Believe it or not, this year’s AWW started when I was about fourteen years old. Even then I was an avid walker, hiker, and lover of the rich landscape around me. I have always loved Kansas for its rich prairies, woody islands of trees, and flowing river bottomlands. As a young teenager in 1997, I spotted a new book on the shelf of the Topeka mall bookstore titled *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson. My love of and lifelong quest for trees and the American forest started right then and there. And the tiny seed of an idea for this year’s AWW was planted!

Since that time, I have visited and enjoyed many of our national forests located in the Rocky Mountains, the Appalachians, the Great Smokies, the Ozarks, and even the tropical regions of Hawaii. But in my view, nothing compares to the natural beauty of the eastern border of Kansas where the western edges of the eastern forests meet the rolling, windswept, grassy prairie.

“A Walk in the Woodlands” was simply a vision that had not really taken shape until 2018 when the KNPS board asked for someone to host the 2019 Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW). The thoughts that ran through my mind in that split-second decision to say “I’ll do it!” had been slowly making their journey through my dreams. And so I did it: I decided to host a KNPS event (a major event) in the woodlands near my home. That tiny seed planted so many years ago finally sprouted! — CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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**OUR MISSION**

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.

The Kansas Native Plant Society Newsletter is published quarterly: Winter (January), Spring (April), Summer (July), Fall (October). Readers tell us how much they enjoy the newsletter in paper format. Contributions help us continue to produce a publication of this length in this form.

You may send your gift to KNPS at:

Kansas Native Plant Society
R. L. McGregor Herbarium
University of Kansas
2045 Constant Ave.
Lawrence, KS  66047-3729
The 2019 AWW is only the fifth one I have attended. And even though I have not been a member of KNPS for an extended length of time, my heart has been with the people of this organization for most of my young life. After being a small part of the AWW in Cloud County several years ago, I was aware of some of the responsibilities associated with such an event, but the actual amount of planning time and footwork turned out to be much more than I had initially realized. Even though I chose to do the work alone, I would recommend for future AWW planners to pass around the work in a committee, if possible. Since becoming the writer for the KNPS Newsletter’s “Featured Natural Area” article (a responsibility I greatly enjoy), I often have ideas in my head for places to hike and botanize. Choosing Atchison for this year’s AWW location was easy for me. I live close by and it is easier to pick locations for walks that are familiar. Also, instead of taking members to several locations each day, I chose to limit the hikes to only one or two per day to allow more quality botanizing time at each place. For myself, I have enjoyably spent many hours at the locations we visited.

This year’s AWW was a culmination of my hard work, perseverance, and dedication to my fellow KNPS members. I did get stressed out by it, but it was worth it. I was frustrated when places did not call me back or turned me down, but I kept going; I did indeed worry, but I should not have bothered because I did make it happen! Now that the 2019 AWW is over and in the history books, I can breathe easier, and I am ready for next year’s AWW in Galena. I hope all who came to the 2019 AWW was as happy with it as I was. Thank you for coming, my friends. It was totally my pleasure to show you some of my beautiful, tree-filled spaces!

A Walk in the Woods — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

FROM TOP: Elm-leaved goldenrod (Solidago ulmifolia), starry campion (Silene stellata), Tinker’s weed (Trisetum perfoliatum), and culver’s root (Veronicastrum virginicum). This for me was very exciting. Examples of formerly intact oak savanna communities are exceedingly rare today as most of them have turned into fire-suppressed woodlands and forests. But they can be restored with some implantation of selective tree removal and re-introduction of ground fires through prescribed burning. I have been inspired by the ecosystem level of interest that has come with the relatively recent transition of our Kansas Wildflower Society to Kansas Native Plant Society. I think we are just the kind of group that can help make oak savanna restoration measures come to fruition in the future.

Doug Grimm gave an interesting talk as part of the annual meeting about the Champion Trees of Kansas and encouraged us as we explore Kansas to keep an eye out for those largest diameter trees that might end up being the “champion” of their particular species. This sort of scavenger hunting adds an element of fun to our exploration of Kansas.

