

# 2011 Naturalist Rally Session descriptions

## **8 – 10:30 am Bird Walk (15) – Songbird Habitat**

Trecia E. Neal, Biologist, Fernbank Science Center

Please bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. If you do not own binoculars, pairs will be available for loan. Field check lists will be provided.

Recommended field guide: *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America*, David Allen Sibley ISBN 067945120X

## **9:00 – 12 noon (15) Meet at Veneble Lake Parking lot**

*Veneble Lake Trail Hike*

Take a hike around Veneble Lake to enjoy the scenery, get some exercise, study some plants, and watch for wildlife. Hike is approximately 2 ½ miles, easy. Bring a water bottle.

*Trish Long, Naturalist*

No books recommended.

## **9:00 – 10:30 am (15) Nature Garden Trail**

*Tree Hike*

Take a hike on one of the prettiest trails in the Park to learn about the trees here. A 3/4 mile easy trail - Bring a water bottle.

*Dale Higdon, Forester*

No books recommended.

## **9:00 – 10:30 am (25) Education Annex Auditorium**

*Hummingbirds in Georgia*

Learn about what species of hummingbirds are found in Georgia, their nesting habits, how to attract them, and what plants are good to put in your garden.

*Rusty Trump, President Georgia Hummer Study Group, Inc.*

No books recommended.

## **9:00 – 10:30 am (25) Education Annex Auditorium**

*Discover Life: Bee Hunt and other projects*

Learn to use macro photography and web tools to monitor bees, moths, wildflowers, trees, lichens, fungi, salamanders, and other natural history. Join this continental-scale research project to monitor species and their responses to climate, invasives, pollution, and other largescale effects.

*Nancy Lowe, Outreach Coordinator and John Pickering, Director, Discover Life*

Recommended website: [www.discoverlife.org/macrosystems](http://www.discoverlife.org/macrosystems)

**10:45 am-12:00 pm Bird Walk (15) – Songbird Habitat**

Chris Showalter, Ornithologist, Fernbank Science Center

Please bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. If you do not own binoculars, pairs will be available for loan. Field check lists will be provided.

Recommended field guide: *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America*, David Allen Sibley

ISBN 067945120X

**10:45 am – 12:00 p.m. (25) Education Annex Auditorium**

*Preferential use of therapeutic milkweeds by parasite-infected monarch butterflies*

Monarch butterflies are commonly infected with a protozoan parasite that reduces their survival, reproduction and flight ability. Our research suggests that infected monarch butterflies may preferentially lay their eggs on medicinal milkweeds that will reduce infection and disease in their caterpillar offspring.

*Jaap de Roode, Assistant Professor of Biology /Thierry Lefevre, Postdoctoral Research Associate,*

*Department of Biology, Emory University*

No recommended books.

**10:45 am – 12:00 p.m. (25) Education Annex Auditorium**

*Sex in the Garden*

A tongue-in-cheek presentation that seeks to inform native plant enthusiasts about various facets of plant reproduction, using real-world examples to stimulate thinking about plant reproduction, while simultaneously entertaining the audience with comparisons and contrasts to animal reproduction.

*Dr. Robert Wyatt, President, Friends of the Georgia Museum of Natural History, University of Georgia, Athens*

No recommended books.

**10:45 am – 12:00 p.m. (20) Confederate Hall**

*Wildflower Hike*

Stroll along the rock outcrop habitats to find, identify, and enjoy the wildflowers in this unique habitat. A 1 mile easy to moderate hike - bring hat, water, and sunscreen.

*Eddi Minche, Georgia Native Plant Society*

No recommended books.

**10:45 am – 12:00 p.m. (20) Nature Garden**

*Wildflowers and photography*

Hike on one of the prettiest trails in the Park and capture what you see forever. Bring your own camera, 3/4 mile easy hike.

*Larry Winslett, Photographer*

Larry Winslett, Wildflowers of Stone Mountain

**1:30 – 3:30 p.m. (15) LMA # 16**

**Butterfly and Caterpillar Field Identification**

Bring binoculars or a camera. We suggest wearing a hat, light clothes, and bringing something to stay hydrated.

*Phil Delestrez, Park Manager, Sweetwater Creek State Conservation Park, Georgia  
Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Historic Sites*

*Henning von Schmeling, Operations Senior Director, Chattahoochee Nature Center*

Jeffrey Glassburg, *Butterflies through Binoculars: The East A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Eastern North America*

*Golden Guide to the Butterflies and Moths*

*Caterpillars of Easter North America , David L. Wagner*

**1:30 – 3:30 p.m. (25) Education Annex Auditorium**

*Gardening for Pollinators: Creating backyard habitat for our vulnerable keystone native species*

Our native American insect pollinators face the same threats and decline as the well-known beloved Honeybee. Gardeners can play a critical role in providing these keystone species with food and habitat to prevent their ecologically devastating decline. This class will focus on how to incorporate native plants for feeding, breeding and nesting areas to encourage native bees and butterflies to thrive in your landscape.

*Heather Alley, Conservation Horticulturist, Plant Conservation Program, State Botanical Garden of Georgia*

Xerces Society In Association with The Bee Works, *The Pollinator Conservation Handbook*

Emmel, T. C. 1997. *Butterfly Gardening: Creating a Butterfly Haven in Your Garden*

Xerces Society and Smithsonian Institution. 1998. *Butterfly Gardening: Creating Sumer Magic in Your Garden*

Buchmann, S. L. and G. P. Nabhan. 1997. *The Forgotten Pollinators*

Jackson, B. and V. Baines. 1999. *Mindful of Butterflies*

Tallamy, D. W. 2007. *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*

Daniels, J. C. 2004. *Butterflies of Georgia Field guide*

**1:30 – 4:30 pm (25) Songbird Habitat**

*Discover Life: Bee Hunt and other projects – FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY*

Learn to use macro photography and web tools to monitor bees, moths, wildflowers, trees, lichens, fungi, salamanders, and other natural history. Join this continental-scale research project to monitor species and their responses to climate, invasives, pollution, and other largescale effects.

