About the 2017 AWW

The 39th Kansas Native Plant Society Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) celebration is upon us. Mark your calendars for September 8-10 and visit Cloud County Community College, with its domed buildings tucked in the rolling hills on the north side of Concordia in north central 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 enthusiasts as we explore native plant communities in north central 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. Cloud County lies in the Dissected High Plains. High flat upland areas in the west are combined with gently rolling hills dotted with mounds or buttes. The broad flat valleys of the Solomon and Republican Rivers provide a diverse ecosystem for native plants. Approximately two-thirds of Cloud County is drained by the Republican River. This stream arises in Colorado and flows generally eastward through Colorado and Nebraska to about the NW corner of adjoining Republic County, and then bends southeastwardly to join the Smoky Hill River at Junction City to form the Kansas River.

Dale Strickler, a local well-known Agronomist, will be our speaker Saturday morning. He will discuss his experience and research in Sustainable Agriculture.

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 is open to KNPS members only and is conducted online. (Rules and instructions for submitting photos are on the KNPS website at www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org.) The Silent Auction, held during the business meeting on Saturday morning, benefits the programs of KNPS. Bring a few items to donate to the action and help support KNPS. Artwork, crafts, books, posters, clothing, jellies, decorative arrangements and baked goods are few of the items that have been donated in the past.

The rare Fremont’s Clematis can be found in Cloud County, KS.