

The Lady-Slipper



The Official Newsletter of the Kentucky Native Plant Society
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Native Plants - *in Their Place*

Deborah White

When rare plants are in the way of development it's natural to try to find a compromise between the preservationists and developers. Often the answer seems to be to move the plant to a protected site. In talking with people about endangered plants and their plight - I wish I had a dollar for every time someone said, "We'll move it somewhere else." I'd be rich! Most of these are earnest proposals made by those genuinely interested in the welfare of the plants.

If plants become rare it is logical to think we can warehouse or grow more individuals at protected sites and then plant them out in new safe places. Of course the need for a strategy of plant protection will become more pressing as undeveloped land becomes more scarce and our native flora disappears. Will relocating plants work or is this approach to plant conservation flawed?

Ecosystems are complex. We don't fully understand all the relationships that contribute to success of an individual population - much less the system as a whole. We know little about the life histories of most plants. For example, there is recent evidence of interconnections between trees and indications that one tree may supplement the productivity of a neighboring tree. There is new information about complementary plant-fungal relations that contribute to a population's success.

In Kentucky, our work with Price's potato bean, a rare vine in the western part of the state, points up how little is known about rare plant biology. All indications were that the potato bean



would love a year with a lot of rain but we found these populations decline in wet years. The complexity of plant relationships and conditions within populations that contribute to a plant's success are largely unstudied.

There is no terra nova. Not knowing what will happen when we move plants and create new habitats may be acceptable under experimental conditions but too risky when it is used as a permanent solution to plant conservation. We should be concerned about the recipient habitat also. A flora is already functioning at these sites and other species may be displaced by the introduction of new plants. Many examples of these types of problems exist in vertebrate conservation efforts. Consider the outcome of introducing one species as a biocontrol for another species. No one dreamed that the Nutria, an animal introduced into Louisiana to control exotic aquatic weeds, would itself become a nuisance. We cannot predict what will happen when ecosystems are manipulated.

Mortality rates are high for relocated plants and success at creating natural communities is low. There is little assurance that a plant will establish at a new place - it may or may not. Individuals may do well for a year or more, while they're still in the soil they were moved in, then decline. To know if a plant has become integrated into a new site may take years. By that time the original habitat is often gone.

We have learned a valuable lesson from wetland regulations and policies in the 1980s. These "no net loss" laws allowed the destruction of wetlands with the promise that new ones would be created (by scraping out an area and planting wetland vegetation). In Florida, one of the few states to have monitored the success of these projects, it has been found that 97 % of freshwater wetland projects failed. Wetland protection policies now emphasize restoration of existing wetlands and rarely allow creation.

Mixing populations can be dangerous. Natural populations of the same plant have different genetic make-up's, even in species that are very localized. Mixing in new genes from

another population can undermine the plant's ability to react to the vagaries of its environment or could enhance it. Certainly, gene exchange occurs between populations but this is a natural process that occurs at low levels and very slowly.

Much current thinking among conservation biologists has shifted away from saving the single rare plant. Conservation efforts are now more often focused on the plant's ecosystem. We should be concerned with the loss of that species' contribution to a healthy ecosystem, not the preservation of species in gardens, roadsides, or anywhere outside its natural distribution. A plant species removed from its native habitat becomes disconnected from the natural forces that have created it.

Relocating a plant is sometimes the only way to save a species. There have been a few successful re-introductions, where plants from a failing population in a habitat that is to be restored are grown off-site and re-introduced into the original site. In this way the original plants from the site are maintained. A protection plan that results in moving plants and introducing them in new environments probably failed at attempts to save the species at natural locations. Not even endangered species biologists agree on where or when species should be moved but we agree that one intact ecosystem is worth more than lots of small pieces of ecosystems. In plant conservation, the whole is worth more than the sum of its parts. Deborah White is a botanist with the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission. She may be reached at (502) 573-2886.

Spotted Wintergreen



Chimaphila maculata

Kentucky Native Plant Society General Meeting and Wildflower Weekend 1998

Friday-Sunday, May 1-3

The annual KNPS Spring general meeting will be held in conjunction with Wildflower Weekend at Natural Bridge State Resort Park, Slade, Kentucky. The Wildflower Weekend includes guest speakers, field trips, workshops, and children's activities.

