The Lady-Slipper

Kentucky Native Plant Society

Number 17:1

Spring 2002



2002 Wildflower Weekend & KNPS Spring Meeting Planned for May 2–5

by Wilson Francis, KNPS President

PLANS ARE UNDERWAY for the annual Kentucky Native Plant Society Wildflower Weekend at Natural Bridge which will begin this year on Thursday, May 2. Early arrivals can join general wildflower field trips planned for 9:00 am and 1:30 pm on Thursday. A slide program on spring wildflowers will be shown in Hemlock Lodge Thursday evening.

Field trips will continue on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, covering a variety of topics including general wildflower walks, edible and medicinal plants, woody plants, ferns, mosses, geology, plant photography, and special programs for children. There will be walks for people of all ages and abilities, from beginners to advanced wildflower enthusiasts.

This year's guest speakers include John MacGregor, one of Kentucky's best-loved naturalists, who will present a survey of his favorite wildflowers on Friday night. Saturday night's program will feature Tom Barnes from the University of Kentucky

Forestry Department with a program on Kentucky's Last Great Places.

We hope you all will plan to attend the general meeting of the Kentucky Native Plant Society on Saturday night, when new officers will be elected. The Executive Board welcomes your input about what the Society is doing, or not doing, or should be doing, and this is a golden opportunity to state your opinion.

If you're coming to the Wildflower Weekend, remember that there is no advance registration, you simply register for field trips when you arrive at the park. There is a small registration fee of \$7 per family or \$5 per person. All field trips will begin at Hemlock Lodge throughout the weekend. The registration table will be set up in the lodge before field trips, then be moved to the Activities Center for the Friday and Saturday night programs. For first timers, Natural Bridge State Park is in east-central Kentucky on the Mountain Parkway, 35 miles southeast of Winchester. We'll look forward to seeing you there!

Natural Bridge/ KNPS WILDFLOWER WEEKEND!

May 2-5, 2002 Natural Bridge State Resort Park, Slade, KY

Details at left!

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Visit the KNPS WEB SITE

http://www.knps.org

KNPS GRANT APPLICATION DETAILS for 2002.

KNPS NATIVE PLANT DEMONSTRATION GARDEN GRANTS for Kentucky Primary and Secondary Schools

The KNPS is pleased to announce the sixth year of offering funding for school demonstration gardens to further awareness by young Kentuckians of native plants and their importance in the environment.

In the summer of 2002 up to two grants of \$250 each will be awarded to help fund the cost of establishing native plant gardens on school grounds to promote an understanding and appreciation of Kentucky's flora and natural communities. Grants may be awarded to Kentucky primary or secondary

schools or other educational organizations, but preference is for primary/middle schools.

The awarded funds are intended to supplement funds already secured from other sources. Grants may be used to purchase native plants (seeds or plants of wildflowers and shrubs). Up to \$75 may be used to purchase native plant reference materials such as books and slide sets. The grant may not be used to pay for earthwork, pond building, building supplies, equipment rental, field trip expenses, or classroom equipment. Proposals may be submitted by groups or individuals from Kentucky educational organizations.

(Continued on page 2)



The Lady-Slipper

is intended to be published by the Kentucky Native Plant Society [IRC 501(c)(3)] in Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. with deadlines the 1st of the prior months. Members of the Editorial Committee welcome article submissions at all times.

Send dues and inquiries about membership status to:

KNPS Membership, P.O. Box 1152, Berea, KY 40403

ALL OTHER BUSINESS should be sent to an appropriate Officer or Board Member below:

KNPS Officers-

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Webmaster — Michael Thompson, 2212 Reidhurst Dr., Murfreesboro, TN 37127-6109; 615-867-3007; michaelwthompson@comcast.net

KNPS GRANT APPLICATION DETAILS (Continued)

Preference will be given to 1) proposals which create native plant gardens reflecting the species of particular communities (e.g., prairie, woodland) bringing a piece of the wild close to classroom areas; 2) proposals which create a garden comparing and contrasting common, usually non-native, garden plants with native species promoting the idea of landscaping with nursery grown natives; or 3) rehabilitation of deteriorated wild areas with native species.

