

# TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 45, Number 1

March 2021

## *A Letter from the President*

Hello, everyone!

I am excited about beginning a new year and a new TNPS presidency. While COVID-19 is still casting a shadow over all that we do, there is now hope that sometime later this year we will embrace a new normal. And, although TNPS has experienced significant challenges over the past year with limitations on gathering for field trips, meetings, and our conference, we have been pushed to learn new skills. I suspect that many of us had never attended a Zoom meeting before last year.

But new skills open new doors. Starting in March, we will begin a monthly Native Plant Seminars on Zoom. We have many new members and many who are new to Tennessee. It seems logical to share the expertise of our more knowledgeable members and others experienced with native plants with these newcomers. After all, our mission is “Conserving and celebrating native plant communities and their habitats through education”.

For those who do not yet know me, my background (and ancestry) has been focused on nature and the environment. I taught middle school and high school sciences (mostly environmental science), and served as Education Director at Environmental Concern – teaching teachers about wetlands, and even writing and publishing a curriculum guide for them. While living in Maryland, I joined the Maryland Native Plant Society and served as Chairman of the Coastal Conservation Association of Maryland, a recreational fishing group of about a thousand. When my grandson arrived, I was drawn to Tennessee and brought my website development company with me.

My first friendship in Tennessee was Alice Jensen who insisted that I join her on TNPS hikes. I soon became TNPS Webmaster and later Treasurer. Serving as TNPS President will be an exciting challenge. We also have two new members stepping into vacant positions: Mark Smith as Treasurer and Hilary Swaim as Newsletter Editor. They are both capable, knowledgeable individuals. If you meet them out on the trail, please introduce yourselves and welcome them to TNPS.

Should you have ideas, questions, or concerns about TNPS, please send me an email at [krh@myripples.org](mailto:krh@myripples.org).

See you on the trails,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen".

Karen Ripple Hill

# TNPS Newsletter

This newsletter is a publication of the Tennessee Native Plant Society and is published four times a year, generally in March, June, September, and December.

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: Complimentary

Institution: \$50

Life: \$250

Dues may be sent to:

Tennessee Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 159274

Nashville, TN 37215

Officers

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Larry Pounds

Michelle Haynes

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Hilary Swaim, Editor

Please send comments, photos, and material for the TNPS newsletter to  
Newsletter@TNPS.org

## Election Results for 2021

Our Annual Meeting and election were held on November 12, 2020 via Zoom with the following nominees accepted by acclamation for two-year terms: President – Karen Ripple Hill, Treasurer – Wanda Priest, Directors – Larry Pounds, Louise Gregory, and Dennis Horn. Since then, Wanda has stepped down from the office of Treasurer as her family fights COVID-19. Another new member, Mark Smith, was appointed Treasurer by Karen and affirmed by the Board.

After our annual meeting, Dr. Joey Shaw (Professor of Biology, The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga) gave a presentation on the history of the newly launched Tennessee-Kentucky Plant Atlas plus a tour of the Atlas. This project received strong financial support from TNPS. It serves as a useful tool for learning where our native plants can be found, what environment they prefer, variations within a species, and so much more. The Atlas is the very first link offered on the More Resources page of our website. Members can also go directly to the Atlas at <https://tennessee-kentucky.plantatlas.usf.edu/>.

## April 2021 Conference Modified

Our 2021 Conference will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 10-11 in Red Boiling Springs with headquarters at the [Donoho Hotel](#).

There will be no registration or fee for this conference. To reserve a room at the Donoho Hotel, please call them at 615-699-3141 and let them know that you are with TNPS.

Due to continued concerns regarding COVID-19, there will be no speakers, meetings, or gatherings at the 2021 conference, but field trips will go on as planned for Saturday and Sunday. Saturday field trips will be at Taylor Hollow and Larkspur Cemetery, alternating morning and afternoon hikes with lunch at Larkspur. On Sunday, the hike can be a self-tour or group hike at Winding Stairs.

The TNPS group will likely meet at 10 a.m. central time. Details about each of the three conference-related field trips can be found on the field trip schedule included in the following pages, or as a PDF document on the Field Trips page of our website and individually on the Calendar pages.



