



TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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Wild Ginger: Gorgeous, But Don't Eat It!

By Bettina Ault, MD

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Our featured native plant of this issue is wild ginger, *Asarum canadense*. Wild ginger is an early spring perennial with heart-shaped leaves 3-5 inches wide and maroon-brown urn-shaped flowers emerging from the leaf axils. It grows in rich woods in the eastern US. Its low-growing flowers rely on ants, flies, and beetles as pollinators. Its rhizomes have the taste and smell of ginger, which has led to its use in flavoring and teas, both in Native American culture and in local culture today.

Wild ginger is a member of the Aristolochiaceae, or birthwort family, a widespread family of forbs, shrubs, and tropical vines (lianas). The Aristolochiaceae is a member of the Magnoliids, basal angiosperms unrelated to the monocots or dicots. The Aristolochiaceae is comprised of seven genera, of which four are represented in Tennessee: *Isotrema* (formerly *Aristolochia*), the pipevines; *Asarum* (wild gingers); *Hexastylis* (little brown jugs); and *Endodeca* (Virginia snakeroot).

Members of the Aristolochiaceae have been used medicinally since antiquity. One original use was as a treatment for snakebite. These plants have also been used in

reproductive health as a childbirth aid to stimulate uterine contractions (hence the name birthwort) and as an agent to induce menstruation/possibly terminate an early pregnancy. Extracts from these plants are still widely used today, mainly in Chinese medicine, as an anti-inflammatory agent to treat seizures and aid in weight loss. The active ingredient in plants of this family is aristolochic acid, a nitrophenanthrene carboxylic acid which is the main toxin used by pipevine swallow-tail butterflies to protect caterpillars

and adults from predation.

A fascinating medical mystery involving this plant group was solved in Europe in the early 2000s. Since the 1800s, physicians have known of a type of chronic kidney disease that affected mainly rural residents of the



Wild ginger, *Asarum canadense*,
Photo by Harland Alpaugh

(Continued on page 8)

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 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

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Institution: \$50

Life: \$250

Dues may be sent to:

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President's Musings

Our beautiful, prolific, fragrant native wildflowers are blooming EVERYWHERE! Isn't it marvelous? The more I learn about our native plants, the more I see them... everywhere. From the tiniest flowers to the showier blossoms in meadows and along roadsides and, of course, we see many native plants on our field trips. With frequent spring rains, all the plants are doing well.

Have you noticed that very few (are there any?) of our native plants suffered from our ultra-low long freeze just before Christmas? Another good reason to plant native plants!

Along the north side of our house, we only have five feet of space, so we planted native shrubs. Then, I planted spring ephemerals between and under them. Three years ago, I planted trillium (*Sweet Betsy*, *Trillium cuneatum*), which has been growing and spreading ever since. There were eight blooms this year and many more young plants, yet I started with only two. The Celandine poppies (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), glade wild petunias (*Ruellia humilis*), wild geraniums (*Geranium maculatum*), and Loomis mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum loomisii*) are also spreading. It's been a beautiful spring.

As we head into summer, we'll see more of the sun-loving heat-tolerant blossoms. Which is your favorite? I enjoy all the coneflowers, but the milkweeds are special. Hopefully, we will see more butterflies, bees, and fireflies if the chemical sprays of death don't get them first.

Our 2023 Conference and Annual Meeting went very well. Registrations were more than double what they have been in recent

years. We started with a social on the patio that was dampened by drizzling rain. Then we enjoyed a barbeque dinner, followed by our first two speakers: Hobart Aiken and Todd Crabtree. Saturday, the expected rain held off all day as folks participated in a wide variety of activities and hikes in the cedar glades. That evening we had a delicious lasagna dinner followed by our

annual meeting and our third speaker, Pandey Upchurch. Sunday was hot, but we enjoyed a hike through Couchville Cedar Glade with two wonderful guides: Jason Allen and Ranger Leslie Anne Rawlings. Yes, we saw lots of unique glade plants. Many thanks to Dr. Kim Sadler for allowing TNPS to link with the annual Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glade Festival and all her hard work to make both events successful! We could not have done it without her.

Next year we will be headed to Roan Mountain in East Tennessee for our annual

conference in late June. We will keep you posted as plans develop.

