		16. Pitcher Plant Bogs	
4. Tanyard Creek		9. Mincey Tract		17. Lichen Walk	
	5. Turkeybeard Bluff	10. Potato Creek		18. Hog Plum Glades	
		11. Turkeybeard Bluff	12. Turkeybeard Bluff	19. Tanyard Creek	
			13. Nichols/Rockhouse Mountain	20. Fall Line Sandhills/East Tract	



Some of the plants you might see on field trips include:

Above: turkeybeard (*Xerophyllum asphodeloides*)

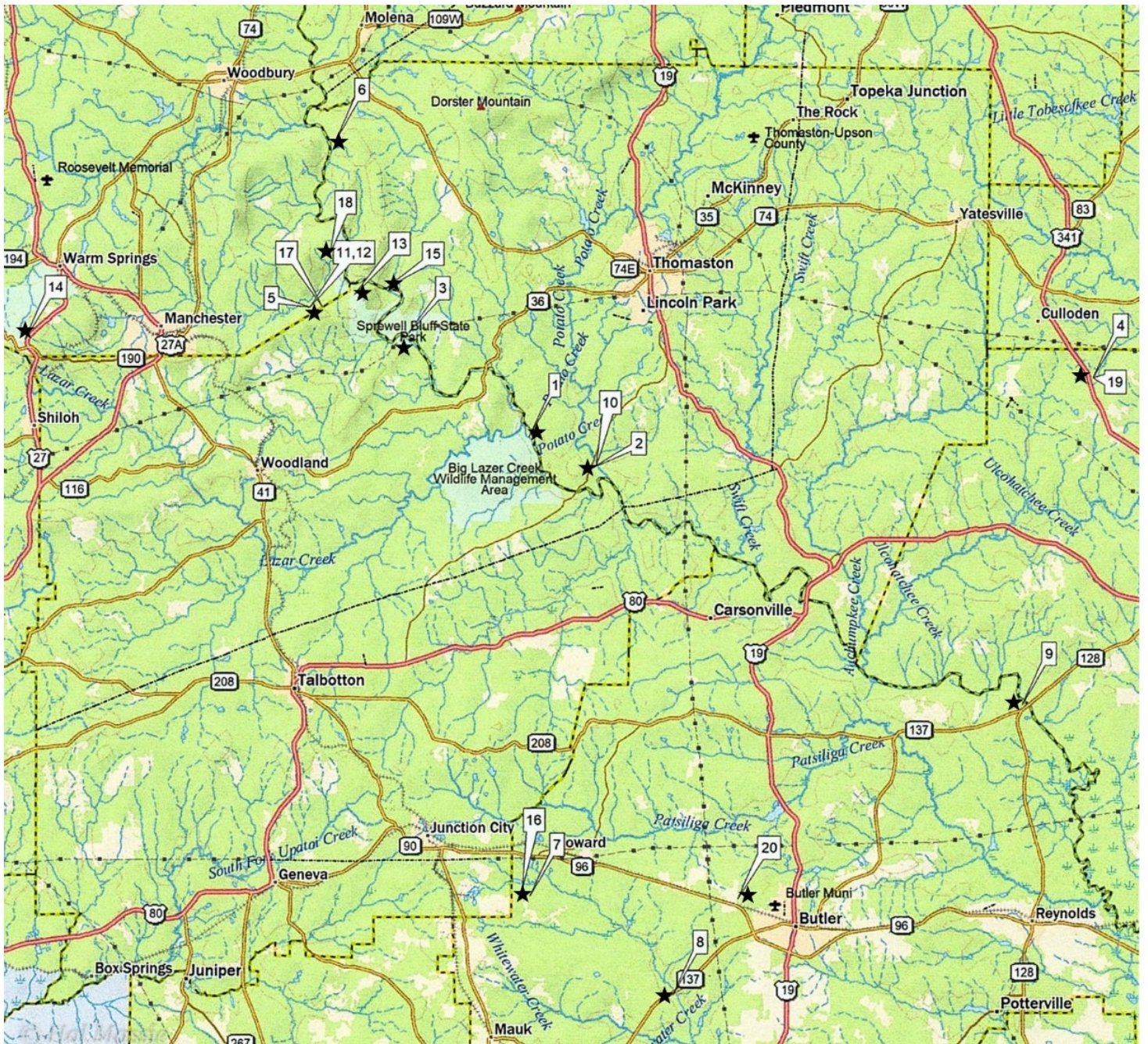
Upper right: fringed campion (*Silene catesbaei*)

Lower right: showy skullcap (*Scutellaria pseudoserrata*)

All photos by Hal Massie



# Field Trip Map



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## Trip 1: Canoe Trip to Shoals Spider Lilies at Big Lazer Creek

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- Date:** Friday Half day, 8 am to 12 pm
- Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Home Depot parking lot across US-19 from the Quality Inn at 8 am. From the Home Depot, take US 19 south for about 6.3 miles. Turn right onto Indian Trail Road. At the first stop sign, stay to the right. Follow Indian Trail Rd. to Pobiddy Rd. and turn left onto Pobiddy. Stay on Pobiddy Rd. for several miles. You will cross the Flint River on a new bridge and head uphill. After about 3 miles, turn right onto Bunkham Rd (there is a sign for Big Lazer Creek WMA at the intersection). Drive until you see the DNR Check Station on the left. After everyone gathers at the Check Station, we will drive to the actual canoe ramp.
- Description:** This will be an upstream paddle on the Flint River to get up close and personal with the shoals spider lily, or Cahaba lily, *Hymenocallis coronaria*. At normal water levels, the lilies are difficult to reach by wading into the river, so we are going to paddle right into the heart of a very large population. We should also see American water-willow, *Justicia americana*, flowering among the hundreds of shoals lilies. Southern catalpa, *Catalpa bignonioides*, which has remarkably showy flowers, may also be in flower along the banks of the river. Because we are only paddling less than a mile upstream, we'll have plenty of time to spend mingling with the lilies. This trip will be an excellent opportunity to photograph the shoal lilies. This is an easy paddle, but you must be in good enough physical condition to paddle against the current.
- Special Consideration:** There is no outfitter in the area that shuttles canoes or kayaks to the Big Lazer Creek area, so you must bring your own boat, or arrange to beg, borrow, or steal a boat and bring it with you.
- Leader:** Hal Massie (478) 550-1062

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## Trip 2: Potato Creek and/or Big Lazer Creek

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- Date:** Friday Half day, 1 pm to 4 pm
- Location:** Meet the trip leader at Potato Creek at 1:00. From the Home Depot across from the Quality Inn, take US 19 south for about 6.3 miles. Turn right onto Indian Trail Road. At the first stop sign, stay to the right. Follow Indian Trail Rd. to Pobiddy Rd. and turn left onto Pobiddy. Stay on Pobiddy Rd. for several miles until you cross the bridge over Potato Creek. Look for a small pull off area on the left side of the road. Parking is limited so carpooling is essential.
- Description:** Potato Creek is a small DNR site that is part of the much larger Big Lazer Creek WMA. The heavily wooded hillside beside Potato Creek has large specimens of white ash and southern shagbark hickory. The understory includes a population of the federally endangered fringed campion, *Silene catesbaei* (the iconic wildflower of our 2018 Pilgrimage), the endangered relict trillium, *Trillium reliquum*, as well as typical wildflowers of a mesic slope forest in the Piedmont. After exploring Potato Creek, if there is time, the group may drive to Big Lazer Creek WMA and walk a short distance to a huge population of shoals spider lilies, *Hymenocallis coronaria*, which can be seen from the banks of the Flint River.
- Leader:** Lisa Kruse, Georgia DNR Botanist (706) 318-3287

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## Trip 3: Sprewell Bluff County Park, Longleaf Loop Trail

