



TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*):

A Exotic Invasive invading Tennessee

by Allan Trently

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Back in 2008, when I first started working for the Division of Natural Areas, I was tasked with surveying for cogongrass in west Tennessee. This federally regulated noxious weed was prevalent south of the state. So far, in west Tennessee, we have only had one occurrence. Plants were found in Lexington, Henderson County back in 2006. Luckily, the landowner recognized the grass and had it eradicated. If it had not gone untreated, it would likely have spread. Cogongrass is ranked in the top ten worst weeds in the world. Nobody wants this exotic invasive in Tennessee.

Once cogongrass invades an area, under the right conditions it can spread rapidly through seeds and rhizomes. It can spread along roadsides, lawns, wetlands, agricultural fields, and forests. And when it invades an area, it takes over.

Other than trees and shrubs, there are no other plants coexisting within an infestation. And trees and shrubs are not completely safe.

Cogongrass is highly flammable, and when it burns, it burns very hot. Hot enough to kill woody plants. Fire doesn't kill the cogongrass; it makes it thrive. And

nothing eats it. Livestock and wildlife avoid it because of its high silica content. Farmers hate this plant. Foresters hate it. Conservationists despise it. We need to keep it from spreading in Tennessee!

I surveyed along roads all over west Tennessee. A few times I pulled over thinking I found it. After some investigation, what I found was silver



Cogongrass can completely take over an area
Photo courtesy of Allan Trently

beardgrass (*Bothriochloa laguroides*). This exotic grass closely resembles cogongrass but can be differentiated by comparing inflorescences, leaves, stems, and/or roots. There are many online sites to learn cogon identification. A good start is <https://www.cogongrass.org/>. Another site

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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 1978. Its purposes are to assist in the exchange of information and encourage fellowship among Tennessee's botanists, both amateur and professional; to promote public education about Tennessee flora and wild plants in general; to provide, through publication of a newsletter or journal, a formal means of documenting information on Tennessee flora and of informing the public about wild plants; and to promote the protection and enhancement of Tennessee's wild plant communities.

Membership Dues:

Individual/Family: \$20

Student: Complimentary

Institution: \$50

Life: \$250

Join online or renew via the member portal, or mail a check to:

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PO Box 159274

Nashville, TN 37215

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President's Perspective

As we approach mid-May, it's hard to believe how quickly the year is flying by! We've made meaningful progress toward our goals and continue to see a steady increase in new members in all categories. Our engagement with biology departments at colleges and universities has been strong, including onsite events such as herbarium tours at the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga, participation in the Earth Day celebration at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, and a promising connection with the Biology Department at the University of Memphis. Meanwhile, our Education Outreach teams have been very active at events across the state. I'm sincerely grateful to all of you who have contributed your time and talents to our outreach efforts.

How about those TNPS field trips! A big shout-out to Bart Jones for his outstanding work in organizing them, and heartfelt thanks to all the field trip leaders who helped make this year one of the best yet for TNPS outings. We're excited to see the reports and photos from these adventures! Tennessee is home to an incredible variety of unique sites and plant life, and it's a true pleasure to share these natural treasures with our members and the wider community. This year, we also piloted online registration via Neon CRM for selected field trips, which was well received and sets the stage for broader use in future seasons.

Planning for the TNPS 2025 Annual Conference is almost finished. A big thank you goes to Bart Jones for his leadership in coordinating the event, securing the venue at Pickwick Landing State Park, and putting together a great lineup of programs for our attendees.

Lodging information, including special discount rates, was recently shared. Additional details will be provided in this newsletter.

External communication plays a vital role in an organization's growth and development. I've been pleased to witness the dedication of the Facebook team under Anne Ballentine's new leadership, as well as the ongoing strong support from Karen Hill for maintaining the TNPS website.

I also want to express my sincere appreciation to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for their support in handling the organization's administrative responsibilities and helping to shape TNPS's strategic direction. We remain committed to strengthening the TNPS experience and exploring new and creative ways to support our programs financially. Look out for more updates in the months to come.