Hopefully, you are enjoying our wildflowers as much as I am this year,




2023 TNPS Annual Meeting and Conference



Morning hike at the Vesta Cedar Glade State Natural Area Hike
Photo by Donna Bollenbach

The TNPS 2023 Annual Conference was held in conjunction with the Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glade Festival Friday, May 5, and Saturday, May 6, at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. It started with a casual opening reception and barbeque dinner on Friday at Cedar Forest Lodge. Following the dinner, Hobart Aiken, state cultural interpretive specialist, spoke on the *History of Park Architecture* and Todd Crabtree, state botanist, spoke on the *Tennessee Rare Plant Program*.

On Saturday, TNPS members took advantage of several Festival events, including an early morning bird-watching hike, morning and afternoon cedar glade field hikes, and botany by bike. There were also programs on photography, painting a wildflower, geology, wild edible foods, gardening with native plants, managing cedar glades in action, and activities for children.



Ron Zurawski, leader of the Geology hike, in front of Jackson Cave in Cedars of Lebanon SP
Photo by Mitchell Kent

After our Saturday activities, we had a delicious lasagna dinner followed by the annual TNPS members meeting. Following the meeting we had a drawing for a beautiful blue bird box made by Mark Fraley. Terri Joyce was the lucky winner of the box and it is already home to a family of bluebirds in her yard (see the story and pictures on page 9). There were also an assortment of native plants for sale in the lodge. Our final speaker after the business meeting was Pandy Upchurch, who spoke on *Conservation Challenges Facing the Unique Habitats of the Central Basin*.

On Sunday morning, TNPS members were treated to a hike in Couchville Glade/Long Hunter State Park led by Jason Allen and Ranger Leslie Anne Rawlings.



The blue bird house made by Mark Fraley was won by Terri Joyce of Soddy Daisy.

See more photos and read the follow-up story about the blue birds that have already made a home in this blue bird nest box on page 9.



Tennessee coneflower, *Echinacea tenesseeensis*
Photo by Mitchell Kent



Holly Taylor, hike leader, Vesta Cedar Glade State Natural Area, holding a harmless black snake.
Photo by Mitchell Kent



The Sunday Hike at Couchville Glade/Long Hunter State Park was led by Jason Allen and Leslie Anne Rawlings.
Photos by Mitchell Kent

Check out the gallery of cedar glade flowers on page 10.

Thank you to Mitchell Kent and Donna Bollenbach for allowing us to use their photos from the conference and glades.

Early Spring at Soak Ash Creek, March 25th

Fieldtrip Report by Shelby Lyn Sanders

A cold early spring morning in late March found eight eager explorers ready to shake the frost and welcome the season of renewal after a long winter. Though an early spring freeze had tried its best to suppress any burgeoning blooms, our steadfast group was in good spirits as we descended Old Settlers Trail. Along the trail, we noted the usual suspects

(Galax, American wintergreen, a handful of ferns, and clubmoss species), but all were anxiously awaiting the sight of the first flowers of the season. The rhododendron and



American plum, *Prunus americana*



Yellow trout lily, *Erythronium americanum*

as there are now groves of American plum (*Prunus americana*) which still boasted a few blooms despite the freezing temperatures and heavy rain the night before. Woodland blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), rue-anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), and golden ragwort (*Packera aurea*) were among the first to greet our group.

Fanning out to explore this under-botanized area also revealed large patches of yellow trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*), spring beauties (*Claytonia caroliniana*), a carpet of wood anemone (*Anemone quinquefolia*), the beginnings of showy orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*), and several violets, including long-



Long spurred violet, *Viola rostrata*

spurred (*Viola rostrata*) and halberd-leaved (*Viola hastata*).

There were many large-diameter butternuts (*Juglans cinerea*), which are always a treat to see, and one of the park's only known occurrences of maleberry (*Lyonia ligustrina*). Thicketleaf phlox (*Phlox carolina*) and sweetflag (*Acorus* sp.) were noted along a short side trail near Evans Creek that led to an old cemetery where we saw the remnant walls of a long-gone mill. Whether the sweetflag was the American species or a leftover from early settlers in the area was not determined.



Sweetflag, *Acorus* sp.

