



TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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TNPS 2025 Annual Conference Review

Contributed by Mary Priestley

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About 50 TNPS members gathered at the inn at Pickwick State Park on the weekend of September 26-28 for our annual meeting. Thanks to the planning of board member Bart Jones and others, the people- and plant-packed weekend went off without a hitch.

On Friday evening, we were treated to a talk on the 40th Anniversary of our state's Rare Plant Protection Act, given by TN State Botanist and TNPS member Todd Crabtree. In particular, Todd highlighted efforts to preserve the Price's potato bean, a plant that can be found in the Pickwick area.

On Saturday, some of us stayed at the convention center to enjoy a morning presentation by John Manion on understanding botanical names, followed by an afternoon botanical walk in the

vicinity. Others headed out to the field for a full day of botanizing, first on the property of local resident John Ross, and in the afternoon at Walker Branch State Natural Area.



Sunday morning walk

That night, our keynote speaker, Sewanee's Dr. Jon Evans, shared the story of his

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TNPS Newsletter

This newsletter is a publication of the Tennessee Native Plant Society and is published four times a year, generally March, June, September, and December.

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.

Membership Dues:

Individual/Family: \$20

Student: Complimentary

Institution: \$50

Life: \$250

Join online or renew via the member portal, or mail a check to:

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PO Box 159274
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President's Perspective

Dear Members,

I'm delighted to share that more than 50 new members have joined the Tennessee Native Plant Society this quarter, bringing our total



number of members to 830! Please join me in offering a warm welcome to our newest members from across Tennessee and beyond.

Whether you've come to deepen your knowledge of native plants, connect with fellow enthusiasts, or engage in conservation efforts, we encourage you to take full advantage of all that TNPS has to offer. If you have any questions or need support, don't hesitate to reach out to us at info@tnps.org.

It was a pleasure to see many of you at our 2025 Annual Conference in September. The weekend offered wonderful opportunities to learn, connect, and explore the rich native plant communities of West Tennessee. A heartfelt thank-you to Bart Jones for his outstanding work organizing such a successful event.

One of the final items on the conference agenda was the annual business meeting with members. During the meeting, we reviewed progress on this year's objectives and discussed the proposed increase in membership dues, which had previously been approved by the board. An amendment was introduced from the floor to raise the proposed lifetime membership dues from \$350 to \$500. The amendment was put to a vote and passed. The amended proposal was then approved by a majority vote of the members. Planning for implementation is currently underway, with the changes set to take effect on January 1, 2026. Additional guidance regarding membership renewal will be provided in December.

Looking ahead, we're launching a new initiative to expand and strengthen our volunteer network. Volunteers are truly the heart of TNPS—your time, energy, and expertise make everything we do possible. While volunteering requires commitment, it's also a rewarding way to get to know fellow members, contribute your skills, and gain a deeper understanding of TNPS's mission and impact.

To support this effort, I'm working with Karen Hill to enhance our website and Neon CRM system to better share information about volunteer opportunities and how to get involved. We'll be providing updates and advertising open roles soon, so stay tuned.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm for TNPS. I look forward to connecting with many of you in the months ahead.

With appreciation,
Mitchell
President, Tennessee Native Plant Society

(continued from page 1)

discovery of a new species, *Phacelia sewaneensis*, in the University's Shakerag Hollow. He presented our president Mitchell Kent with a print of a painting of the plant by TNPS member Mary Priestley and invited us to campus in April to see the plant for ourselves. The night was capped off with a short, informative annual membership meeting.

Before hitting the road Sunday, we die-hard botanizers had one last botanical foray along the banks of Pickwick Lake, right in front of the inn. It was a fun and beautiful weekend — great to see old friends, meet new ones, and get acquainted with the fall flora of that part of Tennessee!



