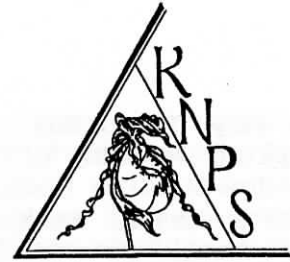


# Kentucky Native Plant Society *NEWSLETTER*



Volume 5, No. 1

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## 1990 Spring Field Trips

**25 March (Sunday), 10 AM, EDT.**  
**Clear Creek Woodlands, Woodford County.** Williem Meijer from the University of Kentucky will lead this easy walk to look at trees, ferns, and bryophytes. Meet outside of Walgreens at Turfland Mall on Harrodsburg Road in Lexington. The Clear Creek Woodlands will be about a 40 minute drive. Participants are encouraged to bring a sack lunch. (606-257-3240)

**8 April (Sunday), 10 AM, CDT.**  
**Ride-the-Rail Botanical Excursion in Fulton County, Kentucky.** Meet in Hickman, Kentucky, at Fulton County Riverport, at railroad tracks in front of Hickman Pipe and Tube Warehouse, on Old Highway 94. Led by Ron Jones and Harold Eversmeyer. We will ride on railroad motorcars from Hickman, KY to Tiptonville, TN, have lunch (bring a sack lunch or eat at a nearby Dairy Queen), and then ride back, a round trip distance of 40 miles. We should return to Hickman by 4 PM. Occasional stops will be made for observing and photographing the spring wildflowers and scenery. The railroad route will take us along a stretch of the Mississippi Bluffs, and through the west side of Reelfoot Wildlife Refuge. There will be several swampy areas and timbered regions that can be explored, and we might even spot some Bald Eagles! The motorcars are not enclosed, so dress warmly in the event of cool weather. Everyone must sign liability release forms to ride the motorcars, and a fee of \$2 a person will be charged.

These trips are provided by a motorcar club and by officers of the Tennessean Railroad. This trip must be limited to 50 people, and therefore we ask that you call 606-622-6257 or 606-623-6494 by April 2 in order to reserve a place on the excursion.

**14 April (Saturday), 10 AM, EDT.**  
**Carter Caves State Park, Carter County.** Meet John Tierney, the Park Naturalist at Caveland Lodge and join in the search for Twinleaf, Blue Cohosh, Trout Lilies, and various tree flowers.

**21 April (Saturday), 10 AM, CDT.**  
**Flat Rock Glade, Simpson County.** Meet at the grocery store/gas station at Woodburn, 10 miles south of Bowling Green on US 31-W. This is a unique natural area south of Bowling Green that features an exposed limestone glade. Ken Nicely from Western Kentucky University will lead this 2-3 hour easy walk to see glade plants such as Fameflower, Glade Cress, and Butler's Quillwort.

**22 April (Sunday), 10 AM, EDT.**  
**Lilley Cornett Woods, Letcher County.** Celebrate Earth Day by visiting one of the best surviving examples of old-growth woods in Kentucky. Bill Martin from ECU will lead this trip to observe the spring flora and the mature forest, with emphasis on the relevance of old-growth. Meet at the Lilley Cornett Woods information center at 10:00 AM. Take Mountain Parkway to Campton; take KY-15 to about 6 miles beyond Hazard; turn right on KY-7, go about 13 miles; turn right on KY-1103 for 8 miles to Woods.

**5 May (Saturday). 1 PM. Annual Spring Meeting of KNPS.** Meet at Lodge Meeting Room, Natural Bridge State Resort Park. An important meeting, please try to attend. Discussions will be held on future activities for KNPS, business affairs, and elections of new officers and directors will take place. The meeting will take place during the **Wildflower Weekend, May 4-6.** For more information see enclosed brochure or call (800) 325-1710.

**19 May (Saturday), 10 AM. War Fork, Jackson County.** David Taylor, Botanist for the Daniel Boone National Forest will lead this trip into a tributary of Station Camp Creek, part of a stream recommended for National Wild River status. There are exposed limestone cliffs and lots of good general spring flora. Meet at the Turkey Foot Recreation Area (take HW 89 north out of McKee, to Macedonia, then east, follow signs to Turkey Foot.

