



TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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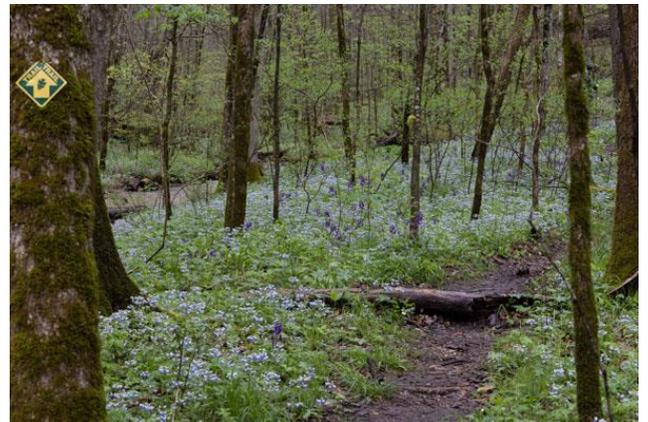
2021 Annual Conference



Our TNPS annual conference was held April 10-11, but with modifications. The historic Donoho Hotel in Red Boiling Springs served as headquarters even though we had no speakers nor annual meeting. Meals were served family style in the hotel restaurant where many of us ate. Evenings we pulled up the rocking chairs and sat together outside on the veranda talking about native plants and our adventures. It was plant nerd euphoria after a year of isolation.

On Saturday we hiked Taylor Hollow State Natural Area in a light

drizzle that eventually ended, but in no way dampened our excitement at seeing the beautiful smorgasbord of native plants in bloom. We quickly strung out along the trail looking, photographing, and identifying all the beauties. Bettina Ault carefully listed the identifications of all that we saw. Those plant lists are available on our website on the *Conference* page. While Taylor Hollow is a fabulous location to view native plants, it is also protected and not open to the public. We were fortunate to be granted permission to explore this treasure along the trail and under the watchful eyes of our "guides". After lunch on the porch of the cabin at Larkspur Conservancy, an area of natural traditional burial, we saw more spring beauties.



We hiked Winding Stairs on Sunday and saw how fabulous a city park can be. Trails and boardwalks with railings where needed allowed for self-paced exploration of a deep ravine with a winding cascading stream and a hilltop exploding with blooming native plants. Again, Bettina Ault carefully recorded the plant identifications. That plant list is also available on the *Conference* page of our website. Sometime in the future we hope to hold our annual conference here again, so we can share the wealth of native plants seen with more of our members. *Karen Hill*

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:
Individual/Family: \$20
Student: Complimentary
Institution: \$50
Life: \$250

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

Officers

Karen Ripple Hill, President
Allan Trently, Vice-President
Bettina Ault, Secretary
Kim Sadler, Treasurer

Directors

Suzy Askew
Louise Gregory
Michelle Haynes
Dennis Horn
Bart Jones
Larry Pounds

By the time you read this four successful informative Native Plant Seminars will have been held. Each seminar has been well attended with lots of interesting questions for our informed knowledgeable speakers who have taken us on journeys throughout Tennessee to see and learn about our native wildflowers. Seminars are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm Eastern (6:30 pm Central). If you have not attended a seminar yet, our full schedule is posted on the *Seminars* page of the website (TNPS.org) along with a video link to each seminar that has been held. The link for attending each seminar is posted: (1) in the printable Seminar Schedule on the *Seminars* page of the website, (2) on the appropriate *Calendar* page of the website, and (3) in a reminder email usually sent before each seminar to members who have provided an email address. Come join us if you have not already. Remember, the seminar is online. You can turn on your personal video while you relax with your evening wine, coffee, ice cream, whatever you like, while watching the presentation!

Our spring wildflower hikes are over (see reports throughout this newsletter), but we still have our planned summer and fall hikes. We also have an addition to the schedule. On September 11th Larry Pounds will lead a Cumberland Mountain Wildflower Walk. Be sure to check it out on the website *Calendar*.

In appreciation for her six years (2015-2020) of dedicated service as President of the Tennessee Native Plant Society Susan Sweetser was awarded a



Certificate of Appreciation. In her six years as President Susan presided over conferences at Linden Valley, Fall Creek Falls, Beersheba Springs, Talley Ho Inn, Reelfoot Lake, and also set up this year's conference at Red Boiling Springs. Susan established our three Outreach Coordinator positions, coordinated efforts to design our new logo, and saw that we joined both the national Plant

Conservation Alliance and the Tennessee Plant Conservation Alliance. She guided the induction of both Dr. Eugene Wofford (2017) and Dennis Horn (2020) into our Botanical Hall of Fame, while Dr. Margret Rhinehart received the Conservation Award (2017) and Dennis Horn received the Lifetime Conservation Award (2020). Susan also established and guided our support for the creation of the online Tennessee-Kentucky Plant Atlas.

