

August 13, 2014

Dear KNPS Members,

Pratt will serve as our base as we explore the surrounding area at KNPS's 36th Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW). The theme of this year's meeting is "Comparison of Plants in the High Plains and Red Hills Regions in Kansas."

Pratt is located in the High Plains physiographic area - sandwiched between the Arkansas River Lowlands and the Red Hills. The area is a rolling plain of green grassland and farm ground. Fed by crystal clear springs, the Ninnescah River passes on the south side of Pratt. To the north lie sand hills and dunes that are thought to mark the ancient course of the Arkansas River.

We also will venture into the Red Hills. This region, also known as the Gypsum Hills, is marked with beautiful prairie vistas, rich grazing lands, pristine springs and streams, gypsum-capped buttes, and deep red canyon walls. Both areas host a rich variety of plants and wildlife.

Six outings to diverse sites are planned for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Two presentations are planned for the annual meeting. Craig Freeman will speak on the topic of Penstemons and Iralee Barnard will introduce us to her new book on grasses.

Returning members look forward to these traditional activities: presentation of Annual Awards; the display of outstanding pictures in the Photo Contest; and the fun of placing bids and winning items in the Silent Auction.

The following pages include the weekend schedule, descriptions of tour sites, lodging options, and a registration form. To help cover some of the cost of running the meeting, we are charging a registration fee of \$10 for KNPS members and \$20 for non-members. We are not taking pre-payments for meals, but we do need to know if you plan to eat with us. Registration fees may be paid by check using the form in this document or via PayPal through the KNPS web site (www.ksnps.org).

#### **Weekend Summary**

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Tour the Pollinator Garden	Annual Meeting	Tour Hamm Prairie
Tour Alexander Ranch	Bricker Ranch	Tour TBA Property
Dinner at Buster's	Koger Ranch	
	Dinner at Club C'Est	

Make your hotel reservations, pay your registration fee, and come to the AWW.



#### 2014 AWW Itinerary

#### Friday, September 19

- **11:30** am Board lunch in Pratt Community College Cafeteria, Riney Student Center. Pratt Community College is located on the east side of KS-61, 0.6 mi north of the intersection with US-54/400, on the northeast side of Pratt.
- **12:00 pm** Board Meeting, Pratt Community College, Riney Student Center Room 312-314, Park in parking lot east of Riney Student Center north of the ball park (non-board members welcome)
- **2:00 pm** Meet in front parking lot of Pratt Community College to caravan to Pratt Education Center, located at 512 SE 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue (2 miles east, 1 mi south of Pratt)
- 2:15 pm Tour at Pollinator Garden and KDWPT Pratt Education Center
- 3:00 pm Bus/caravan to Alexander Ranch
- **4:00 pm** Tour Alexander Ranch near Sun City
- **6:00 pm** Dinner at Buster's, Sun City. Place your order when you arrive.

#### Saturday, September 20

- 8:00 am Registration, Lobby of Benson Education Center, Pratt Community College. Parking is available in the lots located west of the building. Coffee, juice, and pastries available. Set up & begin Silent Auction.
- **8:30 am** Welcome, AWW logistics, Annual Business Meeting, special presentation by President Mike Haddock
- 9:30 am Awards, Photo Contest, Election
- 10:15 am Break. Silent Auction continues
- 10:30 am Craig Freeman presentation on Penstemons
- 11:00 am Iralee Barnard presentation on Grasses
- 11:30 am Lunch, Cafeteria, Riney Student Center. Pay at cafeteria
- 12:00 pm Silent Auction Ends, Pay for items by 12:30
- **12:30 pm** Lunch Ends
- 12:45 pm Meet in front parking lot of PCC to caravan to tour sites. We have a bus reserved.
- 1:30 pm Arrive at Ed & Manda Bricker Ranch
- **3:15 pm** Leave Bricker Ranch
- 3:30 pm Arrive at Koger Ranch
- 4:45 pm Depart Koger Ranch
- 5:45 pm Arrive back at Holiday Inn Express parking lot
- 6:30 pm Dinner at Club D'Est, 202 S Main Street, Pratt

