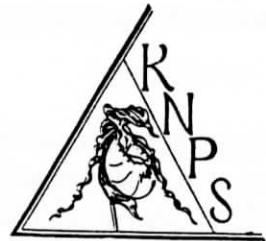


# The Lady-Slipper

The Official Newsletter of the Kentucky Native Plant Society



Volume 12, Number 3

Summer/Fall 1997

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## President's Message

David A. Eakin

Well, here we are - moving past the autumnal equinox into those increasingly short days of Fall. Programs, summer walks and seasonal activities are coming to a close for our families and the Native Plant Society, but a great opportunity has come about in reference to our Fall meeting. Our annual Spring Wildflower weekend in concert with Natural Bridge State Resort Park has always been a great success. This year we believe we have found an excellent location for our Fall KNPS meeting.

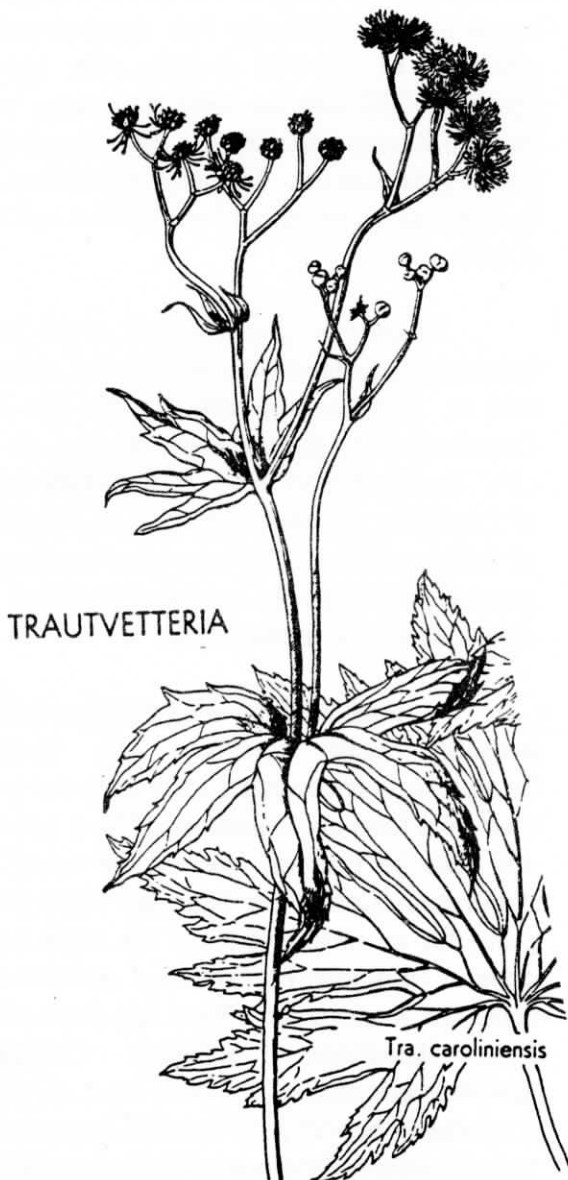
Thanks to Linda Sanford of the Isaac Bernheim Foundation, our KNPS Fall meeting will be held in conjunction with the Fall ColorFest at Bernheim Forest, October 18-19, 1997. Bernheim Forest, set in the Knobs south of Louisville, includes more than 12,000 acres of forest and about 2000 acres of landscaped grounds. This facility is centrally located for almost all of our membership.

A number of activities and hikes will be available both Saturday and Sunday. Picnicking is encouraged for those who bring their own food and a number of food vendors will also be present. We will be using the Arboretum Center on Saturday night [6:00 p.m.] for an introduction to the work being done at Bernheim Forest and a presentation about the preservation efforts and plans of the Isaac Bernheim Foundation. Children's activities are planned for both days, so this is a wonderful opportunity to instill appreciation and enjoyment of the out-of-doors in potential

future botanists. We hope this will be the start of a mutually beneficial relationship for the Kentucky Native Plant Society and Bernheim Forest. Come and visit ColorFest and stay for our general meeting Saturday night!

