



TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chasing Wildflowers: Spring Ephemerals	1,15
President's Perspective	2, 3
A Tribute to Karen Hill	3
TNPS Members Make a Difference	4
Dr. Robert Kral: An obituary/tribute	4
TNPS Member Spotlight: Kim Sadler	5
TECH TIPS: Navigating NEON	5
Field trip report: UTC Herbarium	6
2025 Fieldtrip and Events Schedule	7 - 14
2025 Native Plant Seminar Series	15

SAVE THE DATES

**SEPTEMBER 26-28
FRIDAY-SUNDAY
TNPS ANNUAL MEETING**
Pickwick Landing State Park,
Hardin Co.
Look for more details in the
June Newsletter, the website,
on Facebook and via email.

Chasing Wildflowers: Spring Ephemerals

by Donna Bollenbach

It is time to venture out to see the Spring ephemerals. Don't hesitate, or you may miss them. A spring ephemeral is a wildflower that blooms briefly in the early spring, usually before the trees leaf out. While some spring ephemerals may be seen in March, peak bloom time is usually mid to late April in the valleys and late April to mid-May in the higher elevations.

Wildflower Pilgrimages, Festivals, and Hikes are planned around the beautiful show these short-lived flowers bring to our landscapes. TNPS has several field trips to see the spring wildflowers in March, April, and May. Details start on page 6 in this newsletter.

Here are some common spring ephemerals to inspire you to join the chase for wildflowers this spring:



Purple Phacelia, *Phacelia bipinnatifida*, may be seen blanketing the mountains of Tennessee in the spring.



You will need to look under the leaves to see the spring blossoms of the Mayapple, *Podophyllum peltatum*.



Foamflower, *Tiarella cordifolia*, is found in moist woods and well-drained bottomlands.



Rue Anemone, *Thalictrum thalictroides*, is a spring ephemeral found in deciduous woodlands in Tennessee and throughout the southeast.

(Continued on page 15)

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:

Tennessee Native Plant Society
PO Box 159274
Nashville, TN 37215

Officers

Mitchell Kent, President
Tim Kaltenbach, Vice-President

Sue Bible, Secretary

Juanita Wade, Assistant Secretary

Kim Sadler, Treasurer

Lesly & Jesse Gunn, Assistant Treasurers

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Ken Rea

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Newsletter Editor

Donna Bollenbach

The President's Perspective



I am truly honored and grateful to have been elected as the President of the Tennessee Native Plant Society. Thank you for your trust and support. It is a privilege to serve such a dedicated community committed to conservation of the our state's native plants and their habitats.

I want to acknowledge the hard work and leadership of our past president, Karen Hill, for whom I have the deepest respect. Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Karen on Neon One implementation and other projects. Her dedication throughout her term has strengthened our society and advanced our mission, providing a solid foundation on which we can continue to grow. I look forward to building upon her efforts and working alongside each of you to expand our reach and impact.

In addition to continuing our current programs, there are several additional areas I plan to focus on this year:

1. Strengthening Engagement with Colleges and Universities

One of my top priorities is increasing TNPS's engagement with colleges and universities, including their faculty and students. We currently have over 125 student members, many of whom are studying botany, ecology, and biological sciences. By finding ways for them to contribute through their academic backgrounds, we can enhance their involvement while inspiring future

TNPS leaders. Additionally, fostering stronger connections with faculty will help us stay informed on current trends in native plant conservation and expand our outreach to students as potential long-term members.

2. Expanding Fundraising Efforts

TNPS is fortunate to receive donations from both members and nonmembers, for which we are truly grateful. However, most organizations like TNPS engage in active, year-round fundraising, which expands their reach and enables them to fund more projects. With the capabilities of the Neon One platform, we already have the tools to launch fundraising campaigns, track progress, and report on results. Strengthening our fundraising efforts will allow us to keep membership dues low, offset rising costs, and support additional grants and conservation initiatives.

3. Recognizing Our Members' Contributions

I believe it's important to recognize members who have made valuable contributions to TNPS and its mission. To do this, we are launching the TNPS Member Spotlight series, which will feature outstanding members and their contributions in our newsletter and on our Facebook page. Our first TNPS Member Spotlight (page 4 of this newsletter) features Kim Sadler. I encourage you to help us identify members whom you believe should be recognized—please send me your recommendations.

4. Enhancing Member Retention

Retaining members is crucial to our society's long-term success. While some non-renewals are due to personal reasons

(Continued on page 3)

A Tribute to Karen Hill *for her dedicated service to TNPS*

By Bart Jones

I can't exactly remember the first time I met Karen, I believe it was on a field trip where she had accompanied Alice Jensen. But I definitely remember meeting Karen at her first board meeting. Karen was asked to bring her talents in website development to upgrade the society's site into the exceptionally beautiful and informative destination we enjoy today.

