

## Under the Sun Again

*Like its predecessors, the brand-new third edition of a classic Sewanee guidebook puts the wonders of the Domain at a reader's fingertips.*

During my sophomore year at Sewanee, a group of my friends and I made a pledge: We'd put down the textbooks every Tuesday afternoon and pick up a copy of *Under the Sun at Sewanee*. We'd select any one of the overlooks, waterfalls, caves, trails, or other natural wonders listed there to explore. The only rule: Our destination had to be a place that none of us had ever been before. That's how I first found myself enjoying the view into Roarks Cove from Piney Point and KA Point, and marveling at the sight of the Bridal Veil waterfall cascading over a cliff only to disappear into a sinkhole. We were always back at Gailor in time for dinner, with muddied boots and a story to tell.

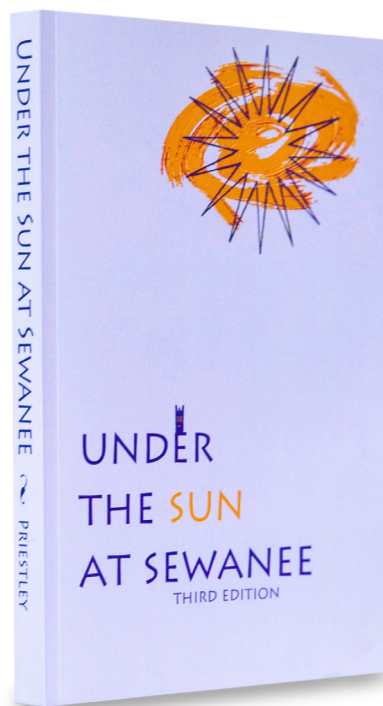
At that time, in the late '80s, the distinctive canary-colored guidebook was in its second edition, Doug Cameron's 1978 update of Waring McCrady's 1967 original. McCrady's original plan had been to revise the book with new information yearly, but life intervened, and more than a decade passed between editions. Now, 43 years after the second edition appeared in print, Mary Priestley, C'72, has marshaled a team of writers, illustrators, and mapmakers for a reimagined third edition, published by the Sewanee Outing Program.

Twenty-five contributors, ranging in age from 20 to 80, lent their expertise to provide not only a guide to outdoor excursions but a comprehensive look at the natural history—and some of the often-overlooked early human history—of the Domain.

Sewanee Outing Program Director John Benson takes over from McCrady and Cameron in introducing readers to hikes—on and off trail, on and off the Domain—as well as caving, climbing, and cycling opportunities. McCrady himself contributes a central campus walking tour that will teach you something new in every paragraph, no matter how well you know Sewanee. (Of Convocation Hall and Breslin Tower, he writes, "It is curious to note that the chimney on the left of the main entrance door, prominent from the inside, disappears

completely on the outside. It cleverly runs up the entire height of the tower and hides out of sight among the pinnacles.")

Bran Potter writes the chapter on Sewanee geology, while his longtime departmental colleague Martin Knoll tackles the hydrology of the Domain. In other chapters, University faculty and local experts cover everything from early human habitation on the Mountain



to Pleistocene megafauna and nearly every living thing you can find here, including trees, wildflowers, fungi, insects, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Lists of native plant and animal species in the back of the book are handy guides for anyone wanting to document sightings.

Priestley says including so much of Sewanee's natural history just made sense. "The natural science programs at Sewanee are so incredibly vibrant right now that we wanted to tap into that expertise. For instance, geology has always been in the book. Well, why not

add hydrology? We had poisonous snakes, but what about the rest of the reptiles and amphibians?"

The new edition of *Under the Sun* isn't just packed with useful information; it's beautiful, too, with plant, animal, and whimsical landscape illustrations on nearly every page, contributed by Priestley, Maddy Keller, C'20, and Latham Davis, who also designed the book. Longtime Sewanee artist Bob Askew chipped in with sketches of campus buildings and landscapes, and the book's youngest contributor, bird lover Angus Pritchard, C'22, did all the avian illustrations.

The book's wide page margins are meant for scribbling, and Priestley says she hopes readers will take every opportunity to make the book their own with notes and sketches. "It's supposed to be fun to sit and flip through," she says. "It's great for the nightstand or the armchair, but I also hope that people will stick it in their backpacks when they head out to explore the Domain."

Sewanee Outing Program Director John Benson believes *Under the Sun* is not only quintessentially Sewanee, but a unique offering among U.S. colleges and universities. "At what other school in the country would you find this many experts writing about what you can find *right on campus*?" he asks. "Nowhere else."

Proceeds from the sale of *Under the Sun at Sewanee* benefit the Sewanee Outing Program. The book is available for purchase in person at the University Bookstore and online through amazon.com.

