



Jocassee Journal

Information and News about the Jocassee Gorges

Spring/Summer 2007

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Jon McPeters of Appalachian Arborists injects the soil around Carolina hemlocks to help protect the trees from hemlock woolly adelgids. (Photo by Will Blozan)

Trying to save Carolina hemlocks

Arborists going out on a limb to save unique tree species

Jocassee Gorges supports two species of hemlock, and both are being attacked by hemlock woolly adelgids.

Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) occupies wet sites along streams, whereas Carolina hemlock (*Tsuga caroliniana*) thrives in dry, shallow soils associated with rocky outcrop habitats. The Camp Adger section of Jocassee Gorges, east of US Highway 178, supports several populations of Carolina hemlock where the trees probably represent the southernmost specimens within the natural range of the species.

The Camp Adger area, between Sasfras Mountain and Scenic (SC) Highway 11, has some of the most rugged terrain in Jocassee Gorges. Several rock scarps and cliffs that support the Carolina

hemlock can be seen from Highway 11. The S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) contracted with Appalachian Arborists of Asheville, N.C., (www.appalachianarborists.com/) to carefully inject the soils with the chemical imidacloprid, to protect the trees from the devastating effects of the hemlock woolly adelgid that is slowly killing most hemlocks in the Eastern United States. Appalachian Arborists has treated thousands of trees for the U.S. Park Service in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Some trees on Jocassee Gorges had to be accessed by tedious rock climbing and rappelling.

Protecting the trees with chemicals buys the DNR a few more years while entomologists work on alternate means of hemlock woolly adelgid control. Jocassee Project Manager Mark Hall said: "DNR will continue to protect the Carolina hemlock forests as long as the money holds out because the Carolinas are part of such a unique plant community." 



The Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund recently gave \$33,000 toward exhibits to be placed in the Meeting House at Keowee-Toxaway State Natural Area. The Meeting House will be the site of the Jocassee Gorges Visitors Center, although the opening date has not been determined. (DNR photo by Greg Lucas)

Harry Hampton grant funds exhibits at Jocassee Gorges Visitors Center

Private organization funds many conservation projects

The Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund recently awarded a grant of \$33,000 for exhibits at the Jocassee Gorges Visitors Center at Keowee-Toxaway State Natural Area.

Among the exhibits will be a three-dimensional topographic model showing access points and providing visitors with an overall look at the area. Other exhibits will feature Cherokee Indians and their relationship to Jocassee Gorges, biological diversity, scientific research, and recognition of people who played an important part in the region, such as the late Dr. James A. Timmerman, for whom the area is named, and organizations such as Harry Hampton.

An opening date for the Jocassee Gorges Visitors Center, in the Meeting House at Keowee-Toxaway State Natural Area on SC 11 in northern Pickens County, has not yet been determined.

The Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund is a private, non-profit corporation that partners with the S. C. Department of Natural Resources for the promotion of education, research, management and the administration of game and fish laws, to benefit conservation of wildlife, marine and other natural resources in South Carolina. Publication and mailing of the Jocassee Journal newsletter has been made possible for the past eight years by grants from the



Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund.

Funds are obtained solely through private donations and special promotional projects, events and publications and are applied to very specific goals. Fund-raisers include the annual Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic held at the State Fairgrounds in Columbia, and at banquets around the state. Checks or bequests should be made to Hampton Wildlife Fund. You may mail your contributions to: Harry Hampton Fund, PO Box 2641, Columbia SC 29202. For more information on the Hampton Fund, visit www.hamptonwildlifefund.org or call (803) 600-1570 or (843) 525-1865.

Contributions are administered by a board of directors comprised of 11 South Carolinians committed to responsible natural resources management and education. Although some of the funds are donated to special projects run by the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, they are not used to replace any department programs already supported by appropriated money.

Projects supported and funded by the Harry Hampton Wildlife Fund, in addition to the Jocassee Journal newsletter, include: Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Program; Hampton Fund Scholarship Programs; South Carolina Wildlife Magazine Young Outdoor Writer Competition Awards; Camp Wildwood conservation camp; Operation Game Thief (reward program for reporting fish and game violations); Project Wild (comprehensive education program in schools); and many others. 

