

# TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Volume 33, Number 1

March 2009

## TDOT Officials Respond to Herbicide Concerns

Use of herbicide along roadways is a concern to everyone interested in native plants. Good news about that issue does not arrive very often. However, a series of meetings and a recent workshop in Sewanee, involving state transportation officials and biologists, provide us with a glimmer of hope that limitations on herbicide use are possible, perhaps possible even statewide.

Events began unfolding last September when four Sewanee residents sent a letter of protest to officials of the Tennessee Department of Transportation and the governor after observing swaths of dying plants along Hwy 41A between Sewanee and Cowan. The letter pointed out that not only was the beauty of this scenic highway damaged but that significant populations of native Tennessee wildflowers were being wiped out to the detriment of wildlife and the sensitive ecology of the area.

Somewhat to the surprise of the letter's signers, TDOT officials responded and asked for a meeting to discuss the problem of roadway safety and beautification. The local residents, all members of TNPS, were further surprised when TDOT officials pledged at the meeting to halt all use of herbicide along 41A, as well as Hwy. 56, which runs between Sewanee and Sherwood. They agreed, as well, to limit mowing to only twice a year at times appropriate to protect and encourage native plant populations. They also responded favorably to suggestions that a workshop about the value of native plants be presented to TDOT road crews.

The workshop, sponsored by Sewanee's Biology Department, the Sewanee Herbarium, and TNPS, was held Feb. 20 in the new science facilities at Sewanee. Seventeen TDOT employees from Franklin, Coffee, Cannon, and Warren counties attended.

This success raises the possibility of similar efforts throughout Tennessee. It has prompted conversations about the protection of native plants along all state highways, similar to programs in some other states, and even the encouragement of natives along interstate highways.

This possible new direction was mentioned by Ray Rucker, TDOT regional maintenance manager, who attended the Sewanee workshop. He mentioned the high cost of maintaining interstate rights-of-way and that the planting of exotic flowers is not only costly but not always successful.

Mary Davis, author of the original letter, expressed hope that TNPS might find ways to use its influence to curb the use of herbicide along highways and other places where wildflowers grow. The problem of herbicide use is related to the spread of exotic invasives, she said. Protection of habitat is the real issue. ■

## TNPS Members and Meetings

Dennis Horn, Joey Shaw, and Lorie Emens have been elected to two-year terms on the TNPS board. It became official in December.

Emens replaces Rita Venable, who chose not to seek re-election. As a new board member, Emens represents West Tennessee.

She began to study native plants as a naturalist at Lichterman Nature Center in Memphis. She is currently the horticulturist at Dixon Gallery and Gardens, where she shares her love of native plants through lectures, articles, the Spring Wildflower Sale, and her work with volunteers. She is an ISA certified arborist, president of the Memphis Horticultural Society, a member of the Memphis Fern Society, and a Master Gardener.

The board met January 31 at the Barfield Crescent Nature Center in Murfreesboro. A variety of reports show that TNPS is in good health,

— *Continued on page 8*



## Annual Meeting September 17-19

Linden Valley Baptist  
Conference Center,  
Perry County  
Mark your calendar



# TNPS Newsletter

March 2009

Vol. 33, No. 1

This newsletter is a publication of the Tennessee Native Plant Society and is published four times a year, generally in February, June, August, and November.

The Tennessee Native Plant Society (TNPS) was founded in 1978. Its purposes are to assist in the exchange of information and encourage fellowship among Tennessee's botanists, both amateur and professional; to promote public education about Tennessee flora and wild plants in general; to provide, through publication of a newsletter or journal, a formal means of documenting information on Tennessee flora and of informing the public about wild plants; and to promote the protection and enhancement of Tennessee's wild plant communities.

Dues for each calendar year are

Regular: \$20

Student/Senior: \$15

Institution: \$50

Life: \$250

Dues may be sent to  
Tennessee Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 159274  
Nashville, TN 37215

## Officers

Mary Priestley, President  
Todd Crabtree, Vice-President  
Bart Jones, Secretary  
Kay Jones, Treasurer

## Directors

Bertha Chrietzburg  
Michelle Haynes  
Dennis Horn  
Joey Shaw  
Susan Sweetser  
Lorie Emens

Latham Davis, Editor

Please send comments or material for the newsletter to TNPS Newsletter, P.O. Box 816, Sewanee, TN 37375 or [lathamdavis@bellsouth.net](mailto:lathamdavis@bellsouth.net)



## REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Little Wildflower Dance...”

That's how she broke the ice. Picture three earnest TNPS members and 17 burly Tennessee Department of Transportation highway maintenance workers gathered for a workshop on the appreciation of native roadside wildflowers. My tantalizing overview of the day's schedule is met by stony silence. Mary Davis pipes up, “And be thinking about the wildflower poem that you'll write and the little wildflower dance that you'll perform at the end of the day.” Jaws drop, eyes come into focus, and chuckles ripple through the group. Who is this little lady?!