**Rue Anemone**  
(*Thalictrum thalictroides*)

Photo by Bart Jones

## *New: Online Native Plant Seminars*

The Tennessee Native Plant Society will begin hosting monthly Native Plant Seminars, starting on March 16, 2021. **These events will be held via Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Central (7:30 p.m. Eastern) and last about one hour.** All members and potential members are welcome to join the seminars at no cost. The link to join each seminar will be posted on the Native Plant Seminars page and on the Calendar pages of our website ([www.tnps.org](http://www.tnps.org)).

Seminar speakers are drawn from our knowledgeable membership, professionals across the state, and the professors and students studying our Tennessee native plants. A range of topics will be covered that may include plants that are currently blooming, native plants in our yards, current research on native plants, protections for native plants, and so much more.

Our Native Plant Seminars will begin with our most illustrious member, Dennis Horn. Dennis was lead author and primary mover of our book, *Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachians*. He received the 2020 TNPS Conservation Award, joined the TNPS Tennessee Botanist Hall of Fame and has many more accolades.

Join us for an hour a month to learn more about our Tennessee native plants.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
Tuesday, March 16	Spring Wildflowers Across Tennessee	Dennis Horn
Tuesday, April 20	Plants of the Cumberland Trail	Dr. Larry Pounds
Tuesday, May 18	Native Plants of the Cedar Glades	Milo Pyne
Tuesday, June 15	Tennessee Plant Conservation Alliance	Cooper Breeden
Tuesday, July 20	TBA	TBA
Tuesday, August 17	Pollination Strategies of Native Orchids	Bart Jones
Tuesday, September 21	Edible Natives	Pandy Upchurch
Tuesday, October 19	TBA	TBA
Tuesday, November 16	Invasive Plants of Tennessee	Margie Hunter

# 2021 Hike Schedule

<i>Date and Location</i>	<i>Details</i>
<p><b>March 27   Meeman-Shelby State Park</b></p> <p>Leave the urban environment behind and explore the wooded ravines of this large state park for spring wildflowers. We will concentrate our time hiking along the horse trail where we should see all three varieties of <i>Viola sororia</i>: <i>var. sororia</i> (common blue violet), <i>var. albiflorus</i> (white wood violet), and <i>var. priceana</i> (Confederate violet) among other common spring ephemerals. If time allows, we may go to another paved walking/biking trail that has a large population of the uncommon oceanblue phacelia (<i>Phacelia ranunculacea</i>) with its minute light blue bell-shaped flowers that easily can be mistaken for baby blue-eyes. This trail also has lots of wild blue phlox (<i>Phlox divaricata</i>), prairie trillium (<i>Trillium recurvatum</i>), and spring beauty (<i>Claytonia virginica</i>).</p>	<p>Meeting Place: Parking lot at the park Visitor Center 10:00 am Central Time</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy to moderate. The horse trail does go down and back out of ravines and the trail can be muddy after a rain.</p> <p>Facilities: At the Visitor Center and at parking area of hiking/biking trail.</p> <p>Lunch: Bring to eat at picnic area in park.</p> <p>Contact/Leader: Bart Jones, Phone/email: 901-485-2745, bjones7777@hotmail.com</p>
<p><b>April 3   Old Stone Fort Park, Coffee County</b></p> <p>Bonnaroo is not the first party to be held in Manchester. Some 2000 years ago, Native Americans held ceremonial events in the 50-acre enclosure inside what is now the State Park. The enclosure is bounded by the Duck River on one side and the Little Duck River on the other, as both rivers cut their way down through the Highland Rim to the Central Basin, forming waterfall steps along the way. The far end of the enclosure is bounded by the old river channel, now referred to as “the moat.” We will hike along the “walls” of the enclosure and along the Moat Trail to the junction of the rivers. Spring wildflowers should be abundant in the lower sections of the trail, including Virginia Bluebells, Yellow Trout Lily, Sharp-lobe Hepatica, Rue Anemone, Wild Ginger, and toothwort species.</p>	<p>Directions/Meeting Place: From I-24 exit 110, turn south onto TN Hwy 53 toward Manchester. Go about one mile to a tee. Turn right onto US Hwy 41. Go another mile to the park entrance on the left. Drive on the main park road to the visitor center parking lot. Meeting Place/Time: Park Visitor Center 10:00 am Central Time.</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy to moderate 2 mile hike.</p> <p>Facilities: At the visitor center</p> <p>Lunch: Bring water, snacks, and camera. Plan to have lunch in Manchester around 1:00 pm after the hike.</p> <p>Contact/Leader: Dennis Horn Phone/email: 931-461-0262, horndd@lighttube.net</p>
<p><b>April 10   Taylor Hollow, Larkspur Conservancy</b></p> <p>Taylor Hollow is one of the premier spring wildflower locations in Tennessee and is always a treat to visit. At this time, we should expect to see the rare Least Trillium (<i>Trillium pusillum</i>) and other more common spring ephemerals. The day will be split with a visit to the adjacent Larkspur Conservancy, a nature preserve and green burial cemetery.</p>	<p>Meeting Place: 155 Bear Carr Rd. parking area between Taylor Hollow and Larkspur Conservancy, 10:00 am Central Time.</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy, but be very mindful to stay on the trail in Taylor Hollow.</p> <p>Facilities: None</p> <p>Lunch: Bring lunch and water to eat at the picnic tables at Larkspur Conservancy.</p> <p>Contact/Leader: Michelle Haynes, Phone/email: 615-426-7551, michellewhaynes@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>continued on next page</i></p>

