



# The Lady-Slipper

Winter 2012

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[www.knps.org](http://www.knps.org)

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## Seed glorious seed!

By Deb White, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

Thanks to Dropseed Nursery we are in the next phase of our fameflower (*Talinum calcaricum*) restoration because we have seed galore. This was produced from wild seed collected at a state nature preserve where open limestone glade habitat is protected. Monitoring efforts have indicated for some time that the fameflower population was declining and, as a result of impacts from a renegade cow (much trampling in these fragile glade openings) in 2011, we asked the preserve manager to collect seed as it matured. The Kentucky Native Plant Society stepped in and provided some funding to grow the seed.

Dropseed Nursery created a seed bed apart from their other operations for fameflower and had good success with germination and establishment of the plants. The seed was collected as it matured - don't forget

fameflower is a few inches high at maturity and the seeds are right around the size of a typed period, or maybe a couple put together - so this is tedious and collection is spread out over a month or more. We very much appreciate their efforts.

From a very modest collection of wild seed at the end of last season (after most of the seed had already fallen), thousands of seed were produced. We identified sites for reintroduction and started with several hundred at 3 sites within the original nature preserve. The sites are marked so we will check for germination next spring.

Fameflower is at the northern edge of its range in Kentucky. These populations on the fringe of the range can be very important in the overall adaptability of the species. As environmental conditions change, the species, in this case fameflower, may be more able to withstand longer drier summers, as is predicted with climate change for instance, or extremes in the weather. So even though Kentucky only has a few populations of a plant, and even though they are very rare, they may be significant to the long term success of the species. More to come on fameflower restoration!



*Talinum calcaricum*, photo by Brainard Palmer-Ball

KNPS President's Message by Alan Nations

Greetings, I hope this finds you all well and enjoying the holiday season. Looks like another year has slipped by, as it comes to an end I like to look back and reflect .This year I have had the good fortune to work on some very interesting natural areas restoration projects, and monitor the success of others done in previous years. It is very rewarding to witness the recovery of a natural area. To see plants emerge from barren eroding soil, the seeds of which have laid patiently dormant in the soil for decades? To see acorns sprout from the forest floor producing a small White oak (*Quercus Alba*) seedling, when all the oak trees are dead and have not produced an acorn in years? To see many Small-flowered Ladies-tresses (*Spiranthes ovalis*), a rare native Orchid, emerge from the soil previously occupied by a monoculture of invasive bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*). These are only a few examples of the natural wonders I have witnessed this year. I hope each of you have made a contribution to the preservation of our native plants and ecological systems of Kentucky this year. If not, start now by planning to plant a native tree or shrub, wildflowers, grasses or vines in the coming year. If you have questions or need help go to our website, we have some very helpful links or send us an email we will find someone to help you.

I would like to thank our Officers, Board and Membership for all of your support during the year. Your hard work and dedication has made it a very successful year for the Society. It has been my pleasure to serve with you all.

Looking forward, I would like to wish all of you a joyous holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

**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](http://www.knps.org)

[info@knps.org](mailto:info@knps.org)

## **2013 KNPS Wildflower Weekend at Natural Bridge State Park!**

April 19-21, 2013 will find us enjoying the native plants at Natural Bridge. We are still working on scheduling the weekend festivities, but so far we can confirm the following:

### Friday, April 19

Field Trips—8:30 am, 1:30 pm, 4:00 pm

### Saturday, April 20th

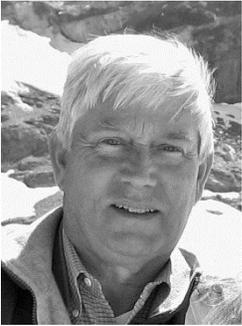
Field Trips—8:30 am, 9:00 am, 1:30 pm, 2:00 pm

6:30 pm - Kentucky Native Plant Society's General Meeting

7:00 pm – **Rare Plant Conservation** – presentation by Deb White and Tara Littlefield, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

7:30 pm – **Connections and Biodiversity** – presentation by Rudy Mancke: “When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.” Was John Muir right?

