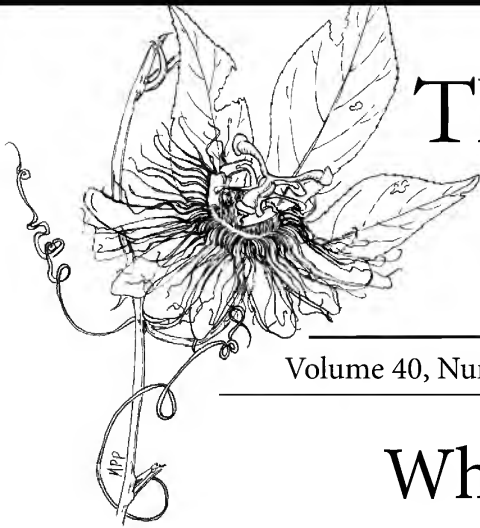


TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Volume 40, Number 4

December 2016

What if Trees Could Walk?

~ Mary Priestley

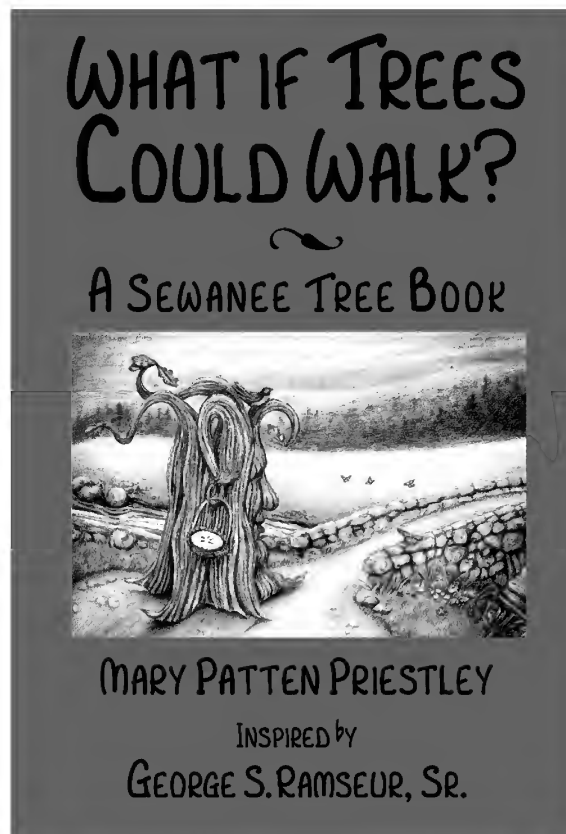
Think for a minute: what if one of those huge hemlocks in Fiery Gizzard could take off and head on down the trail? Or the Virginia pines that dangle from Buzzard's Roost at Fall Creek Falls – what if they were free to move? Would they still hang around that iconic overlook? If not, where would they go, and why?

This and other questions were the stuff of Dr. George Ramseur's teaching method at Se-wanee – provocative queries posed to get his students thinking. TNPS member and Se-wanee botany professor for years, George was plant mentor to decades of college students. I should know -- I was one of those students.

This book, just out this fall, is inspired by George and his engaging teaching style. It's about how plants work and the connections between them and other living things, including us humans. It's written for you the grown-up and that special young one – or the kid in you -- with whom you want to explore the beauty, wonder, and importance of plants. It's full of questions. There are answers, too, to help satisfy your curious nature and make you a more knowledgeable plant mentor. And you'll find a variety of activities, guided experiences with plants and their communities, to open the door to discovery.

If you'd like to learn more about plants and are curious about George's unique method of teaching, you can find *What if Trees Could Walk?* on amazon.com, or check your local book store. Then come along -- take a walk with George.

Bring your curiosity and that budding naturalist with you to explore together the fascinating kingdom of plants. All book sales will benefit the Se-wanee Herbarium, of which George Ramseur was the founder.



TNPS Newsletter

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

The Tennessee Native Plant Society (TNPS) was founded in 1978. Its purposes are to assist in the exchange of information and encourage fellowship among Tennessee's botanists, both amateur and professional; to promote public education about Tennessee flora and wild plants in general; to provide, through publication of a newsletter or journal, a formal means of documenting information on Tennessee flora and of informing the public about wild plants; and to promote the protection and enhancement of Tennessee's wild plant communities.

