

TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Volume 35, Number 3

September 2011

Field Trips, Presentations, Interesting Discussions

Join the Annual Meeting September 16–18

Programs, hikes, and some interesting TNPS business will highlight the annual meeting to be held September 16–18 at DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle.

The society will present its annual conservation award but will also initiate a Tennessee botany hall of fame to recognize people who have made significant contributions to this field of science.

Members are urged to attend, beginning first with supper Friday followed by a program that will combine a discussion of botanical art with a discussion of ways to interest children—the next generation—in the study of botany. Mary Priestley, immediate past TNPS president, will lead the discussion. Mary is the author of the recently published book, *William's Wildflowers*, which is being incorporated into the curriculum of the Hamilton County (Chattanooga) School System. The book may be purchased for \$12 at the meeting.

Wildflower paintings used in the book are the work of William C. Crutchfield, Sr., and story of the paintings will be presented by Eunice Colmore of Chattanooga, the person mainly responsible for bringing to light the 460 Crutchfield paintings. Portfolios of eighteen prints will be on sale for \$200 and individual prints will sell for \$15.

In addition, TNPS members are invited to enter work in a show of botanical art (photographs included) to be set up in the DuBose library, where the programs will be held.

The annual meeting agenda will pick up again on Saturday morning with a special field trip, led by Todd Crabtree, state botanists, to two state natural areas—May Prairie and Morrison Meadow in nearby Warren County.

Many of the rare species found at Morrison Meadow are considered obligate wetland species, and are known from just a few counties in Tennessee. With its numerous state-listed species, and acidic, wet soils, Morrison Meadow is one of the more botanically significant sites in the state.

If you're seeking alternatives Saturday morning or that afternoon you may enjoy a tour the Sewanee chapel and campus less than five miles from DuBose. Consider a visit

Continued on page 2

Meeting to Include Botanical Art

Everyone is invited to take part in a show of botanical art at the TNPS annual meeting.

The opening night's program will draw heavily on the story of the paintings in the book *William's Wildflowers* by Mary Priestley. It seems natural, therefore, for other members to show how art has contributed to their knowledge and appreciation of botany.

Display space will be provided in the DuBose library. Photography in a variety of formats may be displayed along with paintings, prints, pen and ink or pencil sketches, and nature journals. Work may be priced for sale.

Please notify Mary Priestley (marypriestley@bellsouth.net) if you plan to participate.



Ferns will be the topic of the second annual meeting program.

TNPS Newsletter

September 2011

Vol. 35, 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: Complimentary

Institution: \$50

Life: \$250

Dues may be sent to:

Tennessee Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 159274

Nashville, TN 37215

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lathamdavis@bellsouth.net

TNPS Website:
www.tnps.org/



A Letter from the President

The annual meeting at the DuBose Center in Monteagle is quickly approaching and if you haven't sent in your registration, get it in the mail now! We have an exciting weekend of activities planned with presentations by Mary Priestley about her wonderful new children's book, *William's Wildflowers*, and Pat Cox about ferns as our Saturday night feature. I'm sure Pat will enlighten us about a group of plants that often get neglected when there are abundant wildflowers on our field trips. She has also graciously agreed to lead a fern foray on Sunday morning for those who want to spend just a few more hours with us. Todd Crabtree has once again come up with an exciting field trip for Saturday, with stops at Morrison Meadow and May Prairie. The fall flowers should be putting on a great show at both places. And we want you to participate by bringing any botanical art you might have hidden away so we may all enjoy it. As always, there will be a few surprises, too.

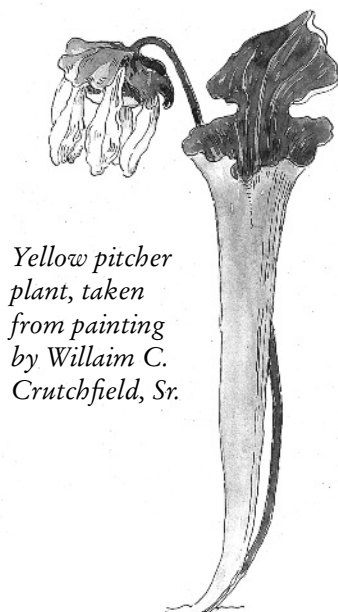
One of the things TNPS has always been very good at is supporting other conservation groups. As I assumed the presidency of the society, I wanted to highlight this commitment with an annual donation to a worthy group. This year, the board voted to bestow a \$500 donation to the Swan Conservation Trust, a group that has partnered with us in the past on field trips. The Swan Trust was formed in 1992 to preserve, protect, and restore native hardwood forests, and scenic natural areas, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, and water quality on the Western Highland Rim. Being the only conservation group operating on the Western Highland Rim, they now own or manage over 4,000 acres of land, much of it encompassing the headwaters of Big Swan Creek. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Swan Conservation Trust.

