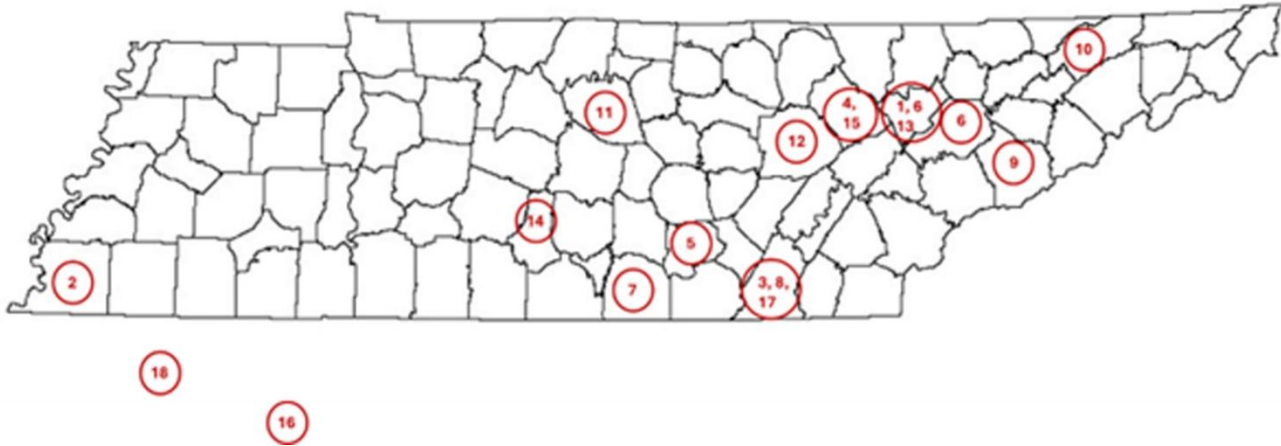


2026 Field Trip Schedule

Please note, all TNPS Field Trips now require registration through the TNPS website (NeonOne) and a Liability Release. Below are the approximate locations of our 2026 field trips.



(1) March 21 (Saturday) – Wildflower Spot on the N. Walker Access to the North Ridge Trail, Anderson County

Description: This is a joint outing for TNPS and TCWP. This is an amazing spot for early spring ephemerals. It's covered in trout lilies with pockets of twin leaf, foamflowers, wood poppies, and spring beauties. If we hit the timing right, the Dutchman's breeches might be blooming.

Meeting Place/Time: The trailhead is located near the end of N. Walker Ln in Oak Ridge, TN (Access to the North Ridge Trail is not in Google Maps, but coordinates are 36°01'24.7"N 84°16'36.1"W). There is no parking at the Trailhead, but there is some street parking along N. Walker Rd and West Outer Dr. There is also ample parking at the nearby Children's Museum of Oak Ridge. We will meet at **10:00 AM Eastern**.

Difficulty: The trail is only about .7 mile one way, but it is steep in spots. It also can be muddy and there is a stream crossing.

Facilities: The Children's Museum of Oak Ridge has facilities.

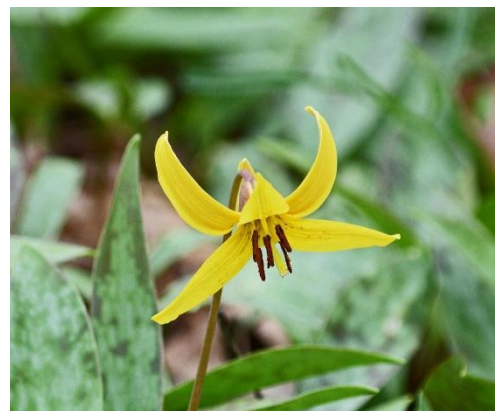
Lunch: Bring water, snacks, and bug spray.

Leaders: Margaret Cumberland (Phone/email: 919-339-0072, meshearin@gmail.com) and Larry Pounds

Registration Link:

<https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F36356>

Limit of 25 registrants.