Dues for each calendar year are:

Regular: \$20

Student: Complimentary

Institution: \$50

Life: \$250

Dues may be sent to:

Tennessee Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 159274

Nashville, TN 37215

Officers

Susan Sweetser, President

Todd Crabtree, Vice-President

Margie Hunter, Secretary

Michelle Haynes, Treasurer

Directors

Sunny Fleming

Louise Gregory

Michelle Haynes

Dennis Horn

Bart Jones

Larry Pounds

Joey Shaw

Sunny Fleming, editor

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

A Letter from the President

Hello everyone,

I hope you all have a happy holiday. I can't believe January is just around the corner! The Field Trip Committee is already lining up great spots to take us for the 2017 season.

It is the end of the year, which also means it is time for donations. Please consider taking a minute to send us a monetary thank you that is tax deductible!

The Annual Meeting for 2017 will be held from June 9-11th at beautiful Beersheba Springs.

It is also with much sadness that we have included a note on page five of this newsletter regarding the tragic fire in Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge and Wears Valley.

Have a happy and warm holiday season.

865-938-7627, ssretiree@yahoo.com

Thanks to all,



Elections:

Dear TNPS Members,

All officers are up for reelection. All current officers have agreed to another term. Current appointments are below, as well as a list of directors at large up for reelection in 2017.

Current:

President - Susan Sweetser

Vice-president - Todd Crabtree

Secretary - Margie Hunter

Treasurer - Michelle Haynes (appointed by the Board to replace Lorie Emens)

Directors at large up for reelection in 2017:

Louise Gregory

Dennis Horn

Bart Jones (appointed by the Board to replace Michelle Haynes)

Larry Pounds

You may vote for all nominations (yes here) _____ OR

Write in the names of those you are voting for _____ OR

Write in your own nominations _____

You may reply by mail or vote on the email ballot sent to you.

Notes & News...

A Note from Tennessee Conservation Voters

~Michelle Haynes

Tennessee Conservation Voters would like to invite you to our annual fundraiser, "Nature Votes."

This event will be held at the Waller Law Firm in downtown Nashville, on February 10, 2017, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

This party provides a chance for elected officials and citizens to meet and enjoy local food, beverages, live music, and live and silent auctions. TCV will honor our "Legislative Friends" and briefly discuss plans for the 2017 session.

Any one wishing to sponsor or donate to the silent auction please contact Michelle Haynes haynesm@realtracs.com or submitted through our website <http://www.tnconservationvoters.org/>

TCV is a coalition of state conservation groups and individuals dedicated to raising voter awareness, advocating stronger laws and holding our elected leaders accountable for safeguarding the environment of Tennessee.

NEW Tennessee Plant Atlas Website! ~Sunny Fleming

The Board was recently approached by Drs. Joey Shaw, Ashely Morris and Dwayne Estes regarding a project to build a new online plant atlas for Tennessee plants. We all know and love the widely used TENN Herbarium Website. That website was a pioneer of its time and one of the first online herbariums ever to exist! Not surprising, as UTK botany has always served as a pioneering force in its field.

With technology changing so fast, there is a need to redesign the website. With the help of the University of South Florida, Drs. Shaw, Morris and Estes will be heading up the new Tennessee Plant Atlas with input from Tennessee Native Plant Society board members on design and functionality for a broad scope of users. Ideally the website will be usable and accessible at hierarchical levels from the general curious public to the serious academic.

After much discussion, the Board agreed to help fund the overhead costs for this project and are very excited about its development.

When Are Dues Due?

Unless you are an email subscriber, check your mailing label for your membership date. You are paid through the year listed just above your name. You can pay TNPS dues at any time, and now you can pay online at the TNPS Website. Just go to www.tnps.org, click "Membership," and follow directions there. If your address has changed, you can email the new address to info@tnps.org. We cannot print the newsletter in full color, but you may be pleased to find all the color in email copies and at the website. www.tnps.org



Do you have photos from trips you'd like to share? Are you interested in other TNPS news? Stay up to date and follow us on facebook! Post your photos, write your own field trip reports, let us know about botanical goings-on in your neck of the woods!

