



TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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Kentucky Lady's-Slipper in Tennessee

The weekend after Memorial Day in 1981 a special rare plant mapping trip was scheduled for Saturday May 30 led by Tom Patrick and me. It was the first mapping project for TNPS. The objective was to rediscover Cumberland Rosemary (*Conradina verticillata*) at the original location near Rugby. After a tour of the historic eighteenth-century English homes and buildings in Rugby, the search began for *Conradina*. After much looking for the Cumberland Rosemary, we finally located some close to the original site near the junction of White Oak Creek and Clear Fork.

On Sunday morning Tom and I were having a late breakfast at the local Rugby café. J. T. Baker from nearby Huntsville had learned about the TNPS trip and came by to see if we had found the *Conradina*. He brought with him a cardboard box full of his 8 X 10 color photographs of wildflowers, each mounted on stiff backing. Tom and I thumbed through the photos. We saw one labeled Small Yellow Lady's-Slipper. It looked like our large lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens*) we occasionally find on well drained hillsides in Middle and East TN. As we continued, another photo labeled Large Yellow Lady's-Slipper did not look like any yellow lady's-slipper we had seen before.

I remembered Dr. Victor Soukup from Cincinnati had mentioned a few months earlier about a new yellow lady's-slipper that he was working on and planned to name *Cypripedium daultonii*. J. T. said, "well, if you want to go see it, it's in bloom now." Tom and I jumped at the chance to go look at this new lady's-slipper.

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Cypripedium kentuckiense from East Tennessee.
Photo by Linda Francis.

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:
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

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Larry Pounds

Letter from the President

The summer has flown by, with hikes and native plant seminars, but we still have a few more of each before the holidays. We will also have a brief Member Meeting via zoom on November 16th. Details are posted in this newsletter.

Have you noticed all the beautiful colors now as the season changes? I never tire of seeing the yellow goldenrod behind my house. It's so cheery as the days become shorter. Soon the fall asters will be blooming too.

Many new members have joined TNPS this year and we are excited to have you all participate in any and all of our activities. One of the best ways to learn more about the people and activities of TNPS is to volunteer. Currently we need volunteers for three very different roles: Education Outreach (Middle-TN), Photo Librarian, and educator to help us create an online course. None of these positions requires expert native plant identification skills.



Education Outreach requires lots of interaction with the public at a variety of events scattered around Middle-TN where we might recruit new members and/or sell a few books.



The Photo Librarian is a new position for someone with a tech background. As we digitize older slides and then add digital images to the library, we will need someone to organize the images and control access to them.



We are also forming a committee to create an online course about native plants for middle school students using our digital images. A background as an educator would be helpful but is not required.

If any of these roles sounds interesting to you or you would like to know more, please send me an email at info@tnps.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen".



Did you know TNPS has a facebook page? If you need/want a plant identified, that's an easy place to post a photo and receive feedback. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/TennesseeNativePlantSociety>

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Cypripedium kentuckiense of western Tennessee. Photo by Bart Jones.

It turned out J. T. Baker was Senator Howard Baker's first cousin. But J. T. had another first cousin near Huntsville that had this new lady's-slipper on his property down on a flood plain along the New River. Tom and I were excited to see this new lady's-slipper. It certainly looked like something new and different to us. Two months later this species was described by Dr. Clyde F. Reed, and he named it *Cypripedium kentuckiense*.

This came as a huge disappointment for Dr. Soukup and Jim Daulton. Dr. Soukup had planned to name this lady's-slipper for Daulton. See the following historical note by Dr. Carl Slaughter that appeared in the Fall 1999 issue of the Arkansas Native Plant Society newsletter:

Jim Daulton of Portsmouth, Ohio was on a fishing vacation in eastern Kentucky, in 1951, when he came upon a large, beautiful lady's-slipper orchid. Jim knew enough botany to know that this was not the slipper that he knew. It was larger and bloomed later than the others that he knew. Daulton removed two plants to his home where they thrived and formed large clumps.

