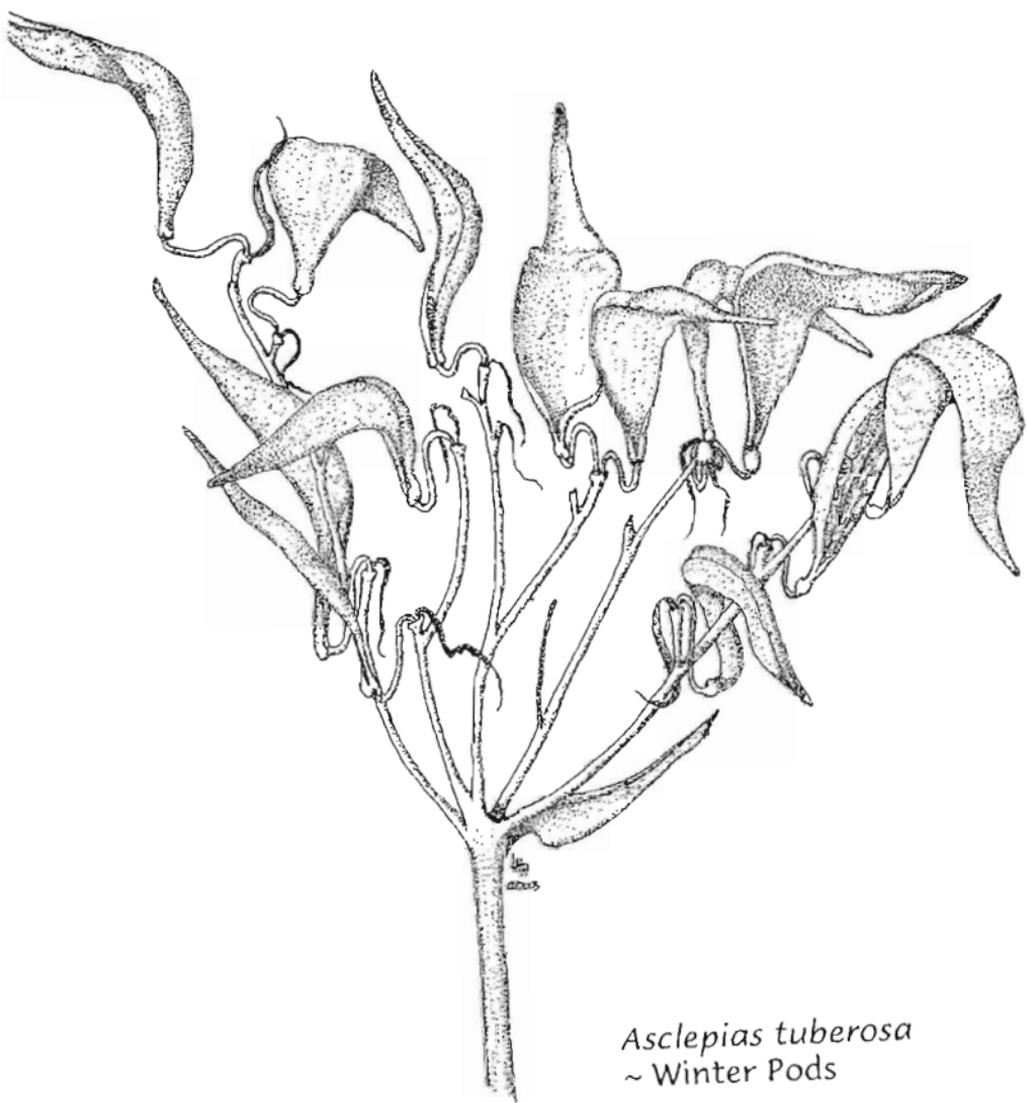


*Kansas Wildflower Society*  
NEWSLETTER

**Volume 25 Number 4 Winter 2003**



*Asclepias tuberosa*  
~ Winter Pods

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### Cover Illustration:

*Asclepias tuberosa*

Winter Pods

Drawn by Lorna Harder

Jane Freeman

KWS Administrative Assistant

Editor Sheldon Cohen

# Kansas Wildflower Society NEWSLETTER

## Table of Contents

Volume 25 Number 4 Winter 2003

<b>From the President's Desk .....</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Letter from the Editor .....</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Minutes of the 25th Annual Meeting .....</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>Ideas from Visioning Session ....</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Remembrance of Fred Meyer ....</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Welcome New Members .....</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Obituaries : Jean Cohen .....</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Helen Marie Hocker</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Calender of Events 2004 .....</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>About the Cover .....</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>Wayside Award .....</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>Photo Contest .....</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>Missouri Evening Primrose</b>	
<b>Lorna Harder .....</b>	<b>110</b>

## From the President's Desk

In the last 25 years of your Society there have been almost as many presidents, serving the membership in different ways. As your new president, I hope to bring the Kansas Wildflower Society some new directions that will increase our visibility as a group of people bent on the conservation of Kansas' native botanical resources and the use of native plants in gardens throughout the state. For a start we will strengthen the communication and input of the Board by encouraging the active participation of each Board member. Your Board has many talented and enthusiastic people serving the Society. Their ideas and hard work are what make this organization vital. We now have a group dialog on the web and have begun 'virtual' board meetings where we can discuss issues and look at alternatives in advance of our 'real' board meeting in April.

Communication is a major part of any organization. We communicate with you through this newsletter. This issue is No. 4 of Volume 25. The next newsletter will begin Volume 26 and will have a new format. The newsletter committee (Shel Cohen, Jeff Hanson, Shirley Braunlich and myself) has met and reluctantly begun the search for a new editor. Shel Cohen, who has served as editor for 15 years will be stepping down but will help us get on the right track when the new person takes over. Shel has worked with eight different Presidents and served as one himself! We can't thank Shel enough for his long-term dedication and hard work. We will continue to be a valued member of the Board.

Your ideas as members are also important. Please let us know what you think should be in the newsletter and what else you would like to see your Society doing. We need to know more about you. If you would like to serve on a committee, help with an outing, if you have talent and experience with desktop publishing and can help with the newsletter, please let us know. My e-mail address is [keepkonza@ksu.edu](mailto:keepkonza@ksu.edu). If you can send us a name

of someone who might like to join as a member, please fill in the attached form or e-mail if you would rather.

