

TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Volume 31, Number 1

March 2007

Trails and Trilliums A Big Event for TNPS

With this year's extra-long (18-month) gap between annual meetings, we thought it would be fun to have a get-together in the interim. And what better time and place to do it than springtime in Sewanee?

St. Andrews-Sewanee School will hold its fourth annual Trails and Trilliums event, a weekend of wildflower walks, plant workshops, and native plant sale, on Earth Day weekend, April 21 and 22. Once again, TNPS will have a high profile: not only will we be showcasing our wildflower book, but also our own Tom Patrick (a charter member of TNPS, known to many as "Tom Trillium") will be the keynote speaker. (Past speakers have been TNPS members Margie Hunter and Dennis Horn, and TN State Naturalist Mack Prichard.)

Tom is Georgia's State Botanist. His topic will be "Showy Wildflowers: our Woodland Treasures." With his beautiful botanical photos and engaging delivery style, Tom's presentation is one that you won't want to miss. "The talk will be heavy on trilliums—can't help that—but there's lots of other gorgeous stuff out there, too!" he commented.

Saturday evening, a Wine and Wildflowers event, honoring TNPS member Harry Yeatman for his lifetime of environmental education, will be held at the Monteagle Inn. Following that, TNPS will gather for dinner on the St. Andrews-Sewanee campus. Tom Patrick will join us at dinner for conversation about TNPS: our rich heritage and ideas for a bright and productive future.

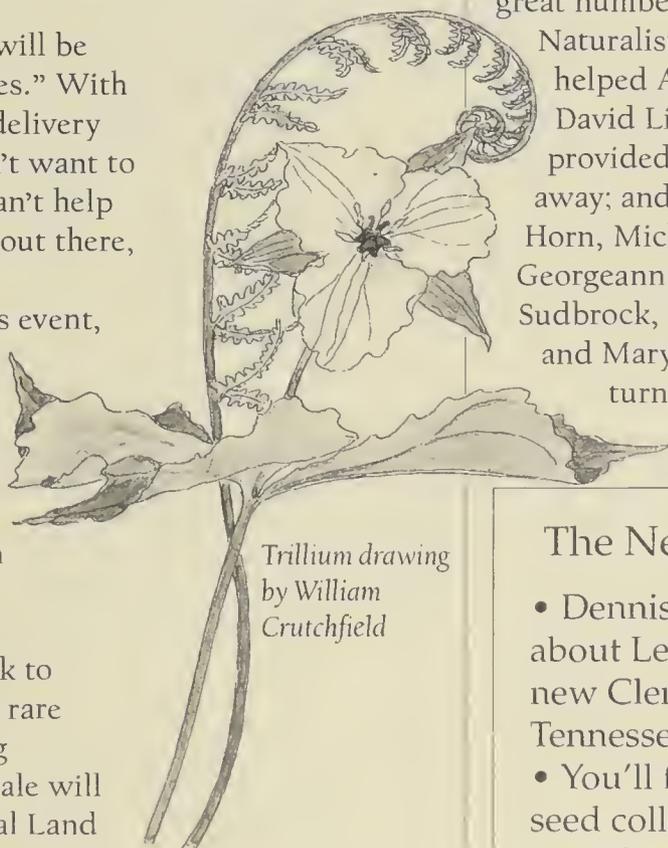
On Sunday, TNPS will have a morning walk to see the *Thermopsis mollis*, a recently designated rare plant in the state that grows around Shakerag Hollow. Then after brunch, the native plant sale will continue, and the South Cumberland Regional Land Trust will hold a forum on energy use. They will

Book Sales Remain High

Under Alice Jensen's direction, TNPS once again had a booth at Nashville's Lawn and Garden Show March 1-4 to sell copies of our book, *Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley and the Southern Appalachians*.

With the help of several volunteers, we sold approximately 20 books each day.

Many thanks to Alice, who arranged for the booth and made a great number of sales; State Naturalist Mack Prichard, who helped Alice set up the booth; David Lincicome, who provided posters for free give-away; and Jane Norris, Dennis Horn, Michelle Haynes, Georgeann McCoy, Andy Sudbrock, Darel Hess, Pam Rice, and Mary Priestley who took turns with staffing and sales.



Trillium drawing
by William
Crutchfield

The Next Newsletter

- Dennis Horn writes about Leatherflower, a new Clematis species in Tennessee.
- You'll find news about seed collecting
- And annual meeting registration material.

— Continued on page 8

TNPS Newsletter

March 2007

Vol. 31, 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/Senior: \$15

Institution: \$50

Life: \$250

Dues may be sent to
Tennessee Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 159274
Nashville, TN 37215

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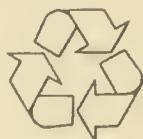
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Latham Davis, Editor

Please send comments or material for the newsletter to TNPS Newsletter, P.O. Box 816, Sewanee, TN 37375 or lathamdavis@bellsouth.net



REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

As you see, Todd Crabtree and his committee have put together a fabulous and full schedule of trips for this year—so much so that we've had to save some great articles for the next issue of the newsletter. I do want to draw your attention to the get-together that we are planning for Trails and Trilliums in late April. I hope you will join us for what promises to be a wonderful weekend of wildflowers. And mark your calendar for our annual meeting this September in Beersheba Springs. Reservation information will be included in the next issue.

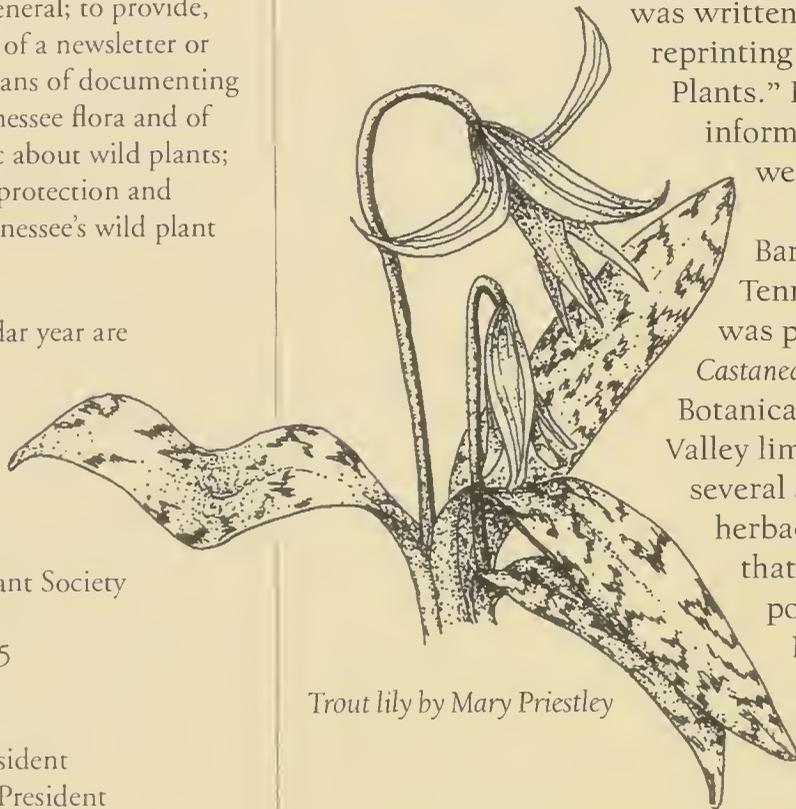
Those of us who love the wildflowers are well aware of the threat to our native flora that is presented by invasive pest plants. TNPS has made contributions to the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council to sponsor the printing of "Tennessee's Native Plant Alternatives to Exotic Invasives," which was written by TNPS member Margie Hunter, and the reprinting of their brochure "Landscaping with Native Plants." Both publications, as well as other helpful information, may be downloaded from their website at tneppc.org.

Speaking of publications, board member Bart Jones's article about his discovery in Tennessee of *Spiranthes magnicamporum* Sheviak was printed in the December, 2006, issue of *Castanea*, the journal of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society. As Bart writes, "The Western Valley limestone hill barrens of Tennessee contain several species more commonly associated with herbaceous plant communities of the Great Plains that are rare disjuncts in Tennessee. . . . This population of *S. magnicamporum* adds another Midwestern element to these barrens and fills a gap in the southeastern portion of its range." I might add that this is a feather in TNPS's cap—Bart identifies himself as a member in the article!

Lastly, the board decided at our November meeting to do some active litter pick-up on our hikes this year. If, like me, you wonder if you're so busy taking notes on our trips that you don't know if you can stop to pick up trash, don't worry: participation will not be mandatory. But we thought that helping clean up our wildflowers' haunts was something that we could do to pay them back for the joy that they bring us.

Thanks, again, to Todd & Co. for the many opportunities they've lined up for us to be out in the field. See you on the trail!

Mary



Trout lily by Mary Priestley

2007 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 31, 2007 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: McDonalds in Waynesboro on US 64 (east side of town)</p> <p>Andrea Shea Bishop 615-833-4338, Cynthia Rohrbach 931-964-5271, Bart Jones, and Todd Crabtree</p> | <p>Beech Creek Bluffs, Leatherwood</p> <p>The Beech Creek Bluffs site is privately owned by local citizens; one tract is owned by Hassell-Hughes. It is located in Western Wayne County near the community of Leatherwood. The bluff is a moist, steep north-facing wooded slope with some rock outcrops above Beech Creek. The forest is composed of oak, hickory, and maple with an understory of yellowwood, dogwood, oak-leaf hydrangea, leatherwood, snowbell and many other species. The rare beaked trout-lily (<i>Erythronium rostratum</i>) will be in flower along with other spring wildflowers. This is a joint field trip with the Swan Conservation Trust.</p> | <p>Waynesboro is about 40 miles southeast of Columbia.</p> <p>Walking: Creek crossing and moderate hiking Facilities: At meeting place Lunch: Bring along with drinking water</p> |
| <p>April 7, 2007 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: Parking lot at natural area</p> <p>Bart Jones 901-726-6891, bjones7777@hotmail.com</p> | <p>Riverwoods State Natural Area, Germantown</p> <p>This is a joint field trip with the Memphis Garden Club, which helps maintain the natural area. This is an event to help tag spring wildflowers for subsequent rescue from an area slated for road construction to the natural area proper. Riverwoods is a remnant of the mixed mesophytic/bottomland hardwood forest that once covered the area. Its urban locale has also contributed to a high impact by invasive non-native species, particularly privet.</p> | <p>From I-40, exit at Germantown Road and go south. Follow Germantown Road under Walnut Grove and across Wolf River. Turn left onto Wolf River Parkway. As Wolf River Parkway curves right at a 90 degree angle, look for parking area across from Kimbrough Grove neighborhood entrance.</p> <p>Walking: Easy Lunch: At a nearby restaurant Facilities: None</p> |
| <p>April 14, 2007 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: Shell station at intersection of Hwys 43 and 20</p> <p>Bart Jones 901-726-6891, bjones7777@hotmail.com</p> | <p>Stillhouse Hollow Falls State Natural Area, Summertown</p> <p>Designated a state natural area last year, the 90-acre site is home to a beautiful waterfall and numerous spring wildflowers including jack-in-the-pulpit (<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>), bellwort (<i>Uvularia grandiflora</i>), dwarf crested iris (<i>Iris cristata</i>), doll's eyes (<i>Actaea pachypoda</i>), blue phlox (<i>Phlox divaricata</i>), purple phacelia (<i>Phacelia bipinnatifida</i>), and several species of trilliums (<i>Trillium</i> spp.) and violets (<i>Viola</i> spp.). This is a joint field trip with the Swan Conservation Trust.</p> | <p>From Nashville, take I-65 south to Saturn Parkway toward Columbia. Turn right onto Hwy 43 and go approximately 24 miles to the intersection of Hwys 43 and 20. Shell station is on the right.</p> <p>Walking: Moderate Facilities: At meeting place Lunch: Bring</p> |

