August 10, 2016

Dear KNPS Members,

The 38th Kansas Native Plant Society Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) celebration is upon us. Mark your calendars for September 16–18 to visit Fort Scott, Kansas. If you are new to KNPS or haven’t attended before, AWW is the highlight of the year for everyone interested in native plants. Join fellow native plant enthusiasts as we explore native plant communities in southeast Kansas. This year’s theme is "Stewardship", with forays planned in diverse settings over three days. We will visit locations with vegetation benefitting from sound stewardship and conservation activities. Bourbon and Linn Counties host a variety of ecosystems from oak savannah hillsides to shallow soil prairies, and riparian and hardwood lowlands.

Betsy Betros, well-known, Kansas City-based butterfly expert, will be our speaker Saturday morning. She will discuss the fascinating relationships between plants and insects.

Returning members look forward to traditional activities, including the presentation of Annual Awards, the display of outstanding photographs in the Photo Contest, and the fun of placing bids and winning items in the Silent Auction. The Photo Contest, open to KNPS members only, is conducted online. Rules and instructions for submitting photos are posted at: http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/photo_contest.php. The Silent Auction, held during the business meeting on Saturday morning, benefits the programs of KNPS. Bring a few items to donate to the auction and help support KNPS. Artwork, crafts, books, posters, clothing, jellies, decorative arrangements, and baked goods are a few of the items that have been donated in the past.

The following pages include the weekend schedule, descriptions of tour sites, lodging and meal options, and a registration form. To help cover a portion of the cost of the meeting, we are charging a registration fee of $10 for KNPS members and $20 for non-members. Registration fees may be paid by check using the included form or via PayPal through the KNPS website (www.ksnps.org), which also contains additional information.

The weekend is open to the public.

Weekend Summary

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<td>Tour at Lyon’s Prairie</td>
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Please register, make your motel reservations, and join us at AWW!

AWW Contact numbers (on days of events only)
Rondi Anderson: 620- 249-7574
2016 AWW Itinerary

Friday, September 16

- 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Visit Fort Scott NHS on your own. Admission is free.

- 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm Fall Board Meeting in the Grand Hall at Fort Scott NHS (Board members required).

- 3:30 pm Orientation to Fort Scott National Historic Site Prairie constructions by Former Head Ranger Kelley Collins and Rondi Anderson; botanize Fort Scott NHS grounds.

- 5:00 pm Dinner at your choice of local restaurants. A room at Sharky’s Pub & Grub has been reserved (sharkyspubandgrub.com/). Please indicate on the reservation form if you intend to eat there.

- 7:00 pm Caravan from Fort Scott NHS to Hedges’ Prairie Patch.

Saturday, September 17

- 8:00 am Registration at Danny & Willa Ellis Family Fine Arts Center on the Fort Scott Community College Campus. The campus is at the southwest intersection of W 18th Street and S Horton Street, on the southwest side of Fort Scott. The Fine Arts Center is near the east entrance of the campus off S Horton. Parking is free. Coffee, juice, and pastries available. Set up displays and Silent Auction.

- 9:00 am Annual Business Meeting.

- 9:30 am Awards, Elections, and Photo Contest.

- 10:00 am Refreshment break. Silent Auction continues.

- 10:30 am Presentation by Betsy Betros.

- 12:15 pm Silent auction concludes; bidders pay for items before lunch.

- 12:15 pm to 1:00 pm Lunch available at the Fine Arts Center (see reservation form for details).

- 1:15 pm Caravan from the Ellis Family Fine Arts Center to Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge.

- 3:30 pm Caravan from Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge to Dingus Natural Area.

- 6:00 pm Dinner in Mound City or Fort Scott on your own.

Sunday, September 18

- 9:30 am Caravan from the Ellis Family Fine Arts Center parking lot to Lyon’s Prairie.

- 11:30 am Caravan from Lyon’s Prairie back to Fort Scott for lunch on your own.

- 2:00 pm Caravan from Old Fort Boulevard in Fort Scott to Bourbon County State Lake.
Kansas Native Plant Society (KNPS) – Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW)
Fort Scott, KS – September 16–18, 2016

Meeting & Tour Sites

Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm - Visit the Fort Scott National Historic Site on your own. The site is located on the northwest corner of the junction of Hwy 69 and 54 in Fort Scott, just north of Wall Street. Admission is free, and parking is available on the street in front of the Fort on Old Fort Boulevard.

