



# *The Lady-Slipper*

Summer 2014

Number 29:2

*a publication of the Kentucky Native Plant Society*

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

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KNPS presents the 2014 Kentucky Botanical Symposium

Friday, October 24 and Saturday, October 25

at Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest in Bullitt County.

Join botanists throughout the region at Bernheim to learn about current native plant research in Kentucky. Friday will see a series of talks by prominent biologists and plant researchers, while Saturday will feature a field trip to a local natural area.

Scheduled presenters include:

- Dr. Allen Risk, Morehead State University: [http://www.moreheadstate.edu/content\\_template.aspx?id=2939](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/content_template.aspx?id=2939)
- Dr. Brad Ruhfel, Eastern Kentucky University: <http://biology.eku.edu/people/ruhfel>
- Deborah White, Woods and Water Land Trust: <http://www.woodsandwatertrust.org/>
- Tara Littlefield, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission: <http://naturepreserves.ky.gov>
- Quinn Long, Missouri Botanical Garden: <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plant-science/plant-science/research-staff/article/377/long-quinn-gabriel.aspx>
- Julian Campbell, Bluegrass Woodland Restoration Center: <http://bluegrasswoodland.com/>
- Daniel Boone, Expert Regional Botanist

For more information check [WWW.KNPS.ORG](http://WWW.KNPS.ORG) in the months ahead!



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

KNPS President's Message by Zeb Weese

When I first became active in the KNPS over a decade ago, I never thought I'd be writing the President's Message! It is an honor to follow in the footsteps of past-presidents like Wilson Francis, Ron Jones, Julian Campbell, Tom Barnes, and the late Landon McKinney (see page 4) who have contributed so much to help Kentucky's native plants and natural areas. I'm not even a botanist! My goal is to continue the great work of our last president, Alan Nations, and focus on our native plant stewardship certification program and educational efforts. It is vitally important that KNPS members work together, and with other conservation groups, to help protect our native plant habitats.

To that end, our new KNPS Vice-President (and resident professional botanist) Tara Littlefield is hard at work organizing a native plant research symposium to be held this fall at Bernheim Forest (see page 1) and new KNPS Secretary Teresa McReynolds is helping us reach out to the Kentucky Master Gardener program at their fall conference to spread the word about our native plant stewardship program. New KNPS Treasurer Bill Edwards has already taken the KNPS display to an environmental event this summer (see page 6). For my part, I have instructed a class as part of the KNPS Native Plant Stewardship Certification Program and am working towards forging a stronger relationship between KNPS and the Kentucky Exotic Pest Plant Council for future outreach efforts.

Through these and other efforts, such as our very active Facebook page, all KNPS members can help spread the word about the KNPS and advocate for Kentucky's natural areas and native plants!

Have a great summer,

*Zeb*

***RENEW YOUR KNPS MEMBERSHIP FOR 2014! SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS!***

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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)

### KNPS Field Trips

Join Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill Naturalist, Ben Leffew on a hike to view blooming summer wildflowers in our restored native prairie. Over 1,200 acres of cool season pastures and hayfields have been restored with native grasses and wildflowers in the past five years, making the summer bloom one of the more beautiful times of year at Shaker Village. Hike starts at 9am on **Friday, August 1st** and is limited to 15 participants. Please contact Mary Carol Cooper if you plan to attend: 859-277-0656 or [marycarolcooper@iCloud.com](mailto:marycarolcooper@iCloud.com)

Join Mary Carol Cooper on **Friday, September 13** for a hike on Dupree Nature Preserve in Garrard County. This is The Nature Conservancy's newest Kentucky nature preserve. It's a beautiful, fairly easy 3 mile hike on the Kentucky River Palisades. The hike is limited to 15. For further information contact Mary Carol Cooper: at 859-277-0656 or [marycarolcooper@iCloud.com](mailto:marycarolcooper@iCloud.com).

