

WILDFLOWER WEEKEND • 2025



Three-parted Yellow Violet
Viola tripartita

Long-spurred Violet
Viola rostrata

Marsh Blue Violet
Viola cucullata

KENTUCKY NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY CARTER CAVES STATE RESORT PARK

Credits L-R: Three-parted Yellow Violet (*Viola tripartita*) © mikephelps, some rights reserved (CC-BY-NC); Long-spurred Violet (*Viola rostrata*) © Barb Graham, some rights reserved (CC-BY-NC); Marsh Blue Violet (*Viola cucullata*) © Kristine A. Olsen, some rights reserved (CC-BY-NC).

Congratulations to Cheryll Frank, Winner of the Wildflower Weekend 2025 Logo Contest

We are offering 20 different hikes this year! In addition to our usual "all things botanical" hikes, we have a couple of hikes concentrating on birds, caves, general biodiversity, geology, pollinators and a bat mist net educational experience.

We have always tried to make Wildflower Weekend a family friendly event (kids 12 and under attend free). This year we are offering four kid centered activities, two **Cave Tours** on Saturday, a "**Wildflower Wander: An Exploration for Young Adventurers**" on Saturday morning and then, on Saturday afternoon, the "**Kid's Nature Activity**", with fun botanical and nature activities designed for the young naturalist. See details in the schedule below. Carter Caves State Resort Park also has several playgrounds, a basketball court, gem mining, and mini golf.

This is the third consecutive year that KNPS is offering merchandise with a unique logo developed specifically for this Wildflower Weekend. This year, in the spirit of bringing together creative expression and love for nature, the KNPS Board decided to have a **Wildflower Weekend 2025 Logo Design Contest**. This was an open design contest to come up with a logo for Wildflower Weekend 2025. The winning design (featured at the top of this page) is a collage of violets; the rare Three-parted Violet (*Viola tripartita*) accompanied by the Long-spurred Violet (*Viola rostrata*) and the Marsh Blue Violet (*Viola cucullata*). The winning design was submitted by Cheryll Frank of Scott County, KY. Visit the Lady Slipper Blog for more information on the winner and all the wonderful artists who participated.

Kentucky Native Plant Society's Wildflower Weekend 2025

At Carter Caves State Resort Park

**Friday, April 11th
& Saturday, April 12th, 2025**

**iNaturalist Bioblitz: Saturday, April
5th to Sunday, April 13th, 2025**

Join nature lovers, families, community scientists, amateur naturalists, and professional botanists from across the commonwealth, as we explore the beauty and diversity of Kentucky's natural history. Wildflower Weekend is open to the public and family friendly.

Pre-registration is required on knps.com. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$3 for ages 13-17, and free for ages 12 & under. The agenda for the weekend is listed below.

On odd numbered years, KNPS ventures from our usual Natural Bridge SRP location and explores the biodiversity of other state parks. We are proud to host this year's event at Carter Caves State Resort Park!

All hikes (except cave tours and bat mist net, details listed below) will meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge at Carter Caves SRP (344 Caveland Dr, Olive Hill, KY 41164).

The Grayson Room is downstairs by the Tierney's Cavern Restaurant. Attendees will meet hike leaders to get directions, and to coordinate carpooling & caravanning to trailheads. Hike leaders and KNPS representatives will be there 10-15 mins before a hike is scheduled to leave. Hike times listed are the times that the hike is meant to leave from the Lewis Caveland Lodge.

In case you miss your hike's meet up time: Hike trails and trail heads are listed. All hikes (except cave tours and the bat mist net) will meet at the Lewis Caveland Lodge regardless of the trail head listed. Planning to meet your hiking group at the trail head instead of at the lodge may cause you to miss your hike or go on the wrong trail. There is little cell phone service in the Carter Caves area, so contacting your hiking group in the event you are late may be impossible. Please plan accordingly.

For quick information on each hike, use the symbols provided after each hike title.

:Hike :Cave Tour :Kid's Activity :Gentle and Easy Activity :Carpooling :Binoculars Recommended :Handlens Recommended
:Wildflower focus :Woody focus :Fungi focus :Insect focus :Bat focus :Seedless Plant focus :Nonvascular focus

Friday, April 11th – Afternoon Hikes

12:00PM - F11 - Naturalist Hike, Boyd Hopkins & Heidi Braunreiter

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is an **easy 0.25-mile off-trail hike**. Location not advertised due to being off trail. ~5 min drive to parking area.

