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# Kentucky Naturalist News

Official Newsletter of the Kentucky Society of Natural History

Volume 66, Number 3, Fall 2008

Website: <http://www.ksnh.org>

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Herb Zimmerman (via mail)

## Affiliated Chapters

**Arches of the Cumberland Chapter** (Slade) meets informally, call President Dell Sasser for details, 606-666-7521 x73559 or (606) 663-9379.

**Falls of the Ohio Chapter** (Louisville) meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month except Jan, Jul, Aug, & Dec at 7:00 PM at the Louisville Nature Center, 3745 Illinois Ave, Louisville, 40213. Call President Chris Bidwell at (502) 458-1328.

**Wilderness Trail Chapter** (Pineville) meets the first Thursday of each month, March through December, at 7:00 p.m., generally at Pine Mountain State Resort Park, 1050 State Park Road Pineville, KY 40977-0610 (800-325-1712).



*Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (L.) Planch. (Virginia creeper) - Barry Nichols, 2006

## EDITOR'S NOTES

I just got back from the mountains in southwestern North Carolina. I had not been there since 1991. During the two weeks I poked around the mountains, I was amazed at the extent of the damage to hemlocks the hemlock wooly adelgid (HWA) has done. I saw them all over every tree I inspected...this isn't an exaggeration...EVERY tree. It was disheartening to say the least. You may wish to go and experience the hemlock forests while you can. The sheer scale of the damage is astonishing. Keep your hopes up for a solution.

Natural Bridge State Park Naturalist Noelle Grunwald has left her position as of August 15, 2008. We have lost a hard worker for the state and a great ambassador for the park. We wish her well in her next position.

The agenda for the 2008 fall meeting of KSNH at Natural Bridge State Park is contained in this issue. There is quite a variety of topics and opportunities for field walks. I hope to see you all there!

KSNH President Joe Settles notes a chance meeting and mentions the new "Rare Wildflowers of Kentucky" book by Tom Barnes, Deborah White, and Marc Evans.

**Wally Roberts announces the awarding of \$4,250 in KSNH grants and scholarships for 2008!!!** The generosity of the membership is

astounding. These selfless acts of giving further natural history research in Kentucky. In these tough times, research money is even more important than ever.

Wally Roberts also discusses the hardships wrought by our climate this year on plants as well as the use of native plants.

Right on time for the fall meeting, Geology Coordinator Berl Meyer writes about natural arches and bridges and the geology of both.

For you photographers out there, let me introduce a new feature...a newsletter photo "competition"...well...more of a gallery in the newsletter. Much like the photo topics at the various meetings we have, each newsletter will run a topic for the next newsletter. Any format will be fine, we'll make the necessary conversions. You may submit photos via email or regular mail. Please include name, description, location, and year. The topic for the Winter 2008 issue of the Kentucky Naturalist News is **SNOW**. We would also like to take the winners from each issue and create a desktop photo with KSNH logo and the photographer credit and make them available for free download off of the KSNH website. This will only be done if the photographer gives permission after their photo is judged. All rights will still be held by the photographer.

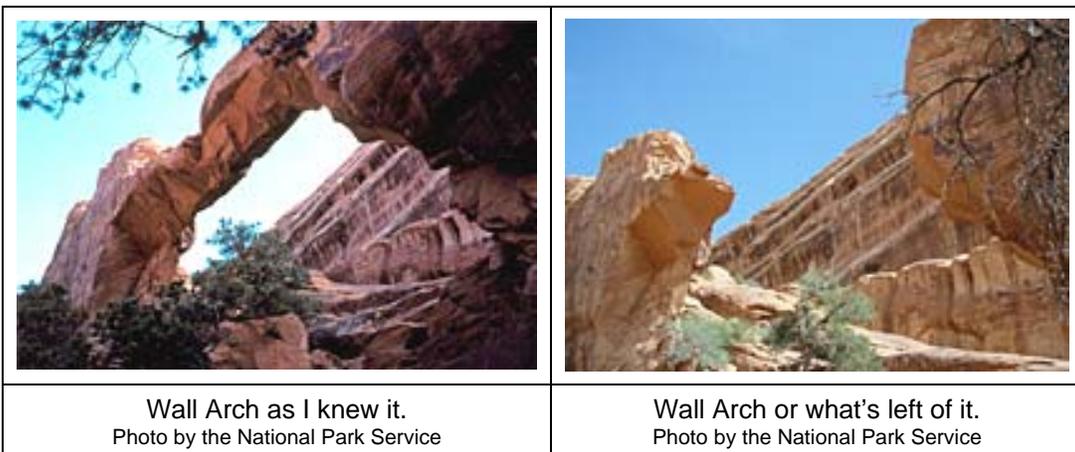
The Winter 2008 deadline is November 1. I plan on getting it out a few short weeks later so if you have anything of a timely nature, please plan accordingly. I want to get the newsletter in your hands before the holiday swamping of the mail and the seasonal crunch on your time. Please note that all regular newsletter dates for the year are printed in the shaded box on the back page of each newsletter.

As always, please mail any articles, news, photos, etc to [kyfauna@iglou.com](mailto:kyfauna@iglou.com) –ed

## GEOLOGY OF NATURAL ARCHES AND BRIDGES

by Berl Meyer

Another geologic landform has passed into "geologic history", that being Wall Arch in Arches National Park. I was leisurely sitting around the tube August 10 listening to CBS Sunday Morning when I heard about this beloved arch's demise. Wall Arch, located along the popular Devil's Garden Trail at Arches National Park collapsed sometime during the night of August 4, 2008. Rock has continued to fall from the arms of the remaining portion of the arch necessitating the closure of the Devil's Garden Trail just beyond Landscape Arch. I certainly thought that Landscape Arch would surely fall before Wall Arch because it (Landscape) looks so fragile. Not be the case so says Mother Nature.



Even though this arch was easy to get to, boy was it hard to photograph. I know that when I tried to photograph this thing, I had to almost lay down on the trail and shoot up toward the sky hoping no hiker would come along and step on me thinking I was just "trail kill" as opposed to "road kill."

Never mind about that above stuff, the important thing was that this phenomenon brought to mind the KSNH Fall Conference at Natural Bridge State Resort Park in September.

Now what has always bugged me about “Natural Bridge (Kentucky)” was why the heck it was ever called that in the first place. When it was called that, did we have any geologists in the state? Why of course we did, but they were definitely not at the naming ceremony. If I was there at that ceremony, I would have protested and asked these folks if they had ever heard of “No child left behind.” --Natural Bridge is a Natural Arch-hello!

### **What is a natural arch?**

**Definition:** A natural arch is a rock exposure that has a hole completely through it formed by the natural, selective removal of rock, leaving a relatively intact frame.

This seems simple enough, but there are some subtleties in this definition that should be examined further.

1. A natural arch must be made of rock. A feature made of compacted soil, ice, or organic matter (e.g., a tree trunk, unless it has turned into rock via petrification) may exhibit all the other attributes of the definition, but is still not a natural arch.
2. The rock must be exposed. It must be substantially surrounded by air. It may be partially embedded in soil or water, but must not be completely encased in either. The rock must be sufficiently exposed to observe that it exhibits the other attributes of the definition.
3. The hole through the rock must conform to the mathematical, or topological, definition of a hole which in this case, at least a meter across.
4. The hole must have formed from natural, selective removal of rock. Typically this removal is the result of erosional processes.
5. The frame of rock that remains to surround the hole must still be relatively intact. Fractures and joints may be present. Even some slippage along these may have occurred, as long as it is clear that this has happened subsequent to hole formation. Of course, no air gaps can exist in the frame of rock.

