Sipsey Wilderness Wildflower Walk March 30th!

The Sipsey Wilderness was our destination on March 30th to see early wildflowers and to explore the canyon walls and slopes along Borden Creek, a tributary of the Sipsey Fork of the Black Warrior River. Clear blue water, sandstone cliffs, large boulders, waterfalls, and hemlock trees make an interesting backdrop for a hike on a nice spring day. Linda
Old Cahawba, Dallas County (state AWS walk)

Saturday, Apr 13th  Old Mountain Fork Road, Madison County

For this trip, we will be walking casually down an old public dirt road that has now since been closed and privatized. The land owner has graciously agreed to allow this. (Thank you Anne Kitchens!) While walking, we will encounter slopes and creek banks along the roadside which harbor a very rich assemblage of wildflowers. Alabama Snow state AWS Field Trip to Madison County

Saturday, May 25th

Join us in Old Cahawba for wildflowering mixed in with an Alabama History lesson. We will take a walking and riding tour of Old Cahawba with tour guides. While there, we will see the ruins of the old capitol city, as well as, the remaining pass-along plants from that time. Don't forget to bring your picnic lunch. After lunch we will be wildflowering on the Old Cahawba Prairie Forever Wild Tract.

We will gather at the church in the middle of the Old Cahawba Archaeological Park. **Meeting time:** 9:30 a.m.

**Directions:** Take AL Hwy 22 W out of Selma and turn left (South) onto County Road 9. At the end of County Road 9 turn left on Cahaba Road and travel until you enter the park. (Addressed: 9518 Cahaba Road, Orrville, Alabama 36767; www.cahawba.com).

**Admission:** $6.00 per person. Mail money to Margie Anderton or have the exact amount on the meeting day. (Margie Anderton, 271 CR 68, Killen, AL 35645).

**Wreath will be seen on this trip!** The hike will not be difficult but will potentially be as long as 2-3 miles or more. You may wish to wear foot gear that can get wet. After lunch, we will visit the Huntsville Botanical Garden.

We will gather at the New Market Recreation area on Hurricane Road. **Meeting time:** 8:30 a.m.

**Directions:** Go to New Market and turn right (east) onto Hurricane Road. The recreation area is on the left. Address: 470 Hurricane Road, New Market, Alabama 35761. Because of limited parking at the Mountain Fork Road gate, we will consolidate into as few vehicles as possible and then travel together to the hike site.

**Lodging:** The AWS has a block of rooms reserved at the Candlewood Suites, 201 Exchange Place, Huntsville, AL 35806. (Again, thank you Anne Kitchens!)

Smith Mountain Fire Tower ... Blanche Dean Chapter walk Sat, May 4

Smith Mountain, only 780 feet in elevation, might not be much of a mountain, but it is the highest point around Lake Martin and it is as impressive as any mountain in Alabama. The view of granite outcrops and of the lake and islands from atop the newly restored historic fire tower makes it so. The trail starts from a parking lot surrounded by a mixed pine-hardwood forest with scattered wax myrtle and sweetbay magnolia, and ends up among house size boulders, longleaf pine, mountain laurel, and blueberry. We'll see a lot of plants typical of the Piedmont Upland but we'll be surprised by the location and combination of some.

We will meet at the Winn Dixie on HWY 280 and Chelsea Corners Way on Saturday, May 4th at 9 a.m. If you would like to carpool with someone to this location, pick a spot closer to town and meet up with us in Chelsea. We will make a rest stop in Alexander City before reaching our destination. For full directions and details, call or email Michelle Reynolds at 914-7077 or coverings@bham.rr.com

Wear sturdy shoes for rough terrain and bring plenty of water and snacks. For more information on Smith Mountain and the Cherokee Ridge Alpine Trail Association, go to: [http://www.cherokeeridgealpinetrail.org/trails.htm](http://www.cherokeeridgealpinetrail.org/trails.htm)
Cloudland Canyon Trip Sat. April 27

Meet at Lowes in Trussville on Hwy 11 at 7:30AM on Sat. April 27.

