

**Please choose one field trip. Field trip cost is included in the registration fee and includes a boxed lunch. Estimated time frame for all trips is 9:00 am to Noon, Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.**

**Recommended for all trips:** Water, sunscreen, insect repellent, hat, boots or field shoes, long-sleeved shirt, long pants, binoculars, and camera.

- 1) **Memorial Park, Athens-Clarke County: 293 Gran Ellen Dr. , Athens, GA 30606 (706-613-3580)**  
**Leaders: Linda Chafin, email: [lchafin@uga.edu](mailto:lchafin@uga.edu) (706-548-1697) and Gary Crider, email: [gcrider@charter.net](mailto:gcrider@charter.net) (706-714-4430)**

Memorial Park is currently overrun with a wide variety of non-native invasive plants which are causing habitat destruction and are negatively impacting wildlife populations. The Memorial Park Weed Warriors have been working to remove invasives from the park. See what this invasive species volunteer working group has done and how native plant species are returning. <http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/Facilities/Facility/Details/12>

**Directions:** (6 minutes' drive time) From Georgia Center, turn left (south) on Lumpkin Street and drive about 1/2 mile to Five Points, a large, busy intersection. Turn left onto South Milledge (keep the Waffle House on your left) and drive about 1/2 mile to Gran Ellen Drive (Milledge Avenue Baptist Church is on corner) and turn right. Drive about 1/3 mile to the Park, which is on the left. Park and meet in front of the pink administration building.

**Special Note: Bathrooms available.**

- 2) **Sandy Creek Nature Center, 205 Old Commerce Rd., Athens, GA 30607 (Randy Smith, Facility Supervisor 706-613-3615)**  
**Leaders: Jim Hanula, USDA Forest Service, email: [jhanula@fs.fed.us](mailto:jhanula@fs.fed.us) (Office 706 559-4253, Cell 706 340-7219) and Scott Horn, USDA Forest Service, email: [shorn01@fs.fed.us](mailto:shorn01@fs.fed.us) (Office 706 559-4249)**

Ecological Effects of Removing Chinese Privet from Riparian Forests: In 2005, researchers established a replicated series of 5-acre plots to quantify the effects of Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) on riparian forest ecosystems and to compare methods for restoring these ecosystems. The objectives of this study are to define the impacts of Chinese privet on riparian forest ecosystem structure, function and condition; investigate and improve techniques for large-scale management of Chinese privet in sensitive riparian areas; and increase public awareness of the damaging effects of Chinese privet on forest ecosystems, and demonstrate control strategies and ecosystem recovery to forestry professionals and the general public.

**Directions:** (10 minutes' drive time) From the Georgia Center go northeast on S Lumpkin St then turn right onto E Dougherty St. Turn left onto North Ave. then turn left onto Martin Luther King Pkwy. Martin Luther King Pkwy becomes Commerce Rd. Turn left onto Nature Center Rd. then turn right onto Old Commerce Rd. 205 OLD COMMERCE RD is on the left. If you reach Commerce Rd you've gone about 0.2 miles too far.

**Special Note: Bathrooms available. 2000 square feet of indoor natural history exhibits (aquariums, interactive displays, etc.), a gift shop, trails and more.**

<https://www.athensclarkecounty.com/Facilities/Facility/Details/16>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sandy-Creek-Nature-Center/211544335586?ref=hl>

- 3) **Rock and Shoals Outcrop Natural Area (RSONA), Rock and Shoals Drive, Athens, GA**

**Leaders: Mincy Moffett, GA-DNR, email: [Mincy\\_Moffett@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:Mincy_Moffett@dnr.state.ga.us) (Office 706-557-3221, Cell 706-338-9154) ; Malcolm Hodges, TNC, email: [mhodges@TNC.ORG](mailto:mhodges@TNC.ORG) (Office 404-253-7211, Cell 770-776-9194)**

This field trip will explore a rare and signature habitat of the Piedmont, a Granite Rock Outcrop, and observe the deleterious effects of a severe infestation of Chinese privet. In addition to the privet creating a shrub monoculture, its thick root mats are trapping soil and promoting woody encroachment of the various open rock communities from all sides. This threatens to destroy (or alter substantially) the exposed outcrop, boulder/gravel, and soil-pool communities which support many rare and endemic species. Invasive species removal has only just begun at RSONA. We will visit one site where manual removal and judicious cut-stump application of glyphosate has been applied to a dense stand of privet. This site is known as the "Draba site", in reference to a very small population of the state-protected Sun-loving Draba (*Draba aprica*) historically found here. This tiny annual mustard requires near full sun conditions (with light shade from red cedar nurse trees) and may have succumbed to the dense shade from the privet. <http://anybodyseenmyfocus.blogspot.com/2011/03/rock-and-shoals-outcrop-natural-area.html>

**Directions:** (10 minutes' drive time) From the Georgia Center take Carlton Road south for 0.4 miles to East Campus Road. Take a right on E. Campus Road and travel for 0.4 mile to College Station Road. Take a left on College Station Road and travel 2.25 miles to Barnett Shoals Road. Take a right on Barnett Shoals Road and travel 0.25 miles to the first traffic light. Take a left here to stay on Barnett Shoals Road. Continue on Barnett Shoals Road for 2 miles to Rock and Shoals Drive. Take a right on Rock and Shoals Drive (notice boulder pile at subdivision entrance) and travel 0.25 miles to the dead end and RSONA Trailhead. (See Google Map link below) <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=zIYUBIe5vsN0.kL8I5piDIrCA>

**Special Note: No bathrooms available.**