**21 May (Saturday), 11 AM. Roaring Paunch Creek.** Meet in Whitley City, in front of Whitley City Motel on north end of town, near junction of US 27 and KY 700. Led by Julian Campbell and Doug Stephens. This trip will involve a drive to the site, and some moderate hiking along the creek. The goal of this trip will be to locate the rare Kentucky Lady's Slipper (Cypripedium kentuckiense) and other unusual plants in this special habitat, the only known site for the orchid in the county. (606-271-4392).

## President's Message

by Ron Jones, EKU

My 4-year term as President of KNPS comes to an end in May. In this my closing column as President I would like to review the history of KNPS, and comment on possible future directions for the society. In November 1985 I arranged a meeting

for a discussion on the establishment of a native plant society for Kentucky. About 25 people attended, interest was high, and a planning group of about 8 people was formed. A call for memberships went out, an organizational meeting was planned for March, 1986, and the response was phenomenal. Memberships poured in, and over 70 people, an overflow crowd, attended our first meeting. Memberships rose to about 350 in the first year, and have varied about this number for the last 3 years. Our field trips have been well attended, usually between 5 and 35 people. Our annual Fall and Spring Meetings, however, have not fared so well, often with less than 20 people being present.

KNPS publications, I believe, have been a great success. The KNPS Newsletter has received widespread acclaim for its format and content. Our booklet--Vegetation and Flora of Kentucky, sold out in its first printing (500 copies), and another 100 copies were printed.

I am less happy with our attempts at KNPS projects, ie. slide show, seed exchange, etc. We just have not generated much interest. I am partly at fault here for not appointing special committees and pushing these projects harder. Perhaps the next President can do better.

We have been active in promoting legislative action on conservation issues. Various articles have appeared in the newsletter addressing these concerns, and we have had special mailings to encourage letter writing when important voting was imminent (ie. House Bill 65). I think that our major legislative project in the future is to push for a rare plant protection bill.

Financially KNPS has been untroubled, primarily because so many members have been generous and made donations to the society.

In conclusion here are a few thoughts on the future directions of KNPS. I would like to see us maintain

our relationship with Natural Bridge State Resort Park in supporting the Wildflower Weekend. It is a great opportunity to encourage interest in native plants, and to gain publicity for KNPS. I would like to see KNPS remain a state-wide organization, and not to become regionalized. We should continue to offer field trips and meetings all across the state. I would like to see greater interest generated in our annual meetings, we need to have many more people attending. Perhaps we can some day go so far as arranging a banquet for our members. I would like to see KNPS sponsor a series of lectures across the state on various topics dealing with native plants and conservation issues. KNPS should become incorporated, and then offer lifetime memberships. We should continue to publish inexpensive booklets, some perhaps aimed at young people. The possibilities are endless, and I am sure that the new President will have his own agenda, with many exciting new plans for KNPS.

For myself, I am now functioning as Editor of the KNPS Newsletter, and will continue in this role. Let me know what you think about our new "look" for the newsletter. My goal as Editor will be to maintain the established quality of the newsletter, to continue to bring you interesting articles and up-to-date news on field trips, meetings, lectures, workshops, government actions, and other items dealing with improving our knowledge of and our protection of Kentucky's native plants and natural plant communities.

## Royal Catchfly (Silene regia)

by Hal Bryan, Bald Knob, KY

When the first settlers cut through the wilderness of eastern Kentucky and reached the plateau of

the Pennyroyal, they encountered expanses of open fields where the "grass was as tall as a man on horseback". Because the area was devoid of trees they considered the grassland to be infertile and termed it "The Barrens". Early plant ecologists termed this region the "Prairie Peninsula" where the combination of the grasses and forbs to persist in an environment more conducive to dense forest. Today only a few, isolated patches of the relic plant communities survive as most have been plowed and planted, or grown up in trees when fire was suppressed.

Native grasses are the dominant vegetation in these communities but a few tall flowers often color the landscape. Royal catchfly is one of the most beautiful species of the plains in June and July. It stands 3 to 4 feet high and colors the prairie with scarlet showy flowers (Figure 1) The common name for this regal member of the Pink family is from the sticky stems and calyx tube. Although much taller it resembles the spring flowering woodland fire pink, Silene virginica.

Royal catchfly was probably never common in Kentucky but was once known from five counties in the Pennyroyal. It is considered endangered in our Commonwealth by the Kentucky Academy of Sciences and the Kentucky Nature Preserves, and is also under consideration for federal listing as an endangered species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It now survives in only three sites in Hardin County in field edges that have escaped the plow.

