

# RIGHTS OF WAY ENDANGERED SPECIES SURVEY FOR THE NORTHEAST REGION OF GEORGIA.

The Northeast Region of Georgia includes 24 counties: Banks, Barrows, Clarke, Dawson, Elbert, Fannin, Forsyth, Franklin, Greene, Habersham, Hart, Hall, Jackson, Lumpkin, Madison, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, Walton and White.

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

Georgia aster – *Aster georgianus*  
Dwarf stonecrop – *Sedum pusillum*  
Indian olive – *Nestronia umbellulua*  
Silky bindweed – *Calystegia catesbiana ssp. sericata*  
Smooth purple coneflower – *Echinacea laevigata* (Federal Endangered)  
Ginseng – *Panax quinquefolius*  
Pipewort – *Eriocaulon koemickianum*  
American Milkwort – *Pilularia Americana*  
Granite outcrop (shrub, bare rock, lichen) communities

**There are three maintenance concerns. Two are minor concerns in Walton county with granite outcrops communities. (See Walton county summary) and one in Stephens county with smooth purple coneflower (See Stephens county summary).**

**Discussion and recommendations:** A few of the Northeast Region counties are located in the mountains and foothill region of Georgia, but most are in the Piedmont. Much of the Georgia mountain region is owned and managed by the United States Forest Service. Georgia Power has large holdings in this area as well and has been involved with protected species (persistent trillium *Trillium persistens* and the green salamander *aneides aeneus*) on company lands at Tallulah Gorge, but these species locations are not close to Georgia Power rights of ways so there are no concerns for right of way maintenance.

The majority of locations in this region, are within the Piedmont province.

Due to a long history of early European use (and misuse) for settlement, agriculture and logging, the original Piedmont plant communities of Georgia have been altered drastically over the past 2 centuries. Little, if any, Piedmont woodlands still exist in a natural state. The Granite Outcrop Communities may be one of the few natural intact relicts left in the Piedmont region of Georgia. Granite Outcrops are of no use for

agriculture cropland and limited use for timber and pasture. However they are facing serious impacts from quarry operations for marble and construction materials. In addition, vandalism due to off road vehicles and trash dumping have a serious impact; particularly on outcrops that are located near public roads.

Since little vegetation over 6 feet tall occurs on granite outcrops, minimal vegetation removal would be required. Within these solid rock outcroppings are small, shallow depressions that form temporary or vernal pools during wet periods but dry up after only a few weeks of holding water. These pools may contain several unique species of plants, including some that are federally protected (mat-forming quillwort (*Isoetes tegetiformans*) and black spored quillwort (*Isoetes melanospora*) Endangered). Avoiding such pools with vehicles when possible and restricting herbicide use on granite outcrops is strongly recommended. Due to extreme drought conditions for the past 3 years, most of the vernal pools were dry during the survey visits. Outcrops with functional depressions and wet areas were assumed to provide habitat for vernal pool plants if free from vandalism and connected to a larger outcrop that extended off the right of way.

Recommendations are to curtail use of herbicide in the immediate vicinity of these specific outcrops and to keep on access roads during line maintenance. Detail maintenance recommendations are presented in the Granite Outcrop Management Recommendation document.

## **SURVEY SUMMARY FOR THE NORTHEAST REGION**

All the counties within the Northeast 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 right of way to field survey. Those appearing in regular print were either an animal species not considered by the survey or the location is too far from the line to be of concern, usually 500-700 feet.

### **BANKS COUNTY: (No Locations Required Field Survey)**

#301 – Ozark Bunch Flower – One mile west of 230/115Kv lines.

**CLARKE COUNTY (1 Location Required Field Survey. No Maintenance Concerns)**

**#1059 – Georgia Aster - Big Bend Farm along North Oconee River, old record. No plants were found in the survey. East Athens Substation may well be located on the site. No maintenance concerns. (Field Note #173/20 August 2002).**

#57 – Altamaha Shiner - Middle Oconee River, 3 miles west of Athens.

#29 – Error, Savannah Georgia Record ?

#1038 – Broadleaf Bunchflower - South of Athens.

#882 – Altamaha Shiner.

**DAWSON COUNTY: (No Locations Required Field Survey)**

#371 – Piedmont barrens Strawberry - near 115Kv OPC line.

#481 – Cherokee darter - near 115Kv line.

#912 – Etowah darter - near 115Kv line. OPC?

#738 – Etowah darter - near OPC 115Kv line.

**ELBERT COUNTY: (1 Location Required Field Survey. No Maintenance Concerns)**

**#475 – Dwarf Stonecrop - Cedar Creek Outcrop, 6.6 miles SSW of Elberton, .5 mile N of CORD 67. Location is 1300 Feet from line. There is an active quarry near the plant location. No outcrops appear on the ROW. No maintenance concern. (Field Sheet #172/21 August 2002)**

#445 – Oglethorpe Oak – CORD 31, .5 mile N. of CORD S2215, near Fortson Church. 800 feet from road.

