



August 15, 2021

Dear KNPS Members,

After considering options for holding the 43rd Annual Wildflower Weekend in a safe and healthy setting, we have arrived at a compromise that provides a date and time to hold the virtual Membership Meeting while also experiencing in-person walks in natural areas. These are two different events on different dates. The 2021 Annual Wildflower Weekend Tour Stops are as originally planned, and are scheduled to take place on Saturday and Sunday - September 18 and 19, 2021.

The virtual Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday September 23, 2021 at 6:15-7:00pm via Zoom. All Members will receive information for accessing the meeting by mail. During the virtual Membership Meeting you will be presented with a slate of KNPS Board officers to vote on, see the 2021 Photo Contest, and hear about annual KNPS Awards. Please put this date and time on your calendar and plan to attend the 2021 virtual Membership Meeting.

The 2021 Photo Contest is open to KNPS members only, and is conducted online. Rules and instructions for submitting photos are posted on the KNPS website, under the drop down menu in the upper right corner for “Events”. Be sure to review the categories now, then submit your entries by September 12, 2021 to the 2021 Photo Contest.

Choose to dine from local restaurants, or bring your own meals with you. We have reserved the #3 Pavillion at Lincoln Park, 813 Memorial Drive (east of Hwy 160/69 just south of golf course and tennis courts) in Pittsburg for Friday and Saturday evenings from 6:00-10:00pm, to give everyone the opportunity to dine and socialize in an outdoor setting. The park is centrally located on the west side of town.

The following pages include the weekend schedule, descriptions of tour sites, lodging and local restaurants.

NO REGISTRATION and NO FEES are required to attend the 2021 AWW Events

The weekend is open to members and non-members. Bring this itinerary with you for directions. Please review the entire itinerary, make your motel reservations, and join in, exploring the “Little Ozarks”

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You are invited to explore at the “**Edge of the Ozarks**” near Pittsburg and Galena in southeast Kansas, and near Joplin in southwest Missouri. If you are new to KNPS or have not 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 and southwest Missouri, including remnant oak-hickory forest, tallgrass prairie and riparian areas. This region is located along the western edge of the larger Ozark Uplift geologic formation that covers parts of Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Kansas. The oldest rocks in Kansas are found in the southeast corner of Kansas. Mining for lead, zinc, and coal has greatly altered the land surface in southeast Kansas. The 2021 AWW will be an exploration of prairie and forest remnants in the beautiful and scenic “**Little Ozarks**”.

2021 AWW Itinerary

Friday, Sept. 17	Saturday, Sept. 18	Sunday, Sept. 19
<p>Check into lodging if staying overnight and visit any of the cultural or historical locations in the Pittsburg area.</p> <p>Dinner Choose from the list of locally owned restaurants listed below, your own food, or one of the national eateries of your choice.</p> <p>Outdoor Venue - Pavillion #3 at Lincoln Park, 813 Memorial Drive, SE corner Memorial and Georgia Streets - 6:00-10:00pm</p>	<p>Tour #1 Prairie State Park, MO</p> <p>Tour #2 - Schermerhorn Park / Southeast Kansas Nature Center, Galena, KS</p> <p>Tour #3 - Wildcat Glades, Joplin, MO</p> <p>Outdoor Venue - Pavillion #3 at Lincoln Park, 813 Memorial Drive, SE corner Memorial and Georgia Streets, 6:00-10:00pm</p>	<p>Tour #4 - Wilderness Park, Pittsburg, KS</p> <p>Cultural Stop - Big Brutus, West Mineral, KS</p>

Friday, September 17

Early Arrivals- see options listed below for cultural and historic venues, shopping and dining.

Dinner from your choice of restaurant. Everyone is invited to gather at the #3 Pavilion at Lincoln Park, 813 Memorial Drive (east of Hwy 160/69 just south of the golf course and tennis courts) Friday evening from 6:00-10:00pm to dine and/or socialize in an outdoor setting. Restrooms are nearby.

Saturday, September 18

10:00-11:30am Tour Stop #1 – Prairie State Park Missouri - 128 NW 150th Lane, Mindenmines, MO.

Drive time is about 20 minutes from downtown Pittsburg. This area is managed as a native habitat with plant restoration where needed. Mead's Milkweed is present.

East from Pittsburg on HWY 160 to Mindenmines, MO. North/left on Main Street to 9th Street - then west/left on 9th two blocks to SW 150th Lane. North/right on 150th Lane for 2 miles to Central Road. East on Central Road ½ mile to NW 150th Lane. North/left on NW 150th Lane to Prairie State Park Nature Center. Overflow parking on side of road. Return to Pittsburg or surrounding area for lunch break.

Lunch on your own before driving to Tour Stop #2 - allow approximately 40 minutes drive time from Pittsburg plus extra time for lunch.

2:30–4:30 pm – Tour Stop #2: Schermerhorn Park– 3511 S Main, Galena, KS. From Pittsburg, proceed south on Broadway/HWY 69 merging to HWY 160 then HWY 400 (all headed south) for 23 miles to Riverton. Turn east/left at Riverton on historic HWY 66 to Galena. At Galena turn south/right on Main Street/HWY 26 for two miles to the Southeast Kansas Nature Center. Extra parking is located on the road below the Nature Center. Linda Phipps, Former Director, will be available to recommend exploration highlights at the Park. The Nature Center building will be closed during our visit.

