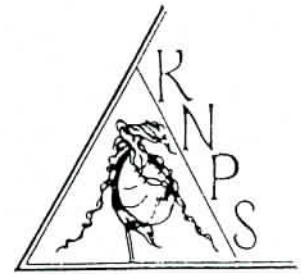


Kentucky Native Plant Society *NEWSLETTER*



Volume 8, Number 3

August, 1993

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Landon McKinney

I have several topics to discuss of interest and importance to our organization and its membership. As our society continues to grow, we continually think of special projects with which we, as members, can become involved. While this is an admirable intent, we lack the ability to organize effectively those of you who would be willing and available to assist in any special need. We have produced membership surveys in years past but have never really followed through adequately in organizing a volunteer network. Thus, when a special project appears, we find it hard to get the job done. Over the course of the next several months, we will be developing a survey form to be incorporated into our next newsletter. We will be asking for volunteers who would be willing to serve on standing or special committees and for those who would be willing to assist on special projects from time to time. Please keep this in mind. As a society, we need to become more active in various conservation and wildflower related efforts but to do so will require a strong volunteer network.

Another issue before us is one of awareness. There are still many people throughout the state with similar interests who do not realize that our organization exists. There are numerous meetings and special events

across the state each year which our organization could attend, display our wares, and promote our organization. However, we have never had an effective means to display our society. I am sure that most of you have attended meetings of one form or another and seen various companies, organizations, etc., set up nice display units to promote their cause. **Our goal is to obtain such a unit.** An adequate display unit can be quite costly and rather than make an immediate purchase, I would like to ask our membership for assistance.

This goal may be achieved in several different ways. First, someone may know of a display unit hidden away in someone's closet or stockroom that, for whatever reason, is not being used. Thus, a possible donation might be in order. Secondly, there might be someone out there who would have the ability to build such a unit for us (the specifications for which we could certainly provide). Finally, we would ask if there is someone who would be willing to purchase one for our society. If anyone thinks that they have a way to help us achieve this goal, please contact me at your earliest convenience by letter or phone.

During our last board meeting it was decided to begin periodically publishing a membership list as an insert to our newsletter. This, we feel, is a good way to better involve our membership by letting everyone know those who live near by with similar interests. This could promote carpooling for field trips and foster communication for special projects or

even assist in establishing regional chapters. In general, it will assist in forming a communication network which we so desperately need. I would ask that if there is anyone who does not want their name and address reproduced for our general membership, please let me know as soon as possible.

Fall Events and Field Trips

Saturday and Sunday, September 11 and 12 - Shooting Star Nursery Native Plant Workshop

See pg. 10 for details.

Saturdays, September 11,18, October 2, 16 KNPS Certification Course, "Fall Wildflowers of Kentucky"

See News and Announcements, pg. 9 for details.

Saturday, September 18 - Visit to Eastview Barrens (Hardin County) 11:00 AM (ET)

Led by Landon McKinney. this new acquisition by the Nature Conservancy is the largest tract of prairie and grassy barrens in Kentucky. Join us to see this special ecosystem and the fall flora, including several rare species. Be prepared for a walk through grasses (insect heavens) and little shade. Otherwise easy. Bring a snack.

Meet in Elizabethtown, KY at 11:00 AM at Shoney's on US 62. From the east, take the Bluegrass Parkway to Elizabethtown, go on I-65 North to the first exit (US 62), take a left at the light, and Shoney's will be on your left. From Louisville, take I-65 South, exit at the US 62 exit, take a right at the bottom of the ramp and Shoney's will be on your left. Call Landon to register at (502) 564-2886 (day) or at home (502) 875-3823 (evenings).

Saturday, October 2 - Fall at V. Douglass Woods (Hardin County) 1:00 PM (ET)

Led by Tom Bloom, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

Last winter Tom gave us lessons in the woods

and in spring we saw the changes. Some of you visited the woods this summer with Tom as part of "Discover Kentucky". Now Tom will explain the events happening in these woods in fall. We hope to see the trees in good color. Join us as Tom concludes this series of visits to Vernon Douglass Woods. It has been an educational and special journey and we are grateful to Tom. For the faithful who come, there will be refreshments afterwards.

