Tennessee Plant Atlas

The botany community in Tennessee is developing an online Tennessee Plant Atlas in conjunction with Kentucky. This joint site will feature distribution maps, descriptions, detailed photos, digitized herbarium specimens, and other data for all plant taxa found in the two states. As the site is being built, work to digitize 900,000 plant specimens in Tennessee is also taking place. High resolution images of each specimen only include species, state, and county information. Other data from the specimen labels must be entered by hand at a later date. Help is needed to append this additional label data to each image, and the work can be done from home using a personal computer. Special plant knowledge is not required, only the ability to read and type!

This is a great opportunity for volunteers to make an important contribution. Please consider helping with this worthwhile effort. If you would like to participate, follow the directions below. Direct questions to Margie Hunter, mhunter55@comcast.net.

Please go to the website: NotesFromNature (https://www.notesfromnature.org/active-expeditions/Herbarium) and create a log in. Select Tennessee Ferns Part 2 – these are specimens from Tennessee Tech, UT Chattanooga, UT Knoxville, and Rhodes College. In the next round, we'll be adding Austin Peay and MTSU. After a 2-minute tutorial, you may begin entering label data. Through log-in, the system will track your statistics (e.g., specimens done).

Accuracy is important, but the system design requires 2 out of 3 people to record the exact same data from the same label before it will be officially entered, providing greater assurance that the data has been typed correctly. In other words, at least one other person must enter the exact same data you do for that plant label to be accepted. Once official, the specimen will enter the SERNEC Portal where all the images are being stored. You can visit this site to view Tennessee's herbarium specimens once they are entered.