



TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 50, Number 2

June 2026

In this Issue...

	Page No.
Field Trip Report: Frozen Head State Park	1
The President's Perspective	2
Plant Profile: American Featherfoil	3
TNPS Member Spotlight	4
Field Trip Report: Old Forest	5
Field Trip Report: Big Soddy Hike	6
TNPS Scholarship Program	7
Volunteer Outreach Events	8
TNPS Grants 4 Native Plants	9
Annual Conference Report	12
Art in the Park	14
Upcoming Events	15
Tech Tip	16



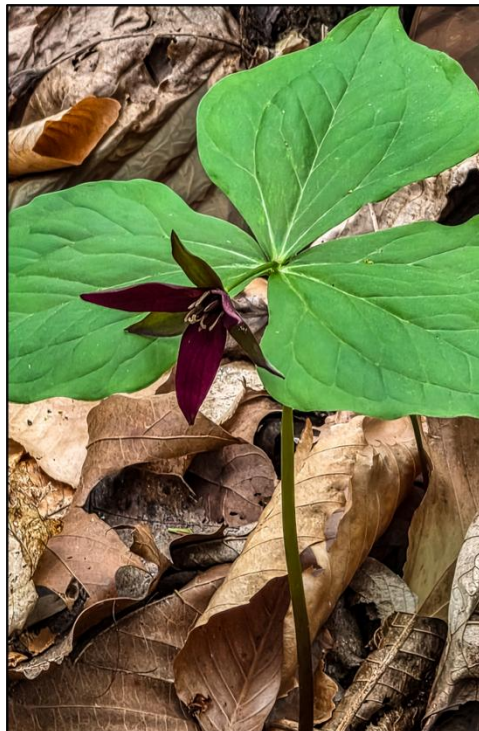
Wood anemone (*Anemonoides* sp.).
Photo by John White.

FIELD TRIP REPORT: Frozen Head Wildflower Pilgrimage Walk

April 4, 2026

By Larry Pounds

On April 4, 2026, we had our usual Frozen Head large turnout of 32 people! Half of them only walked the first mile, but the rest stayed for the other 3 miles. Highlights included the spotted mandarin lily (*Prosartes maculata*), large white trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*), and southern pinkster bush (*Rhododendron canescens*). We started out counting species of violets but eventually lost count at some point. Our estimation is eight species in total! As usual John White took great pictures.



Red trillium (*Trillium erectum*) left; Spotted mandarin (*Prosartes maculata*) top right; Southern wood violet (*Viola hirsutula*) bottom right. You can see the hairs on the leaves which help identify *V. hirsutula*. Photos by John White.



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.

Annual Dues

Student: \$10

Individual: \$25

Family: \$35

Business/Institution: \$100

Life: \$500 (onetime)

Mailing Address

Tennessee Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 159274
Nashville, TN 37215

Officers

Mitchell Kent, President
Tim Kaltenbach, Vice-President
Sue Bible, Secretary
Juanita Wade, Asst. Secretary
Kim Sadler, Treasurer

Directors

Anne Balentine, Bart Jones,
Larry Pounds, Mary Priestley,
Ken Rea, and Allan Trently

Newsletter Editor

Robert (Robin) Dixon

The President's Perspective

As this issue comes together, Tennessee's landscape is bursting with fresh growth and renewal. Wildflower season arrived right on cue, filling our fields and forests with a vibrant mix of colors and forms. I hope you've had the chance to get outside, enjoy a nature walk, and take in the beauty of our native plants at their springtime best.

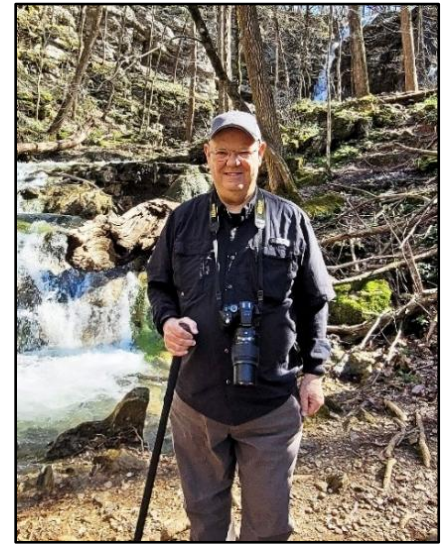
This season of growth is reflected in TNPS as well. We've already hosted more than 10 field trips across the state, from the mountains of East Tennessee to Memphis in the west, with more still to come. These outings continue to be a wonderful way to explore our native flora, and we are deeply grateful to the field trip leaders who so generously share their time, knowledge, and enthusiasm.

