



The Kentucky Native Plant Society's  
**WILDFLOWER  
WEEKEND**

**Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
& Saturday,  
April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

This event is open to the public and kid-friendly. Pre-registration is required on our website ([www.knps.org](http://www.knps.org)). Admission is \$10 for adults, \$3 for ages 13-17, and free for ages 12 & under. All walks will meet at the entrance to the Hemlock lodge at Natural Bridge State Resort Park. State parks require masks when indoors.

### Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> – Afternoon Walks

**1:00 PM Wildflower & Ecology Walk, Rock Bridge Loop Trail:** 1.25 mile loop, moderately difficult walk.

Join KY Nature Preserves botanists Heidi Braunreiter & Tony Romano on a trail that descends into a deep ravine with towering old-growth hemlock trees and a dense rhododendron understory. Scenic views of Creation Falls and Rock Bridge.

**1:00 PM Woody Plants Walk, Boardwalk:** easy, accessible walk. Join U.S. Forest Service botanist David Taylor and ECU graduate Ted Brancheau around the Hemlock Lodge and Woodland Center to learn about trees and shrubs.

**2:30 PM Wildflower Walk, Original Trail:** 1-2 miles, moderately difficult walk. Walk with state park naturalist Samantha Evans and KY Nature Preserves botanist Rachel Cook to see what is blooming along the Original Trail, which leads up to the Natural Bridge Arch.

**2:30 PM Lichen Walk, Rush Ridge Trail:** 1-2 miles, easy walk. Join KY Nature Preserves lichenologist Kendall McDonald and botanist Devin Rodgers to learn about the anatomy, ecology, and reproduction of lichens along this flat ridgetop in the Red River Gorge. If you have a hands lens (aka jewelers loup) or magnifying lens handy, bring along for better viewing of these small organisms.

**7:30pm Members & Friends Social, Natural Bridge SRP Group Campsite:** Join us around the fire pit to gather with fellow wildflower enthusiasts. Meet the KNPS board members & officers. Bring your own camp chairs. No alcohol allowed per state park. S'mores fixings will be provided!

## Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> – Morning Walks

**8:30 AM Bryophyte Walk, Boardwalk:** **easy, accessible walk.** Walk with U.S. Forest Service botanist David Taylor around the Hemlock Lodge to learn about these interesting seedless plants including mosses, liverworts, and hornworts that have considerable diversity in form and ecology.

**8:30 AM Wildflowers & Salamanders Walk, Suspension Bridge Trail:** **1-2 miles, easy to moderately difficult walk.** Join KY Nature Preserves ecologist Martina Hines, UK-LFUCG Arboretum curator Jess Slade, and botanist Steele McFadden to learn about wildflowers along this botanically diverse trail. Also, take a stop at the creek to look for salamanders!

**9:00 AM Natural History Walk, Rock Bridge Trail:** **1.25 mile loop, moderately difficult walk.** Walk with David Kuehner, senior biologist James Kiser from Stantec Consulting, and KY Nature Preserves botanist Vanessa Voelker to learn about wildflowers, ferns, herps, and mosses on a trail that descends into a deep ravine with towering old-growth hemlock trees and a dense rhododendron understory. Scenic views of Creation Falls and Rock Bridge.

**10:00 AM Naturalist Walk with a Focus on Wildflowers, The Wilds Trail:** **1-2 miles, easy to moderately difficult walk.** Join authors Dan & Judy Dourson on a walk through Punkin Hollow to look at all things nature. For a great plant guide of the area, check out their book “Wildflowers and Ferns of Red River Gorge and the Greater Red River Basin.”

**10:00 AM Search for Sweet Pinesap, Gray’s Arch Trail:** **1-2 miles, easy to moderately difficult walk.** Join KY Nature Preserves Botanist Tara Littlefield and her daughter Estella on a search for the rare and elusive sweet pinesap, aka pygmy pipes (*Monotropsis odorata*). Wildflowers, shrubs, trees, and general ecology will also be discussed.

## Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> – Afternoon Walks

**1:00 PM ¡Despierta, Bosque! Un paseo de la primavera de los polinizadores, Rock Garden Trail; 1-2 millas, caminata fácil a moderadamente difícil.** Venga al bosque para una caminata bilingüe en español y inglés para aprender sobre las flores de la primavera y sus polinizadores, durante el tiempo del año cuando el bosque está despertando del invierno. Las familias y la gente de todas las edades están bienvenidos. La Dra. Valerie Peters, quien estudia los polinizadores de KY y en Costa Rica, sería encargada de dirigir la caminata en español. La Dra. Jennifer Koslow, una ecóloga que estudia plantas en KY, estaría co-líder de la caminata, en Spanglish.

**1:00 PM Wake up, Woods! A spring pollinator walk, Rock Garden Trail; 1-2 miles, easy to moderately difficult walk.** Come take a bilingual (Spanish and English) walk in the woods to learn about spring wildflowers and their pollinators as the forest wakes up from its winter slumber. Families and people of all ages welcome. Dr. Valerie Peters, who studies pollinators in Kentucky and Costa Rica, will lead the walk in Spanish, while Dr. Jennifer Koslow, a plant ecologist who works in Kentucky, will assist in Spanglish.

**1:30 PM Wildflower Walk, Whittleton Branch Trail: 1-2 miles, easy walk.** Join U.S. Forest Service botanist David Taylor, KY Nature Preserves botanist Rachel Cook, and David Kuehner along this botanically diverse trail north of Whittleton Campground to see a dazzling display of spring ephemerals!

**2:00 PM Natural History Walk, Rock Garden Trail: 1-2 miles, easy to moderately difficult walk.** Walk with retired Indiana heritage botanist Mike Homoya, senior biologist James Kiser from Stantec Consulting, and KY Nature Preserves botanist Heidi Braunreiter to learn about wildflowers, ferns, herbs, and mosses on the forested slope above the Hemlock Lodge.

**2:30 PM Plant Identification 101 & Intro to iNaturalist Workshop, Woodland Center & Boardwalk: easy, accessible.** Join University of Cambridge graduate student Nick Koenig to learn how to use the smartphone app iNaturalist to identify unknown plants, as well as how to identify plants using a key. Please bring a copy of Plant Life of Kentucky (if possible) and have iNaturalist downloaded onto your phone prior to this workshop. However, neither are mandatory to join, teaming up on a key and/or phone is encouraged!

## Saturday Evening Talks at the Woodland Center

Masks are required indoors per state park guidelines. Chairs will be spaced out as a Covid-19 precaution. Books by author Mike Homoya will be available for purchase during this event.

**6:00 Welcome/Introductions**, Tara Littlefield & Heidi Braunreiter

**6:15 Membership Business Meeting**, Jeff Nelson

**6:30 Announcement of 2022 KNPS Grant Recipients**, David Taylor

**6:45 iNaturalist BotanyBlitz Results**, Rachel Cook

**6:55 Lilley Cornett Woods Revisited: A Half-Century of Overstory Change in an Old Growth Forest**, Ted Brancheau, former ECU graduate student.

**7:15 An Exploration into the Funky Fern World**, Nick Koenig, graduate student at The University of Cambridge. The naming of fern species is a complicated process that has interesting histories. Nick will explore the ways in which taxonomists have gone about naming fern species, ongoing research investigating triplets of ferns, and how hybridization has led to interesting morphological relationships.

**7:35 Rare Plants and Natural Communities along the Ohio River, from Cincinnati to the Mississippi River**, Mike Homoya is a recently retired botanist and plant ecologist who worked for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Program since 1982. He discovered, inventoried, and assessed natural communities and surveyed for rare species. He shared his knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm about plants by authoring several books, teaching at the collegiate level, and serving as president of professional science associations.

**8:35 Raffle Drawing**

**9:00 PM Nighttime Salamander Walk to Natural Bridge Cave.** Join Senior Biologist James Kiser from Stantec Consulting to search for salamanders at the Natural Bridge Cave. Bring a headlamp or flashlight.