



TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY Annual Conference & Meeting ROAN MOUNTAIN STATE PARK, JUNE 7-9, 2024

The Tennessee Native Plant Society is delighted to announce that registration for its 2024 Annual Conference will be open on **March 1st**, [online](#) or via mail-in registration using the [form](#) in this newsletter. The Conference will be held at the beautiful Roan Mountain State Park in northeast Tennessee on Friday, June 7, Saturday, June 8, and Sunday, June 9. The 2,000-acre park is located at the base of Roan Mountain, which is not one mountain but a five-mile ridgetop of different elevations, each rich with plant life.

June in Roan Mountain is like spring in the valley. The temperatures



typically stay in the 70s during the day and the 50s at night, perfect for hiking and sleeping. If you are lucky enough to rent one of the cabins in the park, you enjoy a rocking chair on the porch, a full kitchen and bathroom, gas-powered heat, and a wood-burning stove. There are also

campsites for tents and RVs.

If you prefer a hotel room or the cabins are full, TNPS has secured a block of rooms at the Hampton Inn in Johnson City, TN, about 45 minutes from the park.

The hotel address is 508 N State of Franklin Road, Johnson City, TN 37604. The TNPS group rate is \$139 per night for a room with a king-size bed and sofa bed or 2 queen-

sized beds. A block of rooms will be reserved for TNPS until May 10, 2024. By comparison, nightly room rates for similar hotels in the area range from \$189 to \$250 per night and up.

Below is a link for you to use to book a room online with the Hampton Inn within the TNPS block at the group rate. The link is available for use now:

[TNPS Special Rate Hampton Inn](#)

You may also call the hotel at (423) 929-8000 to book your room. You will need to reference the Tennessee Native Plant Society group and the dates required to receive the group rate

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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

Student: Complimentary

Institution: \$50

Life: \$250

Dues may be sent to:

Tennessee Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 159274

Nashville, TN 37215

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President's Musings

This is the time of year to dream about warmer weather, about the native plants we will see on our hikes, and about the native plants we hope to find at a plant sale. This year I hope to find Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) and Sundrops (*Oenothera fruticosa*). Meanwhile we can find some contentment in reading about native plants. Nancy Lawson has a new book out called "Wildscape" and NWFs "Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Backyard Wildlife" looks enticing too.

I'm also dreaming about finding a volunteer to assist me with the technical aspects of TNPS. The website, the seminars, our Dropbox library of slides and now Neon all require some teachable technical skills. If you have a techno bent and a little time that you can volunteer to help keep TNPS running, please contact me at info@tnps.org. I would so love to hear from you.

If you are willing to volunteer, but in a non-technical capacity and happen to live in the Memphis region of the state, please contact me about the vacant Education Outreach Coordinator position. This would involve offering TNPS memberships, selling our Wildflower books, and generally interacting with the public at tabletop events in the area two to six times a year. You decide how often.

Just a reminder that I will be stepping down from the Presidency at

the end of 2024. I would love to have time before then to train others to do some of what I have been doing. Good replacement presidential candidates don't have the skill or time to invest in all the technologies that now keep TNPS running, and I will not have the time or energy to devote to continuing these activities indefinitely. At age 77 I am slowing down! Please, consider

volunteering. The pay is terrible, but the reward of seeing TNPS flourish is amazing.

This issue of the TNPS newsletter contains most of our events for the year: at least 17 field trips, our monthly seminar schedule, and information on the hikes and seminars at our Annual Meeting &

Conference on Roan Mountain June 7-9. All are listed on our website Calendar along with native plant sales and our table events across the state. All our members should find something of interest, something in which to participate. We are always open to suggestions for future field trips and seminar speakers.

Remember, this organization was created for us to learn and share what we have learned about native plants and how to conserve them and their habitats. What have you learned lately? How have you shared that information?




(Continued from page 1)

Again, the TNPS room block will be reserved through May 10, 2024, after which any unused rooms in the block will be released, room rates will increase, and booking is subject to availability.

All TNPS meetings, meals, and presentations will take



place at the Roan Mountain Conference Center, adjacent to the Park Office. This venue offers a spacious meeting room with a

breathtaking panoramic view of the mountains.

Although Wi-Fi and cell service are unavailable in the cabins and much of the park, the Conference Center provides excellent Wi-Fi connectivity both inside the building and on the large porch.

When you register, you can purchase meal tickets for catered dinners on Friday and Saturday nights and a bagged lunch on Saturday. These meals will cost \$15-\$22 each. We hope you will join us for these meals, as they are a great time to socialize and get to know your fellow TNPS members.

We also plan to have conference tee shirts available



for purchase online. The pictured design will be available in short or long sleeves with color options for \$20 - \$25 each. You will choose your tee shirt style, color,

and size and pay for the tee shirt online. Once ordered, the tee shirt can be delivered directly to you (you pay shipping), or you can pick it up at the conference (free shipping). Since tee shirts require a minimum order, we would like you to indicate on the registration form if you plan to purchase one. If we have sufficient interest, we will let conference attendees know how to order their tee shirts.

