

**SPRING IN THE GREAT
SMOKY MOUNTAINS:
BIRDS AND BOTANY IN THE SOUTHERN
APPALACHIANS**

APRIL 21 – 28, 2007

LEADERS: STEVE HILTY & CHRIS MERKORD

COMPILED BY: STEVE HILTY

**VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.
2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 1003
AUSTIN, TX 78746
WWW.VENTBIRD.COM**

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, Inc.

***Spring in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park:
Birds and Botany***

April 21 to 28, 2007

Guides: Steve Hilty and Chris Merkord

This was our sixth birds and botany trip to the Great Smoky Mountains region. The Easter freeze, which caught much of the central and eastern U.S. by surprise this year, did not spare eastern Tennessee. The leaves of many trees and wildflowers were frost-damaged, which reduced wildflower displays and may have slowed spring bird migration. Consequently, our plant list was somewhat smaller than in previous years, although eventually we found most species we usually see. Large displays of flowers, however, were generally not evident, although later blooming species like Yellow Trilliums and Catsby's Trilliums were numerous, and we even found a hillside group of Red Trilliums. Also known as Stinking Benjamin, this trillium is renowned for its rotten meat smell, although some of our group claimed they could not detect the odor.

Top sightings this year included a Black Bear, seven species of salamanders, Swainson's Warbler, several Worm-eating Warblers, Blue-winged Warbler, Wood Ducks at a tree-hole nest site, flowering Pink Lady's Slipper and Large Yellow Lady's Slipper orchids, Dwarf Ginseng, nice displays of flowering Thyme-leaved Bluets, and a new site for Vasey's Trillium. Palm Warblers were abundant during our forays afield in Cade's Cove and we enjoyed numerous sightings of Hooded Warblers and Scarlet Tanagers, a Chestnut-sided Warbler near Waynesville, and a sprightly pair of Winter Wrens and many Golden-crowned Kinglets on the Appalachian Trail.

Park news includes the continued decline of Frasier Fir, the result of a non-native woolly adelgid infestation. Sadly, most Frasier Fir has disappeared from the park and we also noticed many Eastern Hemlocks infested with another species of woolly adelgid (this one an accidental introduction from Asia). First reported in the park in 2002, over 50,000 hemlock trees have now been treated, but will have to be treated again in three to four years, an expensive and labor intensive effort. And this is only a fraction of the several million hemlocks in the park. Government and private agencies are experimenting with a tiny predator "ladybird" beetle that offers hope of fighting this infestation that could potentially kill almost all hemlocks in eastern Northern America. The park also works to reintroduce elk to the park, to restore River Cane to selected streambanks, to battle Kudzu, Burdock, and Oriental Bittersweet, which are invading the park, and to apprehend many people that illegally dig ginseng, orchids, trilliums, and rare plants within the park.

It is sad that this, our grandest park in eastern North America, this magnificent symbol of beauty and wilderness, and one of the few places in the eastern United States where we can still walk among giant old growth trees, is now under such assault on so many fronts—while at the same time elected officials turn a blind eye, or worse, reduce funding for national parks. It is a sad commentary when we place corporate profit above stewardship of the land where we live, and the heritage that we bequeath to future generations. Great Smoky Mountains National Park, unfortunately, has come to represent this battle of opposing interests, and grave scars are now evident across this grand old park. We should wonder about what our children and grandchildren and future generations henceforth will think of what we are doing today.

Not to end on a tragic note, the Smokies still provide a rare opportunity to stand in the shade of ancient forests, and they are a place that harbors many breeding birds, the highest diversity of salamanders in the world, and one of the richest temperate latitude floras anywhere in the world. Let us hope it remains so.