See you on the trail!

Bart

Variety Offered at Annual Meeting

—continued



Yellow pitcher plant, taken from painting by Willaim C. Crutchfield, Sr.

to the book store, a view of the Memorial Cross, or a stroll through the gift shops of the village, where several restaurants can be found.

Saturday evening's program will be a presentation on Tennessee ferns by Patricia Cox. Pat is a botanical specialist for Tennessee Valley Authority in addition to being president of the Association of Southeastern Biologists and a member of TNPS. You can find a short article by Pat on page four and five of this issue. She will also lead a fern hike Sunday morning.

The business session before the program Saturday evening will be led by President Bart Jones.

DuBose Conference Center has been the site of previous TNPS annual meeting. The center boasts of excellent food and a new fitness center.

If you have not registered for the annual meeting, you can complete and return the registration form on page three.

2011 TNPS Annual Meeting

September 16–18, 2011

Please complete and return by August 31

Registration fee per person \$15.00	# _____	@ \$15.00	_____
Room: Single per night		\$56.00	_____
Double per person, per night		\$38.00	_____

Those sharing a room should register together. Two checks may be sent.

Friday Supper	_____	@ \$ 16.00	_____
Saturday Breakfast	_____	@ \$ 8.00	_____
Lunch	_____	@ \$ 10.00	_____
Saturday Supper	_____	@ \$ 16.00	_____
Sunday Breakfast	_____	@ \$ 8.00	_____
		TOTAL	_____

Registant #1 Information:

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____
 Email _____
 Special Needs _____

Registant #2 Information (if sharing a room):

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____
 Email _____
 Special Needs _____

Mail check(s) payable to TNPS to:
 Lorie Emens
 557 N. Mendenhall Rd. #6
 Memphis, TN 38117



TCV Reports Legislative Efforts

This summer Tennessee Conservation Voters has been working hard to put together strategic plans for the next legislative session on several important topics.

As always, we have spent some time reviewing the last legislative session and plan on releasing our yearly Scorecard later this month. The Scorecard is a good way to measure how “green” each of our state legislators is and how they are voting on our issues. It helps to give us a big picture view of environmental activity in the state legislature.

Additionally, we have focused on strategic plans for larger issues including hydro-fracking and mountain top removal mining.

We have been working with Representative Jeanne Richardson (Memphis) and TDEC as well as other members of the environmental community to formulate recommendations on hydro-fracking. We are seeking meetings with TDEC and the Tennessee Oil and Gas Association prior to the legislative session in an effort to get some meaningful regulations in place. We are dedicated to ensuring that this dangerous practice does not harm our groundwater.

Additionally, we have joined with a coalition to work to pass the Scenic Vistas bill banning mountain top removal mining in Tennessee. We hope Tennessee will be the first state to ban mountain top removal.

Even though the summer is usually slower for legislative action, we are continuing to work hard to be prepared to advocate for environmental values in the next legislative session and are committed to keeping you informed on these issues.

Kim Sasser Hayden
 Executive Director
 kim@tnconservationvoters.org
 615-269-9090

A Brief Overview of Ferns in Tennessee

As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, Patricia Cox will give a program about the ferns of Tennessee at the TNPS annual meeting. Below is her preview of the talk and on the facing page is a tightly packed list of all ferns and their allies found in the state.

Depending on who you are talking with, Tennessee is home to somewhere between 88 and 96 species of ferns.

Many amateur, as well as professional, botanists find identification a challenge, but an understanding of the terminology associated with fern morphology can help clear away the fog. You may quickly find that identification really isn't all that difficult. In fact, for most of us, it's a heck of a lot easier than identifying grasses and sedges.

Tennessee can be subdivided into East, Middle, and West Tennessee, but in fact, the numerous layers of valleys, mountains, plateaus, and coves make this picture more complicated than that.