This is an election year for the Kentucky Native Plant Society for all officers and directors positions. A Nominating Committee chaired by Ron Jones is arranging a slate of candidates. To suggest a candidate or provide input please call the nominating committee chair at (606) 622-3056 or (606) 622-6257, or e-mail: biojones@acs.eku.edu. KNPS elections are by vote in person at the spring meeting. All KNPS members are encouraged to attend the 7:30 p.m. Saturday general meeting and elections.

All events originate at Hemlock Lodge. A complete activity and field trip schedule will be available at the registration table.

Friday, May 1

- 3:00 PM Registration opens at Hemlock Lodge \$4/person; \$6/family
- 3:30 PM Wildflower walk for early arrivals
- 8:00 PM Evening Program - Activities Center: Guest Speaker: Dr. Gary Ritchison, Eastern Kentucky University will speak on Neotropical Migrant Birds

Saturday, May 2

- 7:30 AM Bird Walk
- 8:30 AM Morning Field Trips I
- 9:00 AM Morning Field Trips II
- 1:00 PM Afternoon Field Trips
- 7:30 PM KNPS Annual Spring Meeting and Election of Officers - Activities Center
- 8:00 PM Evening Program - Activities Center: Guest Speaker: Dr. David K. Smith, University of Tennessee will speak on Flora of the Great Smoky Mountains and the All Taxa Biological Inventory

Sunday, May 3

- 7:00 AM Bird Walk
- 9:00 AM Morning Field Trips
- Noon Wildflower Weekend Adjourns

For further information call Natural Bridge State Resort Park at 1 (800) 325-1710 or KNPS President David Eakin at (606) 622-2258.

1998 KNPS Course Offerings

Plant Taxonomy for the Amateur Naturalist

Varley Wiedeman, Ph.D., Bernheim Science and Education Advisor

3 Saturdays: May 23, 30, & June 6

This course for the amateur naturalist requires no previous background in taxonomy. It will provide excellent preparation for upcoming identification classes like Kentucky Wildflowers and Kentucky Trees and Shrubs. The focus will be on the terminology and techniques that allow you to identify plants using taxonomic keys. Emphasis will be on recognition of plant families and practice identifying a variety of plants. Making a reference plant collection will be included in the class. An hour break for lunch will be provided.

Time: 9 am to 2 pm

Place: Arboretum Center, Bernheim Forest, Clermont, Ky

Fee: \$50 members; \$60 non-members (plus text book)

Limit: 20 participants

Contact: Bernheim Forest (502) 955-8512

Coastal Vegetation

Ronald Jones, Ph.D., Biological Sciences Department, Eastern Kentucky University

May 25-June 26

A broad study of general and specific aspects of coastal vegetation, with emphasis on local examples such as swamps, savannahs, woodlands, strand and island (insular) vegetation, and certain unique areas.

Vegetational composition, variation, succession, climax, and distribution including survey and descriptive methods, plant identification, delineation of vegetational types and mapping.

Prerequisites: 10 sem. hrs. of Biology, including general botany.

Place: Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Ocean Springs, Mississippi

Fee: Tuition, textbook, and room and board fees assessed

Contacts: Dr. Ron Jones (606) 622-3056;
Gulf Coast Research Lab (228)
872-4201.

Kentucky Mosses for the Amateur Naturalist

David A. Eakin, Ph.D. Biological Sciences Department, Eastern Kentucky University

2 Saturdays: March 28 & April 4

How in the world can you recognize mosses and liverworts? Take this introductory course in the collection and identification of the bryophytes of Kentucky. These Saturday workshops are for all amateur naturalists and wildflower enthusiasts who have ever wondered how to identify the mosses and liverworts they encounter. Emphasis will be placed on recognizing the most 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.

Time: 9 am to noon

Place: Moore 202, ECU Campus, Richmond

Limit: 12 participants

Contacts: Dr. Eakin (606) 622-2258, or ECU
Special Programs (606) 622-1228

KNPS Awards Three Grants in 1997

David Taylor

The KNPS board voted final approval for three grants at the Fall Business Meeting. The Undergraduate Student Field Botany Research Grant was awarded to Carey Hale. Carey is working in the laboratory of Dr. Zack Murrell at Western Kentucky University. Ms. Hale is using the \$250 research grant award in updating the species list for the Raymond Athey Barrens Preserve in Logan County.