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## ***(2) March 28 (Saturday) – Overton Park Old Forest, Shelby County***

**Description:** The Old Forest State Natural Area is an urban nature refuge located in the heart of midtown Memphis and is part of Overton Park. The remnant old growth forest harbors various spring ephemerals such as celandine poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), prairie trillium (*Trillium recurvatum*), spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium reptans*), wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), oceanblue phacelia (*Phacelia ranunculacea*), goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), doll's eyes (*Actaea pachypoda*), wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), cutleaf toothwort (*Cardamine concatenata*), and large-flowered bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*). We will enjoy a picnic lunch afterwards.

**Meeting Place/Time:** The East Parkway entrance parking area (just south of the intersection of Sam Cooper Blvd and East Parkway), **10:00 AM Central**.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Facilities:** At the trailhead

**Lunch:** Bring for picnic after hike.

**Leaders:** Bart Jones (901-485-2745, [bjones7777@hotmail.com](mailto:bjones7777@hotmail.com)) and Melissa McMasters

**Registration Link:** <https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F36370>  
Limit of 25 registrants.



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(3) March 29 (Sunday) – Wildflower Spot at Rock Creek, Lower Leggett Trailhead, Sale Creek, Hamilton County

Description: This is an amazing spot along Rock Creek for finding early spring ephemerals, carpets of partridgeberry, Gelsemium, and natural hybrids of painted and red buckeye, as well as some old growth Hemlock, striped maple, and large leaf magnolia. It's covered in trout lilies with pockets of blood root, fork leaf toothwort, foamflowers, southern barren strawberry, wood anemone, Ozark tassel-rue and several violet species.

Meeting Place/Time: The Lower Leggett trailhead is located near the base of the escarpment where Leggett Rd starts its ascent. Google Maps, <https://maps.app.goo.gl/xxjjUPby8mEtDnpQA> There is ample parking at the trailhead. We will meet at **10:00 AM Eastern**.

Difficulty: The trail is mostly easy, out and back and only about 1.2 miles each way, but rocky, uneven and steep in spots. It also can be muddy at a potential shallow water rocky crossing.

Facilities: None.

Lunch: Bring water, snacks, and bug spray

Leader: Stephan Eselgroth (email: stephanpmnr@gmail.com).

Registration Link: <https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F36844>
Limit of 25 registrants.

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#### ***(4) April 4 (Saturday) - Frozen Head Wildflower Pilgrimage Walk, Morgan County***

**Description:** This is a joint outing sponsored by TNPS and TCWP for Frozen Head State Park. All are welcome. We will have an excellent opportunity to see spring wildflowers. The first mile (Interpretive Loop) is ideal for those with limited hiking capabilities; the trail is wide and flat. For those continuing the next 2 miles (Judge Branch Trail) are steeper and rougher but still moderate.

**Meeting Place/Time:** Frozen Head State Park Visitor Center parking area, 964 Flat Fork Rd, Wartburg, TN (36.12491 - 84.50464) at **10:00 AM Eastern**.

**Difficulty:** Option 1. Just one mile of wide flat trail. Easy. Option 2. Continuing another three miles with a stream crossing, rough rock steps, and some steep places.

**Lunch:** Bring water, lunch, and bug spray

**Facilities:** At meeting place

**Leaders:** Larry Pounds, Phone/email: 865-705-8516, [PoundsL471@aol.com](mailto:PoundsL471@aol.com), and Jimmy Groton

**Registration Link:** <https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F36386>  
Limit of 25 registrants.



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(5) April 10-12 (Friday-Sunday) - Trails and Trilliums, Beersheba Springs, Grundy County

See <https://www.trailsandtrilliums.org/> for more information and registration.

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#### ***(6) April 18 (Saturday) – Norris Grist Mill to Observation Point, Anderson County***

**Description:** This is a joint outing for TNPS and TCWP. This loop starts in a valley with spring wildflowers that are usually a little later. We will also go by populations of pink lady's slippers after climbing to a nice view of Norris Dam.

