



# *The Lady Slipper Newsletter*

Winter/Early Spring, 2019

Vol. 34 No. 1

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Greetings Kentucky Native Plant Society Members and Friends!

Here's to the end of winter and the return of spring ephemerals! Reports are coming in from across the state of the first harbinger of spring, hazelnut and snow trillium flowers. The first round of spring wildflowers, purple cress, toothworts, sessile trilliums, hepatica, are in peak in more protected ravines across Kentucky. We could not be more excited about the 2019 field season!

This past quarter we had to say goodbye and good luck to former KNPS vice president Brad Ruhfel as he moved up to the University of Michigan's Herbarium as their new Research Collections Manager. We had some shuffling of KNPS officers to fill vacancies, so check out our website for our new officer line up. We also welcome new board member Wes Cunningham, a consulting botanist for Stantec, to the KNPS team. We are always looking for help with our various committees so if you're interested in helping out, [please contact us](#) to help strengthen KNPS and Kentucky's botanical community.

We are announcing this year's field trips, events, workshops and stewardship workdays below and on our website so please check them out, get them on your calendar, and sign up, as spots will fill up quick. Sign ups open one month before each event. And speaking of website, Jeff Nelson, KNPS board member, has revamped our website! [Check it out!](#) We are also currently updating all our native plant resources on our new website so it can be your one stop shop for all things Kentucky botany on the web. If you see any missing info, let us know! New grant announcements, wildflower weekend agenda, and more, so read on. Hope to see you on the trail this year!

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For the Love of Kentucky Plants,  
Tara Littlefield, Botanist and KNPS President

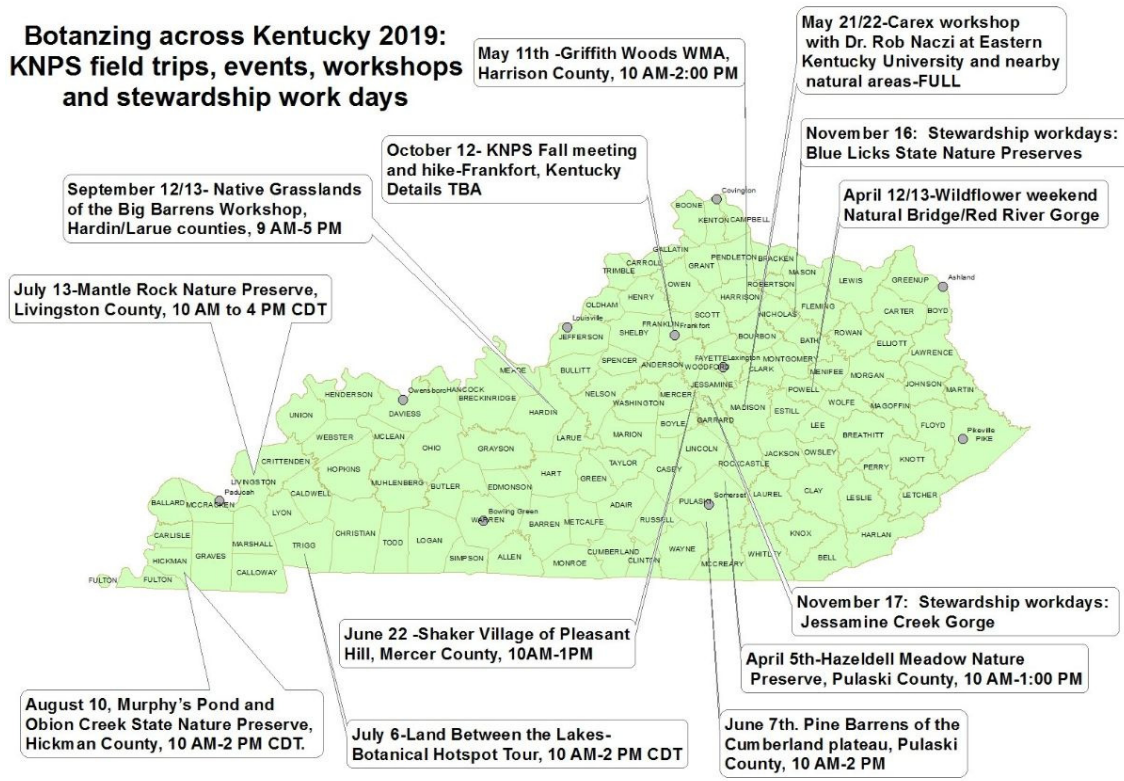


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**BOTANIZING ACROSS KENTUCKY: JOIN KNPS ON THE TRAIL IN 2019!**

All KNPS activities are open to everyone. All activities, except Wildflower Weekend, require advance registration on our website and they fill up quickly. Registration for all activities open a month before the event. Members of KNPS will be given the opportunity to register for these activities before they are opened to the general public. If you are not a member, you can join at <https://www.knps.org/membership/>.

