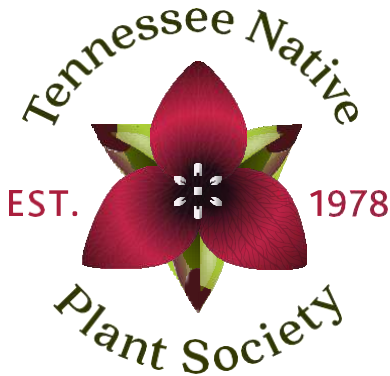




TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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Platanthera integra in Tennessee

Not too long ago, before the end of the last century anyway, there were at least half a dozen locations for *Platanthera integra*, the yellow fringeless orchid, in Tennessee. In more recent years, however, it has become increasingly rare, so much so that until this past season it was feared to be completely extirpated in this State.



The last known station, under the power lines at Arnold Air Force Base near Tullahoma, had been searched for the past several years without success until a single plant was found in good bloom on August 20, 2021. The Base staff was notified and Base Ecologist/Botanist Stevia Morawski came immediately to tag, photograph, and GPS it; being relatively new to the area, she had never seen it before.

Rare plant enthusiast Ruth Ann Henry of McMinnville was contacted and drove to the site within the hour. Others notified included Jack Carman and Dennis Horn of Tullahoma, and Todd Crabtree of the TN Dept. of Environment and Conservation Heritage staff. So, by the barest of threads imaginable this taxon is hanging on in Tennessee.

Chuck Wilson

TNPS Newsletter

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

The Tennessee Native Plant Society (TNPS) was founded in 1977. 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:
Individual/Family: \$20
Student: Complimentary
Institution: \$50
Life: \$250

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

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President's Message

It's almost here! Daylight savings time starts March 13th and the first day of spring is one week later, on March 20th! Early spring flowers are already starting to show their leaves and colors.

Inside this issue is the Field Trip Schedule with all the details. Our trip leaders have selected lots of incredible places to visit in search of some truly beautiful wildflowers, so please join us on the trail.

Remember to register for our Annual Conference being held in Chattanooga this year May 13-15. A registration form is included. Be sure to send that in before the deadline and call the motel to make your reservations at roughly ½ price! It's a fun event and gives everyone a chance to talk about wildflowers with folks of varying expertise. We can all learn something new, plus the shared experiences are invigorating. If you haven't attended a conference yet, please consider joining us. Just be sure to bring your hiking shoes.

In addition to our TNPS hikes there are many other events across this beautiful state that are well worth the time to attend, especially Trails & Trilliums on Monteagle April 8-10, Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in Gatlinburg/Smokies April 26-30, and the Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glade Wildflower Festival in Lebanon April 29-30.

Our Native Plant Seminar schedule includes:

- March 15 – State Naturalist Randy Hedgepath on *Some of My Favorite Wildflowers*
- April 19 – Former TNPS President Mary Priestley on Nature Journaling
- May 17 – John Foeschauer (recently retired from State Parks) on *Moths and Butterflies: Natural History and Gardening*

With so many activities available, we hope you find a few that interest you, and that you take the time to join us. Hoping to see you on the trail this spring!



Karen

P.S. Virginia bluebells, *Mertensia virginica*, is my favorite early spring beauty. What's your favorite?

Grant Awarded for Algood School Arboretum Project

TNPS awarded the Algood Middle School (AMS) in Cookeville a grant of \$500 during our January Board meeting. This grant is to be applied to the Arboretum Project which is part of their outdoor education program. They are creating a living reference library in which the students can learn “about our native tree species and the many other species that depend on them” according to Karen Goedken the teacher in charge of the project.



AMS already has a large well-established school garden with a greenhouse and thirty-two beds full of plants. They have a pond ecosystem and three acres of woodland with an outdoor classroom and nature trail. “The new arboretum connects the garden and the woods. Most of the Arboretum is located on a steep hillside behind the playground which has suffered from erosion and has been difficult to maintain. The addition of trees and ground cover as well as the terraced loop path are helping the erosion issue and making useful an otherwise empty space. The area underneath each tree is being underplanted with various ground cover plants to make the area attractive and low maintenance. AMS students will maintain the arboretum as they do the garden.”

