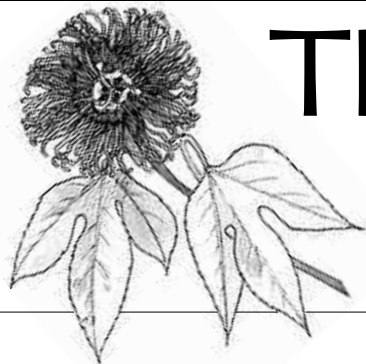


TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Volume 35, Number 1

March 2011

Big Agenda for New Year

TNPS has begun the new year with a new president, Bart Jones of Memphis. (See the president's column on page 2.) Bart will serve a two-year term.

He replaces Mary Priestley of Sewanee, who has been president since 2007. Bart essentially moves up from secretary. The new secretary is Margie Hunter of Nashville. Other officers remain the same—Todd Crabtree, vice-president, and Darel Hess, treasurer.

We also begin the year with a very interesting schedule of field trips, organized under the direction of State Botanist Todd Crabtree (See the schedule on pages 3–6).

And plans are being laid for the TNPS annual meeting to be held September 16–18 at DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle.

The board of directors met January 15 at the Barfield-Crescent Nature Center in Murfreesboro, with 15 persons attending — not only members of the board but also other interested TNPS members. Among the non-board members were Jane Norris, who keeps records of memberships and dues; Nita Heilman, TNPS historian; Alice Jensen, who takes special interest in several projects of TNPS concern; and Allen Sweetser, another long-time member.

Once again this year, TNPS will have a booth at the Nashville Lawn and Garden Show. The event will be held March 3–6 at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. In addition to spreading the word about TNPS and wildflower conservation, we gain new members and sell copies of our book *Wildflowers of Tennessee*. Several board members will help staff the booth, but more volunteers are needed. Persons interested in helping are asked to contact Jane Norris at raymond.c.norris@vanderbilt.edu.

TNPS members will want to take special interest in at least two other events this spring. The annual Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glades Festival will be held April 29–30 at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. Wayne Ingram, park manager, said workshops and hikes will once again be part of the activities. More information will be available on the state parks internet link.

Several TNPS members will also be participating in the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in Gatlinburg April 27 through May 1. This will be the 61st anniversary of the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. More than 150 programs are scheduled, including half-day and all-day hikes as well as indoor day and evening programs. ■

Good Progress on Flora Project

The Tennessee Flora Project, compiling a technical manual of keys to all plant species in Tennessee, is entering its final stages before publication, according to Dennis Horn, who is the society's main link to the project.

TNPS will pay for the printing of the manual, using proceeds from the sale of its field guide, *Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley, and the Southern Appalachians*.

Dennis said the manual is about three-quarters complete and those working on the project hope to have a draft by July 1. Editing will be completed in about twelve months.

Professor Wayne Chester of Austin Peay State University is leading the team working on the keys. Mary Priestley and Andrea Bishop are preparing a history of botany in Tennessee to include in the manual.

The manual will be similar to Eugene Wofford's book on the Blue Ridge but will cover all of Tennessee. Dennis said the checklist of state plants published earlier was an invaluable springboard to the flora project. TNPS paid for the printing of the checklist.



TNPS Newsletter

March 2011

Vol. 35, 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: Complimentary

Institution: \$50

Life: \$250

Dues may be sent to

Tennessee Native Plant Society

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Nashville, TN 37215

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Susan Sweetser

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the newsletter to TNPS Newsletter,

P.O. Box 856, Sewanee, TN

lathamdavis@bellsouth.net



Report from the President

As I sit here writing my first "From the President" column I naturally think back to those people who have held the office during the time that I have been a member. We as a Society have been fortunate to have had enthusiastic leaders, and I would like to thank them, particularly my predecessor Mary Priestley, for maintaining that high standard of leadership (and putting the pressure on me to continue it.) I want all the membership to feel free to contact me and share any ideas you may have for enriching the TNPS experience. Email me at bjones7777@hotmail.com or phone me at 901-726-6891.