This is your Kansas Wildflower Society. Let's make it bloom!

Dr. Valerie Wright

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## SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS OF THE KANSAS WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

As a members of this Society with a special interest in Kansas wildflowers and our native plants, you know others with similar interests. Help your Society increase its membership and move actively into the future by suggesting persons who might like to join. All you need to do is send their names and addresses to the Kansas Wildflower Society, R.L. McGregor Herbarium, University of Kansas, 2045 Constant Avenue, Lawrence Kansas 66047-3729. We'll send them a packet about KWS and ask them to consider joining. Send as many names as you like. Thanks!

Prospective member's name:

---

St. Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State & Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Prospective member's name:

---

St. Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State & Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

## Letter from the Editor

Dear KWS Members,

For the last 15 years I have had the honor and pleasure to serve as the editor of Newsletter. During that time I have had the joy to work with many talented, creative and wonderful people. Because of both technical and personal reasons this is now a good time to step down and give someone else a chance to edit our Newsletter. On the technical side, the Newsletter Committee has decided to change the format and move to a more direct computer printing system. It would seem to be a great waste of effort to have me change my computer to fit the new format and then to have a new editor repeat all the work whenever he or she starts. Also I am of the 'cut and paste' school of editing, and it is time for KWS to find someone who is more knowledgeable about how to use a computer to enhance the look of our major instrument of communication. On the personal side, I am turning seventy and it is time to start cutting back on my required obligations.

The new editor will have the opportunity to work with some great people. He or she will have the joy of being able to put his or her style into the new format and have a major hand in setting the tone for the next 25 years. The new editor will also have the inner pleasure of looking at a finished Newsletter and knowing it is his or her 'baby'!

If anyone is interested in becoming the new editor or would like to recommend someone for the job please contact Valerie Wright, our President and also chair of the Newsletter Committee by e-mail at [keepkonza@ksu.edu](mailto:keepkonza@ksu.edu).

The editor's job is a wonderful way to combine your creativity and help promote Kansas native plants!!!!

Minutes of Meetings  
Kansas Wildflower Society  
25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
September 12-13, 2003  
Topeka, Kansas

Minutes from meeting of Board of Directors; Friday, Sept. 12

The Fall 2003 meeting of the KWS Board of Directors was held in the Vogel Room, Washburn University Union, Topeka, Kansas. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by President Dwight Platt. Board members present were Roger Boyd, Shirley Braunlich, Shel Cohen, Craig Freeman, Jane Freeman, Brad Guhr, Lorna Harder, Jeff Hansen, Michael Heffron, Marion McGlohon, Carroll Morgenson, Dwight Platt, Ann Simpson, Anita Smith, Sister Patricia Mae Stanley, Sandra Tholen, Gary Weisenberger, and Valerie Wright. Other KWS members present were John Shidler and Ruth Steinke.

Dwight Platt welcomed everyone and attendees introduced themselves around the table.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Craig Freeman moved to approve the minutes of the prior meeting. Roger Boyd seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – Dwight Platt expressed concern about the dwindling KWS membership and asked about the possibility of using members as volunteers in projects to peak interest in the organization. During an earlier meeting to discuss plans for the annual meeting, Shel Cohen, Craig Freeman, Lorna Harder, Sister Patricia Stanley, and he came up with the idea of having break-out sessions at the membership meeting. At these sessions, which are scheduled for tomorrow, it is hoped attendees will contribute ideas to help increase membership and revitalize the organization.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Membership** – Jane Freeman reported we currently have 286 members, of which 36 are gratis (other plant societies). Michael Heffron is teaching a “Wildflower and Weeds” course and has brought in a number of new members this year. The Dyck Arboretum also attracts new members to KWS through some of its programs. It was suggested that determine where our new members are finding out about KWS.

**Outings** – Jane Freeman thanked Shirley Braunlich for her assistance in compiling outings information from other like-minded groups. This is combined with outings information send to the administrative office and placed in the KWS newsletter events calendar. The events calendar periodically is sent to Shel Cohen, who includes it in the newsletter, and to Lorna Harder, who posts it on the website.

**Newsletter** – Shel Cohen thanked everyone for article that they have submitted. He reminded the group that he is always in need of articles and artwork.

**Education** – Lorna Harder said that the Education Committee has not met lately, but that information about the new Patch Program is on the KWS website.

**Book Sales** – Carroll Morgenson reported just under \$300 in book sales in 2003. He also advised that *Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers* by Ladd/Oberle is out of print. A question was asked if non-members could purchase at discount the books advertised in the newsletter. Valerie Wright stated that the discount was supposed to apply to members only. It was mentioned that a one-page flyer or bookmark with information about the Society could be sent with newly-purchased books stating that the book was provided as a service to KWS members. Another suggestion was to advertise a member’s price and a non-member’s price.

**Wayside Award** – Craig Freeman reported for Stephen Timme that no nominations were received this year. It was suggested that restructuring of the Wayside Award may be warranted. Further discussion was deferred.

**Photo Contest** – There was no report, and the contest was not being held at the membership meeting this year.

**Mary Bancroft Memorial Scholarship** – Craig Freeman reported for Stephen Timme that no applications were received in 2003.

**Seed Exchange** – Lorna Harder had no new information to report on the seed exchange.

**Growing Native Wildflowers** – Dwight Platt asked for volunteers to prepare new species treatments for Growing Native Wildflowers. Lorna Harder reported that she supplies copies of Growing Native Wildflowers to the Dyck Arboretum gift shop, where they continue to be a popular publication.

**Kansas Wildflower of the Year** – Carroll Morgenson advised the 2004 wildflower of the year is the Missouri evening-primrose.

**KACEE** – Anita Smith reported that the KACEE meeting will be November 7 and 8 in Manhattan. An afternoon session will be held at the Konza Prairie.

**Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council** – Gary Weisenberger reported that the council last met in the spring of 2003. The council will meet again in October 2003.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Update on plans for annual meeting** - Craig Freeman noted the addition to the schedule at 9:45 AM of a presentation by

Allison Hamm, 2002 recipient of the Mary Bancroft Memorial Scholarship. Valerie Wright asked how the planning session would be handled on Saturday. Craig said that moderators and scribes are assigned to facilitate discussion in each of four topics: conservation, education, field trips, and outreach. Ideas will then be compiled and summarized at the banquet in the afternoon.

