



The Southern Appalachian Ecosystem

The Southern Appalachian mountains are among the oldest in the world. These once-towering peaks created a great mountain mass that was never covered by marine waters or glacial ice. This has created an ideal environment for a rich diversity of trees, shrubs and wildflowers.

A number of other factors also contribute to the area's biodiversity, including variation in elevation, nature and slope of rocks, and a generally mild climate with plentiful rain.

These unique mountains have provided riches for the survival of a great variety of plant species, many of which have medicinal, craft, or culinary uses. This wealth of plants, and their use by inhabitants throughout the centuries, is a key aspect of the area's unique cultural heritage.

*While guided tours of the gardens are conducted Mondays, 9-1, May through September, you are welcome to visit the gardens and enjoy a self-guided tour any week day except federal holidays or days special educational activities are scheduled at the Center. **Please** call ahead (706-745-2655) and then check in at the Administration Building (brick building at the top of the hill) when you arrive. And **PLEASE**, no pets permitted on Center grounds. Enjoy!*

GEORGIA MOUNTAIN RESEARCH & EDUCATION CENTER

The Community Council

The Community Council was founded in 2003 to complement the work of the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center (GMREC) in service to the region. The Council is structured into three program committees: Education, Outreach and Preservation. Through these committees, the Council provides educational experiences for students; seminars and workshops for adults; and preservation projects important to our beautiful mountain region.

The Preservation Committee

The primary goal of the Preservation Committee is to educate the public on the importance of preserving the incredible diversity of native plant species living in the Southern Appalachian Mountain Region. In addition to the development of the Ethnobotanic sanctuaries at the GMREC, the Preservation Committee provides public education and outreach, and plant rescue support. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Clare Johnston at 706-745-2655.



Located 3 miles south of Blairsville on the east side of US Highway 19/129 south

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The University of Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center offers assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. An equal opportunity/affirmative action organization committed to a diverse work force.



Georgia Mountain Ethnobotanic Gardens and Woodland Medicine Trail



Preservation Committee

Community Council

Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center

Guided tours Mondays, 9-1, May - September except federal holidays

Further tour information inside

For group tours contact Clare Johnston, 706-745-2655



The Georgia Mountain Ethnobotanic Gardens and Woodland Medicine Trail



WELCOME !

to the Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center's Appalachian Native Botanical Sanctuary.

Initially developed in 2004 by the Community Council's Preservation Committee, and generously supported by volunteers and sponsors in the region, the gardens are intended to educate the public about the many uses of our native plants, and to encourage preservation, cultivation and use of these unique resources.

Botanic and historic interpretive signs with descriptive brochures are located throughout the area, making a self-guided tour of the gardens an enriching experience.

The stone building that is now the interpretive center was built during the Depression in 1935 by the CCC with funding made available through the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA).



The building served for many years as a community cannery, educating and providing safe preservation of meats, fruits and vegetables for the public. It was renovated in 2009 and now serves as a visitors' center and classroom.

The Jarrett House was built in 1892. From 1929 to 1949 it was the home of the family of Walter Brim Jarrett, manager of the private farm that later became the Georgia Mountain Research & Education Center.



An herb garden in front of the house features sage, lavender, thyme and other culinary, tea, and medicinal herbs.



— Woodland Medicine Trail
— Ethnobotanic Gardens

Trailhead
Interpretive sign
Restrooms

The Woodland Medicine Trail is a .25 mile loop through a typical lower elevation Appalachian forest. Along the way you will find numerous woodland wildflowers, herbs, ferns and shrubs that were used extensively by Native Americans and early settlers

The head of the medicine trail was the site of an old spring house that once provided water to the Jarrett House and the cannery. The area, planted with shade-loving woodland natives, is now a quiet resting place.



Old spring house site

The Georgia Mountain Ethnobotanic Gardens contain plants that were harvested and often cultivated by early habitants of the region for a variety of medicinal, food, and craft uses.



Hillside in bloom

The hillside beds feature sun-loving plants, while those needing moisture thrive along the creek and in the bog garden.



Forage Garden

Other specialty gardens include a forage garden of plants gathered primarily for food; a fern garden; and a native groundcover garden, all located next to the cannery.



Fern Garden