2007 TNPS Field Trip Schedule

| Time, place, and leader | Description | Directions |
|---|---|--|
| <p>April 21, 2007 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: At home of Dr. Ward, 671 Phillips Hollow Rd. in northeast Sumner County</p> <p>Roger McCoy and Todd Crabtree 615-532-0431, roger.mccoy@state.tn.us</p> | <p>Taylor Hollow State Natural Area, Westmoreland</p> <p>Join Tennessee's Natural Heritage Coordinator Roger McCoy and botanist Todd Crabtree for an outstanding wildflower hike to Taylor Hollow, a Tennessee Chapter of The Nature Conservancy-owned state natural area. Taylor Hollow is renowned for its spring flora, especially the extensive display of the blue-eyed Mary, a state-endangered plant.</p> <p>This is a State Natural Areas Week hike arranged by the Natural Heritage Inventory Program of the Division of Natural Areas.</p> | <p>Reservations requested. Please call for directions.</p> <p>Walking: This is a moderately difficult hike. Participants should bring water and sturdy footwear, and dress appropriately for the weather.</p> <p>Facilities: At meeting place</p> <p>Lunch: Optional at a local restaurant</p> |
| <p>April 21, 22, 2007 Saturday & Sunday</p> <p>Mary Priestley 931-598-0157, marypriestley@bellsouth.net</p> | <p>Trails and Trilliums St. Andrews-Sewanee School, Sewanee</p> <p>Hikes Saturday and Sunday; TNPS dinner Saturday night. Hike Sunday, 10:30 A.M. Central Time to see <i>Thermopsis mollis</i> and Shakerag Hollow. See www.trails.sasweb.org for details.</p> | <p>Approximately four miles west of I-24 at exit 134. Flashing yellow light marks the entrance to St. Andrews-Sewanee. Meet in front of the school's chapel.</p> <p>Facilities: at the meeting place</p> <p>Walking: You will need water and comfortable walking shoes.</p> <p>Lunch: Optional brunch (\$5) at the school after the hike</p> |
| <p>May 5, 2007 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: Nature Center at Warner Park</p> <p>Rita Venable 615-503-9631, rita@godtheartist.com and Jane Norris</p> | <p>Butterfly/Wildflower Identification Walk Warner Park, Nashville</p> <p>People wanting to participate in this easy-level walk will meet at the Nature Center and we will observe wildflowers and butterflies in the park area. All ages are welcome, but children under 12 must be accompanied by adults. Binoculars are helpful but not necessary. This butterfly/wildflower walk is sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association and the Tennessee Native Plant Society.</p> | <p>Approximately eight miles south of I-440 at 7311 Highway 100 Nashville. From I-40 go south on Old Hickory for about four miles to Hwy 100. Turn left and go about a half mile. http://www.nashville.gov/parks/wpnc.htm</p> <p>Facilities: At the meeting place</p> <p>Walking: You will need water and comfortable walking shoes.</p> <p>Lunch: Optional in picnic area</p> |
| <p>May 5, 2007 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: Alabama trailhead, Walls of Jericho State Natural Area</p> <p>Todd Crabtree 615-330-4627</p> | <p>Walls of Jericho, Tennessee/Alabama Line</p> <p>This is an exploratory trip to see spring wildflowers and perhaps find some Tennessee rarities. Limerock viburnum (<i>Viburnum bracteatum</i>), shining ladies tresses (<i>Spiranthes lucida</i>), and shadow witch (<i>Ponthieva racemosa</i>) are all known from the area but will not be blooming. The walls, which are 200 feet high, are worth the hike, but we will see plenty of spring ephemerals on the way. The hike is very strenuous. We will descend 1,000 feet on the way in and ascend the same on the way out, three miles each way.</p> | <p>From Nashville take I-24 east toward Chattanooga. Take exit 127 on Hwy 64 and turn toward Winchester. Stay on Hwy 64 for about 15 miles and turn south on Hwy 16 and go 18 miles to the Alabama trailhead one mile south of the stateline. See www.state.tn.us/environment/na/natareas/jericho/ and www.wpln.org/news/jericho/</p> <p>Walking: Very Strenuous. Wear boots with good ankle support. Bring plenty of water.</p> <p>Facilities: None</p> <p>Lunch: Bring</p> |

2007 TNPS Field Trip Schedule

| Time, place, and leader | Description | Directions |
|---|--|---|
| <p>May 12, 2007 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Eastern Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: North Chickamauga Creek picnic area</p> <p>Joey Shaw joey-shaw@utc.edu</p> | <p>North Chickamauga State Natural Area, Chattanooga</p> <p>Joey Shaw of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences University of Tennessee, Chattanooga will guide us to three of Tennessee's rare plants. We hope to see northern bush honeysuckle (<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>), Virginia spiraea (<i>Spiraea virginiana</i>), and mountain skullecup (<i>Scutellaria montana</i>) although it may be a little early for the skullcup to have flowers. After lunch we will check on the status of the newly discovered population of Fremont's elematis (<i>Clematis fremontii</i>) near Hixson.</p> | <p>From the Chickamauga Dam (Hwy 153) go north, past Northgate Mall. Continue on Hwy 153 north and go under Hwy 27. At this point Hwy 153 turns into Dayton Pike. Continue north for approximately two miles until you get to a stoplight where there is a BP gas station (last place to get water, snacks, use the toilet). At this stoplight make a left on Montlake Rd. After about a mile (as the road begins to gain elevation), turn right at the large boulder with a sign for North Chickamauga State Natural Area and/or Bowater Pocket Wilderness.</p> <p>Facilities: None Walking: Strenuous at times. Wear boots with good ankle support. Lunch: At the picnic area</p> |
| <p>May 19, 2007 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: Picnic area just below Center Hill Dam</p> <p>Dennis Horn 931-461-0262</p> | <p>Caney Fork River Bluffs / Center Hill Dam</p> <p>This rich limestone bluff along the Caney Fork River harbors many interesting plants, including an unusually large number of native vines. It is located about two miles downstream from the dam and is nearly vertical in places. Expect to see the following in flower: Wahoo (<i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i>), moonseed (<i>Menispermum canadense</i>), spinypod (<i>Matelea carolinensis</i>), woolly Dutchman's pipe (<i>Aristolochia tomentosa</i>), western wallflower (<i>Erysimum capitatum</i>), widow's cross (<i>Sedum pulchellum</i>), downy wood mint (<i>Blephilia ciliata</i>), and Chapman's meadow parsnip (<i>Thaspium chapmanii</i>). In an abandoned limestone quarry nearby, we may find the rare northern orchid, Loesel's twayblade (<i>Liparis loeselii</i>). Come join us as we explore this unique bluff habitat.</p> | <p>From I-40 between Carthage and Cookeville, take the Buffalo Valley Exit 268, go south on TN Hwy 96, cross the dam, then right on TN Hwy 141. Look for the picnic area on the right.</p> <p>Walking: Easy Facilities: At the picnic area Lunch: Bring to eat at the picnic area</p> |
| <p>May 26, 2007 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: Horse Mountain Orchids</p> <p>Alice Jensen 931-684-7851, AliceJen@bellsouth.net</p> | <p>Horse Mountain, Shelbyville</p> <p>Alice Jensen will give detailed explanations as we walk through the Sassafras woods and cedar glade on her 70 acres. We will see Kentucky coffee tree (<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>) and a large specimen of Shumard oak (<i>Quercus shumardii</i>). In the meadow we will see Indian pink (<i>Spigelia marilandica</i>), ground cherry (<i>Physalis heterophylla</i>), and foxglove beardtongue (<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>). In addition to the extensive woodland and meadow, we will see a pioneer homestead and greenhouses with exotic orchids. This is a joint field trip with the Georgia Botanical Society.</p> | <p>From I-24 take exit 117 towards Tullahoma. In Tullahoma turn right (north) on 41A. Follow 41A to second traffic light at Regions Bank in Shelbyville. Turn right. Go to Horse Mountain road and turn right. Go 1.2 miles to just past white church and turn left onto paved driveway at "Horse Mountain Orchids" sign.</p> <p>Walking: Easy Facilities: At meeting place Lunch: Bring</p> |

2007 TNPS Field Trip Schedule

| Time, place, and leader | Description | Directions |
|--|--|--|
| <p>June 2, 2007 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: Wilderness Station at Barfield-Crescent Park</p> <p>Rita Venable 615-503-9631, rita@godtheartist .com, and Jane Norris.</p> | <p>Butterfly/Wildflower Identification Walk, Barfield-Crescent Park, Murfreesboro</p> <p>People wanting to participate in this easy-level walk will meet at the Wilderness Station at Barfield-Crescent Park and we will observe wildflowers and butterflies as we walk the trail. All ages are welcome but children under 12 must be accompanied by adults. Binoculars are helpful but not necessary. This butterfly/wildflower walk is sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association and the Tennessee Native Plant Society.</p> | <p>From I-24 go south on Hwy 231 for about 2.1 miles to Barfield Crescent road and turn right. Go about one mile to park entrance and turn left. The Wilderness Station is past the baseball fields and disc golf course at the back of the park—697 Barfield Crescent Road, Murfreesboro— http://www.murfreesborotn.gov/government/parks_rec/Parks/barfield_crescent.htm</p> <p>Walking: You will need water and comfortable walking shoes. Facilities: At meeting place Lunch: Optional in picnic area</p> |
| <p>July 28, 2007 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Meeting Place: Pickett State Park. Picnic area at the lake near restrooms.</p> <p>David Lincicome 615-532-0439</p> | <p>Big South Fork Rockhouses Middle Creek Nature Trail</p> <p>Rockhouses of the Cumberland Plateau harbor some endemic plants such as Cumberland Sandwort (<i>Arenaria cumberlandensis</i>) and the newly described Cumberland featherbells (<i>Stenanthium diffusum</i>). We hope to see these flowering, and we may catch Lucy Braun's snakeroot (<i>Ageratina luciae-brauniae</i>) just beginning to flower. Aside from botany this is just a nice trail, one of the best in the Big South Fork area. It has a nice forest and geologic features, probably the best access to rockhouses. The trail is about a 3.5-mile loop, but can also be connected to the slave falls loop sawmill trailhead via a short shuttle and make a slightly shorter 3.3-mile hike.</p> | <p>Take I-40 to Exit 317 and take Hwy 127 north for 46 miles. Turn right on Hwy 154 and travel another 12 miles to the park entrance—4605 Pickett Park Hwy, Jamestown, TN</p> <p>Walking: Some steep areas on the trails. Wear boots with good ankle support. Bring plenty of water. Facilities: At the meeting place Lunch: Bring</p> <p>An extra option could be added to the main hike afterwards to either visit slave falls and needle arch (more rockhouses too), another three-mile hike, or visit Indian rockhouse, one of the largest in the park at 75' deep x 100' high, about a two-mile hike.</p> |
| <p>Aug. 18, 2007 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Central Time</p> <p>Woodard's Store in the Three Points community</p> <p>Bart Jones 901-726-6891 bjones7777@hotmail.com</p> | <p>Sunk Lake State Natural Area / Anderson Tully Wildlife Management Area, Henning</p> <p>Sunk Lake State Natural Area is a collection of six lakes formed during the 1811-12 earthquakes that also formed Reelfoot Lake. Bottomland hardwood forests and cypress groves surround the lakes and support a wide range of habitat for waterfowl, birds, and animals. Five rare plants can be found here, two of which will be in flower during our trip: creeping spotflower (<i>Acmella oppositifolia</i>) and ovate-leaved arrowhead (<i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i>). We may also encounter cedar elm (<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>) which is a rare tree of the Mississippi River Valley. Additionally, we should see many late summer wetland plants in flower.</p> | <p>From I-40, take the Brownsville exit (exit 56) and go north on Hwy 76 to the Hwy 70/79 bypass south of Brownsville, where you will take a left and go west to Hwy 54. Take a left onto Hwy 54 and go to Covington. In Covington, take a right onto Hwy 51. Go on Hwy 51 to Hwy 87 in Henning. Turn left onto Hwy 87 and go about 6.5 miles to Woodard's Store on the right side of the highway.</p> <p>Walking: Easy Facilities: At meeting place Lunch: Bring</p> |

2007 TNPS Field Trip Schedule

| Time, place, and leader | Description | Directions |
|---|---|---|
| Aug. 25, 2007 (Sat.) 10 A.M. Eastern Time Meeting Place: Newfound Gap near Rockefeller Memorial. Allen and Susan Sweetser 865-938-7627 | Indian Gap Trail Great Smoky Mountains National Park A streamside downhill hike in the mountains where it will be cooler than most places in Tennessee at this time of year. We will hike from Indian Gap down to the Chimney Tops parking area. There will be lots of interesting plants and we may get to see Rugels Ragwort (<i>Rugelia nudicaulis</i>) in flower. | From Gatlinburg travel 21.5 miles south on US-441 to Newfound Gap. Walking: Mostly downhill but good hiking boots will be required. Be prepared for changing weather. Bring water. Facilities: At the meeting place Lunch: Bring |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Sept. 14-16 2007 | TNPS Annual Meeting, Beersheba Springs Planned hikes all day Saturday in the surrounding area. |
|-------------------------|--|

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| November 3, 2007 | Fall Dendrology Hike We hope to get Dr. Clebsch or another capable botanist to lead a hike to see some interesting trees in the forest. More information later. |
|-------------------------|---|

Mark your calendar!