Cloudland Canyon near Trenton, GA
Address: Rising Fawn, GA 30738
Reservations: 800-864-7275
http://www.gastateparks.org/CloudlandCanyon
You can either camp in the Walk-in Campground ($20/nite), or rent a cabin ($135/nite).

Hike on Friday for those coming early: West Rim Trail or Waterfall Trail - We will meet at 1pm at the Interpretive Center inside the Park (see park website for directions)

Saturday: Stitton Gulch Trail - 1 mile plus, out/back starts very easy and increases to moderate. We will meet in the parking lot at the trail turn-around at the base of the mountain in Trenton at 10am.

Directions to Sitton Gulch Trail Parking:
Take I-59 Exit #11 East toward Trenton.
Turn right on South Main St. Go a couple of blocks.
Turn left on Lafayette St. Go a couple of blocks.
Turn left on Canyon Park Drive
Turn left on County Highway 187.
Parking will be on left at curve. Parking $5 per car.

http://gastateparks.org/CloudlandCanyon
Notes to Linda:

Linda,

FYI: Friends of the Locust Fork River are sponsoring a wildflower hike, lead by Michelle Reynolds on Sunday, April 21st at 1:00pm. We are going to meet at the Tonka Shell Station in Cleveland, AL and caravan to the Swann Covered Bridge. Would you let the people in the wildflower society know about it. They can contact me for more info. Michelle Reynolds

coverings@bham.rr.com

Wildflowers seen at Mark & Sharon Leaders on March 16th in Oneonta

Aralia spinosa – Devil's Walking Stick
Asplenium platyneuron – Ebony Spleenwort
Callicarpa americana – Beauty Berry
Canderaria(lichen)
Chimaphila maculate – Spotted Wintergreen
Claytonia virginica - Spring Beauty
Cornus florida
Crategus sp.
Danthonia sp. – Poverty Oats
Diospyros virginiana – Native Persimmon
Dodecatheon meadia – Shooting Star
Euonymus americanus - Strawberry Bush
Fagus grandifolia – American Beech
Gelsemium sempervirens – Yellow Jessamine
Hexastylis arioliana – Little Brown Jug

Hieracium sp. – Hawkweed
Hydrangea quercetolia – Oak Leaf Hydrangea
Hypericum sp.
Ilex opaca – American Holly
Juncus sp.
Juniperus virginiana – Eastern Red Cedar
Mitchella repens - Partridgeberry
Oxydendrum arboreum – Sourwood
Polypodium polypodioides – Resurrection Fern
Polystichum acrostichoides – Christmas fern
Prunus serotina - Wild Cherry
Pycnanthemum sp. – Wild Mint
Quercus muehlenbergii - chinquapin oak
Quercus pinus – Chestnut Oak
Rhododendron canescens – Piedmont Azalea
Sambucus Canadensis – Elderberry

Sassafras albidum
Silene virginica- Fire Pink
Smilax sp.
Tipularia discolor – Cranesfly orchid
Trillium sp.
Ulma alata – Winged Elm
Vaccinium arboreum – Sparkleberry or Farkleberry

Volunteers wanted for BBG’s Fern Glade:
We are working in the Fern Glade at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens every Wednesday and Thursday and loving this wonderful spring weather! Please join us! Contact Ginny Lusk or Sarah Johnston for details or just show up on one of the workdays. We usually work from around 9:00 a.m. until lunch time. This week we will be preparing for and working at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens' Spring Plant Sale. See bbgardens.org for more details about the sale!

44th Annual

The 2013 Spring Plant Sale will be held on April 5-7 for the public.

We'll begin the weekend with the preview party on Thursday, April 5-7, 2013

The Members-Only Sale will immediately follow on Thursday, April 5-7, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

SPRING PLANT SALE

former J.C. Penney at Century Plaza  7580 Crestwood Blvd. Birmingham, AL 35210
NATIVE PLANT SALE

April 13th 2013  9am - 2pm

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