Friday 1:00 to 3:00 pm - Board Meeting in the Grand Hall upstairs at Fort Scott NHS. Meeting room is handicap accessible.

Friday Afternoon Tour Site #1 - Gather at 3:30 pm in front of the Fort Scott NHS Visitor Center to tour the Fort's prairies starting with an orientation to Fort Scott NHS Prairie constructions by Former Head Ranger Kelley Collins and volunteer Rondi Anderson; then botanize on Fort Scott NHS grounds.

Friday Evening Tour Site #2 - Gather at 6:45 pm at Old Fort Boulevard in front of Fort Scott NHS to leave by 7 pm for the Hedges’ Prairie Patch for a private pasture tour. Directions: To Hedges, Prairie Patch at 1904 Jayhawk Road, Fort Scott. Take Old Fort Boulevard to National. Go left/south to 6th Street. Right/west for approximately 6 blocks to Horton Street. Go left/south on Horton Street 2.1 miles to Jayhawk Road. Go right/west 2 miles. House is on the left/south side of the road. The site will be marked.

Saturday Morning Meeting Site
Gather 8:00 to 9:00 am at the Danny & Willa Ellis Family Fine Arts Center on the Fort Scott Community College Campus, 2108 S Horton Street, Fort Scott, KS. The campus is at the southwest intersection of W 18th Street and S Horton Street on the southwest side of Fort Scott. The Fine Arts Center is near the east entrance of the campus off of S Horton Street. Parking is free and available in the lots adjacent to the building. Registration, business meeting, presentations and awards, Silent Auction, and Photo Contest. Lunch will be available on site. Directions: At the intersection of Hwy 69 and 23rd Street on the south side of Fort Scott, turn west onto 23rd Street. Follow 23rd Street 0.4 miles to S Horton Street. Turn right/north on S Horton Street. Take the second left turn into the campus. The Fine Arts Center is the first building on your right. Enter the main lobby and follow signs to the meeting room.

Saturday Afternoon Tour Site #1
1:15 pm - Gather at the Ellis Family Fine Arts Center parking lot to caravan to Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge. This is a guided tour of hardwood lowlands and other conservation sites within the refuge. The tour includes areas normally off limits to public. Directions: From Fort Scott, go north on Hwy 69 approximately 30 miles to Hwy 52 East (north of Trading Post—not Hwy 52 West, which is a mile south of Pleasanton). Turn east on Hwy 52 and go 1 mile to the Refuge Headquarters, located on the south side of the highway.

Saturday Afternoon Tour Site #2
3:30 pm - The Dingus Natural Area, located about 3 miles west of Mound City, is a unique site with diverse habitats, flora, and fauna. The landscape is varied and hiking can be strenuous depending on how much you would like to explore. Nothing else is planned the remainder of the day so explore away. Lots of woodpeckers, mushrooms, and trees! Directions: From the Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge, take Hwy 69 south to Hwy 52 West. Follow Hwy 52 West through Mound City (has 2 block jog in the road) and then southwest 2.7 miles southwest of town to Lewis Road at the top of the hill. Turn north on Lewis Road for 1.4 miles to W 750 Road. Proceed west on W 750 Road for 1 mile. The site is on the right/north side.

Sunday Morning Tour Site #1
9:30 am - Gather at the Old Fort Boulevard to caravan to Lyon’s Prairie, a family treasure returned to near-original conditions. All but 20 acres of the Lyon’s farm was put into CRP 20 years ago. Come see the
fruit of his labor. **Directions:** From Fort Scott travel north on Hwy 69 approximately 10.5 miles to the Hwy 31/Wagon Road exit. Go west on Hwy 31 through Fulton approximately 1 mile to Lyon’s Prairie.