Research has shown the species to be aided by fire and to be badly affected by weedy competitors. The number of seedlings that survived more than doubled after a managed prairie was burned. It often produces an abundance of flowers, but usually only about one-half set fruit. Good seed set requires frequent visits by hummingbirds, the main pollinators for the species.

This striking prairie plant is a rare plant that most of us can recognize without resorting to taxonomic keys or the skills of a trained botanist. A tall, scarlet spray in a dry field is almost certain to be this catchfly. Its discovery while out botanizing is a real possibility for amateur naturalists, and will add to our few records for the plant and perhaps also lead to the discovery of another patch of prairie.

Figure 1. *Silene regia*, by Ann Rechten



## Native Plant Alert

by W. E. Brumback and R. W. Lighty, ENPA

The Eastern Native Plant Alliance (a consortium of native plant societies, botanical gardens and arboreta, nurseries, universities, and garden clubs) is protesting the use of misleading language in the promotional materials of some commercial vendors of

native plants. The terms of concern are "nursery-grown" and "not wild collected." Pink Lady's slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) and Trilliums (especially *Trillium grandiflorum*) are the species of concern. Private communications with the nurseries (Van Bourgondien and Spring Hill) as well as the Mailorder Association of Nurseries have not yet persuaded them to stop the practice. Therefore, ENPA participants agreed to write these and other nurseries requesting them not to label wild-collected plants as "nursery-grown".

ENPA urges all its members to join this campaign. Please compose your own letters based on the following points accepted by the Eastern Native Plant Alliance.

\*\*No nursery in the world is propagating *Cypripedium acaule*. At the recent Chadd's Ford, PA, conference of orchid propagators from the U.S., Canada, and the United Kingdom, the consensus was that no commercial propagation of this species is as yet possible. All plants of this species offered for sale come from the wild.

Plants dug from the wild may be placed in nursery beds, containers, or barrels of peat until sold, but there is no evidence of propagation. Bare-root transplants of this species may send up a bloom in the first year, but in our experience, these transplants rarely last past the first several years. Therefore, the vast majority of bare-root *C. acaule* are not dug from the wild, and will die in customers' gardens.

\*\**Trillium* propagation is slow, generally inefficient, and consequently expensive. *Trillium grandiflorum* needs between 5 and 7 years to reach flowering size when grown from seed; when propagated by division, it usually yields one new division per plant per year. Cutting of the rhizome or bud to induce bud formation is possible, but still requires several years for plants to reach saleable size. Tissue culture

propagation of this species is in the experimental stage. Therefore, at this time, commercial propagation on a large scale is not feasible.

Production of this species by division requires stock beds containing thousands of plants that are maintained year-round (not sold each year). No known nursery maintains thousands of these plants in beds as permanent stock plants for division. Therefore, any nursery selling large quantities of this species must be obtaining these plants from the wild, placed in nursery beds or barrels in the fall or early spring, and then sold as soon as possible.

\*\*In North Carolina and perhaps other states, "nursery grown" means that a plant has been held for one growing sequence (one flush of growth, perhaps as short as a few weeks) and does not address the issue of plant's origin. In other words, the term is irrelevant to this conservation concern.

\*\*Therefore the term "nursery grown", when applied to plants that cannot be commercially propagated, is misleading and potentially deceptive to the public. The connotation of "nursery grown" is that plants have been propagated by a nursery. However, in the case of these two species at least, such propagation is not commercially possible at this time. Similarly, claims that plants collected from the wild and placed in holding areas are "not wild collected" leads the public to believe that the plants are propagated.

Collection of plants from the wild for commercial sale is a complicated issue. At the local level, unscrupulous and damaging collection of native plant species has yet to be established. Until accurate data on the effects of commercial trade is compiled, ENPA recommends purchasing only propagated plants. In the meantime, proper labeling of native plants is essential. Therefore, we urge all plant society members to write to the organizations listed

below. Please request that the terms, "nursery grown" and "not wild collected" be applied only to plants that are propagated and subsequently grown to saleable size in the nursery.

K. Van Bourgondien and Sons, Inc.  
Box A  
Babylon, NY 11702

Spring Hill Nurseries  
6523 N. Galena Road  
Peoria, IL 61632

Mailorder Association of Nurseries  
8683 Doves Fly Way  
Laurel, MD 20707  
Attn: Ms. Camille G. Chioini, Executive Director

## Native Plants-- The Conservation Alternative

by Sherri and Marc Evans,  
Frankfort, KY

With the 20th anniversary of Earth Day approaching, conservation is on everyone's minds. Native plants are an excellent conservation alternative for gardening, landscaping and habitat restoration, because they can actually help conserve water and other valuable resources. Natives are superbly adapted to the regional climate and are therefore naturally cold-hardy and resistant to pests and diseases and the effects of high humidity. Prairie plants with their deep root systems are particularly hardy and drought tolerant.