In this issue we are proud to present the 2011 schedule of field trips. Starting on March 5 with another Micro Safari with Paul Davison, the list of trips will take us from Millstone Mountain in the southwest corner to Shady Valley in the northeast, and points in between. The Annual Meeting will be in Monteagle at the DuBose Conference Center on September 16-18 and Todd Crabtree has a great lineup of forays for us.



PHOTOS BY LATHAM DAVIS

Thanks to my fellow committee members Dennis Horn, Todd Crabtree, Larry Pounds, and Mary Priestley for putting together such a great schedule. The field trips are our opportunities to see fellow members as well as the beautiful landscapes and flora of Tennessee. I would like for everyone to attend as many trips as possible. I'd also like to encourage others to lead field trips next year. You don't have to be a plant expert and the site doesn't have to be home to a rare plant. I'm sure many of you know of some fantastic wildflower places, I hope you will share them with us in the future.

I'm excited about the upcoming year and trust you will join me in making 2011 a banner year for TNPS. So go through the field trip schedule and mark a few Saturdays on your calendar and get in touch with the natural world of Tennessee.

See you on the trail!

Bart

Threat Looms at Short Springs

Conservation advocates in Tennessee have been shocked by a recommendation of the Duck River Development Agency to add five additional feet to the height of the 40-year-old Normandy Dam near Tullahoma.

Central to the concern is that those additional feet would result in substantially inundating ecologically rich wildflower areas of Short Springs State Natural Area. The project would cost an estimated 25 to 30 million dollars and is being criticized as a short sighted and excessively expensive effort to meet water demands of area towns and cities. Nevertheless, the plan could go forward in the name of development.

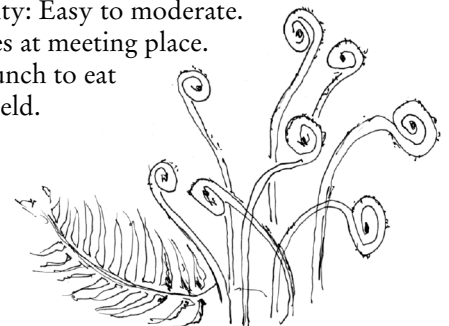
The threat was discussed at the January meeting of the TNPS Board of Directors, and it was stated that, if the plan is approved, this could be the first major test of the Natural Areas Act, which was designed to protect important natural sites for future generations. TNPS members are encouraged to express their concerns to their state representatives. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Dennis Horn at horndd@lighttube.net.

2011 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.