“Our AMS students have nearly completed the construction of the loop path. It starts on the paved area by the cafeteria and parking lot, and winds on two different levels through the area behind the playground and then connects to the back of the garden and to our nature trail in the woods. The loop path is currently lined with over twenty-five trees and more will be added this fall. The species we selected for the new arboretum are not present in either the garden or the woods. They are all native, mostly flowering species. The new trees added to the twenty tree species already in the garden and the fifty-five tree species in the woods will bring our grand total to over

one hundred species. The whole of the three areas will function together as the Arboretum. This large number of species will qualify AMS for Level 2 Arboretum status. We hope to add to our collection of trees over time and perhaps grow to be a Level 3 Arboretum. The Arboretum will feature small seating areas for outdoor education and enjoyment as well as additional signage to educate students and others about all the players in our native ecosystem and the importance of biodiversity.”

“Each tree in all three areas (arboretum proper, garden and woods) will be identified with a numbered concrete marker at the base of it’s trunk imprinted with the leaf of that tree (wet concrete poured over the actual leaf to make the imprint). Viewers will look at the leaf and the number which can be found in a booklet. In the booklet (which is available on site) viewers can see the name and read information for each tree.”

Longtime board member Louise Gregory will be presenting the check to Karen Goedken and Algood Middle School.



2022 Field Trip Schedule

April 2 (Saturday) – Ghost River State Natural Area

This early spring trip will visit a rather large population of southern twayblade (*Listera australis*). This small orchid is the earliest blooming native orchid in Tennessee. We should also see numerous early spring species and some nice red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*).

Meeting Place/Time: Near Post Office in LaGrange, at the south side of the intersection of Hwy. 57 and Yager Rd. 10:00 am Central

Difficulty: Easy, but there may be some muddy spots.

Lunch: Bring

Facilities: None

Leader: Bart Jones. Phone: 901-485-2745 Email: bjones7777@hotmail.com



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Southern twayblade (*Listera australis*)

April 5 (Tuesday) - Tour of Vanderbilt Arboretum

Today, Vanderbilt University campus is a green "island" in the middle of urban Nashville. When the university was founded in 1873, the site was almost completely denuded of vegetation as a result of agriculture and deforestation during the Civil War a few years earlier. How did it evolve into its current botanical state, and what were the factors that influenced that development?

On this walk, biologist Steve Baskauf will introduce some of the significant trees on campus while discussing the past and future of this man-made oasis. (For a preview: Vanderbilt arboretum website is <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/trees/>)

Meeting Place/Time: Vanderbilt Central Library: 419 21st Ave. South, Nashville, TN 37212. Walk from 21st Ave up steps to the front of the building to meet at 1:00 pm Central. **Note Date and Time!**

Paid parking at Wesley Place Garage: 1957 Scarritt Pl, Nashville, TN 37212 (off 21st Ave opposite from Central Library). Take Daily parking entrance (not Retail entrance). Price is \$3 per hour, but carpooling will help.

Difficulty: Easy (lawn, steps, sidewalks)

Facilities: At Rand Student Center nearby.

Leader: Steve Baskauf phone/ email: 615-476-5827, steve.baskauf@vanderbilt.edu.

April 9 (Saturday) - Wells Hill Park, Lincoln County

Wells Hill Park is the former water supply for the city of Fayetteville. It became the first gravity flow water system in the United States and supplied water to Fayetteville from 1904 to 1954. The 114-acre tract contains a hollow with three ravines, each with a small waterfall and numerous springs. The area is wooded and the slopes provide impressive displays of wildflowers in the spring. With the help of the TN Parks and Greenways Foundation a conservation buyer purchased the property at auction on June 30, 2012. It has recently become a Lincoln County nature preserve. TNPS produced a plant list for the park as part of a field trip in 2013. This year we will simply enjoy the beauty of the area and the numerous plants we find.

Meeting Place/Time: McDonalds on U.S. 231 at the southern edge of Fayetteville, about a mile south of the U.S. 64 bypass, on the left going south toward Huntsville AL at 10:00 am Central.

Difficulty: Easy

Lunch: Bring

Facilities: At meeting place

Leader: Dennis Horn Phone: 931-461-0262 Email: horndd@lighttube.net

April 16 (Saturday) - Frozen Head Wildflower Walk

This is a joint outing for TNPS and TCWP. We will have an excellent opportunity to see spring wildflowers. This will be a switch from last year. We will start from Panther Branch Trailhead. The first 0.55 miles is ideal for those with rather limited hiking capabilities; the trail is wide and flat. For those continuing the next 1 mile along Panther Branch is steeper and rougher but still only moderate. Panther Branch is a place to see dwarf ginseng (*Panax trifolius*).

Meeting Place/Time: Frozen Head State Park office parking area at 10 am Eastern.