One of my favorite elements of KNPS get-togethers and especially the annual September AWW is the reunion with people I adore while exploring for unique plants and having intriguing conversations. KNPS attracts fun and interesting people and I always look forward to getting together with you again.

Be sure to save the dates for our spring mini-AWW May 29-30, 2020 in the southwestern part of the state (Garden City/Dodge City) and fall AW September 25-27, 2020 in the southeastern part of the state (Galena/Pittsburg).

President’s Message | BRAD GUHR

Living on the Edge

Those of us that were able to attend the Kansas Native Plant Society 2019 Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) in Atchison and Horton on September 13 to 15 are still buzzing with excitement. Board member Andrew Mitchell did a great job planning and coordinating this delightful affair, and I encourage you to visit our KNPS Facebook page for photographs of plants and people that were the focus of the weekend with the theme of “A Walk in the Woodlands”. For many of us that spend the majority of our time in Kansas exploring prairies, it was a real treat to see what plants reside in the canopy, midstory, and understory of the woodlands that hug the Kansas-Missouri border.

Not only did we spend much of the weekend within a mile of the edge of Kansas in the northeastern part of the state, but we also enjoyed exploring an “edge” plant community of former oak savanna that marks the ecotone between prairie to the west and oak woodlands to the east. Examples of the oak savanna community today are usually hidden in fire-suppressed woodlands that have not seen fire for 50 to 100 years. They can still be found where they are marked by old, open-grown burr oaks and they may still even have examples of savanna-specific understory species like those featured at https://oksavannas.org/savanna-forbs.html. On our Saturday hike at Jackson Park, we found now uncommon savanna-specific understory species including elm-leaved goldenrod (Solidago ulmifolia), starry campion (Silene stellata), Tinker’s weed (Trisetum perfoliatum), pale Indian plantain (Ar政府采购us atriplicifolium), and culver’s root (Veronicastrum virginicum). This for me was very exciting.

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Two Awards Presented at 2019 AWW

— MIKE HADDOCK

Stephen L. Timme Excellence in Botany Award

The Stephen L. Timme Excellence in Botany Award is given to an individual who has made an important contribution to botany in the state of Kansas in the form of research or education. The award honors Dr. Stephen L. Timme, late Professor of Botany at Pittsburg State University, who served on the KNPS Board from 1990-2006 and as President from 1995-1996. Ken O’Dell was recognized as recipient of the 2019 Stephen L. Timme Excellence in Botany Award. Ken has had far-reaching impact on the botanical literacy, horticultural ability, and conservation ethic of thousands of children and adults. A resident of Paola, Ken served on the board of KNPS from 2008-2016, and is a life member of the Society. A Canadian by birth, Ken came to the U.S. in his early teens, where in high school a mentor introduced him to wild plants and animals and the fundamentals of conservation. For many years, Ken owned and operated a wholesale nursery, through which he was able to share his extensive knowledge of horticulture and native plants. Ken was instrumental in establishing the Kansas City Chapter of the Kansas Native Plant Society, which regularly sponsored speakers and outings in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Anyone who reads the KNPS Newsletter knows of Ken’s passion for native plants which he shares during outings, especially at the Overland Park Arboretum. Ken has been a regular contributor to the KNPS Newsletter since 2008. His popular, informative, amusing, and wide-ranging articles reflect a depth and breadth of knowledge accumulated from hundreds of walks in the prairies and forests, hands-on experience growing and observing countless plants, and decades in the nursery business.

