



# *The Lady Slipper* *Newsletter*

THE LADY SLIPPER: SPRING (APRIL) 2018

**Greetings plant enthusiasts! It has been an interesting spring so far and I hope you have had a chance to view some spring ephemerals in Kentucky's natural areas.**

**Over the past month I have been lucky to get out to several natural areas to monitor spring wildflower displays and check on rare plant populations. These include Carter Caves State Park Nature Preserve, Jessamine Creek Gorge, Beech Fork Wild River Conservation Area, Rough River, Cove Spring Park, Pine Creek Barrens, Apple Valley State Nature Preserve, and Bernheim Forest. There have been some spectacular displays already! I am looking forward to a botanically productive year and spreading the love of Kentucky's native plants and their communities.**



Yellow Trout Lilies (*Erythronium americanum*) were in peak bloom at Rough River in Grayson County on March 31, 2018. The sandstone rockshelters and overhangs in the background of photo harbor a small population of the rare (state threatened) French's shooting star (*Dodecatheon frenchii*) which was almost in flower. French's shooting star is restricted to sandstone, while the common shooting star prefers limestone soils and outcrops. Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) management is conducted on this population annually.



Kentucky Glade Cress (*Leavenworthia exigua* var. *laciniata*), a Kentucky endemic plant that is federally threatened, began blooming in Bullitt and Jefferson Counties in early March. It is associated with dolomite glades and historically with migrating bison. This annual is used to dealing with extreme weather patterns and has the ability to self fertilize, so can produce seeds without being pollinated by insects! This photo was taken on March 16, 2018 at Pine Creek Barrens Nature Preserve. There has been a considerable amount of management on these dolomite glades this year already, including a prescribed burn at Apple Valley SNP!



The rare mountain lover shrub (*Paxistima canbyii*) began blooming in late march this year. This rare shrub is a glacial relict species and was studied extensively by Dr. Lucy Braun. Several conservation projects are ongoing with this plant, including a range wide genetic study as well as invasive species management and protection efforts. This photo was taken at Carter Caves State Park on March 23, 2018.



The rare glacial relict snow trillium (*Trillium nivale*) began blooming early this year. In years past, this beautiful little trillium normally began blooming in mid to late march. This year, buds began forming on Feb 19 and this photo was taken at Jessamine Creek Gorge on March 2! Botanists Julian Campbell and Tara Littlefield are studying the Jessamine Creek Gorge population have been documenting severe declines over the past 30 years . We hope to increase conservation measures to protect this rare beauty. It is feared that our climate has become too wet and warm to support this trillium in most natural areas in our state.

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**DO NOT MISS WILDFLOWER WEEKEND APRIL 13/14:** After this weeks cold snap, it looks like Wildflower Weekend may be warm and hopefully mostly dry. Many spring wildflowers will be in peak and show a nice display for Wildflower Weekend at Natural Bridge State Park. Please check out the current agenda below, it will be a great weekend with Dan and Judy Doursan's Red River Gorge Wildflower presentation and book (**DOURSAN'S RED RIVER GORGE WILDFLOWER BOOK WILL BE FOR SALE, LIMITED EDITION!**) . There will also be a play about Dr. Lucy Braun performed by Alice Jones. On Saturday, we will have a members meeting where we will discuss KNPS activities and direction, as well as pay tribute to Clara Wieland, former founding officer/board member of Kentucky Native Plant Society. Hikes offered Friday and Saturday with

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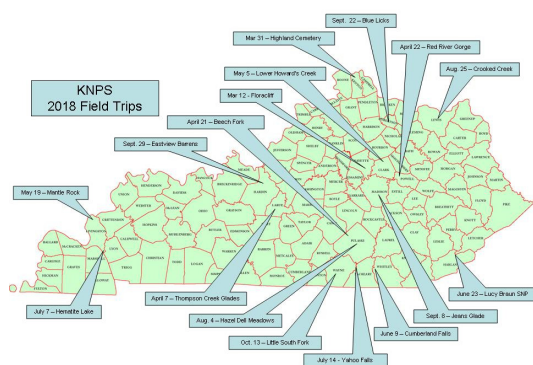


evening programs starting at 6pm. Also on Saturday there will be a raffle for items including Bob Van Hoff's famous lady slipper wood carving. We will have new KNPS tshirts and stickers for sale! For detailed agenda go to <http://www.knps.org/pdf-doc/KNPS%20Wildflower%20Weekend%202018%20Agenda.pdf>



Great trillium (*Trillium grandifolium*) should be in peak for Wildflower Weekend at Natural Bridge State Park. This photo was taken by the late Dr. Tom Barnes, former KNPS president and board member.

