

TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Volume 32, Number 1

March 2008

Pest Plant Council Seeks TNPS Help in the Field

The Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council is seeking the help of TNPS members to combat the growing threat of exotic plants in the state's natural landscapes.

Terri Hogan, president of TN-EPPC, has made an appeal to TNPS members and has outlined ways to help. Her letter follows a presentation made at the February meeting of the TNPS board of directors.

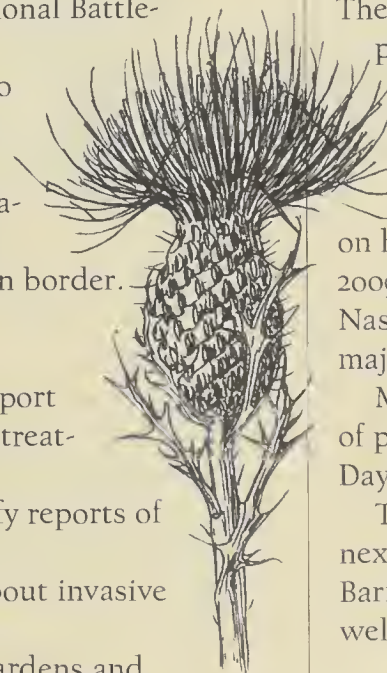
"The Tennessee Native Plant Society has the invaluable plant identification expertise to find invasives in the field and verify reports of new species," said Hogan, who is also an ecologist for Stones River National Battlefield in Murfreesboro.

"There are many ways your talents and interests fit into this volunteer organization," she said. "For instance, TN-EPPC is beginning an Early Detection, Rapid Response program to control species that we know to be highly invasive before they become a serious problem in Tennessee. Cogongrass is a good example. It is on the state's southern border. We need your help."

The Pest Plant Council is seeking:

- People in the field to look for invasive species and report their findings to TN-EPPC for verification, mapping, and treatment.
- Plant identification expertise across the state to verify reports of new infestations.
- Advocates who will help educate decision makers about invasive plants and the need to control their spread.
- Consumers to choose non-invasive plants for their gardens and landscapes and to tell producers that we do not want plant species that are known to be invasive.
- Help producing educational materials and getting them out to the public.

Ecological damage caused by invasive plants is substantial. Invasive plant species overrun a variety of habitats, displace native plant populations, deprive wildlife of needed food sources, disrupt plant/animal associations, significantly reduce plant and wildlife diversity, stress rare and endangered



TNPS Members and Meetings

Bertha Chrietzburg, Michelle Haynes, and Susan Sweetser have been elected to new two-year terms on the TNPS board. It became official in December.

The board met February 9 at the Barfield Crescent Nature Center in Murfreesboro. A variety of reports show that TNPS is in good health, financially and otherwise. The organization has 237 dues-paying members.

Todd Crabtree outlined plans for 2008 field trips, which are listed in this issue.

The board decided to plan on having a booth at the spring 2009 Lawn and Garden Show in Nashville, with education being a major focus.

Members are asked to be aware of program opportunities for Earth Day this year, which is April 22.

The board has scheduled its next meeting for May 31 at Barfield Crescent. Members are welcome to attend.

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Margie Hunter
on Gardening
with Natives



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TNPS Newsletter

March 2008 Vol. 32, No. 1

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/Senior: \$15
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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Dennis Horn
Joey Shaw
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Please send comments or material for the newsletter to TNPS Newsletter, P.O. Box 816, Sewanee, TN 37375 or lathamdavis@bellsouth.net



REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

From discovering the first spring ephemerals along the Wolf River to winter botanizing with Prof. Ed Clebsch, this year's field trip schedule is loaded with outstanding adventures for those of us who love Tennessee's wildflowers. Saunter down the converted railroad bed in Ashland City; take in a stretch of the Cumberland Trail; and enjoy the Elsie Quarterman Weekend at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. This year, we have hikes planned all the way from a tallgrass prairie in Arkansas to East Tennessee's Tellico Lake. Many thanks to our field trips committee for this excellent lineup.

* * *

We also have two working field trips to the Carter State Natural Area. We are partnering with the state's Division of Natural Areas, The University of the South, and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga to put together a plant inventory of the site. So far, we have listed close to 200 plants there, and we have many more to track down. Be sure to come—it will be fun, and we need all the help we can get in finding and documenting the plant diversity of this 375-acre property on the slopes of the Cumberland Plateau. The terrain is hilly, but if you haven't been there before, it's worth the trip just to see the magnificent entrance to Lost Cove Cave.

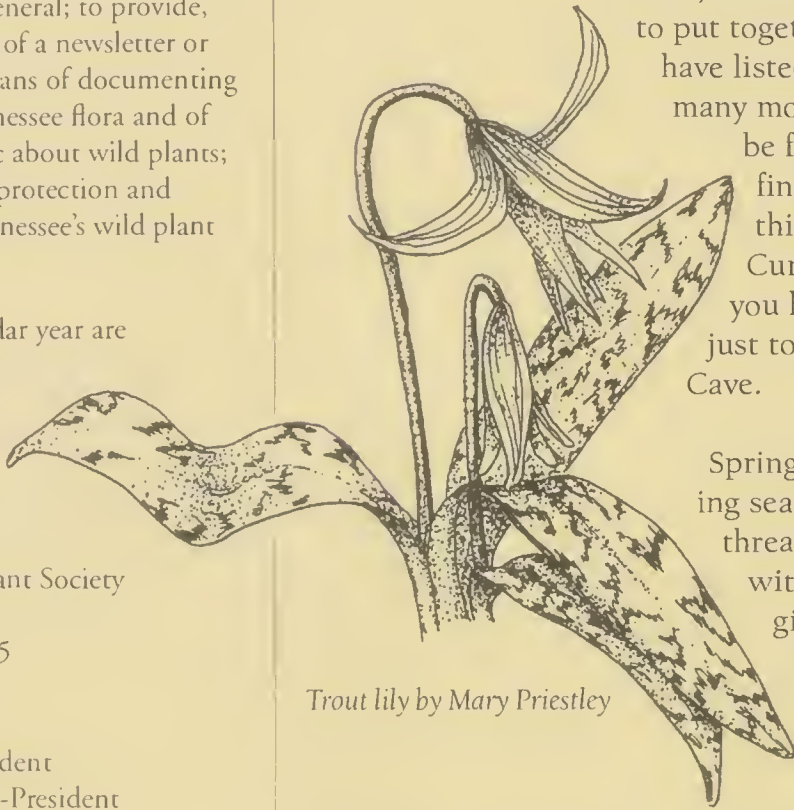
* * *

Springtime also heralds the beginning of gardening season. Be aware that one of the most severe threats to our native wildflowers (right up there with habitat destruction and commercial digging) is the encroachment into our natural areas by invasive pest plants. Many of these plant culprits will be offered for sale at local nurseries this spring. Please do not be seduced into purchasing them—no matter how beautiful the flowers or interesting the foliage—for your garden. Instead of taking home invasive exotics, do your neighborhood a favor. Check the list of "Tennessee's Native Plant Alternatives to Exotic Invasives" and plant some natives instead. Your neighbors—the native flora and the animals that depend on them—will thank you. A printer-friendly version of the list is available at the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council website, www.tneppc.org.

* * *

Last but not least, this year's annual meeting will be held September 19-21 at Fall Creek Falls State Park. Be sure to mark your calendar—we are putting together a great weekend. I hope to see you there! But meanwhile,

See you on the trail!



Trout lily by Mary Priestley

2008 TNPS Field Trip Schedule

Field trips are designed to promote informed interest in Tennessee's native plants. They are led by persons familiar with native plants of the area and are open to nonmembers as well as members. We encourage our more experienced members to share their knowledge with those who are new to the group. Since conservation is a primary objective of our society, plant collecting is not allowed. The physical nature of the trip is described to the extent known at publication time. Attendees are responsible for judging whether the trip is suitable for their particular abilities. All participants will be asked to sign a liability waiver as a condition of attending. Trips are rarely cancelled, but sometimes changes are unavoidable. Contact the trip leader a day or two before attending to get an updated status and to let them know who is coming. Keep the schedule and attend as many trips as you can. Check the website (www.tnps.org) for updates to this schedule.

Time, place, and leader	Description	Directions
<p>March 29, 2008 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meet at Lowe's parking lot, 430 S. Germantown Rd.</p> <p>Bart Jones 901-726-6891 cell: 901-485-2745 email: bjones7777@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Lovitt Woods, Memphis</p> <p>Join us for this joint field trip with the Wolf River Conservancy to Lovitt Woods. The Conservancy recently acquired this site and has asked for our help in doing a floral inventory. Spring ephemerals that are found in nearby tracts that we may expect to see include white trout lily (<i>Erythronium albidum</i>), spring cress (<i>Cardamine rhomboidea</i>), prairie trillium (<i>Trillium recurvatum</i>), blue phlox (<i>Phlox divaricata</i>), and sweet anise (<i>Osmorhiza longistylis</i>). There are nice stands of tupelo and cypress as well as red buckeye (<i>Aesculus pavia</i>).</p>	<p>From I-40, exit Germantown Rd. and go south. Continue approximately 5 miles. Lowe's is on the left just before you get to the Wolf River.</p> <p>Walking: Easy Facilities: At meeting place Lunch: Nearby restaurant</p>
<p>April 5, 2008 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: McDonald's in downtown Ashland City</p> <p>Leader: Dennis Horn 931-461-0262</p>	<p>Rails to Trails Hike, Ashland City</p> <p>This trail is located along the base of high limestone hills and bluffs overlooking the Cumberland River west of Ashland City. When last visited by TNPS in April 1999 the flowers were phenomenal. There were dense carpets of spring ephemerals over the entire 2 or 3 miles of the trail. We should expect to see Miami Mist (<i>Phacelia purshii</i>), Shooting Star (<i>Dodecatheon meadia</i>), Dwarf Larkspur (<i>Delphinium tricornis</i>), Allegheny Spurge (<i>Pachysandra procumbens</i>), Yellow Corydalis (<i>Corydalis flavula</i>), among many others. As a side trip, if not too early, we may find the rare Short's Bladderpod (<i>Lesquerella globosa</i>) in bloom along Hwy 12.</p>	<p>Ashland City is about 20 miles west of Nashville on TN Hwy 12 or 10 miles south of I-24 exit 24 on TN Hwy 49.</p> <p>Walking: Easy. Walking distance 2-3 miles on easy flat rail bed. A one-way trip with car shuttle.</p> <p>Lunch: Bring with water and camera Facilities: At meeting place</p>
<p>April 12, 2008 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: Cedars of Lebanon State Park Assembly Hall</p> <p>Contact Cedars of Lebanon State Park for more information, 615-443-2769</p>	<p>Cedars of Lebanon, Elsie Quarterman Weekend</p> <p>TNPS will participate in weekend events to honor Dr. Elsie Quarterman. Dr. Quarterman has supported the protection of significant natural areas since she began studying them. She helped Tennessee become one of the first states to provide legal protection for natural areas in 1971. Andrea Bishop will lead a Division of Natural Areas hike during this weekend. TNPS members are encouraged to join in this celebration of one woman's contribution to conservation in Tennessee. Wildlife hikes and other activities are planned.</p>	<p>Cedars of Lebanon State Park is located approximately 31 miles east of Nashville in Wilson County. It is 6 miles south of I-40 on US Hwy 231 (State Route 10).</p> <p>Walking: Easy to Moderate Facilities: At meeting place Lunch: Bring</p>