TNPS has been active in communities across the state through a variety of educational outreach events. These gatherings allow us to connect with members and new audiences alike, helping to build awareness and appreciation for native plants and their role in healthy ecosystems. Additional outreach events are planned for the months ahead. Thank you to everyone who has helped make these efforts so impactful.

Our Conference Planning Committee worked hard to prepare a successful 2026 Annual Conference. Attendees enjoyed memorable field trips to the Columbia Cedar Glades and the Duck River Complex State Natural Area, along with engaging presentations on native *Passiflora* species and the vital research in supporting the Duck River ecosystem. More conference highlights will be forthcoming. We extend sincere thanks to all who contributed to making the 2026 Annual Conference a success.

The TNPS volunteer program continues to grow, with several individuals stepping into new roles to support the organization's work. Elizabeth Louie and Loraine Flegal have begun implementing updates to the TNPS website, providing valuable assistance in keeping content current and accurate. In addition, they are contributing posts for TNPS social media platforms. Phillip Lenzini has joined as Information Analyst, helping us review Neon CRM data and identify emerging trends to better inform our programs and outreach. We are also pleased to announce member, Robin Dixon, as our new newsletter editor. Please join us in welcoming all of these members to the TNPS team and thanking them for their willingness to serve.

As always, TNPS thrives because of its volunteers. If you're looking for a way to get involved, we encourage you to consider sharing your time and talents through our volunteer program. You can find a list of available roles on the TNPS website under the Resources tab. We would be glad to have you join us.



Best regards,
Mitchell

Plant Profile: American Featherfoil (*Hottonia inflata*)—A Strangely Beautiful Plant

By Allan Trently, West TN Stewardship Ecologist

On April 9, I hiked along the Black Bayou Trail looking for state rare plants. The trail runs along the edge of Black Bayou which eventually drains into Reelfoot Lake. I located a few American featherfoil near the middle of the trail. It was good to see that this Tennessee special concern plant was still in the area, if though, only a few plants remained. For some added excitement, I also found a small population of the state threatened yellow water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus flabellaris*).

I decided to count all the featherfoil individuals in the slough as I advanced up the trail. This was easy at first until I came upon 1000s of plants! And then, as I walked further up the trail, thousands more (many were in flower)! Featherfoil was the dominant plant in the slough plant community. Other plants included swamp dock (*Rumex verticillatus*), water parsnip (*Sium suave*), and cursed buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*).

American featherfoil is in the Primulaceae family. The only other member of this family found in Tennessee is shooting star (*Primula meadia*). Featherfoil is considered rare wherever it is found in the United States. This includes Maine south to Florida and west to Texas. In Tennessee, it is found mostly west of the Tennessee River, especially within the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain. Reelfoot Lake likely has the highest concentration of this plant in the state. This is due to the abundance of shallow sloughs, swamps, and ponds, the preferred habitat of featherfoil.

If I were to hike the Black Bayou Trail in 2027, it is possible that I would find few if any plants. Though this would seem alarming, it likely isn't. Featherfoil is known to be present at a site for one year and absent the next. In fact, the species may be absent for as many as five years before reappearing again. The seeds may be present but buried in the mud underwater. They may be waiting for the right conditions before they germinate. Sometimes they don't come back. This may be due to wetland drainage, a change in hydrology, and water quality alterations.

The floating portion of American featherfoil looks like an alien ballerina complete with a fringed, green tutu and long lanky "arms" and "neck". If you look under the tutu, you'll find an underwater stem and root system. This plant truly looks exotic, but it is just one of many Tennessee native plants.