#### Sunday, September 21

- 9:00 am Meet at Holiday Inn Express, 1903 Paulene Place, and caravan to Hamm Prairie
- 9:10 am Arrive at Hamm Prairie
- 10:30 am Depart Hamm Prairie for site to be announced at the meeting



#### **Meeting & Tour Sites**

Some tours are near Sun City. Follow these directions from US-281 in Pratt to Sun City. Once in Sun City use the directions from Sun City.

**Directions from US-281 to Sun City:** From the intersection of US-281 & KS-64/Lake Rd on the south side of Pratt, go 6 miles south to S 1st Ave/Coats Cutoff Rd and take a right. 1st Ave runs south. Go 1.8 miles to SW 90 St and turn right (west). Go 8 miles to SW 80th St and turn left (south). Go 1 mile to SW 100th St and turn right (west). Go 0.8 miles to SW 85th Ave and turn left (south). Note SW 85th Ave becomes NW Sun City Rd. Go 9.3 miles to Sun City.

#### Friday Afternoon Tour Site #1: KDWPT Pratt Education Center

We will tour the pollinator garden and the education center. The emphasis of the Pratt Education Center is to discover the wildlife of Kansas. Numerous displays, dioramas, and exhibits provide close encounters with the native birds, fish, mammals, and reptiles of Kansas.

**Directions from Pratt:** From the intersection of KS-61 & US 54/400, go east on US400/54 for 1.2 miles to KS- 64/SE 25th Ave. Turn right (south). Go 1 mile to the KDWPT site on your right.

### Friday Afternoon Tour Site #2: Ted Alexander Ranch, Sun City

The Alexander ranch covers 7,000 acres in the Gypsum Hills in Barber County and has been held by the same family for over 100 years. Ted Alexander arrived in 1980 and has made steady improvements to the land that has had far reaching impacts for the plants, wildlife, and watershed as a whole. Ted has taken a property that was between 50-80% covered with cedars to rangeland in high to excellent state. The Alexander Ranch's declaration of purpose is to manage all integrated resources in order to maximize the production of protein, shape a harmonious existence with nature, and maintain economic viability. **Directions from KDWPT to Sun City:** Go west 2.7 miles on KS-64 to US-281. Turn left (south) onto US-281 and follow the directions above to Sun City.

**Directions from Sun City:** Go west on Main St to Sun City Road South and take a left (south). Go 6 miles to an auto gate on the west side of the road. The location will be marked.

### **Saturday Morning Annual Meeting**

### Benson Education Center, Pratt Community College, 348 Kansas 61, Pratt, KS

Saturday's meeting location is Pratt Community College. The annual meeting, presentations, silent auction, and photo contest will be held in the Benson Education Center at Pratt Community College. The Benson Education Center is the main building located on the west side of campus. Parking is available in the lots located on the west side of the building. Coffee, juice, and pastries will be available.

KNPS member Craig Freeman will present an overview of his work to prepare a taxonomic treatment for Penstemon for the Flora of North America project. Called beardtongues because of the hairy, sterile stamen in the corollas of many species, Penstemon is the third largest genus of flowering plants in North America north of Mexico. Admired for their showy flowers and often dazzling displays, and of interest to evolutionary biologists because of the multiple, independent evolution of hummingbird-pollinated species, more than 280 species of beardtongues are recognized.

Charter KNPS member, Iralee Barnard will discuss grasses and her new book "Common Grasses of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska." Her book is filled with color photos and clearly described identification tips, distribution maps and illustrated glossary all to make grass-finding easy. Also learn why grasses are important, how they grow, and their unique or interesting features. Iralee will have her book for sale and be available for a book signing.



