

The Newsletter of the



TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

November 2020

Dennis Horn is Recipient of TNPS Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award and Botanical Hall of Fame



For many of us, when you mention the Tennessee Native Plant Society an image of just one person comes to mind, and that's Dennis Horn.

A charter member when the society was established in 1978. Dennis was instrumental in the early years of shaping what we now recognize as our society and what it does. Whether it was leading a field trip or sharing his knowledge of our native flora at a garden club meeting, Dennis quickly became one of the go-to people in TNPS.

Hailing from southern Illinois, Dennis moved to Tullahoma to take a position at Arnold Engineering and Development Corporation. He enjoyed a distinguished career as an engineer there, culminating with being bestowed the honor of an AEDC Fellow in recognition of his substantial and distinguished technical contributions to the nation's aerospace ground testing capabilities.

Dennis soon began to explore his adopted Tennessee landscape and became fascinated with the diversity of plants he encountered. Although not a trained botanist, Dennis used his engineering skills to plunge into a scientific study of our native plants. In short order, he became an almost encyclopedic store of botany knowledge, whether it was the scientific name for a species, the distinguishing characteristics for identification, or a location where it could be found.

When the state proposed to establish a rare plant list, Dennis was invited to participate on the Tennessee Rare Plant Scientific Advisory Council as part of the Rare Plant Protection Act of 1985. The Council is composed of 12 botanists from across the state which meets at least once every three years to review the list and propose listing new species or delisting those that are determined to have become more secure.

Dennis is probably known to most wildflower enthusiasts in the state as one of the authors of the Society's illustrated field guide, "Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley, and Southern Appalachians." Over a decade in the making, Dennis worked with the other authors on all aspects of the book from the text to the photographs to fundraising. As co-author David Duhl observed, "When Dennis and I worked together co-editing the Wildflowers of Tennessee book, I tried to be prepared, but that paled in comparison to Dennis. Dennis' notes were such that photographers, photos, and locations were all cross-referenced and dated. I was dumbfounded until I remembered that Dennis was an engineer! It was that attention to detail that led to the success of the book. I'll always remember those long days of working together and I'll always appreciate Dennis' commitment, dedication, and friendship."

After the book was published, Dennis didn't stop, but continued to promote it through speaking engagements with another co-author, Tavia Cathcart Brown. "It was an absolute joy to work with him on the wildflower field guide. We shared hundreds (if not thousands) of hours on the phone and in person, reviewing every measurement, photo, and detail that was included. Should a question arise, Dennis would investigate, even if it meant re-measuring a petal or researching a wildflower's status. An engineer by trade, his mastery of details and precision are evident on every page. He is unique in that his scientific mind is well balanced with an artistic eye. He truly appreciates the beauty of flowers, photography, and has a love of orchids in particular," stated Tavia. She continued, "Above all, Dennis is kind, thoughtful, humble, and a very good person through and through. Over the five years during which we labored together to complete the almost 500-page guide, we encountered more than a few obstacles. I always knew I could turn to Dennis for a carefully considered response, smiles, a calm demeanor, wisdom and his steady presence. I am blessed to call him a friend."

Dennis has traveled far and wide, well beyond Tennessee, on botanical excursions, often times in search of his beloved orchids. Chuck Wilson relays one story of a trip to California. "I remember being on a botanical trip in California with Dennis and Bus Jones, and I remember how Bus was very ill and having a tough time of it. Dennis went well above and beyond at that time, taking care of Bus when Dennis would much rather have been exploring the magnificent habitats we were visiting in the limited time available. After that experience I recognized just how much of a selfless and genuinely decent person he can be when the situation calls for it."

Although Dennis has traveled the country visiting spectacular botanical sites, there is one place that holds a special place in his heart, Short Springs. Not far from his home in Tullahoma, he worked tirelessly for years along with Marjorie Collier to have Short Springs designated as a State Natural Area. That work came to fruition in 1994 as the state granted it Natural Area status. Soon after, he and Marjorie spearheaded the formation of the Friends of Short Springs, with which he continues to be heavily involved, leading hikes and giving lectures on the botanical

richness of this wonderful spot. Last year, Dennis and Marjorie were honored with having the newly constructed bridge across Bobo Creek dedicated in their names for all their time and effort to preserve one of the most beautiful sites in Middle Tennessee.

