

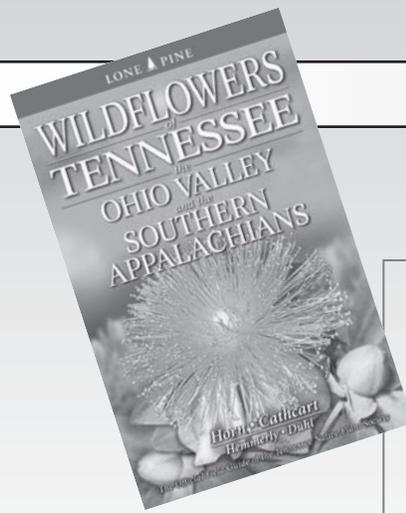
The Quarterly Journal of the Florida Native Plant Society

# Palmetto



## *Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley, and the Southern Appalachians*

Review by Paul Rebmann



### ***Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley, and the Southern Appalachians***

by Dennis Horn, Tavia Cathcart,  
Thomas E. Hemmerly and David Duhl  
Lone Pine Publishing, Auburn, Washington  
ISBN: 1-55105-428-0\$22.95

A fourteen-year project of the Tennessee Native Plant Society culminated in 2005 with the publication of *Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley, and the Southern Appalachians*. This is an exceptional wildflower field guide for the region covered. Even though Florida is not included, the book does feature some of our natives, and many panhandle species. FNPS members traveling to Tennessee and other southeastern states will find this guide very useful in wildflower identification. The 5-1/2 by 8-1/2 inch size and plasticized paperback cover make this nearly 500 page book both handy and fairly durable for use in the field.

Near the front of the book is a 15 page color key of small wildflower photos. These thumbnails are captioned with the common name and page number to lead the reader to the full species description. The main body includes descriptions of 1,250 species and varieties, grouped by family. These include all of the *Asclepias* and *Trillium* species that occur in Tennessee, most of the orchids, and many rare wildflowers endemic to particular habitats, such as the cedar glades of the central basin.

There is not an overall dichotomous key, but keys are included for 12 of the more complex families: *Apiaceae*, *Asteraceae*, *Brassicaceae*, *Ericaceae*, *Fabaceae*, *Lamiaceae*, *Liliaceae*, *Orchidaceae*, *Ranunculaceae*, *Rosaceae*, *Saxifragaceae* and *Scrophulariaceae*. These keys include line drawings to aid in identification. There is a single

comprehensive index of common and scientific names.

The strength of any guidebook is in the species descriptions and this one is an Olympic contender. Most pages have two entries, each of these includes the common and scientific names of the wildflower, synonyms if appropriate, and a photograph. The text begins with general information about the type of plant, overall height and other important features. This is followed by descriptions of the leaves, flowers and fruit. Significant identifying features of the plant or its various parts are in bold text to assist in quickly finding these key traits. The flowering times listed are not just for Tennessee, but for the entire range. 'Where found' is next, describing the overall range of the species. If it is not native to Tennessee the origin will be given and the scientific name in the header will be followed by an asterisk. Frequency of occurrence is based on in how many counties in Tennessee the species is found. Similar species are then briefly described, with significant differences in bold text. The description ends with various notes about the plant or its family, the habitat, other common names, origin of name, historic uses or any other interesting relevant fact.

In the glossary section there are a series of line drawings down the sides of the pages. Some are those often found in wildflower guides: flower parts, inflorescence types, leaf shapes, types and margins. Also included are others less frequently found: leaf apices, bases, and attachments, surface features, corolla

shapes, ovary position, and fruit types.

A section of this book provides information about Tennessee, Native Americans that lived in the state, ethnobotany, field botanizing – both historic and current – the Tennessee Native Plant Society, the project that created this field guide, and plant conservation. The three grand divisions of Tennessee are described, followed by the physiographic provinces and sub-provinces that make up the state's geography and habitats.

This excellent field guide was created by volunteers – many from the Tennessee Native Plant Society – with the help of donations from various organizations and individuals. This book was part of the *Flora 2001 Project* to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Dr. Augustin Gattinger's *Flora of Tennessee and Philosophy of Botany*, published in 1901. A *Fifth Checklist of Tennessee Vascular Plants* was published last summer with the financial assistance of TNPS, and proceeds from the sale of *Wildflowers of Tennessee, the Ohio Valley, and the Southern Appalachians*. will go towards a project to publish a manual of Tennessee flora.

#### **About the Author**

A Tennessee native, Paul Rebmann has been a long-time resident of Florida and FNPS member, now serving as FNPS Webmaster. Paul is a part-time nature photographer, a full-time network administrator and is currently enrolled in the Florida Master Naturalist Program.



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**The purpose of the Florida Native Plant Society**

is to conserve, preserve, and restore the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

**Official definition of native plant:**

For most purposes, the phrase Florida native plant refers to those species occurring within the state boundaries prior to European contact, according to the best available scientific and historical documentation. More specifically, it includes those species understood as indigenous, occurring in natural associations in habitats that existed prior to significant human impacts and alterations of the landscape.

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**Editorial Content**

We welcome articles on native plant species and related conservation topics, as well as high-quality botanical illustrations and photographs. Contact the editor for guidelines, deadlines and other information.

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