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 toward 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 in the project;

A maintenance plan and schedule for the garden;

4. An itemized budget; and

5. 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, KY 40391

Proposals may be submitted at any time. To be considered for the Summer 2002 disbursement, all material must be received by June 1, 2002. Proposals received after this date will be held and considered for the next disbursement.

More Info About KNPS Grants?

Check the KNPS website

http://www.knps.org

for more information about applying for KNPS grants, or contact the KNPS Grants Committee Chair, David Taylor:

dtaylor02@fs.fed.us

KNPS STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT

KNPS is pleased to announce the sixth year of offering a funding source to support botanical knowledge and understanding in Kentucky. One award of \$500 will be distributed for a field-based botanical project which contributes to the knowledge of Kentucky's flora or natural communities. A grant will be awarded to a student attending a Kentucky college or university. Both graduate and undergraduate students are eligible. The grant may be used to purchase consumable supplies and materials such as rebar, herbarium paper, label stock, and topographic maps. The grant may also be used to cover mileage expenses. It may not be used to pay time (e.g., labor) for any party. The successful applicant will be notified by the end of August 2002.

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

1. A current curriculum vitae;

A proposal (not to exceed two singlespaced typed pages) describing the proposed research and the role the grant would play in the research;

An itemized budget; and

 Two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from the applicant's major professor or project director.

Applicants are encouraged to become members of the KNPS, but membership is not required to be awarded a grant. Grant recipients are expected to provide KNPS with a short summary of the funded research suitable for publishing in KNPS's newsletter *The Lady-Slipper* within one year of receiving the grant. Grant recipients are also expected to present their work at the annual Kentucky Academy of Sciences meeting within one year of completion of their research.

Submit three copies of all items listed above including letters of recommendation to:

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

Proposals may be submitted at any time. To be considered for the August 2002 award date, all materials must be received by June 1, 2002. Any proposals received after that date will be held and considered in the next available disbursement.

GREAT BLUE LOBELIA - 2002 Wildflower of the Year

by Mary Carol Cooper Native Plant Program Coordinator, Salato Wildlife Education Center

WILDFLOWER ENTHUSIASTS from all across the state have selected great blue lobelia (Lobelia siphilitica) as the Salato Native Plant Program's Wildflower of the Year, 2002. The Wildflower of the Year is chosen based on the number of nominations it receives and how well it fits the established criteria (must be native, common and widespread across the state, seeds must be readily available, must be easy to grow, and must have wildlife value).

Great blue lobelia is common on streamsides and frequent throughout the state. It is a member of the Campanulaceae (Bellflower) family as is cardinal flower, our Wildflower of the Year in 1998. It is a very hardy perennial that produces 1-1/2 to 3 feet tall spikes of bluish lavender flowers throughout September. The leaves are alternate and lanceolate, tapering to a sessile base. White-flowered individuals of this species are sometimes found. The flower is about one inch long and the stamen-ring and pistil are included within the corolla tube. In this position, pollination is accomplished by bees that light on the lower lip and crawl into the tube.

Great blue lobelia attracts bees, and some sources say it attracts hummingbirds and butterflies, too. In the garden, the contrasting color of the two lobelias, great blue and cardinal flower make a beautiful combination.

Historically the Native Americans used the root of great blue lobelia as a tea for syphilis (hence the species

Drugs and Medicines of North America / Lloyd & Lloyd / 1884-87

name siphilitica) and a tea from the leaves for colds, fevers, stomach troubles, worms, croup, and nosebleeds. They gargled leaf tea for coughs, and the leaves were poulticed for headaches and hard-to-heal sores. Formerly it was used to induce sweating and urination. Today, this plant is not used medicinally, as it is potentially poisonous as is cardinal flower.

Great blue lobelia seeds and plants are available from many native plant nurseries and are fairly inexpensive. It is also very easy to propagate either by seeds, or division. Since the seeds are very tiny, they must be sown very thinly to avoid crowding. A two-month cold period promotes germination. Sow seeds in a flat in December or January, cover the seeds with a very minimal dusting of soil, and place the flat in a sunny unheated area as the seeds need light to germinate.