2008 TNPS Field Trip Schedule

Time, place, and leader	Description	Directions
<p>May 3, 2008 (Sat.) 9 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: Memphis Botanic Garden parking lot</p> <p>Bart Jones 901-726-6891 bjones7777@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Arkansas Prairies, DeValls Bluff, Arkansas</p> <p>The Grand Prairie region of eastern Arkansas was once home to over 320,000 acres of tallgrass prairie. Today, less than 1 percent remains, much of it converted to rice cultivation. We will visit Down's Prairie Natural Area and the adjoining Railroad Prairie Natural Area where we should see a rich diversity of plants among the gold and red swaths of <i>Coreopsis</i> spp. and Indian paintbrush (<i>Castilleja coccinea</i>). The highlighted plant will be Oklahoma grass pink (<i>Calopogon oklahomensis</i>), recognized as a new species in 1995. Other flowers we may encounter include Ohio spiderwort (<i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i>), spider milkweed (<i>Asclepias viridis</i>), white indigo (<i>Baptisia alba</i>), smooth phlox (<i>Phlox glaberrima</i>), white beardtongue (<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>), and prairie evening primrose (<i>Oenothera pilosella</i> ssp. <i>sessilis</i>). After exploring the prairies, we will go to a nearby site to see spring spider lily (<i>Hymenocallis liriosme</i>). This is a joint trip with the Memphis Wildflower Society and the Arkansas Native Plant Society.</p>	<p>Take I-40 to Memphis. Continue on Sam Cooper Blvd. (do not take I-40 W to Little Rock at the I-40/240 interchange). Exit onto Perkins Rd., go south (left) past Walnut Grove Rd. and Poplar Ave. Just past Poplar will be railroad tracks, turn right onto Southern Ave. just past the tracks. Continue about 1 mile to Cherry Rd. Turn left (look for Botanic Garden sign) and go to garden entrance. Note meeting time! We will leave for the prairies promptly at 9:30!</p> <p>Walking: Easy Facilities: At meeting place and at DeValls Bluff Lunch: Bring your own</p>
<p>May 3, 2008 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: Subway in Lavergne</p> <p>Todd Crabtree 615-330-4627</p>	<p>Elsie Quarterman Glade, Couchville</p> <p>The cedar glades of middle Tennessee have been a focus for the interest of botanists and ecologists since Augustin Gattinger began visiting them in the 19th century. Dr. Elsie Quarterman and her students have been studying these same glades since the 1940s. We will see one of the remaining glade complexes which has been preserved and named in honor of Dr. Quarterman. Several rare plants will be blooming including Tennessee milk-vetch (<i>Astragalus tennesseensis</i>), Nashville mustard (<i>Leavenworthia stylosa</i>), Prairie larkspur (<i>Delphinium virescens</i>), sunnybells (<i>Schoenolirion croceum</i>) and Gattinger's lobelia (<i>Lobelia appendiculata</i> var. <i>gattingeri</i>). If time permits we will also see Couchville glade.</p>	<p>From I-24 take the Waldron Rd. exit 64. Go east on Waldron Rd/Parthenon Blvd for 2.2 miles. Turn right on Murfreesboro Rd/US 41. Go 0.9 miles and turn left on Stones River Rd. into strip mall.</p> <p>Facilities: At the meeting place Walking: Easy Lunch: Bring with water and sun protection</p>

Carpooling Is a Great Idea!

Over the years many of us have carpoled to field trips or thought, "I wonder if Bob is going to that trip to the mountains and if I could catch a ride?" Well, here's a way to make that easier. We are instituting a "carpoolers connection" that will list all members from an area that are available for a possible ride. Just send your name, phone number, and email address, and we will send you a list of other participants from your area that you can contact if you want to share a ride. It's all voluntary and only those interested will be included. If you want to become a carpooler, send your information to Bart Jones at bjones7777@hotmail.com or call 901-726-6891 by March 22.

For truth, my honored Tennessee friends, go and see, and learn to appreciate and preserve such great ornaments of your native land. —AUGUSTIN GATTINGER, 1901

Time, place, and leader	Description	Directions
<p>May 10, 2008 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: University Book Store in Sewanee</p> <p>Dennis Horn 931-461-0262</p>	<p>Carter State Natural Area</p> <p>Carter State Natural Area is a 375-acre preserve located on the Cumberland Plateau south of Sewanee. It contains many Tennessee rare plants and a cave complex that drains Lost Cove. Steep bluffs and ravines are present and a unique feature of the area is the unusual entrance to Buggy Top Cave. There should be late spring wildflowers still blooming for this early May trip. TNPS has been asked by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to conduct a plant inventory for the Carter Caves area. As a part of this field trip (and another scheduled for Sept. 13), we plan to document all of the plant species we observe in this natural area. Please join us as we visit this unusual site and perform a plant survey for the State of Tennessee.</p>	<p>From I-24 in Monteagle take US Hwy 41A southwest to Sewanee. Follow signs from the Sewanee bypass to the campus downtown.</p> <p>Facilities: At meeting place Walking: Hiking will be moderate to difficult, 2-3 miles, some may be off trail. Bring good hiking shoes. Lunch: Bring with water</p> <p>Also bring pen and note pad.</p>

<p>Aug. 30, 2008 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: Rock Creek Campground</p> <p>Allen and Susan Sweetser 865-938-7627</p>	<p>Cumberland Trail: Nemo Bridge to Alley Ford</p> <p>On this section of the Cumberland Trail (www.cumberlandtrail.org) we should see lots of different ferns, asters, magnolia species, and possibly mountain camelia (<i>Stewartia ovata</i>). The trail is 2.5 miles one way but an easy walk to a pretty spot. From Nemo Bridge the trail ascends to the top of the bluffs. The Emory and Obed rivers are visible from views along the trail. Schreber's aster (<i>Eurybia schreberi</i>) is a rare plant in Tennessee where it reaches the southern limit of its distribution. It is known from the area and we can try to find new populations below the bluffs. Bring water and wading shoes.</p>	<p>From the courthouse in Wartburg on Main Street, turn left at the Nemo Bridge sign and then right after one block onto winding Catoosa Rd. Drive 6 miles to Nemo Bridge, cross it and then turn right into Rock Creek Campground. For more information you can visit the Obed Wild and Scenic River Visitor Center. It is located around the corner from the courthouse; turn right from Main St. and look for the center on the left.</p> <p>Walking: Moderate Facilities: At meeting place Lunch: Bring</p>
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Ridge and Valley Glades		
<p>Sept. 6, 2008 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central EASTERN Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: Hardee's in Dayton</p> <p>Todd Crabtree 615-330-4627</p>	<p>We will visit glades in the lower ridge and valley to see rare species adapted to dry limestone glades. Prairie goldenrod (<i>Solidago ptarmicoides</i>) is primarily an upper midwestern species. It is rare elsewhere within its known range of distribution including Tennessee. It grows on rocky outcrops, grassy slopes and prairies. Prairie rosinweed (<i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i>) is known from prairies, fens and open disturbed sites in the eastern states. In Tennessee it occurs most frequently in the ridge and valley. Several native grasses appear on these dry sites. We will see these and other species adapted to the xeric conditions of glades and barrens.</p>	<p>From Dayton go north on Rhea County Hwy /US 27 for 0.5 miles; turn right into Hardee's</p> <p>Walking: Moderate Facilities: At meeting place Lunch: Bring</p>



2008 TNPS Field Trip Schedule

Time, place, and leader	Description	Directions
<p>Sept. 13, 2008 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: University Book Store in Sewanee</p> <p>Dennis Horn 931-461-0262</p>	<p>Carter Wildflower Hike and Plant Inventory Part 2</p> <p>This is a follow-up visit to the May 10 field trip to complete the plant survey and observe the early fall wildflowers. There should be many interesting plants in flower including rare plants like Eggert's Sunflower (<i>Helianthus eggertii</i>), Cumberland Rosinweed (<i>Silphium brachiatum</i>), and Eared Goldenrod (<i>Solidago auriculata</i>). We should also see Cutleaf Prairie Dock (<i>Silphium pinnatifidum</i>), Slender Gaura (<i>Gaura filipes</i>), and many asters, goldenrods, and other composites. We will document all of the plant species we find. Come and help with the search.</p>	<p>From I-24 in Monteagle take US 41A to Sewanee. Follow signs from the Sewanee bypass to the campus downtown.</p> <p>Walking: Hiking will be moderate, 2-3 miles, some may be off trail. Bring good hiking shoes.</p> <p>Facilities: At meeting place Lunch: Bring with water</p> <p>Also, bring pen and note pad.</p>



Sweet White Trillium (*Trillium simile*)

Mark your calendar!



Annual Meeting
Sept. 19-21

Fall Creek Falls
State Park

Nov. 8, 2008 (Sat.)
10 A.M. Eastern Time

Meeting Place:
Native Gardens in
Greenback, Tenn.

Ed Clebsch

Tellico Lake Winter Botany

As a youngster Dr. Ed Clebsch helped rebuild the foundations of Tennessee botany. Since then he has made innumerable contributions to conservation and botany. He will share some of his extensive knowledge of woody plants as we hike on the east shore trail by Tellico Lake. Botany is a year-round pursuit for those who can identify woody plants in winter with only bark and twigs to aid them. We will learn a few of these plants in dormant condition from one who knows them well.

From Hwy 321 between Lenoir City and Maryville, turn on Hwy 95 toward Greenback. Go about 2 miles, turn right on Axley Chapel and then right on Fisher Lane. We're on the right— about 3/4 mile. Please park responsibly without blocking the road.

Walking: Moderate
Facilities: At the meeting place
Lunch: Bring

Native Plants in Gardening Prodigal Sons or Red-headed Orphans

by Margie Hunter

Gardeners love plants, all plants...well, most all plants. Like so much of our contemporary society, the bigger, showier, and newer the plant, the more it is desired. Traditional thought in gardening usually places the highest value on exotic species from some distant shore. In horticulture, plant hunters still circle the globe in search of the next "hot" plant. However, the irony is unmistakable when U.S. plant hunters look to Asia while European hunters look to North America for the next landscape celebrity. Are we unaware of what's here or so familiar that we dismiss it in favor of the strange and different from abroad?

Native plants have typically waxed and waned in gardening popularity, cycling in and out of favor about every 20 years or so. They are also often considered a niche in gardening circles, suitable for that wild corner but not the perennial border. Both of these trends, however, seem to be less prominent today. In the seventies, native plants and mood rings shared the same fate, but a resurgence of native plant interest in the nineties has largely been sustained, perhaps due to greater environmental concerns and a need to reconnect more substantially with a nature that's fast disappearing amid asphalt and strip malls. Many gardeners are looking past the unnecessarily limiting view of native plants as "wild" garden plants only.