Meeting place and directions to Elizabethtown are the same as for the Eastview Barrens trip listed above. Please register for the trip by calling Tom at work at (502) 564-2886. For weather or other questions you may call Tom at home (502) 695-0168 only on the day of the trip to avoid waking sleeping children.

Saturday, October 16 - KNPS Fall Meeting and Field Trip, ECU 9:00 - 5:00 (ET)

See pg. 11 for details.

Saturdays, October 23 - November 13 KNPS Certification Course, "How to Know Kentucky Mosses"

See News and Announcements, pg. 9 for details

Saturday, November 6 - Blanton Forest in Fall (Harlan, KY) 12:00 noon (ET)

Led by Tom Bloom, KY State Nature Preserves Commission. This old-growth woods of 2,300 acres was "discovered" by Marc Evans and Tom Bloom, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission. Tom will lead us by large trees, a mountain stream up to a sand cave and Knobby Rock. The view will be spectacular. This is an experience you will not want to miss. Be prepared - Bring a snack and wear appropriate shoes and clothing. this is a strenuous trip.

Meet at noon at the Dairy Queen in Harlan near the junction of US 119 and US 421. Please register by calling Tom at work, (502) 564-2886. For weather or other questions, call him at home (502) 695-0168 only on the day of the trip to avoid waking sleeping children.

Floyd Woods Trip Report

by Steven Sensenig and Charles Lapham

"As good as it gets" was the phrase heard over and over from our trip leader, Landon McKinney, during the visits to Floyd Woods (McClellan Co.), Bates Knob (McClellan, Co.), Big Clifty Savannah (Grayson Co.), and East View Prairie (Hardin Co.).

Eight (Becky, Charlie, Clara, Debbie, Doralee, Joyce, Perry, and Steven) heat-resistant botanizing types met Landon at 11 E.D.T., July 10, 1993, for what was billed as a 2 hour sojourn through the Floyd Woods. Floyd Woods has been voluntarily registered by its owner as a state natural area. This program is jointly administered by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission and The Nature Conservancy.

Leaving Calhoun, KY for the 4 mile caravan to the woods, the bank's time/temperature display indicated 92 degrees which was "as cool as it got" for the day. Turning into the lane to the Floyd Farm, one was greeted by the sight of the residence perched atop a Mississippian-tradition Indian mound. Parking our vehicles adjacent to Floyd Woods, we gathered to discuss the mound and the fact that its builders were surrounded by woods not unlike the 20+/- acres of bottomland hardwood forest into which we were about to venture.

Immediately upon entering the woods, one was assailed by the prickly ash and struck by the abundance of paw paw trees with their profuse array of unripe fruits dangling tantalizingly just above our heads. Anecdotal tales of childhood experiences with paw paw fruits were bandied about until we were abruptly brought back to why we came here in the first place - old growth trees. Our course was now blocked by a massive 48"+ (Diameter at Breast Height) Cherrybark Oak towering 100 + feet up to create a stupendous canopy. All of us,

properly awed, moved reverently from tree to tree, dutifully and mentally measuring the girth of their trunks and craning our necks to look way up to their definitive leaves. This measuring and craning occurred at pin oaks, swamp chestnut oaks, overcup oaks, red oaks, and cherry bark oaks, all of which had DBH measurements of between 30 and 48 inches.

Briefly leaving the interior of the woods, we walked along the edge of the woods and a corn field where Landon pointed out *Trepocarpus aethusae* (no known common name), a member of the carrot family. With tiny white flowers and finely cut foliage, it is quite a delicate little plant and is easily overlooked. This plant occurs along the coastal plain from South Carolina to Mississippi and up the Mississippi Embayment to Kentucky. Until recently, this plant, considered rare in Kentucky, was only known from the Jackson Purchase Region. The population at Floyd Woods was discovered earlier this year by our field trip leader, Landon McKinney.

Having discussed this little herb and rested our necks, we once again returned to the woods. As we moved in a circuitous route, we discussed the lesser (in size only - 12"-30" DBH) trees, e.g., the Shagbark Hickory, Sugarberry, Kentucky Coffee, and Green Ash, all the while continuing to marvel at the stately oaks. Returning to our vehicles shaded by the woods, we rehydrated ourselves and were cooled by breezes sent by the ancients in thanks for our humility and reverence. While enjoying this serenity, we began talking about our return trips home. Realizing the day was young and we all would be heading east, it was decided that there was no need to make non-stop return drives, but rather, we would continue our caravan easterly and stop along our route to walk through other examples of "as good as it gets" in Kentucky.