Join Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves natural areas technician Boyd Hopkins and OKNP botanist Heidi Braunreiter on this naturalist walk through the rich woods along Tygart's Creek. This is a casual walk for the all-around nature enthusiast, as the hike leaders will talk about botany, birds and beyond. The hike will be off trail but easy.

12:15PM - F12 - Lichen Hike, Dr. Allen Risk & Kendall McDonald

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is **moderately difficult, 1.4 mile in-and-out hike with a ~242-foot ascent**. Trailhead is at the boat ramp (38.36681, -83.13009). 4Cs Trail and Kiser Hollow Trail. Trailhead is a ~5-minute drive from Lewis Caveland Lodge.

Hike with Dr. Allen Risk of Morehead State University and Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves lichenologist Kendall McDonald to Smoky Valley Lake, Shangra La Arch, and along the Kiser Hollow Trail to explore the incredible (and tiny) world of lichens! Learn to appreciate these non-flowering symbiotic organisms for their beauty, biodiversity, and vital role in our ecosystems. This hike will not feature many wildflowers, as it is focused on lichens. A handlens is suggested to fully appreciate these small specimens. This trail has ~242-foot ascent and is moderately difficult.

12:30PM – F13 - Woody Plants Walk, David Taylor

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is an **easy, 0.4-mile walk**. Natural Bridge Parking lot to Natural Bridge. Trailhead is ~5-minute drive from Lewis Caveland Lodge.

Join US Forest Service Botanist David Taylor as he teaches about the woody plants in the area on this gentle walk to the massive limestone arch known as Natural Bridge. This is a perfect place to learn or brush up on your trees and shrubs, while seeing one of Kentucky's geologic wonders. This hike has minimal elevation and walking, and is considered a gentle activity.

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 :Wildflower focus :Woody focus :Fungi focus :Insect focus :Bat focus :Seedless Plant focus :Nonvascular focus

12:45PM – F14 - Hemlock Hike, Sandra Elliott

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is a **difficult, 1.0-mile hike with steep hills and rocks**. Trailhead and parking at the Cascade Caverns parking lot. (38.3557, -83.1116). Box Canyon Loop Trail. Trailhead is an ~10-minute drive from Lewis Caveland Lodge.

Join Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves Cumberland Plateau Region Manager Sandra Elliott on this adventurous hike through unusual geologic features such as Cascade Natural Bridge, Box Canyon and the Wind Tunnel. She will teach about the majestic Eastern Hemlock, the relationship between the trees and stream ecology, and the threats it faces from the non-native invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. This hike has steep hills and rocks to navigate, and is considered difficult.

1:00PM – F15 - Wildflower Walk, Nate Parrish

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is a **moderately difficult 1.2-mile hike with ~309-foot ascent with hills and a set of stairs**. Lewis Caveland Lodge to Three Bridges Trail to Raven Ridge Trail.

Join NEON botanist Nate Parrish on this hike around the Raven Bridge area as he teaches about the wildflowers in the area. In addition to learning about spring wildflowers, the hike will feature the delicately balanced sandstone arch known as Raven Bridge. This hike has a ~309-foot ascent and is considered moderately difficult with hills and a set of stairs

4:30PM-6:30PM: Check-in to lodging and dinner on your own

Pack a meal, visit the Tierney's Cavern Restaurant at the Lewis Caveland Lodge in CCSRP, or visit local restaurants in the area.

Please be gracious to our hosts at CCSRP and be understanding of any delays in service. WW grows larger every year, and we have grown into a lot of mouths to feed! Be prepared with snacks and other food options during the weekend. There are many picnic tables and shelters in CCSRP that are great spots to enjoy a meal outdoors. Check the KNPS WW registration desk for information on food and drink options in the area.

Friday Evening, April 12th - Members & Friends Social and Bat Mist Net

6:30pm Members & Friends Social, Carter Caves SRP, Pool Shelter (38.368403, -83.127253)

Join us around the fire pit to gather with fellow wildflower enthusiasts. Meet the KNPS board members & officers. Meet at the Pool Shelter which resides right beside the Carter Caves SRP pool. Utilities include restrooms, parking, picnic tables, basketball court and a small playground. S'more fixings will be provided. Bring your own chair, drinks (no alcohol allowed), flashlights, and weather appropriate clothing/gear.



Members and Friends Social Location

Directions to picnic shelter by car: Leaving the Lewis Caveland Lodge on Caveland Drive, turn left onto Lodge Road. Stay on Lodge Road for 0.7 miles until you reach the pool area. Parking is available at the picnic shelter. Excess parking is available just behind the picnic shelter.

