



## Photo Gallery



### Friday Field Trip

Gary Weisenburg, Craig Freeman, and Michael Heffron led groups in discovering what grows on the tall grass prairie. There was a review of grasses, Indian grass was the most noticeable, followed by big and little bluestems and others. Many other little surprises were hidden, rigid and grass-leaved goldenrod, good ceresia, the last of the pitcher sage, rose hips, asters, and others. However, the stars of the show were the downy gentian and ladies tresses.

#### Inside this issue: Annual Meeting

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## Chuck Wagon Meal

After the field trip attendees were treated to a chuck wagon meal of beans, barbequed beef, biscuits, and peach cobbler. Some sat on the rocks by the now quiet falls.



#### Special points of interest:

- Annual Meeting was a remarkable event
- New board members
- A success story - Ogg Prairie
- Photo contest winners
- More events for the summer and fall
- How to gather wildflower seeds



## Xtimbers Tour

After the talk by Daniel Griffen describing xtimbers (cross timbers). The group took a tour of an area near Sedan that may contain cross timbers. Cross Timbers are the post oak and blackjack oak dominated forests that form the transition zone between the upland deciduous forests of the East and the grasslands of the southern Great Plains. The Cross Timbers extend from central Texas across eastern Oklahoma, and into southeastern Kansas.



**Kansas  
Wildflower  
Society**

**The Kansas Wildflower Society is**

**dedicated to developing an awareness of the beauty of Kansas Wildflowers, the value of their use in landscaping public areas and their place in our ecology.**

# Wildflower Wanderings

by Valerie Wright, President, KWS

More than 60 people attended the Annual Fall Meeting of the Kansas Wildflower Society held in Sedan, Kansas, on October 1, 2 and 3, 2004. What a great time we had! The weather was beautiful, the hikes picturesque and full of new plants for those of us from far away. The Red Buffalo Ranch is a special location with many miles of trails open to the public. I, for one, plan to return next spring to see what wildflowers might be blooming then.

Our meeting was held at the Art of the Prairie Gallery in Sedan. What an elegant and appropriate setting it was! Beautiful paintings of prairie and other works of art adorned the walls along with our own unique photo contest entries. See the list of winners later in this newsletter. We were treated to a slide show of amazing photos from the collection of Janet Farnsworth, which has been donated to KWS. It contains more than 20,000 slides of flowering plants from around the world. We also made our annual choice of five candidates for Wildflower of the Year. Along with several other organizations, our choices will be considered and the final choice will be promoted in 2005 as a garden planting and pinup for calendars and other promotions. Our main speaker, Daniel Griffin, gave us an ecosystem full of information about the Ancient Cross-timbers area and we later hiked through a part of it. Dr. David Stahle and his students walked with us on Saturday afternoon, adding more to our knowledge of the Cross-Timbers area.

Congratulations to Harold Kline for earning the Excellence in Botany Award. This award is given to an individual for a significant contribution to botany in Kansas. Harold was honored for his commitment to education through the annual Barber County Wildflower Tour, which he has conducted for many years.



The Rachel Snyder Memorial Award is given to an individual or group for a project promoting the use of native plants in the landscape. This

year's award went to the Solid Waste North Annex Facility in Lawrence. Their horticultural plantings of native wildflowers reduced water usage at the plant, beautified the facility and continues to teach others about the value of our Kansas native plants. The award was accepted by Kathy Richardson for the facility staff.

On Sunday, October 3, twenty of us carpoled to the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve just across the border in Oklahoma. Some of the bison herd were right there beside the road to greet us. We hiked the nature trail through grasses over our heads and vistas of unending rolling hills dotted with scrub oaks. As we said our good-byes, already plans were being made for the next annual meeting, September 30 to October 1, 2005. Please put that date on your calendar

and come with us next year to another amazing Kansas landscape.

