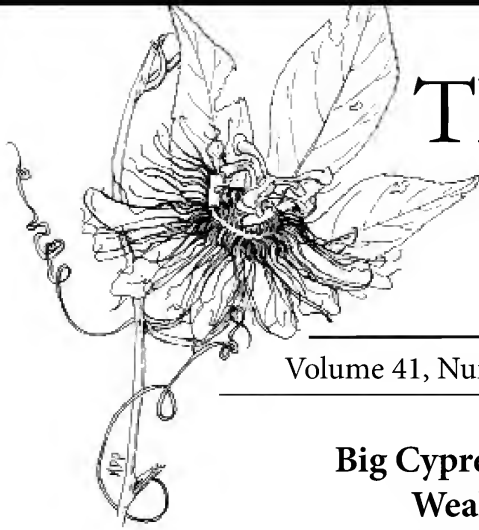


TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Volume 41, Number 4

December 2017

Big Cypress Tree State Park Weakley County September 23, 2017

A nice group of TNPS members met at this lesser-known state park for a fall afternoon hike into the wet flatwoods along the Middle Fork of the Obion River in the northwest corner of Tennessee. The park was named for a former national champion cypress tree which was destroyed by fire from a lightning strike. We were there to look for the uncommon red turtlehead (*Chelone obliqua*), discovered by trip leader Allan Trently a couple years ago. This species is found in 5 counties in the state, mostly in Weakley and neighboring counties. Its flowers are darker reddish purple and more slender than the familiar white turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*).

As we left the picnic area and headed to the boardwalk, we walked the edge of the woods in this higher area. There we saw some large patches of white snakeroot (*Ageratina altissima*) mixed with some goldenrods (*Solidago spp.*). Just as we got to the boardwalk, the land dropped several feet and transitioned into the wet flatwoods community. It was here at the base of this terrace that we encountered a nice clump of blooming red turtlehead. Upon closer inspection, most of the flowers had been damaged by insects, probably grasshoppers, but a few were relatively intact and made nice photographic subjects. These would be the only plants we would find and there was real concern for their continuation as the area around them was being overrun with Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*), one of our worst invasive exotics. Allan

reassured us that there were other plants further into the woods where the stiltgrass wasn't a problem.

Walking deeper into the woods, we noticed there was very little herbaceous understory. But we were treated with a dizzying array of mushrooms, fungi, and slime molds growing on the ubiquitous logs and remains of fallen

trees. This would be a wonderful spot to conduct a future mycology field trip. Some of the showier species that we observed included orange-peel mushroom (*Aleuria aurantia*), bear's head (*Herichium americanum*), coral tooth fungus (*Herichium coralloides*), ruby bolete (*Boletus rubellus*), yellow and orange *Trichia spp.* of slime molds,



RED TURTLEHEAD (*CHELONE OBLIQUA*) BY
BART JONES

chocolate tube slime mold (*Stemonitis splendens*), and the colorfully-named dog vomit slime mold (*Fuligo septica*). Slime molds are interesting organisms that aren't fungi, but are colonial aggregates of amoeba-like cells. As food becomes scarcer, the cells differentiate to produce spore-producing bodies that can be quite spectacular, at least on a small scale. *Big Cypress Continued on Page 6*

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

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Susan Sweetser, President

Todd Crabtree, Vice-President

Margie Hunter, Secretary

Michelle Haynes, Treasurer

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Louise Gregory

Dennis Horn

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,

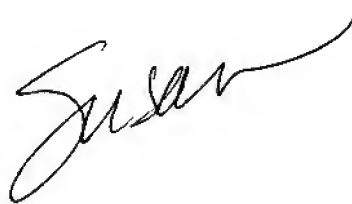
It's that time of the year to look back on what we have accomplished. We had a great Field Trip agenda and I want to thank all of the trip leaders. We had Outreach activities in all three regions and continued our presence at the Lawn and Garden Show. We have our book ambassadors sharing their knowledge and selling our books across the state. A special thanks to Dennis Horn who has spearheaded this activity for many years.

We also had a successful Annual Meeting. This year we are going to change things a little by having it in early spring in the Smokies in Townsend 3/30/18-4/1/18. We'll start the bloom year off by seeing some things as they come out of the ground and fresh in flower. More details to come in the next newsletter.