Difficulty: Moderate from 1.1 to 3 miles

Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray

Facilities: At meeting place

Leader: Larry Pounds. If you RSVP it helps with planning and allows contacting in case of cancelation, Phone/email: 865-705-8516, PoundsL471@aol.com



Wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)



Virginia spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)

April 23 (Saturday) – Stinging Fork Falls to Piney River

We will caravan from the Exxon to the Lower Piney River Trailhead to start a shuttle leaving some cars there. We will then carpool to the Stinging Fork Falls Trailhead. From there we hike back to the Piney River Trailhead. This section of the Cumberland Trail was completed in the fall 2018. What spring flowers we will see is hard to predict. The route is truly scenic. Total walking distance will be about 6 miles if you choose. The trail is up and down with many steps. If covid prevents a shuttle we will do an In-and-back-out.

Alternatives: People are welcome to head back early to the Stinging Falls Fork Trailhead. They will need a car there or will have a wait till the afternoon when the shuttle is completed. With this alternative you could drive back from the Stinging Fork Trailhead to the Piney River Trail Head and walk in along the flat trail by Soak Creek to meet the rest of the group as they reach Soak Creek.

Meeting/Carpool Places/Times:

1. Oak Ridge at the Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot (meet at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's) in time to leave Oak Ridge at 8:45 a.m. Eastern.
2. Rocky Top/ Exxon/ MacDonald's on US 27 in Spring City at 10 AM Eastern.

Difficulty: Strenuous at times with some steep sections.

Lunch: Bring lunch, water, and bug spray.

Facilities: At meeting places.

Leader: Larry Pounds. If you RSVP it helps with planning and allows contacting in case of cancelation, Phone/email: 865-705-8516, PoundsL471@aol.com

Note: This is the third time this outing has been scheduled. Weather has been a problem, but it is too good of an outing not to keep trying.

May 7 (Saturday) - Late Spring Plants in Jackson and Clay Counties

Jackson and Clay counties have some beautiful, rugged country nestled in the hills and hollows along the Cumberland River and its tributaries. In 2018 we explored areas along the Roaring River and Spring Creek south of the Cumberland R. This trip will take us to places north of the Cumberland R. to see plants that flower late in the spring. Plants we plan to see include Guyandotte Beauty (*Synandra hispidula*), Chapman's Meadow Parsnip (*Thaspium chapmanii*), Appendaged Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum appendiculatum*), and Miami Mist (*Phacelia purshii*). We will caravan along the rural roads with frequent stops to explore the hillsides.

Meeting Place/Time: Love's Travel Stop (includes McDonalds and Subway) on I-40 at exit 280, 7 miles west of Cookeville near Baxter TN at 10:00 am Central.

Difficulty: Easy all day roadside botany.

Lunch: Bring

Facilities: At meeting place.

Leaders: Louise Gregory and Dennis Horn 931-461-0262, horndd@lighttube.net Please call or email ahead of time.



Miami Mist (*Phacelia purshii*)

May 13-15 – Annual Conference, Chattanooga

Field trips: Sittons Gulch (photo right), Cloudland Canyon State Park, GA and Little Cedar Mountain.

Check for updates on the website or the Facebook page.



May 21 (Saturday) – Crab Orchard Mountain Walk

This is a joint outing for TNPS and TCWP. The walk is scheduled in hope of catching spreading pogonia (*Cleistes bifaria*) and prairie lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*) in flower. They are both beautiful, the orchid in a subtle way and the lily in a very showy way. We should see a variety of flowers as we walk open area, powerline, and forested area with streams and rock formations. After the main walk there is a quality wetland that can be visited. Attendees can choose a shuttle or walking the whole loop using a road walk portion. As always there is the option of turning back early. If covid prevents a shuttle, we will do an In-and-back-out or complete the loop.

Meeting Places/Times:

1. Marathon Gas Station at the Crab Orchard exit off I-40 east of Crossville (9 AM central time, 10 AM eastern time)
2. Oak Ridge at the Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot (meet at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's) in time to leave Oak Ridge at 8:45 a.m. Eastern

Difficulty: Estimated 3 miles for those doing the shuttle and 4.5 for those walking the loop. The powerline part of the walk is the same as some of us did last fall. The flowers of course will be totally different. The trail up the powerline is steep in places.

Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray

Facilities: At meeting places

Leader: Larry Pounds. If you RSVP it helps with planning and allows contacting in case of cancelation, Phone/email: 865-705-8516, PoundsL471@aol.com



Prairie lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*)

May 28 (Saturday) – Elza Gate Paved Greenway



Orange
coneflower
(*Rudbeckia
fulgida*)

This is a joint outing for TNPS and TCWP. We will emphasize tree and shrub identification along the greenway.

Meeting Place/Time: Elza Gate (Oak Ridge City Park) on the Oak Ridge Turnpike near River Road at 9 AM eastern.

Difficulty: This should work for those with limited walking ability. Wheelchairs are a possibility. We will walk or roll on a flattish paved trail. Total out and back distance is perhaps 1.5 miles. As usual attendees can turn back when they want.

Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray

Facilities: None

Leader: Larry Pounds. If you RSVP it helps with planning and allows contacting in case of cancelation, Phone/email: 865-705-8516, PoundsL471@aol.com

July 16 (Saturday) - Indian Gap to Newfound Gap, GSMNP

This will involve a car shuttle. May be cancelled due to Covid. Bring masks. We will see high elevation plants along the Appalachian trail.

Meeting Place/Time: Newfound Gap, 10:00 AM Eastern.

Difficulty: Moderate hike of 2 miles.

Lunch: Bring lunch, water, and bug spray.

Facilities: at meeting place

Leader: Allen and Susan Sweetser, Phone: 875 938 7627, Email: ssretiree@yahoo.com



Purple fringed
orchid
(*Platanthera
psycodes*)

September 3 (Saturday) – Walker Branch State Natural Area

We will walk through a field of ironweed, asters, goldenrods, and other colorful plants. We will discuss plants and the insects that visit them.

This field is home for the uncommon Dion Skipper and Southeastern Plains Bumblebee. The walk is considered easy and kid friendly.

Meeting Place/Time: We will meet in the parking lot for AutoZone Auto Parts at 235 Water St. Suite A, Savannah, TN 38372; coordinates of the meeting site are 35.221984, -88.246275. Meet at 9:30 am Central, hike will end around 1:30 pm

Price: \$10, this is a Division of Natural Areas event, therefore the charge. Please register at https://tnstateparks.com/parks/event_details/division-of-natural-areas/#/?event=fall-walk-through-the-fields-of-walker-branch-sna

Difficulty: Easy

Lunch: Bring snacks that can be eaten in the field.

Leader: Allan Trently Phone: 731-571-9729 Email: allan.trently@tn.gov



Late purple aster (*Aster patens*)

September 3 (Saturday) – Van Buren County Powerline

This is a joint outing for TNPS and TCWP. This is a new powerline for our fall wildflower outing. It will require a bit more driving. Hopefully some of the bog orchids will still be in bloom but mostly we will be seeing goldenrods and asters. We will be able to mix driving and walking. This will be handy if it is a hot day.

Meeting Places:

1. Shell Station on the south side of the Peavine exit in Crossville (9 AM central time, 10 AM eastern time)
2. Oak Ridge at the Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot (meet at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's) in time to leave Oak Ridge at 8:45 a.m. Eastern.

Difficulty: This should work for those with limited walking ability. We will walk on a flattish gravel road with a short outing into a boggy area for the adventurous. For those who want this can be mostly a driving trip with stops. The road in is a little rough but quite drivable for most vehicles. We can carpool, covid permitting.

Facilities: the meeting places

Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray

Leader: Larry Pounds. If you RSVP it helps with planning and allows contacting in case of cancelation, Phone/email: 865-705-8516, PoundsL471@aol.com



Stiffleaf aster
(*Aster linariifolius*)

September 10 (Saturday) – Oak Ridge Cedar Barrens & Worthington Cemetery TVA Ecological Study Area

This is a joint outing for Wild Ones, TNPS and TCWP. The Oak Ridge Barrens is a small property that supports at least three Tennessee rare plant species: prairie goldenrod (*Solidago ptarmicoides*), naked-stem sunflower (*Helianthus occidentalis*), and Torrey's mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum torreyi*). Torrey's mountain mint is not only rare in Tennessee but considered globally imperiled by NatureServe. Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP) has managed the Barrens for 26 years. Volunteer workdays continue to control exotic and native woody, invasive plant species that threaten the integrity of the prairie pockets and creates additional habitat for barrens vegetation. Other commonly seen plants in bloom at this time are 2 species of blazing star, big bluestem, Indian grass, black eye susans, white crownbeard, butterfly milkweed, grey headed coneflowers, false aloe, whorled milkweed, woodland sunflower, lespedeza, rose pink, whorled rosinweed, and golden asters. Special Covid-19 precautions may be needed.