Lastly, I want to extend a sincere thank you to all our TNPS members for your ongoing support. I look forward to getting to know more of you in the coming months. As an all-volunteer organization, TNPS thrives on the passion and dedication of its members. I invite you to share your ideas, time, and talents to help us grow and to make a meaningful impact.

With gratitude,

Mitchell

President,

Tennessee Native Plant Society

Meet Us at Pickwick Landing!

TNPS will gather at [Pickwick Landing State Park](#) the weekend of September 26-28 for our annual membership meeting. The festivities begin Friday afternoon with a meet-n-greet plus snacks before a “meat and three” buffet dinner. After dinner, we will enjoy a talk highlighting the *40th Anniversary of Tennessee’s Rare Plant Act* by Todd Crabtree (state botanist and TNPS member).



Pickwick Lake

Saturday will consist of a full day of activities, beginning with box lunch pickup and departure for two field trips, a visit to the property of local resident John Ross, and the other to Walker Branch State Natural Area. We will split into two groups, with each group going to one site in the morning, then going to the other site in the afternoon. For those who might not feel up to hiking all day, we will have a workshop at the conference center featuring John Manion, who will lead us in “Understanding Botanical Names”. Our dinner for the night will feature a fajita bar with the fixings. After dinner, our business meeting will be followed by our keynote speaker, Dr. Jon Evans (U. of the South Professor of Biology). Jon will be speaking about *the discovery of a new Phacelia species* near the campus.

Sunday, after breakfast on your own and check out, we will enjoy a quick hike along the Island Loop Trail before we all head home.

Please note: Attendance is limited to members and their families. TNPS is not able to offer this opportunity to the public.

Please check online for more details as we work them out. A final itinerary will be posted soon. Registration forms with payment options will be posted at that time. Room reservations can be made by following this link: [Pickwick Landing State Park — Tennessee State Parks](#). We have a block of 50 rooms in the lodge reserved at the price of \$157/night. Only make your reservations by following this link, as it is connected to our special room rate. The deadline to receive the reduced rate is August 12, 2025. This is a hard deadline, so any rooms not reserved will be released, and reservations made after August 12 will be charged the normal room rate of \$240-257. So don’t wait, reserve your room now!

We look forward to seeing you in September!



The beautiful Lodge and Conference Center at Pickwick Landing

About the Park (from the Pickwick Landing State Park Website):

Pickwick Landing State Park is located just south of Pickwick Dam, 14 miles south of Savannah, in Hardin County. Noted for its excellent water recreation the lake and river offer fishing, boating, swimming, and a marina. Accommodations in the park include a lodge and restaurant, cabins, and camping. In addition to water sports, guests enjoy golfing, birding, picnicking, disc golf, nature walks, and tennis. The park contains 1,416 acres of forested hills and hollows.

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worth visiting is the Alabama Cooperative Extension's field guide to the identification of cogongrass: <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/forestry-wildlife/field-guide-to-the-identification-of-cogongrass-with-comparisons-to-other-look-a-like-species/>.

Through all my surveying in west Tennessee in 2008, I did not find any cogongrass infestations. That all changed in 2024. Botanist Adam Dattilo and I located a small infestation in McNairy County on November 7th. The next day we found another infestation, this time in Hardeman County. To make things worse, cogongrass was reported in five locations East of the Tennessee River from 2023 to 2024. It looks like Tennessee has been invaded!

The best way to eradicate cogongrass is through early detection followed by treatments. This is why surveys are very important. Once you learn how to identify the grass, anytime you go out for a drive, keep an eye out for it. Though it can be spotted and identified anytime of year, the best time to survey is mid-April to early summer when it is in flower. If you think you found it, pull over if safe and get photographs. If you pull a plant to photograph rhizomes, leave the pulled plant with the

infestation. Be very careful not to get seeds on your clothing, and don't drive through the infestation. We don't want to inadvertently spread seeds. Lastly, do not try to eradicate the infestation, even if small, through pulling, since pulling is not effective.

