

# **RIGHTS OF WAY ENDANGERED** **SPECIES SURVEY FOR THE METRO** **REGION OF GEORGIA**

The Metro Region includes 13 counties: Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Henry, Heard, Rockdale, Butts, Carroll, Gwinnett, Newton and Paulding Counties.

Based on the Georgia Natural Heritage Inventory records, the following plants and plant community locations were searched for on Georgia Power Company rights of way:

Plants:

Yellow lady's slipper – *Cypripedium calceolus var. pubescens*

Pink lady slipper – *Cypripedium acaule*

Dwarf granite stonecrop – *Sedum pusillum*

Pool sprite – *Amphianthus pusillus* (Federal Threatened)

Pipewort – *Eriocaulon koemickianum*

Black-spored quillwort – *Isoetes melanospora* (Federal Endangered)

Granite outcrop community -

**Field verification identified 6 locations that possibly have minor maintenance concerns: DeKalb County (1) Dwarf Granite Stonecrop, Douglas County (1) Pool Sprite, Gwinnett County (2) both Pipewort, Heard County (1) New Record - Granite Outcrop, Rockdale County (1) Dwarf Granite Stonecrop**

**Discussion and recommendations:** Three locations still require field verification: (1) #970 – Pink Lady Slipper in Henry county will be checked in Spring 2003 when in flower. (2) #1104 – Yellow Lady Slipper is located on Fort Gillem. Locations on Military lands will not be considered while the U.S. Military is in High Alert Status. (3) #694 - Dwarf Granite Stonecrop and #1102 – Alexander Rock Aster at same location in Gwinnett County will be checked in 2003.

All locations are associated with Granite Outcrop Ecosystems. No plants were located due to the dry weather during the search periods, however habitat did exist that could support the plants and for that reason they are classified as “of some concern” or “minor concern”.

Granite outcrops are abundant throughout Georgia's Central Piedmont Region and there are undoubtedly many ROWs transecting outcrops that have not been recorded and therefore not verified by this survey. Field observations reveal that many outcrops have been physically removed by granite quarry operations as well as negatively impacted by

Off Road Vehicles, garbage dumping and other human impacts. In general: the closer to a road; the greater the negative human impacts. A number of intact granite communities still remain; mainly in areas where access is controlled by landowner or difficult due to the terrain. Although Granite Outcrop plants are sensitive, they probably do not offer major problems for line maintenance because most vegetation is herbaceous with few trees and shrubs growing large enough to require clearing.

We recommend that granite outcrop areas, along with a 50 feet buffer, be restricted from the use of herbicide and that access for heavy vehicles be made as delicate as possible. Maintenance crews should remain on existing roads and avoid driving on the herbaceous vegetation; particularly the natural pool areas formed in the granite. The larger areas that cover several acres on either side of the ROW are generally the most critical and best examples. If time/funding is available, Georgia Power Company might consider developing a Granite Outcrop Conservation and Protection Plan for the Piedmont Region of Georgia. Also refer to Granite Outcrop Recommendations.

## **SURVEY SUMMARY FOR THE METRO REGION**

All the counties within the Metro Region are summarized below. The GPC number is listed along with the common name of the plant/animal. The numbered line items refer to locations within the county; only those in bold print were considered close enough to the rights of way to field survey. Line items in regular print refer to animal species not considered in the survey or locations too far from the line to be of concern, usually 500–700 feet.

### **BUTTS COUNTY (No Location Required Field Survey)**

#162 - Ocmulgee shiner - Highway 16 bridge below Lake Jackson on Jasper County line. Approximately ¼ mile west of 115Kv line in Jasper County.

### **CLAYTON COUNTY (1 Location to be Field Surveyed at a Later Time)**

**#1104 - Yellow Lady's Slipper - North end of county, under 500/46KV line. This location is on Fort Gillem and probably off limits during this time of War on Terrorism. (Check at a Later Time)**

#586 - Gulf Darter - 500 feet north of of 115Kv line near Flint River, 1959 record, at Mundy's Millpond.

**COBB COUNTY (No Locations required Field Survey)**

#123 - Georgia Aster - Barrett Parkway and highway 41 Junction. Approximately 1500 feet from 500Kv line.

#1035 - Dwarf Sumac - Northeast corner of the county ½ mile from OPC 115Kv line.

**COWETA COUNTY (No Locations Required Field Survey)**

**DEKALB COUNTY (2Locations Required Field Survey. 1 Minor Maintenance Concern)**

#973 - Dwarf Granite Stonecrop - Union Grove Road. Appears to be under 115Kv line. No outcrop habitat on ROW. No maintenance concern. (Field Note # 97/23 August 2001).