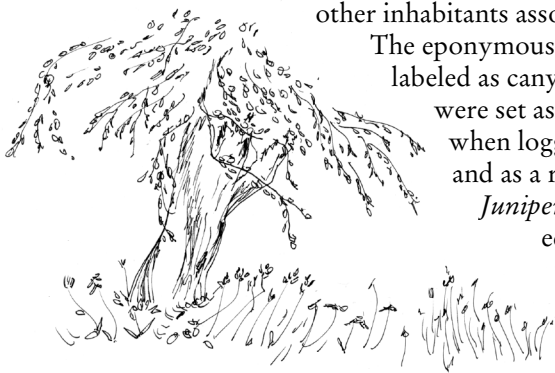
Time, place, and leader	Description	Directions
<p>March 5, 2011 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time The Blue Chair, Sewanee, TN Dr. Paul Davison Contact Todd Crabtree 615-532-1378 or todd.crabtree@tn.gov</p>	<p>Micro-Safari 2011 Once again we will slow down and investigate some of the small things that normally escape our notice. Tiny plants and animals go unnoticed despite the fact that their vast numbers can only be estimated. We miss seeing them only because we don't look close enough. Bring a hand lens so you don't miss a single moss or mite. Last year, hikers who were passing by just couldn't resist taking a peak into the microscope. Whipscorpions, liverworts and water bears! Oh, my!</p>	<p>From I-24 take exit 134 at Monteagle. Turn left on 41A toward Sewanee. After about four miles, pass through the Sewanee gates. After another mile, turn right onto University Ave. at the flashing yellow light. The Blue Chair is on the left. Easy walking. Facilities at meeting place. Bring lunch and water.</p>
<p>March 26, 2011 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time Graham Methodist Church, Savannah. John Ross Contact Dennis Horn 931-461-0262 (home), 931-434-4454 (cell), horndd@lighttube.net</p>	<p>Ross Forests Nature Preserve, Hardin County This trip provides a wonderful opportunity to see rich ravines loaded with early spring wildflowers. Expect to see Virginia bluebells, the rare beaked trout lily, twisted trillium, serviceberry, harbinger of spring, Jacob's ladder, southern stoneseed (<i>Lithospermum tuberosum</i>), and possibly goldenseal and dwarf larkspur. In addition there are waterfalls, geologic formations, and interesting fossils. The nearby 1820s James Graham house built by an ancestor of leader John Ross is on the National Register of Historic Places. Come join us to learn about this unique area of the Western Highland Rim.</p>	<p>Coming from the east on US Hwy 64, about 2 miles east of Savannah TN, turn south on TN Hwy 226, go south 5 miles to TN Hwy 69, turn left on Hwy 69, go about 0.2 mile to Graham Methodist Church parking lot on the left. Coming from the west on US Hwy 64, in downtown Savannah bear right onto Hwy 69, go south about five miles to the junction of Hwy 226, continue south on Hwy 69 about 0.2 mile to the church parking lot. Walking: One to two miles easy to moderate. Small market with restrooms and snacks nearby at junction of Hwys 226 and 69. Bring lunch and water for the trail.</p>
<p>April 9, 2011 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time Meet at McDonald's on north side of Covington. Contact Bart Jones 901-726-6891 (home), 901-485-2745 (cell), bjones7777@hotmail.com, or Chris Bridges cbridges@tnc.org</p>	<p>Millstone Mountain, Tipton County Millstone Mountain is a geological anomaly surrounded by the Mississippi River floodplain. Formed of accreted loess, large rock outcrops appear similar to concrete and dot the sides of the mountain. At 400 ft. in elevation, it is over 100 ft. higher than the surrounding plain. The northern face is home to spring wildflowers more typical of Middle Tennessee. The 160-acre tract was purchased in 2001 by the Nature Conservancy to protect the rare geologic formations and plant communities.</p>	<p>From the east, take I-40 to exit 56 (TN 76). Turn right and go to US 70/79 as you enter Brownsville. Turn left and follow US 70/79 until it intersects with TN 54. Turn left and go to Covington. Turn right onto US 51 and go through Covington. McDonald's is on the left at the northern edge of town. Difficulty: Easy to moderate. Facilities at meeting place. Bring lunch to eat in the field.</p>

Tennessee Natural Areas Week, which will include an array of hiking opportunities, is schedule for April 10-16. The lineup of hikes may be found at the website of the Department of Environment and Conservation.



