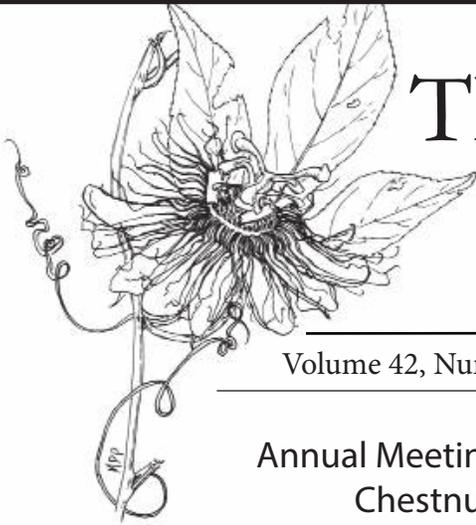


TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Volume 42, Number 2

June 2018

Annual Meeting Highlight Hike Chestnut Top Trail March 31, 2018

This year was the earliest in the year the annual meeting has been held. And this year the spring flowering time was stretched out, with early spring ephemerals like Bloodroot and Trout Lilies flowering in early March while late flowers not finished until early May. Many of the plants on the Chestnut Top Trail were just emerging from the ground and were not yet flowering, although most were recognizable from the foliage. We did find sweet white trillium (*T. simile*), yellow trillium (*T. luteum*), long-spurred violet (*Viola rostrata*), star chickweed (*Stellata pubera*), and bishop's cap (*Mitella diphylla*) all beginning to flower. The flowers of bloodroot on the lower part of the trail were gone as expected, but as we ascended on up the trail we found bloodroot still in flower. Then we noticed something strange. These plants had two flower stalks, one with fruit forming and the other one still in flower.

Just before we turned around near the top of the ridge we spotted a bitter-cress (*Cardamine sp.*) in flower. What was first thought to be purple cress (*C. douglassii*) turned out to be blue ridge bitter-cress (*C. flagellifera*). Paul Durr made the determination and later found over two dozen plants nearby. This plant is listed as threatened for Tennessee and was the first occurrence for it in the National Park. - Dennis Horn

In Search of the Hog Plum Cumberland County May 5, 2018

On Saturday, May 5 TNPS and TCWP co-sponsored an outing to search for the hog plum (*Prunus umbellata*) along a new section of the Cumberland Trail. Larry Pounds



BLEEDING HEART (*DICENTRA EXIMIA*)

BY BART JONES

led us on our adventure which included parts of the Keyes-Harrison and Catoosa Wildlife Management Areas. Participants included seven humans and one dog, all clad in blaze orange since the spring hunting season was still active on at least one of the WMAs. Throughout our ramblings we saw abundant upland irises (*Iris verna*) and chinquapins (*Castanea pumila*); unfortunately none were in flower.

We visited a nice cobble bar on Daddys Creek

with a group of unusual small-flowered azaleas. We weren't sure whether these azaleas were a distinct species or just a weird variant, but there were at least three separate plants in flower that were distinctly different from other nearby azaleas. Paul Durr and Kurt Emmanuel found an interesting *Ribes sp.* growing on a sandstone outcrop. - Cont'd on page 5

TNPS Newsletter

This newsletter is a publication of the Tennessee Native Plant Society and is published four times a year, generally in February, June, August, and November.

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

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Please send comments and material for the TNPS newsletter to djhilgem@gmail.com

A Letter from the President

Hello everyone,

We had a good annual meeting the end of March and the flowers cooperated. Next year's annual meeting will be at Reelfoot Lake in July. Stay tuned for further details to come next year. I apologize to those folks that had a conflict with their schedules. We missed seeing some regular attendees and you all missed a good plant weekend. Planning a meeting 6 months ahead can be tricky. When I talked with motel staff and leaders, we were trying to juggle busy schedules. Never thought about Easter being in March. I learned my lesson and will double check the calendar next time.

