



July 15, 2022

Dear KNPS Members,

The 44th Kansas Native Plant Society Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) will be held in the Emporia area, August 26, 27 and 28, 2022. 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 and places located in "**The Heart of the Flint Hills**". We will tour the Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge, Lyon County State Lake, land conserved by the Kansas Land Trust, and an Emporia State University Natural Area. Emporia is close to the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Chase County State Lake, Allegawaho Memorial Heritage Park, and historic Council Grove. The Kanza Rail-Trails bike trail cross through Lyon County.

Emporia and Lyon County are located on ancestral Kaw/Kanza Native American lands, in the middle of the Flint Hills ecoregion. "The Flint Hills ecoregion is the largest remaining intact tallgrass prairie in the Great Plains. This region is characterized by rolling hills composed of shale and cherty limestone, rocky soils, and by humid, wet summers. Average annual precipitation ranges from 28 to 35 inches. The Flint Hills marks the western edge of the once vast tallgrass prairie. Erosion of the softer Permian limestone has left the more resistant chert (or flint) deposits, producing the hilly topography and coarse soils of the area. This rocky surface is difficult to plow; consequently, the region has historically supported very little cropland agriculture. The natural tallgrass prairie still exists in most areas and is used for range and pasture land." (US EPA Level III description of the Flint Hills).

The Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday Aug. 27, in Allen, KS, during afternoon hours to avoid the potential afternoon heat. After morning tours, we will proceed to Allen for lunch, and then begin the meeting to present **Annual Awards**, the membership will vote on Board Members, the entries for the **Photo Contest** will be presented, and as always, it will be fun looking over and bidding on items in the **Silent Auction** fundraiser.

Our **featured speaker** will be **Jerry Jost**, Executive Director of the Kansas Land Trust, an organization that has been working with landowners, corporations, and government agencies for 30+ years to protect natural landscapes for future generations, across 40,000 acres on 78 properties. Conservation easements are designed to protect native woodlands, streams, and prairies that contain diverse vegetation and wildlife in relatively undisturbed conditions.

The **Photo Contest** is open to KNPS members only and is conducted online. **Review the categories now and be sure you submit your entries by August 12, 2022.** Rules and instructions for submitting photos are posted at the following link: <https://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/photo-contest-rules-entry/>.

The **Silent Auction** is a fundraising event that benefits the programs of KNPS. If you can, bring a few items to donate to the auction (\$5 - \$20 value) and help support KNPS. Artwork, crafts, books, posters, clothing, jellies, decorative arrangements, and baked goods are a few items that have been donated in the past.

The following pages include the weekend schedule, descriptions of tour sites, and a registration form. There is a **registration fee of \$20** which covers Saturday lunch and allows you full access to all of the tour sites throughout the weekend. Registration fees may be paid by mail with a check using the included form **OR** via PayPal through the KNPS website ([www.ksnps.org](http://www.ksnps.org)).

**We need to receive your Registration Form and payment by Friday August 19.  
The weekend is open to members and non-members.**

**Please review the entire itinerary and complete your registration, make your hotel reservations, and join us at AWW!**

**Bring this itinerary with you for driving directions.**

**AWW Contact - Krista Dahlinger 316-258-6341 – phone or text or [krista.knps@gmail.com](mailto:krista.knps@gmail.com)**

## 2022 AWW Itinerary

| Friday, August 26   | Saturday, August 27   | Sunday, August 28   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Tour #1</b> Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge</p> <p><b>Dinner</b> on your own at any of the locally owned restaurants listed below, or your choice in and around Emporia.</p> | <p><b>Tour #2 – Lyon State Fishing Lake</b><br/> <b>Tour #3 – Reading KLT Conservancy</b><br/> <b>Registration/Lunch</b> - Allen, KS<br/>                     Business Meeting<br/>                     Silent Auction &amp; Awards<br/>                     Guest Speaker<br/>                     Photo Contest Winners<br/> <b>Tour #4 – ESU Ross Natural History</b><br/>                     Reservation<br/> <b>Dinner</b> in Emporia – indicate your choice of restaurant on the Registration form.<br/> <b>After Dinner Gathering</b> at Radius Brewery</p> | <p><b>Tour #6</b> Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve north of Strong City.</p> <p>Options for more explorations as you head home are listed below.</p> |

### Friday, August 26

**1:00–3:00 pm – Fall Board Meeting at Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge - Board members only.** 530 West Maple, Hartford, KS - <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/flint-hills>

**Tour #1 - 3:30-5:00 pm – Walk with the Flint Hills National Refuge Naturalist** - 530 West Maple, Hartford. This Refuge is operated to benefit migrating waterfowl, by actively restoring habitat at the wetlands that once covered the Neosho River floodplain. Refuge staff use an intensive wetland technique termed “moist soil management”, which mimics natural processes of rising and falling water levels. By controlling water levels, and with disking, mowing, and burning treatments, the Refuge produces ideal conditions for seed producing plants to grow. These seeds along with aquatic insects provide an abundant food source for migratory waterfowl. The Refuge is also working to restore bottomland woodlands—in 2022, 325 acres of forest were restored along the Neosho River at a rate of 420 trees per acre, with 140,000 seedlings were planted this year.