**Botanizing across Kentucky 2019:  
KNPS field trips, events, workshops  
and stewardship work days**



**April 5th- Hazeldell Meadow  
Nature Preserve, Pulaski County,  
10 AM to 1 PM EST**

Join Dr. Krupa at Hazeldell Meadow Nature Preserve and hear all about his latest studies of Kentucky's rarest carnivorous plant, the dwarf sundew (*Drosera brevifolia*). He has been studying this plant and it's fascinating habitat for over 13 years! We will also learn about other associated species, such as spiders and other interesting plants. Tara Littlefield (botanist at the office of Kentucky Nature Preserves) will be there to answer any rarity, natural community or floristic questions, as well as John Burnett (Pulaski County Conservation District Land Manager). In addition, you will learn

**July 6- Land between the Lakes-  
Botanical Hotspot Tour, 10 AM to 2  
PM EST**

Join Devin Rodgers, botanist at Kentucky Nature Preserves, as we stop at several botanically important sites at LBL from prairies to wetlands. Devin has worked extensively at LBL conducting floristic surveys, rare species surveys and habitat characterizations. Elizabeth Raikes (LBL staff biologist), Tara Littlefield (botanist at Kentucky Nature Preserves), Jim Scheff (Heartwood Director), and representatives from Austin Peay University and Southeastern Grassland Initiative will also be there to assist in logistics and identifications. In addition, you

how to help in ongoing efforts to protect rare species and communities at Hazeldell through assisting with monitoring, management and restoration projects at Hazeldell Meadow Nature Preserve. 10 person limit.

**April 12 & 13- KNPS Annual Wildflower Weekend**

Hikes will be offered on Friday and Saturday at Natural Bridge State Park and the Red River Gorge during Wildflower Weekend. See more details below.

**May 11th- Griffith Woods WMA, Harrison County, 9 AM to 12 PM EST**

Join Dr. Julian Campbell at Griffith Woods and hear all about this iconic bluegrass woodland with old growth oaks and hickories, cane thickets, and remnant mesic herbaceous flowers, such as bear grass and running buffalo clover. Julian has been studying bluegrass woodland vegetation for over 40 years and is the authority on past and present plants and communities in the region. Go to [http://bluegrasswoodland.com/Griffith\\_Woods.html](http://bluegrasswoodland.com/Griffith_Woods.html) for information on Griffith Woods compiled by Julian. Plus, you will learn how you can help in ongoing efforts to protect rare species and communities at

will learn about ongoing efforts to protect rare species and communities at botanical sites at LBL and how you can help by assisting with monitoring, management, and restoration projects. A new way to document and assist in monitoring rare plants is iNaturalist. We will hike approximately 2 miles total between a few sites, moderate. 10 person limit.

**July 13- Mantle Rock Nature Preserve, Livingston County, 10 AM to 4 PM EST**

Join Chris Benda (Illinois botanizer), Jeff Nelson (KNPS Board Member), Tara Littlefield (botanist at Kentucky Nature Preserves/Kentucky Botanist), and Shelly Morris (Western Kentucky TNC Project Director) as we conduct a floristic inventory at Mantle Rock of sandstone glades, barrens, woodlands and mesic forests at this floristically fascinating site. Bring a GPS, hand lens, and field notebook and help with the floristic inventory. A new way to document and assist in monitoring plants is iNaturalist. We will hike 3-4 miles, difficult, off trail. 10 person limit.

**August 10, Murphy's Pond and Obion Creek State Nature Preserve, Hickman County, 10 AM**

Griffith Wood WMA through assisting with monitoring, management, and restoration projects. If you would like stay late from 1pm-4 pm, you can help to work on invasive species removal. We will meet at 9 am in the main parking lot on east side of US 62 about 1500 feet north of the T junction with Russell Cave Road (Route 353). 15 person limit.

### **May 21 & 22- Sedge Workshop**

Dr. Rob Naczi will lead a workshop at Eastern Kentucky University and nearby natural areas- FULL.