Group with Ranger Kaylee

Van Buren County Powerline Outing (2025)

Fieldtrip report by Larry Pounds

We started out in rain and it never stopped. The thirteen of us walked into an area of yellow composites. Yellow came from many species. particularly tickseed sunflower (*Bidens polylepis*), tall coreopsis (*Coreopsis tripteris*), stiff-haired sunflower (*Helianthus hirsutus*) and Appalachian sunflower (*Helianthus atrorubens*). Less showy were three species of goldenrod, *Solidago odorata*, *S. nemoralis* and *S. rugosa*. What we saw was somewhat limited by extensive areas of controlled burn in the right-of-way. The prairie plants should benefit from the burn even next year.

This powerline is known for its *Platanthera* orchids but we only saw orchid fruit due to the time of year. We found a dead glass lizard which at first glance appeared to be a snake. This lizard has no legs but does have visible ear openings which snakes do not. They are called glass lizards because they, like other lizards, can break. They can detach their tails to survive predator attacks on their tails. It was wonderful to enjoy the enthusiastic company of outdoor lovers even when dripping with rain.

Visit to the UT Herbarium

Contributed by Mitchell Kent



Kentucky Lady Slipper (*Cypripedium kentuckiense*)
from Scott City TN

The University of Tennessee Herbarium in Knoxville hosted its “Specimens and Scones” event in mid-November, offering participants an up-close look at the Herbarium’s work and a guided tour of this remarkable facility. With more than 650,000 plant specimens, it is the largest herbarium collection in Tennessee.

The event was led by Herbarium Director Dr. Budke and Collections Manager Garrett Billings, who provided an engaging tour and shared valuable insights into the collections, preservation techniques, and the important role herbarium specimens play in current plant research.

More than 25 people attended, including several TNPS members. We extend our appreciation to the UT Herbarium staff for hosting such an informative and enjoyable event!

TECH TIPS: Explore Volunteer Opportunities With TNPS

This Tech Tip highlights a new way to learn about and get involved in volunteer opportunities with the Tennessee Native Plant Society (TNPS). We’ve added a **Volunteer page** under the [Resources](#) tab on our website that provides an overview of volunteering within TNPS, along with descriptions of twelve distinct volunteer roles.

You can visit the new page here: <https://tnps.org/volunteer/>

To make it even easier to get involved, a blue “**Volunteer Now**” [button](#) near the top of the Volunteer page links directly to the **TNPS Volunteer Interest Survey**. This short form allows you to indicate which roles interest you most. Simply check the boxes beside the volunteer positions you’d like to support, complete the form, and submit it. Your information will be shared with the appropriate volunteer contact, who will follow up with an email when opportunities become available that match your selections.

We encourage all members to explore these new resources and consider lending your time and talents to help keep TNPS strong. Questions? Email us at info@tnps.org

Viburnum nudum—a Discovery on Vacation

Plant profile by Terri Joyce

On September 6, 2025, while kayaking on Indian Boundary Lake off the Cherohala Scenic Skyway near Tellico Plains, TN, I caught sight of what looked like large, pale pink blooms several yards away on a tall shrub at the water's edge.

As I maneuvered closer, I saw lovely clusters of berries in various shades of pink that were the source of the distant illusion of blooms. Not having a camera with me at that point, I was able to snip a cluster of berries for closer inspection. I took note of the shore location and later went for a short bushwhack off the popular trail that encircles the lake. My feet sunk into very soggy ground as I leaned out over the water to get this picture where 3-4 large shrubs lined the lakeshore.

This cluster was on the water side of a large shrub thus receiving more light to create the lovely variety of pink shades. The lone blue berry is beginning to ripen.



On the inland side, and under the shade of the 7 to 8-foot tall bushes, I discovered these earlier stage berries which apparently begin with what later research described as “yellowish- green to bluish white”.

