



# *The Lady Slipper Newsletter*

Education, Conservation, and Restoration of KY native plants and communities

Greetings, Kentucky Native Plant Society members and friends! There have been several changes to our Board and officers this past year at KNPS, so thank you for your patience with our delay in contact and outreach as we transitioned to new leadership.

We would like to inform members and friends of the projects and activities we were involved with in 2017 and previous years. We are also excited to announce some important programs and projects that we are planning for 2018. We hope we can engage our members and friends more about all things Kentucky Botany!

Kentucky is full of plant and plant community diversity and we have an abundance of natural areas throughout the state to visit. From the Cumberland, Pine, and Black mountains in the eastern part of our state all the way west, 500 miles, to the bottomland swamps and sloughs of the coastal plain on the Mississippi River, there are never-ending possibilities for botanizing in Kentucky. Kentucky is home to close to nearly 3000 plants, and every year we find new state records (plants not previously from KY) in the state. There has never been a better time to learn about our native plants, how to identify, study, protect, and conserve the diversity of plant life in Kentucky. Please join us on one of our field trips, workshops, or events. Check out our website for up to date information, or visit our Facebook page.

For the love of Kentucky plants,  
Tara R. Littlefield  
KNPS President [2018-2020]

 <https://www.facebook.com/knps.org>

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### **The Lady Slipper format has changed**

KNPS's quarterly newsletter used to be available in hard copy form to our members. About 8 years ago we switched to a PDF form of the newsletter and sent out through email. For increased efficiency and simplicity, we have now transitioned to an embedded email newsletter, of which this is the first issue. All current and older versions of the lady slipper newsletter are available as PDFs on our website, <http://www.knps.org/archives.html> Thanks for your understanding in this time of

change.

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Officers/Board [2018-2020]

President: Tara Littlefield

Vice-President: Brad Ruhfel

Treasurer: Bill Edwards

Secretary: Heidi Braunreiter

Board Members: Jeff nelson, Jen Koslow,  
Deb White, Emily Ellingson, Janet James, David Taylor, Jody Thompson

**2018 Field Trips**

The Kentucky Native Plant Society is announcing an outstanding series of field trips this year to locations across the state and throughout the growing season.

These trips will highlight unique plants and plant communities and will be timed to catch their spectacular displays.

Each field trip leader is a knowledgeable expert who will lead at a slow pace through carefully selected preserves to allow time for discussion and photography. At some of the state nature preserves, working plant checklists will be provided participants to learn from and possibly even add plants that are missing from the lists as a citizen scientist collaborative project.

Several of our field trips to sites not normally open to the public, are cosponsored by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (<http://naturepreserves.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx>) and will require preregistration. For two of the outings, we will join with the Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society. Please check our website [http://www.knps.org/field\\_trips.html](http://www.knps.org/field_trips.html) for a complete list with descriptions. We hope you will join us on the trails!



### March

- \*12 *Floracliff Nature Sanctuary*, 10 AM, Fayette County
- 31 *Highland Cemetery*, 10 AM, Kenton County,

### April

- \* 7 *Thompson Creek State Nature Preserve*, 10 AM Larue County
- \*21 *Apple Valley Glade State Nature Preserve*, 10 AM Bullitt County
- 22 *Red River Gorge*, 10 AM Powell County

### May

- 5 *Lower Howard's Creek Nature Preserve*, 10 AM, Clark County
- 19 *Mantle Rock Preserve*, 10 AM, Livingston County

### June

- 9 *Cumberland Falls State Nature Preserve*, 10 AM, Whitley/McCreary
- \*23 *E. Lucy Braun State Nature Preserve*, 10 AM, Pine Mountain, Harlan

### July

- 7 *Land Between the Lakes at Hematite Lake*, 10 AM, Livingston County
- 14 *Yahoo Falls*, 10 AM, McCreary County

### August

- \*4 *Hazeldell Meadow Nature Preserve*, 10 AM, Pulaski County
- \*25 *Crooked Creek State Nature Preserve*, 10 AM, Lewis County

### September

- \*8 *Jean's Glade*, 10 AM, Madison County
- 22 *Blue Licks State Nature Preserve*, 10 AM, Robertson County
- \*29 *Eastview Barrens State Nature Preserve*, 10 AM, Hardin County

### October

- \*13 *Little South Fork Wild River Conservation Area*, 10 AM, Wayne County

\*Field trips with asterisks will be limited and require registration, send email to [fieldtrips@knps.org](mailto:fieldtrips@knps.org)

## Plant Identification Workshops-Native Plant Studies Workshops

This year we are planning two workshops for the more serious plant enthusiasts: **Sedges**, taught by Mason Brock in May, around the Mammoth Cave area and an **Asters and Goldenrods** workshop in September, around Richmond, KY. Please check our website for the most up to date info on workshops. Please check [www.knps.org](http://www.knps.org) for updated info and registration.