### **Now let's look at a natural bridge.**

**Definition:** A natural bridge is a type of natural arch. In general, a natural bridge is distinguished from other types of natural arches by having one or more of the following attributes:

1. A current of water, such as a stream, clearly was a major agent in the formation of the opening.
2. A current of water, such as a stream, flows through the opening it is being, or has been, used by man as a bridge supporting a portion of a road
3. It has the general appearance of a man-made bridge, e.g., a flat, level top over an arched opening.

Regardless of the attributes used, however, it is important to note that there is no fundamental difference between a natural arch and a natural bridge. A natural bridge is just one of many types of natural arch. The definition of what a natural arch is applies to natural bridges in the same way it applies to all other types of natural arch. The set of attributes that distinguish a natural bridge from other types of natural arch depends on the classification scheme being used. So I guess, the “namers” of Natural Bridge State Resort Park were not educated in the field of geology, so they simply thought what the heck, an arch is an arch even through water never flowed beneath Kentucky's Natural Bridge. You call it as you see it, bless your hearts.

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**Berl Meyer** is the current Geology Coordinator for KSNH, the former KSNH webmaster, and the current webmaster of the [U.S. Constitution CVA/CV 64 website](#). Berl was stationed on this Naval Aircraft Carrier during the Vietnam War as an Aerographer (weather guesser).

## FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN – *Euphorbia cyathophora* (Murray)

by Chris Bidwell

It would seem like Christmas in August when finding the plant fire of the mountain. Its beautiful holly-like upper or bracteal green leaves are blotched a deep red at their bases, reminding us of Christmas colors. This introduced weed from the tropics, South America, or Mexico into the southwest United States, is rare in Kentucky. By August and well into September, these plants, that emerged in May, display the brilliant red and green coloration which explains the common names given to this plant: Mexican fire plant, false poinsettia, Christmas plant, summer poinsettia, wild poinsettia, cruel plant, hypocrite plant, painted euphorbia, Christmas bush, painted spurge, painted leaf, and various-leaved spurge.



The synonymy in scientific names for fire on the mountain (the official name) is great – a total of 12 different ones are cited. The four most commonly referenced are *Euphorbia cyanthophora*, *E. heterophylla*, *Poinsettia cyanthophora*, and *P. heterophylla*.

The plant is in the Euphorbiaceae, or Spurge family. Spurge comes from several sources. It is derived from Old French – *Espurge/epurge*; Latin- *Expurgare*; and French – *Espurgier*. All of these sources mean to purge or to empty the bowels. We get the word purgative from these base words. The generic epithet comes from a Greek surgeon Euphorbus, who used the milky latex sap in his potions.

Euphorbus was the official physician for Juba II, king of Mauritania who was married to a daughter of Antony and Cleopatra (23 AD). Mauritania was originally an independent Berber kingdom on the Mediterranean coast of North Africa. This area is now parts of Libya, western Algeria, and northern Morocco. The Romans placed Juba II of Numida (Libya) in charge of Mauritania. He was interested in botany and had written about a cactus-like plant he had found and was used by Euphorbus as a powerful laxative. That plant today may be *Euphorbia resinifera*. Juba II gave the plant the name *Euphorbia* to honor his trusted physician. Euphorbus is derived from EU = good and PHORBE = pasture or fodder, giving the doctor Euphorbus the meaning well-fed! Sources suggest that Euphorbus was quite corpulent and Juba II may have selected the plant's name as a play on words, as the plant is succulent similar to Euphorbus' physique. Linnaeus officially established the genus commemorating Euphorbus. It is interesting in that Euphorbus was not as distinguished or famous as his physician brother, Antonus Musa, who was the personal doctor for Augustus Caesar. Caesar rewarded Antonus Musa by erecting a bronze statue in Rome to honor him. Euphorbus is remembered by his association with an inconspicuous plant from Africa. Linnaeus was intrigued by the irony in the contrast between fame based on a bronze statue and fame associated with a plant. Linnaeus wrote in 1737 : "*Ubi nam Musae Statua? Periiit, evanuit! Euphorbii autem perdurat, perenati, nec unquam destrui protest.*" ("Where now is the statue of Musa? It has perished, vanished, but that of Euphorbus is perdurable, perennial, nor can it ever be destroyed.") No statue to Musa remains.

The specific epithet of fire on the mountain, *cyanthophora*, comes from Greek *Kyathos*, meaning cup or ladle and refers to the flowering structure called cyathia. *Phonos*, also from the Greek, means bearing. Thus *cyanthophora* means flower bearing a cup or ladle. These flowers are unisexual. The numerous male flowers with a single stamen occupy the cyathia (cup-shaped structure). But there is never more than one tasseled female flower in the cyathia. The fire on the mountain cyathia also bears one greenish yellow nectar gland to help attract insect pollinators, such as bees and flies. Seed capsules usually consist of 3 cells which, when mature, express the seeds with some force to aid in distribution.

Fire on the mountain is an annual (self-seeding) herbaceous plant which can reach 2 feet in height. The milky sap is present primarily in leaves and stems and can be quite irritating to the skin. Forty percent of people who are allergic to latex will be allergic to euphorbias. The leaves can vary considerably in size and shape – oblanceolate to lanceolate to linear with varying degrees lobes and toothed margins. The upper leaves/bracts are tinged at the base with a beautiful orange/red hue. The colored leaves are showier than the flower groupings. The actual flowers are very difficult to see without the aid of a magnifying lens. Fire on the mountain blooms from mid-summer to late fall. This euphorbia grows well in disturbed sites and in either partial shade to full sun. It tolerates drought well. It invades garden soil especially well and even though rare in Kentucky it can become weedy and invasive once established. The seeds have a very high germination rate as well. As a member of the Euphorbiaceae family, fire on the mountain has several famous related cousins: *E. marginata* (Snow on the Mountain – found in Kentucky), *Hevea brasiliensis* (the rubber tree), *Manihot esculenta* (cassava plant, which gives us tapioca), and *Ricinus communis* (castor bean, which gives us castor oil). The most recognizable euphorbia is *E. pulcherrima* (the Christmas poinsettia), which was named in honor of R. J. Poinsett, the first United States diplomat to Mexico (1825-1829). He was an amateur botanist who sent some plants to his home in South Carolina for further horticultural development.

Fire on the mountain medicinal/folklore uses include treatment of corns, warts, and as an emetic/cathartic. The "poison" milky latex has been used by various indigenous peoples to kill fish when shot by arrows whose tips have been dipped with the latex sap. Eating any euphorbia can cause nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea. There are no human deaths associated with euphorbias.

This late summer/early fall, keep an eye out for this rare introduced plant. Fire on the Mountain is truly a plant to behold.

---Thanks to Mary Alice Bidwell for her typing skills.