The last step is to report the infestation. If you think you have an infestation, report it to Adam Dattilo, Vegetation Ecologist at Adam.Dattilo@tn.gov and to Allan.Trently@tn.gov. Once reported, a plan will be executed to treat and eventually eradicate the infestation.



Inflorescence of Cogongrass
Photo courtesy of Allan Trently

TN-IPC Board Members Sought

The Tennessee Invasive Plant Council (TN-IPC) is recruiting interested individuals to serve on its board of directors. TN-IPC's primary mission is to raise public awareness about the spread and ecological harm of invasive nonnative plants in Tennessee, facilitate the exchange of information regarding management, control, and native plant alternatives through our website and area workshops, and initiate actions to prevent further invasive plant introductions.

TN-IPC's quarterly meetings are conducted online during the week and last 2 to 3 hours. Anyone with an interest in protecting Tennessee's natural communities and promoting native species is welcome to join a meeting. If you would like to be notified of our next board meeting (likely in June), please contact Margie Hunter, mhunter55@comcast.net. Visit our website, tnipc.org, to learn more about our organization.

Forest Learning Program at Red Bank Elementary School

Contributed by Mitchell Kent

Although TNPS typically concentrates on programs in higher education, we recently had the pleasure of visiting students at the opposite end of the educational journey. Red Bank Elementary School in Chattanooga, TN, features a unique Forest Learning Program that weaves outdoor, nature-based experiences into its core curriculum. This initiative is designed to connect students with the natural world as a regular and meaningful part of their education.

In mid-April, my wife Nancy and I had the chance to visit with the Forest Learning first-grade class and teachers, Sally Warm and Rebecca Cotton, in their outdoor classroom to learn more about the program. We were impressed that these six- and seven-year-olds already possessed a foundational understanding of native plants and could identify invasive species like privet in their surroundings. As we explored the area together, we identified and discussed various native plants and trees, with several students independently pointing out invasive ones. Their enthusiasm and curiosity were infectious, and they asked us a wide range of thoughtful questions throughout our visit.

Here are some key features of the Forest Learning program:

- **Regular Outdoor Learning:** Students, in Forest Kindergarten and First Grade, spend up to half of their instructional day outdoors, engaging directly with the natural world. Activities include exploring the environment, hands-on science, nature journaling, and mindfulness exercises.

Curriculum Integration: The program aligns outdoor learning with academic standards, ensuring that activities in the forest setting support core subjects like science, literacy, and math. Teachers are trained to connect classroom concepts with real-world, nature-based experiences.

- **Benefits for Students:** Research and experience at Red Bank Elementary show that participation in the forest program supports students' physical and emotional

health, increases engagement, and fosters a joy of learning.



- **Outdoor Classroom**

Infrastructure: The school has developed dedicated outdoor learning spaces, including a natural courtyard, gardens, and seating made from tree stumps and repurposed materials, to support ongoing outdoor instruction.

- **Professional Development:** Red Bank Elementary is recognized as a model for forest school practices. It partners with organizations like

the Forest School Teacher Institute to provide training for educators regionally and nationally, sharing best practices in nature-based education.

Program Impact and Community Involvement

- The Forest Learning Program has become a central part of Red Bank Elementary's identity, attracting families and educators interested in innovative, experiential learning.

- The initiative has received community support through grants, donations, and partnerships with local businesses and organizations to enhance outdoor facilities and resources.

Sally Warm, a first-grade teacher at Red Bank Elementary in the Hamilton County School District, has been named the 2025 Elementary Teacher of the Year. With seven years of teaching experience, she is celebrated for her creative and impactful use of outdoor education. Warm was instrumental in growing Red Bank's Forest School Program and designed a first-grade curriculum that blends Tennessee state standards with nature-based learning. TNPS proudly congratulates Sally on this well-deserved recognition and her outstanding contributions to education!