KNPS FIELD TRIP PROGRAM 2018: KNPS has a great field trip schedule lined up for 2018. This crazy spring with its stochastic weather events has led to 2 of the 3 hikes scheduled thus far to be canceled, but we expect all the hikes from now on to go on as scheduled, unless we encounter dangerous thunderstorms. Please check [http://www.knps.org/field\\_trips.html](http://www.knps.org/field_trips.html) for field trip information and registrations.



This photo is from the first hike of the year with Kentucky Native Plant Society and Cincinnati Wildflower Society co sponsoring the trip to Highland cemetery in Kenton county on March 24. Summary from Janet James, KNPS field trip coordinator: "It was a beautiful day and lovely hike, but wildflower blooming is behind expectations, so we saw very few in bloom: both trout lilies, bloodroot, toothworts, violets, sessile trillium, and a few others. Lots of buds ready to pop. Part of the preserve is a deep ravine and the trail we took follows it"

KNPS is offering field trips all across the state. We feel that the best way to connect people with plants is to get them out in nature! Please sign up for a field trip near you!

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**Factors Influencing Plant Phenology**

<b>Soil</b>	<b>Atmosphere</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Texture</li><li>• Bulk density</li><li>• pH</li><li>• Fertility</li><li>• Moisture</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Average temperature</li><li>• Nocturnal temperature</li><li>• Photoperiod</li><li>• Precipitation</li><li>• Composition</li></ul>

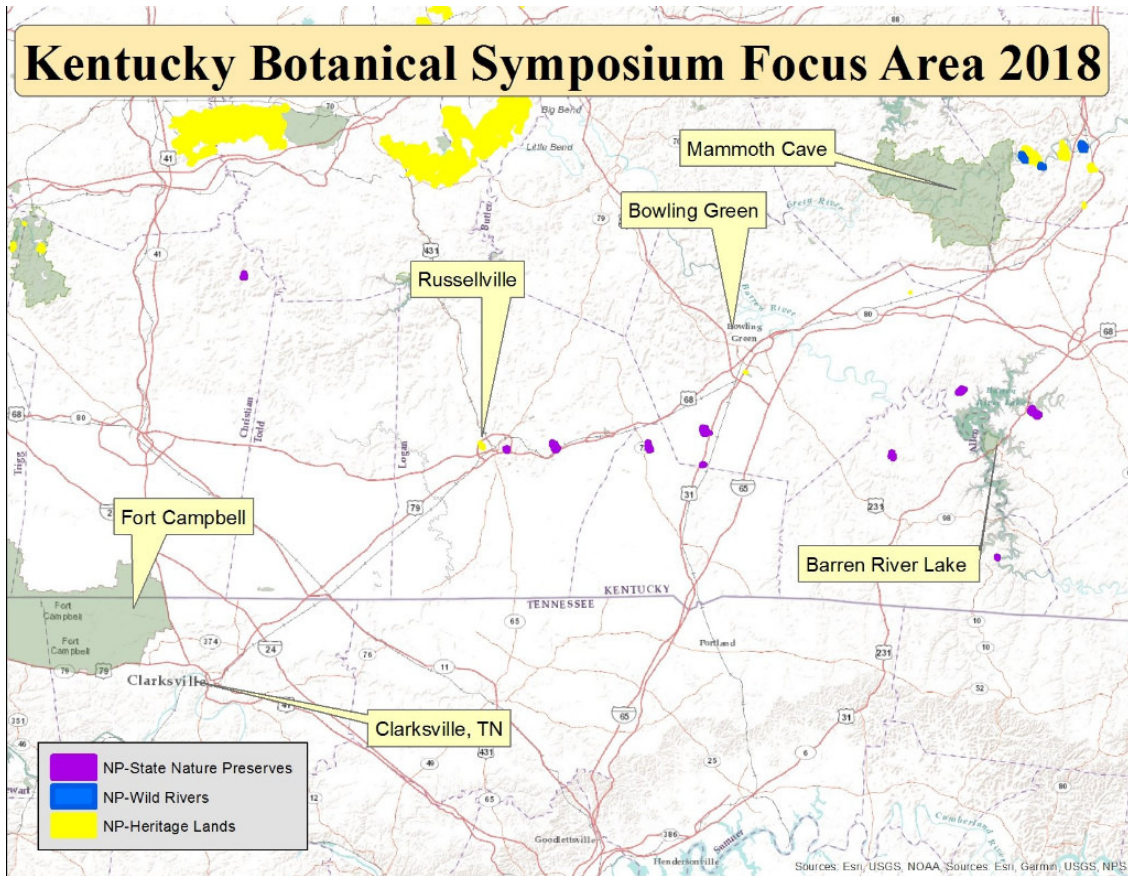
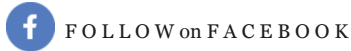
Temperature appears to play the most important role