We need to fill an Education/Outreach position for the East Region. We will also be looking for Board members in the next year. The Board only meets two other times beside the Annual Meeting.

I hope everyone had a wonderful thanksgiving. I am very thankful for the TNPS member and volunteers.

Happy Holidays,



865-938-7627

ssretiree@yahoo.com

2018 Annual Conference

Tally Ho Inn - Townsend, Tennessee

March 30 - April 1, 2018

Check the Website (www.tnps.org) and Facebook for
Details Coming in January!

Volunteer Opportunities

2018 Nashville Lawn and Garden Show *March 1 - 4, 2018*

The Nashville Lawn and Garden Show is an annual 4-day event held at The Fairgrounds Nashville that attracts plant, flower, gardening, and landscaping hobbyists. More information on the event can be found at www.nashvillelawnandgarden.com.

Each year, TNPS shares a booth with the Tennessee Invasive Plant Council and Tennessee Naturalist Program. We sell our books and offer half-priced memberships. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth all four days, each serving a minimum 3-hour shift. Every booth worker is provided a show ticket for free entrance and may tour the show before or after his/her shift. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Margie Hunter, mhunter55@comcast.net. If you're unable to volunteer and already plan on attending, swing by our booth and say hello!



2017 NASHVILLE LAWN AND GARDEN SHOW BOOTH

East Tennessee Education and Outreach Coordinator Needed

Tennessee Native Plant Society is looking for a volunteer to fill the East Tennessee Education and Outreach Coordinator position. The volunteer would be responsible for locating and attending events in the area that might benefit from having a Tennessee Native Plant Society presence. All those interested should contact Susan at ssretiree@yahoo.com.



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/tennesseennativeplantsociety

2017 Field Trip Summaries

Fall Flowers in a Powerline Prairie *Hamilton County* *September 16, 2017*

We gathered in Soddy-Daisy to get a last-of-the-season dose of wildflowers. After car-
avaning up onto the Plateau to a trail-
head on the Cumberland Trail we began
our hike by passing through a young
pine- upland hardwood forest dominat-
ed by black oak and Virginia pine. Of
note were several nice examples of sand
hickory and blackjack oak. Common
in the understory were clasping heart-
leaved aster, Sampson's snakeroot (*Or-
bexilum*), and blue-stemmed goldenrod.



Within a quarter of a mile we broke out
into an open power line right-of-way
that unfortunately had recently been
mowed. Despite this, however, we were
able to see a wide variety of compos-
ites along the woodland edge includ-
ing numerous goldenrod species, American-asters, rosinweeds, golden asters, etc. The site also provided
us an opportunity to see some fall-flowering grasses such as Indian grass, big bluestem, little bluestem,
splitbeard bluestem, and the diminutive churchmouse threeawn (*Aristida dichotoma*).

BLUE MISTFLOWER (*CONOCLINUM COELESTINUM*) AND
JEWELWEED (*IMPATIENS CAPENSIS*) SPOTTED DURING THE
SEPTEMBER 23, 2017 OUTING (BART JONES)



CORAL TOOTH FUNGUS (*HERICIUM
CORALLOIDES*) BY BART JONES

The star of the
show seemed to be the relatively rare narrowleaf blue-
curls (*Trichostema setaceum*) which contrasted nicely
with its bigger cousin the forked bluecurls (*Trichostema
dichotomum*) which was growing nearby. On a previous
trip to this area L. Pounds had seen some asters which
he thought might be rare. This time he knew the right
character to check...and alas, it was not the rare species!

Apart from the power line plants, the group
was able to get an impressive view of the Ten-
nessee Valley from the tip of a small cliff.

Fall Flowers Continued on Page 6

Save the Date for Nature Votes

Annual Fundraiser
Benefiting
Tennessee Conservation
Voters (TCV)

Friday, February 23, 2018
6:30 – 9:00 pm

Waller at Nashville City Center
511 Union Street, Suite 2700



As the narrative shifts in our nation's capital, responsible advocacy at the state level has never been more important. Please commit to support TCV as we educate and influence Tennessee legislators and others on behalf of the environment.