We have an excellent mix of field trips and presentations planned for the conference. A detailed

conference schedule is on page 4, and descriptions of the conference field trips are on pages 9 and 10.

The following highlights the excellent speakers and their presentations:



Friday Night Presentation: 7-8:30 pm: "Threatened / Endangered Plants of the Southern Appalachian Region" by Professor Matt Estep of Appalachian State University. Dr. Matt C. Estep has been an Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at Appalachian State

University in Boon, NC, since 2012, where he teaches classes in human and conservation genetics, among others. He has also been a Tater Hill Plant Preserve Conservation steward since 2015 and treasurer of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society.



Saturday Day Presentation 10-11:00 am: "Thirty of the Best Underused Native Plants" by John Manion. John earned a Master's Degree in Public Garden Leadership at Cornell University. He is currently the Coordinator of Education and Outreach for

Overhill Gardens, a large native plant nursery in Vonore, Tennessee. He has also served as Curator for Reflection Riding Nature Center, Chattanooga, TN, Kaul Wildflower Garden, Birmingham, Alabama, and the Historic Gardens at the Atlanta History Center, Georgia.



Saturday Night Presentation: 7:00 to 8:00 pm "No Place Like the Roan - 50 years of Ensuring a Highland Legacy" by Marquette Crockett. Marquette has over 15 years of wildlife management experience. As Director of the

Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, a position she has held since 2014, she is the primary steward of nearly 10000 acres of protected lands in the Highlands of Roan. She also coordinates multi-agency and volunteer efforts to maintain Roan's grassy balds and serves as a co-chair for the Southern Appalachian Spruce. Marquette holds an MS in Biological Sciences from East Tennessee State University.

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In addition to a great line-up of speakers, we have an equally great group of field trip leaders:

Ranger Marty Silver, from the Warriors Path State Park in Kingsport, TN, is a well-known park ranger in the Tri-Cities area. He has served in the park system for over 40 years. Ranger Marty frequently leads hikes at Tennessee State Parks, gives nature presentations to park guests, and to students in the local schools. Marty brings excitement and humor to all of his events. Participants are sure to enjoy spending the morning with him on field trip to the Grassy Ridge Bald in the Roan Highlands.



Ken Rea is a TNPS member living in Johnson City, TN,. He works at the First Tennessee



Development District where he is responsible for grant writing and project administration. Ken enjoys hiking in the Appalachian mountains and identifying the many wild plants found in the

area. He is a member of the Mid-Appalachian Highlands Hiking Club, and leads several of the club's hikes. Ken will be leading the Saturday afternoon field trip to the Rhododendron Gardens and Roan High Knob.

Gary Kauffman is a senior botanist/ecologist with the USDA Forest Service, National Forest



Division in North Carolina, a position he has held for the past 17 years. Areas he serves include the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests. His work involves forest-level planning, maintenance, and restoration of rare plants and communities,

and invasive plant management. Gary specializes in rare plants, some of which may be seen on our field trip to Roan Highlands with a hike along the Cloudland Trail to the Roan High Knob on Sunday morning.

TNPS 2024 Conference Schedule

Day 1: Friday, June 7, 2024. 3:00 pm - Arrive and check in for those staying at the park.

3:00 - 6:00 pm - Pick up your conference badge, meal tickets, and pre-ordered tee shirts, and attend a pre-conference social. TNPS will supply some sodas, water, and snacks, but feel free to bring other snacks and beverages to share.

6:00 to 7:00 pm – Catered Dinner (with pre-purchased meal ticket).

7:00 – 8:30 pm – Welcome to the conference and announcements, followed by the presentation "Threatened / Endangered Plants of the Southern Appalachian Region" by Professor Matt Estep of Appalachian State University.

Day 2: Saturday, June 8, 2024

7:30 am – Meet at the Pool Parking Area for **Field Trip 1, a Hike from Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge Bald**. The leader is Marty Silver, a Park Ranger with Warriors' Path State Park.

9:00 am – Late arrivals should pick up your conference badge, meal tickets, and pre-ordered tee shirts at the TNPS information table in the Conference Center.

10:00 to 11:00 am - Presentation "Thirty of the Best Underused Native Plants" by John Manion, Coordinator of Education and Outreach, Overhill Gardens in Vonore, TN.

11:30 to 1:00 pm – pre-ordered box lunches will be available for pickup at the Conference Center.

1:00 pm - Meetup at the Pool Parking Area for **Field Trip 2, a Hike from Rhododendron Gardens to Roan High Bluff**. The leader is Ken Rea, a local area TNPS member.

2:00 pm - Meetup at the Pool Parking Area for **Field Trip 3, a guided visit to Miller Farmstead**, a historic home site and pollinator garden in the park.

6:00 to 7:00 pm – Catered Dinner (with pre-purchased meal ticket) at the Conference Center.