Since we have neither internet nor cell phone connections at the Indian Boundary campground, I feared my research efforts would be very limited. However, I did have with me a recent generous thank-you gift from TNPS for mentoring a school garden: *Woody Plants of Kentucky and Tennessee* by Ronald L. Jones and B. Eugene Wofford, 2013. As the subtitle “*The Complete Winter Guide to Their Identification and Use*” implies, I did not have bloom or berry images to compare. However, an inkling of



naturalist instinct did lead me to settle on the listing for the genus *Viburnum*, which Jones & Wofford indicates is the Latin name for “the wayfaring tree” (Jones and Wofford, 2013, pg. 111). As I perused the 11 species listed in their key, the following quote from Jones and Woodford seemed to best fit the location. Per their format explanation, the leading ! denotes rare species listed at state and/or federal levels (Jones and Wofford, 2013, pg.3) citing (Crabtree 2012, KSPNC 2010).

“*V. nudum* L. Possum h. Low mesic woods, stream banks, swamps. Chiefly on the AP (Appalachian Plateau) of TN, also westward to N CP (Coastal Plain) and adjacent county in KY. Endangered in KY. OBL (obligate wetland plant, over 99% chance of occurring in wetlands). FACW+ (facultative plants, 34 to 66% chance of

occurring in wetlands.” Additional notation: “(Nudum = bare, naked)”. (Jones and Wofford, 2013, pg. 112).



As of 2021, *V. nudum* was not included on the Tennessee rare plant list (Crabtree, 2021), suggesting some recovery of the species. However, the 2022 rare plant list for neighboring Kentucky lists this species as endangered with a S1 (Critically Imperiled) ranking within the state. (Rodgers, Littlefield, and McDonald, 2022, pg. 28).

Common names for this *Viburnum* are Possum Haw and Smooth Witherod or withe-rod, referring to the flexible, rod-like shoots. Interestingly the ripening fruits are known as “wild raisins”. Last spring when I took grandchildren to Pioneer Day at Fort Loudon State Park some “Wild Raisin Jam” was among the colonial food offerings and I found it to be very delicious. A deep dive down an internet rabbit hole failed to produce a recipe for such jam, but did inform me that there is a Northern and a Southern variety of *V. nudum*. Most references to Wild Raisin Jam were on northern websites, so possibly there is a taste difference between the two varieties or maybe the colder northern temperatures help to sweeten the ripening fruit.

The Northern variety, *Viburnum nudum* var. *cassinoides*, is described by Benjamin Lord as having “clusters of small, snow-white, four-petaled flowers in June”. He goes on to describe “juicy-looking shiny, red berries” in summer not

being edible till September when they turn “black and wrinkled”. At the same time the brownish-purple leaves fall and Lord describes the odor of leaves and berries to be “reminiscent of sweaty socks that grace autumn woodlands!” (Lord, 2019 pg. 1) Despite this, he assures us that the berries are tasty raw but further enhanced by cooking.

The Southern variety is *Viburnum nudum* var. *nudum*. The following information from Tennessee Smart Yards (McKinley, 2019) may be useful for readers interested in adding this interesting shrub to their native plant palette and bird buffet.

Common Name: Witherod, Possum Haw, Southern Witherod

Sun to light shade; wet to moderately dry; prefers wet, mucky soils but very adaptable to gravelly and sandy loams, fine sands, silt loams, silts peats and clay; moderately acid pH.

6-12 feet height by 4-15 feet spread; blooms in June; creamy white flowers; football-shaped, black berries, 1/4-3/8 inch long, in broad, flattened clusters in fall.

Growth Rate: Medium

Maintenance: Infrequent disease and insect problems. Easy to grow. All viburnums benefit from a thinning or hard pruning in late winter to remove older stems.

Propagation: Easy from softwood cuttings

Native Region: Cumberland Plateau, eastern Highland Rim, and West Tennessee uplands

*Attractive, well-behaved, deciduous shrub with upright, spreading branches. Rather foul smelling flowers but outstanding display of berries. Fruits have a distinctive color change, starting out with whitish pink and then changing in sequence to red, blue, and black. Fall leaf color is often outstanding, dark red to scarlet and purple. This southern *V. nudum* var. *nudum* is one of two varieties; the other is the northern *V. nudum* var. *cassinoides*. This variety has glossier leaves. Birds love the berries. High wildlife value.*

On Sept 23, 17 days after my initial observation, I was able to check on these same specimens from my kayak and got this cell pic showing nearly half of the sun exposed berries turning blue, but none yet to the black wrinkled stage described by Benjamin Lord.

