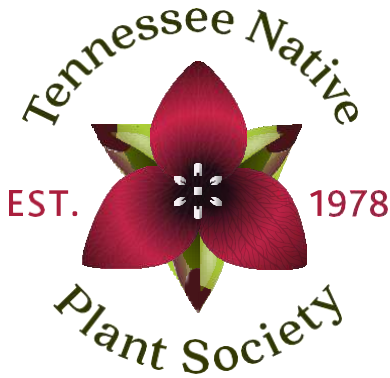




TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 46, Number 2

June 2022

Honoring Susan Sweetser

Susan Sweetser passed away on May 21st. The Tennessee Native Plant Society lost one of its staunchest champions, and TNPS members lost a dear friend.

Susan and Allen, her husband of 35 years, formed an inseparable duo, living an idyllic life off-the-grid tucked into a hollow near Knoxville where wildflowers on their property sparked a love of native plants. Friends are always welcome to their unique home built by Allen and often compared to a treehouse. In 2006, Susan retired from a decades-long career in social services for the state and hit the road with Allen and their beloved dog Katie and most recently Lacie, touring all parts of the country, visiting national parks, and taking beautiful photos of plants and wildlife from Newfoundland to Florida, California to Alaska.



Dedicated and hardworking for the causes and organizations she embraced, Susan served in several capacities on the TNPS board, including a multi-year stint as president, and volunteered with equal passion for the Appalachian Arts Craft Center in Clinton, TN. She and Allen led program hikes at the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in the Smokies for 25 years. Susan compiled plant lists for her pilgrims to encourage their knowledge and appreciation of native species.

She knew how to have fun too. A bartender in her younger days, Susan was famous for her margaritas, affectionately dubbed 'Sweetseritas.' Her circle of friends encompassed several different groups — her work buddies, the beach girls, the mountain house crew, the happy hour bunch, the native plant nerds. She loved good jazz music and always had a book to read from the library. The ultimate hostess, Susan greeted new people with a warm welcome and old friends with a hug that made us feel special.

(Continued on next page.)

President's Message

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

Officers

Karen Ripple Hill, President
Allan Trently, Vice-President
Bettina Ault, Secretary
Kim Sadler, Treasurer
Susan Sweetser, Past President

Directors

Suzy Askew
Louise Gregory
Sue Bible
Dennis Horn
Bart Jones
Larry Pounds

The past few weeks have been especially busy for TNPS. We held our first "normal" annual conference in three years, with field trips, speakers, and a meet and greet that no one wanted to end—so we ordered pizza delivery. Friday evening (after appetizers, wine, and pizza) we practiced using iNaturalist. Saturday's hike had both difficult and easy versions with plenty of flowers. Saturday evening, we held our annual meeting. Afterward, Ann Brown of Lookout Mountain gave an informative talk on Bee City and the importance of insects for plants. Sunday's field trip to Little Cedar was delightful even without peak bloom. Bettina Ault did a wonderful job of planning for this conference in Chattanooga. So, a big thank you to Bettina.

A few days after returning home I received word that TNPS member Al Good of Chattanooga had lost his battle with cancer. He had planned on attending the conference. [See his story on page 3.]

Then, the weekend after the conference, we learned that our past president, Susan Sweetser, had suddenly passed away from a massive heart attack. All of us who had attended the conference were thankful for the time we were able to spend with her there. Personally, Susan was my mentor and a dear friend who readily shared her insight and expertise while minimizing her role in any successes that ensued. She has played a huge role in TNPS activities and successes large and small for many many years. May you rest in peace Susan, in your lovely grove of tulip poplars overlooking the meadow.

Sadly,



(Continued from front page.)

That good-natured laugh of hers paired with a wonderful sense of humor made her a delightful companion. The personality she presented to the world was an authentic reflection of her true self. There was nothing false about her.

Susan was fierce in her devotion to family and friends — mother hen, wise counselor, helping hand, loving support. She gave herself to those she loved without reservation, and we loved her just as unreservedly in return.

