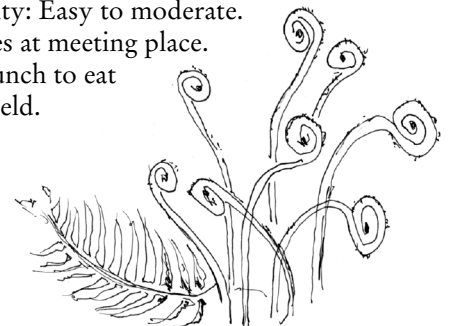


2011 TNPS Field Trip Schedule

Field trips are designed to promote informed interest in Tennessee's native plants. They are led by persons familiar with native plants of the area and are open to nonmembers as well as members. We encourage our more experienced members to share their knowledge with those who are new to the group. Since conservation is a primary objective of our society, plant collecting is not allowed. The physical nature of the trip is described to the extent known at publication time. Attendees are responsible for judging whether the trip is suitable for their particular abilities. All participants will be asked to sign a liability waiver as a condition of attending. Trips are rarely cancelled, but sometimes changes are unavoidable. Contact the trip leader a day or two before attending to get an updated status and to let them know who is coming. Keep the schedule and attend as many trips as you can. Check the website (www.tnps.org) for updates to this schedule.

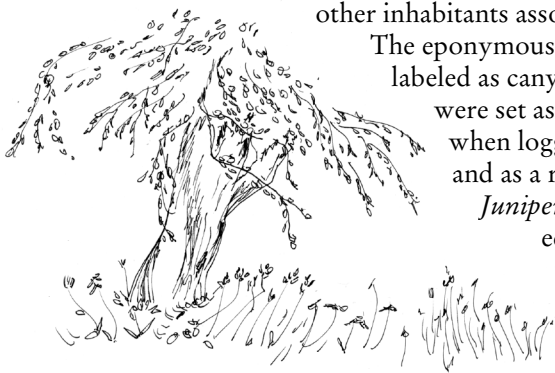
Time, place, and leader	Description	Directions
<p>March 5, 2011 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time The Blue Chair, Sewanee, TN Dr. Paul Davison Contact Todd Crabtree 615-532-1378 or todd.crabtree@tn.gov</p>	<p>Micro-Safari 2011 Once again we will slow down and investigate some of the small things that normally escape our notice. Tiny plants and animals go unnoticed despite the fact that their vast numbers can only be estimated. We miss seeing them only because we don't look close enough. Bring a hand lens so you don't miss a single moss or mite. Last year, hikers who were passing by just couldn't resist taking a peak into the microscope. Whipscorpions, liverworts and water bears! Oh, my!</p>	<p>From I-24 take exit 134 at Monteagle. Turn left on 41A toward Sewanee. After about four miles, pass through the Sewanee gates. After another mile, turn right onto University Ave. at the flashing yellow light. The Blue Chair is on the left. Easy walking. Facilities at meeting place. Bring lunch and water.</p>
<p>March 26, 2011 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time Graham Methodist Church, Savannah. John Ross Contact Dennis Horn 931-461-0262 (home), 931-434-4454 (cell), horndd@lighttube.net</p>	<p>Ross Forests Nature Preserve, Hardin County This trip provides a wonderful opportunity to see rich ravines loaded with early spring wildflowers. Expect to see Virginia bluebells, the rare beaked trout lily, twisted trillium, serviceberry, harbinger of spring, Jacob's ladder, southern stone seed (<i>Lithospermum tuberosum</i>), and possibly goldenseal and dwarf larkspur. In addition there are waterfalls, geologic formations, and interesting fossils. The nearby 1820s James Graham house built by an ancestor of leader John Ross is on the National Register of Historic Places. Come join us to learn about this unique area of the Western Highland Rim.</p>	<p>Coming from the east on US Hwy 64, about 2 miles east of Savannah TN, turn south on TN Hwy 226, go south 5 miles to TN Hwy 69, turn left on Hwy 69, go about 0.2 mile to Graham Methodist Church parking lot on the left. Coming from the west on US Hwy 64, in downtown Savannah bear right onto Hwy 69, go south about five miles to the junction of Hwy 226, continue south on Hwy 69 about 0.2 mile to the church parking lot. Walking: One to two miles easy to moderate. Small market with restrooms and snacks nearby at junction of Hwys 226 and 69. Bring lunch and water for the trail.</p>
<p>April 9, 2011 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time Meet at McDonald's on north side of Covington. Contact Bart Jones 901-726-6891 (home), 901-485-2745 (cell), bjones7777@hotmail.com, or Chris Bridges cbridges@tnc.org</p>	<p>Millstone Mountain, Tipton County Millstone Mountain is a geological anomaly surrounded by the Mississippi River floodplain. Formed of accreted loess, large rock outcrops appear similar to concrete and dot the sides of the mountain. At 400 ft. in elevation, it is over 100 ft. higher than the surrounding plain. The northern face is home to spring wildflowers more typical of Middle Tennessee. The 160-acre tract was purchased in 2001 by the Nature Conservancy to protect the rare geologic formations and plant communities.</p>	<p>From the east, take I-40 to exit 56 (TN 76). Turn right and go to US 70/79 as you enter Brownsville. Turn left and follow US 70/79 until it intersects with TN 54. Turn left and go to Covington. Turn right onto US 51 and go through Covington. McDonald's is on the left at the northern edge of town. Difficulty: Easy to moderate. Facilities at meeting place. Bring lunch to eat in the field.</p>

