

August 4, 2008

Join with plant enthusiasts from across our state at the Kansas Native Plant Society's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Wildflower Weekend on the weekend of October 3rd to 5th. The event will be in Hays where we will be able to experience the unique geology and ecology of the Smoky Hills prairies. Three outings to special sites are planned where participants can identify the plants, ask questions of some of the best known botanists in the state, and take photos.

The theme this year is "Ethnobotany – cultural uses of native plants". Outstanding speakers will explore medicinal plant uses and the use of plants as natural dyes. Tours will be conducted in small groups to help those new to plant identification.

We will commemorate the 30th year of our organization with a display of KWS/KNPS memorabilia, recognition of charter members, and sharing of memories. The meeting will be rounded out by good food, a silent auction, a display of contest photos (make sure to bring your entries), the General Business Meeting, plus free time to shop and visit the surrounding area.

On the following pages, you will find a schedule of the planned events, information about lodging, and a registration form for the meals. There is no separate registration fee for the meeting, but notice that we do need your choices for the food and your payment by **September 23, 2008**. Make lodging reservations immediately as there are other events taking place in Hays that weekend.

This year's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Wildflower Weekend should be special. The Smoky Hills prairies are rarely visited by most of our members. The organization is growing, and there will be even more interesting people to meet. You will have a chance to visit three areas where the native plants are being conserved. You will enjoy the camaraderie of other native plant enthusiasts. And you will walk away with new knowledge and fond memories. You, the individual members, are what make our society so special. Send in your reservations, and we will see you in October.

Lastly, we want you all to think about where you want to have the annual wildflower weekend next year. The last four places (region) we have been are Hutchinson (Arkansas Lowlands), Holton (Glaciated), Coldwater (Red Hills), and Sedan (Cross Timbers).

*Note: The Kansas Ornithological Society meeting is in Hays the same weekend.*

The KNPS Board of Directors

### Wildflower Tour Sites

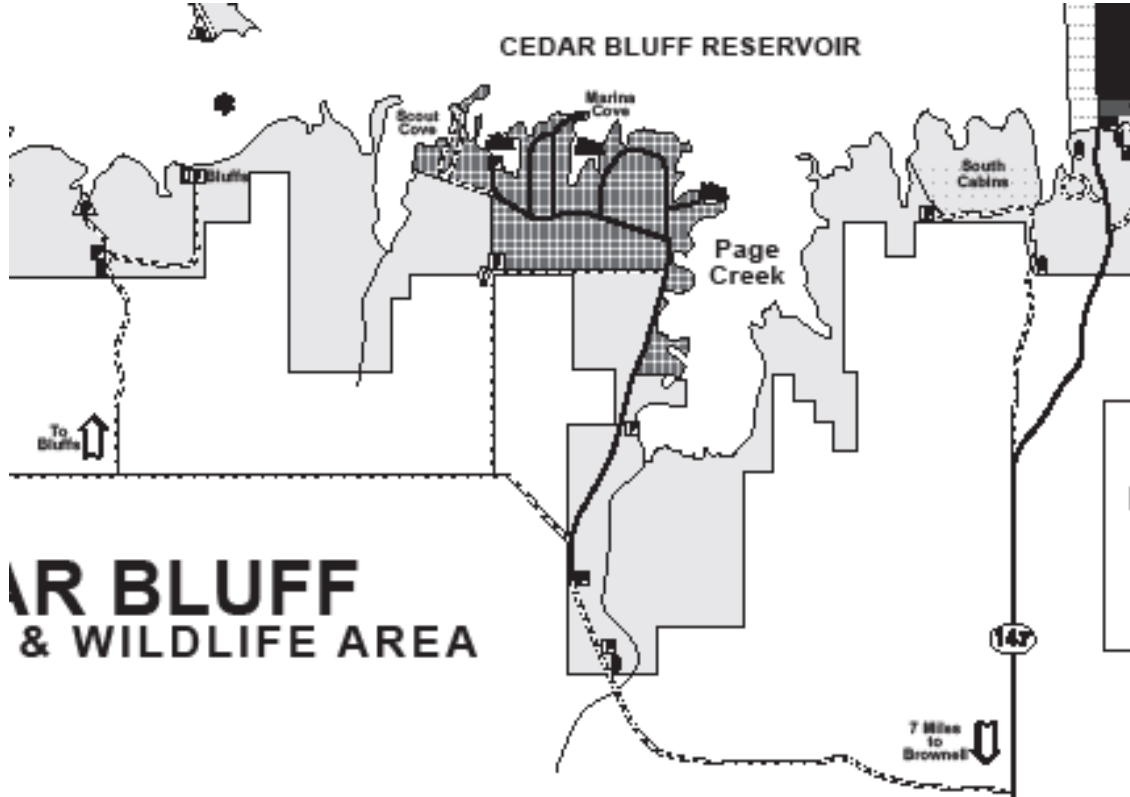
#### Tour site 1 (Friday)

##### **Private Ranch north of Hays:**

Site of Echinacea study located on thin limestone soils about 15 miles north of Hays. Besides Echinacea we will see Fremont's clematis and resinous skullcap. The purpose of the foray is to see both the large stands of Echinacea and a demonstration of how they are wild harvested, and especially to see the diversity of these interesting habitats.

#### Tour site 2 (Saturday)

##### **Cedar Bluff Reservoir – Wildlife Area – Bluffs on south side of reservoir:**



The reservoir is located on the Smoky Hill River in Trego County. The Cedar Bluffs are the most striking feature of the 9,000 acre wildlife area. The 100 feet tall limestone and bluffs on the south side of Cedar Bluffs Reservoir are stunning, particularly near sun rise or sunset. Other than the gravel road, there is no development at the bluffs. See map for location of the bluffs.

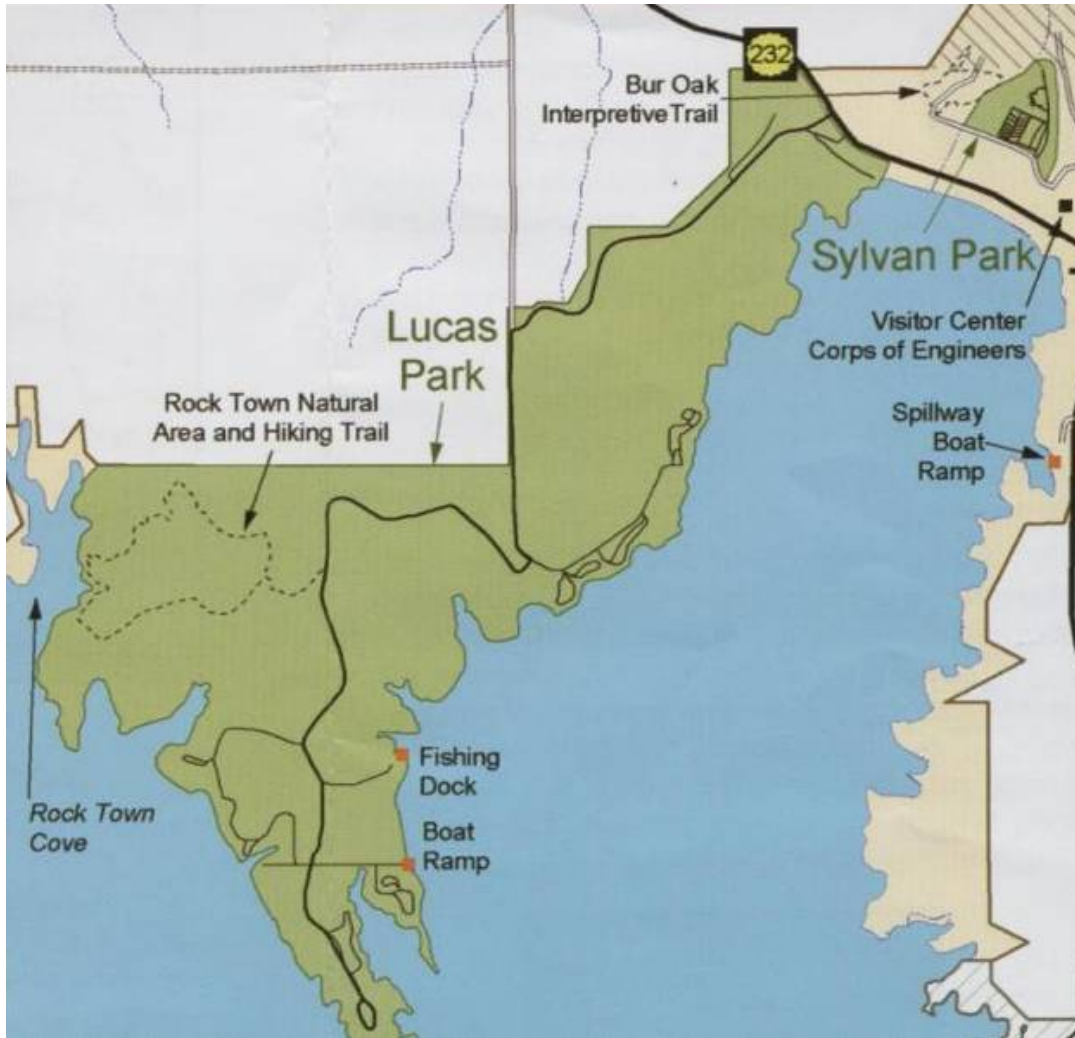
For a complete map of Cedar Bluff Reservoir