Directions to picnic shelters by foot: Start at the Three Bridges Trailhead south of Lewis Caveland Lodge. Hike on trail approx. 0.3 miles to the excess parking area behind the picnic shelter. Follow paved road to picnic shelter.

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7:20PM - 10:00PM - F16 - Bat Mist Net, Courtney Hayes, Michaela Rogers, Gregg Janos, Heidi Braunreiter - Pre-registration Required

Meet at the Member's & Friends Social, located at the Pool Picnic Shelter. Location not advertised due to site sensitivity. Participants will carpool to parking and hike to mist net area; off trail hiking may be required.

Join KDFWR biologists Courtney Hayes and Michaela Rodgers and Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves biologists Gregg Janos and Heidi Braunreiter in a bat mist net experience. Learn about Kentucky's bats, their ecology, and the threats facing these precious and important flying mammals. This is not an active hike and will involve sitting quietly while waiting for a bat to fly into the net. Participants are encouraged to bring chairs and extra clothing to remain warm. Participants will meet at the Members & Friends Social at the Pool Picnic Shelter and carpool to destination

Saturday, April 12th – Morning Hikes

8:00AM - 10:00AM - Student Poster Session

Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge

Join us to learn about the botanical research Kentucky's higher education students are conducting during KNPS's first ever Wildflower Weekend Student Poster Session! The poster session is walk through and should be enjoyed at your own pace.

8:00AM – S01 - Cascade Cave Tour, Carter Caves SRP Recreation Staff \$10, Pre-register ONLY

Meet at the Welcome Center. This is a **moderately difficult walk of 0.75 miles, with over 250 stairs and some stooping.** (38.355663, -83.111574). Site is ~10 min drive from Welcome Center. The tour lasts approx. 75 mins.

Cascade Cave is Carter Caves SRP's longest scenic cave tour that is noted for its large chambers and many beautiful cave formations. A highlight of the tour is a 30-foot high underground waterfall as well as the Lake Room's reflecting pool, the Cathedral in North Cave, and the Dance Hall where a previous owner held weekly dances.

8:00AM – S02 - Beginners and Beyond Birding Hike, Meaghan Petix & Nour Salam

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is an **easy hike of 1.4 miles with an ~142-foot ascent on a paved trail.** Mulligan Trail, outer loop. Mulligan Trailhead. Binoculars suggested.

Look and listen for birds of all kinds with birders Meaghan Petix and Nour Salam. The Mulligan Trail is a retired golf course that provides the perfect mix of open spaces and edge habitat for birding and wildlife viewing. The Mulligan trailhead is located at the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This hike has ~142-foot ascent and is consider easy.

8:15AM – S03 - Bryophytes and Ferns Hike, Dr. Allen Risk

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is a **difficult, 0.8-mile hike with steep hills and rocks.** Trailhead and parking at the Cascade Caverns parking lot. (38.3557, -83.1116). Box Canyon Loop Trail. Trailhead is an ~10-minute drive from Lewis Caveland Lodge.

Join Dr. Allen Risk of Morehead State University on a walk through unusual geologic features such as Cascade Natural Bridge, Box Canyon and the Wind Tunnel to learn about the non-flowering, seedless plants of Carter Caves SRP. These organisms are best appreciated with magnification, so a handlens is suggested. This hike has steep hills and rocks to navigate, and is considered difficult.

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:Wildflower focus :Woody focus :Fungi focus :Insect focus :Bat focus :Seedless Plant focus :Nonvascular focus

8:30AM - S04 - Naturalist Hike, Boyd Hopkins

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is an **easy, 1.0 mile in-and-out hike with a ~76-foot ascent**. Trailhead and parking at boat ramp (38.36681, -83.13009). 4Cs Trail to Kiser Hollow. Trailhead is a ~5-minute drive from Lewis Caveland Lodge.

Join Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves natural areas technician Boyd Hopkins on this naturalist walk through the rich woods along Smokey Valley Lake. This is a casual walk for the all-around nature enthusiast, as the hike leader will talk about botany, birds and beyond. The hike will be on a portion of the 4C's trail, from the Smokey Valley Lake boat ramp to the head of Kiser Hollow. This hike has ~76-foot ascent and is consider easy.

8:45AM – S05 - Canby's Mountain Lover Hike, Tara Littlefield

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is a **moderately difficult off-trail hike with a steep uphill ascent**. Location not advertised due to site sensitivity. ~5 min drive to parking area.