Her remarkable list of attributes paints the portrait of a perfect person. She wasn't — no one is, but she set a standard to which we should all aspire. She leaves us bereft at our loss yet profoundly grateful to have known this beautiful woman, our Susan.

Margie Hunter

Memories of Susan Sweetser

"I'll always remember Susan for her personal traits—that subtle smile, her soft voice, and always an uplifting note. Whether hiking a trail or navigating Arrowmont's crowded Dining Hall, Susan exhibited grace."

—Maurice E. Edwards, TNPS founding & life member, fellow leader at GSM Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage

"Susan was great fun. She would tease me. That would take me by surprise as it was a rare event for me in recent years. At the same time, she was very good at being supportive of me and I suspect everyone else around her."

—Larry Pounds

"I remember that on one particular field trip to the Appalachian Mts, Susan picked up a Puff Ball mushroom, squeezed it, and blew away the spores. The spores were like smoke, and I was so fascinated."

—Donna Ward

"When I first joined TNPS and then was asked to be on the Board of Directors, I was immediately welcomed by the warm embrace of Susan Sweetser. Her laid-back demeanor and the way she seemed to genuinely care for everyone and the society made it so easy to just fall in love with her (and her brownies didn't hurt either!) Over the years, she and Allen quickly became treasured friends, and although we didn't get to see each other that often, every time we did was like a sweet reunion of old friends. I felt so fortunate to have been able to spend so much time with her and Allen at the Wildflower Pilgrimage this year and at our Annual Meeting just before her passing. I will keep those memories in my heart and forever be thankful to have had Susan as a part of my life."

—Bart Jones

"Susan made the best brownies I have ever tasted, bar none. Her chocolate-covered mint Oreos weren't bad either. Susan is the reason why I will always refer to box elder as "poison ivy bush." She also was the one who got me involved with the TNPS board in 2017. I am so grateful to her and Allen for many years of learning and friendship. I can't imagine life without her."

—Bettina Ault

"Susan was a wonderful person. I feel deeply honored and blessed to have known her for many years. I knew her as a great wildflower enthusiast and a helpful friend. It was always a pleasure to be on a TNPS field trip with Susan and Allen. Susan had her carefree "it doesn't matter" moments. She could also be strong and unwavering when it came to business matters. But what I remember most about Susan was her kind, caring, helpful nature. I am so thankful to have spent the recent TNPS annual meeting weekend in Chattanooga with Susan and Allen. I was able to hike all day on both days with them. Susan was always asking: 'Do you need a ride?' 'Would you like to go with us to eat?' That last day on the trail she checked on me frequently to make sure I was okay. In my mind, Susan was pure gold."

—Dennis Horn

"My fondest memories of Susan are always paired with Allen. Both made field trips so fun and I felt welcomed to this group because of their friendliness. Especially fun were the field trips they led to the mountains of East Tennessee! I served on the TNPS board with her, and it seemed that every meeting she had someone in mind to give a scholarship to, to recognize for their contributions or to promote their latest project. She was a big-hearted, witty and lovable person that I will miss so much. Here is one of my favorite photos of her ever. It was taken on a TNPS field trip to the Roan High Bluff via the Cloudland Trail, Roan Mountain, June 27, 2015."

—Rita Venable



Remembering Alfred Nelson Good

It is with sadness that we pass along the news of the death of Al Good, 89, who passed away at home in Chattanooga after a battle with cancer on May 17, 2022. He retired from DuPont and enjoyed forestry, bonsai, and native plants.

Al was a wonderful volunteer in the effort to conserve the North Chickamauga Creek Gorge, participating in the lengthy effort to document the locations there of the endangered large-flowered skullcap (*Scutellaria montana*) and aiding in an enormous clean-up effort to get the area ready for the celebration of the creation of the North Chickamauga Creek Gorge State Natural Area. His late wife, Christine, prepared the beautiful flower arrangements for that celebration.

He was a longtime member of the Tennessee Native Plant Society and was active in a wildflower group on Signal Mountain.

