



The Lady Slipper Newsletter

Updates on KNPS projects and other Kentucky Botanical News

Greetings Kentucky Native Plant Society Members and Friends,

Where has the summer gone? As usual, time flies when you have your face stuck in the weeds! The classic late summer vegetation of ironweed, goldenrod, and wingstems are in full bloom; yellow, purple and white colors spilling out of Kentucky fields. Walnuts and buckeyes are starting to lose their leaves. I am back to my annual routine of asters and goldenrod review, and have been enjoying the return of the ladies'- tresses orchids, another classic late summer/fall genus. Fall technically starts on the equinox, Sept 22, but I tend to go by clues of the natural world, which has had us in Fall since the beginning of September! I have spent the past few months botanizing as usual, work and play have taken me to some amazing places across the state to visit many of the botanically rich natural areas in Kentucky.

After a successful Wildflower Weekend back in April, we were unable to nail down the instructor and times for our pending Carex (sedges) workshop, so we had to postpone that until May 2019. However, we are happy to announce that Dr. Rob Naczi (curator of the NY Botanical Garden, <https://www.nybg.org/person/robert-naczi/>) has agreed to be our 2019 Carex instructor, so please watch for updates on our website for exact dates (estimated date Mid-May 2019). We focused this year on organizing field trips, and the majority of our hikes have been very successful. We visited many great natural areas and partnered mostly with Kentucky Nature Preserves for field trip leaders and natural areas, as well as networking and joining with Wildones Lexington Chapter and Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society on a few hikes.

We continue to work with numerous partners on our KY-TN plant atlas, which will launch in late winter/early spring of 2019. We have completed the updated Kentucky Plant list, complete with all the updated taxonomy that follow Alan Weakley's Flora of the SE (Weakley flora and floraquest app are great tools). This fall, our members and friends have the opportunity to contribute to this amazing database of Kentucky's plants by submitting photos for inclusion on the website, so look for emails and updates for

those projects.

We awarded 2 student grants, and received a small Patagonia grant to work on rare plant propagation and monitoring with several of our plant conservation partners. We recently even found out the KNPS received the Biodiversity award from the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves for all our past and current work on plant conservation and education. It's been a good year, and with your help we hope to grow our organization and accomplish even more in 2019.

I hope you all will consider joining us at our Fall Meeting at Bernheim on October 27. We hope to increase participation of our members and work together on some targeted projects in 2019. If you enjoy hiking around, learning about Kentucky's plants, and ensuring that our diversity of plants continues in the future, then please get involved.

For the Love of Kentucky Plants,
Tara Littlefield

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE KNPS MEETING AT BERNHEIM FOREST, SATURDAY OCTOBER 27, 2018 (9:30 am-3:30 pm). We will discuss current and future projects, eat an amazing lunch at Bernheim (\$10 pre-order), and then head to Pine Creek Barrens Nature Preserve to do some fall botanizing. If you enjoy hiking around, identifying and appreciating Kentucky's native plants, and preserving them for the future, then please get involved and come to the meeting. We have several committee positions open right now and would love for you to get involved! Visit our website for registration and agenda details <http://knps.org/fallmeeting.html>



Wild Blue Indigo (*Baptisia australis*) on the Rockcastle River.

KNPS field trips 2018 update

Over the past few months we have successfully had 9 hikes and have two more planned for the remainder of the field season. Since the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves owns or has conservation easements on over 150 sites across the state, including some of the most interesting natural areas in Kentucky, we partnered with them for field trip leaders and natural area visitation. We also partnered with Wild Ones Lexington Chapter and Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society members on several hikes, including Yahoo Falls (DBNF) and a private barrens/glade site in Estill County. Please visit our website http://knps.org/field_trips.html to view our past and present field trips. We hope to see you on the trails soon!



KNPS field trip to Lucy Braun State Nature Preserve remotely located on Pine Mountain. Highlights included blueberry and huckleberry tasting, an interesting bog with orchids and other rare plants, a beautiful creek, sandstone outcrops and a spectacular view of Little Black Mountain.