East Tennessee has the greatest fern diversity with 86

species (91 percent) of the known taxa found in Tennessee. Seventy-one species (76 percent) are reported for Middle Tennessee. West Tennessee has 42, or 44 percent, of the state's fern taxa. These data are not surprising if you compare these three broad regions of Tennessee to the level IV Ecoregions Map on this page.

East Tennessee can be divided into four distinct Ecoregions: the Blue Ridge (66), the Ridge and Valley (67), Central Appalachians (69), and the Southwestern Appalachians (68). Middle Tennessee is predominately covered by the Interior Plateau (71). The Southeastern Plains (65), Mississippi Valley Loess Plain (74), and a small portion of the Mississippi Alluvial Plain (73) are found in West Tennessee.

Based on information obtained from the University of Tennessee Herbarium website, 21 fern species reported from East Tennessee are not found in Middle or West Tennessee. Middle Tennessee has only three unique taxa (a newly described variety of *Isoetes melanopoda*, a questionable report of *Cystopteris tenuis*, and a new population of *Marselia* sp.). West Tennessee has one invasive fern species (*Salvinia minima*) and a historic record of *Ophioglossum crotalophorides*. Many of the ferns limited to the eastern part of state are restricted to high elevation sites or unique habitats.

See list on opposite page of Tennessee fern species and the

region where they are documented to occur.

Pat Cox

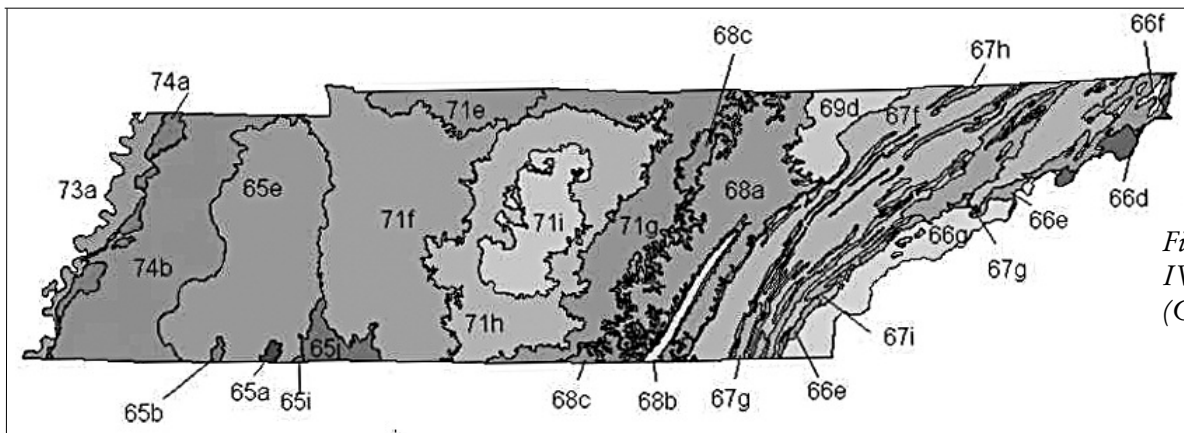


Figure 1: Ecoregion IV map of Tennessee (Griffith et al. 1998)

TNPS FIELD TRIP

Cherokee National Forest Outings

Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and 12

Unusually hot June weather impacted the attendance at this weekend of events co-sponsored by TCWP, the Tennessee Native Plant Society, Tennessee Wild and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association in the Ocoee Gorge area. Eight people participated in both the Benton Falls hike Saturday morning, and the Big Creek Trail hike Sunday, both excellent hikes. The small group sizes allowed for good interactions.

Event 1—Benton Falls Hike with Larry Pounds

The yellow flowering sweetshrub was found again

though in a different location from last year. There seems to be no consensus among botanists as to whether this yellow flowered form should be considered a distinct species. It is on the protected list for Georgia.

Event 2—US 64 Motorcade with Joey Shaw

The US 64 survey is making exciting discoveries. There are possible new species of Amelanchier, Monarda, and Clematis. We saw chalk maple, Frasier's loose-strife and the beautiful but exotic fern Macrothelypteris.

Event 3—Big Creek Trail with Larry Pounds

We followed the trail into Big Frog Wilderness Area. A highlight was a mountain camellia in full bloom. When we entered the wilderness area the trail blazing stopped. We learned from our guide that it is policy not to blaze trails in wilderness areas.