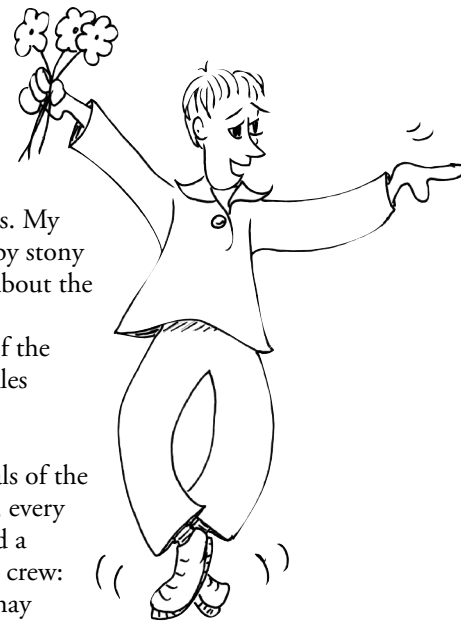
By the time good-byes were said, the TDOT employees had warmed both to us and to the goals of the workshop. Evaluations were all positive, and yes, every one of us had learned a lot. And Mary had gained a new moniker, bestowed by a member of the road crew: “real firecracker!” This was a good start in what may become a larger joint venture between TNPS and TDOT. Thanks also to South Cumberland State Park, the Sewanee Herbarium, and Sewanee's Department of Biology for their participation. For more information, especially if you would like to try a similar workshop in your area, please contact Mary Davis <[marymint@bellsouth.net](mailto:marymint@bellsouth.net)> or me.

On an organizational note, please read and respond to the proposed amendment to the by-laws below. Also, I am so pleased to welcome Lorie Emens to the board. She has already agreed to coordinate the annual meeting, for which I am most appreciative. Mark your calendar for September 18-20, and look for the registration form and more information in our next newsletter.

As always, this issue of the newsletter is packed, including a terrific schedule of field trips for this year – enjoy! Many thanks to everyone for your contributions to TNPS.

See you on the trail!

Mary



## Proposed Amendment to the TNPS By-Laws

At its January meeting, the board of directors approved the following amendment to the by-laws:  
“TNPS, its logo, name, image, or likeness may not be used in the promotion of any commercial enterprise. It may, with board approval, be used in association with those organizations that share TNPS goals.”

The board is submitting this to the membership for ratification. Please vote by email on the website [www.tnps.org](http://www.tnps.org), or send your vote by U.S. mail. If two-thirds of the votes received within one month of the mailing of the newsletter are in favor, the amendment will be incorporated into the by-laws. Please contact any of the board members if you have questions.

## Invasive Weed Awareness Week

TNPS was among organizations that joined the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council in celebrating Invasive Weed Awareness Week February 22-28. Eleven events were held across the state to call attention to problems caused by invasive exotic plants in the natural environment.

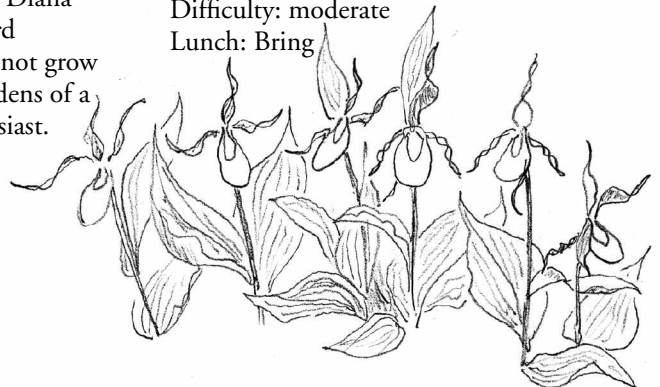
# 2009 TNPS Field Trip Schedule

Field trips are designed to promote 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. More experienced members are encouraged to share their knowledge with those who are not as familiar with native plants. 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 a status update and notify them of your attendance. Keep this schedule and attend as many trips as you can. Some leaders are professional botanists. All have knowledge that they are willing to share. The wide range of interests among members always allows us to learn and have fun. Check the website ([www.tnps.org](http://www.tnps.org)) for updates to this schedule.

