



Kansas Native Plant Society (KNPS) - Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW)  
Salina, KS - September 13-15, 2013

August 4, 2013

Dear KNPS Members,

It's time once again for our three-day AWW (Annual Wildflower Weekend). This year KNPS members will converge on Salina, Kansas, September 13–15, for our 35th AWW. Anyone who has attended the AWW in the past knows it is the highlight of the year for those who love native plants and enjoy being around people with the same passion. This year's theme is: "Landscapes of the Smoky Hills: Then and Now."

Six outings to diverse sites in the area are planned for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. You will have the chance to ride a tram through a herd of bison, climb a sandstone butte, and explore a canyon.

Our speaker, Allen Casey, former KNPS board member and biologist/soil conservationist with the USDA NRCS Plant Materials Center will explain the role of the US Government in controlling soil erosion. His presentation "Soil Erosion: Dust Bowl to Today" will explain the evolving use of plants, introduced and native, in the control of soil erosion in the Great Plains.

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 for the meals. There is no registration fee to attend, but if you plan to join us for lunch on Saturday, we need your **lunch reservations** and payment by **Friday, September 6, 2013**. You may pay by check or via PayPal through the KNPS web site ([www.ksnps.org](http://www.ksnps.org)).

The weekend is open to the public.

**Weekend Summary**

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tour Maxwell Grounds</li> <li>• Tram Tour Maxwell</li> <li>• Tour Private Prairie</li> <li>• Campfire Cookout at McPherson State Lake</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awards Presentation</li> <li>• Guest Speaker</li> <li>• Photo Contest</li> <li>• Silent Auction</li> <li>• Tour Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range Prairies</li> <li>• Tour Land Institute Prairie</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tour &amp; Lunch at Coronado Heights</li> <li>• Tour Kanopolis State Park</li> <li>• Tour Mushroom Rocks</li> </ul>

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



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**2013 AWW Itinerary**

Friday, September 13

- **12:00 pm** Fall Board Meeting at the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center (board members required)
- **2:15 pm** Tour prairies in the vicinity of the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center & Viewing Tower
- **3:00 pm** Tour Maxwell on trams. Reservations are required
- **4:00 pm** Caravan to Buffalo Hill, a private prairie adjacent to Maxwell
- **6:00 pm** Campfire Cookout at the McPherson State Fishing Lake, adjacent to Maxwell

Saturday, September 14

- **8:00 am** Registration at Room #201 Peters Science Hall, Kansas Wesleyan University. Science Hall is located at the corner of Cloud & 4<sup>th</sup>, and parking is off Cloud Street. Coffee, juice, and pastries available. Set up Silent Auction, Photo Contest, and Merchandise Displays.
- **9:00 am** Annual Business Meeting, Presentation "From KWS to KNPS, a 35 Year Retrospective" by President Mickey Delfelder, Recognition of Charter Members
- **9:45 am** Awards & Election
- **10:15 am** Refreshment break. Silent Auction continues.
- **10:45 am** Presentation: "Soil Erosion: Dust Bowl to Today" by Allen Casey, Biologist/Soil Conservationist, USDA NRCS Plant Resources Center, Elsberry, Missouri
- **11:45 pm** Break
- **12:00 pm** Catered lunch in the commons area of the Hauptli Student Center, KWU
- **1:00 pm** Caravan from Kansas Wesleyan University to Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range
- **4:00 pm** Caravan from Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range to The Land Institute
- **6:00 pm** Dinner at your choice of local restaurants with other KNPS members

Sunday, September 15

- **9:00 am** Caravan from Salina to Coronado Heights Park.
- **9:30 am** Tour Coronado Heights Park
- **11:30 pm** Box lunch in picnic shelter at Coronado Heights Park
- **12:30 pm** Caravan from Coronado Heights to tour Kanopolis State Park, Horse Thief Canyon
- Mushroom Rocks State Park is north of Kanopolis and can be toured on your own.