*Dr. Dave*

David Eakin may be reached at Biological Sciences Department, Eastern Kentucky University (606) 622-2258.



## *Field Trip Report*

### **Summer at May Prairie, Coffee County, Tennessee**

*Clara Yates Wieland*

I learned two things on this trip: one, I do not speak enough Latin and two, Tennessee Native Plant people do get up early for field trips contrary to our leader Jack Carman's comments. Five KNPS and 12 TNPS members met in Manchester, Tennessee at 7 a.m. The day started relatively cool but was very warm by mid-day. Traveling through Kentucky the day before, it was dry at Clay Memorial forest near Campbellsville, and at the Cedars of Lebanon State Park in Tennessee. Thankfully, this deep-soiled May Prairie was wet enough for some spectacular blooming.

As I stepped through the row of trees and shrubs that border the May Prairie, I almost ran into a lady looking at a shrub. She asked me if I knew what it was and I gave her the common name, "Button Bush." She replied that she really didn't want to hear that as she was learning Latin names only. She indicated that she would move forward to hear what the leader said. It was a day to stay close to those knowledgeable because I saw many unfamiliar plants. After all, at home my neck of the woods is the woods.

The first flowering plants I, being an orchid nut, saw were the beautiful white racemes of the Snowy orchid (*Platanthera nivea*). They were everywhere! The Prairie was burned in the spring and with reduced competition from the grasses these orchids were just spectacular. I stopped to smell them. They have a sweet buttery fragrance. Almost as outstanding was the Coastal False Asphodel

(*Tofieldia racemosa*) of the lily family. Several Parsley family plants, Hairy Angelica (*Angelica venosa*), Rattlesnake-Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), Big Mock-Bishop's Weed (*Ptilimnium costatum*), and Water Parsnip (*Sium suave*), were also flowering. There were many composites in bloom including White-topped Aster (*Aster tortifolius*), Thoroughwort (*Eupatorium sp.*), Hairy Sunflower (*Helianthus mollis*), Blazing Star (*Liatris sp.*), and Rosinweed (*Silphium sp.*). The tall yellow Prairie Dock (*Silphium pinnatifidum*), with large basal cut leaves, was just beginning to cover most of the area. The flowers of Coppery St. John's Wort (*Hypericum denticulatum*) reminded me of the children's pinwheel toy. We also saw three other *Hypericum* species.

One of my grasslands favorites, Blue-hearts (*Buchnera americana*), was just starting to bloom. The uncommon Yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris torta*), not a grass, (--maybe there is something to that "learn the Latin name" idea), was also present. The Rose-Pink (*Sabatia anularis*), a different species than what we usually see and Maryland Meadow-Beauty (*Rhexia mariana*) were at the Prairie. Although this was not my first trip to May Prairie, it was my first time to see Tassel-Rue (*Trautvetteria carolinensis*).