Jim Daulton invited everyone he could think of to come and look at the orchid. A few came but no help was forthcoming. He did send a whole plant to Donovan S. Correll, who in 1938 had published Native Orchids of North America and was the orchid guru at that time. Daulton did not receive a reply from Correll.

*In 1977 Victor Soukup traveled from Cincinnati, Ohio, to Kentucky, where Daulton directed him to the original orchid site. Soukup reported this find in a pamphlet of the Mid-American Orchid Conference. Soukup named the orchid after Jim Daulton, *Cypripedium daultonii*. Jim Daulton was ecstatic! After all the years and after all the work just to have anyone look at it, not only had he succeeded in having people agree with him, but the orchid was also named for him. Oh, how sweet and wonderful! But wait, Victor Soukup had not followed proper procedure in the naming of the orchid. He had not described it in Latin.*

*In 1981, Clyde Reed of Maryland published in Phytologia a proper Latin description with specimen citation of a new orchid find which he called by a different name. It was the same orchid that Soukup had named *C. daultonii*. Since this name was invalid because of improper naming, what we would now be calling *Cypripedium daultonii*, named by Victor Soukup, we now know as *Cypripedium kentuckiense*, the Southern Lady's-Slipper named by Clyde Reed.*

Cypripedium kentuckiense is the largest yellow lady's-slipper we have in the U.S. It has a pale-yellow lip (or moccasin) with a large opening (orifice) on the top and a sharp drop off at the toe. The sepals and lateral petals are deep purple or wine colored. It is found from Oklahoma and Eastern Texas, east to Kentucky and Georgia. It is most common in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Kentucky, but is listed as rare in every state where it occurs. It is most commonly found on alluvial terraces along small rivers or creeks. It has been found only in Decatur, Franklin, and Scott counties in Tennessee, one county in each of Tennessee's three Grand Divisions.

So, this year (2021) it has been 70 years since Jim Daulton realized he had found a new yellow lady's-slipper and now 40 years since Clyde Reed described *Cypripedium kentuckiense* as a new lady's-slipper species.

Dennis Horn

Cumberland Sandwort Delisted

After more than three decades of conservation partnerships inspired by the Endangered Species Act and a thorough review of the best available science, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is delisting the Cumberland sandwort due to recovery.

“Partnerships are the key to the success of the Endangered Species Act,” said Leopoldo Miranda-Castro, Service Regional Director. “Playing critical roles in the recovery of this delicate flower were the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, states of Tennessee and Kentucky, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden and Missouri Botanical Garden. Thanks to these efforts, future generations will have the opportunity to enjoy the sandwort and the plants and animals that share its habitat.”

Found only in a small portion of the Cumberland Plateau in northern Tennessee and southern Kentucky, the Cumberland sandwort was headed toward extinction before it was listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1988. That’s when the states of Tennessee and Kentucky, federal agencies and conservation groups stepped in to protect and restore this unique plant.

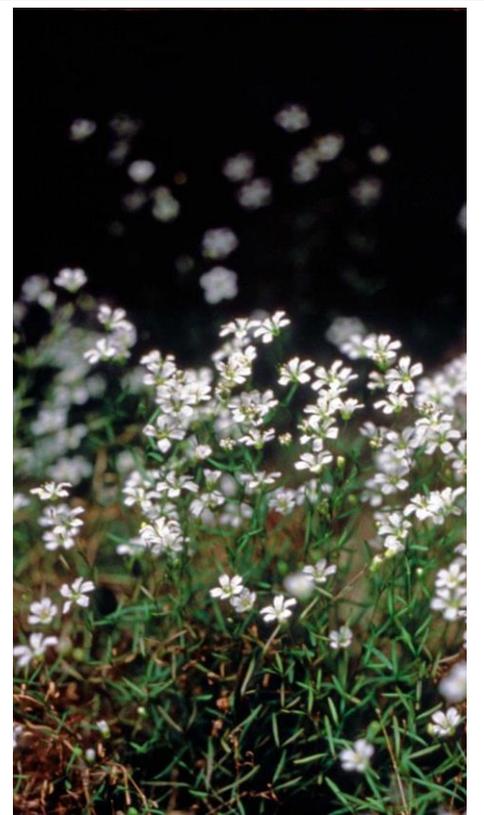
At the time of listing, the Service was aware of only 28 occurrences of the plant. The species faced threats from overuse or destruction of habitat from recreational activities in the sandstone cliff lines where it occurs. Land protection and habitat management by diverse partners have been vital to protecting and recovering the sandwort.