**AWW Contact numbers (on days of events only)**

Jeff Hansen: 785.806.6917 (all weekend)



## Meeting & Tour Sites

### Friday Afternoon Tour Site #1

#### **Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, 2565 Pueblo Road, Canton, KS (located 6 miles north of Canton)**

The Maxwell Wildlife Refuge & adjacent McPherson State Fishing Lake are owned by KDWP. Combined, they comprise about 2500 acres of native prairie. The refuge contains about 200 bison and 50 elk. A tram tour gives visitors close-up access to the animals and is the only way to gain access to the interior of the park. Reservations are required to ride the tram - to reserve a spot, call 620-628-4455. Leave your name, phone number, number in your party, and that you are with the KNPS tour on Sept 13. Cost is \$8; children under 12 years are \$5. You pay at the visitor center on the day of the tour.

**Directions from Canton:** Go 6 miles north on 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Main Street in Canton) to Pueblo Road, turn left (west) and go 1.5 miles to the Maxwell Visitor Center. **Directions from Salina:** go south on I-135 to exit 72 (Smoky Valley Road), go east to Roxbury (10.5 miles) and turn right (south) onto 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue, go 5 miles to Pueblo Road and turn right (west), go 1.5 miles to the Maxwell Visitor Center.

### Friday Afternoon Tour Site #2

#### **Susan Reimer's "Buffalo Hill" Prairie, located adjacent to Maxwell Wildlife Refuge**

KNPS board member, Susan Reimer, owns 160 acres of high quality Smoky Hills prairie which she named "Buffalo Hill" due to the views of the bison at Maxwell. It is used as a winter pasture, therefore the plants grow all year before being grazed. We should have excellent viewing of prairie plants and panoramic vistas from her prairie. This private prairie is only available to us the day of the tour.

**Directions from Maxwell:** Go east to 27<sup>th</sup> Ave. and turn right (south). Go south 1 mile to Pioneer Road and turn right (west). Pioneer Road dead ends at Buffalo Hill Prairie. Visiting this prairie is dependent on Pioneer Road being dry.

### Friday Evening Campfire Cookout

#### **West Side of McPherson State Fishing Lake, located one mile west of Maxwell Visitor Center**

For those wishing to stay in the Maxwell vicinity into the evening, we will have a campfire for roasting hotdogs and making s'mores. We will supply plates, napkins, hotdogs, chips, salad, and water. You should bring your own lawn chair. You must pay in advance with the meal reservation form. Acoustic music will be provided by Krista Dahlinger. There are some nice prairies on the west side of the lake which you can also explore on your own. The best viewing of the elk at Maxwell is in the evening from atop the viewing tower. **Directions from Maxwell:** Go one mile west on Pueblo Road and turn into the west side of the lake.

### Saturday Morning Meeting Site

#### **Peters Science Hall, Kansas Wesleyan University, 100 E. Claflin Avenue, Salina, KS**

The annual meeting, presentation, silent auction, raffle, photo contest, and lunch will be held in Room 201, Peters Science Hall, Kansas Wesleyan University. Science Hall is located at the corner of Cloud & 4<sup>th</sup>, and parking is off Cloud Street. A campus map can be found at <http://kwu.edu/campus-map>.

### Saturday Afternoon Tour Site #1

#### **Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range, 8429 West Farrelly Road, Salina, KS**

The Range, located west of Salina, encompasses a large and uniquely preserved example of Dakota Sandhills tallgrass prairie with good quality grassland communities. The nearly 34,000 acres is a valuable reservoir of biological diversity for the Great Plains. This is a rare opportunity to visit this site, which is normally not open to the public. While visiting the range, we will stay together as a group as we



tour the site. We will not have free range of the facility. **Directions from Kansas Wesleyan:** Take Cloud Street west a few blocks to South 9<sup>th</sup> Street and turn left (south). Go 0.5 miles to Magnolia Road and turn right (west). Go a few blocks and turn left onto the I-135 South ramp. Go 2 miles and exit I-135 at Well Water Road. (exit 88) and turn right (west). Go 8.8 miles to Powers Road and turn left (south). Go 1 mile to Farrelly Road and turn right (west). Go 0.5 miles to the entrance on the left.