Sheldon and Virginia Cohen Memorial Award for Service to KNPS

Originally established in 2008 as the Sheldon H. Cohen Award for Outstanding Service, this award was renamed in 2017 in memory of Sheldon and Virginia Cohen, charter members and tireless supporters of the Kansas Native Plant Society who died tragically that year. The award recognizes an individual who has made exemplary contributions to KNPS through their service. Lorna Habegger Harder was recognized as the 2019 recipient of the Sheldon and Virginia Cohen Memorial Award. Award for Service to KNPS, Lorna is an educator, artist, passionate advocate for the prairie, and a steady voice for the stewardship of the planet. As an instructor of Biology and Statistics at Hesston College for 25 years KNPS Board of Directors for fourteen years during two different periods: from 1994-2005 and from 2016 to the present. As well, she served as the Society President from 1998-1999. Among her many accomplishments, Lorna and co-author Dwight Platt produced “Growing Native Wildflowers”, a popular handbook issued in installments in 1991, 1992, 1994, and 1997. Drawing from an extensive well of knowledge about native plants, Lorna regularly contributes articles to the KNPS Newsletter, and her beautiful illustrations often grace her articles and ones contributed by other authors. In 2003, Lorna organized a memorable four-day van tour of the Nebraska Sandhills, which included 22 participants. Lorna has always been active in the Kansas Native Plant Society’s education and outreach activities and, working with the Education Committee, she has helped develop strategies to promote and enhance opportunities for outreach, education, and citizen science. KNPS heartedly congratulates Ken and Lorna for their achievements!

LARRY BARTHEL

KNPS members contemplating this year’s silent auction entries.

2019 AWW Silent Auction and Raffle Drawing

— KRISTA DAHLINGER

This year, donations to the Silent Auction included many books, wild crafted elderberry and wild plum jellies made by Sara Cornett, honey, and live grasses and forbs. Marilyn Armstrong brought four types of native plant seeds in brown paper bags to give away. Nadine Chapman won the KNPS traveling plaque created by Phyllis Scherich and will keep it to display until the 2020 AWW in Galena. The silent auction fundraiser brought in $442. There were three books available in the raffle drawing: the large format, extensive Kansas Wildflowers and Weeds and the new field guide Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines, both authored and donated by Michael Haddock and Craig Freeman. Shirley Braunlich donated a copy of the Photographic Field Guide to the Butterflies in the Kansas City Region by Betsy Betros. These items brought $149 in ticket sales.

The 2019 AWW was unique, taking us into woodlands and wetlands more than open prairie, making the Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines field guide very popular this year. Kansas Wildflowers and Weeds and Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines are available through the publisher, KU Press, www.kansascpress.ku.edu or at your local nature center.

As always, a big Thank You goes out to everyone who donated items to the AWW fundraising effort and to those who bid on and won native plant themed items. Looking at all the interesting donated items each year is an AWW Saturday business meeting tradition.

TECH NOTES
— KRISTA DAHLINGER

Each year the Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) is planned in an area that KNPS has not yet visited to walk in nature, to explore, and to identify all of the plants and associated birds and insects we see. Board members are nominated, introduced, and elected at this meeting, also. Many meals are shared and friendships are made and renewed. To see locations, where the KNPS AWW has been held go to: https://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/annual_event.php. Please feel free to contact KNPS to recommend a future location for an AWW, make AWW in the spring, or just a field trip tour for an afternoon of Saturday outing.

BRENT RAGSDALE

ROOTS. I AM EXCITED TO BE A NEW KNPS BOARD MEMBER.

New KNPS Board Member

PATTI RAGSDALE

I LIVE OUTSIDE OF TONGANOXIE IN LEAVENWORTH COUNTY ON TEN ACRES CONTAINING REMNANT PRAIRIE WHERE I GROW NATIVE PLANTS AT MY BUSINESS. HAPPY APPLE’S FARM. I ACTIVELY PROMOTE USE OF AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT NATIVE PLANTS WITH THE PLANTS I GROW AND THROUGH VARIOUS VOLUNTEER EFFORTS. I AM ACTIVE WITH THE JOHNSON COUNTY EXTENSION MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM WHERE I LEAD THE GARDEN MAINTENANCE AT THE POLLINATOR PRAIRIE IN Olathe. I CO-CHAIR THE KAW VALLEY NATIVE PLANT COALITION IN LAWRENCE. AND I AM A PARTNER IN THE KANSAS CITY BASED ORGANIZATION DEEP ROOTS. I AM EXCITED TO BE A NEW KNPS BOARD MEMBER.
Champion Trees and How to Grow Your Own

— PHYLLIS SCHERICH

Doug Grimm of Grimm’s Gardens near Hiawatha presented an entertaining and enlightening slide show about the champion trees of Kansas at this year’s AWW in Atchison. The Grimm family business has been in existence for about thirty-five years as a farm and retail garden center with an outlet store in Nebraska City.

