

The Lady-Slipper

Kentucky Native Plant Society

Number 18:1

Early Spring 2003



A Message from the President:

by Landon McKinney

I HAVE NEVER LOOKED FORWARD TO SPRING quite as much as I am this year. I do not know about everywhere else, but here in Northern Kentucky, this winter has been a bit of a nuisance (mildly speaking). On February 15, we had a very long and productive Board meeting. Each of you can look forward to some positive changes over the course of 2003.

As I discussed in my last message, the two biggest challenges we face is boosting our membership rolls and bringing our newsletter back to where it used to be some years back (a quarterly 12 page and on time, informative newsletter).

As to our membership, we are becoming proactive on several fronts. First, we need to boost our visibility. This can be accomplished by getting our newsletter out to all county libraries. We can also increase our level of participation with various county functions (lawn and gardening shows, garden clubs, conservation district annual programs, etc.). Here, *I would ask all of you to send me any suggestions, contacts, etc. that you might have in reference to your hometowns or counties.* Part of the process for boosting membership is certainly to make more people aware that we exist. Increasing awareness could also come in the form of press releases for certain fieldtrips or meetings.

The other problem we face is in reference to our newsletter. Over the last few years, the content has dwindled, the newsletter has not always showed up in a timely manner, and occasionally it has been necessary to combine issues to make one viable newsletter. I find this unacceptable. We will get back to where we should be, a 12 page, quarterly, on time, largely informative newsletter.

While I am in office, the primary goal will be to boost membership and bring the newsletter back to where it needs to be. These two problems will be faced, discussed, and corrected. *I ask each of you to help in some small way to insure that these goals are attained.*

In other news, be looking forward to the revival of the Native Plant Certification Program (see the June 21 Sedge and Rush workshop on p. 12, and there will be more as plans gel, next time). We also plan to make some changes with our fieldtrips for 2003. You may not see as many fieldtrip offerings however what you do see will be more interesting and informative (in other words, you will experience much more for your time and effort).

You will notice further in this newsletter that a fieldtrip is planned to Cedars of Lebanon State Park in Lebanon, Tennessee in April. You might want to seriously consider this since Cedars of Lebanon provides a better example of limestone glade communities and their representative and sometimes rare flora than any other protected area I know. While a few glade communities do occur in adjacent states (KY, IN, AL, GA), Middle Tennessee is truly the centerpiece for this rare and unusually interesting natural community. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find a short article on the "Cedar Glades" of Middle Tennessee and I hope that all of this will whet your appetite to experience this unique natural community first hand. On a personal note, my first job identifying wildflowers and interpreting our natural heritage was at Cedars of Lebanon State Park in 1973.

I believe we will bring this to a close for now and look forward to seeing many of you at our spring meeting. It will be a great one as usual. In the meantime, *if any of you know of hometown or county functions where KNPS can set up a membership booth, or if you have comments about the newsletter, or suggestions or articles, please let me know:*

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WILDFLOWER WEEKEND!

May 1-4, 2003

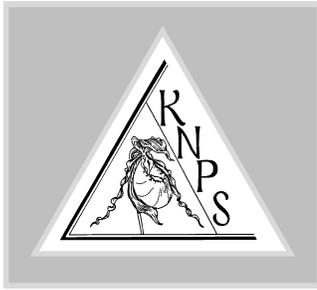
Natural Bridge State
Resort Park, Slade, KY

See p. 2 for details!

APRIL 11, 2003
IS THE DEADLINE FOR
**KNPS
GRANT APPLICATIONS**
Application details and
BACK ISSUES of
The Lady-Slipper
are posted on the
KNPS WEB SITE—
<http://www.knps.org>

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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.

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**May 1–4, 2003, Natural Bridge State Resort Park
WILDFLOWER WEEKEND & KNPS SPRING MEETING**

COME AND ENJOY a weekend of field trips and more featuring botanists from all over Kentucky! Programs for all levels of participation, from beginners to advanced wildflower enthusiasts and from short easy walks to long hikes in the Red River Gorge.

Field trips are tentatively scheduled to depart from the park lodge from 8–9 am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings, and from about 1:30–2 pm on Friday and Saturday afternoons. In addition, there will be field trips leaving about 4 pm on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons.

Tentative times for evening programs are:

Thurs., May 1, 8:00 pm – **Spring in the Highlands** with Kentucky naturalist John Tierney

Fri., May 2, 7:30 pm – **Treasures on Unsteady Ground: Kentucky's Streamhead Bogs** with Martina Hines, ecologist for the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

Fri., May 2, 8:15 pm – **The Wild Gardener** with Peter Loewer, prolific North Carolina garden book author and illustrator

Sat., May 3, 8:00 pm – **Ferns and Allies of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park** with Dr. Patricia Cox of the University of Tennessee

Cost for the weekend is \$5 per adult and \$7 per family, registration upon arrival. Participants are welcome for any or all activities. For more information contact Zeb Weese, Park Naturalist at 606-663-2214 or jason.weese@mail.state.ky.us



HELP WANTED! *Would you be interested in taking over the office of KNPS Treasurer following the May 3 meeting at Wildflower Weekend?* The KNPS Treasurer monitors and reports on our finances and is responsible for maintaining the membership database. Basic bookkeeping and a computer are required, but database software and support are available. If you can help further KNPS goals by taking on these important responsibilities, please contact any officer or board member in the column at the left right away!!

Thanks to KNPS Contributors & New Life Members...