Nearly a month later when I revisited the location on October 20 the clusters sported still plump berries with all shining a deep blue hue. After two nights of chilly temps in the low 40's and even dipping to 35 degrees on the third night, I hoped to see some ripening to harvestable black and wrinkled. However this final picture on October 23 indicates minimal wrinkling and no black raisin-like appearance yet. I guess they will need a few more thermometer dips before harvest.

I know I will have to try to get back up to visit these specimens next June to search for the blooms via kayak. Additionally, I may need to explore that jam recipe further via contacts at Fort Loudon.



Citations:

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- Jones, R. L., & B. Eugene Wofford. (2013). *Woody Plants of Kentucky and Tennessee*. University Press of Kentucky.
- Lord, B. (2019, October 24). *Fall Fruits: Wild Raisin, Nannyberry, and Hobblebush*. Northernwoodlands.org; The Center for Northern Woodlands Education. https://northernwoodlands.org/knots_and_bolts/fall-fruits-wild-raisin-nannyberry-hobblebush
- McKinley. (2019, October 22). *Tennessee Smart Yards / Tennessee Smart Yards*. Utk.edu. <https://tnyards.utk.edu/>
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Field Trips to John Ross' Farm, Walker Branch State Natural Area, and Pickwick Landing Shore

Fieldtrip report by Jan and Ken Rea

Being from Northeast Tennessee, we were anticipating the Annual Conference field trips as there would be new native plant species for us. The trip didn't disappoint, as nine new species were identified. Many of these species were endemic to West and Middle Tennessee. These included:



Acmella repens



Mikania scandens

One species that captured our imagination was Snow Squarestem (*Melanthera nivea*). The photo shows the beauty and symmetry of the disk flowers, reminding you of a snowflake. The plant is listed as rare in Tennessee and is found in a few counties in West Tennessee and the Western Highland Rim. Snow Squarestem is found in low woods and thickets, along shorelines and embayments.



Melanthera nivea

- Climbing Hempvine (*Mikania scandens*). Tennessee's only aster vine species.
- Delta Arrowhead (*Sagittaria platyphylla*)
- Dotted Smartweed (*Persicaria punctata*)
- Few Flowered Tick-Trefoil (*Hylodesmum pauciflorum*)
- Oppositeleaf Spotflower (*Acmella repens*)
- Snow Squarestem (*Melanthera nivea*)
- Southern Tuberled Orchid (*Platanthera flava* v. *flava*)
- Virginia Dayflower (*Commelina virginica*)
- Wingleaf Primrose-Willow (*Ludwigia decurrens*)

Walker Branch State Natural Area, Hardin County, Tennessee

Fieldtrip report by Allan Trently

September 27, 2025 After a morning trip to the Ross Forest in Savannah, TNPS members joined trip leaders Allan Trently and Bart Jones at the Walker Branch State Natural Area. This 520-acre natural area was designated in 1997, in part, for its high diversity of dragonflies. Not only are dragonflies diverse, but so are plants. Nearly 500 species of plants have been documented for the site. The richness of the site



Platanthera flava var. *flava*

can be attributed to its location within the Transition Hills of Tennessee. On its western end, Walker Branch has swamps, marshes, and



Melanthera nivea

bottomland forests. The eastern end of the natural area transitions into mesic to dry-mesic uplands. This transition from wet to dry creates a landscape of varied plant communities and thus plant species.

TNPS members were treated to observations of snow squarestem (*Melanthera nivea*) a species only found along the Tennessee River Valley and a disjunct population at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park. We also saw many plants associated with the water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*) swamp including flowering palegreen orchids (*Platanthera flava* var. *flava*). Some non-plant highlights included a young cottonmouth and some carnival candy slime mold (*Arcyria denudata*). The slime mold looks like tiny stalks of cotton candy.

