



The Lady-Slipper

Summer/ Fall 2016 Issue

a publication of the Kentucky Native Plant Society

www.knps.org

Mary Carol Cooper
May 9, 1942 - May 17, 2016



On May 17th, 2016, Kentucky lost one of its brightest and dearest conservation champions, Mary Carol Cooper. Mary Carol served KNPS for over 15 years in many different capacities, including director, Vice-president, field trip and hike leader, stewardship certification instructor, and newsletter contributor. In 2010, she retired as the director of Salato's Native Plant Program, where she managed the greenhouses, propagated and cared for over 100 species of native plants, designed and installed native plant demonstration gardens, led workshops on developing backyard habitats, and inspired countless others to develop an interest in Kentucky's plants and animals.

Mary Carol's unconventional path to conservation work taught us all that it's never too late to start anew. At the age of 50, she left her job as a medical secretary and went back to college to study wildlife management. Soon after graduating from ECU, she began working in Salato's greenhouses under the late Sherri Evans. Her passion for Kentucky's environment did not stop there. Over the years, she served on numerous boards and committees, including the Lexington Chapter of the Wild Ones, the Cumberland Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Kentucky Exotic Pest Plant Council, Floracliff Nature Sanctuary, Raven Run's Advisory Board, Elkhorn Paddlers, and Friends of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves. She also led programs for Shaker Village and Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman and volunteered her time for the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

As a dedicated educator, Mary Carol excelled in sharing her passion and knowledge of the natural world. She was a magnetic force that others wanted to be around to glean the wonders of nature, which she made accessible to a wide array of audiences. Her bird hike and edible and medicinal plant hike became annual traditions at Wildflower Weekend in Natural Bridge State Park. Anyone who attended her hikes learned some interesting natural history trivia and fun tips for identifying particular plants or bird songs. In addition to hikes, she led canoe trips and numerous classes on pollinators, seed propagation, rain gardens, monarch waystations, backyard birding, and raising caterpillars. She facilitated garden projects statewide for schools, parks, nature preserves, arboretums, churches, libraries, and backyards. Her own backyard in Lexington is a refuge for native wildflowers, trees, birds, butterflies, and plant volunteers that she generously shared with others.

Mary Carol accomplished a lot in her 74 years, but her radiant spirit may have left the biggest mark. She always had a smile on her face, a hug to offer, and encouragement to give to the rest of us. She adored her family, friends, colleagues, and mentees and she made sure we all knew it. Many have commented on her warm and loving ways and the positive and powerful impact she had on so many people. There is no doubt that she has left Kentucky a more beautiful place for us all.

Mary Carol's survivors include her daughters Kelly Botkin and Casey Cooper, son-in-laws Greg Botkin and John Nicholson, grandchildren Evan, Maddie, and Thatcher, life-long friend Tom Cooper, and her dog Sadie. We send our sincere condolences to her family and all her many friends.

- Beverly James, Floracliff Nature Sanctuary

President's Note

Another scorching summer is headed out the door, which means it is time for the annual KNPS Botanical Symposium! This year we are partnering with the Kentucky Habitat Management Symposium to bring together a broad range of folks working on our native plants and natural areas, we hope to see you there (details on the next page).

This will be the first year that home-made bread won't be donated to the symposium by long-time KNPS board member and friend Mary Carol Cooper, who lost her battle with illness earlier this year. Mary Carol and I started our full-time careers together during the same month at the Kentucky Department for Fish and Wildlife in the late 1990's. Beverly James' tribute on page one of this newsletter describes that career in detail. With her outgoing personality and dedication to native plants, Mary Carol is irreplaceable, but with your help and involvement the KNPS will continue to try and do some of the work that meant so much to her.

Thanks, Zeb

Kentucky Native Plant Society Officers and Board 2015-2016

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Wildflower Weekend Committee: Wilson Francis

Certification Committee: Open

Grants Committee: David Taylor

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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

The Lady-slipper

3rd Annual Kentucky Botanical Symposium and 2nd Annual Kentucky Habitat Management Symposium Sept 27 and 28, 2016 Kentucky State University Research Farm, Frankfort, KY

[Click to Register Online](#)

Interested in learning about managing habitat for native plants, birds, butterflies, and woodland improvement? Join us for two days of field trips and presentations focusing on managing native plant communities and habitats. Topics will include native plant propagation, restoration techniques, pollinator habitat, managing for grassland birds, and prescribed grazing. **Field trips to include the Salato Center, Cove Springs Park, and Julian Savanna State Nature Preserve.** CEU's will be available for: Kentucky Pesticide Applicators, ISA, SAF, TWS

Location: KSU Research Farm, Frankfort, KY (<http://organic.kysu.edu/Facilities.shtml>)

Cost: \$40 per person includes 2 days of programs and box lunch each day.