**KWS Website** - Lorna Harder reported that the website is up and running. The address is <http://www.cs.hesston.edu/kws/>.

**KWS Brochure** – Lorna Harder advised a meeting is scheduled to complete the brochure design next Thursday, and it should be printed by the end of the year.

**Policy for seeds in the Seed Exchange** - Brad Guhr reported that the Seed Exchange Committee will be developing guidelines for collection and use of seeds. He stressed the importance of accurate identification and documentation of seed materials. Samples should be cleaned and identified to species. Location data and habitat information should be recorded, which may include associates, soil information, etc. A uniform packaging system should be adopted. No seeds from other states should be included. Care will be given even from Western to Eastern Kansas, 100 mile distance North-South and 200 mile distance East-West. Cultivars of seed should be continued. Non-native seed will not be included. Collect no more than 50% perennials and 10% of annuals. Brad will raise these ideas at the annual meeting and then the committee will formulate a "policy." Valerie suggested making this a more active program, possibly scheduling forays to collect seed.

**Grow Native** – Lorna Harder – no report.

**KDOT Issues** - Gary Weisenberger reported that KDOT is considering taking brome out of the seed mixture and replacing with native grass.

**Nebraska Sandhills Van Tour 2003** – Lorna Harder reported that this year's van tour was well received and all attending had a wonderful time.

**The Plant ID Course** - Craig advised they were not pursuing this through KWS at this time but through the Kansas Biological Survey. Craig also explained a plant ID class that Steve Timme does by e-mail.

**Newsletter format & cost of printing at Pittsburg State University** – Stephen Timme provided information and Craig Freeman will give the information to incoming president Valerie Wright.

## NEW BUSINESS

**The Nominations Committee** - Lorna Harder, Carroll Morgenson, and Craig Freeman presented a slate of officers and a new board member. Shel Cohen moved to accept the report of the Nominations Committee. Sister Patricia Stanley seconded the motion and motion carried. New board member is Nancy Goulden of Manhattan. President - Valerie Wright, President Elect – Jeff Hansen, Treasurer – Sister Patricia Stanley, and Secretary – Cindy Ford.

**Van Tours** - Lorna suggested a van tour to Eastern Colorado. She will also consider sites in Kansas per request of several board members. It will once again be a four day trip, Thursday through Sunday to be held in early June. Shel Cohen made a motion to support the idea of proceeding with a van tour. Carroll Morgenson seconded the motion and motion carried. Lorna will proceed with the van tour with publication in the January newsletter.

**Spring Board Meeting** - The Spring board meeting will be held April 3 at the Konza Prairie Research Station, Manhattan, KS.

## Other New Business

Jane Freeman had received correspondence from a woman desiring to sell notecards at our annual meetings. It was a consensus of the group not to enter into this arrangement as it could jeopardize our nonprofit status.

A special thank you was extended to KWS by Julie Torseth of the Dyck Arboretum for our monetary assistance with Flora Kansas.

An address was given for concerns to be expressed regarding the out-of-print status of *Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers*. Concerns should be addressed to Falcon Press - Globe-Pequot, 1-800-243-0495 or at 246 Goose Lane, Box 480, Guilford, Connecticut 06437.

Craig Freeman offered thanks and appreciation to Dwight Platt for serving as President this past year, and to Shel Cohen for his efforts and assistance with finalizing the plans for the annual meeting facilities and dinner.

Shel Cohen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carroll Morgenson seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted for Cindy Ford by Anita Smith, Craig Freeman and Jane Freeman.

## Minutes from General Membership Meeting; Saturday, Sept. 13

8:00-9:00 am – registration

8:30 am – Craig Freeman presented a slide show entitled “Rare members of the Asteraceae in Kansas.” Craig provided a hand-out.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am by President Dwight Platt, who welcomed the attendees. President Platt called on Dr. Sheldon Cohen, who introduced Dr. Jerry Farley, President of Washburn University. Dr. Farley welcomed the attendees to Washburn University and highlighted the past association of the Society and the University.

President Platt called the business meeting to order at 9:15 am. He called for approval of the minutes of the 2002 annual meeting, which were printed in the KWS Newsletter. Carroll Morgenson moved for approval of the minutes. Shel Cohen seconded the motion, which passed on a unanimous voice vote.

President Platt called on committee chairs for brief reports:  
Nominations Committee – Craig Freeman  
Book Sales – Carroll Morgenson  
Web Site – Lorna Harder  
Seed Collection Policy – Brad Guhr

President Platt called on Craig Freeman, who introduced Allison Hamm, the recipient of the 2002 Bancroft Scholarship Award. Ms. Hamm was born in Iola, KS; grew up on the East Coast, moved back to Kansas around 1999. She received an M.S. degree in Environmental Studies at Friends University, Wichita, in 2003. Her presentation was based on some of her work for her Master's degree, which involved studying planning options at the Dyck Arboretum in Hesston, KS.

Business meeting adjourned at 10:00 am by unanimous consent

10-10:20 am - break to cut 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake

At 10:20 am, Craig Freeman introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Larry Vickerman. Larry was born in Westcliffe, CO. He received his B.S. degree from Colorado State University and M.S. degree in Horticulture from the University of Washington. Larry served as Director of the Dyck Arboretum in Hesston, Kansas, from 1994-2000. He now serves as the El Paso County Horticultural

and Natural Resource Agent for Colorado State University Extension Service. His talk is entitled "Kansas Native Plants – Beyond the Borders." Larry provided a hand-out.

Talk concluded at 11:15 AM

Visioning session from 11:25-12:15 PM – see notes of session

**Summary of Ideas from "Visioning" Session  
Kansas Wildflower Society  
25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
September 13, 2003  
Topeka, Kansas**

During the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Kansas Wildflower Society, attendees were invited to comment on the future of the organization, where they would like to see it go in coming years, priorities for the board and membership, and what KWS needs to do better to achieve its organizational mission. As a way to stimulate the discussion and to focus ideas, four main topic areas were listed (**BOLD CAPS**). Within each main topic, some of the society's ongoing activities that relate to that topic were listed (**bold lower case**). As each idea was suggested, it was assigned by scribes to a main topic area as a way to help organize the input. Some ideas could be grouped easily with ongoing activities. Other suggestions reflected entirely new ideas or directions. These are listed after the ongoing activities as "New" ideas. The name following each idea is the individual who made the comment. At the end of the session, attendees were asked to help prioritize the long list of ideas. Each attendee was given three votes: 3, 2, 1. A "3" identifies their highest priority, "2" their next highest priority, and "1" their lowest high priority. Numbers in square brackets reflect all votes cast by attendees. Moderators and scribes for the session were Dwight Platt, Valerie Wright, and Craig Freeman.