Native plants are an excellent choice for xeriscaping--adapting the right plant to the right environment, thereby reducing the amount of water, fertilizer and other resources needed. Once established in the garden or landscape, native plants require less time, energy and expense to maintain than non-natives. All they require are the right growing

conditions and they do the rest--after all, they've survived on their own in the wild for thousands of years without any help from us!

An added bonus of using natives plants is their value as food and cover for wildlife. Their flowers, fruits and seeds provide nutritious food for insects, birds and small mammals. Using native plants not only benefits wildlife, but everyone who enjoys attracting wildlife to their yards and gardens.

Unfortunately, much confusion has arisen as to the exact meaning of the term "native" as used in the nursery trade. Generally, the term refers to the geographical origin of a species and should be used in conjunction with a description of the region to which the species is native. For example, white oak is native to eastern U.S., but red azalea is native only in the central Appalachians.

The term "wildflower" is often used to refer to any species that can grow unassisted (naturalized) in the wild, and may include non-native or "alien" species such as Queen-Anne's lace and ox-eye daisy, both of which are native to Europe but which have adapted to disturbed areas across America. The term can also refer to naturalized horticultural varieties (cultivars) developed through selective breeding programs.

The distinction between "native" and "naturalized" becomes especially important when applied to habitat restoration efforts. Aliens and non-natives can be detrimental to the native flora in several ways. They are often aggressive and invasive into natural habitats, displacing the native flora (and the wildlife that depend on it), and sometimes requiring expensive treatments to control or eradicate. Aliens may also hybridize with natives, contaminating the gene pool. Preserving the integrity of the regional gene pool is essential for maintaining opportunities for speculation as well as the potential

discovery of new food crops and medicines. Finally, our native flora is unique in all the world and fascinating in its beauty and diversity.

In 1988, we established Shooting Star Nursery to provide a local source of native plants and encourage their use in gardening, landscaping, roadside naturalizing and habitat restoration. The "seeds" for our nursery were actually planted more than 10 years ago while we were graduate students in wildlife and botany at Southern Illinois University. Living on 120 acres adjacent to the Shawnee National Forest, we began growing and gardening with some of the wildflowers we had come to know and love. This avocation continued after moving to Kentucky in 1982, and we soon learned that we were not alone in our love of wildflowers--the interest in wildflower gardening is hitting the nursery industry like a prairie fire. We also learned, to our surprise and dismay, that many commercial nurseries were selling plants collected from the wild, some even advertising them as "nursery-grown." With less than 1% remaining of our natural heritage of forests, prairies, rivers, wetlands and other natural areas, we are concerned about the cumulative impacts that collecting wild plants for the nursery trade might have on the remaining natural areas and individual species.

You could say that Shooting Star Nursery "grew" out of our concern for the loss of our native flora, and a desire to restore some of the natural beauty and diversity once found in this region of the country. We hope that as part of the Earth Day celebrations, Kentuckians everywhere will work towards promoting the preservation of our remaining natural areas, and the restoration of the habitats on which our native flora and fauna depend for their continued existence. And if Shooting Star can be of any help, please let us know.

## AN UPDATE ON PRICE'S POTATO BEAN

by Edward W. Chester and Susan E. Holt, Austin Peay State University

In the March 1989 issue of this Newsletter, Hal Bryan discussed the Kentucky distribution and gave other information on the rare legume Price's potato bean (Apios priceana). Our field work this past summer (1989) in southwestern central Kentucky provided some additional worthy data and we use it to update that report.

As predicted by Hal, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officially proposed threatened status for the species in the Congressional Federal Register of 12 May and further discussed it in the Endangered Species Technical Bulletin (Vol. 14, No. 6, p. 5). It was noted in the proposal for listing (which virtually assures official listing) that A. priceana is historically known from 21 sites in five states, but only 13 of these sites have been relocated in recent years. Eight of the historical records are from Kentucky, but only three of these are known to be extant.