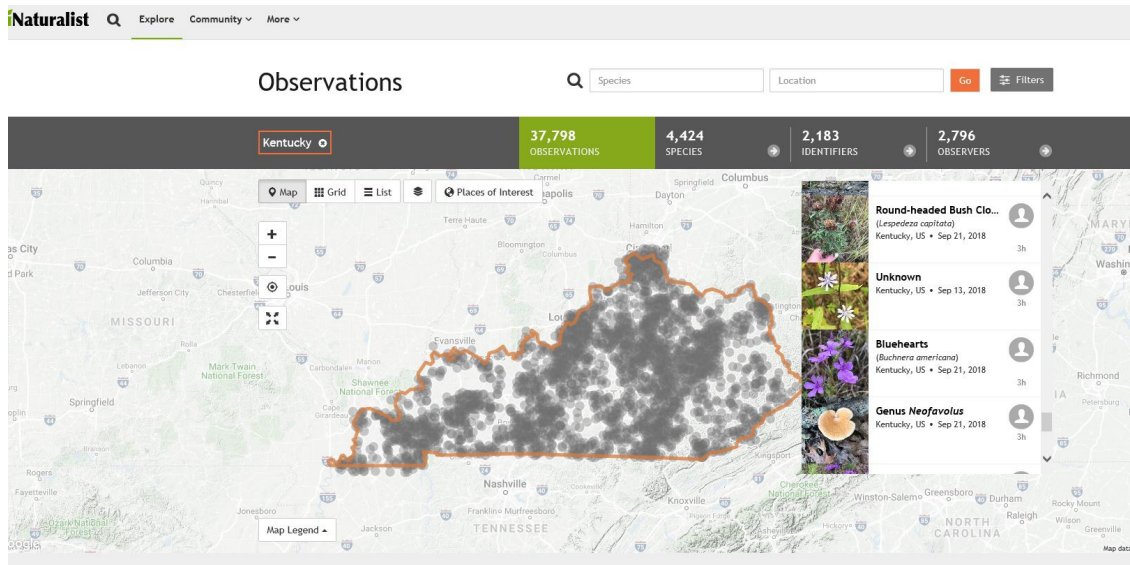
KNPS field trip to Crooked Creek State Nature Preserve in Lewis County. Highlights include a high quality glade and barrens complex that was in full bloom with asters, sunflowers, blazing stars, prairie dock and ear leaf foxglove.

KNPS Student Grants 2018

We believe that providing funds for students to study native plants and communities in Kentucky is important! To that end, we have given out dozens of grants over the past few decades and plan to continue this program into the future. Please visit to learn about a few of our past recipient projects. <http://knps.org/grants.html>

In 2018, we awarded 2 student grants:

1. An undergraduate research grant was awarded to Calvin Andries who is currently in the Department of Biological Sciences at Eastern Kentucky University. The award supports his research, Vascular Flora and Wetland Assessment of Wetlands in the Red River Gorge Geological Area and Clifty Wilderness in Menifee and Powell Counties of Kentucky.
2. A graduate research grant was awarded to Jordan Reding who is currently in the Department of Biological Sciences at the Ohio State University. The award supports his research, The Effects of Rock-Face Characteristics and Use for Rock-Climbing on Cliff Vegetation Communities of the Red River Gorge, Kentucky



iNaturalist and Kentucky Botany

Over the past few months, I started using iNaturalist as a way to catalogue all my photos of plants and animals that I take every day. As a rare species biologist, I have spent my career cataloguing rare species throughout the state in our Kentucky Heritage Database, but was looking for a way to database all my observations, and keep track of my “life” lists in Kentucky and beyond. I have always enjoyed getting on Facebook to see what kinds of plants folks are observing across the state, and had always thought it would be so useful if we could database this information for conservation! To that end, we are planning a Kentucky Botanists Big Year on iNaturalist for 2019. Several states have organized Botanists Big Years with great results, including Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri and Ontario (<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&q=botanists+big+year>), and we are excited about bring this fun way to botanize to Kentucky.

Find the most plant species in Kentucky in 2018 and rejoice in your victory! (and help contribute to our plant atlas and other conservation projects).

Rules

- Must be a plant (bryophytes and vascular plants – native and non-native species are accepted)
- Observation must be within Kentucky
- Must be observed between the dates of January 1st, 2019 and December 31st, 2019 (and uploaded by January 15th, 2020)
- Observation must be “research grade.” That means it must be “wild/naturalized” and that you need a photo, date, location, and at least two people to agree on the species, to confirm the identification accuracy