ITINERARY

Day 1. Arrival in Knoxville, Tennessee, and check in to Hotel

Day 2. Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park; Seven Islands Wildlife Area; and Chestnut Tops Trail

Day 3. Cades's Cove Loop drive, and Rich Mountain Road
Day 4. Morning at Cove Hardwood Trail; afternoon at Porter's Creek Trail
Day 5. Newfound Gap, Clingman's Dome and the Blue Ridge parkway to Waynesville
Day 6. Birding and botanizing along the Blue Ridge Parkway, Big Cove Rd., and return to Townsend
Day 7. Schoolhouse Gap trail and White Oak Sink Trail in morning; early afternoon free for Old Timer's Festival; late afternoon on Chestnut Tops trail
Day 8. Morning transfer to airport for mid-day flights home

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS (** heard only)

Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis*, almost daily in Townsend

Wood Duck, *Aix sponsa*, 20+ at Cade's Cove sewage lagoons; pair observed at probable nest cavity in tree hole in park (spectacular sight)

Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos* several on French Broad River at Seven Islands Refuge

Hooded Merganser, *Lophodytes cucullatus*, 3 females spotted by Chris on French Broad River; distant but a first for this trip

Ruffed Grouse, *Bonasa umbellus*, 1 seen by a few people along Clingman's Dome Rd; 1 heard drumming along Schoolhouse Gap trail

Wild Turkey, *Meleagris gallopavo*, from 1-6 seen almost every day

Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*, rookery at Seven Islands (12+)

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*, a few near Knoxville

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*, over Knoxville; also over GSMNP

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*, 2 at Seven Islands Refuge

Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter striatus*, 1 over Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge

Red-shouldered Hawk, *Buteo lineatus*, 1 near Cade's Cove Visitor Center; on Blue Ridge Parkway

Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*, Cade's Cove area; Newfound Gap; heard last day

Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis*, several; Knoxville; Cade's Cove; near Waynesville etc

[Bald Eagle, *Haliaetus leucocephalus*, we only saw an old nest at Seven Islands]

Spotted Sandpiper, *Actitis macularia*, 2 at Cade's Cove Sewage Lagoons

Solitary Sandpiper, *Tringa solitaria*, 4+ at Cade's Cove Sewage Lagoons

Lesser Yellowlegs, *Tringa flavipes*, 1 at Cade's Cove Sewage Lagoons

Rock Pigeon, *Columba livia*, cities

Mourning Dove, *Zenaida macroura*, disturbed and open areas

Barred Owl, *Strix varia*, 1 seen in scope on Blue Ridge Parkway

Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica*, Sharp's Ridge; Townsend

Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris*, 1 Cade's Cove; 1 Clingman's Dome Rd

Belted Kingfisher, *Ceryle alcyon*, Big Cove Rd (1 seen by first van)

Red-bellied Woodpecker, *Melanerpes carolinus*, almost daily all areas

**Downy Woodpecker, *Picoides pubescens*, Cade's Cove

Hairy Woodpecker, *Picoides villosus*, Rich Mt Rd; Parson's Creek (heard); Schoolhouse Gap trail

Northern Flicker, *Colaptes auratus*, 1 at hotel in Waynesville; 1 Schoolhouse Gap trail

Pileated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus pileatus*, Sharp's Ridge; Cade's Cove and Rich Mt; hd elsewhere; hd or seen almost daily

Eastern Phoebe, *Sayornis phoebe*, almost daily

Great Crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus*, pair at Schoolhouse Gap trail (silhouette)

Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*, 2 in Cade's Cove

Blue-headed Vireo, *Vireo solitarius*, common, esp. at higher els.

Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*, all areas (common)

Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*, heard. daily; a few seen
American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*, all elevations and areas
Northern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*, Seven Islands;
Townsend
Tree Swallow, *Tachycineta bicolor*, Seven Islands; Townsend
Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*, Seven Islands; Cade's Cove; Townsend etc
Carolina Chickadee, *Poecile carolinensis*, Lower elevations
Black-capped Chickadee, *Poecile atricapillus*, Upper elevations
Tufted Titmouse, *Baeolophus bicolor*, all areas up to ca. 5000 ft
Red-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta canadensis*, Cade's Cove (Sewage lagoons); Newfound
Gap
White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis*, Sharp's Ridge; Cove Hardwood
Trail; Schoolhouse Gap trail (at least heard)
Brown Creeper, *Certhia americana*, 1 at picnic lunch near Newfound Gap
Carolina Wren, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*, Sharp's Ridge; Cade's Cove; Newfound
Gap (pair!); heard all areas
Winter Wren, *Troglodytes troglodytes*, pair seen on Appalachian Trail above
Newfound Gap
Golden-crowned Kinglet, *Regulus satrapa*, Newfound Gap and Clingman's Dome Rd (up
to 10)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila caerulea*, lower elevations
Eastern Bluebird, *Sialia sialia*, Seven Islands; Cade's Cove; Townsend
Wood Thrush, *Hylocichla mustelina*, Cade's Cove visitor center (1 seen on lawn!);
Waynesville (seen repeatedly); heard at Sharp's Ridge etc
American Robin, *Turdus migratorius*, clearings, towns, etc. (all areas up to 6600
ft)
Gray Catbird, *Dumatella carolinensis*, 1 at Cade's Cove
Northern Mockingbird, *Mimus polyglottos*, towns
Brown Thrasher, *Toxostoma rufum*, Seven Islands
European Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*, settled areas
Cedar Waxwing, *Bombycilla cedrorum*, Sharp's Ridge (12+)
Blue-winged Warbler, *Vermivora pinus*, Sharp's Ridge (1 adult M seen very well;
this bird was bright yellow on head and underparts but also had yellow wing
bars, the upper one especially yellow, suggesting that it may have been either a
Brewster's hybrid or a bird with some "Golden-wing" genes; it was not a typical
Brewster's, however, which apparently does not so extensively yellow below;
under tail coverts were white; sharp black line through eyes; this bird studied
at length in scope)
Nashville Warbler, *Vermivora ruficapilla*, Sharp's Ridge (1)
Northern Parula, *Parula americana*, seen well in Cade's Dove; parkway;
Schoolhouse Gap trail
Chestnut-sided Warbler, *Dendroica pensylvanica*, 1 seen very close along parkway
access road
Black-throated Blue Warbler, *Dendroica caerulescens*, Cove Hardwood; parkway near
Waynesville
Yellow-rumped Warbler, *Dendroica coronata*, Sharp's (many); Cade's Cove; parkway
etc
Black-throated Green Warbler, *Dendroica virens*, commonest warbler in park; all
areas
Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica fusca*, 1 male very close along parkway (4000 ft)
Yellow-throated Warbler, *Dendroica dominica*, 1 at Cade's Cove by old church
Pine Warbler, *Dendroica pinus*, Cade's Dove (lower end Rich Mt. road)
Palm Warbler, *Dendroica palmarum*, Sharp's Ridge (1); Cade's Cove (12-15);
Newfound Gap
Black-and-white Warbler, *Mniotilta*, almost all areas; even on ground on Rich Mt.
road
American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla*, Parkway access near Waynesville (1 male)
Worm-eating Warbler, *Helmitheros vermivora*, Sharp's Ridge; Rich Mt; Schoolhouse
Gap

Swainson's Warbler, *Limnothlypis swainsonii*, 1 beautifully along Schoolhouse Gap Trail; scarce

Ovenbird, *Seiurus aurocapillus*, seen in several areas; heard. daily
Louisiana Waterthrush, *Seiurus motacilla*, lower end Schoolhouse Gap; heard
Little Creek, Parson's Creek etc.; seen very well at Schoolhouse Gap
Common Yellowthroat, *Geothlypis trichas*, Seven Isles (many)
Hooded Warbler, *Wilsonia citrina*, Sharp's Ridge (excellent study); Cade's Cove;
parkway and heard all areas

**Yellow-breasted Chat, *Icteria virens*, Seven Islands (heard only)

Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga olivacea*, Sharp's Ridge (male); Seven Islands (heard);
parkway (male near Waynesville); Schoolhouse Gap (male and female)

Eastern Towhee, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, almost all areas

Chipping Sparrow, *Spizella passerina*, all areas; many in Cade's Cove

Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla*, Seven Islands; hd in Cade's Cove

Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia*, daily around hotel, etc.; singing from stairway
banister by my room at 0500 hours

White-throated Sparrow, *Zonotrichia albicollis*, Sharp's Ridge; Rich Mountain

Dark-eyed Junco, *Junco hyemalis carolinensis*, High els. (white-billed form);

Newfound Gap etc

Northern Cardinal, *Cardinalis cardinalis*, settled areas

Rose-breasted Grosbeak, *Pheucticus ludovicianus*, Cove Hardwood trail (4);
parkway access bear Waynesville (several); hd at Schoolhouse Gap