**Meeting Place/Time:**

1. Parking lot at the Norris Grist Mill (Lower Clear Creek Rd, Norris, TN 37828) at **10:00 AM Eastern**. There is additional parking at the Lenoir Museum.
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 **9:15 AM Eastern**.



**Difficulty:** The trail is a moderate 2.5 mile loop. There are places with a steep drop-off on one side.

**Facilities:** The Lenoir Museum nearby has facilities.

**Lunch:** Bring water, lunch, and bug spray.

**Leader:** Margaret Cumberland (Phone/email: 919-339-0072, [meshearin@gmail.com](mailto:meshearin@gmail.com)).

**Registration Link:** <https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F36393>  
Limit of 25 registrants.

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(7) April 18 (Saturday) – Sewanee Purple Phacelia, Franklin Co.

Description: We will hike down into Shakerag Hollow on the University of the South campus to observe flowering populations of the [newly described](#) Sewanee purple phacelia (*Phacelia sewaneensis*). Shakerag Hollow hosts an amazing diversity of spring wildflowers and these will be on display as well. After lunch, there will be a tour of the Sewanee Herbarium.

Meeting Place/Time: Green's View parking area on the University of the South campus at **10:00 AM Central**.

Difficulty: Moderate. There is a short stretch of steep stone steps leading down into the cove, then there is a more gradual slope.

Facilities: Various locations on the Sewanee campus. Closest being the Sewanee Inn, which you pass on the way to Green's View.



Lunch: Sewanee Dining Hall.

Leader: Dr. Jon Evans, jevans@sewanee.edu (931-308-3280)

Registration Link: <https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F36402>
Limit of 25 registrants.

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### ***(8) April 18 (Saturday) - Big Soddy Creek Gulf Park, Hamilton County***

**Description:** On this hike, we will explore in depth the ecology, spring wildflowers, and temperate deciduous forest of the Big Soddy Creek Gulf Park. Topics will include local geology, the forest system, plant interactions, wildflower life histories, and wildflower identification. The hike will take place along a 1.2-mile trail from the trailhead to the pedestrian bridge at Soddy Creek. Some short side trips may be included.

**Meeting Place/Time:** Trailhead at **8:30 AM Eastern**, 11721 Back Valley Road, Soddy-Daisy, TN 37379

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Facilities:** The park has portable restrooms along the trail.

**Lunch:** At your discretion. Bring water and snacks, as desired. There are picnic tables along the route.

**Leader:** Dr. Richard Clements of Chattanooga State Community College

**Registration Link:** <https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F33529>

Limit of 25 registrants.

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(9) April 22-25 (Wednesday-Saturday) - Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage, Gatlinburg, Sevier County

See <https://www.wildflowerpilgrimage.org/> for more information and registration.

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### **(10) April 25 (Saturday) - Laurel Run Park, Church Hill, Hawkins County**

**Description:** Laurel Run Park is considered one of the best places for Spring ephemeral wildflowers. The north-facing slope, combined with a limestone substrate, and being in a rugged forested stream valley, make it an ideal place for ephemerals. Laurel Run Park was donated to Hawkins County after the completion of the film "The River," which starred Mel Gibson and Sissy Spacek. We will go past two small waterfalls; Laurel Run Falls and Kiner Falls. Laurel Run is known more for a proliferation of wildflowers. Hillsides covered in trilliums, Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), Celandine Poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), and Dwarf Larkspur (*Delphinium tricorne*) are stunning. We will also see Largeleaf Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum macrophyllum*), Mountain Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis montana*), Guyandotte Beauty (*Synarda hispidula*), and Sweet White Trillium (*Trillium simile*).

**Meeting Place/Time:** We will meet at the parking lot near the restroom at **10:00 AM EST**.

**Difficulty:** Moderate, total distance is four miles. Sturdy shoes that may get muddy are helpful, hiking pole(s) are helpful. (Exciting News: Park has a new bridge across creek. No more rock hopping!)

