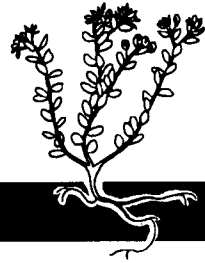


THE PLANT PRESS



Volume VII, No. 1

Newsletter of the Friends of the Herbarium

Winter 2003

Biologist E. O. Wilson Visits Sewanee

"An enduring environmental ethic will aim to preserve not only the health and freedom of our species, but access to the world in which the human spirit was born." —E. O. Wilson, *The Diversity of Life*

This has been an exciting fall for the study of biodiversity at Sewanee. At the Founder's Day Convocation in October, the University awarded E.O. Wilson, Pellegrino Professor of Biology Emeritus at Harvard University, an honorary degree for his lifetime achievement in the biological sciences and his championing of biodiversity protection throughout the world. Wilson is credited with coining the term "biodiversity" and is one of the original founders of the field of conservation biology. During his visit, Wilson toured the Herbarium and the Landscape Analysis Lab and went on a hike into Shakerag Hollow with George Ramseur and Visiting Professor Ann Fraser, who studied under Wilson at Harvard. He talked about his visit to Shakerag Hollow in his Convocation address:

"This morning I was able to visit Shakerag

Hollow. . . It's right off the main campus, as most of you know. It's a rare patch of old growth hardwood forest . . . a cathedral of nature, more valuable for the history it

relic. I'm reminded of my friend John Sawhill, the late director of the Nature Conservancy. He said, 'A society is defined not just by what it creates, but by what it refuses to destroy.'

After his visit to Shakerag Hollow, Wilson pledged to assist the University in acquiring critical property within Shakerag so as to secure its future long-term protection as a valuable educational resource for the University. As Wilson put it: "Because the old-growth nature of the Domain is priceless, and forever if preserved, to the benefit of Sewanee, I hope you will yet stir interest in alumni donors." With Wilson's help, the University is currently developing a fundraising campaign to ensure the protection of this special place and to establish student research scholarships for the study of biodiversity on the Domain. I invite Friends of the Herbarium who would like to learn more about or contribute to this campaign to contact me.

—Jon Evans



E.O. Wilson and George Ramseur pause at Green's View lookout on their way to Shakerag Hollow. Wilson received an honorary degree from The University of the South during Founders' Day Convocation, October 2002.

preserves, of millions of years, than any building. It's irreplaceable and amazingly such a short walk from here to enjoy this

barium who would like to learn more about or contribute to this campaign to contact me.

New Environmental Science Majors

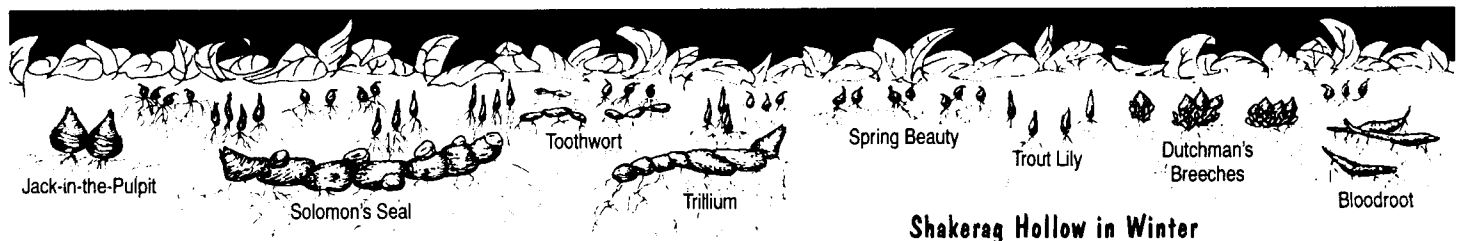
The University faculty in December approved three new Environmental Studies majors as part of Sewanee's Environmental Studies Program. One of them, entitled "Ecology and Biodiversity," will be administered by the Biology Department and will allow students to pursue their

interests in natural history and biological conservation and to take full advantage of the resources provided by the Herbarium and the Landscape Analysis Lab.

Students in this major will be encouraged to develop a project centered around a group of organisms or ecological problem for which

they have developed a strong interest. These students will use these projects as vehicles to organize their learning as they proceed through their classwork at Sewanee. The Herbarium is ready to be there to assist those students whose passion is plants!