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- Date:** Friday Half day, 8 am to 12 pm
- Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Home Depot parking lot across US-19 from the Quality Inn at 8 am. From the parking lot, turn south on GA 19 for about 2.5 miles. Turn right on GA 74, staying in the right lane. Follow GA 74 W for 5.7 miles. Watch for the signs for Sprewell Bluff WMA and turn left on to Old Alabama Road. Continue on Old Alabama Road into Sprewell Bluff Park. Park where the road ends at a large parking area next to the Flint River.
- Description:** The Longleaf Loop Trail is a short, 2-mile trail that follows the Flint River downstream along rocky cliffs, then loops back up on a bluff for beautiful views of the river, Sprewell Bluff, and the surrounding ridges of Pine Mountain. Typical riparian trees and shrubs occur along the lower trail, while the bluff is dominated by montane longleaf pine. A stream flowing into the Flint River at the point where the trail starts up the bluff has a nice variety of spring wildflowers, including Atamasco lilies.
- Note: There is a \$5.00 fee to enter Sprewell Bluff Park.
- Leader:** Sam Breyfogle, Private Forester
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## Trip 4: Tanyard Creek in Crawford County

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- Date:** Friday Full day, 10 am to 4 pm
- Location:** Meet the trip leader at the intersection of GA 74 and US 341 in southern Monroe County (near Culloden). There is a roundabout at the intersection. Meet at the service station on the southwest corner of the intersection. Parking is very limited and carpooling is essential. **This trip is limited to 20 people.**
- Description:** Tanyard Creek features bigpod wild indigo (*Baptisia megacarpa*), fringed campion (*Silene catesbaei*) and other wildflowers in mature southern shagbark hickory forest. After lunch, visit a Fall Line sandhill upland with conjurer's nut (*Nestronia umbellula*) and a seepage slope with sweet pitcherplant (*Sarracenia rubra*). There will be a stopover for lunch in Roberta. The afternoon trip to the seepage slope bog may be wet.
- Leader:** Tom Patrick, Georgia DNR Botanist (706) 476-4541

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## Trip 5: Sprewell Bluff WMA - Turkeybeard Bluff

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- Date:** Friday Half day, 1 pm to 4 pm
- Location:** Meet the trip leader at Mitchell Gap on Chalybeate Springs Road. From the Home Depot across US-19 from the Quality Inn, take US-19 south toward downtown for -2.6 miles, Turn right onto GA 36 W. and get in the left lane. Turn left at the first light, following the signs for GA 36 W. Continue onto GA-36 W. for 11.4 miles. Make a slight right onto Daniel Cutoff for 0.2 miles, and then turn right onto Chalybeate Springs Rd. Continue for 6.2 miles to where it crests Pine Mountain at Mitchell Gap. There is a sign for Sprewell Bluff WMA at the gap. Turn right and park along the road at the bottom of the hill. Drive time is about 30 minutes. Google: Mitchell Gap.
- Description:** This field trip explores a portion of Sprewell Bluff WMA purchased by the Georgia DNR in 2016. Included in this area is a bluff overlooking Pigeon Creek that has a large population of turkeybeard, *Xerophyllum asphodeloides*. The slopes are a heath bluff with mountain laurel and Piedmont rhododendron, *Rhododendron minus*, both of which should be in flower. Montane longleaf pines are the dominant tree on much of the bluff. We should also see showy skullcap, *Scutellaria pseudoserrata*, which has the largest flowers of all Georgia's skullcaps species. Difficulty level is easy.
- Leader:** Hal Massie (478) 550-1062

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## Trip 6: Camp Thunder VPA and Moss Falls