#805 - Dwarf Granite Stonecrop - Rock Chapel Road, one mile north of Pleasant Hill, very close to 46Kv line. On the margin of a 46Kv line, near pole #340. Very small area on the ROW. Minor maintenance concern. (Field Note #98/23 August 2001).

#843 - Flatrock Fimbry - base of Little Stone Mountain, Over 1 mile west of 500Kv line.

#240 - Alexander Rock Aster - ½ mile northeast of Collinsville, ¼ mile west of 115Kv.

#636 - Alexander Rock Aster - East north east of Lithonia, ½ mile west of 46Kv line.

#629 - Black-spored Quillwort - 1938 record, now extinct due to quarry operation.

#1166 - Flatrock Onion - Fenced off for quarry operation, very close to #629.

Probably off the line or removed by quarry operation. May well be extinct due to recent quarry operation, but was there in 1984.

**DOUGLAS COUNTY (2 Locations Required Field Survey. 1 with Minor Concern).**

#287 - Pool Sprite - Location was checked in June/2000. No plants were found; probably due to drought, but habitat is available. Minor concern. (Field Note #22/6 June 2000).

#819 - Yellow Lady Slippers - Field Survey and detail map indicated location was 1300 feet from the line. No Concern. (No Field Note).

**FAYETTE COUNTY (No Location Required Field Survey)**

#395 - Oval Pigtoe - Fayette-Coweta line, 1500 feet west of 115Kv OPC line.

#1132 - Southern Twayblade - ¾ mile east of 115Kv line.

#110 - Shiny-ray Pocketbook - Located on the Fayette-Coweta county line at 500Kv crossing.

**FULTON COUNTY (No Locations Required Field Survey)**

#986 - Bachman's sparrow - 1903 record from East Point.

#811 - Georgia Aster - A poor location: .8 miles Northwest of Atlanta, no collection date.

#360 - Highscale shiner - 1950 record from Roswell.

**GWINNETT COUNTY (2 Locations Have Been Field Surveyed. 2 Locations Require Field Survey. 2 Minor Concerns).**

**#728 – Pipewort - On 115/230Kv line. Small outcropping, no plants found; the outcropping is becoming trashed. Minor concern. (Field Note#99/23 August 2001).**

**#84 – Pipewort - On right-of-way. No plants found, the area on the ROW is grazed, healthy pools still occur there. Minor Concern. (Field Note #100/23 August 2001).**

**#1102 - Alexander Rock Aster - It seems to be on 115Kv line, close to quarry. CHECK.**

**#694 - Dwarf Granite Stonecrop - Same location as #1102. CHECK. (NUMBER 1102 & 694 REQUIRE FIELD SURVEYS)**

#828 - Blackspored Quillwort

#1053 – Pipewort - destroyed by subdivision development.

**HENRY COUNTY (1 Location Requires Field Survey)**

**#970 - Pink Lady's Slipper, underneath 115Kv line. Not sure if it is OPC or GPC line. At pumping station at Thurman and Stockbridge. (Check)**

**HEARD COUNTY (1 New Location Field Surveyed. Minor Concern.**

**New Record/Granite Outcrop - Under Tower #193, 115Kv line, no trash on outcropping, good pool area. Minor Concern. (Field #45/14 May 2001).**

**NEWTON COUNTY (2 Locations Required Field Surveys. No Maintenance Concerns.**

**#824 - Pool Sprite - Same location as #737. The 115Kv line has been relocated to accommodate Quarry operation. Location appears to have been quarried. No maintenance concern. (Field Note #93/23 August 2001).**

**#737 - Blackspored Quillwort, Same location as #824 above. No maintenance concern. (Field Note #94/23 August 2001).**

**ROCKDALE COUNTY (2 Locations Required Field Surveys. 1 with Minor Concern).**

**#187 - Dwarf Granite Stonecrop - Corley road, outcrop on Highway 20, 230Kv line. Small outcropping underneath the line near Tower #111, small but clean outcropping, plant location appears to be off the line, but habitat does exist on the line. Minor Concern. (Field Note # 95/23 August 2001).**

**#40 - Dwarf Granite Stonecrop - appears to be under a 230Kv line, area is disturbed by a sand quarry operation. No habitat available. No maintenance concern. (Field Note #96 /23 August 2001). Note/Error: This location appears as #39 on the data maps (Pickering Morning Glory)**

**#903 - Georgia Aster - 1 mile west of 230Kv line.**

**#177 - Flatrock Fimbry - 1948 record, 2 miles north of Conyers, probably well off line, did not show on map.**