Botanist Julian Campbell is trying to build a regular monthly program for interested people to look over interesting sites in the central Bluegrass region, especially Bourbon, Fayette, Woodford, Jessamine and adjacent counties. For more information contact Julian Campbell at [campmeet@gmail.com](mailto:campmeet@gmail.com) or 859-229-7711. Potential trips in 2014 will go to Jessamine Gorge, Marble Creek, Scotts Grove and others in Jessamine County. Other possible sites and tours to be arranged in next year or two in partnership with managers where appropriate: Warwick (Mercer Co), Buckley Hills (Woodford), Raven Run (Fayette), Palisades Preserves (Garrard), Blue Licks (Nicholas), Shakertown (Mercer), Panther Rock (Anderson), Lower Elkhorn Creek (Franklin), Cane Ridge remnants (tour Harrison to Montgomery), Lower Howards Creek (Clark), deeper understanding of Cane Run (tour Fayette to Scott), search for old buffalo trail remnants (tour Scott and Franklin to Owen and Henry); ideally with repeated visits to ALL significant sites in the region over the years to come on a continual basis.

### 2014 KNPS STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED

KNPS is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's student research grant program, a funding source to support botanical knowledge and understanding in Kentucky. Awards were given for field-based botanical projects 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. 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 present 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.

The Grants Committee awarded grants this year to the following students:

- Pavan Podapati, working with Dr. Thomas Barnes, University of Kentucky, has been awarded a KNPS Research Grant to investigate the control of garlic mustard with herbicides.
- Heidi Braunreiter, working with Dr. Ronald Jones, Eastern Kentucky University, has been awarded a KNPS Research Grant to investigate the floristics of Boyle County, Kentucky.

Congratulations Pavan and Heidi, we look forward to your results!

## IN MEMORIAM

LANDON E. MCKINNEY

(1949—2014)

Former KNPS President Landon McKinney and wife Lela.



Landon E. McKinney, a talented field botanist and naturalist, passed away on Thursday, June 5th, 2014, at the Wade Park Veteran's Medical Center in Cleveland. He was 65 years old. Landon Earl McKinney was born May 17, 1949 in Nashville, Tennessee, to the late Lawrence Vern and Constance Joy McKinney. After graduating from Donelson High School in Nashville in 1967, Landon joined the Navy and served as a Marine Navy Corpsman from 1968–1970. He was a field combat corpsman in Vietnam during 1969. He earned a B.S. in Biology in 1973 from Middle Tennessee State University and subsequently his M.S. in Botany in 1977 from Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). He was a Post-Graduate Research Associate in Plant Taxonomy at Vanderbilt University, working with Dr. Robert Kral, from 1985–1989. Landon began his life-long fascination with the stemless

blue violets under the direction of Dr. Kurt Blum at MTSU. His master's thesis was "Preliminary Studies of the Acaulescent Blue Violets (*Viola*) with Special Reference to Middle Tennessee."

Landon had a varied career that included working for a pharmaceutical company and operating his own printing business. Nevertheless, after his family, his true passion was botany which he focused upon all his life. His botanical career including working in various capacities for several state heritage programs, including the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission from 1990–1996. Landon often worked part time or full time as an environmental consultant, and in recent years he worked full time for several different companies in Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, and throughout the eastern U.S. He conducted hundreds of status surveys for rare plant species over the years, including many federally endangered species. Landon was also an expert on habitat analysis and invasive species issues, and his work often involved the assessment of wetland communities and species, and making management recommendations on preserving natural habits and controlling invasive species.

Landon was heavily involved in the Kentucky Native Plant Society (KNPS) for many years; he regularly attended the annual meetings and frequently led field trips. Landon served as the KNPS President from 1992–1996 and from 2002–2006. Landon stepped up during these periods when KNPS needed a strong leader, and helped the KNPS to become one of the most successful native plant societies in the region. He also served a term as the Director of the KNPS Certification Program in Native Plant Studies, and taught a number of courses in the program, including Plant Ecology, Woody Plants, Sedges, and Wetland Plants, at both Eastern Kentucky University and Northern Kentucky University. He taught a spring quarter course on "Native Plants of the Tri-state" as an adjunct instructor with the University of Cincinnati during 2006–2009.