THE KNPS WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME two new Life Members to our permanent ranks:

- Carolyn Gay Hodges** - Somerset, KY
- Brent Jones** - Morehead, KY

And we would like to acknowledge the special support of the following members who included contributions with their 2003 membership renewals:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Emma Adams | Jerry T. and Maureen Johnson |
| Bonnie and Sam Avery | Bob Larkey |
| Paul J. Brach | Beverly Morris |
| Donna J. Catlett | Pamela Pringle |
| Ken and Margie Conard | Susan J. Radek |
| Robert Creek | Darrell and Bonita Rose |
| Kyla Cupp | Mike Smiley |
| Alex Damman | Doralee St. Clair |
| Mary P. Fox / Mary L. Wiss | Peg and Tim Taylor |
| Joann Hays | Michael Thompson |
| Katrina R. Hayes | Linda M. Truty |
| Jackson Purchase Audubon | Emily Wolfson |

In addition, we appreciate the gift of

Clara Wieland in memory of **Rebecca Short (Sensenig) Waldridge**.



BECKY, In Memory

Editor's note: Long-time KNPS member and former society officer Rebecca Short (Sensenig) Waldridge passed away on January 21, 2003 from the effects of pancreatic cancer. The following is just one of the remembrances that many of us have.

IT WAS ONE OF THE FIRST joint KNPS and Natural Bridge Wildflower Weekends. On the steps of the trailhead Becky peered over and under the railing. She called to me, "Come and see these orchids." It was difficult, but I finally focused on the embryonic color of the stem and the delicate, minute flowers of the spring coral root (*Corallorhiza wisteriana*). Sharp-eyed Becky had spotted them. She told me that once she saw a plant she could always remember it.

There followed several years of classes, field trips, and special forays to search and find special plants. With camera in hand, and with little notice, we (Becky, Steve and Sean) were off. One late summer afternoon in July we drove to Tennessee to see May Prairie and all its special flora. It was hot, humid. Arriving we went to the site and stayed until dusk. That night there was a soft rain. As the sun rose, so did we to see the prairie, freshly washed and sparkling under blue skies.

On another trip, walking on the railroad tracks, listening for the rails to hum, we stepped off into a meadow full of wetland plants. The owner, from whom Becky secured permission for our visit, used the land sometimes for pasture. Becky pointed to several tall, beautiful purple fringeless orchids (*Plantanthera peramoena*).

Becky's enthusiasm for the natural world was boundless. She and Steve and Sean regularly attended the "Herp" Weekend and they became quite skilled at finding and identifying these creatures. In the last weeks of her illness, Steve drove her to Taylorsville Lake to see the bald eagles perching in the shoreline trees and flying in the grey skies above. Becky was planning to go again to see May Prairie later this spring.

KNPS members will recall Becky's support of the society's events and activities, her service on the Board, and her terms as Treasurer a few years back. Our condolences to all of her family and friends. On a hillside in her home county, Becky's grave is next to her mother's. Orchids grow on the ridge above. Becky found them years ago.

— Clara Yates Wieland



Spring coral root orchid



Purple fringeless orchid



Spiked blazing star is a host to many butterflies including the gulf fritillary.

Wildflower of the Year 2003

SPIKED BLAZING STAR (*Liatris spicata*)

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

WILDFLOWER ENTHUSIASTS from all across Kentucky have selected Spiked Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*) as the Salato Native Plant Program's Wildflower of the Year for 2003.

Spiked blazing star (also known as gayfeather or dense blazing star) grows in wet to dry meadows and open areas, barrens, and at the base of wooded slopes in eastern and western Kentucky. It is a member of the Aster family as are the several other species of blazing stars found in Kentucky. This plant is a perennial that grows from 2 to 7 feet tall. It is usually smooth, rarely hairy. It has a long, spike-like inflorescence with many cylindrical to bell-shaped, sessile heads that have 5 to 14 lavender flowers. The spike is unbranched and wandlike. It blooms rose to purple from August through September. The lower leaves are from 4 to 16 inches long and very narrow and grass-like. They are alternate and lanceolate tapering to a sessile base. This very showy blazing star is drought tolerant and adapted to clay soils, so it is a wonderful addition to any sunny garden.

(Continued on page 4)



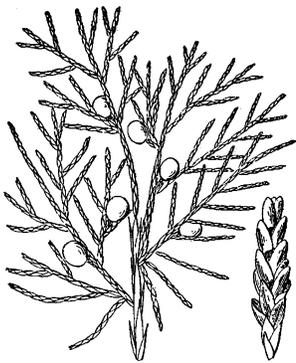
Spiked Blazing Star: Wildflower of the Year 2003 (continued)

Spiked Blazing Star attracts hummingbirds, birds, and many species of butterflies, and it makes a grand addition to a formal garden border. It goes well with fall-blooming orange coneflower and brown-eyed Susans, *Boltonia*, and the goldenrods, especially rough-leaved goldenrod. Blazing Stars will do well in a rather dry garden bed and even on a dry roadside, meadow, or naturalized area. It makes an excellent cut flower and if cut at the beginning of its bloom will develop into a dried stalk of pale purple.

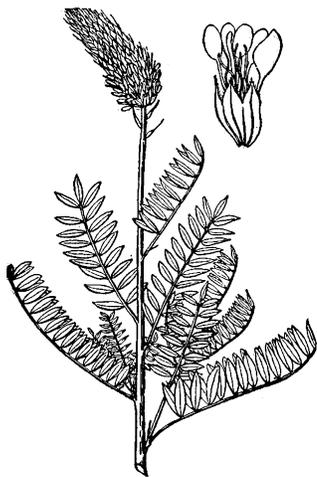
Historically, root tea of most species of blazing star was used as a folk remedy for kidney and bladder ailments, gonorrhea, colic, and painful or delayed menses. It was gargled for sore throats. The root was also used externally in a poultice for snakebites. It is thought to be a diuretic and a tonic.