We have spent considerable time botanizing in Land Between The Lakes, the 170,000-acre peninsula between the impounded Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. Our recent efforts were directed toward continuation of a floristic study as well as verifying reported sites of rare plants and searching for new ones (species and sites). Forty-nine LBL species are recognized by Kentucky, Tennessee, or are Federally-listed at some level of rareness. Two of the historically-known sites of A. priceana are from LBL and part of our work involved relocating these and determining the status of the populations.

Fortunately, we found both and provide the following descriptions.

**Site 1, Northern Trigg County (Hematite Lake) Site.** This site was apparently first found by Mr. Raymond Athey in 1975, but a specimen at Murray State collected in 1947 from the former Kentucky Woodlands Wildlife Refuge (no other location data given) may well have been from this same place (the KWWR was incorporated into LBL and included this region). However, Max Medley considered this site extirpated after he could not relocate it for his 1980 USF&WS status report. Michael Woods, in his doctoral research on the entire genus at Southern Illinois University, located the site in July of 1985 but found very few plants, none of which was flowering or had flower buds.

We searched the area several times during early July and found that it is easy to confuse the American potato bean (Apios americana), which is common and mat-forming in low thickets, with the Price's type, especially when flowers or fruits are lacking. However, one stand of the elusive A. priceana, with less than 25 plants, was eventually located and visited regularly until in full flower on 31 July. Inflorescences with more than 20 flowers were commonplace, yet individual flowers or entire inflorescences dried and withered away after maturity and when the KNPS groups visited this site on 9 September, not a single fruit was found. Such failure to set fruit (and seed) has been observed at a site in northern Tennessee as well and this may be one of the primary reasons for rareness.

The Hematite site is along a hiking trail at the base of a wooded, southeastward-facing slope with numerous limestone outcrops, elevation 380 feet ASL, near a man-made lake (late 1930s) less than two miles from the Cumberland River.

Plants occur over a linear distance of about 35 feet, climbing over bamboo (Arundinaria tecta) and buckbush (Symphoricarpos orbiculatus). Canopy trees are sugar maple (Acer saccharum), sugarberry and hackberry (Celtis laevigata and C. occidentalis), shagbark hickory (Carya ovata), red elm (Ulmus rubra), chinkapin oak (Quercus muehlenbergii), and hophornbeam (Ostrya virginiana).

Floristic diversity is not great in the herb layer and certainly does not include indicator or any other rare species. Common herbs are hog peanut (Amphicarpa bracteata), bottlebrush grass (Hystrix patula), goldenrod (Solidago rugosa), climbing milkweed (Matelea gonocarpos), harvest lice (Agrimonia rostellata), rabbit tobacco (Lobelia inflata), and panic grass (Panicum spp.). Threats to the area include trampling by hikers, overcrowding by other herbs, or shading.

**Site 2, Southern Trigg County Site.** This site was located by Dr. William Ellis, Austin Peay State University, in 1965. He also collected a specimen from there in 1966. To our knowledge, plants have not been seen there since, although searched for by Athey, Chester, Medley, Woods, and probably others. We made a concentrated effort during July of 1989 and found a good colony of 30 or more plants. There were numerous flowering racemes, each consisting of more than 20 flowers. On 9 September, at least 15 nearly-mature legumes, each with several seeds, were present. Relocation of this site is especially significant since it is one of nine considered extirpated by the USF&WS and the number of known extant populations is thus increased to 14.

The site is at the base of a south by easterly-facing slope with numerous limestone outcrops, elevation 400 feet ASL, two miles west of the Cumberland River.

Plants occur along a roadside for a linear distance of about 90 feet and are mostly in an area that is periodically clipped by laterally-attached rotary cutters. The twining, rambling vines grow over typical (for the area) mesic-woodland herbs and roadside weeds, including Indian pink (Spigelia marilandica), black snakeroot (Cimicifuga racemosa), bellflower (Campanula americana), avens (Geum canadensis), thimbleweed (Anemone virginica), wild lettuce (Lactuca canadensis), sweet clover (Melilotus officinalis), and blackeyed Susan (Rudbeckia triloba). Wafer ash (Ptela trifoliata) is a common shrub.

Canopy and subcanopy trees are sugar maple, red elm, chinkapin oak, hophornbeam, American ash (Fraxinus americana), red mulberry (Morus rubra), red bud (Cercis canadensis), and ironwood (Carpinus caroliniana).

