




KANSAS WILDFLOWER OF THE YEAR – BLUE OR PITCHER SAGE

 Blue or Pitcher Sage (*Salvia azurea* var. *grandiflora*) has been designated as the ‘Wildflower of the Year’ for 2006. So readers can get to know this late summer favorite better, we are providing an excerpt from *GROWING NATIVE WILDFLOWERS: Kansas Wildflower Society Handbook* by Dwight R. Platt and Lorna H. Harder.

DERIVATION OF NAMES. "Pitcher" - named for Dr. Zina Pitcher, a 19th century U.S. Army surgeon and botanist; "sage" (from French) and "*Salvia*" (from Latin) safe or well because some plants of this genus have medicinal properties; "*azurea*" (from Latin) blue; "*grandiflora*" (from Latin) large flower.

OTHER COMMON NAMES. Blue salvia, pitcher salvia.

OTHER SCIENTIFIC NAMES (SYNONYMS). *Salvia pitcheri*.

RELATIONS. Mint family (Lamiaceae). This species can be recognized as a mint by its opposite leaves, square stems (in cross section) and two-lipped flowers. Garden sage used in seasoning is a member of the genus *Salvia*.

ORNAMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS. Blue sage is a hardy drought-resistant plant easy to propagate and grow. It produces attractive blue flowers in late summer and fall. It grows from 2 to 4 feet tall. The foliage is gray-green. Although it has

a fragrance, the odor of the foliage is not nearly as strong as in many other members of the mint family. Blue sage usually begins blooming in July (a few may begin earlier) and may bloom until early October. Light blue two-lipped flowers are borne in a series of dense clusters around the upper part of the stem and on short branches. Only a few flowers in a cluster are in bloom at anyone time. The flowers are 1/2 to 1 inch in length. The corollas drop readily when the flowers are picked.

GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS AND MANAGEMENT. Blue sage is a warm-season, long-lived perennial. Each plant has one major stem or a few stems growing in a clump. Each stem is simple or has a few branches. Like many other mints blue sage has a square stem and opposite leaves. The narrow leaves extend out from all four sides of the stem, and are produced from the bottom to the terminal inflorescence. The lower leaves are usually shed early. When this plant is grown without competition, it may become too tall and fall over. Moderate clipping early in the season will maintain a better form. The branched roots are deep (to 8 feet). Weaver (1968) reported that plants of this species doubled their root depth in response to extreme drought. Blue sage may volunteer from seed but it does not spread aggressively. Seedlings started in early spring will usually flower by fall.

USES. None recorded for this species. Some other North American species of

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The Kansas Native Plant Society Newsletter is printed four times a year: Winter (January), Spring (April), Summer (July), Fall (October). The deadline for submitted material is the 15th of December, March, June and September.



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.

Meet the New President

by Jeff Hansen,
President, KNPS

1. Where are you from, where do you live, what do you do for a living?

Born and raised on a farm on the James River near Mitchell, SD; but have been in Topeka for the last fifteen years.

I'm a full-time software developer with a part-time fledgling native seed and plant nursery.

2. How did you become interested in wildflowers and other native plants?

I first became interested after using the book *Range Plants of South Dakota* and identifying plants in our pastures during my youth.

3. What are some of your favorite native plants and why?

I think I will always love Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*) because of the way the petals droop. The



milkweeds are another favorite, swamp milkweed being my favorite. Seeing the Western Prairie Fringed Orchid was one of my more exciting plant

sightings. I love the fruits of Wahoo when they pop open, plus I just like to say, "wahoo." My favorite grass is probably American Beakgrass with its glossy leaves and drooping seed heads. I think I have about fifty favorite plants, so I best just go onto the next question.

4. What is your favorite natural area in the state and why?

I really like the Military Trail by Lake Perry with its woodlands and carpets of spring wildflowers. Kanopolis State Park is another favorite with its rich sandy prairies and canyons.

5. What do you like best about the organization? I love the people that one has the opportunity of meeting on our outings – always something new to learn – plus its just plain entertaining. I like the newsletter and website, too.