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*Euphorbia cyathophora* (Murray) - Chris Bidwell, 2008

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*Chris Bidwell is an amateur naturalist, the current President of the Falls of the Ohio Chapter, and the Photography Coordinator of KSNH.*

**KENTUCKY SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE  
NATURAL BRIDGE STATE RESORT PARK  
SEPTEMBER 26 - 28, 2008**

The 2008 fall meeting of the Kentucky Society of Natural History will be held at the Natural Bridge State Resort Park in Powell County near Slade, KY September 26 - 28, 2008. Please use the registration form from the last issue of the newsletter (KNN 66:2) or on the society webpage at <http://www.ksnh.org>.

- Natural Bridge State Park is in Eastern Time Zone
- All field trips will originate in the lobby of Hemlock Lodge
- All drive times are estimated for one way, starting from Hemlock Lodge, Natural Bridge State Park

**Field Trip Ratings:**

**Easy:** Hiking short distances usually on trails with little slope.

**Moderate:** Generally easy with a comfortable pace.

Participants must be able to negotiate occasional steep slope and/or rough trail.

**Strenuous:** More endurance required to negotiate longer stretches of steep slopes and rough trail.

\*\*\* Be careful on all of the field trips and watch your step. Also, watch above your head for dead trees that could fall. Many field trips may occur in locations where high cliffs are present and participants should not wander off trails or walk near edges of cliffs.



Cliff in Red River Gorge, Powell Co. – James Kiser, 2003

**Friday, September 26, 2008**

**Field Trips for Early Arrivals (Early Bird Special)**

- 2:00 – 5:00 P.M.**      **Whittleton Branch Trail at Natural Bridge State Park** – Join Natural Bridge State Park’s Naturalist and enjoy an easy, educational hike along one of many small streams in the park. This trail follows along Whittleton Branch and contains numerous small mesic rock outcrops that provide habitat for bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) and ferns. Participants may search underneath rocks along the stream for salamanders and scan the landscape for migrant and resident birds. Highlights may include autumn coral root, diverse bryophyte and mushroom communities, and stream dwelling salamanders.  
**Drive Time – < 5 minutes**      **Rating – easy/moderate**      **Trip Leader – Brian Gasdorf**
- 2:30 – 5:00 P.M.**      **Non-native and Invasive Plants along Lower Rock Garden Trail** – Join former park naturalist and current Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission biologist on one of the park’s most popular trails to learn how to identify non-native and invasive (exotic) plants. On this trip participants will learn how KSNH is helping the park to remove non-native plants, so natural flora can re-establish.  
**Drive Time – N/A**      **Rating – easy/moderate**      **Trip Leader – Zeb Weese**
- 6:00 P.M.**      **Dinner (on your own)**
- 7:00 P.M.**      **Registration Begins in Activities Center**
- 7:30 P.M.**      **Evening Program Starts:**
- Welcome and Introductions** – Joe Settles
- Children’s Program Topics** – TBD
- Photography Program Topic** – Topic for fall meeting will be “Favorite Nature Photo”. Photos must be nature related without any man-made objects and can be from any where.  
 – Chris Bidwell
- General Topics** – Open to All



**Student Presentation #1 – “Crevice Characteristics of Green Salamander (*Aneides aeneus*)” – Jason Ritzert**

**Featured Presentation – “Geologic influences on Red River Gorge’s Flora” – Dr. Wilson Francis**



**9:30 – 11:00 P.M.**

**Going Batty at Natural Bridge** – Bring your flashlights and enjoy the diverse bat fauna inhabiting Natural Bridge State Park. Eleven species of bats occur in or adjacent to Natural Bridge State Park. Several of these hibernate and/or swarm at the cave where our field trip will be conducted. This cave is also the first place where the federally endangered Virginia big-eared bat was observed in Kentucky. Participants will learn how to capture and identify bats, and learn how to mark bats for future identification. Highlights may include as many as eight species of bat, including the federally endangered Virginia big-eared bat and Indiana bat, and state listed eastern small-footed bat.

**Drive Time – N/A**

**Rating – easy**

**Trip Leaders – John MacGregor, James Kiser, and others**

**Saturday, April 3, 2004**

**7:00 – 8:00 A.M.**

**Early Morning Bird Walk at Natural Bridge State Park** – This trip is for all of the

society's hard-core birders. One of KSNH's past Naturalist of the Year will lead this outing in search for both resident and neo-tropical migrant birds. Weather dependent, highlights may include as many as thirty species of birds.

**Drive Time – N/A      Rating – easy      Trip Leaders – Ben Begley**

**7:00 – 9:00 A.M.      Breakfast (on your own)**

**Morning Field Trips**

**9:00 – 12:00 P.M.      Powell County Eco-farm** - This privately owned farm on upper Cane Creek is a nature lovers dream. Nestled at the base of a sandstone capped knob along a small stream, this 100 acre tract of land has been converted from traditional farmland to a mosaic of wildflower gardens, oldfield and wetland communities, forested uplands, and wildlife ponds. During the fall, randomly placed cover boards and vernal ponds attract reptiles, and provide tadpoles and salamander larvae a place to develop, respectively. Bat boxes erected in oldfields provide roosting habitat for the northern bat. Nature lovers on this trip will learn how to improve floral and wildlife habitat on previously modified landscapes. Highlights will include numerous reptiles (northern watersnake, black racer, northern copperhead, brown snake, northern fence lizard, and ground skink), and interesting plants.

**Drive Time – 20 minutes      Rating – easy      Trip Leader – Dan Dourson**



*Villosa iris*, Scott Co., VA - James Kiser, 1997

**9:00 – 12:00 P.M.      Red River Aquatic Ecosystem Trip** – This excursion will focus on freshwater mussels and small, often overlooked aquatic macroinvertebrates that provide the foundation for a healthy stream. Unlike many eastern Kentucky streams, the Red River still contains a healthy and diverse freshwater mussel population, totaling 26 species. Bring your hand lens and be prepared to get your hands wet as we view freshwater mussels, caddisflies, mayflies, stoneflies, and other small invertebrates. Learn how presence and absence of certain Orders of aquatic invertebrates indicate water quality and health of aquatic ecosystems. Highlights may include 8 species of native freshwater mussel, and a diverse assemblage of aquatic macroinvertebrates.

**Drive Time – 20 minutes      Rating – easy      Trip Leader – Dr. Guenter Schuster**

**9:00 – 12:00 P.M.      Mill Creek Lake Canoe Trip** (limited to 12 participants) – This trip will allow participants the opportunity to relax and test their paddling ability. Participants will quietly paddle their way along the forested banks of Mill Creek Lake searching for beaver, fall blooming wildflowers, and basking water snakes and turtles. Highlights may include red-eared slider, spiny softshell turtle, northern water snake, beaver and their engineering works,

and several species of wading birds.

**Drive Time – 5 minutes**

**Rating – easy**

**Trip Leaders – Joe Settles,  
Josh Young, and Seth Bishop**

**12:00 – 1:30 P.M.**      **Lunch** (on your own)

**Afternoon Field Trips**

**1:30 – 5:00 P.M.**      **Edward Branch Herpetology Walk** – Search for and learn about some of Red River Gorge’s amphibians (salamanders, and frogs), and reptiles (snakes, lizards, and turtles) in Edward Branch with KSNH’s president. Due to reptile and amphibian diversity, the Edward Branch trip is Herpetology Weekend participant’s favorite trip. On this trip participants will search for salamanders under rocks in the stream, flip tin for snakes and lizards. Highlights may include 8 species of amphibians, including seal, northern slimy, northern dusky, and southern two-lined salamanders, and 6 species of snakes and lizards.

