



## Preparing a South Cumberland Conservation Action Plan

Over the past few months, fellow Sewanee alum Eric Keen (C'08) and I have settled into Sewanee's Landscape Analysis Lab as Post-Baccalaureate Research Fellows working on the South Cumberland Conservation Action Plan. Both of us fresh off the boat from our respective international adventures, Eric as a Fulbright Fellow in Indonesia and I as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Peru, we were invited back to Sewanee to work as part of this collaborative conservation planning project led by the Sewanee Environmental Institute and The Land Trust for Tennessee.

Thanks to funding from SEI and Chattanooga's Lyndhurst Foundation, which has identified the South Cumberland as a conservation priority in the Southeast, Eric and I are able to be an integral part of guiding conservation efforts for the South Cumberland region that we both came to love so much as Sewanee students.

The timing for conservation action planning in this region is particularly relevant as large tracts of land, historically owned by a small number of entities, are currently coming up for sale. Such large land transactions can have a significant effect on what the future Cumberland Plateau looks like. Thus, the conservation community has arrived at a crucial juncture in which collaboration, information sharing, and the formation of a common vision are paramount for effective landscape-level conservation.

Our aim for the SCCAP project is to incorporate not only ecological values, but also an awareness of cultural heritage and public benefits, into a conservation action plan that will help local organizations identify

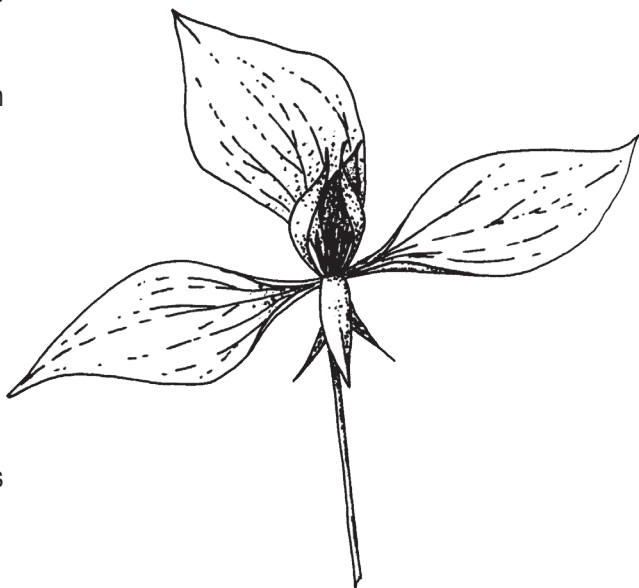
and develop strategies to protect areas where multiple values intersect. To say the least, Eric and I have our work cut out for us!

The multi-faceted nature of conservation planning is both challenging and fascinating. Eric, responsible for writing and designing the conservation action plan document, has grappled with how to effectively portray the host of resources that the South Cumberland provides us: outdoor recreation, working farms and forests, wildlife habitat, drinking water, and rich cultural heritage, just to name a few. He has contacted more than two dozen local authorities, ranging from government officials to historians, in order to create a comprehensive narrative of exactly what we are trying to preserve.

framework for our landscape analyses is broken into three tiers: ecological values, such as forest cores, aquatic habitats, and landscape connectivity; conservation opportunities and threats, such as land ownership, restoration potential, and risk of development; and public benefits, such as drinking watersheds, view sheds, and recreation value.

We will present our work at a meeting with twenty participating conservation groups in late March in order to gather feedback and make additional improvements to the action plan. We are thrilled to provide tools and information that enhance conservation practitioners' decision-making throughout the South Cumberland region.