KNPS CONNECTS WITH GROUPS WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS

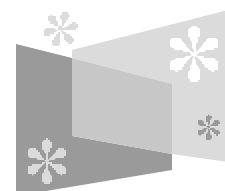
Krista Dahlinger has been in contact with coordinators of the Tallgrass Prairie celebration, **Symphony in the Flint Hills**, to identify what role KNPS might play in the celebration. Krista reports: "On June 10 the Symphony on the Prairie event will be held at the Tallgrass National Prairie Preserve. Activities during the day (2:00 until 5:30) will include education displays by various organizations (KNPS is welcome) under large tented areas and also tours of the prairie to view and identify plants, birds, and historical structures. KNPS may host an "educational" table and also provide leaders to take groups of 8 to 12 participants for half-hour plant identification walks. Several thousand people are expected to attend the Symphony at 6:00. KNPS volunteers will receive free admission to the Symphony. The number of volunteers needed from KNPS is not yet known." If you are interested in volunteering your time at

this event, let Krista know (kskld@hotmail.com).

KNPS President Jeff Hansen met with the President of **Kansas Trails Council** to explore mutual interests and benefits. Here are some excerpts from the letter Jeff wrote for the KTC newsletter. "KTC has built and maintained trails all over Kansas for outdoor enthusiasts. Members of KNPS can greatly benefit from these trails as most of the trails can be found in various natural areas of the state. We can use these trails to see native plants in their habitats. KNPS can help educate KTC members about the various plants found in the areas the trails traverse. I would love to see KNPS hold an event on a KTC trail and have KTC members attend." (See the Letter from Michael Goodwin, President of Kansas Trails Council on page 9.)

Gary Weisenberger attended a meeting of the **Tallgrass Legacy Alliance** where he was warmly received. This group is interested in more collaboration with KNPS such as linking our websites. The KNPS Board will be discussing our common ground with TLA and possible partnership activities.

KNPS was contacted by the Environmental Department at **Fort Scott Community College** for input on plantings for the **Ecological Park** they are constructing. Cindy Ford and the Plant Resources Committee are planning to coordinate and share appropriate suggestions for planting the site.



Meet Two New Board Members

Fred Coombs

1. Where are you from, where do you live, what do you do for a living?

I grew up in Lawrence, but have spent most of my adult life in Urbana, Illinois, as a professor of education policy at the University of Illinois. Upon retirement six years ago, Nancy and I built a home on old family land near Holton and are now spending most of our time here.

2. How did you become interested in wildflowers and other native plants?

The short answer is “Through Nancy.” She got me interested in visiting sites on the eastern edge of the tallgrass prairie in Illinois; so it was only natural to extend our explorations to the western edge in Kansas.

3. What are some of your favorite native plants and why?

I love the grasses. Just hiking through a sea of Little Bluestem is as close to heaven as I’m likely to get. I’ve recently taken up butterfly photography, and would put a Regal Fritillary nectaring on Blazing Star near the top of my list.

4. What is your favorite natural area in the state and why?

The Konza was one of the first we saw, and we keep heading back there every chance we get. The variety of forbs, the research they do, and the magnificent sweep of the rolling landscapes there are unlike anything we saw in Illinois.

5. What do you like best about the organization?

I enjoy plants, but I enjoy people even more. The members we have met in two short years are not only interesting, but fun. Add to that the hard-working leaders, past and present, who have turned KNPS into a growing, vibrant organization.

Nancy Coombs

1. Where are you from, where do you live, what do you do for a living?

Originally I am from Lawrence, Kansas, where I was born and lived until graduating from K.U. For 43 years, I lived in Urbana, Illinois, where we raised our four children, and I taught in elementary schools. Since July, I live in Northeast Kansas where Fred and I are stewards of an 80-acre former farm settled by Fred’s great grandparents. Since 1999, we have been continuing prairie restoration of this property started by Fred’s dad and uncle in the 1960s. They left out the forbs; guess where we started.

2. How did you become interested in wildflowers and other native plants?

I have had a lifelong interest in gardening thanks to my parents and grandparents on both sides. Wildflowers and native plants present a more recent discovery for me with a steep learning curve in progress.

