



The Lady-Slipper

Fall 2012

Number 27:

a publication of the Kentucky Native Plant Society

www.knps.org

info@knps.org

KENTUCKY NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY FALL 2012 MEETING

On October 13th the Kentucky Native Plant Society will be co-hosting the fall meeting with Floracliff Nature Sanctuary in Fayette County. The day's events will include morning and afternoon hikes at Floracliff and Lower Howard's Creek, a nearby State Nature Preserve. The day will end with a couple of evening presentations including our featured speaker, Dr. Bill Bryant, giving a presentation on Dr. Mary Wharton. The charge for the event is \$10, which will cover all hikes and presentations. Floracliff will also be having a silent auction which will include books, including a copy of Mary Wharton's "Wildflowers and Ferns of Kentucky" (out of print) and "Wildlands Philanthropy", a coffee table book with essays and photographs from natural areas all over the world, three of which are in Kentucky, one of them being Floracliff. Also included in the silent auction will be a few nicely made copies of botanical prints from Mary Wharton's collection by Mark Catesby and George Ehret. While Floracliff typically requires pre-registration for all events, that will not be required for this event. However, all hikes will be offered to the first 15 people that sign up that day. Sign up sheets will be in our nature center. The Floracliff Nature Center is located at 8000 Elk Lick Falls Rd., Lexington, KY 40515.

For more information or to get directions, please contact us at **859-351-7770** or floracliff@aol.com. Here is the schedule:

9:00 - 12:00 Hikes

Hike 1- Birds and Plants hike to the Kentucky River @ Floracliff with Mary Carol Cooper and Ramesh and Suzanne Bhatt

Hike 2- Trees and Mushrooms w/ Beverly James @ Floracliff

Hike 3- @ Lower Howard's Creek with Clare Sipple and Bill Crankshaw

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch break: on your own.

1:30 - 4:30 Hikes:

Hike 1- "Ecology of the Palisades" hike @ Floracliff w/ Brian Yahn

Hike 2- @ Lower Howard's Creek with Clare Sipple and Bill Crankshaw

4:50 Silent auction ends, winners announced, items can be picked up and paid for before 5:00 p.m. or after presentations

5:00 - 6:00 Indoor presentations:

5:00 - 5:30 - Will Overbeck, ECU Biology Department graduate student- "Flora of Garrard County Encompassing the Palisades, Bluegrass and Knobs Regions"

5:30-6:00 - Dr. Bill Bryant, retired biology professor from Thomas More College- "Mary Wharton: Botanist, Educator, and Conservationist"



KNPS President's Message by Alan Nations

Greetings,

I hope this finds you all well. I am certain you are as pleased as I to see the end of the oppressive heat and drought conditions. Today I walked my native prairies and the woodland's rough edges. My first reaction was surprise, as I noticed how quickly the native warm season grasses and wildflowers had responded to the recent rains. Hundreds of Goldenrods, Asters, Sunflowers, Liatris, Lespedeza and Thoroughwort, of varying species, were in full bloom. I stopped often to enjoy the sight, smell and the sound, as bees, wasps and butterflies frantically worked the blooming Late-Thoroughwort and Tall Goldenrod. It suddenly dawned on me that I should not be surprised by the wildflowers' and grasses' response to the recent rains; after all I am a seasoned naturalist and I have seen this many times before. I tell people all the time about how our native plants and ecological systems have evolved and adapted over hundreds of years. Why am I always surprised when I witness the wonders of nature? This prairie's soil is hard pan clay and it sits on a knob at an elevation of 850 feet. The plants were stunted most of the summer as they baked under extreme heat, low humidity, dry winds and severe drought. A few good rains have erased all signs of the drought! In trying to answer the question about my surprise I am reminded of what a master electrician once told me. Every time he flipped a light switch and the light came on he was amazed, even after years of working with and teaching the theory of electricity. I am amazed by nature. It provides me with a sense of wonder and always compels me to observe and learn more.

There are opportunities for you to learn more and help advance our mission, by serving on one of our committees. Each committee has openings, and regardless of your experience level, your participation would be valuable. This is an environment with friendly, helpful people, where you can learn as you go. You can find contact information for our officers and committee chairs on the website, or you can call me at 502-235-8068, with questions or to volunteer. We need you!