Spiked Blazing Star seeds and plants are available from many native plant nurseries. It is also very easy to propagate either by seeds, or division. When the nutlets are ripe, cut the flowering stalk and lay it down in an outdoor seedbed or in your cold frame and cover it with a half-inch or so of soil. You should have seedlings the following spring. Or, cut the spikes off the plant after they have dried and the entire stalk has a fluffy appearance—usually mid to late October. Place the stalks inside a large paper bag and let them air-dry for several days. Clean the heads and place seeds (nutlets) in a dry container and store until late winter.

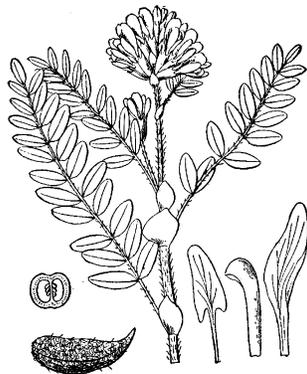
For indoor sowing in the late winter, sow stored seed very heavily in a flat of germination mix. The seeds need a period of 60 days moist cold stratification. When the seedlings appear, they look like tufts of grass and are very slow growing. Allow them to remain in the flat until well rooted, and then transfer to small containers. Propagation by division should be done in early spring before the leaf buds break. Lift a mature clump and divide the crowns that make up the tough, woody rootstock. Replant these separated crowns and water thoroughly.



Eastern red cedar



Leafy prairie clover



Tennessee milk-vetch

The Cedar Glades of Middle Tennessee and Elsewhere

by Landon McKinney

Cedar glades are not only one of the most interesting natural communities, they are also one of the most physically challenged. In general, glades are openings in otherwise wooded areas. They may also be referred to as rocky openings. They may be referred to based on substrate such as limestone, sandstone, etc. (e.g. limestone glade), or as is the case in middle Tennessee, by one of the obvious plant components, eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), thus "Cedar Glades."

Cedar glades are characterized by wet winters, early springs, and dry summers. Looking out over the vast expanse of a cedar glade you will see areas of flat solid rock as the actual surface with pockets of gravel, thin soil, and numerous cracks and crevices. Within the cracks and crevices and wherever a thin layer of soil has developed lies a unique flora conditioned to withstand extremes in light, temperature, and moisture. It is a harsh environment by most standards and not too unlike the deserts of the southwest.

The cedar glade flora includes approximately 30 species that are endemic (found in no other natural community) or nearly endemic to the glades of the southeast. Other plants, while not endemic or particularly rare, sometimes exhibit their best floral displays in or around glade communities.

The flora of the cedar glades includes well over 400 taxa including such species as the Nashville breadroot

(*Pediomelum subacaule*), Tennessee coneflower (*Echinacea tennesseensis*), Guthrie's groundplum (*Astragalus bibullatus*), leafy prairie clover (*Dalea foliosa*), glade phlox (*Phlox bifida* ssp. *stellaria*), Tennessee milk-vetch (*Astragalus tennesseensis*), sunnysbells (*Schoenolirion croceum*), and several different species of glade cress (*Leavenworthia*).

In middle Tennessee, cedar glades have often been seen as wasteground and targeted for extensive dumping and off-roading activities. I was born and raised in middle Tennessee and as a little boy, my grandparents lived amidst a large glade community. At that time, these glades were viewed as useless land with little or no redeeming value except for providing ample material for building rock fences or, for a young boy, ample material to throw or sail away with my trusty sling shot. At that early age, I would never have imagined the importance that such a seemingly worthless landscape would play in my formal education or that I would spend countless hours interpreting the importance and uniqueness of the cedar glades of middle Tennessee. 

Native Plant Q's & A's

by Landon McKinney

IN OUR LAST NEWSLETTER, I suggested that members e-mail me with their questions about native plant-related issues. Here's a start at what may hopefully become a regular feature.

Dear Sirs,

I am interested in native Kentucky orchids. Are there any? If so, do any grow in the western part of the state, specifically Daviess County? Are there any government sponsored propagation programs for orchids or other wild flowers? Are orchids related to lilies?

*Sincerely,
Sam*

Sam,

Yes, there are many orchids native to Kentucky although most would be found in the eastern portion of the state. Out your way, there are several species of ladies-tresses, the yellow lady's slipper, the purple fringeless orchid, and probably a couple of others.

I know of no government programs sponsoring propagation of native orchids, but this is not to say there aren't any. There is an on-going project that is attempting to restore the showy ladyslipper orchid to appropriate habitats in Mammoth Cave National Park in Edmonson county. Several of our KNPS members have been involved with the national park on this project, and you can find out quite a bit about it on the internet at:

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

Orchids and lilies are both are monocots. Monocots produce only one seed leaf (cotyledon) and the leaves have parallel veins. Examples are orchids, lilies, grasses, etc.

Hope this has helped. *The Wildflowers and Ferns of Kentucky* by Mary Wharton and Roger Barbour can still be purchased in most bookstores. It would give you an excellent feel for the orchids as well as other wildflowers of Kentucky.

Sincerely,
Landon

KNPS FIELD TRIP TO CEDARS OF LEBANON STATE PARK April 19, 2003 – Lebanon, Tennessee

COME JOIN Landon McKinney and Charlie Lapham to experience the cedar glades of middle Tennessee. Cedars of Lebanon State Park is one of the best protected examples of this unique, sometimes harsh, natural community. You will see many examples of the spring flora, both rare and common, and the stage will also be set for a return visit in June to experience a different seasonal aspect to the glades.