Indigo Bunting, *Passerina cyanea*, Waynesville (1 male along access road)

Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus*, Seven Islands

Eastern Meadowlark, *Sturnella magna*, Seven Islands; Cade's Cove etc

Common Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula*, settled areas

Brown-headed Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*, Seven Islands; Townsend (at hotel)

**Baltimore Oriole, *Icterus galbula*, heard at Cade's Cove Parking lot (not seen)

House Finch, *Carpodacus mexicanus*, at hotel in Townsend

American Goldfinch, *Carduelis tristis*, Sharp's; Seven Islands; Cade's Cove;
Townsend etc

House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*, around hotel in Townsend

MAMMALS

Eastern Cottontail, last day at Schoolhouse Gap

Eastern Chipmunk, *Tamias striatus*, Cove Hardwood

Gray Squirrel, *Sciurus carolinensis*, widespread at lower els.

Red Squirrel, *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*, Cove Hardwoods trail; Newfound Gap

White-tailed Deer, *Odocoileus virginianus*, many at Cade's Cove

Black Bear, *Ursus americanus*, 1 (black eastern form) along roadside between
Sugarlands and Laurel falls trailhead (we stopped to watch this one and to watch
the people watching the bear); we did not stop for what was very likely a second
bear sighted along road below Cove Hardwoods trail

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (found by Chris Merkord)

Imitator Salamander, *Desmognathus imitator*,

Blue-ridged Two-lined Salamander, *Eurycea wilderae*, Porter's Creek

Red-cheeked (Jordan's) Salamander, *Plethodon jordani*, Appalachian Trail

Northern Slimy Salamander, *Plethodon glutinosus*, Schoolhouse Gap trail

Black-bellied Salamander, *Desmognathus quadramaculatus*, Schoolhouse Gap trail

Unidentified salamanders (2 different spp)

American Toad, *Bufo Americana*, hundreds breeding in sewage lagoons at Cade's
Cove

Cope's Gray Treefrog, *Hyla chrysocelis*, hd above Oconaluftee Visitor Center
(while waiting for road work on highway; hd by SH)

Ring-necked (Black-headed) Snake, Chestnut Tops trail last p.m.

LIST OF TREES, SHRUBS AND VINES

[The following list is an approximation of what we saw]

Pine Family, Pinaceae,

Fraser Fir, *Abies fraseri*, Clingman's dome (most were dead)
Red Spruce, *Picea rubens*, Clingman's road (Appalachian trail etc)
Eastern Hemlock, *Tsuga canadensis*, widespread at lower els. (many with adelgid infections)
Table Mountain Pine, *Pinus pungens*, 1 noted SH (by shape of cones) along Rich Mt. Road
Pitch Pine, *Pinus rigida*, Rich Mt. Road (a few)
White Pine, *Pinus strobes*, probably commonest pine at lower els.
Virginia (scrub) Pine, *Pinus virginiana*, common around Cade's Cove and Rich Mt.; this pine has shorter needles than the Short-leaf Pine and cones are persistent on trees

Cedar Family, Cupressaceae,

Eastern Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*, widespread mostly outside park

Grass Family, Poaceae,

Switch (Giant) Cane, *Arundinaria gigantea*, only at Cataloochee Visitor's Center

Lily Family, Liliaceae,

greenbrier spp., *Smilax* spp., we saw more than one species of greenbrier; none flowering or with but a few leaves

Yam Family, Dioscoreaceae,

Wild Yam, *Dioscorea villosa*, last p.m. on Chestnut Tops trail

Walnut Family, Juglandaceae,

Shagbark Hickory, *Carya ovata*, Rich Mt; Chestnut tops trail

Birch or Hazel Family, Betulaceae,

River Birch, *Betula nigra*, Parson's Creek
Birch sp, *Betula* (prob. *lenta*), Newfound Gap
American Hornbeam, *Carpinus caroliniana*, Chestnut tops etc