Landon was an avid plant collector throughout his career. He collected thousands of specimens during all his various botanical activities and deposited them at regional herbaria. At the ECU Herbarium alone there are over 1,000 specimens on deposit collected by Landon. These specimens serve as an important permanent legacy of Landon's botanical career. Landon eagerly collected difficult grasses, rushes, and sedges, and



Landon's favorite flower—photo by Ron Jones



he possessed a special skill in identifying these problematic species. He was especially skillful in the genus *Carex*, a group of over 140 taxa in Kentucky alone, and he wrote the *Carex* keys for the 2005 book, *Plant Life of Kentucky*.

Landon's primary passion throughout his career was the genus *Viola*, in particular the stemless blue violets, and he was nationally known for his expertise in this genus. The seminal publication of his career occurred in 1992 with a book on the stemless blue violets—*A Taxonomic Revision of the Acaulescent Blue Violets (Viola) of North America*, published by the Botanical Research Institute of Texas. This work is very highly regarded and had a great influence on subsequent studies of this group of violets, with other experts often citing Landon's work and comparing it to their interpretations. Landon also wrote the *Viola* treatment for *Plant Life of Kentucky*. Altogether Landon authored or co-authored approximately 50 scientific publications and professional presentations, mainly on *Viola*, but on a variety of other topics as well. He was a frequent presenter at the Annual Meetings of the Association of Southeastern Biologists, Kentucky Academy of Science, and Tennessee Academy of Science.

Landon continued his work and interest in *Viola* until the very end. In an email sent December 4, 2013, Landon noted that he had just about finished his work on the Violaceae (with R. John Little) for the Flora of North America project, and was working on a paper to be submitted to the journal *Castanea*. He was also developing a treatment of violets for West Virginia. On this past April 18, he sent an email to local botanists concerning the recent discovery of a new county record for *Viola eglestonii*, and noted that ...“after 40+ years of working with them [violets], they still excite me and after looking at them, this population is as classical cedar glade violet as you can get.”

Landon is survived by his devoted wife of 31 years, Lela McKinney; children Adam McKinney, Amanda (Troy) Chitwood and Eric (Amy) McKinney; grandchildren Landon, Lucas, Erica, Katelyn and Whitney. Landon will be sadly missed by his many extended family members, special friends, and botanical colleagues.

—Ronald L. Jones, Eastern Kentucky University Herbarium, Richmond, Kentucky 40475, and Ralph L. Thompson, Berea College Herbarium, Berea, Kentucky 40404.

HELLO ROCKCASTLE COUNTY

by Bill Edwards

On June 21st, KNPS was invited to set up our table display at the Rockcastle Natural Wonders Series (RNWS) kick-off event near Livingston, Kentucky. We were among a half dozen environmentally based organizations to set up table displays for the public participants to admire. While our attractive T-shirt and coffee mug sales were minimal, a fair number of KNPS membership applications were distributed. Casual conversations with visitors seemed to center on the theme that local residents may have heard of KNPS, but were basically unfamiliar with our organization, its endeavors, and its philanthropy. Though no one was aware of the KNPS Native Plant Stewardship Certification Program, several expressed sincere interest for 2015.

The event was held at the Appalachia-Science in the Public Interest (ASPI) nature center facilities on the floodplain above the Rockcastle River. RNWS is a start-up volunteer organization seeking to expose Rockcastle County residents to its rich natural heritage, to encourage a healthy lifestyle, and to promote economic development. Livingston, already promotes itself as the "Trail Capital of Kentucky." RNWS plans to sponsor monthly hikes throughout the County to be led by experts on forest ecology, plant identification, karst geology, fish and wildlife, anthropology, and river fun and safety. The objective is to instill in the public a respect for, a duty to, and a vested interest in preserving and maintaining natural wonders. For further information about RNWS, contact Katie Gardner at [www.facebook.com/RockcastlesNaturalWonders](http://www.facebook.com/RockcastlesNaturalWonders).