**I. CONSERVATION  
seed exchange  
publications  
wayside award**

"New" ideas

- partner with other organization involved in plant/biodiversity conservation (Allison Hamm) [3,3,3,3,3,2,2]

- work with KACEE to involve children and young adults (John Shidler)
- Kansas Land Trust (Joanne Ramberg)
- Kansas Nature Conservancy (Joanne Ramberg)
- Grassland Heritage Foundation (Ann Simpson)
- Master Gardeners (Margit Hall) [3]
- Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks (Margit Hall)
- National Wildlife Federation (Jeff Hansen)
- identify a KWS liaison for other state/national conservation groups (Joanne Ramberg) [2]
- use Kansas Herpetological Society model for setting up liaison system (Stan Roth)
- identify a KWS liaison to work with Kansas Dept. of Transportation (James Taylor)
- acquire and manage land; work with partners to accomplish this (Shirley Braunlich) [3]
- establish a "plant rescue" program (Gary Weisenberger) [3,2,2,1]
- co-sponsor a meeting of the North American Prairie Conference (Margit Hall)

**II. OUTREACH**

**website**

- listserv; see Topica.com (Linda Rae)
- make e-mail lists available (Shirley Braunlich)
- make newsletter (or at least certain articles) available via website (Monica ?) [2]

**patch program**

- hold workshops or identify instructors to help individual interested in participating in patch program (Sr. Patricia Stanley)

**newsletter** [3,3,3,3,2,2,1,1]

- include committee reports; promote all of these to keep membership informed of wide variety activities that are ongoing (?)
- more info about planting/gardening with native species; maybe a section devoted to this (?) [3,1]

- hold meetings more frequently (2 times/year) to increase opportunities for member and non-members to become involved in society activities (Carroll Morgenson)
- virtual meetings and virtual field trips (Jeff Hansen)
- coordinate meetings with Dyck Arboretum; take advantage of their annual plants sales (Sr. Patricia Stanley) [1]
- write articles for other organizations/publications (John Shidler, Jeff Hansen)
- make publications available more widely (Shirley Braunlich)\*
- more merchandise (Shirley Braunlich) [2]
- traveling displays (Jeff Hansen)

“New” ideas

- establish volunteer corps/docent program (Valerie

Wright) [3,3,3,2,1,1]

- examine resources issues; “how can members help KWS and how can KWS help members” (Jan ?)

### III. EDUCATION

#### publications

**speakers bureau** [3,1,1,1]

- promote speakers bureau and update “canned” talks so they are available for use by membership (MaryLynn ?)

[3,3,3,2,1,1,1,1,1,1,1]

**website** [3,2,1,1]

- make talks and slide shows available via society website

(Jan ?)

**patch program**

**seed exchange** [1]

### IV. FIELD TRIPS

**forays** [3,3,3,2,2,2]

- increase number and do better job publicizing (Shel

Cohen)

- seed collecting field trips (Jeff Hansen) [3,2,1,1,1]

**van tours** [3,2,2,1]

- tour gardens where wildflowers are used (James Taylor)

[2,2,2,2,1,1]

### In Remembrance of Fred Meyer

Sr. Patricia M. Stanley

Wichita, Kansas

Fred Meyer, a long-time member of the Kansas Wildflower Society, passed away Friday, November 28, 2003, at his residence in Dodge City, Kansas. Fred worked as an engineer with the Soil Conservation Service, was active in the Boy Scouts, and had a passion for wildflowers.

I can see Fred now pouring over the prairies in search of a flower – an old familiar friend or a new friend to be. Every flower, no matter how small, was special to Fred, and he would talk at length about its characteristics. When instructing others on how to recognize a particular species, he would whip out a little magnifying glass and point out a small microscopic feature – a gland or hair – that would reveal a plant’s identity. I was privileged in our nine years of acquaintance to help him conduct wildflower tours in the vicinity of Dodge City. It was his plan of action to scout out an area, catalog everything there, set up markers (landmarks like 3<sup>rd</sup> fence post), draw up a list, and have it published by the tour time. Participants would meet before the tour, have a small pre-lesson, and then off they would go. At times, Edith, his wife, would accompany us, crippled as she was. Once, I persuaded him to host a flower identification session for a Kansas Association of Teachers of Science meeting at Rock Springs Ranch. One slide in his presentation showed a person walking away from the camera. His point – to identify a plant one must look at the back and front of a structure. Fred designed a booklet of flowers of Ford County to help the neophyte identify flowers by their shape. Once the shape was determined, other identifying characteristics could be studied. It was his desire to create such a booklet for the area in Arizona where he vacationed during the summer. Fred also was part of the nucleus of the High Plains Nature Society, a group that met monthly and heard presentations on every thing from birds to flowers and all natural things between. Even as a senior citizen, Fred wasn’t afraid of technology. When computers hit the scene, he bought a

Macintosh, learned how to use it, and started cataloging his flower slides. He later consulted me (then the head of the computer department at St. Mary of the Plains College) about how to scan slides. Before I knew it, Fred was setting up a website! He also was successful transplanting some wildflowers around his home. Especially memorable was his plains blackfoot daisy. In all that he did, Fred brought to those around him a deeper appreciation of the hidden beauties of Kansas and its wildflowers.