Tuesday, September 27

8:30 Welcome and Introduction

8:40 "Kentucky Plant Conservation Alliance" Tara Littlefield – KY State Nature Preserves Commission/

9:05 "Conservation Corridors" Andrew Berry – Bernheim Forest

9:30 Break

9:50 "Grassland BMPs for Songbirds and Raptors" Kate Slankard – KY Fish and Wildlife Resources

11:15 "Managing Planted Grasslands" John Seymour – Roundstone Native Seed

11:40 Restoration Panel

12:15 Lunch - provided

1:00 Leave for field trips/Car pool to Cove Springs, Salato Center, Julian Savanna

3:30 Return to Research Farm/End day and sign up for CEUs

Wednesday, September 28

8:00 Overview, address previous day, prepare to leave

8:30 Leave for field trips/Car pool to Cove Springs, Salato Center, Julian Savanna

11:30 Lunch - provided

12:30 "Improving Degraded Woodlands" Jeff Stringer – University of Kentucky Department of Forestry

12:55 "Designing Natural Systems in Urban Landscapes" Dan Stever - Klausing Group

1:20 Break

1:40 "Ecological Horticulture" Tom Smarr – The Parklands of Floyds Fork

2:05 "Monarch Waystations" Linda Porter – The Garden Club of Kentucky

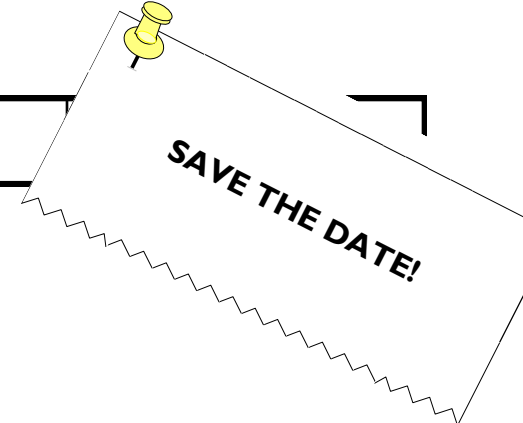
2:30 "Prescribed Grazing for Managing Forest Invasive Vegetation" Ron Rathfon - Purdue University Dept. of Forestry

2:55 Break

3:25 Restoration Panel

4:00 End symposium and sign up for CEUs.

Go to WWW.KNPS.ORG for more info!



2017 KNPS STUDENT RESEARCH GRANTS

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 15, 2017**. Applications will be evaluated and recipients will be announced at the 2017 Wildflower Weekend. 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;
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 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.

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

The KNPS's goals:

- To serve as the Kentucky native plant education resource;
- To support native plant research;
- To support efforts to identify and protect endangered, threatened, and rare native plant species;
- To promote appreciation of the biodiversity of native plant ecosystems;
- To encourage the appropriate use of native plants.

By Popular Demand...

They're BACK!

Preserve the GREAT OUTDOORS with GREAT PLATES from the past.

Kentucky
 UNBROKEN SPIRIT
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 Conservation
 Fund
 HeritageLand.Ky.gov

Kentucky
 UNBROKEN SPIRIT
 Nature's Finest
 Kentucky State Authority

Kentucky
 UNBROKEN SPIRIT
 Nature's Finest
 Kentucky State Authority

Drive home your support for the great outdoors.

Funding for Natural Bridge State Park, Floracliff, Lower Howard's Creek 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.

For more information visit the KHLCF website at <http://heritageland.ky.gov>
 or find them on Facebook at: <https://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



Kentucky Native Plant Society
801 Teton Trail
Frankfort, KY 40601

2017 KNPS Membership Application or Renewal

Detach and send to: Kentucky Native Plant Society / 801 Teton Trail / 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)* _____

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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.