



August 13, 2026

Dear KNPS Members,

The 48th Kansas Native Plant Society Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) will be held in Johnson County, September 25, 26 and 27, 2026. If you are new to KNPS or haven't attended before, AWW is the highlight of the year for everyone interested in Kansas native plants. Join native plant enthusiasts in Johnson County to explore the beautiful natural park system created and maintained by Johnson County Parks and Recreation. Within the parks are remnant and restored prairie systems along with natural woodlands and neighboring urban areas that invite visitors to experience the historical landscape through native plant gardens.

All of Johnson County was once part of the Shawnee Indian reservation. The land was opened to white settlement with the passing of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 and at that time was crisscrossed by the Santa Fe, Oregon-California, and the Ft. Leavenworth Military trails. Suburban development exploded into the county after 1910 in response to industrialization in Kansas City, Missouri. This expansion continues today as new suburban developments are still being built in formerly rural areas of the county. Now more people travel into Johnson County than leave it each day for employment, and it is the most populous county in Kansas. In 2025, Johnson County Park and Recreation District (JCPRD) was honored with the prestigious National Gold Medal for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management. JCPRD manages over 10,000 acres, including four streamway parks and 150 miles of scenic trails that attract approximately 7.8 million visitors annually. It's one of the most visited park systems in the region.

Our Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 26. At the meeting we will present **Annual Awards**, elect Board Members, and view entries to the KNPS member **Annual Photo Contest**. Our **featured speaker** will be **Matt Garrett**, Natural Resource Manager for JCPRD. Matt has led the transformation and restoration of hundreds of acres of park land in Johnson County, providing public access to natural areas that feature native plants for people in this region. His presentation on **restoring natural vegetation in urban parks** will cover lessons learned in managing and controlling invasive plant species.

The **KNPS Annual Photo Contest** is open to members and is conducted online. Review the categories on the KNPS website at the URL below, and be sure to **submit your entries by Sunday, September 13, 2026**.

Guidelines and instructions for submitting photos are posted at:

<https://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/photo-contest-rules-entry/>.

Seed Swap - Anyone may bring or take seeds contributed by others. If you have collected seeds from your garden, a meadow, or a natural area that you would like to share with others please bring them in labeled paper envelopes (about a teaspoon of seeds) **OR** in bulk in wide mouth plastic containers. For any seed, please provide these four items of information: (1) Plant Name, (2) County where collected, (3) Date Collected, (4) Whether seeds are from "the wild" or from purchased plants. You may donate a portion of seeds directly to the **KNPS Plant A Prairie Program** to be distributed to existing school gardens for students to grow, refresh native garden spaces, and increase plant diversity.

The **Silent Auction** is a fundraising event that takes place at the Saturday Membership Meeting during breaks. Popular items to bring to donate include books, homemade baked goods or jelly, art, gardening tools, or decorations. It's always fun to look through the items and take home a new treasure.

The following pages include the weekend schedule, descriptions of tour sites, and a registration form. There is a **registration fee of \$20 for the 2026 AWW** that allows you full access to the membership meeting and 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 must receive your Registration Form and payment by Wednesday, Sept. 16th.

Please review the entire itinerary and complete your registration, make your hotel and dining reservations, and join us at the 2026 AWW!

Bring this itinerary with you for times, places and driving directions.
(Check the KNPS website for a Google Map you can download to your phone.)

2026 Membership Meeting Schedule

Friday, Sept. 25	Saturday, Sept. 26	Sunday, Sept. 27
Tour #1 – Merriam Plaza Library Rooftop Planting - 3:00 pm – meet at the top level of parking garage Tour #2 – Ogg Prairie and Woodland at Shawnee Mission Park 4:00-meet at Ogg Road parking lot Dinner on your own. Consider restaurants near I-435 and Midland Drive or Lenexa City Center Plan to meet up with new or old friends for dinner Discuss restaurants and arrival time before leaving Ogg Prairie. Call to make reservations for your group After Dinner Gathering - Consider Barley's Kitchen + Tap	Annual Membership Meeting Elmridge Room at Tomahawk Hills - 8:30 am - Registration check in opens Business Meeting Awards Featured Speaker Photo Contest Winners Seed Swap and Silent Auction Lunch on your own Tour #3 – Cedar Niles Prairie - 2:30 Meet at parking area on 127th Street Tour #4 – Seed Barn at Kill Creek Streamways Park - 4:00 Meet at seed barn Tour #5 – Kill Creek Park Prairie - 5:15 Meet in parking area Dinner on your own. Consider restaurants near Lenexa City Center at I-435 and 87th St. Call to make reservations for small groups After Dinner Gathering - consider Martin City Brewing at Lenexa City Center	Tour #4 – R.L. Schlagle Library, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library - Meet near library on West Drive in Wyandotte County Lake Park