The nursery trade is a bit slower on the uptake. With a focus on national sales and an eye peeled for the next exotic super-plant, most large-scale growers are interested in high volume, ease of propagation, and sturdiness in transport. An industry geared toward production of standard landscape material, most of which is non-native, does not put anywhere near enough time and energy into identifying good commercial native species and developing cultivars for the marketplace. There's also a bit of a PR problem. Native plants as a group are often colored with broad brush strokes, the worst of which tags them as weeds or portrays their advocates as fanatical tree huggers who hate all exotic plants.

Sometimes, an unfortunate side effect of gardening is nearsightedness. Caught up in the details of that patch of ground within the property lines, we may lose sight of the larger environment. One of the best arguments for gardening with native plants is the broader ecological awareness they can inspire. The inverse is true as well. Gardening opens the door for native plants to stretch beyond their natural environmental constraints and find expanded roles in a maintained landscape. All the while, we learn more about the beauty of the natural world around us and how best to blend our small slice of land into the overall fabric of Tennessee.

Gardening has a strong philosophical component. As much pleasure can be derived from the ethics and spiritual dimension as from the more practical aspects of art, science, and manual labor. In this column, I hope to explore all these facets of gardening and invite your questions and topic suggestions for future newsletters. Together we'll share the joy of native plants in the garden. Send questions/suggestions to me at mhunter55@comcast.net or 2709 Woodlawn Dr., Nashville, TN 37212. (522)

Conservation Voters Release '07 Scorecard

Tennessee Conservation Voters has announced the completion of its 2007 legislative scorecard, which is a description of 2007 bills and how state legislators voted.

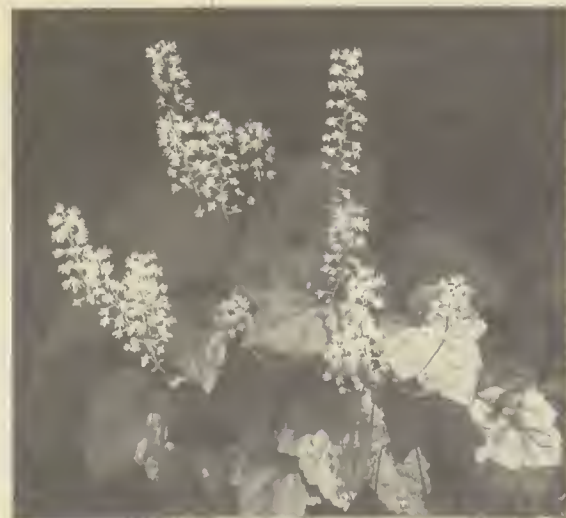
The scorecard can be found on the TCV website at www.tnconservation-voters.org.

"The year 2007 was a phenomenal year for natural heritage and preservation issues in Tennessee," said Chris Ford, executive director of TCV. "This year is turning into a busy year for environmental bills. Those who want to keep up to date with weekly changes may sign up at the website for weekly emails.

Michelle Haynes, TCV Board of Director's president and TNPS board member, explained that the scorecard, now in its fifth year, is unique on the state level in that it goes beyond the mega-issues of conservation and the environment and tries to reflect patterns of support or opposition.

Daniel Boone of Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association said, "It could be an even more effective tool if there were more recorded votes in committees and sub-committees. There has been a gradual improvement in over-

all scores since we published the first scorecard five years ago."



Pest Plant Council Appeal Continued from page 1

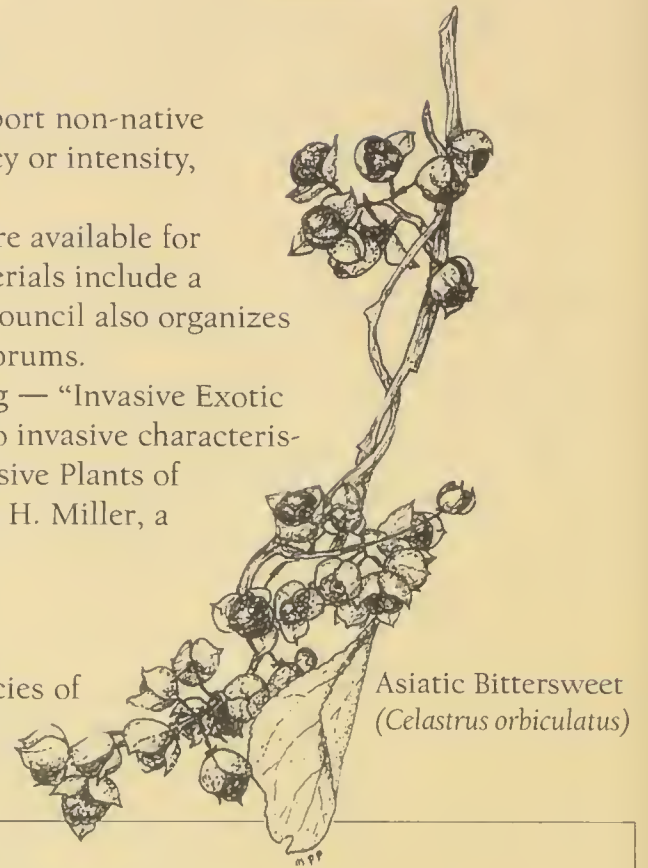
plants and animals, hybridize with native plants and alter genetics, support non-native pathogens and pests, and alter ecosystem processes such as fire frequency or intensity, water and nutrient availability, soil chemistry, and soil erosion.

TN-EPPC has a broad range of educational materials. Many of these are available for download from the organization's website at www.tneppc.org. The materials include a "how to" guide on beginning a program to control invasive plants. The council also organizes workshops and provides speakers for public meetings and educational forums.

TNPS members may find two of the publications especially interesting — "Invasive Exotic Pest Plants in Tennessee," which identifies and ranks plants according to invasive characteristics and the severity of the threat to native species, and "Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests: a Field Guide for Identification and Control" by James H. Miller, a publication of the U.S. Forest Service.

New Species of Featherbells

Eugene Wofford of the University of Tennessee has described a new species of *Stenanthium* from "rockhouse" habitat of the northern Cumberland Plateau. This new species is *Stenanthium diffusum* Wofford.



Are Your Dues Due?

Check your mailing label—the year through which you have paid dues is printed at the top. Send dues to TNPS, P.O. Box 159274, Nashville, TN 37215.



TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Volume 32, Number 2

June 2008

Sign Up Now for this Year's TNPS Annual Meeting

The 2008 TNPS Annual Meeting is scheduled for September 19-21 at beautiful Fall Creek Falls State Park. Our guest speakers this year, Steve Murphree and a representative from the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council, will provide information on native insects and invasive plants in Tennessee respectively. Plus, we'll get a report on our Carter State Natural Area inventory project.

Steve Murphree teaches biology and is a medical entomologist at Belmont University in Nashville. He frequently writes for the *Tennessee Conservationist* magazine and co-authored an article, "Bees and Nature," in the current issue. Insects and plants evolved together, and Steve will tell us about some of our native insects in Tennessee and their special associations with native plants.

The mission of the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council is to foster awareness and combat the spread of invasive exotic plants in the state, but they also actively promote native plants. Several board members are TNPS members, including TN-EPPC president Terri Hogan. Invasive plants pose a genuine ecological threat to all types of native plant communities, and TN-EPPC wants to encourage TNPS members to learn and recognize some of the state's worst invaders and serve as additional eyes and ears on the lookout for new infestations across Tennessee.

In addition to our usual Saturday hikes, we plan to offer a Sunday morning hike for those who just can't get enough! Fall Creek Falls, one of the most popular parks in the state, offers a wealth of plant-rich areas to explore, and Todd Crabtree will map out some good trails for us. A non-hike Saturday program is also under consideration for those interested. If you are musically inclined, please bring your instrument of choice or plan to

Continued on page 7

Special Notes for TNPS Members

All TNPS members are welcome to attend a meeting of the Board of Directors at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 31, at the Barfield Crescent City Park Wilderness Station in Murfreesboro. Barfield Crescent is approached from I-24 at exit 81, turning south toward Shelbyville, going two miles to Barfield Crescent Rd. on right, then one mile to park entrance. The Wilderness Station is near the back of the park.

Plant Rescue

Alice Jensen, a long-time TNPS member from Shelbyville, is inviting all members to participate in a plant rescue on a portion of her 70-acre nature preserve in Bedford County.

—Continued on page 2



Photo by Bart Jones

Complete Your
Annual Meeting
Registration
Form
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TNPS Newsletter

June 2008

Vol. 32, No. 2

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.

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Officers

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Bart Jones, Secretary
Kay Jones, Treasurer

Directors

Bertha Chrietzburg
Michelle Haynes
Dennis Horn
Joey Shaw
Susan Sweetser
Rita Venable

Latham Davis, Editor

Please send comments or material for the newsletter to TNPS Newsletter, P.O. Box 816, Sewanee, TN 37375 or lathamdavis@bellsouth.net



Report from the President

Greetings on a glorious, rainy afternoon in May. We're expecting more of the same about every three days for the next week or so, and everyone is pleased. It's wonderful to be having "normal" spring weather—and the wildflowers have been spectacular.

I was in the Smokies for the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, and the botanizing was great. The flowers didn't seem quite as far along as in recent years—I had to quickly re-learn the identities of all those Smokies trilliums that I'd been missing!

Our plant inventory project at Buggytop (Carter Cave State Natural Area), under Dennis Horn's able leadership, is going smoothly. This, our first such effort in several years, is possibly the beginning of a new emphasis for TNPS. Dennis will make a full report at our annual meeting, September 19-21.

Speaking of the annual meeting, Margie Hunter is lining up a terrific program. See her article for details. I am pleased that the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council has called on us to help with invasive plant identification, another area where we are using our corporate expertise (and learning a lot in the process).

She's invited a bug man, MTSU entomologist Steve Murphree, to speak to us too! He'll be fresh from summer camp where he's introducing Rutherford County kids to bugs, beetles, and butterflies. We have a treat in store!

The inspiration for Margie's inviting Steve came from a new book that has captivated her: *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens*, by entomologist and wildlife ecologist Douglas Tallamy. Read about it on Amazon.com, and you'll see why this one is definitely on my summer reading list.

It's important that we all register for the annual meeting at Fall Creek Falls as soon as possible—it promises to be a fantastic weekend. Meanwhile, enjoy this beautiful season.

See you on the trail!

Mary

Plant Rescue continued from page 1

Late this year, the state will let bids for construction of a by-pass highway through part of Alice's land, which is rich in cedar glade woodland species.

Alice calls this effort a "rescue for preservation of plant species." She is seeking participation of people who can take the plants to other sites or can assist her in relocating the plants on her land.

Rather than scheduling one or two weekends for the effort, Alice asks those who are interested to call her to schedule a convenient time to work and to get directions. She may be contacted at her home at 931-684-7851. She said she will be marking the location of plants and says the rescue work must be done between now and December. She said the plants available are indigenous mostly to woodland cedar glades.