—Valerie Moyer (C'07)



My task has been to map as many of these values as possible in a Geographic Information System. This includes gathering existing data from Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia, the three states included in our 3.5 million-acre project area, and in some instances creating new datasets. The

*Over the next year and a half, participating conservation organizations will prioritize strategies and protection plans. One anticipated outcome is the refocusing of attention on the South Cumberland Plateau, resulting in improvement of the region's economy through ecotourism and recreation. According to Jon Evans, who directs both the Landscape Analysis Lab and the Sewanee Herbarium, "The southern plateau has never had this kind of process before. Sometimes it takes a big funder [the Lyndhurst Foundation] to pull it all together. It gives us an opportunity to leverage our strengths." —MPP*

# Spring Calendar of Events

## Botanical Drawing — Wed., March 31, 1:30–4:00 p.m. — Dead Plants Society

Join Mary Priestley and other members of this informal nature-journaling group for a weekday afternoon of botanical drawing. They will present a short description of plant anatomy and provide some favorite botanical drawing books for perusal. Otherwise, this will be an unstructured time. Some plant material will be available, but if there is something botanical that you would especially like to draw and you are looking for a block of time to work on it, bring it along. Meet in Spencer Hall (the new science building wing across from the library), room 173.

## Roark's Cove — Sat., April 10, 9:30 a.m. — Mary Priestley

A private property at the base of the plateau is being made available for a wildflower walk to see some species not seen on the upper plateau, such as shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*) and possibly some late Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), as well as trilliums and much more. Meet at the Sewanee Inn to carpool or caravan to the site of this easy walk.

## Shakerag Hollow

Sun., April 11, 1:30 p.m. — Yolande Gottfried

Sat. & Sun., April 17 & 18 — Trails & Trilliums — go to <http://trails.sasweb.org> for more information

Sun., April 25, 1:30 p.m. — Jon Evans

This is Sewanee's "Mecca" for wildflower lovers and these leaders are the experts. Meet at Green's View parking lot (past the golf course). 2 miles, moderate to strenuous, with one fairly challenging incline.

All times are CDT.

Wear appropriate shoes on all of these walks. Risks involved in hiking include physical exertion, rough terrain, forces of nature, and other hazards not present in everyday life. Picking flowers and digging plants are prohibited in all of the above-mentioned natural areas.

For more information on these events contact Yolande Gottfried at the Herbarium (931-598-3346) during regular business hours or by e-mail at [ygottfri@sewanee.edu](mailto:ygottfri@sewanee.edu). Directions are available on the Herbarium website, <http://lal.sewanee.edu/herbarium>, under the calendar of events.

## Other Organizations — Events of Interest

### Bluebell Island — Sat., March 27, 10 a.m. — South Cumberland Regional Land Trust

Join the SCRLT for their annual Bluebell Island Ramble. Bluebell Island is located on the Elk River and was purchased by SCRLT in order to protect its unique natural features for posterity. The island is regionally famous for its plethora of wildflowers, especially Virginia Bluebells. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the gated entrance to the Tyson Foods parking lot on TN-50/US 64 W, just south of exit 127 off I-24 near the bridge over the Elk River, about two miles West of I-24. Instructions and a map will be available at [scrlt.org](http://scrlt.org).

### Collins Gulf — Sat., April 3, 10 a.m. — Randy Hedgepath, TN State Naturalist

Randy knows this section of the South Cumberland State Recreation Area well and will lead a wildflower/sightseeing hike into the only other local spot on the plateau that rivals Shakerag Hollow for number and diversity of spring wildflowers. Meet at the Collins West trailhead, just beyond the Swiss-Memorial School in Gruetli-Laager. Bring lunch and extra water. 5 miles, strenuous. For directions to Collins West contact the South Cumberland State Park Visitors' Center (931.924.2980).

### Monteagle Waterfall and Wildflowers — Sat., April 3, 10 a.m. — Tenn. Native Plant Society

Join us to visit 100-foot-high Deerlick Falls at the head of Layne Cove. Further down the cove is the site where Tom Patrick collected the type specimen of *Trillium sulcatum* in 1980. After lunch we plan to shuttle to the Warren Point overlook. We'll head down the side of the plateau, following an old stagecoach road part way down. Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) has invaded this area, so we will pull some of this invasive, while we enjoy other plants. Take I-24 to Monteagle exit 134. McDonald's, the meeting place, is just north of the exit. Moderate, but steep at the falls and some downhill cross-country after lunch. Facilities: At meeting place and at lunch. Lunch at a restaurant in Monteagle, but bring your lunch if you prefer. For more information, contact Mary Priestley 931-598-0157 (h) [marypriestley@bellsouth.net](mailto:marypriestley@bellsouth.net) or Dennis Horn 931-461-0262 (h).