Birds, wildflowers priorities for conservation

Research demonstrates connections between birds and flora

By Drew Lanham and Vic Shelburne

The Jocassee Gorges harbors a rich array of bird and plant diversity. Among the hidden coves and on the exposed ridges, a dazzling variety of warblers, tanagers, thrushes and flycatchers make their summer homes among an equally impressive array of flowering plants like bloodroot, trillium, and Solomon's seal.

As the migrants return in April and May, many of the wildflowers are also re-awakening to the warmth and promise of spring. Although many of us go afield focused on finding the rare bird or wildflower, we should all appreciate the beauty and interconnected nature of all living things.

Appreciating this connection not only helps us see the whole picture but also paints an important picture for conservationists seeking clues as how to best manage both warblers and wildflowers.

Recent research by former graduate student, Julia Camp, and Dr. Drew Lanham showed that not only is the Jocassee Gorges an important place for neotropical migrant bird diversity, our investigation also showed that we can make management connections between birds and floral diversity.

Using an index that puts a conservation priority score on different bird species, we found that among the diverse Jocassee Gorges ecosystems, two mesic (moist) habitats found in coves and along streams, had the highest scores for avian



Scarlett Tanager (Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

diversity and thus should be considered priorities for conservation. These habitats harbored highly ranked Swainson's warblers and Acadian flycatchers among other breeding neotropical migrants.

More impressively, we found that those same habitats held the flora that many consider to be of the highest priority for conservation. Species such as bloodroot, ginseng and jack-in-the-pulpit are showy denizens of the forest floor that complete the picture of the wonderfully diverse Jocassee Gorges where the tanagers and *Tiarella* can benefit from the same conservation strategies.

(Drs. Drew Lanham and Vic Shelburne are professors in Clemson University's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources.) 



Research has found that many of the same habitats that harbor uncommon plants, such as ginseng, are also rated as priorities for bird conservation. (DNR photo by Greg Lucas)

New Shoreline Management Plan in place on Lake Keowee

Plan helps provide public, private access while protecting lake's natural and cultural resources

What do digital video, natural woody buffers, and vegetation management “do’s and don’ts” have in common?

They are all part of a comprehensive shoreline management plan recently developed by Duke Energy and other groups interested in Lake Keowee. Duke Energy worked closely with local, state, and federal resource

agencies and other interested organizations to develop this comprehensive shoreline plan. For example, at the request of wildlife resource agencies, Duke Energy collected GPS-referenced digital video imagery around the shoreline, including the many islands on Lake Keowee. The entire shoreline of Lake Keowee—around 390 miles—was

visited by boat and the existing condition of the shoreline, including critical environmental areas and existing facilities, were identified and documented. In September 2006, the new Shoreline Management Plan along with revised Shoreline Management Guidelines was implemented on Lake Keowee. These two new tools help guide and manage lake activities to provide public and private access while protecting the lake's natural and cultural resources. The Shoreline Management Plan is a comprehensive plan that includes a series of maps that indicate

locations where certain activities are allowed on and around the lake, and the Shoreline Management Guidelines provide specific criteria on how activities can be completed.

An example of the new requirements for residential marina slip construction includes preserving a minimum of 20 percent of the shoreline in a natural state. Also new are vegetation management guidelines that cover the type of plants that can be planted or removed along areas around the lake. Duke Energy's Lake Services staff

also works with customers to improve shoreline stabilization by encouraging the use of bioengineering techniques and enhanced rip rap—a combination of plants, rip rap and larger boulders. The end result is a more natural shoreline that benefits wildlife and protects the shoreline and property from

erosion. Managing multiple uses of the lakes is a delicate balance and a responsibility

Duke Energy takes seriously. The company values input and cooperation from resource agency personnel, lake users, adjoining property owners and other interested organizations to carry out that responsibility.

Details on the Shoreline Management Plan and the Shoreline Management Guidelines are available on Duke Energy's Web site at <http://www.duke-energy.com/shoreline-management/keowee/overview.asp> or by contacting Duke Energy's Lake Services at 1-800-443-5193. 🌿



A new Shoreline Management Plan was put in place by Duke Energy on Lake Keowee in September 2006. As part of the new plan, the entire 390-mile shoreline of Lake Keowee was visited by boat to document the existing condition of the shoreline.