Beech Family, Fagaceae,

American Beech, *Fagus grandifolia*, widespread at lower els.
Common Alder, *Alnus serrulata*, probably seen somewhere
American Chestnut, *Castanea dentata*, only the stump; frost had killed new foliage
White Oak, *Quercus alba*, only one identified was at Seven Rivers Wildlife Refuge
Scarlet Oak, *Quercus coccinea*, some dead leaves seen and examined in a could areas; not fresh foliage
Northern Red Oak, *Quercus rubra*, identified by bark etc; no fresh leaves because of "Easter freeze"

Magnolia Family, Magnoliaceae,

Yellow-Poplar, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, fresh leaves last 2 days; no flowers
No magnolias identified; frost damage to foliage

Saxifrage Family, Saxifragaceae,

Wild Hydrangea, *Hydrangea arborescens*, widespread
gooseberry, *Ribes* sp. seen at Sharp's Ridge

Witch Hazel Family, Hamamelidaceae ,

Common Witch Hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana*, last p.m. on Chestnut tops trail

Sweetgum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, leaves on trees last few days of trip

Plane Tree Family, Platanaceae,

Sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*, Little River near Townsend

Rose Family, Rosaceae,

Smooth Shadbush, *Amelanchier laevis*, Starting to lower along parkway; frost damaged this year

hawthorn sp., *Crataegus* spp., Cade's Cove & Sugarlands visitor center

Black Cherry, *Prunus serotina*, Cade's Cove and other areas

Blackberry, *Rubus alumnus* or sp., Some flowering last day

Northern Dewberry, *Rubus flagellaris*, Prob this along Chestnut Tops trail last p.m.; starting to flower

Spiraea, *Spiraea prunifolia*, in a few yards (not in flower)

Pea Family, Leguminosidae,

Honey Locust, *Gleditsia triacanthos*, on Cade's Cove loop drive

Cashew Family, Anacardiaceae,

Smooth Sumac, *Rhus glabra*, Sharp's Ridge etc

Poison Ivy, *Toxicodendron radicans*, Many areas including Rich Mt.

Holly Family, Aquifoliaceae,

American Holly, *Ilex opaca*, Cade's Cove etc; widespread

Bittersweet Family, Celastraceae,

Strawberry Bush, *Euonymus americanus*, Probably this sp at Sugarlands Visitor Center; not in flower

Maple Family, Aceraceae,

Silver Maple, *Acer saccharinum*, in Townsend

Sugar Maple, *Acer saccharum*, widespread at lower els. In park

Red Maple, *Acer rubrum* var. *rubrum*, all lower els.

Striped Maple, *Acer pensylvanicum*, also common at lower els.

Buckeye Family, Hippocastanaceae,

Yellow Buckeye, *Aesculus flava*, Cove Hardwood's trail; Chestnut tops trail

Grape Family, Vitaceae,

Virginia Creeper, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, widespread

Grape spp, *Vitis aestivalis*/ or spp.??, We saw many vines; none with leaves or flowers

Ginseng Family, Araliaceae,

Hercules' Club, *Aralia spinosa*, Chestnut tops trail last p.m.

Dogwood Family, Cornaceae,

Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida*, A few still with damaged flowers; i.e. around Chestnut Tops trail etc

Heath Family, Ericaceae,

Trailing Arbutus, *Epigaea repens*, Parkway (F)

Mountain Laurel, *Kalmia latifolia*, many areas (none in flower)

Dog-hobble, *Leucothoe fontanesiana*, many areas (flowers frost damaged)

Catawba Rhododendron, *Rhododendron catawbiense*, Lower elevations (NIF)

Rosebay Rhododendron, *Rhododendron minus*, Lower elevations (NIF)

Storax Family, Styracaceae,

Silverbell Tree, *Halesia tetraptera*, a few with leaves last two days; no flowers because of "Easter freeze"

Ash Family, Oleaceae,

White Ash, *Fraxinus americana*, Chestnut Tops etc

Figwort Family, Scrophulariaceae,

Empress Tree; *Paulownia*, *Paulownia tomentosa*, one in Gatlinburg; not leaves or flowers

Cross-Vine, *Bignonia capreolata*, one or two last p.m. at Chestnut Tops; only leaves