To keep our society thriving, I am requesting again that you help us find new members by sending in a name or two of people who might have interest in joining. There is a box inserted in this newsletter where you can fill in the name and address of a potential member. Send it to our address and that's all you have to do. Each potential member will receive a very nice packet of information and goodies from KWS. They can decide whether they want to become members after receiving the packet. In the past year your Board participated 100% in this membership drive by proposing names of colleagues, family, friends and neighbors. Please consider doing the same. Many thanks to all who participate.

I hope that you will enjoy this newsletter. Please write to us or send e-mails to our new address ([kansaswildflowers@yahoo.com](mailto:kansaswildflowers@yahoo.com)) with your comments.

# Ogg Road Prairie Shows Great Diversity

By David Markham

KCWL website, [www.kcwildlands.org](http://www.kcwildlands.org)

Shawnee Mission Park encompasses more than 1,200 acres, but officials believe the park's greatest plant diversity occurs on a treasured area that is just short of four acres.

This 3.9-acre plot is known as the Ogg Road Prairie. It is located on a sloped southern exposure on the park's north side, is punctuated at midpoint by a rocky outcropping, and also encompasses a small pond.

Johnson County Park and Recreation District officials believe that prior to its acquisition in the late 1950s as part of the park that opened in the early 1960s, the prairie area was used as an unplowed hayfield. The area drew little notice or attention until 1987 when Rachel Snyder of the Kansas Wildflower Society became interested in the site and spearheaded a species inventory. Approximately 130 species were found, excluding grasses and

woody plants.

"The park has a valuable resource in that area west of Ogg Road with an unusually large number of species. They are going to disappear, though, unless something is done about encroaching woody plants," Snyder wrote in an August 1988 letter to park officials.

In response to the letter, several Boy Scout projects were used as a nominal means of managing the prairie area through the rest of the 1980s and into the 1990s, but focused management wasn't firmly established until the formation of Kansas City WildLands



and the initiation of workdays at the site in early 2001. The Ogg Road Prairie was the site of one of the group's first workdays and has benefited from at least one workday per year since that time. Volunteers have helped remove invasive species, the most common ones at the site being sumac and native dogwood, and have helped restore the prairie area to its original size prior to the encroachment. Park staff has also initiated annual controlled burns at the area for the past two years.

Long-range plans for the prairie include continued workdays as needed to control invasives and placing some signage at the site. The park district has also asked the Heritage Grassland Foundation to conduct a new plant species inventory at the site to see what changes have taken place since the 1987 survey.

(Reprinted with permission from Kansas City WildLands and its Partner, Johnson County Parks and Recreation District)

## Election Results

At the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Kansas Wildflower Society, held October 1-3, 2004, in Sedan, Kansas, each of the following individuals were nominated and elected to a 3-year term on the Board of Directors:

Krista Dahlinger - Mulvane

Brad Guhr - Newton

Jeff Hansen - Topeka

Allison Hamm - Wichita

Michael Heffron - Eureka

George Lippert - Chanute

Marion McGlohon - Ulysses

Carl Paulie - St. Paul

Dwight Platt - Newton

Dee Scherich - Wilmore

Phyllis Scherich - Wilmore

Ann Simpson - Fairway

Sr. Patricia Stanley - BelAire

Julie Torseth - Newton

Stephen Timme - Pittsburg

New members on the Board are

Krista Dahlinger, Allison Hamm,

Carl Paulie,



Dee Scherich, and Phyllis Scherich.

Leaving the board is Betty Langston-Macon - Attica.

Elected by the Board of Directors to 1-year terms each as officers of the Kansas Wildflower Society were the following:

President: Valerie Wright - Manhattan

President Elect: Jeff Hansen - Topeka

Secretary: Cindy Ford - Pittsburg

Treasurer: Sr. Patricia Stanley - Wichita

## Flower of the Year

### Candidates for 2005 Wildflower of the Year and tallies from those present at the meeting:

- Lithospermum incisum; fringed puccoon - 23
- Opuntia macrorhiza; big-root prickly pear - 6
- Ratibida columnifera; upright prairie-coneflower - 15
- Solidago missouriensis; Missouri golden-rod - 4
- Callirhoe involucrata; purple poppy-mallow - 24
- Salvia pitcher; Pitcher's sage - 23
- Amorpha canescens; leadplant - 10
- Yucca glauca; small soapweed - 3
- Delphinium virescens; plains larkspur - 22
- Schrankia nuttallii; catclaw sensitive briar - 16