Larry Pounds

FERNS AND FERN ALLIES OF TENNESSEE

Scientific names, followed by common names, followed by regions in which they are found

- Adiantum capillus-veneris* • Southern maiden hair • E, M
Adiantum pedatum • Northern maidenhair • E, M, W
Asplenium bradleyi • Bradley's spleenwort • E
Asplenium montanum • Mt. spleenwort • E, M
Asplenium pinnatifidum • Lobed spleenwort • E, M
Asplenium platyneuron • Ebony spleenwort • E, M, W
Asplenium resiliens • Black-stemmed spleenwort • E, M
Asplenium rhizophyllum • Walking fern • E, M
Asplenium scolopendrium var. *americanum*
 • Hart's tongue fern • E
Asplenium trichomanes • Maiden-hair spleenwort • E, M
Asplenium X ebenoides • Scott's spleenwort • E
Athyrium filix-femina var. *angusta* • Northern lady fern • E
Athyrium filix-femina var. *asplenioides*
 • Southern lady fern • E, M, W
Azolla caroliniana • Mosquito fern • E, M, W
Botrychium lanceolatum ssp. *angustisegmentum*
 • Narrow lance-leaf moonwort • Literature
Botrychium matricariifolium • Daisy-leaved grape fern • E
Botrychium simplex • Little grape fern • E
Botrypus virginianum • Rattlesnake fern • E, M, W
Cheilanthes alabamensis • Alabama lip fern • E, M, W
Cheilanthes lanosa • Hairy lip fern • E, M, W
Cheilanthes tomentosa • Woolly lip fern • E, M
Cystopteris bulbifera • Bulblet bladder fern • E, M, W
Cystopteris protrusa • Lowland brittle fern; bladder fern
 • E, M, W
Cystopteris tennesseensis • Tennessee Bladder fern • E, M, W?
Cystopteris tenuis • Upland brittle bladder fern • M (?)
Dendrolycopodium dendroideum • Tree clubmoss • E
Dendrolycopodium hickeyi • Hickey's clubmoss • E, M
Dendrolycopodium obscurum • Flat-branched clubmoss
 • E, M
Dennstaedtia punctilobula • Hay-scented fern • E, M
Deparia acrostichoides • Silver glade fern • E, M, W
Diphasiastrum digitatum • Southern running pine • E, M, W
Diphasiastrum tristachyum • Blue ground pine • E, M
Diplazium pycnocarpon • Glade fern • E, M, W
Dryopteris campyloptera • Mountain wood fern • E
Dryopteris carthusiana • Spinulose wood fern • E, M?
Dryopteris celsa • Log fern • E, M, W
Dryopteris cristata • Crested wood fern • E
Dryopteris goldiana • Goldie's wood fern • E, M
Dryopteris intermedia • Intermediate wood fern; Fancy fern
 • M, E
Dryopteris marginalis • Marginal wood fern • E, M, W
Equisetum arvense • Field horsetail • E, M, W
Equisetum hyemale ssp. *affine* • Common scouring rush
 • E, M, W
Huperzia appalachiana • Appalachian clubmoss • E
Huperzia lucidula • Shining clubmoss • E, M
Huperzia porophila • Rock clubmoss • E, M
Hymenophyllum taylorii • Taylor's filmy fern • E, M
Isoetes appalachiana • Appalachian quillwort • E
Isoetes englemannii • Engelmann's quillwort • E, M
Isoetes melanopoda ssp. *melanopoda* • Black-footed quillwort
 • M, W
Isoetes melanopoda ssp. *sylvatica* • Black-footed quillwort • M
Isoetes tennesseensis • Hiwassee quillwort • E
Isoetes valida • Carolina quillwort • E, M
Lycopodiella alopecuroides • Foxtail bog clubmoss • W, M, E
Lycopodiella appressa • Southern bog clubmoss • W, M, E
Lycopodium clavatum • Running clubmoss • E
Lygodium palmatum • Climbing fern • E, M
Macrothelypteris torresiana • Mariana maiden fern • E, M, W
Marsilea minuta • Water-clover fern • E
Marsilea sp. • Water-clover fern • M
Onoclea sensibilis • Sensitive fern • E, M, W
Ophioglossum crotalophoroides
 • Bulbous adder's tongue fern • W (X)
Ophioglossum engelmannii • Limestone adder's tongue fern
 • E, M, W
Ophioglossum petiolatum • Stalked adder's tongue fern
 • Literature
Ophioglossum vulgatum • Southern adder's tongue fern
 • E, M, W
Osmunda cinnamomea • Cinnamon fern • E, M, W
Osmunda claytoniana • Interrupted fern • E, M
Osmunda regalis var. *spectabilis* • Royal fern • E, M, E
Pellaea atropurpurea • Purple cliffbrake • E, M, W
Pellaea glabella • Smooth cliffbrake • E, M
Phegopteris connectilis • Northern beech fern • E
Phegopteris hexagonoptera • Broad beech fern • E, M, W
Pillularia americana • American pillwort • E, M, W
Pleopeltis polypodioides var. *michauxiana*
 • Resurrection fern • E, M, W
Polypodium appalachianum • Appalachian polypody • E, M
Polypodium virginianum • Rock cap fern • E, M (?)
Polystichum acrostichoides • Christmas fern • E, M, W
Pteridium aquilinum • Bracken fern • E, M, W
Salvinia minima • water spangle • W
Sceptridium bitermatum • Sparse-lobed grape fern • E, M, W
Sceptridium dissectum • Dissected grape fern • E, M, W
Sceptridium jenmanii • Alabama grape fern • E
Sceptridium oneidense • Blunt-lobed grape fern • E (?)
Selaginella apoda • Meadow spike moss • E, M, W
Selaginella rupestris • Rock spike moss • E
Spinulum annotinum • Stiff clubmoss • E (X)
Thelypteris noveboracensis • New York fern • E, M, W
Thelypteris palustris var. *pubescens* • Marsh fern • E, M, W
Thelypteris simulata • Bog Fern • E (X)
Trichomanes boschianum • Appalachian filmy fern • E, M
Trichomanes intricatum • Weft fern • E, M
Trichomanes petersii • Bristle Fern • E, M
Vittaria appalachiana • Appalachian shoestring fern • E, M
Woodsia appalachiana • Appalachian cliff fern • E
Woodsia obtusa • Blunt-lobed cliff fern • E, M, W
Woodwardia areolata • Netted chain Fern • E, M, W
Woodwardia virginica • Virginia chain fern • E, M