And while we're talking about honors, Dennis was awarded the Governor's Stewardship Award for Natural Heritage Conservation in 2003. This award is one of the most prestigious given by the state to individuals and corporations who have made great and lasting impacts in the arena of sustainability, education, and conservation.

Dennis is truly deserving of our Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award and induction into the TNPS Botanical Hall of Fame as you can see. He



has dedicated himself to sharing his love of Tennessee's botanical heritage and desire to preserve it for future generations. To those of us who have been lucky enough to spend hours in the field and in discussion with him, Dr. Edward Chester best sums up how we all feel about Dennis. As Dr. Chester recounts, "Only a few times in one's life will they know a person whose friendship is staunch and everlasting, even when they know about your failures, shortcomings, and dark hours. Such friends are doubly important when they are colleagues, eager to collaborate, but not afraid to quietly point out errors and suggest improvements. Dennis has been (and remains) just such a friend and colleague. He has always been ready and willing as we have sought to present and archive

information gleaned from our concepts of the botanical world. Early on I realized, with his help, that our efforts, whether in the field or with pen or computer, were not for our self-glory, gratification, or to put our name on a page. Instead, our work had the primary purpose to share our often meager knowledge, accumulated over decades, with peers, and perhaps more importantly, to make it easier for those who will follow these paths and expand, and correct if necessary, our efforts. Thank you, Dennis, you have been an important person on this earthly part of my journey.”

In conclusion, I would just like to add one more thing about Dennis. As much as he has dedicated himself to promote and celebrate the flora of Tennessee, that pales in comparison to the love and dedication he shows as a husband, father, and grandfather. I am inspired by you and am grateful to have you as a friend. Let’s all celebrate! To Dennis!

~ *Bart Jones*

Message from the President

Hello everyone,

I guess you know that this is a very special issue dedicated to Dennis Horn. TNPS Board had planned on honoring Dennis at the Annual Meeting in April and then again at the Smokies Wildflower Pilgrimage. Due to the COVID virus these plans had to be changed. Dennis was presented with his awards by small group of us in a quiet pavilion at Old Stone Fort Park. This was not the celebration we had planned, but the awards are no less deserving.

Many of you know Dennis and have been on the trails with him. He has been a valued member of TNPS since its inception. He continues to serve on the Board, participate in the Field Trip planning, lead field trips, and be an Ambassador for TNPS throughout the state. As you know he was the driving force behind our book-- Wildflowers of Tennessee and the Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachians- being published. I bet he doesn't even remember how many times he looked at each of the 700+ photographs.

For Allen and me, he has been and continues to be one of our plant mentors. We joined TNPS over 30 years ago and Dennis has been there to help us learn the Flora of TN and still helps us. We have traveled the US and Canada with notes from Dennis on where to go to see certain special plants. We were in a natural area in California and ran into 2 folks from the Eastern US that knew Dennis and had our book!! Our travels would not been as rich without Dennis being gracious and lending us his knowledge and written notes on where to go and what to see.

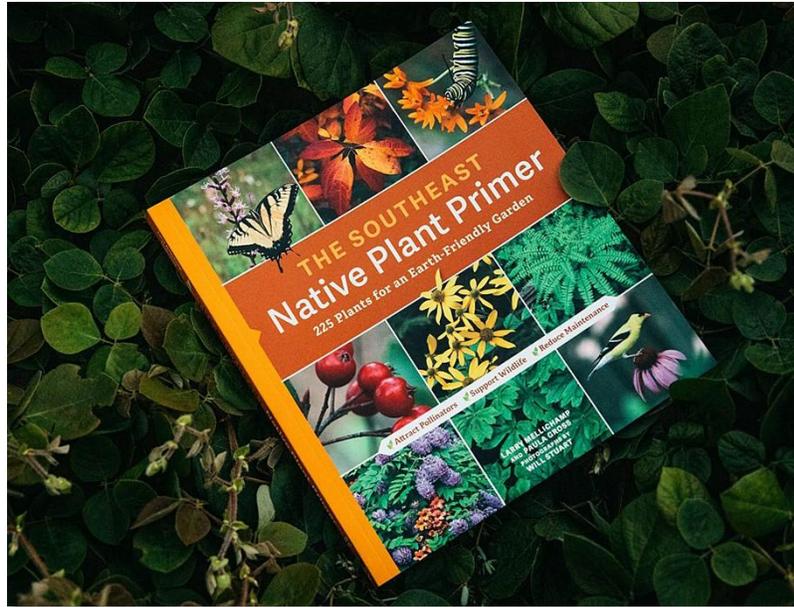
Dennis, thank you for sharing your time and your knowledge. Thank you for your environmental efforts through the years to help maintain special areas. Thank you for your oversight and editing of our book. It wouldn't have gotten published without you. Thank you for helping to plan and lead TNPS field trips. Thank you for being a friend to TNPS and to me.

We are planning an Annual meeting on Zoom for Thursday 11/12/20 at 6:30pm CST. As a non-profit organization, we are required to have an annual meeting for the membership. We will have a short business meeting and then Dr. Joey Shaw will speak about the TN/KY Plant Atlas. It's now available on the internet, <https://tennessee-kentucky.plantatlas.usf.edu/>. As you know, TNPS was a contributing sponsor for this project. Take a look at and see what questions you might have.

Susan

Volunteer Treasurer Needed

Would take office January 1st. Must be a member of the Tennessee Native Plant Society (TNPS). Should be comfortable working on a computer and with numbers. Familiarity with QuickBooks program would be a plus, but not necessary since program and training will be provided. Duties include: filing annual organization and tax forms; accepting and depositing checks for books, dues, and donations; writing checks as needed; recording financial activity in QuickBooks; reporting to the TNPS Board periodically (usually at meetings). If interested or desiring more information, please contact Karen Hill at treas@tnps.org.



New Native Gardening Book

There's a new gardening book for us to enjoy! Written by Larry Mellichamp and Paula Cross, it's a look at 225 native plants that can be used to create Earth-friendly gardens.

Errata Corrections in Latest Edition of Wildflowers of Tennessee Field Guide

If you own the 2nd edition of our Wildflowers of Tennessee field guide, you might have noticed two publisher errors: the wrong photo for white crownbeard / frostweed (*Verbesina virginica*) and the not-quite-right color for Virginia spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*). Correct photos have now been posted at the link below. A new printing is in the works, with corrected pages. <https://lonepinebooks.com/product/wildflowers-of-tennessee-3/>

Field Trip Reports

Collins Gap to Mt. Collins on AT, Clingman's Dome Road, July 18, 2020

Despite weather forecasts of storms, we had beautiful weather for our hike. Those of us who came up Newfound Gap Road got a nice preview; we saw broadleaf phlox (*Phlox amplifolia*), black cohosh (*Cimicifuga racemosa*), a few turk's-cap lilies (*Lilium superbum*), and a magnificent display of rosebay rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*) as we neared Newfound Gap. After meeting at the Newfound Gap monument we took the Clingman's Dome road to the Mt. Collins trailhead and started up along the Appalachian Trail. We saw a variety of high elevation plants unique to the area: Clingman's hedge nettle (*Stachys clingmanii*), Rugel's ragwort (*Rugelia nudicaulis*), southern mountain cranberry (*Vaccinium erythrocarpon*), and skunk goldenrod (*Solidago glomerata*). We saw many other high elevation plants, including fire cherry (*Prunus pennsylvanica*), wild hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*), green-headed coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*), mountain maple (*Acer spicatum*), smooth carrion flower (*Smilax herbacea*), witch hobble (*Viburnum lantanoides*), shining club moss (*Huperzia lucidula*), Clinton's lily (*Clintonia borealis*) with early fruits, mountain ash (*Sorbus americana*), mountain wood sorrel (*Oxalis montana*), and rosy twisted stalk (*Streptopus roseus*). We went about halfway to the top of Mt. Collins on the AT. After a lunch stop on the trail we headed back down and proceeded up the road to the Clingman's Dome parking lot, which was a mob scene. Nevertheless, we got to see some unique plants: small purple fringed orchid (*Platanthera psycodes*), mountain St. Johnswort (*Hypericum graveolens*), Southern bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla sessifolia*), and a



rosebay rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*)

nice display of Michaux's saxifrage (*Saxifraga michauxii*) in a rock seep. We headed back down the Clingman's Dome road to take in a stand of tassel rue (*Trautvetteria caroliniensis*). We saw plenty of brilliant scarlet bee balm (*Monarda didyma*) and green-headed coneflowers along the road. We found pink turtleheads (*Chelone lyonii*) and dwarf enchanter's nightshade (*Circea alpina*). There were many small white flowers which Allan Trently identified as grasslike chickweed (*Stellaria graminea*). After a very successful day we headed down the mountain, grateful for the break from the 90+ degree summer heat. ~ Susan Sweetser

Fall Wildflower Event at Crab Orchard Mountain, September 5, 2020

It worked. We had a lovely event despite COVID-19. We had great weather and flowers. There were lots of people, 25, but because of masking and distancing it felt quite safe. We also divided into three groups to decrease the chance of disease spread. Without carpooling the parking was tricky but doable.

The yellow members of the aster family gave us theme and variation. There were sunflowers, rosinweeds, golden-asters (2 species), sneezeweeds, goldenrods (5 species) and beggar-ticks with the brightest patches of yellow. Purple was provided by late aster, creeping aster, downy lobelia and southern blazing star. All of this and many more types of flowers formed a natural garden under the TVA power lines. It is important that conservationists work with TVA to protect these prairie-like habitats. In this case the right-of-way land is protected by the state as a natural area. It is home to rare plants.

This event was sponsored by TNPS, TCWP and TennGreen. Besides the beauty of the plants we were celebrating TennGreen's success in buying most of Crab Orchard Mountain including some of the area that we walked through. This will mean that southbound Cumberland Trail through hikers will not need to walk many miles along a road to get to Ozone Falls, so they can continue walking to the Chattanooga area. ~ Larry Pounds

Carroll Cabin Barrens Late Fall Wildflowers, October 24, 2020

Eleven brave and hardy souls endured persistent rain and cold temperatures on a quest to see Great Plains ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes magnicamporum*) among the late fall wildflowers at Carroll Cabin Barrens SNA. We were treated to two aster species at the parking area, Short's aster (*Symphotrichum shortii*) and calico aster (*S. lateriflorum*), to whet our appetites and bolster our resolve as we followed the trail to the first barren.

Immediately, as we got to the barren we were greeted by our first perfect flowering stem of the Great Plains ladies'-tresses. As we looked out on the barren there were dozens of white spires peeking above the grass. *Spiranthes magnicamporum* is a notoriously late-blooming species with the peak flowering time being late October, but with cooperative weather, they can last all the way through the month of November. As we moved through the barren, we were amazed at the number of plants in flower, easily over 100. Last year we had to cancel because of severe storms forecast for the area, but I visited in the morning and only found 8 plants in flower total. Orchids often have this boom/bust cycle of flowering that is tied to bad or good weather conditions during the growth period in the summer. Obviously, this was a great year for them! Many of us stopped to smell them as they have an intoxicating aroma of marzipan.



Great Plains ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes magnicamporum*)

Also in this barren, we found our other target species, barrens silky aster (*Symphotrichum pratense*). This TN rare plant has very large amethyst flowers that demand attention. Unfortunately, the rain caused the ray flowers to kind of mat together, so they weren't as photogenic as they would have been in better conditions. Asters were the predominant wildflower other than the orchids. In total, we saw 7 species in flower.

Other species that were seen in flower included blue sage (*Salvia azurea* var. *grandiflora*), obedient plant (*Physostegia virginiana*), fall sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*), pale spike lobelia (*Lobelia spicata*), and slender blazing-star (*Liatris cylindracea*).

Yes, it was wet and cold, but we were all thankful to be able to be together and enjoy a day in the field. All in all, it was a good way to end a challenging year for our field trip schedule.
~ Bart Jones

TNPS Annual Meeting to be Online This Year

The TNPS Annual Meeting usually occurs in conjunction with our annual conference, which was cancelled this year due to COVID-19 issues. Instead, we will hold our annual meeting online Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. CST. (That's 7:30 p.m. EST.) Please mark your calendars.

We will begin by taking care of some TNPS business and nomination of officers. Please note that we are in need of a volunteer treasurer. (See our ad for details.)

At 7:00 CST (8:00 EST) we will introduce our featured speaker, Dr. Joey Shaw, who will introduce the new online Tennessee-Kentucky Plant Atlas. "The TN-KY Plant Atlas is a resource for anyone interested in the vascular plants of Tennessee and Kentucky. It is being developed as a comprehensive database for plant data useful to plant enthusiasts, hobbyists, professionals, conservation workers, decision makers, and students and teachers of all levels." Give the Atlas a try before the meeting, and then ask Dr. Shaw any questions you may have. A link to the Atlas is the first listed on the More Resources page of our website: <https://www.tnps.org/more-resources/>. Or you can go directly: <https://tennessee-kentucky.plantatlas.usf.edu/>.

To access the Zoom Meeting please use the link below and follow the directions.

<https://zoom.us/j/98285947847?pwd=UTZ4RlR6VkZlUW5zVGlsbcmxsSjErUT09>

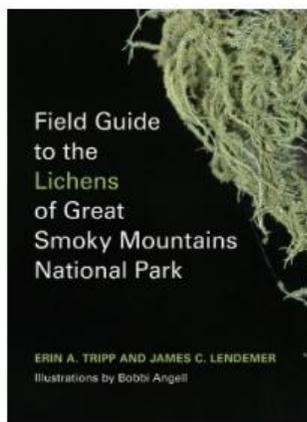
Meeting ID: 982 8594 7847

Passcode: 051928

New Book from UT Press

TNPS members, we can get 50% off this new lichen field guide! Just fill out the form and send it along with your payment or call the number listed and tell them you are a TNPS member.

From The University of Tennessee Press



ISBN 978-1-62190-514-1 ~~\$59.95~~ \$30.00

Field Guide to the Lichens of Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Erin A. Tripp and James C. Lendemer

Illustrations by Bobbi Angell

With 909 recognized species of lichens, Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) is home to more of these lichenized fungi than any other national park in the United States, as well as nearly half of all species known to occur in eastern North America. There is a great deal of room for scientific exploration, inquiry, and systematic description in the realm of lichenology. In *Field Guide to the Lichens of Great Smoky Mountains National Park*, Erin A. Tripp and James C. Lendemer take on the formidable task of creating an all-in-one resource for Park exploration, including lichen distribution maps, tools for identification, vivid photographs and illustrations, and even field notes from their own research campaigns. In the process, the authors create a touchstone for lichen taxonomy and ecology, and they inspire others—researchers as well as casual observers—to take interest in the incredible biodiversity of the Great Smoky Mountains. Biologists, botanists, visitors to the park, naturalists, and others interested in the flora and fauna of both the southern Appalachians and Great Smoky Mountains National Park will thoroughly enjoy this lovingly prepared field guide.

ERIN A. TRIPP is an associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology as well as curator of botany at the University of Colorado. Her works include *Field Guide to the Lichens of White Rocks* and publications in prestigious scientific journals, such as *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*, *Journal of Biogeography*, *Systematic Botany*, and *Molecular Ecology*.

JAMES C. LENDEMER is an assistant curator at the Institute of Systematic Botany, New York Botanical Garden. His works include *Delmarva Lichens, An Illustrated Guide* and publications in prestigious scientific journals, such as *BioScience*, *Biodiversity & Conservation*, *The Bryologist*, *Mycologia*, and the *Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society*.

Yes! Please send me _____ copies of *Field Guide to the Lichens of Great Smoky Mountains National Park* at ~~\$59.95~~ \$30.00 each!

_____ Subtotal
_____ \$6.00 s & h for first book
_____ \$9.00 foreign orders, first book
_____ \$1.00 for each additional book
_____ IL residents add 9.25% sales tax
_____ TN residents add 9.25% sales tax
_____ Total

Check enclosed
 AmEx Visa MasterCard
Account # _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____
Name _____
Address _____
City/State/ZIP _____
Daytime phone # _____
(required for credit card orders)

Send orders to
Chicago Distribution Center
Order Fulfillment
11030 South Langley Ave.
Chicago, IL 60628

or call 1-800-621-2736 and tell customer service
you're a TNPS member.

TNPS Newsletter
P.O. Box 159274
Nashville, TN 37215