



# TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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September 2017

## Middle Prong Trail - August 13, 2017

**W**e were lucky and had a clear day that wasn't too hot. As usual, Harlan Alpaugh from the Boston area won the long distance travel award. Allen's brother, Robbie came from Asheville, NC; Nita and Donna from Clarksville; Bettina from Memphis and Allen and Sarah from Norris. I think this trip accumulated the most miles driven by all !!

Allen and I had scouted the trail earlier in the week. We were surprised and shocked to see recent cuttings all along the trail. Cuttings littered the sides and managed to cover lots of trail side plants. The trail formerly had the most Cranefly Orchids - *Tipularia discolor* that we had ever seen in the wild. Some were still visible along the way. We did see the promised Frazier's sedge but with no flower bearing stalks. This is a great trail for a diversity of plants, trees, shrubs, ferns and flowering plants. It is also a wide trail and good for a group of folks to walk along and discuss plants. We were able to see Little Green Woodland Orchid - *Plantethera clavellata* amidst the debri.

We went very slowly and only went a mile before lunch. Lots of cascades and waterfalls as you walk along the Middle Prong of the Little River. We had a great lunch spot sitting by the river. After lunch we made it to the 1934 Cadillac that is not far off the trail. It is located about 1 ½ miles up the trail from the start.

As you go up the trail there is a small rock cairn on the right that marks the short path to the car. The Cadillac is reported to have been left by the logging camp director.

Due to the hour, most of the group decided to head back. Allen H. and Sarah had left us at lunch to hike up to Indian Flat Falls. As usual, we saw plants we hadn't noticed before as we walked back.



GROUP PHOTO BY NITA HEILMAN

Before Allen and I left from the parking area, Allen H, and Sarah made it back. It's always good to know that all of your plant enthusiasts make it back to their cars.

Notable Plants along the trail included:

Agrimony-*Agri-mony parviflora*,  
Cranefly Orchid

*Tipularia discolor*, Little Green Woodland Orchid-*Plantethera clavellata*, Alternate-leaf Dogwood-*Cornus alternifolia*, Marginal Shield Fern-*Dryopteris marginalis*, Silvery Glade Fern-*Deparia acrostichoides*, Witch Hazel-*Hamamelis virginiana*, Sweetshrub-*Calycanthus floridus*, Canada Wild Ginger-*Asarum canadense*, and Seersucker Sedge-*Carex plantaginia*.

-Susan Sweetser

## TNPS Newsletter

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

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

Dues for each calendar year are:

Regular: \$20

Student: Complimentary

Institution: \$50

Life: \$250

Dues may be sent to:

Tennessee Native Plant Society

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Nashville, TN 37215

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Susan Sweetser, President

Todd Crabtree, Vice-President

Margie Hunter, Secretary

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Bart Jones

Larry Pounds

Joey Shaw

David Hilgeman, editor

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

## *A Letter from the President*

Hello everyone,

Hope everyone has had a great summer. The Board has discussed the Annual Meeting for 2018. It has been decided to be the weekend of 3/30-4/1/2018 in East Tennessee. We are still developing details and looking for a definite site. TNPS hasn't been to the Smokies for an annual meeting in quite some time. We should see spring plants that some of you haven't seen in a while.

I also wanted to let you know to look further in the newsletter for details of the last field trips. Also to read about the awards that Margie Hunter and Dr. Edward Chester have received this year.

Don't forget you can contact me anytime by email at [ssretiree@yahoo.com](mailto:ssretiree@yahoo.com) with questions, suggestions, and offers to volunteer. Thanks -



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# Stay Tuned for Details about the 2018 Annual Conference!

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# 2017 Annual Conference

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## *Beersheba Springs Retreat* *June 9-11, 2017*

**O**ur 2017 Annual Conference was held at Beersheba Springs on June 9-11. The weather was clear and warm, which made for a beautiful spring conference with plenty of lovely flowers to be seen. On Friday evening we had an informal gathering before dinner, which was followed by Dr. Ken McFarland's talk: "Mosses are Plants Too!" Dr. McFarland was a professor of biology, and lab and greenhouse manager at UT-Knoxville until he recently retired. It was an intriguing talk that had us all looking at mosses very differently on our Saturday morning hike which was also led by Dr. McFarland. Many thanks Dr. McFarland for educating us plant folks about a group of plants that we tend to overlook.



2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE GROUP

The Saturday afternoon hike was led by Todd Crabtree. We searched for white fringeless orchid habitat and other orchids of the plateau top. Lots of interesting finds, including pink ladies slippers with spent blooms. After another delicious dinner we gathered for a brief business meeting followed by an informative talk by David Lincicome on "Capacity Building for Plant Conservation: Establishment of a Tennessee Plant Conservation Alliance (PCA)." David Lincicome is the Heritage Program Manager for Tennessee and spoke about efforts to form a PCA in Tennessee.