Clearly distressed by state plans, which she has fought for years, Alice agreed, under threat of condemnation, to sell seven acres of her land, located on Horse Mountain on the outskirts of Shelbyville.

Mary Priestley, TNPS president, said the society will assist with the project by providing advice and guidelines on plant rescue similar to those of the Georgia Native Plant Society.

Tough and Rare

Native Plant Gardening with
Margie Hunter

Two native plants have a reputation in the garden for standing up to the harshest of environments, and yet, paradoxically, they are both rare in the wild. *Cotinus obovatus*, American smoketree, and *Croton alabamensis*, Alabama croton, perform as though made of cast iron under conditions that would quickly deter and dissuade many far more common species.

American smoketree is listed as a species of “special concern” in Tennessee and is found in Franklin, Grundy, and Marion counties. It is just as sparsely distributed in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Texas and appears most plentiful in the Ozarks of northwestern Arkansas and southwestern Missouri. Found naturally on rocky uplands in hot, dry sites and gravelly, circumneutral soils, smoketree readily defies many of the garden’s greatest challenges—alkalinity, drought, and low soil fertility. It even handled the loss of young foliage in the April 2007 freeze and did not miss a beat in that summer’s extreme heat and drought. Now that’s one tough tree!

And it’s beautiful, too! Smoketree is small in stature, about 15 to 30 feet, growing as a small tree or large shrub in an upright or oval shape with scaly bark. The large leaves are obovate to elliptic and display a range of color throughout the growing season, emerging maroon-tinged and tissue-paper thin in the spring, becoming luscious blue-green in summer, and turning an eye-popping array of near-fluorescent colors—yellow, orange, red, purple—in autumn. The actual flowers of the smoketree are tiny and insignificant, but the large, airy panicles are covered in purplish hairs that impart the characteristic smoky haze. Fruit set on female trees is uncommon. Smoketree needs full sun and adapts to more acidic soils, but its flexibility doesn’t extend to wet soil. Better site conditions lead to faster growth.

Alabama croton is a true specimen. Rare globally and listed as “endangered—possibly extirpated” in Tennessee, it has much to recommend it in the landscape. Twigs and apple-scented foliage are liberally dotted with silvery scales. Leaf undersides shimmer with a dense coating of these scales. There are subdued clusters of small yellow-green flowers in spring, and beginning in autumn, a steady progression of bright, pumpkin-orange leaves enliven the semi-evergreen shrub through winter.

An inhabitant of limestone bluffs, Alabama croton grows in dry, poor, alkaline soil tolerating heat and drought like smoketree. Yet, it takes well to moist, well-drained organic soil, if your yard is so blessed, and seems to appreciate a little shade. It grows four to seven feet in height developing an open to broadly rounded shape.

Either of these plants offers a unique presence in gardens and possesses a constitution capable of facing some of the toughest physical conditions and weather extremes in Tennessee. American smoketree can be found in nurseries. Popular cultivar ‘Grace’ was selected from a hybrid cross of our native species with the Asian *C. coggygria*. Alabama croton is harder to find commercially, though it sometimes appears in rare plant auctions. The Florence, Alabama, Master Gardener group offers rooted cuttings for sale.

Calopogons in Tennessee

Editor’s Note: This short article by Bart Jones about the tuberous and Oklahoma grass pinks is a companion piece to Bart’s report about the field trip to the Arkansas Prairies which begins on page 5.

Two species of grass pinks are documented for Tennessee, *Calopogon tuberosus* and *C. oklahomensis*, the latter based on historical collections from Coffee and Van Buren Counties. While no present populations of Oklahoma grass pink are known to exist in the state, tuberous grass pink is infrequently found in acidic bogs of the Cumberland Plateau and the Blue Ridge, as well as the prairies and barrens of the Eastern Highland Rim.

These two species are quite similar and can easily be confused. However, a few features can help distinguish between the two. The lip or labellum, which is the uppermost flower part in Calopogon, is adorned with yellow-tipped hairs which mimic anthers. In *Calopogon oklahomensis*, the end of the lip is a rounded triangular

Continued on back page



American smoketree

March 29, 2008

Lovitt Woods

A cool and cloudy day and threat of rain kept everyone home except for one brave soul, Jim Drake, who drove all the way from Georgia. Just goes to show you, sometimes when you make the effort you are rewarded with a personal tour.

As we made our way to the woods it was obvious that this site had been severely impacted by exotics, particularly privet, Japanese honeysuckle, and multiflora rose. When the first housing developments in the area were built in the '70s, this site was disturbed as sewer lines were installed. The natural hydrology was altered even more when the small feeder streams to the Wolf River were dammed for lakes in the new community. Soon the landscaping moved from yard to natural area, leaving us with the present infestation.

As Jim and I walked trails formed by years of ATV use, trails that the



Erythronium albidum

Photo by Bart Jones

Wolf River Conservancy has co-opted for part of its greenway trails system, we would occasionally come across pockets where invasive plants had been held in check. Notable in these pockets were yellow fumewort (*Corydalis flavula*), spring cress (*Cardamine bulbosa*), smooth yellow violet (*Viola pubescens*), and prairie trillium (*Trillium recurvatum*). In some areas that are still permanently wet, stands of bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*) were draped along the edges with dwarf red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*) just coming into bloom.

Farther into the woods the privet and honeysuckle seemed less abundant. Along the banks of the Wolf we found coral greenbrier (*Smilax walteri*). This woody vine climbs into the lower branches of trees and forms a dense "top" of evergreen leaves. In this "top", there are no thorns—only along the first three or four feet do they occur. This species is quite attractive when the berries turn red, unlike most *Smilax* species which have blue-black fruits, and I think it would make a great vine for a

large trellis. (Did you read this Allen Sweetser?)

On our way back to the parking lot, we walked along the riverbank where we saw numerous plants of wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) which seemed to be an especially deep blue.

Jim had come mainly to see the white trout lily (*Erythronium albidum*), so we hopped in the cars and drove a short distance to Riverwoods State Natural Area where a colony is found. As we got out of the autos, a loud clap of thunder greeted us. A mad dash to the trout lilies ensued, but just as we got there the skies opened and a furious downpour drenched us. Undeterred, we found a lily still intact protected by a privet bough (I guess that's one good use) and with the help of a plastic bag to protect his camera, Jim got his photo.

The deluge continued as we made our way back to the parking area, so our goodbyes were said in haste. Hopefully, a damp ride back to Georgia didn't dampen Jim's great spirit. Thanks, Jim, for supporting our field trips.

—Bart Jones

April 5, 2008

Ashland City

A large group of 25 to 30 participants gathered in Ashland City for this spring wildflower hike. After a four mile shuttle we began the walk. The trail is flat and easy along the old Tennessee Central rail line from Nashville to Clarksville below the bluffs overlooking the Cumberland River. The trail is about 10 feet wide and paved, making it handicapped accessible. The four-mile trail we walked is called the Sycamore Creek Trestle segment because of the 550-foot-long iron bridge, built in 1903, which spans the creek.

We saw plenty of wildflowers but the overall color was not as dramatic as the 1999 TNPS hike here. Because of the cool March, spring was not as far along as in recent years. April has been cool as well, but the "stretch out" of spring has overall led to a great wildflower season. It was a treat to have Dr. Edward "Wayne" Chester from Austin Peay State University join us and add his wealth of knowledge to our hike.

The early flowers like Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), Cutleaf Toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*), and Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*) were on time and largely through flowering. Others were just starting to bloom, like Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon meadia*), Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), Yellow Corydalis (*Corydalis flavula*), Miami Mist (*Placelia purshii*), Sweet

TNPS FIELD TRIPS

Betsy (*Trillium cuneatum*), and Fire Pink (*Silene virginica*). Others were in prime, like Star Chickweed (*Stellaria pubera*), False Garlic (*Nothoscordum bivalve*), and Wild Blue Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*).

Other side items of interest included a stop along the Chapmansboro Road to see a field of Nashville Mustard (*Lesquerella lescurei*) with its bright golden yellow color. After the hike was over I walked a mile beyond our destination on the graveled Eagle Pass Trail. The False Garlic and Shooting Star were exceptional along the limestone bluff and many Wild Hyacinth (*Camassia scilloides*) were in bud. The rare Short's Bladderpod (*Lesquerella globosa*), off of Hwy 12, was not yet in flower.

—Dennis Horn

May 3, 2008

Arkansas Prairies

A combined group of 19 (seven from Tennessee and 12 from Arkansas) met at Downs Prairie just outside DeValls Bluff, Arkansas for what promised to be a great day of exploring the last few remnants of the Grand Prairie of Arkansas. Upon arrival at Downs, it was clear to me that the prairie was late in flowering this year as from the road all appeared brown, very different from my last visit when it was ablaze in red and gold. Theo Whitsell from Arkansas Natural Heritage explained that a combination of factors had led to the decline and delay; first, the below average temps, second, the above average rainfall, and third, the accidental burns in the springs of 2006 and 2007 that seemed to have reduced the overall numbers of spring forbs. Theo has been studying these prairies for eight years and is compiling a flora. His knowledge was very helpful in answering many of the group's questions. Thanks, Theo!

As disappointing as Downs Prairie was, it still contained several examples of spring prairie species, notably Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*), white wild indigo (*Baptisia alba*), and western spiderwort (*Tradescantia occidentalis*). Oddly, there was lots of yellow stargrass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*) and spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), spring ephemerals that are normally long-gone by May. Some of the best plants were found along the road and ditches. Several rare (and not-so-rare) species of sedges, rushes, and spikerushes were pointed out by Theo—*Carex opaca*, *Carex oklahomensis*, and *Eleocharis wolfii*. Also in flower were threadleaf sundrops (*Oenothera linifolia*), cutleaf evening primrose (*Oenothera laciniata*),



Photo by Bart Jones

Baptisia bracteata

lanceleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), blue toadflax (*Linaria canadensis*), and grassleaf arrowhead (*Sagittaria graminea*). Although we covered most of the northern section of the prairie, no grass pinks were to be found. On my previous visits there were dozens, if not hundreds, in flower, so needless to say, we were discouraged about the prospects of seeing any.

After a quick lunch at Downs, we traveled to our second site, Roth Prairie, just southwest of Stuttgart. As “dead” as Downs was, Roth was the polar opposite. Thousands of spiderworts and coreopsis were in bloom, along with nice patches of glade sandwort (*Arenaria patula*) and a second wild indigo, creamy (*Baptisia bracteata* var. *leucophaea*). The spiderworts occurred in all three color forms; blue, pink, and very pale blue, and were joined by a second species, Ohio spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohioensis*).

Many of the plants that were in bud at Downs were open at Roth. Some examples were Sampson's snakeroot (*Orbexilum pedunculatum*), spider milkweed (*Asclepias viridis*), and smooth phlox (*Phlox glaberrima*). Other new species we encountered at Roth were wild hyacinth (*Camassia scilloides*), clammy hedge hyssop (*Gratiola neglecta*), and sleepy catchfly (*Silene antirrhina*). Along the back side of the prairie were many tiny rosettes of shortleaf sundew (*Drosera brevifolia*) all in bud. These plants are quite fascinating when viewed up close with their red hairs supporting a drop of glistening sticky goo, perfect for trapping small insects.

