



Yolande and Robin Gottfried to Receive Yeatman Award

Friends of the Herbarium will be pleased to learn that the 2015 Harry Yeatman Environmental Education Award will go to Herbarium Curator Yolande Gottfried and her husband Robin, executive director of the Center for Religion and Environment. The award, presented by the Friends of South Cumberland State Park, will be made at Wine and Wildflowers, Saturday evening, April 11. Also on the docket for the evening is an address by Richard Louv, nationally-acclaimed author of *Last Child in the Woods* and the presentation of the Trails and Trilliums Tribute Award to Sherry Guyear and Emily Partin, as well as to Sewanee's Bonnie McCardell and Karen Yu.

For close to 20 years, Yolande has served as curator of the Sewanee Herbarium, a position that not many people realize is volunteer. She was raised in Pennsylvania, the eldest of eight children. Her mother told me that she spoke one of her earliest words, "Pretty!" in response to seeing a flower. The summer of her junior year in college Yolande took classes in marine biology in Rhode Island and Audubon ecology in Connecticut. "That really jump-started me," she remembers. "I bought my first hand lens and tree guide."

A few years later, equipped with an undergraduate degree in biochemistry and master's in ecology, Yolande came to Sewanee when husband Robin took a position in the Economics Department. "When we arrived, I thought, 'What place could be better for botany? If I can't do it here in the epicenter of biodiversity for the temperate world, I may as well forget it!'"

While raising children Alicia and Jeremy—and homeschooling them both for several years—she was always doing environmental education, first with her own children, then in a naturalist class that she designed and

taught for the elementary school's Friday School program and as hike leader at South Cumberland State Park.

In the 1990s, Yolande and Dr. George Ramseur, emeritus director of the herbarium, began recording observations in Shakerag Hollow with an eye to producing *A Trail Guide to Shakerag Hollow*, which was later published by the Herbarium. Twenty years



ago, she was recruited by current director Dr. Jon Evans to help curate the Herbarium collection. That experience has led to more educational outreach, including wildflower walks, plant identification workshops, and articles in this newsletter.

In addition, she has led wildflower walks for the Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage in the Smokies and teaches botany for the Tennessee Naturalist Program. Most recently, she has taken a leading role in contributing articles for the "Nature Notes" column in the *Sewanee Mountain Messenger*.

Environmental education was always an important part of Robin's economics teaching career. He created the first environmental economics class. Later he and political science professor Dr. Charles Brockett established a semester-long, interdisciplinary field-based program on sustainable development in Costa Rica and a campus

course on the political economics of sustainable development. Robin was one of those who spearheaded the college's environmental studies program and the establishment of the Landscape Analysis Lab. He is the author of *Economics, Ecology, and the Roots of Western Faith: Perspectives from the Garden*.

Now retired from fulltime teaching, Robin is executive director of Sewanee's Center for Religion and Environment. The Center reaches out to college and School of Theology students, as well as to the general public, to facilitate spiritual experiences in nature and to help people interpret those experiences through their religious tradition. The Center then helps them think through what this implies for how they live their everyday lives and for how this might contribute to the development of a sustainable society.

The Center's activities take the form of workshops, books, and programs. They also work closely with existing classes and programs in the college and in The School of Theology, integrating spirituality with traditional education. "In Western culture, we draw an artificial distinction between spirituality and knowledge. Actually, when you combine them the level of learning is deeper and more profound. The head and heart need to go together; then you really understand something," Robin explained.

We now have a minor on religion and the environment in the college. Robin also helped design The School of Theology concentration in environment and religion.

The Gottfrieds are lifelong environmentalists who not only "talk the talk" but "walk the walk" in their everyday lives. Their house, which is situated on 21.5 acres just outside of Sewanee, was built with passive solar efficiency in mind. They heat with wood as

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Sewanee and the Caicos Pine Recovery Project



At the request and expense of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kevin Hiers, director of environmental stewardship, and Thomas Walters, C'15, a fire-qualified ecology and biodiversity major, traveled to the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) in the Bahamas to help restore endangered pine habitats by training local staff, performing risk

assessments, and conducting and planning prescribed burns for this fire-dependent species.