—Jon Evans



Shakerag Hollow in Winter

The Sewanee Herbarium: Education — Research — Conservation

Annual Report

The year 2002 will be most memorable for the Sewanee Herbarium firstly as the year the Herbarium was honored by a visit from Dr. E.O. Wilson while he was on campus in October to receive an honorary degree, and secondly for the completion at long last of a preliminary checklist of the flora of the Domain. Dr. Wilson graciously spent time in the Herbarium with the staff discussing the importance of this type of work (see story p. 1). The checklist was accomplished during the summer internship of Caitlin Elam under the supervision of Mary Priestley and with the funding of a Jessie Ball duPont Student Research Grant (see *The Plant Press*, Autumn 2002).

The Grundy County High School outreach program, part of Project FOREST, which is supported by a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to the Department of Biology of The University of the South, continued with Mary Priestley working with Jason Evans' environmental science class in the spring and with Wanda Bell's class in the fall. The students in Ms. Bell's class hosted approximately 400 elementary school

children in the high school's outdoor classroom.

The final report of the Sinking Pond study, completed in the summer, resulted in a number of new records for the AEDC flora. Mary Priestley and Yolande Gottfried also assisted Dr. Jon Evans in his Plant Systematics class with numerous field trips in the fall, most notably one to carry out a preliminary plant survey for conservation purposes on some privately-owned property in the area.

The year is also notable for the amount of media coverage. The Herbarium was highlighted in the Spring, 2002, issue of the *Sewanee* magazine. *The Tennessee Conservationist* published an article by Mary Priestley on "The 100th Anniversary of Gattinger's Flora of Tennessee." The Grundy County High School outreach program was covered in the *Cumberland Chronicle*, January 2002, and in *The Grundy County Herald*, October 10, 2002, as well as the special Winter 2002 issue of *The Plant Press*. And Mary Priestley worked with Rachel Malde of the University's Information

Technology Services to produce a lovely poster of the "Wildflowers of Sewanee."

In addition to the regular seasonal events offered to the Sewanee area public, attended by about 250 people, the Herbarium staff members were involved in various other botanical gatherings. Mary Priestley attended the Michaux International Symposium and Festival (see *The Plant Press*, Summer 2002). She joined George Ramseur and Yolande Gottfried as leaders in the Annual Smokies Wildflower Pilgrimage and the Chattanooga Spring Wildflower Celebration, which annually includes Sewanee's Shakerag Hollow. This outreach leads to ongoing additions to the mailing list of *The Plant Press*, now in its fifth volume and with a circulation of 700, and to the ranks of Friends of the Sewanee Herbarium, now numbering 257.

Currently 4743 herbarium specimens are recorded in the database, 86 of which have been added in the past year. Of those records 1829 are from the Domain.

—Yolande Gottfried

2002 Contributors

We are grateful to the following members of the Friends of the Herbarium and others who made monetary or in-kind gifts to the Herbarium in 2002. Thank you!

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Lynn and John Adams | Richard and Sondra Dolbeer | Anne P. Lorenz | Pat Rakes |
| Thomas and Anita Adams | Lewis and Pixie Dozier | John N. Lukens, Jr. | Marty Roberts |
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| Tom and Becky Dolan | Sarah and Joseph Little | Nancy Purdue | Harry and Jean Yeatman |

Winter Calendar of Events

Winter Botany

Saturday, Feb. 1, 1:00 p.m.

George Ramseur

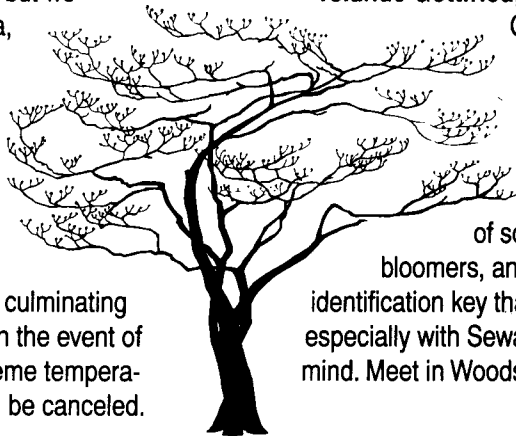
Join us for a hike down the Old Cowan Road to find Sewanee's unusual "H" tree. George will introduce tree anatomy and overwintering strategies and give tips for identifying some of the more common woody plants. Meet at the War Memorial Cross for a 1-mile moderate hike.