Sunday folks either departed after breakfast or attended the TNPS Board meeting. All in all a well-attended and enjoyable conference. Thanks to everyone who was able to attend and a special thanks to everyone who played a part in organizing.



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

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## 2017 Field Trip Summaries

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### *Piney River - Soak Creek Outing*

*Hamilton County, TN*

*May 6, 2017*

An estimate of ten of us with three dogs walked a remnant of road along Soak Creek in intermittent rain. Soak Creek was proclaimed a state scenic river last fall and it fulfilled its newly given title. The creek's roar made conversation difficult. Numerous cliffs along the route were dotted with Carey's saxifrage.

Chuck Wilson, orchid expert, started up slope away from the old road we were following. I asked him if he was looking for yellow lady slippers. He affirmed this. A minute or two later he was calling us to check out the flower of his search. He found this orchid despite never having been in this area before!



LAKE CRESS (RORIPPA AQUATICA) SPOTTED DURING A PREVIOUS SPRING HIKE BY BART JONES

The route we walked is expected to become part of the Cumberland trail as it swings west from Walden ridge to the Crab Orchard mountains. - *Larry Pounds for TNPS & TCWP*

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### *Rock Creek Wildflower Walk*

*Hamilton County, TN*

*April 1, 2017*

Nine of us braved the weather to make a loop that is part of the Cumberland Trail system of trails. Amazingly the rain stopped not long before we got onto the trail and did not re-start for six hours. Lunch was beside the high-flowing Rock Creek. Purple rhododendron, shrubby buckeye and southern pinxter azalea were highlights. When we encountered buffalo nut, Linda Mann told an interesting story showing how poisonous the nuts are. As we neared the parking lot the sky got very dark. Our luck held as we were in our cars just as the hail started. - *Larry Pounds for TNPS & TCWP*

# Local Botanists Honored with Awards

## *TNPS's Margie Hunter and Professor Emeritus Chester Receive Awards*

Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner Bob Martineau presented Dr. Edward Chester with the Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2017 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Awards on June 16.

MARGIE HUNTER,  
TNPS SECRETARY

Chester is the Emeritus Professor of Biology at Austin Peay State University and has lead conservation efforts in the state for decades.

Margie Hunter (our TNPS Secretary) was recently honored with the TWF Conservation Communicator Award for outstanding achievement in effectively conveying the conservation message and creating public awareness of conservation issues in the news media. At the same event the Tennessee Naturalist Program was honored with the Tennessee Wildlife Federation's Conservation Organization of the Year Award. Congratulations to both Margie and TNP! You deserve it!



DR. CHESTER (MIDDLE) RECEIVES THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD.



## *Volunteers Needed!! Digitizing Species for the Tennessee & Kentucky Plant Atlas*

Anyone and everyone can help - you DO NOT need to be a trained botanist. As you find yourself available, please go to the website: NotesFromNature(<https://www.notesfromnature.org/active-expeditions/Herbarium>). Create a log in. Then select Tennessee Ferns part 2 - these are specimens from Tennessee Tech, UT Chattanooga, UT Knoxville, and Rhodes College. In the next round, we'll be adding Austin Peay and MTSU. After a 2-minute tutorial, you can start to enter label data. With your log in, it will keep up with your statistics (e.g., specimens done). If you don't create a log in, then it won't track your stats. Two out of 3 people have to enter the same data from the same label before it will be entered into the SERNEC Portal where you can view all of Tennessee's herbarium specimens (as I finish them). Thanks.

- Joey Shaw, Ph.D.

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# Upcoming Events

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## *Saturday September 16th*

“Fall Flowers in a Powerline Prairie” near Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Leader: Larry Pounds (865-705-8516, or PoundsL471@aol.com) RSVP please.

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## *Saturday September 23rd*

Big Cypress Tree State Park in Weakley County, Tennessee

Leaders: Allan Trently (allan.trently@tn.gov) and Bart Jones (bjones7777@hotmail.com or 901-485-2475). RSVP please.

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## *Saturday September 30th*

Flat Rock after the Fires in Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Leaders: Kim Sadler (kim.sadler@mtsu.edu or 615-904-8283). RSVP please.

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## When Dues Are Due?

Unless you are an email subscriber, check your mailing label for your membership date. You are paid through the year listed just above your name. You can pay TNPS dues at any time, and now you can pay online at the TNPS Website. Just go to [www.tnps.org](http://www.tnps.org), click “Membership,” and follow directions there. If your address has changed, you can email the new address to [info@tnps.org](mailto: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](http://www.tnps.org)

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