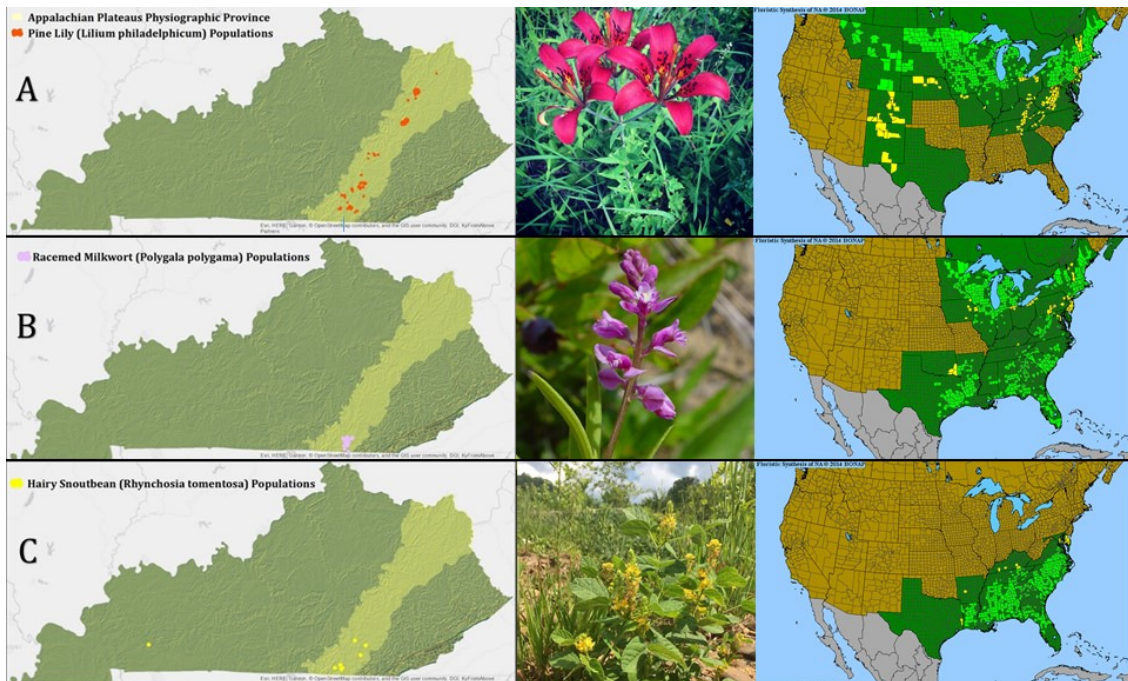
How to join in the fun: Add your plant observations to the iNaturalist.org website or iPhone/Android app and it’ll automatically count toward the contest if it meets the rules above.

Nature newbie? No worries – we will help identify any plants you see. Don’t have a smartphone? You can upload photos through the website without need for a smartphone. Just take a photo and upload it to iNaturalist.org and identify as best as you can, even if that’s just “plant.”

Winning Categories

- Most Species
- Most Observations
- Most Helpful (TBD how to calculate)
- The Sedgehead (most species within Carex)
- The Grassmaster (most species within Poaceae)
- The Sporophyte (most species outside of flowering plants, Magnoliophyta)
- The 100% Naturalist (at least 500 observations, lowest standard deviation between number of observations in each of iNaturalist's iconic taxon groups: plants, fungi, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, arachnids, insects, mammals, molluscs, other animals, chromista, protozoa)

PLEASE COME TO OUR FALL MEETING AT BERNEHIM OCTOBER 27 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT. AN INATURALIST TUTORIAL WILL BE GIVEN AND TESTED OUT ON OUR HIKE. OR EMAIL kentuckybotanist@gmail.com FOR MORE INFORMATION.



KNPS recently received a small Patagonia Grant for Rare Plant Propagation and Plant Conservation Alliance Projects, including several species shown above. Please contact info@knps.org if you would like to help with this program. Help needed includes monitoring, collecting seed, and growing rare plants throughout Kentucky

ANOTHER WAY TO HELP WITH PLANT DISTRIBUTION DATA IN KENTUCKY

KNPS friends: 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 from herbarium specimens that will underlie the fabulous, new **TN/KY Plant Atlas** currently under construction.

To help go to the website: NotesFromNature (<https://www.notesfromnature.org/active-expeditions/Herbarium>). Create a log in. Then select "Help! Transcribing specimens from the Ralph L. Thompson Herbarium at EKU (Part II)" – these are specimens from the herbarium formerly at Berea College. This collection is now permanently housed in the herbarium at EKU.

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.sernecportal.org/portal/index.php>). Data you enter in the project above will eventually make its way to this excellent resource, as well as the TN/KY Plant Atlas currently under development, and will be publicly available to all.

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 join the Kentucky Native Plant Society or, if already a member, to renew your membership. By renewing you will continue your support of the Society's activities.

This year, we have expanded our membership levels. In addition to Individual (\$15), Family (\$25), and Lifetime (\$200), 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 a \$100 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.

If you are attending the [KNPS Fall Meeting](#) at Bernheim Arboretum on Oct. 27, you can join or renew and receive a \$5 discount.

Thank you for your support



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