For more info on Rudy please click here : [http://www.environ.sc.edu/natural\\_history.html](http://www.environ.sc.edu/natural_history.html)



Rudy Mancke grew up in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and spent his childhood roaming the woods and meadows of the Piedmont, observing the natural world, identifying flora and fauna, and asking himself questions about what he saw. When he was not exploring the outdoors, he was in the library seeking answers to these questions while forming new ones. Rudy's education at Wofford College and graduate study at the University of South Carolina broadened his interest in natural history, an enthusiasm that he tried to give to his students at Spartanburg High School and later to the public while a Curator of Natural History at the South Carolina State Museum. Rudy is happy to have founded the South Carolina Association of Naturalists, an organization that continues to thrive. Rudy's work at the museum brought him into contact with producers at South Carolina Educational Television and led to the television series **NatureScene** (1978-2002) that is still being aired on public television. With hosts Beryl Dakers and later Jim Welch, Rudy led viewers on nature walks in many locations in the United States as well as to sites abroad.

## **SAVE THE DATES!**

### **KNPS FALL MEETING 2013!**

**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](http://www.knps.org).

### **WILDFLOWER WEEKEND 2014!**

April 11-13, 2014 at Natural Bridge State Park

### **KNPS Hike at Carter Caves State Park—May 4, 2014!**

The Cincinnati Wildflower Society will join us for this hike to Horn Hollow, which start at 10:00 AM at the visitor center. Bring a lunch or eat at the lodge afterwards. To register call Ray at 859-757-6093.

**KNPS Student Research Grant 2012**

KNPS is pleased to announce the student research grant program, a funding source to support botanical knowledge and understanding in Kentucky. We are pleased to offer awards of \$500 for graduate student projects, and \$250 for undergraduate projects. Awards will be given for field-based botanical project(s) which contribute to the knowledge of Kentucky's flora or natural communities (with students preferably attending a Kentucky college or university). 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 travel expenses. It may not be used to pay time (e.g., labor) for any party. Applications are due by March 22, 2013. Applicants will be notified by April 5th, and successful applicant(s) will be announced at the KNPS wildflower weekend conference April 19th 2013. Funding amount may vary depending on the applicant pool (and may include no grants given). Proposals will be reviewed by the KNPS Grant Committee.

Proposals must include:

1. A current resume/curriculum vitae;
2. A proposal (not to exceed two single - spaced typed pages) identifying the research as either graduate or under-graduate, and describing the proposed research and the role the grant would play in the research;
3. An itemized budget; and
4. One letter of recommendation from a faculty member.

Applicants are encouraged to become members of the KNPS, but membership is not required to be awarded a grant. Grant recipients are required 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 pre-send their work at the KNPS Fall or Spring meeting, and we encourage presenting their work at the annual Kentucky Academy of Sciences meeting within one year of completion of their research.

Submit electronic copies (as Word or PDF attachments) of all items listed above including letter of recommendation (sent separately by faculty member) to: [dtaylor02@fs.fed.us](mailto:dtaylor02@fs.fed.us)

By Popular Demand...

# They're BACK!

Preserve the GREAT OUTDOORS with GREAT PLATES from the past.

**HELP US**  
Nature's Finest  
Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund  
HeritageLand.Ky.gov

**SAVE KY**  
Nature's Finest  
Viceroy (*Limanitis archippus*) Kentucky State Butterfly

**4EVER**  
Nature's Finest  
Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*) Kentucky State Bird

**Drive home your support for the great outdoors.**

Funding for Lower Howard's Creek Nature and Heritage Preserve, Natural Bridge State Park, and many other natural areas visited by the Kentucky Native Plant Society is made possible by your generous purchase of a Kentucky "Nature's Finest" license plate from your County Clerk! A \$10 donation to the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund is made from every plate purchased—late year that generated almost \$600,000 for the purchase of natural areas open to the public. For more information visit the KHLCF website at <http://heritageland.ky.gov> or find them on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Kentucky-Heritage-Land-Conservation-Fund/165020419030?ref=ts>

**Find the KNPS on Facebook!**



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/69397006016/>

## LOWER HOWARD'S CREEK KNPS FIELD TRIP

By Mary Carol Cooper



On Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> a group of 10 hearty hikers spent a beautiful fall day at Lower Howard's Creek Nature and Heritage Preserve. This area is a Kentucky State Nature Preserve operated by Clark County Fiscal Court. Its acquisition was made possible by a grant from the **Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund** (<http://heritageland.ky.gov>). Two of the Preserve's invaluable, knowledgeable, volunteers, Bill Crankshaw and Peggy Moody, led us on a 3-hour hike around this wonderful area. Anyone who has not been to Lower Howard's Creek needs to put a trip there on their bucket list.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF LOWER HOWARD'S CREEK