# 2021 Hike Schedule

<i>Date and Location</i>	<i>Details</i>
<p><b>April 11   Winding Staircase, Lafayette</b></p> <p>Winding Staircase is a City of Lafayette park which preserves a scenic area of steep rock faces, waterfalls, and large patches of wildflowers. Trails are well marked with self-guided signage.</p>	<p>Meeting Place: Parking lot at the park, 655 Nature Trail Way. For those who would like to meet as a group, join us by 10:00 am Central Time. Since it is a self-guided trail you can go at any time.</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy to moderate. Lots of stairs to negotiate.</p> <p>Facilities: At the parking lot</p> <p>Lunch: Bring what you would like or eat after hike.</p> <p>Contact/Leader: Since this is a self-guided trail, there is no leader.</p>
<p><b>April 17   Frozen Head Wildflower Walk</b></p> <p>This is a joint outing for the 53rd Frozen Head Wildflower Pilgrimage with TNPS and TCWP. We will have an excellent opportunity to see spring wildflowers. The first mile is ideal for those with rather limited hiking capabilities; the trail is wide and flat. It is a loop with quick return to the parking area (Interpretive Trail). For those continuing the next 2 miles are steeper and rougher but still moderate (Judge Branch and S. Old Mac Trails).</p>	<p>Meeting Place: For carpool: Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's, 9AM Eastern. If going straight to the trail meet at 10 AM Eastern.</p> <p>Difficulty: Option 1. One mile of wide, flat trail. Easy. Option 2. Three miles with a stream crossing and some steep places. Moderate.</p> <p>Facilities: At meeting place</p> <p>Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray</p> <p>Contact/Leader: Larry Pounds and Jimmy Groton (Reservations required), Phone/email: 865-705-8516, PoundsL@aol.com</p>
<p><b>April 24   Stinging Fork Falls to Piney River</b></p> <p>We will caravan from the Exxon to the Lower Piney River Trailhead to start a shuttle leaving some cars there. We will then carpool to the Stinging Fork Falls Trailhead. From there we hike back to the Piney River Trailhead. This section of the Cumberland Trail was completed in the fall 2018. What spring flowers we will see is hard to predict. The route is definitely scenic. Total walking distance will be about 6 miles. The trail is up and down with many steps.</p> <p>Alternatives: People are welcome to head back early to the Stinging Falls Fork Trailhead. They will need a car there or will have to wait until the afternoon when the shuttle is completed. With this alternative you could drive back from the Stinging Fork Trailhead to the Piney River Trail Head and walk in along the flat trail by Soak Creek to meet the rest of the group as they reach Soak Creek.</p>	<p>Meeting/Carpool Places:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot in Oak Ridge (at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's) 9 AM Eastern Time</li> <li>Rocky Top/ Exxon/ McDonald's on US 27 in Spring City at 10 AM Eastern</li> </ol> <p>Difficulty: Moderate with some steep sections.</p> <p>Facilities: At meeting places.</p> <p>Lunch: Bring lunch, water, and bug spray.</p> <p>Contact/Leader: Larry Pounds (reservations required), Phone/Email: 865-705-8516 (cell) PoundsL471@aol.com</p>