#### Saturday Afternoon Tour Site #1: Ed & Manda Bricker Ranch, Sun City

The Brickers purchased the historic Freeman Ranch in October of 2012. It totals about 6,000 acres of pasture for their cow/calf operation and farm ground on which they plant mostly wheat. The Medicine River and Elk Creek run through the ranch. There is a 1,000 foot elevation change from the sandy, loamy river bottoms to the gypsum and sandstone rocky mesa tops. The Brickers are utilizing an NRCS ranch restoration plan to take it back to a more native state, including removal of invasive cedar trees. The ranch supports a great variety and abundance of native wildflowers.

**Directions from PCC to US-281:** Take KS-61 south 0.6 miles to US-400/54 and turn right (west). Go 0.3 miles to Country Club Rd and turn left (south). Go 1 mile to KS-64/Lake Rd and turn right (west). Go 1 mile to US-281 and turn left (south). Then follow the directions above from US-281 to Sun City. **Directions from Sun City:** Go west on Main Street to 3rd Ave and turn right (north). Go 0.3 miles to River Rd and turn left (west). Go 3.5 miles on River Rd to the site. Note that River Road runs northwest. Site will be marked.

#### Saturday Afternoon Tour Site #2: Ed & Kay Koger's Hashknife Ranch, Sun City

The Hashknife Ranch, covering several thousand acres, is a working angus cattle ranch, with carefully managed grass. Fertile fields line the many river and creek bottoms. It also has an abundance of wildlife that lures hunters to the ranch. The rolling hills and unique sandstone formations are home to an abundance of wildflowers. This ranch has been in the family for over 100 years.

**Directions from Bricker Ranch:** Head northwest on River Rd. Continue on River Rd/Sun City Rd for 6.4 miles to Wilmore Road/57th Ave and turn left (west). Go 1.4 miles to 76th Rd/N High St and turn right (northwest). Continue on 76th Road for 1.1 miles to the site. Note that 76th Road veers west at 73rd Rd. Site will be marked.

### **Sunday Morning Tour Site #1: John Hamm Prairie, Pratt**

This is a sand prairie site and was not pastured last year.

**Directions from Holiday Inn Express:** Go south on KS-61 to US- 54/400 and turn left (east). Go 6 miles to NE 70th Ave and turn left (north). Go 3 miles to NE 30th St and turn left (west), Go 0.5 miles, the property is on the south.

Sunday Morning Tour Site #2
To Be Announced, Pratt

#### Meals

Three meals are planned as a group. You will order and pay for your meals at each venue.

- Friday Dinner at Buster's, Sun City. Meal choices include hamburger, cheeseburger, pulled pork sandwich, sliced brisket sandwich, choice of 1 side: french fries, baked beans, coleslaw. Prices range from \$5 to \$20.
- Saturday Lunch at Pratt Community College cafeteria, one price \$5.25 for sandwiches to full meals, including drinks & dessert.
- Saturday Dinner at Club D'Est, Pratt, choice of 14 appetizer options: 8 salad choices, 8 gourmet hamburgers, 10 signature sandwiches, 10 steak meals, 5 chicken meals, 6 seafood meal choices.
   Prices range from \$10 to \$20.

### Kansas Native Plant Society 2014 Annual Wildflower Weekend Registration Pratt, KS September 19-20-21

**Total Amount** 

Kansas Native Plant Society R.L. McGregor Herbarium University of Kansas 2045 Constant Avenue Lawrence, KS 66047-3729 785-864-3453 or email@ksnps.org

Reservations are required. Fill out the form online and print or print and fill out by hand. Payments may be made by check using this form or pay online at www.ksnps.org.