These are just some of the highlights of Susan's tenure as President. She has always been available to answer questions, provide support, lead hikes, or whatever was needed to further the goals of TNPS. And anyone who has attended an in-person Board meeting is familiar with her delicious brownies. Thank you, Susan, for your years of service to TNPS!

Karen

Trip Report: Old Stone Fort State Park - April 3rd

Our group of about 15 participants started the hike along the enclosure above the Little Duck River. The river drops in a series of waterfall steps. There was little evidence that spring had arrived on this part of the trail. But once we started down into the “Moat” section of the trail flowers became more numerous. The “Moat” is the old river channel left from an earlier geologic time. There we found wild columbine and round leaf ragwort (*Packera obovata*) along the escarpment. In the bottom were spring beauty, wood anemone and rue anemone [photo right], *Trillium cuneatum*, three species of toothwort (*Dentaria*), purple phacelia, woodland phlox (*P. divaricata*), pale corydalis (*C. flavula*), and Carolina wood vetch (*Vicia caroliniana*). Fire pink was just beginning to flower on the hillside.



At the junction of the Big and Little Duck rivers there was evidence of flooding from heavy rains the weekend before. In this area were huge colonies of Virginia bluebell. Scattered about were yellow trout lily, Jacob’s ladder, and yellow woodland violet (*V. pubescens*). We found a small infestation of garlic mustard that was later removed by a Friends volunteer group. We followed the Big Duck River on the way back. Two nice waterfalls and good examples of early saxifrage and wood betony were seen along this stretch of the trail. After three hours on the trail, we were ready for a late lunch. *Dennis Horn*

Trip Report: Frozen Head Wildflower Walk – April 17th

TCWP and TNPS joined together with Frozenhead State Park for their wildflower pilgrimage outings. Kris Light led a group of Girl Scouts. Larry Pounds organized and shared leadership with several plant folk for a group of 14. The day threatened rain. After an early sprinkle, the weather was fine. We walked the Interpretive and Judge Branch Trails. Some highlights were large-flowered trillium, spotted mandarin, southern pinxter bush (a native azalea) and a group of deep purple dwarf crested irises. Meredith Clebsch pointed out bird calls. At the end of the walk on a whim we went looking for bartonia in a wet area where it is known to grow. No luck. It was probably too early to be up. *Larry Pounds*

Trip Report: Soak Creek Scenic River Outing – April 24th



The forecast was 100% rain and that’s what happened. I had decided that rescheduling would be too difficult. So, Jimmy Groton and I headed for Spring City. Despite the soaking conditions Bettina Ault met us there. We were a party of three on a hypothermia inducing day. We toughed it out long enough to see many wildflowers, including a large-flowered yellow lady’s-slipper [photo left] and a population of gaywings. We turned back to eat lunch in my vehicle. I turned the heater to 79 and we were soon feeling better.

Warmed up we headed to another trailhead. We got out and the wind was blowing. We went a few steps then quickly got back in the vehicle. Nope, we were not getting chilled again. *Larry Pounds*

Trip Report: Bridgestone-Firestone Centennial Wilderness, May 8th



A great group of 15, including a couple from Florida on their way to their summer home in Wisconsin, met at BFCW on a cool and overcast late spring day. We started our trek at Virgin Falls State Natural Area. We encountered several nice damp areas along the trail with a few wildflowers in bloom: mountain azalea (*Rhododendron canescens*), two-flowered Cynthia (*Krigia biflora*), Yellow Stargrass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*), and Indian cucumber-root (*Medeola virginiana*, photo left). A short detour on a side trail garnered a nice patch of arrowhead violet (*Viola sagittata*) growing along the sandy bank of an old logging road.

Back to the parking lot at the Polly Branch /Chestnut Mountain trailhead of BFCW there were a few more wildflowers, including dwarf cinquefoil (*Potentilla canadensis*). As we made our way down the Chestnut Mountain trail, we quickly began to see a few of our target pink lady's slippers (*Cypripedium acaule*, photo right). As we progressed the groups became larger until we finally reached the largest populations of the orchids. In just one patch there were 52 plants in bloom, plus we saw hundreds along the trail. We noticed a particular white moth perched on numerous flowers (one flower had 3 just hanging out on the pouch) and thought it was odd that it only seemed to be on the lady's slippers (we did see one on a bush honeysuckle flower). It turned out to be a white slant-line moth and one of our members on the hike (thanks go to Dwight Miller) did a google search to try to ID the moth and found a very interesting blog post that described the exact same phenomenon we witnessed. And it seems like this happens across the range of the moth and the orchid which includes most of the eastern US.