Annual Meeting
Sept. 14-16

Other Wildflower Events Across the State

André Michaux Day at Tipton-Haynes State Historic March 31. Dedication of historical marker co-sponsored by TNPS. See www.tipton-haynes.org/ for more information.

State Park Wildflower Weekends: See www.state.tn.us/environment/na/ for more information:

Fall Creek Falls— March 31 & April 1: 26th Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage

Norris Dam— March 31: Spring Wildflower Hikes

Frozen Head— All April Weekends: 39th Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage

Edgar Evins— April 6 & 7: Sixth Annual Spring Fling

Cordell Hull Birthplace— April 7, 14 & 28: Bunkum Cave Trail Spring Wildflower Walks

Natural Areas Week— April 15-22: Hikes throughout the state (www.state.tn.us/environment/nh/natareas)

Fall Creek Falls— May 5 & 6: Lady Slipper Weekend

Roan Mountain— June 23 & 24: Rhododendron Festival



Spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*)

Trails and Trilliums Continued from page 1

discuss proposals to enable the 15 members of the local Jump Off Community Land Trust to become completely energy and food independent in the next 10 years.

We can't think of a better way to spend Earth Day weekend, and we hope you agree. To encourage TNPS members to come, Trails and Trilliums is offering us a 25 percent discount on the following package of activities for a total cost of \$30, which otherwise will cost the following:

- Registration - \$5
- Lunch Saturday - \$5
- Wine and Wildflowers - \$15
- Dinner Saturday - \$10
- Brunch Sunday - \$5



*Iris
cristata*

For more information about Trails and Trilliums and a list of places to stay, see www.trails.sasweb.org.

If you are coming and want to participate in the TNPS dinner Saturday night, **please let Mary Priestley know before Friday, April 6**, so the caterer can count you in. Email marypriestley@bellsouth.net or phone 931-598-0157. We hope to see you there!

Are Your Dues Due?

Check your mailing label—the year through which you have paid dues is printed at the top. If the date's 2006 or earlier, please send a check promptly to Kay Jones, our treasurer. TNPS, P.O. Box 159274, Nashville, TN 37215.



TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Volume 31, Number 2

June 2007

A New Leatherflower in Tennessee

Fremont's Leatherflower (*Clematis fremontii*) was discovered in Hamilton County in May 2006 by Jim Cash of Hixson, Tennessee. This is the first report of this species from Tennessee. Nine species of *Clematis* were previously known to the state, and these are all climbing or trailing vines with compound leaves. In Fremont's Leatherflower the stems are upright, 8 to 18 inches tall, non-viny and the leaves are opposite, simple, ovate, nearly sessile, and have a prominent network of veins. The lavender flowers are solitary and terminal on the main stem and branches. They consist of four smooth leathery urn-shaped sepals, 1 to 1.5 inches long, with acuminate re-curved tips. The fruits are woolly-cobwebby and the styles glabrous. The plant is named for John Fremont, an explorer of the West during the 19th century.

The species determination proved to be an interesting story. When Jim found the plants he wasn't sure what they were, but assumed they were some type of Leatherflower. He knew they were beautiful, so he spent most of the day photographing them. After studying his pictures, he looked in the TNPS field guide, but couldn't find a match, so he checked several other wildflower guides, again without success. All of the *Clematis* species he found had the flowers on vines, and his plants were definitely not vines. Jim kept thinking, "One of these MUST be this flower, because these are all of the *Clematis* found in Tennessee." Also he didn't want to accept failure in his identification efforts.

Late in the summer Jim reluctantly decided to email photos to Todd Crabtree and me, expecting those of us with more experience to easily identify the species. He was surprised when I immediately phoned him and told



—Continued on page 3

Annual Meeting September 14–16 at Beautiful Beersheba Springs

Grab your camera, pack your bags, and join us for our annual meeting in Beersheba Springs, September 14–16. Once again, we are staying at the Beersheba Springs Methodist Assembly, and right now we are putting together some great programs and hikes.

Beersheba Springs is perched on the edge of Savage Gulf State Natural Area, the location of one of the few remaining old-growth forests in the state. The park boasts scenic overlooks, spectacular waterfalls, and about 50 miles of hiking trails.

TNPS vice-president and Tennessee Natural Heritage Botanist Todd Crabtree is planning field trips for Saturday morning and

—Continued on page 4

Look for Annual
Meeting Poster and
Registration Form
Inside



TNPS Newsletter

June 2007

Vol. 31, No. 2

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.

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Tennessee Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 159274
Nashville, TN 37215

Officers

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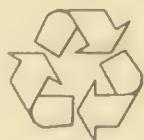
Joey Shaw

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Rita Venable

Latham Davis, Editor

Please send comments or material for the newsletter to TNPS Newsletter, P.O. Box 816, Sewanee, TN 37375 or lathamdavis@bellsouth.net



REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

This issue of the newsletter attests to the wide-ranging activities of our organization. Even with the Easter freeze, we had some wonderful wildflower walks. Todd & Crew have given us a fabulous schedule.

Rita Venable and Jane Norris have led a couple of family-oriented walks in Nashville and Murfreesboro this spring. This is part of our effort to branch out and appeal to a new—and much younger—crowd. We hope to do more family-oriented outings in the future. If you would like to lead a TNPS event for families, please let Todd Crabtree or Jane know.

We sponsored TNPS charter member Tom Patrick as the keynote speaker at St. Andrew's-Sewanee's Trails and Trilliums this year. His beautiful photographs and fascinating information about "Showy Wildflowers—Our Woodland Treasures" had everyone engaged. He stayed to participate in the TNPS dinner and brainstorming session that night (a real energizer for me) and the hike the next morning. Thanks, Tom!

I'm happy to say that TNPS was a major sponsor of the historical marker honoring André Michaux that was dedicated this spring in Johnson City. Immediate past president Karl Heinzman represented us at the dedication ceremony.

When Karl left office in January, he and his most able wife Jean had already made the arrangements for our annual meeting at Beersheba Springs. This thoughtful attention to detail gave the board the freedom to think creatively about speakers, programs, and that sort of thing. I am so excited about the way that weekend is shaping up. Plan to join us and bring friends. And please register early!

See you on the trail!

Mary



Tom Patrick speaking at Trails & Trilliums

Bart Jones

Rita Venable has volunteered to oversee the distribution of TNPS brochures to park visitor centers around the state. If you know of a park near you that can stock our brochures but doesn't already have them, please get in touch with Rita, and she can send you some. Her email is rita@godtheartist.com.

New Leatherflower

continued from page 1

him I had never seen a *Clematis* like this before! Not having seen any *Clematis* with upright stems and simple leaves, I thought at first the plants might actually be a new species. The excitement was building at that point! Todd emailed back and said that in Radford's flora of the Carolinas the plant keyed to *Clematis ochroleuca*, which grows primarily in the Piedmont. It seemed certain that Jim had found a species new to Tennessee, but which one? It turns out there are six or seven *Clematis* species in the Southeast with upright non-viny stems and simple leaves. His photos suggested the plants were either *Clematis ochroleuca* or *C. fremontii*.

Joey Shaw of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) and I made arrangements with Jim Cash to visit the site in late August. By this time the plants were dry and stiff, although the leaves persisted. However something happened that would normally seem horrendous but this time actually worked in our favor. A prospective buyer had recently driven a dozer through the property, to check the suitability for building sites, and scraped the ground bare in some places. This disturbance caused re-growth of several plants and some were actually flowering and setting fruit—three months after the normal flowering time! This new growth allowed us to collect specimens and make a positive identification that the plants were *C. fremontii*.

Joey had found a specimen in the herbarium at UTC collected by Margaret Smith labeled *Clematis ovata*. The label did not contain a location or date, but her other collections had dates from 1918 to 1925 and all were from the Chattanooga area. A library search revealed that M. Smith died in 1937. This specimen was clearly the same species as the newly discovered Fremont's Leatherflower, thus documenting the presence of *C. fremontii* in Tennessee or at least near Chattanooga on more than one occasion.

Also of interest, the Georgia Botanical Society (GBS) reported the discovery of *Clematis fremontii* in Floyd County, Georgia, on the Berry College campus in their November 2003 newsletter. This plant had been collected there in 1939 by Harold Jones while working on his PhD in biology. His specimen was labeled *Clematis ochroleuca*. In 2003 members of the GBS were successful in relocating this population. However, upon close examination they concluded that the plants were actually Fremont's Leatherflower.

Both the Tennessee and Georgia populations are located in the Ridge and Valley physiographic province on calcareous soils. The Tennessee site is a cedar glade habitat. All other known populations of *C. fremontii* are west of the Mississippi River in Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska, the nearest one being some 300 miles from the Tennessee site.

The Tennessee Scientific Advisory Committee for Rare Plants met in December and nominated *Clematis fremontii* as a species of special concern. The plants are located on private property that is currently for sale. It is hoped that a new owner would be willing to set aside a small area where the plants grow. Meanwhile a search of other glades nearby will be made in an attempt to find additional populations.

Jim Cash's excellent photographs of this plant will appear in full color in the International *Clematis* Society journal in May 2007 and also in the British *Clematis* Society journal in November 2007.

Dennis Horn

Seed Bank Projects Seek to Head Off Extinctions

The Chicago Botanic Garden has created a project called Seeds of Success as an extension of the Millennium Seed Bank Project, developed at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK. The global program aims to collect and seed bank 10 percent of the world's flora by 2010.

Chicago Botanic Garden is collecting seeds from more than 1,500 species for long-term native plant conservation and restoration, focusing on the tallgrass prairie flora and surrounding Midwest ecoregions.

However, project leaders express interest in expanding the collecting range to include surrounding states as well. They are seeking the assistance of contract botanists.

More information about the project can be found at the Chicago Botanic Garden website at <http://cbgseedbank.org>. More information about the Millennium Seed Bank Project can be found at www.kew.org/msbp/.

Threats to flora globally was the subject of a feature May 23 on Morning Edition (National Public Radio). The program included interviews with staff members at Berry Botanic Garden, Portland, Oregon, which was the first seed bank to collect seeds of rare and endangered plants of the Northwest.

TNPS members may be aware of seed bank efforts that include the flora of Tennessee. ♀

Friday Evening Program: What's in a Name?

Michael Green, president of the board of Chattanooga's Reflection Riding, will be our speaker Friday night. Michael's philosophy of nature appreciation is, "You don't have to be a botanical expert to enjoy nature."

Michael got interested in botany in the 1980s when he joined the Georgia Botanical Society. His training is in sociology, and he retired recently as the Director of Public Health in Fulton County (Atlanta), Georgia. He now lives in a log house that he built on Lookout Mountain in Cloudland, Georgia.