Honeysuckle Family, Caprifoliaceae,

Japanese Honeysuckle, *Lonicera japonica*, many on Sharp's Ridge etc

Yellow Honeysuckle, *Lonicera* (probably *dioica*), Sugarland's Visitor's Center

Maple-leaved Viburnum, *Viburnum acerifolium*, last p.m. at Chestnut-tops; ready to flower

Rusty Black Hawk (rare), *Viburnum rufidulum*, Probably this sp flowering on Sharp's Ridge

LIST OF HERBACEOUS PLANTS

NIF = Not in flower

F = Flowering

Aster (Sunflower) Family, Asteraceae

Plantain-leaf Pussy's Toes, *Antennaria plantaginifolia*, Seven Islands; roadsides

Robin's-plantain, *Erigeron pulchellus*, Roadsides common in park (F)

Rattlesnake Hawkweed, *Hieracium venosum*, Chestnut tops (only leaves)

Golden Ragwort, *Senecio aureus*, widespread along roadsides (F)

Common Dandelion, *Taraxacum officinale*, Settled areas

Arum Family, Araceae

Jack-in-the-Pulpit, *Arisaema triphyllum* (*atrorubens*), many areas

Barberry Family, Berberidaceae

Blue Cohosh, *Caulophyllum thalictroides*, Cove Hardwoods (1 plant flowering)

May-apple, *Podophyllum peltatum*, Widespread (F)

Bean Family, Fabaceae

White Sweet-Clover, *Melilotus albus* (or *sp.?*), Roadsides

Yellow Hop Clover, *Trifolium aureum*, Roadsides (F)

Wood Vetch or Carolina Vetch, *Vicia caroliniana*, Rich Mts. etc. (F)

Birchwort Family, Aristolochiaceae

Dutchman's Pipe or Pipevine, *Aristolochia tomentosa*, Chestnut tops (only leaves)

Wild Ginger, *Asarum canadense*, Parson's Creek; Schoolhouse Gap etc

Broomrape Family, Orobanchaceae

Squawroot, *Conopholia americana*, only Chestnut tops trail

One-flowered Cancer-root, *Orobanche uniflora*, Chestnut tops (F)

Buttercup Family, Ranunculaceae

White Baneberry; Doll's Eyes, *Actaea pachypoda*, Cove Hardwood etc. but none in flower

Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*, Cliffs along Little River

Sharp-lobed Hepatica, *Hepatica nobilis*, Cove Hardwood; Rich Mountain

Hispid Buttercup, *Ranunculus hispidus*, Widespread (F)

Hooked Buttercup, *Ranunculus recurvatus* , Everywhere (F)
Early Meadow Rue, *Thalictrum dioicum*, Rich Mt. Road (F)
Rue Anemone, *Thalictrum thalictroides*, Rich Mt. (F)
Dwarf Larkspur, *Delphinium tricorne*, Rich mountain (near a house; escaped ?)

Diapensia Family, Diapensiaceae

Galax, *Galax urceolata* , many areas (flowering at Chestnut tops last p.m.)

Figworts or Snapdragons, Scrophulariaceae

Wood Betony, *Pedicularis canadensis*, Big Cove Rd (F)
Gray Beard-tongue, *Penstemon canescens*, Seven Islands (F)
Common Speedwell, *Veronica officinalis*, Cade's Cove (lawns etc); tiny flowers
Bird's eye Speedwell, *Veronica perscia*, Seven Islands (F)

Forget-me-not Family, Boraginaceae

Wild Comfrey, *Cynoglossum virginianum* , Cade's Cove (some flowering)
Virginia Bluebells, *Mertensia virginica*, Cade's Cove (seen by Charlie)

Fumitory Family, Fumariaceae

Dutchman's Britches, *Dicentra cucullaria*, Balsam Mt. Road (F)
Squirrel Corn, *Dicentra canadensis*, Balsam Mt. Road (F)

Geranium Family, Geraniaceae

Carolina Cranesbill, *Geranium carolinanum*, Sharp's Ridge; roadsides (F)
Wild Geranium, *G. maculatum*, Sharp's Ridge; roadsides

Ginseng Family, Araliaceae

Dwarf Ginseng, *Panax trifolius*, Cove Hardwood trail (1 or 2 plants flowering)