A view from the S.C. Forestry Commission plane shows the steepness of the Jocassee Gorges terrain faced by firefighters during the Big Eastatoee Fire April 9-10. (S.C. Forestry Commission photo by Michelle Johnson)

Multi-agency effort contains Jocassee Gorges wildfire

More than 100 firefighters help control blaze that started near Twin Falls

A wildfire swept through the rugged terrain of Jocassee Gorges April 9 in the upper Eastatoee Valley above the popular waterfall on Reedy Cove Creek known as Twin Falls. The fire blazed across roughly 160 acres until late on April 10, when it was finally controlled with the help of about 100 firefighters at the scene.

The S.C. Forestry Commission led the effort with assistance from local fire departments and S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as well as law enforcement and emergency units from Pickens, Greenville and Oconee counties. A Greenville County Air Support helicopter transported staff during the fire and applied several thousand gallons of water to the blazing hillsides.

The fire started late Monday afternoon, apparently as the result of a careless campfire at

the head of Twin Falls. Weather conditions were favorable for managing the fire because humidity was high and winds were low. The fire was allowed to creep along Monday night while several firefighters kept a vigilant eye on the glowing mountainside. Hand crews and the Greenville helicopter were used to suppress the fire late Tuesday afternoon. Primary sites threatened were Camp McCall on US 178 and a few homes in the Eastatoee Valley. No one was injured during the incident, but there were some close calls with poisonous snakes.

DNR will monitor the area, which had an unusual, heavy frost the week prior to the fire. Some tree mortality is expected, but the habitat will be diversified as a result of the disturbance. The area is remote and difficult to access, and it will be allowed to heal naturally. Some interesting flora is expected to appear in the area in the next few years as a result of the wildfire. ❁

Extraordinary sights await discovery

Mountain lakes are a playground for divers from throughout the Southeast

By Debbie Fletcher

Submerged in the emerald green waters of Lakes Jocassee and Keowee is a world seen mostly by fish—and those exploring souls known as scuba divers. Due to the sparse development on Jocassee, the water is extremely clear. Lake Jocassee is known throughout the Southeast as a premiere lake for all levels of scuba dive training, including the rare diver who dons tri-mix and goes to depths of 300 feet or more.

To the left of the dam, a sheer rock wall rises 100 feet above the water, creating what is known as the Quarry. Filmed in the movie “Deliverance,” it was here some 40 years ago that Duke Power blasted the side of the mountain to get rock fill for the earthen dam, cutting deep, giant stair steps that now form a divers’ playground. Now, resting 60 feet down on the edge of The Wall (a precipice that plummets more than 350 feet) is a teak Chinese Junk, complete with treasure chest, to which divers have generously made offerings of Mardi Gras beads and other trinkets. A few fin kicks away, paint pots full of cement anchor about 40 plastic flamingos



Scuba divers have discovered an underwater garden of Jocassee. (Photos by Dave Fletcher)



A diver goes for a slam dunk on an underwater basketball goal that is 60 feet below the surface of Lake Jocassee. Because of its depth and clarity, Lake Jocassee has become a haven for sport divers.

who stoically march across the bottom of the lake, leading the way to yet another sunken boat. A motorcycle and basketball goal, equipped with a bowling ball for practice, complete the underwater amusement.

On the opposite side of the lake, a remote boat ramp has been designated for divers’ use. Frequented in the summer months by masses of diving students, the cove hosts a couple of underwater dive platforms for practicing skills. For amusement, divers have posted underwater signs, such as “Clemson Underwater Basket Weaving Meets Here,” or “Cow Crossing.” A grouping of plastic skeletons nicknamed the “Bones Family” is heralded by my favorite sign “Jocassee Skeleton Crew—Graveyard Shift.”

Another popular dive site for more advanced divers is the old Mt. Carmel Cemetery (also filmed in “Deliverance”). Many graves were exhumed prior

under waters of Jocassee, Keowee



delights beneath the cold green waters of Lake

to flooding, but a number of headstones and curbs remain today. The site is in about 138 feet of water.