3. What are some of your favorite native plants and why?

That depends on the day, season, and time! How can you not love native plants, even “weeds” when you discover, as I did in late August that the Indigo Buntings will come to the house to enjoy the foxtail I had neglected (mercifully, it turns out) to pull?

4. What is your favorite natural area in the state and why?

Aside from these 80 acres, it’s a tough draw. My two reasons for moving back to Kansas were to take on the challenge of prairie restoration in its many guises and to get to know this state. I can’t even say get to know Kansas better because growing up here I knew nothing about the geology or the flora.

5. What do you like best about the organization?

The people, their passion, intellect, and generous sharing of information. The decision to hold meetings in different locations throughout the state is a masterstroke for increased awareness of the diversity of Kansas in addition to profiling KNPS, both of which should inspire new membership.



Flower of the year continued.

Continued from page 1

this genus were used by Indians in making beverages and soup; seeds were also roasted and ground into meal (Yanovsky 1936).

RELATIONS TO ANIMALS. Blue sage is readily eaten by livestock and wildlife (Bare 1980). The flowers are pollinated by large bees, particularly bumblebees, and are sometimes visited by hummingbirds. The adaptation of the flowers for efficient cross-pollination by bees is described by Bare (1979).



SEEDS AND FRUIT. The fruits consist of one or two light brown resin-dotted nutlets borne at the bottom of the persistent calyx tube. The nutlets are elliptical, flattened and approximately 1/8 inch long. They should be collected as soon as the calyx becomes dry, usually in September. The nutlets can be removed from the calyx tube and separated from the chaff with sieves.

SEED GERMINATION. Without any pretreatment, 0-40% of the seeds will germinate. Moist stratification for 4 to 8 weeks will increase germination to 80% or close to the percentage of viable seeds.

GROWING SEEDLINGS. Unstratified seed can be planted in the field in fall or stratified seed can be planted in spring. The seedlings can also be easily grown indoors and have few problems. They can be started in pots or they can be started in flats and transferred to pots. The pots are generally filled with the coiled taproots in a few weeks.

The pair of cotyledons on the seedling are typical of mints in shape. They are heart-shaped, rounded at the tip, widest at the base and notched where they attach to a moderately long stalk. The true leaves arise in pairs on an upright



growing stem. The true leaves are elongate and toothed around the edges.

VEGETATIVE PROPAGATION. Salac *et al.* (1978) reported that this species could be propagated by stem cuttings.

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE. Blue sage grows in the eastern 3/4 of Kansas. The variety *grandiflora* is also found in parts of Oklahoma, the Texas panhandle, Nebraska and Missouri. The species is found east to South Carolina and Florida.

HABITAT. Blue sage grows on open sunny sites in well-drained upland prairie. It is common along roadsides and in other moderately disturbed habitats. It has been reported to grow in rocky and sandy sites (Barkley *et al.* 1986) but it does not grow commonly in dune sand in western Harvey County, Kansas.



Photography: Krista Dahlinger

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Do you need to renew your membership in KNPS?

The first line in the address gives two pieces of information: the type of membership and the expiration date. If the date is 2005, then you need to renew.

Thank you.

2006 Kansas Area Native Plant & Wildflower Events

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

Online: [www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org] 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!

January 21: Volunteers are needed for prairie maintenance and preservation projects. Assist the Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs, 3rd Saturday every month except December [www.grasslandheritage.org]. Wear appropriate clothing. No special skills or tools needed. For details, please contact Frank Norman <frank.norman@appliedeco.com> (785) 887-6775.


January 22: 10th Annual Kaw Valley Eagles Day in Lawrence, KS. Celebrate the return of the eagles and learn about nature and the environment, 11am-4pm. Featured performance: Ric Averril of the Seem to Be Players will portray the Kansas Hermit Hugh Cameron; hear tales of early days along the Kaw. Other programs include information on Bald eagle nests along the Kaw, prairie mammals, Monarch butterflies w/ Chip Taylor, and other information from Prairie Park Nature Center. Exhibitors will offer resources related to the environment. The Jayhawk Audubon Society sponsors this event. Location: Douglas County Fairgrounds (Bldg 21) 21st & Harper, Lawrence, KS. For more information contact Ed & Cynthia Shaw <eishaw@ku.edu> (785) 842-0475

February 18, March 18, and April 15: Volunteers are needed for prairie maintenance and preservation projects. Assist the Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs, 3rd Saturday every month except December [www.grasslandheritage.org]. Wear appropriate clothing. No special skills or tools needed. For details, please contact Frank Norman <frank.norman@appliedeco.com> (785) 887-6775.


