



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

2480B Ks. Hwy 177
Strong City, KS 66869

620-273-8494 phone
620-273-8066 fax

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

June 5, 2014

For Immediate Release

Kristen Hase, (620) 273-6034 ext. 231

Paula Matile, (620) 272-6034 ext. 261

6th Annual Marvin Schwilling Memorial Butterfly Count at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve



Photo Ken Barnard

You are invited to join in a fun day of citizen science field research by counting butterflies in the Flint Hills on Saturday, June 28, 2014. The butterfly survey is named in honor of prominent biologist/naturalist Marvin Schwilling, who was born and raised in Chase County. The butterfly census will take place on and near the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

No prior experience in identifying butterflies is necessary. To participate, please RSVP to 620-273-8494 (then hit 0) or email kansas@tnc.org for a head count to reserve a free lunch. Walk-ins are welcome to participate, however, lunch will not be provided. If you require accessibility assistance, please let us know when you RSVP.

Butterfly counts will run from approximately 9:00 a.m. to noon and again from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a lunch break between the morning and afternoon sessions. Participants can join for the whole day or just a half day – either morning or afternoon. The free lunch will be provided only to those who register for the event by RSVP regardless of whether a half- or full-day participant. During the lunch break is a time when groups may compare notes, share adventures, and switch butterfly spotting locations.

Participants are to meet at 8:30 a.m. and again at noon, at the Visitor Center north parking lot near the big elm tree – there will be directional signage. After a brief introduction, participants will divide into groups led by one or more volunteers with strong butterfly identification skills. Transportation to counting locations is by car-pooling in private vehicles and will be no further than seven miles one way from the Visitor Center. Please bring binoculars, water, sunscreen, insect spray, digital camera, and a butterfly identification book(s). Suggested attire includes hiking boots, hat, and long pants.

Visitors and butterfly counters alike are invited to experience the new interpretive exhibits at the Visitor Center. Using many works by local photographers, the exhibits explore the lifecycle and beauty of the tallgrass prairie flora and fauna through nature's four seasons. Exhibits include two dioramas, hands-on activities, grass samples, 10 foot high crawl-through soil core, audible bird sounds, tactile wall mural, maps, rock samples, and other orientation displays.

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>.

-NPS-

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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