We took a short break at the site of Evans' Chapel (the construction date of which is unknown to this explorer, but the church was torn down in the early 1900s if that is any indication of its age). Two massive eastern red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) persist here, having been planted likely around the time the church was built, as a nod to the cedars of Lebanon. It was also here that we found an interesting variation of grape fern (*Sceptridium dissectum* var. *dissectum*) and where Meredith Clebsch explained the tawdry origin story of the name Soak Ash Creek (you just had to be there).



Grape fern, *Sceptridium dissectum* var. *dissectum*

It's worth mentioning for any lichen lovers that there has been a significant diversity of these composite organisms found here, including one species newly described a few years ago.

Flowers and rarities were few on this excursion, it is true, but if you don't mind a bit of off-trail exploration or the occasional haphazard creek crossing, this special and infrequently visited corner of America's most-visited national park just might harbor some hidden botanical gems later in the season.



Halberd-leaved violet, *Viola hastata*

Prairie Grove Glade Preserve , April 8th

Fieldtrip Report by Bart Jones



"So this is what a rare plant looks like when it's soaked by rain." The answer is closed, droopy flowers. That was the unfortunate refrain for what had the potential to have been quite a spectacular field trip in April to see Prairie Grove Glade

Preserve in the Moulton Valley, the largest surviving limestone cedar glade in northwestern Alabama.

After a small but determined group of native plant enthusiasts gathered at the meeting spot, we made our way to our first stop along the Town Creek floodplain to see the Southern or trailing meadow rue (*Thalictrum debile*). Though not in flower, there were numerous plants of this state's rare species in the floodplain, particularly on small hammocks just a foot or two taller than the surrounding terrain.

Following our "real" leader, David Webb, we embarked on our way to Prairie Grove. These glades are VERY flat and noted for their wet aspect in spring. With the rain we were experiencing, a good 3-5 inches of water covered much of the ground. We slogged our way over to the site of the rarest plant on our list for the preserve, lyre-leaf bladderpod (*Paysonia lyrata*), a federally threatened species. David explained that the Nature Conservancy had reached an agreement with the neighboring farmer to allow him to graze cattle during the offseason in the bladderpod pasture. This disturbance is necessary for the bladderpod to thrive since it is an annual and needs exposed soil to germinate.

The pasture also held three more target species for the trip; Alabama gladecress, (*Leavenworthia alabamica*), Quarterman's hedge-hyssop (*Gratiola quartermanniae*), and



Lyre-leaf bladderpod, *Paysonia lyrata*



Bladderpod pasture



Harper's umbrella plant, *Eriogonum harperi*

the newly described Alabama blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium calciphilum*). Nearby were rosettes of the rare Harper's umbrella plant (*Eriogonum harperi*). As we ventured into a more pristine glade, several plants that were shared with the Central Basin glades of Tennessee were observed, Nashville breadroot (*Pediomelum subacaule*) and an overachieving Tennessee milkvetch (*Astragalus tennesseensis*) with an early bloom! As we approached the parking lot, we came upon a rather large population of sunnybells (*Schoenolirion croceum*) in a low wet area. Several dozen plants were just starting to flower, but they were beautiful nonetheless.

The group proceeded without me to the final stop, a small glade system in the adjacent county, to observe the last rare plant of the day, the federally endangered fleshy fruited gladecress (*Leavenworthia crassa*). The glades here definitely are intriguing and worthy of a trip on a dry, sunny day when all of these wonderful and rare flowers could put on the show deserving of them.

Fieldtrip reports are continued on the next page...

Butler's quillwort (*Isoetes butleri*). Other species found at this location included widow's cross (*Sedum pulchellum*), Pitcher's stitchwort (*Mononeuria* [*Arenaria*] *patula*), and warty spurge (*Euphorbia spathulata*).

We crossed the road and entered the glade proper. The glade is actually a series of small openings with gravel or slabs of limestone at the surface with woods interspersed between them. Several of us noted the similarity to the Cedars of Lebanon in appearance. Although we kind of ignored it because the flowers were closed, we saw several plants of



Tennessee milkvetch, *Astragalus tennesseensis*



Sunnybells, *Schoenolirion croceum*

Frozen Head Wildflower Walk, April 15th

Fieldtrip Report by Jimmy Groton

On Saturday, April 15th, TNPS and the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP) cosponsored a wildflower hike at Frozen Head State Park as part of the Park's Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage. Although it was a little cool when we started, the weather turned wonderful. As in year's past we decided to walk on the Interpretive Trail, Judge Branch, and a short section of South Old Mac. It was difficult to count all participants, but we had more than thirty people in our group. Larry Pounds was our outing organizer, but we soon broke up into smaller groups as we spread out on the trail. Several other people helped to lead the smaller groups including Jimmy Groton, Allen Sweetser, Paul Durr, and Doris Gove.