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**The Kansas Wildflower Society would like to welcome the following new members**

**Earl Allen - Manhattan**

**Janis Bair - Hutchinson**

**Dick & Sue Himes - Lawrence**

**Rose Wagoner - Salina**

## **LIFETIME & CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS**

**KWS would like to recognized the following Lifetime Members:**

**The Fink Foundation - Topeka**

**W. Glen and Marjorie F. Neely - Merriam**

**The Society would also like to express its appreciation to the following Contributing Members:**

**Sheldon and Virginia Cohen - Topeka**

**Edna Hamera - Shawnee Mission**

**Paul Roberts - Lincoln**

**Lillabelle Stahl - Burlingame**

**Phillip and Sharon White - Lincoln, NE**

## **--- OBITUARIES ---**

**It is with great sadness that the Newsletter must inform our members of the passing of two long time friends of the Society.**

### **Jean K. Cohen (1928-2004)**

**Jean was born and raised in Oklahoma, attending Oklahoma State University and graduating from Washburn University in Topeka. She was a certified public accountant and a fiber artist. Mrs. Cohen was a past president of the Mulvane Art Board and as a member of their Board of Directors was one of the founders of the Kansas Wildflower Society twenty-five years ago. She was a member of our first Board of Directors and served for a number of years in that capacity. Because of her knowledge of accounting she also served several terms as the Treasurer of KWS. She was honored two times as Topeka Woman of the Year and was also the first woman to be elected to the Kansas Board of Accountancy. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Louis Cohen. Jean was a kind and public spirited woman, who will be greatly missed.**

### **Helen Marie Hocker (1915-2004)**

**Helen Marie Hocker was born and raised in Missouri, graduating from Central Missouri State University. She taught high school for a few years before joining the faculty of Washburn University. Ms. Hocker retired in 1981 as chairperson and professor of the department of health, physical education and recreation at Washburn University in Topeka. Both before and after her retirement she was extremely active in leadership roles in Topeka community organizations, such as YMCA, Topeka Recreation Commission, Topeka Welfare Planning Council and the Topeka Intercultural Council. The Helen Hocker Performing Arts Center in Topeka**

was dedicated in recognition of her many contributions over the years. She and her sister, Virginia who is also now deceased, attended many KWS annual meetings together. Virginia served as our Society's first Administrative Assistant. Helen's community contributions were immense and she will be long remembered.



### CALENDAR OF KANSAS AREA WILDFLOWER & NATIVE PLANTS EVENTS

compiled by Shirley Braunlich and Jane Freeman

The mission of the Kansas Wildflower Society is to develop awareness in our citizens of the beauty of Kansas wildflowers, and to help educate people of the value of native plants in landscaping and their place in the state's ecology. Participants at KWS-sponsored outings should be prepared for variable weather and field conditions. Remember to bring drinking water. We also recommend that you wear sturdy footwear, long pants, insect repellent, sunscreen, and a hat. Further information about the Kansas Wildflower Society and its activities may be obtained from: Kansas Wildflower Society, R.L. McGregor Herbarium, 2045 Constant Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66047-3729. Online: [www.cs.hesston.edu/kws] Email: ccfree@ku.edu Phone: (785) 864-3453.

### 2004 EVENTS

**February 12:** 7:30pm Landscaping to attract birds and butterflies presented by Jane Kuwana, Master Gardeners of Lawrence and Douglas County. Sponsored by the Jayhawk Audubon Society. Location: Douglas County Senior Center (Lawrence, KS). Pam Chaffee <pchaffee@mindspring.com> (785) 887-6868.

**March 11:** 7:30pm Urban sprawl and open space preservation, a community based approach for problem solving presented by Bridgett Chapin and others. Sponsored by the Jayhawk Audubon Society. Location: Douglas County Senior Center (Lawrence, KS). Pam Chaffee <pchaffee@mindspring.com> (785) 887-6868.

**March 19-23:** The National Wildlife Federation is planning a trip to see Sandhill Cranes on the Platte River in Nebraska. For five weeks each spring, more than 500,000 cranes stop in south-central Nebraska for a magnificent banquet along the Platte River. Learn from some of the world's foremost sandhill and whooping crane experts, as they accompany us for this extraordinary event. Enjoy observation time in the blinds, daily hikes and evening presentations from expert crane biologists. [www.nwf.org] <expeditions@nwf.org> (800) 606-9563.

**March 27:** 8am-noon Visit Pawnee Prairie Park with Bill Beard of the Wichita Audubon Society [Wichitaaudubon.org]. Pawnee Prairie Park has over 400 acres of native and restored prairies and riparian woodlands following the course of the Cowskin Creek. Meet at the old nature center parking lot on South Tyler Road. Bill Beard <was@wichitaaudubon.org> (316) 722-3081.

**April 13:** 7pm Topeka Audubon Society Annual Dinner Meeting. Program: Medicinal and Poisonous Plants of the Prairie with Dr. Kelly Kindscher, KU Biology Dept. Location: Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. [www.topekaaudubonsociety.org] (785) 836-2351.

**April 17th & 24th:** 7am-noon the Missouri Prairie Foundation Spring Plant Sale at the City Market, 5th & Walnut, Kansas City, MO. [<http://www.moprairie.org>] (888) 843-6739.

**April 30-May 2:** Camp Horizon Family Weekend with the Wichita Audubon Society [[wichitaaudubon.org](http://wichitaaudubon.org)]. We'll enjoy bird watching, wildflower walks, amphibian and reptile walks, and more. Patty Marlett <[was@wichitaaudubon.org](mailto:was@wichitaaudubon.org)> (316) 942-2164.

**May 8:** Barber County Spring Wildflower Tour. Meet at the Medicine Lodge High School at 8:30am for registration. Enjoy a continental breakfast & slide presentation with some of the wildflowers we expect to see on the tour. Then board the school buses that will take us to the first plant identification site.

Morning tour participants will return to the school at noon. Full day participants will travel to a tree-shaded park for a barbeque lunch and entertainment by a "surprise" guest. After lunch we'll take a short ride through the beautiful gyp hills to a second plant identification site. Afternoon refreshments will be served before we ride back to the school around 3:30pm. The \$6 half-day tour includes breakfast and transportation to and from one identification site. The \$12 full-day tour includes breakfast, transportation, two identification stops, lunch, and afternoon refreshments. **Prepaid reservations should be sent before**

**May 3.** Order your official Barber County Wildflower Tour t-shirt (\$10) now. Barber County Conservation Office, 800 W 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Medicine Lodge, KS 67104-8002 [<http://www.naturalkansas.org>] (620) 886-3721 ext. 3.

**May 8:** Join Edna Hamera and Coleen Davison at 9:00am at the Prairie Center located at 135 St and Cedar Niles Rd, 4 mi west of downtown Olathe for a wildflower walk. Wear sturdy footwear and bug repellent. If any questions, contact Edna at (913) 677-4571 or 7010 Belinder Ave, Shawnee Mission, KS 66208.