Genus *Platanthera* in Tennessee

Bart Jones

With twelve species and thirteen taxa, the *Platantheras* compose the largest genus of our native orchids. *Platantheras* are commonly referred to as fringed or rein orchids and come in a variety of colors, often bright orange or purple, but also white, yellow, or green. *Platantheras* can be found in all of Tennessee's physiographic regions except the Central Basin proper, with bloom times in mid-summer.

The plants are found in very moist to wet situations and are composed of one to a few basal leaves, with reduced leaves along the single stem that is terminated with a showy raceme of small to medium sized flowers, often numbering several dozen. Each flower contains a long, backward-projecting spur which produces nectar, which coupled with the bright colors, attracts butterflies and moths, the main pollinators. *Platantheras* are unusual for the orchid family by actually offering a reward to its pollinators, as most orchids deploy a deceptive mechanism with no reward to achieve pollination.

The following is an overview of the species grouped by flower color.

The yellow/orange group of *Platantheras* consists of *Platanthera ciliaris*, *Platanthera cristata*, and *Platanthera integra*. *P. ciliaris* is the largest and most deeply colored of these three. The lips are highly divided into hair-like fringes. *P. cristata* and *P. integra* are more yellow in



Platanthera peramoena

color and less common, with *P. integra* being quite rare.

The purple flowered group also contains three species: *Platanthera grandiflora*, *Platanthera psychodes*, and *Platanthera peramoena*. *P. grandiflora* and *P. psychodes* are very similar, with both having lavender-purple flowers, with those of *P. grandiflora* being larger. The flowers of *P. peramoena* are a richer, red-purple color. *P. grandiflora* is only found in a few locations



Platanthera ciliaris

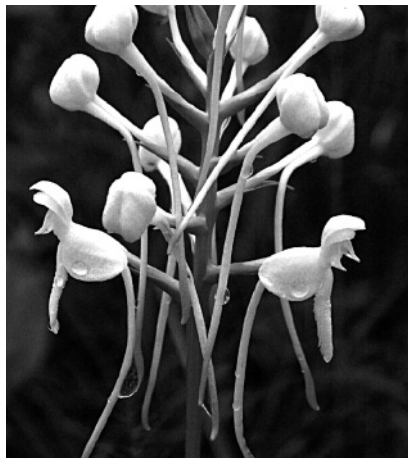
in northeastern Tennessee, while *P. psychodes* is found along the entire length of the Blue Ridge Mountains. *P. peramoena* has a distinctly western distribution within the state.