Doug explained how a candidate for a champion tree is measured which includes circumference, height, and spread measurements that are converted to points. Pictures were shown of many of the champion trees in Kansas.

His interest lies in determining why “champion trees” make it to that point. Is it because they are just lucky? Because of their genetics? Because of a special environment? Or a combination of all? He has been experimenting with propagating champions to determine if offspring can make it to become champion trees.

He gave some tips on what to look for when purchasing a new tree for planting. 1) Choose the right tree for the right place 2) Examine the roots — eliminate ones with circling roots or kinked (crossed over) roots. 3) Buy in grow bags or burlap wraps, not black pots. 4) When planting use the proper planting depth and do not plant too deep.

Doug Grimm’s love for and knowledge of these huge trees is as vast as the giants themselves. We are fortunate he shared some of his champion tree love and information with us.

— PHYLLIS SCHERICH

2019 KNPS PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

PHOTOS: DOUG GRIMM

GARDEN

1ST: COMMON MILKWEED – ROSE LEE
2ND: MISSOURI EVENING PRIMROSE – VALERIE WRIGHT
3RD: SUBURBAN LONGHEAD CONEFLOWER – ANN MANZARDO

FAUNA

1ST: SKIPPERS ON TALL THISTLE – VALERIE WRIGHT
2ND: HYALOPHORA CECROPIA ON BUTTONBUSH – KRISTA DAHLINGER
3RD: PAINTED LADY ON CONEFLOWER AT KU MED GARDEN – ANN MANZARDO

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT
State Champion Cottonwood, Staley, KS; State Champion Ginko Biloba, Leavenworth, KS; State Champion River Birch, Belle Plaine, KS

LEFT Doug Grimm, guest speaker for the AWW General meeting on Saturday morning at Jerry’s Again in Atchison.
2019 KNPS PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

FLORA
1st: Passion Flower - Emmett Sullivan
2nd: Bloodroot - Andrew Mitchell
3rd: American Lotus - Emmett Sullivan

PEOPLE
1st: Buckaroos - Krista Dahlinger
2nd: Klinefelter Farm Wildflower Walk - Andrew Mitchell
3rd: Photographing Nature - Ann Manzard

SCENERY
1st: Oaks and Redbuds - Valerie Wright
2nd: Cowley County State Fishing Lake - Krista Dahlinger
3rd: Early Morning Redbuds - Valerie Wright

WILDFLOWER OF THE YEAR
1st: Verbena stricta - Andrew Mitchell
2nd: Evening Light - Valerie Wright
3rd: Verbena Stricta Pink Variant - Andrew Mitchell
Information provided by Kansas Native Plant Society, see more events on our website: www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org

Please share this information and contact us about additional events to note. Thank you email: knsop@ksnps.org

Study areas, prairies, ponds, a hat, insect repellent, sunscreen, and water are recommended for outdoor events. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend some fabulous happenings!

OCTOBER | 12 & 19 THE HOME PLACE ACTION BOOK CLUB | in Lawrence. Reserve your spot for this two-part book club. Borrow and read the book The Naturalist: Memoirs of A Colored Man’s Love Affair With Nature by J. Drew Lanham. Book Discussion with co-leaders Jake Vail and Shirley Braulich on Oct 12, 2-4 pm. At THE ACTION WORK PARTY (Oct 19, 2-4 pm) we’ll either be cutting and sharing honeydew off of the prairie or planting wild plums at Prairie Park Nature Center 2750 Harper St, Lawrence. Sponsorship for more info and registration: info@moprairie.org

MISSOURI PRAIRIE FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING AND EVENING ON THE PRAIRIE, at Snowball Hill Prairie near Harrisonville, MO. Contact Missouri Prairie Foundation for more info and registration at moprairie.org 888-843-6739

38 NORTH FEST EVENING ON THE PRAIRIE ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING AND THE HOME PLACE ACTION BOOK CLUB | at the Carnegie Building 200 W 9th St, Lawrence. Contact 785-843-8104 grasslandheritage@gmail.com http://grasslandheritage.org for more details. New book recommendations from co-leaders Jake Vail and Shirley Braulich and other book club members. Meet 6:30-8 pm at Lawrence Public Library, 207 Vermont St. Lawrence. RSVP is helpful, but not required. Contact: sbaurlich@lplks.org 785-843-1613