She became a trusted voice and creative thinker to the board meetings in her ex-officio role. We had just had an opening come up with the Treasurer's position, and as a past-president that had to go through the exact scenario just a few years before, I wanted to support our President at the time, Susan Sweetser, to fill the position as quickly as possible. For a President, there is no other position that helps the society run as smoothly as a really good Treasurer. Karen came on board with an enthusiasm that you don't necessarily see when someone takes on a position like that, and within a few months the financial side of the society was in great shape.



In natural progression, Karen became President of TNPS, and being Karen, she had several ideas in mind she thought would improve the society. For those members who've only recently joined you can't appreciate the immense impact Karen has had, but us old-timers know we are the modern, technologically forward group we are today through her efforts. Karen's magical power is her ability to lead with a firm, but gentle hand, always nudging people to take on tasks or positions and then allowing them to perform them on their own terms. This gives us a society that is strong and dynamic without the micromanaging that can often unravel things.

Just a few of the highlights of Karen's presidency include the establishment of the monthly Zoom Seminars, which directly led to a doubling of our membership, the Grants 4 Native Plants initiative, and her fight to include recognition and mandates for native plants in township, county, and HOA requirements. But probably most consequential, bringing us into the NeonOne world and all the benefits they can bring with managing the society's membership. For this I am personally very appreciative.

So I can truly say, thank you Karen for your vision, leadership, and service to TNPS.

(Continued from page 2)

such as moving out of state, a better understanding of the reasons behind membership lapses can provide valuable feedback for improvement. With Neon CRM, we have tools to track and address retention trends. I welcome your ideas on how we can enhance member engagement and broaden participation in TNPS activities. Please feel free to share your thoughts with me and the board members.

TNPS thrives because of its members, your participation, enthusiasm, and expertise make us a driving force for conservation. I encourage you to continue sharing your knowledge, volunteering, and contributing to our collective mission. Whether through field trips, research, or outreach initiatives, your involvement is invaluable.

I am excited about the journey ahead and look forward to collaborating with each of you. Together, let us continue making a meaningful difference.

With gratitude,

Mitchell

President, Tennessee Native Plant Society

TNPS Members Make a Difference

“Conserving and celebrating native plant communities and their habitats through education.” That’s the TNPS mission.

Since 1978, our members have been finding friends in this organization, spending time together, learning, discussing, and teaching. We even venture into wild places to experience the the thrill of native wildflowers we cherish so much. It turns out that being a part of a group that’s making a difference is really satisfying!

TNPS is seeing success and growth. We’re helping establish native gardens in schools and public places, encouraging students from grade school to university, educating civic leaders about natives, and more. Because of TNPS, public awareness of native plants has significantly expanded throughout the Southeast region since 1977.

Many people are helping TNPS by making gifts to the organization in addition to their membership dues. TNPS is all volunteer, so donations allow it to do even more to fulfill its mission. If you would like to join other members in making a tax-deductible contribution, please go to our website <http://www.TNPS.org> and click the “Make a Donation” box or mail a check to:

TNPS
P.O. Box 159274
NASHVILLE, TN 37215

Thank you for your membership and dedication! For questions, please send an email to info@tnps.org

Dr. Robert Kral: Paying tribute to a legend in the world of Botany



Dr. Robert Kral, 1926 –2025

TNPS is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Robert Kral, an esteemed botanist and a retired botany professor at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. He was the curator of the Herbarium at Vanderbilt University until it was moved to the Botanical Research Institute in Texas in 1997. In 2012, he was selected for the TNPS Hall of Fame Award. (<https://tnps.org/hall-of-fame/>)

Dr Kral retired in 1998.

Dr. Kral was a major contributor to botany in the southeast. He was a noted expert in Xyridaceae (yellow-eyed grasses) and Cyperaceae (sedge) families. His contributions to "The Flora of North America" and many other books on plant taxonomy and scientific papers were invaluable. He was also an expert in rare plants and, along with Dr. Eugene Wofford, was the first to describe the rare and endangered Cumberland Sandwort, *Geocarpon cumberlandense*. Dr. Kral also mentored many botanists throughout his career, some of which credit him for their career choice. He will be greatly missed by many.

Read more about Dt. Robert Kral's life here: <https://robertkral.com/>

TNPS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Kim Sadler

by Mitchell Kent



In this edition of the TNPS Member Spotlight, we feature **Kim Cleary Sadler**. Kim has been a member of TNPS for over 25 years. She is a strong supporter of the TNPS mission *“To conserve and celebrate native plants and their habitats through education.”* She currently serves as the Treasurer for TNPS and a member of the TNPS Board of Directors.