I hope you all have gotten out in this wonderful spring. In East TN we have finally had spring show up and the flowers have been great. We have many field trips left on the schedule so find one in your area.

Take care,

Susan



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In Memorium

It is with a heavy heart that we report longtime TNPS member, William (Bill) Hartley Jones, 80, died peacefully in his sleep at Westminster Canterbury retirement center in Winchester, Virginia, in the early hours of May 2. Bill was an environmentalist, an advocate for political activism, a world traveler, and a devout member of the Episcopal Church. He is survived by Kay, his wife of 57 years and two children. Kay was the long-serving secretary of the TNPS. Our condolences are sent to his family and those close to him.



SCENTLESS MOCK ORANGE
(*PHILADELPHUS INODORUS*)

BY

BART JONES

Trip Summaries

Washmorgan Hollow Preserve Jackson County - April 21, 2018

Louise Gregory and I began scouting this hike on Jan. 10th with snow and ice still in the Hollow. Louise checked the area twice more before the hike. We started the trip by caravanning to Gainesboro. Then we followed the Roaring River upstream (East) and found a hillside full of fire pink (*Silene virginica*), roadside with rose vervain (*Glandularia canadensis*), and a few wild hyacinth (*Camassia scilloides*). Further down the road everyone was impressed by a huge spring bubbling from the ground called “the boils.”

Finally we parked at the entrance to The Nature Conservancy preserve, Washmorgan Hollow. We first hiked along the road with Roaring River and Spring Creek on the left and a steep hillside full of spring flowers on the right. Miami mist (*Phacelia purshii*) was everywhere, as



GROUP PHOTO

was purple phacelia (*Phacelia bipinnatifida*) and appendaged waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum appendiculatum*). We also found Allegheny spurge (*Pachysandra procumbens*), prairie rillium (*T. recurvatum*), dwarf larkspur (*Delphinium tricorne*), false rue anemone (*Enemion biternatum*), foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), and early saxifrage (*Saxifraga virginensis*).



SYNANDRA HISPIDULA BY
LOUISE GREGORY

We returned to our vehicles for lunch and a photo of the group. We then made our way (no actual trail) into the Hollow rich with spring flowers. Pale violet (*Viola striata*) was common throughout the Hollow. Soon we found synandra (*S. hispidula*), but only one plant still in tight bud. Other plants found were wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), yellow corydalis (*C. favula*), wild geranium (*G. maculatum*), twin leaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*), celandine poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), large-flowered bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*), large-flowered valerian (*Valeriana pauciflora*), and many more. Arthur Goodman assembled an impressive list of over 60 plants we found that day. Louise returned a week later and the Synandra was in full flower (see photo). - Dennis Horn and Louise Gregory



Do you have photos from trips you'd like to share? Are you interested in other TNPS News? Stay up to date and follow us on facebook! [facebook.com/tennesseanativeplantsociety](https://www.facebook.com/tennesseanativeplantsociety)

Trip Summaries

Natchez Trace State Park

Decatur County - May 12, 2018

An enthusiastic group of TNPS members and a couple of guests met at the I-40 exit in northern Decatur County in hopes of seeing one of our most amazing native orchids, the southern or Kentucky lady's slipper, *Cypripedium kentuckiense*. This state-listed endangered species is only found in 3 counties in Tennessee; Scott, Franklin, and the Decatur County population. After a brief introduction to some of the characteristics and background of this orchid, the group was off on their quest.