**Drive Time – 30 minutes**

**Rating – easy/moderate**

**Trip Leader – Joe  
Settles**

**1:30 – 5:00 P.M.**      **Red River Aquatic Ecosystem Trip** – This excursion will focus on freshwater mussels and small, often overlooked aquatic macroinvertebrates that provide the foundation for a healthy stream. Unlike many eastern Kentucky streams, the Red River still contains a healthy and diverse freshwater mussel population, totaling 26 species. Bring your hand lens and be prepared to get your hands wet as we view freshwater mussels, caddisflies, mayflies, stoneflies, and other small invertebrates. Learn how presence and absence of certain Orders of aquatic invertebrates indicate water quality and health of aquatic ecosystems. Highlights may include 8 species of native freshwater mussel, and a diverse assemblage of aquatic macroinvertebrates.

**Drive Time – 20 minutes**

**Rating – easy**

**Trip Leader – Dr. Guenter  
Schuster**



*Calostoma cinnabarina*, Wise Co., VA - James Kiser, 2001

**1:30 – 5:00 P.M.**      **Mushroom Foray along Whittleton Branch in Natural Bridge State Park** – Search for and learn about some of Red River Gorge’s mushrooms with one of Kentucky’s best naturalist. Whittleton Branch contains numerous small mesic rock outcrops, and both coniferous and deciduous trees, which provides excellent habitat for fall mushrooms. Participants will learn how to identify the deadly destroying angel (*Amanita virosa*) and enjoy the beautiful waxy cup mushrooms (*Hygrocybe* sp.) and hot lips mushroom (*Calostoma cinnabarina*) on this trip. Highlights may include as many as 30 species of mushrooms

**Drive Time – < 5 minutes**

**Rating – easy/moderate**

**Trip Leader – John MacGregor**

**6:00 – 7:30 P.M.**

**Dinner (on your own)**

**7:30 P.M.**

**Evening Program Starts:**

**Welcome and Introductions – Joe Settles**

**Review of Saturday Field Trips – Moderator – James Kiser**

**Children’s Program and Awards - “Review of Junior Naturalist’s Photographs Taken on Fall Conference Field Trips” – TBD**

**Student Presentation #2 – “Tail Wagging Behavior of Eastern Phoebes” – Michelle Carder**

**Featured Presentation – “Flora and Fauna of Belize’s’ Rainforest through the Eyes of a Kentucky Naturalist” – Dan Dourson**

**Photography Competition & Awards – Chris Bidwell**

**Presentation of Kentucky Naturalists of the Year Award – Joe Settles & James Kiser**

**General Topics – Open to All**

**Door Prizes – Cherry Baker**

**9:30 - 11:00 P.M.**

**Amphibian Foray at Natural Bridge State Park – Bring your flashlights, search for and learn about some of the parks salamanders and frogs. Trip will be along trails near the cave entrances and will be weather dependent because dry, cold conditions reduce amphibian activity. Highlights may include cave salamander, long-tail salamander, spring salamander, and pickerel frog.**

**Drive Time – N/A      Rating – moderate      Trip Leader – James Kiser**

**Sunday, April 4, 2004**

**7:00 – 8:00 A.M**

**Early Morning Bird Walk at Natural Bridge State Park – This trip is for all of the society’s hard-core birders. One of KSNH’s past Naturalist of the Year will lead this outing in search for both resident and neo-tropical migrant birds. Weather dependent, highlights may include as many as thirty species of birds.**

**Drive Time – N/A      Rating – easy      Trip Leaders – Ben Begley**

**8:00 - 9:30 A.M.**

**Board Meeting/Breakfast in Private Dining Room in Hemlock Lodge – All board members are encouraged to attend and general members are welcomed.**

**7:00 – 9:00 A.M.**

**Breakfast (on your own)**

**9:30 – 5:00 P.M.**

**Whittleton Branch Trail at Natural Bridge State Park – Join Kentucky Society of Natural History’s own botanist and enjoy an easy, educational hike along one of many small streams in the park. This trail follows along Whittleton Branch and contains numerous small mesic rock outcrops that provide habitat for bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) and ferns. Participants will learn how to identify fall blooming wildflowers, and many trees and shrubs. Highlights may include autumn coral root, and as many as 12 fall blooming members of the Asteraceae family.**

**Drive Time – < 5 minutes      Rating – easy/moderate      Trip Leader – Chris Bidwell**



9:30 – 1:00 P.M.

**In Search of Creepy Crawlers and Fall Wildflowers in Indian Creek (Carpool) –**

Participants on this trip will search for reptiles (snakes and lizards) and amphibians (salamanders and frogs) while flipping rocks on hillsides, road cuts, and in intermittent streams. Learn how to identify different species of dusky salamanders (*Desmognathus* sp.) apart by using morphological characters. If participants are lucky, they may encounter the mountain dusky salamander, which occurs in Indian Creek as a glacial relict population. Numerous species of asters, goldenrods, and other members of the Asteraceae family will be encountered and identified along the road sides. Highlights may include as many as 12 species of herpetofauna, and a diverse fall wildflower assemblage.

**Drive Time – 30 minutes**

**Rating – easy**

**Trip Leaders – James Kiser**

9:30 – 1:00 P.M.

**Non-native and Invasive Plants along Lower Rock Garden Trail –** Join former park

naturalist and current Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission biologist on one of the park's most popular trails to learn how to identify non-native and invasive (exotic) plants. On this trip participants will learn how KSNH is helping the park to remove non-native plants, so natural flora can re-establish.

**Drive Time – N/A**

**Rating – easy/moderate**

**Trip Leader – Zeb Weese**

The Kentucky Society of Natural History would like to thank the following field trip leaders/speakers and their respective employers.

Ben Begley  
Chris Bidwell  
Seth Bishop  
Michelle Carder  
Dan Dourson  
Dr. Wilson Francis  
Brian Gasdorf  
James Kiser  
John MacGregor  
Jason Ritzert  
Dr. Guenter Schuster  
Joe Settles  
Zeb Weese  
Josh Young

[Pine Mountain Settlement School](#)  
[Kentucky Society of Natural History](#)  
[East Kentucky Power Cooperative](#)  
[Eastern Kentucky University](#)  
Biologist and Artist at Large  
[Hazard Community & Technical College](#)  
[Kentucky Department of Parks](#)  
[Stantec Consulting Services](#)  
[Kentucky Department Fish and Wildlife Resources](#)  
[Eastern Kentucky University](#)  
[Eastern Kentucky University](#)  
[East Kentucky Power Cooperative](#)  
[Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission](#)  
[East Kentucky Power Cooperative](#)

Thanks for attending Kentucky Society of Natural History's 2008 Fall Conference and mark your calendars for the Spring Conference at [Pine Mountain Settlement School](#) on April 24–26, 2009. Continue to check the [Kentucky Naturalist News](#) and the KSNH [web page](#) for 2009 Spring Conference registration information.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Joe Settles



I hope you have enjoyed your summer. It has definitely been a busy and eventful time for me and my family, and we are looking forward to this transition into fall. The fall meeting is just around the corner at Natural Bridge State Resort Park. The meeting begins Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> and runs through the weekend.