### Sunday Afternoon Tour Site # 2

**2:00 pm - Bourbon County State Lake (Elsmore Lake) and Wildlife Area.** We will explore the falls at the north end of the lake and then the prairie and woodlands at the south end. The tallgrass prairies here intermix with oak-hickory forests. Limestone bedrock, which is close to the surface and crops out around the lake, provides habitat for a variety of drought-adapted plants. Cell phone service in and around the lake is not reliable. **Directions:** From Old Fort Boulevard go west to National Avenue. Go north on National Avenue approximately 1 mile to Hwy 54. Go west on Hwy 54 roughly 15 miles to Hwy 3/Uniontown exit. Go south on Hwy 3 1 mile to Maple Road. Go west on Maple Road 1.5 miles to 55th Street. Go south on 55th Street 1 mile to Limestone Road. Go west on Limestone Road 3 miles to 25th Street. Go south on 25th Street approximately 1.8 miles, where 25th Street makes a sharp turn left/east and becomes Jupiter Road. Follow Jupiter Road 0.3 mile to 30th Street. Follow 30th Street south over the Marmaton River 0.8 miles to Ivory Road. Go west/right 0.7 mile to the falls near the northeast end of the state lake. The falls are not marked! There is a driveway on the south side of Ivory Road. Park on the road and walk in. **Directions:** To Wildlife Area, continue west on Ivory Road to 20th Street. Go south on 20th Street along the west side of the park, sticking to the road and not into the camping areas and parking at park exit. The Wildlife Area is to north.

### Tour Site Recommendations

For outdoor events we recommend wearing sturdy shoes or boots, long pants, insect repellent, sunscreen, and a hat; and bringing water. Participants acknowledge that hiking can be hazardous and that they voluntarily participate in outings with the knowledge of the risks involved. Inclement weather could limit access to some sites. Announcements will be made at the meeting venues.

### Accommodations

The Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Center ([www.fortscott.com](http://www.fortscott.com); 620-223-3566) offers a full list of local attractions, accommodations, restaurants, and events in and around Fort Scott.

**Motels/Camping**

_A block of rooms have been reserved at the Sleep Inn & Suites, 302 E Wall Street, Fort Scott (620-223-2555). Reservations cannot be made online. To reserve a room at Sleep Inn & Suites, you must call the hotel and mention KNPS AWW by August 26th._ This is an exceptionally clean and top-rated hotel of the chain; it regularly sells out on weekends, so please plan ahead. See the Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Center Accommodations web page for a full list of motel and B&B options ([www.fortscott.com/accommodations.php](http://www.fortscott.com/accommodations.php)). Camping also is available at the Bourbon County Fairgrounds, Gunn Park, Fort Scott Lake, and Lake Frances.

**Dining**

The Fort Scott area offers a wide variety of dining options. See the Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Center for a complete list ([www.fortscott.com/dining.php](http://www.fortscott.com/dining.php)).
Reservations are required; please submit by Friday, September 9. Fill out this form (also available online) and return with your payment. Payment may be made by check using this form or online at www.knps.org.

1. Enter your Contact Information (please print)

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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2. Choose a Membership Level
Renew for 2016 or 2017 if you haven’t already done so.

- [ ] Do not pay membership dues now
- [ ] $35 Organization
- [ ] $10 Student
- [ ] $500 Lifetime
- [ ] $30 Family
- [ ] $100 Contributing
- [ ] $20 Individual

3. Adult Registration Fee, Enter Number Attending
The registration fee helps offset some of the costs of AWW. Children may attend free.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of KNPS members attending ($10 each)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of non-KNPS members attending ($20 each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total number of attendees</td>
<td>$ Total</td>
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4. Indicate whether you plan to dine as part of a group on Friday and Saturday.

- [ ] I would like to dine with other KNPS members at Sharky’s on Friday night at 5 pm (indicate number of people dining; you will order from a menu and pay at the restaurant)
- [ ] I would like to dine with other KNPS members at the Ellis Family Fine Arts Center immediately following the annual meeting on Saturday (indicate number of people dining; lunch is a BBQ buffet which includes 2 sides, a brownie, and beverage for $10; vegan or veggie options also available for the same price.)
  - [ ] BBQ meal (indicate number needed)
  - [ ] Vegan or veggie meal (indicate number needed and circle choice)
  - [ ] Total number of meals need (@ $10 each; include with your registration fee and any other expenses)

5. If desired, enter additional contributions to any of our funds

- [ ] General Fund; supports operating expenses such as the newsletter, brochure, and website.
- [ ] Legacy Fund; an investment to fund special and long-term projects.
- [ ] Scholarship Fund; supports the Mary Bancroft Memorial Scholarship for graduate student research

6. Mail this form with your check (including the total for your registration fee, Saturday meals, and membership and contributions, if applicable) made out to the Kansas Native Plant Society to: