

PRESS RELEASE



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Kansas Native Plant Society Announces Schedule For 2013 Annual Wildflower Weekend

The Kansas Native Plant Society (KNPS) will host its 35th Annual Wildflower Weekend September 13–15, 2013, in Salina, Kansas. “Landscapes of the Smoky Hills: Then and Now” is the theme of this year’s meeting. The highlight of the weekend for participants is the variety of outings in the area to see the spectacular fall wildflowers with other plants lovers and knowledgeable experts.

The event begins Friday, Sept. 13, with an afternoon tour of Maxwell Wildlife Refuge and a field trip to a private prairie. The day ends with a campfire cookout at the McPherson State Fishing Lake.

The KNPS annual meeting Saturday morning, September 14, at Kansas Wesleyan University will include awards, silent auction, and a photo contest featuring beautiful native plants. In addition, Allen Casey, Biologist/Soil Conservationist, USDA NRCS Plant Resources Center will speak on “Soil Erosion: Dust Bowl to Today,” emphasizing the role native plants have played in the recovery of our grasslands. Afternoon field trips will explore prairies at the 34,000 acre Smoky Hills ANG Range southwest of Salina and the Wauhob prairie at The Land Institute of Salina.

Field trips on Sunday, Sept. 15, include visits to Coronado Heights Park, near Lindsborg; and Horsethief Canyon in Kanopolis State Park.

A detailed itinerary, field trip locations, photo contest instructions, meal reservation form, and list of local motels appear on the KNPS web site at www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/aww_2013.php. The event is **free and open to the public**, except for meals, for which reservations are required. Attendees may participate in some or all of the activities during the 3-day event.

The Kansas Native Plant Society, organized in 1978 and with more than 1000 members, encourages awareness and appreciation of the native plants of Kansas by promoting education, stewardship, and scientific knowledge. Learn more at www.ksnps.org.

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