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# 2021 Hike Schedule

<i>Date and Location</i>	<i>Details</i>
<p><b>April 30 - May 1   Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glades Festival</b></p> <p>The largest event celebrating the unique cedar glade habitat of Middle Tennessee. Lots of activities including hikes led by TNPS members Todd Crabtree, Milo Pyne, and Darel Hess.</p>	<p>Check out the website at <a href="http://www.mtsu.edu/glade-center/">www.mtsu.edu/glade-center/</a> for more information.</p>
<p><b>May 8   Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness</b></p> <p>We will explore the Chestnut Mountain and Polly Branch Trails where we hope to see large stands of pink lady's slipper (<i>Cypripedium acaule</i>) and mountain laurel (<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>), and if we're lucky, we might be able to catch the end of the bloom season for other spring ephemerals such as dwarf ginseng (<i>Panax trifolium</i>). A few woody perennials may be in bloom, too, including Dutchman's pipe (<i>Aristolochia macrophylla</i>) and nine-bark (<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>).</p>	<p>Directions/Meeting Place: In De Rossett 8 or 9 miles E. of Sparta on US 70, turn south on Eastland Road at Bondecroft Headstart Village. Go about 6.5 miles until you get to the graveled parking area on the right at the entrance of the WMA (35.879935, -85.272278) where we will meet, 10:00 am Central Time.</p> <p>Difficulty: Moderate, Approximately 4 miles with some steep sections.</p> <p>Facilities: None</p> <p>Lunch: Bring water, lunch, bug spray.</p> <p>Contact/Leader: Bart Jones Phone/email: 901-485-2745, <a href="mailto:bjones7777@hotmail.com">bjones7777@hotmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>May 29   AEDC/May Prairie</b></p> <p>For those that missed the 2019 trip, this is your opportunity to again see orchids and other rare plants. The "Oak Barrens" of Coffee County provide some of the best examples of TN rare plants that also occur in the Gulf Coastal Plain and the prairies of the Midwest. As a result, Coffee County is one of only three counties in Tennessee with 50 or more rare plant species.</p> <p>We will visit the AEDC first to see native orchids: <i>Calopogon tuberosus</i>, <i>Cleistes bifaria</i> (now <i>Cleisteslopsis</i>), and possibly <i>Platanthera lacera</i> and <i>Pogonia ophioglossoides</i>. We should also find Death Camas (<i>Zigadenus leimanthoides</i>, now <i>Stenanthium tennesseense</i>), Whorled Loosestrife (<i>Lysimachia quadrifolia</i>), and Hyssop Leaved Skullcap (<i>Scutellaria integrifolia</i>). After lunch, time permitting, we will visit May Prairie. We should see Mock Bishop's Weed (<i>Ptilimnium costatum</i>), Eryngo (<i>Eryngium integrifolium</i>), Coppery St. Johnswort (<i>Hypericum denticulatum</i>), Marsh Pea (<i>Lathyrus palustris</i>), Horned Bladderpod (<i>Utricularia cornuta</i>), and Swamp Candles (<i>Lysimachia terrestris</i>).</p>	<p>Directions/Meeting Place: Wendy's in Manchester at 10:00 am Central Time. Leave I-24 at exit 114 in Manchester, TN. Turn left coming from Chattanooga (right from Nashville) onto US 41 heading NW toward town. Turn right at the 1st traffic light (Raceway at that intersection) beyond the interstate. Wendy's is half a block on the right.</p> <p>Facilities: At meeting place.</p> <p>Lunch: Bring lunch unless social distancing requirements have been relaxed. Bring water, insect repellent, sunscreen, snacks, and camera.</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy to moderate walking in low vegetation. Some areas may be wet.</p> <p>Leader: Dennis Horn Phone/Email: 931-461-0262, <a href="mailto:horndd@lighttube.net">horndd@lighttube.net</a></p>