As we were looking for sundews, one of our Arkansas colleagues exclaimed, “Here's the orchid!” We all rushed over to see a single, exquisite Oklahoma grass pink (*Calopogon oklahomensis*). The beautiful flowers range from white, pale pink, to deep rosy purple. Our individual was a darker form and the flower appeared to have just recently opened and was to be followed by three buds. I was thrilled because there's nothing worse for a field

TNPS FIELD TRIPS

trip leader than to visit a place and have none of the highlighted plant be in flower.

Although we could have ended our Arkansas visit right then and it would have been a great success, we still had one more quick stop on our way back to see the spring spider lily (*Hymenocallis liriosme*). Just off the highway in a swampy area were large stands of these attractive amaryllis relatives. Although they closely resemble our common spider lily (*H. caroliniana*), they differ by growing in or very near water and their flowering time of late spring instead of late summer.

The day provided us with a nice array of species, most somewhat familiar, but many new to us Tennesseans. After a Friday afternoon of storms and tornados, we enjoyed bright blue skies and cool, breezy conditions. What else would you expect at a prairie!

—Bart Jones

May 10, 2008

Carter Cave State Natural Area

This field trip was planned in order to conduct a plant survey for the State of Tennessee as well as enjoy the flowers and natural beauty along the



Yolande Gotfried, left, and Margie Hunter take notes as Dennis Horn bends to the details of identification. Kathy Gilbert, a Chattanooga Times journalist, is standing behind Margie.

way. We assembled at the University Book Store in Sewanee among a crowd of visitors and students gathered for the weekend graduation exercises. Our group of about 18 participants then caravanned to a roadside pull-off south of Sewanee where the highway begins to descend the mountain.

The hike took us first up a short

unmarked trail to a large kiosk where we joined the main trail leading down to the bluff overlooking Buggy Top Cave. Recent rain had made the trail slightly slick in spots. In fact the steep trail from the overlook down to the cave was too slippery for everyone to reach the cave entrance. The cave stream drains upper Lost Cove through a system of sinks and caves.

The cool March and April this year had allowed the spring wildflower season to stretch out over a longer than normal period and the resulting flower displays have been great. Two exceptionally nice plants scattered all along the trail were the Four-leaved Milkweed (*Asclepias quadrifolia*) and Nettle-leaved Sage (*Salvia urticifolia*). We found in bloom a few Fire Pink (*Silene virginica*), Seneca Snakeroot (*Polygala senega*), Pennywort (*Obolaria virginica*), Wood Vetch (*Vicia caroliniana*), Violet Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis violacea*), Hedge Bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*), Southern Stoneseed (*Lithospermum tuberosum*), and the beautiful Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*). We also saw many Indian Pink (*Spigelia marilandica*) plants, that will flower in two weeks, and lots of the rare Eggert's Sunflower (*Helianthus eggertii*), Cumberland Rosinweed (*Silphium brachiatum*), and Eared Goldenrod (*Solidago auriculata*) that will flower later in the summer. Of special interest was a plant we found in good numbers at the beginning of the hike which turned out to be Chapman's Meadow Parsnip (*Thaspium chapmanii*). It is now recognized as a valid species of *Thaspium* about four feet tall with creamy yellow umbels.

All in all 100 or more species of trees, shrubs, vines, and herbs were recorded along this two-mile round trip to the bluff and back. Thanks to all who participated in the hike and successful plant survey.

—Dennis Horn



Photo by Latham Davis

2008 TNPS Annual Meeting Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Enclosed is my registration fee of \$15.00

I expect to participate in: (check all that apply)

____ Saturday hikes

____ Saturday non-hike program

____ Sunday morning hike

Room Reservations:

____ I have already contacted Fall Creek Falls to reserve my room.

____ I will contact Fall Creek Falls to reserve my room before July 1, 2008.

Please mail this form and your registration fee to:

Margie Hunter
2709 Woodlawn Dr.
Nashville, TN 37212
(615) 383-8100
mhunter55@comcast.net

Annual Meeting September 19-21

Continued from page 1

lend your voice at the informal jam sessions after the evening programs or just relax and listen.

Registration fee for all the fun is just \$15. Please send the fee and registration form before July 1 to Margie Hunter as directed on the form. Your fee will help defray meeting room costs and speaker honorariums and room expenses.

Members are asked to make their own room reservations with the park before July 1. TNPS has set aside a block of 25 rooms at the park inn for your convenience. There are three simple steps:

- Call the park's toll-free reservation number 800-250-8610.
- Request a TNPS room using our group # 4197.
- Provide a credit card number to reserve your room.

The room cost per night for one or two adults is \$92.23 (includes tax). Check-in time Friday is 4:30 p.m., and check-out time on Sunday is 11 A.M. Meals are served in the park's restaurant, a southern style buffet. They also have box lunches available for purchase.

A good time is guaranteed, so please register and make your reservations ASAP!

—Margie Hunter



Some of the crowd at the 2007 annual meeting.

Grass Pinks Can Confuse and Delight Our Botanical Interests

continued from page 3

shape, whereas the *C. tuberosus* lip ends in a blunt, anvil shape. Just above the hairs is an orange patch of shortened nubs in *C. tuberosus* while this area is normally pink in *C. oklahomensis*. Oklahoma grass pink tends to have smaller flowers that open nearly simultaneously and plants that are shorter, while tuberous grass pink is generally more robust and the blossoms open sequentially over a period of a few weeks. A final key difference is *Calopogon tuberosus* has a round, somewhat spherical tuber, where in *C. oklahomensis*, the tuber is forked.

Bloom times are earlier for *Calopogon oklahomensis*, being early May at our latitude, while *C. tuberosus* will commence blooming three or four weeks later. It would be quite valuable for those who know of *Calopogon* populations to visit them in early to mid-May to see if any of these earlier flowering plants might be *Calopogon oklahomensis*. It would be nice to remove the "historical" designation and welcome it back as a part of the extant flora of Tennessee.

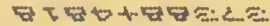


Bari Jones photo

Oklahoma grass pink

Are Your Dues Due?

Check your mailing label—the year through which you have paid dues is printed at the top. If the date's 2007 or earlier, please send a check promptly to Kay Jones, our treasurer. TNPS, P.O. Box 159274, Nashville, TN 37215.



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CHATTANOOGA

TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Volume 32, Number 3

August 2008

Good Opportunities Remain on TNPS Field Trip Schedule

After a layoff of more than three months, TNPS field-trip activities will crank up anew with some late summer and fall specials that members will want to join—along with guests they would like to bring.

The Cumberland Trail Near Wartburg

On August 30 Allen and Susan Sweetser will lead us on a section of the Cumberland Trail close to Wartburg. Allen and Susan hope to show us mountain camellias (*Stewartia ovata*) and perhaps even Schreber's aster (*Eurybia schreberi*), which is rare in the state. In any case, the hike, which begins at 10 A.M. Central Time, is moderate and will show a variety of ferns, asters, magnolias, and other species en route from the Nemo Bridge across the Emory River to the top of the bluff.

From Main Street at the Wartburg Courthouse, turn left at the Nemo Bridge sign and then turn right after one block onto winding Catoosa Road. Drive six miles to Nemo Bridge, cross it, and then turn right into Rock Creek Campground. Be sure to bring lunch, water, and wading shoes. But first notify Allen and Susan at 865-938-7627.

Ridge and Valley Glades

At 10 A.M. Central on September 6 meet Todd Crabtree in Dayton to begin a visit to the limestone ridge and valley glades in Rhea County. Todd expects to find prairie rosinweed (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*), prairie goldenrod (*Solidago ptarmicoides*), and a variety of other prairie wildflowers and grasses adapted to the xeric conditions of the glades and barrens.

To find Todd in Dayton, take the Rhea County Highway (US 27) north for half a mile and turn right into Hardee's parking lot. Please bring a lunch and water, and contact Todd by calling 615-330-4627.

Carter Natural Area Inventory Part II

For something a little different you'll want to join Dennis Horn for Part II of the Carter Natural Area wildflower hike and plant inventory on September 13. Meet at 10 A.M. Central at the campus bookstore in Sewanee.



Continued on page 4

Annual Meeting
Great Programs
and Hikes

Schedule Page 4

TNPS Creates Award for Conservation

To mark our 30th anniversary, the board of directors has decided to establish the Tennessee Native Plant Society Conservation Award. This honor, which may be given annually, will recognize a person or persons who have made exceptional contributions to the plant world.

Tennessee, the most botanically diverse landlocked state in the Union, is also rich in people who have worked to conserve and preserve this botanical heritage. We hope to honor some of these individuals with this award, which will include a lifetime membership in TNPS.

The initial recipient of the TNPS Conservation Award will be announced at our annual meeting in September. In future years, names of nominees will be solicited from the membership.

TNPS Newsletter

August 2008

Vol. 32, No. 3

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/Senior: \$15

Institution: \$50

Life: \$250

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

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Please send comments or material for the newsletter to TNPS Newsletter, P.O. Box 816, Sewanee, TN 37375 or lathamdavis@bellsouth.net



Report from the President

I am just back from a day of botanizing in Lost Cove, Sewanee's new 3000-acre tract that will be preserved in perpetuity through a conservation easement. TNPS helped The Land Trust for Tennessee to purchase and safeguard this beautiful and botanically rich place. If the critters could thank us for helping to protect this substantial hunk of habitat I am sure that they would!

Lost Cove is part of a much larger swathe of land that will always remain wild. It includes the Carter Cave State Natural Area, where TNPS is currently conducting a plant inventory for Tennessee's Department of Environment and Conservation. We have our second botanical foray there scheduled for Saturday, September 13, led by Dennis Horn. I hope you have it on your calendar and plan to take part in this fun and worthwhile venture.

At this year's annual meeting, we'll be celebrating our 30th anniversary by instituting the TNPS Conservation Award. The first recipient will be announced on Saturday night. Margie Hunter has lined up a super program for the entire weekend—several engaging programs and opportunities for some great botanizing. Along with your hand lens, camera, and field guide, be sure to bring your musical instrument—she's scheduled opportunities for jammin' both Friday and Saturday evenings. Please send in your registration fee and form, if you haven't already.

Besides those two events, we've got several more interesting hikes planned. Check out the list in this newsletter or on our website at www.tnps.org and plan to join us for fall and winter rambles.

See you on the trail!

Notes from the Editor

Both our president Mary Priestley and I make our homes in Sewanee, which has been hit in the past two years by three natural disasters damaging to our native flora: a hard spring freeze (March 2007), a severe drought, and an over-population of whitetail deer. Actually, the whitetail deer problem goes back further than two years, but it's now more troubling than ever. We compare notes and wonder what to do next.

Most of my life I have been delighted to see a doe and her fawns up close in my yard or on the trail. My perspective is changing. In recent years, for lack of any natural predators, the deer population has exploded. The favorite fare of these growing deer herds is native plants—natives in our gardens but also natives in surrounding woodlands and meadows. Sewanee's land manager, a professional forester, says the character of nearby forests is changing. Some species are disappearing.