### **Saturday Afternoon Tour Site #2**

#### **Wauhob Prairie, The Land Institute, 2440 E. Water Well Road, Salina, KS**

The Wauhob prairie was purchased from the Wauhob estate in 1997 by The Land Institute. The public prairie is located on a hill overlooking The Land Institutes crop breeding plots and is used to illustrate to visitors how agriculture can be based on the perennial polyculture of the prairie. Adjacent to the prairie is a 160 acre pasture with a small heard of bison. **Directions from Smoky Hill ANG Range:** Turn right (east) onto Farrelly Road. Go east 0.5 miles to Powers Road and turn left (north). Go 1 mile to Water Well Road and turn right (east). Go 11.5 miles to The Land Institute (just after you cross the Smoky Hill River). Parking is at the top of the hill on the north side.

### **Sunday Morning Tour Site**

#### **Coronado Heights Park, Coronado Heights Road, Falun, KS (located 10 miles southwest of Salina)**

Coronado Heights is one of a line of buttes topped by Dakota sandstone that rise as much as 300 feet from the Smoky Hill River valley. Surrounded by native prairie pastures, it offers panoramic vistas of the valley. Topped by a sandstone "castle", the park contains this and other structures constructed from the local sandstone during the 1930s as part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). We will follow the trails in the park in search of plants unique to the bluffs of the area. Vault toilets are located on the site. A box lunch will be provided, but you must pay in advance with the meal reservation form. **Directions from Salina:** Meet at 9 am at the SE corner of the Walmart parking lot, 9th and Schilling Road. Take I-35 South to the Exit 82 (Assaria exit). Go west on Falun Road for 3.5 miles, turn left (south) on Burma Road. Go 5 miles to Winchester Road/Coronado Heights Road and and turn right (west) and proceed 1.5 miles to Coronado Heights gate and drive to the top.

### **Sunday Afternoon Tour Site**

#### **Horsethief Canyon, Kanopolis State Park, 200 Horsethief Rd, Marquette, KS**

The state park is adjacent to the Kanopolis Reservoir and state wildlife area. We will tour a small part of their combined area of 16,000 acres. The Horsethief Canyon area of the state park will be our tour destination. This canyon is composed of Dakota sandstone cliffs that overlook Bison Creek, which runs through the canyon. Many unique plants are found along the creek, on the canyon walls, and in the mixed grass prairie uplands. The red-orange hues of the sandstone combined with the rugged terrain and prairie flora make this area one of the most scenic in the state. **Directions from Coronado Heights:** Take 12th Avenue south 3 miles to Hwy 4. Turn right (west) on Hwy 4, proceed 15 miles to Hwy 141 and turn right (north), go 5 miles to Venango Road (State Park entrance) and turn left (west). Continue on Horsethief Road to the end, which is the parking lot and trail head to Horse Thief Canyon. Car passes cost \$5.00 and are needed to enter Kanopolis State Park.

### **Sunday Self Guided Tour Site**

#### **Mushroom Rock State Park, Avenue K, Caneiro, KS**

Our smallest state park at 5 acres is a must see. Large mushroom shaped rock formations are the draw. Cliff brake ferns can be found growing in the cracks of the rocks. **Directions from Kanopolis State Park:** Turn left (north) onto Hwy 141. Go 6 miles to Avenue K and turn left (west). Go 2.5 miles to the park.



