WALK ACROSS KENTUCKY UPDATE (PART 1)

The Shawnee Hills Meadow: from Grass to Glory

Michael Patton, Native Plants Team

We believe the Shawnee Hills Meadow in the Walk Across Kentucky collection is deserving of a progress report. Depicted above, the meadow is a showstopping display of native plants and grasses. The meadow is located south of the Visitor Center and can be accessed by the two-mile paved path through the Walk Across Kentucky. The maps below show (top) the physiographic regions of the state and (bottom) a similarly colored map showing where the regions are represented on the grounds of The Arboretum. The Shawnee Hills region is shown in purple on both maps.

Dr. Tim Phillips (Assoc. Professor in UK’s Department of Plant and Soil Sciences) advised how to best prepare the ground for the meadow. Starting in summer 2014, three and a half acres of turf were sprayed with herbicide. This reduced competition for the native grasses and flowers to be planted after the turf died. Roundstone Native Seed Company provided seed collected from the Shawnee Hills region of the state (seven species of grasses and 18 species of wildflowers) and drilled them into the dead turf.

More plants and species have been added in succeeding years by collecting and propagating species, thus bringing the total number of herbaceous species to 29.

Over time, succession has occurred and some species have become more widely spread than others. This, along with flowering times, makes certain plant species appear more boldly at different times of the year. In late spring, plains coreopsis (Coreopsis tinctoria) is seen throughout the meadow, creating a sea of yellow. In summer, perennials such as purple coneflower (Echinacea purpurea), blue wild indigo (Baptisia australis), spotted bee balm (Monarda punctata) and a variety of milkweed species (Asclepias spp.) cover the created landscape. By the end of summer, grasses like Indian grass (Sorghastrum nutans) and little blue-stem (Schizachyrium scoparium) flower then turn a bronzed-gold, thus providing visual delight for the remainder of the year.

Like all meadows on our grounds, the Shawnee Hills Meadow is subject to an annual prescribed burn. The burn removes dead plant material and makes space for the perennials that will resurface in the spring. Burning the meadow also has the benefit of cycling the nutrients from the dead plants back into the soil.

(continued on Page 4)
**Director’s Message**

**Molly Davis**

I am happy to tell you that many positive things are happening at The Arboretum. One of the most exciting is that Emily Ellingson has arrived and started work (see article on this page). I want to thank Robert Castlen for so ably managing the care of the Walk Across Kentucky collection since Todd Rounsaville’s departure in April.

We hope you will enjoy the first of a continuing series of articles about the Walk Across Kentucky. This issue (see cover page) includes an update on the Shawnee Hills Meadow by former Native Plants team member Michael Patton. The winter issue will focus on the Wetlands in the Mississippi Embayment. Future newsletter articles will include articles on each of the Kentucky regions.

Thanks to the efforts of Jesse Dahl, improvements to the Fragrance Garden are in the process of being made with a $9,000 Donovan grant award. See Page 4 for details.

Our Point of Sale (POS) system and expanded gift shop are great additions. I thank Dayna Baston for her efforts to improve our admission procedure for the Kentucky Children’s Garden and to increase revenues through the expanded gift shop in the Visitor Center. Don’t forget that Friends of The Arboretum receive a 10 percent discount on gift shop items.

Katie Morrison is Lead Educator in the Kentucky Children’s Garden (KCG). She is ably assisted by two Department of Horticulture interns, Madeleine Wamsley and Ryan Welleford. Katie’s presence in the KCG means that Jackie Gallimore can devote more attention to developing educational programs for families and children throughout The Arboretum. Jackie and other Arboretum staff are developing a public survey to guide our educational programs (see Page 6) and I hope you will participate in the survey.

With Carol Vaughan’s assistance, we continue to make strides in welcoming and incorporating volunteers year round (see Page 5).

The Friends of The Arboretum are planning the third annual Party for the Pumpkins Fall Family Festival on October 14. You won’t want to miss it! The event will highlight the fall season and is held in support of the CAMPAIGN for the Dorotha Smith Oatts Visitor Center expansion and renovation.