American Featherfoil (*Hottonia inflata*). Photo by Allan Trently.



Water parsnip (*Sium suave*). Photo by Allan Trently.



Thousands of individual American Featherfoil (*Hottonia inflata*) in the Black Bayou. Photo by Allan Trently.

TNPS Member Spotlight on Dr. Larry Pounds

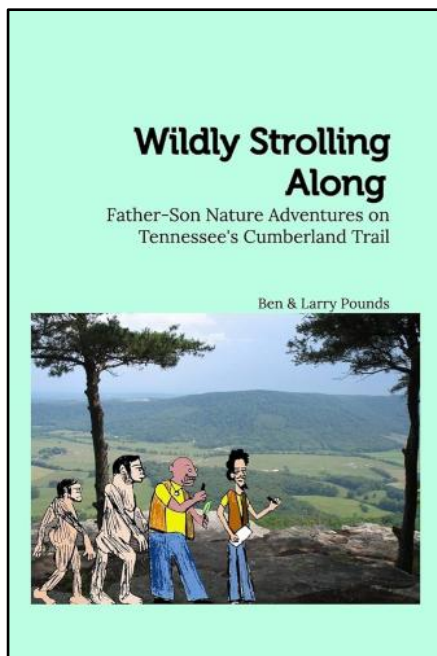
By Mitchell Kent

Dr. Pounds earned his doctorate in plant ecology from the University of Tennessee and has devoted much of his career to studying the ecology, conservation, and interpretation of Tennessee's native plants, particularly along the Cumberland Trail and in the Oak Ridge area. His work has included extensive botanical and ecological surveys, often conducted in challenging field conditions across some of the state's most biologically rich landscapes.

Dr. Pounds has long been associated with the Tennessee Native Plant Society (TNPS) as a member and director. He has also led numerous educational hikes for TNPS and others showcasing rare, endemic, and indicator species. He is a familiar leader and educator for the Wild Ones Tennessee Valley Chapter and for public nature walks at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. In these settings, he interprets cedar barrens, spring wildflowers, and other high-value natural communities for audiences ranging from seasoned naturalists to first-time hikers. He has also presented programs such as "Plants of the Cumberland Trail" and "Fall Wildflowers," for the TNPS Online Seminar series.



Dr. Larry Pounds is a Tennessee-based plant ecologist and field botanist widely respected for his decades of work documenting and conserving the native flora of East Tennessee and the Cumberland Plateau.



Dr. Pounds published his book with his son, chronicling their adventures on the Cumberland Trail.

In addition to his outreach and teaching, Dr. Pounds has served as a consulting botanist and ecologist, contributing to resource inventories and conservation planning efforts, including work with Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning. Colleagues and partners across the region recognize him as a leading East Tennessee ecologist whose expertise in fire-adapted systems, cedar barrens, and trail-corridor flora has supported both land management decisions and volunteer stewardship initiatives. He is also the author of an insightful and engaging book titled: *Wildly Strolling Along: Father-Son Nature Adventures on Tennessee's Cumberland Trail* in which he chronicles their hike on this famous trail.

Throughout his career, Dr. Pounds has combined scientific rigor with a gift for public education. By translating complex ecological concepts into engaging, accessible programs for naturalists, master gardeners, students, and conservation volunteers, he has fostered a deeper appreciation for Tennessee's native plants and the landscapes they call home.



TNPS members gather at the Overton Park Trailhead. Photo by Bart Jones.

FIELD TRIP REPORT: Old Forest State Natural Area at Overton Park

March 28, 2026

By Bart Jones

A chilly, but enthusiastic group met on a crisp spring morning at Overton Park in Midtown Memphis to explore the Old Forest State Natural Area contained within the park. This natural area protects an assemblage of native wildflowers seldom found in the middle of a densely populated urban area.

Upon entering the forest, we were quickly greeted by large masses of prairie trillium (*Trillium recurvatum*) and Celandine poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*). There are some questions as to whether the poppy is truly native in this location as it is disjunct from the nearest populations in Middle Tennessee. Regardless, the colonies here are vigorous and definitely eye-catching. There are other good

populations of uncommon plants in West Tennessee such as Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium reptans*) and goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*). Add in common species like wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*), wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*), and red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*) and one can see just how special this natural gem is to those seeking to unwind from the hustle and bustle of city life.