What have you observed where you live or on trails where you like to find wildflowers? How bad is the problem to you? If there's a problem, does the solution lie solely with a landowner? Are community deer culls, advocated by some botanists, a viable solution? Would a broader, regional policy be advisable or feasible? Please share your thoughts.

Connecting to Wildlife through Native Plants

by Margie Hunter

An award-winning book published in 2007 is must reading for all gardeners. *Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens* (Timber Press), by Douglas W. Tallamy, makes a compelling biological argument for native plants in our maintained landscapes. Tallamy is a professor of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, and his book just received the 2008 Silver Award of Achievement from the Garden Writers Association. Tallamy's thesis centers on insects . . . not exactly an enticing prospect for most gardeners, yet he methodically presents his case clearly and convincingly.

Plants harness the sun's energy and pass it on to other species, especially insects. Through evolution, insects developed the means to recognize and utilize certain local plants, an advantage most of them lose with non-native plant species, which they either don't recognize as food or, lacking necessary enzymes, cannot digest. Gardeners might see this as a great excuse for using

Cheerfully sharing our patch of land with fellow critters . . . enriches our lives.

non-native plants. If they aren't chewed by insects, then plants will look good without chemical intervention.

Tallamy offers a different perspective. Insects don't just eat; they get eaten, comprising the diet, often exclusively, of some of our most cherished backyard wildlife. Insects are the only food suited to baby birds. The health and quantity of an area's insect population directly affects the number of birds it can support. Tallamy has also found that diverse landscapes of native plants attract enough chewing insects and their predators to hold plant disfigurement to a threshold low enough to escape notice,

and we enjoy a wonderfully vibrant garden that functions as a healthy ecosystem should.

Tallamy's point isn't to forego all exotics but to rely more heavily on native plants in the landscape. Enjoying ornamental exotics in



Wood thrush in a native garden.

smaller doses as accent rather than structural backbone allows the majority native plants to function ecologically and connect more effectively with nearby natural areas. Plus, natives offer very beneficial soil and climate adaptations.

Through behavioral descriptions and fun anecdotes, Tallamy introduces some insects attracted to a more diverse garden featuring native plants. This makes it much easier to like and appreciate these little crawlers and fliers for their intrinsic value and the indispensable role they play in healthy habitats. Tallamy helps us think beyond the borders of our backyards. The more we understand the larger ecological framework surrounding our gardens, the harder it is to dismiss other species—even insects—as disposable. From humans to the lowliest fly, we all play a part in this wonderful world. Cheerfully sharing our patch of land with fellow critters does not diminish our gardens; it enriches our lives.

Tallamy's book is centered in the Northeast. To learn about the local insect/native plant connection, you'll

want to come to the TNPS annual meeting in September. Our Friday evening speaker is Steve Murphree, an entomologist at Belmont University in Nashville. His talk will introduce us to the insect world in Tennessee. ○



A yellow crab spider makes a catch. (Photos by Latham Davis)

Continued from page 1

Dennis says, "Earlier scouting trips in October and November of 2007 and a great TNPS field trip on May 10 of this year have yielded an impressive list of about 250 tree, shrub, vine, and herb species so far. The September trip should provide lots of interesting late summer wildflowers. Rare plants we are likely to see in bloom include Eggert's Sunflower (*Helianthus eggertii*), Cumberland Rosinweed (*Silphium brachiatum*), and Eared Goldenrod (*Solidago auriculata*). Along the roadside we should find Cutleaf Prairie Dock (*Silphium pinnatifidum*) and Slender Gaura (*Gaura filipes*). Come and enjoy the day and help with the search."

TNPS Annual Meeting

Of course, everyone can find a choice of interesting hikes at the annual meeting September 19-21 at Fall

Creek Falls State Park. See a schedule in this issue.

Tellico Lake Winter Botany

Then on November 8, you're invited to Native Gardens in Greenback. Ed Clebsch will lead a hike along the shore of Tellico Lake to identify woody plants, in part by observing their bark and twigs. Ed has had a distinguished career in the ranks of Tennessee's botanists, and this visit to Tellico and to the home of Ed and Meredith at Native Gardens will be a treat. The hike will be moderate. Arrive by 10 A.M. Eastern Time, and be sure to bring a lunch.

To find Native Gardens, take Highway 321 between Lenoir City and Maryville and turn onto Highway 95 toward Greenback. After two miles, turn right on Axley Chapel Road and then right on Fisher Lane. Native Gardens is less than a mile from there on the right. ○

The article below was published in the Chattanooga Times Free Press on May 23.

Carter State Area plants cataloged

Experts finding rare species

By KATHY GILBERT
STAFF WRITER

SEWANEE, Tenn. — Plant lovers have joined forces to survey all the plants around Buggytop Cave south of Sewanee.

"Learning Buggytop's botanical secrets will help the state protect these treasures," said Mary Priestley, Tennessee Native Plant Society president and Sewanee Herbarium curator.

The state Department of Environment and Conservation recently asked the statewide Tennessee Native Plant Society to record all plants in the Carter State Natural Area, Ms. Priestley said.

Carter State Natural Area is a 375-acre preserve on the Cumberland Plateau south of Sewanee. Known for the 100-foot-wide and 80-foot-high



Yolande Gottfried, right, takes notes as Margie Hunter, left, and Linda Robertson identify plants at Buggytop Cave near Sewanee, Tenn.

Buggytop Cave, it also contains many rare plants.

"The natural areas are supposed to represent the biological diversity of the state — they're like living museums where we are saving our best," Ms. Priestley said.

Rare plants such as Gattinger's rosinweed, eared gold-

enrod and Morefield's clematis already have been spotted, she added.

More than 100 species were recorded by 15 people on the society's first group hike May 10.

"We're gaining a lot of plants that weren't on our list before," said hike leader Dennis Horn, a Tullahoma resident and co-

editor of "Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachians."

Plants were recorded by Sewanee Herbarium co-curator Yolande Gottfried and Margie Hunter, author of "Gardening with Native Plants in Tennessee."

Earlier this year and last fall, botanists such as Mr. Horn, Ms. Priestley, Sewanee Herbarium director Jon Evans and state botanists Todd Crabtree and Kevin Fitch have combed the area for plants to list.

A second hike is planned for Sept. 13. The public is invited, Ms. Priestley said.

While experience is required to identify most plants, even beginning botanists said they enjoyed cataloging plants on the May 10 hike.

"When you know what you're hiking through, it makes a big difference to me," said Marie Dement, a Chattanooga resident.

E-mail Kathy Gilbert at kgilbert@timesfreepress.com

GOING GREEN

The Big Bend Adventure

by Dennis Horn

The Southwest can be quite hot and dry during much of the year. Such is the case for Big Bend National Park along the Rio Grande River in the Chihuahuan Desert of western Texas. But when there is a chance that a rare orchid might be found, the temptation is often too great for some of us to resist. Thus off we went for the search.



Durango Ladies'-Tresses (Deiregyne confusa). Photo by Mark LaRocque.

It was Memorial Day weekend of this year that TNPS members Chuck Wilson and Dennis Horn, along with Mark LaRocque from Pennsylvania and Ron Coleman from Tucson, Arizona, ventured into this harsh environment in search of the rare Durango Ladies'-Tresses (*Deiregyne confusa*). In the United States this ladies'-tresses has been found only in the Chisos Mountains of Big Bend. It is a species of central Mexico that has managed to jump over the Rio Grande sometime in the distant past.

Deiregyne confusa was earlier treated as just another species of *Spiranthes*, as were several other colorful species now placed in different genera. Some of these other species are robust and brightly colored, unlike the white flowered species of *Spiranthes* found in Tennessee.

The Chisos Mountains are contained entirely within the boundary of Big Bend National Park and rise to 7,825 feet at Emory Peak. The Chisos Mountains are of volcanic origin and the lodge where we stayed was located in the basin of a crater at 5,400 feet elevation.

In early June of 2005 I had visited this site with another small group in search of this same ladies'-tresses. We found the plants that year but they had already flowered. This year we decided to go two weeks earlier, but because of the extremely dry weather we worried about our chances of finding the orchid in flower.

We started the hike early in the morning in order to reach the pass at 7,000 feet elevation before the heat of the day. Our total hiking distance was 4.5 miles one way. Luck was with us and we found two locations for the *Deiregyne* about a quarter mile apart. The plants were in flower at both sites and about the size of typical ladies'-tresses plants. What a treat!! It has been estimated that probably less than 20 people have ever seen this orchid in the Chisos Mountains.

As an added treat we visited Cattail Falls along the west wall of the mountain. Because of the drought the water was down to a trickle. There we found two other orchids in flower. One was Crested Coralroot (*Hexalectris spicata*), the same species as found in Tennessee. The other was the beautiful maroon and yellow Texas Purple-Spike (*Hexalectris warnockii*) found only in a few locations in the mountains of the Southwest. ○

Plant Rescue at Horse Mountain, Shelbyville

In addition to scheduled field trips, TNPS members may also be interested in taking part in a native plant rescue on the property of Alice Jensen of Shelbyville.

Alice has been forced to sell seven acres of her property on Horse Mountain for a by-pass highway. The land is rich in cedar glade woodland species.

Alice is trying to relocate plants elsewhere on her land, but she says she cannot relocate them all, and members will be welcome to take what they can transplant.

She asks persons who are interested to call her to schedule a convenient time to work and to get directions. She may be contacted at her home at 931-684-7851. She said she will be marking the location of plants and says the rescue work must be done between now and December.



Durango Ladies'-Tresses (Deiregyne confusa). Photo by Ron Coleman.

Bus Jones

A Gentleman's Gentleman

by Mary Priestley

Our book, Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley, and the Southern Appalachians, is dedicated to the memory of a man named "Bus" Jones. I learned a little bit about Bus while researching an article for the Tennessee Conservationist about some Southeastern plants that are named for people. The following is taken from that article, with a few additional comments by TNPS members who knew Bus well.
—MPP

Square dancer, wildflower photographer, and natural teacher, James I. (Bus) Jones (1913–1992) embraced life with enthusiasm. His interest in nature—and near-obsession with nature photography—was so strong that he has left a lasting imprint on the history of botany in Tennessee. That's quite a statement to make about an amateur whose professional work was in sales and construction.

Bus, his wife Kitty, and two other Chattanooga couples discovered that they had a mutual delight in wildflowers. What started as occasional field trips for the six friends to see and photograph wildflowers evolved into weekly meetings to learn the plants' scientific names, label slides, and prepare slide shows.

Afbee members headed for an outing in this 1987 photo are, from left, front row, Bill and Francis Riggs, Anne and Bill Manierre, Kitty and Bus Jones, Sybil and Tom Zava; second row, Harold and Nancy Scott, Kay and Bill Jones, Joyce and Bob Merritt; and back row, Roger and Wendy Walden, Dennis and Sherry Horn, and Viola and Dick Sooy.



One of them suggested forming an organization of wildflower lovers, and the Association of Amateur Field Botanists was born in 1983.