Since his retirement, Michael has spent several summers as a seasonal interpretive ranger with the National Park System, serving at the Blue Ridge Parkway, Chattahoochee River Recreation Area, and Point Park on Lookout Mountain. He has worked with people of all ages, helping them to relate to nature.

Two years ago the city of Chattanooga named him Environmental Educator of the Year. He is a regular feature at St. Andrew's-Sewanee's Trails and Trilliums.

Michael enjoys thinking about wildflowers and other native plants the way our ancestors—old Appalachian people and Native Americans—did. He particularly enjoys teaching and learning about how plants got their names, which will be the topic of his talk Friday night. It promises to be a fun and interesting evening!

Annual Meeting Sept. 14–16

continued

afternoon. Also, Sewanee writer Jill Carpenter will offer a nature journaling workshop on Saturday afternoon for those who prefer a more relaxed activity.

Evening programs will feature Reflection Riding's Michael Green and Tennessee State Parks Biologist LinnAnn Welch. Also, it is rumored that a few people are planning to bring instruments for an acoustic jam in the evenings.

This promises to be a terrific meeting. So, don't delay—send in your registration form today. Then start making your packing list. Let's see . . . wildflower book, binoculars, hiking boots, banjo. . .

The discovery of a mineral water spring on the side of the mountain in 1833 led to the construction of an inn. Several log structures were built, and before the Civil War, Beersheba Springs became a flourishing summer resort. At its height, the guests dined on French cuisine and danced to the strains of an orchestra from New Orleans. The hotel now serves as a conference center for the Methodist Assembly.



Saturday Evening Program: TNPS's State Natural Area Plant Inventory

Next year, TNPS will take on an exciting new project: inventorying the plants in one of Tennessee's designated natural areas. To help orient us as we embark on this new effort, Saturday night's program will bring us up to date on current inventorying efforts on state lands. Board member David Lincicome, who administers the state's rare plant species protection effort, is coordinating Saturday evening's program.

Tennessee is blessed with more than 70 natural areas that have been set aside because of their ecological importance. They are some of our best examples of intact ecosystems, and many of them are destinations for TNPS field trips. But amazingly few of these areas have been systematically inventoried. TNPS has volunteered to develop a list of the plants in one of these natural areas.

One on-going project that we will hear about Saturday night is the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory that began in Tennessee State Parks in 2003. The ATBI utilizes existing park staff, local universities and schools, community volunteers, and others with expertise or interest in biological topics to gather data. Our own Rita Venable is active in the butterfly monitoring aspect of the project.

Will our natural area inventorying follow the ATBI model? To what natural area will we be assigned? How often will we visit it? Who will be involved? How do we combine learning and fun in this worthwhile endeavor? We don't know! By September, we will have some answers, and at the annual meeting we will find some more.

So plan to come to Beersheba Springs with your questions and ideas. Together we will make this new TNPS project a meaningful and enjoyable one for all!

March 31, 2007, Field Trip

Beech Creek Bluffs

A large group of 28 assembled at the McDonald's in Waynesboro on a beautiful spring day. Everyone seemed energized and ready to put cabin fever behind us as we headed out for the bluffs along Beech Creek near the community of Leatherwood. As we arrived, it became evident why the community had acquired its name, as scores of small leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*) shrubs lined the area between the road and the creek. Their oval leaves and green egg-shaped fruits were very distinctive.

Of course most of us were focused on the riot in blue before us created by the hundreds of Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), and Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium reptans*).

This was the perfect foil for the scattered patches of orange of golden ragwort (*Senecio aureus*).

As we moved across the creek, the entourage broke up into several small groups that explored different sections of the bluff. Unfortunately the early warm weather had caused all the beaked trout lily (*Erythronium rostratum*) to complete its bloom before the trip, but the numbers of leaves still present on the slopes gave an indication of how impressive the flowering would have been. We did observe several plants in fruit, with the pointed "beak" at the end of the capsule which is responsible for the plant's specific epithet of *rostratum*. The discovery of a small colony of spring coralroot (*Corallorrhiza wisteriana*) brought us back together for photos. Other species found along the bluff included spring saxifrage (*Saxifraga virginensis*), jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), twisted trillium (*Trillium stamineum*), sweet Betsy (*Trillium cuneatum*), large-flowered bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*), and sharp-lobed hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba*).

Several interesting things were found along the creek bank, notably bishop's cap (*Mitella diphylla*), foam flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*), and Ohio buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*).

Thanks to Andrea Bishop for leading the hike and showing us this wonderful area on the southern section of the Western Highland Rim. What a great way to kick off the 2007 field trips!

Bart Jones



April 14, 2007

Stillhouse Hollow Falls Natural Area

What a crazy spring! Our first field trip had perfect spring weather—75 degrees and sunny. The second was met with blustery cold. And this, our third trip of the year, was a soggy washout. Most of the people who had let me know they planned to come to the hike had gotten word to me that they had decided the weather was too bad and they wouldn't be there. So as I left for the natural area, I wasn't sure if anyone would brave it. But as it turned out, five of us decided a little rain wasn't going to stop us!

Like the majority of Tennessee, Stillhouse Hollow was hit hard by the Easter freeze. Almost every tree and woody shrub was browned by the cold, the exceptions being the maples which still showed significant amounts of green. Surprisingly, the wildflowers escaped with minimal damage and the floral display

would have been nice if everything had been dry and not droopy from the rain. Nice patches of wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) and purple phacelia (*Phacelia bipinnatifida*) were scattered along the slopes of the hollow. Sweet Betsy and twisted trillium (*Trillium cuneatum* and *T. stamineum*) were still in



Pausing on their hike before Stillhouse Hollow Falls are, from left, Kay Jones, Michelle Haynes, Darel Hess, and Bart Jones.

Continued on page 6

Stillhouse Hollow

continued

good shape as well. Other species in flower were Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), dwarf crested iris (*Iris cristata*), fire pink (*Silene virginica*), robin's plantain (*Erigeron pulchellus*), and oddly-growing Virginia spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*) with flower clusters nearly sessile in the fork of vegetation at ground level.

By the time we got to the floor of the hollow it had stopped raining. But the rain did have one good side effect, the waterfall was quite nice and capped off what turned out to be a not-so-miserable day.

P.S. Since so many cancelled because of the weather, we will reschedule the trip next year. See you then!

Bart Jones

Conservation Voters

Water, Climate Change Are Major Legislative Topics

This legislative session has been an exciting experience for our environmental community, TCV, and most certainly for me. My first day as the new executive director of your League of Conservation Voters saw a successful Nature Votes 2007 event that both raised funds and celebrated the work of the 104th General Assembly. Since that bitterly cold February night, we have seen a lot of things heat up in the legislature that warm our hearts as well.

Among the unresolved legislative issues still not decided at press time is the history-making proposed acquisition of the Heart of the Cumberland land deal by Gov-

Continued on page 7

April 7, 2007

Riverwoods State Natural Area

If you just looked at the people gathered at the parking lot of Riverwoods State Natural Area, you'd think we were getting ready to hit the slopes. All bundled up in winter coats and gloves, it seemed an odd juxtaposition to the luxuriant spring growth surrounding us. Such was the "extreme spring of 2007," where, lucky for us, we were in the balmy corner of Tennessee enjoying 36-degree temperatures with only the slightest of freeze damage evident.

Eleven people from TNPS, the Memphis Garden Club, and interested neighbors met on a cold windy first Saturday in April to tag spring wildflowers for rescue from the planned expansion of Wolf River Boulevard in Germantown. Riverwoods was originally tabbed to become part of a golf course but other land that was better suited for that purpose opened up nearby and this parcel was eventually donated to the state by the Memphis Garden Club in 2006 after nearly 30 years of maintaining it as a designated state natural area.



As we made our way along the trail to the future roadbed, a few interesting things caught our attention. One was a parsley hawthorn (*Crataegus marshallii*) that had just ended its bloom. This small understory tree favors the low, damp forests of the coastal plain and is sometimes used in landscaping because of its showy flower clusters. We also began to see the first of the spring ephemerals, notably, prairie trillium (*Trillium recurvatum*). But most impressive were the stands of dwarf red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*) that became even more numerous as we made our way to the old Wolf River channel. They were in peak bloom and really beautiful. Along the banks of the old riverbed were several species in bloom: spring cress (*Cardamine rhomboidea*), more prairie trillium including rare yellow forms, sweet cicely (*Osmorhiza longistylis*), green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*), Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*), and plants of white trout lily (*Erythronium albidum*). Many of these plants were growing in large colonies and were tagged for eventual removal to places in the natural area not impacted by the road construction.

Many areas of Riverwoods face problems from exotic invasives such as privet (*Ligusticum spp.*), monkeygrass (*Liriope*), hardy Asian orange (*Poncirus trifoliata*), and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*). Luckily, one of the worst areas of privet occurs in the roadway and will be eliminated.

On the trail back to the parking lot we encountered wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), baby blue eyes (*Nemophila aphylla*), and daisy fleabane (*Erigeron philadelphicus*). Before we departed, we made our plans to transfer the flagged plants to safe spots in the natural area for what we hope are many years of enjoyment.

Bart Jones

May 5, 2007

Warner Park Hike with NABA

The night before the field trip had me a bit worried, because it rained heavily. However, Saturday morning there were only clouds with the sun peaking through, so we still had an enjoyable experience with no downpours. There were about 15 participants and ages ranged from infants to senior adults. We had three children in all—ages infant to about 7.

We visited several habitats at the Warner Park Nature Center on Highway 100: a mowed area with clover, a weedy field, a wooded area, and the organic garden. We saw an Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, several Spicebush Swallowtails, two Clouded Sulphurs, a Cloudless Sulphur, a Red Admiral, several Carolina Satyrs, a Silver-spotted Skipper, several Sachem and a male Zabulon Skipper perching in a dappled wooded area. The highlights were the Monarch caterpillars found on common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) and the Eastern Comma that landed on Glenda Hood's foot and stayed for a long time.

Most of the showy spring wildflowers were spent, but in flower were Carolina cranesbill (*Geranium carolinianum*), Miami mist (*Phacelia purshii*) being visited by ants, lyreleaf sage (*Salvia lyrata*), purple phacelia or scorpionweed (*Phacelia bipinnatifida*) being visited by tiny beetles and bees and blackberry (*Rubus* sp., probably *argutus*).

After the walk, I asked for suggestions from the group on how we could make the walks more family-friendly. Several people said it was just right, one person said to try and concentrate the things to see in a smaller area. One person asked if we were going to do more of these walks. Perhaps it would be advantageous to limit the excursion to one hour. This may seem like a short period, but when there are small children or babies in strollers, it is one of the best ways to hold their interest and make it easy on the parents. It is well worth our time and effort to extend our efforts toward the young. Besides, it is lots of fun.

Rita Venable

Michaux Marker Dedicated

On March 31, a historic marker commemorating French botanist André Michaux was dedicated at the Tipton-Haynes Historic Site in Johnson City. (See photo on back page.) TNPS provided 50 percent of the funds for the marker. Michaux, botanist for King Louis XVI of France, traveled worldwide, exploring plant species of interest to France and all of Europe. The marker reads:

ANDRÉ MICHAUX 1746-1803

From 1785 to 1796, French botanist André Michaux, the foremost European botanist of his day, traveled throughout eastern North America. On assignment from the French monarchy, Michaux studied and collected North American plants, roots, and seeds for shipment to France. His travels brought him to present-day Tennessee in 1789, 1793, 1795, and 1796.

In May 1795 and March 1796, Michaux stayed at the home of Col. John Tipton. During his visit he made notes about the spring wildflowers he found in abundance. On March 21, 1796, he remarked that the mountains were covered in several places with bloodroot, spring beauty, and trout lily.

Conservation Voters

continued

ernor Phil Bredesen. We have been working hard to coordinate our member organizations and other non-affiliated groups to ensure that every voice is heard on behalf of a piece of land that is too precious to leave unprotected.