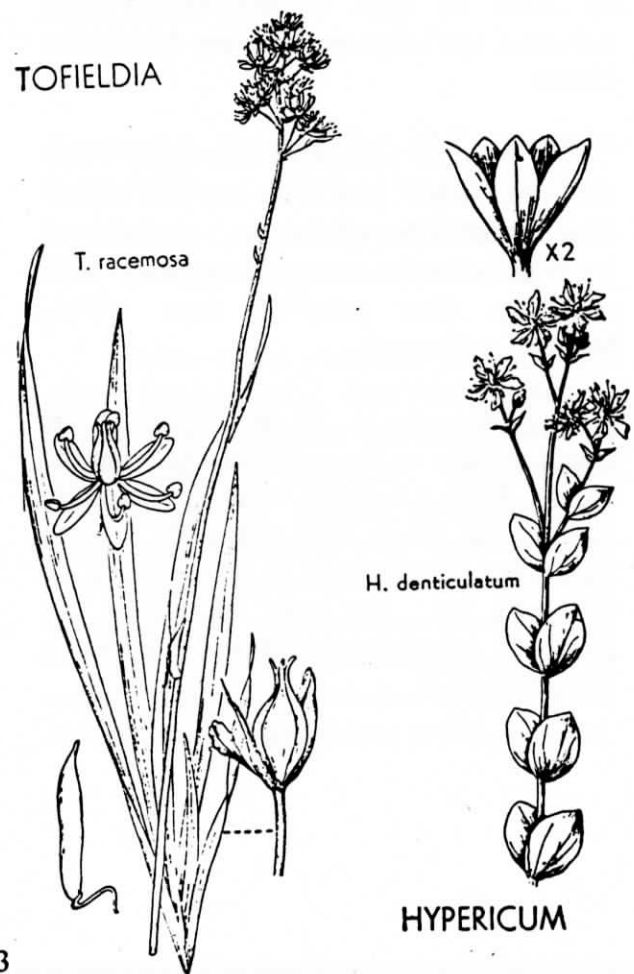
There were certainly many other species, but before the members become bored with lists, there were two more orchids. They were Spring Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes vernalis*) and a new one for me, the Southern Rein Orchid (*Platanthera flava*) with small delicate greenish-white flowers.

To top it all, the troop discovered a mass of Naked Bladderwort (*Utricularia cornuta*). Jack Carman believes that this is only the second site recorded for this aquatic plant in Tennessee! That is amazing as this

prairie is so often studied. As he says we all tend to have the attitude "been there, done that" and perhaps we need to realize "that ain't necessarily so."

We took a quick side trip to the nearby AEDC (Air Force Base) power lines. It was full of, guess what, another blooming orchid, the Large Yellow Fringe Orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*) and Butterfly-Pea (*Clitoria mariana*).

When the field trip was over, Mike and Jean Flynn and I followed Ms. Jensen (TNPS) to an old hotel in Wartrace for lunch. Delightful! Arriving home Sunday I brought with me many new experiences with prairie and grassland plants and about fifty chigger bites. That is what one pays to see these special places. Suggestion: use sulphur powder, change clothes as soon as possible and enjoy the visit!



## Events & Announcements:

### KNPS Fall Meeting in Conjunction with Bernheim Arboretum ColorFest '97

Come enjoy Autumn fun for the entire family with the first KNPS Fall meeting held in conjunction with ColorFest at Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest in Clermont, Kentucky.

The program will run Saturday, October 18, from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 19, from noon to 5:00 p.m. A featured presentation on botanical research at Bernheim Forest will be held 6:00 p.m. Saturday at the Arboretum Center for KNPS members. Activities on both days include guided arboretum walks, live music, carriage rides, refreshments and hikes on the more than 30 miles of trails in Bernheim Forest. Activities will originate from the Arboretum Center.

Children's activities include an "I Spy Adventure Trail," play in the hay pile, natural bird feeder kits, nature art, giant mural painting, clowns, nature discoveries tent, magicians, face painting, story telling, balloons, and more!

Admission is \$5 per vehicle. Come spend the day or the weekend and bring the family! From Louisville take the Bernheim Forest exit (Exit 112) off I-65. From Bardstown, Bernheim is 15 minutes west on KY Hwy 245. For more information call Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest at (502) 955-8512.

## Educational Opportunities

### ☛ KNPS Certification Program in Native Plant Studies

Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest near Clermont, Kentucky now affords an additional location for classes leading to KNPS Certification in Native Plant Studies. West central Kentucky area residents have an opportunity to expand and enrich their knowledge of native plants and their conservation.

