

TNPS 2024 Conference Schedule

Day 1: Friday, June 7

3:00 pm – Arrive and check in for those staying at the park.

3:00 to 6:00 pm – Pick up your conference badge, meal tickets, and pre-ordered tee shirts, and attend a pre-conference social. TNPS will supply some sodas, water, and snacks, but feel free to bring other snacks and beverages to share.

6:00 to 7:00 pm – Catered Dinner (with pre-purchased meal ticket).

7:00 to 8:30 pm – Welcome to the conference and announcements, followed by the presentation "Threatened / Endangered Plants of the Southern Appalachian Region" by Professor Matt Estep of Appalachian State University.

Day 2: Saturday, June 8

7:30 am – Meet at the Pool Parking Area for Field Trip 1, a Hike from Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge Bald. The leader is Marty Silver, a Park Ranger with Warriors' Path State Park.

9:00 am – Late arrivals should pick up your conference badge, meal tickets, and pre-ordered tee shirts at the TNPS information table in the Conference Center.

10:00 to 11:00 am – Presentation "Thirty of the Best Underused Native Plants" by John Manion, Coordinator of Education and Outreach, Overhill Gardens in Vonore, TN.

11:30 to 1:00 pm – Pre-ordered box lunches will be available for pickup at the Conference Center.

1:00 pm – Meetup at the Pool Parking Area for Field Trip 2, a Hike from Rhododendron Gardens to Roan High Bluff. The leader is Ken Rea, a local area TNPS member.

2:00 pm – Meetup at the Pool Parking Area for Field Trip 3, a guided visit to Miller Farmstead, a historic home site and pollinator garden in the park.

6:00 to 7:00 pm – Catered Dinner (with pre-purchased meal ticket) at the Conference Center.

7:00 to 8:00 pm – Presentation "No Place Like the Roan - 50 years of ensuring a Highland Legacy" by Marquette Crockett, Director of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy.

8:00 to 9:00 pm – Annual TNPS Membership Meeting followed by drawing for bluebird house (returned name badges are the drawing tickets)

Day 3: Sunday, June 9

8:00 am – Meetup at the Pool Parking Area for Field Trip 4, a Hike from Cloudland Trail to Roan High Bluff. The leader is Gary Kauffman, a senior botanist and ecologist working with the US Forest Service National Forests Division in North Carolina.