Conservation actions on behalf of the sandwort included installing signs, fencing and boardwalks to educate visitors about public lands and plant protection. Today, sandwort populations are healthy and stable and are found in 71 places. Sixty-six of those occurrences are on federal and state conservation lands managed by the National Park Service, Tennessee Division of Forestry, Tennessee Division of Natural Areas, or Tennessee State Parks. Pickett State Forest, owned by the Tennessee Division of Forestry, has 29 occurrences alone.

Email notice from Daniel Elbert, Field Supervisor, Tennessee Ecological Services Field Office South Atlantic-Gulf Interior Region, USFWS

First described to science in 1979 by Drs. Robert Kral of Vanderbilt University and Eugene Wofford of the University of Tennessee from material they collected at Pickett State Park, Cumberland sandwort occurs at the base and ledges of shady sandstone cliffs or rockhouses in four Tennessee counties and one Kentucky county. Its limited range and strict habitat requirements justified the species’ listing as endangered in 1988.

Roger McCoy, Director of Conservation for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation in The Tennessee Conservationist, September/October 2020



Cumberland sandwort, *Arenaria cumberlandensis*. It normally blooms in June and July.

Trip Report: Purple and Yellow Finale – September 11th

We usually have a fall outing to enjoy the end of the flowering season. This year, September 11, we climbed Cumberland Mountain east of Lafollette. We saw lovely yellow displays of sunflowers: *Helianthus microcephalus*, *Helianthus glaucophyllus* and a close relative *Heliopsis helianthoides*. A deep purple was added by clasping aster (*Symphotrichum patens*).

We also found two types of fruit of interest. Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) fruit is normally hard to find though this small tree is common. First, we found an unripe one then a few minutes later we got one with the fragrant smell for all to enjoy. Some people are attempting to commercialize this fruit. Next, we happened on two butternuts lying on the ground. The butternut or white walnut tree, *Juglans cinerea*, is rare and rarer still is finding the nut. This tree is attacked by Butternut Canker fungus leading to its rarity.

In planning for this trip, we tried to accommodate a variety of interests, length of time available and physical ability. I felt good about how the outing worked for people. The 12 of us turned back at several different points and we helped each other get past a landslide zone in the trail. For some the highlight of the trip was not the plants but the views from cliff tops. Thanks to Jimmy, Judy, and Ken for help with this. We enjoyed meeting new faces, Jack, Bruce, Linda, and Sarah.

Jimmy and I did a small service project on the hike gathering info on two rare plant populations found on top of the mountain. This data was hand delivered to Todd our state botanist to put in the state protected plant database. *Larry Pounds and photos by Ken Mayes*



Heliopsis helianthoides



Lobelia puberula



Aureolaria laevigata

Trip Report: Thomas Divide-Kanati Fork – July 17th



Lillium superbum



Monarda clinopodia

Five hearty souls met on Saturday to car shuttle and hike the trail. Allen and Susan had scouted the trail and provided a list of plants for the group. Plant identification was from the beginning of the trail with the first occurrence of individual plants.

Margie Hunter, Bettina Ault, Harland Alpaugh and the Sweetsers made up the group. Needless to say, we looked at each and every plant, photographed and discussed the particulars of each. With this going on, we didn't get very far on the trail. Due to time constraints, a couple of us turned back and 3 went on for about a mile and half only.

Some of the highlights were Featherbells (*Stananthium gramineum*), Steele's Joe-Pye Weed (*Eutrochium steelei*), Painted Trillium (*Trillium undulatum*), Flame azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*) and Rosebay Rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*) still in bloom. Turk's Cap lily (*Lillium superbum*), White Bergamot (*Monarda clinopodia*), Cow Wheat (*Melampyrum lineare* var. *americana*) and Purple bluets (*Houstonia purpurea* var. *purpurea*) were all blooming along the trail.

