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Schuffert's Strides

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Cane Creek Canyon Nature Preserve, Northwest Alabama

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Follow along with Robert Schuffert on his recent photographic expeditions

Cane Creek Falls

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Cane Creek Canyon Nature Preserve

Large boulders worn by years of water erosion create channels and cascades.

Located just ten miles southwest of Tuscumbia, Alabama, Cane Creek Canyon Nature Preserve encompasses approximately 413 acres of natural landscapes, bluffs, creeks and waterfalls in Colbert County. Named after the abundant cane that grows near the creek banks, this privately owned property was just recently converted to a nature preserve. Over the years, the owner has made many trail, road and sign improvements and opened the land to the public for exploration and enjoyment. The owner has even developed a primitive campground near Cane Creek and 11 miles of hiking trails.

Although the water levels were low due to the lack of rainfall recently, our four mile round-trip hike still provided a great experience and a few good photographs. Cane Creek Falls is only 1/4 mile from the parking area, and relatively easy to reach; just a small hill that must be traversed. Good trails with stone steps lead the hiker rather easily to the pool below the falls. Two additional waterfalls are located on another portion of the preserve, but dodging rain clouds left us no time to reach them. Many wildflowers and several rare and endangered flower species bloom here during Spring, however, the late freeze this year terminated most of them. Mountain laurel, azalea, yellow lady's slipper, yellow-fringed orchid, the trout lily and the French's shooting star are seen blooming here from March to July.

Among the area's highlights are a small pond, rock shelters, a boulder garden, a flower garden, the blue hole, a bluff overlook, the primitive campground and picnic area, and several waterfalls and cascades along Cane Creek and its tributaries. The creek bed below Cane Creek Falls is especially beautiful with multitudes of small moss-covered stones and trees lining the banks. I intend to return here when the water levels are a little higher to capture images of this special area.

Small cascades like this one are found all along Cane Creek.

Many areas in this preserve are protected archeological sites; digging or removing plants or artifacts is not permitted under state law.

If this preserve is a place you would like to visit, it is best to contact the landowner prior to departing to ensure it will be open. Contact:

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This dwarf crested iris is one of many flower species growing throughout the preserve.

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