His interest in native grasses led him to acquire considerable expertise in their identification and he was often called upon to assist with that. Being outdoors, particularly being in the woods, was his happy place. His volunteer services to conservation endeavors will be missed.



Linda Hixon

Upcoming Seminars

The Tennessee Native Plant Society hosts monthly Native Plant Seminars. These events are held via Zoom on the *third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Central (7:30 p.m. Eastern)* and last about one hour. All members, and potential members, are welcome to join the seminars at no cost. The link to join each seminar is posted on our *Calendar* website pages.

July 19 – Paula Gross, *Best Tree for Your Garden*

August 9* – Ann Willyard, *Scientific Names*

September 20 – Steve Murphree, *Insect Pollinators*

October 18 – Larry Pounds, *Fall Wildflowers*

November 15 – Margie Hunter, *Beyond Aesthetics: Garden As If Life Depends On It*

December – No seminar this month

*Second Tuesday of the month instead of the third.

Spring Trip Reports

April 2 – Ghost River State Natural Area

As we met at the Post Office in LaGrange, it was overcast and fairly cool, but most importantly, dry. Eventually, ten folks showed up, and we headed down to the boardwalk at the Mineral Slough portion of the natural area.



The first of the spring wildflowers were just beginning to pop as we followed the trail through the woods to the boardwalk. All along the trail there were clumps of prairie trillium (*Trillium recurvatum*), the result of ants hoarding seed for the waxy aril attached to them. This is the only species of trillium that is found in most of West Tennessee, so it is a favorite spring wildflower here. In addition to the trilliums, there were common blue violet (*Viola sororia*) and downy yellow violet (*Viola pubescens*) starting to bloom, as well as a profusion of Virginia spring beauties (*Claytonia virginica*). As we approached the swamp, the first of the red buckeyes (*Aesculus pavia*) were just opening, inviting the returning hummingbirds to stop for a sip of nectar.



Prairie trillium (*Trillium recurvatum*)

rest of the flower parts) labellum that is composed of two long forks making the overall appearance of the flowers look like a snake's tongue.

The swamp here at Mineral Slough is mostly dominated by tupelo (*Nyssa aquatica*) with a sporadic bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) here and there. The understory is composed primarily of Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*). As we exited the swamp, it was time to look for our highlight plant, southern twayblade (*Listera australis*). This tiny orchid barely reaches six inches in height and blends in with the surrounding leaf litter, so they are difficult to spot initially. But once you spot one, then you suddenly start seeing others around. Each flower has a large (relative to the



Southern twayblade (*Listera australis*)

About the time we exited the trail and headed back to the parking area for lunch, the sky started to clear, and the temperatures rose, promising a nice afternoon. After lunch, we went to the WMA portion of Ghost River to see the plants that grow in the sandier habitat of the bluffs overlooking the Wolf River. These sands are the recharge area for the Memphis Aquifer and hold a collection of species that are more typical of dry areas, such as Yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*), prickly-pear cactus (*Opuntia humifusa*), and sand post oak (*Quercus margaretta*) – the only site for this species in Tennessee.

The wildflowers that are usually in flower at this time were just a bit behind and not open yet, including coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) and prairie phlox (*Phlox pilosa*). To make up for that, we were treated to lots of spring butterflies flitting about, including the seldom seen Yucca Giant-Skipper of which Ghost River boasts one of the most reliable and largest colonies in the state. It was a great note to end the trip and kick off this year's schedule.

April 5 — Vanderbilt University Arboretum, Nashville

Which is rarer: a TNPS field trip in the middle of a week, or a TNPS field trip in the middle of a city? On Tuesday, April 5, Steve Baskauf gave us both with his tour of the Vanderbilt University arboretum. A former senior lecturer in Biological Sciences, Steve is currently the Data Science and Data Curation Specialist at the Vanderbilt Libraries, but he has been a champion of Vanderbilt's trees—through research, publication, outreach, and advocacy—for nearly 30 years.



Here is Steve's description of the walk's focus: "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?"