Duly refreshed and invigorated by Floyd Woods and its environs, we returned to Calhoun to pick up a vehicle where the temperature now registered 98 degrees. From there our return odyssey began.

Our first stop was Bates Knob, just a few

miles from Calhoun at an 8+/- acre tract of mixed mesophytic forest. This forest was brought to Landon's attention by Jim Conrad, a frequent contributor to our newsletter. Jim, born and raised in McLean County, treasures this forest as one of his favorites. There we found two species of Spiderwort blooming, a large patch of Green Violet in seed, and Lop seed in flower. The red oak, red maple, sugarberry, and beech trees found in this woods were not of the proportions of those in the Floyd Woods, but were, nevertheless, at 18"+/- (DBH) impressive for this area. With the extensive farming, mining, and logging occurring within the Shawnee Hills (inappropriately referred to as the Western Kentucky Coalfields), it is nice to know that a few high quality natural communities still exist.

We caravanned to a food and fuel stop, and then it was off to Grayson Co. via the WKY Parkway. East of Big Clifty, Ky., we made our second stop to view the Big Clifty Prairie, a state nature preserve. Flax, Blazing Star, Rose Gentian, and Quinine were found in bloom and several prairie grasses were in evidence. Controlled burning by Joyce Bender and her stewardship staff (Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission) maintains the natural quality of this site while keeping the non-native species in check. Photographs were taken of some of the flowers by Steve and Charlie and then it was off to East View Prairie (Hardin Co.).

At the East View Prairie, we were greeted by an interesting little plant called the Pink Milkwort (*Polygala incarnata*) as we stepped from our vehicles. Walking through this tract, we saw Rattlesnake Master, Spiked Lobelia, Blue Hearts, Angelica, St. Johnswort, Whorled Milkwort, and a prairie species of primrose. Originally discovered by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, it has long been known as one of the best barren (prairie) remnants left in Kentucky. Recently purchased by The Nature Conservancy, a joint effort between TNC and KSNPC is expected to insure protection and proper management of this

fine remnant. This being our last botanizing stop, we gathered to rehash our day prior to taking our separate routes home. We all were agreed that we certainly did see tracts that were "as good as it gets" in Kentucky and that, although it was hotter than a french fried fox in a forest fire, our odyssean sojourn was most convivial, rewarding, and enjoyable. Thanks were expressed to Landon for his time and knowledge as we departed with a heightened awareness of the biodiversity of our Commonwealth and with an itch to scratch (not our chigger bites) whatever plans we have for the upcoming weekends and replace them with outings to see more of the unique plant communities of Kentucky.

The Beech Family

by Jim Conrad

Blossom formula: Female flowers many, in catkins; males reduced, on same branch

Fruit: nuts

of species in world: about 600 in 6 genera

of species in Kentucky: about 22

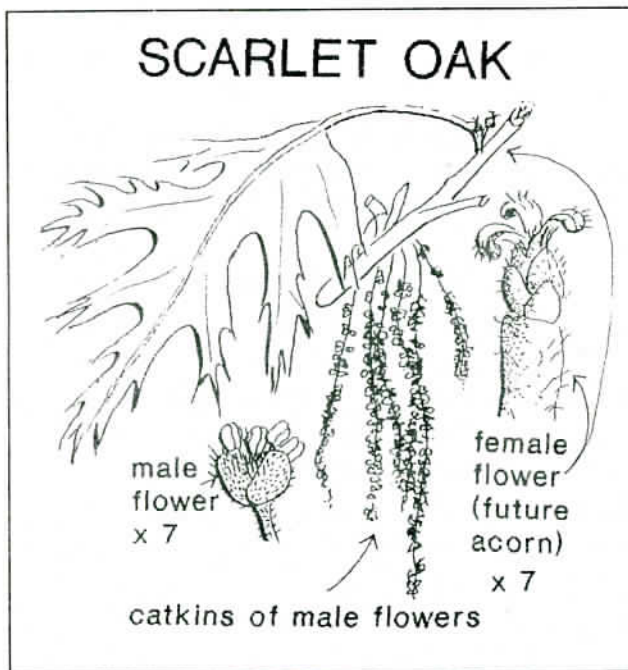
Native to temperate and subtropical zones, mostly of northern hemisphere