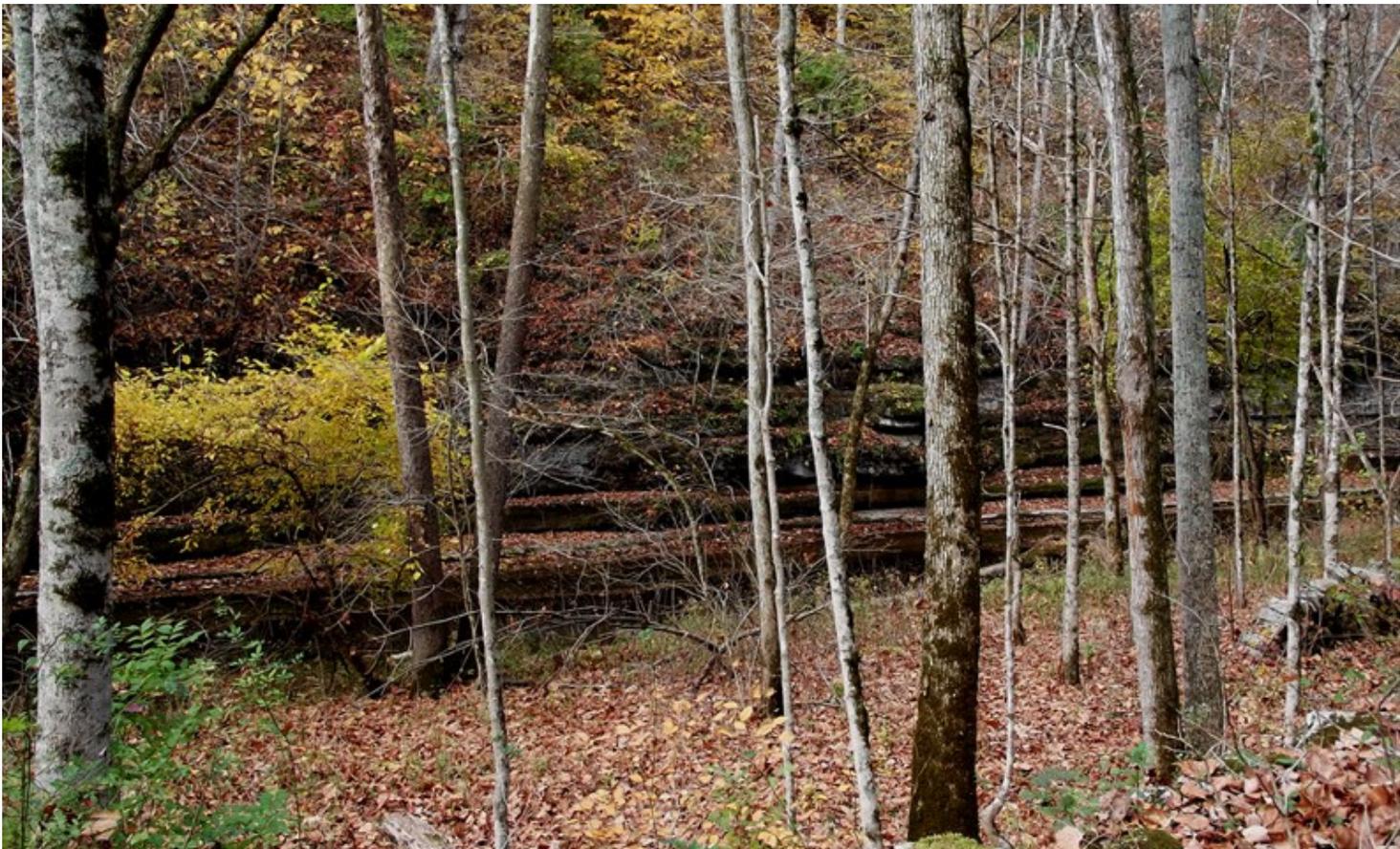
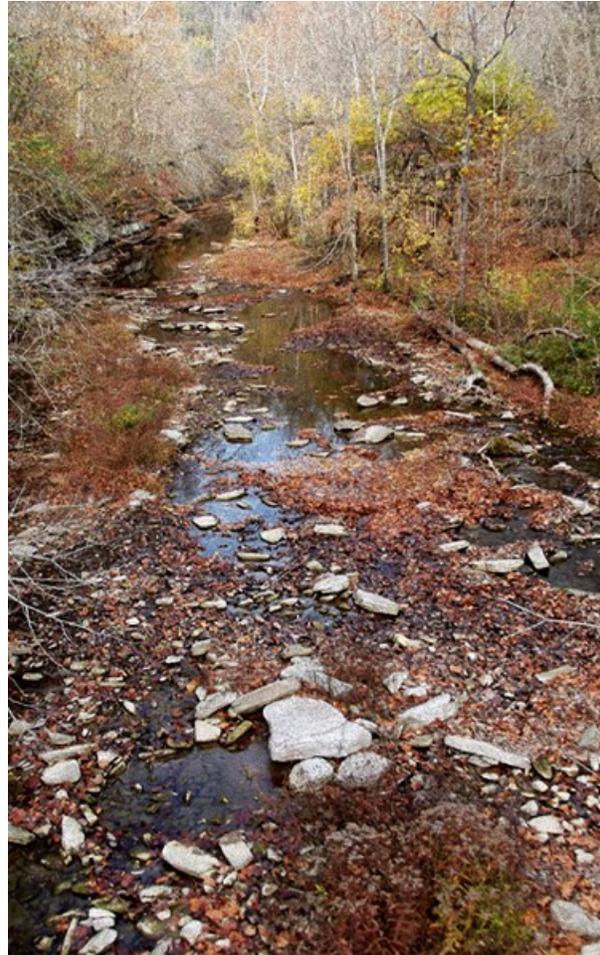
- The Historic Road: This road began as a buffalo trace that was used by the Native Americans and, subsequently by European settlers. It went from Boonesborough to the Lower Blue Licks. It follows along Lower Howard's Creek, which was quite shallow when we were there, but still very beautiful.
- The Tufa: A tufa (too'-fah) is an unusual geological formation. There is also one at Floracliff Nature Sanctuary. It is a mineral formation made by depositing calcium carbonate (limestone) from the stream.
- Arnold Home site: This is in ruins now, but once was the home of Richard Arnold, a stonemason. There is a large quarry on the hillside next to the ruins of his house. Near these ruins is a small pen made of dry laid stone that was probably used for holding animals.