Two Native Plant Demonstration Garden proposals were also approved for grant funding. Ms. Rebecca Apgar of Centerfield Elementary, Crestwood, Kentucky sponsored a proposal for the construction of a native wildflower garden to be used in science education. Ms. Deborah Carpenter of Berea Community School, Berea, Kentucky also proposed additions to an existing native wildflower garden to be used in science education. Each school will receive \$250 to use toward the purchase of native plants to stock the gardens.

David D. Taylor is chair of the KNPS Grant Committee, and a botanist with the US Forest Service. He may be reached at (606) 745-3167.

1998 Kentucky Wildflower of the Year Selected !

Sherri Evans

The 1998 Wildflower of the Year is the Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*). It was nominated by Joyce L. Porter of Falls Rough, Kentucky, who described it as "a colorful, late

summer or early fall bloomer, good for wet or damp places in the yard or garden, and hummingbirds love it." It also attracts large butterflies such as monarchs and swallowtails and makes a showy cut flower.



Lobelia cardinalis

Wildflower of the Year (WOY) is a cooperative effort between the Kentucky Native Plant Program (Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources) and the Kentucky Native Plant Society. The main goals of the program are to increase public awareness of the diversity of native plants in Kentucky and to promote their conservation in the wild and their use in landscaping that benefits wildlife. To achieve these goals we felt the species should: (1) be native, common and widespread in Kentucky and (2) be available from local or mail order nurseries. Of the nominations we received, 'Cardinal Flower best met these criteria.

In order to promote conservation and use of the Cardinal Flower, the Native Plant Program will be offering free seed packets to schools, garden clubs and conservation groups who are interested in displaying the WOY in a

public garden or landscape. Seed packets will be available around mid-March. As quantities will be limited, contact Sherri Evans now (502-564-7863) (e-mail: sevens@mail.state.ky.us) to reserve a supply.

Thanks to everyone who nominated a plant! Nominations will again be taken next fall (look for the notice in this newsletter).

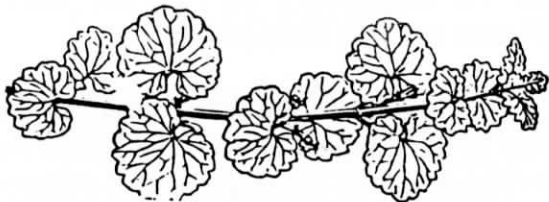
Sherri Evans is a founding member of the Kentucky Native Plant Society, and Director of the Kentucky Native Plant Program, at the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Frankfort, Ky.

Announcements & Events

Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Control Council Symposium

March 26-28
Chattanooga, Tennessee

This 5th annual event will include number of nationally recognized speakers on the control and management of exotic plants and the use of native plants in landscape design and restoration. Numerous field trips are also planned for the Chattanooga area. The conference organizers plan this meeting as the springboard for the creation of a Southeastern Exotic Pest Plant Council. For registration information and a program call 1 (800) 449-6339.



Glechoma hederacea Ground ivy

a common weed in the Mint family
naturalized from Europe

Springfest/Wildflower Weekend at Mammoth Cave National Park

April 18-19, 1998

Three hundred fifty flower lovers can't be wrong. That's how many traipsed through Cedar Sink, Turnhole Bend, the Big Woods, and Ugly Creek last year during Mammoth Cave National Park's Springfest/Wildflower Weekend. Come again April 18-19 and see these wonderful places and the spectacular wildflowers they harbor. Experts from The Nature Conservancy, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, Kentucky Native Plant Society and others in the know will lead the way, pointing out spring blossoms and birds.

Once again the Karstlands Juried Arts Exhibition will grace Mammoth Cave Hotel, musicians will perform folk and bluegrass at the visitor center. The Springfest Natural Arts Market, sponsored by the Friends of Mammoth Cave National Park, will present sellers of arts and crafts, native plants and books at the Cave City Convention Center. For a free brochure on all Springfest and Wildflower Weekend activities, call Vickie Carson, Public Information Officer at (502) 758-2254, ext. 21.



