



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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Prairie Pollinators: Wildflowers and Butterflies Celebration at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve



Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is holding a special Prairie Pollinators: Wildflowers and Butterflies event for families on Father's Day weekend, June 18-19, 2016. The event is in celebration of the National Park Service's centennial as well as the preserve's 20th anniversary. The preserve has a full range of special events and activities throughout the year to celebrate these two milestones.

The event begins at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning with the 8th annual Marvin Schilling Memorial Butterfly Count and lasts until 4 p.m. Pollinator and Wildflower event hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The weekend will offer numerous activities for adults and children to learn more about Kansas' natural history. Admission is free and the event will be held rain or shine. Bus tours into the prairie will be given by a park ranger both days at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tours are first-come, first-served, but a free reservation can be made by calling the visitor center at 620-273-8494 (hit 0).

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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

More than 20 volunteers from the Kansas Native Plant Society, Dyck Arboretum, Kansas Biological Survey, The Nature Conservancy, Great Plains Nature Center, Monarch Watch, and Oklahoma State University will provide demonstrations, presentations, walking tours, and children's activities. Most events will take place in the 1882 historic limestone barn. Weekend highlights include butterfly and bee talks, gardening with prairie plants, plant dye demonstrations, wildflower painting, quilting with wildflowers, and a children's activity area. See the list of the programs for Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday, June 18, 2016

8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2:30 p.m.	Butterfly Identification and Count
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Plant Dyes Demonstrations, Wildflower Painting Demonstrations, Children's Prairie Bingo, Children's Table and Plant Detective Activity
9:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.	Guided Wildflower Walks
10 a.m.	Attracting Pollinators with Native Plants
10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.	Children's Prairie Hikes
10:30 a.m.	Pollinators and Management Practices: What We Know and What We Need to Know
11 a.m. and 1 p.m.	Prairie Bus Tour
1 p.m.	Prairie Pocket Gardens: Stewards of Milkweeds, Monarchs and Minds
1:30 p.m.	Bartending for Butterflies
2:30 p.m.	You Can Help Monarch Butterflies

Sunday, June 19, 2016

9 a.m. – 4 pm.	Plant Dyes Demonstrations, Wildflower Painting Demonstrations, Children's Prairie Bingo, Children's Table and Plant Detective Activity
9:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.	Guided Wildflower Walks
10 a.m., 12 p.m., and 3 p.m.	Medicinal Plant Walks
10:30 a.m.	Common Kansas Butterflies – Color slides
10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.	Children's Prairie Hikes
11 a.m. and 1 p.m.	Prairie Bus Tour
12:00 p.m.	Quilting with Wildflowers
1:30 p.m.	Medicinal Prairie Plants – History and Recent Findings
2 p.m.	Patch-Burn Grazing Promotes Pollinator Diversity on Flint Hills Ranches
2:30 p.m.	Bees of the Flint Hills: Explore the Diversity of Bees in our Area
3 p.m.	Prairie Fires: Managing Fire and Grazing for the Benefit of Pollinators
3:30 p.m.	Considering Pollinators in Managing Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve: from Prairie Restoration to Bison

Visitors can also explore over 40 miles of hiking trails, a visitor center with orientation film and exhibits, an 1881 limestone mansion, 1882 limestone barn, the 1882 Lower Fox Creek one-room schoolhouse, or take one of the regularly scheduled bus tours for a close-up look at prairie wildflowers and magnificent views of the tallgrass prairie. 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.

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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