

<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i> var. <i>yuccifolium</i>	Rattlesnake Master	Apiaceae	Carrot Family
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Blazing Star	Asteraceae	Sunflower Family
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Foxglove Family	Plantaginaceae	
<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	American Wintergreen Family	Ericaceae	
<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>	Skunk Cabbage Family	Araceae	
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	American Witch-Hazel Family	Hamamelidaceae	

<i>Monarda didyma</i>	Crimson Bee Balm	Lamiaceae	Mint Family
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp Milkweed	Apocynaceae	Dogbane Family
<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>	Green and Gold	Asteraceae	Sunflower Family

<i>Erigeron puchellus</i> var. <i>puchellus</i>	Dwarf Crested Iris	Iridaceae	Iris Family
<i>Iris cristata</i>	Golden Ragwort	Asteraceae	Sunflower Family
<i>Packera aurea</i>	Appalachian Turtlehead	Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family
<i>Chelone lyonii</i>	Cutleaf Coneflower	Asteraceae	Sunflower Family
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Spotted Joe-Pye-Weed	Asteraceae	Sunflower Family
<i>Eutrochium maculatum</i> var. <i>maculatum</i>			

## Native Plants in the Botanical Gardens

### Mission & Purpose

The mission of the Highlands Biological Station is to foster research, education, and conservation focused on the rich natural heritage of the southern Blue Ridge, a global biodiversity hotspot.

### Local Environment

Perched on the edge of the Blue Ridge Escarpment where we receive an average of 90"-100" of rainfall annually, the 2nd-wettest region of North America after the Pacific Northwest, Highlands is located within a temperate rainforest. The HBS Botanical Gardens present a rich sampling of the renowned botanical diversity of this temperate-zone biodiversity hotspot.

### Nature Center Hours

Summer hours: Monday - Saturday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Spring & fall hours: vary - check website for details

The Highlands Nature Center is closed during the winter season.

### Discover

Tours: During the summer months, learn about the gardens with themed tours

Classes: Explore our offerings for children, students, and adult learners.

Collections: Our Herbarium and Living Collections offer insight into the diversity of the Highlands region.

Home Gardening: Looking to add native plants to your home landscape? Explore our growing database of plant lists for ideas to implement in your own landscape

highlandsbiological.org

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<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>	Skunk Cabbage Family	Araceae
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	American Witch-Hazel Family	Hamamelidaceae

<i>Pontederia cordata</i>	Pickereeweed	Pontederiaceae
<i>Parnassia asarifolia</i>	Grass-of-Parnassus	Celastraceae
<i>Solidago</i>	Goldenrod	Asteraceae

<i>Chelone lyonii</i>	Appalachian Turtlehead	Plantaginaceae
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Cutleaf Coneflower	Asteraceae
<i>Eutrochium maculatum</i> var. <i>maculatum</i>	Spotted Joe-Pye-Weed	Asteraceae

<i>Chelone lyonii</i>	Appalachian Turtlehead	Plantaginaceae
<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Cutleaf Coneflower	Asteraceae
<i>Eutrochium maculatum</i> var. <i>maculatum</i>	Spotted Joe-Pye-Weed	Asteraceae

## Fall

The Highlands Botanical Gardens of the Highlands Biological Station is both a refuge and a showcase for a wide array of the rich botanical diversity of the Blue Ridge Escarpment and environs. The historic Highlands Botanical Gardens sits at 3,800', making it the highest public native plant botanical garden in the Eastern US.

Established in 1962 by Ralph M. Sargent, Henry Wright, Henry R. Totten and others, this research, conservation, and teaching garden has since grown to over a dozen acres with hundreds of labeled vascular and non-vascular plants and lichens in natural woodland, riparian, and wetland habitats. A number of satellite demonstration gardens are also found throughout the campus, including the Appalachian Ethnobotanical Garden, Moss Garden, Homeowner's Demonstration Garden, and Rock Outcrop Garden.



The Oconee Bell, a rare flower native to the southern Appalachians, is limited to a handful of spots in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. It thrives in damp, wooded areas near streams.

Blooms in March

Oconee Bell  
Diapensiaceae  
Diapensia Family

*Shortia galacifolia*



<i>Helonias bullata</i>	Swamp Pink	Liliaceae	Blooms in April
<i>Sarracenia purpurea</i> var. <i>montana</i>	Pitcher Plant	Sarraceniaceae	Blooms in June - July

## Featured Plants



# HBS BOTANICAL GARDENS TRAIL GUIDE



The W. C. Coker Old Growth Forest spans approximately 3.7 acres and is characterized by its ancient Eastern Hemlock trees, some of which are among the largest remaining in the Eastern United States.