Tennessee Natural Areas Week, which will include an array of hiking opportunities, is schedule for April 10-16. The lineup of hikes may be found at the website of the Department of Environment and Conservation.



2011 TNPS Field Trip Schedule

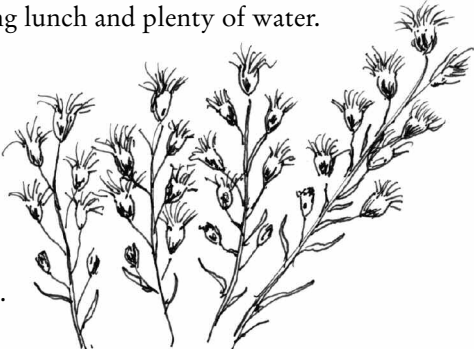
Time, place, and leader	Description	Directions
<p>April 16, 2011 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time Meeting Place: Alabama Trailhead for Walls of Jericho. Todd Crabtree 615 532-1378, todd.crabtree@tn.gov.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Walls of Jericho</p> <p>A combination field trip for Tennessee Natural Areas, TNPS, and the Association of Southeastern Biologists annual meeting. The geological features here are very dramatic but the variety and rarity of the plant life can be just as engaging. Spring ephemeral wildflowers are abundant along Turkey Creek and Mill Creek. In the dry calcareous forest above the creeks are rare plants that are found only in this corner of Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. We will see <i>Viburnum bracteatum</i> and other inhabitants associated with limestone outcrops. The eponymous walls are more appropriately labeled as canyons. These limestone canyons were set aside as special protected areas when logging operations were active here and as a result old, possibly ancient, <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> trees survive at the edges. We will plan to have lunch between the impressive walls of Turkey Creek canyon.</p>	<p>☞ From Huntsville, Ala., go North on Highway 72. Take a left on Highway 79 to the Skyline/Hyttop community. The Walls of Jericho tract is just north of Hyttop; Highway 79 goes through the tract. The Alabama trailhead is on Highway 79 about 9.1 miles North of the Highway 146 intersection.</p> <p>☞ From Nashville, Tenn., take I-24 east toward Chattanooga. Take Exit 127 on Highway 64 and turn toward Winchester. Stay on Highway 64 for about 15 miles and turn south on Highway 16. Just after crossing into Alabama, look on the right for a gravel parking area with a yellow gate and an information kiosk. Park there at the trailhead.</p> <p>Coordinates: 34.976714, -86.080982 Walking: Six to seven miles round trip, 900 ft elevation change, strenuous, slick rocks. No facilities. Bring lunch and plenty of water.</p>
<p>May 7, 2011 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Eastern Meet at Shoney's in Caryville. Larry Pounds 865-705-8516 (cell) 865-816-3576 (home) PoundsL471@aol.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">May Cumberland Trail Inventory</p> <p>We continue to survey new sections of the Cumberland Trail in the Smoky Junction area. This trip will take us along the New River and Lick Creek through an area that should be abundant with spring wildflowers. We will add the new plants we find to our previous list and provide an updated list to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation after the September trip. We will survey another nearby section of the trail on Sept. 24 to catch the later flowering plants.</p>	<p>From I-75 north of Knoxville take the Caryville Exit 134 to TN63/US25W, turn left across the interstate. Go 0.3 mile to Main Street and see Shoney's on the left. We will caravan from here to Smoky Junction.</p> <p>Walking: Moderate with some steep stretches, three to four miles round trip. Facilities at meeting place. Bring lunch and water. Also bring note pad and pencil.</p>
<p>May 14, 2011 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time Meet at McDonald's in Sparta. Contact Bart Jones 901-726-6891 (home) 901-485-2745 (cell) bjones7777@hotmail.com or Rita Venable 615-516-3602</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness White County</p> <p>We will team up with the Middle Tennessee and Tennessee Valley Chapters of the North American Butterfly Association to search for Baltimore Checkerspots. Hopefully, we will find a few of these black, orange, and white beauties as they will just be at the beginning of their flight period. BFCW is home to one of the state's largest colonies of this rare and local butterfly. After lunch, we will explore the woodland trails for late spring wildflowers. As per NABA field trip etiquette, no netting or collecting is allowed.</p>	<p>Take I-40 to exit 288. Go south on TN 111/US 70S and proceed to Sparta. McDonald's is on the right just before you get to the intersection of TN 111/US 70S and US 70/TN 26.</p> <p>Easy to moderate hike. Facilities at meeting place. Bring lunch to eat in the field.</p>



