



August 2015

Hello everyone.

We had a wonderful mountain trip on June 25th to Eastatoe Creek Heritage Preserve, a South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) property just north of Rocky Bottom. SCAN members who participated included Kathy Boyle, Jim Boyleston, Jan Ciegler, Mary Douglass, Jules Fraytet, Kate Hartley, Tom Jones, Paul Kalbach, Kim McManus, and Greg Ross.

As we arrived and climbed out of our vehicles, several of us immediately remarked “the mountain air smells so good!” No one could quite describe or identify the scent in the air, but might the abundant white pine have had something to do with it? The resinous cones were all over the forest floor. A large and distinctive northern pine, with five needles to a bundle instead of the typical two or three, white pine grows in South Carolina only in the mountains. For the Yankees among us, it was great to see (and smell) *the* pine again!



Heading down the trail we soon encountered a large patch of another familiar evergreen, the running cedar. Not at all related to cedar, it's closer to the ferns and reproduces by spores. In fact, as we reached for our cameras we photographers gave a nod of appreciation to this plant and its high-fat, small-diameter spores. Long before the invention of the flashbulb, ‘lycopodium powder’ (the dried spores of this and related species) made flash photography possible.

Botanists usually look down and not up, so we're lucky we didn't walk right by this Carolina lily about eight feet up the trailside embankment. With a single stunning flower, it was growing in a light gap amidst a tangle of downed trees. Not being able to get a closer look at this beauty was frustrating but we behaved ourselves and stayed on the trail!

Discovered by Andre Michaux in the late 1700's in South Carolina, the scientific name of the species is *Lilium michauxii*.



Speaking of the trail, after a mile or so of running relatively level it makes a sharp turn and then zig-zags steeply down to the creek. No need for graceless lurching though, because the graded path and broad steps make the walk easy. Over its entire length the trail was well designed and maintained, and attractive too – a job well done by preserve manager Mary Bunch and SCDNR staff!



Finally we approached the creek, encountering mesic species such as American spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*), closely related to the famous wild sarsaparilla and also to devils walking-stick. Not far away was the aptly named ‘dolls eyes.’ The trail ended at a scenic overlook of ‘the Narrows’ where water races through a narrow, steep-walled chute. Some very rare ferns are said to



grow there but with no easy way to approach from above, we left that adventure for another day. Before turning back, most of us did walk a short distance upstream, watching and photographing dragonflies and enjoying the cool flowing water.

We gathered for dinner in Pickens at the Fiesta Mexican Restaurant. Iphones were passed around to show off the new app for Weakley’s flora – it’s called FloraQuest and has some handy features.

Hoping to see everyone on August 22nd at Brasstown Creek!

-- Kathy Boyle

Thank you Kathy for leading the Eastatoc trip, and providing the trip summary. I’m looking forward to rejoining the group on the trip to Brasstown! See you there!

Gordon

IMPORTANT NOTE: Due to recent medical issues, I have not been able to setup the President’s Special originally scheduled for September 12th. I will try to re-schedule the trip and provide details in the next newsletter.

Brasstown Creek Heritage Preserve

August 22, 2015, 10:30 AM

Trip leader: Kathy Boyle (803)-603-6466

On August 22, SCAN will meet at 10:30 AM at the gated road to Brasstown Creek Heritage Preserve in Oconee County. Encompassing 461 acres, this preserve provides habitat for several rare plant species and an unusual plant community, the 'Pitch Pine Heath.' Black bear are also found on the preserve.

As we enter the preserve there will be a wide rocky river to our left and steep hillsides to our right. As we continue up the path, hillsides become interspersed with small coves and eventually open into the well developed valleys of Brasstown and Boatwright Creeks. In this way Brasstown Creek Heritage Preserve gives us easy access to three distinct habitat types -- river and shoals, xeric slopes and ridge-tops, and mesic coves:

- In and along the river we can observe belted kingfishers and other birds, plus enjoy the cool clear water.
- On the xeric ridgetops Pitch Pine Heath develops where soils are thin and rocky, and the rare plant turkey-beard (*Xerophyllum asphodeloides*) can be found in Pitch Pine Heath. A striking plant with a flower stalk that reaches almost five feet in height, turkey-beard is a species we should keep an eye out for. For photos and more information about turkey-beard, see -- http://www.georgiawildlife.com/sites/default/files/uploads/wildlife/nongame/pdf/accounts/plants/xerophyllum_asphodeloides.pdf
- Down in the coves other uncommon plants can be found, including piedmont strawberry, southern nodding trillium, rough sedge, bitter cress, and a species of purple sweet pinesap, a plant that parasitizes the roots of certain tree species.