Time, place, and leader	Description	Directions
<p><b>March 28, 2009</b> (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meet at Sycamore Springs Lodge</p> <p>Michelle Haynes cell: 615-452-2337 home: 615-452-2337 email: Haynesm@realtracs.com</p>	<p><b>Taylor Hollow</b></p> <p>This is one of the few significant stands that remain of the mesophytic forest in middle Tennessee. Hundreds of least trillium (<i>Trillium pusillum</i>) may be seen here. Blue eyed Marys (<i>Collinsia verna</i>) will be starting to bloom. These along with many other spring ephemerals carpet, yes, literally, the forest floor of this 173 acre preserve. At its peak the streamside areas rival any wildflower display you care to name. We will meet at the lodge and car pool to the preserve and return for lunch.</p>	<p>Highway 31E north of Gallatin turn at the covered bridge, mile marker 26, and follow the drive one mile to the top of the hill. Parking at the lodge.</p> <p>Walking: Easy Facilities: At meeting place Lunch: Bring your own</p>
<p><b>April 11, 2009</b> (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: Parking lot at Stillhouse Hollow State Natural Area</p> <p>Leader: Bart Jones, 901-726-6891(H), 901-485-2745(C) email: bjones7777@hotmail.com</p>	<p><b>Stillhouse Hollow / Devil's Backbone Maury and Lewis Counties</b></p> <p>These two natural areas are excellent representatives of Western Highland Rim habitats including damp, rich hollows and dry upland ridges. At Stillhouse Hollow we will encounter a nice assortment of spring wildflowers as we walk the trails from the ridgetop to the hollow, the head of which is crowned by a scenic waterfall. After lunch, we will make our way to Devil's Backbone to explore one of the richest collections of upland forest remaining in the Western Highland Rim. No fewer than eight distinct forest communities can be found along the trail. We will attempt to identify these as well as enjoy wildflowers along the way.</p>	<p>From Nashville, take I-65 south and take the Saturn Parkway toward Columbia. Turn right on Hwy 43 and proceed about 21 miles. The Stillhouse Hollow natural area parking area is on the right once you have passed over the Judge Workman Bridge. It is about three miles northeast of Summertown on Hwy 43 on the left just before the bridge.</p> <p>Walking: Moderate. Some elevation changes with significant slope. Lunch: Bring your own Facilities: None at meeting place, but there is a service station at the intersection of Hwys. 43 and 20 just south of the natural area.</p>
<p><b>May 2, 2009</b> (Sat.) 10 A.M. Eastern Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: Shoney's in Caryville, Tennessee</p> <p>Dennis Horn, 931-461-0262</p>	<p><b>Cumberland Trail, Campbell County</b></p> <p>This hike will take us along a 3000 ft. elevation section of the Cumberland Trail west of Caryville. We will follow Big Bruce Ridge, a spur of Cross Mountain, for about 2 miles and return, with minor elevation changes. The trail is part of the Smoky Mountain segment of the Cumberland Trail. This section of the trail has an abundance of spring wildflowers that should still be plentiful in early May. Others have reported seeing showy orchis, three species of trillium, Jack-in-the-pulpit, wild geranium, Solomon's seal, large flowered bellwort, wood anemone, and blue cohosh on this trail. We will provide a list of the plants we find to the TN Department of Environment and Conservation. This hike will be repeated on Oct. 10.</p>	<p>From I-75 north of Knoxville take the Caryville Exit 134 to TN63/US25W, turn left toward Caryville. Go 0.3 mi. to Main Street and see Shoney's on the left.</p> <p>Walking: Moderate, 3.5 to 4 miles round trip Facilities: At meeting place Lunch: Bring with water. Also bring note pad and pencil</p>