### **June 7th- Pine Barrens of the Cumberland Plateau, Pulaski County, 10 AM to 2 PM EST**

Join Jim Scheff (Director of Heartwood), Tara Littlefield (botanist at the office of Kentucky Nature Preserves) and David Taylor (forest botanist at the Daniel Boone National Forest) as we explore the Keno and Curt Pond Ridge Conservation Site, a botanical hotspot of prairie and pine oak barrens, seeps and upland ponds just south of Somerset. Wood Lily should be in full bloom along with several other interesting plants. Plus, you will learn about ongoing efforts to protect rare species and communities at this site and how you can help by assisting with monitoring, management and

### **to 1 PM EST**

Join Dr. Suneeti Jog, field botanist from Murray State University as we learn all about wetlands plants and communities at this unique complex of wetlands (shrub swamps to bottomland hardwood forests). In addition, we will learn about Dr. Jog's wetland characterization and floristic work in western Kentucky. We will hike 1-2 miles, easy to moderate. 10 person limit.

### **September 12/13- Native Grasslands of the Big Barrens Workshop, Hardin & Larue counties, 9 AM to 5 PM EST**

Join Kentucky Nature Preserves botanists/ecologists Tara Littlefield, Heidi Braunreiter, Brian Yahn, and Devin Rodgers for a look at the diversity of native grasslands in the Big Barrens Region of Kentucky. Workshop is aimed at intermediate to advanced level citizen naturalists and professionals. There is a cost for this, TBD. 15 person limit.

### **October 12- KNPS Fall meeting and hike, Frankfort, Kentucky. Details TBA.**

### **November 16- Stewardship workdays: Blue Licks State Nature Preserves. Details TBA.**

### **November 17- Stewardship**

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restoration projects. Hike will be approximately 2 miles, moderate, mostly roadside. 10 person limit.

**workdays: Jessamine Creek Gorge. Details TBA.**

**June 22nd- Prairies and Forests of Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, 10 AM to 1 PM EST**

Join Laura Baird, assistant preserve manager and naturalist, on a hike to view the prairie restoration, as well as the adjacent forests at Shakertown. You will learn many prairie flowers, trees and shrubs, woodland flowers, and even some pollinators! Hike will be 2-3 miles, moderate. 10 person limit.

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The Kentucky Native Plant Society's  
**WILDFLOWER  
WEEKEND**

**Wildflower Weekend will be at Natural Bridge State Park and the Red River Gorge on April 12th & 13th, 2019.** This year's 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.

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 open throughout the day. Merchandise will be available for purchase including stickers for \$1.00 and t-shirts (organic RPET) for \$20.00. Participants will be eligible for discounted KNPS memberships (new or renewal) in addition to registration fees. Cash or credit cards will be accepted. All hike participants will meet with hike leaders and leave from the Hemlock Lodge lobby traveling to trailheads via foot or carpooling if necessary.

**Registration Fees:**



Adults – \$10.00

Ages 17-13 – \$3.00

Ages 12 & under – Free

**A membership social will be on Friday evening from 6:00-7:30 and held at the bar off of the Hemlock Lodge lobby.** Join us to gather with your fellow Kentucky Native Plant Society members! Meet the board members & officers and hear updates about the society.

**Saturday evening events will start at 5:30 and will be held in the Woodland Center.**

Events include:

- **Book Signing** by Dan & Judy Dourson, *Wildflowers and Ferns of Red River Gorge and the Greater Red River Basin* while
  - Enjoy music by the Forest Fiddleheads. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.
- **Vascular Flora and Wetland Assessment of Wetlands in the Red River Gorge Geological Area and Clifty Wilderness**, presentation by EKU student Calvin Andries.
- **Falls of the Red**, presentation by Chris Morris on waterfalls of the RRG area ([www.kywaterfalls.com](http://www.kywaterfalls.com))
- **The Explore Kentucky Initiative**, presentation by Gerry James ([www.explorekentucky.us](http://www.explorekentucky.us))
- **Panel Forum:** Recreational uses and impacts in the RRG 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)
- **Raffle:** Wood carving courtesy of Bob VanHoff, and plants donated by UK Arboretum, KY Division of Forestry, and Dropseed Nursery

[See a full schedule of the weekend hikes and events on our website!](#)

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We are looking for volunteers to help out at the registration desk for Wildflower Weekend. If you are available on April 12th or 13th and would be willing to help, please check out the link below:

<https://www.knps.org/2019-wildflower-weekend-registration-desk-volunteers/>

Thanks!