SEED COLLECTING AT PAINTBRUSH AND LEADPLANT PRAIRIES | Join Grassland Heritage Foundation (GHF) and Thrive Allen County. Visit two Anderson County prairies - GHF’s Leadplant Prairie and Paintbrush Prairie, owned by GHF. Board member Gary Tegtmeier. Location and time: 7:30 am at Leadplant Prairie and 1:30 pm at Paintbrush Prairie - 18027 141W Old Colony Welda Rd, Welda. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Bring gloves and scissors or pruners. Also bring paper bags (any size) you are willing to donate; we will use them to collect the seed. During the event, led by GHF board members Mike Campbell and Courtney Masterson, everyone will learn how to collect and identify common fall prairie plants. All the seed collected will be used to further restore these prairies as well as property managed by Thrive Allen County. If you plan to collect at both prairies, bring a sack and refillable water bottle to picnic on the prairie! We will supply water, lemonade, and a gorgeous prairie setting, perfect for a picnic. Sponsors: Grassland Heritage Foundation and Thrive Allen County http://thriveallencounty.org Contact: Kim Ballew, grasslandheritage@gmail.com 785-840-8104

ELIZABETH ADLAM – Wichita
LESIA ALBIN – Andover
JANET ARENSBERG – Prairie Village
RACHEL BASTHOFF – Pittsburg
WAYNE BERRY – Hoyt
ALISSON BRAULT – Wichita
KRYSTINA BURKE – Wichita
RICHARD CHARTER – Topeka
ISSA CULWALLY – Wichita
LANCE COULTER – Bénéton
MAREAT DANNING – Overland Park
KERSTIN DIPPE – Lenexa
LAUREN DILLON – Wichita
-Julie Do – Wichita
ROBERT DU TAU – Wichita
KATIE EAVES – Hillsboro
MADI EDWARDS – Wichita
LUKE FETTY – Valley Center
ANGELA FRIEDMANN-PHILPS – Elbing
EWHELEN H. GOOD – Parsons
ERIK GORDON – Wichita
CASSANDRA HARRIS – Wichita
SHAYENE HELLER – Lawrence
TERRI HENRY – Wichita
ALLISON HERNANDEZ – Augusta
STERLING HISAY – Sedgwick

NAIL HORTON – Wichita
KENDRA KINDER – Topeka
MARY LAWRENCE – Tecumseh
AMBER DAWN LIEBAU – Andover
DURON LOVE – Overland Park
COLE MADDOX – Derby
LAUREN MARTINEZ – Derby
AMBER MARTIN – Hugo ton
AMANDA MAYFLOWER – Wichita
WYATT McFARLAND – Wichita
NICK McKEEN – Andover
MADDIE MCNEAL – Kansas City
CHELSIA MOFFET – Sedgwick
BAYLANA MORGAN – Wichita
LUCY MOWNEY – Wichita
AMIE NGUYEN – Wichita
RAVEN ONIPOLY – Wichita
TREVOR OWEN – Wichita
JENNISON PARKER – Lawrence
ALEXANDRA PILCHER – Wichita
BRADEN REDDICK – El Dorado
D. BIRMER – Bel Aire
LANE ROPER – Benton
NICKI ROSS – Topeka
MO RUTLEDGE – Bel Aire
KRISTIN SIEBER – Wichita
JENNY SHERRIS – Kansas City

NEW MEMBERS FROM 6/02/19 TO 9/08/19

December: 6-7 WINTER LUMINARY WALK, Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, 177 W. Hickory, Hesston. 5:30 to 8:00 pm. Come for an evening holiday stroll through the Dyck Arboretum. Tickets may be purchased at the Arboretum office: $5 for Adults (18 and over), $3 for Children (ages 3-17) and $2 for children ages 2-3. (Under 2 are free on the 7th). Performances and activities will be in the pavilion. S’mores and more on the walls. For more information, call 620-327-8127 or dyckarboretum.org