**Welcome, Emily Ellingson**

On September 1, we welcomed Emily Ellingson to our staff as the Curator and Native Plants Collection Manager.

Emily is a native Minnesotan and a plant lover. She holds a B.A. in Biology and Environmental Studies from St. Olaf College and an M.S. in Applied Plant Science and Museum Studies from The University of Minnesota. Her master’s research focused on the genetic diversity and conservation potential of eastern hemlock in Minnesota.

Emily started her career in plants working for the U.S. Forest Service doing botany surveys in Washington State. She went on to serve as a Maine Conservation Corps/AmeriCorps Environmental Educator at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay, ME, where she managed their children’s garden and youth and family programs. Emily has interned in several public gardens across the country, including the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University in Boston, MA, Filoli in Woodside, CA, and the Polly Hill Arboretum in West Tisbury, MA. She is particularly interested in conservation, collections-based education and research, and public horticulture. She admits to being excited to start working at The Arboretum!

Thank you to all of our Friends for your support and efforts on behalf of The Arboretum. Finally, please remember that the Friends Annual Meeting will be Wednesday, November 15, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. at the E. S. Good Barn. This will be a wonderful opportunity to catch up with Friends.

Thanks to all of our great staff whose talents and dedication never cease to amaze me, and to our faithful volunteers and Friends whose willingness to go the extra mile makes all the difference!
Hello, Friends!

Nancy McNally, Friends President

It was wonderful to see so many Friends and their guests at our first Friends on the Farm Tomato Celebration at UK’s South Farm on August 16, 2017. It was a perfect summer evening for visiting with Friends, exploring the amazing South Farm and tasting the freshly harvested, delicious tomato samples. Our hosts at South Farm—Mark Williams, Steve Diver and Krista Jacobsen—couldn’t have been more welcoming, and we thank them and the Department of Horticulture for a great event! The food and music were absolutely delightful, and we look forward to our next visit to the farm!

Coming in October is the 3rd annual Party for the Pumpkins Fall Family Festival on Saturday, October 14 from 2 to 6 p.m. The 2017 Festival will feature creative pumpkin activities and crafts, live raptors and creatures throughout the gardens. New this year is the Pumpkin Walk throughout the gardens showcasing hundreds of carved and decorated pumpkins. And the Parade of Scarecrows and giant Straw Maze will be back! This is the perfect venue to celebrate Fall and introduce new families, students and visitors of all ages to The Arboretum. Fundraising proceeds from the Party for the Pumpkins will again benefit the CAMPAIGN for the Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitor Center expansion and renovation. We appreciate our many volunteers and generous sponsors for making the Party for the Pumpkins Fall Family Festival possible! We promise you will have the best afternoon of outdoor pumpkin fun!

Thank you for continuing your Friends of The Arboretum Membership. I hope you have taken advantage of the many membership benefits while traveling and gardening this year. Please consider an Annual Friends Membership as you are planning your holiday gifts. What a wonderful way to introduce your friends, neighbors or business associates to The Arboretum while supporting the continued growth of the gardens and the many programs offered.

And be sure to mark your calendars for November 15 for our Annual Friends Meeting at the E. S. Good Barn at 5:30 p.m. Thank you for your continued support and see you soon at The Arboretum.

The Friends of The Arboretum present

3rd Annual Party for the Pumpkins
Fall Family Festival
Saturday, October 14, 2017 from 2 to 6 p.m.
(please note, KCG doesn’t open until 2:00 p.m. on Oct. 14)
$7 per person (ages 2 and up)
$5 per person (ages 2 and up) for KCG members (must show card)
Park & ride from UK’s Orange Lot on University Drive

New this year!
Purchase tickets in ADVANCE at the Visitor Center starting October 2, 2017! (During normal Visitor Center hours).

We accept cash, check, VISA or Mastercard.