May 29- June 1, 2018 (tentative). Sedges and other obscure plants. Instructor: Mason Brock. Location: Mammoth Cave Area, details TBA

Sept 2018-Asters and goldenrods. Details TBA

### **Wildflower Weekend April 13-15, Natural Bridge State Park and Red River Gorge**

This year Wildflower Weekend will be on April 13-15 (Friday-Sunday) at Natural Bridge State Park. Saturday evening (April 14) Alice Jones (EKU professor) will perform her play "Sisters of the Mother Forest: Lucy and Annette Braun. Prior to the play we will have a members meeting where we discuss the state of Kentucky's plants, the role of KNPS and solicit feedback and open discussion from our members and friends. Field trips/hikes to see the early spring wildflowers will be offered. Student and Native Plant Inventory/Restoration Grants winners will be announced. Please check out more detailed agenda at [www.knps.org](http://www.knps.org)



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## **KNPS is seeking partnerships with other plant conservation groups and with Native Plant Societies adjacent to KY and beyond**

Our native plants, and all wildlife in general, do not pay attention to political boundaries. Plant ranges and distributions are much more closely related to soils, geology, topography, and disturbance level. Thus, we think it is important to work more collaboratively with like minded groups in surrounding states on issues facing native plants and conservation. We also know that native plants and communities are important to many great existing Kentucky conservation groups. Please contact us about how we can work together!

- We are collaborating with **Tennessee Native Plant Society** with the KY/TN online plant atlas
- We are collaborating with **Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation** by co-sponsoring two field trips
- We are working closely with **Wild Ones Lexington** to plan our field trips for increased collaboration
- Kentucky Native Plant Society became a member of the **Native Plant Conservation Campaign** in 2016 and participated in 1 conference call with other native plant societies across the country in an effort to share information and collaborate. The Native Plant Conservation Campaign (<https://plantsocieties.cnps.org/>) is a network of affiliated native plant societies and other native plant conservation organizations throughout the United States.

If you are a conservation group that also has an appreciation for Kentucky native plants or an adjacent native plant society that is interested in partnering with Kentucky Native Plant Society, please contact [tara.littlefield@ky.gov](mailto:tara.littlefield@ky.gov) or [info@knps.org](mailto:info@knps.org).

## **Kentucky Plant Conservation Alliance**

The Kentucky Native Plant Society became a cooperator with the Plant Conservation Alliance ([www.plantconservationalliance.org](http://www.plantconservationalliance.org)) in 2015. The Plant Conservation Alliance's mission is to protect native plants by ensuring that native plant populations and their communities are maintained, enhanced, and restored. We have been working with **Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission** (<http://naturepreserves.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx>) to form The Kentucky Plant Conservation Alliance (KPCA), which is aimed at connecting plant conservation initiatives across the state and links conservationists from a wide range of organizations that include state agencies, nonprofits, NGOs, volunteers, and private companies. Our mission is to conserve Kentucky's rare plants. Our main goal is to accomplish projects that protect and enhance populations of rare plants. By leveraging existing resources and joining forces with plant conservation allies we can attain much more than any one individual, thus better able to prevent extinctions and declines. Kentucky native plants will not become extirpated or extinct if we work together!

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There are several projects that span various regions that focus on habitat restoration, surveying, monitoring and management in order to prevent native plant extinctions and decline of threatened and endangered plants. Projects that we have active include Kentucky Clover, limestone fame flower, wood lily, royal catchfly and white haired goldenrod.

If you are an organization or individual that is interested in working on current or future projects of the KPCA, then contact [info@knps.org](mailto:info@knps.org), and visit our website.



### **Kentucky Botanical Symposium, Fall Sept/Oct 2018**

Kentucky Native Plant Society started the Kentucky Botanical Symposium as our annual fall meeting in 2014 with the intention of bringing together natural resource professionals, academics, consultants and citizen scientists who study plants throughout Kentucky. The format has been a series of plant focused

talks accompanied by field trips. Past botanical symposiums have been held at Bernheim forest (2014), Lexington (2015), Frankfort (2016), and Boone County (2017). We are still in the planning phase for the 2018 Kentucky botanical Symposium. It is being scheduled for some time in Sept or Oct. Please check our website for updates on the symposium.