References:

Red Bank Elementary Forest Learning Program on HCDE Website: <https://rbe.hcde.org/innovation>
Red Bank Elementary Forest Learning Program on YouTube Video: https://youtu.be/DMv4_mpETaI

Grants 4 Native Plants 2024-5

Our first year for awarding Grants 4 Native Plants has concluded with receipt of the end of school year reports and photos. Summaries of those reports follow. We also offer our thanks to the mentors who did so much to enrich this process and make it meaningful to students and educators alike. Thank you Glinda Rhodes, Bart Jones, Rebecca Abel, Terri Joyce, Robin Cooper, Phyllis Kitzler, and Kate Patrick. (Please note, the reports are written exactly as they were submitted, misspellings and all.)



Decaturville Elementary School in Decaturville

Native plants were installed along both sides of a sidewalk leading to a flag pole. A few ferns remain in pots waiting to be planted in front of the school sign after it is repaired. Students Madison and Fisher wrote the following report:

We pechased some Tennessee native plants to around our flag pole. We also learned about Symbiotic relationships between two or more organisms. These relationships can include mutualism for example, the plants that we have planted around our flag pole because the bees and plants both benefit. The flowers benefit from being pollinated and the bees benefit from eating the pollen. In conclusion we learned a lot about symbiotic relationships from getting these plants.



Arlington Middle School Environmental Club in Memphis

A series of raised beds were replanted with native plants by the Environmental Club in the fall. A report by student A. Brooks describes the importance of the project to them.

My experience in the Environmental Club was so much fun. Learning about Tennessee natives was especially interesting. We went through the entire process of planting and seeing it grow a few months later. Not only did I learn so much about our states' natives, but it also really helped me learn how to plant them at my own house. Maintaining these plants was especially important, and everything I learned of how to manage these plants was interesting. In the fall, we all planted these natives with the help of a great mentor. We learned about how our native pollinators positively affected our environment and the hands-on part significantly helped that. Natives, as I learned, are super important to plant because; they support a large biodiversity, a native creates a healthier ecosystem, and it enhances the environments stability. Overall, I had a wonderful experience.



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Normal Park Museum Magnet School

Members of the Green STEAM Club created a rain garden using a variety of native wildflowers and shrubs. The students described the experience:

What we planted: Cardinal flower, Baby joe pyeweed, Eastern bluestar, Virginia bluebell, Button bush shrub, Green and gold, Cupplant, Eastern Bluestar

Native plants are plants that are made to grow in a specific environment which makes them native to that place. So in our garden we plant lots of native plants so they can grow successfully! -Eleanor Beukema 4th

The process of making our garden was both simple and complicated, the first step was to gather information about the native plants, their habitat, and polonatters. The next step we took was to plant the plants, and make them extra healthy and add mulch. Then we grew more plants in pots to sell at Normalpalooza. Then we grew more plants when we had tons of rain. And lastly, we check on our plants daily to make sure they're OK! -Samara Brigner

The planting and viewing of our garden was really fun! The first month of doing Green STEAM we had planted our native plants then a few months later we saw a few sprouts! I really enjoyed watching them grow during the year. Everybody in my grade who was in the club always went straight to the garden at recess or asked "How's the Garden doing?" We all really enjoyed the process of planting and watching it grow! -Phoebe Anderson

We planted many different plants. For example milkweed. I really enjoyed clearing the garden. I did not enjoy Poison Ivy. -Audrey Geraci

I enjoyed trying to solve the problems that we encountered. People stepping on the garden? Boom, ☐ signs. Signs not working? Poof, ☐ fence. I feel like this helped me grow as a problem solver and helped me work with the people around me. Making the garden not only helped me grow but helped me learn. I had no idea that there was such a thing as a "rain garden." We also found interesting items, such as an old baseball glass, tons of trash, and clay. This helped me see how much the world needs gardens.- Rowan Williams 5th



Nolensville High School in Nolensville

Shrubs and trees were planted in front of the school late this spring. A student describes what this garden means to them:

I am honored to help set a space for future students to enjoy. Not only for the environmental benefits, but physiological effects for the students. In a school of brick and mortar, surrounded by lakes of pavement,

and only specks grass (emphasis on just grass). To have a diversity in plants, shapes, aromas, aesthetics attributed by the garden will spurr dopamine release to students and faculty. Being around in a green garden can ot only boost dopamine levels but reduce stress hormone release. This class has brought me a far greater appreciation for nature and conservation, and getting to positively give back to



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nature is exciting.