December: 18 NATURE BOOK CLUB in Lawrence. Join us to talk about fiction and nonfiction connected to the natural world. New book recommendations from co-leaders Jake Vail and Shirley Braulich and other book club members. Meet 6:30-8 pm at Lawrence Public Library, 207 Vermont St. Lawrence. RSVP is helpful, but not required. Contact: sbaurlich@lplks.org 785-843-1613. MEMBERSHIP REGIONS

January: 25 KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY WINTER BOARD MEETING at Emporia State University in Emporia. Meet in Science Hall, Room 156 from 1 to 3 pm. The inclement weather date is February 4, please contact Science Hall, Room 156 from 1 to 3 pm. The inclement weather date is February 4, please contact Science Hall, Room 156.

February: 20 ANGELOU EZELIO, author of the book Engage, Connect, and Empower: Empowering Diverse Youth as Environmental Leaders, will speak in Lawrence. Ezeilo is Founder and CEO of the Greening Youth Foundation. www.greeningyouthfoundation.org This event is supported by the Elizabeth Schultz Environmental Fund. Meet and learn from Angelou Ezeilo at 7pm at Liberty Hall, 644 Massachusetts St. in Lawrence. Find out more from Lawrence Public Library. kscp@ksnps.org 785-843-8383.

November: 28-30 SPRING BOARD MEETING AND KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SPRING BOARD MEETING AND OUTINGS (MINI-AWW) in western Kansas. The Board meets Friday afternoon, followed by interesting botanizing in the community. Saturday’s botanizing tours will feature more unique plant communities and geologic features. For more information, contact Anthony Zurlo, azurlo@gmail.com 620-290-2411

September: 25-27 KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY’S 42ND ANNUAL WILDFLOWER WEEKEND (AWW) is in southeast Kansas. Enjoy a full weekend of outings; board meetings, membership meetings, programs, a silent auction, photo contest, lunch, and socializing—join us! Watch for updates coming soon! Join the KNPS email list to receive the latest event announcements www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/ email_list.php

Johnson County – Kansas Native Plant Society welcomes everyone to participate in these events and join our membership. Read our full Statement of Diversity, Inclusion, and Non-Discrimination Policy on the website. knps.org.
The Great American Elm Tree

— Jim Earnest

While playing golf two summers ago, I said to my playing partner, “There is a beautiful American elm tree behind number 7 green.” He replied, “That can’t be, they were all killed years ago by that disease.” Indeed, there was a time when our great American elm tree, *Ulmus americana*, reigned supreme in the United States. It lined our streets, was planted in our yards, parks, and golf courses — the perfect street and shade tree.

Then, in the 1930s, the Dutch elm disease (DED) entered into Ohio from Europe. It reached Kansas in the 1950s. The disease has killed millions of our native elms. However, not all elms have been affected, and my golfing partner was happy to see the healthy beauty behind the number 7 green.

It was a bit of a surprise to me when I read the USDA publication *Assessing Urban Forest Effects and Values of the Greater Kansas City Region*. The assessment found that we are home to 249,450,000 trees and the most common tree species is the American elm, accounting for 28% of our tree population! Some elms appear to be resistant to DED, while other survivors have avoided the disease only temporarily, as a few more of them die each year. The American elm grows naturally in every county in eastern and central Kansas, and all but a few counties in the western part of the state. The growth habit is broad, upright, and vase-shaped with an arching limb structure. It is an exception to the rule that narrow crotch angles signify weak branches as elm tree limbs and wood are extremely tough and hard.

The leaves of this tree are elliptical with an offset base, prominent veins, and doubly serrated margins. They are an attractive dark green and smooth to the touch. This smooth feel helps differentiate the American elm from the red elm, *U. rubra*, also common in our area. Leaves of the red elm are rough on their surface like sand paper. Fall color of the American elm is yellow, although the intensity of the color is variable. Flowers of the American elm emerge in drooping clusters and are among the earliest to announce that spring is coming very soon to Kansas. I saw them adorn the elms in my neighborhood in early to mid-March this year. They created a nice reddish hue to the crowns of these trees. The flowers are “perfect” or “complete” meaning both male and female parts are present in the same flower. The females give way to abundant circular wafelike seeds. Look closely at one of them and you will likely be able to see fine hairs along its margins. The seeds are scattered by the thousands on the wings of spring winds.