Goodyera pubescens

Rattlesnake Plantain

Birding for Dummies Weekend

May 8-10, 1998

Jenny Wiley State Park & Pennyrile Forest State Park

Introductory birdwatching seminar at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park (800) 325-0142, and Pennyrile Forest State Resort Park (800) 325-1711. These are robust programs with speakers, guided birding outings and tips on native plants and plantings for attracting birds sponsored by Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Please call one of the above numbers for complete information.

WILD ONES, LTD- Natural Landscapers Chapter Formed

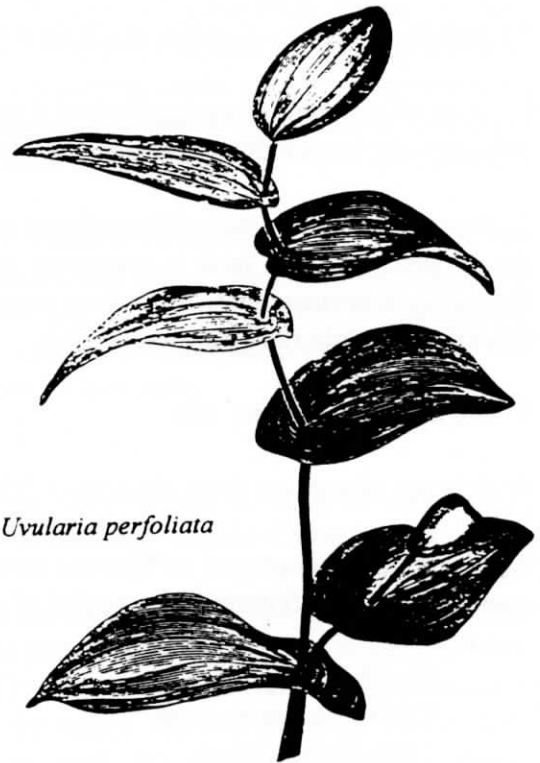
Wild Ones is a non-profit organization with a mission to educate and share information about native plants with members and their community at the 'plants-root' level and to promote biodiversity and environmentally sound practices. The diverse membership is interested in natural landscaping using native species in developing plant communities around the state.

Wild Ones organizational meeting was held January, 1998. Officers elected were: Connie May, President, Era McDonald, Vice-President, Amy Dearing, Secretary, and Mary Carol Cooper, Treasurer. Subsequent meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at Frankfort County Extension Office off highway 460. In

March we will be planting a habitat garden at Lakeview Park, and in April there will be a wildflower rescue in Central Kentucky.

If you are interested in choosing organic methods over poisonous ones, reviving ecosystems rather than planting indiscriminately, growing ever-changing plantscapes instead of mow-me-every-week turfgrass, and attracting a diversity of birds, insects, and other wildlife that have few natural places left to call home, Wild Ones is for you.

Information for this announcement was provided by Mary Carol Cooper and Connie May. To obtain a membership form or other information, please contact Katie Clark at either (502) 226-4766 or herbs@kih.net.



Uvularia perfoliata

Bellwort, a woodland spring ephemeral in the Lily family

KENTUCKY NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ANNOUNCEMENT

NATIVE PLANT DEMONSTRATION GARDEN GRANTS FOR KENTUCKY PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

KNPS is pleased to announce the third year of offering a funding source for demonstration gardens designed to enhance basic awareness of native plants and their importance in the environment among young Kentuckians. In April 1998, two grants of \$250 will be awarded to further fund needs for educational projects which promote an understanding and knowledge or appreciation of Kentucky's flora and natural communities. Grants may be awarded to either a Kentucky primary or secondary school, but preference is for primary/middle schools. These grants are designed to supplement funds already secured from other sources and are not intended as stand-alone grants. Grants may be used to purchase materials such as trees and wildflower plants or seeds native to Kentucky. The grant may not be used to pay for earthwork, pond building or building supplies. Proposals may be submitted by groups of people as well as individuals at Kentucky schools.