Several trees in this forest exceed 3.3 feet (100 cm) in diameter, with the largest measuring 4.2 feet (131 cm) in diameter as of February 2021. While the age of the oldest trees has been reliably dated to 1761, the exact age of the largest trees is difficult to determine due to hollow trunks or degraded heartwood; however, it is estimated that these trees exceed 350 years old.

This forest is a remnant of the "primeval forest" that once covered the Highlands Plateau before extensive logging in the 1930s and 40s. In addition to the Eastern Hemlocks, the forest boasts impressive specimens of Northern Red Oak, Tulip Poplar, Yellow Birch, and Mountain Laurel. The forest floor is dominated by Rosebay Rhododendron.

Coker Old Growth Forest is a member of the Old Growth Forest Network which strives to sustain forests where "people of all generations can experience biodiversity and the beauty of nature." - oldgrowthforest.net

## Coker Old Growth Forest



Part of the Highlands Plateau Greenway & North Carolina Birding Trail

Financial support for the HBS Botanical Gardens comes from Western Carolina University, the Highlands Biological Foundation, Inc., grants, donations, and proceeds from annual events.

For interactive trail map:

highlandsbiological.org





## Highlands Biological Station

- 1 Nature Center
- 4 Howell, Wright & Deacon Cottages
- 6 “Sto” Teaching Pavilion
- 7 Maintenance Shop & Aquatics Lab
- 8 Samuel T. Weyman Building
- 9 William Chambers Coker Laboratory
- 10 Thelma Howell Administration Building
- 13 Foreman Trail
- 14 Illges Overlook Trail
- 15 Valentine House
- 16 Duplex
- 17 Amphitheater
- 18 Cook Pavilion
- 19 Meadow
- 20 Illges Overlook
- 21 Bruce Biodiversity Building
- 22 Creekside Connector Trail

## Trails



### Coker Old Growth Trail

Experience walking among some of the oldest trees on campus. This is a moderate, 0.3-mile linear trail that meanders through majestic mature Eastern Hemlock Forest. *The trail has a natural surface with exposed roots, stairs, and moderate climbs.*



### Creekside Trail

A 0.2-mile linear trail that follows along Station Creek. The trail ends in a tranquil glen with water cascading over exposed rocks. *This is an easily walkable natural trail surface with occasional exposed roots and some stairs.*



### Woodland Loop

A 0.2-mile figure-eight loop trail through mixed hardwood and Eastern Hemlock Forest. Along the trail grow many native perennials, shrubs, and trees to observe. *This is an easy natural trail surface that does have some exposed roots and some short, moderate climbs.*



### Lindenwood Lake Loop

A 0.6-mile loop that meanders through a pollinator garden, rich woodlands, and wetlands as it circles the lake. As it passes through the bog, look for a distinctive collection of rare plants. *This trail includes sections of level gravel surface, boardwalk, asphalt road, and one set of stairs.*



### Woodland Way

A 0.1-mile linear trail linking the Nature Center to the Lindenwood Lake Loop. Along the route there are six gardens showcasing native plants. *This trail includes sections of gravel and natural surface, and two sets of stairs. This trail has a consistent, moderate slope.*

## Highlands Botanical Gardens

**A**

### Appalachian Ethnobotanical Garden

This garden honors the traditional uses of native and introduced plants.

**B**

### Creekside Glade

A small garden located off the Creekside Trail, this is a great spot to pause for a few minutes and listen to the nearby creek and admire some of the native flowers and trees.

**C**

### Homeowner’s Demonstration Garden

The Homeowner’s Demonstration Garden showcases a variety of landscaping projects and native plants that one could implement in their own landscape, including a rain garden and stacked stone raised beds.

**D**

### Lakeside Bog

The Lakeside Bog is a jewel of biological diversity. This bog showcases a variety of carnivorous plants, like pitcher plants. The bog also features grasses and other unique offerings like “Appalachian Grass-of-Parnassus”.

**E**

### Moss Garden

This garden showcases some of the native mosses and other bryophytes that are often overlooked.

**F**

### Pollinator Garden

The Pollinator Garden is situated at the North Campus Entrance to HBS on Lower Lake Rd.. This garden features numerous native flowering plants that bloom early spring - fall and attract all sorts of pollinators. There are portions of this garden that are ADA accessible.

**G**

### Rain Demonstration Garden

A small example of how to design a rain garden, along with information about the importance of rain gardens.

**H**

### Rock Outcrop Garden

This garden is designed to bring the unique plant communities of granite dome peaks to you with plants that are capable of withstanding the extremes of temperatures and moisture experienced by rock outcrops in our area.

**I**

### Woodland Garden

Located behind the Cottages Complex, this garden showcases many native hardwood trees, shrubs, and spring ephemeral wildflowers.