Certification is based on completion of the following **six core courses**:

**Basic Botany for the Amateur Naturalist**  
**Plant Ecology for the Amateur Naturalist**  
**Plant Taxonomy for the Amateur Naturalist**  
**Plant Communities of Kentucky**  
**Kentucky Wildflowers (Fall and Spring)**  
**Kentucky Trees and Shrubs**

And completion of at least three of the following **special topic courses**:

**How to Know the Kentucky Mosses**  
**How to Know the Sedges of Kentucky**  
**Field Methods for Native Plant Research**  
**Field Geology for the Amateur Naturalist**  
**Spring Wildflowers and Trees**  
**Aquatic Plants of Kentucky**  
**Kentucky Wildflower Keying**  
**Field Botany**  
**Gardening with Native Plants**  
**Rare Plant Conservation**

Special Achievement Certification is also available for those interested in completing a research project as part of the certification process.



Over the next two years, Bernheim will offer as many of these courses as possible. For more information on the course offerings at Bernheim Forest, please call (502) 955-8512.

For general information about the KNPS Certification program and course offerings at Eastern Kentucky University, please contact: Dr. Ron Jones at (606) 622-6257.

### 1997-1998 KNPS Certification Course Offerings:

**Basic Botany for the Amateur Naturalist:** *Varley Weideman, Ph.D., Bernheim Science & Education Advisor.*

If you have ever wondered why and how plants are put together so differently than animals (both inside and out), then you will discover a new world of exciting information from this study. Hands-on learning for every participant will be available. You will learn how plants function in ecosystems as photosynthetic machines, and why none of us could exist on the planet without them. This introductory course for the amateur naturalist assumes no previous background in botany or science.

Time: 9 a.m. to noon, 4 Saturdays, *October 25 through November 15*

Place: Bernheim Arboretum Center

Fee: \$50 members, \$60 non-members (book fee \$15-\$20)

Limit: 20 participants

Registration: Bernheim Arboretum, (502) 955-8512.

**Soil-Higher Plant Interactions:** *Gary L. Janicke Ph.D., EKV Agriculture Department.*

This course will provide a hands-on approach to understanding the soil-plant environment. It is designed for the amateur naturalist interested in plant community development. The basic factors associated with physical, chemical and biological soil properties and how they relate to the development of plant communities will be the focus of this four week course. Instruction will include outdoor and indoor laboratories with some lecture presentation for introduction of concepts.

Time: 9 a.m. to Noon, Saturdays, *October 25-November 15*

Place: Carter Bldg. Rm 12, EKV Campus

Tuition: \$76.

Registration: EKV Special Programs at (606) 622-1228

**Kentucky Mosses for the Amateur Naturalist:** KNPS Special Topic Certification Course. *David A Eakin, Ph.D. EKV Biological Sciences Department.*

How in the world can you recognize mosses and liverworts? Take this introductory course in the collection and identification of the bryophytes of Kentucky! This weekend workshop is for amateur naturalists and wildflower enthusiasts who want to know how to identify the mosses and liverworts they encounter. We will emphasize recognition of common species using a hand-lens. An equal amount of time will be devoted to both lecture and field work. Hand-lenses will be provided.

This workshop will be held at Maywoods, EKU's 1700 acre environmental education laboratory southwest of Richmond. Optional overnight (semi-private) accommodations will be available at Maywoods Lodge free of charge. The evening and breakfast meals will be "potluck style."

Please register by *November 14*. Directions and other information will be mailed upon receipt of paid registration.

Time: Saturday, Noon through Sunday 1 p.m.  
*November 22-23*

Place: Maywoods

Tuition: \$49.

Registration: EKU Special Programs at (606) 622-1228.

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**Plant Ecology for the Amateur Naturalist:** *Varley Wiedeman, Ph.D., Bernheim Science & Education Advisor*

This course is for the amateur naturalist and no previous background in botany or science is expected. This winter class will be taught primarily indoors, but occasionally outdoor visits will be made to Bernheim sites. Topics to be covered will include environment factors and plant distributions, life-history patterns, species interactions, communities and succession.