Prairie trillium (*Trillium recurvatum*). Photo by Bart Jones

As we left the park, one last surprise mystified us. There were several small plants and seedlings of dwarf palmetto (*Sabal minor*). Were these the offspring of cultivated plants from nearby houses or are they a result from natural range expansion northward from populations 90 miles to the south and east? Will they persist until maturity? I guess we will have to keep checking on them to see. Sounds like a good excuse for more field trips here in the future.



Left: celandine poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*); Center: goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*); Right: Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium reptans*). Photos by Bart Jones.

FIELD TRIP REPORT: Exploring Big Soddy Gulf with Dr. Richard Clements

April 18, 2026

By Juanita Wade

Members of the Tennessee Native Plant Society recently had the opportunity to explore the beauty of Big Soddy Gulf Park on a hike led by Dr. Richard Clements. Known for his knowledge of native plants, ecology, and the natural history of our region, Dr. Clements guided participants along the trail while sharing insight into the many species that make Big Soddy Gulf such a special place.

The hike offered a chance to slow down and truly notice the landscape. Participants enjoyed views of the creek, rocky bluffs, and spring wildflowers while learning about the native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants growing throughout the area.



TNPS members attending the hike at Big Soddy Gulf in Hamilton County, TN. Photo by Heather Clements.



Fire pink (Silene virginica). Photo by Mitchell Kent.

The group took time to stop along the trail and observe many of the smaller details that can easily be missed on a typical hike. From blooms tucked among rocky outcrops to vines climbing through the forest canopy, there was no shortage of interesting plants to discuss and admire. Dr. Clements pointed out several native species along the trail, including coral honeysuckle, fire pink, and smooth beardtongue, and explained how each plays an important role in supporting wildlife and maintaining healthy ecosystems.

Coral honeysuckle was especially popular among the group for its bright tubular blooms that attract hummingbirds and pollinators, while the striking red flowers of fire pink added color to the forest floor. Smooth beardtongue could be found growing among the rocky areas, highlighting the diversity of native plants adapted to Big Soddy

Gulf's unique terrain and conditions. He also highlighted several invasive species found in the area and discussed the impact they can have on native habitats when left unmanaged. Throughout the hike, Dr. Clements also compared Big Soddy Gulf Park to North Chickamauga Creek Park, noting both the similarities and differences between the two natural areas. He discussed how both parks feature beautiful creeks, rocky terrain, and diverse native plant communities, while also pointing out the unique conditions and plant species that make each location special.

In addition to learning about plants, hikers also discussed the importance of protecting native habitats and the challenges these natural areas face from invasive species, erosion, and increased recreation pressure. Big Soddy Gulf Park continues to be an important destination for both outdoor recreation and conservation in our region.



Coral honeysuckle (Lonicera sempervirens). Photo by Juanita Wade.

The hike was a wonderful reminder of the value of spending time outdoors with others who share a love of native plants and Tennessee's natural spaces. Events like this help strengthen our understanding of the landscapes around us and inspire us to continue protecting them for future generations.

Thank you to Dr. Richard Clements for leading such an informative and enjoyable hike, and to everyone who joined us for a day of learning and exploring at Big Soddy Gulf Park.



Check out our [calendar](#) for upcoming field trips and events.

TNPS's University Scholarship Program

By Tim Kaltenbach



Never underestimate the effect of your support for our university botany students!

In January 2026, TNPS sent \$1,000 to each of five Tennessee public universities: Tennessee Technological University, University of Tennessee Knoxville, University of Tennessee Chattanooga, University of Memphis, and Eastern Tennessee State University.

We designated the money for students in botany and plant science, not to cover tuition, but to enhance their educational efforts. TNPS doesn't choose the recipient, the university's faculty does. These are students who are vigorously pursuing knowledge by adding extra activities, projects and research to their coursework. We want to help them excel!

The TNPS student recipients will someday be the experts and leaders who fulfill our organization's mission to protect the native and rare plants of Tennessee and the environments where they flourish.