#316 – Oglethorpe Oak – East of Highway 17 on CORD S2215/Bell. 1000 feet from road.

#644 – Oglethorpe Oak – CORD S2215, .6 mile W. of Cades Chapel. 500 feet from road.

#1065 – Oglethorpe Oak – CORD S2215, 1.5 mi. SE of Springfield Church. 1600 feet from road.

#802 – Oglethorpe Oak – CORD S2215 at CORD 34 . In a state park. 1000 feet from line.

#1094 – Oglethorpe Oak – CORD S2215 along Bertram Creek, East of Fortson. 900 feet from line.

#880 – Dwarf Stonecrop – 1 mile from 46Kv line.

#781 – Savannah Pebble Snail – Near 115Kv line at Anthony Shoals on the Broad River WMA.

**FANNIN COUNTY: (TVA/ No Locations Required Field Survey)**

**FORSYTH COUNTY (1 Location Required Field Survey. No Maintenance Concern)**

#124 – Georgia Aster – Near west side Lake Lanier Dam, near lake, in maintained park area, 500 feet from line. No maintenance concern. (Unnumbered Field Note/17 August 1999)

**FRANKLIN COUNTY (No Locations to Field Survey)**

#820 – Whitefin Shiner – 2 records near Carnesville, Middle Fork of the Broad River.

#635 – Sandbar Shiner – Same location as # 820.

**HABERSHAM COUNTY/ INCLUDES TALLULAH GORGE AREA (No Locations Required Field Survey)**

#415 – Persistent Trillium – Moody Branch near GPC village. 380 feet from line.

#997 – Persistent Trillium – Black Branch near GPC village. 1700 feet from line

#827 – Persistent Trillium – Lower Tallulah Gorge. 1700 feet from line.

#541 – Blue Ridge White Pine Forest – 1.3 mile NW of Tugaloo Dam. 1300 feet from line.

#891 – Persistent Trillium – Wallenda Walk area on Tallulah Gorge.

#12 – Persistent Trillium – Moccasin Creek – Below Tugaloo Dam. 1000 feet from line.

#1141 – Small Whorled Pagonia – Near OPC 115Kv line. 1300 feet from line.

#494 – Naked Fruit Rush – ½ mile South of OPC 115Kv line. 1500 feet from line.

#635 – Greater Jumprock – ¾ mile NE of OPC 115Kv line on the Habersham-Hall County line.

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

#10 - Trillium discolor – In L. Hartwell, 1938 record. Covered by Lake (?).

#1038 – Sandbar Shiner – Savannah river below Hartwell Lake.

**HALL COUNTY (1 Location Required Field Survey. No Maintenance Concern).**

**#1160 – Indian Olive – Near Riverside Academy, close/on 115Kv line. 600 feet from line. The plant location is probably covered by fill material for an athletic field. No maintenance concern. (Field Note #167/20 August 2002)**

**#62 – Goldenseal – On Elachee Nature Center land, #61 printout on map is an error – 840 feet from line.**

**#109 – Ozark Bunchflower – 3 miles North of Flower Branch, about ¾ mile for OPC 115/46Kv line.**

**LUMPKIN COUNTY (1 Location Required Field Survey. No Maintenance Concern).**

**#1155 – Silky Bindweed - .8 mile SE of Dahlonge on roadside, near 115Kv line. 207 feet from ROW. No plants or habitat on ROW. Chestatee Hospital is likely located on the plant's location. No maintenance concern. (Field Note #168/20 August 2002).**

**#1077 – Highscale Shiner – ¼ mile N of 115Kv OPC line.**

**#634 – Blue-stripe Shiner – ¼ mile South of 46/115Kv line.**

**MADISON COUNTY (No Location Require Field Survey)**

**#718 – Sandbar Shiner – One mile SE of 115Kv line.**

**#567 – Rosy Spiderwort – 1927 record, 7 miles South of Royston, about 1 mile North of 230Kv OPC line.**

**#722 – Ground Juniper – Near OPC 230Kv line.**

**OCONEE COUNTY (No Location Require Field Survey)**

**#763 – Ocmulgee shiner, 1 mile from 115Kv line.**

**#769 – Mexican plum, same location as #763.**

**OGLETHORPE COUNTY (No Location Require Field Survey)**

**#752 – Oglethorpe Oak - 230Kv line near northeast county boundary. Not near any road. Location is 1400 feet from line.**