7:00 to 8:00 pm - Presentation "No Place Like the Roan - 50 years of ensuring a Highland Legacy" by Marquette Crockett, Director of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy.

8:00 – 9:00 pm - Annual TNPS Membership Meeting followed by drawing for bluebird house (returned name badges are the drawing tickets)

Day 3, Sunday, 6/9/2024

8:00 am - Meetup at the Pool Parking Area for **Field Trip 4, a Hike from Cloudland Trail to Roan High Bluff**. The leader is Gary Kauffman, a senior botanist and ecologist working with the US Forest Service National Forests Division in North Carolina.

2024 TNPS Field Trip & Events Schedule

MARCH 5 (TUESDAY) UTK Herbarium Tour, Knox Co.

Description: Remember the field trips you took in elementary school? Well, you can relive the experience as we venture into the great indoors to tour the UTK Herbarium. Herbarium staff will lead us through the herbarium which is the largest in Tennessee with a little over 649,000 vascular and non-vascular plants, fungi, lichens, and macroalgae. Visitors will get to learn about the process that plants go through to become specimens in the collections, see the collection space and learn about how it's organized, find out how the collections are used, and hear about ongoing projects. There will also be some interesting specimens on display from the "Cabinet of Curiosities" for folks to get a closer look at. Limit of 15 participants.

Meeting Place/Time: Meet in front of or just inside the front doors of Temple Hall (1818 Andy Holt Avenue) at 5:00 PM Eastern. People will be able to park in the S23 parking lot next to Temple Hall but depending on the popularity of the baseball game against Kansas State at 6:00 PM it may fill up quickly, so I encourage folks to carpool. We have one reserved space that someone will be able to park in and then other cars are welcome to park anywhere else in the S23 lot they can find a space. There are also visitor parking spaces by the McClung Museum at Circle Park.

Difficulty: Easy

Facilities: At the Herbarium

Leaders: Margaret Oliver molive18@utk.edu (865-974-6213) and Allen Sweetser, ssretiree@yahoo.com (865-223-9914). Please let the leaders know if you plan on attending.

MARCH 30 (SATURDAY) Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park, Shelby Co.

Description: We will hike the three-mile Woodland Trail. The spring ephemerals should be starting to put on quite a show. This hike may be strenuous for some. Please assess your own fitness level before signing in for safety and consideration of other program participants. This trip is in conjunction with the Division of Natural Areas. Participants should register at the [Natural Area Events page](#). There is no charge for the event.

Meeting Place/Time: The Park Visitor Center at 9:00 AM Central. The trip is scheduled to end around 1:00 PM.

Difficulty: Moderate due to the length, there are also some steep elevation changes.

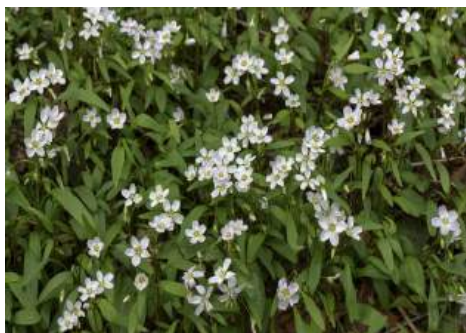
Facilities: At the meeting place.

Lunch: On your own after hike, but you might want to bring snacks to eat along the trail.

Leaders: Allan Trently allan.trently@tn.gov (731-234-4887), Bart Jones bjones7777@hotmail.com (901-485-2745).



Virginia bluebells,
Mertensia virginica



Spring beauty, *Claytonia virginica*



Common blue violets, *Viola sororia*

APRIL 7 (SUNDAY) Tennessee Trillium Preserve, Hawkins Co.

Description: Join the East Tennessee stewardship ecologist for a State Natural Areas Week celebration of rare species with a trip and picnic to the newly acquired Tennessee Trillium Preserve. The Tennessee trillium is a recently described species and known to occur only at this and possibly 2 other locations. The trillium population is at the bottom of a short, steep hill so attendees must be in good physical condition to make the trek up and down the hill, approximately one-tenth of a mile. Please wear appropriate footwear and bring food and water. There are no facilities. While this won't be a long trip, you may remain as long as you like, and you are free to botanize on the rest of the property. We'd like to tally the number of plants we see to begin a yearly or biannual monitoring of the population to assess its stability, so you can participate in some citizen science if you like on this inaugural trip! We will also see some *Rubus phoenicolasius* (wineberry, tasty, but dreadfully invasive) and we'll pull it up opportunistically! The site is by a small creek which we must cross and can be wet and muddy. We are limiting the number of participants to 15 to limit site impact. Parking is limited, so we request that you carpool. Lisa Huff can take up to 6 participants in a van from Knoxville, so contact her via email if you would like to ride with her. Be sure to register for the trip on the [Natural Areas Week Event](#) page.