What you may not know about Kim is that she holds a Doctor of Education (EdD) degree and is a professor in the Department of Biology at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). In this position, Kim teaches numerous courses, including Introduction to Biology (BIO L1030/1110/1120), Biology for Elementary Teachers (BIOL 3000), Undergraduate Research in Biology (BIOL 4280), and Biome Analysis – Cedar Glades (BIOL 4331). She is also a doctoral faculty in the Mathematics and Science Education Program.

Kim is director of the MTSU Center for Environmental Education and co-director of the Center for Cedar Glade Studies, established in 2005. Additionally, she is involved in various activities, including grant writing assistance and consulting services.

As a passionate advocate of cedar glades, Kim works tirelessly to promote awareness of these endangered ecosystems and their need for protection. She discusses this topic in a brief video published by MTSU, in which Kim provides a walkthrough of a cedar glade and highlights its key features.

Kim is actively engaged in TNPS activities. In 2023, she was one of the organizers of the TNPS Annual Conference at the Cedars of Lebanon State Park, held in conjunction with the annual Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glade Wildflower Festival. She has also co-authored a booklet entitled *Limestone Cedar Glades: An Introduction to Some Common and Rare Species*, providing valuable information about plants in these unique habitats. Proceeds from the booklet's sales are donated to TNPS. Kim is a highly valued member of the Neon One Implementation Team. She has played a crucial role in upgrading QuickBooks from the desktop to the online version, enabling integration of TNPS accounting records with the Neon One CRM module – a complex and demanding task.

Please join us in congratulating Kim Sadler on her contributions to the mission of TNPS and thanking her for her years of service and support to the society.

TECH TIPS: Navigating NEON

Your guide to making the most of the TNPS website and Neon Portal

Each issue we will give you tips on using the TNPS website and the NEON portal to benefit most from your membership. This month, we will review communications preferences:

Make sure you don't miss any important notifications from TNPS! To receive all the email communications you want from TNPS, please check your communication preferences in the "Member Login Portal."

Here's how to do it:

1. Log in to the portal. (www.TNPS.org)
2. Navigate to the sidebar menu on the left and select "Communications Update."
3. On the "Communication Preferences Form," review the checkboxes at the bottom and choose the categories of emails you would like to receive, such as "Announcements," "Annual Conference," "Field Trips," and more.

After you make your selections, you will receive emails for the categories you have chosen. You can update your preferences at any time.

FIELD TRIP REPORT: UTC HERBARIUM AT UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE IN CHATTANOOGA

by Juanita Wade and Donna Bollenbach



Dr. Joey Shaw

On January 16th and January 27th, participants from TNPS and the community were able to tour a hidden treasure at the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga (UTC): The UTC Herbarium, a biological collection of identified, pressed, mounted, and preserved plant specimens curated by Dr. Joey Shaw, Associated Professor of Biology at UTC.

The UTC Herbarium has the distinction of being the oldest in Tennessee, dating back to 1886, and the third largest in the state behind the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and Austin Peay State University. Over 45000 plant specimens are stored in the UTC Herbarium, with the largest number representing plants from southeast Tennessee, northwest Georgia, and Northeast Alabama, with others collected worldwide. Participants

were shown one pressed plant that was collected in 1875.

The collection is housed in a climate-controlled room in metal cabinets where they are categorized by plant family. But these specimens are not just locked away for posterity. Dr. Shaw, with the help of his students, is leading the state in digitizing Tennessee's herbarium collections (over 900,000 specimens) so the data will be available to researchers, educators, conservationists, policymakers, and hobbyists. The Southeast Regional Network of Expertise and Collections, SERNEC, currently houses digitized images, where citizen scientists are invited to help transcribe herbarium records to voucher the specimens so they can be made public. To learn how you can help in this critical step, visit the [SERNEC volunteer page](#).

Attendees of the Herbarium tour were also given some hands-on work as well. Quinn Towery, a graduate student at UTC, walked them through the process of mounting a pressed plant specimen on archival paper with archival glue. A small part of the herbarium's task of preserving the past for the future.



A classroom full of attentive participants.



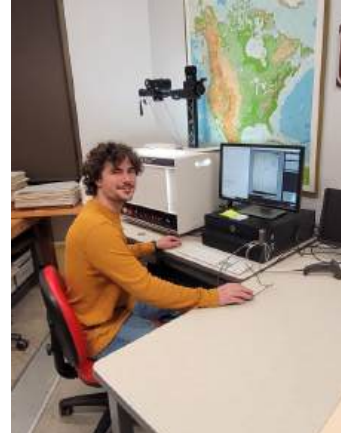
A participant mounting a plant specimen.



A mounted passionflower specimen.