A level one-mile walk brings us to Brasstown Creek itself, and spot that looks too inviting to not take off our shoes and go wading!



**Eastatoo Gorge Heritage Preserve
Pickens Co., SC
July 25, 2015**

This list was produced by SCAN from sightings produced by SCAN members and is subject to revision as needed. An asterisk (*) indicates a new sighting for SCAN. Send any changes or corrections to Jan Ciegler at jciegler@sc.rr.com. Please indicate exactly to which flora/fauna list you are referring. Thank you.

FLORA

Common Running-cedar

Diphasiastrum digitatum

Southern Grapefern

Sceptridium biternatum

Northern Maidenhair Fern

Adiantum pedatum

Bracken

Pteridium aquilinum

Broad Beech Fern

Phegopteris hexagonoptera

New York Fern

Thelypteris noveboracensis

Netted Chain Fern

Woodwardia areolata

Ebony Spleenwort

Asplenium platyneuron

Southern Lady Fern

Athyrium asplenoides

Lowland Bladder Fern

Cystopteris protrusa

Christmas Fern

Polystichum acrostichoides

Resurrection Fern

*Pleopeltis polypodioides
michauxiana*

Common Rockcap Fern

Polypodium virginianum

Shortleaf Pine

Pinus echinata

Eastern White Pine

Pinus strobus

Virginia Pine

Pinus virginiana

Eastern Hemlock

Tsuga canadensis

Jack-in-the-pulpit

Arisaema triphyllum

Spiderwort

Tradescantia sp.