April 22nd & 29th: Missouri Prairie Foundation Spring Plant Sales 7am - noon. Location: City Market, 5th & Walnut, Kansas City, MO. [<http://www.moprairie.org>] (888) 843-6739


April 28-30: Kansas Birding Festival in Wakefield, KS. Take a birding & wildlife trip you will never forget. Featuring guided field trips to: The Milford Wetlands - see the largest U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wetland restoration project, Ft. Riley - grassland and migratory birds and a large concentration of Prairie-chickens, Kansas Landscape Arboretum - many varieties of trees, Kansas native trees and nature trails, Milford Nature Center - fish hatchery, butterfly house, nature trails, educational programs, Konza Prairie - native tallgrass prairie, bison herd. Seminars include: Eagles, Terns and Endangered Species, Backyard Birding, Purple Martins, Wild Turkeys, Pheasants and Quail, and Birds of Prey. This is the perfect opportunity for networking; we call it nest-building, with other people that love the outdoors. For registration information and a list of scheduled events visit [www.kansasbirdingfestival.org]. <lcowell@flinthills.com> (785) 461-5519


April 29: Discover the Native Plants of the Wichita State University Biology Field Station near Viola, KS at 10am. Station Director Don Distler will lead the outing. The Biology Field Station is 330 acres of native and restored prairie and riparian woodland along a mile reach of the Ninnescah River. This unique habitat offers opportunities for studying grassland restoration and river ecology and general wildlife biology. Current studies include prairie restoration and recovery from overgrazing, the ecology of aquatic invertebrates, monitoring riparian and prairie bird nesting communities, as well as fish, amphibian, and reptile population dynamics. This event is sponsored by Kansas Native Plant Society. For additional information, contact Iralee Barnard <findiralee@yahoo.com> or (785) 949-2857.

 **May 7:** Explore Dingus Natural Area in southeast, KS, 10:30am. Join Kansas Native Plant Society at this unique locale managed by Kansas Ornithological Society. The diverse habitat includes mixed sugar maple-basswood and oak-hickory forests with rocky prairie openings on the ridges. Wear long pants and sturdy footwear, as there are no developed trails. Caleb Morse, Collection Manager for the McGregor Herbarium will lead the foray. To car pool from Lawrence, meet at 9am in the parking lot for the McGregor Herbarium / Bridwell Lab and Monarch Watch, Constant Ave. & Crowell Dr, West Campus at KU. Directions to Dingus Natural Area: From Mound City take K-52 southwest about 3 miles

to the top of the hill. Turn right at the Dingus Natural Area sign and follow the road north 1.5 miles and then west. There is a large sign on the southeast corner of the property. <cmorse@ku.edu> (785) 864-4493

 **May 13:** Barber County Spring Wildflower Tour. Meet at the Medicine Lodge High School at 8:30am for registration. Enjoy a continental breakfast and short slide presentation with some of the flowers we expect to see on the tour. School buses will take us to the first plant identification sight. Morning tour participants will return to the school at noon. Full day tour participants will travel to a tree-shaded country park for a delicious barbeque lunch and spirited entertainment. After lunch take a short ride through the beautiful gyp hills to a second site. Afternoon refreshments will be served before we ride back to the school around 3:30pm. Barber Co. Conservation District and Kansas Native Plant Society are co-sponsors. The half day tour (\$6) includes breakfast and transportation to and from one site. The full day tour (\$12) includes all above, second identification stop, lunch, and afternoon refreshments. **Pre-paid reservations should be sent before May 8th.** Order your Barber County Wildflower Tour t-shirt (\$10) now! Barber Co Conservation Office, 800 W. 3rd Ave. Medicine Lodge, KS 67104-8002, phone (620) 886-3721, ext. 3.