Trees and shrubs

Kentucky's members of the beech family fall into 3 genera:

- 1) beech (genus *Fagus*)
- 2) chestnuts (genus *Castanea*)
- 3) oaks (genus *Quercus*)

I think of the beech family as kind of like a human family that's aristocratic in a small-town kind of way. A family that "made good," not with blue-blooded ancestors or grandpa's shady real-estate dealings, but with hard work in the home country, and commerce



in the likes of whisky-barrels and plow handles, and the victual requirements of happy pigs. Like so many of our most worthy families, the beech family's story is fraught with lamentable tragedy.

A few oldtimers still know that beeches, chestnuts, and oaks once were honored for their woods. Dry beech wood makes a fine fuel-wood; chestnut wood served admirably for furniture, musical instruments, and caskets; oaks...well, good solid oak wood is simply one of the most serviceable, useful, beautiful-in-a-down-home-kind-of-way wood there is, good for nearly any general carpentry or industrial use you can think of.

In Europe, Druids held oak as sacred; even today German coins bear the likeness of oak leaves on them; the fifty pfennig piece shows a woman planting an oak seedling. The first Kentuckians, long before white people arrived, must have revered oaks, beeches, and chestnuts. We know that the great staple food of many Native American tribes was acorn flour made into mush and bread.

"Storage pits" have been found in many archaeological sites around Kentucky. Excavators seldom venture to guess what the pits stored. I suppose that often they held stores of beechnuts, chestnuts, and white-oak acorns, or hard-baked cakes made with their heavy flour.

But, I spoke of tragedy. In Kentucky the

first heavy blow to the family came from the unrestricted forest-cutting that took place here during the 1800's to fuel the blast furnaces for our several iron foundries. Four-fifths of an acre of trees were needed to produce one ton of iron. Already, by 1900, most of the state's forests had been harvested, and what grew back often were deformed and stunted trees.

Sometimes I wonder whether our harvesting techniques today are much more enlightened. If you look closely at our state's forests, you'll see that very many trees are deformed and stunted. Often the most worthy species--those most important to wildlife and those producing the best wood--have been replaced by fast-growing weed-trees. Anyway, rapacious forestry constitutes this family's first tragedy.

During the 19th century, especially in Eastern Kentucky, the American Chestnut was an extremely important tree. Table 5 in Lucy Braun's Deciduous Forests of Eastern North America shows percentage compositions of five forests in Kentucky's Cumberland Mountains at the turn of the century. In two of the samples, chestnut was the most common tree, and in the other two it was the second- and third-most common species. American Chestnuts frequently reached 100 feet high and grew trunks four feet in diameter. But in 1904 a fungus disease called the chestnut blight, introduced from Asia, began killing these grand trees, and after 30 years they were nearly all exterminated. This was the family's second tragedy.

Once beech, chestnut, and oak sustained Kentucky's wildlife. Deer, black bear, raccoons, squirrels, and peccaries (wild pigs) gorged themselves on beech-family mast. My grandfather once told me that no pig tastes as good as one raised on acorns. Eating acorn-cakes and tasting mast-sweetness in the flesh of deer and peccary, how the first Kentuckians must have taken joy in the way that beech, chestnuts, and oaks spread their mellifluence throughout the forest ecosystem and their lives. These trees' bounty they must have regarded as

one of the prime expressions of the Great Spirit's love.

But now the first Kentuckians are gone, and so are their special understanding for what is significant and beautiful about life. Now who among us speaks with reverence of the beech, chestnuts, and oaks? And this is the family's third great tragedy.

Those of you who have read my earlier family descriptions know that usually I speak mostly of botanical stuff--taxonomy, anatomy, pollination, etc. Certainly the beech family lends itself to that approach, for its flowers are curious (male and female flowers separate but on the same branch) and there are some very interesting things going on with genetics, especially natural hybridization among the oaks. Also, a lot could be said about the uses of black-oak tannin and "oak-apples."

