

**Kansas Native Plant Society**  
**2024 Spring / Summer Board Meeting and Outings**  
**Scott, Logan and Gove Counties, Scott City, Kansas**  
**June 7-9**

Join KNPS Board Members in western Kansas to explore the Shortgrass Prairie and Smoky Hills ecoregions. We will be visiting several geologically and botanically diverse locations on properties managed by the state as well as some private properties that are open to the public. This includes Scott Lake State Park, ranked by National Geographic Traveler as one of the top 50 state parks in the country, as well as Kansas' newest state park Little Jerusalem Badlands. Battle Canyon and Monument Rocks are great examples of western Kansas shortgrass habitat that are both privately owned open range, but accessible to the public.

Excursions will begin on Friday June 7, at 3:30 p.m. with evening dining plans to be determined amongst the group. On Saturday June 8, we will meet up at Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park at 8:30 am for a guided tour off trail (limited to 30 people; any overflow will join the on-trail tour). Following the guided tour at Little Jerusalem Badlands, the group will caravan to Monument Rocks and then Scott Lake State Park. A bag lunch is advisable as the guided tour could go until noon depending on the group's pace.

Make your hotel reservations now, and plan to join KNPS to explore western Kansas' beautiful shortgrass prairie! Early arrivals to the region can visit downtown Scott City or Garden City (~45 minutes south of all of the weekend's outings), check into hotels, shop, and find lunch.

Dining and Lodging options are listed at the end of this itinerary.

**We will be walking in gravelly prairie with light to moderate inclines. Biting flies can be abundant some seasons and some vegetation can be painful if walked into. Rattlesnakes are possible. Please plan to dress in light colored clothing, wear long pants, shoes, or boots with enclosed toes, bring your insect repellent of choice, a wide brimmed hat, plenty of water, and your camera.**

### **Friday – June 7**

**3:30 p.m.** - Meet at Scott County Library (10 W. 8th Street Scott City, Kansas) to caravan to **Battle Canyon** (<https://www.travelks.com/listing/battle-of-punished-womans-fork-at-battle-canyon/6035/>) Parking space is limited so carpooling is advised. If recent precipitation is significant enough, this location is unreachable, and the group will botanize at a location in Scott Lake State Park instead. No entrance fee required for Battle Canyon, but a \$5 entrance fee is required at Scott Lake State Park.

## Saturday – June 8

**8:30 am** - Meet at Little **Jerusalem Badlands State Park**; the naturalist wants the guided tour to begin at 9am. (<https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/little-jerusalem-badlands-state-park>), registration for the off-trail tour is required. Email Anthony Zukoff at [azukoff@gmail.com](mailto:azukoff@gmail.com) .

**\$5 entry fee required.**

### Directions:

Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park is located north of the intersection of County Road 400 and Gold Road in southern Logan County, Kansas.

- Turn west on Gold Road from US Highway 83.
- Continue on Gold Road for approximately 3.5 miles.
- Turn north on 400 Road; continue for 1 mile.
- Don't forget to stop at the pay station before passing through the gates to the parking lot.

**12:00\*** – Bag Lunch at Little Jerusalem or next location (\*start times are all estimates at this point)

1:00pm - Caravan from Little Jerusalem to **Monument Rocks**  
(<https://www.travelks.com/listing/monument-rocks-national-landmark/2886/>)

### Directions:

From Little Jerusalem, return to Highway 83 and travel north for 3 miles and then turn right onto Jayhawk. Continue on Jayhawk for 7 miles.

**3:30pm** - Caravan to **Scott Lake State Park** to explore the prairie around the Steel Monument among other locations.

**\$5 entry fee required.**

## Sunday – June 9:

**Meet at 9:30am at Best Western El-Quartelejo Inn** ([1610 Main St, Scott City](#)) **to caravan to Smoky Valley Ranch Road 350 Trailhead**

Smoky Valley Ranch preserves 17,290 acres of short grass prairie and has an amazing diversity of plants and wildlife. This Nature Conservancy property is a large working ranch in southern Logan County that manages cattle and bison. This trail is accessible from county

road 350 and provides a great experience of the rugged terrain and interesting geology of the ranch. There is no restroom or water provided along this trail. Note the two trees to the west of the trailhead—a good trailhead landmark that can be seen from any high point along the trail. Your cell phone coverage on the trails WILL be weak and spotty. Signage is still being developed with the use of temporary markers in some places. Pay attention for stones marked with numbers. There is a Short Loop and a Long Loop for this trail. Details from the Nature Conservancy follow:

**Short Loop (1.0 mile):**The short loop traverses a counterclockwise loop to the south of the trailhead. At about ½ mile in, the long and short routes divide, with the short loop returning to the trailhead. The short loop hike is relatively easy and takes about 20 minutes.

**Long Loop (5.5 miles):**The long loop and short loop share the same counterclockwise route for approximately the first ½ mile then diverge. The two routes merge again at about ¼ mile from the end. Milestone markers are at one mile intervals. The long loop lies mostly to the east and south of the trailhead

### **Directions:**

From Scotty City, travel north on Highway 83 for approximately 22 miles. Turn west onto Seneca Road and travel 7 miles. Turn south onto county road 370 and travel 3 miles. Turn west onto Plains Road and travel 2 miles. Turn south onto County Road 350 and the trailhead will be on your left.

### **Coordinates of the trailhead:**

Lat/Long 38.8875459 -101.018183  
UTM 4306232.634 324958.723

## **Lodging:**

### **Scott City**

Best Western El-Quartelejo Inn & Suites, 1610 Main St. (620) 872-7373  
Scott City Inn Motel, 609 E 5th St., (620) 872-2125

Stepping Inn Motel 104 Main St. (620) 872-5353

Lazy R Motel, 10 E 5th St.,(620) 872-3043

### **Garden City (36 miles south of Scott City)**

AmericInn By Wyndham, 3020 E Kansas Ave., (620) 277-9008

Garden City Inn, 202 W Kansas Ave., (620) 276-7608

America's Best Value Inn, 1818 Commanche Dr., (620) 275-5095

Comfort Inn, 2608 E Kansas Ave., (620) 765-4385

**Oakley (45 miles north of Scott City)**

Kansas Country Inn, 3538 US-40, (785) 672-3131

Sleep Inn and Suites, 3698 US-40, (785) 671-1111

Knights Inn, 3506 US-40, (785) 672-3254

## **Dining:**

In addition to national chains, here are some locally owned restaurants:

**Scott City:**

The Grill House, 702 E 5th St (<https://g.co/kgs/RGY YT2E>)

El Dos De Oros, 1213 Main St (<https://g.co/kgs/62MS2Ua>)

Mom and Pop's Burger Shop, 308 W 5th St, Scott City (<https://g.co/kgs/DZemx61>)

Peking Garden Restaurant, 324 Main St (<https://g.co/kgs/F3THbBe>)

**Garden City:**

Napoli's Italian Restaurant, 2204 E Kansas Ave #5 (<https://g.co/kgs/TdN4mxQ>)

Las Margaritas, 1601 Buffalo Jones Ave (<https://g.co/kgs/znj3whE>)

Casa Mariachi, 125 W Pine St (<https://g.co/kgs/eEXvhSR>)

Traditions Soda and Sandwiches, 121 Grant Ave (<https://g.co/kgs/EgJhQiM>)