The white *Platantheras* are pollinated primarily by moths and are represented by *Platanthera clavellata*, *Platanthera integrilabia*, *Platanthera nivea*, and *Platanthera orbiculata*. *P. clavellata* is the smallest species with tiny flowers that are all held askew along the stem. The remaining three species are rare to uncommon in Tennessee. *P. integrilabia* is the largest species in the group with the bulk of its worldwide numbers found on the greater

Cumberland Plateau. The flowers have a very strong fragrance of vanilla. *P. nivea* is only found in Coffee County in Tennessee and is unique among the *Platantheras* in that the lip is held uppermost or nonresupinate. *P. orbiculata* is found deep in coniferous woods in the mountains. The large, pad-like leaves help the plant gain enough sunlight in its shady habitat to bloom.

The green flowered species are *Platanthera lacera* and *Platanthera flava*, with its two varieties. *P. lacera* is widespread and looks very much like a green version of the small purple fringed orchid, *P. psychodes*. *Platanthera flava* var. *flava* and *herbiola* have the smallest flowers in the genus and the yellow-green flower spikes often blend into the background. The *flava* variety is a western plant while the *herbiola* variety is in the eastern part of the state.

So go out and check your local bog, a wet ditch, or a streamside for these jewels of the orchid family.



Platanthera integrilabia

It Takes an Ecosystem

♫ Botanist's Bookshelf w

Wildflowers & Plant Communities of the Southern Appalachian Mountains & Piedmont, a Naturalist's Guide to the Carolinas, Virginia, Tennessee, & Georgia, by Timothy P. Spira (UNC Press, 2011).

In his new wildflower book, author Tim Spira takes an ecological approach, addressing 340 species of plants from the perspective of plant communities. As such, it is a natural complement to our landmark TNPS book. The author explains, “the natural community emphasis used here . . . is connected to our growing understanding of the environment and how all parts of the natural world are mutually dependent.”

In the summer of 1997 I took a course at the Highlands Biological Station titled Forest Ecosystems of the Southern Appalachians. Fellow TNPS member Mary Davis and I roomed together. The two-week course was team taught by four professors. Tim Spira, a botany professor at Clemson, was one of our classmates. I wonder now if the seeds for this thorough and innovative volume were planted—or at least nurtured—that summer. I do know that if I had had Tim's book then, I would not have needed to take that class—but of course I would have missed out on a terrific experience. We roamed all over the Blue Ridge checking out as many ecosystem types as possible. I remember huddling under umbrellas in the pouring rain beside the parking lot at Clingman's Dome, scribbling notes in our Rite-in-the-Rain notebooks while Peter White from Chapel Hill lectured on the history of the Smokies. Unforgettable!

• • •

Spira's new book is a trip through all of those ecosystems and more—minus the rain. In addition to the Blue Ridge, it covers plant communities in the Valley and Ridge, the Cumberland Plateau, and the Piedmont. Tim has identified 21 different major community types in the region and 340 species of plants that are prominent in them. Many of the communities and plant species are more widespread, so the book will appeal to naturalists throughout the Southeast.

Spira's definition of “wildflower” is quite broad. In addition to herbaceous flowering plants—what many of us think of as wildflowers—the book covers trees, shrubs, vines, a few ferns, and even a couple of mosses and lichens. His idea is that it's the plant communities that are of interest—the interacting mosaic of woody and herbaceous species that form the basis of the ecosystems. And really, who among us is not interested in these plant communities and their important players?

Starting with the high elevation spruce-fir forests, and

moving through balds, bogs, and northern hardwood forests, we make our way through rich cove forests, past cliff spray fields and rocky streambanks, all the way to roadsides and fields—21 community types in all, each with distinguishing features, vegetation, seasonal aspects, distribution, dynamics, and conservation issues described. Along the way, short boxed pieces cover topics such as “Vines—How (and Why) They Climb,” “Rivers as Dispersal Corridors,” “the Asian Connection,” and “When to be Evergreen.” Great information!