Rockcastle Wild River Corridor. Photo by Zeb Weese

Twenty Years of the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Celebrated in Photos

Award-winning Kentucky nature photographer and former KNPS president Dr. Thomas G. Barnes has published a new book ***Kentucky, Naturally: the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund at Work***, in celebration of the properties that have been purchased with the assistance of the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF) during the first 20 years of the program. Several chapters and photos were contributed by current KNPS president Zeb Weese.

The book displays hundreds of beautiful photographs of the state's protected lands, and provides detailed descriptions of each site including the natural flora and fauna. The book is now available in local bookstores, Kentucky state park gift shops, from online retailers, or [direct from the publisher](#).

"Author and photographer Tom Barnes is truly an artist whose paintbrush is a camera. Kentucky, Naturally will beguile you with scenes and descriptions of intriguing places here in the Commonwealth, with revealing close-ups of wildlife and wild-flowers like Indian paintbrush, monkey faced orchid, great blue herons, ribbon snake and shining ladies' tresses, to name a few," said Don Dott, director of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission and KHLCF Board member. "With locations and directions, this book is also a hiking guide that will guide the reader along these pristine preserves. If you appreciate the beauty of nature, you will love this book! Let it introduce you to Kentucky's best."

"Only Tom Barnes could do such an inspirational and accurate job of showcasing the people and places conserved through the Heritage Conservation Fund Board's programs, staff, and supporters," said Hugh Archer, director of the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust and KHLCF Board member. "His understanding of the conservation community and its best scientists make him an expert on where the wild things are, and how they are being protected or in need of attention."

The KHLCF was established in 1994 to protect the Commonwealth's natural resources and keep its wild ecosystems intact. Reports indicate that more than 105 acres of rural land every day are lost to land conversion, and the state ranks fifth highest in the projected amount of rural land that will be converted to other uses in the future. By 2013, through the efforts of the KHLCF Board and many others, the program helped protect more than 120 properties in 67 counties totaling over 85,000 acres.

For more information please go to :

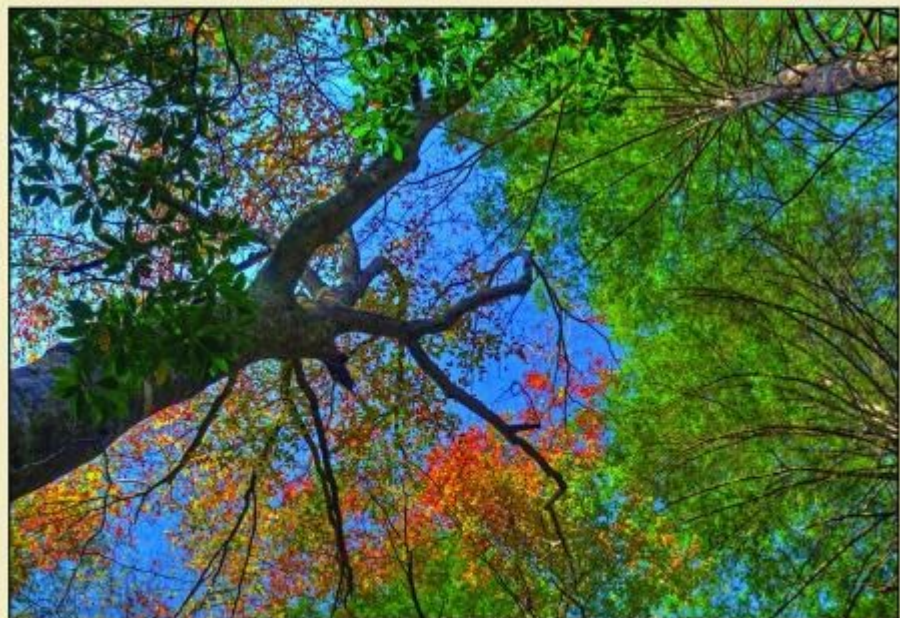
<http://heritageland.ky.gov> or

[www.facebook.com/KentuckyHeritageLands](http://www.facebook.com/KentuckyHeritageLands)



# KENTUCKY, *Naturally*

THE KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND CONSERVATION FUND AT WORK



THOMAS G. BARNES

By Popular Demand...