At the end of the trail was a small unnamed creek that had some nice wildflowers along its banks and in wet areas nearby. A few wildflowers included some nice clumps of marsh violet (*Viola cucullata*), primrose-leaf violet (*Viola primulifolia*), hispid buttercup (*Ranunculus hispidus*), and shrub yellowroot (*Xanthorhiza simplicissima*).

At this location we also encountered the unusual American climbing fern or Hartford fern (*Lygodium palmatum*). Unlike any other native fern, this species' fronds grow as vines, scrambling over the grasses and low forbs. In fact, ferns turned out to be one of the biggest surprises in just how many there were and the number of species we saw. Besides the climbing fern we ended up with 12 other species for the trip. The list included Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), broad beech fern (*Phegopteris hexagonoptera*), cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*, photo right), royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*), New York fern (*Parathelypteris noveboracensis*), southern lady fern (*Athyrium asplenoides*), rattlesnake fern (*Botrypus virginianum*), ebony spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), eastern hay-scented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*), netted chain fern (*Woodwardia areolata*), and sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*); as well as the fern ally, flat-branched clubmoss (*Dendrolycopodium obscurum*).



After more than 5 miles of hiking we all were worn out, but it was great to see folks on the trail again. Can't wait for the next one! *Bart Jones*

Trip Report: AEDC and May Prairie – May 29, 2021



A large group of 25-30 participants enjoyed a cool cloudy day of botanizing. We were joined by three visitors from Huntsville, AL, that are associated with the Huntsville Botanical Garden. Our first stop was the power lines at AEDC. We immediately found lots of Rose Pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*) [see photo left]. There was no sign of *Calopogon* or *Cleistesiospis*. A cool wet spring had delayed flowering this year. We did find 2-3 Green Adder's Mouth (*Malaxis unifolia*) beginning to flower in the adjacent woods. There we also found Sweet Spire (*Itea virginica*) and Possum Haw (*Viburnum nudum*) in flower, both are shrubs, and a few Pink Lady's-slippers past flowering.

Lunch was in the May Prairie parking lot on Asbury Road. On the half mile walk to the prairie we found two species of huckleberry, *Gaylussacia baccata* and *G. dumosa*, a rare species with white urn-shaped flowers. Just before reaching the prairie, we enjoyed seeing several White Milkweed (*Asclepias variegata*) beginning to bloom.



The flowers in the prairie were also later than normal, but there were still plenty to see. Some plants of note were: Hyssopleaf or Helmet Skullcap (*Scutellaria integrifolia*), Smooth Phlox (*P. glaberrima*), Swamp Candles (*Lysimachia terrestris*), one early flower each of Shaggy or Cumberland Rosinweed (*Silphium mohrii*) and Cutleaf Prairie Dock (*S. pinnatifidum*), Horned Bladderwort (*Utricularia cornuta*) [see photo above right], rare in Tennessee and found only at May prairie, Hairy Tickseed (*Coreopsis pubescens*), Dwarf Sundew (*Drosera brevifolia*) with buds, Colicroot (*Aletris farinosa*), Indian Paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*), and Blue False Indigo (*Baptisia australis*). This *Baptisia* was recently elevated to a new species: *Baptisia aberrans* [see photo left], with a common name of Eastern Prairie Blue False Indigo, found in glades, barrens, and prairies in Tennessee. *Dennis Horn*



Online Native Plants Course for Students and Public

At a spring event a teacher approached the TNPS table with a question: "Do you have a course or materials available for teaching middle/high school students about native plants?" Regrettably, we had to say, no. But then ideas began sprouting. At our May Board meeting a committee was formed to begin considering a curriculum for an online student course on native plants that could be provided free to educators across Tennessee. So far, the committee is composed of Kim Sadler, Suzy Askew, Karen Hill, and hopefully the educator who made the original suggestion. If you are interested in helping with this project (because teaching about something we love is fun), then please use the Contact form on our website or email: info@TNPS.org. We will use zoom for our meetings, so travel will not be an issue.

Jackson County – A Day of Botanizing

Richard and Teresa Ware from Rome, GA had watched my TNPS Native Plant Seminar presentation in March titled: *Spring Wildflowers Across Tennessee*. They noticed *Synandra hispidula*, a plant in the mint family that they had not seen before and that is not found in Georgia. I invited them to come to Jackson County to see this beautiful plant. Richard is a past president of the Georgia Botanical Society (GBS) and both he and Teresa serve as editors for the GBS journal, *Tipulara*. They were also interested in seeing Appendaged Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum appendiculatum*) and Miami Mist (*Phacelia purshii*), species not generally found in Georgia.

One of our TNPS directors, Louise Gregory, scouted a known site for *Synandra* in Jackson County several times this spring to be sure we had the flowering date correct, since the driving time from Rome, GA is over 3 hours. May 1 was decided to be the best day weather wise for their visit.