West High School Environmental Club in Knoxville

Biology teacher David Krebs writes:

Thanks to the generous support from the native plant grant, the West High School Garden Club successfully expanded our native plant garden and deepened our educational outreach. The grant allowed us to purchase 100 native plants from the Native Plant Rescue Squad, as well as essential materials including wood and paint to build and decorate a garden arbor, six bags of cement for installation, and additional wood to construct a free community library box.

Our native plant garden has become a living

classroom. Students used the space to study plant reproduction, the complex co-evolution of insects and native flora, and the ecological risks of nonnative plants. Lessons focused on how invasive species disrupt biodiversity by outcompeting native species—especially due to mismatched growth seasons, root systems, and lack of natural predators.

Beyond the garden, students took initiative in a range of sustainability-focused activities. As part of the Knoxville Tree Master Plan, they organized large tree planting days in low-canopy neighborhoods—knocking on doors, engaging with residents, and planting trees. The club also hosted a series of guest speakers who explored human-plant relationships, ... and more. We're proud of the impact this grant helped make possible—both in the ground and in our community.

A student reports:

Over the past year, our school's native garden has improved significantly and truly cultivated a community across our student body. We've been able to plant several native plants including beebalm, aster, goldenrod, and day flowers while educating our environmental club and others about these plants and their importance. Furthermore, we've been able to build connections across our school and the greater Knoxville community through community plantings in which we've planted free native plants for our neighbors to increase the canopy. From our garden days in which we've created a true community



Grants 4 Native Plants Now Open for 2025-26



Grants 4 Native Plants Now Open for 2025-26. Year two of our Grants 4 Native Plants program has begun, with timelines, grant application forms, and other information now available at: <https://tnps.org/grants/>. **All applications must be received by June 30, 2025.** After reviewing the applications, TNPS will award \$500 grants to a select number of schools (public, private, or homeschool associations) in Tennessee.

Schools must use a hands-on student curriculum with students doing the preparation, planting, and maintenance of the native plants selected for their native plant garden.

Grant awards will be made by August 1st. At that time contact information will be provided for a mentor who will assist in decisions regarding site selection, plant choices, planting techniques, and maintenance needs for their native plant project. Together, the teacher applicant, their principal, and the provided mentor will have one month to meet, complete and submit an Action Plan to TNPS. This is to ensure that the native plants will have an opportunity to thrive and that students will have an extended opportunity to learn about the benefits of our beautiful Tennessee native plants.

Please share this information with friends who are teachers, neighborhood schools, schools attended by your children or grandchildren, and any other appropriate contacts you may have. We would love to see native plants surrounding all our Tennessee schools, providing spaces where students can actively study the components and interactions of our native environment.

(See the reports from our students and teachers from the 2024 grant recipients on pages 6 - 8)

2025 TNPS Fieldtrip Reports

MARCH 22, WILDFLOWER SPOT ON THE N. WALKER ACCESS TO THE NORTH RIDGE TRAIL, ANDERSON COUNTY

Fieldtrip report by Margaret Cumberland

On March 22, Margaret Cumberland, with help from Larry Pounds, led a hike at the N. Walker Ln Access to the North Ridge Trail in Oak Ridge, TN. As one of the first hikes in the spring, over 30 people showed up ready to see some wildflowers!

This is an excellent area to see early spring wildflowers, and it did not disappoint. We saw blooming twin leaf, *Jeffersonia diphylla*, bloodroot, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, the start of trout lilies, *Erythronium americanum*, peak spring beauties, *Claytonia virginica*, and the highlight of the trail, dutchman's breeches, *Dicentra cucullaria*.