*Nancy Lowe, Outreach Coordinator and John Pickering, Director, Discover Life*

Recommended website: [www.discoverlife.org/macrosystems](http://www.discoverlife.org/macrosystems)

Wear long pants and tuck them into socks and shoes to protect against fire ants.

Bring a digital camera that has good macro function. See

<http://www.discoverlife.org/pa/camera.html> for suggestions.

**1:30 – 3:30 pm (15) Nature Garden**

*Mushroom Hike*

Stroll in a moist, shaded, floodplain trail area to search for mushrooms. A 3/4 mile easy, shaded trail.

*Mushroom Club of Georgia*

National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms

**1:30 – 4:30 pm (15) Confederate Hall**

*Cherokee Trail Hike*

Get some great exercise and see many different views of the lake, mountain, park, and landscape on this 6.2 mile hike circling the mountain. Wear good hiking shoes, bring sunscreen and a water bottle.

*Jane Trentin, Georgia Native Plant Society*

**1:30 – 3:30 pm (15) Confederate Hall**

*Geology Hike*

Learn about and explore the geology of Stone Mountain. A 2 mile moderate to strenuous hike - bring water bottle.

*Julian Gray, Tellus Science Museum*

Atkins, R.L. and Griffin, M., 1977, Geology Guide to Panola Mountain State Park: Rock Outcrop Trail, Georgia Geological Survey Geologic Guide 2, 12 p.

Atkins, R.L. and Griffin, M., 1977, Geology Guide to Panola Mountain State Park: Watershed Trail, Georgia Geological Survey Geologic Guide 3, 8 p.

Atkins, R.L. and Joyce, L.G., 1980, Geologic Guide to Stone Mountain Park, Georgia Geological Survey Geologic Guide 4, 29 p.

Hermann, L.A., 1954, Geology of the Stone Mountain-Lithonia District, Georgia. Georgia Geological Survey Bulletin 61, 139 p.

Hopson, C.A., 1958, Exfoliation and weathering at Stone Mountain, Georgia, and their bearing on disfigurement of the Confederate Memorial, Georgia Mineral Newsletter, vol. XI, no. 3, p. 65-79.

Watson, T.L., 1902, The granites and gneisses of Georgia. Georgia Geological Survey Bulletin 9-A, 367 p.

Whitney, J.A., Jones, L.M., and Walker, R.L., 1976, Age and Origin of the Stone Mountain Granite, Lithonia, Georgia. Geological Society of America Bulletin, v. 87, p. 1067-1077.

Wright, N.P., 1966, Mineralogic variation in the Stone Mountain Granite. Geological Society of America Bulletin, v. 77, p. 207-210.

**3:45 – 5:00 p.m. (25) Education Annex Auditorium**

*My Obsession with Caterpillars*

The last 8 years of my life I have observed, collected and reared thousands of caterpillars all over the US. They tell a fascinating story with their behavior, camouflage and other survival strategies. Learn more as we explore the world of caterpillars.

*Henning von Schmeling, Operations Senior Director, Chattahoochee Nature Center*

Golden Guide to the Butterflies and Moths

Caterpillars of Easter North America , David L. Wagner

**3:45 – 5:00 p.m. (15) Nature Garden**

*Foraging for Edible and Medicinal Plants*

The nature garden boasts the best plants around. Explore with this group to see what delicacies can be found right along the trail. A 3/4 mile easy hike - bring a water bottle.

*Chris Clinton and Isia Cooper, Crack in the Sidewalk Farm*

A Field Guide to edible wild plants, Peterson

**3:45 – 5:00 p.m. (15) Confederate Hall**

*Native Plants and Native Habitats*

Hike around to learn more about the unique habitats as Stone Mountain Park and the plant life it supports. You'll be surprised how much there is to explore among the plants. A 2 mile moderate hike - bring water, hat, and sunscreen.

*Walter Bland, Georgia Native Plant Society*

**6:45 pm Education Annex Auditorium**

*Porch Light Insects*

I grew up in Maryland in the 50s and 60s where I developed a passion for nature. I purchased my first pair of binoculars and field guide to birds in the early 70s and have been at it ever since. I spent many years studying birds in Florida and traveled all over North America looking for birds. I moved to Bristol, TN in 1993 and became involved with local bird clubs, and naturalist rallies. I started looking for butterflies back in the 90s and have been studying moths for several years now. I have been working as a park naturalist at Steele Creek Park in Bristol, TN for 5 years. A few years ago I helped organize the Mountain Empire Butterfly Club. In June of 2008 I started my Porch Light Insects project. I currently live in Johnson City, TN with my lovely wife Janet.

My presentation on Porch Light Insects is a collection of photographs I have taken, mostly on the back porch of my home. I have also included some shots from the Steele Creek Park Nature Center porch and a few from the barn at our farm in Jonesborough, TN. They are all of insects or other invertebrates that were attracted to lights. I have a simple setup on our porch that includes a sheet, a black light and a fluorescent shop light. I started out using a point and shoot camera and now use a Nikon SLR with a macro lens. I would encourage you to try this at home.

*Larry McDaniel*