**May 9:** Visit the Ft. Leavenworth woods with Caleb Morse. This woodland includes oak-hickory and maple-basswood sections;

we hope to see examples of both as well as several orchid species! To car pool from Lawrence, meet at 8:00 am in the parking lot for the McGregor Herbarium and the Biological Survey, Constant Ave. & Crowell Dr, on KU's West Campus, Lawrence, KS. [<http://www.nhm.ku.edu/herbarium/herbinfo.html>]

**Reservations are required by March 19.** Contact Caleb <[cmorse@ku.edu](mailto:cmorse@ku.edu)> (785) 864-4493.

**May 13-17:** FloraKansas: The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Plains Plant Bazaar, annually the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in May. This is the largest native plant sale in Kansas featuring hard-to-find native perennials, shrubs and trees plus fun "gardenabilia." Saturday offerings: classes, demonstrations, and tours from professionals. Hours: Saturday 8am-4pm, Sunday noon-4pm, and Monday 8am-8pm. Contact the Arboretum and becoming a member and about special members only sale dates. Admission charge is by donation. Location: Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, 177 W Hickory St, Hesston, KS. [arboretum@hesston.edu](mailto:arboretum@hesston.edu) (620) 327-8127.

**May 22-23:** Visit Quivira NWR & Cheyenne Bottoms with the Wichita Audubon Society [[wichitaaudubon.org](http://wichitaaudubon.org)]. Meet at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge headquarters at 8pm on Saturday evening for a chance to see or hear Black Rails. We have secured permission to be on Quivira property at night. Sunday, meet at the headquarters at 8am for the more usual search for shorebirds, waterfowl and other migrants. Leader: Kevin Groeneweg <[was@wichitaaudubon.org](mailto:was@wichitaaudubon.org)> (316) 687-4268.

**June 1-5:** Join Wichita Audubon Society for an extended field trip to Hutton Niobrara Sanctuary, Nebraska. We'll enjoy Long-billed Curlews, Bobolinks, lots of wildflowers and the fantastic scenery of the Nebraska Sandhills. Visit the new Audubon of Kansas property on the Niobrara River. Leader: Patty Marlett <[was@wichitaaudubon.org](mailto:was@wichitaaudubon.org)> (316) 942-2164.

**June 5:** Don't miss the 9th annual Wilson County Wildflower Tour, in southeast Kansas. Gathering at Fredonia High School, 916 Robinson, at 8:30 am, the group will enjoy home baked cinnamon rolls, browse booths of interest, and receive WC Wildflower Tour lanyards and bottled water. Departing for the prairie at 9:00 am the group will caravan to the picnic site where vehicles may be left. Buses will transport guests to the wildflower sites where leaders will guide them in plant identification, give historical interpretations of the area and explanations of the ecological significance of the sites. More experienced enthusiasts may opt to enjoy a self-guided tour. A picnic lunch will be served, followed by music of the prairie by a regional singer/songwriter, a challenging plant jeopardy game, and other presentations. **Prepaid reservations of \$6/person must be received by June 2.** Send reservations to: Wilson County Conservation District, 930 North 2nd Street, Fredonia KS 66736-2105. For further information, call (620) 378-2866.

**June 5:** Prairiefest Wildflower Tour, Arkansas City, KS. Chuckwagon breakfast at Wilson Park, wildflower walk and talk by conservationists on Bonfy Ranch, and hear music on the prairie. This is part of the Prairiefest Arts Festival. Admission is \$17.00. Directions: Hwy 77 (Summit) to Wilson Park (NW corner). [<http://www.prairiefest.org>] Ellen Snell <[dacarkcity.com](mailto:dacarkcity.com)> (620) 442-5895.

**June 5-6:** 9am-4pm Maxwell Wildlife Refuge Prairie Days. Celebrate the prairie, buffalo tours, stagecoach rides, mountain man camps, traders, demonstrations, wildflower and bird walks, cowboys, crafts, and music. Admission is \$1.00. The Refuge is located 6 miles north of Canton, KS. [<http://www.cyberkraft.com/maxwell>] <[bernie@wwwwebservice.net](mailto:bernie@wwwwebservice.net)> (620) 628-4455.

**June 13:** 2 pm A Tour of Three Prairies, Douglas County, KS. Join KWS Board member Roger Boyd and his wife Jan at the roadside park 3 miles east of Baldwin City on US 56. This is the

site of the Ivan L. Boyd Prairie Preserve. We will identify plants that are blooming and seeding, as well as view the impressive Santa Fe Trail ruts. Next, we will caravan to the Pioneer Cemetery 3 miles away. The final site will be Allen Prairie 2½ miles to the northwest. Each prairie is unique in its plant diversity. For further information, contact Dr. Roger Boyd at (785) 594-3172 or <[rboyd@bakeru.edu](mailto:rboyd@bakeru.edu)>.

**June 13:** Friends of Konza Prairie Annual Wildflower Walk, 7pm. Meet at the Konza Biological Station located along McDowell Creek Road, west off of KS177 near Manhattan, KS [<http://www.ksu.edu/konza/keep>] (785) 587-0381.

**June 19:** Wildflower walk at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Strong City, KS. Sponsored by the Topeka Audubon Society. Meet at the Starlight Skate Center in Topeka at 6:30am. Dan Gish <[GishBEAR@aol.com](mailto:GishBEAR@aol.com)> (785) 232-3731.

**June 20:** 1 pm Celebrate the Summer Solstice by visiting a glaciated tallgrass prairie! Co-sponsored by Grassland Heritage Foundation and Kansas Wildflower Society. This is a very diverse, high-quality prairie. We should see a plethora of Prairie phlox and hopefully the federally protected Mead's milkweed too! Jeff Hansen and Shirley Braunlich will lead this wildflower walk at the Coblentz Prairie (Clinton Wildlife Area). The prairie is in Douglas County southwest of the Woodridge area of Clinton Lake, approximately 0.5 mile east of the Shawnee County line on the south side of North 1150 Road. Please park on the north side of the road. [<http://www.cs.hesston.edu/kws>] <[hanjd@earthlink.net](mailto:hanjd@earthlink.net)> (785) 478-1993.

