

COME TO TENNESSEE

Alabama Wildflower Society invites you to join us on our Spring 2010 State Meeting –Hiwassee and Ocoee River Area, East Tennessee /Hosted by Leon & Pat Bates

April 9, 10 and 11

Accommodations: Whitewater Inn located at the intersection of US 64 and US 411 at Ocoee, Tennessee. Contact the Inn at 888-716-2633. Rates with 2 queen beds are \$85.99 plus tax. Make reservations for AWS rooms one month in advance if possible. Continental breakfast is available plus other fast food nearby. **Directions:** From Chattanooga: I-75 to Exit 20 (Cleveland) turn right onto APD 40 Bypass. Follow APD 40 bypass and exit at USA Hwy 64 East to Cherokee National Forest. Follow 64 approx. 8 miles to intersection of US Hwy 411. Whitewater Inn at 120 Whitewater Dr. is opposite McDonald's.

Dinner/Meeting

Black Bear Cove Resort located approx. 11.2 miles north on US 411, turn right onto TN 30 just past the start of four-laned US411. Turn left at signs to Black Bear Cove Resort at 0.3 miles. This local lodge is famous for its signature dining, beautiful views and accommodations (see website) The dinner includes one meat, 3 sides, and dessert with salad, rolls and drinks.

Cost will be \$18 per person and reservations **MUST** be sent to:

Margie Anderton, 271 County Road 68, Killen, Al 35645-- by March 10 as this is their cut-off date. Sorry about that!

Registration begins at 4 PM Friday in the motel conference room.

For those that arrive early on Friday, Leon & Pat would like to invite you to their house, Laurelwood, for heavy hors d'oeuvres at about 6 pm.

Directions: You will pick these up at the motel when you check in.

Leon's cell: 256-710-5508, Pat's cell: 256-710-6509

Saturday Morning: Leave 9:00 AM EST from motel

This trip to the Southern Blue Ridge is hosted by our own Leon and Pat Bates, who will provide us with a glimpse of familiar plants and animals in a mountainous region. On Saturday, we will trek along the banks of the scenic Hiwassee River and view wildflowers in adjacent cove areas. We will begin our trip at the Hiwassee/Ocoee Scenic River State Park nature trail, then travel to a nearby picnic area for lunch. (Bring lunch) Afterwards we will travel upstream to the Childer's Creek Trailhead of the John Muir Trail. Here we will walk in the footsteps John Muir made in 1867 when he explored this area and described the Hiwassee as having "forest walls vine-draped and flowery as Eden" This riparian habitat also supports colonies of the threatened and endangered Ruth's Golden Aster.

(These hikes are on level and easy walking trails) After returning to the Trailhead, wildflower members and friends will have the option of returning to the Whitewater Inn for rest/relaxation or taking a scenic by auto to the upper Hiwassee. We will return to the Black Bear Cove Resort in time for dinner and program at 6:00 PM

Leon & Pat will present **“Plants and People of the Southern Appalachians”**

Sunday Morning: 9 AM EST from motel

Travel east on US Hwy 64 along the Ocoee River and Parksville Lake to the Cherokee National Forest, turn left on FS 77 just past the Ocoee District Ranger Station toward Chilhowee Recreation Area at McCamy Lake. The “CCC Boys” built this small lake in the 30’s and added several connecting trails. A round trip of approx. 3 miles to Benton Falls will provide a chance to view a 65 foot waterfall plus wildflowers within numerous forest habitats. Alternative short trails will be available. There is a \$3 per car fee for this USFS recreation area. (Bring Lunch) A Sunday afternoon field trip will be available if members are interested.

WEBSITES

Whitewater Inn--- www.ocoee whitewaterinn.com

Black Bear Cove Resort--- www.blackbearcove.com

Hiwassee and Ocoee Rivers Recreation Areas--- www.tnstateparks.com **Camping is Available**

Telephone--- 423-263-0050