**Check into your hotel and Friday dinner on your own. Some of the locally owned restaurants are listed below.**

## **Saturday, August 27**

### **Tour #2 – 8:30–10:00 am - Lyon State Fishing Lake**

12.5 miles north of Emporia on KS 99, 1.8 miles east on Road 270 – turn south into the area on Road T <https://ksoutdoors.com/Fishing/Where-to-Fish-in-Kansas/Fishing-Locations-Public-Waters/Southeast-Region/Lyon-State-Fishing-Lake> . The 135-acre lake is surrounded by 442 acres of state-owned public wildlife area. Fourteen hundred acres of native tallgrass prairie comprise most of the lake's drainage basin and contribute greatly to the lake's extremely clear water. Kansas acquired the lake property in 1931. The Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps were responsible for much of the construction.

### **Tour #3 – 10:15–11:30 am – Kansas Land Trust – Reading Conservancy - <https://www.klt.org/>**

Proceed south on Road T at Fishing Lake to Road 250/KS 170. Turn East (left) on Road 250 for 1 mile to intersection with Road U. We will tour the property at the SW corner of this intersection. Lands that host a diversity of native plants are prioritized for conservation. This is private property, and we have permission to visit during this stop only. 20-minute drive to Allen.

### **Annual Membership Meeting – Allen, KS – Noon–4:00 pm**

West on Road 270/KS 170 for 3 miles to KS 99. North on KS 99 for 9 miles (thru Admire) to US 56. West (left) on US 56 for 4 miles to Allen. South (left) on Withington (first road into town) for one block to North Lyon County Community Center, 108 E 7<sup>th</sup>.

- **Noon-1:00 pm – Check in and lunch.**
- **1:00-4:00 pm – Annual Membership Meeting**
  
- 1:00 - President's Welcome.
- Election of new and returning Board of Directors.
- Mary A. Bancroft Memorial Scholarship Award.
- KNPS Awards.
- 1:45-2:00 – BREAK for refreshments and Silent Auction bidding
- 2:00-2:45 - Featured Speaker: Jerry Jost, Executive Director of the Kansas Land Trust, "Conservation Easements" in the Kansas Flint Hills and beyond.
- 2:45-3:00 – BREAK for refreshments and Silent Auction bidding
- 3:00 - Photo Contest.
- 3:15-3:30 – Final round of bidding for Silent Auction.
- 3:30-4:00 – Pay for Silent Auction items and merchandise. Pack up displays and cleanup venue.
- **Silent Auction, membership renewal and merchandise sales by cash or check only – no card services will be available.**

**Tour #4 – 4:30-6:00 pm – Emporia State University – Ross Natural History Reservation**

West on 7<sup>th</sup> Street for 1 block to Road L. South (left) for 10 miles to Road 240. West (right) for 8 miles (through Americus) to Road C. South on Road C 1 mile to Road 230. West (right) on Road 230 for nearly 1 mile to the entrance to Ross Natural History Reservation.

These lands consist of 200-acres of native and restored tallgrass prairie, shrubland, and woodland, including a stream, spring, ponds, and other habitats. Scientists and students at ESU conduct biology and ecology research on these lands, which remain relatively undisturbed. This is private property, and we have permission to visit during this stop only.

**6:00 pm – Return to Emporia**

Ross to Emporia – 30 minutes – Arrive Emporia 6:30 – Dinner

East on Road 230 for 1 mile to Road C. South (right) on Road C for 2 miles to Road 210. East (left) on Road 210 for 3.5 miles to Road F. South (right) on Road F thru curve changing to Road G, continue south 3.75 miles to Hwy 50 on the west edge of Emporia.

**Saturday dinner:**

We want to support local businesses, and here are several popular ones you might consider.

The **Wagon Wheel Grill and Bar** (2909 W 9<sup>th</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/wagonwheemporia>) on the west side of Emporia can accommodate a large group for dinner, and we can make a reservation for everyone if you want to eat there. Please indicate on your Reservation Form if you would like us to make your dinner reservation(s) at the Wagon Wheel.

Other local restaurants that do not take advance reservations for large groups are listed below. We recommend that you phone in a reservation for your dinner party as we depart the Ross Natural History Reservation.