Proposals will be reviewed by the KNPS Grant Committee. Proposals must include:

1. A brief resume presenting project direction experience, educational experience, etc, which indicates the knowledge/experience to carry the project to completion;
2. A proposal (not to exceed three pages excluding supporting drawings/diagrams) which describes the project, explains how it promotes education towards botanical/ecological understanding of Kentucky's environment, lists other project contributors (e.g., financial, in-kind and labor), and describes the role the grant would play;
3. An itemized budget; and
4. A letter of support from the school principal

Applicants are encouraged to become members of the KNPS, but membership is not required to be awarded a grant. Submit three copies of all items listed above including letters of support to:

David D. Taylor
USDA Forest Service
1700 Bypass Road
Winchester, Kentucky 40391

Deadline for receipt of all materials: March 20, 1998

KNPS Field Trips & Events for 1998

Clara Wieland -- KNPS Field Trip Coordinator

You may not think that southeast Arizona and Kentucky have much in common, but on a second look, perhaps they do. Having visited the sky islands, the mountains, the old sea, and the desert, the landscape is quite different from the green and well watered Kentucky. But these states share the impact of human use and abuse that have changed the natural landscape and their native plants. In Arizona as in Kentucky, overgrazing has led to erosion, the open areas in farms and ranches have been replaced with suburbia and overgrowth of non - native plant species. The riparian areas are disappearing due to irrigation and demand for water by humans. Arizona, being blessed, as Kentucky, with mineral wealth, also suffers from mining disturbance to the land.

The good news is that there are still some great places to see native plant communities in Arizona and in Kentucky. In Arizona, joint projects with native seed companies and the Nature Conservancy are promoting restoration. Landscaping with native plants here and in Arizona is now in vogue.

I hope you get involved. The Nature Conservancy and the Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission always welcome volunteers to help with preserve stewardship. Your local nature park may need you to help remove invasive non - native plants. Kentucky Native Plant Society has and does rescue native plants when a road or other developments threaten. Because it may be difficult to organize large numbers of people and there may be limited safe parking areas, please phone me (606) 266-5548) if you are interested in rescues or know of an area of native plants that is slated for destruction. You will be notified if a plant rescue will be done in your area.

Join us in visiting some of the great natural areas of Kentucky. Please register by calling Clara Wieland, 606-266-5548, or as indicated. We have organized field trips throughout Kentucky, and this year we will visit a special area in North Carolina. We are, as always, grateful for the superb leaders who give of their time and expertise to lead us. Good health and good times stalking our native plants in their home, the varied, beautiful topography of Kentucky.

**Saturday, April 18, 1998 Baylor O. Hickman Preserve (near London, Ky.) 10 a.m. EDT.
Leader: Margaret Shea, Stewardship Director for the Kentucky Nature Conservancy.**

This Nature Conservancy preserve is adjacent to the Rockcastle River. Expect to see the lovely spring flora in the mixed mesophytic forest and unique plants along the river bend's gravel bars. Sometimes the Kentucky Lady Slipper blooms early here. There is a steep hill (old road) going down to the Preserve. Of course that means a walk up the hill on the return. We will go up hill slowly. The walk at the preserve itself is comparatively easy. Bring a sack lunch. Wear shoes with good traction.

MEET AT: I-75 near London, Exit 41, Rt. 80 at Wendy's restaurant. Limit 15. Call Clara Wieland 606-266-5548

Saturday, April 18, 1998. Arbor Day in the Arboretum, University of Kentucky, behind Commonwealth Stadium, Lexington. Featuring nationally recognized speakers and a ribbon cutting for the native tree gardens called "Walk Across Kentucky." Stop by and see Charles Chandler, designer of the KNPS membership brochure at the KNPS booth. Contact: Dr. Mary Witt (606) 257-6955.

Friday-Sunday, April 17-19. Mammoth Cave SpringFest. This is the second annual event of nature hikes, music and art at Kentucky's only National Park.. See page 6 for related story.

Thursday-Saturday April 23-25. The 48th Annual Smoky Mountain Wildflower Pilgrimage Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The oldest and best event. Call 1-800-267-7088 for a brochure.

Friday- Sunday, May 1-3, 1998. 13th Annual Kentucky Native Plant Society Spring General Meeting & Wildflower Weekend. Natural Bridge State Resort Park, Slade, Kentucky. For reservations and information call 1 (800) 325-1710 or (606) 663-2214.

Registration begins at 3:00 p.m. Friday, Hemlock Lodge. Field trips available Friday through Sunday. General business meeting with election of KNPS Officers and Directors at 7:00 p. m. Saturday. Guest speakers Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m. See related article on page 6.

Saturday, May 23, 11:00 a.m. EDT. A First Visit to Laurel Gorge In Elliot County. Leader: Rob Parately, Curator, University of Kentucky Herbarium.