Lobelia can also be propagated by division. A healthy plant produces a dense clump of basal foliage that consists of several offset rosettes or crowns. Divide plants in the fall or spring by separating these offsets from the mother plants, then replant the

divisions and water immediately.

Seeds of great blue lobelia are easily collected in the fall. Cut the spikes off the plant after they have dried and the pods are full of seeds that shake out easily. Place the spikes upside-down in a paper bag, let them dry even more for several days, then shake the bag to dislodge all the seeds. Collect and store them in a jar until ready to plant.





The Kentucky Native Plant Encyclopedia: A Plant Databa

AFTER ONLY A FEW YEARS of work and refinement, the KNPS is pleased to announce that the Kentucky Native Plant Encyclopedia, a botanical database for use in Kentucky's classrooms, is now available for testing. The program was designed to be an easy to use classroom tool for making the intricacies of Kentucky's botanical commonwealth more accessible to primary and secondary students.

The Encyclopedia software comes on a CD with data about all the vascular plants known in Kentucky at the time of publi-

cation. This data comes from the Index Kentuckiensis (IK), a database program for managing herbarium collections, that was also developed on behalf of the KNPS.

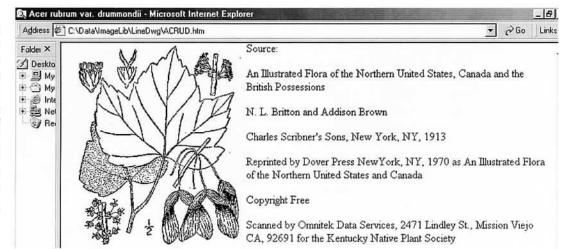
In just the last year or so, the IK has been put to use at herbaria in Kentucky as well as at colleges and universities in at least five other southeastern states. The Index shares data with the Encyclopedia for ferns, cone bearing trees, flowers, shrubs, trees, and grasses. Mosses, lichens and bacteria are not included. At the species level, this amounts to over

2,400 taxa that are currently known and generally accepted by most experts in Kentucky's flora. For simplicity, the Encyclopedia does not present data for plant variations below the species level, some of which are quite controversial.

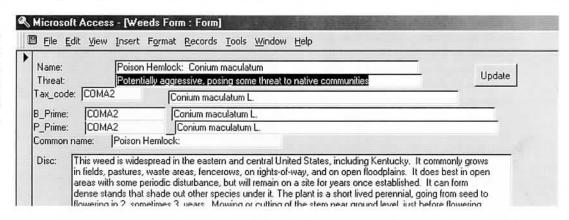
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The KNPE CD includes a run-time version of MS Access which allows the application to run by itself without installing any additional software. The minimum system requirements are:

LINE DRAWINGS — The KNPS has scanned over 4,600 copyright free images from Britton and Brown's 1913 Illustrated Flora....
These provide illustrations for more than 80% of Kentucky's flora, and students can cut and paste individual images into their own research papers and reports.



WEED DATA — The Encyclopedia accesses data on problematic plants from David Taylor's reports on Kentucky's worst invasive species.



TOXICITY DATA —
Toxicologist Dr. Roy Smith's reports on plants that are known to cause livestock poisonings in Kentucky are also included.

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atabase for Use in Kentucky Classrooms - by Charlie Lapham

- 90 MHz Pentium or better processor
- · Windows 95 or better
- A CD-ROM drive

nd

- 20 MB of free hard drive space to run the program from the CD, or 110 MB to copy all of the CD's files to the hard disk or server
- 16 MB. of RAM

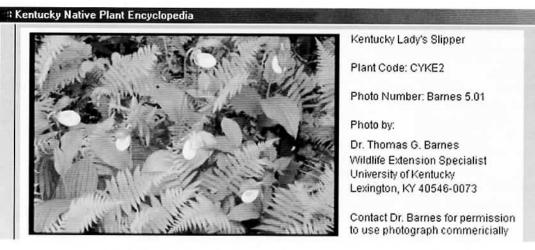
DATA INCLUDED ON THE KNPE CD

For each vascular plant species recorded in Kentucky, the Encyclopedia includes:

- · Common name
- Other common names
- Scientific name (Taxon)
- · Other scientific names (synonyms)
- Federal rare plant status
- State rare plant status
- Bloom time
- Habitat preferences
- Family
- · Number of counties where it occurs
- · A list of those counties

- · Native or Not native
- The PLANTS "symbol" from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) PLANTS Web Site
- Population Characteristics How the species' range in Kentucky fits into its overall range

The screen shots at left and right below provide examples of the data mentioned above as well as other information available in the KNPE:



Pното Data — There are currently photos for 200 Kentucky species. More will appear in subsequent updates.

M A Z	Insert <u>R</u> ecords <u>Window H</u> elp						
Collector: Verified:	John Doe Asa Gray		cDate: 05/30/1999 Today vDate: 05/30/1999 Today				
To establish the taxonomic name, Enter 2 letters of GEnus and SPecies below, click [Find], and then click on the proper record. The taxon selected sets the data in the [Common Name] Form GEnus+SPecies: Find			Guidebook: Look up: Page:	A Guide to Wildflowers and Ferns of Kenti A Guide to Wildflowers and Ferns of Ke			
			Flower Color:				
symbol: Accepted	HEPU16 T Symbol: HEPU16	axonomy		white and cream	•		
Locality:	Open meadow to the right of the	ne trail just he	fare the battom o	of the first law snot	- Plants Website		
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Habitat: fairly open meadow, on gentle slope in clay			soil Local Pa				
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STUDENT INVENTORIES -The Encyclopedia allows students to record the plant inventory of an outdoor classroom. Provision has been made for a studentdesigned hypertext page to be associated with each plant in the student inventory. These hypertext pages would appear the same as web pages except they reside on a local hard drive rather than an Internet server. The local page button will open these pages.

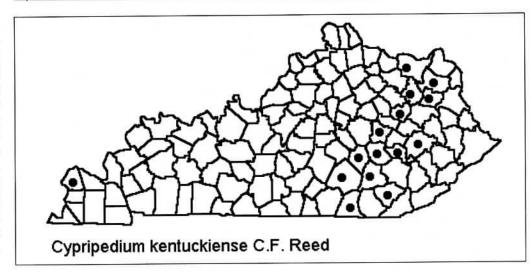
(Continued on page 6)

The Kentucky Native Plant Encyclopedia (Continued)

STATE AND COUNTY DATA —
This is a State data screen
showing information for a
plant species and buttons
for accessing additional
data about the species.
Requests for data can be
restricted to one or more
counties and the regional
information appears
on screens that are
very similar.

Y Common sommo	n corn-cockle		C	ommon Name
Rare Plant Status KY: Fed:	Flowering period Start End June Sept.	Population: adv	ventive	Taxonomy
Species Level Taxon: Ag	Symbol:	Weed data		
County count: 17		Line Dwg.		
ields, roadsides			F	Toxicity
			DI	ants website

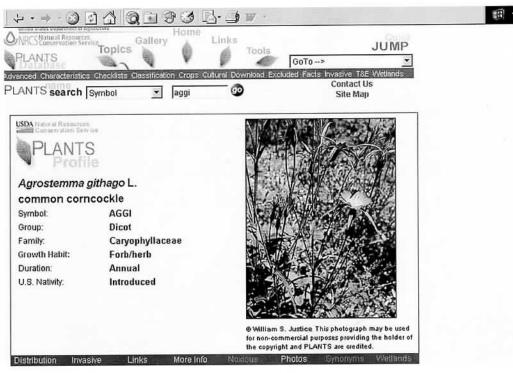
DISTRIBUTION MAPS —
With information about a
particular species displayed
on the State data screen
above, clicking the Dot Map
button creates a map showing the species' recorded
range in Kentucky. This
function makes use of Dr.
Julian Campbell's KY Atlas
data. Again, students can
copy and paste individual
maps into research papers
and reports.