While there continues to be a decline in population of the American elm due to DED, newer cultivars have been developed that show good promise in resisting the disease. Such selections as *Ulmus americana* Princeton, New Harmony, and Valley Forge are among the most promising of them. While none are likely to totally replace our majestic American elm, they give us worthy substitutes, and perhaps in the future a cure will be found for “that disease.”

**PHOTOS:** JIM EARNEST

**BELLOw:** American elm leaves are dark green and smooth to the touch.

Gray Goldenrod

— Lorna Harder

I owe my first encounter with gray goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*) to the Kansas Wildflower Society. It was a fall outing nearly thirty years ago and to this day I remember my first impression — a beautiful swath of knee-high, slender, arching stems abloom with golden flowers, waving amidst bronzing prairie grasses on a glorious autumn day. It was one of those defining moments when I was still in the beginning stages of learning to identify Kansas’ native prairie species. Gray goldenrod remains one of my favorites.

At that time, I was in the midst of collecting seed for the Kauffman Museum Prairie Reconstruction, and it seemed this species, with its shorter height and more subdued growth habit, might be a good candidate for the museum prairie. I collected and germinated seed (ninety days of cold stratification), and successfully planted gray goldenrod into the Kauffman Museum prairie the following spring. Did it not disappoint?

Gray goldenrod is a carefree, native perennial that thrives in full sun and well-drained soils, whether clay, sand, or gravel. Its narrow alternate leaves are covered with fine, short hairs, giving the gray-green color from which the common name comes. A thickened, branching root structure stores water for the plant, and produces rhizomes that increase the clump size over time. The clumps of slender, gray-downy stems produce terminal, one-sided golden yellow plumes in fall. This species tends to bloom slightly later than other goldenrod species and flowering persists for about a month. Gray goldenrod seldom grows more than two feet and the species is less-aggressive, making it a great candidate that lends lovely fall color to smaller prairie meadows or urban landscapes. However, gray goldenrod is more than a pretty wildflower in the garden! It is also an important fall nectar source for butterflies, moths, skippers, and native bees; it supports conservation biological control by providing habitat for predatory and parasitoid insects that prey upon insect pests, and its seeds are a food source for winter birds.

**FEATURED PLANT**

**Gray Goldenrod | SOLIDAGO NEMORALIS**

— MICHAEL KAYE

In January’s issue, we will look at Energy Corporation’s current Monarch conservation practices: a collaboration with the Kansas Monarch Task Force and the nationwide Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances program for Monarch Butterflies on Energy and Transportation Lands (CCAA) of 2019. The collaboration includes habitat, moving, rights of way, and grassland management measures.

Most of the nation’s wildlife and its habitat are on land owned by private individuals and companies, states, local governments, Native American tribes, conservation organizations, and non-federal agencies. The federal Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances program promotes voluntary conservation efforts to protect endangered species by offering incentives to owners of non-federal property to pursue their own conservation plans to save declining or at-risk species, including candidates selected for federal listing as endangered species. The incentives include federal assurances that no further land, water, or use restrictions except those in a CCAA agreement will be imposed even if species covered by the agreement later qualify for the federal endangered species list.

The landowner’s rights under the agreement are protected by an enhancement of survival permit authorized under the CCAA regulation exempting certain at-risk species from being listed if the landowner’s conservation efforts are consistent with the current CCAA ecosystem. Ecosystem stewardship favored by the CCAA permits these exemptions by promoting survival of protected species. Initiating, expanding, and supporting voluntary conservation measures before a species and its habitat are imperiled lead to simpler, less costly conservation efforts that are likely to succeed.

**Resources:**


https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/

https://plants.usda.gov/factsheet/pdf/fs_sone.pdf

Fuss-free, water conserving, pollinator-, predator- and bird-friendly — all contribute to gray goldenrod’s role in creating beautiful, ecologically functioning native prairie gardens!