Here is what our first recipient from Tennessee Tech had to say:

Dear Tennessee Native Plant Society,

I am writing to thank you sincerely for awarding me this scholarship. It is an honor to be selected by such an organization, and I am extremely grateful for the support and investment in my future.

As someone devoted to botanical science, conservation and ecological preservation, your organization's mission to preserve and promote native plant species is extremely meaningful to me. This scholarship not only eases the financial burden of my education, but also motivates me to continue pursuing my passion for plant science. To be selected for this scholarship is truly a privilege.

Your generosity allows students like me to pursue our dreams. I hope to use my education in the field to contribute to the understanding and protection of native plant communities, and give back to efforts like yours in the future.

Thank you again for your kindness and commitment to supporting students in the field! It means everything.

Sincerely,

Caitlyn Petrey



Smooth Beardtongue
(*Penstemon laevis*).
Photo by Juanita Wade.

Help out students like Caitlyn and more through your [membership](#) and [donations](#).

TNPS Participates in Earth Day Celebrations at Tennessee Tech and Middle Tennessee State University

By Tim Kaltenbach



Many university students are enthusiastic about nature and the environment, so when their schools invite TNPS to events, we like to show up!

Tennessee Technological University (TTU) held an Earth Day Celebration on its beautiful Cookeville campus on April 21, 2026, and TNPS was there to showcase our mission along with our famous Wildflower and Cedar Glades books. The reaction was quite energetic; students, faculty, staff and other presenters visited the TNPS booth. You would be surprised at the recognition TNPS has among these groups.



The next day, April 22, we headed to Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) in Murfreesboro for “Table Talk for the Earth.” TNPS’s table was right up front on MTSU’s sweeping Student Union Commons and we had a lot of traffic. Several students demonstrated impressive knowledge about native plants both in the U.S. and abroad!

Both days at TTU and MTSU were enjoyable and stimulating. Lots of fascinating and friendly conversations with some really smart and inquisitive students!

Would you like to join the outreach team and serve as a TNPS host?

Check out the [volunteer signup page](https://tnps.org/volunteer/) on the website at tnps.org/volunteer/



Plant Profile Quickie: Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum* complex)

By Robert Dixon

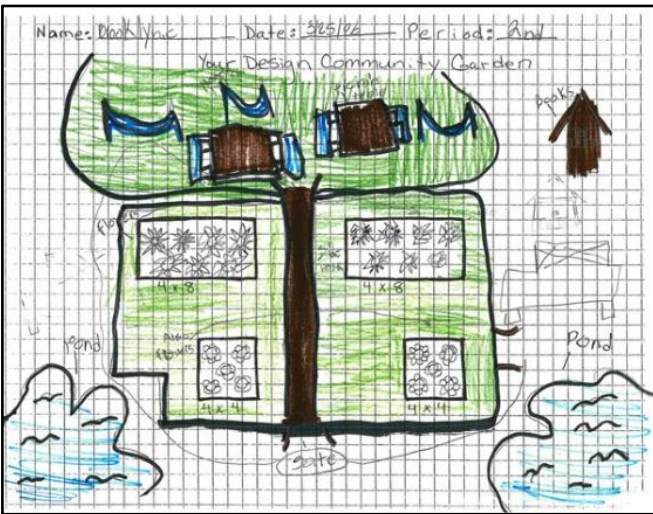
Have you ever seen a strange, pitcher-plant-esque plant popping up in the spring? If so, you’ve likely spotted the inflorescence of a jack-in-the-pulpit, and that’s not a pitcher plant—it’s a spathe and spadix! The spathe (the “pulpit”) is a bract that surrounds the spadix. The spathe can vary widely in color from entirely green to mostly purple. The “lid” of the spathe functions like a pitcher plant in that it helps prevent pollinators from escaping from above once they enter. The spadix (the “jack”) contains the flowers of the plant. This plant is unique in that it has separate male and female flowers, but it can change which flowers it produces. Male flowers will have a hole in the bottom of the spathe for pollinators (fungus gnats) to escape, while females trap the gnats without an escape route. The fungus gnats are attracted by a fungal odor produced by the plant. They will tumble down the spadix when trying to escape, leading to them collecting pollen from male flowers or unknowingly pollinating their female captor. These plants love moist woods, and they can vary greatly in size and color. These plants are in the family Araceae, making them closely related to plants like your grandma’s peace lily and the native aquatic duckweeds, believe it or not. This individual was found blooming along a trail in the Savage Gulf.