We have seen some good bills (and a few bad ones) and a whole lot of activity about water and the polluted effluents that keep finding their way into Tennessee watersheds from surrounding states. With coordinated lobbying efforts, we were able to block some bad legislation, though not all of it permanently. Your state Senate has opted for a Summer Study Session to explore the "Definition of Waters Act" that will ultimately affect our ability to define and protect wet weather conveyances and watersheds.

Finally, we have all found "energy" around the issue of energy! Some great progressive bills have managed to head toward the Governor's desk, requiring some real conservation and efficiency efforts spearheaded by organizations like SACE and Kilowatt Ours. Legislators are lining up to talk with us about climate change in our world and the "climate change" in the opinion of Tennessee voters. Recognition of the need to care for our natural world is at an all time high, and we have many Tennesseans to thank for that, including (among other things) a certain filmmaker from Smith County.

A seed of change planted long ago can bear fruit many times.

For this ninth-generation East Tennessean, it is a humbling honor to be at the service of protecting our home. Thank you for inviting me along on this journey and your support of TCV.

Chris Ford



Among those attending the dedication of the André Michaux marker (See story on page 7) were Karl Heinzman, immediate past president of TNPS, holding Lulu the pup; historian Charlie Williams, dressed as Michaux; Tipton-Haynes director Penny McLaughlin; Congressman David Davis; and State Senator Rusty Crowe. For more photos and information about Michaux, his marker, and the ceremony, visit <http://johnsonspot.com/michaux/michaux.htm>.



Are Your Dues Due?

Check your mailing label—the year through which you have paid dues is printed at the top. If the date's 2006 or earlier, please send a check promptly to Kay Jones, our treasurer. TNPS, P.O. Box 159274, Nashville, TN 37215.

TNPS Newsletter
 P.O. Box 816
 Sewanee, TN 37375



More Big Plans for TNPS Annual Meeting

Saturday Afternoon Activity: Nature Journaling

Would you rather sit on the porch at Beersheba than take in an afternoon walk? Then join Jill Carpenter for an afternoon of nature journaling. Jill's loves are words and science, books and nature. Also history and biography, and a bit of art and sewing. And good friends. She grew up near Bryce Canyon in Utah and went to college in Arizona, where she studied zoology and journalism.

She has worked as a college teacher, a science writer and editor, a bookseller and publisher, and lots of other things besides. She has tried and published all sorts of writing: books, articles, poems, and essays.



Several years ago, she became interested in nature journaling. She taught a class in it for the Sewanee Herbarium and has since done several more workshops. Bring pen or pencil and paper for an afternoon of observation, sketching, and writing. Who knows? You might discover a whole new way of looking at the natural world!

On this page are photographs taken around the turn of the twentieth century at Beersheba Springs. At lower right is a photograph taken at Stone Door, overlooking what is now Savage Gulf Natural Area.

Saturday Wildflower Hikes

We are lucky once again to have Tennessee Natural Areas Botanist and TNPS V-P Todd Crabtree organizing our hikes for Saturday. Todd will be scoping out good locations right before the meeting, so we will have to wait until that Friday night to hear what he has in mind. There are miles and miles of great hiking trails at Savage Gulf, and where there are wildflowers Todd is sure to find them!

The plan is for Saturday morning's hike to be somewhat less strenuous than the afternoon hike. Some may choose the option of returning to Beersheba Springs Methodist Assembly for the afternoon nature journaling, and others may opt for a whole day of hiking. Either way, bring water and shoes with good ankle support. Everyone will need to pack a lunch, as they will not be providing lunch for us at the Assembly.



We Be Jammin'!

If you've got a guitar, fiddle, or other acoustical instrument, we hope you'll bring it to the annual meeting. We're going to see if we can do some old-time jamming Friday and/or Saturday night after the evening programs. We know so far of one banjo, one guitar, and an accordion that will be there, and we are hoping for more. Should be fun!



Join your fellow native plant enthusiasts. Learn more about taxonomy,
habits, and habitats of your favorite plants (and people)
and others you haven't met yet 

Join us for the



TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Annual Meeting

September 14–16, 2007

at the historic

Beersheba Springs (Hotel) Methodist Assembly
Beersheba Springs, Tennessee

At the edge of Savage Gulf Natural Area
in the heart of the ecologically rich
Cumberland Plateau

Expert guest speakers and discussions
Hikes and activities for a range of interests and abilities



Make your reservations before August 1.
Complete and return the registration form on the facing page.



Refrigerator Poster

2007 TNPS Annual Meeting Registration Form

Lodging (Priced for two nights)

Number of rooms (single or double occupancy) _____ @ \$136 = _____
(two sharing a room may each pay \$68)
Sharing with: _____

Number of campsites _____ @ \$20 = _____

Meals

Friday dinner _____ @ \$7 = _____

Saturday breakfast _____ @ \$6 = _____

Saturday lunch —bring your own

Saturday dinner _____ @ \$7 = _____

Sunday breakfast _____ @ \$6 = _____

Use fee (per person not staying
on the Assembly grounds) _____ @ \$10 = _____

Total \$ _____

Check payable to TNPS enclosed

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

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Special needs: _____

Please send form and payment to:
Tennessee Native Plant Society
P. O. Box 159274
Nashville, TN 37215



Thermopsis mollis

From photo by Bart Jones



TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 31, Number 3

August 2007

Chrietzberg Presented TDEC's Lifetime Achievement Award

Our own Bertha Chrietzberg was presented with the 2007 Robert Sparks Walker Lifetime Achievement Award by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. The award, named in honor of a Chattanooga naturalist and historian, is presented each year to a person who has done outstanding work to preserve our state's natural resources and beauty.

TNPS member Terri Hogan, ecologist at the Stones River National Battlefield and current president of the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council, was involved in crafting the document nominating Bertha for the award, which is excerpted here:

"Bertha Chrietzberg has shown a tireless commitment to the protection of Tennessee's environment for more than 45 years. She has been a vocal and effective champion for outdoor recreation and the protection of Tennessee's important places. She is a true environmental educator by both vocation and inclination. Bertha is also a shining example for all of us of the power of one.

"She has been instrumental in Tennessee's conservation efforts and successes since the 1960s. She has been a guiding force in the creation of numerous watchdog groups with the mission of protecting Tennessee's environment. Her work has helped to bring about real, measurable, and lasting changes. As a conservationist, she has clearly demonstrated the power of one in her ability to work quietly and effectively.

"Bertha has been active in the field of environmental education for many years. Her commitment to environmental education is demonstrated through her role in creating the outdoor recreation major at Middle Ten-



—Continued on page 3

Exciting Plans for the Annual Meeting!

Our annual meeting is scheduled for September 14-16 at the beautiful and historic Beersheba Springs Hotel. Situated on the bluff and next door to the Savage Gulf State Natural Area, it is in the heart of a botanist's paradise.

We have a fun and diverse program scheduled:

- Friday night: "What's in a Name?" Michael Green, president of Chattanooga's Reflection Riding, will speak on plants and how they got their names.
- Saturday wildflower walks, morning and afternoon, will be led by Tennessee Natural Heritage Botanist Todd Crabtree.
- Rather relax Saturday afternoon? Join author, editor, and naturalist Jill Carpenter will lead a workshop on nature journaling.

—Continued on page 2

Annual Meeting
September 14-16
Registration Deadline
August 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.

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Joey Shaw

Susan Sweetser

Rita Venable

Latham Davis, Editor

Please send comments or material for the newsletter to TNPS Newsletter, P.O. Box 816, Sewanee, TN 37375 or lathamdavis@bellsouth.net



Report from the President

First things first: we are so proud of board member Bertha Chrietzburg, who was presented a lifetime achievement award by the State of Tennessee for—you guessed it!—her lifelong love of nature and sharing it with others. Bertha is one of those naturalists whose enthusiasm for all living things is infectious. She has taught us all a lot—through her example, as much as her teaching. I first met Bertha 15 or 20 years ago when our mutual friend Randy Hedgepath invited her to South Cumberland State Park to lead an orchid identification walk. She's an amazing lady, and this award is richly deserved!

I cannot say enough about the great line-up that we have for our annual meeting in September at Beersheba Springs. Mother Nature pulls out all the stops at Savage Gulf—a place unexcelled in our state for natural beauty—and your board has put together a terrific program for the weekend. You'll want to be a part of it. Fill out and mail in your reservation form today.

A highlight of the weekend will be the unveiling of the name of the state natural area that the State is asking TNPS to inventory. This is an exciting opportunity and new venture for us. *Ex officio* board member David Lincicome, who administers the State's rare plant protection program, came up with this idea, and I am confident that he will help us see it through successfully!

See you on the trail—and at Beersheba Springs in September!

Mary

Annual Meeting Plans

continued from page 1

● Saturday evening: Tennessee State Parks Botanist LinnAnn Weleh will bring us up-to-date on the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory being conducted in our parks, and David Lincicome, who heads Tennessee's Rare Species Protection Program, will introduce us to the state natural area that TNPS will be inventorying this coming year.

We hope, too, to have an old-time country/bluegrass jam Friday and/or Saturday night. So if you've got a guitar, fiddle, or some such instrument, pack it along with your field guide, binoculars, and hiking boots. (Don't forget: you'll also need to bring lunch for Saturday.)

While at Beersheba Springs, be sure to amble down the lane to see some of the beautiful antebellum homes that surround the hotel. Or, if you have time, take the self-guided driving tour of the area.

Beersheba Springs is on Highway 56 between McMinnville and Altamont. They will be ready for us at 3 p.m. Friday afternoon, so plan to arrive in plenty of time for supper at 6:00.

August 1 is the deadline for making reservations. Don't miss this great weekend!



Jill Carpenter will offer a workshop in nature journaling on Saturday afternoon.

Lifetime Achievement Award

continued from page 1

nessee State University through which many of her students have become environmental leaders. For approximately nine years, she has worked with Dr. Kim Sadler of the Middle Tennessee State University Center for Environmental Education with elementary students from Campus School.

“Bertha has been an inspiration to several generations who have had the good fortune to come in contact with her. In the words of one who first met Bertha on one of her wildflower walks, she has a “passion for living things, joy of different species enhancing our environment, love of teaching and sharing, and deep desire to make a difference in this world. . . .

“Those of us who are nominating Bertha Chrietberg for this award cannot think of anyone more deserving of this honor. We hope you will give due consideration to this nomination for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation’s Lifetime Achievement Award.”

We are so proud of you Bertha! For more on this award, including additional photos, see <www.state.tn.us/environment/awards>.

Always an outdoorswoman, Bertha (top) is pictured, with paddle, at 16, and (right) in Black Fox Wetlands T-shirt. Below, Bertha (third from left) is joined by previous recipients of the TDEC Lifetime Achievement Award, from left, Tennessee State Naturalist and TNPS member Mack Prichard; TNPS member and Friend of Radnor Lake Ann Tidwell; and Virginia "Happy" Birdsong of Keep Tennessee Beautiful.



Conservation Voters

State Legislative Summary

This has been an especially productive year for environmental legislative advocacy in Tennessee. The administration continued its efforts to enact responsible environmental policies and laws and TCV was able to positively influence the fate of a number of bills.

Probably the most significant result of environmental advocacy in Tennessee this year was the passage of an \$82 million appropriation for the purchase of 124,000 acres on the North Cumberland Plateau. This was a unique opportunity to preserve and protect some of the most important forests, mountains, streams, and wildlife habitats in the United States. Thanks to the initiative of Governor Bredesen, TDEC, the Nature Conservancy, and work done by many other individuals and groups, this appropriation survived a last minute effort to stop it in the Senate Finance Committee. The land will be acquired as a cash purchase. Over the long term, preserving this land has the potential to enhance life in Tennessee through the protection of unique forms of wildlife and their habitats, opportunities for public access and recreation and increased tourism.