For divers trained in extremely deep diving (referred to as Gorilla Divers), there is Camp Jocassee for Girls, in 318 feet, and Attakulla Lodge (my family homestead) in 300 feet. Attakulla Lodge, a summer hotel for more than 50 years, stands two and a half stories tall and is still intact. Exploration was begun in August 2004. It will take many years to completely explore and document the building.

In stark contrast to the humor divers have created, Jocassee still harbors a grim reminder of the valley's demise. Trees still cling to the side of the mountain. Now immersed in many feet of water, their once-grounded roots reach out into the water like gnarly fingers. Massive rocks, their soil long eroded, create safe harbors where bream and bass—even an elusive catfish or two—can be spotted. As a former Jocassee girl whose best summers were

spent in Jocassee Valley, a wetsuit can't prevent the shudder I feel when looking at these underwater remains, knowing that Mama and I once drove by the tree I am now hovering beside.

Lake Keowee also offers a couple of unique dive sites. The three-story brick Pump House, which served as the water treatment plant for the town of Seneca, sits in 80 feet of water and offers door and window openings for divers and fish to swim through. The Hot Hole, as it is nicknamed, occupies about 20 acres of the lake near the Oconee Nuclear Station. The recycled water from the condensate coolers is discharged into the lake, creating an area in which the water is a constant 70+ degrees. Because of the agreeable water temperature, it is a popular dive site during the winter. The Hot Hole is usually home to many fish and offers a unique drift dive, along with an exciting ride on the underwater waterslide from the discharge.

Lakes Jocassee and Keowee offer extraordinary recreation, both on and under the water. Grab your suit—swimsuit or wetsuit—and take the plunge!

(Debbie Fletcher is the author of "Whippoorwill Farewell: Jocassee Remembered." To learn more about the book, visit www.jocasseeremembered.com.) ❁



Divers Bill Routh (left) and Charles Johnson excitedly discuss their adventures after emerging from a sport dive in the deep waters of Lake Jocassee.

Statewide trails workshop emphasizes partnerships

Group gathers at Piedmont Forestry Center in Oconee County to seek ways of working together

A South Carolina trails workshop featuring a wide array of experts from the public and private sectors was held recently at the Piedmont Forestry Center in northern Oconee County.

“The State of South Carolina’s Trails: Plans, Progress and Partnerships” was sponsored by the S.C. Forestry Commission, S.C. Department of Natural Resources, S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and the U.S. Forest Service.

The first day of the workshop, attended by 79 participants, was devoted to “Plans and Progress,” and featured a keynote address on “Changing Populations and Recreation Trends” by Dr. Ken Cordell, project leader and pioneering scientist at the U.S. Forest Service Research station in Athens, Ga. Tony Bebbler of the S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism talked on “Trends in Trail-based Recreation: South Carolina and the Southern Region.” Later panels and talks covered trails on public lands in South Carolina, building a municipal trail network and planning for recreation.

The second day of the workshop was devoted to partnerships. Panel discussions featured terrestrial and water trails in South Carolina. Field trips were taken to Long Shoals Wayside Park on SC 11 in Pickens County, Laurel Fork Heritage Preserve in Jocassee Gorges, also in Pickens County, and Oconee Station Falls in Oconee County.

The Piedmont Forestry Center, located off



A field trip to Oconee Station Falls in northern Oconee County was part of a recent statewide trails workshop held at the Piedmont Forestry Center. (S.C. Forestry Commission photo by Jennie Morris)

SC 11 in northern Oconee County, is a facility of the S.C. Forestry Commission. A former tree nursery, the Piedmont Forestry Center now features large and small conference rooms and can accommodate groups as large as 120 people. For information regarding the use of the Piedmont Forestry Center, contact the S.C. Forestry Commission at (803) 896-8892. 🌿

Trout Unlimited presents Palmetto Award to Bad Creek Hydro Station

Bad Creek honored for protecting coldwater streams in South Carolina

The South Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited has presented its Palmetto Trout Award to personnel at Duke Energy's Bad Creek Pumped Storage Hydro Unit.