<http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/content/download/1035/4993/file/Cedar%20Bluff%20WA.pdf>

Tour site 3 (Sunday)

**Wilson Reservoir – Lucas Park - Rocktown Natural Area**

History of area: <http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/wi/History.cfm>



Rocktown Natural Area is a 305-acre site located on the western boundary of Lucas Park. In August, 1986 it was designated a Natural and Scientific Area by the Kansas Biological Survey. Although the most obvious feature of Rocktown is the 15-30 foot high sandstone pillars that dominate the landscape, it is the unusual mix of prairie plant species associated with the shallow, sandy soils of the Sandhills that paramount natural significance. The soils in the area are not typical of this region of Kansas. Dakota sandstone and limestone outcrops are common. Plant species of interest include Fremont's clematis, Fremont evening-primrose, shortstem spiderwort, blue funnel lily, Buckley's penstemon, fameflower, prairie sandreed, and Maryland senna. Although of interest, these species are not sufficiently rare or unusual enough to require monitoring by the Kansas Natural Heritage Inventory. Rocktown is, however, a significant state resource.

For a complete map of Wilson Reservoir:

<http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/content/download/1068/5092/file/WilsonWA.pdf>

Kansas Native Plant Society - Annual Wildflower Weekend  
Hays, KS - October 3-5, 2008

## Activities

### Poster

Every member in good standing is entitled to one of our 2' by 3' KNPS wildflower posters titled "Kansas Wildflowers – Gems of the Plains".

### Silent Auction

The Silent auction fundraiser will be held during the business meeting Saturday morning, October 4. Proceeds will benefit the programs of KNPS. Bring a few items to donate to the auction and help KNPS prosper. Items such as artwork, crafts, books, posters, apparel, jellies, cookies, breads are just a few of the items that would be appropriate.

### Photo Contest

The Kansas Native Plant Society Photo Contest is held each year at the Annual KNPS Meeting. Be sure to bring your favorite photos and show them off to the rest of the membership.