—Buck Butler, C'89

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The Herbarium is well represented in this project. In addition to Priestley's involvement, Herbarium Director Jon Evans and Curator Yolande Gottfried each contributed a chapter to the book, and Block Fellow Angus Pritchard, C'22, did several of the illustrations.

## Remarkable Display of Flowers in Shakerag



Seems that every spring the wildflower display in Shakerag is different. Some years buds break early and flowers are out in March and many are over by April. This year we had a long drawn out spring with cool wet weather throughout the last two months, so the wildflowers bloomed later and lasted longer. One particular wildflower population stood out in Shakerag this year and that was scorpionweed (*Phacelia bipinnatifida*). This biennial herb carpeted the slopes in one continuous blooming

population. Its unfortunate common name alludes to the way the inflorescence expands (like a scorpion's tail!) and doesn't do justice to the beautiful blue array of flowers it produces. The leaves and stems of this scorpionweed are covered with glandular hairs that release a strong odor on sunny days.

I have noted in the past that there are two varieties of this species in Shakerag. There is the typical blue variety with spotted leaves, and an unspotted purple variety that has longer stamens and a stronger odor and is typically found on boulder tops and rocky areas. This year the two varieties formed distinctive, non-overlapping patches all across the upper slope of Shakerag. The striking juxtaposition of the two flower types was noticeable to all who hiked the trail. My Plant Ecology class conducted its class project on this phenomenon, where we quantified the pattern and tested hypotheses

that would help explain this unusual spatial segregation of varieties within a population. After having students sit and watch flowers all afternoon (a very pleasant task!), we found that bees tended to consistently visit flowers of the same color type. This behavior would reinforce the reproductive isolation of the two varieties. Lucy Rudman, our latest Block Fellow, will be following up on this study for her honors thesis next year.

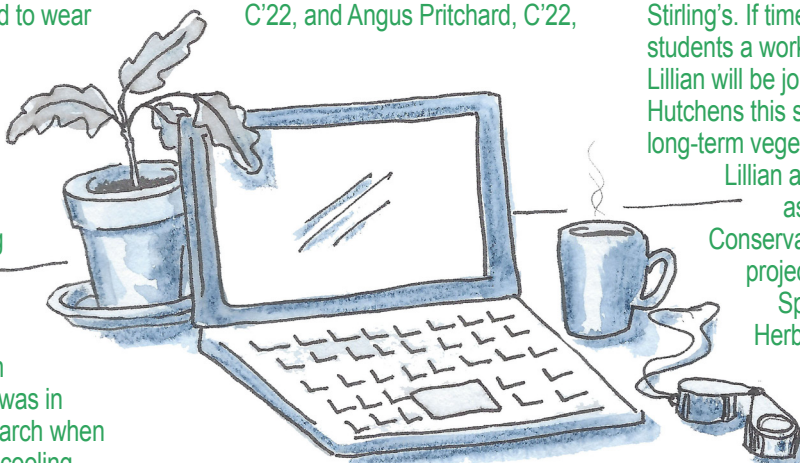
—Jon Evans



## News from the Director

As this semester winds to a close, I thought I would touch on some of the Herbarium highlights from this unusual time at Sewanee. I taught Plant Ecology this semester to a full in-person, but masked, class. Until recently, we even had to wear masks during field labs. You realize how much oxygen the mask cuts out when hiking up out of Shakerag! I only got to see student faces when I held office hours on Zoom. I think we are all hoping/expecting the campus to be back to normal in the fall.

The Woods greenhouse has a new climate monitoring system and automatic ceiling vent. This was in response to a near disaster in March when a power outage cut out both the cooling system and alarm system, and temperatures soared above 100 degrees for an afternoon. Fortunately, we didn't lose any plants. The titan arum is back in the spotlight this spring. This time, instead of an enormous inflorescence, it is sporting a single 8-foot leaf! Quite a sight to behold if you get a chance to visit.



We just announced our new set of Block Undergraduate Fellows for next year: Lucy Rudman, C'22; Oliver Hutchens, C'23; and Izzie Berthelot, C'24. We are excited to have these students join George Burruss, C'22, and Angus Pritchard, C'22,

and abundance of hill cane on the Domain. This project highlighted her impressive GIS skills in spatial analysis. Lillian has been managing our greenhouse plants and helped coordinate an Earth Day flag celebration at Stirling's. If time allows, she plans to offer students a workshop on botanical illustration. Lillian will be joining me along with Oliver Hutchens this summer as we reassess the long-term vegetation plots on the Domain.

Lillian and Oliver will also be assisting the Tennessee Plant Conservation Alliance on a number of projects in the state.

Speaking of fellows, former Herbarium Fellow, Callie Oldfield, C'15, successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis in the Department of Botany at the University of Georgia. Huge congrats to Callie!