I hope to see you all at our fall meeting on October 13th at FloraCliff State Nature Preserve. It's going to be a lot of fun and a real learning experience. It will also be a special day to honor Botanist Mary E. Wharton (1912-1991), whose work is so important to the floristic botany of Kentucky.

See you there,

Alan

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The Lady-Slipper is intended to be published by the Kentucky Native Plant Society [IRC 501(c)(3)] in March, June, Sept., and Dec. Deadlines are the 10th of the prior months, but Editorial Committee members welcome article submissions at any time. Send dues and membership status inquiries to:

Kentucky Native Plant Society Membership, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601

www.knps.org

info@knps.org

KNPS NEWS

Friday, October 26' 10:00 a.m.

Field Trip to Lower Howard's Creek

Dr. Bill Crankshaw, forest ecologist, and Peggy Moody, preserve volunteer, will lead a hike on this beautiful preserve. They will focus on the native plants of the area. Registration is required. For registration and further details, call Peggy Moody at **859-749-1862**.

Saturday, October 6

Field Trip to Vernon Douglas State Nature Preserve

The Knobs Region has some of the best fall colors in the state and Vernon Douglas State Nature Preserve is a great place to see them. Come out and hike on October 6! We will meet at the parking lot but please register for the hike with Deborah White at **(502) 573-2886**. Deb is the botanist with the Kentucky State Nature Preserve and will be leading the hike.

KNPS Wildflower Weekends —April 19-21, 2013 and April 11-13, 2014 at Natural Bridge State Park

Save the dates! The 2012 Wildflower Weekend was one of our most successful in years, despite fears of an early spring. We had such a good time we have already set the dates through 2014! For more information stay tuned to www.knps.org.

KNPS Fall Meeting—September 20-22, 2013 at Lake Barkley State Park

September 2013 will be a great time for KNPS! We are going to hold a joint meeting with the Tennessee Native Plant Society in far Western Kentucky, an area many of our members do not get a change to see very often. Plans have not been finalized, but we hope to visit a few of the Purchase Region's unique vegetative communities. For more information stay tuned to www.knps.org.



**The Kentucky Native Plant Society is an official Affiliate of the
Kentucky Conservation Committee!**

The KCC is the state's only organization dedicated solely to providing a non-partisan voice for Kentucky's environmental community in Frankfort. KCC works to make sound environmental stewardship a priority for elected officials and voters. For more information on KCC's activities, just go to:

www.kyconservation.org

PLANT SHRUBS THIS FALL FOR BUTTERFLIES AND BIRDS NEXT SPRING

Fall in Kentucky is a great time to plant native shrubs and trees. Plants are not stressed by hot summer weather and require less watering. For weeks after the leaves drop the roots continue to grow. Most importantly, the plants are already in the ground when our spring rains start.

Adding native shrubs to your landscape will make your little piece of Kentucky a more beautiful, more interesting and healthier place. Native plants are every bit as beautiful as horticultural species introduced from other parts of the world and are much more beneficial to native wildlife. They attract the beauty and magic of butterflies, birds and other wildlife to your yard.

Many people know that the larvae of monarch butterflies can only eat milkweed leaves, but did you know that zebra swallowtail larvae can only eat pawpaw leaves? The larvae of North America's largest butterfly—the Giant Swallowtail, require hop tree or prickly ash. Most of Kentucky's most beautiful butterflies and moths are *host specific* which means the caterpillars (baby butterflies!) can only eat leaves from a few related native plant species, many of them shrubs and trees. A diversity of native woody plant species will attract more butterflies to your yard and will provide places for them to reproduce.

Native shrubs will also attract more birds to your yard. Insects comprise a large part of the diet of most adult birds and are the *only* food for most baby birds, including hummingbirds. Native plants provide the insects. Hundreds of caterpillars and tiny pollinating insects are needed *daily* to feed a nest of baby birds. I've never seen a native shrub or tree damaged by native insects —birds keep the insect populations in check. Many native shrubs and trees also provide high energy seeds and berries. Native seed and fruit producing shrubs are especially attractive to migrating birds-- you may see bird species in your yard that you've never seen before.

Even if your yard seems full of plants there are ways to find room for native species. One of my favorite examples is foundation plantings. Many homes have evergreen shrubs as a foundation planting. The ever-



Sambucus Canadensis. Photo by Tom Barnes.

greens provide structure and cover in winter but little else. By simply expanding the bed and adding native species in front of the evergreens you can add beauty and interest while providing food and habitat.