The Tennessee Division of Natural Areas wishes to thank the TNPS for visiting this natural area and hope for many return visits.

Tennessee Biodiversity Summit

Contributed by Kim Cleary Sadler

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency hosted the Inaugural TN Biodiversity Summit on October 22 at Middle Tennessee State University. The purpose of the gathering was to showcase past and current achievements of the Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The Tennessee SWAP aims to conserve, preserve, manage, and protect Tennessee's fish and wildlife, as well as their habitats. The invitation to wildlife enthusiasts, including students, researchers, and wildlife professionals, was well-received, with more than 600 participants attending.

It was fitting that a botanist opened the Summit, because in terrestrial habitats, the plant community determines the animal community. Roger McCoy, State Naturalist and Director of the TN Division of Environment and Conservation, invited each of us to reflect on how we can engage others who are not familiar with Tennessee's magnificent biodiversity. He stressed that we each have a role, "a niche," in supporting biodiversity. Some suggestions Roger had for us were to be ambassadors for nature, let our passion shine, but also meet people where they are. He encouraged us to be advocates, and even if the first response is *no*, to continue inviting newcomers to join us on hikes or related natural history experiences. He shared how Dr. Elsie Quarterman, a botanist and conservationist, invited then-governor Winfield Dunn to hike with her to Savage Gulf, and how that invitation was key to the state's acquisition of the land. The most engaging part of Roger's presentation was his conclusion, when he went "off script" and asked everyone to stand and meet someone new at the Summit.

Following Roger, seven other wildlife professionals shared impressive and sometimes alarming information about the state of biodiversity in Tennessee's wildlife. Director of Conservation Fisheries, Bo Baxter, spoke about the propagation

and reintroduction of some of Tennessee's imperiled fishes; since 1986, more than five imperiled species have been reintroduced to Tennessee rivers.



Dr. David Aborn, from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, shared that 23% of Tennesseans are birders, and by taking care of birds, you also take care of most other organisms concurrently. A total of 405 bird species have been documented in Tennessee, and technology now enables the tracking of species across continents, providing valuable data that was previously unknown.

Dr. Matthew Niemiller, professor at the University of Alabama (UTK and MTSU alumnus), spoke about amphibians, which have a biphasic life cycle and are often referred to as the "canaries in the coal mine," with 87 species occurring in Tennessee. The Hellbender is the largest, weighing in at 5.5 pounds, measuring 2 feet in length, and found in clean, fast-flowing streams. It is a state-endangered species due to impoundment and pollution.

Dr. Emma Wilcox, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, spoke about Tri-colored bats. Although

the most common bat in Tennessee, its population has declined by 95%, and it is currently being listed as an endangered species in Tennessee due to white-nose syndrome. This is a fungal infection that was introduced to the state in 2006, infecting the skin and causing early awakening in bats.

Parker Hildreth, TWRA, said that with 97 species, Tennessee is second only to Alabama in the number of crayfish species. Five of the species occur exclusively in caves, and all are listed as having a conservation status. One of the largest crayfish species in North America is found in Tennessee; the Bottlebrush crayfish reaches a length of 9 inches.

Brittany Bajo-Walker, TWRA, shared that of the 144 mussel species, one-third of them in Tennessee are federally threatened. Mussels are ecosystem engineers that embed in the substrate and clean the water. The Duck River, the only river entirely

within Tennessee, is home to more than 150 mussel species, the second-highest number in the nation after Alabama.

An exciting announcement was made by Josh Campbell, Chief of the Biodiversity Division at TWRA, who announced a multi-partner collaboration to reintroduce the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) to Tennessee. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation had undertaken restoration work to protect the federally threatened white fringeless orchid (*Plantathera integrilabia*), and establish shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*) in 1,200 acres of the Savage Gulf State Natural Area. The expanse of protected acreage prompted a conversation about the reintroduction of the RCW, last sighted in the Cherokee Forest in 1994. Multiple state and federal agencies agreed that this is a worthwhile endeavor; the projected year for the reintroduction is 2028.