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- Date:** Saturday Full day, 8 am to 4 pm
- Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Home Depot parking lot across US-19 from the Quality Inn at 8 am. We will caravan to the field trip site northwest of Thomaston. Turn left onto US-19 for 1 mile. Turn left onto Jeff Davis Rd for 7.7 miles. Turn right onto GA-74 West for 2.8 miles. Turn left onto Thundering Springs Rd. and continue for over a mile. The road will change to gravel and go up a long hill. The entrance to the VPA is on the right at the top of the hill. Address is 506 Thundering Springs Rd, Molena, GA 30258.
- Description:** Camp Thunder Voluntary Public Access Area is a 1,700 acre area that is owned by the Boy Scouts of America and jointly managed with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The VPA includes old-growth longleaf pine, pyramid magnolia, steep slopes leading down to the Flint River, and the tallest waterfall on Pine Mountain. The entire Boy Scout property is managed with prescribed fire, resulting in a diverse understory. Difficulty level is moderate. Google: Camp Thunder VPA
- Leader:** Nathan Klaus, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Georgia DNR
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- Date:** Saturday Full day, 8 am to 4 pm
- Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Home Depot parking lot across US-19 from the Quality Inn at 8 am. From the Home Depot, take US 19 south for about 30 miles to Butler. Turn right onto GA 96 at the south end of Butler. Follow GA 96 west for 13 miles to GA 90. Turn left (south) on to GA 90 and go 2.2 miles before turning left on to Fox Run Rd. Proceed another 2.1 miles on Fox Run Rd. to the entrance to Sandhills WMA West Tract on the right. Follow the sand road to the kiosk on the left.
- Description:** Fall Line Sandhills WMA West Tract is a pristine example of Fall Line sandhills habitat. The nearly 3,000 acres of rolling sandhills, pocosins, bogs, and creek supports a diverse flora with several rare plants, including sandhill golden-aster, Pickering's dawnflower, and dwarf witch alder. Several seepage and stream-side bogs present the possibility of pitcher plants, sundews and other unusual bog plants. Difficulty level is easy, may be wet and mucky.
- Leader:** Tom Patrick, Botanist, Georgia DNR

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**Trip 8: Brynwood**

- Date:** Saturday, Full day, meet in Butler by 9:00 am. **Trip limited to 15 participants.**
- Location:** Meet the trip leaders at the First Baptist Church in Butler at 9:00. From the Home Depot parking lot, turn right on to US 19 S. Stay on US 19 S straight through Thomaston for 30.8 miles. In Butler, turn right on GA 137 and immediately turn left into the parking lot of the First Baptist Church. The group will caravan to Brynwood from that point.
- Description:** Brynwood is a private sanctuary on the banks of Little Whitewater Creek, owned by Clarissa Pipes. The highlight of this trip will be the large Atlantic white cedars (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*) that literally grow in the backyard of the Pipes' home. Pitcher plants, sundews, and a variety of Coastal Plain shrubs occur along the creek. The uplands are dominated by fire-managed longleaf pines. Gopher tortoises inhabit the upland areas of Brynwood. Difficulty level is easy, may be wet at times.
- Leaders:** Clarissa Pipes and Dr. Joyce Klaus

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**Trip 9: Mincey Tract**

- Date:** Saturday, Half day 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Home Depot parking lot across US-19 from the Quality Inn at 8 am. The trip leader will provide directions.
- Description:** The Mincey Tract is a privately owned bluff above the Flint River. The spring flora here is simply amazing, with thousands of trout lilies and hundreds of relict trilliums. At this time of year, we should see the endangered fringed campion (*Silene catesbaei*), as well as the state threatened *Croomia pauciflora*, among other wildflowers. Difficulty level is easy, some off-trail walking.
- Leader:** Chris Inhulsen



*Silene catesbaei*

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## Trip 10: Potato Creek, Big Lazer Creek WMA

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- Date:** Saturday, Half day 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Home Depot parking lot across US-19 from the Quality Inn at 8 am. From the Home Depot, take US 19 south for about 6.3 miles. Turn right onto Indian Trail Road. At the first stop sign, stay to the right. Follow Indian Trail Rd. to Pobiddy Rd. and turn left onto Pobiddy. Stay on Pobiddy Rd. for several miles until you cross the bridge over Potato Creek. Look for a small pull off area on the left side of the road. Parking is limited so carpooling is essential.
- Description:** Potato Creek is a small DNR site that is part of the much larger Big Lazer Creek WMA. The heavily wooded hillside beside Potato Creek has large specimens of white ash and southern shagbark hickory. The understory includes a population of the federally endangered fringed campion, *Silene catesbaei* (the iconic wildflower of our 2018 Pilgrimage), the endangered relict trillium, *Trillium reliquum*, as well as typical wildflowers of a mesic slope forest in the Piedmont. After exploring Potato Creek, if there is time, the group may drive to Big Lazer Creek WMA and walk a short distance to a huge population of shoals spider lilies, *Hymenocallis coronaria*, which can be seen from the banks of the Flint River. Difficulty level is easy.
- Leader:** Ed McDowell