Please get your reservation forms filled out and submitted to Cindy for the Fall Conference. We have a great set of field trips and speakers lined up for the event. I would encourage you to mention the weekend to your friends, coworkers, or relatives that have an interest in Kentucky's natural history. It would be great to share all of the things the KSNH has to offer with more people.

I was in Washington D.C. for a meeting in early August, and our group stopped to have lunch at the Sculpture Garden just off of the mall. I was just finishing my sandwich when I heard a familiar voice. I turned around and it was the one and only Dr. Charles Covell (1984 KSNH Naturalist of the Year)!! I rudely interrupted his lunch because I had to say hello.

Dr. Covell is doing great! I told him he was greatly missed in Kentucky, and we hope he will visit again soon. I hope he will be able to complete a "Butterflies of Kentucky" book someday. It would be another great work that would highlight our state.

I would also recommend everyone pick up a copy of "**Rare Wildflowers of Kentucky**" by Tom Barnes, Deborah White, and Marc Evans. I was looking at the book recently, and it is great to see Kentucky's treasures captured and represented in such wonderful fashion. My hat goes off to Tom, Deb, and Marc. Thanks for the hard work!

I hope to see everyone in Slade in a few weeks at the fall meeting. Get in your forms, and join us for another great meeting. As always, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions regarding our organization please do not hesitate to call me at 859-745-9256 or drop me an email at [joe.settles@ekpc.coop](mailto:joe.settles@ekpc.coop).

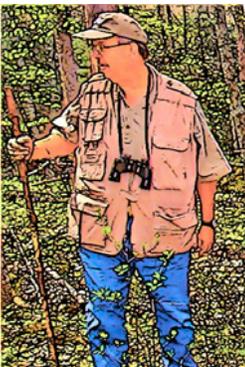
I look forward to seeing you in September!

Kentucky Proud,  
Joe Settles

*Joe Settles is the Kentucky Society of Natural History's President for the 2008-2010 term.*

## NOTES FROM THE NATURE NUT

By W. H. (Wally) Roberts



As the seasons pass from the "Dog Days" of summer into the early days of autumn, many homeowners start to contemplate needed improvements to their landscapes. These improvements usually range from establishing a new lawn to a total landscape restoration. Before starting any landscape projects, everyone should remember the growing conditions that occurred in 2007.

As far as I am concerned, 2007 was the hardest year on plant life that I can remember. The year started off with an extremely warm January and part of February. As a result many flowers, shrubs, and trees, not only flowered, but produced full foliage. March and April brought extreme cold conditions with freezes and accumulating snows. Most all plant foliage was destroyed by these extremes in temperature. Plants were forced to use up their emergency reserves of stored foods in their root systems in order to produce new foliage and conduct photosynthesis during the growing season. On top of all of these early problems, July through October were some of the driest and hottest months on record.

At this time, you may be asking yourself, "What does this have to do with my landscape projects during the fall and winter of 2008". Well, the answer is that here at Hawthorne Pointe, we have had to spend extra money replacing everything from grass to trees due to last year's weather. We are taking a long hard look every time we replant; and I assume you, as a homeowner, would also need to make the most informed decisions possible.

I believe the first step in landscaping is to use native plants. Not only are these plants hardy, but they have adapted to the extremes of Kentucky's growing seasons. Hopefully, when chosen with informed decision-making, these native plants will not only survive, but thrive in your landscape. These natives are easy to maintain, attract native wildlife for pollination, provide good nesting habitats for native birds and mammals, and usually produce desirable fall fruit and foliage color. As a naturalist, I believe your best overall source for information on native plantings and landscape designs is "**Gardening for the Birds**" by Thomas G. Barnes and published by the University Press of Kentucky. Many of you most likely already own this book; but, if not, "Gardening for the Birds" is available through any reputable book seller.

Tom's book provides the basics on wildlife conservation, urban landscaping, attracting butterflies and birds, and managing pests. His book also includes informational lists of desirable native species and source locations. "Gardening for the Birds" is not only well written, but also includes many diagrams, drawings, and colored photographs that help to ease your landscaping chores.

In closing, please let me infuse a few words of wisdom: Plant more-mow less, buy natives from local supplies, and a poor plant specimen will thrive when planted in a great hole. Also, please remember that even under optimum conditions, a newly planted shrub or tree takes a minimum of three years to become fully established.

Best of luck with your fall and winter plantings. Karen and I hope to see you at Natural Bridge during our KSNH Fall Conference on September 27, 28, & 29th.

*Wally Roberts was Kentucky Naturalist of the Year 2002. He is a long-time biology instructor, interpretive naturalist, and nature photographer. He graduated with a BS in Biology from Morehead State University, and MEd in Biological Education from the University of Louisville. He's been president of KSNH (3 times), former president of the Falls of the Ohio Chapter, and past president of the Board of the Louisville Nature Center. He's currently the Grant Coordinator for KSNH.*

## KSNH 2008 GRANT RECIPIENTS

by W. H. (Wally) Roberts

The Kentucky Society of Natural History is proud to announce the following 2008 KSNH Grant recipients in the fields of Kentucky's natural history and biodiversity.

The **Bernadine Meyer Memorial Scholarship** grant in the amount of \$800 goes to Robert C. Johnson, a doctoral candidate at the University of Louisville. Robert's research is entitled "**Consequences of Food Choice in a Dominant Stream Invertebrate Isopod**". This proposal builds on some previous work partially funded through KSNH.

The **Woody Boebinger Memorial Scholarship** grant in the amount of \$750 goes to Tara Trammell, another doctoral candidate at the University of Louisville. Tara's research is entitled "**Modeling Ecosystem Services Provided by Wood Plant Communities Along Interstate Corridors in Louisville, Kentucky**".

**KSNH Research Grants** were also awarded to the following master's research students at **Eastern Kentucky University**:

- Julie Clark received \$450 toward her research entitled "**Vascular Flora at Breaks Interstate Park**".
- Michelle Guidugli received \$450 toward her research entitled "**Orientation and Timing Patterns of Ephemeral Pond-Breeding Amphibians**".

**KSNH Research Grants** were awarded to the following research students at the **University of Kentucky**:

- Anna Thomas, a masters candidate received \$450 toward her research entitled "**Faunistic Survey of Native**

and Invasive Slugs in Kentucky using Morphological and Molecular Techniques”.

- Tim Sesterhenn, a doctoral candidate received \$450 towards his research entitled “**Impacts of Non-lethal Injury on the Damselfly *Ischnura posita***”.

**KSNH Research Grants** were awarded to the following research students at the **University of Louisville**:

- Tyler Kilgore, an undergraduate biology major, received \$450 toward his research entitled “**In Situ Growth Experiments of Isopods Along an Urbanization Gradient in Louisville, Kentucky**”.
- Rodney Jonathan White, a doctoral candidate received \$450 toward his research entitled “**Riparian Soil Functions Along an Urban-rural and Groundwater Depth Gradient and Potential Impacts on Stream water Quality**”.