Participants with Dr. Shaw in the UTC Herbarium



Quinn, a graduate student, in the processing room

2025 TNPS Field Trip & Events Schedule

Fieldtrip details are subject to change. Please visit <https://tnps.org/field-trips/> for updates and a state map with fieldtrip locations.

JANUARY 16 (THURSDAY) AND JANUARY 27: UTC HERBARIUM AT UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE IN CHATTANOOGA, HAMILTON COUNTY

Description: Join us for a guided tour of the UTC Herbarium on the University of Tennessee (UTC) campus in Chattanooga hosted by curator Joey Shaw, PhD. In addition to his work in herbarium curation, Dr. Shaw is UC Foundation Professor at UTC and conducts research in floristics of the Southeast, plant species of conservation concern, and others. The UTC Herbarium is the oldest in Tennessee, established in 1886, and the third largest in the state. It contains approximately 45,000 specimens of macroalgae, seedless and seed-bearing plant specimens primarily from southeastern Tennessee, northwest Georgia, and northeast Alabama. It is associated with the Southeastern Regional Network of Expertise and Collections, or SERNEC, through which it provides online access to digitized specimens for research by other universities and the public.

Meeting Place/Time: The UTC Herbarium is located at 215 Holt Hall inside the UTC Department of Biology, Geology, and Environmental Science on the UTC at 702 Mocs Alumni Drive. We will meet in front of the UTC Holt Hall at 5:50 PM Eastern. Visitor parking is available nearby off Vine St in Lot 10. According to the University Parking Services after hours, there is no charge for visitor parking after 5 pm and no requirement for a visitor pass.

Leaders: Mitchell Kent (mkent423@gmail.com) and Dr. Joey Shaw. Please email Mitchell to let us know if you plan to attend. Limit of 24 participants.

While this field trip is over, you can read the field trip report on page 6.

MARCH 22 (SATURDAY) WILDFLOWER SPOT ON THE N. WALKER ACCESS TO THE NORTH RIDGE TRAIL, ANDERSON CO.

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 (*Erythronium americanum*) with pockets of twin leaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*), foamflowers (*Tiarella cordifolia*), wood poppies (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), and spring beauties (*Claytonia virginica*). If we hit the timing right, the Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) might be blooming.



Trout Lily, *Erythronium americanum*
photo by Donna Bollenbach

Meeting Places/Time: There is minimal 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. 10:00 AM Eastern.

Difficulty: The trail is only about 0.7 miles one way, but it is steep in spots. It also can be muddy, and there is a stream crossing.

Facilities: The Children's Museum has facilities.

Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray

Leaders: Margaret Cumberland and Larry Pounds. If you RSVP, it helps with planning and allows contact in case of cancellation.

Phone/email: 919-339-0072, meshearin@gmail.com

MARCH 25 (TUESDAY, rain date MARCH 27) SHORT SPRINGS NATURAL AREA, MACHINE FALLS, ADAMS FALLS AND BUSBY FALLS, COFFEE CO.

Description: This is a 3-mile hike that is rated moderate. There is a stream crossing, so please wear waterproof or water-resistant footwear. Bring your hiking poles because there is a steep descent down to the wildflower section and a steep ascent back up the same way. Trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*), Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) (on the right side on the steep decent), dwarf larkspur (*Delphinium tricorne*), Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), large-flowered trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*), southern red trillium (*Trillium sulcatum*) (on the left side of the steep descent.) There are two state-listed endangered species, Nestronia (*Nestronia umbellula*) and broad-leaved bunchflower (*Melanthium hybridum*).

Meeting Place/Time: Costco in Murfreesboro, 1525 Beasie Rd. Meet near the Costco gas station at 10:00 AM Central. There is very limited parking, so we will need to carpool and leave most of the cars in the Costco parking lot. Please be willing to share with riders in your car. We will take the cars that hold the most people. Hike location: 200 Short Springs Rd., Tullahoma. Arrive at 10:50 AM Central. Please carpool.

Facilities: Unknown. Be sure to use the facilities at Costco; bring your Costco card if you have one.



Virginia Bluebells, *Mertensia virginica*
photo by Donna Bollenbach

Lunch: There's a nice and simple menu at the meat and three close to Old Stone Fort on the right side, just before the Old Stone Fort entrance. The restaurant is Stone Fort Restaurant. It's very casual, and the prices are low.

Registration: Online registration is provided for this field trip. To register and reserve your spot visit <https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents>, select the fieldtrip and "Get Tickets." Enter the number of tickets and continue. Fill in required information and submit the order. **There is a limit of 12 participants.**

Leader: Laurie Bruno, If you need to contact the leader, call 615-415-8595 and leave a detailed message. Note that I will likely not have cell service within 15 miles of the park on the day of the hike.