Trout lilies, *Erythronium americanum*
photo by D Bollenbach

The wildflowers were about 2 weeks behind what they have been the past many years, so we still had some harbinger-of-spring, *Erigenia bulbosa* around, but it was going to seed. The Solomon's seal, *Polygonatum biflorum*, celandine poppies, *Stylophorum diphyllum*, and fernleaf phacelia, *Phacelia bipinnatifida* were just starting to come out.

This area is so incredibly dense with wildflowers, we would only hike a few feet before stopping to admire something new. On our hike back out, we noticed that even more flowers had opened up as the day warmed up, making the return trip even more enjoyable than the hike in!



Dutchman's breeches, *Dicentra cucullaria*
photo by D Bollenbach

APRIL 12 FROZEN HEAD WILFLOWER WALK, MORGAN COUNTY

Fieldtrip report by Larry Pounds

We had a large group of 27 people. Our early start allowed us to find plenty of parking at the trailhead. We visited during a peak time for flowering. However, a week later, the large white trillium, *Trillium grandiflorum*, and the spotted mandarin, *Prosartes maculatum*, were in poor condition. On the other hand, the dwarf ginseng, *Panax trifolius*, remained lovely throughout the period.



Dwarf ginseng, *Panax trifolius*
photo by Dennis Horn

We arrived too early to see the showy orchis, *Galearis spectabilis*, which was just beginning to flower. A week later, it was at its peak. The lesson learned is that to see everything, especially wildflowers in prime conditions, it's essential to visit often.



Showy orchis, *Galearis spectabilis*,
photo by D Bollenbach

APRIL 13, DEAN'S WOODS WILDFLOWER SAUNTER, KNOX CO.

Fieldtrip report by Mac Post



Dean's Woods Wildflower Walk Participants

This 20-acre patch of woods in south Knoxville is special. Owned by the University of Tennessee, it is mostly old-growth forest with an undisturbed soil on a north-facing slope, making it ideal for a surprising diversity of spring wildflowers. Seventeen wildflower enthusiasts spent 2 hours traveling less than 2 miles along the narrow trail, surrounded by carpets of spring ephemerals. Not counting exotics, we saw at least 25 species blooming, including some fairly rare ones. The trees and shrubs were well along in leafing out, so early ephemerals (dutchman's breeches, spring beauty, virginia bluebells, dwarf larkspur, perfoliate



Wild geranium,
Geranium maculatum Photo
by John F White

bellwort) were on their way out, while more shade-tolerant ones (Jack-in-the-pulpit, five species of trilliums, wild geranium, mayapple) were at their peak. If you want a pictorial overview of the plants we saw, contact John White (johntennffw@gmail.com) for his wonderful collection of photos from this outing assembled into single PDF

Dean's Woods is a remnant of what most of the ridge and valley region might have looked like pre-settlement. Located in a subdivision near downtown Knoxville, it provides quick access to the University of Tennessee for teaching, research, and study. It allows classes to visit, see, smell, touch, and hear plants and animals naturally. Here is a website with some information on the history of Dean Woods -

<https://biologygreenhouse.utk.edu/DeanInfo.html>



Mayapple, : *Podophyllum peltatum*
photo by John F White

Invasive plants are becoming an issue, creeping downslope from neighboring yards. The main threats are amur bush honeysuckle, winter creeper, privet, burning bush, autumn olive, and english ivy. Student clubs and other interested people and organizations (Harvey Broome Group, Sierra Club, Ijams Nature Center, for example) get involved in weed removal events there. If you would like to help, contact Jeff Martin, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department, jmart90@utk.edu, (865) 974-1518. He organizes a spring and fall cleanup every year.

MAY 3, LAUREL RUN PARK, HAWKINS COUNTY

Fieldtrip report by Ken Rea

Laurel Run Park, a Hawkins County Park, is situated along the Holston River in Northeast Tennessee and the main trail goes up Laurel Run, along which is an idea place for wildflowers. The hike goes past two small waterfalls and connects with Bays Mountain Park. The hike was a joint hike with Bays Mountain Park and TNPS and was led by Bob Culler and Ken Rea.