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## Trip 11: Sprewell Bluff WMA - Turkeybeard Bluff

- Date:** Saturday, Half day 8:00 am to 12 pm
- Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Home Depot parking lot across US-19 from the Quality Inn at 8 am. We will caravan to the field trip site 22 miles southwest of Thomaston. From the Home Depot parking lot take US-19 south toward downtown for -2.6 miles, Turn right onto GA 36 W and move to the left lane. Turn left at the light and continue on GA-36 W. for 11.4 miles. Make a slight right onto Daniel Cutoff for 0.2 miles, and then turn right onto Chalybeate Springs Rd. Continue for 6.2 miles on Chalybeate Springs Rd to where it crests Pine Mountain at Mitchell Gap. There is a sign for Sprewell Bluff WMA at the gap. Turn right and park along the road at the bottom of the hill. Drive time is about 30 minutes. Google: Mitchell Gap
- Description:** This field trip explores a portion of Sprewell Bluff WMA purchased by the Georgia DNR in 2016. Included in this area is a bluff overlooking Pigeon Creek that has a large population of turkeybeard, *Xerophyllum asphodeloides*. The slopes are a heath bluff with mountain laurel and Piedmont rhododendron, *Rhododendron minus*, both of which should be in flower. Montane longleaf pines are the dominant tree on much of the bluff. We should also see showy skullcap, *Scutellaria pseudoserrata*, which has the largest flowers of all Georgia's skullcaps species. Difficulty level is easy.
- Leader:** Hal Massie



*Xerophyllum asphodeloides*  
Illustration by Sydenham Edwards

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## Trip 12: Sprewell Bluff WMA - Turkeybeard Bluff

- Date:** Saturday Half day, 1 pm to 4 pm
- Location:** See Trip #11
- Description:** This will be afternoon version of Trip #11 but will be led by Ashley Deseni, a graduate student at Columbus State University. Ashley was a student scholarship recipient at the Dahlonega Pilgrimage in 2015. Difficulty is easy.
- Leader:** Ashley Deseni
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## Trip 13: Sprewell Bluff - Nichols and Rockhouse Mountain Tracts

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**Date:** Saturday Half day, 1 pm to 4 pm

**Location:** Meet the trip leader at Mitchell Gap at 1 PM. From the Home Depot parking lot across from the Quality Inn, take US-19 south toward downtown for -2.6 miles, Turn right onto GA 36 and move to the left lane. Turn left at the light and continue on GA-36 W. for 11.4 miles. Make a slight right onto Daniel Cutoff for 0.2 miles, then turn right onto Chalybeate Springs Rd. Continue for 6.2 miles on Chalybeate Springs Rd to where it crests Pine Mountain at Mitchell Gap. There is a sign for Sprewell Bluff WMA at the gap. Turn right and park along the road at the bottom of the hill. Drive time is about 30 minutes. Google: Mitchell Gap

**Description:** The Rockhouse Mountain Tract of Sprewell Bluff WMA was purchased in 2016 and is a significant and beautiful addition to the WMA. Steep bluffs full of old-growth longleaf pine, some very large, overlook the Flint River. Interesting rock formations, including the famous 'Rockhouse' are scattered on the bluffs. This will be the first Botanical Society visit to this area. Time permitting; we may see old moonshine stills, and Native American artifacts, as well as a variety of mid-spring wildflowers. Difficulty level is easy to moderate. May be some off-trail walking on a steep, rocky slope.

**Leader:** Hal Massie

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## Trip 14: FDR State Park, Wolfden Trail

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**Date:** Sunday, Full day 8:00 am to mid-afternoon

**Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Home Depot parking lot across US-19 from the Quality Inn at 8 am. We will caravan to the field trip site 30 miles west of Thomaston. Go south on US-19 for to the town square. Turn right on GA 36 W and immediately get into the left lane, GA36 W turns left at the next light. Follow GA 36 W for 18 miles to the town of Woodland. Turn right on to GA 41 and go 6 miles to the junctions of GA 190 on top of Pine Mountain. Turn left on GA 190 and go 5 mile across the Pine Mountain ridge to US 27A. Turn right and immediately prepare to turn left into the parking lot.

