

Kansas Native Plant Society - Annual Wildflower Weekend
Great Bend, KS - September 17-19, 2010

August 16, 2010

Native plant enthusiasts from across Kansas will converge on Great Bend, Kansas, September 17–19, for the Kansas Native Plant Society's **32nd Annual Wildflower Weekend. The theme of this year's meeting is "Wetlands, Wildflowers, and Wildlife."** The meeting will be a marvelous opportunity to visit and to learn about two of the most significant wetland complexes in all of North America at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Visits to other sites of interest also are planned. Roads to some of the outdoor sites may be impassable if we experience heavy or prolonged rain, so be prepared for changes in the schedule. Announcements will be made at the meeting venues. The Saturday meeting, which will be in the basement of the Great Bend Public Library, is accessible by stairs only. The elevator at the library is undergoing repair and will not be available for use to access the basement. We apologize for this inconvenience.

Activities begin on Friday, September 17 with a meeting of the Board of Directors, followed by a presentation at the Kansas Wetlands Education Center northeast of Great Bend, and visits to land managed by Kansas Department of Wildlife and Park and by The Nature Conservancy at Cheyenne Bottoms.

On Saturday, September 18, the membership meeting will be held in the basement of the Great Bend Public Library. Activities include the annual business meeting, elections, awards, and the always popular silent auction and photo contest. A special presentation on conservation work being done at Cheyenne Bottoms by The Nature Conservancy is planned. In the afternoon, we will explore the salt marshes and low prairies of Quivira National Wildlife Refuge.

On Sunday, September 19, we will make a brief stop at Pawnee Rock State Historic Site, an important landmark along the historic Santa Fe Trail. We then will travel to a nearby privately-owned sand prairie along the Arkansas River before heading home.

On the following pages, you will find a schedule of the planned events, directions to meeting and outing sites, motel and restaurant information, and a registration form for the meal. There is no separate registration fee for KNPS members, but if you plan to eat lunch with us on Saturday after the meeting, we need your lunch reservations and payment by **September 11, 2010**. Please watch our web site for periodic updates and new information.

We look forward to seeing you in Great Bend the weekend of September 17!

The KNPS Board of Directors

Friday Event Sites

Friday Board Meeting (Board Members Only)

Kansas Wetlands Education Center

<http://wetlandscenter.fhsu.edu/>

Directions: The Kansas Wetlands Education Center is located at 592 NE Hwy 156 at the southeast side of Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area.

From Hwy 56 eastbound, travel 3.5 miles east of Great Bend, KS on Hwy 56. Then, travel northeast 6.5 miles on Hwy 156 Highway to the KWEC.

From Hwy 56 westbound, travel 7 miles west of Ellinwood, KS on Hwy 56. Then, travel northeast 6.5 miles on Hwy 156 to the KWEC.

From I-70 westbound, take exit 225 and follow Hwy 156 southwest approximately 40 miles to the KWEC.

From I-70 eastbound, take exit 184 and follow Hwy 281 south approximately 23 miles south to Hwy 4, go east on Hwy 4 through Hoisington, KS, 15 miles to NE 100 Ave. Go south 4 miles to Hwy 156. Go 3 miles southwest on Hwy 156 to the KWEC. (Follow the road signs for the Wetlands & Wildlife National Scenic Byway from Hoisington, KS.) [Map and directions courtesy of the Kansas Wetland Education Center]



Friday Tour Site

Kansas Wetlands Education Center and Cheyenne Bottoms

The tour will begin with a presentation at the Education Center about the mission of the Kansas Wetland Education Center, which is dedicated to educating the public about wetlands in Kansas and the Great Plains. Following the presentation, we will carpool to several areas of Cheyenne Bottoms, including areas managed by the Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks, and by The Nature Conservancy.

Saturday & Sunday Event Sites

Saturday Tour Site

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

<http://www.fws.gov/quivira/>

Directions: The Quivira National Wildlife Refuge is located at 1434 NE 80th Street, Stafford, KS, approximately 20 miles southeast of Great Bend. To get to the Refuge headquarters from Wichita and points east, take Hwy 96 west to Hutchinson. Take Hwy 50 west approximately 14 miles to Hwy 14 north. Go 5 miles north to 4th Street, turn left and go 17 miles west to the Refuge headquarters.

From Great Bend and points north, take Hwy 281 south to 70th Street, and then east 13 miles to the Refuge headquarters.

From Pratt and points south, take Hwy 281 north past St. John to 70th Street. Take 70th Street east 13 miles to the Refuge headquarters.

From Macksville and points west, take Hwy 50 east to Stafford. Drive north through Stafford and continue 6 miles north to the four-way stop sign. Turn east 6 miles to the Refuge headquarters.

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The Refuge is sponsoring “Monarch Mania” on the day of our tour, so staff members will not be available to conduct a guided tour. However, we have permission to visit on our own any area open to the public. We will meet at the Refuge headquarters and then carpool to potential areas of interest. There are locations that we may want to explore around Little Salt Marsh (immediately north of the Refuge headquarters) and near Big Salt Marsh (at the northwest part of the refuge). Parking areas are located around much of the refuge if we see other areas of interest.

Sunday Tour Site

The Sunday tour will be a visit to a tract of land in Pawnee County owned by Marla Brocher. The tract is on the Pawnee/Barton County line, 2.5 mi E of Pawnee Rock (T21S, R15W, sec 2). It is situated on the southeast side of the Arkansas River and supports sand prairie and other associated plant communities.

Saturday Meeting Activities

Come prepared to participate in the Silent Auction and Photo Contest at the meeting on Saturday. Information about each event follows.