**Facilities:** Yes

**Lunch:** Bring

**Leader:** Ken Rea [kenrea2@gmail.com](mailto:kenrea2@gmail.com) (423-737-3882)



**Registration Link:**

<https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F37605>

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(11) April 30 - May 3 (Friday-Sunday) - Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glade Festival, Lebanon, Wilson County

Come to Cedars of Lebanon for all or part of the 48th Year of Celebrating Cedar Glades, April 30 – May 3, 2026. Learn more about limestone cedar glades and the unique flora this spring. The Center for Cedar Glade Studies and Cedars of Lebanon State Park are hosting a series of activities from April 30 to May 3. Many events are facilitated by our own TNPS members. Here is a brief overview:

- Thursday, April 30, Dr. Erin Anfinson will lead a morning session on making and using inks from native plants; in the afternoon botanical illustrator, Mary Priestley, will share how to journal about nature through narrative and art.
- Friday, May 1, in the afternoon is a research roundtable for those interested in sharing or learning more about research related to cedar glade and other rare plant species, followed by a field experience. There is an evening program with Phil Hodge, Director, TN State Archaeology.

- Saturday, May 2, is a full suite of events that begin at 7am with a bird hike and end at 7pm with an owl prowling. Activities include gardening with native plants, edible natives, glade fossils, cave critters, photography, and morning/afternoon signature hikes to the glades with Holly Taylor and Milo Pyne.
- Sunday, May 3, join Jason and LA Rawlings Allen from NEST (Nature Education Society of Tennessee) for a morning hike to Mt. Pleasant State Natural Area, where Vanderbilt professor, Elsie Quarterman (namesake for the weekend) rediscovered the TN coneflower. In the evening, they will lead a hike at Vesta Cedar Glade to experience the glades in the evening and to listen for our three bird species of “night jars.”



Registration for events will be through Cedars of Lebanon State Park. The website asks for donations to support the park, but nothing is required unless there is a materials fee. Visit:

https://tnstateparks.com/parks/event_details/cedars-of-lebanon/#/?event=48th-elsie-quarterman-cedar-glade-wildflower-festival5226

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### ***(12) May 2 (Saturday) - New Cumberland Trail (CT) Part Hike, Cumberland County***

**Description:** This event is sponsored by TNPS and TCWP. We will start at Peavine Rd. and hike south bound on the CT about 2.5 miles to Daddy's Creek and eat lunch there. We will hike through some rock houses. You can turn back to Peavine Rd. at any point making a hike of the length you desire but the best part is at 2.5 miles where the hike turns back. I do not know what flowers we will see as I have never visited here in the spring, but the mountain laurel should be in flower.

#### **Meeting Places/Time:**

1. Marathon Gas Station (52 Main St, Crab Orchard) at the Crab Orchard exit (329) off I-40 east of Crossville (**9:00 AM central, 10:00 AM Eastern**) (35.90871 - 84.87526)

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:** 5 miles for those going the full distance. There are steep, rough rock steps. There are rocks and roots in the trail. Elevation change is moderate.

**Lunch:** Bring water, lunch, and bug spray

**Restroom:** At meeting places

**Leader:** Larry Pounds. Phone/email: 865-705-8516, [PoundsL471@aol.com](mailto:PoundsL471@aol.com)



**Registration Link:** <https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F36409>  
Limit of 25 registrants.

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(13) May 9 (Saturday) - Oak Ridge Paved Greenway, Anderson County

Description: Sponsored by TNPS and TCWP, the focus is tree and shrub identification along the paved greenway.

Meeting Place/Time: At the end of Old Edgemoor Rd. in Haw Ridge Park in Oak Ridge at **9:00 AM Eastern** (36.01034, -84.16753). Near the former Life Development Center (299 Old Edgemoor Rd. Oak Ridge).

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

Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray

Facilities: None

Leader: Larry Pounds. Phone/email: 865-705-8516,
PoundsL471@aol.com



Registration Link: <https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F36411>
Limit of 25 registrants.