**Description:** The flora along this section of the Pine Mountain Trail is significant for having components of the Piedmont, Mountain, and Coastal Plain regions. Along this section of trail you can find galax growing underneath titi and devilwood growing next to chestnut oak. Maple, flowering dogwood, pignut hickory, Georgia oak along with a variety of other oak species, longleaf and shortleaf pine, make this trail an exceptional hike for tree enthusiasts. The trail also has a variety of native shrubs, including native azaleas, rhododendron, mountain laurel, hollies and two species of wax myrtle. Several cascades and a small waterfall may be seen, depending on the total amount of the loop traversed. Users must pay an FDR State Park admission fee or have an annual pass to use this trail. The level of difficulty is moderate due to the elevation changes. Google: WJSP Tower parking lot

**Leader:** Ellen Honeycutt

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## Trip 15: Pasley Shoals

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**Date:** Sunday, Full day 8:00 am to mid-afternoon

**Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Home Depot parking lot across US-19 from the Quality Inn at 8 am. Directions will be provided by the trip leader.

**Description:** Pasley Shoals is a large private holding along the Flint River and includes several miles of Pine Mountain ridgeline. This will be the first-ever Botanical Society field trip to this property, so will be exploratory in nature. Old-growth montane longleaf pine is scattered on the ridges and there are good views from high above the Flint River. Difficulty level is easy, some off-trail walking.

**Leader:** Hal Massie

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## Trip 16: Fall Line Pitcher Plant Bogs

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- Date:** Sunday, Full day 8:00 am to mid-afternoon
- Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Home Depot parking lot across US-19 from the Quality Inn at 8 am. From the Home Depot, take US 19 south for about 30 miles to Butler. Turn right onto GA 96 at the south end of Butler. Follow GA 96 west for 13 miles to GA 90. Turn left (south) on to GA 90 and go 2.2 miles before turning left on to Fox Run Rd. Proceed another 2.1 miles on Fox Run Rd. to the entrance to Sandhills WMA West Tract on the right. Follow the dirt road to the kiosk on the left.
- Description:** This trip will be similar to Trip #8, except that the focus will be on exploring several bogs in different parts of the Fall Line sandhills. Be prepared for muddy, wet conditions, and to find sweet pitcher plants (*Sarracenia rubra*), sundews, and possibly orchids. Difficulty level is generally easy.
- Leader:** Tom Patrick, Botanist, Georgia DNR

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## Trip 17: Lichen Walk

- Date:** Sunday, Full day 8:00 am to mid-afternoon
- Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Home Depot parking lot across US-19 from the Quality Inn at 8 am. We will caravan to the field trip site 22 miles southwest of Thomaston. From the Home Depot parking lot, take US-19 south toward downtown for -2.6 miles, Turn right onto GA 36 and move to the left lane. Turn left at the light and continue on GA-36 W. for 11.4 miles. Make a slight right onto Daniel Cutoff for 0.2 miles, and then turn right onto Chalybeate Springs Rd. Continue for 6.2 miles on Chalybeate Springs Rd to where it crests Pine Mountain at Mitchell Gap. There is a sign for Sprewell Bluff WMA at the gap. Turn right and park along the road at the bottom of the hill. Drive time is about 30 minutes. Google: Mitchell Gap
- Description:** Lichens are neither plant, nor fungi, but a symbiotic relationship between the two. (New research indicates it is even more complicated than that!) This trip will explore the fascinating world of lichens in a beautiful setting – high bluffs above the Flint River. Difficulty level is easy.
- Leader:** Malcolm Hodges, Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy

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## Trip 18: Sprewell Bluff WMA - Hog Plum Glades