# 2009 TNPS Field Trip Schedule

Time, place, and leader	Description	Directions
<p><b>May 16, 2009</b> (Sat.) 9 A.M. Eastern Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: Signal Point Overlook on Signal Point Blvd.</p> <p>David Lincicome david.lincicome@state.tn.us and Andrea Bishop andrea.bishop@state.tn.us (615) 532-0431</p>	<p><b>Signal Point to Rainbow Lake Middle Creek Gorge, Signal Mountain</b></p> <p>This hike will be from the Signal Point Overlook trailhead on Signal Point Blvd. to the Rainbow Lake Wilderness Area trailhead on Ohio Ave. in Signal Mountain. We will require some vehicles for a shuttle. The hike will follow the Cumberland Trail north to Rainbow Lake then go around Rainbow Lake via the Bee Branch Trail. The hike will offer spectacular views of the Tennessee River Gorge and the Federal and State threatened large-flowered skullcap (<i>Scutellaria montana</i>). May 15 is Endangered Species Day, so we can discuss rare plant conservation in Tennessee. The hike begins by dropping below the sandstone bluff and through the drier oak and hickory forest community. As we traverse the plateau slope boulder fields, the forest will gradually transition into the moister ravine forest. The Middle Creek Gorge contains an example of the mixed-mesophytic forest community and is where we will find the large-flowered skullcap.</p>	<p>From Chattanooga on Hwy. 127 (Signal Mountain Blvd.) from just below the traffic lights at the top of the mountain, take a left and follow the signs to Signal Point. When approaching Alexian Village, turn left on Signal Point Road. The road ends at the parking lot.</p> <p>Difficulty: The hike is rated as moderate, approximately 3 miles.</p> <p>Facilities: At meeting place</p> <p>Lunch: Bring water and a sack lunch. We will have lunch along Middle Creek below Rainbow Lake.</p>
<p><b>June 20, 2009</b> (Sat.) 10 A.M. Eastern Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: Incline Railway parking lot (far side) at the base of Lookout Mountain</p> <p>Al Good 423- 886-1777</p>	<p><b>Lula Lake Land Trust Lookout Mountain, Georgia</b></p> <p>Since 1994 the area around Lula Lake in the Rock Creek watershed has been protected by the Lula Lake Land Trust. We may see some species that reach their northern limits in this area, but the main attractions will be plants of the plateau top and escarpment. Some of the more notable plants expected to be in flower are <i>Spiraea virginiana</i>, <i>Stewartia ovata</i>, <i>Talinum mengesii</i>, <i>Diervilla rivularis</i>, <i>Passiflora lutea</i>, and native azaleas. Be prepared to sign a liability release.</p>	<p>From I-24, follow signs to Lookout Mountain. The Incline parking lot is at the base of the mountain.</p> <p>Facilities: None Walking: Moderate Lunch: Bring your own</p>
<p><b>July 25, 2009</b> (Sat.) 10 A.M. Eastern Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: Signal Mountain McDonald's</p> <p>Al Good 423- 886-1777</p>	<p><b>Signal Mountain</b></p> <p>This is a no-sweat visit to three sites at a 2000-ft. elevation on Walden's Ridge. On the first, we expect to see the rare <i>Sabatia capitata</i> in flower. At a second stop, an experimental prairie planting had the State listed Diana butterflies on <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> last year. The third location has <i>Hypoxis sessilis</i>, which officially does not grow in Tennessee. Also, other stuff—the amazing gardens of a former nursery operator, bonsai, and grass enthusiast.</p>	<p>From I-24, take US 27 North to US 127 North up the mountain. McDonald's is approximately 2 miles past the traffic light at the top.</p> <p>Facilities: At meeting place Difficulty: moderate Lunch: Bring</p>



*For truth, my honored Tennessee friends, go and see, and learn to appreciate and preserve such great ornaments of your native land.* —AUGUSTIN GATTINGER, 1901