### Fiery Gizzard — Three hikes Sunday, April 18, as part of St. Andrew's-Sewanee's Trails and Trilliums.

See <http://trails.sasweb.org> for specifics.

### April 21–25 is the week of the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Members of the Herbarium staff will be participating as walk leaders. For more information and registration visit the website at [www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org](http://www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org).

## THE SEWANEE PLANT PRESS

The Sewanee Herbarium  
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### CALENDAR

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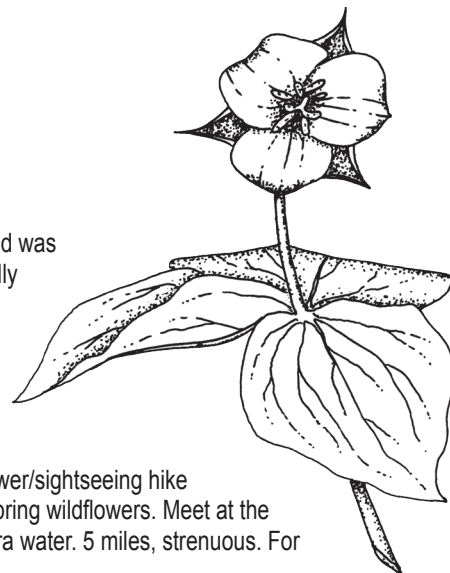
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### COMPOSITOR

Sondra Bridges

Drawings, by Mary Priestley, are of toadshade, recurved, and red trilliums, and trout lily.



# Trails and Trilliums to Honor Priestley

We are pleased to announce that Herbarium curator and *Sewanee Plant Press* editor Mary Patten Priestley will receive St. Andrew's-Sewanee's Trails & Trilliums 2010 Yeatman Award for Environmental Education. She will be honored on April 17 during Wine & Wildflowers, an event held at the Monteagle Inn. Our curators, both Mary and Yolande Gottfried, do an outstanding job, and we are proud to have this latest honor for the Herbarium!

The Yeatman Award is named for noted environmental educator Dr. Harry Yeatman, Professor *emeritus* of Biology of the University of the South and longtime supporter of the Herbarium. The previous Yeatman Award winners are *Sewanee emeritus* Professor of Biology and founding director of the Herbarium Dr. George Ramseur and Tennessee State Naturalist *emeritus* Mack Prichard.

In addition to her work as curator, Mary serves on the Tennessee Rare Plant Advisory Council and is president of the Tennessee Native Plant Society and president-elect of the board of directors of the Friends of South Cumberland

State Recreation Area (SCSRA). South Cumberland, the largest wilderness state park in Tennessee, includes the Savage Gulf State Natural Area, Fiery Gizzard, Lost Cove Cave, and Sewanee Natural Bridge.

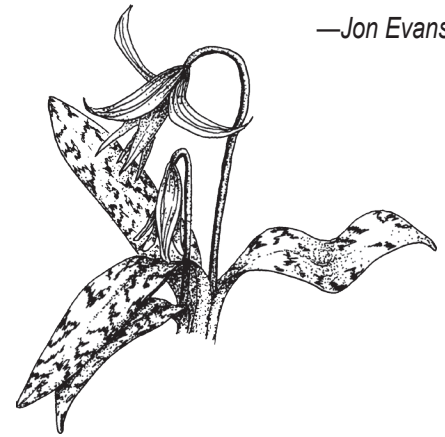
A highlight of Trails & Trilliums will be Cumberland Wild, a panel discussion on conservation issues sponsored by the Friends of SCSRA. This year's topic, "Plateau 2020: Envisioning the Future," will explore issues surrounding growth on the plateau: sustainability, resource management, and preservation of the natural landscape. I look forward to serving on the panel, along with representatives of the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation, the Alliance for the Cumberlands, the State of Tennessee's Department of Economic and Community Development, and the Friends of SCSRA.