Grass Family, Poaceae

Virginia Broomsedge, *Andropogon virginicus* , Cade's Cove; Seven Islands

Heath Family, Ericaceae,

Trailing Arbutus, *Epigaea repens*, Parkway at ca. 3000 ft. (F)

Iris Family, Iridaceae

Dwarf Crested Iris, *Iris cristata*, Many places (F)

Lily Family, Liliaceae,

Speckled Wood Lily, *Clintonia umbellulata* , Porter Creek; parkway etc (NIF)
Yellow Mandarin, *Disporum lanuginosum*, Cove Hardwood (F)
Mandarin sp., *Disporum sp.*, Rich Mt. (flowers frost damaged)
Yellow Trout-lily, *Erythronium umbilicatum* , Parkway (NIF)
Yellow Star Grass, *Hypoxis hirsute*, Schoolhouse Gap trail (F)
False Solomon's Seal, *Smilacina racemosa* , many lower els.
Indian Cucumber, *Medeola virginiana*, Schoolhouse gap (NIF)
False Hellebore, *Smilacina racemosa*, Parkway (not flowering)
Daffodil, *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*, roadsides (escaped); flowering
Great Solomon's Seal, *Polygonatum biflorum*, many lower els.
Catesby's Trillium, *Trillium cuneatum* , Schoolhouse Gap (F)
Wake Robin, *Trillium erectum*, parkway (flowering and smelly!)
Large flowering (White) Trillium, *Trillium grandiflorum* , many areas but frost damaged
Sweet White Trillium, *Trillium simile*, Common (F; also frost damaged)
Yellow Trillium, *Trillium luteum*, widespread (F)
Vasey's Trillium, *Trillium vaseyi*, off lower end of parkway (F)
Fairy Wand, *Chamaelirium luteum* , Schoolhouse Gap (almost flowering)

Large-flowered Bellwort, *Uvularia grandiflora*, Rich Mt. (F)
Sessile-flowered Bellwort, *Uvularia sessilifolia*, Rich Mt (F)

Madder Family, Rubiaceae

Rough Bedstraw, *Galium asperellum*, Seven Islands; Cade's Cove; etc; common (NIF)
Thyme-leaved Bluets, *Houstonia serpyllifolia*, Parson's Creek; Newfound Gap (F)
Bluet sp., *Houstonia sp.*, lawns at Cade's Cove and Sugarland etc.
Partridge-berry, *Mitchella repens*, almost all areas (red berries)

Mint Family, Lamiaceae

Purple Dead Nettle, *Lamium purpureum*, Seven Islands; oadsides (F)
Henbit, *Lamium amphexicaule*, Metcalf Bottom campground
Wild Bergamont, *Monardia sp.* Seven Islands (NIF)

Mustard Family, Brassicaceae

Smooth Rock Cress, *Arabis laevigata*, many areas (already flowered)
Winter Cress or Yellow Rocket, *Barbarea vulgaris*, roadsides including Metcalf
Bottoms in park (F)
Cut-leaved Toothwort, *Cardamine concatenata*, many areas

Nettle Family, Urticaceae

Wood-Nettle, *Laportea canadensis*, Chestnut Tops trail (NIF)

Orchid Family, Orchidaceae

Pink Lady's Slipper, *Cypripedium acaule* , Porter's Creek (not flowering);
Schoolhouse Gap trail (several flowering)
Showy Orchis, *Galearis spectabilis* , Commonest at Porter's Creek; frost damaged
Downy Rattlesnake-Plantain, *Goodyera pubescens* , many areas (leaves only)

Large Yellow Lady's Slipper, *Cypripedium pubescens* , White Oak Sink (only one in
flower)
Adam and Eve Orchid (Puttyroot), *Aplectrum hyemale*, Cove Hardwood (2 plants);
NIF

Parsley Family, Apiaceae (Umbelliferaceae)

Sweet Cicely, *Osmorhiza claytonii*, Chestnut Tops; widespread (F)
Meadow Parsnip (umbels of tiny yellow flower), *Thaspium trifolium flavum*,
Chestnut tops; Rich Mt. etc; widespread (F)
Meadow Parsnip (umbels of tiny red flowers), *T. trifolium trifolium*, Big Cove
Rd.
Yellow Pimpernel, *Taenidia integerrima*, Big Cove Rd; Rich Mt Rd (last p.m.)