APRIL 4-6 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) – TRAILS AND TRILLIUMS, SEWANEE, FRANKLIN CO. <https://www.trailsandtrilliums.org/>

APRIL 12 (SATURDAY) FROZEN HEAD WILDFLOWER WALK, MORGAN CO.

Description: This is a joint outing for TNPS and TCWP. We will have an excellent opportunity to see spring wildflowers. We will hike from Panther Branch Trailhead. The first 0.55 miles are ideal for those with limited hiking capabilities. The trail is wide and flat. For those continuing the next 1 mile along Panther Branch, it is steeper and rougher but still only moderate. Panther Branch is a place to see dwarf ginseng (*Panax trifolius*). The early start time is in the hope of finding more parking at the trailhead.

Meeting Place/Time: Frozen Head State Park office parking area at 8:30 AM Eastern Time.

Difficulty: Moderate with a distance of up to 3 miles, depending on when you turn back. Easy for the first half mile.

Facilities: At the meeting place.

Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray.

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

APRIL 13 (SUNDAY) – DEAN’S WOODS WILDFLOWER HIKE, KNOX CO.

Description: Dean's Woods is a 25-acre jewel of biodiversity in South Knoxville owned by the University of Tennessee. Although surrounded by an older residential neighborhood, its display of vernal flora in March, April, and May is unmatched west of the Smokies! The Woods are on steep hillsides above Spring Creek, about a mile south of the UT Medical Center. Join us for a leisurely stroll down the hill from the trailhead at 3001 Germantown Lane. We will descend about 250 feet over the course of about half a mile along a tributary of Spring Creek, then turn west across the tributary (easy step-over) to walk just above Spring Creek and below a hillside adorned with bloodroot, Virginia bluebells, trillium (4 or 5 species), larkspur, Dutchman's breeches, squirrel corn, and other vernal flora. A white morph of Virginia bluebells is particularly interesting! The watershed also has a mature, hardwood forest with some very large trees. During the last three years, several work parties led by the Sierra Club and UT students have removed substantial amounts of invasive, exotic plants from the watershed, but there is much left to do. We will also explore a side trail about halfway up the hill with a dense coverage of Dutchman's breeches.

Meeting Place/Time: 3001 Germantown Lane, Knoxville, at 2 PM Eastern. The hike ends at 5 PM.

Difficulty: This is a moderate hike of about three miles with a descent and ascent of around 250 feet.

Lunch: At your discretion. This is a mid-afternoon hike. Bring plenty of water or an energy drink.

Facilities: None (but lots of bushes!)

Registration: Online registration is provided for this field trip. To register and reserve your spot visit <https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents>, select the fieldtrip and “Get Tickets.” Enter the number of tickets and continue. Fill in required information and submit the order. **There is a limit of 20 participants.**

Leader: Mac Post, Phone./email: 865-806-0980, mpost3116@gmail.com. (Mac is a retired PhD Ecologist and long-time hike leader for the Sierra Club)

APRIL 23-26 (WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY) WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE, SMOKY MOUNTAINS Info: <https://www.wildflowerpilgrimage.org/>

APRIL 27 (SUNDAY) - SLOWLY WE WALK, STEP BY STEP – A GENTLE NATURE FORAY ALONG CITICO CREEK, MONROE CO.

Description: Many people would enjoy going on more nature hikes but hesitate because they are not interested in fast-paced, sometimes strenuous walks. This will be the opposite and is geared towards those of us who like to move slowly and purposely through nature, noticing every plant. Our leader, John Manion, will lead this walk (and drive) along various locations bordering Citico Creek. All our walking will be on established paths, none of which are steep or rough. John will bring attention to the rich flora and history of this area...both identifying and telling fascinating stories of many plant species. At the end of our foray, those interested will be offered a tour of Overhill Gardens - where nearly 1,000 species of native plants are grown.

Meeting Place/Time: Overhill Gardens, 1404 Citico Road, Vonore, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Eastern. We will gather at Overhill Gardens and carpool to nearby Citico Creek, where we will park at various pull-offs to explore each location.

Difficulty: Easy

Lunch: Bring food/snacks/drinks.

Facilities: Few and far between.

Leader: John Manion, manionsnature@gmail.com

ELSIE QUARTERMAN CEDAR GLADE WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL at Cedars of Lebanon SP (May 2-3) and Long Hunter SP (May 4)

For more information, visit: <https://glade-center.mtsu.edu/>

To register: <https://reserve.tnstateparks.com/register/47th-elsie-quarterman-cedar-glade-wildflower-festival5325>

MAY 3 (SATURDAY) LAUREL RUN PARK, HAWKINS CO.