## Photo Contest



More than 30 beautiful entries in the KWS Photo Contest made for some difficult decisions by the three judge team. First Place blue ribbons went to Phyllis Scherich of Wilmore and Mary Nevin of Lawrence. Best of Show went to Marion McGlohon for her view of Indian Blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*) and Yucca in Grant County, Ks, and to Nancy Goulden for her trilogy of Nipple Cactus (*Escobaria missouriensis*) in Riley Co. Nancy's decision to put three photos on one matt, each showing a different part of the plant (flowers, fruit and whole plant), the name of the plant and location of the photo impressed the judges. Her

## Newsletter Name

### Another poll was taken: What to name the newsletter publication. What is your favorite?

- Kansas Coneflower
- Grassland Gazette - 1
- The Ozobyrum
- The Achisma
- Dalea
- Prairie Primer
- Prairie Voice (Voice of the Prairie) - 2
- Prairie Passages - 1
- Kansas Phytoherald
- Prairie Pratter
- Native Plant News - 2
- Native Growth/Growing Native - 4
- Prairie Patter
- The Puccoon

## Welcome

### New Members

- Mariellen Appleby - Sedan
- Nancy & Fred Coombs - Holton
- Katherine R. Garrett - Douglass
- Kathleen Gerdes - Altamont
- Mike Haddock - Manhattan
- Catherine Johnson - Andover
- Jesse Milne - Wichita
- Kara Peavey - Wichita
- Matthew Brock Rhodes - Douglass
- Debra Riley-Huff - Lawrence
- Mary C. Smith - Pretty Prairie
- Heather Stowe - Wichita

Welcome!

### Lifetime Members:

- W. Glen and Marjorie F. Neely, Chanute
- Fink Foundation, Topeka
- Sally Haines of Lawrence

### Contributing Members:

- Chris and Kristen Hase, Pratt
- Edna Hamera, Shawnee Mission
- Lillabelle Stahl, Burlingame
- Phillip and Sharon White, Lincoln, NE
- Sheldon and Virginia Cohen, Topeka

format will be used for the main category of entries in future photo contests. Congratulations to everyone who won a ribbon and thanks to all of you who participated.

### Best of Show



Yucca in a field of Gaillardia, Grant County, Ks by Marian McGlohon

## 2004-2005 Kansas Area Wildflower & Native Plant Events

Information provided by Kansas Wildflower Society, R.L.McGregor Herbarium, 2045 Constant Ave., Lawrence, KS 66047-3729.

Online: [www.cs.Hesston.edu/kws] Email: <kansaswildflowers@yahoo.com> Phone: (785) 864-3453.

Please share this information with other interested folks and contact us with information on other events to note. Thank you!

**For outdoor events we recommend bringing sturdy footwear, long pants, insect repellent, sunscreen, a hat and water!**



**October 24:** Boat Ramp #9 at Clinton Lake - prairie foray, 2pm. Don't miss Kansas Wildflower Society's tour of the high quality tallgrass prairie on this remote and scenic rocky hilltop. Explore this 60-acre site with Jeff Hansen, KWS President-elect. Boat Ramp #9 is in west-central Douglas County, near the intersection of E 100 & N 1000 Road. From Topeka: at the intersection of SE 45th St. & Topeka Blvd., take SE 45th St. east to Stull. See directions below: Douglas County 442 west (N 1600) to 1023 south (E 250). From Lawrence take Hwy 40 west. Turn left onto Douglas County 442 west (N 1600) and go to Stull. From the town of Stull take 1023 south (E 250) for 6 miles (it will curve and cross the Wakarusa River). To continue on 1023, take the first right, the opposite direction from the town of Clinton. Go a little over 1 mile to N 950. Take N 950 for about 2 miles to E100. Take a right (north) at E100 and you will eventually see the Boat Ramp #9 sign. The prairie is on the right side of the road, 5-10 minutes walking distance up the hill. Contact Jeff with questions <hanjd@earthlink.net> or (785) 478-1993.