**Preview: “Talking Pollinators” at Energy Company**

— LORNA HABEGGER-HARDER

In the garden! It is also an important fall nectar source for butterflies, moths, skippers, and native bees; providing habitat for predatory and parasitoid pollinator-, predator- and bird-friendly functioning native prairie gardens!”

**FEATURED PLANT**

**Gray Goldenrod | SOLIDAGO NEMORALIS**

— MICHAEL KAYE

In January’s issue, we will look at Energy Corporation’s current Monarch conservation practices: a collaboration with the Kansas Monarch Task Force and the nationwide Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances program for Monarch Butterflies on Energy and Transportation Lands (CCAA) of 2019. The collaboration includes habitat, moving, rights of way, and grassland management measures.

Most of the nation’s wildlife and its habitat are on land owned by private individuals and companies, states, local governments, Native American tribes, conservation organizations, and non-federal agencies. The federal Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances program promotes voluntary conservation efforts to protect endangered species by offering incentives to owners of non-federal property to pursue their own conservation plans to save declining or at-risk species, including candidates selected for federal listing as endangered species. The incentives include federal assurances that no further land, water, or use restrictions except those in a CCAA agreement will be imposed even if species covered by the agreement later qualify for the federal endangered species list.

The landowner’s rights under the agreement are protected by an enhancement of survival permit authorized under the CCAA regulation exempting certain at-risk species from being listed if the landowner’s conservation efforts are consistent with the current CCAA ecosystem. Ecosystem stewardship favored by the CCAA permits these exemptions by promoting survival of protected species. Initiating, expanding, and supporting voluntary conservation measures before a species and its habitat are imperiled lead to simpler, less costly conservation efforts that are likely to succeed.

**Resources:**


https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/

https://plants.usda.gov/factsheet/pdf/fs_sone.pdf

Fuss-free, water conserving, pollinator-, predator- and bird-friendly — all contribute to gray goldenrod’s role in creating beautiful, ecologically functioning native prairie gardens!

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Last fall, I was introduced to the Kaw River State Park in Shawnee County by longtime KNPS member Jeff Hansen. Sharing a lifelong love of the natural world, Jeff and I enjoy hiking and looking at native plants together. Thus, when coming to Topeka for work, I was able to see this wonderful hiking area firsthand and with a guide!

The Kaw River State Park is located on the southern bluff overlooking the Kansas (Kaw) River. Embedded in it are various hiking and mountain biking trails that wind like switchbacks through the leafy canopy of this oak-hickory forest. It is a pleasant place to hike or walk during a weekday lunch hour or on a weekend in Topeka.

The whole area is richly-studded with a wide variety of oaks, hickory, and other trees that can be found in a thick, woodland setting. There is an abundance of aromatic sumac, redbud, and shade loving perennials. While I viewed the park with Jeff in autumn of 2018, I went back this spring and hiked among the blooming Jack-in-the-Pulpits and other wildflowers. It is also a place to find morel mushrooms, which I discovered while hiking there later this spring on a lunch break.

The trails lead down the bluff toward Cedar Crest and the Kansas River with views of trees and more trees. There are hidden ponds and broken limestone boulders where ferns and other wonders slowly spread among the leaf litter. For a plant enthusiast who specializes in woodlands, this park is indeed a special spot.

The Kaw River State Park is located at the northern end of SW Wanamaker Road in Topeka. To get there, follow SW Wanamaker Road as far as it goes, then turn right at the Kansas State Parks, Wildlife, and Tourism building; there is parking to the east of the building. There are two trailheads in this area that lead into the park which is open from sunrise to sunset seven days a week.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL GUIDELINES

Annual dues are for a 12-month period from January 1 through December 31. Dues paid after December 1 are applied to the next year. Note to new members: the first year of annual membership is effective from the date of joining through December 31 of the following year. See upper right of mailing label for expiration date.

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Kansas Native Plant Society  
R. L. McGregor Herbarium  
University of Kansas  
2045 Constant Ave.  
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A membership to the Kansas Native Plant Society makes a great gift for friends and family members. Recipients of gift memberships will receive notification of your gift membership within two weeks of receipt of your check. The Kansas Native Plant Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Gifts to KNPS are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

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