By Karen Ripple Hill

Christiana Middle School in Southern Rutherford County



In the words of 8th grader Kareem Husien: *We went out to the garden and I dug a hole and took a plant and put it in the hole. We also watered them. Before that we talked about what materials we needed. We then bought the tools and plants and went out to the garden and planted them like I said. We also went on a field trip to learn about the wetlands and it helped us learn about our environment. It really impacted the environment in a good way. We see a lot more pollinators at the garden and it really makes me happy knowing we helped them... We all had so much fun planting and watering on the garden and watching how much it changed the environment and helped the pollinators.* [Spelling corrected for readability.]



Teacher Clara Kaplan adds: *Students in the fall focused on preparing the garden and students in the spring maintained and added... flowers. Students really enjoyed this project and can't wait to add more to it next year. The power of the garden in learning and feeling a part of the community was priceless for my students. We NEVER could have created this space without your grant.*

When we were planning on how to form this garden, we came up with black mulch beds for planting along with small pebbles which acted as paths from one bed of mulch to the next. This way, we avoided walking on the beds and kept them free from weeds.



Clarksville Christian School's garden with mulch beds and pebble-lined walking paths.

To get ready for planting, the area was scalped to dirt, and the soil was prepared. After doing some research, we came up with suitable native plants to be planted in the garden. Finally, we came together to plant the plants.

We learned many things but one of them was that there is a need for taking care of the garden... The garden will require watering, removal of weeds, and other maintenance activities even when it comes to breaks at the school. In addition to this, this experience gave us an opportunity to learn about responsibility and cooperation.

All in all, this experience was a great learning experience where we gained practical knowledge regarding nature. Also, we made our school more beautiful by creating this garden which will benefit the local ecosystem.

Hickerson Elementary STEM School in Coffee County



Students clean up, scrape and dig, plant, and then spread mulch guided by teacher Michelle Mullican.

In the words of Emma Angelo, a 4th grader: *At Hickerson Elementary STEM School we have a native plant garden. We extended this garden by finding a new spot to clear. Students cleared the new spot and planted new native plants such as milkweed, ironweed, and May apple. Hickerson students also water this garden regularly to make sure all the new plants survive in their new home.*

My favorite part about this process was helping to dig holes for some of the new native plants to safely live in. We found many worms while digging. This means that the soil is very nutritious for the plants and the worms will help give the soil the nutrients it needs.

Jackson Christian School in Madison County



Students plant seedlings they grew in milk jugs.

A few days ago my class planted some more plants in the garden. We had a bunch of plants like blue aster, purple cone flower, sunflowers and a lot more. We dug holes to plant the plants and after that we watered them. We had researched some of the plants we planted. The plant I researched was a purple coneflower. It was one of the plants that we put in the garden.

In the words of student Ty Warrington: During the winter we planted seeds in milk jugs. We put them in milk jugs to act as little green houses. We got to get in groups of 2 to 3 and worked together. We had a lot of seeds like Blazing Stars, Milk Weed, and Joe Pye Weed. We used little shovels to dig holes to put seeds in. We taped the milk jugs up with duct tape and left them outside.

During the spring we added the seedlings that grew and some dirt to the garden. We got to help plant them with Mrs Groves. We all thought that planting the seedlings was really fun.



Students plant newly purchased plants.



New Grants 4 Native Plants for Tennessee Schools

The 2026-27 round of \$500 grants is now open. Applications and details are available at www.TNPS.org/grants. To be considered applications must be submitted by *July 8, 2026*. Notification of grants awarded and mentor information will be provided by August 1st. The Action Plan is due no later than September 1st.