1. Enter your Contact Information		
Name		
Address 1		
Address 2		
City	State Zip	
Phone	Email	
2. Choose your Membership Level Renew for 2015 or become a member  O Don't pay membership dues at this time	<b>3. Adult Registration Fee, Enter number attending</b> To offset AWW costs we've implemented this fee. Children are free.	
○ \$500 Lifetime	Number of KNPS members (\$10 each)  Subtotal	
\$100 Contributing \$30 Family	Number of non-KNPS members (\$20 each)  Subtotal	
\$20 Individual		
○ \$10 Student		
4. If Desired, Enter Additional Contribution	s to any of our Funds	
	uch as the scholarship, newsletter, brochure, and website.	
Legacy Fund An investment to fund special an	d long term projects.	
Flint Hills Pocket Guide Printing Fund, So	upports reprinting this popular wildflower guide	
5. Enter the number of meals you pla	<b>n to eat with us,</b> You pay at venue, but they need to have a head count	
Friday night dinner at Buster's Bar & Gr	ill in Sun City, prices: \$5 to \$20	
Saturday lunch at the Pratt Community	/ College cafeteria, price: about \$5.25	
Saturday dinner at Club D'Est, a steak h	ouse in Pratt, prices: \$10-\$25	
6. Print the form		
7. Send a check for the Total Amount	to the address at the top of the form.	



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#### **Saturday Meeting Activities**

#### **Silent Auction**

The Silent Auction fundraiser will be held during the business meeting on Saturday morning. Proceeds will benefit the programs of KNPS. Bring a few items to donate to the auction. Artwork, crafts, books, posters, clothing, jellies, and baked goods are just a few of the items that have been donated in the past. Proceeds go to the KNPS General Fund.

#### **Book Raffle**

Every year we have a book raffle. This year's book is Field Guide to the "Common Grasses of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska" by KNPS board member and charter member Iralee Barnard. Funds raised by the raffle go towards the KNPS General Fund.

#### **Photo Contest**

The 2014 KNPS Photo Contest uses Shutterfly.com, a photo and video sharing website. You must create a Shutterfly username and password before uploading photos. Instructions and rules can be found at <a href="http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/photo">http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/photo</a> contest.php

#### **Accommodations**

- \*Holiday Inn Express & Suites
   1903 Pauline Place, Pratt
   620-508-6350
   holidayinnexpresspratt@gmail.com
   A block of rooms has been reserved at a special rate of \$92 for a king or two queens. When calling ask for "block reservations for KNPS" immediately so it doesn't send you to their national booking service who won't know about the special rate. Rooms will be blocked until August 19. After that they will honor this rate on a space available basis, but you will still have to ask for KNPS rates.
- \*Comfort Suites 704 Allison Lane, Pratt 620-672-9999
- \*Best Western Plus 112 NE State Route 61, Pratt 620-508-6466
- Super 8 Pratt •1906 East 1st Street, Hwy 54/Hwy 61 South, Pratt 620-672-5945 super8prat@yahoo.com
- <u>Days Inn Pratt</u> 1901 E First Street, Hwy 54 East, Pratt 620-672-9465 <u>prattdaysinn@gmail.com</u>
- Motel 6 (formerly Regency Inn & Ramada Inn) 1401 W Hwy 54, Pratt 620-672-9433 motel6pratt@hotmail.com
- Pratt Budget Inn 1631 E First Street, Pratt 620-672-6468 budgetinnpratt@gmail.com
- American Inn 1336 E First Street, Pratt 620-672-6407
- <u>Bunkhouse Bed & Breakfast at Wildfire Ranch</u> 1374 NE Goldenrod, Medicine Lodge 620-729-4788 (20 miles from Pratt)
- The Evergreen Inn Motel & RV Park 20001 W. US Highway 54, Pratt 620-672-6431
- Pratt County Veterans Memorial Lake RV Park & Campground 2 Miles East of Pratt on 54/400
   Highway, South on K64

#### **Tour Site Recommendations**

For outdoor events we recommend wearing sturdy shoes or boots, long pants, insect repellent, sunscreen, and a hat; and bringing water.

Contact numbers on days of events only: Dee Scherich: 620.518.0752 & Phyllis Scherich: 620.213.0751

<sup>\*</sup>Motels with the asterisk are new in the last couple years

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