On the way, we made a couple of roadside stops, the first to see an impressive Appalachian mock orange (*Philadelphus inodorus*) bush in peak bloom. These native shrubs were often dug from the wild and planted in people's yards, as was probably the case with this plant since it was near an old, unoccupied house. (Incidentally, we passed 3 more plants that were at the edge of a creek and field on our way to Natchez Trace, so they do occur naturally here, too.) The large, four-petaled white flowers are like a cross between a flowering dogwood and a mountain camellia and when the bush is covered with them, it is an extremely attractive addition to the landscape. A little farther down the road, we stopped at a site with a barrens aspect to it. We were immediately struck by the strip of deep pink lining the side of the road. This turned out to be hundreds of hairy phlox (*Phlox amoena*). Scattered amongst the phlox was Venus' pride (*Houstonia purpurea* var. *calycosa*), common cinquefoil (*Potentilla simplex*), Small's ragwort (*Packera anonyma*) and a few plants of lyre-leaved sage (*Salvia lyrata*). From looking at some of the other plants not yet in flower, you could tell this location was going to be fantastic in a month or two with rosinweeds, New Jersey tea, mountain mint, coreopsis, and thimbleweed.

We finally arrived at the orchid site which is at my parents' property. After a short walk along the road to the small creek that borders the property, we spotted the first flowers right along the edge of the woods. While many of our native orchids have small, even minute flowers, this one is impossible to miss. The

massive creamy slippers are the size of small hen's eggs and the purplish-brown sepals and petals can reach a spread of 6 inches from top to bottom when extended. They are the largest of all lady's slipper flowers and the plants can be over two feet tall. And we caught them at the absolute perfect time with hardly a blemish to be found on any of the flowers. After everyone had gotten their fill of photos and looks, we headed to Natchez Trace State Park in Henderson County.

After enjoying lunch at a picnic pavilion, we headed down the Pin Oak Lake trail that winds along shore of the lake. The trail passes through several ravines with seeps and rivulets that lead to some of the lake inlets. These marshy ravines supported a dazzling fern display, in many of them the entire floor and sides of the ravine were a solid carpet of ferns, the vast majority of which were New York fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*).



KENTUCKY LADY'S SLIPPER
BY BART JONES

-Cont'd on Page 7

Trip Summaries

Frozen Head Wildflower Walk Morgan County - April 14, 2018

TCWP, TNPS and Frozen Head State Park joined forces for a fine day at the peak of the spring wildflower display in one of the best places to see that flowering. About fifty people joined together to enjoy the Frozen Head Wildflower Pilgrimage. There were several official and unofficial leaders including Fred Holzclaw who has authored a study of spring flowering plants in Frozen Head. Thanks to all these leaders.

As planned the outing had three phases. The first was a one-mile loop suitable to those with limited walking ability. Here the wood anemone was the star with several lovely groupings. Many chose to end their walk with this loop.

The second phase involved some up and downs and a rock hop across Judge Branch. The hikers had the opportunity to see the uncommon speckled mandarin growing near the common yellow mandarin. We had a good chance to safely observe a timber rattlesnake.

A small group still had not had enough of this day and headed out intending to explore the Panther Creek Trail. We enjoyed many of the same wildflowers we had seen earlier on the Interpretative and Judge Branch Trails but we also saw many nice displays of wood betony in flower. Unfortunately we only made it as far as Debord Falls before thunderstorms chased us back to our cars.

- Jimmy Groton and Larry Pounds

In Search of the Hog Plum - continued from Page 1

If the golden currant (*R. aureum*) identification is correct, it would be an unusual occurrence on the Cumberland Plateau.

We crossed a new bridge which showcases a small waterfall. Then we climbed up the ridge to the plum area. We found several hog plums growing near a sandstone table rock on top of a broad ridge. The plum flowers had lost most of their petals. The sandstone outcrop was nearly covered with two reindeer lichens *Cladonia arbuscula* and *C. rangiferina*, another lichen (*Parmotrema reticulata*) and several mosses, including a small patch of Sphagnum. We also found two southern crabapples in flower next to the hog plum site that were covered with fragrant, pink flowers that smelled a little like raspberry.