Time, place, and leader	Description	Directions
<p><b>August 8, 2009</b> (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: Parking lot of William B. Clark State Natural Area</p> <p>Bart Jones, 901-726-6891 (H) 901-485-2745 (C) bjones7777@hotmail.com</p>	<p><b>William B. Clark / Ghost River State Natural Areas Fayette County</b></p> <p>These two natural areas preserve some of the best examples of cypress/tupelo bottomland forest left in West Tennessee. William B. Clark boasts a 1600 foot boardwalk through the heart of the swamp, ending up at Waterlily Pond, where much of the surface is covered with Spatterdock (<i>Nuphar lutea</i>). A trip across the county will take us to Ghost River SNA, another section of the Wolf River that is unchannelized. We will make two stops here. The first will take us along a trail to the only population of Sand Post Oak (<i>Quercus margarettae</i>) in Tennessee, while our final stop brings us to another boardwalk at Mineral Slough, which is rich with aquatic sedges and rushes.</p>	<p>Follow Hwy. 57 to Rossville and turn north on State Hwy. 194. Follow Hwy. 194 for just less than one mile, crossing the bridge over the Wolf River; the parking area is on the right (east) side of road.</p> <p>Facilities: None at meeting place. Service stations are located near Rossville on Hwy. 57.</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy Lunch: Bring your own</p>
<p><b>August 8, 2009</b> (Sat.) 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. Eastern Time</p> <p>Meeting place: Meet at Carvers Gap, 5512-ft elevation, on the NC-TN state line (Highways 143 and 261), lat. / long. 36.10656, 82.11056</p> <p>Jamey Donaldson tnplanthunter@yahoo.com 423-471-1275</p>	<p><b>Roan Mountain-Baa-tany</b></p> <p>Often referred to as the “Crown Jewel of the Southern Appalachians,” Roan Mountain is a truly outstanding destination for the nature lover, hiker, photographer, and scientist. Join us as we look at some of the rare plants and ecosystems and discuss changes that have taken place over the last 100 years. In addition, we will visit the Baa-tany Goat Project, a volunteer-based experimental management tool for grassy bald restoration (more available at <a href="http://www.friendsofroanmtn.org">www.friendsofroanmtn.org</a>). Roan is home to over 800 plant species, 27 globally rare plant communities, and 33 federal- or state-listed rare plants. The grassy balds will be our primary destination, but we will also have the chance to see heath balds, alder balds, Fraser fir and red spruce forests, Southern Appalachian northern hardwood forests, and rocky summits, cliffs, and other rock outcrop communities. If the weather is cooperative we may spend the entire day in the grassy and shrub balds with stops to discuss the forest communities along the way. Alternatively, we could spend the morning in the balds and the afternoon visiting cliffs and forests. The group is welcome to decide.</p>	<p>Places to Stay: Roan Mountain State Park is at the foot of the mountain. It has a campground and cabins. For more information visit: <a href="http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/parks/RoanMtn/">http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/parks/RoanMtn/</a></p> <p>Walking: Moderate Facilities: At meeting place Lunch: Bring your own</p> <p>What else to Bring: Camera, field guides, liquids, lunch, sunscreen, rain gear, sturdy shoes / boots, etc. Be prepared for cool mountain weather with possibility of rain and high winds.</p>
<p><b>August 22, 2009</b> (Sat) 10 A.M. Eastern Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: Weigels parking area in Harriman</p> <p>Larry Pounds 865-705-8516</p>	<p><b>Whites Creek Outing</b></p> <p>This is a TCWP and TNPS exploration of Whites Creek in Roane and Rhea Counties. We will see red starvine (<i>Schisandra glabra</i>) and a highly rhizomatous goldenrod, which is so far unidentified. There will be many interesting cobble bar species. Expect carpooling from the NOAA parking area at 9:15 A.M. in Oak Ridge. There will be opportunities to cool off (wade or swim) in the creek.</p>	<p>Harriman Exit (#347) on I-40 in the Weigels parking area</p> <p>Difficulty: Walking distance about 3.5 miles, with about one mile being off trail</p> <p>Facilities: At meeting place Lunch: Bring your own.</p>