- Date:** Sunday, Full day 8:00 am to mid-afternoon
- Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Home Depot parking lot across US-19 from the Quality Inn at 8 am. We will caravan to the field trip site 22 miles southwest of Thomaston. From the Home Depot parking lot, take US-19 south toward downtown for -2.6 miles, Turn right onto GA 36 and move to the left lane. Turn left at the light and continue on GA-36 W. for 11.4 miles. Make a slight right onto Daniel Cutoff for 0.2 miles, and then turn right onto Chalybeate Springs Rd. Continue for 6.2 miles on Chalybeate Springs Rd to where it crests Pine Mountain at Mitchell Gap. There is a sign for Sprewell Bluff WMA at the gap. Turn right and park along the road at the bottom of the hill. Drive time is about 30 minutes. Google: Mitchell Gap
- Description:** Hog Plum Glades are a unique plant community that occurs in just a few places on Pine Mountain. The largest glade, above Pigeon Creek, seems more like something you would see out west than on Pine Mountain. The glades are xeric communities with thin soils and sparse trees, mostly longleaf pine and post oak, with an understory of grasses and wildflowers, including Carolina larkspur (*Delphinium carolinianum*). Prescribed fire is one of the tools used to keep the glades in pristine condition. Difficulty level is moderate, with off-trail walking in rocky terrain.
- Leader:** Nathan Klaus, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Georgia DNR
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- Date:** Sunday, Full day 8:00 am to mid-afternoon
- Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Home Depot parking lot across US-19 from the Quality Inn at 8 am. Take US-19 south to downtown Thomaston. Turn left on the square and follow GA 74 east toward Yatesville. Stay on GA 74 through 2 turns, after the second turn it will head due east. Follow GA 74 for about 11 miles to a roundabout at the intersection of GA 74 and US 341. At the roundabout, turn south on US 341. Go 3.9 miles to a passing lane going up a long hill, just inside Crawford County. Park along the left side of the road, just below the guard rails.
- Description:** Tanyard Creek is a tract of private land in Crawford County that contains a large population of the endangered fringed campion, *Silene catesbaei*, as well as other wildflowers like Atamasco lily, *Zephyranthes atamasca*, Indian pink, *Spigelia marilandica*, and smooth penstemon, *Penstemon laevigatus*, in a mature southern shagbark hickory forest. The rare buffalo clover, *Trifolium reflexum*, has been seen and photographed at this location. A rare baptisia, bigpod wild indigo, *Baptisia megacarpa*, occurs on nearby land. Difficulty level is easy.
- Leader:** Michele Elmore, Ecologist, USFWS

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**Trip 20: Fall Line Sandhills WMA - East Tract**

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- Date:** Sunday Full day, 8 am to 4 pm
- Location:** Meet the trip leader at the Home Depot parking lot across US-19 from the Quality Inn at 8 am. From the Home Depot, take US 19 south for about 30 miles to Butler. In Butler, turn right on to GA 137, when the road splits, stay to the right, past the GA Forestry Commission office. After 2 miles you will come to GA 96. Turn right on to GA 96, then right again on to Industrial Road. You will see the kiosk for Sandhills WMA East on the left. Meet at the kiosk.
- Description:** The Fall Line Sandhills are ancient sand deposits that stretch from Columbus to Augusta along the line that separates the crystalline rock of the Piedmont from the sedimentary soils of the Coastal Plain. This is the land of the longleaf pine, turkey oak, and gopher tortoise. The sandhills themselves are a very harsh environment – hot, dry, and poor in nutrients. Yet, a diverse flora thrives here, including many rare plants. Dr. Klaus, a professor at Gordon State College will talk about plant restoration projects she and her students are working on, while Kori Ogletree, a graduate student at Georgia College and State University, will explain and demonstrate trapping systems she is using to study reptiles and amphibians in the sandhills. The group will explore an ephemeral pond that has a population of the federally endangered pond spicebush, *Lindera melissifolia*. Difficulty level is easy, some deep sand.
- Leaders:** Dr. Joyce Klaus and Kori Ogletree

## Other Activities in Thomaston

If you have time during your stay in Thomaston, you may want to check out other attractions in the area. One of those attractions is a theme park 10 miles northeast of the city known as Rock Ranch that was developed by Truett Cathy, founder of Chick-Fil-A. This is a family oriented venue on a 1500-acre ranch that includes attractions for adults and children of all ages. More information is available at the link: “<https://therockranch.com/>”.