*Join Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves botanist Tara Littlefield on a hike to see the state critically imperiled and globally imperiled Canby's Mountain Lover (*Paxistima canbyi*). This is an off-trail hike with a steep uphill ascent and is considered moderately difficult. This hike has limited capacity due to sensitivity of site.*

9:00AM – S06 - Woody Plants Hike, Vanessa Stevens & Ted Brancheau

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is **moderately difficult hike of 0.75 miles with ~182-foot ascent**. Three Bridges Trail to *Smokey Valley Lake*. Trailhead at Lewis Caveland Lodge.

Join educator Vanessa Stevens and Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves biologist Ted Brancheau on a hike on Three Bridges Trail down to Smokey Valley Lake as they teach about the diversity of woody plants in the area. This hike will also feature Carter Caves SRP's largest arch, Smoky Bridge. This trail has ~182-foot ascent and is considered moderately difficult.

9:15AM – S07 - Wildflowers Hike, David Taylor

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is an **easy, 0.4-mile walk**. Natural Bridge Parking lot to Natural Bridge. Trailhead is ~5-minute drive from Lewis Caveland Lodge

Join US Forest Service botanist David Taylor as he teaches about the wildflowers in the area on this gentle walk to the massive limestone arch known as Natural Bridge. The rich soils of this area boast a wonderful spring ephemeral display. This hike has minimal elevation change and walking, and is considered a gentle activity.

9:30AM – S08 - Wildflowers Hike, Nate Parrish

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is a **difficult, 1.5-mile hike with ~294-foot ascent, with steep hills and stairs**. Horn Hollow Trail. Trailhead is at Welcome Center. Trailhead is ~5-minute drive from Lewis Caveland Lodge.

Join NEON botanist Nate Parrish on this hike around Horn Hollow as he teaches about the wildflowers in the area. This trail, besides having a welcoming spring wildflower display, features many cave entrances and scenic overlooks. This trail has ~294-foot ascent and is considered difficult. Horn Hollow Trail has steep hills and stairs.

10:00AM - S09 - Wildflower Wander: An Exploration for Young Adventurers, Carey Ruff

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. An **easy hike of 0.25 miles downhill**. Three Bridges Trail, section from Lewis Cave Lodge to Pool Picnic Shelter.

Join Kentucky State Parks Carey Ruff on a stroll specifically designed for children to explore the vibrant world of wildflowers and the pollinators that help them thrive! This adventure aims to foster a deeper appreciation for nature and enhance observation skills through interactive activities along the trail. The activity ends at the Pool Picnic Shelter area, which has a covered shelter, picnic tables, restrooms, a small playground and a basketball court. This area is a perfect place for families to spend lunch time together outdoors.

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 :Wildflower focus :Woody focus :Fungi focus :Insect focus :Bat focus :Seedless Plant focus :Nonvascular focus

11:30AM-1:00PM: Lunch on Your Own

Pack a lunch, visit the Tierney's Cavern Restaurant at the Lewis Caveland Lodge in CCSRP, or visit local restaurants in the area.

Please be gracious to our hosts at CCSRP and be understanding of any delays in service. WW grows larger every year, and we have grown into a lot of mouths to feed! Be prepared with snacks and other food options during the weekend. There are many picnic tables and shelters in CCSRP that are great spots to enjoy a meal outdoors. Check the KNPS WW registration desk for information on food and drink options in the area.

Saturday, April 12th – Afternoon Hikes

1:00PM - 3:00PM - Student Poster Session

Lewis Caveland Lodge in the Grayson Room.

Learn about the botanical research Kentucky's higher education students are conducting during KNPS's first ever Wildflower Weekend Student Poster Session! The poster session is walk through and should be enjoyed at your own pace.

1:00PM – S11 - “X Cave” Tour, Carter Caves State Resort Park Recreation Staff

\$10, Pre-register ONLY

Meet at the Welcome Center. This is an **easy to moderately difficult hike of 0.25 miles with 75 stairs and some narrow passages and stooping**. This tour last approx. 45 mins. Tour begins at the Welcome Center.

“X-Cave” has two vertical joint passages that meander through a large layer of limestone, putting you up-close to beautiful cave formations. The name of this cave refers to the configuration of its passages which cross in the center of the cave to form the letter “X”. Cave highlights include the Great Chandelier, the largest formation of stalactites in the cave, cave coral, and formations with such tell-tale names as the Giant Turkey, the Pipe Organ and Headache Rock.