Successful bills and policies we supported:

- Development of a comprehensive state energy conservation plan: This TCV initiative passed with the intention of moving Tennessee toward a future of more stable energy prices; a more secure, diverse, and sustainable energy supply; and a cleaner environment (Public Chapter 33).

—Continued on page 4

Summary

continued

- **Strengthening of the Water Quality Control Act:** TCV worked to support the Tennessee Clean Water Network in its successful effort to pass legislation that will require TDEC to publish water quality enforcement actions on the web (Public Chapter 404). Several other bills initiated by TCWN will be considered in a summer study committee.

- **Energy advocacy:** TCV worked to support the Kilowatt Ours successful effort to pass a bill requiring performance audits of government agencies responsible for energy conservation, production, and security (Public Chapter 401). A related bill that promotes energy conservation in building standards passed the Senate and will be ready for action in the House next year (SB116/HB 348).

- **Improved solid waste management:** A bill passed to study higher value uses for materials that end up in landfills (SB1779/HB1345 —awaiting signatures). Another revises the Solid Waste Act to provide more revenue for recycling and hazardous household waste disposal (Public Chapter 462).

Legislation we stopped, helped stop, or worked to amend:

- **Regulatory Flexibility:** Under the guise of protecting small businesses, this bill could have curtailed the efforts of state officials to implement environmentally sound regulations. TCV worked to amend the bill so that it simply mirrors regulations already in place by executive order. (Public Chapter 464).

- **Toll Roads:** With lots of strong leadership from the Southern Environmental Law Center, and working closely with TDOT, TCV was

—Continued on next page

Habitat Management Or How I Came Embrace the Use of Herbicides

This is the story of my journey to kill all alien pest plants and to provide habitat for wildlife, without crippling myself. I am an ardent environmentalist, with a composting toilet, and use rain water for bathing and pet water. As much as possible, I organically garden and recycle and compost. I have also become a devoted fan of the use of glyphosate-based herbicides such as Roundup or Aecord to kill unwanted trees and alien pest plants. When I purchased eleven acres of land in Middle Tennessee in 1995, the land was partly wooded and partly open. My property is now a Certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation. I have no lawn—I just mow the borders of the driveway and around my mail box. Last year I diverted 353 bags of leaves and 32 Christmas trees headed for the landfill and have spread them around the property to rot.

Over the years, before I moved onto my property, I let the fields get overgrown with saplings. I tried burning to open some areas and establish brushy habitat for birds such as quail. Unfortunately, the Division of Forestry accidentally burned my planted windbreak and some of my neighbor's property. For the past five years, I've been cutting down the overgrown trees, some now two to three inches in diameter, and re-cutting them the next year, and they still grow back. I have tried leaving a two- to three-inch stump over which I can mow or bush hog and have successfully rented a walk behind brush cutter for the areas with small saplings.

In my efforts to kill Japanese honeysuckle, privet, and fescue, I found the effort to dig them up to be hard on my back, neck, and wrist. I did not want to use chemicals to eradicate them. I now have bulging discs in my neck, carpal tunnel in one wrist, and low back pain if I don't walk and do daily exercises and yoga positions. Now at age 43, I have to be careful about how much digging and cutting and planting I do. When I read Sara Stein's book *Planting Noah's Garden: Further Adventures in Backyard Ecology*, her reasons for recommending glyphosate-based herbicides (or Roundup) were convincing and life changing. I could still be environmental and use herbicides judiciously. I first herbicided the privet, which I am gradually eradicating. I could cut the tall trees down in the brushy areas, too, and herbicide the stump at waist height. I no longer cut the same trees over and over as they regrow. When I first realized that herbiciding could save me days of back pain and maybe enable me to keep on gardening, I felt as if one day my property might be free of alien plants and have great wildlife habitat. I can kill the privet and trees that are re-growing in the field and still pull Japanese honeysuckle vines and privet seedlings.

I realize my discovery may not be for everyone, but may allow more people to keep on killing multiflora rose or fescue into their later years. I now spend part of my days planting the cardinal flowers, azaleas, wax myrtles, spicebushes, and deerberries I ordered through the mail, because I have not spent all my energy on habitat management, a.k.a. killing invader trees and pest plants. I have been rewarded for my efforts by seeing an American woodcock hen with her brown and gold babies in my woods, hearing the bobwhite quail, seeing box turtles out in the cool morning of a hot summer day eating slugs (yuck!). I get to watch the noisy nightly ritual of 50 to 60 robins coming in to

Habitat Management

continued

roost, as the woodcocks start their peeting, along with all kinds of croaking frogs. I have seen a clump of garter snakes as they sluggishly come out of hibernation, and all the hummers that snack on the jewelweed nectar. I get to enjoy all those plants I did not plant, maintained by years of bush hogging before my ownership, the ragwort and tickseed sunflower, both kinds of meadow beauties and rose pink, three kinds of spiranthes orchids, the large purple fringeless orchid, ironweed and sneezeweed, downy lobelia and swamp milkweed, monkeyflower, lyre-leaf sage and Indian tobacco, and on and on. And I get to keep on maintaining the habitat, and my back, for the next 40 to 50 years, killing aliens and adding more pretty eye-candy plants for me and food plants for wildlife.

In Tennessee, I live surrounded by acres of pest plants in open areas and lawns. For me, it is necessary to keep on killing new invader plants and clearing the open areas of trees. I now have *Microstegium* (Nepal grass) to kill! I will be out there every day I can, pulling Japanese honeysuckle and herbiciding stumps and enjoying the wildlife.

P.S. I have found books on gardening with handicaps and disabilities to be helpful, and I highly recommend *Gardener's Yoga; Accessible Gardening for People with Physical Disabilities: A Guide to Methods, Tools, and Plants; Accessible Gardening: Tips & Techniques for Seniors & the Disabled; and The Enabling Garden: A Guide to Lifelong Gardening*. They have tips and exercises to reduce back pain and also to garden differently to avoid back, neck, and wrist strain.

P.P.S. I'd love for someone to come out and identify the alien grasses, especially the fescue! I can be reached at krhayes2003@yahoo.com.

—Katrina Hayes



Native plants struggle with alien species in the landscape.

Summary

continued

able to influence the fate of road-building legislation. One bill, creating public-private partnerships re road building, was stopped (SB347/HB1205). Another toll road bill was amended to be a limited pilot project (SB1152/HB1204 — awaiting signatures). TCV is working to insure that any legislation promoting road-building will guarantee serious public input, environmental safeguards, and consistency with transportation and environmental planning efforts.

- **Wet Weather Conveyances:** This bill proposed to exclude “narrow run-off ditches” (the other side’s word for intermittent streams) from the Water Quality Control Act (SB1253/HB865). Thanks to a major outcry by advocates, the bill was amended to create a legislative study committee. TCV will advocate for the appointment of a fair committee, for meetings that are open and that allow citizens a full opportunity to be heard.

TCV, in collaboration with its member groups, will continue advancing a proactive agenda to promote sound environmental policies and practices regarding our air, water, land, and energy. We will work with others to support of such initiatives as container deposit legislation, renewable energy, more balanced environmental boards and commissions, mass transit, and environmental justice for low income and minority neighborhoods, to name a few. We welcome the input and support of environmental advocates throughout Tennessee in our efforts.

Thank you for allowing me to represent TNPS for TCV.

—Michelle Haynes,
Chairman, Tennessee
Conservation Voters

2007 TNPS Annual Meeting Registration Form

Lodging (Priced for two nights)

Number of rooms (single or double occupancy) _____ @ \$136 = _____
(two sharing a room may each pay \$68)
Sharing with: _____

Number of campsites _____ @ \$20 = _____

Meals

Friday dinner _____ @ \$7 = _____

Saturday breakfast _____ @ \$6 = _____

Saturday lunch —bring your own

Saturday dinner _____ @ \$7 = _____

Sunday breakfast _____ @ \$6 = _____

Use fee (per person not staying
on the Assembly grounds) _____ @ \$10 = _____

Total \$ _____

Check payable to TNPS enclosed

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Special needs: _____

Please send form and payment to:
Tennessee Native Plant Society
P. O. Box 159274
Nashville, TN 37215

Registration Deadline:
August 1

June 2, 2007

Barfield-Crescent Field Trip

Saturday, June 2, was a warm day with highs in the 80s and overcast. We met at 10 A.M. at Barfield Crescent Park, a city park in south Murfreesboro to look at plants and butterflies. This was the second joint field trip of the North American Butterfly Association and Tennessee Native Plant Society for this year. The first one was held at Warner Park Nature Center in Nashville. Two people had signed up, but about 20 showed up. Children and adults both attended, and everyone seemed to enjoy learning and observing the local flora and fauna. We saw 12 butterfly species with 32 individuals. We even saw Wild Indigo Duskywing eggs on the wild indigo in the butterfly garden. The children especially enjoyed seeing the butterfly eggs through the hand lens and counting all the ones on the bush. The group also got to see the state butterfly, Zebra Swallowtail, which they enjoyed. We did not travel very far, probably only a few hundred yards, but there was much to see and there were many questions. We adjourned at noon after pausing to see the goats at a nearby farm.

The Wilderness Station has done a very good job with their butterfly garden, especially in labeling the plants and what they are used for.

After the field trip Deborah Paschall, program coordinator for the Wilderness Station at the park, took some of us on a safari in her cart to see the purple milkweed (*Asclepias purpurascens*) which was blooming in the back area.

Butterflies:

Zebra Swallowtail— one adult flying near garden and into woods

Black Swallowtail— one caterpillar seen in the butterfly garden

Checkered White— one adult female flying low in open grassy area

Clouded Sulphur— one adult flying in a weedy, rocky area on back lot

Eastern Tailed-Blue— two adults, male and female

Pearl Crescent— one adult seen in low, mowed, grassy area

Question Mark— one adult seen in the butterfly garden

Eastern Comma— one adult seen in the butterfly garden

Hackberry Emperor— one adult seen in wooded back lot area

Northern Cloudywing— one adult seen in the wooded area in back lot

Wild Indigo Duskywing— 20 eggs seen on wild indigo in butterfly garden

Dun Skipper— one adult seen in the butterfly garden

—Rita Venable

The first part of the morning was spent in the butterfly garden at the Wilderness Station of Barfield Crescent Park in Murfreesboro. The garden has been planted to include host plants as well as nectaring plants for a variety of butterflies. Some nonnative plants are included. Among the native plants in the butterfly garden at the Wilderness Station were:

Crimson bee balm (*Monarda didyma*)

Passionflower (*Passiflora incarnata*)

English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*)

Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)

Brown-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia triloba*)

Purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)

Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)

Pipevine (*Aristolochia macrophylla*)

Joe-Pye weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*)

Common fleabane (*Erigeron philadelphicus*)

Wild petunia (*Ruellia strepens*)



—Continued on back page

Flora, Fauna Abound at Barfield-Crescent

continued from page 7

As we finished with the butterfly garden, we came upon a wild rose in bloom at the edge of the woods. It was first identified as a Carolina rose (*Rosa carolina*), but a more careful look revealed that the leaflets were consistently in threes and that the canes were taller (5-6 feet) than a Carolina rose. With the aid of our trusty wildflower book, it was then identified as a prairie rose (*Rosa setigera*).

After the guests had scattered, Deborah took a few of us in the utility vehicle to see the rare purple milkweed (*Asclepias purpurescens*) in bloom. Although the plant is not listed for Rutherford County, at least this population is alive and well in this location. Growing nearby was a prairie mimosa (*Desmanthus illinoensis*) in bloom as well as white sweet clover. In spite of its name, none of us could find any trace of the typical sweet scent in this specimen of white sweet clover.

Spotted blooming along the trail, as we bumped along, were golden St. Johnswort (*Hypericum frondosum*), white-flowered leaf cup (*Polymnia canadensis*), and common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*).

—Jane Norris

Are Your Dues Due?