Description: Laurel Run Park is considered one of the best places for Spring ephemeral wildflowers. The combination of a north-facing slope, a limestone substrate, and 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 pass two small waterfalls, Laurel Run Falls and Kiner Falls. Laurel Run is known more for its proliferation of wildflowers than for having rare wildflowers. Hillsides covered in trilliums, Guyandotte beauty (*Synarda hispidula*), Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), and dwarf larkspur (*Delphinium tricorne*) are stunning. We will also see largeleaf waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum macrophyllum*), mountain wood sorrel (*Oxalis montana*), Celandine poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), and sweet white trillium (*Trillium simile*).

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

Difficulty: Moderate. Hiking poles are helpful.

Facilities: Yes.

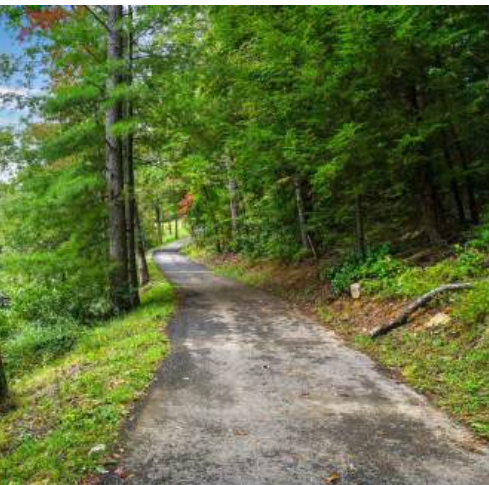
Lunch: Bring to eat.

Leader: Ken Rea, kenrea2@gmail.com, 423-737-3882



Celandine Poppy, *Stylophorum diphyllum*
photo by Donna Bollenbach

MAY 3 (SATURDAY) OAK RIDGE PAVED GREENWAY, ANDERSON CO.



A paved nature trail
Photo by Donna Bollenbach

Description: This is sponsored by TNPS and TCWP. We will see late-spring wildflowers and do some tree and shrub identification along the paved greenway.

Meeting Place/Time: At the end of Old Edgemoor Rd. in Haw Ridge Park at 9:00 AM Eastern (36.01034, -84.16753).

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

Facilities: None

Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray

Leader: Larry Pounds. If you RSVP, it helps with planning and allows contact if there are changes. Phone/email: 865-705-8516, PoundsL471@aol.com

MAY 10 (SATURDAY) KENTUCKY LADY SLIPPER, DECATUR CO.

Description: This trip will focus on the Kentucky lady slipper (*Cypripedium kentuckiense*), a state-endangered species only found in 3 counties in Tennessee. We will also explore a couple of roadside stops before the lady slipper site. After lunch, there will be an optional trip to a seep area in Natchez Trace State Park.

Meeting Place/Time: Love's at I-40 exit 126, left side parking area. 10:00 AM Central

Difficulty: Moderate. There are some steep sections and wet areas (including a possible creek crossing).

Facilities: At Love's.

Lunch: Arby's at Love's.

Registration: Online registration is provided for this field trip. To register and reserve your spot visit <https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents>, select the fieldtrip and "Get Tickets." Enter the number of tickets and continue. Fill in required information and submit the order. **There is a limit of 20 participants.**

Leader: Bart Jones, bjones7777@hotmail.com (901-485-2745)

MAY 17 (SATURDAY) NORRIS GRIST MILL TO OBSERVATION POINT, ANDERSON CO.

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 some populations of pink lady slippers (*Cypripedium acaule*), climbing to a nice view of Norris Dam.

Meeting Places/Time:

1. Parking lot at the Norris Grist Mill (Lower Clear Creek Rd, Norris, TN 37828) at 10:00 AM Eastern.
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.

Facilities: The Lenoir Museum nearby has facilities.

Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray

Leader: Margaret Cumberland. If you RSVP, it helps with planning and allows contact in case of cancellation. Phone/email: 919-339-0072, meshearin@gmail.com



Pink Lady Slippers,
Cypripedium acaule
photo by .
D.Bollenbach

MAY 17 (SATURDAY) WESTERN HIGHLAND RIM STREAM AND SAVANNA WALK AT LAUREL HILL WMA, LAWRENCE CO.

Description: We will visit two areas within Laurel Hill WMA, a hidden gem of botany in TN. First, we will do a stream walk in the Little Buffalo River and explore the rich diversity on the streambanks and seeps. Be prepared to walk in the stream! After visiting the stream, we will head to a Post Oak savanna in another area of the WMA.

Meeting Place/Time: Marathon Gas Station (35°21'13"N, 87°27'04"W) at the intersection of TN-240 and Red Hill-Center Rd at 10:00 AM Central.

Difficulty: The only difficult part will be the stream walk due to the risk of slipping. Please be prepared to walk in the stream

Facilities: None.

Lunch: Bring your lunch and water.