The Southeast Kansas Nature Center in Schermerhorn Park overlooks Shoal Creek. Many species of wildlife on the state endangered and threatened species list are found in SE KS. There is an extensive network of nature trails, and be sure to visit the entrance to Schermerhorn Cave.

Schermerhorn Park exemplifies the 55-square mile Ozark Plateau geologic region of far southeast Kansas. The region features the oldest surface rocks in the state, and many of the hillsides are covered with hardwood forest dominated by oak and hickory trees. The 32-acre Shoal Creek Wildlife Area straddles Shoal Creek and typifies the wooded hills, streams, wet limestone crevices, and caves found in the Ozarks.

Allow 20 minutes of drive time to arrive at Tour Stop #3.

5:00–6:30 pm – Tour Stop #3: Wildcat Glades, MO. 201 Riviera Drive, Joplin, MO. Depart Schermerhorn Park south on HWY 26, continuing as HWY 400, for approximately 4 miles, into Missouri to HWY 44 and take onramp headed east. Continue east on HWY 44 east for approx 5 miles to Exit 6 - Hearn's Blvd. South on Hearn's/MO 86 for approximately .80 miles to Riviera Drive. West on Riviera on a curved roadway past the ball diamond to the parking area along Shoal Creek.

Dinner from your choice of restaurant in Joplin or return to Pittsburg - Granny Shaffer's restaurant is located at 2728 N Rangeline, Joplin. Original plans included stopping here for dinner for classic homemade meals. If returning to Pittsburg, everyone is invited to gather at the #3 Pavilion at Lincoln Park, 813 Memorial Drive (east of Hwy 160/69 just south of the golf course and tennis courts) Saturday evening from 6:00-10:00pm to dine and/or socialize in an outdoor setting. Restrooms are nearby.

Sunday, September 19

9:30-10:30 am – Tour Stop #4 - Wilderness Park, 907 W McKay, Pittsburg. Four miles of trails traverse a diverse natural environment that includes wetlands, forested areas, grasslands and a portion of the Cow Creek tributary system. A major portion of the trail system is ADA accessible along with more challenging trails which rise high above on ridges created by open pit mining.

Allow 30 minutes of drive time from Pittsburg to West Mineral.

11:00am – Tour Stop #5 - Big Brutus - South out of Pittsburg on HWY/60 / 160 / 400 for 22 miles to Scammon Road. West/right on Scammon Road for 10 Miles to West Mineral - Big Brutus. Big Brutus is the nickname of the Bucyrus-Erie model 1850-B electric shovel, which was the second largest of its type in operation in the 1960s and 1970s. Big Brutus is the centerpiece of a mining museum in West Mineral, Kansas where it was used in coal strip mining operations. Emmett Sullivan, a lifelong resident of SE KS, retired coal miner and avid flora and fauna photographer will be our guide.

Tour Site Recommendations

For outdoor events, we recommend sturdy shoes or boots, long pants, insect repellent, sunscreen, and a hat, and bring 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 tour stops.

Accommodations

Motels - Blocks of Double Bed Rooms have been reserved under “Kansas Native Plant Society”. Prices range from \$85 to \$125.

Comfort Inn and Suites, 4009 Parkview Dr., Pittsburg, 620-670-4202

Regency Inn and Suites, 4023 Parkview Dr., Pittsburg, 620-232-2800

La Quinta, 2410 S Broadway, Pittsburg, (888) 312-2399

Dining - locally owned restaurants:

The Mall Deli (breakfast and lunch), 202 E Centennial Dr Meadowbrook Mall, Pittsburg

Otto's Cafe (breakfast and lunch), 711 N Broadway, Pittsburg

Bob's Grill (breakfast and lunch), 1014 N Broadway St, Pittsburg

Typhoon O Cha - Thai, (vegetarian available), 1014 S Broadway St, Pittsburg

Napoli's Italian, (traditional italian and vegetarian available), 1301 N Broadway St, Pittsburg

Drop the H Brewery (local brewery - NY style pizza - salads - sandwiches), 107 E Rose, Pittsburg, open till 10 pm

Jolly Fox Brewery (local brewery - burgers - BBQ - salads), 301 S Broadway, Pittsburg, outdoor seating till 11 pm

While you are in the Pittsburg area, check out:

Bob Grant Bison Herd Museums - part of Crawford State Fishing Lake #1 on Hwy 69 Just north of Pittsburg

Crawford County Historical Museum, 651 S Hwy 69, Pittsburg

Miners Memorial Park, 200 N. Walnut, Pittsburg

Artforms Gallery - SE Kansas Artists - Painters - Glass - Wood - Ceramics, 620 N Broadway, Pittsburg

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE 2021 AWW TOURS.

WE HOPE YOU HAVE AN AWW-SOME EDUCATIONAL, FUN AND SAFE TIME.

If you would like to submit a short article, quote, or photograph about your experience at the AWW, and allow us to publish in the next KNPS newsletter or on the KNPS website or social media-please email to krista.knps@gmail.com.

Aim the camera of your smart phone at these QR codes and follow instructions for your device to download maps and website information:

Prairie State Park, MO - MAP



Website



Schermerhorn Park, KS - MAP



Website



Wildcat Glades Park, MO - MAP



Website