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# 2021 Hike Schedule

<i>Date and Location</i>	<i>Details</i>
<p><b>July 17   Thomas Divide/ Kanati Fork</b></p> <p>Car shuttle required. We will hike Thomas Divide trail and then go down the mountain on the Kanati Fork Trail. We will see a variety of plants and look for some rare species. This will be about 5 miles with about 3 miles downhill.</p>	<p>Meeting Place: Newfound Gap at 10am Eastern</p> <p>Difficulty: Moderate, but at elevation.</p> <p>Lunch: Bring along with water and bug spray.</p> <p>Facilities: at Newfound Gap.</p> <p>Leaders: Allen and Susan Sweetser Email/Phone: ssretiree@yahoo.com, 865-938-7627</p>
<p><b>September 25   The Grasslands of Dry Branch</b></p> <p>We will travel from the 412 Market to the natural area. Here we will explore the upland grasslands. These grasslands add diversity to the plant and animal richness of the natural area. Leaders will identify plants and animals, collect seed (for conservation initiatives) and discuss the importance of grasslands. We will contribute important data to the Southeastern Grasslands Initiative by adding plant and animal records to iNaturalist. All data will be used to understand the region's grasslands and provide important information regarding management. <i>There is a limit of 15 people for this trip.</i></p>	<p>Directions/Meeting Place: 412 Market at 1403 Linden Hwy (Route 412/20), Hohenwald (35.549535, -87.612235) at 9:30 Central Time (NOTE TIME). Trip will go until 12:30.</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy to moderate.</p> <p>Lunch: Bring to eat after trip.</p> <p>Facilities: At meeting place</p> <p>Contact/Leaders: Allan Trently, West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist and Cooper Breeden, Southeastern Grasslands Initiative and Tennessee Plant Conservation Alliance. Phone/Email: 731-571-9729, allan.trently@tn.gov</p>
<p><b>October 2   Big Cypress Tree State Park Mycology Safari</b></p> <p>This trip will focus on all the other things that grow out of the ground (and even from plants). We should encounter numerous species of mushrooms, fungi, lichens, and slime molds that are all weird and wonderful. And, of course, we won't ignore the plants – particularly red turtlehead (<i>Chelone obliqua</i>).</p>	<p>Directions/Meeting Place: Take US Hwy. 45E north through Greenfield. Turn left onto TN Hwy. 445 (Kimmery Store Rd.). Turn right onto Big Cypress Rd. and follow to the playground/picnic area where we will meet at 10:00 am Central Time.</p> <p>Difficulty: Easy, but it can be muddy.</p> <p>Lunch: Bring to eat at picnic area after trip.</p> <p>Facilities: At meeting place</p> <p>Contact/Leader: Bart Jones Phone/Email: 901-485-2745, bjones7777@hotmail.com</p>

Please remember to contact the trip leader  
for each hike you plan to attend!

## Spring Native Plant Sales

### Chattanooga, March 27th

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of Wild Ones has planned an [Outdoor Native Plant Marketplace](https://tnvalleywildones.org/plant-natives-2021/marketplace2021/) for March 27th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern. There will be 10 regional native plant nurseries selling native plants. This event will be held at the spacious and covered First Horizon Pavilion (home of the Chattanooga Market) in downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee. Food trucks and other vendors and exhibitors will also be present. TNPS will have a booth to sell books and memberships. The event is free and open to the public. Masks will be required. <https://tnvalleywildones.org/plant-natives-2021/marketplace2021/>

### Brentwood, May 8th

The Middle Tennessee Wild Ones Chapter will hold a native plant sale on Saturday, May 8, at Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary in Brentwood. Check their Events page for details closer to the date. Visit <https://middletennesseewildones.org/events>.

## 2021 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage Will Again Be Virtual

Contributed by Bettina Ault

The Great Smoky Mountains Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage will once again be run virtually. This year, the Pilgrimage will run from May 8-16, 2021 and registration is free. <http://www.wildflowerpilgrimage.org/home-virtual-swfp.html>

The event was held virtually last May and was very popular. Pilgrims from around the world documented their observations on iNaturalist, logging 12,000 observations of 3000 species – from whales to algae. If you haven't used iNaturalist, this is a great way to learn and an opportunity to be a citizen scientist by documenting plant and animal species. Lots of help with identification and verification is available.

How can you sign up for the 2021 virtual Pilgrimage?