Congratulations to all of our KSNH 2008 grant recipients. KSNH can only proudly award these very important grants with your continued financial support. If you are interested in helping with the continued funding for our KSNH grants, please consider making a generous contribution to the **Bernadine Meyer, Woody Boebinger, or KSNH General Scholarship Funds**. Some contributors may wish to make arrangements through estates, trusts, or wills. KSNH will happily work with your attorney if this is your preferred method of giving. Regardless of the amount and how you wish to donate, please donate...KSNH depends on your generosity to continue this very important program.

**TODD COUNTY RESIDENT SENTENCED TO SIX MONTHS HOME INCARCERATION FOR POISONING DOGS, HAWKS, OWLS AND OTHER ANIMALS**

From a United States Department of Justice Press Release from August 21, 2008

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
United States Attorney David L. Huber  
Western District of Kentucky

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2008  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/kyw](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/kyw)

CONTACT: SANDY FOCKEN  
PHONE: (502) 582-5911  
FAX: (502) 582-5097

**TODD COUNTY RESIDENT SENTENCED TO SIX MONTHS HOME INCARCERATION FOR POISONING DOGS, HAWKS, OWLS AND OTHER ANIMALS**

BOWLING GREEN, KY - Donnie Halcomb, age 56, of 3634 Russellville Road, Allensville, Kentucky, in Todd County, was sentenced on August 20, 2008, to 6 months home incarceration in United States District Court, Bowling Green, Kentucky, for misdemeanor violations of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA Title 7, United States Code, Sections 136j and 1361) (4 counts) and the National Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA -title 16, United States Code, Sections 703 and 707), U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky announced today. E. Robert Goebel, Magistrate Judge, United States District Court, also sentenced Halcomb to 5 years probation following home incarceration. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system.** In addition, a fine of \$50,000 was imposed,

Halcomb had plead guilty to the charges on April 30, 2008, Both the FIFRA and MBTA charges embrace the same conduct; namely, lacing deer carcasses with a deadly pesticide (Carbofuran), not for use on crops as it was intended, but 10 poison coyotes. The result was the poisoning, of an area trafficked by neighboring farmers and hunters, of coyotes and dozens of other animals including dogs, opossums and migratory birds such as owls, hawks, and vultures. Dr. Chris Weis, a toxicologist for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, testified that Furadan was used in concentrations much greater than those recommended by the manufacturer and can cause nausea, headaches, vomiting and death in humans who come in to contact with the substance, even by touch.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Randy Ream, and it was investigated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources.

CHAPTER NEWS

**Falls of the Ohio Chapter News- Summer 2008 - Chris Bidwell, Chapter President:**

September – Our Fall Conference at Natural Bridge State Resort Park promises to be another great get-together for nature lovers. A lot of work and phone calls have been made to make it a great experience. Please support our organization by attending. The President and his contacts/assistants have put much effort into this project to make it attractive, informative, and interesting. Natural Bridge and the Red River Gorge area is a gem of a locale. Late September usually provides some very wonderful early fall scenics and wildflowers are still around. Bring your cameras and binoculars as birding is also fantastic. These State Conferences are a great way to meet other KSNH members and to share the fellowship that ties us all to the natural world. Besides our conferences, the state is blessed with many fall festivals and places to go to see the fall color changes. Mammoth Cave, Blanton Forest, Pine Mountain area, Rockcastle River area, Daniel Boone Forest, Pennyrile Forest, Big South Fork area, Land Between the Lakes, Carter Caves, and Jefferson County Forest are just a few places to see fall colors. You don't have to drive all day to see the wonder of fall. Enjoy our own back yard!

**KENTUCKY NATURALISTS' CALENDAR**  
(added as space allows)

**August 25–28, 2008: The Art of Botanical Illustration @ Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky.** 9 a.m.–4 p.m (daily). Certified Botanical Artists O.M. Braida-Chiusano and Leslie Ramsey present this in-depth, 4-day course on botanical illustration and watercolor painting in the French Court Tradition of pre-20th century master artists. Cost for four-day course: \$475 (\$450 for FOA) plus \$45 materials fee. For more information contact The Arboretum, 500 Alumni Drive, Lexington, KY 40503, or by phone at 859/257-9339 or go to their website at <http://www.ca.uky.edu/arboretum>.

**September 5, 2008: Volunteer Day @ Floracliff Nature Sanctuary.** 10:00 a.m. Volunteer activities usually involve removing exotic plants from the preserve as part of an ongoing effort to protect our native species. Other activities may involve trail work or general maintenance. Tools and snacks will be provided. For more information contact Floracliff Nature Sanctuary, P.O. Box Box 4006, Lexington, KY 40544, via phone at (859) 351-7770, via email at [floracliff@aol.com](mailto:floracliff@aol.com), or visit the website at <http://www.floracliff.org>.

**September 6, 2008: Canoeing and Birdwatching at the Falls of the Ohio.** Organized by the Jefferson Memorial Forest (event held at the Falls of the Ohio just minutes from downtown Louisville). 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Explore islands, look for shore birds and paddle the protected waters at Falls of the Ohio. All equipment will be provided. Bring a sack lunch. For ages 7 and up (children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian). Program meets at the Welcome Center. There is space for 18 participants, with a maximum of 12 adults. Reservations are required in advance. No space will be available for individuals showing up on the day of the program. Canoe programs are subject to change of dates or venues due to water conditions. Fee: \$10. For more information contact Jefferson Memorial Forest at (502) 368-5404 or via email at [forest@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:forest@louisvilleky.gov).

**September 6, 2008: Cherokee Park Volunteer Day - Cherokee Park, Louisville, KY.** 9:00 AM - 1200 PM. Olmsted Parks restoration activities. For more information contact Sarah Wolff, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, Olmsted Parks Conservancy at 502.432.2677 or on their website at <http://www.olmstedparks.org/conservancy/calendar.html>.

**September 8, 2008: Senior Bird Watching Program.** Organized by the Jefferson Memorial Forest (JMF) in Louisville. The Shawnee Park Program meets at the JMF Welcome Center. Participants may choose to meet at Shawnee Park. Please let us know when making your reservation so that you receive directions to the location. 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Free program teaching bird identification by sight as well as sound. program is guided by a JMF naturalist and consists of transportation to the various sites, and some short easy hikes. After you work up an appetite, participants are taken to lunch at local eateries. Participants are responsible for purchasing their own lunch. For more information contact Jefferson Memorial Forest at (502) 368-5404 or via email at [forest@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:forest@louisvilleky.gov).

**September 12, 2008: Evening Canoeing @ the Jefferson Memorial Forest (JMF) Welcome Center in Louisville.** 7 - 10:30 p.m. By the light of the full moon, experience the tranquility of the evening as you drift on 46-acre McNeely Lake. See animals as they emerge and begin foraging for food along the lake's edge. Be sure to wear bug repellent. Program

meets at the Welcome Center. There is space for 18 participants with a maximum of 12 adults. For ages 7 and up. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Reservations are required in advance. No space will be available for individuals showing up on the day of the program. Fee: \$10 per person.

**September 12-13, 2008: The Kentucky Association for Environmental Education (KAEE) Conference: “The Rhythm of Nature” @ Cumberland Falls State Park.** For more information write them at KAEE, PO Box 17494, Louisville, KY 40217-0494, or go to their website at <http://kentuckyassociationforenvironmentaleducation.org/>.