However, when I came to the noble beech family, I just felt speaking botanical whiz-bangery wasn't appropriate. The beech family's tragic history provides a too-poignant metaphor for what's happened and continues to happen between man and nature. Somehow it seemed disrespectful to speak of such a noble, magnanimous, tragic family in terms of their anatomy and the artificial taxonomic structure man imposes on them.

Edible Plants

by Tom Bloom

Walking among the fields and forests brings the observant botanist many lovely sights and fragrant smells. To the well-trained and adventurous observer, such a walk also can be a venture into the world of taste. In addition to berries and nuts, many leaves, stems, roots, and tubers can be eaten raw or after proper preparation. Before the development of agriculture, our ancestors knew the importance of many plants and used many plants in their daily diet. With a little knowledge and care,

you, too, can prepare meals from your roadsides, fencerows, woodlots, and fields. Many common and often weedy plants have one or more edible parts.

The simplest meal to prepare from the wild is a salad. Young leaves of dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), plantain (*Plantago rugellii*), and purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) can be eaten raw. In fact, plantain is sold on roadside stands in Taiwan and other countries. The young shoots of many plants also can be eaten raw, including blackberry (*Rubus* spp.), greenbrier (*Smilax* sp.), burdock (*Arctium minus*), cattail (*Typha latifolia* and *T. angustifolia*), grape (*Vitis* spp.), sumac (*Rhus* spp.), and evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*). For a little body to the salad, add the peeled and chopped young stalk (before flowers appear) of burdock. Many roots also can be added raw to a salad: Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*, also called wild carrot), dandelion, Jerusalem artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*), and cattail.

Parts of other plants can be eaten after being boiled, drained, and boiled again. The double boiling is necessary to remove bitter chemical compounds. Burdock roots can be peeled, double-boiled, and then mashed much like a potato. The young shoots of poke (*Phytolacca americana*) and nettle (*Urtica* spp.) also can be double-boiled. Any plant part that can be eaten raw also can be boiled (changing water is not necessary).

There are other ways to prepare certain roots and other belowground plant parts. Greenbrier and cattail roots can be dried and ground into a coarse flour that can be used to make bread or thicken a soup. Greenbrier roots also can be chopped and boiled with sugar to make a jelly. Arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*) tubers can be fried like a potato. Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*) and dandelion roots can be dried, roasted, and boiled to make a coffee substitute. Wild onion (*Allium* spp.) bulbs can be used to season any dish. Ginger (*Asarum canadense*) roots can be used fresh or dried as a spice. Corms of Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND ORDER FORM

All memberships run for the calendar year (January through December). Dues received after November 1 are put toward the following year. Members are paid up through the year indicated on their newsletter address label.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone: ()- _____ Office Phone: ()- _____

Please check one:

- _____ Annual Individual Membership Dues--\$5.00
- _____ Annual Family Membership Dues--\$7.00
- _____ Lifetime Individual Membership--\$100.00
- _____ Lifetime Family Membership--\$140.00

Please check one:

- _____ Renewal
- _____ New member

If you would like to order KNPS green baseball caps, please indicate the number desired below:

_____ KNPS Caps (\$8.50 each, includes postage)

Total Amount Enclosed:

Dues \$ _____
 KNPS Caps \$ _____
 Gift to KNPS \$ _____ (KNPS is a non-profit organization--gifts are tax deductible.)
 \$ _____ is enclosed. Make checks payable to Kentucky Native Plant Society.

NOTE: The American Horticulture Society offer has been discontinued.

Return this form to: Tom Bloom
 106 Locust Grove
 Frankfort, KY 40601
 (502) 695-0168

Please duplicate this membership form and pass to potential members.

GIFT MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you would like to send a KNPS gift membership to a friend or relative, please fill out this form:

From: Name _____
 Address _____

To: Name _____
 Address _____

Type of membership: _____ Individual -- \$5 _____ Family -- \$7
 _____ Individual Lifetime -- \$100 _____ Family Lifetime -- \$140

spp.) are a tangy pepper substitute when charred and ground up.