 **May 13:** Dr. Woody Holland's Wildflower Tour of Neosho County, KS. Kansas Native Plant Society Board Member Carl Paulie will lead the tour. We will be looking for Shootingstar, Indian Paintbrush, Wild Hyacinth, Pale-spike Lobelia and many others. Meet Carl in front of the courthouse on Main St. in Erie, KS at 1pm. The tour will begin at 1:30pm sharp. Questions: (620) 449-2028

 **May 20:** Tour Native Plants in the Sjo Home Landscape, Manhattan, KS, 1pm. Tour the home landscape of John and Irma Sjo. John has been passionately pursuing this hobby of growing Kansas native plants for many years. He has various habitats on his property, with woodlands and a spring. He grows many of his own plants and has a technique for starting and transplanting such things as ferns. This event is sponsored by Kansas Native Plant Society. Attendance is limited, please register by May 1. Contact Iralee Barnard <findiralee@yahoo.com> or (785) 949-2857.

May 20: Visit the Overland Park (KS) Arboretum [<http://www.opprf.org/Arboretum.htm>] with Topeka Audubon Society. While most of the field trip is focused on migratory warblers, there is much to learn about the forest and under story diversity. Pack a snack and lunch/beverage. To car pool from Topeka, meet at 6am in the parking lot for the Dillon's store at 29th & California. Contact Dan Gish for additional information <gishbear@cox.net> (785) 232-3731.

May 20-21: FloraKansas: Great Plains Plant Bazaar. The largest native plant sale in Kansas features 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 about becoming a member and special members only sale dates. Admission charge is by donation. 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

May 20: Volunteers are needed for prairie maintenance and preservation projects. Assist the Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs, 3rd Saturday every month except December [www.grasslandheritage.org]. Wear appropriate clothing. No special skills or tools needed. For details, please contact Frank Norman <frank.norman@appliedeco.com> (785) 887-6775.

 **June 3:** The 11th annual Wilson County Wildflower Tour is in southeast KS. Gathering at Fredonia High School, 916 Robinson, at 8:30am, we'll enjoy home baked cinnamon rolls, browse booths of interest, and receive WC Wildflower Tour lanyards and bottled water. At 9am we'll caravan to the picnic site where vehicles may be left. Buses will transport us to the wildflower sites where leaders will guide us 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 more. Wilson County Conservation District and Kansas Native Plant Society are co-sponsors. **Prepaid reservations of \$8/person are due May 31:** Wilson County Conservation, 930 N. 2nd St, Fredonia, KS 66736-2105. Questions: (620) 378-2866

KNPS Planting of Overlook Sows Seeds for Beauty and Fame

A day spent transplanting 250 young native plants at the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway Overlook by KNPS members Jeff Hansen, Carl Paulie and Gary Weisenberger late last October will have at least two worthwhile pay-offs. The first is a beautiful and interesting view of native plants for visitors who stop at the overlook, especially as the plants bloom throughout the seasons, and the second is exposure for KNPS in the media. Debbie Divine of the Kansas Scenic Byways Program, which provides information about Scenic Byways in the state, wrote and distributed a press release about the project just before Halloween. (See reprinted article and picture on page 8).

The overlook is approximately two miles south of Cottonwood Falls (Chase County) on the west side of K-177. The stretch of two-lane highway between Council Grove and Cassoday is one of only two National Scenic Byways in Kansas. The other is the Wetlands and Wildlife Scenic Byway on the Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge wetlands.

Gary Weisenberger was responsible for initiating the contact that led to the KNPS work at this site. Gary stated, "I was involved with the original planting of the site as a KDOT employee, but

now as a non-employee, I still feel a connection to the site and the land. Watching it over the years, I could see that it had not developed as originally planned; so I contacted Debbie Divine to see if we could add a few plants to help develop it further. This site is unique and deserved some TLC from our organization."

And that was exactly what Gary, Carl and Jeff provided as they set plant after plant into the ground. Carl described the area where they worked. "It is a raised circular area about 50 feet in diameter filled with river bottom soil, divided equally by a walkway, with a central location for planting." The plants were arranged to "form an arch on either side of the circle with already extant species scattered on the east side." Jeff explained that plants from each individual species were grouped together into separate plots "instead of planting things randomly. Seeing groups of the same species blooming should be more pleasing to the eye and replicate the way the species grow in the wild."