**November 6:** "State of the Prairie" Seminar, 8:30am-3:30pm. Kelly Kindscher of the Kansas Biological Survey, Randy Rodgers of Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, and Dale Ladd of KSU Research and Extension will cover a variety of topics including an overview of Kansas prairie communities, edible and medicinal plants, grassland birds, conservation tools, conducting prescribed burns, and much more. Brad Guhr of the Dyck Arboretum and KWS Board Member will also report on the progress of the Arboretum's Central Kansas Prairie Remnant Inventory. Cost (includes continental breakfast and lunch): \$35 Arboretum members, \$45 non-members. Location: Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, 177 West Hickory Street, Hesston, KS. Hesston is 30 miles N of Wichita. [www.dyckarboretum.org] <arboretum@Hesston.edu> (620) 327-8127

**November 6:** Perry Lake Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS with Kansas Sierra Club. Have fun and keep the Perry Lake Trail clear for trail users. Bring hand tools, work gloves and lunch, 9am. Steve Hassler <steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org> (913) 599-6028

**November 6:** Snyder Day, sponsored by Grassland Heritage Foundation. Save this date for a workday and program at Snyder Prairie! Snyder Prairie is in Mayetta, KS north of Topeka. Take Highway 75 north from Topeka about 25 miles (north of I-70) to 158<sup>th</sup> Rd (just before Mayetta), turn right (east) drive 4 miles to U Rd. At U road, turn right (south) drive a quarter mile to the gate across from a private residence. Contact the GHF office with questions, <grassland@grapevine.net> or (913) 262-3506.

**November 7:** The Honeysuckle Battle Continues! Join us for this great annual honeysuckle lop-athon, 1 - 4pm. What a difference one restoration work day can make on the Wild Lands! This fun fall work day will take place on the following sites:

- Rocky Point Glades in Swope Park, Kansas City, Missouri, owned by Kansas City Missouri Parks and Recreation
- Blue River Glades, Kansas City, Missouri, owned by Jackson County Parks and Recreation
- Hidden Valley Park natural area, north Kansas City, Missouri, owned by Kansas City Missouri Parks and Recreation
- Cliff Drive scenic byway, Kansas City, Missouri, owned by Kansas City Missouri Parks and Recreation
- Maple Woods natural area, Gladstone, Missouri, owned by Missouri Department of Conservation
- Blue River Corridor boat ramp (Blue River Watershed Association project site), south Kansas City, Missouri, owned by Jackson County Parks and Recreation

This is a great restoration work day for groups, large and small. Contact Linda Lehrbaum for more information or to register for a site. <linda@bridgingthegap.org> (816) 561-1061 x116

# BEWARE: There May Be Invasive Plants in Your Backyard

*The Nature Conservancy Urges Arkansas Gardeners to Use the First Week of Spring to Help Stop the Spread of America's Worst Weeds* www.nature.org

## Little Rock, AR —March 23, 2004—

In the first week of spring, The Nature Conservancy is asking Arkansans to check their yards and gardens for plants that can escape cultivation and cause tremendous damage to the natural environment and the local economy.

Plants such as privet, Japanese honeysuckle, kudzu and sericea lespedeza have been used widely in horticulture and landscaping, and can be found in backyards and business lots across the region. At first glance these plants may look pretty, but their beauty is deceptive.

Known as invasive species, plants like these are typically transplants from distant places. Once free from the natural checks and balances in their native habitats, these alien invaders establish themselves in new areas and quickly spread out of control. They hoard light, water and nutrients, and can alter entire ecosystems by displacing native species, altering fire regimes and changing soil chemistry.

With intentional and unintentional assistance from people, these problematic plants are spreading at an alarming rate, infecting natural areas across the United States.