2011 TNPS Field Trip Schedule

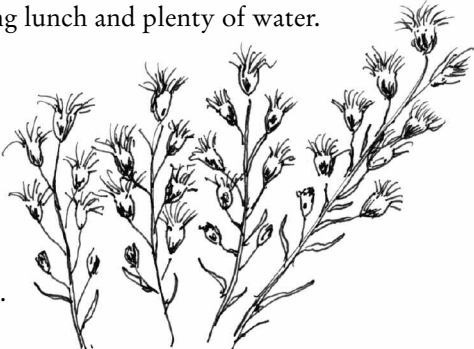
Time, place, and leader	Description	Directions
<p>April 16, 2011 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time Meeting Place: Alabama Trailhead for Walls of Jericho. Todd Crabtree 615 532-1378, todd.crabtree@tn.gov.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Walls of Jericho</p> <p>A combination field trip for Tennessee Natural Areas, TNPS, and the Association of Southeastern Biologists annual meeting. The geological features here are very dramatic but the variety and rarity of the plant life can be just as engaging. Spring ephemeral wildflowers are abundant along Turkey Creek and Mill Creek. In the dry calcareous forest above the creeks are rare plants that are found only in this corner of Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. We will see <i>Viburnum bracteatum</i> and other inhabitants associated with limestone outcrops. The eponymous walls are more appropriately labeled as canyons. These limestone canyons were set aside as special protected areas when logging operations were active here and as a result old, possibly ancient, <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> trees survive at the edges. We will plan to have lunch between the impressive walls of Turkey Creek canyon.</p>	<p>☞ From Huntsville, Ala., go North on Highway 72. Take a left on Highway 79 to the Skyline/Hyttop community. The Walls of Jericho tract is just north of Hyttop; Highway 79 goes through the tract. The Alabama trailhead is on Highway 79 about 9.1 miles North of the Highway 146 intersection.</p> <p>☞ From Nashville, Tenn., take I-24 east toward Chattanooga. Take Exit 127 on Highway 64 and turn toward Winchester. Stay on Highway 64 for about 15 miles and turn south on Highway 16. Just after crossing into Alabama, look on the right for a gravel parking area with a yellow gate and an information kiosk. Park there at the trailhead.</p> <p>Coordinates: 34.976714, -86.080982 Walking: Six to seven miles round trip, 900 ft elevation change, strenuous, slick rocks. No facilities. Bring lunch and plenty of water.</p>
<p>May 7, 2011 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Eastern Meet at Shoney's in Caryville. Larry Pounds 865-705-8516 (cell) 865-816-3576 (home) PoundsL471@aol.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">May Cumberland Trail Inventory</p> <p>We continue to survey new sections of the Cumberland Trail in the Smoky Junction area. This trip will take us along the New River and Lick Creek through an area that should be abundant with spring wildflowers. We will add the new plants we find to our previous list and provide an updated list to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation after the September trip. We will survey another nearby section of the trail on Sept. 24 to catch the later flowering plants.</p>	<p>From I-75 north of Knoxville take the Caryville Exit 134 to TN63/US25W, turn left across the interstate. Go 0.3 mile to Main Street and see Shoney's on the left. We will caravan from here to Smoky Junction.</p> <p>Walking: Moderate with some steep stretches, three to four miles round trip. Facilities at meeting place. Bring lunch and water. Also bring note pad and pencil.</p>
<p>May 14, 2011 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time Meet at McDonald's in Sparta. Contact Bart Jones 901-726-6891 (home) 901-485-2745 (cell) bjones7777@hotmail.com or Rita Venable 615-516-3602</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness White County</p> <p>We will team up with the Middle Tennessee and Tennessee Valley Chapters of the North American Butterfly Association to search for Baltimore Checkerspots. Hopefully, we will find a few of these black, orange, and white beauties as they will just be at the beginning of their flight period. BFCW is home to one of the state's largest colonies of this rare and local butterfly. After lunch, we will explore the woodland trails for late spring wildflowers. As per NABA field trip etiquette, no netting or collecting is allowed.</p>	<p>Take I-40 to exit 288. Go south on TN 111/US 70S and proceed to Sparta. McDonald's is on the right just before you get to the intersection of TN 111/US 70S and US 70/TN 26.</p> <p>Easy to moderate hike. Facilities at meeting place. Bring lunch to eat in the field.</p>



