



# The Kentucky Native Plant Society's WILDFLOWER WEEKEND

April 12<sup>th</sup> – April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

This year's KNPS Wildflower Weekend offers outdoor hikes, a membership social, a book-signing, presentations, a panel forum, and raffle prizes. Professionally guided hikes and indoor presentations by regional experts explore the region's rich natural history and resources. Hikes and events open to the public. We encourage anyone interested to become members.

## Registration

Registration is on-site at Natural Bridge State Resort Park in the Hemlock Lodge lobby. The registration desk will be open half an hour prior to the first hike and be open throughout the day. Merchandise available for purchase includes stickers for \$1.00 and t-shirts (organic RPET) for \$20.00. Participants will be eligible for discounted KNPS memberships (\$5.00 off new or renewal) in addition to registration fees. Cash or credit cards will be accepted.

### Registration Fees:

**Adults** – \$10.00

**Ages 17-13** – \$3.00

**Ages 12 & under** – Free

All hike participants will meet with hike leaders and leave from the Hemlock Lodge lobby traveling to trailheads via foot or carpooling if necessary. The membership social Friday evening will be held at the bar off of the Hemlock Lodge lobby and the Saturday evening presentations will be held in the Woodland Center.

## Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>

**1:00 Wildflower Walk, Whittleton Branch Trail:** Walk with U.S. Forest Service Botanist David Taylor along this botanically diverse trail north of Whittleton Campground. A 2 mile easy walk.

**1:00 Wildflower Walk, Rock Garden Trail:** Walk with Bob VanHoff, retired from ACOE, on the forested slope above the Hemlock Lodge. A 2 mile moderate walk.

**2:30 Ecology Walk, The Original Trail:** Join the executive director of Kentucky Nature Preserves, Zeb Weese, and learn about habitat management and invasive species. The Original Trail is a 1 mile, moderate walk ending beneath Natural Bridge.

**2:30 Wildflower Walk, Rock Garden Trail:** Walk with Danny Barret, retired from ACOE, on the forested slope above the Hemlock Lodge. A 2 mile, moderate walk.

**6:00-7:30 Membership Social:** Join us in the bar off of the Hemlock Lodge lobby to gather with your fellow Kentucky Native Plant Society members. Meet the board members & officers and hear updates about the society.

## Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – All Day Hike

**8:45 Wildflower Walk and Intro to iNaturalist, Auxier Ridge Trail:** Hike with Kentucky Nature Preserves Botanists Heidi Braunreiter & Devin Rodgers, and learn how to use iNaturalist and explore for wildflowers. Please bring lunch and water, and have the iNaturalist app downloaded onto your smartphone prior to the hike. This will be a 5 mile, strenuous hike in the Red River Gorge at the end of Tunnel Ridge Road.

(See reverse side for continued Saturday schedule)

## Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – Morning Walks

**8:30 Bryophyte Walk:** Walk with U.S. Forest Service Botanist David Taylor along the boardwalk between the Hemlock Lodge and the Woodland Center. Learn about these interesting non-flowering plants on this short, easy walk. This walk is wheelchair accessible.

**8:30 Fern Walk, Whittleton Branch Trail:** Walk with Morehead Biology Professor Allen Risk and learn about ferns along this botanically diverse trail north of Whittleton Campground. A 2 mile easy walk.

**9:00 Ecology Walk, Sheltowee Trace Trail:** Walk with Kentucky Nature Preserves ecologist Martina Hines and learn about wildflowers, amphibians, birds and more on this section of the trail starting at suspension bridge. A 3 mile moderate walk.

**9:00 Native Landscaping and Ecology Walk:** Walk with naturalists Dan & Judy Dourson (Dourson Biological Consulting LLC) on their Backcountry Moss Garden Trail. A short, easy walk.

**9:00 Wildflower Hike, Henson's Arch Trail:** Join botanist Austin Prater on a walk exploring for wildflowers. The trailhead is located in Whittleton Campground and is a 1 mile, moderate walk that leads to a limestone arch at the entrance of a small cave.

## Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – Afternoon Walks

**1:00 Woody Plant Walk, Rock Garden Trail:** Walk with U.S. Forest Service Botanist David Taylor on the forested slope above the Hemlock Lodge and learn about trees and shrubs. A 2 mile moderate walk.

**1:00 Lichens and Bryophytes Walk, Auxier Ridge Trail:** Join Morehead Biology Professor Allen Risk and learn about these interesting non-flowering plants. A moderate, 2 mile walk.

**1:30 Natural Bridge Guided Hike, The Original Trail:** Take a walk with state park naturalist Brian Gansdorf and learn about the park's history, plants, animals, and arch formation. The Original Trail is a 1 mile, moderate walk ending beneath Natural Bridge.

**1:30 Ferns, Wildflowers, and Ecology Walk, Koomer Ridge Trail:** Join Rob Parately, Herbarium Curator at the University of Kentucky, and learn about the vegetation and forest ecology of the area. The trailhead is located in the Koomer Ridge Campground of the Red River Gorge and is a 2.5 mile, moderate walk.

## Saturday Evening Events at the Woodland Center

**5:30 Book Signing-** Dan & Judy Dourson with their book *Wildflowers and Ferns of Red River Gorge and the Greater Red River Basin*. Enjoy music by the Forest Fiddleheads. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

**6:00 Welcome/Introductions**

**6:10 Book Intro:** *Wildflowers and Ferns of Red River Gorge and the Greater Red River Basin* by Dan & Judy Dourson.

**6:25 Vascular Flora and Wetland Assessment of Wetlands in the Red River Gorge Geological Area and Clifty Wilderness,** presentation by EKU student Calvin Andries.

**6:40 Falls of the Red,** presentation by Christopher Morris ([www.kywaterfalls.com](http://www.kywaterfalls.com)).

**7:00 The Explore Kentucky Initiative,** presentation by Gerry James ([www.explorekentucky.us](http://www.explorekentucky.us)).

**7:20 Break**

**7:30 Panel Forum:** Recreational uses and impacts in the Red River Gorge and how they play a role in conservation.

Panel members include: Tara Littlefield (Botanist, OKNP), Tim Eling (RRG Manager, USFS), Dan Dourson, Gerry James (Explore KY Initiative), Chris Morris (KY Waterfalls)

**8:30 Raffle:** Wood carving courtesy of Bob VanHoff, and plants donated by UK Arboretum, KY Division of Forestry, and Dropseed Nursery.