Shown above are some of the photographs taken by Sally Horowitz at the Friends on the Farm Tomato Celebration at UK’s South Farm on August 16, 2017.
ON THE GROUNDS

Gardening with Fragrance
Jesse Dahl, Horticulturist

The Arboretum was successful in its academic year 2016-2017 submittal for project proposals to the Herman Lee and Nell Stuart Donovan Memorial Endowment. Qualifying projects were to “provide for the creation of an atmosphere of culture and enrich educational opportunities by developing an appreciation of culture and beauty in the environment in which students live and study” (https://uknow.uky.edu/campus-news/donovan-trust-seeks-funding-proposals).

Our proposal was to add to and update the Fragrance Garden (the two rectangular beds near the Visitor Center). We were notified in July that we had received $9,000 for our project, and we have already made substantial progress.

New plantings to be added include herbs and fragrant perennials and a collection of massed multicolored heirloom rugosa roses whose extremely fragrant roses are cold and drought tolerant, as well as resistant to black spot disease, rose growers’ most common problem. In addition to their wonderful scent while in bloom, they produce ornamental edible fruit in the fall and winter and are an abundant source of vitamin C. The garden will have an informal backdrop of fragrant evergreens [Bayberry (Myrica pensylvanica) and Grey Owl Juniper (Juniperus virginiana 'Grey Owl')] and deciduous shrubs [Chaste Tree (Vitex agnus-castus), Korean Lilac (Syringa meyeri) and Bristly Locust (Robinia hispida)].

The central grassed walkway is now lined with columnar arborvitae that add height and color and a short hedge of common sage that produces purple blooms on grayish-silver foliage. The end of the grassed walkway will terminate at a stately cedar trellis. Most of the plants have been planted and the trellis is to be constructed in a few weeks. We would like to thank the Donovan Trust advisory committee and the President’s Office for the opportunity to renovate this special area of the Arboretum, and invite you to come and see the changes and awaken your sense of smell to the scents of juniper, basil, roses, oregano and more!

Shawnee Hills Meadow
(continued from page 1)

The prescribed burn is often conducted with the help of the native plant volunteer group. An unburned area is left to act as habitat for overwintering insects and other animal species.

The Shawnee Hills Meadow is the largest prairie in The Arboretum and certainly one of the crown jewels of the Shawnee Hills region in the Walk Across Kentucky. It offers visitors a colorful display year round, provides habitat and food for a multitude of different species of animals and supplies The Arboretum with an ecologically and visually impressive plant display.

A full list of herbaceous species in the meadow can be found on the Arboretum Explorer site. Go to uky.arboretumexplorer.org. From the Search tab, go to the Location drop-down menu and select SH-1.01 Wildflower Meadow.

Solar Eclipse Event
Jackie Gallimore, Children’s Education Coordinator

The Arboretum hosted a Solar Eclipse Celebration on August 21, 2017. Over 1,200 community members joined us to watch this captivating celestial performance. The first 100 participants were given solar glasses. We also distributed 50 pairs of glasses to share, marked with a neon dot so that participants knew to share them.

With the help of wonderful volunteers, activities included making pinhole cameras, solar clocks and shade drawings, as well as a demonstration on the science behind solar eclipses.

Of course, the star of the show was the eclipse itself. At maximum coverage, hundreds of visitors strewn across the grounds all looked up to see our sun barely peeking out from behind the moon (with solar glasses, of course!). At the peak of the eclipse, the temperature dropped and the sultry sunny afternoon turned cooler and, if you listened closely, you could even hear the crickets. The trees also got in on the action, showing little crescents in their shadows. It was such a joy to see so many people interested in a natural phenomenon, and we were happy to have them celebrate it here with us!
Hello Volunteers!