1. If you do not already have an account, you need to download the iNaturalist app, and set up a username and password. There are instructions on how to do this on the virtual Wildflower Pilgrimage web page.
2. The event is free, but you will need to provide your iNaturalist username to register for the event and join the group. Look for the [Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage web page](#) or send an email to [wildflowerpilgrimage@sebiologists.org](mailto:wildflowerpilgrimage@sebiologists.org) for more information.



**Long-spurred violet**  
(*Viola rostrata*)

Photo by Bart Jones

## Citizen Science on Zooniverse

Contributed by Kim Sadler

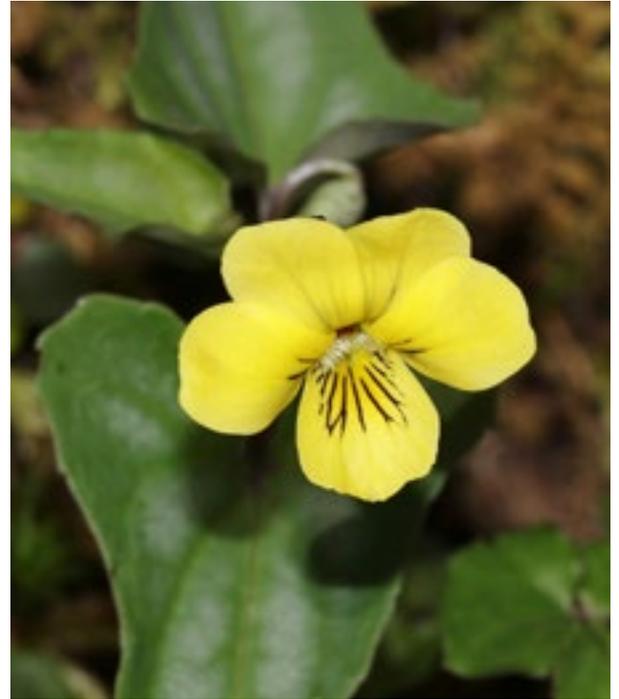
There is something for everyone on Zooniverse!

I teach a general education non-majors biology course at Middle Tennessee State University that is a designated Experiential Learning (EXL) course. One component of an EXL course is that students experience the discipline beyond the classroom. To share my passion about plants, particularly the value of native species, students participate in ecological restoration projects that involve removing invasive pest plants or planting native plants in designated areas.

The value of this experience to the students and the environment is immeasurable. Students also build their resume because they can show this citizen science work as public service. This past autumn, the pandemic and social distancing kept us from restoration work, but I found another project for them in a virtual space on Zooniverse ([www.zooniverse.org](http://www.zooniverse.org)).

Researchers post projects on Zooniverse to get assistance from the public. My classes joined the [Notes from Nature: Southeastern Grassland Initiative](#) project and transcribed more than 1,200 herbarium sheets of specimens collected in limestone cedar glades and barrens.

Herbarium collections are repositories for all types of important information, just waiting to be learned. If you are tired of Netflix, and are looking for a rewarding volunteer project, I encourage you to check out the Zooniverse website. There are endless projects and the smallest contributions add up over time.



### Halberd-Leaf Violet

(*Viola hastata*)

Photo by Bart Jones



**Southern Lady's Slipper**  
(*Cypripedium kentuckiense*)

Photo by Bart Jones

## Share Your Photos From the Trail

As spring arrives, and you set out on hikes and scouting adventures, consider bringing your camera. We would love to see your photos from the field. Share your favorite finds, and a brief description with us and we will be happy to feature them in future newsletters and/or social media.

Email Hilary Swaim, newsletter editor, with questions or materials throughout the year: [Newsletter@TNPS.org](mailto:Newsletter@TNPS.org)

## When Are Dues Due?

Unless you are an email subscriber, check your mailing label for your membership date. You are paid through the year listed just above your name. You can pay TNPS dues at any time, and now you can pay online at the TNPS Website. Just go to [www.tnps.org](http://www.tnps.org), click "Membership," and follow directions there. If your address has changed, you can email the new address to [info@tnps.org](mailto:info@tnps.org). We cannot print the newsletter in full color, but you may be pleased to find all the color in email copies and at the website. [www.tnps.org](http://www.tnps.org)

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Check *TNPS.org*  
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