The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction. — RACHEL CARSON

Time, place, and leader	Description	Directions
<p>June 11-12, 2011 (Sat. and Sun.)</p> <p>Event 1: Benton Falls Hike, June 11 (Sat) 10 A.M. Eastern Meeting Place: Fee payment parking area for Chilhowee Campground. There is a \$3 parking fee if you are not camping. This includes access to the beach for swimming. Between Events 1 and 2 perhaps a cooling swim?</p> <p>Event 2: Ocoee River Motorcade, June 11 3 P.M. Eastern. Meet at Ocoee Ranger Station</p> <p>Event 3: Big Creek Trail, June 12 (Sun.) 9:30 A.M. Eastern Meet at Ocoee Whitewater Center</p> <p>Event 4: Benton MacKaye Trail hike through the Little Frog Wilderness Study Area, June 12 About 1 P.M. as a continuation of Event 3 or make contact (see below) to arrange to meet up with the group.</p> <p>Contact Larry Pounds (Please send Larry your email address if you are interested. He will send updates on the planning. 865-705-8516 (cell) 865-816-3576 (home) PoundsL471@aol.com</p>	<p>Ocoee Area of the Cherokee Nation Forest: Four Events or a Weekend</p> <p><i>Tennessee Native Plant Society, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, Tennessee Wild, and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association invite you to a weekend (or perhaps part of a weekend) of information on conservation issues, hiking, and native plants in the Ocoee area.</i></p> <p>Event 1 (Meet at Chilhowee Campground fee payment parking area) Sat. morning Larry Pounds will lead a three to four mile hike round trip to Benton Falls. Hopefully we will see the rare yellow flowered sweet shrub along the way. The trail is easy except the short descent to the base of the waterfall.</p> <p>Event 2 (Meet at Ocoee Ranger Station) Currently there is a rare plant survey taking place along US 64 in the gorge area. Joey Shaw and others are checking for possible impacts to such plants from the proposed improvements to US 64. He will lead a motorcade Saturday afternoon with stops along the road to see plants and sights of interest including the chalk maple.</p> <p>Event 3 (Meet at Ocoee Whitewater Center) Jeff Hunter will lead a hike on the Deep Creek Trail. Jeff is head of Tennessee Wild. The trail passes through a beautiful area that has potential to become a federal wilderness area. The Big Creek Trail is an easy two mile in and out hike. The trail is relatively flat, but is narrow in a few places. We will see an impressive stand of hemlocks and some lovely beech trees, and will have an opportunity to see a variety of native plants at the edge of the Big Frog Wilderness.</p> <p>Event 4 (continuation of Event 3 or make contact to arrange meet up) Dick Evans, president of BMTA, will lead a Sunday afternoon hike. We will hike a section of the BMT, an alternative to the Appalachian Trail. This section is through an area which has been proposed for federal wilderness status. By the time we take this hike it may be officially wilderness. We will hike from Deep Gap on Kimsey Highway to US 64, 5.6 miles with a car shuttle. Alternatively people can do an out and back hike from Deep Gap of whatever length they choose.</p>	<p>Event 1 Directions: Take US 64 east from Cleveland. Pass the Parksville Lake Dam and the Ocoee Ranger Station. Turn left on Forest Road 77 (first left after the Ocoee Ranger Station) and follow the signs approximately 7.3 miles to the campground entrance (on the right). We will meet in the parking lot by the small lake where you pay your camping or day use fee. http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/choke/recreation/camping/ChilhoweeCampgroundVIG.pdf</p> <p>Event 2 Directions: We will meet at the Ocoee Ranger Station mentioned in the directions above.</p> <p>Event 3 Directions: The Ocoee White Water Center is 18.5 miles east of the intersection of US 64 and US 411. See this link for more details: http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/ocoe/directions.shtml</p> <p>Event 4 Directions: People at Event 3 can continue on together to Event 4. Other people should make contact (see below) to arrange to meet up with the group. Some possible meeting places are Ocoee Whitewater Center or Deep Gap. Facilities: At meeting places. Bring water, lunch (Events 1 and 3), bug spray.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">For Campers</p> <p>Tents sites with hot showers and flush toilets at Chilhowee are \$12 (a few with electricity \$15). Up to five people per site. Sharing sites is allowed. We may be able to cluster our sites. No reservations. RV sites with hookup — RV sites at Chilhowee Campground are \$20. No reservations. Hotels, motels, cabins etc — There are many possibilities in the area. The White Water Inn on US 411 near US 64 has been recommended. There are many hotels in Cleveland.</p> <p>Accommodations: http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/choke/recreation/camping/ChilhoweeCampgroundVIG.pdf</p>		