Leader: Cooper Breedon, cooperbreeden@gmail.com, 615-545-3277 Please contact the leader if you plan on attending!

MAY 17 (SATURDAY) FLAT ROCK CEDAR GLADES AND BARRENS, FIRE ADAPTED AND THRIVING!, RUTHERFORD CO.

Description: We will tour portions of the natural area that have been subject to habitat restoration and prescribed fire in recent years. We will look at how active management is benefiting native flowers across the site and see the benefits of applying fire to the landscape. Many native plants are fire-adapted, and we'll see how they have been affected. Panoramic views of native grasses will be a feature of this hike. Participants should be able to travel 2-3 miles over rocky trails and be comfortable venturing off the trail to view certain species. The terrain is relatively flat but shade from the sun is hard to come by in the glades. Please wear closed-toe shoes and be aware that there are no facilities on site. For guests traveling, there is camping and cabin rental available at Cedars of Lebanon State Park, just 20 minutes away. Note: There is a \$10 fee. See the Natural Areas website to register and pay.

Meeting Place/Time: Flat Rock State Natural Area trailhead parking lot, 2423 Factory Road, Murfreesboro, TN (35.858539,-86.295644) 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Central.

Difficulty: Easy, but the trail is rocky, and much of the area is in the sun.

Facilities: None

Lunch: None. The hike will end at 12:00 PM.

Leader: Sam King, sam.king@tn.gov, 629-215-0194



Tennessee milkvetch, *Astragalus tennesseensis*
photo by Donna Bollenbach

JUNE 21 (SATURDAY) RITA VENABLE POLLINATOR GARDEN, WILLIAMSON CO. (THIS EVENT IS FULL)

Description: The garden and landscape of Rita and Phil Venable is in suburban Franklin near the Cool Springs mall. This garden will showcase three main ideas. One idea is how to cut down on your lawn by cutting it in half. The second idea is how to recover from the removal of 40' pin oak trees (diseased, had to be removed) and transitioning from a shade garden to a sun garden using mostly native plants. The third idea is how to use native plants in the landscape to help control erosion and provide habitat for pollinators. Rita and Phil must work within the guidelines of their HOA and want to do it in a friendly way that is also in step with the neighborhood. You can expect to see Southern bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla sessilifolia*), early sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*), phlox 'Jeana' (*Phlox paniculata* 'Jeana'), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), lanceleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), golden St. Johnswort (*Hypericum frondosum*), narrowleaf mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*), smooth Ruellia (*Ruellia strepens*), beardtongue (*Penstemon spp.*) and many others. Both the front yard and back gardens will be open for viewing, and most plants will be labeled.

Meeting Place/Time: Please register so we know how many to expect and can let neighbors know to accommodate parking. Limit of 30 participants. The address will be sent upon registration. 9:00 – 11:00 AM Central.



Buttonbush, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*
photo by Donna Bollenbach

Difficulty: Easy

Facilities: On-site

Lunch: There are restaurants and parks nearby for those who want to eat lunch afterward. A list of parks will be provided upon registration.

Registration: Online registration is provided for this field trip, but **THIS EVENT IS FULL at the time of publication.**

Leader: Rita Venable, rita@ritavenable.com

JULY 19 (SATURDAY) SAND PRAIRIE CONSERVATION AREA, SCOTT CO, MISSOURI

Description: Sand prairies are a rare habitat formed from alluvial sand deposits of major rivers, in this case, the Mississippi/Ohio River systems. Technically in tall grass prairies the grasses share dominance with several sedge family members. Surveys done in the 2007/2008 growing seasons identified 220 taxa, including 10 species considered rare in Missouri and one new state record. Highlight species for our trip include jointweed (*Polygonella americana*), dotted beebalm (*Monarda punctata*), and slender rushfoil (*Croton michauxii*).

Meeting Place/Time: Sand Prairie Conservation Area parking lot. From I-55, take exit 80 (Benton) to Highway 77 (right or southeast) for 2 miles to County Rd. 333 north (left), then 2 miles to the parking lot on the right. 10:00 AM Central.

Difficulty: Easy, but heat could be an issue.

Facilities: None

Lunch: Bring snacks/water. Plan on an early dinner at Lambert's in Sikeston.

Registration: Online registration is provided for this field trip. To register and reserve your spot visit <https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents>, select the fieldtrip and "Get Tickets." Enter the number of tickets and continue. Fill in required information and submit the order. **There is a limit of 25 participants.**

Leader: Bart Jones, bjones7777@hotmail.com (901-485-2745)



Dotted Beebalm, *Monarda punctata*
photo by Donna Bollenbach

AUGUST 2 (SATURDAY) SUMMER ORCHIDS OF THE CUMBERLAND PLATEAU, VAN BUREN CO.

Description: We will explore a few sites on the Cumberland Plateau renowned for their orchid flora, driving between sites. We should see *Platanthera* (fringed orchids), *ciliaris* (yellow fringed orchid), *cristata* (crested fringed orchid), *integrilabia* (monkeyface orchid), and *clavellata* (small green woodland orchid), as well as one or two species of *Spiranthes* (ladies'-tresses).

Meeting Place/Time: Tentatively, Fall Creek Falls Volunteer Fire Department, 24897 State Route 30, due east of Spencer, TN, at 10:00 AM Central.

Difficulty: Easy, but there are wet, boggy areas to navigate. Be prepared for the heat!

Facilities: None

Lunch: Bring to eat in the field.

Registration: Online registration is provided for this field trip. To register and reserve your spot visit <https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents>, select the fieldtrip and "Get Tickets." Enter the number of tickets and continue. Fill in required information and submit the order.

Leader: Chuck Wilson, chuckwilson5@bellsouth.net, 423-875-9625



Yellow-fringed orchid, *Platanthera ciliaris*
photo by Dennis Horn

SEPTEMBER 6 (SATURDAY) VAN BUREN COUNTY POWERLINE

Description: This is a joint outing for TNPS and TCWP. It is a rerun of the best powerline fall wildflower show I've seen. Hopefully, some of the bog orchids will still be in flower but we will mostly see goldenrods and asters.

Meeting Places/Times:

1. Shell Station on the south side of the Peavine Rd. exit in Crossville (9:00 AM central time, 10:00 AM eastern)
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: We will walk on flattish ATV roads with a short outing into a boggy area. Total walking distance is about two miles. The road is a little rough but quite drivable for most vehicles. Heat may be a problem, but we will be close to our cars and thus air conditioning.

Facilities: The meeting places.

Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray.

Leaders: Margaret Cumberland and Larry Pounds. If you RSVP, it helps with planning and allows contact in case of cancellation. Phone/email: 919-339-0072, meshearin@gmail.com



Goldenrod and Asters
photo by Donna Bollenbach

SEPTEMBER 13 (SATURDAY) THE POINT TRAIL AT OBED WILD AND SCENIC RIVER, MORGAN CO.

Description: This is a joint outing for TNPS and TCWP. The trail runs along the top of bluffs that lead to the confluence of the Obed River and Clear Creek. There are a lot of fun wildflowers out on the bluffs, and beautiful views of the river.

Meeting Places/Times:

1. Parking lot at the trailhead for Lilly Bluff Overlook and The Point (920 Ridge Rd, Lancing, TN 37770) at 10:00 AM Eastern.
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 9:00 AM Eastern.

Difficulty: The trail is moderate, with some strenuous spots. It's 3.8 miles round trip.

Facilities: The trailhead has bathrooms.

Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray

Leader: Margaret Cumberland. If you RSVP, it helps with planning and allows contact in case of cancellation. Phone/email: 919-339-0072, meshearin@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATES SEPTEMBER 26-28 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) TNPS ANNUAL MEETING PICKWICK LANDING STATE PARK, HARDIN CO.

Look for more details in upcoming newsletters, the website, Facebook and via email.



The Tennessee Native Plant Society Presents 2025 Native Plant Seminars

Each year the Tennessee Native Plant Society hosts monthly Native Plant Seminars from January through November. 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 will be posted on the *Seminars* and *Calendar* pages of our website:

www.tnps.org

Seminar speakers are drawn from our knowledgeable membership, from professionals across the state, and from the professors and students studying our Tennessee native plants. A range of topics will be covered that may include plants that are currently blooming, native plants in our yards, current research on native plants, protections for native plants, and so much more.

Join us for an hour a month to learn more about Tennessee native plants.

2025 TNPS Native Plant Seminar Schedule

March 18 - Bieke Puncochar, *Neighbors 4 Native Plants*

April 15 - Steve Murphree, *Galls and Gall Makers*

May 20 - Rosanna Ohlsson, *Collecting and Saving Seeds from Native Plants*

June 17 - Holly Taylor, *TSP Highlights in Plant Conservation*

Additional Seminars will be listed on the website as they are scheduled.

Chasing Wildflowers (Continued from page 1)



Yellow trilliums, *Trillium luteum*, is found primarily from the Eastern Highland Rim eastward in Tennessee. In the Spring, many other Trilliums may be found throughout the state.



Native to the eastern half of North America, Virginia Bluebells, *Mertensia virginica*, may be seen in moist, rich, shady woodlands in Tennessee in Spring.

All photographs by
Donna Bollenbach

In April and May, Dwarf Crested Iris, *Iris cristata*, may be seen in rich wooded slopes, bluffs, and stream banks.



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
P.O. Box 159274
Nashville, TN 37215