



August 1, 2023

Dear KNPS Members,

The 45th Kansas Native Plant Society Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) will be held in the Salina area, September 22, 23 and 24, 2023. If you are new to KNPS or haven't attended before, AWW is the highlight of the year for everyone interested in native plants found in different ecoregions around Kansas. Join native plant enthusiasts as we explore native plant communities and places in the Smoky Hills region where rolling hills of tallgrass to mixed grass prairies meet floodplain forests and wetlands along the Solomon, Saline and Smoky Hill Rivers. The Dakota Formation is an important landscape feature in this area, consisting of sedimentary sandstones, mudstones, clays and shales as the source material for area soils. Erosion resistant hard rock layers cap upland areas, with erosion taking place on the east sides of bluffs, creating "cuestas", dramatic drop offs on the east side of harder plateaus. Near Salina, concretions that formed in the Dakota Formation have been exposed by weathering away of the softer rock at places like Mushroom Rock State Park and Rock City (northwest and southwest of Salina.)

Both Kanza and Pawnee tribes utilized the Salina area as hunting grounds where the grasslands between three rivers supported abundant wildlife.

The Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday Sept. 23 in Salina. At the meeting we will present the **Annual Awards**, elect Board Members, and the entries for the **Photo Contest** will be presented.

Our **featured speaker, Ed Pembleton**, will speak about the "Spark Plant!", the first plant a person learns to identify, and how that moment of discovery leads to sustained interest in learning about other native plants. Ed will give us tools to use to help others find their "Spark Plant" and begin their lifelong journey of connecting with native plants.

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 September 10, 2023.** Rules and instructions for submitting photos are posted at the following link: <https://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/photo-contest-rules-entry/>.

In 2023, there will not be adequate space to hold the traditional Silent Auction. Instead, if you have native plant seeds collected from remnant landscapes to share, package a few teaspoons into paper envelopes and label with Plant Name - County - Date Collected. These seeds can be exchanged in a "Seed Swap" at the AWW, or can be donated to the **KNPS Plant A Prairie Program**, which has distributed nearly 100 free gardens to schools and public places across Kansas. Seeds will be distributed for students to grow to help refresh gardens and increase plant diversity. The Silent Auction will be back for AWW 2024.

The following pages include the weekend schedule, descriptions of tour sites, and a registration form. There is a **Registration fee of \$20 for the 2023 AWW** that 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).

**We need to receive your Registration Form and payment by Thursday, Sept. 14.
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 timing and locations to meet.

AWW Contact - Krista Dahlinger 316-258-6341 – phone or text or krista.knps@gmail.com

2023 AWW Itinerary

Friday, Sept. 22	Saturday, Sept. 23	Sunday, Sept. 24
<p>Tour #1 Marty Bender Nature Area - Salina</p> <p>Dinner on your own. Locally owned restaurants are listed below and many chain restaurants can be found.</p>	<p>Annual Membership Meeting Business Meeting Awards Guest Speaker Photo Contest Winners</p> <p>Tour #2 – Private property</p> <p>Tour #3 –Rock City</p> <p>Tour #4 - Ottawa State Fishing Lake</p> <p>Dinner in Salina - your choice of restaurant. Several are listed below.</p> <p>After Dinner Gathering - Blue Sky Brewery</p>	<p>Tour #5 - Kanopolis Reservoir</p> <p>Options for more explorations as you head home are listed below.</p>

Friday, September 22

1:00–3:00 pm – KSU Salina Campus, College Center Conference Room, Board Member Meeting, 2310 Centennial Road, Salina, - <https://www.salina.k-state.edu/about/documents/Campus-Map.pdf> (West of 135 near Magnolia Road).

Tour #1 - 3:30-5:00 pm – Marty Bender Nature Area - 3802 S. Holmes Road. The Land Institute manages this 206-acre nature area and three mile trail through prairie and woods along the Smoky Hill River in traditional Kaw Nation homelands. There is a remnant landscape and also scientific research plots. Additional features include art installations, plant and wildlife viewing, scenic overlooks of the river and Salina region, and a community book share box.

After Tour #1 check in at your hotel and Friday dinner on your own. Several locally owned restaurants are listed below. Meet at Blue Sky Brewery if you have time after dinner: 116 N Santa Fe Ave.

Saturday, September 23

Annual Membership Meeting – Salina, KS – 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Kansas Wesleyan University - 100 East Claflin - Peters Science Hall - Lecture Hall 201 - Vanier Lobby

(Located SE of campus on Cloud Street - next to stadium - https://www.kwu.edu/wp-content/uploads/KWU_CampusMap2023.pdf)

- 8:00 - 9:00 am - Registration check in - collect donated seeds
- 9:00 - President's Welcome
- Election of new and returning Board of Directors
- Mary A. Bancroft Memorial Scholarship Awards
- KNPS Awards Announced
- 10:15 - 10:30 - Break (Coffee and drinks available at The Den in Student Center building to north)
- 10:30 - 11:15 - Featured Speaker: Ed Pembleton - Spark Plant!
- 11:15-11:30 – 15 minute break
- 11:30 - Noon - Photo Contest
- Noon - Merchandise and Membership sales, pack up displays and cleanup venue
- **Payments: Membership renewal and merchandise sales by cash or check only – no card services will be available.**

- Coffee, breakfast and Lunch is available in “The Den” in Hoptili Student Center just north of Peters Science Hall. **Depart Salina by 1:00 pm.**

Tour #2 – 1:30 - 2:30 - Private Property

This stop is located 20 miles north of Salina. Bison are kept in different pastures - we won't know their location until shortly before the AWW - so plan to caravan to the appropriate parking area which will be communicated at the membership meeting.