They called themselves the "Afbees." They put out a newsletter; printed up bumper stickers ("Caution! I Brake for Wildflowers"); and garnered members from across the continent. Although that organization is no longer functioning, it lives on in the associations of people who met there. One such organization is the nationwide Native Orchid Conference.


TNPS member Chuck Wilson, on moving to Chattanooga years ago, was told, "You've got to meet this guy Bus Jones." He did, and the two enjoyed their mutual passion for wildflowers for years. "Bus was a gentleman's gentleman, and the most infinitely patient teacher," remembers Chuck. "Someone would ask him a question 20 times, and he'd never get impatient!"

Dennis Horn, primary author of our wildflower book, botanized with Bus, Chuck, and others in California and northern Oregon in 1990. They, along with Chuck and



others, botanized together in California and northern Oregon. Orchid specialist Stan Bentley joined them there a couple of weeks later. Bentley subsequently named a rare hybrid twayblade orchid, *Liparis x jonesii* Bentley, for Bus.

Aware of the vulnerability of beautiful plants to unscrupulous digging, Bus promoted the idea of connecting people who could be trusted to guard the knowledge of plant locations. He surely would have loved to see the networking that goes on these days among people interested in plant protection.

Bus used to say, "I like to get out -- to see anything, anywhere, anytime!" One of his dreams was to produce a comprehensive field guide to the wildflowers of Tennessee. He joined TNPS, and this group brought his project to fruition. *Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley, and the Southern Appalachians*, published more than a decade after his death, is dedicated to Bus's memory. Now in its second printing, the book has helped thousands of Tennesseans and others to become better acquainted with our state's spectacular flora. 

TNPS Annual Meeting Preliminary Agenda

Friday, Sept. 19

4:00-6:00 P.M. Check-in/Registration

5:00 P.M. Music and cocktails in TNPS's meeting room at the lodge (bring your own instruments and libations)

6:00-7:00 Dinner (park restaurant available for all meals)

7:00-8:30 Program—Steve Murphree, Entomologist, Belmont University, on the connections between native plants and native insects

Saturday, Sept. 20

Breakfast

9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Hikes—Visit meadows and seeps of the plateau top, see several rare plants, and get acquainted with some grasses.

Lunch—You may order a box lunch for the hikes at the park restaurant Friday evening and pick it up Saturday morning.

2:30-3:30 P.M. Slide program on Alaska, a beautiful land of contrasts, by Alice Jensen, for those who opt not to take the afternoon hike

5:00-6:00 P.M. Happy Hour with music (Don't forget your banjo!)

6:00-7:00 P.M. Dinner

7:00-8:30 P.M. Annual meeting, including presentation of the TNPS Conservationist Award;

Program—Terri Hogan, Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council and TNPS member, on engaging TNPS in the crucial fight against invasive plants in Tennessee

Sunday, Sept. 21

Breakfast

9:00 A.M. Board Meeting (open to the membership) or

Hike—Visit a Virginia spiraea site; then see some plants restricted to limestone outcrops of the plateau escarpment

(NOTE: Check-out is 11 A.M. Sunday. Please check out prior to the hike.)



Botanizing at the 2007 annual meeting

Who is this man, what is he doing, and why does the plant at far right bear his name?



The late Bus Jones, a leading TNPS member in the 1990s, leans over his camera, while friends help protect him and the camera from a pouring rain. At right is a sketch (by Mary Priestley) of the rare orchid *Liparis x jonesii* Bentley. See the story about Bus on page 6.



Are Your Dues Due?

Check your mailing label—the year through which you have paid dues is printed at the top. If the date's 2007 or earlier, please send a check promptly to Kay Jones, our treasurer. TNPS, P.O. Box 159274, Nashville, TN 37215.



TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Volume 32, Number 4

November 2008

Elsie Quarterman Is First Conservation Award Honoree

The presentation of the TNPS Conservationist of the Year Award to botanist Elsie Quarterman (See biography on page 3) was a highlight of September's annual meeting at Fall Creek Falls, organized by Margie Hunter.

Belmont University entomologist Steve Murphree opened our eyes to the importance of native plants in a healthy ecosystem. Terri Hogan, president of the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council, asked for our help in getting a jump on exotic pest plant invasions by reporting new ones that we find. (See note at bottom of page 2.)

Also, we can't forget the great wildflower walks led by State Botanist Todd Crabtree and State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath. The principal destination of the Saturday field trip was a site in Van Buren County where years ago Margret Rhinehart found a rare state population of *Platanthera integra* (field trip summary on page 7).

About fifty TNPS members attended at least part of the two-day event September 19-21, providing a great opportunity for plant lovers—amateur and professional—to compare notes and explored common interests.

Board Members Nominated for New Terms

The following board members' terms come to an end with calendar year 2008: Dennis Horn, Joey Shaw, and Rita Venable. Dennis and Joey have agreed to serve again, but Rita has decided to concentrate her efforts on butterflies and the State's All Taxa Biodiversity Index. Nominating Committee members, appointed by the president—Bertha Chrietzberg, Bart Jones, and Jane Norris (chair)—have nominated Lori Emens (west Tennessee), as well as Dennis Horn (middle Tennessee) and Joey Shaw (east Tennessee), to two-year

—Continued on page 3



Many of the TNPS members attending the annual meeting in September pause in the midst of a field trip before continuing an exploration of a rich botanical site in Van Buren County.

TNPS Newsletter

November 2008

Vol. 32, No. 4

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/Senior: \$15

Institution: \$50

Life: \$250

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

Officers

Mary Priestley, President
Todd Crabtree, Vice-President
Bart Jones, Secretary
Kay Jones, Treasurer

Directors

Bertha Chrietzburg
Michelle Haynes
Dennis Horn
Joey Shaw
Susan Sweetser
Rita Venable

Latham Davis, Editor

Please send comments or material for the newsletter to TNPS Newsletter, P.O. Box 856, Sewanee, TN 37375 or lathamdavis@bellsouth.net



Report from the President

Greetings on a beautiful fall morning! Here it is November, and we still have late fall asters blooming away. People around here call the purple ones "farewell summer," an apt name for these lovely last holdouts of the season.

At the annual meeting, we tipped our hats in gratitude to Dr. Elsie Quarterman by presenting her with our 2008 Conservation Award. As Dr. Quarterman's "academic grand-daughter," this was a thrill for me. Thanks go to the weekend's organizers and presenters—Margie Hunter, Dr. Steve Murphree, Alice Jensen, Terri Hogan, Todd Crabtree, Randy Hedgepath—and everyone else who participated in the weekend and helped make it a success.

For a fairly small organization, we are a busy group. TNPS member Mary Davis, distraught by herbiciding of roadside wildflowers on the Cumberland Plateau, organized a meeting of Tennessee Department of Transportation and state park representatives, as well as concerned citizens, to see what could be done to maintain highway safety without sacrificing the native flora. Before we knew it, she had gotten TNPS involved in an effort to educate TDOT employees that could well spread across the state. Expect more news of that development in future issues.

We have successfully completed our yearlong effort to inventory the flora of the Carter State Natural Area, a project that we undertook in cooperation with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the University of the South. In all, more than 300 species of vascular plants were identified on five trips to the area over the course of the growing season. Just this month, Sewanee ecologist Jon Evans headed up a plant community survey, the final piece of the undertaking. Many thanks to project coordinator Dennis Horn and all who helped with this achievement.

In the coming year, we plan to use our plant ID skills to help the State begin to make an inventory of the plants of the Cumberland Trail. Although we haven't yet established the protocol for this project, I can see us scheduling several outings to identify plants along the Cumberland Trail as we get better acquainted with this new park.

As autumn leaves start to fade and cold weather moves in, it's already time to begin planning next year's field trips. Our thanks to Todd Crabtree, who will again head up the field trip committee. Do you have an idea for a wildflower walk - maybe a favorite haunt that you'd like to introduce us to or a trail that you're anxious to try? If so, you can email Todd at todd.crabtree@state.tn.us. He and his committee would very much like to hear from you.

See you on the trail!

Mary

Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens by Douglas W. Tallamy, is an excellent book about the weakening of food chains as a result of overuse of exotic plants in landscaping.

To report sightings of invasive plant species, go to the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council website (<http://www.se-eppc.org>) and select "Report Infestations" under the EDDMapS logo.

Elsie Quarterman, TNPS Conservation Award Winner

Elsie Quarterman is an amazing person. If she had done nothing else in her long life, she would deserve recognition for her scholarly investigation of the ecology of the cedar glades. She carefully catalogued the many unique plants that have evolved to withstand the combination of wet springs and searingly hot summers of the glades. Teamed up with Vanderbilt geologist Charles Wilson, they carefully mapped out the region where Lebanon limestone lies on the surface. This research remains the authoritative analysis of the succession of plants in the cedar glades. And this was only her dissertation research; a lifetime of research was to follow.

Dr. Quarterman has been a tireless advocate for the preservation of valuable natural areas, not only her beloved cedar glades, but also others, such as Savage Gulf, with its stand of virgin timber, and Radnor Lake in Nashville. Not only are cedar glades now protected in Cedars of Lebanon State Park and Long Hunter State Park, but numerous smaller glades are now protected for generations to come.

A number of older colleagues recognized Quarterman's ability and helped her along the way. Among them was her botany professor at Duke University, H.G. Oosting. The head of the Biology Department of Vanderbilt University, met her at a summer project at the Highland Biological Station. Impressed with her academic recommendations, he offered her a job at Vanderbilt. This was to become a lifetime position, at a time when women faculty members were a rarity, especially at Vanderbilt.

In turn, Quarterman helped to develop the next generation of field botanists. She trained and inspired a generation of botanists and ecologists, including Barbara Turner and Don Caplinor who taught at Peabody College. Thomas Hemmerly, the coauthor of our recently published guide, *Wildflowers of Tennessee*, was one of her first students. He says "She was consistently supportive of my efforts, as she was of all her students, and remains a friend today." Reading their research reports gives an appreciation for the meticulousness and creativity of their methods. Adjacent papers in the same journals read like eighth-grade science projects by comparison.

—Jane Norris



Board Member Nominations

continued from page 1

terms, beginning in January of 2009. This slate has been certified by the Executive Committee.

If additional nominations from the membership are made within three weeks of the publication of this issue of the newsletter, we will

have election by ballot; otherwise these nominees will be declared elected (see below). Our thanks to Jane, Bertha, and Bart for their good work; to Lori, Dennis, and Joey for agreeing to stand for election; and to Rita, who we know will continue to contribute to the organization.

From the TNPS by-laws: "In addition to nominations by the Nominating

Committee, any eligible member may also be nominated by written petition of not less than 10 members received by the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee (with notice of its submission sent to the Corresponding Secretary) not later than three weeks after the [newsletter] publication, accompanied by written consent of the nominee to be a candidate and to serve if elected. . . . If no nominating petitions are received, . . . those nominated shall be declared elected." If you would like to make a nomination, please contact Jane at raymond.c.norris@vanderbilt.edu. ■



President Mary Priestley visits with Elsie Quarterman in her home after presenting a framed and hand-painted certificate representing the Society's first Conservationist of the Year Award.

