PBIO 4650/6650 Plant Collection Trip (Putnam/Jasper Counties)

We will be collecting on the Murder Creek Research Natural Area within the Cedar Creek Wildlife Management Area, both part of the Oconee National Forest. This is an intact bottomland forest about an hour and a half SSW of Athens (near Eatonton) on the border of Putnam and Jasper counties. The flora of the area is not well known and we have been provided a unique opportunity to explore and document the site. The area is managed by both the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the United States Forest Service and we are responsible for following all applicable rules and regulations, aside from those pertaining to the collection of plants. You can review these guidelines at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5130744.pdf>

<http://www.eregulations.com/georgia/hunting/wma-unlawful-activities/>

We will meet behind Miller Plant Sciences (by the loading dock) at 9:00 on Saturday, April 9th and 16th. We will be leaving at 9:15 a.m. so do not be late. We will be taking University vehicles so please plan to make parking arrangements if you are driving to campus. It will take approximately an hour and a half to reach our destination and once there, we will not be returning until the end of the day (ca. 5:00-6:00 p.m.). Please plan on bringing a lunch and any necessary toiletry items (Specifically, **toilet paper** as I am not aware of any bathroom facilities within the research natural area). We will provide water, ice and coolers for perishable items.

**Collection guidelines**

- **Do not** collect any plant without permission from either Dr. Leebens-Mack or one of the Laboratory T.A.s.

- Vouchers (Collections) are limited to two specimens per species (i.e. no more than two students will be knowingly allowed to collect the same plant species). One of the goals of our trips, in addition to providing floristics field work experience, is provide the Forest Service and Georgia Department of Natural Resources with a partial list of flora for the area. As such, the goal is to collect as many identifiable species as possible and not 20 collections of the same 20 species.

- **Do not** collect in adjacent wilderness areas, picnic areas or campgrounds. If you have questions about proper collecting locations during the trip, please ask.

- **Do not** collect federally listed, endangered or threatened species which have been previously documented from the area. These include the following two species which everyone should familiarize themselves with:

* *Trillium reliquum*
* *Scutellaria nervosa*

Again, if you are in doubt about the identity of a particular species, please ask.

**What to Bring**

* Long pants (e.g. jeans). **DO NOT** wear shorts
* Shoes or boots. **DO NOT** wear sandals, flip flops or any other open toed shoe.
* **Lunch and water:** We will not be near a store where you could by food and beverages, so we STRONGLY recommend that you bring a bag lunch, snacks and a water bottle. We will have coolers .
* Please wear a hat to keep ticks off of your head.
* Shirt with sleeves. You do not necessarily need a long sleeve shirt, but do not wear tank tops, spaghetti strap tops etc…
* Please bring bug spray if possible. We do not have sufficient bug spray for everyone planning to attend.
* If you have large Ziploc bags, please bring and initial them. We will need these to store our plant collections until they can be placed in a cooler.
* We will likely encounter poison ivy. If you are allergic to poison ivy, you may want to look into purchasing Tecnu or a similar post-exposure treatment.
* If you have a pair of pruners or a handheld spade, please bring them along. We have a limited number of cutting and digging implements.