Just over half of the book is given over to descriptions of the 340 plant species. For each, we are provided with a color photo, scientific name, and one or two common names. Each description includes physical characteristics, habitat/range, taxonomy, ecology, wildlife associations, and uses. Complete and engaging.

• • •

The only potential difficulty that I can see with this impressive guidebook is the arrangement of the plant descriptions. They are in alphabetical order by scientific name, which I am sure was done after much thought. That may, however, be a stumbling block for people who use only common names. And for me, in the habit of seeing plants organized by family, it was a little disconcerting to find Vasey's trillium (*Trillium vaseyi*) followed immediately by rock tripe lichen (*Umbilicaria mammulata*), for instance.

But if anyone can teach this old dog new tricks, Tim Spira can. For one thing, he has included a photographic key to the plants that includes 760 thumbnail plant photos, arranged by plant community. So if you know you are headed to a chestnut oak forest, you can turn to that section of the key and see close to 40 photos of plants that you are likely to encounter, with the page numbers where their individual descriptions may be found. The line drawings of basic plant characteristics and glossary are helpful additions.

This is a solid reference book and entertaining read. And there is much more to it—it's more than 500 pages long—than I can describe here: great photography, descriptions of selected natural areas (five in Tennessee), and even lists of sources for suggested further reading. TNPS is listed among the region's native plant societies, our webpage included. I'm just getting acquainted with this new field guide and am looking forward to a long and enjoyable relationship. If you're interested in learning more about the natural communities of eastern Tennessee and beyond, this book's for you, too. To top it off, all royalties will go toward promoting and conserving native plants and natural habitats.

Mary Priestley

Echinacea tennesseensis Delisted

Although one of the first plants to make the federal Endangered Species List, our Tennessee coneflower is about to be removed from the list, a tribute, in a sense, to the efforts of several groups to purchase protected glades where it can survive and even flourish.

Once believed extinct but rediscovered in 1969 by botanist and TNPS member Elsie Quarterman, *E. tennesseensis* is still found naturally only in cedar glade habitats in Davidson, Rutherford, and Wilson counties.

It has been hypothesized that an ancestral *Echinacea* species spread into middle Tennessee during the hypsithermal period following the last ice age, when conditions were drier and prairies extended into much of the central eastern U.S. that is now forested. As conditions became wetter, the *Echinacea* populations became isolated on the prairie-like habitat of the cedar glades which were eventually surrounded by forest. This isolation resulted in divergence and speciation of *E. tennesseensis*.

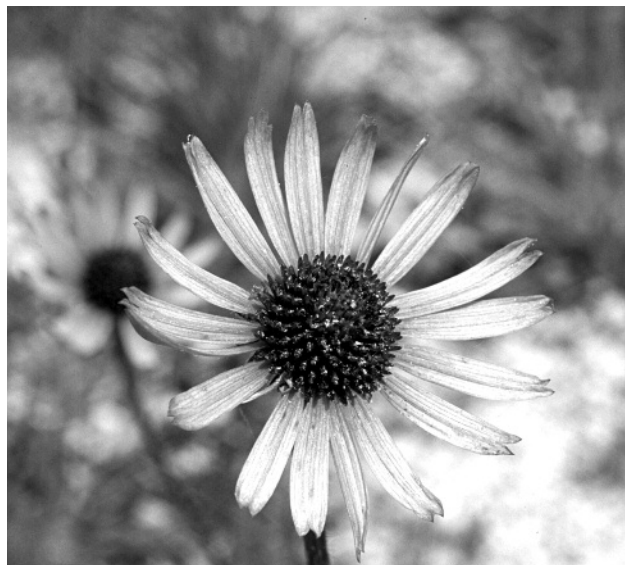


Photo by Darel Hess

Tennessee coneflower, alas without its subtle purple color, as seen in its home on the glades.

Check Your Dues Date?

Check your mailing label—the year through which you have paid dues is printed at the top. If the date's 2010 or 2009, please send a check promptly to Darel Hess, our treasurer. TNPS, P.O. Box 159274, Nashville, TN 37215.

TNPS Newsletter
P.O. Box 856
Sewanee, TN 37375