Carol Vaughan

In keeping with recent revisions of volunteer policy, all potential volunteers are required to attend what we consider to be a brief but useful orientation after they complete a volunteer application. Orientation includes an introduction to The Arboretum and discussion of available work for volunteers. From that point, applications are given to appropriate staff members who contact and schedule a meeting with potential volunteers either individually or as a group, depending on the jobs being discussed. The Arboretum receives volunteer applications throughout the year, and some volunteer jobs are year round, while other posts are seasonal. All volunteers are trained and supervised by Arboretum staff. While we already have wonderful volunteers, we always have need for more! Thursdays (year round as long as weather permits) from 10 a.m. to noon our Native Plants staff and volunteers gather to maintain the Walk Across Kentucky and The Arboretum Woods. The Kentucky Children’s Garden needs greeters at their gate during operational hours (April through October). On the first Wednesday of the month, from May through October, Garden Heroes meet from 9 a.m. to noon to assist our Horticulturist in caring for The Arboretum gardens. And there is always a need for additional assistance at each special event, like Arbor Day, Party for the Pumpkins, Addie’s Day, and others. We hope you’ll consider volunteering at The Arboretum! Plans are in place to recognize our faithful volunteers. Saturday, November 11, 2017, starting at 10 a.m. at the E. S. Good Barn on UK’s campus, we will provide food and fellowship and recognition of volunteer talents. Maybe there will even be some laughter! If you are our volunteer, please plan to attend and let us serve you! Email invites will be circulated soon, but you can also respond now by sending an email to Arboretum@uky.edu. Thanks again to all for your help!

Volunteer of the Quarter

Carol Vaughan

A mother’s influence is paramount. This statement is true with Sue Fosson, who grew up in Lexington watching her mother, Betty Stewart, garden. While images of her mother planting, weeding and gathering percolated in her mind, the idea soon blossomed into reality as Sue fell in love with gardening. While gardening has been a lifelong pursuit, Sue’s interest peaked when she and her husband spent time in Great Britain in the 1970s and 80s. She returned to Lexington inspired and renewed by the beautiful gardens of London. Today, Sue and her husband live near Versailles, where they enjoy caring for vegetables, flower gardens and fruit and nut trees. As with most successful gardeners, her freezer is stocked with fruits and vegetables she has processed and preserved. Those who don’t appreciate gardening might view such activities as laborious, but to Sue, they are a labor of love!

Sue has also followed in her mother’s footsteps in volunteering at The Arboretum. Since retiring from UK in 2001, Sue has volunteered in many capacities, including hospitality, lecture and volunteer committees, and as a volunteer receptionist in the Visitor Center. If you attended an Arboretum event any time up to this year, you probably benefitted from her volunteerism, as she was chair of hospitality and always found a way to coordinate delicious refreshments with the help of the cooking skills of other wonderful volunteers. In addition to her volunteer work, Sue is a member of the Friends of the Arboretum. She and her family have a deep commitment to The Arboretum and recognize its role in education for all ages and the unique opportunity it provides for visitors to enjoy nature. Her vision for The Arboretum is for it to continue to remain beautiful and be an oasis and a jewel in the middle of Lexington.

Sue graduated from Western Kentucky University. Her career path eventually led to the Office of Dean of Student Affairs in the College of Medicine. While working with students and faculty, Sue realized a great deficit in the lives of busy medical students and began working on incorporating for them a program of humanities. Fast-forward a few years, and today, the Sue Fosson Spring Humanities Festival is an annual event at the Singletary Center on UK’s campus. It is comprised of musical entertainment by students, faculty, residents and staff of the UK Chandler Medical Center.

In addition to gardening, Sue enjoys international travel, attending and participating in church activities, playing tennis and spending time with her family. Asked for a parting comment, Sue provided an appropriate and thought-provoking statement. She said, “The Arboretum was built and sustained by volunteers, with a small employed staff. To keep The Arboretum maintained, please consider joining the Friends of The Arboretum and seek out volunteer opportunities that are compatible with your skills and interests.” Congratulations to Sue Fosson, The Arboretum’s Volunteer of the Quarter! And, thank you, Sue, for your investment of time, talent, energy, encouragement and skill.