The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction. — RACHEL CARSON

Time, place, and leader	Description	Directions
<p>June 11-12, 2011 (Sat. and Sun.)</p> <p>Event 1: Benton Falls Hike, June 11 (Sat) 10 A.M. Eastern Meeting Place: Fee payment parking area for Chilhowee Campground. There is a \$3 parking fee if you are not camping. This includes access to the beach for swimming. Between Events 1 and 2 perhaps a cooling swim?</p> <p>Event 2: Ocoee River Motorcade, June 11 3 P.M. Eastern. Meet at Ocoee Ranger Station</p> <p>Event 3: Big Creek Trail, June 12 (Sun.) 9:30 A.M. Eastern Meet at Ocoee Whitewater Center</p> <p>Event 4: Benton MacKaye Trail hike through the Little Frog Wilderness Study Area, June 12 About 1 P.M. as a continuation of Event 3 or make contact (see below) to arrange to meet up with the group.</p> <p>Contact Larry Pounds (Please send Larry your email address if you are interested. He will send updates on the planning. 865-705-8516 (cell) 865-816-3576 (home) PoundsL471@aol.com</p>	<p>Ocoee Area of the Cherokee Nation Forest: Four Events or a Weekend</p> <p><i>Tennessee Native Plant Society, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Tennessee Wild, and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association invite you to a weekend (or perhaps part of a weekend) of information on conservation issues, hiking, and native plants in the Ocoee area.</i></p> <p>Event 1 (Meet at Chilhowee Campground fee payment parking area) Sat. morning Larry Pounds will lead a three to four mile hike round trip to Benton Falls. Hopefully we will see the rare yellow flowered sweet shrub along the way. The trail is easy except the short descent to the base of the waterfall.</p> <p>Event 2 (Meet at Ocoee Ranger Station) Currently there is a rare plant survey taking place along US 64 in the gorge area. Joey Shaw and others are checking for possible impacts to such plants from the proposed improvements to US 64. He will lead a motorcade Saturday afternoon with stops along the road to see plants and sights of interest including the chalk maple.</p> <p>Event 3 (Meet at Ocoee Whitewater Center) Jeff Hunter will lead a hike on the Deep Creek Trail. Jeff is head of Tennessee Wild. The trail passes through a beautiful area that has potential to become a federal wilderness area. The Big Creek Trail is an easy two mile in and out hike. The trail is relatively flat, but is narrow in a few places. We will see an impressive stand of hemlocks and some lovely beech trees, and will have an opportunity to see a variety of native plants at the edge of the Big Frog Wilderness.</p> <p>Event 4 (continuation of Event 3 or make contact to arrange meet up) Dick Evans, president of BMTA, will lead a Sunday afternoon hike. We will hike a section of the BMT, an alternative to the Appalachian Trail. This section is through an area which has been proposed for federal wilderness status. By the time we take this hike it may be officially wilderness. We will hike from Deep Gap on Kimsey Highway to US 64, 5.6 miles with a car shuttle. Alternatively people can do an out and back hike from Deep Gap of whatever length they choose.</p>	<p>Event 1 Directions: Take US 64 east from Cleveland. Pass the Parksville Lake Dam and the Ocoee Ranger Station. Turn left on Forest Road 77 (first left after the Ocoee Ranger Station) and follow the signs approximately 7.3 miles to the campground entrance (on the right). We will meet in the parking lot by the small lake where you pay your camping or day use fee. http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/choke/recreation/camping/ChilhoweeCampgroundVIG.pdf</p> <p>Event 2 Directions: We will meet at the Ocoee Ranger Station mentioned in the directions above.</p> <p>Event 3 Directions: The Ocoee White Water Center is 18.5 miles east of the intersection of US 64 and US 411. See this link for more details: http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/ocoe/directions.shtml</p> <p>Event 4 Directions: People at Event 3 can continue on together to Event 4. Other people should make contact (see below) to arrange to meet up with the group. Some possible meeting places are Ocoee Whitewater Center or Deep Gap. Facilities: At meeting places. Bring water, lunch (Events 1 and 3), bug spray.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">For Campers</p> <p>Tents sites with hot showers and flush toilets at Chilhowee are \$12 (a few with electricity \$15). Up to five people per site. Sharing sites is allowed. We may be able to cluster our sites. No reservations. RV sites with hookup — RV sites at Chilhowee Campground are \$20. No reservations.</p> <p>Hotels, motels, cabins etc — There are many possibilities in the area. The White Water Inn on US 411 near US 64 has been recommended. There are many hotels in Cleveland.</p> <p>Accommodations: http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/choke/recreation/camping/ChilhoweeCampgroundVIG.pdf</p>		

