

Diversity of Kansas Native Plants

The state's varied landscape supports nearly 1,700 native species of flowering plants and ferns and roughly 400 alien species that have naturalized. Kansas spans most of the width of the grasslands that blanket the plains of central North America, and prairies are the hallmark of the state's natural heritage. Ranging from tallgrass in the east to shortgrass in the west, each prairie type is home to a unique set of species. Scattered across the state are marshes, forested bluffs, dry woodlands, glades, rocky uplands, chalk breaks, glaciated hills, and many other habitats, each contributing to the diversity of the flora.

2011 Wildflower of the Year



Ratibida columnifera

© M Haddock

To increase public awareness of our native Kansas flora, the Kansas Native Plant Society annually selects and promotes a native wildflower as Wildflower of the Year. Prairie Coneflower, *Ratibida columnifera*, is the selection for 2011.

www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org

State Grass

Through efforts of members of the Kansas Native Plant Society, Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) was named "State Grass of Kansas" by the Kansas State Legislature on July 1, 2010.



Schizachyrium scoparium

© V Wright

Several native grasses are considered dominant in pastures and prairies across the state; one species that is found in every county of Kansas is Little Bluestem. Little Bluestem is a native perennial with a dense root system reaching five to eight feet into the soil. It is drought resistant and grows from two to five feet tall in deep, shallow or rocky soils. It is important for wildlife habitat. It was once the most abundant grass in the Great Plains and is still of major importance in the tall, mixed, and shortgrass prairies where it can produce one to two tons of biomass per acre. This grass is nutritious and palatable for cattle and bison.

www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org

Join Kansas Native Plant Society

- KNPS is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Dues are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.
- New memberships are effective from the date of joining through December of the following year.
- Renewal memberships run January to December.
- KNPS does not share our membership information with other organizations.
- Established in 1978, Kansas Native Plant Society was formerly named Kansas Wildflower Society.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ County _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

This is a Gift Membership from _____

X	Select Membership Level	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/>	Student	\$10
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/>	Organization	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contributing	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lifetime	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	\$ _____

Additional **Legacy Fund** donation \$ _____

Additional general funds donation \$ _____

Please make checks payable to KNPS



The Kansas Native Plant Society
R.L. McGregor Herbarium, University of Kansas
2045 Constant Avenue
Lawrence, KS 66047-3729

Tallgrass Prairie in Kansas

Approximately four percent of our nation's original tallgrass prairie remains intact, and ninety-five percent of this prairie is in Kansas. Whether in vast acreages in the Flint Hills or small roadside remnants in the Glaciated Region, Kansans have an extraordinary opportunity as stewards of these vestiges of our natural heritage. Remnant prairies protect ecological diversity and provide habitat for increasingly rare species. They are also valuable blueprints for future prairie restoration efforts.



KNPS membership benefits

- Quarterly Newsletter
- Free poster "Kansas Wildflowers: Gems of the Plains" (see website for details)
- Field Trips (enjoy plants in their natural habitats)
- AWW (Annual Wildflower Weekend includes forays, programs, silent auction, photo contest, socializing)
- Extensive Website, www.ksnps.org
- Education (identification, ecology, landscaping)
- Information (natural areas, propagation, restoration)
- E-list (electronic mailing list)
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Mary A. Bancroft Memorial Scholarship
- Link on KNPS website for member organizations

www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org

2011 Outings, Meetings, and Events Sponsored or Co-Sponsored by KNPS

We recommend sturdy footwear, long pants, a hat, insect repellent, sunscreen, and water!

Look for even more events listed on our website!

Apr 2-3: Bryophytes (Mosses, Liverworts and Hornworts) Identification Workshop, Pittsburg. Registration required, contact Dr. Timme <botanydoctor@hotmail.com> (417) 658-5473

Apr 6: MacLennan Park (Cedar Crest) Woodland Wildflower Walk, Topeka, 6pm. <hanjd@cox.net> (785) 806-6917

Apr 23: KNPS Spring Board Meeting & Outing, Wichita area. <email@ksnps.org> (785) 864-3453

May 4: Shunga Creek Woodland Wildflower Walk, Topeka, 6pm-dark. <hanjd@cox.net> (785) 806-6917

May 7: Barber County Wildflower Tour, Medicine Lodge, 8:30am. Co-sponsors: Barber Co. Conservation District & KNPS. Fee due May 4. (620) 886-3721, ext. 3

May 7: Blackbob Cave Woodland Hike on Private Land near Overland Park. <email@ksnps.org> (785) 864-3453

May 13-16: FloraKansas Plant Bazaar at Dyck Arboretum, Hesston. Co-sponsored by KNPS. <arboretum@Hesston.edu> (620) 327-8127

May 22: Search for Mead's Milkweed on Private Hay Meadow near Pomona, 1-3pm. <email@ksnps.org> (785) 806-6917

Jun 23: 9th Annual Grant-Bradbury Prairie Jaunt, Topeka, 6:30pm-dark. <email@ksnps.org> (785) 806-6917

Jul 16: KNPS Summer Board Meeting & Outing, Manhattan. Botanize Konza Prairie, 9:30-11:30am. Bring your lunch. Board Meeting at K-State's Hale Library, 1-3pm. <email@ksnps.org> (785) 864-3453

Sep 16-18: KNPS 33rd Annual Wildflower Weekend, Lawrence. Visit natural areas in & near Douglas Co. Enjoy native plants with us in northeast Kansas! <email@ksnps.org> (785) 864-3453

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Kansas Native Plant Society

The mission of the Kansas Native Plant Society is to encourage awareness and appreciation of the native plants of Kansas in their habitats and in our landscapes by promoting education, stewardship, and scientific knowledge.



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