**September 13, 2008: Monarch Butterfly Migration Mysteries @ John James Audubon State Park - Audubon Museum.** 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Bid a farewell to the Monarch Butterflies migrating south for the winter. Meet at the Museum for a 45-minute indoor presentation. Next, carpool to the Sloughs Wildlife Management Area for some outdoor Monarch tagging on their migration to Mexico. The outdoor portion (2-3 hours) is weather dependent. Please dress for potentially marshy conditions. Although Monarch Tags and nets will be provided, bring your net if you would like. Staff Contact: Julie McDonald at 270-826-2247 or [juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov](mailto:juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov) Program Fee: \$3.00 per person.

**Saturday, September 13, 2008: Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants @ Floracliff Nature Sanctuary.** 1:00 p.m. Hike to Elk Lick Creek and discussion of ornamental plants that have become invasive in central Kentucky and a look at some natives that would make great alternatives in the garden. Fee is \$4 per person or \$10 per family. For more information contact Floracliff Nature Sanctuary, P.O. Box Box 4006, Lexington, KY 40544, via phone at (859) 351-7770, via email at [floracliff@aol.com](mailto:floracliff@aol.com), or visit the website at <http://www.floracliff.org>.

**September 19-20, 2008: 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Living Archaeology Weekend @ the Gladie Historic Site, Red River Gorge, Daniel Boone National Forest near Slade, KY.** United States Forest Service. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday; 10 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Native American Technology Demonstrations include atlatl and spear throwing, bow and arrow making, cooking, fire-building, baskets, potter, tanning, flint knapping, blowguns, and more! For more information contact Hope Crosbie via email at [hcrosbie@fs.fed.us](mailto:hcrosbie@fs.fed.us), by phone at (606) 663-8100 or go to the website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/heritage/livingarch.shtml>. Also of interest is [http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/districts/london/cliff\\_palace.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/districts/london/cliff_palace.shtml).

**September 20, 2008: Monarch Butterfly Migration Mysteries @ John James Audubon State Park - Audubon Museum.** 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Bid a farewell to the Monarch Butterflies migrating south for the winter. Meet at the Museum for a 45-minute indoor presentation. Next, we'll carpool to the Sloughs Wildlife Management Area for some outdoor Monarch tagging on their migration to Mexico. The outdoor portion (2-3 hours) is weather dependent. Please dress for potentially marshy conditions. Although Monarch Tags and nets will be provided, bring your net if you would like. Staff Contact: Julie McDonald at 270-826-2247 or [juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov](mailto:juliea.mcdonald@ky.gov) Program Fee: \$3.00 per person.

**September 20, 2008: Kentucky Conservation Committee Annual Meeting @ Blackacre Nature Preserve, Louisville, KY.** 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM with a post-conference tour of the Floyds Fork Corridor project from 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM. Coalition of environmental groups as well as individuals meet to work for sustainable use of renewable natural resources, prudent use of non-renewable resources, conservation and preservation of critical and unique areas, and a healthful environment for all Kentuckians. The theme of the meeting will be “Conserve Kentucky”. For more information contact KCC via phone at (859) 539-5231, email David Wicks at [wicks@bellsouth.net](mailto:wicks@bellsouth.net), visit the [KCC website](#) or write to them at Kentucky Conservation Committee, P.O. Box 1152, Frankfort, KY 40602.

**September 20, 2008: Cherokee Park Volunteer Day - Cherokee Park, Louisville, KY.** 9:00 AM - 1200 PM. Olmsted Parks restoration activities. For more information contact Sarah Wolff, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, Olmsted Parks Conservancy at 502.432.2677 or on their website at <http://www.olmstedparks.org/conservancy/calendar.html>.

**September 20-21, 2008: Falls Fossil Festival @ the Falls of the Ohio State Park** in Clarksville, IN (right across the river from Louisville). Sat: 0900 – 1800, Sun: 1000 – 1700. For more information go to their website at: <http://www.fallsoftheohio.org> or contact Alan Goldstein, 201 West Riverside Drive, Clarksville, IN 47129, (812) 280-9970, [park@fallsoftheohio.org](mailto:park@fallsoftheohio.org).

**September 26-28, 2008: Kentucky Society of Natural History (KSNH) 2008 Fall Meeting @ Natural Bridge State Resort Park, Slade, Kentucky.** For more information see the agenda in this issue.

**September 26-28, 2008: Kentucky Ornithological Society's Fall Meeting. Dale Hollow Lake State Resort Park.** For more information contact KOS at P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY 41005 or via their website at <http://www.biology.eku.edu/kos/default.htm>.

**Saturday, September 27, 2008: Aromatic Plants of Floracliff @ Floracliff Nature Sanctuary.** 1:00 p.m. We'll use our sense of smell to discover fragrant plants along the trail and talk about why they have these characteristics. Fee is \$4 per person or \$10 per family. For more information contact Floracliff Nature Sanctuary, P.O. Box Box 4006, Lexington, KY 40544, via phone at (859) 351-7770, via email at [floracliff@aol.com](mailto:floracliff@aol.com), or visit the website at <http://www.floracliff.org>.

**October 4, 2008: Cherokee Park Volunteer Day - Cherokee Park, Louisville, KY.** 9:00 AM - 1200 PM. Olmsted Parks restoration activities. For more information contact Sarah Wolff, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, Olmsted Parks Conservancy at 502.432.2677 or on their website at <http://www.olmstedparks.org/conservancy/calendar.html>.

**October 18, 2008: Cherokee Park Volunteer Day - Cherokee Park, Louisville, KY.** 9:00 AM - 1200 PM. Olmsted Parks restoration activities. For more information contact Sarah Wolff, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, Olmsted Parks Conservancy at 502.432.2677 or on their website at <http://www.olmstedparks.org/conservancy/calendar.html>.

**October 31-November 1, 2008: The 2008 Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Academy of Science @ the University of Kentucky Campus in Lexington, KY.** For more information call 859-227-2837, write them at KAS, PO Box 22579, Lexington, KY 40522-2579, or visit their website at <http://www.kyacademyofscience.org>.

**November 1, 2008: Cherokee Park Volunteer Day - Cherokee Park, Louisville, KY.** 9:00 AM - 1200 PM. Olmsted Parks restoration activities. For more information contact Sarah Wolff, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, Olmsted Parks Conservancy at 502.432.2677 or on their website at <http://www.olmstedparks.org/conservancy/calendar.html>.

**November 2-3, 2008: The 2008 Annual Meeting of the Society of Kentucky Lepidopterists (SKL) @ the University of Kentucky Department of Entomology, Lexington, KY.** For more information contact Jeffrey Marcus, Department of Biology, Western Kentucky University, 1906 College Heights Blvd #11080, Bowling Green KY 42101-1080 or via phone at (270) 745-2043 or viw the SKL website at <http://bioweb.wku.edu/faculty/Marcus/KYLeps.html>.

**November 10, 2008: Reptiles and Amphibians of Otter Creek Park @ the Nature Center, Otter Creek Park, 850 Otter Creek Park Road, Brandenburg, KY 40108.** 11 a.m. - Noon. Meet the lizards, snakes, turtles, salamanders, frogs and toads that call Otter Creek Park home. The program is free. For more information contact KSNH member and Park Naturalist Bryan Lewis at (502) 942-3211.