2011 TNPS Field Trip Schedule

Time, place, and leader	Description	Directions
<p>Aug. 27, 2011 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Eastern Time Meeting Place: Nature Conservancy Office in Shady Valley</p> <p>Leader: Gabby Call, gcall@TNC.ORG</p>	<p>Shady Valley Bog</p> <p>This area of Tennessee contains high elevation bogs, a very rare type of habitat in the state. A number of rare plants and animals can be found there. The Nature Conservancy began restoration work on bogs in Shady Valley in 1997. The bogs encompass over 200 acres and are a magnet for wildlife including migrating birds in the Spring and Fall. We will see cranberries (<i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i>, state threatened) in the early stages of fruiting as well as other bog plants. Cotton grass (<i>Eriophorum virginicum</i>, state endangered) will be evident if we are lucky. Much more information about the plants, animals and restoration efforts in Shady Valley will be related during our outing.</p>	<p>From Nashville or Knoxville –Travel east on Interstate 40 to I-81 east to Bristol, Tennessee. From Bristol – Follow Highway 421 South through town and 18 miles south to Shady Valley. The Conservancy office is located at 10537 Highway 421 South.</p> <p>Walking: Moderate. Be prepared to get your boots wet.</p> <p>Facilities at meeting place.</p> <p>Bring lunch and plenty of water.</p>
<p>Sept. 10, 2011 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Meeting Place: Carter State Natural Area</p> <p>Todd Crabtree 615 532-1378, todd.crabtree@tn.gov</p>	<p>Carter State Natural Area hosts a Late Summer Hike</p> <p>This natural area contains the most dramatic cave entrance in Tennessee as well as a number of rare and uncommon plants. Some of the unique species we will see are found only in this area and adjacent areas in Alabama and Georgia. <i>Helianthus eggertii</i> as well as <i>Silphium brachiatum</i> will be flowering and we hope to find a few other rarities like <i>Clematis morefieldii</i> and <i>Desmodium ochroleucum</i>. Other, more common, plants will be identified as we hike the trail. After a strenuous two-mile hike to the cave entrance we will have lunch by the stream which comes out of the cave. Due to restrictions associated with White Nose Syndrome we will not tour the cave. We will return on the same route two miles back to the parking area.</p>	<p>On I-24 between Nashville and Chattanooga, take exit 134, turn left to Sewanee, then turn left on Highway 56 toward Sherwood. Continue 10 miles to the parking area located on the left. Check http://tn.gov/environment/na/natareas/mrnmrscarter/mrnmrscarter.pdf</p> <p>Walking: Strenuous. The hike will be down and then back up, with a change of 640 feet in elevation. Wear boots with good ankle support. No facilities.</p> <p>Bring lunch and plenty of water.</p>
<p>Sept. 16-18, 2011</p>	<p>Annual Meeting at DuBose Conference Center, Monteagle</p> <p>See the short introductory story printed elsewhere in this issue. A registration form will be published in the June issue.</p>	
<p>Sept. 24, 2011 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Eastern Time Meeting Place: Shoney's in Caryville</p> <p>Larry Pounds, 865- 705-8516 (cell) 865- 816-3576 (home) PoundsL471@aol.com</p>	<p>September Cumberland Trail Inventory</p> <p>We will survey another section of the Cumberland Trail in the Smoky Junction area. Depending on the success of the May trip the September trip will either return to the same trail section as in May or explore a different nearby segment. The September survey allows us to identify a different set of species than in the spring. We will provide the list of plants we find to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. The two survey trips in 2011 will add plants to the present list of 300 species that was generated from the surveys in 2009 and 2010.</p>	<p>From I-75 north of Knoxville take the Caryville Exit 134 to TN63/US25W, turn left across interstate. Go 0.3 mi. to Main Street and see Shoney's on the left. We will caravan from here to Smoky Junction.</p> <p>Walking: Moderate with some steep stretches, three to four miles round trip.</p> <p>Facilities at meeting place.</p> <p>Bring lunch and water. Also bring note pad and pencil.</p>

Regional Native Plant Society Summit Scheduled for Cullowhee in July

Plans are moving forward to organize a regional alliance of native plant societies, following an initial gathering last year in Tallahassee, Florida.

Dennis Horn represented TNPS at what was called the Southeast Native Plant Society Summit, organized by Eugene Kelly, a leader in the Florida Native Plant Society.

A second summit is now scheduled to be held July 27–30, during the Cullowhee (NC) Native Plant Conference at Western Carolina State University. In the meantime, representatives of the various societies have been organizing themselves into committees to address regional concerns.

Dennis said the purpose of this collaboration lies in a hope that native plant organizations can better address regional problems by joining together to promote native plant conservation.