This fieldtrip will require minimal physical exertion as the glades are characteristically flat. Our fieldtrip will coincide with the park's annual spring wildflower weekend, and hiking in the park will complement the official hikes and activities. You will be able to spend as much time in the park as you like.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, *you must call Landon McKinney at (513) 825-7500 (work) or (859) 283-5377 (home) or e-mail him at lmckinney@eqm.com*. Provide him with either an address, phone number, or e-mail address so that you may be contacted for specifics about times and place. Generally, we would like everyone to come down to the park on Friday afternoon (Apr. 18), enjoy an evening program Friday night, and be ready for fieldtrip outings on the 19th (8:00 am). I can promise you a delightful and enjoyable time as we explore the cedar glades of middle Tennessee.

(Continued on page 6)

Native Plant Q's & A's (continued)

Landon, I have planted plants, etc. for a wildlife habitat in our backyard. I have used native plants in this project. I need to hide some houses that you can see from our deck when you look back into our yard. I would prefer something fast growing and evergreen, do you have any suggestions?

Thanks, Janet

Janet,

Evergreens make a great choice and most people tend to plant white pine (less expensive, fast growing). However, if you choose white pine, remember that the root mass on the larger trees have been trimmed back usually and most people do not water them enough after planting. The percentage of white pine loss due to inadequate watering is probably staggering. So white pine is excellent for concealment, but water them until you think they've had enough then water them again. My own preference is for any evergreen (spruce, etc.) but white pine, but white pine is the faster in growth. Hope this helps!

Landon



The Native Trees of Kentucky (Source: Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box elder	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Persimmon	<i>Prunus americana</i>	Wild plum
<i>Acer nigrum</i>	Black maple	<i>Dirca palustris</i>	Leatherwood	<i>Prunus munsoniana</i>	Wild goose plum
<i>Acer pensylvanicum</i>	Striped maple	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American beech	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black cherry
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red maple	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White ash	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Choke cherry
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	Silver maple	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Green ash	<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	Wafer ash
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar maple	<i>Fraxinus quadrangulata</i>	Blue ash	<i>Quercus alba</i>	White oak
<i>Acer spicatum</i>	Mountain maple	<i>Fraxinus tomentosa</i>	Pumpkin ash	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	Swamp white oak
<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Ohio buckeye	<i>Gleditsia aquatica</i>	Water locust	<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	Scarlet red oak
<i>Aesculus octandra</i>	Yellow buckeye	<i>Gelditsia triacanthos</i>	Honey locust	<i>Quercus falcata</i>	Spanish red oak
<i>Aesculus pavia</i>	Red buckeye	<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	Kentucky coffee- tree	<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	Shingle oak
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	Serviceberry, Sarvis	<i>Halesia tetraptera</i>	Silverbell	<i>Quercus lyrata</i>	Overcup oak
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Smooth serviceberry	<i>Ilex decidua</i>	Swamp holly	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur oak
<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Pawpaw	<i>Ilex opaca</i>	American holly	<i>Quercus marilandica</i>	Black jack oak
<i>Betula lenta</i>	Sweet birch	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	White walnut	<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	Swamp chestnut oak
<i>Betula lutea</i>	Yellow birch	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black walnut	<i>Quercus montana</i>	Chestnut oak
<i>Betula nigra</i>	River birch	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Eastern red cedar	<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	Chinquapin oak
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Muscledwood, Blue beech, Ironwood, American hornbeam	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	Sweet gum	<i>Quercus nigra</i>	Water oak
<i>Carya aquatica</i>	Water hickory	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip tree	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin oak
<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	Bitternut hickory	<i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	Cucumber tree, Cucumber magnolia	<i>Quercus phellos</i>	Willow oak
<i>Carya glabra</i>	Pignut hickory	<i>Magnolia fraseri</i>	Fraser's magnolia, Mountain magnolia	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red oak
<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	Pecan	<i>Magnolia macrophylla</i>	Big leaf magnolia	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	Shumard's oak
<i>Carya laciniosa</i>	Big shagbark hickory, Kingnut	<i>Magnolia tripetala</i>	Umbrella magnolia	<i>Quercus stellata</i>	Post oak
<i>Carya ovalis</i>	Sweet pignut	<i>Malus angustifolia</i>	Wild crab	<i>Quercus velutina</i>	Black oak
<i>Carya ovata</i>	Shagbark or Shellbark hickory	<i>Malus coronaria</i>	Wild crab	<i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i>	Buckthorn
<i>Carya pallida</i>	Pale hickory	<i>Malus ioensis</i>	Prairie crab, Wild crab	<i>Robinia pseudo-acacia</i>	Black locust
<i>Carya tomentosa</i>	Mockernut hickory	<i>Morus rubra</i>	Red mulberry	<i>Salix caroliniana</i>	Carolina willow
<i>Castanea dentata</i>	American chestnut	<i>Nyssa aquatica</i>	Water Tupelo	<i>Salix nigra</i>	Black willow
<i>Castanea pumila</i>	Chinquapin, Dwarf chestnut	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black gum, Black tupelo	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	Sassafras
<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	Catalpa	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	Hop- hornbeam	<i>Staphylea trifolia</i>	Bladdernut
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	Sugarberry	<i>Oxydendron arboreum</i>	Sourwood	<i>Stewartia ovata</i>	Mountain camellia
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry	<i>Pinus echinata</i>	Shortleaf pine	<i>Styrax americana</i>	Snowbell
<i>Celtis tenuifolia</i>	Dwarf hackberry	<i>Pinus rigida</i>	Pitch pine	<i>Styrax grandifolia</i>	Bigleaf snowbell
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Redbud	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	White pine	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald cypress
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Fringe tree	<i>Pinus virginiana</i>	Virginia pine, Scrub pine	<i>Tilia americana</i>	Basswood
<i>Cladrastis lutea</i>	Yellow-wood	<i>Planera aquatica</i>	Water elm	<i>Tilia heterophylla</i>	White basswood
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering dogwood	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	Sycamore	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Eastern hemlock
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray dogwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Cottonwood	<i>Ulmus alata</i>	Winged elm
<i>Corylus americana</i>	American hazelnut	<i>Populus grandidentata</i>	Large-tooth aspen	<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American elm
		<i>Populus heterophylla</i>	Swamp cottonwood, Downy poplar	<i>Ulmus rubra</i>	Slippery elm
				<i>Ulmus serotina</i>	September elm
				<i>Ulmus thomasi</i>	Rock or Cork elm