An attraction that is popular with canoeists and kayakers is the Flint River Outdoor Center (706) 647-2633. It is located about 10 miles south of the city on Highway 36 and is directly on the Flint River. Canoes, kayaks and rafts are available for rent with shuttles to the launch sites. Full day and half day float trips are available. More information can be found at the link: “<http://www.exploregeorgia.org/listing/1758-flint-river-outdoor-center>”.

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# Georgia Botanical Society—49th Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage

## May 4-6 - Thomaston, GA

Registration must be postmarked by April 5, 2018

### Pilgrimage Registration: *Children 12 and under do not pay a registration fee. Scholarship attendees must register.*

Participant (s) Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

(in case we have a question about your registration)

First Pilgrimage?  Yes  No

Number of Botanical Society members attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-members attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Optional: Become a Georgia Botanical Society member \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25/family or \$10/student = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(if student membership, indicate College name: \_\_\_\_\_)

*in addition to registration fee*

### Saturday Evening Banquet Registration:

Participant (s) Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons \_\_\_\_\_ x \$18.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check here for vegetarian  Vegetarian

### Pilgrimage shirts (all profits go to Marie Mellinger Fund):

#### Short sleeve T shirt (unisex)

sizes S, M, L, XL are \$17.00

size XXL is \$19.00

size XXXL is \$20.00

Sizes desired \_\_\_\_\_

# of shirts desired \_\_\_\_\_

#### Short sleeve T shirt (women)

sizes S, M, L, XL are \$18.00

size XXL is \$20.00

size XXXL is \$21.00

Sizes desired \_\_\_\_\_

# of shirts desired \_\_\_\_\_

#### Long sleeve T shirt

sizes S, M, L, XL are \$19.50

size XXL is \$21.50

size XXXL is \$22.50

Sizes desired \_\_\_\_\_

# of shirts desired \_\_\_\_\_

#### Sweatshirt

sizes S, M, L, XL are \$20.00

size XXL is \$22.00

size XXXL is \$23.00

Sizes desired \_\_\_\_\_

# of shirts desired \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total for all shirts \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If **NOT** attending Pilgrimage, add shipping (\$5.00 for one shirt and \$1.50 for each additional shirt) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Mail form and check to:

Elizabeth King  
109 Dilworth St.  
St. Marys, GA 31558  
spartina@tds.net (if questions)

**Total Check amount**

(payable to Georgia Botanical Society)

= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Refund policy:** We cannot refund the costs of the banquet, shirts or the registration fees after April 5, 2018. You must deal directly with the hotel to determine their room cancellation policy.

**Field Trip Registration:** Earlier postmarks receive priority on trip choice. Some trips limit the number of participants. If you choose a full day hike as a first choice, you may choose the half day events as your 2nd choice (and vice versa, but please do not mix half and full-day events as 1st and 2nd choices). Please list choices by number (not name) of trip. By registering for the pilgrimage, you agree to the terms in the Liability Waiver provided on the website [http://www.gabotsoc.org/?page\\_id=11](http://www.gabotsoc.org/?page_id=11)

#### Field Trip Choice (#)

1st 2nd Participant(s) Names

Friday Trip	_____	_____	_____
Saturday Morning Trip	_____	_____	_____
Saturday Afternoon Trip	_____	_____	_____
Saturday All Day Trip	_____	_____	_____
Sunday Trip	_____	_____	_____



**Friday Social:** BotSoc manages to keep costs low because members volunteer. If you are not leading a field trip or have no other duties, please

check one of the boxes for volunteer duties for the Friday social.  Registration desk/T-shirt distribution,  Bring refreshments,  Bring books for display/sale,  Set up for Social,  Clean up after Social.



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Roswell, GA 30075  
[www.gabotsoc.org](http://www.gabotsoc.org)



**For all field trips, please note:** Contact the trip leader if you plan to meet onsite instead of at the designated meeting place. Because of driving distance, some trips involve a combination of two sites. Be sure to check times and meeting locations before you register for trips.

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