## **Rules**

1. Photo submissions are accepted from KNPS members only.
2. The subject of all entries must be native plant species or native landscapes in the state of Kansas.
3. Four entries per category per KNPS member are allowed.
4. Photos should range in size from 4" x 5" to 8" x 10".
5. Each photo must be mounted on poster board. Matting is optional. No frames, please.
6. Each photo must have a label with the following information:
  - Category (see below)
  - Photographer's Name and City
  - Title of photo (include plant species name, if applicable)
  - Location where photo was taken
  - Camera type (e.g. SLR, digital)
7. Photographs will be judged by the following criteria: Composition, Sharpness, Exposure, Color, Appropriateness to category, Presentation, Full label information
8. Digital photographs that are cropped or enhanced must be indicated as such.
9. Bring your photos to the Annual Meeting. Do not send photos to KNPS.
10. Categories
  - **Collage:** multiple photos of the same species showing different stages of the plant (e.g. the flower, fruit, and whole plant – all matted together).
  - **Flora:** a photo of a whole plant or plant part. Examples: flower, fruit, seed, leaf, bark, or bud.
  - **Fauna:** a photo of animals on or surrounded by native plants. Examples: mammals on the prairie, birds eating seeds, insects pollinating native flowers.
  - **People:** a photo of people enjoying native plants and their habitats. Examples: people at a KNPS outing, people enjoying a favorite bloom.
  - **Scenery:** a photo of a native landscape such as a prairie, woodland, or wetland. Examples: fire in the Flint Hills, sunrise on the wetlands.
  - **Garden:** a photo of native plants used in a garden created by people. Examples: your favorite garden.

## **Prizes**

First, Second, and Third place ribbons may be awarded for each category, as well as "Best of Show", according to the judges' discretion.

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**Annual Wildflower Weekend Itinerary**

Friday, October 3

- 1:00 pm **Board members only meet:** Fall Board Meeting at Sternberg Museum, Engel Education Center
- 3:00 pm **Meet at Sternberg Museum of Natural History, 3000 Sternberg Drive, Hays, KS 67601, 877-332-1165**  
Come earlier and tour the museum for \$4.00 - regular price is \$6.00
- 3:15 pm **Caravan to Echinacea study area on private property near Plainville, KS for wildflower tour**
- 5:00-6:00 pm Free time (Check into lodging)
- 6:15 pm **Dinner at Sternberg Museum 1<sup>st</sup> floor Expeditions Room**
- 7:30 pm Presentation: Kelly Kindscher – “The History and Impacts of Echinacea angustifolia Harvest in Kansas” in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Engel Education Center
- 8:30 pm End

Saturday, October 4

- 8:00 am **Meet at the Whiskey Creek Wood Fire Grill, 3203 Vine, Hays, KS 67601, 785-628-8646, www.whiskeycreek.com**  
Registration. Coffee, juice, and rolls.  
Set up Silent Auction  
Set up Photo Contest.  
Set up merchandise displays.  
Sign up for “dinner on your own” with other members
- 9:00 am Annual Business Meeting:  
Past Accomplishments and future Plans.
- 10:00 am Awards presentation and election of new Board members.
- 10:30 am Refreshment break. Silent Auction continues.
- 10:45 am Presentation: Frank Norman – “Native medicinal plants of the prairie”.
- 11:15 am Presentation: Cindy Ford – “Dyeing wool with native plants”
- 11:45 am Break
- 12:00 noon Lunch at Whiskey Creek restaurant
- 1:30 pm **Caravan to Cedar Bluff Reservoir tour site**  
Directions: From exit 135 on I-70 (25 miles west of Hays), travel 13 miles south on K-147 to the turnoff to the main office and campground. Once everyone has arrived at the main office, we will caravan to the bluffs area.  
Exploration, shopping, and dinner on your own.

Sunday, October 5

- 10:30 am **Meet at Wilson Reservoir – Rocktown Natural Area in Lucas Park**  
Directions: From I-70, take K-232 across dam to Lucas Park. Enter the park, turn right at the fee booth (towards Lucas Point) and continue to the signed trailhead parking lot.  
Bring a sack lunch for lunch on the prairie.

*Note: For outdoor events we recommend bringing sturdy footwear, long pants, insect repellent, sunscreen, a hat and water!*

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**Accommodations**

**Hotel Room Blocks**

The following hotels have reserved blocks of rooms for KNPS members. Please mention that KNPS has a block of rooms when making reservations.