Notice to Members

Nominations Now Open for TNPS Board of Director Positions

The purpose of this notice is to highlight the procedures for filling three TNPS Board of Director positions whose terms are ending. As stated in the TNPS Bylaws, board members serve two-year terms. The terms of three current directors, Anne Ballentine, Bart Jones, and Allan Trently, will conclude on December 31, 2025. All have indicated their willingness to continue serving, pending re-election.

We are now accepting nominations for individuals who would like to be considered for these board positions. If you wish to nominate someone, please send their name and contact information to info@tnps.org. In accordance with the Bylaws, each nomination must also include an email or written statement from the nominee confirming that they are willing to serve if elected.

Our goal is to hold the election by **December 15, 2025**, so we ask that nominations be submitted as soon as possible to allow time to prepare the ballot and conduct the election. Thank you for your participation and continued support of TNPS.

Hart's-Tongue Fern Forays

Contributed by Mary Priestley

A recent email requesting a photo of hart's-tongue fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium*) brought back memories for me! The fern, which some have characterized as the rarest plant in Tennessee, is in a sinkhole on the side of the Cumberland Plateau, overlooking South Pittsburg. There are populations in one or two other sinkholes in northeast Alabama, one inside a cave in New Mexico, and slightly larger populations in New York and Michigan. Suffice it to say that the southern populations are at risk of extirpation.

I last visited the Tennessee site more than 10 years ago, tagging along with TDEC staffers David Lincicome and longtime TNPS member Andrea Shea Bishop; Geoff Call with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; researchers from Syracuse University; and Henry Lodge, great (or great, great?) grandson of Joseph Lodge. The elder Lodge, founder of Lodge Cast Iron, was at the turn of the 20th century the informal caretaker of this vulnerable plant population.

The sinkhole is basically a narrow slit in the limestone, created and fed by a small stream. A Major Cheatham, exploring the area for coal deposits in the late 19th century, climbed inside and discovered the ferns.

Lodge, an amateur naturalist, first visited the population in 1890. His correspondence with scientists about the plant now resides at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. About 100 years ago, someone sprinkled spores from a New York population into the sinkhole, boosting the number of plants but leading TDEC botanist David Lincicome to question whether the population can still be considered natural.



American Hart's tongue fern, Photo by Linda Swartz.

I have gone into the sinkhole twice, following my mentor Dr. George Ramseur down his homemade rope ladder, fashioned from slender basswood rungs that he had strung between two 100-foot lengths of one-inch surplus World War II rope. Pretty exciting -- but what was I thinking?! Twice!

On that most recent foray, using modern climbing equipment and garb (Where's the adventure in that?), researchers found only two or three (sporophyte) plants, each about the size of a quarter. However, although the population is at risk because of the small number of diminutive plants, the site is in good hands, cared for by the young couple who now own the property.

Plant Profile: Delta Arrowhead (Sagittaria platyphylla)

Contributed by Mitchell Kent



The leaves are straight and upright, oval or swordlike in shape and lack lobes. Leaves reach up to 7 inches in length and over 3 inches wide.

Its flowers are grouped in clusters and are white with three petals, appearing from June to September. The plant features stolons and fleshy corms, with submerged portions providing habitat for aquatic invertebrates. Fruits are small, single-seeded. Propagation is via its seeds and rhizomes.

Beyond visual appeal, delta arrowhead plants have ecological value. They provide food for wildlife—its tubers are eaten by ducks, geese, muskrats, and beavers, while seeds are sometimes consumed by ducks.

The delta arrowhead is a perennial aquatic plant that grows 1 to 3 feet tall in shallow fresh water of marshes, swamps and other freshwater wetlands. Other common names include Plantainleaf Arrowhead and Duck-Potato. Its native range extends through the Southeastern states including Tennessee where it is thinly scattered.

