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.

2013 Wildflower of the Year

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. Little Bluestem, the state grass, was chosen for 2013.

Schizachyrium scoparium
Little Bluestem
©N. Goulden

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.

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 short grass prairies where it can produce one to two tons of biomass per acre. This grass is nutritious and palatable for cattle and bison.

Annual Wildflower Weekend Photo Contest

KNPS holds a photo contest at the Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW). Winning photos are selected in the following categories: Wildflower of the Year, Scenery, Flora, Fauna, Garden, and Best in Show.

Best in Show
Garden Visitor on *Liatris*
©M. Neubrand

Flora Category Winner
Rudbeckia hirta
Black-eyed Susan
©P. Luedke

www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org

Join Kansas Native Plant Society

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

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State____ Zip_____ County _____

Phone_____

E-mail_____

This is a Gift Membership from _____

X	Select Membership Level	Amount
	Student	$10
	Individual	$20
	Family	$30
	Organization	$35
	Contributing	$100
	Lifetime	$500
	Other	$_____

Additional **Legacy Fund** donation $_____

Additional **General Funds** donation $_____

Please make checks payable to KNPS

Kansas Native Plant Society

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 Members Walking in the Arkansas River Chaplin Nature Center, near Winfield 2012 Annual Wildflower Weekend ©N. Champlin

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

2013 Outings and Events Sponsored by KNPS

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

Mar 16: Native Milkweeds & the Insects that Love Them, Overland Park, 1pm. (913)284-3360 <lenora.longlips@gmail.com>

Mar 20: Clear Bush Honeysuckle Along Shunga Creek, Topeka, 5:30-7:30pm. (785)806-6917 <hanjd@cox.net>

Apr 2: Cedar Crest Woodland Wildflower Walk, Topeka, 10am. (785)806-6917 <hanjd@cox.net>

Apr 6: Perry Lake Old Military Trail Hike, Ozawkie, 1pm. (785)872-3463 <coombs@rainbowtel.net>

Apr 6 & 13: Wyandotte County Lake Park Spring Wildflowers, Kansas City, 9-11am. (913)837-5112 <epetroske@hotmail.com>

Apr 13: KNPS Board Meeting & Outing, Topeka, noon. (785)864-3453 <email@ksnps.org>

Apr 21: Hillsdale State Park Spring Wildflower Walk, Paola, 1pm. (913)284-3360 <lenora.longlips@gmail.com>

May 8: Shunga Creek Woodland Wildflower Walk, Topeka, 6pm-dark. (785)806-6917 <hanjd@cox.net>

May 11: Barber County Wildflower Tour, Medicine Lodge, 8:30am. Fee due May 8. (620)886-3721, ext. 3

Jun 8: Coombs Prairie Restoration, Holton, 1-4pm. (785)872-3463 <coombs@rainbowtel.net>

Jun 15: Tour 3 Private Leavenworth Co. Prairies, 8am-12pm. (785)218-5480 <email@KSNPS.org>

Jun 19: Junteenth Wildflower Walk, Junction City, 7:30pm. (785) 539-5592 <zzstew@flinthills.com>

Jun 20: 11th Annual Grant-Bradbury Prairie Walk, Topeka, 6:30pm-dark. (785)806-6917 <hanjd@cox.net>

Jul 13: KNPS Outing & Board Meeting, Hutchinson, 9am. (785) 864-3453 <email@ksnps.org>

Sep 13-15: 35th Annual Wildflower Weekend, McPherson. (785)864-3453 <email@ksnps.org>

Oct 13: Prairie Seed Collecting at Grant Bradbury, Topeka, 1-3pm. (785) 806-6917 <hanjd@cox.net>

Nov 9: Clear Bush Honeysuckle along Shunga Creek, Topeka, 10am-noon. (785)806-6917 <hanjd@cox.net>

Dec 1: Spread Prairie Seed at Warren Nature Area, Topeka, 5:30-7:30pm. (785)806-6917 <hanjd@cox.net>

Look for even more events listed on our website!

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.

KNPS September Outing
©M. Richter

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