**November 14-15: KENTUCKY NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY 2008 FALL CONFERENCE @ Rotunda Room in Mammoth Cave National Park Hotel.** Join KNPS for lectures by botanist and author Randy Seymour (WILDFLOWERS OF MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK) about the field work for his book, by botanist Dwayne Estes, Ph.D. on "Connections between the Kentucky and Tennessee Flora: species that occur near the Kentucky border in Tennessee that Kentuckians should watch out for", and for Saturday field trips. For more information, contact KNPS at P.O. Box 1343, Richmond, KY 40476, or on their website at <http://www.knps.org/>. You may need to call the MCNP Hotel for reservations at 270-758-2225.

**November 15, 2008: Cherokee Park Volunteer Day - Cherokee Park, Louisville, KY.** 9:00 AM - 1200 PM. Olmsted Parks restoration activities. For more information contact Sarah Wolff, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, Olmsted Parks Conservancy at 502.432.2677 or on their website at <http://www.olmstedparks.org/conservancy/calendar.html>.

**November 29, 2008: Shawnee Park Volunteer Day @ Shawnee Park, Louisville, KY.** 9:00 AM - 1200 PM. Olmsted Parks restoration activities. Meet at the South Concourse near the Lily Pond. For more information contact Sarah Wolff, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, Olmsted Parks Conservancy at 502.432.2677 or on their website at <http://www.olmstedparks.org/conservancy/calendar.html>.

**December 6, 2008: Cherokee Park Volunteer Day - Cherokee Park, Louisville, KY.** 9:00 AM - 1200 PM. Olmsted Parks restoration activities. For more information contact Sarah Wolff, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, Olmsted Parks Conservancy at 502.432.2677 or on their website at <http://www.olmstedparks.org/conservancy/calendar.html>.

**December 13, 2008: Shawnee Park Volunteer Day @ Shawnee Park, Louisville, KY.** 9:00 AM - 1200 PM. Olmsted Parks restoration activities. Meet at the South Concourse near the Lily Pond. For more information contact Sarah Wolff,

Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, Olmsted Parks Conservancy at 502.432.2677 or on their website at <http://www.olmstedparks.org/conservancy/calendar.html>.

**December 20, 2008: Cherokee Park Volunteer Day - Cherokee Park, Louisville, KY.** 9:00 AM - 1200 PM. Olmsted Parks restoration activities. For more information contact Sarah Wolff, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, Olmsted Parks Conservancy at 502.432.2677 or on their website at <http://www.olmstedparks.org/conservancy/calendar.html>.

## **2009:**

**February 26-27, 2009: The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Chapter of The Wildlife Society (KCTWS) @ Barren River State Park.** The Keynote Speaker for the meeting is Dr. Bruce Leopold, President of The Wildlife Society. Additional Guest Speakers are Dr. Virginia Burkett, US Geological Survey (USGS) Chief Scientist for Global Change Research, and Charles Baxter, USGS Senior Advisor for Strategic Habitat Conservation. For more information see their website at <http://joomla.wildlife.org/Kentucky/?CFID=15031982&CFTOKEN=65676678>, or by phone at 502-695-0468 (President Brent Harrel).

**April 4, 2009: The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Bluebird Society @ Shakertown, KY (near Harrodsburg).**

**April 24-26, 2009: Kentucky Society of Natural History (KSNH) 2009 Spring Meeting @ Pine Mountain Settlement School, 36 Highway 510, Pine Mountain, KY 40810**

**September 25-27, 2009: Kentucky Ornithological Society's Fall Meeting.** Mammoth Cave National Park. For more information contact KOS at P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY 41005 or via their website at <http://www.biology.eku.edu/kos/default.htm>.

**Fall 2009 TBA: Kentucky Society of Natural History 2009 Fall Meeting @ Reelfoot Lake.**

## **2010:**

**April 23-25, 2010: Kentucky Ornithological Society's Fall Meeting.** Jenny Wiley State Resort Park. For more information contact KOS at P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY 41005 or via their website at <http://www.biology.eku.edu/kos/default.htm>.

**Spring 2010 TBA: Kentucky Society of Natural History 2010 Spring Meeting @ Shawnee State Park, Ohio.**

**Fall 2010 TBA: Kentucky Society of Natural History 2010 Fall Meeting @ Shakertown National Historic Landmark**

## **2011:**

**Spring 2010 TBA: Kentucky Society of Natural History 2011 Spring Meeting @ Shawn Carter Caves State Park**

**Fall 2010 TBA: Kentucky Society of Natural History 2011 Fall Meeting @ Cumberland Falls State Resort Park**

## **BUY STUFF & SUPPORT KSNH!!!**

**Merchandise:** KSNH has a number of items ranging from window clings, stickers, and apparel. Plan now for the people on your Christmas list! We have many t-shirts available. Due to the popularity of Dan Dourson's "Kentucky's Own" design, it is once again available in short and long sleeve versions. For those who like fall colors, we have shirts with leaves showing their autumn glory. These are priced reasonably at \$11 for the short sleeve version and \$13 for the long sleeve shirts. There are still a few of the popular ball caps (\$14) that have our logo embroidered on them and the sweatshirt jackets (\$27) that also have the embroidered logo and the fall leaf design. These items available for purchase at the regular Falls of the Ohio Chapter meetings and at our statewide conferences.

The mission of the **Kentucky Society of Natural History** is to actively promote study and interest in Kentucky's rich natural heritage throughout the Commonwealth. Members are typically interested in a broad spectrum of natural sciences and related fields. Among the more prominent activities of the society, are the annual Spring and Fall Conferences, selection of a "Naturalist of the Year", nature photography contests, and a variety of knowledgeable speakers and field trips. We invite anyone who shares our interests to join us. For membership information or the address of the nearest affiliated chapter, please contact:

**KSNH, P.O. Box 72777, Louisville, KY 40272-0777, or visit our website <<http://www.ksnh.org>> for the membership form.**

**Membership dues are: Individual \$15, Family \$25, Full Time Student \$5, Life: \$300.**

**The Kentucky Society of Natural History is an official 501(c) (3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization** which was formed in 1939, and incorporated in 1943 in Louisville, Kentucky. All contributions to THE KENTUCKY SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY are tax-deductible to the full extent of income tax laws.

Published Quarterly, The Kentucky Naturalist News is the official newsletter of KSNH. Unsolicited contributions are encouraged. Please send articles to: Barry Nichols, KNN Editor, P. O. Box 21182, Louisville, KY 40221. You can also email newsletter submissions by sending them to [news@ksnh.org](mailto:news@ksnh.org).

**Kentucky Naturalist News Deadlines (plan on at least 4 weeks from deadline for newsletter):**

**Spring newsletter submissions are due February 1. KNN will be sent in March.**

**Summer newsletter submissions are due May 1. KNN will be sent in June.**

**Fall newsletter submissions are due August 1. KNN will be sent in September.**

**Winter newsletter submissions are due November 1. KNN will be sent in December.**

Citation builder at: <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/lobo2/citationbuilder/citationbuilder.php>.



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