### **Grants Program—Student and Native Plant grants**

The Kentucky Native Plant Society has given over dozens of student grants over the past 20 years. A few years ago we also began offering a native plant inventory/restoration grant. This year, we will offer one \$500 graduate student grant, one \$250 undergraduate grant, and one \$250 Native Plant Inventory/Restoration grant. Please see <http://www.knps.org/grants.html> in order to learn more about the criteria and how to apply. Grant applications are due by March 31, 2018. Winners will be announced at the April 14 wildflower weekend at Natural Bridge State Park.

### **Kentucky Native Plant Stewardship Program-on hold**

The KY Native Plant Stewardship Program began in 2010 and occurred annually until 2016. This successful program was a 6 part course that taught participants about plant communities and ecology, rare plant management, plant identification, invasive plants and restoration, and native plant gardening. Within 7 years of offering the program, there were over 100 KY native plant stewardship graduates. We

temporarily suspended the program in 2017 so that we can recruit new workshop teachers and also network more with graduates and connect them to native plant restoration projects across the state. Please contact [info@knps.org](mailto:info@knps.org) if you would like to learn more about the program or about restoration projects in the state.

*\*\*The Kentucky Native Plant Stewardship Program has been postponed until 2019*

### **Coming soon: the Tennessee-Kentucky Online Plant Atlas**

The botany community in Kentucky and Tennessee is developing an online Plant Atlas ([www.plantatlas.org](http://www.plantatlas.org)). Our website is not available yet, but will be based on a modified version of the Indiana Plant Atlas ([www.indiana.plantatlas.org](http://www.indiana.plantatlas.org)). Please explore the Indiana Plant Atlas to get an idea of the great resource we are developing for our two-state region!

The joint KY and TN site will feature species distribution maps, descriptions, detailed photos, digitized herbarium specimens, and other data for all plant taxa found in the two states. This project has four main objectives: 1) to implement a modern, web-based Kentucky and Tennessee Plant Atlas ensuring that the website is usable on modern tablet devices; 2) aggregate data from a National Science Foundation funded and ongoing effort to digitize Kentucky and Tennessee's herbarium specimens, including those which have been transferred to out-of-state herbaria; 3) allow all botanists, conservationists, and the public to access a common and up-to-date, fully searchable virtual Kentucky and Tennessee herbarium; and 4) ensure all KY and TN botanical data, including species composition, checklists, lists for conservation, and taxonomy, are up-to-date and available through a single public platform.

As the site is being built, work to digitize over 1 million plant specimens in Kentucky and Tennessee herbaria is also taking place. Data from these digitized specimens and others will be available on the TN-KY Plant Atlas. Activities of the Kentucky Native Plant Society and Tennessee Native Plant Society will also be advertised on this resource. The TN-KY Plant Atlas is funded by the Kentucky Native Plant Society, the Kentucky State Nature Preserve Commission, and the Tennessee Native Plant Society.

### **Help Digitize Kentucky Herbarium Specimens!**

Calling all KY plant enthusiasts: please help digitize Kentucky's plant diversity data! No specialized knowledge required: you need only be able to read and type. (And, you can learn about new species along the way.)

Part of the ultimate goal is to digitize data that will underlie the fabulous, new **\*\*TN/KY Plant Atlas\*\*** currently under construction.

To begin, go to the website: NotesFromNature (<https://www.notesfromnature.org/active-expeditions/Herbarium>). Create a log in. Then select "Help! Transcribing specimens from the Ronald L. Jones

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Herbarium at EKU (Part III)" – these are specimens from Ronald L. Jones Herbarium at Eastern Kentucky University. Stay tuned, specimens from the Berea College Herbarium will be posted in a future expedition. After a 2-minute tutorial, you can start to enter label data. With your login, it will keep up with your statistics (e.g., specimens done). If you don't create a login, then it won't track your stats. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Brad Ruhfel (brad.ruhfel@eku.edu). If you haven't already, please check out the SERNEC portal (<http://www.serneportal.org/portal>). Data you enter in the project above will eventually make its way to this excellent resource, as well as the upcoming TN/KY Plant Atlas, and be publicly available to all.

### **Time to Renew Your Membership**

The activities and programs discussed above are funded almost entirely through membership dues. If you haven't already done so, now would be a great time to renew your membership in KNPS. By renewing you will continue your support of the Society's activities and be certain to continue receiving this newsletter. This year, we have expanded our membership levels. In addition to Individual, Family, and Lifetime, we now have a \$10 Student level, a \$50 Sustaining level (for those who would like to contribute a little more to the Society), and an Institutional level for academic, scientific, commercial, or conservation organizations. The Institutional level includes the e-newsletter sent to four email addresses. You can easily renew online with a credit or debit card by visiting our [Online Membership Form](#). Alternatively, you can download the [Membership Form in PDF format](#) and mail in your renewal. Thank you for your support.



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