Friday, September 25

1:00–3:00 pm – Board Member Meeting - Merriam Plaza, Johnson County Public Library, 6120 Slater St., Merriam, KS 66202. Board Members will attend.

Tour #1 – 3:00–3:30 pm – Rooftop Planting at Merriam Plaza Library.

Meet on Top Level of Parking Garage for group photo and to hear Steve Cunningham talk about maintaining the natural/native planting on the roof of the library, viewable from the top level of the parking garage. Depart for Ogg Prairie by 3:30.

Tour #2 – 4:00–6:00 pm – Ogg Prairie and Woodland Trail.

Meet in the Shawnee Mission Park Ogg Road Lot at 4:00 pm. We will hear Matt Garrett describe the prairie remnant and surrounding plantings and the woodland. Groups may split, one will walk to the prairie and another will take the woodland trail.

Friday Night Dinner – Check into hotels before dinner if needed. Paulo and Bill's, and Barley's Kitchen + Tap are located close to the meeting venue in the shopping area east of I-435 on Midland Drive.

Friday Night Social Hour – Consider Barley's Kitchen and Tap if staying in area near Tomahawk Hills.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, September 26

Elmridge Room at Tomahawk Hills Golf Course

17501 Midland Drive, Shawnee. Enter the Elmridge Room through the door at the east end (left end) of the clubhouse building.

- 8:30–9:15 am – Registration check in - Silent Auction and Seed Swap, refreshments
- 9:15 – President's Welcome
- Members Elect new and returning Board Members
- KNPS Awards Announced
- 10:15–10:45 – 30-minute break - Seed Swap - Silent Auction bidding
- 10:45–11:30 – Featured Speaker:
- 11:30–11:45 – 15-minute break for refreshments - Seed Swap - Silent Auction
- 11:45–12:00 – Annual Member Photo Contest presentation
- 12:00–12:15 – 15 minutes for final Silent Auction bids and Seed Swap table
- 12:15–12:45 – Check out at registration table and pay for winning Silent Auction items.

Payment by cash or check only, no card services will be available.

- 12:45–1:30 – cleanup room and break down displays
- Depart Tomahawk Hills GC for lunch on your own. Be sure to bring your hat, bug spray, water, camera, hiking boots. **Note: There are no restroom facilities at our first Saturday tour.**

Tour #3 – 2:30 Cedar Niles Prairie Remnant Prairie

26980 West 127th Street, Olathe, KS 66061

Pull in driveway across the street for parking.

Directions:

- Turn right out of Tomahawk Hills onto Midland Drive and take exit right onto I-435 South. From I-435 South exit onto Kansas Hwy 10 West. Continue on Hwy 10 and exit onto Kansas Hwy 7 South.
- Exit Hwy 7 at West 119th Street. Turn right (west) onto 119th Street. Continue on West 119th Street to Clare Road and turn left (South). Pass the Cedar Niles Park Clare Road Trailhead and continue to the intersection of Clare Road and West 127th Street.
- Turn right (west) onto West 127th Street. Travel approximately 1.5 miles west and watch for KNPS sign and parking entrance on right.

The 40-acre prairie remnant is across the street from the parking area. We will depart Cedar Niles at 3:45

Tour #4 – 4:00 Kill Creek Streamways Trail: Seed Barn

31430 West 143rd Street, Gardner, KS 66030

Parking and portable restroom is available at the Seed Barn

Directions:

- From Cedar Niles Prairie parking lot turn right onto West 127th Street.
- Turn left at South Gardner Road
- Watch for KNPS sign and turn right at West 143rd Street.
- Watch for entrance to Kill Creek Streamways Trail on right

Sarah Beier from KC Wildlands will talk with us about the Seed Barn and seed collection and cleaning activities in and around Johnson County parks. She will also give us a demonstration of some of the equipment they use at the facility. We depart the Seed Barn at 5:00.