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***(14) May 15 (Friday) – Henry Horton Wetlands BioBlitz***  
**(Note: this is NOT an official event of the Annual Conference. Registration is separate.)**

**Description:** Join us as we document all aspects of life—plants, insects, mammals, birds, and more using the iNaturalist cellphone application. Participants will help log species in the park, including walks through wetland areas, to see who can record the most species during the event. Online registration is required.

This is an excellent opportunity to explore the wetlands of the park with nature enthusiasts while obtaining more experience with the iNaturalist app. It will directly benefit Henry Horton State Park and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation by contributing valuable biodiversity data for conservation and management.

Attendees will need to download the iNaturalist app prior to the event. This app will be used to document the specimens observed. A bioblitz is an intensive, time-limited survey where scientists, naturalists, and volunteers work together to find and record as many species as possible in a defined area.

**Meeting Place/Time:** Be at Henry Horton State Park main Visitor Center parking lot at 4209 Nashville Hwy, Chapel Hill, TN 37034, **10:00 AM Central**. We will carpool to the trailhead of the Ronnie Bowers Wetland Trail. In case you arrive later, the geographic coordinates of parking area of the trailhead are: 35.58700, -86.71620.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Lunch:** Bring water and other snacks, as desired.

**Facilities:** None at the site, nearest are in the Visitors Center near the park entrance.

**Leader:** Eli Harris, Tennessee Tech Graduate Student and iNaturalist Ambassador

**Trip Registration:** <https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F36576>  
Limit of 25 registrants.

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(15) September 5 (Saturday) – Ramsey Creek - Obed River, Morgan County

Description: This is a joint outing for TNPS and TCWP. We will walk about .5 mile on a rough road to the Obed. If the water is low enough and you want to, we will wade the Obed to visit a scour prairie. On the way back we will hike off trail along Ramsey Creek. Hikers may skip this and return along the rough road. We will have bird and plant interpretation.

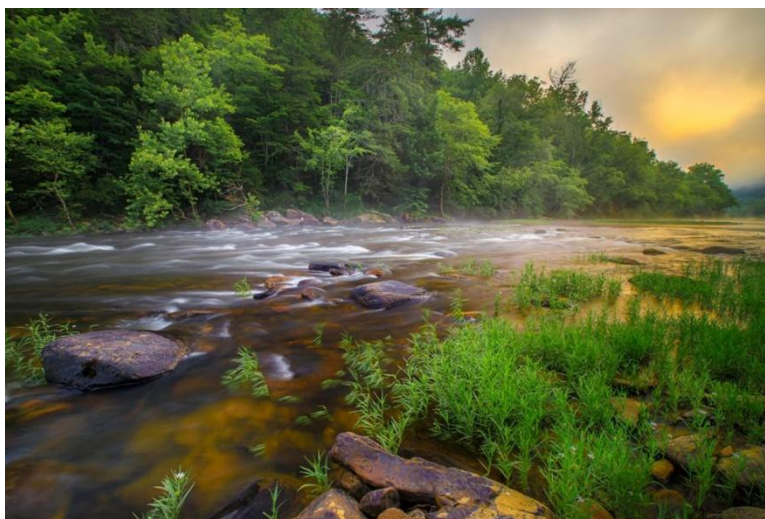
Meeting Place/Time: Wartburg Visitor Center, 3804 Morgan County Hwy (US 27), Wartburg at **10:00 AM Eastern**

Difficulty: Easy if you skip the wade and the off-trail hike. Distance about 1 mile.

Facilities: At meeting place

Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray

Leaders: Larry Pounds (Phone/email: 865-705-8516, PoundsL471@aol.com), Chuck Estes



Registration Link: <https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F36415>
Limit of 25 registrants.

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## ***(16) September 19 (Saturday) - Camp Creek Natives Nursery + Black Belt Prairie, Lee County, MS***

**Description:** This trip will begin at Camp Creek Native Plant Nursery in New Albany, MS. Camp Creek specializes in growing local ecotype native plants from seed and offers a diverse selection of regionally native species in various container sizes. From here, we will carpool to a Black Belt Prairie remnant in Lee County, MS that hosts several endemic species and signature chalky exposures. We will have a late lunch in Tupelo (near the site) and return to the nursery to finish off the trip. Some notable species on the site include: Black Belt black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia terranigrae*), Black Belt rosinweed (*Silphium confertifolium* also known as *S. asteriscus* var. *latifolium*), Great Plains ladies-tresses (*Spiranthes magnicamporum*), rough rattlesnake-root (*Nabalus asper*), rough blazing star (*Liatris aspera*), prairie dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*), and many more.

