

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

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

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

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

**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



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

Blooms in March

Diapensia Family Diapensiaceae Oconee Bell Shortia galacifolia



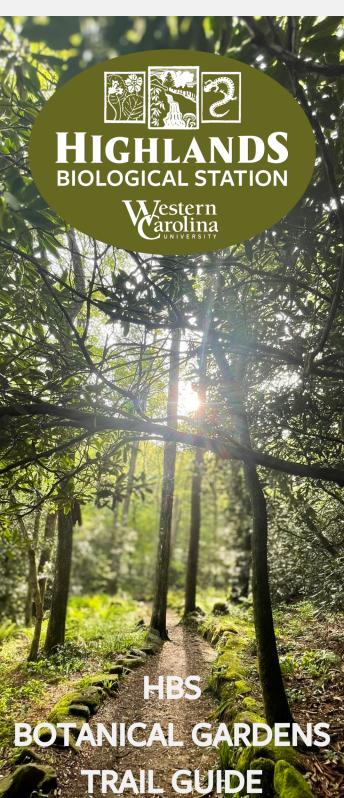
Blooms in June - July

Pitcher plant Family Sarraceniaceae Pitcher Plant топтапа Sarracenia purpurea var. linqA ni smool8

Sunflower Family Lily Family ГіІіасеае Swamp Pink Helonias bullata



**Featured Plants** 



нататендаседе Hazel Family -Anerican Witchvirginiana Hamamelis

Sunflower Family

Аѕтегасеае Goldenrod

Granite Dome

รนทุเทนเร

Solidago

Asteraceae

bəəW

Spotted Joe-Pye-

maculatum

maculatum var.

mninooniu

Агасеае Family Skunk Cabbage snpitaof sndupoogduns



Winter

Celastraceae

Grass-of-Parnassus

asaraifolia

Parnassia

Sunflower Family

Asteraceae

Coneflower

Cutleaf

laciniata

Видрескій

Fall

Highlands Biological Station is both a refuge

and a showcase for a wide array of the rich

Highlands Botanical Gardens sits at 3,800', making it the highest public native plant

The Highlands Botanical Gardens of the

botanical diversity of the Blue Ridge

botanical garden in the Eastern US.

Escarpment and environs. The historic

Established in 1962 by Ralph M. Sargent,

Henry Wright, Henry R. Totten and others,

acres with hundreds of labeled vascular and

this research, conservation, and teaching

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

Demonstration Garden, and Rock Outcrop

Garden, Moss Garden, Homeowner's

garden has since grown to over a dozen





Pontederiaceae

Pickerelweed

cordata

Pontederia

Plantain Family

Plantaginaceae

Turtlehead

Appalachian

Chelone lyonii

Ericaceae

Family

Wintergreen

American

suəqшnəoлd

Gaultheria

Sunflower Family Asteraceae Green and Gold นทนทุเนเดิมเก Chrysogonum

Plantaginaceae

Foxglove Family

silatigib

nomsisnsq

Dogbane Family Аросупасеае Swamp Milkweed incarnata Asclepias

Mint Family Гатіасеае Crimson Bee Balm Μοπανάα didyma

Carrot Family

Аріасеае

 $unilolissun \chi$ 

λпссіlolium **var.** mnigilum Eryngium

Rattlesnake Master Sunflower Family

Asteraceae

Blazing Star

Liatris spicata









**Summer** 

Sunflower Family Asteraceae Golden Ragwort Ρας κενα αυνεα

Iris Family Iridaceae Dwarf Crested Iris Iris cristata

Sunflower Family Asteraceae Robin's Plantain sทุๅอนุวทd bnjcyejjna nak польвіля





Spring

#### 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

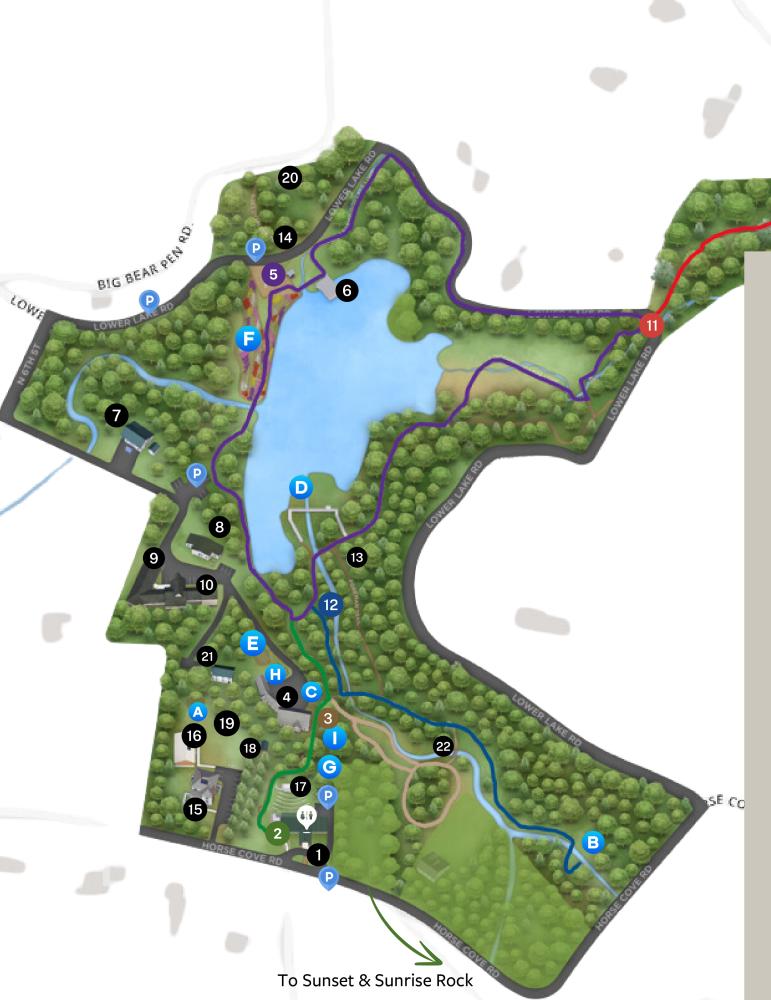


The HBS Botanical Gardens are free and open to the public year-round from sunrise to sunset.

The Botanical Gardens are a living museum of labeled plant specimens; please stay on the marked trails and do not pick or remove any plant material.







# **Highlands Biological Station**

- 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
- 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

# **Highlands Botanical Gardens**

- **Appalachian Ethnobotanical Garden** This garden honors the traditional uses of native and introduced plants.
- **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.

**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.

### **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".

### Moss Garden

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

#### **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.

#### C Rain Demonstration Garden

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

#### **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.

#### **Woodland Garden**

garden showcases many native hardwood trees, shrubs, and spring ephemeral wildflowers.

## **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 o.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 o.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,



#### **Woodland Way**

and one set of stairs.

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.





Located behind the Cottages Complex, this