# 2009 TNPS Field Trip Schedule

Time, place, and leader	Description	Directions
<b>Sept. 12, 2009</b> (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time	<b>King and Queen's Bluff / Barnett Woods State Natural Area</b>	From Nashville, go approximately 35 miles west on Interstate 24 to Exit 11. Exit the interstate and turn left on Hwy 76 at the bottom of the ramp and go under I-24. McDonalds is immediately on the left.
Meeting Place: McDonalds parking lot at Exit 11 of Interstate 24, Clarksville	Join us for a full day of botanizing at two fantastic sites in Montgomery County. First, we will visit King and Queen's Bluff, a long south-facing bluff along the Cumberland River in Clarksville. Here, we will see examples of the following plant communities: dry oak-hickory forest, limestone cliff face, limestone barrens and glades along the river's edge. We will see 400 year-old specimens of eastern redcedar ( <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> ). Numerous rare species are found at the site. This is the only place in the state where pale dogwood and rock grape are found—the latter just rediscovered after not having been seen in the state since the 1880s by Augustine Gattinger near Nashville. Upon leaving King and Queen's Bluff, we will carpool to Barnett Woods State Natural Area 17 miles away. This Nature Conservancy site has two large caves, rich ravines with mature forests, and a population of Price's Potato-Bean.	Difficulty: King and Queen's Bluffs: moderate-strenuous (involves descending a steep trail and stepping off rocks in places and climbing back up the bluff face along the trail). Barnett Woods SNA: easy to moderate
Dwayne Estes 931-221-7771 (H) 931-217-5430 (C) Email: tnplants@ yahoo.com		Facilities: At meeting place Lunch: Bring lunch, water, and camera
<b>Sept. 18-20, 2009</b>	<b>Annual Meeting at the Linden Valley Baptist Conference Center, Perry County</b>	
	A complete report on the annual meeting—its programs, hikes, and room accommodations—will be available in the June issue of the newsletter.	
<b>Sept. 26, 2009</b> (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central	<b>Flat Rock Cedar Glade / Barrens State Natural Area</b>	From I-24 exit 81B and go about one quarter mile on Church St. and turn right on South Rutherford Blvd. Proceed approximately five miles and turn right at Greenland and proceed three miles east on Halls Hill Pike. Then turn right on Factory Rd. Follow Factory Rd for one mile to the parking lot on the right. Check <a href="http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/na/natareas/flatrock/">http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/na/natareas/flatrock/</a>
Meeting Place: State Natural Area parking lot	A complex of cedar glades, barrens, and forests are preserved here in one of the largest public lands of this type in the southeast. Species endemic to cedar glades occur here, as well as species more commonly found in prairies. Composites will be blooming and fall color will be appearing. We will see southern prairie-dock, ( <i>Silphium pinnatifidum</i> ), wavy-leaf purple coneflower ( <i>Echinacea simulata</i> ) and a population of prairie gentian ( <i>Gentiana puberulenta</i> ) that is barely surviving. Prairie dropseed ( <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> ) and hair awn muhly ( <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i> ) are two of the interesting grasses that we will see.	Difficulty: Fairly level, but good ankle support is recommended, 3.5 miles Facilities: None at meeting place Lunch: Bring with plenty of water
<b>Oct. 10, 2009</b> (Sat.) 10 A.M. Eastern Time	<b>Cumberland Trail (Part 2), Campbell County</b>	From I-75 north of Knoxville take the Caryville Exit 134 to TN63 / US25W, turn left toward Caryville. Go 0.3 mi. to Main Street and see Shoney's on the left.
Meeting Place: Shoney's in Caryville	This trip is a repeat of the May 10 trip to sample the late-summer / early-fall vegetation on Big Bruce Ridge along the Cumberland Trail. The autumn foliage should be colorful at this 3000-ft. elevation. We will complete the species list for this segment of the trail.	Difficulty: Moderate, 3.5 to 4 miles round trip Facilities: At meeting place Lunch: Bring with water. Also bring note pad and pencil.
Dennis Horn 931-461-0262		

# Water in the Garden

by Margie Hunter

As I write this, the sun is sparkling on a glowing and grateful garden, refreshed after our first substantive rain (besides hurricane Fay) in 12 weeks. We may average nearly an inch of precipitation per week in a typical year, but the actual distribution of the rain is often quite erratic through the seasons. This feast or famine reality poses challenges and opportunities in the garden.

Water is arguably our most precious resource. Yet, instant water at the turn of a tap allows us to take this clear, cool gift for granted. The drought still gripping much of the Southeast belies this faulty assumption and prompts new approaches to water use in our daily lives. For those who garden, smart water practices are good for both the earth and the wallet. Rain barrels, rain gardens, gray water, xeriscaping, plant grouping, and pinpoint irrigation are various approaches to wise water management in the landscape. Let's consider these options in this and future articles beginning with rain barrels.

Rain barrels collect water flowing off roofs and store it for later use. A small house can shed over 600 gallons of water during a one inch rainfall. Shunting it through downspouts and across lawns to drainage ditches is not only a waste of good water, but it overloads municipal storm drains and sullies nearby streams and rivers. With a little money and elbow grease, you can capture some of that water and hold it for drier times when the garden really needs a drink.