(Wiegolaski 2001)

SOCIAL MEDIA: As usual, we enjoy seeing what flowers are blooming from Facebook posts on our group page, its a great tool to study plant phenology across Kentucky. Perhaps with some improvement in data collection of the group, we could work together to answer questions such as "How have plant



blooming times changed over the past 20 years in different regions in KY",  
"Where should I go hiking to view peak spring wildflowers?". Contact us if you  
want to help with our social media efforts.



KY BOTANICAL SYMPOSIUM:: KNPS hosts an annual symposium in the fall. The intent of the symposium is to foster regional botanical interest in plant conservation projects and natural areas as well as bring professionals, academics, and citizen scientists from the area together to discuss current issues and projects.

The symposium moves around to different regions annually. We are planning the Kentucky Botanical Symposium for fall 2018 in the Bowling Green Area in October.

Partners include Kentucky Nature Preserves, Southeastern Grasslands Initiative, Ironweed Nursery, and Western Kentucky University. Please contact us if you would like to partner with us to work on local plant conservation issues in the Russellville, Bowling Green, Clarksville, TN area. Check out the website, we will have a date set within the next 2 weeks.



Teaching children plant appreciation is important. Kids are naturally curious to investigate everything they see in nature. They are the future and if they are not encouraged to appreciate plants and animals, there will be no one to look after our natural world after we are gone. Pictured here are Estella and Henry, who hike to their Virginia bluebell patch every year to measure population size and trends, pull garlic mustard, and take in the beauty. 2018-04-06.

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**WORKSHOPS:** Ok, we couldn't get our act together to plan the sedge workshop, but maybe next year? We still plan on offering an Aster and Goldenrod workshop in September (Exact date coming soon) in the Richmond Area. It will include herbarium specimen review in the new science building at Eastern Kentucky University with Dr. Ruhfel as well as field trips. Please check our website for updated info and dates.

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**PLEASE TAKE THIS POLL:** Last, we want to know what you think about Wildflower Weekend and other KNPS programs. Please take this survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YQHVRQV>



**For the love of Kentucky Plants,  
Tara R. Littlefield, KNPS President**

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KNPS president and heritage botanist Tara Littlefield and a large shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*) in the Daniel Boone National Forests in Pulaski Co on March 11, 2018. Kentucky Nature Preserves and Kentucky Native Plant Society are working on pine barrens conservation issues in this region. We worked on the wood lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*) last year with surveys and seed collection and hope to expand that project and include other charismatic plants in 2018.



Sandstone rock outcrop along Rough River in Grayson County Kentucky. French's shooting star (*Dodecatheon frenchii*) and wood fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*) can be seen on the sandstone outcrop. French's shooting star is a state listed plant and in Kentucky occurs mainly in the sandstone outcrops of the Shawnee hills region.

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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.

If you are attending the Wildflower Weekend at Natural Bridge next weekend, you can join or renew and receive a \$5 discount.

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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