Tall Nutrush

Scleria triglomerata

Hill Cane

Arundinaria appalachiana

Longleaf Spikegrass

Chasmanthium sessiliflorum

White Cutgrass

Leersia virginica

Flexible Sasa-grass

Microstegium vimineum

Carolina Lily

Lilium michauxii

Indian Cucumber-root

Medeola virginiana

Bellwort

Uvularia puberula

Common Stargrass

Hypoxis hirsuta

Devil's-bit

Chamaelirium luteum

False Solomon's-seal

*Maianthemum racemosum
racemosum*

Solomon's-seal

Polygonatum biflorum

Dwarf Crested Iris

Iris cristata

Catbrier

Smilax bona-nox

Whiteleaf Greenbrier

Smilax glauca

Common Greenbrier

Smilax rotundifolia

Common Wild Yam

Dioscorea villosa

Downy Rattlesnake-orchid

Goodyera pubescens

Cranefly Orchid

Tipularia discolor

Tulip-tree

Liriodendron tulipifera

Cucumber-tree

Magnolia acuminata

Fraser Magnolia

Magnolia fraseri

Umbrella Magnolia

Magnolia tripetala

Common Pawpaw

Asimina triloba

Sweet-shrub

Calycanthus floridus

Sassafras

Sassafras albidum

Dolls'-eyes

Actaea pachypoda

Common Black-cohosh

Actaea racemosa

Yellowroot

Xanthorhiza simplicissima

Bloodroot

Sanguinaria canadensis

Sweet Gum

Liquidambar styraciflua

False-nettle

Boehmeria cylindrica

Wood-nettle

Laportea canadensis

Pignut Hickory

Carya glabra

Mockernut Hickory

Carya tomentosa

American Beech

Fagus grandifolia

White Oak

Quercus alba

Scarlet Oak

Quercus coccinea

Rock Chestnut Oak

Quercus montana

Chinquapin Oak

Quercus muehlenbergii

Red Oak

Quercus rubra

Post Oak

Quercus stellata

Sweet Birch

Betula lenta lenta

Common Pokeweed

Phytolacca americana

Starry Campion

Silene stellata

Jumpseed

Persicaria virginiana

St. Andrew's Cross

Hypericum hypericoides

St.-John's-wort

Hypericum stragulum

Mountain Basswood

*Tilia americana
heterophylla*

Tall White Violet

Viola canadensis canadensis

Halberd-leaf Violet

Viola hastata

Yellow Passionflower

Passiflora lutea lutea

Spotted Wintergreen

Chimaphila maculata

Pinesap

Hypopitys monotropa

Mountain Laurel

Kalmia latifolia

Mountain Doghobble

Leucothoe fontanesiana

Indian Pipes

Monotropa uniflora

Sourwood

Oxydendrum arboreum

White Rosebay

Rhododendron maximum

Gorge Rhododendron

Rhododendron minus

Galax

Galax urceolata

American Persimmon

Diospyros virginiana

Horsesugar

Symplocos tinctoria

Whorled Loosestrife

Lysimachia quadrifolia

Climbing Hydrangea

Decumaria barbara

Snowy Hydrangea

Hydrangea radiata

American Alumroot

Heuchera americana

Foamflower

Tiarella cordifolia

Hog-peanut

Amphicarpaea bracteata

Naked Tick-trefoil

Desmodium nudiflorum

Black Locust

Robinia pseudoacacia

Canada Enchanter's-nightshade
Circaea canadensis canadensis

Alternate-leaf Dogwood
Cornus alternifolia

Flowering Dogwood
Cornus florida

Blackgum
Nyssa sylvatica

Buffalo-nut
Pyrularia pubera

Hearts-a-burstin'-with-love
Euonymus americanus

American Holly
Ilex opaca opaca

Eastern Flowering Spurge
Euphorbia corollata

Virginia-creeper
Parthenocissus quinquefolia

Muscadine
Vitis rotundifolia rotundifolia

Red Maple
Acer rubrum

Yellow Buckeye
Aesculus flava

Eastern Poison Ivy
Toxicodendron radicans radicans

Spotted Touch-me-not
Impatiens capensis

Spikenard
Aralia racemosa

Devil's-walking-stick
Aralia spinosa

White Milkweed
Asclepias variegata

Catesby's Bindweed
Calystegia catesbiana

American Lopseed
Phryma leptostachya leptostachya

Bergamot
Monarda fistulosa

Mountain-mint
Pycnanthemum sp.

Squawroot
Conopholis americana

Beechdrops
Epifagus virginiana

Princess Tree
Paulownia tomentosa

Indian-tobacco
Lobelia inflata

Summer Bluet
Houstonia purpurea

Partridge-berry
Mitchella repens

Common Elderberry
Sambucus canadensis

Plantain Pussytoes
Antennaria plantaginifolia

Spanish Needles
Bidens bipinnata

Coreopsis
Coreopsis major

Elephant's-foot
Elephantopus tomentosus

Robin's-plantain
Erigeron pulchellus pulchellus

Hollow-stem Joe-pye-weed
Eutrochium fistulosum

Purple-node Joe-pye-weed
Eutrochium purpureum purpureum

Small-headed Sunflower
Helianthus microcephalus

Veiny Hawkweed
Hieracium venosum

Grass-leaved Golden-aster
Pityopsis graminifolia latifolia

Cutleaf Coneflower
Rudbeckia laciniata

White-topped Aster
Sericocarpus linifolius

Rosinweed
Silphium compositum

Old-man-of-the-woods
Strobilomyces floccopus

FAUNA

Giant Forest Snail
Mesodon normalis

Southern Devil Scorpion
Vaejovis carolinianus

Bumblebee
Bombus sp.

Black-shouldered Spinyleg
Dromogomphus spinosus

Six-spotted Tiger Beetle
Cicindela sexguttata

Woodland Ground Beetle
Cyclotrachelus sigillatus

Notch-mouthed Ground Beetle
Dicaeolus dilatatus dilatatus

Dingy Ground Beetle
Amphasia interstitialis

Woodland Ground Beetle
** Platynus decentis*

Obscure Rove Beetle
Phanerota fasciata

Japanese Beetle
Popillia japonica

Eyed Click Beetle
Alaus oculatus

Click Beetle
** Elater abruptus Say*

Sap Beetle
Stelidota octomaculata

Sap Beetle
Pallodes pallidus

Broad-nosed Weevil
** Aphrastus taeniatus*

Black Swallowtail
Papilio polyxenes

Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Papilio glaucus

Spicebush Swallowtail
Papilio troilus

Red-banded Hairstreak
Calycopis cecrops

Summer Azure
Celastrina neglecta

Silver-spotted Skipper
Epargyreus clarus

Luna Moth (fragment)
Actias luna

Eastern Fence Lizard
Sceloporus undulatus

Eastern Garter Snake
Thamnophis sirtalis

Pileated Woodpecker
Dryocopus pileatus

Carolina Chickadee
Parus carolinensis

Golden Mouse (sign)
Ochrotomys nuttalli

White-tailed Deer (tracks)
Odocoileus virginianus