- Lower Howard's Creek: This creek is the reason why the valley community was viable. It provided power for the mills and factories that produced lumber, flour, and textiles during the 1800's and early 1900's. By the mid 1900's, other power sources replaced waterpower and the population of the area diminished and finally the creek valley was uninhabited.
- The Bush Mill: This was a gristmill built probably around 1806. It produced flour for export to New Orleans. The remains of the mill still stand and are quite impressive. The craftsmanship and tremendous labor that went into its construction is still evident.
- The Jonathan Bush House: This is a work of art! The house is built of locally quarried limestone and is dry-laid and is unbelievable beautiful and impressive! It was used as a residence until the 1940's.

The history of this area is more than worth the trip to Clark County as is lunch at Hall's On The River. At Hall's, you can find a short segment of the Lower Howard's Creek Trail that is now open to the public, the John Holder Trail. A map with directions to this trail, can be found at <http://goo.gl/maps/ys3ZO>.

The trail that we went on is not open to the public, but one can make arrangements to schedule a hike there or attend one the Preserve's scheduled programs. For more information go to the preserve's website at <http://www.lowerhowardscreek.org/>.





# Kentucky Conservation Committee

## 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](http://www.kyconservation.org)

EXPLORE YOUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.KNPS.ORG](http://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 Milkweed (Asclepias syriaca L.)



Kentucky Native Plant Society  
801 Schenkel Lane  
Frankfort, KY 40601

### 2013 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](http://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!

*The Kentucky Native Plant Society was founded in 1986 for everyone interested in the native plants, trees, 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 the native flora of our Commonwealth.*