The understory of trees is another great place to add native shrubs. Simply plant the shrubs near the drip line of the tree. Plant a single shrub species if you like a more formal appearance. If you are planting into sod, use the smother method to kill the sod around the trees and shrubs to create a healthier environment for them. Simply cover the grass with 6-8 layers of newspaper and add 2-3 inches of mulch to cover the paper. In a year the grass will have decomposed. If you put newspaper and mulch 12 inches or more outside the drip line you will then have a weed free area to plant native perennials for more even color and diversity.

Smothering is a simple, inexpensive way to eliminate lawn and create new beds. With a little work you can add a lot of beauty and life to your yard with native shrubs and the diversity of life they support.

NATIVE SHRUBS FOR LANDSCAPING

Witch Hazel
Hop Tree
Strawberry Bush
Winterberry
Virginia Willow
Wild Hydrangea
Chokeberry, red
Steeplebush
Sweet Shrub
Elderberry
Elderberry, Red
Hazelnut
Spicebush
Viburnum, Arrowwood
Viburnum, Possumhaw



Spirea tomentosa Photo by Tom Barnes.

Hamamelis virginiana
Ptelea trifoliata
Euonymus americanus
Ilex verticillata
Itea virginica
Hydrangea arborescens
Aronia arbutifolia
Spirea tomentosa
Calycanthus floridus
Sambucus canadensis
Sambucus pubens
Corylus americana
Lindera benzoin
Viburnum dentatum
Viburnum nudum

Sources for native plants**Local Sources**

Shooting Star Nursery; Georgetown

ShootingStarNursery.com 502-867-7979

The oldest and largest native plant nursery in Kentucky. Native perennials, trees, shrubs and vines.

Dropseed Nursery; Louisville

DropSeedNursery.com 502-439-9033

Good selection of native genotype perennials, trees, shrubs and vines.

Highland Moor Nursery; Midway

HighlandMoor.com 859-509-2719

Wholesale native genotype trees and shrubs, some perennials.

Mail-order Sources

There are many mail order nurseries, but I find these two to have consistently good material and they do not dig their plants from the wild.

Prairie Moon Nursery; PrairieMoon.com

Potted plants, bare-root plants in spring and fall, quantity discounts.

Missouri Wildflower Nursery MoWildflowers.net

Potted plants, good selection of small native trees

Sources for more information

Wild Ones 877-394-9453 WildOnes.org

A national native landscaping group with chapters in Lexington and Louisville.

Membership includes a bi-monthly journal. Meetings are open to non-members.

Books

Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines by William Cullina

Bringing Nature Home by Douglas W. Tallamy

Gardening For The Birds by Dr. Tom Barnes

CHRYSALIS NATURAL LANDSCAPES 680 Mt Vernon Rd Frankfort Ky 40601

ConnieMay60@yahoo.com 502-682-8279 www.ChrysalisNaturalLandscapes.com



Spirea racemosa. Photo by Tom Barnes.

Find us on Facebook!



Will we have a colorful fall leaf season in Kentucky this year?

By Dr. Thomas G. Barnes, University of Kentucky

<http://kentuckynativeplantandwildlife.blogspot.com>

The questions are already coming into our department about what affect this crazy weather will have on fall leaf color in the state. We had a very warm spring, followed by summer droughts, and then heavy rainfall in various areas and it is difficult, if not impossible to predict how good the color will be in the trees. One thing is for certain, we will have some color in the leaves unless the leaves are already brown and the trees are dead. Why? The answer lies in the two factors that give rise to good color, warm sunny days followed by cool to cold nights at the time of leaf abscission (when a plant drops a part of itself, in this case the leaf). Leaf abscission is generally triggered by changing day or night length and in some species leaf abscission can actually begin in August. Right now the flowering dogwoods, sassafras and black gum are turning scarlet red as their process of getting ready for dormancy has already begun. In those areas where these species occur in the forest, the color has been pretty good. Generally speaking, a warm wet spring followed by favorable summer weather, and warm, sunny fall days with cool nights produce the best color and drought often delays color change a couple of weeks. However, the trees will still gradually lose the green pigment (chlorophyll) and the other pigments (carotenoids which give rise to orange, yellow and brown and the anthocyanins which give rise to red) will show their colors as the season progresses. If we get rainy, drizzly, days in the coming weeks, the color may not be as spectacular as we would like. Now is a great time to enjoy being outside and enjoy what Nature has to offer before winter sets in.