Pink (Carnation) Family, Caryophyllaceae

Fire Pink, *Silene virginica*, Chestnut Tops; Rich Mt. (F)
Great Chickweed, *Stellaria pubera*, Chestnut Tops etc; widespread (F)

Phlox Family, Polemoniaceae

Blue Phlox, *Phlox stolonifera/divaricata*, Widespread (F)

Plantain Family, Plantaginaceae

plantain spp. (at least 4 spp), *Plantago spp.*, Roadsides (NIF)

Poppy Family, Papaveraceae

Bloodroot, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, many areas (NIF)

Purslane Family, Portulacaceae,

Spring-beauty, *Claytonia caroliniana*, Clingman's Dome Rd (carpets along
roadsides); Balsam Mt. Road (many in flower)

Rose Family, Rosacea,

Wild Strawberry, *Fragaria virginiana*, Balsam Mt. Road (F)

Common Cinquefoil, *Potentilla simplex*, widespread (F)

Saxifrage Family, Saxifragaceae

Alumroot, *Heuchera americana/villosa*, Chestnut Tops and many other areas; flowering on Chestnut tops last day

Wild Hydrangea, *Hydrangea arborescens*, widespread in lower els (NIF)

Miterwort (Bishop's Cap), *Mitella diphylla*, Chestnut Tops (F)

Brook Lettuce, *S. micranthidifolia*, Cove Hardwood (F)

Carey's Saxifrage, *S. careyana*, Chestnut Tops (F)

Foamflower, *Tiarella cordifolia*, many areas but rather scarce this year (F)

Sedge Family

Plantain-leaf Sedge, *Carex plantaginea*, Chestnut Tops; Parson's Creek (F)

Smartweed Family, Polygonaceae,

Lady's Thumb, *Polygonum persicaria* (V on leaf), Chestnut Tops (NIF)

Curled Dock, *Rumex crispus*, widespread (NIF)

Stonecrop Family, Crassulaceae

Wild Stonecrop, *Sedum ternatum*, widespread (F)

Touch-Me-Not Family, Balsaminaceae

Orange Jewelweed, *Impatiens capensis* or spp? common (NIF)

Valerian Family, Valerianaceae

Beaked Corn Salad, *Valerianella radiata*, Big Cove Road (patchily abundant)

Violet Family, Violaceae

Sweet White Violet, *Viola blanda*, Cade's Cove (Stemless; white flowers; several areas)

Canadian Violet, *Viola canadensis*, widespread (white flowers and leaves on stem)

Halbert-leaved Violet, *Viola hastate*, Cade's Cove (yellow flowers)

Beaked (Long-spurred) Violet, *Viola rostrata*, Chestnut Tops; Schoolhouse gap etc.

Bird-s Foot Violet, *Viola pedata*, Rich Mountain (pale blue flowers)

Common Blue Violet, *Viola sororia* or *papilionacea*, widespread; common in lawns etc

"Confederate " Violet, *Viola sororia* var. *priceana*, Roadside pullout below Newfound gap; whitish with "blue eyes"

Smooth Yellow Violet, *Viola pubescens*, Cove Hardwoods (a few in flower)

Waterleaf Family, Hydrophyllaceae

Purple Phacelia, *Phacelia bispinnatifida*, Chestnut Tops (F)

Fringed Phacelia, *Phacelia fimbriata*, Cove Hardwood and Newfound Gap etc (F)

Miami Mist, *Phacelia purshii*, Metcalf Bottoms exit

Wood Sorrel Family, Oxalidaceae

Wood-sorrel, *Oxalis stricta/violacea*, several areas (NIF)

Wintergreen Family, Pyrolaceae

Spotted Wintergreen or Pipsissewa, *Chimaphila maculata*, Schoolhouse Gap etc. (NIF)

Yam Family, Dioscoreaceae

Wild Yam, *Dioscorea quaternata*, Chestnut tops (NIF)

Ferns

Maidenhair Fern, most shady and humid lower els.

Christmas Fern, inside forest at most lower els.

Total miles driven: ca 545