—Jon Evans

both of whom will be continuing as fellows in their senior year. More on the new fellows in coming issues of the *Sewanee Plant Press*.

Our two current senior fellows, Sidnee Everhart and Lillian Fulgham, have had a busy semester. Sidnee just completed her honors thesis in biology on the distribution

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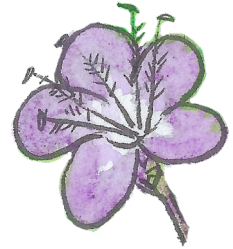
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## Earth Flags Adorn Stirling's Coffee House

In celebration of Earth Day 2021, the Herbarium sponsored the decoration of a multicolored array of flags with which we festooned Stirling's, our campus coffee house. Because of restrictions imposed by the pandemic, seating at Stirling's was all outside. So, unable to hang our annual *All Things Bright and Beautiful* exhibit inside the building, we decided upon this Earth Day community project for outdoor display.

Several yards of various colors of poplin were purchased, and members of the Herbarium's nature journaling group spent

a morning with pinking shears, cutting it into one-foot squares. One of the journalers used the shears that had belonged to her Czech great-grandfather, who worked in a sweatshop in Chicago during the day and spent evenings doing private women's tailoring with his wife. Another journaler brought floral drapery material to use for appliqué. Yet another contributed pieces of machine embroidery.

Herbarium Block Fellows Lillian Fulgham, C'21, and Angus Pritchard, C'22, coordinated



the project with students and student groups. This included two crafting fairs hosted by the Sewanee Green House, where students decorated flags, along with building recycled musical instruments with the Crafting Guild and using indigo to dye fabric with Judith Marklin. Some of the indigo-dyed fabric was incorporated in the flag display. The sisters of Kappa Omega and Alpha Delta Theta also

decorated several flags, as well as members of the Community Engagement House. The University Farm contributed paint and brushes.

On the evening of April 21, the day before Earth Day, more than 60 flags went up, attached—with clothespins, of course—to an all-cotton clothesline stretched across the Stirling's front porch, a colorful tribute to our Mother Earth from many in the University community. At this writing, the flags are still fluttering brightly. Plans are to save and stitch them together to make banners for the Earth Day 2022 celebration.

—Mary Priestley

### THE SEWANEE PLANT PRESS

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*Illustrations by Mary Priestley.*

### HERBARIUM PUBLICATIONS

*Fiery Gizzard: Voices from the Wilderness*

*What If Trees Could Walk?*

*Trail Guide to Shakerag Hollow*

*Sewanee Wildflowers in Watercolor*

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# SEWANEE

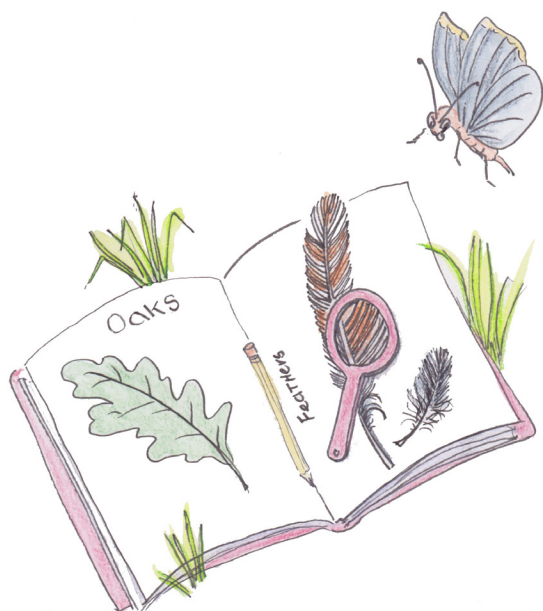
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## Nature Journaling Group to Emerge ... Soon



Not unlike the periodical cicadas that are on the verge of emerging this summer, the Herbarium-sponsored nature journaling group has been “underground” lately and is almost ready to reappear. We’ve continued to meet regularly, but because of COVID-19, we’ve had to remain off campus and lay low.

The Artisan Depot, an art gallery operated by the Franklin County Arts Guild, became our favorite haunt. There, surrounded by the works of talented local artists, we’ve gathered—socially distanced—almost weekly, sharing our “finds” and observations from the natural world and sketching in our journals.

We hope that by this summer we will once again be back on campus and publicizing our meetings. We would love to have you drop by occasionally or become a “regular.” Look for word of our emergence in the *Sewanee Mountain Messenger*.

We are grateful to the Franklin County Arts Guild for sharing its space with us. The Guild promotes artists and craftspeople through its gallery, scholarships, education, and community programs. The Artisan Depot, located just off the mountain in the town of Cowan, is open Thursday through Sunday afternoons until 5 p.m.

— Mary Priestley