Native Plants Volunteers

Cold temperatures and other weather conditions can impact this year-round volunteer activity. Please be sure to check your email (if you are a regular participant, the Native Plants Team should have your email address) or call the Visitor Center to see if the volunteers will be working.

Thank you, Native Plants Volunteers, for your efforts! You make such a valuable contribution to the Walk Across Kentucky collection and the work of the Native Plants staff!
FAMILY PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Celebrating the Seasons – Amazing Autumn
October 6 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Explore the seasonal changes of fall with the whole family at this fun event in the Kentucky Children’s Garden. There will be booths with hands-on activities hosted by local organizations and volunteers. During the event, admission to the KCG allows guests to access all of the planned activities until 1:00 p.m. The KCG will remain open until 5:00 p.m. after the event.

Education Survey
An education survey is being developed to help Arboretum staff plan education and programming to meet our visitors’ interests and to maximize use of our resources. A link to the online survey will be sent to everyone for whom we have an email address. If you don’t receive the monthly Eblast from Janet Cabaniss, it means we don’t have your address (or that you have opted out of receiving email from us). If you are interested in receiving the survey and wish to join the Eblast list, please send your email address to Janet (janet.cabaniss@uky.edu) by October 16, 2017.

KENTUCKY CHILDREN’S GARDEN (KCG)

KCG 2017 Fall Hours
August 31 - October 29
Thursday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
CLOSED:
Monday through Wednesday and on UK home football game days (September 9, 23 and 30; October 7 and 28).

Daily in the KCG
Each day the KCG is open, there is educational programming at 10:30 a.m. (except Sunday), 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
The model trains run from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. (except Sunday), 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Pricing
Daily admission is $3 per person or $10 for a family of up to five people. Children UNDER 2 are free.

Available starting December 1, 2017
A Kentucky Children’s Garden season membership makes a great gift for the holidays.
The 2018 season will start late March and run through October, 2018.
A membership includes admission for up to five guests on each visit.
$90 ($75 for Friends of The Arboretum)
See form, Page 7.

KCG Member Appreciation Party
As a special thank you for purchasing a season pass to the Kentucky Children’s Garden, we will host a Member Appreciation Party in the KCG on Sunday, October 22, 2017 from 10 a.m. to noon.
Activities will include a photo booth, picture frame making, planting a seed to take home and putting the raised beds ‘to bed’ for the winter. The KCG will close from noon to 1 p.m. for clean up. We encourage you to bring a picnic to enjoy outside the KCG and meet other members.
Take advantage of your membership benefits and bring up to four guests with you for this special occasion!

Junior Master Gardener Camp
Congratulations to all of our new Junior Master Gardeners who participated in camp in June! We had a fun-filled week of learning and hands-on activities. A special thank you to Master Gardeners Debbie Johnson and Jeanna Jorden for their commitment and help during this camp!

Another Eagle Scout is Born
Tyler Coolbear renewed the supply of tree blocks for the Kentucky Children’s Garden in fulfillment of his Eagle Scout project requirement. All of the little engineers have been enjoying the fruits of his labor this summer.

StoryWalk
The StoryWalk is a service of the Lexington and Jessamine County Public Libraries and consists of a series of display boards installed throughout the Home Demonstration Garden paths. It features an illustrated story written by a children’s author that you can read with your child as you visit the gardens.
Or, if you are like some of us, you can just read the story to yourself and enjoy the illustrations as you also enjoy the plants around you! Here’s what’s coming up:
October: “My Leaf Book” by Monica Wellington.
November through January: “Owl Moon” by Jane Schoenherr.

Tyler Coolbear’s Eagle Scout project.
Junior Master Gardeners and their camp leaders visit UK South Farm.
GIVE A HOLIDAY GIFT & SUPPORT THE ARBORETUM

This issue spans the December holidays. We ask you to remember that The Arboretum provides the perfect answer to a variety of your gift-giving needs. Gifts in honor or in memory of a friend or family member are fully tax deductible, as are memberships in Friends of The Arboretum. While not tax deductible, season membership to the Kentucky Children's Garden provides the perfect gift for those with children. Please use the forms below or call us at (859) 257-6955 if you have questions.