The young seed pods of redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) and honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) can be cooked much like snow peas. Ripe seeds of honeylocust can be cooked like any dried bean. Goosefoot (*Chenopodium album*) seeds can be eaten raw, cooked, and ground into a flour, or cooked as a cereal. Finally, elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) flowers can be dipped into batter and fried.

Two warnings should be heeded. Before trying any wild plant, make sure you are positive of its identification. It is a good idea to be cautious when eating any new food: try a small portion and watch for ill effects at least six hours before eating more of the dish. Also, of course, do not ever endanger a population of wild plants by harvesting too much for the dinner table!

These are only a few examples of wild culinary delights. If you relish eating wild plants, several good books on the subject are available. Happy feasting!

Editor's note: The following article is a preview of the talk that Dr. Ross Clark will give at our annual fall meeting.

Dr. Ross Clark is a southwestern Virginia native who received his botanical training at Sewanee and the University of North Carolina. His graduate major was in plant systematics, with a minor in ecology; his graduate advisor was Dr. Al Radford. After teaching at the University of South Carolina-Spartanburg and Erskine College for 11 years, he served as Curator of Education at the Morton Arboretum for 12 years. He joined the faculty of Eastern Kentucky University as Chair of Biological Sciences in 1992. He has authored or co-authored nearly 50 publications, including *The Woody Plants of Alabama* and *Keys to the Trees of the Chicago Region; Native and Cultivated*. Presently, he is working on an updated flora of the Red River Gorge and a treatment of the

native hollies of North America. His lifelong hobbies are music, beekeeping, and bonsai. His wife Brenda is a native of the North Carolina mountains and has graduate training in English.

His message to botanists who want to complete a flora of Kentucky is: "Get out in the field; break a sweat; collect voucher specimens; bale some hay; no good flora was ever based on sight and existing herbarium records. And use standard nomenclature if you want other botanists to take your work seriously." (Listen up, Constantine!)

KENTUCKY'S CHINESE KITH AND KIN

by Ross Clark

KITH (a word from Middle English):

To make friendly or familiar; to become acquainted, or associate oneself with; to greet each other as friends or familiar acquaintances. (Oxford English Dictionary)

Native Kentuckians have a very strong appreciation of relationships and sense of place. They often define themselves in terms of the region of the Commonwealth where their families originally settled, and where many of their relatives still remain. It is understandable that the origins of native Kentucky plants are not as widely appreciated as the human connections, but there is an analogous parallel relationship.

Many of our plants, especially those native in eastern Kentucky, have strong genetic relationships with plants in eastern Asia. Specifically, those areas are Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning provinces of China, and southeastern Siberia and the Ussurian peninsula of Russia. Many of the species found there are very similar to ours, and a few are the same. Because of this, Kentucky field botanists would feel especially well at home in the forests of eastern China.

Forty million years or so ago, the

Northern Hemisphere climate was milder and less variable than it is today. The northern Atlantic Ocean was much narrower than at present, and it was much easier for many plants to maintain ranges that were more or less continuous all across the region. Magnolias grew in Alberta and central Asia, and bald cypress and redwoods grew in central Asia; ancestors of modern horses and camels roamed the western United States. This general situation apparently persisted for many millions of years. Two or three million years ago, for reasons which are not fully understood, conditions became much more variable. Rather suddenly, the Northern Hemisphere entered a series of alternating cool-wet and warm-dry cycles, which we know as the Pleistocene Ice Age. Presently, we are in one of the interglacial, relatively warm-dry episodes.

Four major continental glacier advances, with intervening warm-dry interglacials, plus numerous more brief fluctuations in climate, took their toll on the great Northern Hemisphere mixed forest, causing plants to retreat from their former ranges, migrate repeatedly, and become extinct in many areas. Geographic ranges of many plants broke up into pieces and became disjunct, leading to greater chances for extinction, but also to more local variation, and thus to the evolution of new, closely related species.

During the Pleistocene, the diverse flora of western Asia and Europe was squeezed repeatedly against the impenetrable barriers of the Alps, the Mediterranean and the dry interior of the continent. The full glacial climate supported only dry, cold desert in much of the area. Consequently, today's native flora in that region retains only a shadow of its former diversity.