Time: 9 a.m. to noon, 4 Saturdays, *February 1 through February 22*

Place: Bernheim Arboretum Center

Fee: \$50 members, \$60 non-members (book fee \$15-\$20)

Limit: 30 participants

Registration: Bernheim Arboretum at (502) 955-8512.

### *Editor's Note*

Tim Weckman

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the KNPS Newsletter during the year. The newsletter is sustained by the input of the members and generous botanists and plant lovers, professional and amateur alike.

Our recent survey identified the types of articles the membership would like to read. We need articles on rare plants, plant communities, field trip reports (thanks Clara!), and weedy species articles.

Our society has grown tremendously in the past year. With about 750 members, the KNPS is almost as large as the Kentucky Academy of Science, and the regional Southern Appalachian Botanical Society.

Here's the rub. I currently have no articles for the final issue of 1997! This is a recurring problem for us in part because we are an all volunteer organization and we do not pay contributing authors. If you have articles you would like to see in the newsletter, send them or the ideas to me. I will continue to contact potential authors for articles on additional topics.

I enjoy producing the quarterly newsletter, but can't send it if there isn't any content. If you would like to become more involved in the Kentucky Native Plant Society please call me directly at (606) 622-1533 days or (606) 986-7764 evenings.

## KNPS Field Trips & Events for 1997

Clara Wieland -- KNPS Field Trip Coordinator

These are our events for the remainder of the year. The KNPS Fall General Meeting will be held in conjunction with Bernheim Forest Colorfest October 18-19, at Bernheim Forest. We are busy working on the excursion calendar for 1998, if you have trip ideas or suggestions please call *Clara Wieland* at (606) 266-5548.

### **October 25, 1997. Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. What the Heck is This One? - Trees and Shrubs without Leaves--*Ross Clark***

Woody plants in winter condition offer us almost as many clues for identification as they do during the growing season. Join Dr. Ross Clark, ECU Biology Department Chair, to learn structures, textures, forms, colors and other features that will allow you to nail down your woody plant identifications (to the species level) any time of the year. Meet at Berea Woods/Indian Fort Theater parking area, Hwy 21, southeast of Berea, Ky. No limit. For additional information please call Dr. Clark at (606) 622-1531.

### **November 15, 1997. Saturday 1 p.m. Wildflowers, Wildlife and Landscapes of the Prairie and Rocky Mountains *Becky and Steve Sensenig with Sherri Evans & Mary Carol Cooper***

This is a multifaceted activity for late fall at the Salato Wildlife Education Center in Frankfort, Kentucky. First, wildflower enthusiasts and photography buffs Becky and Steve Sensenig will share their western states trip from the summer of 1996. Also, Sherri Evans, Director of the Native plant program at the center, and assistant, Mary Carol Cooper, will show us the native plant gardens and tell us about the native plant program there. Refreshments will be served. You can also visit the Salato Center and the gift shop either before or after the event. NOTE: There is a \$2.00 admission fee to enter the Salato Center. This is a great way to spend a November afternoon and a great opportunity to visit with all your Kentucky Native Plant Society members. Meet at the Salato Center. From I-64 at Frankfort, take exit 53B to US 127 north and travel 1.5 miles to left turn on US 60. Drive 1.7 miles west on US 60 to the entrance of Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources Game Farm. Proceed straight ahead for 0.5 mile to parking area for Salato Wildlife Education Center and Kentucky Afield Gift Shop. Speed limit is 15 mph. Come all!

**Kentucky Native Plant Society 1997 Membership Form**

Memberships are for calendar year (Jan-Dec). Dues are modest, please keep your membership current. Membership expiration is listed at the top of your mailing label.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

KY County \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark membership category, enclose **check** (please do not send cash) payable to "KNPS", and remit to: KNPS Membership, c/o Biology Department, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY 40475

Membership Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership (\$7.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership (\$10.00) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime Individual (\$100.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime Family (\$140.00)

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Richmond, KY 40475

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