We Need a Purple Dead Nettle Festival?

by Charlie Lapham

YES, WE NEED A PURPLE DEAD NETTLE FESTIVAL! We have strawberry and pumpkin festivals but nothing in the early spring. And even though *Lamium purpureum* is a very successful plant, it gets no respect whatsoever. It is a common weed of cultivated places like flower beds. It has stolons that get just about everywhere. Fragments make new plants, so pulling it seems to spur reproduction. It is a mint and unfortunately several mints tend to get weedy. If it would only stay put, it could be a ground cover. Masses of it grow in lawns.

Why then do we need a festival for a dreadful weed and an alien to boot? Toward the latter part of March, dead nettle puts on a wonderful show. It blooms in great profusion. The charming little purplish mint flowers in the leaf axils would be better appreciated if it weren't so common. I propose a period of amnesty for dead nettle during the bloom period to coincide with the festival. Like tax amnesty, this amnesty will not last forever. The rest of the year you can pull it out just like you normally do. This won't adversely affect next year's festival unless you use weapons of mass destruction. Purple dead nettle is stronger than we are.

During the festival you can pull all the other weeds to add to your dead nettle bouquets. Dead nettle fills a void when there isn't much else available for table arrangements, and it is no primadonna. You can pick as much as you like which is more than you can say for orchids. A stunning festival arrangement can be made to feature dead nettle's flowers, buds, and foliage accented by common chickweed and Pennsylvania bittercress. All three can be salvaged from flower bed weeding. Containers refined enough to enhance such arrangements may not be immediately obvious, but standard sauce dishes and the little liquor bottles dispensed on airplanes are a good place to start. If you know a diabetic, insulin bottles would work really well too. Such diminutive arrangements will fit on most any table and suit any decor, but an arrangement on the patio where you might drink red wine to keep your arteries open is a nice touch. The flowers close at night, but the foliage is nice by candlelight.

Daytime appreciation of your dead nettle arrangement is more challenging. Dead nettle's flower buds need lots of sunlight to open up fully. If you don't have a window with quite a bit of direct sun, it may be necessary to keep your arrangements outdoors most of the time to get the flowers to open up. It might be easier to just enjoy them *in situ* to begin with. Sometimes it's difficult even knowing an open flower when you see it. The small flowers, buds, and un-opened flowers sometimes look similar. A 10x magnifier will settle the matter. Upon inspection, the unopened flowers will actually be found to be about half open. The flowers are really neat under 10x magnification. We think nothing of getting the glass out for *Corallorhiza* why not dead nettle?

Perhaps the best thing about the dead nettle festival is that dead nettle is a prophet of sorts. As the festival comes to an end, you know the mesic slopes are about to explode with spring ephemerals. It deserves some respect anyway and growing it is no problem whatsoever. If perchance you don't already have it, you could forgo the dead nettle festival, but *Don't Plant It under any circumstances*. There are the other 50 weeks of the year to consider as well. Besides, your next nursery plant will likely give you plenty of dead nettles without any effort on your part.

If all else fails, don't despair. You can substitute any other obnoxious little weed that blooms in the early spring. You could, for example, have a creeping charlie festival. The possibilities are endless....



Charles Chandler

Purple dead nettle



Charlie Lapham

Purple dead nettle enjoying its own private festival in the author's lawn with no help from him.



Illus. Flora of the Northern U.S... / Britton & Brown / 1913



You're Invited to the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Symposium, May 15–17

submitted by the
Kentucky Exotic
Pest Plant Council

ON MAY 15–17, 2003, the Kentucky Exotic Pest Plant Council will host the 5th annual meeting and symposium of the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council at the Campbell House Inn in Lexington, Kentucky.

Presentations on weeds known to the southeast as well as new ones poised to invade will be featured on May 15 and 16. Topics include: research on *Microstegium* and Chinese yam; predicting invasion in forests; converting exotic grasses to native warm season grasses; and controlling mile-a-minute weed, Japanese knotweed, and other problem species. Private and public land managers will receive updates on herbicide products from company representatives, learn how the St. Louis Declaration is being implemented and received, and copies of the US Forest Service's new guidebook on exotics will be available. You'll also have a chance to hear some great bluegrass/folk music and bid on silent auction items at the social on the evening of May 15.

On the morning of May 17, registrants may choose from a workshop for private landowners or several field trips. Workshop and field trip descriptions are provided below.

Registration cost of \$85 (\$95 after April 21) includes reception on May 15 (cash bar) and lunch on May 16. To register, complete the form below and send it and a check to Augusta Mazyck at: KY-EPPC Treasurer, 642 West Main Street, Lexington, KY 40508. The completed registration form with credit card information may also be faxed to her at (859) 259-9678. *If you have questions, e-mail Augusta at kmazyck@tnc.org (please put "Registration" in the subject line) or phone (859) 259-9655 ext. 52.*

Discounted room reservations are available at the Campbell House Inn. In addition to the details and contact information provided on the registration form, Campbell House information is available on the internet (<http://www.campbellhouseinn.com/>) or by e-mail



REGISTRATION FORM — 5th Annual Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Symposium

May 15–17, 2003, Lexington, KY

(Please print. Include all information that is applicable.)