The Caicos Pine is a species threatened by a host of changing conditions. An invasive scale insect on this small Caribbean island chain wiped out nearly 90% of mature Caicos pine trees. The restoration of this pine is complicated by the fact it needs periodic fire to grow and thrive and reduce competition from rapidly encroaching hardwood species. Sewanee is now part of the research team, which is led by the Royal Botanical Gardens of Kew (London) and the US Forest Service, to recover the species and the unique habitat it creates.

The devastation of the Caicos pine and the associated pineyard ecosystem sparked the Caicos Pine Recovery Project

(CPRP) started by the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew in 2012. Michelle Sanchez, Martin Hamilton, and Marcela Corcaran are the lead scientists charged with identifying scale resistant genetic stock, outplanting pine saplings, managing tropical hardwood competition, and managing focal conservation areas with surviving adult trees. Hiers and Walters traveled to TCI in December to help conduct a controlled burn in one of the few remnant patches of adult Caicos pines left in the wake of the scale insect. Without fire in the pineyards, the Caicos pines will be slowly outcompeted by dense shrubs and hardwoods. Sewanee's involvement with the CPRP will continue this summer when Hiers and other students will participate in another controlled burn.

—Kevin Hiers

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much as possible, much of it harvested from their own or nearby properties. And they have installed an innovative system whereby all of their household water is collected from rain that falls on the roof.

They take joy in getting to know their property. "It's important to have a small piece of land that you're rooted in. It doesn't have to be much. We're trying to spend time on our land in a contemplative way. We'd like to know each tree, shrub, forb, and moss—the whole shebang," explained Yolande.

The Gottfrieds—one an economist, the other an ecologist—always thought that somehow their career paths would converge. That finally happened with the Tennessee Naturalist Program in which both earned certificates last year. Now they lead nature walks and contemplative exercises together, including herbarium and Trails and Trilliums outings. On a hike through Shakerag, Yolande might explain the pollination mechanism of a wildflower and Robin could bring up some social implications of plant conservation. "It's fun!" she said.

If you're in the area on April 11, we hope you'll be able to come help us celebrate Yolande and Robin's receiving this award. For more information on Trails and Trilliums and to reserve tickets to Wine and Wildflowers, see www.trailsandtrilliums.org. Both *A Trail Guide to Shakerag Hollow* and *Economics, Ecology, and the Roots of Western Faith: Perspectives from the Garden* will be available for purchase at Trails and Trilliums.

—Mary Priestley



Trails & Trilliums

APRIL 10-12 • 2015

FRIENDS OF SOUTH CUMBERLAND STATE PARK

—MONTEAGLE, TENNESSEE—

Spring Calendar of Events

Shakerag Hollow

Sat., April 4, 10 a.m., Mary Priestley

This is Sewanee's "Mecca" for wildflower lovers, and the flowers should be diverse and abundant. Meet at the Green's View parking lot (past the golf course). 2 miles, moderate to strenuous, with one fairly challenging incline.

Trails & Trilliums

Fri.–Sun., April 10–12

A 3-day festival of guided hikes on trails in South Cumberland State Park, workshops, ART for the PARK, native plant sale, and free children's events including ropes course, hayrides, and wildlife. This unique event, held on the historic Monteagle Sunday School Assembly grounds, is a fundraiser for the Friends of South Cumberland—one of the leading land preservation groups in the state. Herbarium staff will lead the following hikes:

Shakerag Hollow
Fri., April 10, 1:30 p.m.,
Yolande and Robin Gottfried

Shakerag Hollow
Sat., April 11, 10:30 a.m.
Yolande and Robin Gottfried

Collins West
Sun., April 12, 8:15 a.m.,
Mary Priestley

See the Trails & Trilliums website, www.trail-sandtrilliums.org/EventsSchedule.html, for details about these hikes. Numbers are limited and pre-registration is encouraged.