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 and help support KNPS. Artwork, crafts, books, posters, clothing, jellies, and baked goods are just a few of the items that have been donated in the past.

Photo Contest

The Kansas Native Plant Society Photo Contest is held each year at the annual 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 placed on the back 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
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.

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- **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.

**“Wetlands, Wildflowers, and Wildlife”
2010 Annual Wildflower Weekend Itinerary**

Friday, September 17

- 1:00 pm Fall Board Meeting at Kansas Wetlands Education Center (KWEC) (**board members only**)
- 3:30 pm Presentation at KWEC; tour of Cheyenne Bottoms
- 6:30 pm Dinner (on your own, see list of restaurants; informal groups will form either after the tour of Cheyenne Bottoms or back at the motels, so feel free to join one of them for dinner)

Saturday, September 18

- 9:30 am Registration in the basement of the Great Bend Public Library, 1409 Williams Street. Coffee, tea, and donuts. Set up Silent Auction, Photo Contest, Merchandise Displays. Please note that the basement of the library is accessible by stairs only. The elevator is undergoing repair and will not be available for use to access the basement. We apologize for this inconvenience.
- 10:00 am Annual Business Meeting
- 10:45 am Awards & Election
- 11:15 am Refreshment break. Silent Auction continues.
- 11:30 am Presentation: “The Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve, more than a Wetland” by Robert Penner, Cheyenne Bottoms and Avian Program Manager, The Nature Conservancy
- 12:30 pm Break
- 1:00 pm Catered lunch
- 2:00 pm Caravan to Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, September 19

- 9:00 am Meet at Pawnee Rock State Historic Site, 12 miles southwest of Great Bend along US 56, 0.5 mi N of the town of Pawnee Rock, Kansas
- 9:20 am Caravan to Brocher Prairie

Note: For outdoor events we recommend bringing sturdy shoes or boot, long pants, insect repellent, sunscreen, a hat, and water! Keep in mind that roads to some of the outdoor sites may be impassable if we experience heavy or prolonged rain, so be prepared for changes in the schedule. Announcements will be made at the meeting venues.

Accommodations

The Kansas Native Plant Society has reserved a block of 25 rooms at the Highland Hotel and Convention Center, 3017 10th Street, Great Bend, for a special rate of \$59.00 per night. To reserve a room, call the Hotel Reservations Department at 620-792-2431 or Toll Free Reservations 866-212-7122. To receive the contract rates, identify the group name as: **KNPS**. To qualify, reservation must be made by **September 3, 2010**. After that date, any remaining rooms will be released from the block. Additional reservation requests (beyond the 25 guaranteed to KNPS) will be honored on a space-available basis. Information about the Highland Hotel and Convention Center is available at <http://www.highlandhotel-gb.com/>.

The Great Bend Convention and Visitors Bureau (<http://www.visitgreatbend.com/>) offers a full list of local attractions, accommodations, restaurants, and events in the Great Bend area. We encourage you to visit their web site to explore the local offerings. Following is a partial list of other motels and restaurants in Great Bend.

- **Comfort Inn**, 911 Grant Street, Great Bend, KS 67530, (620) 793-9000;
http://www.comfortinn.com/hotel-great_bend-kansas-KS127?promo=gglocal
- **Great Bend Travelodge**, 320 10th Street, Great Bend, KS, 67520, (620) 792-7219;
http://www.travelodge.com/Travelodge/control/Booking/property_info?propertyId=12367&cid=GTFTL&brandInfo=TL
- **Best Western Angus Inn**, 2920 10th Street, Great Bend, KS 67530; (620) 792-3541;
<http://www.bestwesternkansas.com/hotels/best-western-angus-inn/>
- **Americas Best Value Inn**, 3500 10th Street, Great Bend, KS 67530; (620) 793-8486;
<http://www.americasbestvalueinn.com/bestv.cfm?idp=958>
- **Days Inn Great Bend**, 4710 10th Street, Great Bend, KS 67530; (620) 792 8235;
http://www.daysinn.com/DaysInn/control/Booking/property_info?propertyId=09348&as_sr p=SP2&cid=carat_search-Days_Inn
- **Travelers Budget Inn**, 4200 10th Street, Great Bend, KS 67530; (620) 793-5448;
<http://www.budgetinn.com/>

Restaurants

- Applebee's Neighborhood Grill
- Boors Bar BQ
- Braum's Ice Cream & Dairy
- Delgados
- Diane's Diner
- Easy Street Restaurant
- Ernie's Bar & Grill
- 4 Legs UP BBQ & Steak House
- Great Bend China Buffet
- Home Field
- KFC
- Kiowa Kitchen
- La Fiesta
- Leann's Restaurant & Carryout
- Media Luna
- Montana Mike's Steakhouse
- Perkins Family Restaurant & Bakery
- Page Bar & Grill
- Pizza Hut
- Playa Azul Mexican Restaurant
- Quiznos
- Subway

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Annual Wildflower Weekend pre-registration and meal choices

Please let us know you are coming and whether you plan to eat lunch with us at the library after the meeting. **The deadline for meal reservations is September 11, 2010.** If you have questions call Craig Freeman at 785-864-3453 or email us at email@ksnps.org.

Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email	
Number Attending	
KNPS member?	

Date	Location/Meal	Number	Cost	Subtotal
Saturday Sept 18	Lunch in Great Bend Public Library Basement	Mark quantity	\$12.00/meal includes tax and gratuity	
	Lunch includes sliced melon & berries with honey poppy-seed dressing, chicken & busmati rice salad, baguettes with bruschetta topping, cannelloni salad with tomatoes and spinach, and blackberry jamble bars; choice of coffee, iced tea or water			
			Total	

Cut & 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

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2045 Constant Avenue
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