**Meeting Place/Time:** Camp Creek Native Plants, 921 Sam T Barkley Dr, New Albany, MS. **10:00 AM Central.**

**Difficulty:** Easy - Moderate. There are pathways/trails. Will require a short walk through a thick wooded area.

**Facilities:** Camp Creek Native Plants Nursery/Shop and/or Neon Pig (lunch location)

**Lunch:** Neon Pig in Tupelo



**Leaders:** Bart Jones (901-485-2745, [bjones7777@hotmail.com](mailto:bjones7777@hotmail.com)), Harry Babb, and Andrew Ballard (Camp Creek Native Plant Nursery)

**Registration Link:**

<https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F36416>

Limit of 25 registrants.

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(17) September 26 (Saturday) – Fall Wildflowers of Big Soddy Creek Gulf, Soddy-Daisy, Hamilton County

Description: Not to be outdone by its spring displays, there are several amazing spots for a variety of blooms of woodland and creek scour species here. It is great for at least eight species of goldenrods, several sunflower and rosinweed species, several *Symphyotrichum* aster species, false foxglove, stiff-leaved aster, white wood aster, two golden asters, fall phlox, downy lobelia, impressive farkleberry specimens, royal fern and much more.

Meeting Place/Time: The trailhead is located just off the first exit of Hwy 111 after it splits from Hwy 27 in Soddy Daisy, TN on Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/fLpH61S5AA9XF5Ne6>. There is plenty of parking at the Trailhead (2 lots) and some street parking if needed. We will meet at **9:00 AM Eastern**.

Difficulty: The trail is only about 1.4 miles one way and easy, mostly a packed gravel pathway, with a few rocky spots on side trails. Option for additional two miles along Board Camp creek on the Cumberland Trail which is hilly with a few ascents and stairs along the escarpment, but rated easy to moderate.

Facilities: Only port-a-potties.

Lunch: Bring water, snacks, sunscreen, hat, and bug spray.

Leader: Stephan Eselgroth (email: stephanpmnr@gmail.com).

Registration

Link: <https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F36850>

Limit of 25 registrants.



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**(18) October 3 (Saturday) - Liatris squarrulosa/Helianthus spp. Superbloom - Marshall County, MS**

**Description:** This trip will focus on exploring a diverse grassland remnant (+ seep) within the Holly Springs National Forest. During early fall, large populations of Appalachian blazing star (*Liatris squarrulosa*) and several *Helianthus* species are in bloom, historically attracting migrating monarchs in large numbers to the site. Other notable species include white-leaf mountainmint (*Pycnanthemum albescens*), Virginia marbleseed (*Lithospermum virginianum*), narrowleaf bluecurls (*Trichostema setaceum*), eastern silvery aster (*Symphyotrichum concolor*), Ozark sunflower (*Helianthus silphoides*), slender Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum elliottii*), woollysheath threeawn (*Aristida lanosa*), orange fringed orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*) and many others.

**Difficulty:** Moderate to strenuous. There are no designated trails. Site is hilly with wet areas (seep area/valleys). Comfortable to observe from around the parking area.

**Meeting Place/Time:** Flick's Truck Stop/Dollar General,  
6469-6493 Church Ave, Potts Camp, MS at **10:00 AM**  
**Central**

**Facilities:** At meeting place

**Lunch:** Bring to eat in the field

**Leaders:** Bart Jones (901-485-2745,  
[bjones7777@hotmail.com](mailto:bjones7777@hotmail.com)), Allan Trently, and Harry Babb

**Registration Link:**

<https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F36421>

Limit of 25 registrants.



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