The answers unfolded on our rainy ramble past some of the biggest and oldest trees on campus, including the single tree that predates the university. Out of over 6,000 trees, we focused on a manageable few, including some fine Catalpa, Osage-orange, September elm, American elm, White oak, Green ash, Hackberry, and Big-leaf magnolia. Steve

stopped at various locations to compare the current landscape with historic photos of the past landscape at the same spot.

Floral highlights included: maroon blooms in the Pawpaw patch (*Asimina triloba*); a strikingly perfect Dogwood (*Cornus florida*); and the scarlet panicles on a Red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*).

Anyone with a smartphone can take a self-guided tour through the Arboretum anytime, thanks to the four Tree Tours Steve has created online. You can even take virtual tours from home. For more info:

<https://www.vanderbilt.edu/trees/>

Joanna Brichetto



Pawpaw flower (*Asimina triloba*)

April 9 - Wells Hill Park, Lincoln County

This ravine, now Wells Hill Park, provided the water source for Fayetteville from 1904 to 1954. It was the first gravity flow water system in the United States. Wells Hill Preserve is now a county park. Two visits to the park in the summer of 2012 and a TNPS field trip in April 2013 produced a preliminary plant list of 114 plant species. For this hike the group botanized along the main creek. There is a huge population of twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*) on the hillside to the right. We also found purple phacelia (*Phacelia bipinnatifida*), *Trillium stamineum*, *T. grandiflorum*, and wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*).

The creek then divides into three branches. We followed the right branch to a small waterfall at the upper end where we had lunch. The hillside along the way was full of *Trillium flexipes* just starting to flower. We then worked our way back to the picnic pavilion for a short reunion with some "show and tell" before departing for home.

Dennis Horn

April 16 – Frozen Head State Park Wildflower Walk

The weather was good. So, the park was crowded. We decided not to go to the Debord Fall and Panther Branch Trail. The parking figured to be impossible. That meant we didn't get to see dwarf ginseng (*Panax trifolius*).

The 24 of us walked the interpretive trail and then most of us continued on to make a loop along Judge Branch. Flower highlights include four species of trilliums: two species with sessile flowers (yellow trillium, *Trillium luteum* and sweet-betsy, *Trillium cuneatum*) and two species with stalked flowers (red trillium, *Trillium erectum* or *sulcatum*, and large-flowered white trillium, *Trillium grandiflorum*).



Large-flowered white trillium, *Trillium grandiflorum*

Other favorites were pink lady's slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*), northern pinkster azalea (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*) and spotted mandarin (*Prosartes maculata*).

Larry Pounds

April 23 – Stinging Fork Falls to Piney River Section of the Cumberland Trail

The third time was the charm. We had a group of eight adventurers and the weather was lovely. At the Stinging Fork Falls Trailhead, we entered a large, cleared area. It had been a pine plantation and now is being converted into prairie and savannah habitat which is rare in Tennessee due to lack of fire. Then we dropped into Stinging Fork gorge. We ate lunch at the falls.

We followed Stinging Fork for a while and then climbed out of that gorge to go back down to Soak Creek, a state scenic river, but we weren't done climbing. We went way up and then way down to Soak Creek again. Finally, we followed the remnants of a railroad route to our shuttle vehicle.

With all the climbs, the six miles was a good workout and provided spectacular wildflower displays. The trilliums were outstanding, but the gaywings (*Polygala paucifolia*) and yellow lady's slippers (*Cypripedium parviflorum*) drew the raves.

The lady's slippers were small-flowered but did not have the reddish coloring on the sepals usually found on the small-flowered variant of the yellow lady's slipper.

Larry Pounds



Gaywings, *Polygala pauciflora*

April 30 - Highlights from Elsie Quarterman Hike at Cedars of Lebanon State Park

On April 30, 2022, wildflower hikes were held in the morning and afternoon as part of the Elsie Quarterman Wildflower Festival at Cedars of Lebanon State Park and Natural Area, as well as Vesta and Lane Farm Natural Areas. Trip leaders included myself, Sam King and Holly Taylor from TDEC.