Search for the First Hepatica

Saturday, Feb. 15, 1:00 p.m.

Yolande Gottfried

It's Valentine's Weekend, and our hearts turn to . . . wildflowers! Join us to look for the earliest bloomers. Most of them are still underground, but we may find Hepatica, Bloodroot, Violets, or others. Meet at Green's View for a two-mile moderate hike through Shakerag Hollow, culminating in a steep climb. In the event of snow, ice, or extreme temperatures, the hike will be canceled.



Nature Journaling

Saturdays, Feb. 22 & March 1, 9:30 a.m.

Jill Carpenter

Late winter, before the wildflowers emerge, is an excellent time to start a nature notebook. As Jill describes it, "The nature notebook is a rich blend of observation, discovery, art, personal experience, imagination and inspiration. It's been called a 'path to place.' Chart your own path to this lovely place, Sewanee, by creating a nature notebook." Stirling's Coffee House. Bring pen or pencil and paper.

Wildflower Identification and Lore

Saturday, March 8, 10:00 a.m.

Yolande Gottfried, Mary Priestley

Get a jump on learning to identify wildflowers in this early spring workshop. Discover the natural history of some of our earliest bloomers, and try out a new identification key that we have devised especially with Sewanee's wildflowers in mind. Meet in Woods Labs room 123.

THE PLANT PRESS

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<http://www.sewanee.edu/biology/herbarium>

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COMPOSITOR

Tammy Scissom

Drawings by Mary Priestley

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):

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 Plant Press*: _____

Protecting Tennessee's Rare Plants

Tennessee's Division of Natural Heritage was established in 1974 for the preservation and conservation of the state's biological diversity. Currently the division tracks approximately 500 rare plant species. Dr. George Ramseur, Director Emeritus of the Sewanee Herbarium, serves on the Tennessee Rare Plant Scientific Advisory Committee, a group of botanists who determine the protection status of these plants: endangered, threatened, of special concern, or extirpated. The committee met in December to decide on approximately 100 species that had been nominated for change of status. They made recommendations on 70 species and deferred action on the rest, pending further investigation.

Several species that are found in the Sewanee area were discussed, including:

Eared goldenrod (*Solidago auriculata* Shuttlew. ex Blake), known only from limestone slopes of the Cumberland Plateau in Franklin County. (Threatened)

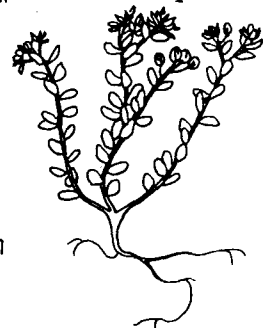
Hairy lettuce (*Lactuca hirsuta* Muhl. ex Nutt.), recorded only from Savage Gulf in Grundy County. (No action, pending further information)

Laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia* Michx.), first reported in Tennessee by Sewanee's Charlotte Gailor in 1948 who found it growing on the Elk River in Grundy County. (Special Concern)

Canadian lily (*Lilium canadense* L.), recorded from 18 counties (and occurs on the Domain of The University of the South). (Special Concern)

In all, seven species of rare plants are found on the Domain. They are listed in the Vascular Flora of the Domain on our website. For more information about Tennessee's rare plant protection program, see the website at www.state.tn.us.

—Mary Priestley



Diamorpha smallii—
a rare plant
on the Domain

Guide to Tennessee's Woody Plants

Eugene Wofford and Edward Chester, botanists at the University of Tennessee and Austin Peay State University respectively, have just published *Guide to the Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Tennessee*. This is the first comprehensive field guide to the more than 400 native and naturalized species of woody plants found in the state. The authors provide clear identifi-

cation keys and additional information on each species. Color photographs of pressed plant specimens illustrate diagnostic characteristics.

In the introductory information about the state, they outline its physiographic regions, survey the history of botanical research, and address questions of comparative diversity of plant groups within the state.

Appendices reveal interesting facts. They show, for instance, that the Cumberland Plateau is actually richer in woody plant diversity than the Smoky Mountains. This book, published by the University of Tennessee Press, is a superb resource for all interested in the flora of Tennessee.

—Mary Priestley

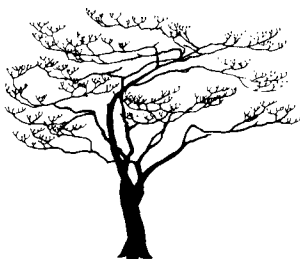
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