TNPS 2026 Annual Conference Recap

May 16, 2026 at Henry Horton State Park

By Bart Jones



TNPS Members gathered for the annual conference outings. Photo provided by Bart Jones.

Stop No. 1: Columbia Glade

We began our Saturday with an excursion to Columbia Glade, one of the units of the Duck River Complex State Natural Area. People often don't realize the Central Basin limestone glades extend beyond the traditional areas of Davidson, Wilson, and Rutherford Counties, ranging from Kentucky to northern Alabama. Columbia Glade is a fine example of this habitat and supports a diverse assemblage of plants.

Immediately upon arriving, there were several great glade plants right there at the parking area including glade larkspur (*Delphinium carolinianum* ssp. *calciphorum*), Gattinger's prairie-clover (*Dalea gattingeri*), and Tennessee marbleseed (*Lithospermum molle*). Entering the glade proper introduced other glade species including



Gattinger's Prairie-clover (*Dalea gattingeri*). Photo by Bart Jones.

Gattinger's lobelia (*Lobelia gattingeri*), glade privet (*Forestiera ligustrina*), fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), Tennessee milkvetch (*Astragalus tennesseensis*), glade wild petunia (*Ruellia humilis*), yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*), limestone adder's-tongue fern (*Ophioglossum engelmannii*), Eastern pricklypear (*Opuntia cespitosa*), and the rare limestone fame-flower (*Talinum calcaricum*).

Going across the road to the other section of the glade introduced a slightly moister aspect where there were large swaths of widow's-cross (*Sedum*

pulchellum), narrowleaf gumweed (*Grindelia lanceolata*), Venus' pride (*Houstonia purpurea* ssp. *calycosa*), and the rare highlight of the trip, leafy prairie-clover (*Dalea foliosa*), a federally endangered species.

Stop No. 2: Cheek's Bend Bluff Trail

Our second stop was the Cheek's Bend Bluff Trail which goes through a mosaic of mesic forest that transitions to a drier karst forest, with patches of small glade-like areas interspersed along the trail. At the glade areas, we encountered many of the same plants that we saw at Columbia Glade with the addition of one last flower on a Tennessee glade cress (*Leavenworthia exigua*).

Along the moist forested areas of the trail were some beautiful patches of downy wood mint (*Blephilia ciliata*) and Indian pink (*Spigelia marilandica*). As we transitioned to the karst forest plants that typify that habitat started to appear such as leafcup (*Polymnia canadensis*), American colombo (*Frasera caroliniensis*), and the striking purple-stem cliffbrake fern (*Pellaea atropurpurea*).



Indian Pink (*Spigelia marilandica*). Photo by Bart Jones.

These two sites were definitely good representatives of the special areas of Middle Tennessee.



Left: Downy wood mint (*Blephilia ciliata*) found on the Cheek's Bend Bluff Trail. Photo by Bart Jones.



Right: yellow-flowering Small's ragwort (*Pakera anomyna*) and purple-flowering Gattinger's lobelia (*Lobelia gattingeri*) found in the Columbia Glade. Photo by Bart Jones.

Art in the Park at Cedars of Lebanon State Park

by Kim Cleary Sadler

The Tennessee Native Plant Society, MTSU's Center for Cedar Glade Studies, and Cedars of Lebanon State Parks partnered on Thursday, April 30, 2026, for Art in the Park, in conjunction with the 48th Elsie Quarterman

Cedar Glade Wildflower Festival. Two "hands-on" workshops connecting us to nature were hosted by TNPS members Kim Sadler, Erin Anfinson, and Mary Priestly at the beautiful Cedar Forest Lodge. Erin Anfinson, an artist, TN naturalist, and MTSU professor of art, taught us how to make inks and dyes from natural materials. For

example, did you know the natural ink used to write the Declaration of Independence is still as vibrant today as it was in 1776? We also learned how to use these products for drawing and creating decorative papers. In the afternoon, botanical artist, 30+ years of nature journaling, and Sewanee University herbarium curator, Mary Priestley, led everyone through making their own nature journal and the process of using images, text, numbers, maps, and many other ways to nature journal. With contribution from TNPS, participants left with multiple resources to use nature for art, education, and reflection.