Meeting Place/Time: Carpoolers with Lisa meet at 3711 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, TN 37921 at **8:30 AM Eastern**. Others meet at the site at **10:00 AM Eastern**. To ensure species protection, specific directions will be provided after event registration closes. Trip should end around 2:00 PM.

Difficulty: Moderate, steep elevation change.

Facilities: None

Lunch: Bring your own for a picnic lunch.

Leader: Lisa Huff, lisa.huff@tn.gov (865-207-0138)

APRIL 13(SATURDAY) Rock Island State Park, Warren and White Co.

Description: Rock Island State Park is located in the Eastern Highland Rim on the Caney Fork River in Middle Tennessee. The town of Rock Island was a thriving community in pioneer days and a major stop on the Kentucky to Alabama road. The Great Falls Cotton Mill operated there from 1892 to 1902 and the main building is still standing high above the river. The hike will begin at the overlook of Twin Falls. We will then follow along the river downstream to the Blue Hole and loop back past a small cave and waterfall. The trail has a rich spring flora with over 100 species recorded during the TNPS plant inventory in 2012. Bring your camera and enjoy the spring wildflowers. After lunch at the Market we will hike the very short but amazingly diverse Badger Flat loop trail.

Meeting Place/Time: **10:00 AM Central** at the Twin Falls Parking Lot. From Rock Island (gas station and archway) continue on Hwy 136 over the Caney Fork River. Turn left onto the first road past the bridge (Powerhouse Rd). In about 2 mi. this road will end at the Twin Falls parking lot.

Difficulty: Easy to moderate 2 mile hike. Bring water and snacks.

Facilities: Rock Island Market (none at the trailhead).

Lunch: At the Rock Island Market or (optional) Badger Flat Picnic Area

Leader: Dennis Horn (cell) 931-581-9901 horndd@lighttube.net



Wild blue phlox, *Phlox divaricata*

APRIL 13 (SATURDAY) Frozen Head State Park, Morgan Co.

Description: This is a joint outing for TNPS and the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP). We will have an excellent opportunity to see spring wildflowers. This will be a switch from last year. We will start from Panther Branch Trailhead. The first 0.55 miles is ideal for those with rather limited hiking capabilities; the trail is wide and flat. For those continuing the next 1 mile along Panther Branch 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 hope of finding more parking at the trailhead.

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

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

Facilities: At meeting place

Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray

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

APRIL 20 (SATURDAY) Head of Sequatchie, Cumberland Co.

Description: This is a joint outing for TNPS and TCWP. We will do an out and back hike up a mountain on a new section of the Cumberland Trail. This is a good hike for spring wildflowers. We will start at the new headquarters for the Cumberland Trail.

Meeting Places/Times: 1. Shell Station on the south side of the Peavine exit in Crossville
(**9:00 AM Central, 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 AM Eastern**

Difficulty: The trail will be steep at times. I would suspect we will walk at most 3 miles round trip but people can turn back at any point

Facilities: the meeting places and at the trailhead

Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray

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

APRIL 20 (SATURDAY) Stillhouse Hollow SNA, Maury Co.

Description: We will visit the newest addition to the natural area, where a second, smaller waterfall occurs and there are different plants located here compared to the original parcel of the natural area. Of course we won't ignore the first part, but we will need to move fairly quickly through it to get to the new site. Spring wildflowers should be at peak. This trip is a joint event with the Swan Conservation Trust.

Meeting Place/Time: Parking lot of the natural area off US Hwy 43 at **10:00 AM Central**

Difficulty: Moderate. Some steep, muddy sections. We will have to follow the railway bed for a short distance to get to the new tract.

Facilities: None, but there are gas stations nearby.

Lunch: Bring your own to eat along the trail.

Leader: Bart Jones, bjones7777@hotmail.com (901-485-2745) and Cynthia Rohrbach, cynthrohr@gmail.com

APRIL 27 (SATURDAY) Oak Ridge Greenway, Anderson Co.

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 Edgemore Rd. in Haw Ridge Park (36.01034, 84.16753) at **9:00 AM Eastern**.

Difficulty: This should work for those with limited walking ability. Wheelchairs are a possibility. We will walk or roll on a flattish paved trail. Total out and back distance is perhaps 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 contacting if there are changes, Phone/email: 865-705-8516, PoundsL471@aol.com

MAY 11 (SATURDAY) Big Soddy Creek Gulf Park, Hamilton Co.

Description: The site is a mountain cove with much natural beauty due to its varied botanical environments including stream beds, waterfalls, mountain woodlands and high rock faces. The initial portion of the trip is an entrance trail that follows an old railroad bed along Soddy Creek for 1.1 miles. It is wide and practically flat. From there, the trail crosses a footbridge over Soddy Creek. We will explore several areas on the opposite side of the creek. Plants expected to be seen are dwarf crested iris, fire pink, Indian pink, bergamot, royal fern, two-flowered cynthia and others. Total hiking distance should not exceed 3.5 miles. This is an in-and-out hike, so people can turn around at any point, if desired.