Synandra is a monotypic genus. The common name, Guyandotte Beauty, comes from the Guyandotte River in West Virginia. This plant is certainly a beauty, but *Synandra* is just easier to say. Much of Jackson County is quite rural. The drive along Roaring River and Spring Creek provided an excellent opportunity to botanize the nearby rich hillsides. Louise and I led the Wares to all the important stops along the way. By May 1 the peak time for spring flowers had passed, but it was the prime time for the three species that Richard and Teresa had come to see. After photographing these and other plants [*Synandra* photo left], we then ventured across the Cumberland River to the northeastern part of the county.

There we looked at another site for *Synandra* that Dr. Margret Rhinehart had showed me 20-30 years ago. This site turned out to have even more *Synandra* plants than at our first location and they were in perfect condition. We also found Miami Mist, Wild Hyacinth (*Camassia scilloides*), Chapman's Meadow Parsnip (*Thaspium Chapmanii*), and other late spring flowering species. Stay tuned for a possible TNPS field trip to this area in 2022 for some great easy roadside botanizing.

Of special note, the Wares have launched a new user-friendly website during the past two years: *Guide to the Wildflowers, Ferns, Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Georgia and Adjacent States*. The site contains excellent plant images and distribution maps for each species. This resource should be a valuable resource, especially for plants found in Middle and East Tennessee. It can be accessed at: www.ngaflora.com.

What is a Native Plant?

A plant is considered native if it has occurred naturally in a particular region, ecosystem, or habitat without human introduction. Native plants have formed symbiotic relationships with native wildlife over thousands of years, and therefore offer the most sustainable habitat. Exotic plants that evolved in other parts of the world or were cultivated by humans into forms that don't exist in nature do not support wildlife as well as native plants. From National Wildlife Federation website

Native Plant Seminars

So far, we have enjoyed five monthly Native Plant Seminars presented by Dennis Horn (Spring Wildflowers Across Tennessee), Larry Pounds (Plants of the Cumberland Trail), Milo Pyne (Native Plants of the Cedar Glades), Cooper Breeden (Tennessee Plant Conservation Alliance) and Meredith Clebsch (Low-Tech Native Plant Propagation). All but one were recorded and the videos can be viewed on the "Speakers" page of our website. For the seminar not recorded (Karen's error) a pdf version of the material presented has been posted.

Upcoming seminars:

Date	Topic	Speaker
August 17	Pollination Strategies of Native Orchids	Bart Jones
September 21	Edible Natives	Pandy Upchurch
October 19	Creativity & Curiosity Surrounding Native Plants	Robin Whitfield
November 16	Invasive Plants of Tennessee	Margie Hunter
January 18	Winter Tree Identification	Dave Walters & Cindi Smith-Walters
February 15	Plant Photography	Darel Hess

Our Native Plant Seminars held via Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month at **7:30 pm Eastern** and **6:30 pm Central** last about one hour. All members, and potential members, are welcome to join the seminars at no cost. The links to join each seminar are posted on the *Native Plant Seminars* page and on the *Calendar* pages of our website (www.TNPS.org). The seminar zoom link is: <https://zoom.us/j/95933234646?pwd=cHhBeUNuaGdWbitDTElqbFE3bmk4Zz09>

Suggestions of possible speakers and/or topics are always welcome.

Volunteer Needed

An Outreach Coordinator for Middle Tennessee is needed to fill Kim Sadler's position now that she has taken the position of Treasurer. Would take office as soon as possible. Must be a member of the Tennessee Native Plant Society (TNPS). Outreach Coordinators staff a booth at various events throughout their region, usually selling our books and memberships, meeting the public and providing them with information about TNPS, our field trips, and seminars. It might also include being the liaison between the public and members who are willing to give talks at garden club meetings and other events (or giving one yourself). The position is open-ended; whatever way you can dream up to promote native plants and TNPS is a possibility. You would also become a non-voting member of the TNPS board, which now meets three times a year via zoom. It's a wonderful doorway into becoming more active in TNPS, and we would love to have you on-board. If interested or desiring more information, contact Karen Hill (info@TNPS.org) or Kim Sadler (treas@TNPS.org) for details.

Share Your Photos from the Trail

As 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 info@TNPS.org.

When Are Dues Due?

Unless you are an email subscriber, check your mailing label for your membership date. Your membership is paid through the end of the year listed just above your name. All membership dues are due on January 1st.

To make payment go to www.TNPS.org. Click on "Membership" on the bottom left side of any page and follow the directions for either printing a form and mailing it with a check OR use the online form. Once the online form is completed, you will be taken to the PayPal page for payment with either a credit card or by your PayPal account. If your address has changed, please email your new address to info@TNPS.org.

We do not print the newsletter in full color, but you may be pleased to find all the color in email copies and at our website.

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