The presentation was made by Tom McInnis, council chair, at the council's fall meeting Nov. 11, 2006, at Oconee State Park. McInnis said that the Bad Creek Station, located in the mountains of Oconee County above Lake Jocassee, was honored for its long-term partnership work with Trout Unlimited to help protect coldwater streams in South Carolina, and to help with programs aimed at youth conservation education.

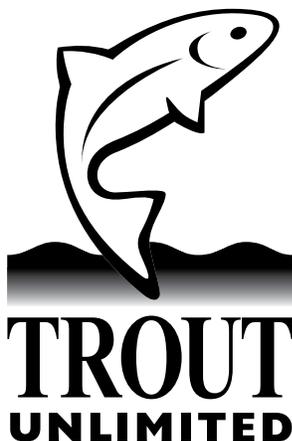
Dave Van Lear, a former president of the local Chattooga River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, recalled many projects where Bad Creek has provided assistance and leadership including trout stream restoration projects, public access plans for

trout anglers, developing a program for boy and girl scouts related to stream conservation, and working cooperatively on handicap accessible facilities on trout streams.

"The people at Bad Creek, in addition to running some of Duke's largest power plants, are always aware that they are located among some of South Carolina's better trout streams," Van Lear said, "and they have worked with us over decades now to provide excellent stewardship of these resources. We are glad to recognize them with this award."

Steve Hammond, Bad Creek manager, expressed Duke Energy's appreciation for Trout Unlimited's long partnership with the Bad Creek unit. Allen Nicholson accepted the award, which consisted of a plaque and a handsome brown trout statuette, on behalf of all Bad Creek's personnel.

The South Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited is composed of the three Trout Unlimited chapters and 1,200 members in South Carolina. Trout Unlimited's mission is to conserve, protect and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. 



Allen Nicholson of Duke Energy (left) looks on as Tom McInnis of Trout Unlimited describes the trout statuette presented to Duke Energy's Bad Creek Hydro Station in recognition of its support for Trout Unlimited in South Carolina.



This lovely waterfall on Poe Creek can be seen along Keowee-Toxaway Natural Area's Natural Bridge Trail. (DNR photos by Greg Lucas)

Clemson students conduct social assessment at Keowee-Toxaway

Project looked at impact of Jocassee Gorges visitor center on park, surrounding area

A group of five Clemson University undergraduate students from Dr. Ken Robinson's rural sociology class carried out a semester-long project looking at the Jocassee Gorges visitor center that will eventually be located at Keowee-Toxaway State Natural Area in Pickens County.

The type of project the students were involved in is called a Social Impact Assessment, where key variables at the site and surrounding areas are measured to give a detailed overview of how a project or event will impact nearby populations and communities socially.

The five students from Clemson University (Nikki Farrell, Jed Hewitt, Mercy Pearce, David Postlewaite and Ali Sutton) began their project in fall 2006 by visiting the site and talking to representatives from the S.C. Department of Natural Resources and South Carolina State Park Service at Keowee-Toxaway State Natural Area. The site visit was to get an idea of the scope and direction of this project of turning the old Holly Springs Baptist Church, now called the Meeting House, into a Jocassee Gorges visitor and information center at the park. After that, the group returned to campus and began to define variables on social value that would have an impact on the site and surrounding areas, and that it may increase usage in the park.

In their final assessment, the students reported

that they believe this is a project that will have a positive impact on both the park and local community. The Jocassee Gorges visitor center will offer visitors updated historical information about the Cherokee, as well as early American settlers who once lived in the area.

The student team presented its final report Dec. 5, 2006, at Clemson University's Edwards Hall. For a copy of the full report, send an e-mail request to lucasg@dnr.sc.gov.



Pausing for a moment at Keowee-Toxaway State Natural Area's Cherokee history museum are (from left) Clemson University professor Dr. Ken Robinson, and Clemson students David Postlewaite, Jed Hewitt, Ali Sutton and Mercy Pearce.

Duke Energy Foundation helps fund Jocassee Gorges Cultural History Project

Study will document cultures of mountain region

The Duke Energy Foundation recently awarded a \$5,000 grant to help fund the Jocassee Gorges Cultural History Project, currently being conducted by researchers at Clemson University.