Tour #5 – 5:15 Kill Creek Prairie

11670 South Homestead Lane, Olathe, KS 66061

Directions:

- From Kill Creek Streamways parking lot turn left onto West 143rd Street.
- Turn left at South Gardner Road and travel 1 mile
- Turn left onto West 135th Street and travel 2 miles
- Turn right onto Homestead Lane and travel 2.3 miles
- Turn left into the Kill Creek Park entrance onto Access Road
- Pass the observation tower and look for KNPS sign to find the parking area where we meet

Walk the Prairie Observation Trail to see the remnant prairie. We depart Kill Creek Park by 6:15.

Saturday Night Dinner and Social hour - Check out the array of restaurants available at the Lenexa City Center (just west of I-435 and 87th Street)

Sunday, September 27

Tour #6 – 10:00 am – F.L. Schlagle Library, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.

4051 West Drive, Kansas City, KS 66109.

Gather near the Library entrance to have a guided tour with LuAnn Cadden, Education Specialist and manager of the native plant gardens around the library. After the tour we may take an informal hike on a woodland trail in the park known for its exceptional woodland plants. We finish our tours by 12:00 pm on Sunday.

Dining in Shawnee and Lenexa - Friday or Saturday night:

Paulo & Bill's, 16501 Midland Dr, Shawnee, (913) 962-9900 - Italian. Open until 9 weekends.
Barley's Kitchen + Tap, 16649 Midland Dr, Shawnee, (913) 268-5160 - Classic. Open until 1 am weekends.
Jose Pepper's, 16605 Midland Dr, Shawnee, (913) 631-1011 - Mexican. Open until 10 weekends.
Jack Stack Barbecue, 8721 Ryckert St, Lenexa, (913) 382-4227 - Barbecue. Open until 10 weekends.
Tupelo Honey Southern Kitchen, 16720 City Center Dr, Lenexa, (913) 220-2013 - Southern. Open until 9.
Cactus Grill, 8721 Scarborough St, Lenexa, (913) 413-8192 - Tex-Mex. Open until 10 weekends.
Martin City Brewing, 8721 Scarborough St, Lenexa, (913) 413-8192 - Pizza-Sand/wraps. Open until 11.
Red Door Woodfired Grill, 15918 W 88th St, Lenexa, (913) 379-1500 - American. Open until 11.

Lodging in Shawnee, Lenexa and Olathe:

Contact hotels directly or use your favorite booking website.

Fairfield Inn and Suites-Shawnee, 16550 Midland Dr, Shawnee, 66217
Holiday Inn Express & Suites-Shawnee, 17346 Midland Dr, Shawnee, 66217
Courtyard by Marriott-Shawnee, 17250 Midland Dr, Shawnee, 66217
Comfort Inn & Suites-Shawnee, 16510 Midland Dr, Shawnee, 66217
Hampton Inn-Shawnee Mission, 16555 Midland Dr, Shawnee, 66217
Hyatt Place-Lenexa City Center, 8741 Ruckers St, Lenexa, 66219
Holiday Inn Express & Suites-Olathe West, 10360 S Ridgeview Rd, Olathe 66061
Embassy Suites by Hilton-Olathe, 10401 S Ridgeview Rd, Olathe, 66061
Four Points by Sheraton-Olathe, 10574 S Ridgeview Rd, Olathe, 66061

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 Wednesday September 16. Print and fill out this Registration Form and mail with your payment in time to arrive in Lawrence, KS, by September 16.
You may also register online at www.ksnps.org by September 16.

1. Enter your Contact Information (please print)

Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email	

2. Adult Registration Fee for Saturday Membership Meeting and Weekend Tours.

Children under 12 may attend tours for free.

Number of adults attending the 2026 AWW: _____ x \$20 = \$_____

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

For what year are you paying? _____

_____ 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.

Adult 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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