- **Ichiban Asian Fusion Bistro** - 1430 Industrial Road – Asian and Stir Fry - (620) 208-6888  
<http://www.ichibanasianbistro.com/menu.html>
- **Casa Ramos** – 707 Commercial – Family Recipe Mexican / Vegetarian - (620) 340-0640  
<https://casaramosemporia.com/>
- **Radius Brewery** – 610 Merchant – Wood Oven Fired Oven Pizza, Salads, Sandwiches –  
(620) 208-4677 - <https://radiusbrewing.com/>

**After Dinner Gathering:** Radius Brewery, 610 Merchant Street, downtown Emporia.

Radius Brewing Company is a full-service restaurant as well as the town's first brewery since prohibition. There are indoor and outdoor patios at this venue.

## **Sunday, August 28**

### **Emporia Breakfast and Café Restaurants:**

**Commercial Street Diner**, 614 Commercial – downtown

**Griff's Diner**, 20 Commercial – south of downtown

**IHOP**, 2831 W 18th Avenue – west side

**Tour #5 – 9:30–11:00 am** – Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve (TPNP) – 30-minute drive

From Emporia, west on US 50 for approximately 18 miles. North (right) on KS 177 at Strong City, then north 2 miles to the Visitor Center and parking area. There are many trails, we will choose which one(s) to explore when we arrive.

(The Ad Astra restaurant in Strong City is temporarily closed. Jacalitos is open and is now located on US 50 on the east side of Strong City).

### **Additional Exploration / On your way home:**

**Chase State Fishing Lake, Cottonwood Falls** – Waterfalls and natural areas

Just 10 minutes south of the TPNP. South on KS 177 to the north edge of Cottonwood Falls, turn West (right) on Lake Road (Main Street), proceed 2.6 miles to the lake entrance. There are stepped waterfalls if there has been sufficient rain in Prather Creek. Park at the waterfalls trail sign and walk across the lake dam to waterfalls.

**Allegawaho Memorial Heritage Park** – southeast of Council Grove

Located 20 minutes north of TPNP. Memorial to Kaw/Kanza Indians owned and managed by the Kaw Nation. Site of the last Kanza Indian village in Kansas prior to forced removal of the tribe (for which Kansas is named) to Oklahoma in 1873. Begin tour at restored Indian Agency Ruins for 2.5-mile walking trail along 11 identified historic locations, including monument to unknown Indian, in this beautiful 158-acre Kaw Heritage Park owned and managed by the Kaw Nation from their Oklahoma offices. [https://kawnation.com/?page\\_id=7508](https://kawnation.com/?page_id=7508)

**Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy** - <https://www.kanzatrails.org/flint-hills-trail>

If you like biking across beautiful open areas, bring your bike(s) to the AWW and make time to explore the Flint Hills Trail. This trail is open to all non-motorized vehicles and horses, and stretches for 118 miles across east-central Kansas, from Osawatomie in the east to Herington in the west, and passes through several small communities across five counties: Miami, Franklin, Osage, Lyon, and Morris. The trail between Council Grove and Allen has excellent reviews for native plants and views.

**Council Grove** - From 1821-1866, the Santa Fe Trail was known as America's first international superhighway of trade and commerce. The **Guardian of the Grove** bronze statue is located at intersection of US 56 and KS 177 and contains many symbols important to the Kaw/Kanza Indian Tribe whose last Kansas home was located in Council Grove. Several websites document historic locations in Council Grove:

<https://www.councilgrove.com/historicsites>; <https://kansassampler.org/8wondersofkansas-history/council-grove-santa-fe-trail-national-historic-landmark>

## **Tour Site Recommendations**

For outdoor events, we recommend wearing 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 meeting venues.

## REGISTRATION FORM

Reservations are required by August 19<sup>th</sup>. Print and fill out this Registration Form and mail in with your payment. You may also register online at [www.ksnps.org](http://www.ksnps.org) by August 19.

### 1. Enter your Contact Information (please print)

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Name    |  |
| Address |  |
| Phone   |  |
| Email   |  |

### 2. Adult Registration Fee for Saturday business meeting and Weekend Tours.

Children under age 12 may attend free.

Number of adults attending the 2022 AWW: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

3. Would you like us to make a **dinner reservation for your group at the Wagon Wheel Grill and Bar** on Saturday Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> dinner? If so, please indicate the number in your group #\_\_\_\_\_

4. If you would like to renew your membership or become a new member, you may do so by indicating the year and membership level here:

For what year are you renewing/joining? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Do not pay membership dues now      \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Organization      \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Student  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$500 Lifetime      \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Family  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Contributing      \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 Individual

### 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 endowment fund for long-term projects.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Fund - Mary Bancroft Memorial Scholarship for graduate student research.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Plant A Prairie – Native plant garden kits provided to schools across Kansas.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Total additional contributions.

6. Mail this form with your check made out to the **Kansas Native Plant Society to:** Kansas Native Plant Society, R.L. McGregor Herbarium, 2045 Constant Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66047.

Registration Fees: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Fund Contributions: \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed:** \$\_\_\_\_\_

Kansas Native Plant Society  
R.L. McGregor Herbarium  
2045 Constant Avenue  
Lawrence, KS 66047-3729

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