Our bus tour in the Cedars Natural Area primarily went to a hardwood – red-cedar forest and a glade wetland in the western portion of the Natural Area out Cedar Forest Road.

The forest contained oaks as well as white and blue ash, with several mesic forest herbs including *Trillium sessile*, *Arisaema triphyllum/quinatum*, as well as mosses and ferns including *Asplenium platyneuron*. The wetland was noteworthy for an extensive population of *Schoenolirion croceum* as well as *Carex crawei*. We also saw some members of an established restoration population of the very rare *Trifolium calcaricum*.

Grassy spots on Cedar Forest Road exhibited *Lithospermum molle*, *L. canescens*, and *L. tuberosum*. We were also able to see *Astragalus tennesseensis*, *Phlox bifida*, *Glandularia canadensis*, *Houstonia lanceolata* (*H. purpurea* var. *calycosa*), *Sisyrinchium albidum*, and *Pedimelum subacaule*.

To cap off this portion of the event, we found a population of *Isoetes butleri* in another small wetland.

At Lane Farm Natural Area, we found numerous plants of *Baptisia aberrans* (formerly known as *B. australis* or *B. minor*) as well as many *Glandularia canadensis* with extensive stands of native warm-season grasses and an established restoration population of the very rare *Astragalus bibullatus*.

At Vesta we saw a variety of mesic herbs including *Hydrastis canadensis*, *Triosteum angustifolium* as well as glade herbs including *Oxalis macrantha* (*O. priceana*), and *Viola pedata*.

The weather was perfect with both morning and afternoon hikes well attended. Save the date next year for Saturday, May 6, 2023!



Milo Pyne, Retired Senior Scientist, NatureServe; Photographs by Holly Taylor

May 7 - Jackson and Clay Counties

The purpose of this trip was to explore hillsides north of the Cumberland River and target late spring flowers, including *Synandra*. The trip was scheduled one week later than desired in order not to conflict with the Wildflower Pilgrimage in Gatlinburg. Paul Alexander, Susan Stahl, Bettina Ault, and Harland Alpaugh joined the two leaders for this roadside botanical trip. We explored Pine Lick Road in Jackson County and Brimstone Creek Road in Clay County. Louise and Dennis had scouted the trip 4 days prior. We were amazed how much the flowers had changed in 4 days.

We found lots of *Synandra* (*Synandra hispidula*) in flower, one of our beautiful target species and also Chapman's Meadow Parsnip (*Thaspium chapmanii*) with its pale-yellow umbels. On Pine Lick Road we located Prairie Trillium, Wild Blue Phlox, Dwarf Larkspur (including a pink flowered one), Wild Ginger, Purple Phacelia, Appendaged Waterleaf, Bent Trillium (*T. flexipes*), and Cream Violet (*Viola striata*). We ate lunch among acres of *Synandra* along Dry Branch. We then drove to Brimstone Creek Road. Along this road we found Wild Stonecrop (*Sedum ternatum*), Fire Pink, Cross Vine, Shooting Star, and Large Flowered Valerian (*Valeriana pauciflora*).

Louise Gregory and Dennis Horn

May 13-15 - TNPS 2022 Annual Meeting

The 2022 TNPS Annual Meeting was held from May 13-15, 2022, at the Clarion Hotel in Lookout Valley. This was our first in-person annual meeting since 2019, and we had an intimate group of 19 people. We started with happy hour and conversation and decided to order pizza so we could keep chatting. Our Friday speaker was Garret Billings, a University of Chattanooga graduate student (via Utah), who gave us a brief lecture and a hands-on tutorial on iNaturalist. On Saturday morning we gathered for a convoy to Cloudland Canyon State Park, where we were treated to a beautiful display of late spring wildflowers (see the Trip Report in this newsletter). We returned for a brief annual meeting, followed by a lecture from Ann Brown on the Bee City USA project at Lookout Mountain. Ann gave us a very nice talk on protecting pollinators and gardening strategies to attract them. On Sunday morning several of us convoyed to Little Cedar Mountain, where we had a nice view of Nickajack Lake and saw several rare plant species (see the Trip Report). We parted company in the midafternoon just as it was starting to get warm.