Name (last) _____ (First) _____ (Middle Initial) _____

For badge (name/nickname) _____ Title _____ Organization _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Tel.: (office/daytime) _____ E-mail _____

Registration: \$85 (\$95 after April 21, 2003) — includes Thursday evening reception and Friday luncheon \$ _____

Lodging: Discounted rate of \$79/double room available until May 2, 2003 at Campbell House Inn, Harrodsburg Road, Lexington, KY. Mention SE-EPPC Symposium when reserving room to receive discounted rate. *In KY*, call 800-432-9254. *Outside KY*, call 800-354-9235.

Concurrent Activities: No charge for Saturday, May 17, 2003 field trips. Mark first and second field trip choices. Transportation on your own.

Field Trips — 9 am–12 noon — Floracliff field trip

8 am–12 noon — Kentucky River Palisades field trip Griffith Woods field trip

Workshop — 9 am–12 noon — Landowner Herbicide Application Workshop (no charge)

Social & Silent Auction with Reel World String Band (no charge) — Thurs., May 15, 2003, 5 pm–7 pm. (Cash bar – hors d'oeuvres included)

Payment method: Check (payable to KY EPPC) Credit Card (select one) Visa MC DSCV AMEX

Name on credit card (please print) _____ Card number _____

Expiration date _____ Cardholder's signature _____

Return form and full payment to: *by mail* – KY-EPPC Treasurer, 642 West Main Street, Lexington, KY 40508

by fax – (credit cards only) 859-259-9678

(staying@campbellhouseinn.com). Free shuttle service from Lexington's Bluegrass Airport to the Campbell House Inn is available.

SYMPOSIUM FIELD TRIPS – Saturday, May 17

These trips to three Central Kentucky natural communities will focus on species native to the sites and the invasive exotics that threaten them. All trips will leave from and return to the Campbell House Inn. Please carry water with you and wear comfortable footwear—hikes will be on rugged trails.

8 am-12 noon – Tom Dorman State Nature Preserve in Garrard County – Dave Skinner, Eastern Regional Nature Preserve Manager, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission — The Kentucky River palisades provide scenic vistas along steep limestone cliffs with the oldest exposed bedrock in the state (Ordovician). The associated forests are rich with spring wildflowers and the cliffline habitat supports five rare plant species. Invasive exotics control work has centered on bush honeysuckle, garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed. This hike will run from the top of the cliff to the river's edge. Moderately strenuous trail with some steep sections.

9 am-12 noon – Floracliff State Nature Preserve in Fayette County – Carey Bateman, Preserve Manager, Floracliff Nature Preserve — Once owned by Kentucky botanist Dr. Mary Wharton, Floracliff has been established as a private nature sanctuary and state nature preserve. Located just south of Lexington on the Kentucky River in Fayette County, its rich flora, ravines, limestone cliffs, and Elk Lick waterfall make it one of the more scenic areas in central Kentucky. The preserve manager will talk about her invasive plant management plan and current work on bush honeysuckle eradication. Moderately strenuous.

8 am-12 noon – Griffith Woods in Harrison County – Martina Hines, Ecologist, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission — Griffith Woods is one of the best examples of the globally rare Bluegrass Savanna community type. The hike will pass through a grove of shapely, open-grown blue ash, chinquapin oak, and shellbark hickory (many over 300 years old) and continue into younger forest of walnut, Kentucky coffee tree, buckeye and maples. With a long history of grazing and conversion to fescue, hikers will examine what remains for clues about the Bluegrass Savanna understory. This site just recently gained protection, so we will discuss plans for research, management and restoration. Targeted invasives will include bush honeysuckle, multiflora rose, garlic mustard, and Japanese honeysuckle. Easy.

SYMPOSIUM WORKSHOP – Saturday, May 17

9 am-12 noon – Landowner Herbicide Application Workshop – conducted by J. D. Green, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture — Designed for the private landowner who wants to know more about herbicides that will tackle common invasive species, the workshop will include information on what is available to the general public, safe application and cleanup methods, etc. Space is limited, so private landowners only, please.



JOIN THE WEED POLICE!

Five Special Workshops on Kentucky's Invasive Exotic Plants

BERNHEIM ARBORETUM AND RESEARCH FOREST in Bullitt County and the Kentucky Exotic Pest Plant Council are co-sponsoring a series of five workshops to introduce Kentuckians to the state's 23 worst invasive exotic plants.

Individual workshops will take place at Bernheim and at three Kentucky State Nature Preserves in Jefferson, Bullitt, and Hardin Counties. The workshops will introduce non-botanists to species that are invading Kentucky's natural areas and show them how to distinguish the invaders from native species with similar appearances. Feel free to participate in the entire series or just a single program. *There is no charge for the workshops, but you must register in advance by contacting Bernheim Arboretum at 502-955-8512.*

Workshop topics, dates, and locations include —

Sat., April 19, 9 am–1 pm – Kentucky's Invasive Exotic Plants: Part 1, Bernheim Arboretum Visitor's Center. Led by Margaret Shea, Bernheim's Natural Areas Director. Garlic mustard, Autumn olive, Tree-of-heaven, Kentucky 31 fescue, and Multiflora rose are the five species

(Continued on page 10)