The plant contributes to water quality and offers refuge for aquatic organisms, both directly as habitat and indirectly through detritus after decomposition. It also serves as a bioindicator due to its sensitivity to environmental changes.

TNPS's Scholarship Programs Reach Students from Grade School to Graduate School

Contributed by Tim Kaltenbach

Three years ago, Margaret Fletcher contacted TNPS hoping to honor her late husband's love of nature through a charitable donation. Our then president, Karen Hill, helped her fund the **Grants 4 Native Plants** program in memory of Chaplain Col. Russ Ragon. It pays for native plant gardens at elementary, middle and high schools across the state. A \$500 grant covers supplies and TNPS furnishes a member/volunteer to oversee the plantings. Grants 4 Native Plants took off immediately and grew from six to ten schools in a single year! See the stories and photos here: http://tnps.org/wpcontent/uploads/2025/06/V49_No_2Jun_2025_2.pdf

Would you like to be part of this exceptional project? Here are ways to donate:

1. Donate online through your TNPS secure account. Go to tnps.org and select Login in the upper right corner. On your profile page, click on the Donate box. To specifically allocate your gift, click on the Scholarship Fund option.
2. Or mail a check to TNPS. Send a check payable to Tennessee Native Plant Society and note that the money is for the TNPS Scholarship Fund. The address is:
Tennessee Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 159274
Nashville, TN 37215
3. If you have a Donor Advised Fund (DAF), authorize your administrator to make a transfer to TNPS (Tax ID number 62-1247084). Specify that your gift is for the TNPS Scholarship Fund.

If you wish, TNPS will include your name on a Scholarship Fund donors' list on the website and in our quarterly newsletter. You can make your gift in your own name or in honor or memory of a friend or loved one.

Now a new TNPS opportunity supports university and graduate students who plan to build careers that preserve our rare and native plants!

By investing in the people who will be working and researching in this field, TNPS members play a dynamic role in the future.

TNPS will award \$1,000 per year to each of five Tennessee public universities that will select one or more student recipients for botanical research, field studies, botanical outreach and education or

herbarium activities that enhance the student's educational experiences and likelihood of a career in botany.

The schools include Tennessee Technological University, East Tennessee State University, UT Chattanooga, the University of Memphis and UT Knoxville. Each school offers courses that align with the TNPS mission.

We will maintain both Grants 4 Native Plants and the university program together in a single account known as the **TNPS Scholarship Fund**. TNPS would like to gather funding through donations.

- ❖ Our successful "Grants 4 Native Plants" educates children in 10 elementary, middle and high schools across the state.
- ❖ A brand-new award program at 5 universities will support college and graduate level students in botany and plant science.
- ❖ See how your TNPS membership benefits people and the environment far into the future.



We are pleased to welcome **Deborah Adams** as the new **TNPS Newsletter Editor**. Deborah joined us in September and immediately got to work gathering articles and producing this issue. She brings valuable experience with editing tools and desktop publishing software, skills that will serve the society well.

Our thanks to **Donna Bollenbach**, our outgoing editor, for her excellent work and for assisting Deborah during the transition.

Members are encouraged to reach out to Deborah to introduce themselves and share ideas or content for future newsletters. She can be contacted at dksadams@yahoo.com.

When Are Dues Due?

Membership dues are due one year from the date of last payment. You will receive a reminder email 5 days before expiration asking you to renew. There is currently a grace period of 65 days in which you retain your membership status. If you go into your membership portal (www.TNPS.org, and click the LOGIN button or <https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/login>) you will see when your membership is due to expire. You may also renew your membership, if it is near expiration, and sign up for auto renewal if you wish. Payment is either by credit card or delayed payment if you mail a check. If there have been changes to your email or physical address, please update your membership.

If you have any questions or problems, contact support@tnps.org.

TNPS Newsletter
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