Meeting Place/Time: Meet field trip leader near the entrance gate to the Big Soddy Creek Gulf Park at **10:00 AM Eastern**. Address of the parking area is: 11721 Back Valley Rd, SoddyDaisy, TN 37379. Please email the leader in advance to indicate your plans to attend.

Difficulty: Easy

Facilities: Portable restrooms are positioned along the entrance trail.

Lunch: Bring food and water. We will eat lunch on the trail, possibly at the picnic tables near the footbridge.

Leader: Mitchell Kent, mkent423@gmail.com, (423-580-8380)

MAY 11 or 18 (SATURDAY) Skymont Scout Reservation Orchids, Grundy Co.

Description: Skymont is a sprawling property with many different habitats, including wet fenlike areas where we hope to find Loesel's twayblade (*Liparis loeselii*), a very rare and declining species in Tennessee. We also hope to see a second *Liparis* species, lily-leaved twayblade (*Liparis liliifolia*), in nearby woodlands as well as numerous pink lady's slippers (*Cypripedium acaule*).

Meeting Place/Time: Because of the vagaries of orchid blooming, there are two dates listed, but we will only go once. There is also a chance the trip will be canceled if the *Liparis* orchids are not blooming. Therefore, it is imperative that you check with the leader before the May 11 slot to make sure the trip is on or if it is delayed to the next week-end or canceled altogether. At that time, the leader will tell you where to meet and at what time.

Difficulty: Easy. The boggy areas can be wet but they are located quite near to the road.

Facilities: At Skymont.

Lunch: Bring to eat in the field.

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

MAY 25 (SATURDAY) Devil's Breakfast Table Scour Prairies, Morgon Co.

Description: This is sponsored by TNPS and TCWP. We will explore the Devil's Breakfast Table Area including a short bushwhack to a small prairie area that is kept open by erosion during flood events. We will spend more time on other places in the same general area if the prairie is flooded. This is a spot to see the federally listed Cumberland rosemary.

Meeting Places/Times: 1. Marathon Gas Station (52 Main St, Crab Orchard) at the Crab Orchard exit (329) off I-40 east of Crossville (**9:00 AM Central, 10:00 AM Eastern**) (35.908715047614265, -84.87526755741177)

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 AM Eastern**

Difficulty: Some may find the short bushwhack difficult. They may opt to spend that part of our time in other easily accessible areas.

Facilities: At meeting places

Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray

Leader: Larry Pounds. If you RSVP it helps with planning and allows contacting about changes,

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

JUNE 7-9 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) TNPS Annual Conference. The following four fieldtrips will be limited to conference attendees. Registration for the conference is available online or by mail using the registration form in this newsletter.

JUNE 8 (SATURDAY) Carver's Gap to Grassy Ridge on the Roan Highlands, TN/NC (TNPS Conference registration is required to attend this fieldtrip)

Description: We will start at the Carver's Gap parking lot and proceed on the trail through spruce-fir forests for about 0.6 mile to Round Bald with its grassy landscape and excellent 360 degree views of surrounding peaks. Round Bald crests at 5826'. From there we will continue via the Appalachian Trail north across Engine Gap to Jane Bald at 6129'. The panoramic views continue to get better as we trek on a spur trail to our destination, Grassy Ridge Bald, at elevation 6139'. Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge is different from other hikes on Roan Mountain in that it is mostly along and through the Balds, with plenty of great views. Depending on the progression of the season, we should see some of the best displays of Catawba Rhododendron. Red Spruce, Fraser Fir and Mountain Ash trees will be seen. We should also see mountain myrtle (*Kalmia buxifolia*) near the summit and numerous other wildflowers along the way.

Meeting Place/Time: It will begin at 7:30 am at the pool parking lot at Roan Mountain State Park where we will gather in carpools and travel approximately 11 miles south on TN State Road 143 to Carvers Gap, elevation 5512'. Note that parking fills up quickly at Carvers Gap in season, hence the early start time.

Difficulty: Moderate to Strenuous: The trail does get a bit steep at times (after leaving Round Bald), but since this is an in-and-out hike, one could turn back at any point necessary. Some sections of the trail are rocky, so sturdy shoes and a hiking pole are recommended. A light jacket and sunscreen may be desirable. Total hiking distance round trip will be about 4.8 miles. Trip time will be 3 to 4 hours.

Facilities: A compost restroom is available at Carver's Gap Parking Lot

Lunch: Please bring plenty of water and snacks as needed for a 3 to 4 hour hike.

Leader: Marty Silver, a Park Ranger with Warriors' Path State Park.

JUNE 8 (SATURDAY) Cloudland Canyon Hotel Site/Rhododendron Gardens/Roan High Bluff (TNPS Conference registration is required to attend this fieldtrip)

Description: The high elevation hike (6,267') will begin at the Cloudland Hotel site along the Appalachian Trail where we will botanize in the flowering fields. The next stop will be the Rhododendron Gardens where we should see some Catawba Rhododendron (*Rhododendron catawbiense*). Next we will drive along the gravel road and see the Roan Mountain Bluets (*Houstonia purpurea* var. *montana*) and Mountain Myrtle (*Kalmia buxifolia*). For those who want a slightly longer trip, we will continue on to Roan High Bluff Overlook (2.4 mile out and back) where we will enjoy amazing panoramic views of the mountains.