Charles Chandler

Bush
honeysuckle

Bernheim/KY-EPPC Workshops on Kentucky's Invasive Exotic Plants (continued)

Common Weeds of the United States, USDA, 1971



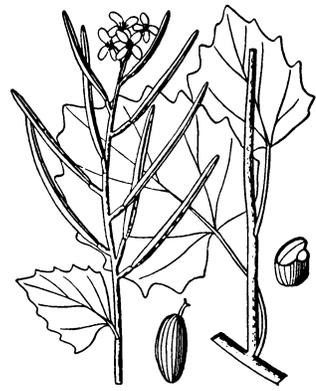
Multiflora Rose

Legumes for Erosion Control & Wildlife, USDA, 1941



Crown Vetch

Illus. Flora of the N. United States..., Britton & Brown, 1913



Garlic Mustard

we will study. We'll also visit our stream restoration project where we will restore a channelized stream to its original meandering bed and replant the fescue-dominated area with native species. There will also be opportunities to enjoy some of the early spring wildflowers that garlic mustard threatens.

Sat., May 31, 10:00 am–3 pm – Kentucky's Invasive Exotic Plants: Part 2, Beargrass Creek State Nature Preserve Visitors Center/Louisville Nature Center at 3745 Illinois Avenue in Louisville. Led by Joyce Bender, Nature Preserves and Natural Areas Branch Manager, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission. This workshop will focus on four landscaping escapees that are infesting Beargrass Creek State Nature Preserve: Privet, Winter creeper, Japanese honeysuckle, and Bush honeysuckle. Control methods for these species will be discussed and put into practice!

Sat., June 21, 10 am–1 pm – Kentucky's Invasive Exotic Plants: Part 3, Pine Creek Barrens Nature Preserve. Led by Augusta Mazyck, The Nature Conservancy's Conservation Project Manager. Pine Creek Barrens, one of Kentucky's finest examples of native grassland, is threatened by Musk thistle, Sweet clover, Johnson grass, and Crown vetch. We will learn to identify these species and visit a nearby stream where Water hemlock threatens the native vegetation. The Purple coneflowers should be in full bloom! The preserve is 30 minutes south of Louisville. Registrants will be mailed directions to the site.

Sat., September 6, 10 am–3 pm – Kentucky's Invasive Exotic Plants: Part 4, Vernon-Douglas State Nature Preserve. Led by Deborah White, Botanist, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission. This workshop will focus on Kudzu, Oriental bitterweet, Chinese yam, and Common reed. In addition to learning these species, we will hike a 2.5 mile trail to the top of a knob within this forested preserve. The preserve is located 10 minutes east of Elizabethtown. Registrants will be mailed directions to the site.

Sat., September 27, 9 am–12 noon – Kentucky's Invasive Exotic Plants: Part 5, Bernheim Arboretum Visitor's Center. Led by Margaret Shea, Bernheim's Natural Areas Director. Japanese stilt grass, Burning bush, Miscanthus, Sericea lespedeza, and Purple loosestrife are the species we will learn during this workshop. This trip will include a visit along Overalls Creek to see some of the most beautiful bottomland forest in Bernheim and the Japanese stilt grass that is invading!



KSNPC-sponsored Spring Hikes

THE KENTUCKY STATE Nature Preserves Commission has scheduled several spring hikes in some of the prettiest places in Central and Eastern Kentucky. A diversity of beautiful wildflowers is guaranteed. *Registration for the Blanton Forest trip is separate* (see details below), but to register for any of the other hikes, please call the commission office at 502-573-2886 or send an e-mail to Deborah White: deborah.white@state.mail.ky.us

Sun., April 13, 1 pm – Lower Howards Creek State Nature Preserve. KSNPC ecologist Martina Hines will lead this easy walk down to the creek and then explore the banks and beautiful limestone ledges along the creek. The preserve is not open to the public, so registration is required.

Sat., April 19, 10 am–3 pm – Earth Day Adventure Hike to Blanton Forest. Co-sponsored by the KSNPC, Pine Mountain State Resort Park, and the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust. No fee, but registration with the Park Naturalist at Pine Mountain is required. Call 606-337-3066 or 800-325-1712. Participants will drive their own vehicles from the Pine Mountain lodge to Blanton Forest (30 miles). Wear sturdy shoes for a 5-hour hike through the largest remaining old growth forest in the eastern U.S. You'll see giant hemlock trees on the way to Knobby Rock and spectacular views of the Cumberland Mountains.

Sun., April 20, 1 pm – Rivercliffs State Nature Preserve. KSNPC botanist Deborah White will give the group a choice of a medium to strenuous walk down wildflower alley to the Kentucky River. This is the KSNPC's most recently added preserve (not open to the public) and it is beautiful! Also has a nice population of endangered Braun's rockcress.

Sat., April 26 – John B. Stephenson Memorial Forest State Nature Preserve. KSNPC

botanist Nick Drozda will lead an approximately 2 mile, moderate to strenuous walk over uneven terrain. Destination is beautiful Anglin Falls and the rich spring floral display.

Sat., May 3 – Natural Bridge State Nature Preserve. KSNPC ecologist Heather Weese will

lead this easy to medium walk as part of the Natural Bridge State Park and KNPS Spring Wildflower Weekend. There'll be lots of wildflowers that you can't see in the Bluegrass. Register early for one of the popular Wildflower Weekend hikes.



A COMPREHENSIVE CALENDAR OF KNPS and Other Native Plant-related Events

Sats., April 12 & 19, 10 am – Spring Wildflower Walks, Shakertown at Pleasant Hill, 3501 Lexington Rd., Harrodsburg, KY. These approx. 3-hr. walks depart from outside the Trustees' Office. Jim Gentry from the Science Dept. at Lexington's Lafayette High School will lead on April 12, and Jeff Sole from the KY Chapter of The Nature Conservancy will lead on April 19. \$5.00 fee for each trip. Call 800-734-5611 or 859-734-5411 for details.