**Best Western Vagabond**

25 rooms for \$60.00 plus tax for 2 adults, \$4.00 each extra person. Rate available if reservation is made before 9-19-2008

800-432-2776, 2524 Vine St, Hays KS

**Days Inn**

25 rooms for \$50.00 - \$60.00 plus tax depending on the room type for 1 to 2 persons, \$5.00 for each extra person. Rate available if reservation is made before 9-19-2008

785-628-8261, 3205 Vine St, Hays KS

**Other Lodging options**

Baymont Inn & Suites, 785-625-8103, 3801 Vine St, Hays KS

Budget Host Villa Inn & Suites, 785-625-2563, 810 E 8th St, Hays KS

Comfort Inn & Suites, 785-625-9322, 1001 E 41st, Hays KS

Econolodge, 785-625-4839, 3503 Vine St, Hays KS

Fairfield Inn, 785-625-3344, 377 Mopar Dr, Hays KS

General Hays Inn, 785-628-1076, 4820 Highway 183 Alternate, Hays KS

Hampton Inn, 785-621-4444, 4002 General Hays Rd, Hays KS

Holiday Inn, 785-625-7371, 3603 Vine St, Hays KS

Motel 6, 785-625-4282, 3404 Vine St, Hays KS

Quality Inn, 785-628-8008, 2810 Vine St, Hays KS

Sleep Inn & Suites, 785-625-2700, 1011 E 41st St, Hays KS

Super 8 Motel, 785-625-8048, 3730 Vine St, Hays KS

Tea Rose Inn Bed & Breakfast, 785-623-4060, 117 W 13th St, Hays KS

**Camping**

El Charro RV Park, 2020 E. 8<sup>th</sup>, Hays, KS 67601, 785-625-3423

Sunflower Creek RV Park, 501 Vine, Hays, KS 67601, 785-625-2312 or 785-635-3423

Lakeside Campground, Exit 145, Turn east on 8th Street go 2 blocks, Ellis, KS,  
785-726-4812(Call: M-F 8-5) or 785-726-4462

**Area Attractions**

711 Studio

Blue Sky Miniature Horse Farm

Boot Hill Cemetery

Chestnut Street District in Historic

Downtown Hays

Country Schoolhouse

Ellis County Historical Society Museum

Fort Hays State University Farm

Fort Hays State University Walking Tour

Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course

Frontier Park

Hays Aquatic Park

Hays Arts Center Gallery

Hays F.E.E.T. Trail

Hays Recreation Center

Hays Sportsman Club

Hiking & Fitness Trail at Hays Medical Center

Historical Downtown Walking Tour

Historic Fort Hays

Lazy H Kansas Ranch

Kansas Merci Boxcar & Veterans Memorial  
Park

KSU Agricultural Research Center

Outdoor Wildlife Learning Site

Precision Valley Golf

Sternberg Museum of Natural History

Stone Gallery

Studio Kuksi

The Artists at Work Studio

Volga German Haus

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**Annual Wildflower Weekend pre-registration and meal choices**

The KNPS Annual Wildflower Weekend is free and open to the public. You do not have to be a KNPS member to attend. Please let us know you are coming and what your meal choices are.

**The deadline for meal choices is September 23, 2008.**

If you have questions call Craig Freeman at 785-864-3453 or email us at email@ksnps.org.

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Number Attending</b>	
<b>KNPS member?</b>	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location/Meal</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>
Friday Oct 3	<b>Dinner at Sternberg Museum</b>	<b>Mark quantity</b>	<b>\$14.00</b> includes tax and gratuity	
	Dinner includes marinated grilled beef fajita steak or grilled chicken tenders on fresh tortillas. Sides of rice, beans, garlic mashed potatoes, lettuce, tomato, and cheese. Also with chips, salsa, Monterrey Jack cheese sauce, guacamole, sour cream, and pico de gallo. Desserts are lemon or chocolate pudding with cookies. Beverages are Iced tea and water.			
	Dinner			
Saturday Oct 4	<b>Lunch at Whiskey Creek</b>	<b>Mark quantity</b>	<b>\$10.00</b> Includes tax and gratuity	
	Lunch includes Beef Brisket or Pulled Pork sandwich, baked beans, coleslaw, tea or lemonade			
	Beef Brisket sandwich			
	Pulled Pork sandwich			
	Vegetarian alternative			
			<b>Total</b>	

Mail this form with your check made out to **Kansas Native Plant Society** to:

Kansas Native Plant Society  
R.L. McGregor Herbarium  
2045 Constant Avenue  
Lawrence, KS 66047-3729