Check your mailing label—the year through which you have paid dues is printed at the top. If the date's 2006 or earlier, please send a check promptly to Kay Jones, our treasurer. TNPS, P.O. Box 159274, Nashville, TN 37215.



TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Volume 31, Number 4

November 2007

TNPS to Lead Survey in Carter State Natural Area

The Tennessee Native Plant Society has volunteered to lead a vegetation survey of the Carter State Natural Area (SNA) for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC).

Carter SNA, including Buggytop Cave, was designated a preserve a number of years ago because of its unique land features. Nestled in the edge of the Cumberland Plateau south of Sewanee, Buggytop has an extensive cave system which drains the water from Lost Cove. The water emerges as a sizable stream from the mouth of Buggytop Cave. The cave entrance itself is quite impressive with the roof resembling a buggy top. The high bluffs in the area are also impressive.

The TDEC selected this SNA for the TNPS to survey because it is centrally located and has a number of rare plant species already identified there. The TNPS will conduct a couple of field trips to the area during the 2008 growing season. Joey Shaw from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) has volunteered to bring his botany classes next spring to help and Jon Evans from the University of the South at Sewanee has also volunteered to bring his Plant Ecology class to help with the survey. The University class visits will be separate from the TNPS field trips so that altogether about six visits to the site are planned for 2008. This should provide an adequate assessment of the plants in the area.

The survey will consist of two parts. The first part involves a survey of the vegetation community types at the SNA. The second part is to generate a list of plant species for the site. Any additional rare species found, that were not previously documented by the TDEC, will be listed separately.

As many TNPS members as possible are encouraged to participate in the field trips next year during species survey. We will need lots of eyes to cover the area and

Continued on back page

Board Members Nominated for New Terms

You may not be aware that we're in the midst of an election—an election of three members to new two-year terms on the TNPS Board of Directors.

At the annual meeting September 14-16, the nominating committee presented the slate of three nominees for re-election. They are Susan Sweetser, Bertha Chrietzberg, and Michelle Haynes.

The TNPS By-Laws require that the election procedures also be published, and we are doing so on page 4. In summary, if you would like to make a nomination of your own, you must do so within three weeks by sending your petition, signed by 10 members, to the chairperson of the nominating committee, Rita Venable (rita@godtheartist.com). If no more

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 Treasures at the
 Center for Plant
 Conservation

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TNPS Newsletter

November 2007

Vol. 31, No. 4

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/Senior: \$15

Institution: \$50

Life: \$250

Dues may be sent to
Tennessee Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 159274
Nashville, TN 37215

Officers

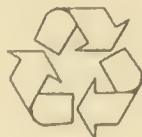
Mary Priestley, President
Todd Crabtree, Vice-President
Bart Jones, Secretary
Kay Jones, Treasurer

Directors

Bertha Chrietzburg
Michelle Haynes
Dennis Horn
Joey Shaw
Susan Sweetser
Rita Venable

Latham Davis, Editor

Please send comments or material for the newsletter to TNPS Newsletter, P.O. Box 816, Sewanee, TN 37375 or lathamdavis@bellsouth.net



Report from the President

It was wonderful to have such great participation in the annual meeting in September. The outings, led by Todd Crabtree, were outstanding, despite the current drought conditions. Many thanks, too, to State Parks Botanist LinnAnn Welch, Sewanee writer Jill Carpenter, and Reflection Riding board president Michael Green for the interesting and entertaining programs.

Thanks in advance to Margie Hunter, who has agreed to take over the coordination of our 2008 annual meeting. Sometime we would like to hold our annual meeting with the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council. That group has a busy fall of 2008 season, preparing to host the national Natural Areas Association in Nashville in October. So, we are eyeing the fall of 2009 as the earliest opportunity for a joint meeting.

We have committed a portion of the initial proceeds from our successful book, *Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley, and the Southern Appalachians*, to support the publication of the updated checklist of the plants of the state, which should come out within the year. With other funds, we continue to support scholarships to the Cullowhee Conference on Native Plants in the Landscape, and we have made a donation toward the purchase and preservation of Lost Cove, an important tract for plant and animal habitat on the Cumberland Plateau.

The Tennessee Native Plant Society is not a group to rest on our laurels. Earlier this year, we had offered to do a botanical inventory of a state natural area. At the annual meeting, we were pleased to discover that the Division of Natural Areas has assigned us the 200-acre Carter State Natural Area (the location of Buggytop Cave) as our first project. I am thankful that Dennis Horn will spearhead the project, on which we are glad to be partnering with The University of the South and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. We will be hearing more as that project develops.

See you on the trail!

Mary

Notes from the Editor

Those of you who take even a small interest in gardening with natives may be pleased to know that we plan to start, in a future issue, an occasional column on that subject by Margie Hunter. Margie is a member and, as you probably know, has written the authoritative *Gardening with the Native Plants of Tennessee*. She has given many talks and lectures across the state; so we're pleased she has agreed to contribute soon to these pages.

Mostly, we limit the newsletter to eight pages. But there is so much happening, so much to talk about, space is always at a premium. Once again material is left out, and articles and even notes that are included have fallen under the editor's knife. I apologize.

Still we lack something I wish we could include: letters—the voice of our members and readers. Despite our limits, I invite you to mail or e-mail letters to me (address on this page), and, if there's an opportunity, I'll publish them. If not, at least I will know what you think and can share those thoughts.

• Bart Jones, who's in charge of the TNPS membership list, says that he is in a culling mode. He plans to cut from the list everyone who is two years in arrears on dues. So be warned.

Tennessee Students Go Native

Students from the University of Tennessee dominated the field of scholarship recipients this past July at the 2007 “Native Plants in the Landscape” conference held at Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, North Carolina. The UT students claimed seven of the 18 conference scholarships, with each scholarship covering registration, lodging, and meals. Some received a bonus field trip opportunity.

The Tennessee Native Plant Society was especially supportive this year by funding two of the scholarships. In introducing the UT students, Miegan Gordon, scholarship chair, referred to them collectively as the “Tennessee Delegation.” Their faculty sponsor was Associate Professor Sam Rogers of the UT Plant Sciences Department.

Spanning four days, the Cullowhee conference has a regional and national following. Speakers are leaders in botany, horticulture, and landscape design using native plants, and ecological restoration. Professor Rogers conveyed his gratitude to TNPS and sent comments from the following students:

D. J. Mitchell— “Thank you for your generous gift to the Cullowhee Scholarship Fund. Now, when I work with the general public, I feel better equipped to help them make wise (Native!) choices for their landscape.”

Nathan Oliver— “The conference was much more than I expected. There was so much useful information encompassing both design and native plants. It was a great experience for the designer and home gardener alike.”

Amanda Hannah— “The Cullowhee conference was such an important opportunity for me. It opened my eyes to the diverse and interesting people who are involved in conservation and use of native plants.”

David Quarterman— “I am very thankful for the opportunity to attend the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference. I know that the knowledge that I gained will be most valuable in my future career.”

The Cullowhee Conference attracted both new and returning participants from a wide geographic area. The influence of the conference continues to be significant from academic circles to native plant growers and gardening enthusiasts. The scholarship program has proven to be the introductory opportunity for students in horticulture, botany, landscape design and landscape architecture to experience the ethic, networking, and learning about natives, often referred to as the “Cullowhee experience.”



Tennessee students at Cullowhee, from left, D. J. Mitchell, Amanda Hannah, Edwina Palmer, Nathan Oliver, Michael Petty, Jessica Hartley, David Quarterman, and Faculty Sponsor Sam Rogers. (Photo and article by Susan Sweetser)

Board Member Nominations

continued from page 1

nominations are received, the nominees shall be elected automatically.

The three nominees should be well known to most TNPS members. Susan Sweetser, with her husband Allen, has been a member of the society since the 1980s. Since they began identifying the plants growing on their property in Powell, native plants have been their passion. They have traveled to Alaska, Florida, and Mexico and points between, studying plants. Susan has also served as treasurer and board member at large, and she and Allen help lead hikes in East Tennessee.

Michelle Haynes’s love of nature started early with Cumberland Valley Girl Scouts, Middle Tennessee Rock Hounds, and trips to the Cumberland museum. Thirty years of involvement in the Sumner County Native Plant Society and TNPS cultivated a lifelong passion. She stays active in politics and land conservation, as chair of Tennessee Conservation Voters and as a board member for The Land Trust for Tennessee and Tennessee Conservation Commission.

Bertha Chrietberg has been an active member of TNPS since the society’s early years. Retired now from the faculty of MTSU, she continues to assist with field trips and other projects. She is also a founding member of Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association and Tennessee Trails Association and a leader in other conservation groups. Bertha was featured in the August issue of this newsletter because of her receipt of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Election By-Laws

See Story on Page 1—

“The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of officers “to the Executive Committee for certification on or before September 15. ... The slate that has been certified by the Executive Committee shall be printed in the October issue of the Society publication. This report will quote the nomination and election procedures. In addition to nominations by the Nominating Committee, any eligible member may also be nominated by written petition of not less than 10 members received by the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee (with notice of its submission sent to the Corresponding Secretary) no later than three weeks after the October publication, accompanied by written consent of the nominee to be a candidate and to serve if elected. If the Nominating Committee has submitted, and the Executive Board has certified, only one nomination for office, and the exact number of candidates necessary for the Board of Directors, and if no nominating petitions are received for any office or Board position as prescribed above, those nominated shall be declared elected, and no further election procedures are required for each such office or board position. If there are two or more nominees for any office, by any means, the Nominating Committee will include those nominations on the ballots by the following section. The ballot, which has been certified by the Executive Committee, shall be printed in the December issue of the Society publication. The ballots shall be returned on or before January 1 to the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee for tabulation.”

Recovering Tennessee's Native Treasures

by Jo Meyerkord
Center for Plant Conservation

The Center for Plant Conservation salutes the Tennessee Native Plant Society, because we know you appreciate your native plants! Native plants are the hallmark of home, the tapestry of the familiar landscapes we hold dear. They are also incredible resources for food, fiber, medicines and unknown future needs of man. They deserve attention and good stewardship, yet today 15 percent of our native flora is documented to be in steep decline or considered at risk.

We know you value your Tennessee natives for more than their role in your own identity and sense of place, and you want to preserve these precious assets. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed 20 species in Tennessee as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Within the state, the Tennessee Division of Natural Areas administers the state laws protecting plant biodiversity and has listed 202 as endangered or threatened. The Center for Plant Conservation's Participating Institutions are currently working with 48 Tennessee native species, securing them against extinction. You can review them by clicking on “National Collection” on our website and searching for Tennessee.

Headquartered in St. Louis, CPC is a network of 36 botanical institutions involved in the study, preservation, conservation and restoration of the nation's imperiled native plants. The network of botanists has been working with imperiled plants for more than 20 years. CPC's goal is to build local programs to recover all imperiled plants across the country, so that native plants are thriving again.

Many of the endangered plants of Tennessee also occur in other states. Due to similar geography and habitats the range of a particular species may extend through multiple regions. Although there are not yet any CPC Participating Institutions located within the boundaries of Tennessee, CPC's surrounding institutions are working with a number of native Tennessee plants. Scientists from highly-regarded botanical institutions are working together to research, cultivate and restore these Tennessee plants. Some of these institutions include the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Chicago Botanic Garden, Missouri Botanical Garden, The Holden Arboretum, The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens, North Carolina Botanical Garden, The New York Botanical Garden and the New England Wild Flower Society.

Securing and restoring vulnerable plant species is challenging and involves many different scientific specialties. Collaboration is essential to succeed in restoring these species, and CPC is all about partnerships! CPC institutions are working in communities nationwide monitoring, securing seed and working with local and federal agencies to restore habitats and rare populations. Partnerships with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and similar organizations make it possible to make a difference on the ground within the state. Find those working to conserve plants in Tennessee on our website, in our conservation directory, which is searchable by state.