Guyandotte beauty,
Synandra hispidula
Photo by Ken Rea

The Guyandotte beauty, *Synandra hispidula*, was the star of the hike as it covered the hillsides. Some other highlights included largeleaf waterleaf, *Hydrophyllum macrophyllum*, dwarf larkspur, *Delphinium tricorne*, alternate-leaf dogwood, *Cornus alternifolia*, umbrella-leaf magnolia, *Magnolia tripetala*, hearts-a-bustin, *Euonymus americanus*, and Jack-in-the-pulpit, *Arisaema triphyllum*.

The competition was fierce to find the first Jack in flower and the dollar prize was won by Jan with JD in a close second.



Laurel Run Park
Hike Participants

MAY 10, KENTUCKY LADY'S SLIPPER, DECATUR COUNTY

Fieldtrip report by Bart Jones

Folks from Knoxville, Chattanooga, Nashville, Huntsville, AL and a few relatively local West Tennesseans gathered on a chilly morning in Decatur County to see the rare Kentucky lady's slipper, *Cypripedium kentuckiense*. Once at the site, the group was treated to a couple dozen plants in peak condition. Kentucky lady's slippers have the largest flowers of any *Cypripedium* and are quite impressive. This species ranges from Virginia to Texas, but is uncommon throughout, with the plants existing in very isolated populations. It is listed as endangered in Tennessee, officially occurring in three counties.

A few other plants in bloom nearby and at a roadside powerline cut were indicative of a prairie affinity. Among these were Indian pink, *Spigelia marilandica*, Small's ragwort, *Packera anomala*, climbing milkvine, *Matelea obliqua*, hairy phlox, *Phlox amoena*, and Eastern white-flower beardtongue, *Penstemon tenuiflorus*.

After lunch we traveled to Natchez Trace State Park where we walked the Pin Oak Trail along Pin Oak Lake. This trail goes through several acidic seeps where ferns dominate the understory. We saw an amazing nine species of ferns: sensitive fern, *Onoclea sensibilis*, netted chain fern, *Woodwardia areolata*, broad beech fern, *Phegopteris*



Kentucky lady's slipper, *Cypripedium kentuckiense*

Photo by Bart Jones



Kentucky lady's slipper, *Cypripedium kentuckiense*

Photo by Bart Jones



Acidic seeps where ferns dominate the understory

Photo by Bart Jones

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hexagonoptera, royal fern, *Osmunda regalis*, Christmas fern, *Polystichum acrostichoides*, rattlesnake fern, *Botrypus virginianus*, New York fern, *Thelypteris noveboracensis*, lady fern, *Athyrium filix-femina*, as well as a few wildflowers, Virginia sweetspire, *Itea virginica*, primrose-leaved violet, *Viola primulifolia*, partridgeberry, *Mitchella repens*, and some very large Jack-in-the-pulpit, *Arisaema triphyllum*.



Kentucky Lady Slipper Fieldtrip Participants



Indian Pink, *Spigelia marilandica*,
Photo by Bart Jones

MAY 17, NORRIS GRIST MILL TO OBSERVATION POINT, ANDERSON COUNTY

Fieldtrip report by Larry Pounds

It was a lovely day to be out in Norris Dam State Park and the Norris Watershed area. Margaret Cumberland led the field trip just a day before giving birth to her baby, Flora,

Most of the spring wildflowers had finished blooming, except for the largeleaf waterleaf, *Hydrophyllum macrophyllum*, black cohosh, *Actaea racemosa*, goatsbeard, *Aruncus dioicus*, and false goatsbeard, *Astilbe biternate*, were present but not yet in flower, which made them somewhat confusing to identify. It wasn't until the end of the trip that I figured them out.