PHOTO BY JIMMY GROTON

- Larry Pounds and Jimmy Groton

Trip Summaries

Edwin Warner Park

Davidson County - April 7, 2018

The weather was wintery. High temperature that day reached the mid-30's, with wind, and occasional snowflakes. Despite the cold about ten of us gathered for the trip at Edwin Warner Park to begin a short hike along the old roadway and tree trail. We first walked to the left to a nice colony of false rue anemone (*Enemion biternatum*) and a few great merrybells (*Uvularia grandiflora*) then we turned around and walked in the opposite direction to three large stands of Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), the first at a place called Bluebell Bend. Nearby were spring larkspur (*Delphinium tricorne*). Along the way we compared little sweet betsy (*Trillium cuneatum*, stamens are 1/3 the length of the petals) to toadshade (*Trillium sessile*, stamens 1/2 the length of the petals, with a beak-like extension beyond the anthers). We also found baby blue-eyes (*Nemophila aphylla*) with tiny bluish-white flowers, purple phacelia (*Phacelia bipinnatifida*), and smooth rock-cress (*Boechera laevigata*).



TRAILING ARBUTUS (*EPIGAEA REPENS*) BY BART JONES FROM A DIFFERENT HIKE

Because of event cancellations the park staff allowed us to have lunch inside the warm Nature

Center. We even heated our sandwiches in their microwave. After lunch four of us visited the wildflower garden near the visitor center where cream violet (*Viola striata*), early saxifrage (*Micranthes virginien-sis*), wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), golden ragwort (*Packera aurea*), and Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium reptans*) among others were in flower.

Several shrubs and trees on the Nature Center campus, including a beautiful American plum (*Prunus americana*), fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), and American bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*), were flowering. Near the library a nice selection of natives ferns, resurrection fern (*Pleopeltis polypodioides*), fragile fern (*Cystopteris protrusa*), and broad beech fern (*Phegopteris hexagonoptera*) braved the low temperatures. - Cont'd on Page 7



Come Join a Hike!

Four Hikes left in the 2018
Schedule!

Trip Summaries

Edwin Warner Park- continued from Page 6

Several folks had had enough of the cold, but three of us drove to Percy Warner Park's Deep Well trailhead and hiked along a road (now closed to vehicles) that parallels the Mossy Ridge Trail. There we found a huge bowl-shaped hillside full of dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*). We pulled several small bush honeysuckles (*Lonicera maackii*) invading the impressive stand and hung those suckers to dry! A nice way for us to end a cold spring day of botanizing.

-Dennis Horn and Margie Hunter

Natchez Trace State Park - continued from Page 4

There were a few other ferns mixed in such as cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*), netted chain fern (*Woodwardia areolata*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), broad beech fern (*Phegopteris hexagonoptera*), Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*), and lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*). In boggy areas, there were dozens of species of sedges and rushes, mostly beyond our capability of identification. There were a few wildflowers here as well, including Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*) along the lake shore that was in full bud but a few days from opening, Solomon's plume (*Maianthemum racemosum*), primrose-leaf violet (*Viola primulifolia*), blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*), and some very large (and some small) jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*). When we looked closely at the flowers of the jack-in-the-pulpits, we discovered that the small plants had male flowers and the larger plants had female flowers. We also noticed several large American holly (*Ilex opaca*) trees in bloom. It was a great day of weather and beautiful flowers, in other words, a perfect Saturday.

- Bart Jones



HAIRY PHLOX (*PHLOX AMOENA*) BY
BART JONES



LONG-SPURRED VIOLET (*VIOLA ROSTRATA*) BY BART JONES

2018 Remaining Hikes

August 4, 2018 Sunk Lake and Lower Hatchie

September 1, 2018 Sherwood Forest Woodlands

September 8, 2018 Schoolhouse Gap

September 15, 2018 Fall Flowers of Daddy's Creek Cobblebars

Check www.tnps.org and Facebook for more details.

When Dues Are 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, click "Membership," and follow directions there. If your address has changed, you can email the new address to 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

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