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## **New KNPS Website**

The Kentucky Native Plant Society has had a website since 2001. Recently, we have

undertaken a complete redesign of the site. Our primary goal was to make the site easy to view and use, regardless of the type of device a visitor is using, be it computer, tablet, or phone. We also wanted to make it easier to find the information or resources that a visitor is looking for. Besides the standard menus at the top, the scrollable front page has sections that describe and link to much of the most frequently accessed information.



Over the next several weeks, we hope to add new information and resources on a regular basis. One of the new features that is already implemented is the [events calendar](#) (link is in the top menu on the home page). Besides KNPS scheduled events, we hope to include any native plant or conservation related events in our region. If you know of or are participating in an event that would be of interest to friends and members of KNPS, please use the [Contact Form](#) at the bottom of the front page to let us know about the event.

Click on the image of the new site above to visit and explore the Kentucky Native Plant Society web page. If you have any suggestions for improvements or ideas of what you would like to find on the KNPS web site, just drop us a note using the Contact Form.

## KENTUCKY BOTANISTS BIG YEAR ON iNATURALIST

Do you love documenting native plants and keeping up with your own life lists? Do you take a lot of native plant pictures on your smart phones or digital cameras? If so, then join our Kentucky Botanists Big Year on

iNaturalist: <https://www.inaturalist.org/.../kentucky-botanists-big-year-2...!>

Prizes will be given out for numerous categories, such as most number of species, most observations, etc. Need training? Come to Kentucky Native Plant Society's Wildflower Weekend at Natural Bridge on Saturday, April 13 and attend the all day hike to Auxier Ridge where there will be an Intro to iNaturalist tutorial. Check out iNaturalist and help contribute to our plant atlas and other conservation projects!





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## **NATIVE PLANT RESEARCH, INVENTORY AND RESTORATION GRANTS ARE DUE APRIL 1ST!**

Beginning in 2012, the Kentucky Native Plant Society has been awarding annual grants to undergraduate and graduate students that are researching native plants and plant communities in Kentucky. Since 2012 we have awarded over \$5,000 in grants. In 2019, the research grant program expanded to offer additional grants outside of students to work on native plant inventory and restoration.

1. **The Student Research Grant program** is a funding source to support botanical knowledge and understanding in Kentucky. Each year the Society offers awards of \$500 for graduate student projects, and \$250 for undergraduate projects. Awards are given for field-based botanical projects that contribute to the knowledge of Kentucky's flora or natural communities. We prefer that students submitting grant requests attend a Kentucky college or university, although this is not a requirement as long as the research is based in Kentucky. The grant may be used to purchase consumable supplies and materials such as rebar, herbarium paper, label stock, and GIS equipment. The grant may also be used to cover travel expenses. It may not be used to pay time (e.g., labor) for any party.
2. **The Native Plant Inventory Grant program** provides funding for native plant inventory and data collection in natural areas in Kentucky. This grant is intended to fund projects that work on floristic and natural community inventories within Kentucky's Natural Areas. This program is open to anyone (student or not) working in the Commonwealth and will award \$250 to the recipient. The grant may be used to purchase consumable supplies and materials such as rebar, herbarium paper, label stock, and GPS equipment. The grant may also be used to cover travel expenses. It may not be used to pay time (e.g., labor) for any party.
3. **The Rare and Native Plant Restoration Grant program** will provide up to \$500 for the propagation and/or restoration of rare plants of Kentucky. The program is open to anyone, student or not, working in the area of rare plant conservation. We will give preference for anyone working on globally rare plants (G1-G3) and encourage them to work with the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves (OKNP) on project selection (<https://eec.ky.gov/Nature-Preserves/>).

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The activities and programs discussed above are funded almost entirely through

membership dues. If you haven't already done so, now would be a great time to join the Kentucky Native Plant Society or, if already a member, to renew your membership. By renewing, you will continue your support of the Society's activities.

This year, we have expanded our membership levels. In addition to Individual (\$15), Family (\$25), and Lifetime (\$200), we now have a \$10 Student level, a \$50 Sustaining level (for those who would like to contribute a little more to the Society), and a \$100 Institutional level for academic, scientific, commercial, or conservation organizations. The Institutional level includes the e-newsletter sent to four email addresses.

You can easily join or renew online with a credit or debit card by visiting our the KNPS website [Membership Page](#). If you prefer, you can download a Membership Form in PDF format from the same page and mail in your renewal.

If you are attending the Wildflower Weekend on April 12 & 13, you can join or renew and receive a \$5 discount.

Thank you for your support!

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