Meeting Places/Time: The trip will begin at Roan Mountain State Park at 1:00 pm at the pool parking lot where we encourage you to arrange carpools to the Gardens, as parking is limited. **The cost to enter the area is \$3.00 per passenger vehicle**, payable with cash at feed tube at the entrance or via the [online pay portal through this link at www.recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov).

Difficulty: The walk through the gardens is an easy .7 mile loop on a concrete path. Most of it is wheelchair accessible. The drive on the gravel road will require little to no walking. Walking through the Cloudland Hotel Site fields and the 2.4 mile out and back hike to Roan Mountain Bluff Overlook is rated easy to moderate. You can make this field trip as short as 1 mile and as long as 4 miles, depending on your preferences and physical ability.

Facilities: There are restrooms at the Rhododendron Gardens trailhead.

Lunch: If you buy a meal ticket, you will be provided a box lunch at the Conference Center before the field trip. There are picnic tables at the gardens if you prefer to eat your lunch there. Make sure to bring plenty of water for the duration of the field trip.

Leader: Ken Rea, a local area TNPS member with knowledge of the Appalachian flora.

JUNE 8 (SATURDAY) GUIDED WALK AT THE MILLER FARMSTEAD (TNPS Conference registration is required to attend this fieldtrip)

Description: Before Roan Mountain State Park was established, the lands that now comprise the park were populated by communities of subsistence farmers. The Dave and Louisa Miller family moved to Ripshin Mountain in 1870, where three generations of Millers lived for over 90 years. The farmhouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places because it reflects the lifestyle of rural subsistence farmers in Appalachia in the early 20th century. Join park staff for a guided tour of the Miller farmhouse and learn more about the history of Roan Mountain and the people who have called it home for generations. There are also pollinator gardens on the site that may be in bloom.

Meeting Places/Time: The trip will begin at Roan Mountain State Park at 2:00 pm at the pool parking lot where we caravan to the Miller Farmstead in the park.

Difficulty: Easy.

Facilities: No

Lunch: If you buy a meal ticket, you will be provided a box lunch at the Conference Center before the field trip.

Leader: A Roan Mountain Park Ranger will lead this tour.



Butterflyweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*



Common milkweed, *Asclepias syriaca*



Catawba rhododendron, *Rhododendron catawbiense*

JUNE 9 (SUNDAY) Cloudland Canyon to Roan High Bluff in the Roan Highlands (TNPS Conference registration is required to attend this fieldtrip)

Description: We will follow the Cloudland Trail to the Roan High Bluff overlook at an elevation of 6267'. Hiking distance is about 2.4 miles roundtrip with a mild elevation gain of about 125' at the top. The area of the overlook has a rare high elevation rocky summit plant community that is the habitat for 4 federally listed plant species among others. The trail traverses through spruce-fir forest with Red Spruce, Fraser Fir, and Mountain Ash. If time permits, we may stop at Carvers Gap for a look at the grassy balds and related plant communities. The total time for the trip will be 4 to 5 hours.

Meeting Place/Time: The trip will begin at Roan Mountain State Park at 8:30 am at the pool parking lot. We will gather in carpools and travel approximately 11 miles south on TN State Road 143 to the Roan Highlands. We will proceed onto NC State Road 1348 and drive to the Cloudland Hotel historical site for a brief stop and then continue to the Roan High Bluff trail head.

Difficulty: Moderate: Sections of the trail are rocky, so sturdy shoes and a hiking pole are recommended. Be aware Roan Mountain weather is variable from bright sunshine to windy cool conditions, so you may want to bring sun-screen and a jacket.

Facilities: None

Lunch: Please bring plenty of water and snacks as needed for a 4 to 5 hour hike.

Leader: Gary Kauffman, senior botanist/ecologist with the National Forests in North Carolina

JUNE 18 (TUESDAY) Southern Grasslands Institute and Prairie Project, Montgomery Co.

Description: This is a joint outing with Wild Ones Middle Tennessee Chapter. Get an inside/outside look at the Southeastern Grasslands Institute on a tour of SGI headquarters at Austin Peay State University, including their "Seeds of Success" native seed collection initiative, a tour of the largest collections in a Mid-South herbarium, and a stroll through the Native Plant Teaching and Research garden. Participants who need to leave after the campus tour may do so, but all are welcome to join us at the prairie and then leave from there. Then, we'll drive as a caravan to see a SGI restoration site: 50+ acres of Pennyroyal Plain Prairie at the nearby data center. Mid-June should be peak bloom for this restoration site!

