



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

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Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

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For Immediate Release

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8th Annual Marvin Schilling Memorial Butterfly Count and Prairie Pollinator Weekend Event at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve



You are invited to join in a fun day of citizen science field research by counting butterflies in the Flint Hills on Saturday, June 18, 2016 and learn about plant pollinators. The butterfly survey is named in honor of prominent biologist/naturalist Marvin Schilling, who was born and raised in Chase County. The butterfly census will take place on and near the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. **No prior experience in identifying butterflies is necessary.** To participate in the count, please RSVP to 620-273-8494 (then hit 0) or email pmatile@tnc.org. If you require accessibility assistance, please let us know when you RSVP.

Participants are to meet at 8:30 a.m. and/or 1 p.m. at the preserve's historic stone barn located on KS Hwy 177 north of the main entrance to the preserve visitor center. Counts will occur in small groups led by experienced identifiers.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Suggested attire includes hiking boots, hat, and long pants. If you have them, please bring binoculars, digital camera, butterfly identification book (s), sunscreen, and insect spray.

The fun continues all weekend with special presentations and activities on both Saturday and Sunday, June 18th and 19th. Take advantage of plant dyeing and wildflower painting demonstrations, children's prairie bingo, children's table and plant detective activity, bee talk, quilting with wildflowers presentation, medicinal plant talk, and scheduled wildflower hikes for both children and adults. Learn about prairie pollinators, pocket gardens, and what you can do to help the Monarch butterfly. Free butterfly garden seeds will be given away all weekend. A full schedule of events will be posted on our website at www.nps.gov/tapr.

Come out to the preserve and share in the joy and beauty of the prairie, while learning how you can make a difference as you Find Your Park at the preserve.

In celebration of the National Park Service 2016 Centennial, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve invites you to discover the meaning of national parks, how your park inspires you - both in personal connections and memorable experiences. Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway) and is a unique public/private partnership between the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy. For more information, visit the preserve's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/NPS.TallgrassPrairie>, website at www.nps.gov/tapr, email tapr_interpretation@nps.gov, or call the preserve at (620) 273-8494. To learn more about The Nature Conservancy in Kansas, visit the Conservancy's website at www.nature.org/Kansas or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TNCKansas>.

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