The Tennessee coneflower (*Echinacea tennesseensis*) is one of the country's rarest wildflowers and was one of the first plants to be listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act in 1979. There are nine species of *Echinacea* in the United States, all of which are potentially threatened by over collecting for the herbal medicine trade, as the popular medicinal herb *Echinacea* has been believed to boost the immune system. The Tennessee coneflower is the least common in the family.



Ironically, this coneflower was thought to be extinct for nearly half a century until it was rediscovered near Nashville in 1968. That very site was destroyed a few years later and replaced by a trailer park. Since then, the limestone cedar glades in which it grows have been cut down, paved over, and dumped on at ever increasing rates to make way for development of the Nashville suburbs. Currently, the Missouri Botanical Garden is growing these plants and storing seeds of Tennessee Coneflower.

Educating the public on native species is a crucial tool in spreading the word of Tennessee's imperiled natives. Conservation education starts early. In a recent survey, a surprising number of students were unable to identify plants as being alive. Parents and educators may be interested in "Plants in Peril, a guide to exploring biodiversity and rare native plant conservation for middle school educators." This lesson plan was developed by CPC as a means of reaching youth with native plant information and helping start a dialogue with kids about native plants. Available at the CPC website by clicking on "Education Tools," the topics include biodiversity, rare native plants, challenges to saving plants in peril, multiple student activities, ideas for action projects, and additional resources.

While CPC's institutions are working everyday with our scientific standards and protocols to make a difference for Tennessee's vulnerable plants, it is a big job. In addition to partnerships with agencies, there is a role in support, education, and volunteerism for everyone who wants to help. You may already be active in helping control invasive species, monitoring rare plant sites, cleaning seed or entering data for a conservation project. If you're just getting started, the conservation directory is a good source of information.

Building support for plant conservation and stewardship is one of CPC's priorities. CPC has established a plant sponsorship program to build sustainable funding for vulnerable plants. For each sponsored species, funds are provided annually to CPC institutions to assist in restoration efforts. These funds have already significantly supported work for the Tennessee Coneflower. If you'd like more information about CPC or plant sponsorship for other species visit our website www.centerforplantconservation.org or call 314-577-9450. Let's work together to make sure Tennessee's imperiled plant populations are restored for future generations!



Preserving Lost Cove

At our meeting at Beersheba Springs this fall, the TNPS board voted to make a modest monetary contribution to an exciting conservation effort. The University of the South and The Land Trust for Tennessee are partnering to purchase and protect Lost Cove, a beautiful piece of land that lies just south of Sewanee.

The 3,000-acre parcel will connect the Franklin State Forest, the Carter State Natural Area, and Sewanee's 10,000-acre Domain. It is part of a forested corridor that stretches from the Walls of Jericho to Fall Creek Falls that is being fragmented by residential development at a mind-boggling rate.

Initial projections are that 60 threatened plants and animal species—half of all those known to this county—have a home in Lost Cove.

For more information on the project, and to find out how you can help, contact Rob Pearigen at Sewanee, rpearige@sewanee.edu, or Chris Roberts, South Cumberland Project Manager at The Land Trust for Tennessee, croberts@landtrusttn.org. The purchase price must be met by February, 2008.

—M.P.P.

May 19, 2007

Center Hill Bluffs

Our group of 10 participants assembled in the picnic area below Center Hill Dam in Dekalb County on a perfect sunny morning. Our objective was to examine the steep limestone bluff approximately two miles below the dam along the Caney Fork River. The bluff is about a mile long and contains one of the richest concentrations of vines and rare plants in Middle Tennessee. It had been quite a few years since TNPS had visited this site and we all wondered if the plants of interest were still to be found.

Immediately we began to see western wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum*), a rare Tennessee plant in the mustard family. This 2- to 4-foot-tall herb has bright orange flowers in dense clusters. Many suffered from the dry weather but they were sprinkled along the entire length of the bluff. On the vertical limestone walls clung several woolly Dutchman's pipe (*Aristolochia tomentosa*) vines starting to bloom. The strange pipe-shaped flowers are tan and covered with woolly hairs.

Another plant that got our attention was the heart-leaved tragia (*Tragia cordifolia*), an inconspicuous member of the Spurge family. If touched it stings like nettle, but instead of the sting lasting 10 to 15 minutes, with *Tragia* it lasts all day long. The hairy wood mint (*Blephilia hirsuta*) was everywhere with its multiple heads of bluish two-lipped flowers. Even more numerous was the white-flowered leafcup (*Polymnia canadensis*), many plants with leaves wilting from lack of moisture. We found the vines of two members of the Moonseed family. These were Carolina moonseed or snailseed (*Cocculus carolinus*) and cupseed (*Calycocarpum lyonii*), the first having fruit with a spiral-shaped stone and the other with a cup-shaped stone. Other vines included two leatherflower species in flower, pale leatherflower (*Clematis versicolor*) with leaves pale beneath and leather vascvine (*C. viorna*) with leaves green beneath.

Many other common but interesting plants in flower. The highlight of the day came after lunch when we



searched the spring seep area at the base of the rock quarry near the dam. After looking in several wet grassy places we finally found the Loesel's twayblade (*Liparis loeselii*) that was known from this location 10 or 15 years ago. The few plants we located were robust and in prime condition. This find alone made the day successful.

—Dennis Horn

August 18, 2007

Sunk Lake Natural Area

I won! I won again! The hottest field trip of the year! At 98 degrees we were actually fortunate to have caught a little break in what had been about ten days of triple digit heat. Still, the plan was for short forays into the sun, roadside botanizing from the comfort of air conditioning, and lunch in the shade.

Our group met at Woodard's Store in the Three Point community in Lauderdale County and our first plant encounter was just across the road from the store where there were two large stands of cup plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*). This yellow-flowered composite can be 10 feet tall and is noteworthy for its connate leaves, meaning leaves that are opposite, and fused, that form a cup-like depression around the stem. These often hold water and are valuable sources of drinking water for birds.

On to our main stop, Sunk Lake State Natural Area. This collection of seven small, shallow lakes was created during the earthquakes of 1811-12 along with the more famous Reelfoot Lake. The natural area is surrounded by cotton fields and holds a surprising diversity of plant and animal life. Several rare plants are found there and two were in flower for the hike. Along the boat ramp were numerous specimens of creeping spotflower (*Acmella oppositifolia*), a rare plant found in four counties near the Mississippi River and a report from Rutherford County. The small plants tend to recline as they mature, but continually branch and produce small yellow blossoms that resemble *Helenium* flowers. As they age the center of disk flowers expands into a conc shape. Luckily, the drought made it very easy to access the next rare plant, plantainleaf arrowhead (*Sagittaria platyphylla*). Found in shallow water and mudflats, the plant is a contradiction as indicated by its common name. Most *Sagittaria* species have leaves shaped like arrowheads, but this one has spoon-shaped leaves. The white flowers have three petals and occur in whorls with the female flowers on the bottom and males at the top. Other plants encountered here were fogfruit (*Phyla lanccolata*),

turnsole (*Heliotropium indicum*), halberd-leaved rose mallow (*Hibiscus laevis*), yerba de tajo (*Eclipta prostrata*), and smartweed (*Polygonum amphibium*). With all these flowers there were dozens of butterflies. While on the boardwalk, Nita Heilman set up her birding telescope so we could enjoy great blue herons, white egrets, and a flock of wood ducks feeding on the lake.

After lunch, we headed to Crutcher Lake, an oxbow lake in Anderson-Tully Wildlife Management Area. All along the shore were stands of river hemp (*Sesbania exaltata*), an invasive non-native pea family member. These plants along the lake towered above us and formed a five-foot thick wall. Tucked among this river hemp forest were duck potato (*Sagittaria latifolia*), toothcup (*Ammannia coccinea*), and creeping water primrose (*Ludwigia peploides*) spilling out to the water. Some small terns entertained us with aerial acrobatics.

Since we were close to the Mississippi River, several in the group wanted to head over. So we went to the end of the highway and took a short hike that led us to a dramatic overlook, some 60 to 80 feet above the river. Up above us a Mississippi kite soared to the excitement of Nita and the rest of us. This rare raptor is only found along the Mississippi in Tennessee and punctuated a great (and hot) field trip.

—Bart Jones

August 25, 2007

Road Prong Trail in Smoky Mountains

In the middle of one of our hottest summers, some brave souls ventured east to look for cooler weather. We had folks from West, Middle, and East Tennessee. We had five new folks who found us through our website—THANKS, BART!!! All showed interest in the plants by asking questions and/or taking photographs. We have led this trip several times but this group of 14 interested folks was by far the most enthusiastic. We also enjoyed the expertise of Rita Venable for butterflies and Nita Heilman for birds.

We started at an elevation of 5,270 feet off of Clingman's Dome Road and ended up at an elevation of 3,444 at Chimney Tops. NOTE: We were along the Mississippi River the previous weekend at the lowest elevation in the state and close to the highest this weekend. We started in a cool, overcast morning and ended up in a warm, sunny afternoon. This is a very rich trail which starts in a boreal forest and ends up in northern hardwoods. Plants are many and varied. We started botanizing along the road to see such flowers as purple-

stemmed aster (*Aster puniceus*) and the Joe Pyewees, (*Eupatorium fistulosum*) and *E. purpureum*. We did see Rugel's ragwort (*Rugelia nudicaulis*) hanging on with a few plants still in bloom. Another rare plant in bloom was Clingman's hedgenettle (*Stachys clingmanii*). Many folks had not seen American black cohosh—aka American bugbane (*Cimicifuga americana*). It was in beautiful bloom right by the trail. We found rosy twisted stalk (*Streptopus roseus*) in seed and plenty of Roan's rattlesnakeroot, (*Prenanthes roanensis*) along the way. This is also a good trail for ferns and fern allies with at least 17 different possibilities according to the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) completed on this trail.

Some folks got spooked when we saw the ghost plant or Indian pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*). Others tried to avoid the skunk along the trail—skunk goldenrod (*Solidago glomerata*). Some got to experience wood nettle (*Laportea canadensis*) with its stinging properties. We sampled blackberries (*Rubus canadensis*) and blueberries (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) but not enough to make a pie! We were all enchanted by two different nightshades (*Circaea lutetiana*) and alpine enchanters' nightshade (*C. alpina*).

We hiked 3.5 miles down a rocky, steep trail with stream crossings. We had a generous group that helped the leaders with a car shuttle so that we could hike the entire trail. Thanks to all for your smiles and your interest.

—Allen and Susan Sweetser

TNPS Funds Checklist

A number of years ago, before the TNPS wildflower book was published, the board of directors voted to apply the funds from book sales and contributions to a technical manual of Tennessee plants. The manual would be the final phase of the Flora 2001 Project to commemorate the 100th anniversary Dr. Augustin Gattinger's *Flora of Tennessee and Philosophy of Botany*, published in 1901. Meanwhile the state botanists have been working on a revised checklist of the Tennessee vascular plants. The updated checklist was deemed necessary, as a first step, to generating the plant manual. Since the manual is just in the planning phase at this point, and still a number of years from completion, the board of directors voted to fund the printing of the checklist. The manuscript for the checklist is scheduled to be released to the publisher in January 2008.

—Dennis Horn

TNPS to Begin Flora Survey in Buggytop Area of Lost Cove

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document as many plants as we can. Participants do not need to be taxonomists. There will be plenty of knowledgeable botanists available to identify the plants. We just need many people to help us locate the plants. Watch for these field trips in the Feb-Mar newsletter.

—Dennis Horn

Pausing during a foray into Carter State Natural Area are, from left, Jon Evans, Sewanee ecologist; Todd Crabtree, state natural areas botanist; Dennis Horn, project coordinator; Jason Reynolds, park ranger; Kevin Fitch, state natural areas scientist; and Yolande Gottfried, Sewanee Herbarium curator. (Photo: Mary Priestley)



Are Your Dues Due?

Check your mailing label—the year through which you have paid dues is printed at the top. If the date's 2007 or earlier, please send a check promptly to Kay Jones, our treasurer. TNPS, P.O. Box 159274, Nashville, TN 37215.