Threats to Apios here are the same as those at the previous site, except that this entire site is highly vulnerable since it occurs along a roadside. In addition, introduced crown vetch (Coronilla varia) is invading along the adjacent ditch and could pose an additional threat.

Land Between The Lakes is managed by TVA as a multiple-use facility, including recreation, education, and conservation. The Land Stewardship Section is especially interested in preserving, protecting, and providing conditions conducive to maintenance and hopefully spreading of these Apios stands. Plans are underway to reduce canopy shading, to discretely protect the sites, and to propagate plants from seeds. Lets hope it works - we'll let you know.



## Native Plants and Foxes

by Charles Elliott, EKU

Within Kentucky we are fortunate to have two species of wild foxes, the Gray Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) and Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*). Gray foxes are mainly associated with deciduous forests while red foxes mainly frequent pastures, croplands, and "edges" (where two or more plant communities come together). Although known mainly for their consumption of small mammals (e.g. mice, rabbits), both species of foxes will utilize native plants.

In the southeastern U.S., gray foxes have been found to consume the fruits of persimmon, wild cherry, hawthorn, hackberry, apple trees, beech, blackberry, blueberry, acorns from oaks, and farmland products such as corn and peanuts. Pokeweed and cedar fruits have been found to be consumed in small amounts in the fall.

By far the fox that everyone is most familiar with is the red fox. With its distinct rusty-orange color, white-tipped bushy tail, and dark-fronted forelegs, this member of the fox clan has prospered well with the development of agriculture in the Southeastern U.S. Among the plant parts found consumed by red foxes, fleshy fruits and seeds average about one-quarter of the summer and fall diet. Items such as wild cherry, apples, blackberry, chokecherry, grapes, and blueberry are particularly sought after by red foxes. A recent study of red fox winter food habits in southcentral Kentucky revealed that, even in the winter, pokeweed and persimmon can make up to 6% and 4% of the diet, respectively.

The main foods of these foxes consists mainly of mice and other small rodents and rabbits, together with occasional birds, insects, reptiles,

and amphibians; but the fleshy fruits of many native plant species are apparently readily taken by foxes when available.

## News and Announcements

### Nominees for KNPS Officers and Directors

The time for our biennial elections is upon us, and the Nominating Committee consisting of Jerry Baskin, Marty Bender, and Hal Bryan have placed the following names into nomination for KNPS Officers and Directors:

#### President

Julian Campbell - lives in Lexington; employed by the Nature Conservancy to conduct endangered species surveys in Daniel Boone National Forest; has special interests in vegetation and flora of the Bluegrass, and plant distributions across the state; past Editor of the KNPS Newsletter.

#### Vice-President

Danny Barrett - lives in Booneville; is an avid native plant enthusiast, wildflower photographer, and conservationist; recently began a native plant nursery specializing in azaleas; past member of KNPS Board of Directors.

#### Secretary

Charles Chandler - lives in Lexington; is especially interested in gardening with native plants; has extensive background in typesetting and use of computers.

#### Treasurer

Tom Bloom - lives in Frankfort and works at Kentucky Nature Preserves; has done graduate work in plant ecology; has much experience in the use of computers and setting up of databases.

### Directors

Wilson Francis - lives in Slade; is park naturalist at Natural Bridge State Resort Park.

Ed Hartowicz - lives in Frankfort; is a environmental consultant, specializing in wetlands.

Willem Meijer - lives in Lexington; Professor of Biology at UK; special interests in flora of Kentucky; expert in bryophytes (mosses and liverworts).

Clara Wieland - lives in Lexington; avid wildflower enthusiast, hiker, and conservationist; on governing board of Raven Run Nature Sanctuary.

The election will be held at the Annual Spring Meeting at Natural Bridge on May 5, at 1 PM, at which time other nominations can be made from the floor. Please try to attend this important meeting.

### **Weekend Events at Pine Mountain Settlement School**

Two wildflower weekends are planned for Pine Mountain Settlement School. The first will be held on April 20-22, and the second on May 11-13. The latter will involve trips to Black Mountain in Harlan County and Bad Branch Nature Preserve in Letcher County. Contact Ben Begley, Director of Environmental Education for more information. (606) 558-3542.

### **Earth Day Celebrations**

Don't forget to do something to celebrate Earth Day, on April 22, 1990. This is the 20th anniversary of the original Earth Day, and so much has changed, but so much remains to be done. Many civic groups, schools, and other groups are planning events around this date. Eastern Kentucky

University is planning talks, displays, and other events over a several day period. Call 606-622-6257 for more information. What can you do to help renew our environment? You can plant a tree, recycle more, save water, conserve energy, use efficient transportation, not buy products harmful to the environment, vote for candidates that have a concern for the environment, and pledge to support the passage of laws and treaties that protect the environment. Live like every day is Earth Day.