LINKS TO THE

"PLANTS" WEB SITE —

The Encyclopedia's species information pages contain a link to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, PLANTS web site where additional illustrations and data about the species in question can be found. This example shows just a portion of a typical USDA NRCS PLANTS web page.



CLASSROOM USES FOR THE KY NATIVE PLANT ENCYCLOPEDIA

Student Inventories of outdoor classrooms and other natural areas are facilitated by the KNPE software. Creating associated hypertext pages for each plant in an inventory provides additional opportunities for electronic design and presentation of data that build on the skills acquired for research papers and reports.

Student contributions to County plant inventories are an exciting possibility for students using the Encyclopedia. In some Kentucky counties there is not a great deal of recorded data regarding which plants exist there. If plant specimens have never been formally collected and recorded within a county, the scientific community has no way of knowing what plants are actually there. School students can be of great help in collecting this data.

The Encyclopedia will tell you if a particular plant has been collected and recorded in your county. If you find a plant that's not listed, you can collect and press a specimen and send it to a herbarium—there are several in Kentucky. When botanists at the herbarium confirm your identification, you will get credit for a new county record!

This is a sizeable opportunity to help Kentucky science and easier than you might think. For example, botanical collecting has been scarce enough in 58 of Kentucky's counties that students actually have a chance to establish a new county record by collecting the lowly common dandelion! Similar opportunities abound. Scientists need such detailed local records of plants because large collections make it possible to study geographical, morphological, chemical or genetic variations in particular species. They also are helpful for tracking invasions of alien plants. There will be help for teachers on preparing herbarium specimens when the campaign for student plant inventories is formally launched.

Student Resources — As mentioned above, the Encyclopedia's images and maps can be copied and pasted into student reports. It contains lots of data on local plants and points the way to even more. Not only does the USDA NRCS PLANTS site have a great deal of scientific data, but it also has further links to other scientific sites on the web.

Outdoor Classrooms — Many of Kentucky's outdoor classrooms are somewhat deficient in native plants and correspondingly oversupplied with alien species. If you want to enhance an existing outdoor classroom, the Encyclopedia will show which plants are native to your area and what their habitat requirements are. This will allow informed

WANTED ...

- Articles for The Lady-Slipper about anything related to native plants that you find interesting. They can be submitted on paper, on disk, or via e-mail. Contact any Editorial Committee member listed on page 2.
- KNPS members interested in serving the society in any special capacity. Contact anyone listed on page 2.
- To be e-mailed about time-critical native plant rescues or activities, send your e-mail address to: michaelwthompson@comcast.net

judgments on which plants will most benefit the outdoor classroom and which might be less desirable. Invasive plants can be identified from the Encyclopedia's weed data. If its toxicity data indicates a plant is poisonous, it may need to be controlled in pastures and perhaps in the outdoor classroom as well. In such cases, keeping a few well labeled specimens can sometimes be desirable for teaching students how to recognize poisonous plants.

Many native plants can be bought from nurseries, but farmers, parents, and garden clubs are often willing to donate plants to projects of this sort. Rescues for construction projects are another good source of native plants. The KY Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources grows native plants for its Salato Wildlife Education Center in Franklin County where surplus plants are sold every spring and fall. The KNPS has a modest ongoing grant program (see pp. 1–2) to help fund outdoor classroom gardening projects, and other conservation groups are often willing to help. If there is a will, there is a way.

KNPE BETA COPIES

Teachers who would like to test the Kentucky Native Plant Encyclopedia in their classroom, or KNPS members willing to provide feedback about its use should contact:

Charlie Lapham

16 Winn School Rd., Glasgow, KY 42141 Phone: 270-646-4060; E-mail: lapham@scrtc.com

Additional details about installing and using the KNPE program are available online. Follow the link at:

http://www.scrtc.com/~lapham

Kentucky Native Plant Society MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membersh	ips are for the o	calendar year (January-December).		
Name(s)				
City, State, 2	<u>Zip</u>			
		(Work)		
1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -		for time-critical native plant news.		
Membership Categories:		\$7/Individual		
☐ This	is a renewal.	☐ This is a new membership.		
Membership	\$			
Gift (optional) \$		_ Gifts are tax deductible. [IRC 501(c)(3)]		
Total	\$	(payable to Kentucky Native Plant Society)		
	Return	form & dues to:		
KNPS ME	MBERSHIP, P.O	. Box 1152, Berea, KY 40403		