**August 8-12:** The 19th North American Prairie Conference will be held in Madison, WI. [<http://www.napc2004.org>].

**September 9-12:** FloraKansas Great Plains Plant Bazaar, annually the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in September. This is the largest native plant sale in Kansas featuring hard-to-find native

perennials, shrubs and trees plus fun “gardenabilia.” Saturday offerings: classes, demonstrations, and tours from professionals. Hours: Saturday 8am-4pm, Sunday noon-4pm, and Monday 8am-8pm. Contact the Arboretum and becoming a member and about special members only sale dates. Admission charge is by donation. Location: Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, 177 W Hickory St, Hesston, KS. arboretum@hesston.edu (620) 327-8127.

**September 19:** 2 pm Baker Wetlands Outing, Lawrence, KS. Join KWS Board member Roger Boyd and his wife Jan at the boardwalk of the Baker Wetlands for a tour of the wide range of fall plants that inhabit the wetlands. Numerous grasses and sedges will be identified. The Wetlands are located on the south side of Lawrence. Reach the boardwalk by traveling 0.5 mile west of the intersection of Haskell Ave and 31<sup>st</sup> St, or 0.5 mi east of the intersection of Louisiana St and 31<sup>st</sup> St. The Wetland entrance is on a gravel road 100 yards south of 31<sup>st</sup> Street. Walk through the gate and turn right to the Information Kiosk and boardwalk. For further information contact Dr. Roger Boyd at (785) 591-3172 or <rboyd@bakeru.edu>.

## 2005 EVENTS

**April 29-May 1:** 4<sup>th</sup> Wings 'N Wetlands (Biennial) Weekend in Great Bend, KS. Wildlife Extravaganza: Birds, reptiles, mammals & wildflowers! Featuring: Guided birding tours of Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivera National Wildlife Refuge, workshops on outdoor photography, marsh management, and water bird identification. [[www.naturalkansas.org/birding.htm#VNW](http://www.naturalkansas.org/birding.htm#VNW)] <cvb@greatbend.com> (877) 427-9299.

## About the Cover

They stand, swaying in the wind, exclamation points against the cold, winter sky. Bent, wizened and emptied of seed, the plump, velvety pods of *Asclepias tuberosa* have been transformed by the cycle of the seasons. Their job is done and yet they remain to capture the eye, aged denizens of the sleeping prairie.

Each year brings change to our prairie pasture. Native grasses have increased in coverage and additional wildflower species have appeared (where have they been all of these years?). But there are some species that will not reappear without some assistance. There are neither the seeds in the soil nor nearby sources from which seeds can disperse. Butterfly milkweed is one such species.

With that in mind, my husband handed me some cash on the last day of Flora Kansas last May and said, “Buy lots of butterfly milkweed for the pasture!” Lacking any definite strategy for reintroduction of native species at that point, I proceeded to buy nearly two dozen plants. The pasture had been burned in late March, spring rains and warming temperatures had coaxed the grasses from dormancy and they were flourishing in the planting area. We decided first to mow strips to reduce cover. Then we dug holes in the sod that were twice the depth and diameter of the pots to give the new plants space to establish. We also constructed chicken wire cages to protect the new plants from those ubiquitous cottontails. Finally during the third week in May we planted. Butterfly milkweed had returned to the pasture!

Over the next six weeks rainshowers provided the necessary water and new leaves began to appear on the plants. They were growing! Then July came along, the weather turned extraordinarily hot and dry, and the task of watering began. Wheelbarrows of one-gallon water jugs were trundled out each night. By the middle of August, most of the plants had given up and withered away – dormancy I hoped. We

continued to water lightly to maintain some soil moisture around the young roots.

On the first day of September, rain and cooler temperatures at long last returned. Within the month, more than half of the plants had re-sprouted. It looked hopeful. As added insurance, more strips were mowed in the fall prairie and freshly harvested butterfly milkweed seed was broadcast in late November. Now we are waiting for spring and the real test of survival! If even a few seeds germinate, if only a few plants survive, butterfly milkweed will regain its historic place in the prairie pasture. In the meantime we dream of summers with gleaming red clumps of butterfly milkweed and winters with their lovely remains.

--LHH

## Kansas Wildflower Society



### CALL FOR THE KWS WAYSIDE AWARD

**The Wayside Award is given to an individual or group who has demonstrated the use of native plants to improve, restore or beautify Kansas lands. Application material for this award can be obtained from Dr. Stephen L. Timme, T. R. Sperry Herbarium, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg Kansas, 66762-7552 or by e-mail [slt@pittstate.edu](mailto:slt@pittstate.edu). Closing date for receipt of applications is 2 July 2004.**

## ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

**The KWS Photographic Contest is open to all members of the Society. Members are strongly encouraged to submit their works. There are three categories ---**

- 1. Close up: The flower or other plant structure should nearly fill the frame.**
- 2. Scenery: Any natural scene that includes vegetation of the state; for example, a prairie of blazing stars.**
- 3. Whole plant: The photo should reflect the overall habit of the plant, including flowers and/ or fruit, stems and leaves.**

**The photos can be of any Kansas plant - flowering plants, gymnosperms, ferns, bryophytes, etc. Each of the above three categories will have a first, second and third place, if there are enough entries and the photographs submitted are judged worthy of one of the three places.**

**Instruction: The photographs can be 5x7 or 8x10 and must be mounted on foam board. Information to be included on a large label attached to the back**

**of the foam board is as follows: 1. photographer's name; 2. photographer's address; 3. photographer's phone number; 4. photographer's e-mail address (if available); 5. county in which the photo was taken; 6. month in which the photo was taken; and 7. The category to which the photo is being submitted. Please type or print. Photos will be returned sometime after the fall annual meeting.**

**Please submit your photographs to Dr. Stephen L. Timme, T. M. Sperry Herbarium, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg Kansas 66762-7552. Deadline to submit is 6 August, 2004.**