### **Seed Exchange Spring Update**

If you would like to request seeds of up to three species from the following list, please send your wishes along with a 25-cent stamp and your address to:

KNPS Native Plant Seed Swap  
c/o Charles Chandler  
924 Maywick Drive  
Lexington, Ky 40504.

Be sure to list a substitute or two in case any of your choices is no longer available. Many thanks to Joyce Porter from Falls of Rough, Kentucky for the addition of a large quantity of False Foxglove seed to our list:

Aquilegia canadensis (Columbine)  
Asclepias tuberosa (Butterfly Weed)  
Asimina triloba (Pawpaw)  
Aster novae-angliae (New England Aster)  
Aureolaria virginica (False Foxglove)  
Campsis radicans (Trumpet Flower)  
Cassia marilandica (Wild Senna)  
Cimicifuga racemosa (Black Snakeroot)  
Hedeoma pulegioides (American Pennyroyal)

Lobelia siphilitica (Great Blue Lobelia)  
Mimulus ringens (Monkey-flower)  
Opuntia humifusa (Prickly Pear)  
Ranunculus hispidis (Hairy Buttercup)

Rudbeckia hirta (Black-eyed Susan)  
Silene regia (Royal Catchfly)  
Don't forget, now's the time to resolve to collect seeds from native plant species for next year's seed list.

## Wildflower Research Plots Destroyed

It has come to our attention that recent policy changes by the Transportation Department have resulted in the destruction of wildflower research plots along I-64 near Frankfort. These plots had been set up by the Department of Highways to determine what species would be the best candidates for use in plantings along Kentucky highways. Evidently a decision was made by the Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Milo Bryant, that only grass would be allowed to grow along the right-of-ways--no wildflowers, no native shrubs, only fescue. This is outrageous! The annual mowing costs (to the taxpayers) will increase from about \$900,000 to over \$5 million. This is an incredible waste of money. Why must the entire right-of-way, for mile after mile, be mowed grass. It is a fact that other states have set up highway wildflower planting programs and saved taxpayers millions of dollars. Wildflower plantings also beautify the roadsides, enhancing the tourist industry, and can serve as a food source and habitat for wildlife. Federal moneys are available (\$0.25 out of each \$100 in federal landscaping funds) to aid in wildflower plantings along newly established roads, and in order to wisely use these funds we must have research plots. That is why the wiping out of the research plots is particularly harmful. If you feel that these new highway policies are steering us in the wrong direction, please write to the Governor and to the Secretary and express your views. Addresses are as follows:  
 Governor Wallace Wilkinson  
 Capitol Building  
 Frankfort, KY 40601

Mr. Milo Bryant  
 Secretary of Transportation  
 Kentucky Transportation Cabinet  
 State Office Building  
 Frankfort, KY 40622

## Update on Legislative Actions

As of this writing (16 Feb) the only environmental bill to reach the House is the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Bill (House Bill 65). It passed the house, but unfortunately the funding source was changed, from an increase in the land transfer fee to the beleaguered General Fund, and the annual funding was decreased from the proposed \$4.5 million to only \$1 million. How many acres of good wetland (at maybe \$800 per acre) will this buy? The Senate must still act on the bill and perhaps restore it, we can only hope at this point.

A proposal to establish a rare plant protection law never made it out of committee. Perhaps some day, if we keep pushing on these issues, we can get the message across to those that have the power to make the necessary changes, and get passage of these bills that are so much needed to protect our native plants and natural plant communities.

**DO SOMETHING**



**WILD!**

INVEST IN KENTUCKY'S FUTURE!

Help protect Kentucky's endangered species and the natural areas in which they live.

Least Tern Chick  
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**The Kentucky  
Native Plant Society**  
Department of Biological Sciences  
Eastern Kentucky University  
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The Kentucky Native Plant Society was founded in 1986 as a botanical organization for all persons interested in the native flora and vegetation of Kentucky. The goals of KNPS are to serve as a medium of information exchange, to promote native plant conservation, public education in botany, and botanical research in Kentucky. Annual dues of \$3.00 may be sent to KNPS, Department of Biological Sciences, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY 40475.

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