Meeting Places/Times: We will meet at 10 am central time at the SGI headquarters: 311 College Street (the lower level of 317 College Street, Clarksville, TN 37040.) Park in adjacent lot #23 (marked on the APSU campus map). Lot #23 is at 36.53112095262177, -87.35837287384302. Next, we will drive to Lot #43, next to the Herbarium and gardens 36.533020, -87.351924. (#23 from #43 is easy - College St > Eighth St > Jackson Alley > Henry Ave. = left, left, left, left.) The optional last leg of the tour is a caravan to the prairie, about a 15-20 minute drive from campus, located near Boolean Drive and Guthrie Highway. We will share coordinates that day (it is on private property).

Difficulty: Easy, but at the prairie we are advised to wear skin-protective garments and closed-toe shoes for walking through "the millions of forbs in bloom. The thin to sparsely dense grasses and wildflowers are waist-to-shoulder high in June."

Facilities: Restrooms are available at all locations

Leaders: The leader of the headquarters tour will be SGI's volunteer, Laura Hunt, along with Marcello De Vitis, Director of the Native Seed Program; Jared Gorrell, Herbarium Manager; and Cooper Breedon, Plant Conservation Manager. Joanna Brichetto and Richard Hitt will lead the trip to the prairie.

Registration will be limited to 20 participants: RSVP online to Wild Ones Middle TN Chapter at:
<https://middletennessee.wildones.org/events/>

JULY 13 (SATURDAY) Ghost River SNA-Walker Tract, Fayette Co.

Description: In 2022, the Walker Tract which contains the rare sand post oak community was added to the Ghost River State Natural Area. In September 2023, the West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist led the first natural areas event to this rare community. This year the event is in July when most plants are flowering including hoary skull-cap, whitemouth dayflower, and false boneset. The community is the only place in Tennessee to see sand post oak and capillary hair sedge and one of the few areas to see Plukenet's flat-sedge. Visit the Natural Areas Website to register.

Meeting Place/Time: The LaGrange Post Office just south of the Hwy. 57 and Main St. intersection at **10:00 AM Central**.

Difficulty: The event is considered easy. It is recommended that participants wear insect repellent that repels ticks.

Facilities: Possibly at nearby businesses adjacent to the Post Office in LaGrange.

Lunch: After the hike, possibly at a café nearby in LaGrange if it is open.

Leader: Allan Trently allan.trently@tn.gov (731-234-4887)

JULY 20 (SATURDAY) Balsam Mountain Loop Motor Tour, Swain Co., North Carolina

Description: Cars will leave the Oconaluftee Visitor Center, travel the Blue Ridge Parkway to Heintooga Ridge Road. Pre-determined stops will occur in order to observe selected wildflower species, a lunch break will occur at the Balsam Mountain picnic area which has restroom facilities. Following lunch, those interested will continue down Balsam Mountain Road (a secondary road) where selected stops are also anticipated, ultimately returning to the starting point. Possible species to observe include *Platanthera psycodes*, *Platanthera ciliaris*, *Pilosella caespitosa*, *Rhododendron*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Lilium superbum*, *Solidago juncea*, *Amianthium muscitoxicum* among others to be determined by scouting prior to the trip.

Meeting Place/Time: Oconaluftee Visitor Center at **9:00 AM Eastern for a 10:00 AM sharp departure**; it is requested that riders "team up" to reduce cars for the trip.

Difficulty: Easy, except for some uphill areas near pullovers; caution should be maintained due to being near roads with potential traffic.

Facilities: At the Visitor Center and at the picnic area.

Lunch: Balsam Mountain picnic area.

Leaders: Allen Sweetser (ssretiree@yahoo.com; 865-223-9914); John F. White (johntennffw@gmail.com; 832-545-4868). It is suggested notifying a leader in advance if interested in participating in the field trip.



Turk's cap lily, *Lilium superbum*



Lesser purple fringed orchid, *Platanthera psychodes*



Flame azalea, *Rhododendron calendulaceum*

AUGUST 17 (SATURDAY) Ketona Glades, Bibb Co, Alabama

Description: We finish our exploration of the famous Ketona Glades of Bibb Co., Alabama with a visit to see the fall wildflowers. During our trip last year, we were fortunate to catch some early-blooming Cahaba torch (*Liatris oligocephala*). We should see more of this at the end of its bloom period. In addition to the Cahaba torch, the highlights should be the sticky rosinweed (*Silphium glutinosum*), Ketona tickseed (*Coreopsis grandiflora* var. *inclinata*), Cahaba daisy fleabane (*Erigeron dolomiticola*), all Ketona Glade endemics. Other interesting plants that we may encounter include Georgia aster (*Symphyotrichum georgianum*), slender blazingstar (*Liatris cylindracea*), Elliott's fanpetals (*Sida elliottii*), and blue sage (*Salvia azurea* var. *grandiflora*).

Meeting Place/Time: We will meet at the parking lot at Kathy Stiles Freeland Bibb County Glades Preserve at **10:00 AM Central**.