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for These Native Plant-related Events

- Thurs.—Sun., May 2-5 Natural Bridge WILDFLOWER WEEKEND & KNPS SPRING MEETING, Natural Bridge State Park, Slade, KY. See page 1. For rooms & info: 800-325-1710 or 606-663-2214.
- Sat., May 11 Hall's Prairie PLANT-A-THON DAY, Logan Co., US Rte. 68 and David P. Hall Dr., Auburn, KY. Wear your gardening clothes, bring spades and trowels, and invite your friends to help plant the prairie! Call Kathy Ibendahl, 859-257-7211, or e-mail her, kibendah@uky.edu, for time and details.
- Sat., June 1 Salato Center 4TH ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SEMINAR, Salato Wildlife Education Center, Frankfort, KY, 8:30 am-4:30 pm. This year's workshop presenters include Deborah White (Exotic Invasive Plants), Tom Barnes (Butterfly Gardening), Mary Carol Cooper (Seed Propagation), Connie May (Landscaping with Native Wildflowers), Joe Dufor (demonstrating his grand gardening tools), Kennan Bishop (History of Stonewalls in Kentucky with a hands-on demonstration), Katie Clark (Medicinal Plants), Kris Stone (Landscaping with Native Trees and Shrubs), and Amy Alendorffer (Water Gardens). Pre-registration and a \$35 advance fee are required. Please specify a vegetarian or non-vegetarian box lunch when registering at 502-564-7863 or 800-858-1549 (weekdays).
- Sat., June 1 Invasive Exotic Plants Workshop, Beargrass Creek State Nature Preserve, Louisville Nature Center, 3745 Illinois Ave., Louisville, KY. 10:00 am–3:00 pm. Bernheim Arboretum and the Kentucky Exotic Pest Plant Council are cosponsoring six workshops around Kentucky to introduce nonbotanists to our 25 worst invasive exotic plants. The Beargrass Creek workshop will focus on privet, winter creeper, and bush

and Japanese honeysuckles. Control methods will be discussed and put into practice. The workshops are free, but space is limited. Register at Bernheim: 502-955-8512 (10-4 weekdays).

- Sat., June 1 Floracliff Trails Day Workday, Mary E. Wharton Nature Sanctuary at Floracliff, Lexington, KY. Floracliff's annual Trails Day workday gives a little back to the trails we enjoy. We'll spend about three hours on trail tasks such as clearing encroaching honeysuckle, constructing water bars, and basic maintenance. No experience necessary. Register at 859-351-7770.
- Wed.-Thurs., June 12-13 Salato Habitat Gardeners, Salato Wildlife Education Center, Frankfort, KY, 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Learn the basics of landscaping for wildlife and habitat gardening and receive personalized advice for creating your own home landscape plan. Prior to the workshop, you will receive a packet of reference materials and instructions for making a sketch of your garden site. Participants also receive the Backyard Wildlife Habitat Kit and a chance to earn a Salato Habitat Gardener Certificate. Pre-registration and a \$35 advance fee (covers both days) are required. Register at 502-564-7863 or 800-858-1549 (weekdays).
- Sat., June 22 Invasive Exotic Plants Workshop, Pine Creek Barrens Nature Preserve, Bullitt Co., KY. 10:00 am–1:00 pm. Another of the Bernheim Arboretum/Kentucky Exotic Pest Plant Council workshops (see June 1 above). The Pine Creek Barrens focus is on musk thistle, sweet clover, Johnson grass, crown vetch, and water hemlock. The purple conflower should be very nice though. Free, but again, space is limited. Register at Bernheim: 502-955-8512 (10–4 weekdays).

(Newsletter return address ONLY.
SEE PAGE 2 FOR CONTACT INFORMATION.)

Kentucky Native Plant Society c/o Department of Biological Sciences Eastern Kentucky University 521 Lancaster Ave. Richmond, KY 40475-3102 Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage

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