Yellow trillium,
Trillium luteum



Although the flowers were a bit ahead of us this year, highlights included 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*).

A special treat for us this year was not a wildflower at all. We were lucky enough to have a friendly encounter with a large female timber rattler next to the trail crossing on Judge Branch. Fellow hikers got a chance to observe and photograph her from a safe distance. All in all, it was a wonderful hike.

Little Cedar Mountain, April 22nd

Fieldtrip Report by Larry Pounds



On our fieldtrip to Little Cedar Mountain the early spring wildflowers were close to gone and the wild hyacinths were all in fruit, but that did not keep the nine of us from having an enjoyable day.

We saw John Beck's leafcup (*Polymnia johnbeckii*), a rare plant known only from the mountain we were on and a small population on a nearby mountain. Also, the rare spreading rock cress (*Boechera patens*) was in flower.

Other highlights were hoary puccoon (*Lithospermum canescens*), limestone adder's-tongue fern (*Ophioglossum engelmannii*), and southern maidenhair fern (*Adiantum capillus-veneris*).

We also observed and discussed TVA's tree clearing to enhance the small area of prairie habitat along our trail.



Hoary puccoon, *Lithospermum canescens*

Haw Ridge Park, April 29th

Fieldtrip Report by Larry Pounds



Roundleaf ragwort,
Packera obovate

Haw Ridge is an Oak Ridge city park with beautiful forests and a couple of small prairie areas. In late April, about fifteen people visited the park at a time when the big show of spring wildflowers was over. A few larkspurs (*Delphinium tricorne*) and wood phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) were still appealing, but there was a second show of spring wildflowers in full flower awaiting us. The highlights were roundleaf ragwort (*Packera obovate*), nettleleaf sage (*Salvia urticifolia*), eastern blue star (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*), eastern columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), wild hyacinth (*Camassia scilloides*), and Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium reptans*). Wister's coralroot (*Coralrhiza wisteria*) failed to show at any of the three sites where it had been seen in other years. That is typical of mycoheterotrophic orchids (those lacking chlorophyll).

Peavine Road to Devil's Breakfast Table, May 13th Fieldtrip Report by Larry Pounds

Prior to this mid-May field trip, I was reminded why it is so important to scout outings the week before. On the scout trip, I discovered that we could not do the planned shuttle because of a hunting closure. So, we did an out-and-back. That meant that we only saw half of this section of the Cumberland Trail at most.

The twelve of us were able to choose our hiking distance. About half made it to the backpacking campsite on Daddy's Creek. The sandbars and cobble bar areas there supported northern pinkster bush (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*), ninebark (*Physiocarpus opulifolius*), a sundrop, birdfoot violet (*Viola pedata*), American dog violet (*Viola labradorica*), and yellow stargrass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*).

The flower display of the day was four rather tall yellow ladyslippers (*Cypripedium parviflora*) in perfect condition and we may have seen the very rare Barbara's buttons (*Marshallia grandiflora*) in an early stage.



Yellow ladyslippers, *Cypripedium parviflora*

Center Hill Dam, May 20th

Fieldtrip Report by Louise Gregory and Dennis Horn



On the day of our hike, the weather prediction was for 100% chance of rain, yet we still had twenty eager participants who showed up at the picnic pavilion ready to hike. The light rain continued while we botanized for three hours along the roadside two miles below the Dam. The hillside and bluff we explored have a rich assortment of rare or uncommon plants. Louise Gregory and her daughter, Julianna, had scouted the trip the day before and provided us with a list of plants that we would likely find.

We were able to locate all of the plants mentioned in the initial write-up. Those included western wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum*), Wofford's wood mint (*Blephilia woffordii*), described as a new species in 2020, wooly dutchman's pipe (*Isotrema tomentosa*), largestem alumroot (*Heuchera macrorrhiza*), and a mock vervain similar to *Glandularia canadensis* but thought to be a new undescribed species.