"Keeping invasive plants out of America's backyards helps the environment and the economy," said Steve McCormick, president of The Nature Conservancy. "Taking the time to remove invasive plants and replace them with non-invasive varieties is a great example of bringing new energy to the old adage: think globally, act locally."

Because many invasive plants are spread by unsuspecting gardeners, The Nature Conservancy has created a wallet insert that gardeners can carry with them when shopping at their local nurseries. The insert lists the worst invasive plants for each region of the country. If you see one of these plants at your local

nursery, do not buy it, and talk to the nursery owner about discontinuing its sale. You can find the insert in the summer edition of the Conservancy's magazine.

The Nature Conservancy is working throughout Arkansas to control invasives and prevent them from destroying natural ecosystems.

"Controlling invasive species is a big part of what our stewardship crews do every year," said Scott Simon, director of the Conservancy's Arkansas chapter. "Our state has so many beautiful native trees and flowers that look stunning in a garden setting and do not add to the invasives problem. And since they're right at home in Arkansas soils and climate, they require less watering and fertilization to thrive."

In Saline County, the Conservancy is part of a broad partnership between Alcoa, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission to restore Alcoa's former bauxite mines and preserve the rare glades surrounding them. More than a dozen invasive species threaten this preserve, the worst being common privet, kudzu, Japanese honeysuckle, and sericea lespedeza. Less common but still problematic invaders are wisteria, multiflora rose, periwinkle (*Vinca*), and Johnson grass. Volunteers have been an important part of ongoing efforts to rid the area of invasive species and replant native ones.

In southwestern Arkansas, the Conservancy and public and private landowners are working together to restore the region's native blackland prairies. The eastern red cedar is native to Arkansas, but without regular fires to keep it in check, it quickly spreads into prairie openings and completely alters their natural composition. Fescue is also a problematic species here, having been widely planted as pasture for livestock. Volunteers have helped remove cedars from the prairie openings, and stewardship crews must conduct controlled burns every year to keep cedars and fescue from spreading and to help native wildflowers grow.

On the national level, The Conservancy is working with nursery and horticulture groups to identify invasives that might voluntarily be removed from the market.

"Nursery growers, landscape designers and others who make their career in horticulture have become increasingly concerned with the problems related to invasive plants," said Wayne Mezitt, board member and past president of the American Nursery & Landscape Association (ANLA), and owner of Weston Nurseries in Massachusetts. "We see our role as educators, helping our customers and the public, as well as fellow nursery folk across the country, understand how invasive plants impact them."

The threat posed by invasive species – both plant and animal – to the survival of native species is exceeded only by the threat of habitat loss. The cost to the national economy is estimated as high as \$137 billion per year, due primarily to losses in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, as well as the cost of clearing invasive-clogged waterways and fighting invasive-fueled fires.

## Editor's Note:

This article refers to studies done in Arkansas but no extensive studies have been done in Kansas according to Ruth Palmer of The Nature Conservancy Kansas Chapter.

The following is a list of invasives in Kansas supplied by Ruth Palmer:

Bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*, *L. morrowii*, *L. tatarica*)

Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

European (or common) buckthorn (*Rhamus*)

Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)

Sericea, or Chinese lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*)

(Reprinted with permission of the author)

# Wild for Wildflowers?

By Carolyn Ramsey

Grab your garden gloves and head for the fields. It's harvest time! I'm not talking pumpkins or tomatoes; I'm talking wildflowers—more specifically, the seeds of wildflowers. Before anybody gets too excited, let me point out some important guidelines to follow when harvesting wildflower seeds:

- 1) Don't collect seed from the wild. It's usually against the law.
- 2) Get permission from landowners before harvesting their seeds.
- 3) Take only a small harvest (10 percent or less) from an abundant wildflower species
- 4) Don't take any seed from a rare or scarce wildflower.
- 5) Don't pull up the entire plant. Most wildflowers are perennials.