Meeting Place: 200 Fairbanks Rd Oak Ridge, TN. Parking lot at Jefferson Middle School (next to baseball diamond off Fairbanks Rd) at 9:30 AM Eastern

Difficulty: Easy with a slightly rough trail surface in places. Oak Ridge Cedar Barren less than .5 miles and Worthington Cemetery about 1 mile walking.

Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray

Facilities: Portable toilet at the meeting place.

Leader: Larry Pounds. If you RSVP it helps with planning and allows possible contacting in case of cancelation, Phone/email: 865-705-8516, PoundsL471@aol.com

September 17 (Saturday) – Roadside Botanizing in Northern Decatur County

We will explore the roadsides of northern Decatur County and the wildflowers along the way. Liatris and goldenrods will be numerous, and we will be on the lookout for barbed rattlesnake-root (*Nabalus barbatus*), a rare plant in Tennessee.

Meeting Place/Time: Love's Truckstop off Exit 126, I-40. 10:00 am Central

Difficulty: Easy to moderate

Lunch: Bring

Facilities: At meeting place.

Leader: Bart Jones, Phone: 901-485-2745 Email: bjones7777@hotmail.com

Please contact the trip leaders beforehand if you plan to attend any field trip. This helps them to determine the number of people and to be aware of those that might be late arriving, so they aren't left behind.

Spring Events

- March 3-6 – Nashville Lawn & Garden Show, Nashville Fairgrounds
- March 12 – Wild Ones Plant Natives Symposium, Chattanooga
- March 19 – Wild Ones Plant Sale & Expo, Chattanooga
- April 8-10 – Trails & Trilliums, Monteagle
- April 22-23 – Conservation Days, Murfreesboro
- April 26-30 – Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, Gatlinburg
- April 29-30 – Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glade Wildflower Festival, Lebanon

For details and directions visit the TNPS website Calendar.

TNPS Annual Conference

Friday, May 13-Sunday, May 15, 2022

Registration: \$25.00/person; follow the Conference Registration link on the TNPS website.



Location/Lodging: Lookout Valley Clarion, 3641 Cummings Hwy, Chattanooga. Please call (423) 635-7203 to make your own hotel reservation. We have reserved one king or two double-bed rooms at the discounted rate of \$69.00/night until April 28; after that the rate will go up to \$129.00/night and rooms may or may not be available.

Mention the Tennessee Native Plant Society when you register to get the discount. Breakfast is included. We plan to take individual orders for Subway for picnic lunch on Saturday. There are many restaurants in the area for dinner.

Schedule:

Meet and Greet: 4-6 PM Friday, May 13 and Saturday, May 14

Speakers:

- Friday, May 13, 8 PM: Joey Shaw, PhD, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga: Lecture and tutorial on using iNaturalist; bring your cell phone or tablet
- Saturday, May 14, 8 PM: Ann Brown, Bee City USA: Chattanooga is a Bee City

Field trips:

- Saturday, May 14: Sittons Gulch, Cloudland Canyon State Park, GA (there is a \$5.00 parking fee per car)
- Sunday, May 15: Little Cedar Mountain (we may need to run a car shuttle to the park nearby because of limited parking)

Covid considerations: Although we aren't planning to require you to be immunized, please consider protecting yourself and others by getting vaccinated (and boosted!). Please wear a mask indoors if you aren't vaccinated.

Please e-mail bettina.ault@gmail.com if you have questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please complete the information below and return with payment by **April 28th** OR go to www.TNPS.org to register online with a credit card.

Registration fee \$25 per person: # people _____ @ \$25 = _____

Registrant #1 Information:

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____
 Email _____
 Special Needs _____

Registrant #2 Information:

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____
 Email _____
 Special Needs _____

Make check(s) payable to **TNPS** and send to:

Karen Hill, 2152 Ravenscourt Drive, Thompsons Station, TN 37179

Questions? Email: treas@tnps.org

When Are Dues Due?

All membership dues are due on January 1, including those who joined during the year up to and including June 30. If you joined on or after July 1, you receive the partial year free, then need to renew annually by the following January 1st.

To make payment go to www.TNPS.org. Click on "Membership" on the bottom left side of any page and follow the directions for either printing a form and mailing it with a check OR use the online form.

Once the online form is completed, you will be taken to the PayPal page for payment with either a credit card or by your PayPal account. UNTIL PAYMENT IS MADE VIA CHECK OR PAYPAL YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER AND WILL NOT RECEIVE NEWSLETTERS.

If your address has changed, please email your new address to info@TNPS.org.

We do not print the newsletter in full color, but you may be pleased to find all the color in email copies and at our website on the Newsletter page.

TNPS Newsletter
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