Photo by Tom Barnes.

KNPS Stewardship Certification Graduation

Thanks to the participants and instructors that make the KNPS Native Plant Stewardship Certification Program such a success! Extra thanks to Bill Edwards, Ken & Vicki Brooks, and Deb White who organized a graduation ceremony and hike at the Sally Brown Nature Preserve in Garrard County on September 22nd. Stay tuned to www.knps.org for info on our next class!





Image includes (left to right): (partially obscured = p) Kristy Nowak, Mary Carol Cooper, Alan Nations, Rose Marie Roessler, Dann Higgins (p), Nathan Skinner (p), Jason Schooling (p), Joylyn Sipple, Peggy Moody, Vicki Ligenza, Deb White, Bill Edwards (Josie Miller = missing)



Image includes (left to right): Deb White, Alan Nations, Kristy Nowak, Joylyn Sipple, Bill Edwards, Peggy Moody, Jim Roessler (spouse), Jason Schooling (p), Dann Higgins (p), Vicki Ligenza (p) (missing = Dann Higgins, Josie Miller, Rose Marie Roessler, Mary Carol Cooper, Ken & Vicki Brooks)

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SAVE KY
Nature's Finest

Kentucky UNBROKEN SPIRIT
4EVER
Nature's Finest

Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund
HeritageLand.Ky.gov

Drive home your support for the great outdoors.

EXPLORE YOUR WEBSITE AT WWW.KNPS.ORG!

http://knps.org/

Kentucky Native Plant Society - www.knps.org

Welcome to The Kentucky Native Plant Society

HOME INFORMATION NEWS/EVENTS MEMBERSHIP LINKS

The Kentucky Native Plant Society was founded in 1986 for everyone interested in the native plants and wildflowers of Kentucky. Plants are essential to both the well-being of our Commonwealth's natural ecosystems and our enjoyment of its unique environment. With members in Kentucky and neighboring states, the Kentucky Native Plant Society is a leader in promoting education about, appreciation for, and conservation of our native flora.

Our mission is to promote education, preservation, and protection of Kentucky native plants and ecological systems.

The Lady-Slipper Archives

KNPS Native Plant Stewardship Certification Program

Fall 2011 Newsletter

The Lady-Slipper

Kentucky's Common Yellow Orchid (Lachnum carolinense)

[KNPS EMAIL](#)

From: Chuck Bargeron [cbargero@UGA.EDU]
Sent: Thursday, July 19, 2012 2:08 PM
Subject: Invasive Plant Control, Inc. Celebrates 15 years in business!

Invasive Plant Control, Inc. Celebrates 15 years in business!

Invasive Plant Control Inc. (www.invasiveplantcontrol.com) opened for business fifteen years ago this August; to celebrate we will be offering free prizes once per week for an entire year. All you will have to do is go to our registration page once per week, register by filling out a short form describing you and your interest in invasives. At the end of each week we will choose a winner! Registration for the IPC weekly prize giveaway will begin September 3rd 2012 and run every week until September 2013.

Prizes will include weed management tools like weed wrenches, extractigators, backpack sprayers and hand sprayers. We will also be giving away some of our most popular services such as online management plan conversions, online invasives tracking tools, online smart tools, IPC hosted workshops and seminars, I-Phone apps and even the use of our crews on your site.

It's our way of saying thank you to all of our clients and supporters over the last fifteen years! For more details, you can give Steven Manning a call (615-969-1309) or e-mail (steve@ipc-inc.org) or just keep your eyes open for the another e-mail in a few weeks with the weekly registration instructions.

Steven T. Manning
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Kentucky Native Plant Society
801 Schenkel Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601

2012 KNPS Membership Application or Renewal

Detach and send to: Kentucky Native Plant Society / 801 Schenkel Lane / Frankfort, KY 40601

Note: To pay by credit card or PayPal account, please visit the website www.knps.org.

Name(s)* _____

Membership Type: (memberships are for calendar year)

E-mail(s)* _____

Address* _____

City, State, Zip* _____

Telephone _____

_____ Individual \$15 (includes e-newsletter)
_____ Family \$25 (includes e-newsletter to 1-4 e-mails)
_____ Lifetime \$200 (includes electronic newsletter indefinitely)
_____ Additional gift (optional, tax-deductible)
Total _____ Check No. _____

* denotes required fields, we MUST have your e-mail address in order to distribute the newsletter!

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