Green dragon, *Arisaema dracontium*

Other flowering plants included widow's cross (*Sedum pulchellum*), mock orange, a shrub in the genus *Philadelphicus*, crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*), Chapman's meadow parsnip (*Thaspium chapmanii*), green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*), and Indian pink or pinkroot (*Spigelia marilandica*). Harper's umbrella plant (*Eriogonum harperi*) was sending up large stalks somewhat like American columbo. We noted that a recent stream modification has apparently destroyed the habitat for the orchid Loesel's twayblade (*Liparis loeselii*).

A total of nearly 40 plants were recorded from the bluff and hillside. A copy of the plant list can be obtained by contacting: horndd@lighttube.net



Western wallflower, *Erysimum capitatum*

(Continued from page 1)



Wild ginger, *Asarum canadense*,
Photo by Bettina Ault

Danube River basin and caused renal failure over time. Dr. Yoto Tanchev, a Bulgarian nephrologist (kidney specialist), first described this syndrome in 1956, and it was named "Balkan endemic nephropathy." Then in 1992, there was an epidemic of severe interstitial nephritis (kidney inflammation) in Belgium. Not only did this inflammation lead rapidly to irreversible kidney failure and dependence on dialysis, but there were reports of malignancies arising in the damaged kidneys and the urothelium (ureters and bladder) of affected patients. Epidemiologic investigation showed that most of the victims were patients in a chain of weight loss clinics who had been consuming Chinese herbal tea as part of their weight loss plan. This quickly led to the identification of aristolochic acid from the roots of *Aristolochia fangchi*, a medicinal species common in Asia, as the causative agent. This epidemic eventually led to an explanation for Balkan endemic nephropathy; the European native species *Aristolochia clematitis* is known to grow as a weed in wheat fields in that area, and contamination of flour with its seeds was the most likely cause of Balkan nephropathy. Subsequently, aristolochic acid was also linked to liver cancer. A worrisome fact is that

aristolochic acid was still available in herbal preparations in the United States and Canada in the early 2000s, despite bans on its use. It is still in use today in Chinese medicine, despite warnings from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organization. Studies of species of the Aristolochiaceae from the southern US have shown significant levels of aristolochic acid in almost all.

Wild ginger and its relatives are a fascinating group of plants that enhance the beauty of our spring woods. However, the potent nephrotoxin, mutagen, and carcinogen aristolochic acid in virtually all species in this family makes them plants to be enjoyed for their beauty but not used for food or medicine.



Wild ginger, *Asarum canadense*,
Photo by Harland Alpaugh

Newsletter Contributions: The TNPS newsletter is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December. We welcome editorial contributions that support our purpose "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, to inform the public about wild plants, and to promote the protection and enhancement of Tennessee's wild plant communities." Suggested topics include:

Plant Profiles: Each month, we profile a Tennessee native plant. The profile could be scientific, discovering a new or rare plant, or a fun write-up with unusual facts about a common native plant.

Outreach: Reports and photos from Outreach Programs you participated in on behalf of TNPS.

Scientific studies : Tennessee native plants and native plant habitats with an ecological, conservation, or climate theme.

Book Reports: Books that support our mission. Provide a photo and link to purchase the book if possible.

Places to see Natives: In addition to the field trip reports, our members like to know the best places to see native plants in the wild. Have you been somewhere recently where you were so impressed by the plants or the habitat that you want to share it with others? This article could be written from a personal perspective.

Gardening with Natives: This could be a small project in your yard or a commercial installation of a native landscape. If you are planting for wildlife, what are the results? Let us know who, what, where, when, and why of your gardening or landscaping practices.

Photographs: Photographs from our fieldtrips, conferences, and educational outreach events are always welcomed! We also have a large database of images to pull from if you don't have photos to accompany your article.

All articles are subject to review and editing (upon request, you will be able to review edits before publication). Articles should run 500 to 1500 words with one or more photos., but short "filler" pieces are appreciated as well. The deadline is usually 10 days before publication: April 20, May 20, August 20, November 20. Please submit manuscripts, queries, or ideas to our newsletter editor Donna Bollenbach via email: donna.bollenbach@gmail.com

Welcome Home! Winner of the Blue Bird House Has New House Guests!