The Jocassee Gorges Cultural History Project is a multi-year project to document the cultures of the mountain region of South Carolina, especially the upper parts of Oconee, Pickens and Greenville counties. Project outcomes might include scholarly books, popular books, and a broadcast-quality videotaped history of the region.

The Duke Energy Foundation is the entity that distributes Duke Energy's charitable contributions. Through The Duke Energy Foundation, the company is able to exemplify its commitment to the communities it serves by providing funding to eligible organizations with programs that support educational attainment, community vitality and a competitive work force.

Leading the Jocassee Gorges Cultural History Project is Dr. Mike Coggeshall, cultural anthropologist in Clemson University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Coggeshall is partnering with current and former employees of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, especially retired wildlife biologist Sam Stokes Sr., who has accompanied Coggeshall on many interviews.

Coggeshall expects to partner with many entities, including Clemson's Extension Service and the Pickens County Museum, among others.

Some documentation of the traditional cultures of the area has already been done. Much of this work consists of local histories, family memoirs, and informal publications, with good photographic documentation but generally lacking a more general critical discussion. Relatively little has been done

to document current traditions, especially those of more recent cultural groups. The Jocassee Gorges Cultural History Project will fill this gap by placing personal recollections in a larger regional context, and by documenting more recent changes to the area as well.

To accomplish research goals, the project will use participant observation and ethnographic interviewing. Such fieldwork involves extensive visits to the region while conducting informal conversations with local residents. Photography and video documentation

will also be conducted. Ethnographic interviews of open-ended, conversation-like discussions will also be done with local residents, seeking their points of view.

Besides fieldwork, documentation will also involve archival research, such as with Duke Energy, Clemson's Special Collections, the McKissick Museum, the South Caroliniana Library at USC, and regional public libraries. Clemson undergraduates will also be involved in various aspects of the research, thus enhancing their educational experiences. 



Petroglyphs like this animal track on Pinnacle Mountain (Clemson shirt modeled by a participant in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Clemson University) are part of the cultural history of Jocassee Gorges. (DNR photo by Greg Lucas)



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Interactive CD features wildflowers of the Southern Blue Ridge

Contains photos of more than
475 species of wildflowers

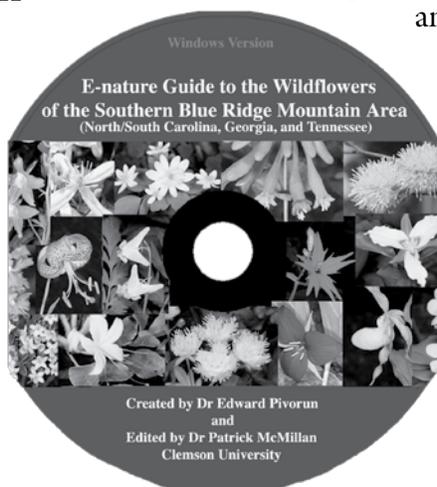
Drs. Edward Pivorun and Patrick McMillan of Clemson University, Department of Biological Sciences, recently produced an electronic field guide in the form of an interactive CD that provides the user with high-resolution images of more than 475 wildflowers found in the piedmont and mountains of the Carolinas, Georgia and Tennessee.

Expand your understanding of the wildflowers with this fun and exciting CD intended to educate both amateur and advanced biologists alike!

This CD features more than 650 megabytes of information with 1) a brief interactive visual overview of 34

plant families to emphasize structural diversity and 2) a great photo gallery of over 475 species with the ability to view specific wildflowers based on a find button or on specific flower color buttons. Images are accessed with forward and back buttons based on the alphabetized common names of the flowers. When an image is viewed both the common and scientific names are displayed. In addition, buttons allow the user to obtain information on each species: Family, range, habitat, flowering time, a brief description, comments highlighting interesting facts, and an overview of medicinal uses.

For more information on obtaining this interactive CD, call Pivorun at (864) 506-5706, (864) 656-2328 or send an e-mail to ebpvr@clemson.edu.



An electronic field guide to the wildflowers of the Southern Blue Ridge is now available from Clemson University.