Support Welcomed by Tennessee Conservation Voters

Tennessee Conservation Voters is excited to report that the work of the 2008 and 2009 Summits for A Sustainable Tennessee continues to bring conservation activists and professionals from across Tennessee together to assure that interests vital to our constituents and member organizations remain a priority in our state legislature. Produced by fellow TCV member organization Tennessee Environmental Council, Tennessee Conservation Voters co-sponsorship of the 2008 and 2009 "Summits" has seen increased synergy and coordinated efforts that will ensure that our elected officials continue to listen for our "green voice." Look for Regional Opportunity Forums throughout Tennessee in 2009, keep your eyes open for TCV in the media, and be sure to check your e-mail for legislative updates regarding this most essential work. Once again, TNPS member Michelle Haynes has been elected president of TCV for the 2008-2009 and will continue as our Policy Council representative. For more information, contact me at cford@tnconservationvoters.org or visit the TCV website at www.tnconservationvoters.org.

*Chris Ford,
TCV executive director*

Annual Meeting Brings Plant Lovers Together

Field trip description on page 7



▲ *Bill Jones shoots lepadopterae, while Julianna Gregory turns her camera on a Liatris.*

Margie Hunter and Rita Venable exchange ideas. ▶



TNPS members wade into a sea of botanical treasures. ▼





▲ *Bart Jones scouting*

Dennis Horn stalks prey with Mary Davis and Valerie Allen ▶

Maurice Edwards and Jane Norris observe meadow species with Todd Crabtree ▼



▲ *Kay Jones makes a point with the crowd.*

◀ *Orlan Yarbro focuses on a new find.*

▶ *Al Good confers with Mary Priestley and Randy Hedgepath*



September 13, 2007

Carter Natural Area

This trip to Carter Caves State Natural Area was planned as part 2 of the TNPS field trip plant survey for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. The TNPS hike in May 2008 (reported in the June newsletter) along with scouting hikes in Autumn 2007 had yielded an impressive list of nearly 250 species. On this trip we hoped to add the late summer flowering species to the list and thus complete the species survey. The remaining task is to perform a Vegetation Community Survey of the natural area. Dr. Jon Evans of the University of the South has volunteered to assist TNPS in this task.

Our group met in Sewanee and caravanned to the site along Hwy 56 near Sherwood. We first surveyed a strip of land on the natural area that borders the highway as a northern extension of the property. Then after lunch we hiked the main trail down to the Buggy Top Cave entrance. The day was sunny and quite warm, but manageable. A welcome reward was the cool air issuing from the cave entrance at the destination of our hike.

Along the highway we found mullein foxglove (*Dasistoma macrophylla*), with a yellow trumpet-shaped flower, similar and related to false foxglove (*Aureolaria*) species; four goldenrods, including the stiff goldenrod (*Oligoneuron rigidum*) in large numbers; and a persimmon tree with ripe and tasty fruit beginning to fall, well before the first frost.

After lunch we hiked the main trail down to the overlook and then beyond on a much steeper trail to the mouth of the cave. Along the trail we found many late summer species, some in flower and some in fruit. These included smooth carrionflower (*Smilax herbacea*) a thornless vine in fruit, false boneset (*Brickellia eupatorioides*) formerly in the genus *Kuhnia*, flat-topped white aster (*Doellingeria umbellata*), downy lobelia (*Lobelia puberula*), possumhaw holly (*Ilex decidua*) with bright red fruit, and the rare white tick-trefoil (*Desmodium ochroleucum*) known previously from only four counties in Tennessee. Altogether over 70 species of herbs and woody species were added to the list for the Carter Caves SNA on this hike, bringing the total to about 330 species.

On October 30, Jon Evans of the University of the South, joined Mary Priestley, Yolande Gottfried, and Dennis Horn to accomplish the Vegetation Community

Survey of the SNA. Plant communities were sampled from 12 different sites throughout the area, thus completing the TNPS project for the TDEC. Thanks to everyone that participated in this project.

—Dennis Horn

August 30, 2008

Cumberland Trail: Obed Wild, Scenic River

We had a group of dedicated souls hike to the river. We had some brand new members and some old die-hards. These folks were Bettina Ault, Al Good, Julianna Gregory, Louis Gregory, Jean Heinzman, Margaret Hubbuch, Glenda Hood, Nancy Page, Adam Wright, and Allen & Susan Sweetser. These folks were a great group to be in the woods with.

The hike is moderately easy normally. This day was hot and humid and made the two-something mile hike seem a lot longer. However it was a gorgeous day with no rain in the forecast, naturally. The hike follows along the Emory River until it intersects with the Obed River, near Alley Ford.

We saw several different ferns, including royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*) and climbing fern (*Lygodium palmatum*). We found over 12 different kinds of ferns and fern allies. We also walked by several shrubs of mountain camelia (*Stewartia ovata*) with developing seeds but no flowers. Allen pointed out old sights of strip mining along the way, and there was evidence of old roads. The hike also goes by several rock outcrops that are quite beautiful. The trail has an elevation gain at the beginning, remains fairly level for most of the way, and then has a steep descent to the river and Alley Ford.

The group had had lunch at the ford but Bettina and Susan were the only takers for getting their feet wet. The water felt great on such a hot day. It's a good spot to wade, fish, or camp. There are a couple of primitive camp sites at the river.

After lunch, the group returned at various times with a few of us bringing up the rear. A small group took a side trip along the nature trail loop on the return trip. Allen pointed out *Silphium trifoliatum* growing along the river. Al Good was along and worked out a grass list for the trip. A few of those seen were blackseed needlegrass (*Piptochaetium avenaceum*), a common grass of plateau woodlands, autumn bent grass (*Agrostis*

perennans), growing in a crack in the bluff, crinkled hairgrass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*) usually found around plateau bluffs.

This was a trip to enjoy being outside on a beautiful day with a group of like-minded souls to just appreciate nature. Although, I could have done without having to crawl under a large tree that had fallen on the path. We'll try to pick a cooler day and cooler place next year!!!

—Susan Sweetser

September 20, 2008

Annual Meeting Hike

Todd Crabtree arranged for our group of 30 to 40 participants to visit a nearby power line on Brockdell Road in Van Buren County. Because of the large gathering, Mary Priestley suggested we divide into three groups. Thus Todd, Bart Jones, and I each led a group of 10 to 12 as we explored under the power line. In the morning we looked to the right side of Brockdell Road and after lunch to the left side. The woody vegetation had grown to the point that many of the herbaceous plants were being crowded out and in one place the trees were actually touching the lines overhead.

Late flowering composites were everywhere and lots of other plants as well. There were several opportunities to compare closely related species. For example, tall coreopsis (*C. tripteris*), has trifoliolate leaves on stalks about one inch long, while whorled coreopsis (*C. major*) has sessile trifoliolate leaves. Roundleaf thoroughwort (*Eupatorium rotundifolium*), with broadly rounded pale green leaves and an inflorescence with opposite branching, was compared to hairy thoroughwort (*E. pilosum*) with narrower dark green leaves and an alternate branched inflorescence. Dense blazing star (*Liatris spicata*), with sessile flower heads, was compared to small-headed blazing star (*L. microcephala*), with heads on erect stalks. Also Virginia meadow (*Rhexia virginica*) has dark pink flowers and a winged stem, while Maryland meadow beauty (*R. mariana*) has light pink flowers and an un-winged stem.

We observed many other plants of interest including eastern silvery aster (*A. concolor*), blue hearts (*Buchnera americana*), tall flat-topped white aster (*Doellingeria umbellata*), lion's foot (*Prenanthes serpentaria*), Ozark tickseed sunflower (*Bidens polylepis*), white-bracted thoroughwort (*Eupatorium album*), sensitive briar (*Mimosa microphylla*), and swamp haw or possum haw (*Viburnum nudum*), a shrub with pink fruit turning

blue. Rare plants included dwarf sundew (*Drosera brevifolia*), Canby's lobelia (*Lobelia canbyi*), and dwarf huckleberry (*Gaylussacia dumosa*).

—Dennis Horn

November 8, 2008

Native Gardens and East Shore Trail, Tellico Lake

A group of about 18 members and guests, including two children, assembled at Ed and Meredith Clebsch's Native Gardens in Loudon County at 10 A.M. Folks came from Murfreesboro, Nashville, Oak Ridge, Signal Mountain, and other places. A brief tour of the nursery included seeing, among other plants, American hazelnut with mature fruits, chalk maple, Alabama snow-wreath, Florida anise, Eastern white cedar, Alabama croton, big leaf magnolia, umbrella magnolia, a hybrid between the two, climbing hydrangea, and sweet shrub.

The group car-pooled the two miles to the Coytee trailhead of the East Shore Trail where maps at a kiosk were available. The East Shore Trail is now 14 miles long and growing, stays pretty close to Tellico Lake, has little relief, and is being built with the cooperation of TVA by volunteers from WATeR (Watershed Association of the Tellico Reservoir). Our trip was confined to the two-mile-long Coytee Loop, for which a naturalist's guide and teacher's manual are available from WATeR. The trail will eventually extend from Tellico Dam in the north to US Hwy 411 in the south and, conceivably, all the way to Chilhowee Dam.

The trail traverses second growth forest that is about 30 years old and dips into old-growth forest stands on steep slopes. The former includes Virginia, shortleaf, and loblolly pines and eastern red cedar, dwarf sumac, red maple, and persimmon. The old-growth stands include large individuals of Shumard red oak, southern red oak, white oak, occasional northern red oaks, shagbark hickory, pignut hickory, linden, black gum, and wild black cherry.

Sunny spots were welcome at lunch on a chilly and blustery day.

A personal note: One of the participants is the niece of one of my high school classmates and neighbors from Clarksville pre-1947—a nice reunion of sorts!

—Ed Clebsch

Help Needed with Nashville Lawn & Garden Show

Call for Volunteers

Publicized as “the Mid-South’s Premier Garden Event,” the Nashville Lawn and Garden Show does seem to get bigger every year. For this year’s show, scheduled for March 5-8, 2009, TNPS will be sharing a booth with the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council. We will be selling T-shirts and wildflower books, but our major emphasis will be on education.

Several members of both organizations have already volunteered to help staff the booth, but we need a few more so that we will have two people in the booth throughout the event. If you can spare a half-day or whole day for this effort, please contact us on the webpage at www.tnps.org. All volunteers will be admitted to the show free of charge.

See <http://www.nashvillelawnandgardenshow.com/> for more information about this year’s event.

Try New Electronic Newsletter

TNPS is initiating an electronic newsletter for members. You may sign up for this electronic version by sending an e-mail to Bart Jones.

Some members may want to continue to receive the paper version, but the electronic newsletter offers some savings and could provide interesting possibilities in the future. So, you may send your request to bjones7777@hotmail.com.

Are Your Dues Due?

Check your mailing label—the year through which you have paid dues is printed at the top. If the date’s 2007 or earlier, please send a check promptly to Kay Jones, our treasurer. TNPS, P.O. Box 159274, Nashville, TN 37215.