Susan Sweetser and photos this page by Susan Sweetser

Fall Virtual Wildflower Pilgrimage

Unfortunately, the Smokies' annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage was cancelled for the second year because of concerns about Covid-19. The second annual Spring Virtual Wildflower Pilgrimage, however, was a great success, with 12,027 observations of 2537 species by 108 observers. The second annual Fall Virtual Wildflower Pilgrimage will take place from October 9-17, 2021.

This is an iNaturalist event; pilgrims can upload photos and recordings from anywhere in the country (or the world!) through iNaturalist during this 9-day period. Nor is it restricted to plants; all living things are fair game! Information on registration and how to download the iNaturalist app are available at www.wildflowerpilgrimage.org. Virtual tutorials on how to use the app are also planned as the event approaches. You do not need to know what you're seeing; there will be plenty of identification help.



Monotropa uniflora

Registration for this event is free, but a small contribution (\$5.00 or a little more) would be greatly appreciated. Join us for this citizen science event. And save the date for the in-person Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage April 26-30, 2022! *Bettina Ault*

TNPS Annual Meeting and Elections



On Tuesday November 16th we will have a short Annual Meeting prior to our monthly Native Plant Seminar via Zoom at 7:30 p.m. Eastern (6:30 pm Central). The following Board members are up for re-election this year: Bart Jones and Suzy Askew. Michelle Haynes is stepping down from the Board with Susan Bible running for her position. Any member may also be nominated from the general membership if accompanied by written consent of the nominee and the nomination is received at info@tnps.org prior to November 1st. Please plan to attend and consider staying for Margie Hunter's presentation on *Invasive Plants of Tennessee*. The zoom link is:

<https://zoom.us/j/95933234646?pwd=cHhBeUNuaGdWbitDTElqbFE3bmk4Zz09>.

Save the Date - 2022 Annual Conference

We are planning to have our 2022 Annual Conference in the Chattanooga area on the weekend of May 13-15, 2022. The event will be based at the Clarion Hotel in Lookout Valley. A block of rooms has been reserved at the discounted room rate of \$69.00/night; this special rate expires two weeks before the event. Breakfast is included, and we are looking into box/picnic lunches for Saturday. There are many restaurants in the area for dinner. We have many wonderful trails in the Chattanooga area; please feel free to let us know if you want to nominate a favorite. Also, please let us know if you have a suggestion for evening speakers. We will have more details and a registration form in the December newsletter.

Bettina Ault

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, October 2 – Field Trip, Big Cypress Tree State Park Mycology Safari with Bart Jones
- October 9-17 – Fall Virtual Wildflower Pilgrimage
- Tuesday, October 19 – Native Plant Seminar, Creativity & Curiosity Surrounding Native Plants with Robin Whitfield
- October 20 – Heather Holm webinar on Wasps, WildOnes
- Friday, October 22 – Mack Prichard Celebration of Life at Cummins Falls new visitor center
- Tuesday, November 16 – TNPS Annual Meeting and Elections via zoom
- Tuesday, November 16 – Native Plant Seminar, Invasive Plants of Tennessee with Margie Hunter



Details on facebook and website, tnps.org.



Tennessee Native Plant Society, Inc.

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 1, including those who joined this year up to and including June 30. If you joined late this year, on or after July 1, you should renew January 1, 2023.**

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 your PayPal account. UNTIL PAYMENT IS MADE VIA CHECK OR PAYPAL YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER AND WILL NOT RECEIVE NEWSLETTERS.

If you are a student, your membership is free during your four years of study. However, you must provide contact information and year of graduation using the CONTACT form. IF YOU TRY TO USE THE MEMBERSHIP FORM WITHOUT PAYING, YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER NOR BE CONSIDERED A MEMBER.

If your address has changed, please email your new address to info@TNPS.org.

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