We also encountered the uncommon native lily-of-the-valley, *Convallaria majuscula*, which had not yet bloomed. However, several species in flower provided a beautiful display: gray beardtongue, *Penstemon canescens*, Indian pink, *Spigelia marilandica*, southern ragwort, *Packera anonyma*, and nettleleaf sage, *Salvia urticifolia*,



Nettleleaf sage, *Salvia urticifolia*,
Photo by Dennis Horn



Southern ragwort, *Packera anonyma*
Photo by Dennis Horn



Indian pink, *Spigelia marilandica*
Photo by D Bollenbach

Summer and Fall Fieldtrip Schedule

(Click the links for details about each fieldtrip)

- 6/21** [Rita Venable Pollinator Garden, Williamson Co. \(FULL\)](#)
7/19 [Sand Prairie Conservation Area, Scott Co, Missouri](#)
(Register Online)
8/2 [Summer Orchids of the Cumberland Plateau, Van Buren Co.](#)
(Register Online)
9/6 [Van Buren County Powerline](#)
(Register Online)
9/13 [The Point Trail at Obed Wild and Scenic River, Morgan Co.](#)
(Reserve by email)
9/26-28 [TNPS Annual Meeting & Conference at Pickwick Landing SP, Hardin Co.](#)

TECH TIPS: Navigating NEON

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

Help Us Stay in Touch – Please Verify Your Email Address

Email is the primary way TNPS connects directly with our members. To ensure you continue receiving important updates and information, please take a moment to confirm that we have your most current email address on file.

To verify or update your email address:

1. Log in to the **Neon Member Login Portal**.
2. Click on the **"Communication Update"** button on the left side of the screen.
3. A **"Communication Preferences"** box will appear. Your email address will be listed a few lines below your name.
4. If an update is needed, simply delete the current email address and enter the new one.
5. Click the **"Submit"** button to save your changes.

If you have any questions about the Neon Member Login Portal or Neon CRM, please contact us at support@tnps.org.

SAVE THE DATES

SEPTEMBER 26-28 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

TNPS ANNUAL MEETING

PICKWICK LANDING STATE PARK, HARDIN CO.

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



The Tennessee Native Plant Society Presents **2025 Native Plant Seminars**

Each year the Tennessee Native Plant Society hosts monthly Native Plant Seminars from January through November. These events are held via Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Central (7:30 p.m. Eastern) and last about one hour. All members, and potential members, are welcome to join the seminars at no cost. The link to join each seminar will be posted on the *Seminars* and *Calendar* pages of our website: www.tnps.org

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

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

2025 TNPS Native Plant Seminar Schedule

- 1/21 Connie Deegan, *Coexisting with Snakes* – [VIDEO](#)
- 2/18 Anthony Trimboli of Backyard Ecology, *Keystone Trees & Shrubs for the Volunteer State* – VIDEO link unavailable after 3/20/25
- 3/18 Bieke Puncochar, *Neighbors 4 Native Plants* – [VIDEO](#)
- 4/15 Steve Murphree, *Galls and Gall Makers* – [VIDEO](#)
- 5/20 Rosanna Ohlsson, *Collecting and Saving Seeds from Native Plants* – [VIDEO](#)
- 6/17 Holly Taylor, *TSP Highlights in Plant Conservation*
- 7/15 Adam Dattilo, *Stopping the Spread of Cogongrass in Tennessee*
- 8/19 Jennifer R Mandel, *Conservation, Agricultural Research & Education at the University of Memphis*
- 9/16 Kris Light, *The Birds and Bees of Wildflowers*
- 10/21 Eli Harris, *Floristic Diversity of Window Cliffs State Natural Area*
- 11/18 Steve Slack, *Straight Species vs Cultivars*

When Are Dues Due?

Membership dues are due one year from the date of last payment. You will receive a reminder email 5 days before expiration asking you to renew. There is currently a grace period of 65 days in which you retain your membership status.

If you go into your membership portal (www.TNPS.org, and click the LOGIN button or <https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/login>) you will see when your membership is due to expire. You may also renew your membership, if it is near expiration, and sign up for auto renewal if you wish. Payment is either by credit card or delayed payment if you mail a check. If there have been changes to your email or physical address, please update your membership.

If you have any questions or problems, contact support@tnps.org.

TNPS Newsletter
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