Top: Decorative papers made with oak gall, pokeberry, turmeric, and iron oak gall inks. Bottom: Professor Erin Anfinson showing oak gall ink to workshop participants. Photos by Melissa Turrentine.



TNPS member Melissa Turrentine with her decorative papers.



Mary Priestley shows examples of nature journals. Photo by Melissa Turrentine.



Upcoming Events with TNPS

Upcoming Seminars

Date	Seminar Title	Presenter
23-Jun-26	Seminar: David George Haskell on How Flowers Made our World: The Story of Nature's Revolutionaries	David George Haskell

Upcoming Field Trips

Date	Field Trip	Location	Leader(s)
5-Sep-26	Field Trip: Ramsey Creek - Obed River, Morgan County	3804 Morgan County Hwy (US 27), Wartburg at 10:00 AM EDT	Larry Pounds
19-Sep-26	Field Trip: Camp Creek Natives Nursery + Black Belt Prairie, Lee County, MS	921 Sam T Barkley Dr, New Albany, MS. 10:00 AM CDT.	Bart Jones, Harry Babb, Andrew Ballard
26-Sep-26	Field Trip: Fall Wildflowers of Big Soddy Creek Gulf, Soddy-Daisy, Hamilton County	Trailhead off of Hwy 111 after Hwy 27 split, Soddy Daisy, TN 9:00 AM EDT	Stephan Eselgroth
3-Oct-26	Field Trip: Liatris squarrulosa/Helianthus spp. Superbloom - Marshall County, MS	6469-6493 Church Ave, Potts Camp, MS at 10:00 AM CDT	Bart Jones, Allan Trently, Harry Babb

Please visit the [Native Plant Society website](https://tnps.org/events/category/calendar/) (https://tnps.org/events/category/calendar/) for more details.



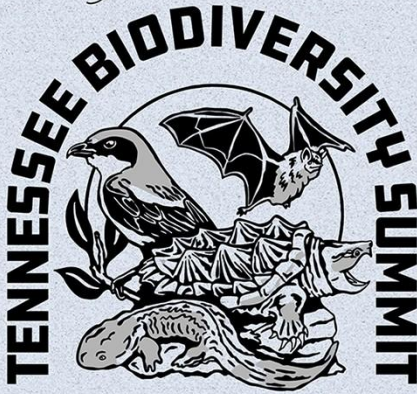
SAVE THE DATE

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency invites all nature enthusiasts, from professionals to back yard wildlife watchers, to the second annual Tennessee Biodiversity Summit. This event celebrates the actions taking place for the betterment and longevity of Tennessee's species. This year's theme is *Moving the Needle*.

OCTOBER 21, 2026



MIDDLE TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT UNION



COME A LEARNER. LEAVE AN EDUCATOR. CONTINUE A LEGACY.

Tennessee Biodiversity Summit 2026

The one-day Tennessee Biodiversity Summit welcomes ALL wildlife enthusiasts. One goal of the event is to recognize the Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) in line with the TWRA's mission through shared knowledge and networking opportunities for participants.

Click the image to the left or scan the QR code for more info. The agenda and registration will be available soon.

Tech Tip: Explore Volunteer Opportunities With TNPS

This Tech Tip highlights a new way to learn about and get involved in volunteer opportunities with the Tennessee Native Plant Society (TNPS). We've added a **Volunteer page** under the Resources tab on our website that provides an overview of volunteering within TNPS, along with descriptions of twelve distinct volunteer roles.

You can visit the new page here: <https://tnps.org/volunteer/>

To make it even easier to get involved, a blue **"Volunteer Now"** button near the top of the Volunteer page links directly to the **TNPS Volunteer Interest Survey**. This short form allows you to indicate which roles interest you most. Simply check the boxes beside the volunteer positions you'd like to support, complete the form, and submit it. Your information will be shared with the appropriate volunteer contact, who will follow up with an email when opportunities become available that match your selections.

We encourage all members to explore these new resources and consider lending your time and talents to help keep TNPS strong. Questions? Email us at info@tnps.org

Tennessee Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 159274
Nashville, TN 37215