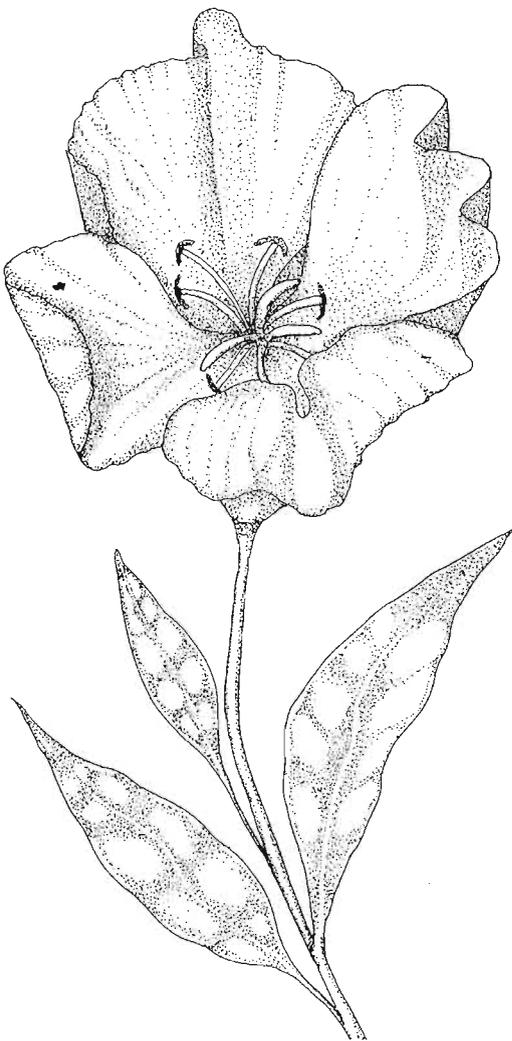
**Missouri Evening Primrose *Oenothera macrocarpa***  
2004 Kansas Wildflower of the Year

**Foliage Characteristics.**

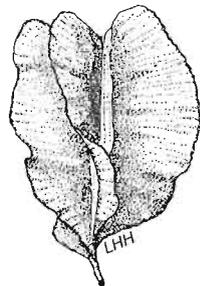
Missouri evening primrose is an elegant, low-growing species with silvery green leaves borne on red-tinged stem that may grow upright but commonly sprawl.

**Floral and Fruit Characteristics.**

Large, showy lemon-yellow flowers arise singly from the bases of leaves. Flowers open in the evening, attracting numerous sphinx moths. As they wilt the next day petals turn an attractive pinkish-orange. The blooming period for this species occurs in late spring and early summer, but adequate moisture will extend the blooming period.



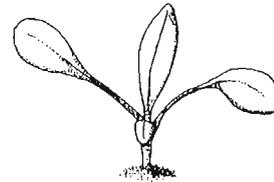
A large, interesting fruit capsule with four tan, papery wings is produced. Seeds in the four



chambers of the capsule look like tiny brown turtles marching in a row!



**Growing from seed.** This species is easily grown from seed. Freshly harvested seed can be planted in the garden in fall or seed can be cold-treated for six weeks and then planted in pots or in the spring garden. Cotyledons are dark green with red stalks. The first leaves are silvery green and arise one at a time from the base of the cotyledons.



**Habitat and Cultivation.** Missouri evening primrose grows easily in well-drained sunny sites. The thick, woody taproot extends deep into the soil, making this species tolerant of droughty conditions. Some self-seeding can occur, but the species does not spread aggressively. Plants grown from seeds or seedlings often bloom the first season.

**Range.** Missouri evening primrose naturally occurs in shallow, rocky limestone soils in the eastern ¾ of Kansas. Four subspecies have been identified

- subsp. *macrocarpa*, Missouri evening primrose with 1-2 inch-long petals, common north and east
- subsp. *incana*, hoary evening primrose with silvery green leaves, common south and west
- subsp. *fremontii*, Fremont's evening primrose with ½-1-inch petals, common north and central
- subsp. *oklahomensis*, Oklahoma evening primrose with smooth, fine leaves, common south and east

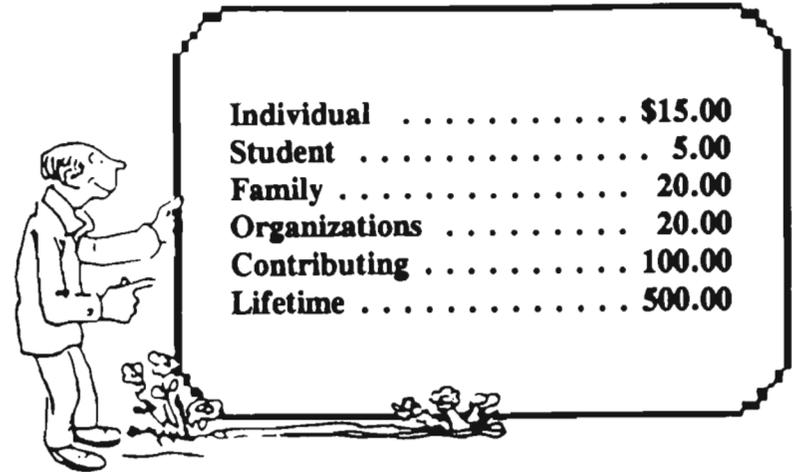
**References**

- Freeman, Craig C. and Eileen K. Schofield. 1991. *Roadside Wildflowers of the Southern Great Plains*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of KS.
- Ladd, Doug. 1995. *Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers: A Falcon Field Guide*. Helena, MT: Falcon Press.
- Platt, Dwight and Lorna Harder. 1991. *Growing Native Wildflowers*. Kansas Wildflower Society.

Drawings courtesy of Lorna Habegger Harder. Used by permission.

**GIFT MEMBERSHIP  
in the**

**KANSAS WILDFLOWER SOCIETY**



<b>Individual</b> .....	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Student</b> .....	<b>5.00</b>
<b>Family</b> .....	<b>20.00</b>
<b>Organizations</b> .....	<b>20.00</b>
<b>Contributing</b> .....	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Lifetime</b> .....	<b>500.00</b>

**A GIFT BOUND TO PLEASE**

A membership in the Kansas Wildflower Society would be a welcome gift for your family and friends. They will remember you with each issue of the Newsletter.

Other possible appreciated and thoughtful gifts of KWS memberships could be "In Honor of" a valued friend or relative, or "In Memoriam" to honor a friend or relative. The memberships could go to a rest home, or to a school or church library. A "Thinking of You" membership for a Birthday, Anniversary or a holiday would be another appreciated gift.

Notice of your gift membership will be mailed to the recipient as soon as possible.

**KANSAS WILDFLOWER SOCIETY  
C/O R.L. McGregor Herbarium  
2045 Constant Avenue  
Lawrence, KS 66047-3729**