Betina Ault

May 14 - Sitton's Gulch, TNPS Annual Meeting

We had a beautiful day for our hike with Larry Pounds and Dennis Horn. Sitton's Gulch is a 3.5-mile trail starting in more acidic woods on the Cloudland Canyon rim and descending for approximately a mile of steps through limestone habitat with seeps and two waterfalls. The upper portion was rich in Catawba rhododendron (*Rhododendron catawbiense*), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), and mapleleaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*) in bloom. After the lower waterfall (Cherokee Falls) the trail crosses a bridge and begins a steep decline to an approximately one-mile flat portion along the creek ending in a lower parking lot.

Along the lower portion of the trail there were abundant displays of oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*), sweetshrub (*Calycanthus florida*), bluntnose waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum canadense*), and poison ivy (in full bloom). In the rich woods of the flat portion of the trail we saw



Squaw Root, *Conopholis americana*

numerous species including upright carrionflower (*Smilax ecirrhata*), fourleaf milkweed (*Asclepias quadrifolia*), Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), some late Canada violets (*Viola canadensis*), and zigzag spiderwort (*Commelina subaspera*). In the bottom parking lot, we also had the opportunity to see the surprisingly large fruits of green violet (*Hybanthus concolor*). We split into two groups; one started at the top and the other hiked in along the lower portion. We met at the bottom afterwards for the short trip back to Chattanooga.

Betina Ault

May 15 – Little Cedar Mountain

On Sunday, May 15 an intrepid group of 14 botanizers led by Larry Pounds and Dennis Horn left the site of the annual meeting for a trip to Little Cedar Mountain. We took the more gradual (lower) path to the top, which has a nice overlook of Nickajack Lake. Along the way we saw foliage of three species of leafcup: whiteflower leafcup (*Polymnia canadensis*), Tennessee leafcup (*Polymnia laevigata*), and the Tennessee endangered John Beck's leafcup (*Polymnia johnbeckii*). The paths were lined with shrubby cedarglade St. Johnswort (*Hypericum frondosum*); it must be quite a sight in the summer when it's in bloom. Fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*) was also abundant along the trail. There were several late spring wildflowers: fire pink (*Silene virginica*), heart-leaf skullcap (*Scutellaria ovata*), nettleleaf sage (*Salvia urticifolia*), Indian pink (*Spigelia marilandica*), and coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*). We saw fine specimens of green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*). We also saw wild hyacinth (*Camassia scilloides*) and twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*) in fruit. Near the top there was a side hill barren, where we saw false aloe (*Manfreda virginica*), prickly pear (*Opuntia humifusa*), and limestone adder's-tongue (*Ophioglossum englemanii*). As a special treat we got to see the rare spreading rock cress (*Boechera patens*), which was growing on rocks near the top. At the top, in addition to the *Boechera*, we saw a large bush of false indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*). We split into two groups to descend; one group took the rockier route and the other took the more gradual route down. We met back in the parking lot just as it was beginning to get warm, pleased with a successful trip.

Betina Ault

May 21– Crab Orchard Mountain Walk

We were a large group of seventeen. I had hoped to show off in-flower spreading pogonia (*Cleistes bifaria*) and prairie lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*). The orchid site had been destroyed and we were too early for the lilies. The powerline area was striking with lots of Small's ragwort (*Packera anonyma*), mountain golden-alexander (*Zizia trifoliata*), two species of phlox (*Phlox amoena* and *Phlox carolina*), plus a few Catesby's false bindweeds (*Calystegia catesbeiana*) and Indian physic (*Gillenia trifoliata*).