This, the seventh "perennial" Trails & Trilliums, will be held on the St. Andrew's-Sewanee School campus on Saturday, April 17, and Sunday, April 18, with events for wildflower enthusiasts, gardeners, hikers, and families. The



two-day event will feature a native plant sale, workshops and speakers, a garden tour, guided walks, hikes in Shakerag Hollow and other area trails, a Green Art exhibit, and Kids & Kritters events for young naturalists. For more information, see [trails.sasweb.org](http://trails.sasweb.org). We hope to see you there!

—Jon Evans



## Membership Application/Renewal

The Friends of the Sewanee Herbarium support the work of the Herbarium: education, research, and conservation. A \$10.00 annual contribution would be very much appreciated. The date of your most recent contribution is printed on your address label.

Name and Address (if different from that on the mailing label on the back):

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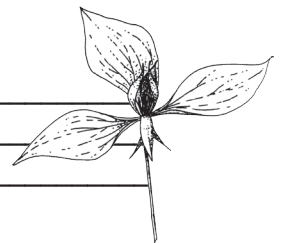
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Amount Enclosed:  \$10.00  Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to **The University of the South**. Gifts are fully tax deductible. Send to: **Sewanee Herbarium**, c/o Mary Priestley, 735 University Avenue, Sewanee, TN 37383

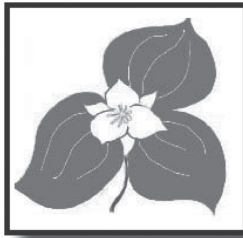
Others who might like to receive *The Sewanee Plant Press*: \_\_\_\_\_





# ST. ANDREW'S-SEWANEE SCHOOL- SEWANEE, TENN.

## Trails & Trilliums



APRIL 17 & 18  
COMPLETE INFORMATION  
ONLINE REGISTRATION:  
[trails.sasweb.org](http://trails.sasweb.org)

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> "PERENNIAL" TRAILS & TRILLIUMS

**NATIVE PLANT SALE** *with over 100 different wildflowers, ferns, trees & shrubs*

**GUIDED HIKES** *led by experts on 9 different trails*

**GARDEN TOUR** *four gardens with bluff overlooks, creative use of native plants, water & stone*

**KEYNOTE EVENT** - CUMBERLAND WILD: *The Friends of South Cumberland State Recreation*

*Area present a panel discussion, "Plateau 2020: Envisioning the Future"*

**WINE & WILDFLOWERS** *reception honoring Mary Priestley and the SCSRA Rangers & Staff*

**WORKSHOPS • CRAFTS • COOKOUT • LIVE MUSIC**

**JUST FOR KIDS** - *petting zoo, hayrides, horse rides, fishing, caving adventure & more!*

*\$10 registration fee covers all hikes, workshops & talks • Children's events are free*

*\$30 for Garden Tour • \$10 for Wine & Wildflowers*

**ST. ANDREW'S-SEWANEE SCHOOL: 931-598-5651 • [mmatens@sasweb.org](mailto:mmatens@sasweb.org)**

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## Looking Ahead

Beginning with our next issue, associate herbarium curator Yolande Gottfried will contribute an occasional column on her project of "close observation" (to borrow a term used by Peter White in the newsletter of the North Carolina Botanical Garden) of the property on which she lives. She hopes to go beyond noting and naming the *Quercus alba* (white oak), for example, to noticing whether a squirrel lives there, when the buds open, which fungi grow on the dead wood, and what the leaves sound like in the breeze.

Also, the Sewanee Herbarium publication, *A Trail Guide to Shakerag Hollow*, written by Yolande, will be available for purchase at Trails and Trilliums on April 17 and at Mountain Outfitters in Monteagle, TN.

—Mary Priestley



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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

SEWANEE