There are numerous Web sites with step-by-step instructions for do-it-yourselfers, including Nashville's Water Services Department—[www.nashville.gov/water](http://www.nashville.gov/water). Details and materials vary slightly from site to site; some directions are easier to follow than others. However, the basic design remains the same. Use a food quality plastic drum, 55 gallons or larger (purchasable from beverage dealers or bottlers for \$10 or less). Place a spigot near the bottom, an overflow pipe near the top, and a screened hole in the lid for the gutter downspout. Several barrels can be linked via the overflow hole to take advantage of a good summer rainstorm. You can also purchase ready-made rain barrels.

The barrel should be properly sited. It will get very heavy when full and needs to be securely positioned and perfectly level. It also needs to be elevated several inches in order to attach a hose to the base spigot, fill a watering can, and provide better gravitational flow. A tight-fitting lid will prevent accidents with children or pets. An opaque barrel will block light and discourage algae growth. Screening filters out debris and prevents mosquitoes from becoming a problem. Be sure to direct any overflow away from the house's foundation. It would be best to disconnect and empty the barrel in winter to avoid freezing.

Really dedicated folks are constructing houses with built-in cisterns and pumping systems. For the rest of us, though, a rain barrel or two can at least take a bit of pressure off the water bill in late summer. ■

*Trillium erectum*  
var. *album*



## Conservation Voters Set Legislative Priorities

Tennessee Conservation Voters announced its 2008-9 Legislative Friends of the Environment Awards given during its annual Nature Votes '09 event held in Nashville on Feb. 6, at historic Travellers Rest.

Legislators honored for showing a commitment to the protection of Tennessee's natural resources during the 2008 legislative session include Senators Doug Jackson (D, 25) and Bill Ketron (R, 13), as well as former senators Rosalind Kurita (D, 22), Steve Roller (D, 14) and Dr. Raymond Finney (R, 8); House members Mike Kernell (D, 93), Mike McDonald (D, 44) Gary W. Moore (D, 50), and John Mark Windle (D, 41).

TCV officials also addressed top priorities for the 2009 legislative session. Among the priorities are:

- Supporting recommendations of Governor's Energy Policy Task Force, including state-wide enforcement of updated residential and commercial energy building codes,
- Water quality protection that would oppose effort to adopt a less protective definition of waters, support of TDEC authority to issue stop work orders for violations of the Water Quality Control Act, and other measures,
- Efforts to limit Mountain Top Removal coal mining,
- Comprehensive recycling legislation,
- Efforts to restrict and better regulate harmful rock harvesting practices.

"This year's bi-partisan group of Friends of the Environment demonstrated the value and common sense in protecting Tennessee's natural resources," said Chris Ford, executive director of TCV. "Their work shows that making eco-intelligent choices is not just about preserving our state's natural heritage, but it also plays a role in Tennessee's economic development by creating green jobs and reducing costs associated with energy consumption.

Additional information and priorities can be followed on the TCV website, or sign up for weekly email updates at <http://www.tnconservationvoters.org/>

Thank you for letting me represent TNPS as the TCV Chairperson.

—Michelle Haynes

## Board Approves Gifts from page 1

financially and otherwise. The organization has 237 dues-paying members.

Todd Crabtree outlined plans for 2009 field trips, which are listed in this issue.

The board approved a \$500 gift toward the purchase of a 322-acre tract lying across from Warner Parks, adjacent to another smaller tract bought by the Friends of Warner Parks. It extends to Highway 70, between Belle Meade and Bellevue. TNPS volunteer Jane Norris says the property contains more than 200 acres of old-growth forest. Along with Warner Parks, this tract will create the largest old growth forest in a city park east of the Mississippi River, Norris said.

The board has changed its usual contribution of \$500 for student scholarships to the Native Plant Conference at Cullowee, North Carolina, to a single \$350 scholarship that includes a field trip.

The board also approved the purchase of a book on mosses for the Barfield Crescent Nature Center.

## Electronic Newsletter

Have you tried the electronic newsletter? You can sign up for this electronic version by sending an e-mail to Bart Jones.

You may still receive the paper version if you wish, but the electronic newsletter offers some savings and could provide interesting possibilities in the future. So, try it by sending your request to [bjones7777@hotmail.com](mailto:bjones7777@hotmail.com).



## Are Your Dues Due?

Check your mailing label—the year through which you have paid dues is printed at the top. Send dues to TNPS, P.O. Box 159274, Nashville, TN 37215. See dues amounts on page 2.

TNPS Newsletter  
P.O. Box 816  
Sewanee, TN 37375