NATURE VOTES 
NASHVILLE

2017 TNPS Field Trip Summaries Continued

Big Cypress - from Page 1

Scanning the surroundings, we could see islands of plants in bloom scattered throughout the woods. These were small hummocks that were only one or two feet higher in elevation, but this was sufficient for plant growth to flourish out of reach of the seasonal flooding from the Obion River. These islands were dominated by jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) and blue mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*), but punctuated with some interesting species such as doll's daisy (*Boltonia asteroides*), bottomland aster (*Symphotrichum ontarionis*), green-headed coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*), Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), wingleaf primrose-willow (*Ludwigia decurrens*), and arrowleaf tearthumb (*Persicaria sagittifolia*). This was also the location for our second nasty invasive, marsh dayflower (*Murdannia keisak*).



BOTTOMLAND ASTER (*SYMPHYOTRICHUM ONTARIONES*) BY BART JONES

Venturing on toward the river, we began to follow a very moist drainage channel that emptied into the Obion. On the exposed bare soil in the ditch were numerous green rosettes about the size of a half-dollar. Upon closer inspection these were clearly a species of *Riccia*, a genus of aquatic and semi-aquatic liverworts. It's kind of odd to see liverworts growing on mud (or even on the water's surface), but that is exactly the habitat where species of this genus can be found. After arriving at the river, it was time to backtrack to the parking lot and call it day. - Bart Jones

Fall Flowers - continued from Page 4

To the east we could see the cooling towers at Sequoia Nuclear Plant and a very interesting outcrop known by some as the flying turtle rock.

Beyond the power line we proceeded into another dry forested area before stopping to eat lunch near a rockhouse and small stream. Afterwards we spent the remainder of the hike enjoying the common Cumberland Plateau flora, unusual rock formations, and great company. - Larry Pounds and Paul Durr

Come Join a Hike!

**Stay Tuned for the 2018
Schedule!**

Certificate in Native Plants

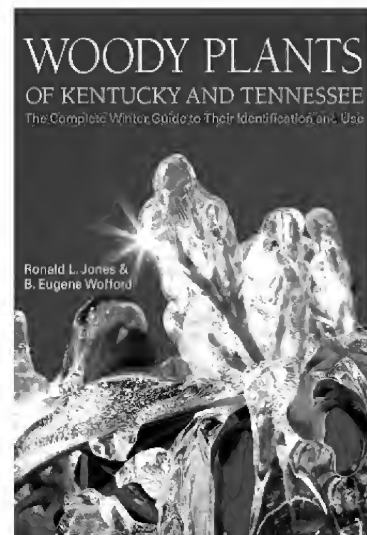
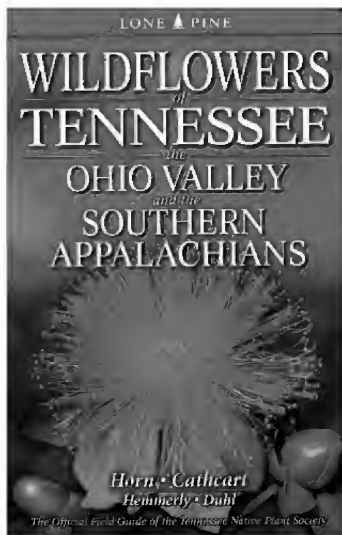
Classes For Spring 2018 Now Open

The CNP Education Committee has been working on the 2018 Certificate in Native Plants program for the past several months. Class descriptions and registration details for Spring 2018 can be found online at <http://tennessevalley.wildones.org/cnp/2018-class-descriptions-and-registration/>.

Spring classes cover topics that include botanical names, invasive plant management, seed propagation, and stem/root cutting propagation. Sign up now while class space is still available.

Don't forget to purchase field guides before spring!

All books available through TNPS.



Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley, and the Southern Appalachians: 2nd Edition is currently out of stock. Tennessee Native Plant Society has several copies for sale, but supplies are limited. New printing is anticipated for late winter. Email info@tnps.org for details.

2018 Annual Conference

Mail-in registration provided in the next newsletter.

Townsend, Tennessee March 30 - April 1, 2018

Check www.tnps.org and Facebook for details in January.

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, 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

TNPS Newsletter
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