## What to Harvest

Native plants and grasses work best. A rule of thumb is to harvest seeds within 100 miles of your garden site and to target plants that naturally grow on sites similar to yours. Seeds are easily available from these common Kansas plants: Kansas Gayfeather (*Liatris pycnostachya*); Purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*); Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*); Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia pulchella*); and Big-flower Coreopsis (*Coreopsis grandiflora*). Some grasses include Sand Lovegrass (*Eragrostis trichodes*); Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*); and Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*). Take a good look at a Kansas prairie and you'll see that this is just a sampling of native plants.

## When to Harvest

Timing is the most difficult part of seed collection, and ideally, you should watch and record the plant's life cycle to help you determine the harvest time. Fortunately, many

plants are ready to harvest in the fall, so you can start reaping the rewards now. Wait until the flowers have faded and the seeds have matured. Most ripe seeds will have a dark or rich outer color and many will be shiny. Fertile seeds often have a visible amount of white starchy matter (endosperm). If seeds are collected too early, they will be immature and have low seed viability. If seeds are collected too late, they can scatter quickly. If a particular plant catches your eye but it hasn't gone to seed yet, tie a ribbon around its stem ... once the petals fall and the leaves wilt, it can be difficult to pick out that prized plant. Carry a good plant guide to help identify plants.

## How to Harvest

Take pruning shears, a marker and containers to collect seeds. Paper bags and envelopes work well. If a plant has seed pods, collect the entire pod just as the pods are beginning to open. Collecting the entire pod allows the seed to continue ripening in the pod as it dries. To strip grass seeds from the plant, run your gloved hand up the stem, over the flowering shoots. Wildflowers that have spiny thistle-like seeds should be collected as an entire seed head and wildflowers with fleshy seeds should be picked by hand. Drying and Storing Separate the seeds from chaff by sifting through a screen, and spread them out to dry. (Fleshy seeds are an exception to drying; they should be planted as soon as possible and kept moist once cleaned.) An old article from the magazine *This Old House* suggested stacking trays of drying seeds on the dashboard of your car. The heat buildup speeds the drying process, but you definitely don't want to speed around corners with those trays in place! Seeds need to breathe, so avoid airtight containers. Use paper

bags or envelopes instead. Store them in a low and constant humidity and temperature (less than 50 degrees and less than 50 percent humidity).

As a general rule, wildflowers The Gayfeather, shown above, is the easiest *Liatris* to grow in the home landscape. Photo courtesy of Dyck Aboretum of the Plains, Hesston, Kansas. Photographer: Emily Weaver planted in the fall will bloom in the spring. Wildflowers usually prefer sun; however, individual species vary—some bloom in the fall and prefer shade. Don't bury them too deeply; seeds like to see the sunlight. Simply scratch the surface of the soil, scatter the seeds on top, and water lightly. Because a late frost can kill tender seedlings, use only half of your seeds; that way you'll have backup if you need to reseed. Don't fertilize. (Most wildflowers adapt to poor soil) Don't expect everything to come up the first year.

Harvesting your own seed, planting and watching it flower is kind of like baking bread from scratch: you see the product evolve from the basics and the result is very satisfying. But if you don't want to harvest seed, you can buy it at local nurseries. And if you don't want to plant seed, you'll find lots of native plants for sale at the prairie gardens of the Dyck Aboretum of the Plains in Hesston. If you just want to look, take a leisurely drive through the country!

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## KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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## Membership Information



**Kansas  
Native Plant  
Society**

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

Annual dues are for a 12-month period from January 1-December 31. Dues paid after December 1 are applied to the next year.

Name:	
Address:	
City/State:	
Zipcode:	
Phone:	
E-Mail:	

Please complete this form or a photocopy of it. Send the completed form and a check payable to the Kansas Wildflower Society to:

Kansas Wildflower Society  
R.L. McGregor Herbarium  
2045 Constant Avenue  
Lawrence, KS 66047-3729

Check membership category desired:

- |                          |              |          |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student      | \$5.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual   | \$15.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family       | \$20.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Organization | \$20.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Contributing | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Lifetime     | \$500.00 |

Check membership category desired:

A membership in the Kansas Wildflower 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 by the KWS Administrative Office.