Explore a mesophytic gorge where North and South Appalachia meet. We may see flowering raspberry in bloom as well as *Ilex* species. There is a Kentucky Lady Slipper site near here that may have survived and be in bloom. Bring a sack lunch. Moderate walk with some off trail.

Meet: I-64 to Morehead exit 137. Turn Right. Drive about 1/2 mile to McDonalds on the left. Carpool from McDonalds to site. Limit 15. Call Clara Wieland to register 606-266-5548

Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m. EDT. Bluff Mountain: A Mountain of Special Ecosystems and Plants. North Carolina. Leader arranged by the North Carolina Nature Conservancy.

If you haven't been to Bluff Mountain this trip is for you! The North Carolina Nature Conservancy with the help of Jim McDuffie, and the Bluff Mountain Preserve are co-sponsoring this visit. There are a variety of microhabitats including wetlands, rock faces and deep soils. A 1993 summer visit yielded several orchid species, Gray's Lily and other unique plants. This is a moderate climb up an old road and a walk around the upper level. Bring lunch and wear appropriate footwear. Call Clara Wieland for possible carpool and to register. Rendevous point details to follow. Limit 12.

Saturday, July 11, 10 a.m. EDT. Plants of Farm and Field: Horner Bird & Wildlife Sanctuary Oldham County. Leader: Patricia Haragan, Author of Weeds of Kentucky and Associate Curator, Davies Herbarium, University of Louisville.

In 1960, a 200 acre farm was given to U of L by Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Ross. The sanctuary is currently managed by the University of Louisville Biology Department. The area is quite diverse

with fallow fields, floodplain woods, limestone outcrops, and rocky wooded slopes. We will look at the flora with an emphasis on weedy species.

Register with Pat Haragan at (502) 894-0674 or Clara Wieland at (606) 266-5548. Rendezvous point details to follow. Limit 12.

Saturday, August 8. 10 a.m. CDT. Wetlands, Dry Ridges and Cemeteries in the Land Between the Lakes. Leader: Dr. Wayne Chester, Austin Peay State University.

Summer is a great time for wetland exploration. Dry ridges and cemeteries are an extra added attraction. This will be an all day event. Bring water and lunch. For more information on directions call (502) 924-2000 or Clara Wieland (606) 266-5548. Limit 15.

Saturday, September 12. 11 a.m. CDT. The " Real" Kentucky Glade, Flat Rock Glade near Bowling Green. Leaders: Drs. Carol and Jerry Baskin, University of Kentucky.

Several years ago Jerry Baskin said the KNPS needs to visit Flat Rock Glade so I've asked the Baskins to lead us. Details and rendezvous point information to follow. We will need to pool cars. Call Clara Wieland to register (606) 266-5548. Limit 15.

September 18, 19, 20. Mushroom Foray at Natural Bridge State Resort Park. Call the Park for more information. 1-800-325-1710.

October 17- 18, 1998. Bernheim Forest Fall Color Weekend and Kentucky Native Plant Society Fall Meeting. Details in later Newsletters.

Saturday, October 24, 10 a.m. EDT. High Adventure at Hi Lewis Barrens, Pine Mountain. Leader: Joyce Bender, Director of Stewardship for the Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission. (Note: This is the last day of Daylight Savings Time).

This is possibly the best remaining example of pine barrens in Kentucky. Details and rendezvous point information to follow. Register with Joyce Bender at Kentucky Nature Preserves (502) 573-2886, or Clara Wieland (606) 266-5548. Limit 15.

Saturday, November 14. 1 p.m. EST. A Fall Gathering at Salato Center in Frankfort.

Deborah White, botanist with the Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission will present a slide show, "Endangered, Rare Plants of Kentucky and Their Homes". Sherri Evans and Mary Carol Cooper, with the Native Plant program at the center will discuss activities at the center, and plans for a Native Plant Conference in 1999. This is a great way to spend a November afternoon and visit with fellow Kentucky Native Plant Society Members. Last years Fall Gathering was a success, come make this one memorable too! Details and location information directions to follow.

Kentucky Native Plant Society 1998 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) _____

**The Kentucky
Native Plant Society**
c/o Department of Biological Sciences
Eastern Kentucky University
Richmond, KY 40475

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