**Kentucky Children's Garden (KCG)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 Season Membership</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cost: $90 / $75 for Friends of The Arboretum</td>
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**Contribution to Membership Fund:**
For myself as a ___ new member OR ___ as a renewing member using the address above.

**I prefer to receive the Quarterly Newsletter:**
___ On line    ___ By regular mail

**OR ___ membership as a gift to:**

Name: __________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________
City, State & ZIP: _______________________________

**Annual membership level**
___ Single member [$35]   ___ Family/household [$50]
___ Supporting member [$100]  ___ Sponsoring member [$250]

**Payment:**
___ Check enclosed made payable to The Arboretum.
___ Please charge my credit card for $ ____________

Circle one:    Visa  MasterCard  Discover  American Express
Account #: __________________________________ Exp. Date: _______
Name (as it appears on the card):
__________________________________________
Cardholder signature: _______________________
Date: ___________________ Phone: __________________

Please return this form and payment to:
Molly Davis
The Arboretum
University of Kentucky
500 Alumni Drive
Lexington, KY 40503

We wish everyone a happy holiday season and best wishes for 2018!
The Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitor Center will close for the holidays on December 22, 2017 and reopen January 2, 2018.
FALL CALENDAR

Adult events, classes and programs meet at the Dorotha Smith Oatts Visitor Center unless otherwise noted. Please pre-register by calling (859) 257-6955. The following symbols are used to identify our programs and events:

- **F** - Family-oriented event or opportunity
- **M** - Members, Friends of The Arboretum
- **V** - Volunteer opportunity

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>October</th>
<th>October (continued)</th>
<th>November</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5, 12, 19 &amp; 26</strong> [Thursdays]</td>
<td><strong>21 [Saturday]</strong> Friends Fall Plant Exchange, plants and garden items must be delivered at 9 a.m. to the overflow/grass parking area. The exchange begins promptly at 10 a.m. $2 per person, Friends members FREE.</td>
<td><strong>2, 9, 16 &amp; 30</strong> [Thursdays] Native Plants volunteers, 10 a.m. to noon.</td>
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<td>Native Plants volunteers, 10 a.m. to noon.</td>
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<td><strong>6 [Friday]</strong></td>
<td><strong>22 [Sunday]</strong> KCG Member Appreciation Party, 10 a.m. to noon. See Page 6.</td>
<td><strong>11 [Saturday]</strong> Volunteer Appreciation Brunch, 10 to 11:30 a.m. To thank everyone for their hard work, we invite volunteers to attend a brunch on November 11 at UK’s E. S. Good Barn. Please R.S.V.P. (<a href="mailto:Arboretum@uky.edu">Arboretum@uky.edu</a>) if you plan to attend. See Page 5.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amazing Autumn, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Kentucky Children’s Garden. Admission (ages 2 and above): $3 per person, $10 for a family pass. FREE for KCG season pass holders.</td>
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<td><strong>6 &amp; 20 [Fridays]</strong></td>
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<td><strong>15 [Wednesday]</strong> Friends’ Annual Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the E. S. Good Barn. See Page 3.</td>
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<td>Docent-guided tours of the Home Demonstration Garden at 11 a.m. Pre-registration required, $3 per person.</td>
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<td><strong>14 [Saturday]</strong></td>
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<td><strong>December</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Party for the Pumpkins Fall Family Festival, 2 to 6 p.m. $7 per person, $5 per person for KCG season members.</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>7, 14 &amp; 21</strong> [Thursdays] Native Plants volunteers, 10 a.m. to noon.</td>
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Please note!

The grounds are closed on UK Home Football Game days:
- Saturdays in September: 9, 23, 30
- Saturdays in October: 7, 28
- Saturdays in November: 4, 25