Conditions were different in eastern Asia and eastern North America. Even though plant ranges no longer were continuous across the Northern Hemisphere, the plants had somewhere to go when the great swings in climate occurred. Most of China, and eastern North America from about the Ohio River southward, were never

covered by glaciers during the Pleistocene. Although the climate did change markedly in the unglaciated regions, much of the diversity was preserved because plants could migrate without significant barriers into favorable habitats farther south.

This is particularly true in China, where the flora simply stayed in place, moved upward and downward in the numerous mountain ranges, or moved southward. In North America, many species now found in Kentucky achieved refuge in the Coastal Plain (which was more extensive than it is now, because of lower ocean levels), and in habitats as far south as the eastern Sierra Madre mountains of Mexico. (This means that the rare "Coastal Plain species" we find in eastern Kentucky probably are extending their ranges northward at the present time, and we should expect to find them more and more often as they continually colonize new habitats.)

Some migration between Asia and North America probably occurred across the Bering-Aleutian land bridge, which was largely unglaciated. However, any plant migration there probably was strongly filtered, because the climate on the bridge apparently was cold and dry when ocean levels were lowest. This would have been a barrier to most species of our Temperate eastern forests.

This is a thumbnail sketch of how the two major remaining centers of ancestral Arcto-tertiary forest diversity happen to be in eastern China and eastern America. And it also is why many of our familiar Kentucky plants came to have their closest "kith and kin" in eastern Asia and nowhere else.

News and Announcements

Plant Rescuers Needed in Lexington

Over the last ten years, recently-retired professor Willem Meijer and his students

assembled an outstanding collection of Kentucky's native plants on the two residential lots of the Mathews Garden at the University of Kentucky. Last spring, however, the university announced that it would route a waterline for a new building right through its middle.

In its recent history, the Mathews Garden has survived threats to its existence and it looks like it may survive yet again. UK's plans aroused protest by a sizeable group of students, faculty, and folks who are not affiliated with the university. Since UK will save a bundle by going through rather than around the garden, Bill Cohen of the School of Biological Sciences has proposed that the university use the construction as an opportunity to finally provide good public access to the garden and to provide for its continued maintenance and improvement. So far, UK is amenable. The Mathews Garden may finally receive the recognition and attention it deserves as an educational and aesthetic resource for the university and Lexington.

In the meantime, we can help move threatened plants to permanent locations at the new UK/Lexington Arboretum or to temporary beds on one of the university farms for final relocation to the Arboretum or reestablishment in the garden. Volunteering will demonstrate our recognition and approval of UK's financial and administrative commitment.

If you think you might be able to help, probably in late September or October, please call or leave your phone number with Charles Chandler at 606/278-5085. We'll be in touch when details are scheduled.

KNPS Certification Program in Native Plant Studies

These courses are being offered as part of a curriculum to educate KNPS members in native plant studies. Additional courses in field botany, wildflower cultivation, wetlands, and conservation are being planned. For more information, please contact Ron Jones, Biology Dept., ECU, Richmond, KY 40475.

Fall Wildflowers of Kentucky

Ron Jones, Professor of Biological Sciences, ECU

Prerequisites: This course is limited to those who have participated in the KNPS Certification Course in Plant Systematics or to those who have a knowledge of descriptive plant terminology. Please call the instructor for more information on qualifications to take the course.

The identification of fall wildflowers using technical keys in floristic manuals will be the subject of this course. Students are expected to already have a good familiarity with basic terminology. The distinctive features of wildflowers and how to identify them by family, genus, and species will be emphasized. Students will also learn how to collect and preserve plant specimens.

Saturdays, 1:00 - 4:00 PM (ET)
September 11, 18, October 2, 16
Moore 202, ECU Tuition \$76.

How to Know Kentucky Mosses

Dr. David Eakin has his Ph.D in Botany from the University of Florida and currently teaches biology at ECU.

How in the world can you recognize mosses and liverworts? Take this introductory course in the collection and identification of the bryophytes of Kentucky. This course is for all amateur naturalists and wildflower enthusiasts who have ever wondered how to identify the mosses and liverworts they encounter. Emphasis will be placed on the most common genera and the ability to recognize genera of mosses using a hand lens. One field trip is planned to the Red River Gorge. Please ask for book information upon registering.