**Annual Wildflower Weekend Meal Reservations**

Please let us know if you plan to join us for lunch on Saturday. The **deadline** for meal reservations is **Friday, September 6, 2013. Reservations may be made by check using this form or pay 2013 meals online at [www.ksnps.org](http://www.ksnps.org).** If you have questions call Craig Freeman at 785-864-3453 or email us at [email@ksnps.org](mailto: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>Quantity</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>
Friday Sept 13	Campfire Cookout At McPherson State Lake Circle hotdog meat choice: [Pork, Beef, Turkey, or Vegan] Hotdogs, Chips, Potato Salad, S'mores, Water		<b>\$6/meal</b> includes tax	
Saturday Sept 14	Deli Lunch at KWU Hauptli Student Center Choice of two Salads, Chips, Assorted Breads and Rolls • Sliced Roasted Turkey, Buffet Ham, Roast Beef and Salami • Sliced Swiss, Provolone and American Cheeses • Leaf Lettuce, Sliced Tomatoes, Sliced Onions, Dill Pickles, Mayonnaise and Dijon Mustard • Assorted Cookies, Bars or Brownies • Freshly Brewed Iced Tea		<b>\$13.00/meal</b> includes tax	
Sunday Sept 15	Lunch at Coronado Heights Circle sandwich choice: [Turkey, Ham, or Hummus] sandwich with Provolone cheese; Mayo & Mustard packets, Chips, Cookie, and Bottle of water		<b>\$6/meal</b> includes tax	
			<b>Total</b>	

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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### 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 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

Due to unforeseen problems in setting up the all digital photo contest, the contest will operate as in the past. Please print your photos and bring them to the Saturday meeting where judging will take place. Rules can be found at [http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/photo\\_contest.php](http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/photo_contest.php)

#### Accommodations

[Salina Area Chamber of Commerce](#) offers a full list of local attractions, accommodations, restaurants, and events in and around Salina.

Following is a list of motels located at exits 89 and 90 off of I-135. These motels are all within a mile of Kansas Wesleyan University, the site of Saturday's meeting.

#### Motels near I-135 Schilling Road Exit

- [Best Western Plus](#) • 745 West Schilling Road • 785-493-9800
- [Candlewood Suites](#) • 2650 Planet Avenue • 785-823-6929
- [Country Inn & Suites By Carlson](#) • 2760 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street • 785-827-1271
- [Courtyard Salina](#) • 3020 Riffel Drive • 785-309-1300
- [Hampton Inn Salina](#) • 401 West Schilling Road • 785-823-9800
- [Super 8 Salina](#) • 705 West Schilling Road • 785-404-2771

#### Motels near I-135 Crawford Street Exit

- [Quality Inn & Suites](#) • 2110 West Crawford Street • 785-825-2111
- [Knights Inn](#) • 636 Westport Blvd • 785-820-8663
- [Days Inn Salina South](#) • 632 Westport Blvd • 785-827-9315
- [American Hotel & Suites](#) • 1820 West Crawford • 785-826-1711
- [Fairfield Inn Salina](#) • 1740 West Crawford Street • 785-823-6900
- [Value Inn & Suites Salina](#) • 1640 W Crawford Street • 785-404-3206
- [Roadway Inn](#) • 1846 North 9th Street • 785-827-0356
- [Ramada Salina Hotel](#) • 1515 West Crawford Street • 785-823-1739

#### Bed & Breakfasts and Camping

- [C&W Ranch Bed & Breakfast](#) • 4000 South Halstead Road, Smolan, KS • 785-668-2352
- Sundowner West Campground Salina • 2745 North Hedville Road • 785-823-8335
- [Salina KOA](#) • 1109 West Diamond Drive • 800-562-3126
- [Lakeside Recreational Park](#) • 1288 East Lapsley Road, Assaria, KS • 785-667-5795

#### Tour Site Recommendations

For outdoor events we recommend wearing sturdy shoes or boots, long pants, insect repellent, sunscreen, and a hat; and bringing water. Inclement weather could limit access to some sites. Announcements will be made at the meeting venues.

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University of Kansas  
2045 Constant Avenue  
Lawrence, KS 66047-3729

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