1:00PM – S12 - Ferns Hike, Dr. Sally Chambers

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is a **moderately difficult 1.2-mile hike with ~309-foot ascent with hills and a set of stairs**. Lewis Caveland Lodge to Three Bridges Trail to Raven Ridge Trail.

Hike with Eastern Kentucky University’s Dr. Sally Chambers as she teaches about the area’s native ferns. In addition to learning about some of Kentucky’s seedless botanicals, the hike will also feature the delicately balanced sandstone arch known as Raven Bridge. This hike has a ~309-foot ascent and is considered moderately difficult with hills and a set of stairs.

1:15PM - S13 - Wildflower and Geology Hike, Ron Jones & Mark Sweet

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is a **difficult, 1.0-mile hike with steep hills and rocks**. Trailhead and parking at the Cascade Caverns parking lot. (38.3557, -83.1116). Box Canyon Loop Trail. Trailhead is an ~10-minute drive from Lewis Caveland Lodge.

Join Ron Jones, retired professor from ECU and Mark Sweet, Geologist and Owner of ProComp Services, on an adventurous hike through unusual geologic features such as Cascade Natural Bridge, Box Canyon and the Wind Tunnel. Hike leaders will talk on the unique geology of Carter Caves SRP and the wildflowers that call it home.

1:30PM - S14 - Fantastic Fungi and Where to Find Them, Megan Buland & Fenner Morse

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is a **moderately difficult hike of 0.5 miles with ~106-foot ascent**. Three Bridges Trail to Smoky Bridge to Lewis Caveland Lodge. Trailhead at Lewis Caveland Lodge.

Walk with UK’s Megan Buland and Bluegrass Mycological Society’s Fenner Morse on a section Three Bridges Trail to learn about the area’s fantastic fungi and their habitats. A handlens is suggested to fully appreciate these small specimens. This hike has ~106-foot ascent and is considered moderately difficult.

:Hike :Cave Tour :Kid's Activity :Gentle and Easy Activity :Carpooling :Binoculars Recommended :Handlens Recommended
:Wildflower focus :Woody focus :Fungi focus :Insect focus :Bat focus :Seedless Plant focus :Nonvascular focus

1:45PM – S15 - Evolutionary Relationships of Wildflowers and Ferns, Judson Collins

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is a **difficult, 1.5-mile hike with ~294-foot ascent, with steep hills and stairs**. Horn Hollow Trail. Trailhead is at Welcome Center. Trailhead is ~5-minute drive from Lewis Caveland Lodge

Hike Horn Hollow Trail with botanist Judson Collins as you learn about the fascinating evolutionary relationships of wildflowers and ferns. This trail, besides having a welcoming spring wildflower display, features many cave entrances and scenic overlooks. This trail has ~294-foot ascent and is considered difficult. Horn Hollow Trail has steep hills and stairs.

2:00PM – S16 - Wildflower ID for Beginners, Alan Abbott

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is an **easy, 1.0 mile in-and-out hike with a ~76-foot ascent**. Trailhead and parking at the boat ramp (38.36681, -83.13009). 4Cs Trail to Kiser Hollow. Trailhead is a ~5-minute drive from Lewis Caveland Lodge.

Join Kentucky Native Plant Society's Alan Abbott on this walk for wildflower beginners through the rich woods along Smokey Valley Lake. This is a great hike for someone just getting into their spring wildflowers. The hike will be on a portion of the 4C's trail, from the Smokey Valley Lake boat ramp to the head of Kiser Hollow.

2:15PM – S17 - Wildflower Hike, Nate Parrish

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is a **moderately difficult ~0.9-mile out-and-back hike with ~164-foot ascent**. Three Bridges Trail. Parking and trailhead by CCSRP cottages. (38.37209, -83.11725)

Join NEON botanist Nate Parrish on this hike to Fern Bridge as he teaches about the wildflowers in the area. This trail, besides having a welcoming spring wildflower display, features scenic overlooks and Fern Bridge. This trail has ~164-foot ascent and is considered moderately difficult.

2:30PM – S18 - Spring Wildflowers and Their Bug Friends, Rachel Cook & Viktor Halmos

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is a **moderately difficult 1.2-mile hike with ~309-foot ascent with hills and a set of stairs**. Lewis Caveland Lodge to Three Bridges Trail to Raven Ridge Trail.

Join Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves botanist Rachel Cook and University of Kentucky agroecologist Viktor Halmos on a hike to enjoy the spring wildflowers and explore their relationships with insects. This hike will walk you through the dynamics of host plants, the foraging of insects, and the importance of spring ephemerals.