Saturdays, 1:00 - 4:00 PM (ET)
October 23 - November 13
Moore 202, ECU Tuition \$76.

**BRINGING NATURE CLOSER TO HOME:
"From the Back Forty to Your Backyard"**

**A TWO-DAY NATIVE PLANT WORKSHOP
September 11 and 12, 1993**

Sponsored by Shooting Star Nursery and the Kentucky Native Plant Society

Featuring: Huge savings on Kentucky's largest selection of native plants--Just in time for fall planting! AND seminars by noted experts in the fields of gardening, wildflowers and ecological stewardship.

LOCATION: Shooting Star Nursery, 444 Bates Rd., Frankfort KY 40601

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE* (Note: All times are Eastern Time)

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 11, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM:
HOME AND GARDEN DAY**

10:00 am - 12:00 pm Early Bird Plant Sale!
40% savings on a huge selection of native wildflowers, ferns, grasses, trees and shrubs!

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Seminars by noted experts on various aspects of water & wildflower gardening, including a session on preparing medicinal tinctures from native plants and herbs by Jude C. Williams, M.H., author of "Jude's Herbal Home Remedies." Plus, ongoing videos on wildflower meadow gardening, wildflower propagation and more!

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 12, 1:00-5:00 PM:
ECOLOGICAL STEWARDSHIP DAY**

1:00 pm "Biological Pest Control" by Fred Wiche, noted radio personality and expert on gardening.

2:00 pm "Kentucky's Roadside Wildflower Program: How You Can Get Involved," by Frances Parker, Agronomist, Transportation Department.

3:00 pm "Designing Wetlands for Residential Wastewater Treatment," by Mr. Heady, Franklin County Health Department.

4:00 pm "Government Cost Share Programs for Stewardship," by Marc Evans, restoration specialist.

TO REGISTER: The registration fee is \$5.00 per person (children under 12 free). The deadline to register is **SEPT. 7**. Everyone on our mailing list (i.e., if you received a 1993 Shooting Star Nursery catalog) will receive a notice of the workshop and registration form. If you are not on our mailing list, please call or write Shooting Star Nursery to receive a registration form, final workshop schedule and a map to the nursery (502/223-1679).

Children are welcome - volleyball, badminton and other supervised activities are available.

KNPS Annual Fall Meeting

**Saturday, October 16, 1993
at Eastern Kentucky University and Berea Woods.**

Schedule:

- 9:00 - Board of Directors/ General Business Meeting
11:00 AM (ET) Rm. 123 Moore Science Bldg, University Drive, ECU Campus.
Everyone welcome. Coffee and donuts provided.
- 11:00 - Slide presentation, "The Eastern North American-
12:00 PM (ET) China Plant Connection" Dr. Ross Clark, ECU.
- 12:00 - Lunch on your own.
1:00 PM (ET)
- 1:00 PM (ET) Carpool to Berea Woods. Meet at the Indian Fort
Theater parking lot on Highway 21, a few miles
east of Berea.
- 1:30 - We will hike to the East and West Pinnacles to
5:00 PM (ET) view fall wildflowers (especially asters) and learn the
woody plants.

Directions to ECU: Take I-75 to the south Richmond exit (Exit 87). Proceed east about a mile on the Bypass (Rt. 876) through several lights and turn left on Lancaster Road (Rt. 52). Proceed about 4\10 of a mile and turn right onto University Drive. Moore Science Building will be on your left. Better parking opportunities may be found by proceeding one block past University Drive and turning right onto Crabbe Street. The first right off Crabbe will lead to a parking lot directly behind Moore Science Bldg. The front doors to Moore will be unlocked.

The Kentucky Native Plant Society

Department of Natural Science
 Eastern Kentucky University
 Richmond, KY 40475

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The KNPS NEWSLETTER is published quarterly (Feb., May, Aug., Nov.). Please notify us four weeks in advance of any changes of address. Back issues of the NEWSLETTER are available for \$1.00 each. Send articles and correspondence to:
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The Kentucky Native Plant Society, Inc. 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 \$5.00 (Family \$7.00) may be sent to KNPS, c/o Tom Bloom, 900 Keenon Rd., Harrodsburg, KY 40330.