Shakerag Hollow

Sun., April 19, 1:30 p.m., Yolande Gottfried

The wildflowers in Shakerag Hollow are superb! Meet at the Green's View parking lot (past the golf course). 2 miles, moderate to strenuous, with one fairly challenging incline.

Garlic Mustard Pull

Sun., April 26, 1:30 p.m., Mary Priestley

Join in an attempt to control this invasive exotic plant that is threatening to take over some sensitive areas of our forest. It is easy to pull (even good to eat when young and tender!). No equipment is necessary but work gloves would be a good idea. Meet at Morgan's Steep.

Piney Point

Sat., May 2, 1:30 p.m., Yolande Gottfried

The community of plants that grows on the sandstone outcrops along the trail to Piney Point, including the rare elf orpine, is a special one. This moderate one-to-two hour walk begins at the tennis courts at St. Andrew's-Sewanee School (beyond the football field).

All times are CST or 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 or other Sewanee Herbarium events, please contact Yolande Gottfried at the Herbarium (931.598.3346) or by email at ygottfri@sewanee.edu. Directions are available on the Herbarium website, lal.sewanee.edu/herbarium/, under the calendar of events.

THE SEWANEE PLANT PRESS

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Illustrations by Mary Priestley are of large-flowered trillium, Caicos pine, bloodroot, trailing arbutus, and may-apple.

HERBARIUM BLOG

sewaneeherbarium.wordpress.com

Friends of the Sewanee Herbarium

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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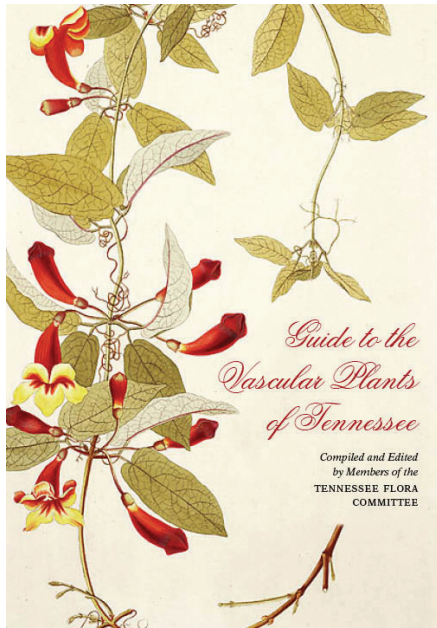
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Guide to the Vascular Plants of Tennessee Due Out This Month



The product of twenty-five years of planning, research, and writing, *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Tennessee* is the most comprehensive, detailed, and up-to-date resource of its kind for the flora of the Volunteer State, home to nearly 2,900 documented taxa. Not since Augustin Gattinger's 1901 *Flora of Tennessee and a Philosophy of Botany* has a work of this scope been attempted.

The team of editors, authors, and contributors not only provide keys for identifying the major groups, families, genera, species, and lesser taxa known to be native or naturalized within the state—with supporting information about distribution, frequency of occurrence, conservation status, and more—but they also offer a plethora of descriptive information about the state's physical environment and vegetation, along with a summary of its rich botanical history, dating back to the earliest Native American inhabitants.

Other features of the book include a comprehensive glossary of botanical terms and an array of line drawings that illustrate the identifying characteristics of vascular plants, from leaf shape and surface features to floral morphology and fruit types. Finally, the book's extensive keys are indexed by families, scientific names, and common names. The result is a user-friendly work that researchers, students, environmentalists, foresters, conservationists, and indeed anyone interested in Tennessee and its botanical legacy and resources will value for years to come.

—From the Amazon.com webpage, where the book can be pre-ordered.

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