2:30PM - S19 - Naturalist Hike, Boyd Hopkins

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is a **difficult, 1.0-mile hike with steep hills and rocks**. Trailhead and parking at the Cascade Caverns parking lot. (38.3557, -83.1116). Box Canyon Loop Trail. Trailhead is an ~10-minute drive from Lewis Caveland Lodge.

Join Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves natural areas technician Boyd Hopkins on this naturalist adventure through unusual geologic features such as Cascade Natural Bridge, Box Canyon and the Wind Tunnel. This is a casual walk for the all-around nature enthusiast, as the hike leaders will talk about botany, birds and beyond.

3:00PM – S20 - Kid's Activity, Isabel Cochran

Meet in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge. This is an **easy, 0.4 mile walk**. Parking lot and trailhead at Welcome Center. Natural Bridge Parking lot to Natural Bridge. Trailhead is ~5-minute drive from Lewis Caveland Lodge

Join environmental educator Isabel Cochran for a kid's nature hike to Carter Caves Natural Bridge. We will be identifying spring flowers and finding other exciting nature discoveries with a fun scavenger hunt! This hike has minimal elevation change and walking, and is considered a gentle activity.

4:30PM-6:30PM: Dinner on your own

Pack a meal, visit the Tierney's Cavern Restaurant at the Lewis Caveland Lodge in CCSRP, or visit local restaurants in the area.

Please be gracious to our hosts at CCSRP and be understanding of any delays in service. WW grows larger every year, and we have grown into a lot of mouths to feed! Be prepared with snacks and other food options during the weekend. There are many picnic tables and shelters in CCSRP that are great spots to enjoy a meal outdoors. Check the KNPS WW registration desk for information on food and drink options in the area.

Saturday, April 13th – Evening Talks

All events occur in the Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge.

6:00PM - 9:30PM - Informal Student Poster Session

The Grayson Room of the Lewis Caveland Lodge.

Learn about the botanical research Kentucky's higher education students are conducting during KNPS's first Wildflower Weekend Student Poster Session. Posters will be available for viewing throughout the evening.

6:30PM - Welcome/Introductions - Kendall McDonald

6:35PM - KNPS Business Meeting, Jeff Nelson

6:55PM - iNaturalist BotanyBlitz Results, Vanessa Voelker

iNaturalist BotanyBlitz lead Vanessa Voelker will give guests a preliminary update on the results of the BotanyBlitz, covering current rankings in the competition and featuring any interesting botanical finds.

7:00PM – Diversity of Mosses and Liverworts at Cave Entrances at Mammoth Cave National Park, Morghan McCool, PhD Candidate and Bryophyte Ecologist at University of Louisville

Learn about a small but fascinating group of non-vascular plants, the bryophytes, that survive and thrive in the unique micro-climates of the cave entrances of Mammoth Cave National Park. Bryophytes include mosses, liverworts and hornworts, which are thought to have evolved from ancestral green algae and are one of the earliest lineages of plants. Join bryophyte ecologist Morghan McCool as she covers the diversity of mosses and liverworts, highlighting state records, specialist species, rare taxa and the importance of geology and the cave environment in maintaining these species.

7:30PM - Lichens of Carter Caves State Resort Park, Dr. Allen Risk

Learn about the lichens of Carter Caves State Resort Park from Morehead State University's Dr. Allen Risk, who has been conducting inventories of the area. More details to come.

8:15PM - Break

8:25 PM - Forests, Carbon and Climate Change, Mary Arthur

Globally, forests play an outsize role in climate regulation. Join forest ecologist and University of Kentucky professor emeritus Mary Arthur for a captivating talk on forests and climate change. This presentation will serve as a primer on climate science, seen through the lens of forests and forest carbon cycling, to elucidate the ways in which forests and forest management impact climate.

9:25PM - Q & A Session/Raffle Set up

9:35PM - Raffle

This year's raffle prizes include Weekend 2025 Logo Merch, native plants, native plant art, pottery, books and more. More details to come.

Sunday, April 13th – All Day

All Day: Last Day of iNaturalist BotanyBlitz

By popular demand, KNPS keeps the iNaturalist BotanyBlitz going the Sunday after the event to give participants one last chance to snag the prizes!

All Day: Explore Carter Caves State Resort Park on Your Own

Carter Caves SRP has way more to offer beyond what KNPS was able to show you through our guided hikes on Friday and Saturday. Take Sunday to explore any parts of the part you didn't get to see.