# They're BACK!

Preserve the GREAT OUTDOORS with GREAT PLATES from the past.

Drive home your support for the great outdoors.

Funding for many of the 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: [www.facebook.com/KentuckyHeritageLands](http://www.facebook.com/KentuckyHeritageLands)

## 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)

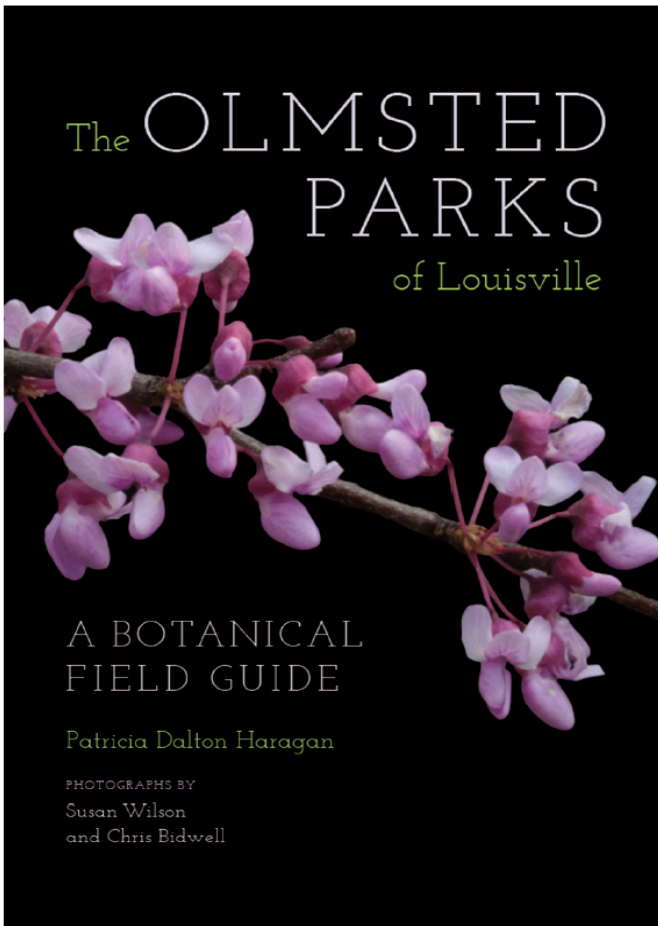
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## NEW IN 2014



*The Olmsted Parks of Louisville* is the first authoritative manual on the 380 species of trees, herbaceous plants, shrubs, and vines populating the nearly 1,900 acres that comprise Cherokee, Seneca, Iroquois, Shawnee, and Chickasaw Parks. Designed for easy reference, this handy field guide includes detailed photos and maps as well as ecological and historical information about each park. Author Patricia Dalton Haragan also includes sections detailing the many species of invasive plants in the parks and discusses the native flora that they displaced.

This guide provides readers with a key to Olmsted's vision, revealing how various plant species were arranged to emphasize the beauty and grandeur of nature. It will serve as an essential resource for students, nature enthusiasts, and the more than ten thousand visitors who use the parks.

"Haragan provides a comprehensive treatment of the Olmsted Parks in Louisville. A much needed resource for visitors and for anyone interested in plant life, the book is a significant contribution to the literature on the flora of Kentucky, and is unlike any other recent Kentucky book."

-Ronald L. Jones, author of *Plant Life of Kentucky*

"*The Olmsted Parks of Louisville* will take its place as an important contribution to the botany of the region, spotlighting the flora of a biologically and historically rich set of municipal parks, researched and presented by one of the very best botanists in the state.

-Rob Paratley, curator of the University of Kentucky Herbarium

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[WWW.KNPS.ORG!](http://WWW.KNPS.ORG!)



Kentucky Native Plant Society  
801 Schenkel Lane  
Frankfort, KY 40601

### 2014 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)
<b>Total</b> _____ <b>Check No.</b> _____

\* 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.*