We left the right-of-way and followed a new piece of the Cumberland Trail. The mountain laurel was in peak bloom. True to the name Crab Orchard Mountain we found a native crab apple tree in fruit. We ate lunch in a rocky water gap, a stream cutting through a ridge. After lunch, we spotted a speckled kingsnake or at least we thought it was that species. It was barely hanging on to a slight cliff ledge. We figured it had been attracted by a nearby phoebe nest. We heard thunder in the area, but we made it back to the cars wetted only by sweat.

Larry Pounds



Upland Spreading Pogonia, *Cleistes bifaria*

May 28– Elza Gate Paved Greenway

The idea for this outing was to explore the plant life along a typical urban greenway. Also, with a paved path it was accessible to more people than our usual outings. We, six of us, looked at examples of opposite vs. alternate leaves, simple vs. compound leaves and bristle-tipped vs. merely toothed leaves. This helped us to identify a few oaks and maples.

This was not a time of profuse flowering, but we did see flowers on persimmon, wild petunia, and farkleberry.

Larry Pounds

Book Review: *The Insect Crisis*

Every now and then an important book appears that all but requires reading by those of us concerned about our environment. This is one of those books: *The Insect Crisis* by Oliver Milman.

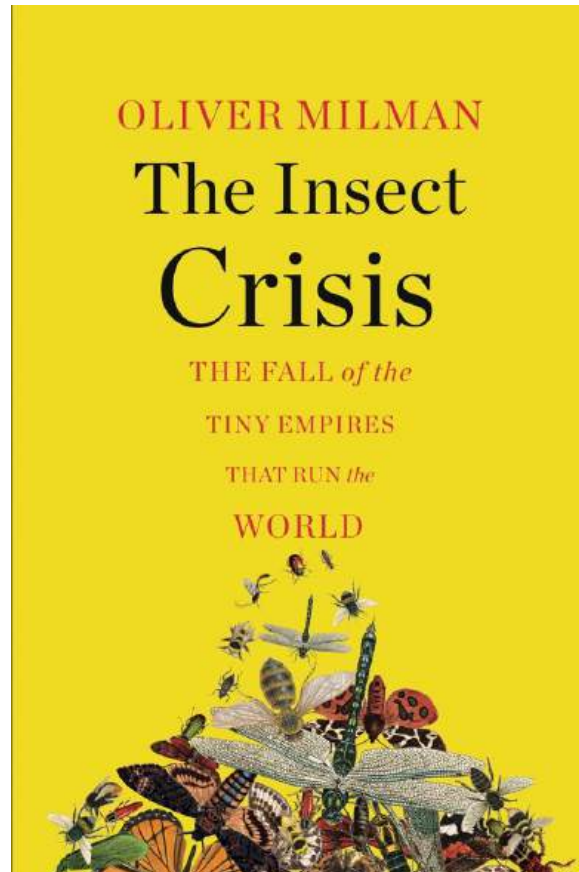
Doug Tallamy's books promoting "our backyard national park" have enlightened us on the outsize role that insects play in keeping the world as we know it operating. Oliver Milman's book provides access to the multitude of studies that have been performed worldwide which support Tallamy's assertions on the importance of insects in keeping our world running and food on our tables.

To quote Milman, "while insects are legion, that doesn't mean that they are utterly disposable—they all play some sort of role in pollination, or in decomposition, or in the food chain." One 'meta study's startling central finding is that 40 percent of insect species are declining globally, with a third endangered and at looming risk of extinction "over the next few decades." Let that sink in.

Milman then quotes one peer-reviewed scientific paper: "Unless we change our ways of producing food, insects as a whole will go down the path of extinction in a few decades." This loss of insect biodiversity can be blamed 'on the destruction of habitat, pesticide use, invasive species, and climate change. "The repercussions this will have for the planet's ecosystems are catastrophic to say the least."

The scope and breadth of articles discussed and reviewed indicate that the challenges faced by insects are worldwide and far more intense and immediate than anyone imagined until recently. Published by W. W. Norton & Company in 2022, the book is a surprisingly easy read that I would recommend for anyone and everyone.

Karen Ripple Hill



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
P.O. Box 159274
Nashville, TN 37215