**#776 – Pale Yellow Trillium – Not close to any line, about 3 miles South of 115Kv line.**

**RABUN COUNTY (No Location Require Field Survey)**

- #818 – Non-calcareous Outcrop – In the Gorge under a 115Kv line.
- #889 – Non-calcareous Outcrop - .3 mile NE of substation at Tallulah Lodge. Location is 600 feet from line.
- #419 – Non-calcareous Outcrop – Location is .7 mile SE of East end of Tallulah Falls dam, 1600 feet from structure.
- #181 – Green Salamander – In Tallulah Gorge. 1200 feet from closest structure.
- #689 – Fat lips minnow – not on map, Betty Creek.
- #516 – Pale Corydalis – 1926 record from Mountain City, Did not show up on the Detail map.
- #571 – Broadleaf Bunch Flower – ½ mile West of 115Kv line.
- #760 – White-tail Shiner – Lake Burton.
- #967 – Brassy Jumprock – Lake Burton.
- #200 – Carolina Sheep-Laurel – Tom’s Swamp, Bad Creek drainage, does not show up on the detail map.
- #770 – Rock-False Pimpernel – Tallulah Gorge, but not close to a line.
- #1021 – Tennessee Shiner – One mile North of 115Kv line.
- #946 – Hellbender – (DNC)
- #654 – Red Squirrel – One mile East of 115Kv line.

**STEPHENS COUNTY (3 Locations Required Field Surveys. 1 Major maintenance Concern and 1 Undetermined)**

- #49 – Smooth Purple Coneflower – On 115Kv line. No Plants found although habitat is available on the right of way. Federal endangered. Major maintenance concerns because of Federal Protected status. (Field Note #169/20 August 2002).**
- #48 – Smooth Purple Coneflower (called Velvet Sedge which is a South Georgia species) on text pages—error. Behind substation. Plants not found on ROW. Federal endangered, but location needs to be clarified. (Field Note #170/21 August 2002)**
- #538 – Ginseng – Under 115Kv line. 600 feet from line, check for habitat. No Ginseng habitat under ROW. No maintenance concern. (Field Note #171/21 August 2002).**
- #615 – Persistent Trillium – 1100 feet from line.
- #834 – Smooth Purple Coneflower – Near #49. 966 feet from line.
- #201 – Fraser Loosestrife – Not close to any line, 1 mile east of 500Kv near Hartwell Lake.
- #1162 – Fraser Loosestrife – ¼ mile West of 115Kv line.
- #771 – Dwarf Filmy Fern – ½ mile East of 115Kv line.
- #873 – Dwarf Filmy Fern – 1 mile East of 115Kv line.

#463 – Whitefin Shiner – ¾ mile from 115Kv line.

#367 – Dwarf Filmy Fern – Panther Creek, Does not show up on Detail Map.

**UNION COUNTY – (TVA. No Locations Required Field Survey)**

**WALTON COUNTY (10 locations Required Field Survey. Some Minor Maintenance Concerns)**

**#806 – Granite Outcrop Community, Rabbit farm road. No granite outcrops on ROW. No maintenance concern. (Field Note #175/21 August 2002).**

**#474 – Bare rock/lichens/Granite Outcrop - Rabbit farm road (same location as #806). No maintenance concern. (Field Note #175 applies/21 August 2002).**

**#1051 – Granite Outcrop Community - Rabbit farm road. No maintenance concern. (Field Note #175 applies/21 August 2002).**

**#711 – Granite Outcrop Community - on powerline corridor. Minor concern. (Field Note #102 applies/19 March 2002).**

**#980 – Shrub/Granite Outcrop - Northeast of Walnut Grove. Minor concern. (Field Note #102/19 March 2002).**

**#955 – Bare Rock/lichens/Granite Outcrop, Highway 138 northeast of Walnut grove. Minor concern. (Field Note #102/19 March 2002)**

**#620 – Dwarf Stonecrop - Walnut Grove east, outcrop. Minor concern. (Field Note #102/19 March 2002)**

**#711, #980, #955 and #620 are part of the same outcrop community. Field Note 102 applies to all 4 locations. There is some minor concern as the right of way crosses an outcrop. Limited herbicide use and keeping vehicle traffic on existing maintenance road is advised/recommended. (Minor Maintenance Concerns)**

**#1033 – Pipewort - Northwest of Walnut Grove on ROW corridor. Minor maintenance concern. (Field Note #103/19 March 2002)**

**#969 – Dwarf Stonecrop - near gum creek and Atha Circle. Minor maintenance concern. (Field Note 103/19 March 2002)**

**#228 – Dwarf Stonecrop - Atha circle west, outcrop is 1000 feet from line. Minor maintenance concern. (Field Note #103/19 March 2002).**

**Field Note #103 applies to #228, 969 and 1033. All 3 locations are associated with the outcrop that the line crosses. There is some minor maintenance concern for the general area. Recommend limited use of herbicide and vehicles stay on existing access roads.**

**#488 – Pool Sprite - North of Walnut Grove, 2400 feet from line.**

**#1082 – Granite Herb Community - Hope Church Road and Lee Peters Road, 1100 feet from line.**

**#208 – Shrub-Granite Outcrop - same location as #1082.**

**BARROWS COUNTY (1 Location Required Field Survey. No Maintenance Concern**

**#380 – American Milkwort - Winder, Outcropping on Highway 81, .4 miles south of Highway 29, across from Flat Rock Road (Lily Drive). Outcrop is located across road from line. No outcrop under line. No maintenance concern. (Field Note # 175/21 August 2002).**

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

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

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

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

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