Sats., April 12, 19 & Sun., April 27, 1:30–3:30 pm – Bernheim Spring Wildflower Walks, Bernheim Arboretum, Clermont, KY. Follow the progress of spring with Dr. Varley Wiedeman, Bernheim's Science and Education Advisor, along a beautiful stretch of Old Headquarters Road. Sign up for each walk separately and come dressed for the weather and an easy mile-long walk along a gravel road in the natural forest. Fee: \$5 for Bernheim members, \$7 for non-members. Call 502-955-8512 to register or for more details.

Sun., April 13 – KSNPC Lower Howards Creek State Nature Preserve. *Details on p. 10.*

Sat.–Sun., April 18–19 – Herpetology Weekend at Natural Bridge State Resort Park.

Experienced herpetologists will lead Red River Gorge trips to observe reptiles and amphibians in their native habitat (collection is strictly prohibited). Demonstrations will include live venomous snakes! Programs for children and adults. Presenters include Dr. Whit Gibbons of the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, the Kentucky Reptile Zoo's Kristin Wiley and Jim Harrison, wildlife photographer Suzanne Collins, and Georgia's State Herpetologist John Jensen. \$5 per adult, \$7 per family, registration upon arrival. Details from the Park Naturalist at 606-663-2214 or jason.weese@mail.state.ky.us

Sat., April 19 – KNPS FIELD TRIP TO CEDARS OF LEBANON STATE PARK, Lebanon, TN. *See p. 5 for details.*

Sat., April 19 – Earth Day Trip to Blanton Forest. *Details on p. 10.*

Sat., April 19 – Bernheim/KY-EPPC Invasive Exotics Workshop. *Details on p. 9.*

Sun., April 20 – KSNPC Rivercliffs State Nature Preserve Trip. *Details on p. 10.*

Sat., April 26, 9 am–4 pm – Salato Center Native Plant Sale, Salato Wildlife Education Center, Frankfort, KY. Contact Mary Carol Cooper : 502-564-5280 or marycarol@aol.com

Sat., April 26 – KSNPC J. B. Stephenson Memorial Forest State Nature Preserve Trip. *Details on p. 11, above.*

Thurs.–Sun., May 1–4 – NATURAL BRIDGE WILDFLOWER WEEKEND & KNPS SPRING MEETING, Natural Bridge State Resort Park, Slade, KY. *Complete details on p. 2.*

Sat., May 3 – KSNPC Natural Bridge State Nature Preserve Fieldtrip. *Details on p. 11, above.*

WILDFLOWER GARDEN at Mammoth Cave National Park...

The space in front of the new office building at Mammoth Cave National Park has been designated as a native wildflower garden. If you have excess plants to donate from your garden, please call Michele Webber at 270-758-2147 or e-mail her at michele_webber@nps.gov MCNP is particularly interested in native plants that are not readily available in the nursery trade.

Kentucky Native Plant Society MEMBERSHIP FORM

Memberships are for the calendar year (January–December).

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

KY County _____

Tel.: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

E-mail _____

Add me to the e-mail list for time-critical native plant news.

Include my contact info in any future KNPS Member Directory

Membership Categories: Annual – \$10; Lifetime – \$150

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 MEMBERSHIP, P.O. Box 1152, Berea, KY 40403

(Continued on page 12)

**CALENDAR of
KNPS and Other
Native Plant-related
Events (continued)**

Sat., May 10, 10 am – Louisville Nature Center Spring Native Plant Sale, Louisville Nature Center, 3745 Illinois Ave., Louisville, KY. For more details call 458-1328 or check the LNC website at www.louisvillennaturecenter.org

Thurs.–Sat., May 15–17 – 5th Annual Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Symposium, Lexington, KY. *See p. 8 for details.*

Fri.–Sun., May 23–25 – Shaker Village Birding Weekend, Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill, 3501 Lexington, Rd., Harrodsburg, KY. Co-sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill. Field trips, riverboat ride, displays, raptor presentation, owl prowl, photography and more. Registration required, base fee is \$15.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 11 and under. Contact Don Pelly at 800-734-5611 for more details or check the Shaker Village web site: <http://www.shakervillageky.org>

Sat., May 31 – Bernheim/KY-EPPC Invasive Exotics Workshop. *Details on p. 10.*

Sat., June 21 – KNPS CERTIFICATION COURSE / SEDGE AND RUSH WORKSHOP. We will spend the morning examining specimens and learning keying techniques for these often misunderstood groups. After breaking for lunch, we will take an auto tour to sites in Madison and Rockcastle Counties to observe aquatic and wetland habitats and identify the dominant plants. Meet in front of the Moore Building on University Drive, at 9 am. (You can park behind the Moore Building, or in the parking lot by the ball fields off Crabbe St.). The class session will be held in Moore 202. Call 859-622-6257 or 859-623-6494, or email ron.jones@eku.edu to register. Limit 20 people. This workshop will count as one of the elective courses for the “KNPS Certification Program in Native Plant Studies.” This program has been slumbering for several years, but plans are being made to revive it.

**Sats., June 21, September 6 & September 27 –
Bernheim/KY-EPPC Invasive Exotics Workshops.** *Details on p. 10.*



**SEE PAGES 2 AND 11 FOR CONTACT INFORMATION
AND MEMBERSHIP ADDRESSES.**

*(Return address below is for
POST OFFICE USE ONLY.)*

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