Each native plant society is being asked to appoint a representative to serve on each of seven committees or as many as possible. Those committees are addressing the following issues: 1) defending and expanding protections of endangered plant species, 2) inter-jurisdictional coordination in control of invasive nonnatives, 3) preventing the introduction of new invasives, 4) availability of native plants for habitat restoration and landscaping, 5) maintaining the genetic integrity of natural populations, 6) sharing of administrative and organizational guidance, and 7) conserving habitat for native plants.

Among the state societies already participating to some degree are Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas, in addition to Florida and Tennessee.

Trails & Trilliums Changes Venue for 2011

Trails & Trilliums, a successful spring event now in its eighth year, is scheduled for April 15–17. Founded by St. Andrews-Sewanee School in 2004, this year's event will be

organized and directed by the Friends of South Cumberland State Park.

Trails & Trilliums 2011 will be a regional festival that showcases the best of what the South Cumberland Plateau offers: biodiversity, natural beauty, and low-impact outdoor recreational opportunities. The event includes hikes, workshops, a plant sale, garden tour, crafts, and the environmental roundtable, Cumberland Wild. Most of the activities will take place at the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly.

Guided hikes Saturday and Sunday will cover trails at the park— particularly Fiery Gizzard and Collins Gulf— as well as Sewanee's Shakerag Hollow and the Monteagle Assembly's woodland wildflower trail.

For more information, see trailsandtrilliums.org. Mary Priestley, past president of TNPS, is president of the Friends of South Cumberland and an organizer of Trails & Trilliums 2011.



Conservation Voters Seeking Support

The 2010 midterm elections resulted in a seismic shift in Tennessee politics. Knoxville Mayor, Republican Bill Haslam, was elected governor by a wide margin. He will be working with an overwhelmingly Republican General Assembly. For the first time since 1869—yes, 1869—the Tennessee House and Senate are both Republican.

During the election, Gov. elect Haslam was quoted as saying that the state must balance its environmental concerns with the drive to recruit businesses to Tennessee, with the clear understanding that "we also have a duty to protect our environment for our generation and for the future generations."

At the same time, the Conservation & Environment Committee is significantly different this year. The recurring themes in many campaigns give a hint of what's to come. A typical statement was, "State government needs to stay out of the way and there needs to be a pro-business environment with less regulation."

We need your support

We look forward to working with the growing community of citizen environmental advocates to accomplish the hard but vital task of educating legislators on the importance of sound environmental policies safeguarding our land, water and air.

We're grateful to all of you who respond to the calls to action we make each session. We will continue to send advocacy information, including regular legislative updates, to all supporters of the environment. Check out our website at www.tnconservationvoters.org to see how your unique talents can help. Please consider making a donation and getting involved.

Michelle Haynes
michellewhaynes@gmail.com



Annual Meeting Set for September 16-18

TNPS will have its annual meeting September 16-18 at DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle.

Although the programs for the event are still being organized, they will include a presentation about ferns by Patricia Cox. Pat is a senior botanist in Heritage Resources for Tennessee Valley Authority and has assisted with some TNPS hikes.

The traditional Saturday field trip will take members to May Prairie near Manchester. An abundance of other nearby sites should offer other excellent early autumn field trip possibilities.

Built in 1872, DuBose is on the National Register of Historic Places. However, modern motel-like rooms are also part of the complex that includes a dining hall, meeting rooms, a chapel, and other facilities. The annual meeting was held at DuBose several years ago.

Other information and a registration form will be published in the June issue of the newsletter. Lorie Emens will once again be in charge of reservations.

The Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glade Festival April 29-30, 2011

The Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glade Wildflower Festival, April 29-30, is a weekend of nature study filled with workshops, lectures, hikes, and field trips at Cedars of Lebanon State Park.

The state park and the Center for Cedar Glade Studies at Middle Tennessee State University have collaborated to bring together ecologists, botanists, and naturalists to present the beauty and uniqueness of the Glades in the spring. The Limestone Glades of the Central Basin encompass one of the few remaining natural ecosystems in Middle Tennessee.

Additional information may be found at www.mtsu.edu/~gladectr.

TNPS Newsletter
P.O. Box 856
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