Difficulty: Moderate. The rock in the glades outcrops is fairly jagged making walking a bit hazardous. At this time of year, the heat can be very intense, so bring PLENTY of water! We will try to take breaks in the shade if necessary.

Facilities: None.

Lunch: Bring to eat at the parking lot.

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

SEPTEMBER 7 (SATURDAY) Big Hill Pond State Park, Bioblitz, McNairy Co.

Description: Join Cooper Breeden of the Southeastern Grasslands Institute for a BioBlitz of Big Hill Pond State Park. There have been several interesting finds at Big Hill Pond in recent years and we are sure there are more to be found. Bring your notepads, botanical keys, and Wildflowers of Tennessee book and help inventory the plants in the park.

Meeting Place/Time: Meet at the Recreation Area parking area at **10:00 AM Central**.

Difficulty: Moderate, there are areas along the bluff that can be steep.

Facilities: At the campground near the meeting place.

Lunch: Bring to eat in the field.

Leader: Cooper Breeden, cooper.breeden@segrasslands.org (615-545-3277)

SEPTEMBER 28 (SATURDAY) Walker Branch SNA, Hardin Co.

Description: We will walk through a field of ironweed, asters, goldenrods, and other colorful plants. We will discuss plants and the insects that visit them. This field is home for the uncommon Dion Skipper and Southern Plains Bumblebee which was recently proposed for listing on the Endangered Species List. Register for the hike at the Natural Areas Events page.

Meeting Place/Time: We will meet in the parking lot for AutoZone Auto Parts at 235 Water St. Suite A, Savannah, TN 38372 at **9:30 AM Central**. Coordinates of the meeting site are 35.221984, -88.246275.

Difficulty: The walk is considered easy and kid friendly.

Facilities: There are several fast food restaurants nearby on Main St.

Lunch: Bring to eat in the field.

Leader: Allan Trently allan.trently@tn.gov (731-234-4887)



The Tennessee Native Plant Society Presents **2024 Native Plant Seminars**

The Tennessee Native Plant Society hosts monthly Native Plant Seminars via Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Central (7:30 p.m. Eastern) and lasting about one hour. All members, and potential members, are welcome to attend the seminars. 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 the nation, and from the professors and students studying our Tennessee native plants. The range of topics covered may include plants 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 and how we can conserve them for future generations.

2024 TNPS Native Plant Seminar Schedule

January 16 – Mary Priestley, Evolution of Flowering Plants

February 20 – John Manion, Native Ferns

March 19 – Steve Murphree, Cicadas Return

April 16 – Janneke Peterson, Symbiotic Schoolyard

May 21 – Deborah Rosenthal, Restoration Gone Wild

June 18 – Sandra Villasenor, Cane Brakes

July 16 – Ila Hatter, Appalachian Herbal Remedies (tentative)

August 20 – Connie Deegan, Snakes in Your Garden

September 17 – Sara Wittenberg, Pollinators in the Garden

October 15– Elizabeth Hermsen, Plant Fossils of Tennessee

November 19 – Adam Bigelow, Wildflowers of Southern Appalachia



2024 TNPS Conference Registration

Roan Mountain State Park ~ June 7-9

Please complete and return with payment before **May 15th**. Online registration and payment are also available at: <https://www.tnps.org/conference/>

Please note:

All TNPS meetings, meals, and presentations will take place at the Roan Mountain Conference Center, adjacent to the Park Office. The address is: 1011 Highway 143, Roan Mountain, TN 37687.

TNPS has secured a block of rooms at the Hampton Inn in Johnson City, TN, about 45 minutes from the park. The hotel address is 508 N State of Franklin Road, Johnson City, TN 37604. The TNPS group rate is \$139 per night for a room with a king-size bed and sofa bed or 2 queen-sized beds. A block of rooms will be reserved for TNPS until May 10th. You may also call the hotel at (423) 929-8000 to book your room. You will need to reference the Tennessee Native Plant Society group and the dates required to receive the group rate. Some park cabins may still be available.

Catered dinners on Friday and Saturday evenings are available before the evening programs. A box lunch is also available on Saturday. Cost per person per meal is listed below.

A schedule of hikes and talks are posted on our website.

Registration fee \$25 per person:

Friday evening dinner:

Saturday box lunch:

Saturday evening dinner:

people _____ @ \$25 = _____

people _____ @ \$18 = _____

people _____ @ \$15 = _____

people _____ @ \$22 = _____

(The deadline for meal ticket purchase is May 15th)

Total payment: \$ _____

Are you interested in purchasing a conference tee shirt? (\$20-\$25)

Yes No (Circle one)

Registrant #1 Information:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Special Needs _____

Registrant #2 Information:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Special Needs _____

Make check(s) payable to **TNPS** and send to: Kim Sadler, 4830 Conquer Drive, Murfreesboro, TN 37128.
Questions? Email: treas@tnps.org

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 (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
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