[facebook.com/tennesseanativeplantsociety](https://www.facebook.com/tennesseanativeplantsociety)

A New & Beautiful Orchid

Perhaps it was inevitable. At a roadside wildflower habitat just north of Cagle, healthy populations of Monkey-Face Orchid (*Platanthera integrilabia*) and Yellow-Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*) are interspersed and bloom at the same time. So it was not too surprising on August 1 to find an apparent hybrid between the two, in good bloom. It had unopened buds at the top of the inflorescence that were clearly orange, like those of its Yellow-Fringed parent, but it also had open flowers at the bottom of the inflorescence that were almost completely white, like its Monkey-Face parent. The open flowers also had some fringe on the lip; not as much as is typical with Yellow-Fringed Orchid but certainly more than is ever found with Monkey-Face blooms. Searches thus far have not turned up any previously named hybrid between these two parents. If this proves to be a new cross, perhaps it should be named *Platanthera x rhinehartii*, since it was found not far from the former home of the late Dr. Margret Rhinehart, an avid wildflower enthusiast, amateur botanist, and long-time member of TNPS.

As an unfortunate post-script, the site has since been severely damaged, most likely by wild hogs. Only time will tell if the orchids and other wildflowers return another season.



A closeup of the inflorescence.



Platanthera X rhinehartii in full flower

A voucher specimen has been deposited at the University of Tennessee Herbarium in Knoxville, Tennessee.

~Chuck Wilson

A Note About the Smokies Tragedy

Dear TNPS Members,

I am sure we have all heard the news by now regarding the tragic fires that swept through Gatlingburg, Pigeon Forge and Wears Valley.

The Great Smoky Mountains are such a special place for many people around the world. Like many of you, my first trip to the Smoky Mountains was magical. It was when I was in college at UT Chattanooga and my professor, Dr. Joey Shaw, urged the students to attend the Wildflower Pilgrimage as extra credit in our field botany class. The botanical community was so warm and welcoming to me and I have yet to miss a Pilgrimage since. My husband and I were married in Cades Cove - as many couples before us have. These are just a couple of memories I share with you all, and I have no doubt that collectively TNPS could write volumes of stories about our experiences there.

These events will no doubt result in a hard, uphill battle for the permanent and seasonal residents in the area. They need our help.

Speaking for the Board, if any of you or your friends and family have been affected by these tragic events, our hearts and thoughts go out to you.

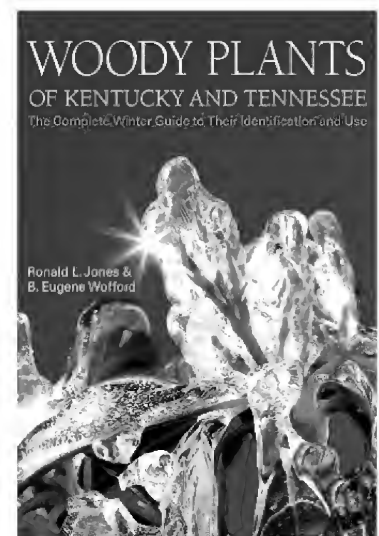
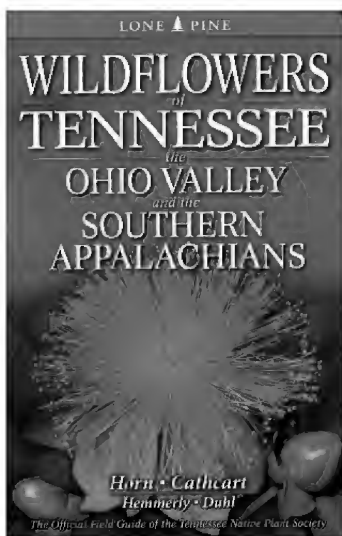
While the ecological implications of these fires will no doubt be studied, there will be a time and place for those considerations in the future. Right now, if you have not already done so, we urge you to consider various ways to donate to help the victims of this fire - both our fellow humans and our fellow creatures.

On page six, you will find just some ways to donate to the victims of the tragic event. It is certainly not an exhaustive list nor an indication of endorsement by TNPS.

As a side note, if you are wondering about the 2017 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, at this point in time the event is still planned, although details may change. For the most up to date news, please visit the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage website at www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org

~Sunny Fleming

Don't forget to purchase field guides before spring!
All books available through TNPS.



Ways to Donate to the Victims of the Gatlingburg Fires:

- The Community Foundation of Tennessee has set up a dedicated fund:
www.cfmt.org
 - East Tennessee Chapter of the American Red Cross:
www.redcross.org/local/tennessee/local-chapters/east-tennessee
 - Sevier County Humane Society (animal shelter):
www.sevierhumane.org/home/donate
 - Dollywood Foundation: My People Fund
<https://dollywoodfoundation.org>
 - To Volunteer:
www.redcross.org/volunteer
-

TNPS Newsletter
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