2011 TNPS Field Trip Schedule

Time, place, and leader	Description	Directions
<p>Aug. 27, 2011 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Eastern Time Meeting Place: Nature Conservancy Office in Shady Valley</p> <p>Leader: Gabby Call, gcall@TNC.ORG</p>	<p>Shady Valley Bog</p> <p>This area of Tennessee contains high elevation bogs, a very rare type of habitat in the state. A number of rare plants and animals can be found there. The Nature Conservancy began restoration work on bogs in Shady Valley in 1997. The bogs encompass over 200 acres and are a magnet for wildlife including migrating birds in the Spring and Fall. We will see cranberries (<i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i>, state threatened) in the early stages of fruiting as well as other bog plants. Cotton grass (<i>Eriophorum virginicum</i>, state endangered) will be evident if we are lucky. Much more information about the plants, animals and restoration efforts in Shady Valley will be related during our outing.</p>	<p>From Nashville or Knoxville –Travel east on Interstate 40 to I-81 east to Bristol, Tennessee. From Bristol – Follow Highway 421 South through town and 18 miles south to Shady Valley. The Conservancy office is located at 10537 Highway 421 South.</p> <p>Walking: Moderate. Be prepared to get your boots wet.</p> <p>Facilities at meeting place.</p> <p>Bring lunch and plenty of water.</p>
<p>Sept. 10, 2011 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Meeting Place: Carter State Natural Area</p> <p>Todd Crabtree 615 532-1378, todd.crabtree@tn.gov</p>	<p>Carter State Natural Area hosts a Late Summer Hike</p> <p>This natural area contains the most dramatic cave entrance in Tennessee as well as a number of rare and uncommon plants. Some of the unique species we will see are found only in this area and adjacent areas in Alabama and Georgia. <i>Helianthus eggertii</i> as well as <i>Silphium brachiatum</i> will be flowering and we hope to find a few other rarities like <i>Clematis morefieldii</i> and <i>Desmodium ochroleucum</i>. Other, more common, plants will be identified as we hike the trail. After a strenuous two-mile hike to the cave entrance we will have lunch by the stream which comes out of the cave. Due to restrictions associated with White Nose Syndrome we will not tour the cave. We will return on the same route two miles back to the parking area.</p>	<p>On I-24 between Nashville and Chattanooga, take exit 134, turn left to Sewanee, then turn left on Highway 56 toward Sherwood. Continue 10 miles to the parking area located on the left. Check http://tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/mrnmrscarter/mrnmrscarter.pdf</p> <p>Walking: Strenuous. The hike will be down and then back up, with a change of 640 feet in elevation. Wear boots with good ankle support. No facilities.</p> <p>Bring lunch and plenty of water.</p>
<p>Sept. 16-18, 2011</p>	<p>Annual Meeting at DuBose Conference Center, Monteagle</p> <p>See the short introductory story printed elsewhere in this issue. A registration form will be published in the June issue.</p>	
<p>Sept. 24, 2011 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Eastern Time Meeting Place: Shoney's in Caryville</p> <p>Larry Pounds, 865- 705-8516 (cell) 865- 816-3576 (home) PoundsL471@aol.com</p>	<p>September Cumberland Trail Inventory</p> <p>We will survey another section of the Cumberland Trail in the Smoky Junction area. Depending on the success of the May trip the September trip will either return to the same trail section as in May or explore a different nearby segment. The September survey allows us to identify a different set of species than in the spring. We will provide the list of plants we find to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. The two survey trips in 2011 will add plants to the present list of 300 species that was generated from the surveys in 2009 and 2010.</p>	<p>From I-75 north of Knoxville take the Caryville Exit 134 to TN63/US25W, turn left across interstate. Go 0.3 mi. to Main Street and see Shoney's on the left. We will caravan from here to Smoky Junction.</p> <p>Walking: Moderate with some steep stretches, three to four miles round trip.</p> <p>Facilities at meeting place.</p> <p>Bring lunch and water. Also bring note pad and pencil.</p>