Directions:

From the interchange of I-70 and I-135 at the northwest side of Salina, travel north on Hwy 81. (I-135 becomes Hwy 81 as you head north.) At the exit for Hwy 18, turn left and take Hwy 18 west approximately 4.5 miles and then turn north on Hwy 106. There is a sign for Rock City at the Hwy 106 turn. Go 5 miles north and turn left on Ivy Road. Go 0.5 mile west to N 105 Road.

The property encompasses 1280 acres just south of Rock City. It is a Dakota Sandstone mid-grass prairie typical of the Smoky Hills region. It has open pasture, several ponds, wooded areas, rock outcrops, and two small box canyons. There are 900 acres of native prairie with woodland and riparian areas, tillable ground that has been restored to prairie, and a small amount of tilled and CRP ground. The initial parcel was purchased in 1985 with later additions in 2001 and 2009. There is a small herd of approximately 15 bison.

Tour #3 – 2:45- 3:45 - Rock City Park and Walking Trails - Minneapolis

<https://www.travelks.com/listing/rock-city-park/5311/>

Proceed north to Rock City Park: 1051 Ivy Road Minneapolis, KS 67467 **\$3.00 admission to be paid at the gift shop**

Rock City Park is a national natural landmark with over 200 huge sandstone concretions. Rest in the shade of the gazebo, picnic under the trees, and shop the hand crafted items in the gift shop. The interconnecting mowed trails wander through native grasses and wildflowers. Kids can climb on rocks the size of houses.

Tour #4 – 4:00 - 5:15 pm – Ottawa State Fishing Lake

Road 106 north toward Minneapolis through town heading east past highway then south on Road 106 for 0.75 miles to east (right) turn into Ottawa State Fishing Lake. It is approximately 11 miles from Rocky City to Ottawa State Fishing Lake.

This lake was originally constructed starting in 1927 by a community member. It is a 95-acre lake surrounded mostly by tallgrass prairie with a lot of sand prairie species on Dakota sandstone. There are woodlands around the perimeter of the lake and up the arms of Sand Creek.

Exit lake west on Hwy 106, turning north for 0.75 miles to access Hwy 81 south to Salina.

5:30 pm – Return to Salina for dinner

Ottawa State Fishing Lake to Salina area – 30 minutes – Arrive Salina approximately 6:00 pm

Saturday dinner:

Large group dining was not available. There are many restaurants located with a few blocks of each other downtown.

Tucson's Steakhouse - 2750 S 9th Street, Salina

Locally owned steakhouse, salads, sandwiches, fish dishes.

Martinelli's Little Italy, 158 S Santa Fe Ave, Salina, downtown

Family-owned, red-checked-tablecloth joint specializing in unpretentious Italian cuisine.

Auntie Rita's Jamaican Cuisine - 145 S Santa Fe Ave, Suite 100, Salina

A taste of Jamaica featuring sweet, savory and spicy. Menu offers gluten free, vegetarian & pescatarian options. Family-owned and operated.

YaYa's Eurobistro - 251 S Santa Fe Ave

Stylish Mediterranean

Prickly Pear Grill and Cantina - 123 S Santa Fe Ave

Southwestern Cuisine

After Dinner Gathering:

Blue Sky Brewery, 116 N Santa Fe Ave, Salina

American brew pub serving pizza, finger food, and desserts. Vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options.

Sunday Breakfast:

Russel's Restaurant, 649 Westport Blvd, Salina,

Old-school outfit offering hearty American dishes & homemade desserts for breakfast, lunch & dinner.

Bayards, 540 S Broadway

IHOP, 2273 S 9th

Sunday, September 24

Tour #5 – 9:30–11:00 am – Kanopolis Lake - 30 miles west of Salina - Take Hwy 140 west 21 miles and turn south onto Hwy 141 for approx. 8 miles. Turn right onto Venango Road and enter Kanopolis Lake State Park.

\$5.00 daily vehicle fee required

Meet at the Buffalo Track Canyon Trailhead

Enjoy a walk on this trail and observe native plants, wildlife, Indian history, and the geology of the canyons. The 1.5-mile trail follows Bison Creek. Numbered yellow markers along the trail correspond to the brochure "Buffalo Track Canyon Nature Trail" available at gate-houses, information centers, the marina, and the state park office.

Salina lodging:

Use Tripadvisor.com or Booking.com to search for hotels. Here are a few with best scores:

Homewood Suites by Hilton - Downtown Salina \$148

115 E. Mulberry - recently remodeled 5 story hotel

Baymont Inn - near downtown - \$90

1740 W. Crawford

AmericInn - near downtown - \$90

1280 W. Crawford

Additional Exploration / On your way home:

Rolling Hills Zoo: <https://www.rollinghillszoo.org/>

Salina Arts Center: 242 S. Santa Fe, <https://www.salinaartcenter.org/about>

Smoky Hill Museum, walking tours around town: <https://walksalina.com/>

Salina Hiking and Biking trails: http://www.salina-ks.gov/filestorage/18184/18599/18876/19153/19195/SalinaTrails_ZFoldLegalSize.pdf

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 September 14. Print and fill out this Registration Form and mail with your payment in time to arrive in Lawrence, KS, by September 14.
You may also register online at www.ksnps.org by September 14.

1. Enter your Contact Information (please print)

Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email	

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

Children under 12 may attend free.

Number of adults attending the 2023 AWW: _____ x \$20 = \$_____

3. Sign up for New Membership or Renew Membership. Choose a Membership Level:

What year are you paying for? _____

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

4. 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.

5. 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: \$_____