It only took a couple of days for the bluebirds to find the new nest box

I had a wonderful time attending my 1st TNPS Conference in conjunction with the Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glades Festival. The meals, fellowship, hikes, and evening programs were all wonderful. Having just attended the Roan Mountain Spring Naturalist Rally the weekend before, I am especially looking forward to joining ya'll again next year at that beautiful park. Meanwhile, I now know some of the faces better on the wonderful monthly Zoom presentations. Karen, thank you for all the hard work you and your team do.

Mr. Fraley- When I saw your beautifully constructed bluebird house upon depositing my name tag into the door prize bucket, I thought to myself, "Boy it would be really nice to win that". Needless to say, I was thrilled when I actually did!

We have had bluebirds in our backyard for several years, but never with accommodations as elegant as this one. They had already been checking out a couple of houses we have up this season but had not settled into one yet. As soon as we got home on Monday, we checked the old house at the most frequently used spot to see if there was any nest activity yet. Since there was not, we installed this nest box there. It only took a couple of days for the birds to come back, and they were very interested! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!



At the conference, TNPS had a drawing for a beautiful blue bird house made by Mark Fraley. Terri Joyce of Soddy Daisy was the lucky winner.

Terri Joyce, Soddy Daisy, TN



I think the female was up in the nearby fig tree, and he was looking up at her. She had already been inside the house several times when I got this picture.



UPDATE on March 24th: There are 3 bluebird eggs in the nest box.

Gallery of Native Plants of the Cedar Glades



Downy woodmint
Blephilia ciliata
Photo by Mitchell Kent



Yellow star grass
Hypoxis hirsuta
Photo by Mitchell Kent



Purple prairie clover
Dalea purpurea
Photo by Mitchell Kent



Narrowleaf gumweed
Grindelia lanceolata
Photo by Mitchell Kent



Eastern red columbine
Aquilegia canadensis
Photo by Mitchell Kent



Maroon carolina milkvine
Matelea carolinensis
Photo by Mitchell Kent



Gladeceess
Leavenworthia spp
Photo by Mitchell Kent



Gattinger's lobelia
Lobelia gattinger
Photo by Mitchell Kent



Nashville breadfruit
Pediomelum subacaule
Photo by Donna Bollenbach



Hoary puccoon
Lithospermum canescens
Photo by Donna Bollenbach



Birdfoot violet
Viola pedata
Photo by Donna Bollenbach



Tennessee milkvetch
Astragalus tennesseensis
Photo by Donna Bollenbach



2023 Native Plant 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 will be posted on the *Seminars* and *Calendar* pages of our website: www.tnps.org

Most past seminars are recorded and posted on our website [here](#).

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.

Upcoming TNPS Seminars

June 20 – Dennis Whigham, *Native Orchids in Tennessee - Ecology & Conservation Needs*

July 18 – Nate Fields, *Plant for a Change: Cultivating Native Habitats and Nurturing Greener Communities Alongside People With and Without Disabilities*

August 15 – Sam King, *Removing Invasive Plants*

September 19 – Tony Lance, *Certify Your Yard (TWF)* (tentative)

October 17 – Round Table, *Legislative Protections for Native Plants*

November 21 – Dennis Horn, *Tennessee Orchids*

Upcoming TNPS Fieldtrips

Details of each fieldtrip are in the March 2023 Newsletter and on our website: www.tnps.org

(If you RSVP it helps with planning and carpooling)

June 3–4 (SATURDAY—SUNDAY) Ketona Glades OF Bibb County, ALABAMA. Leaders: Bart Jones, email – bjones7777@hotmail.com, Ph. 901-485-2745. Plus, special guest leader Jim Allison.

June 17 (SATURDAY) Andrews Bald. Leaders: Larry Pounds and Allen Sweetser, phone/email: 865-705-8516, PoundsL471@aol.com

September 2 (SATURDAY) Big South Fork. Leader: Larry Pounds, phone/email: 865-705-8516, PoundsL471@aol.com

September 23 (SATURDAY) Exploring the Sands of Ghost River State Natural Area. Leaders: Allan Trently, email: allan.trently@tn.gov, ph. 731-571-9729, and Caitlin Elam.

Submit your Fieldtrip Reports and Photographs to donna.bollenbach@gmail.com

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 using the online form. Once the online form is complete, you will be sent to the PayPal page for payment with either a credit card or through your PayPal account. You have the option of making a one-time payment or making recurring annual payments.

Either way, **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.

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