Approximately 18 species of plants indigenous to the Flint Hills, donated from Jeff Hansen's nursery stock, were planted. Some have blooming dates in the spring, such as two species each of beardtongue and spiderwort, along with golden alexander, Philadelphia

fleabane and prairie ragwort. In the summer, visitors should look for bee-balm, Pitcher's clematis, black-eyed Susan and long-headed coneflower. As fall approaches, three species of native asters and downy goldenrod should come on the scene with their warm colors. According to Hansen, "Some of [these species] are rather common in the Flint Hills, (such as aromatic aster), while others are rarer (for example, downy goldenrod) but still found in the Flint Hills."

All three KNPS volunteers see roadside plantings as a means to educate the public about our beautiful Kansas "wild" plants and the native ecosystems in which they are found. Carl noted that "many people stopped to check out the areas and expressed much interest about the areas and what we were doing" while in the planting process.

When asked if he anticipates that KNPS will be involved in similar projects in the future, Gary replied, "Yes, KDOT has other areas (i.e. rest areas) that need a little TLC from us. All we have to do is ask, and they will likely respond positively." He continued, "We should look for other public areas and agencies in which to do similar things. We need to budget for these types of activities and have a 'grow program' in place to draw from."

New Members 10/05 TO 1/06

Kurtis Cooper - Grainfield

Jennifer Delisle - Lawrence

Ed DeTrude - Topeka

John & Debbie Divine - Salina

Michael Goodwin - Topeka

James Leiker - Hays

Dan B. Martin - Ramona, OK

Larry & Suzanne Miller - Wakarusa

Judd Patterson - Miami, FL

Christine Porubsky - Topeka

Samuel J. Reed - Fredonia

Nolan Rothe - Hays

Dustin Tacha - Hays

Barbara Schowen - Lawrence

Bill Welton - Lawrence

Rejoining after several years absence:

Mrs. Henry Smies - Courtland

Betty Terbush - Valley Center

WELCOME!

Halloween Spooks at the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway

MEDIA RELEASE

Kansas Scenic Byways Program

October 31, 2005

Contact: Debbie Divine, 800-684-6966 or 785-827-3603

Large-flowered beardtongue, bracted spiderwort, rattle-snake master, wild bergamot might sound like Halloween spooks arrived early last week at the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway overlook. But those are the names of the plants that will blossom at the overlook with even more color next year thanks to the generosity of the Native Plant Society. Jeff Hansen (President) of Topeka; Carl Paulie of St. Paul, KS and Gary Weisenberger

of Toronto, KS spent a day the week of October 24, 2005, planting over 250 native plants donated by Jeff Hansen to enhance the overlook. Charley Klamm, Chairperson of the Flint Hills Scenic Byway Management Committee and Debbie Divine, Program Manager of the Kansas Scenic Byways Program, lent a hand with the planting

activities and thanked the Native Plant Society members for their generosity. Red flags were added to show where the plants were placed. Numerous visitors stopped by throughout the day to see what was going on.

Divine appreciated the partnership of the Native Plant Society with the Kansas Scenic Byways Program. "These are just the kinds of grass roots (pardon the pun) efforts we want to encourage for all of the byways throughout Kansas. We very much appreciate the work of the Native Plant Society to help beautify Kansas roadsides."



KNPS Board Members

Iralee Barnard, Hope,
Karen Bischooping, Athol,
Shirley Braunlich, Lawrence,
Fred & Nancy Coombs, Holton,
Donna Cooper, Hays,
Krista Dahlinger, Mulvane
Ann Feyerharm, Manhattan
Cindy Ford, McCune
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Nancy Goulden, Manhattan,
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Wild for Wildflowers? Wild Parsley

Dr. Stephen Timme

Pittsburg State University

Art work by Dr. Cindy Ford

Wild Parsley. *Lomatium foeniculaceum* (Nutt.) Coult. & Rose.

Wild Parsley is one of two species of *Lomatium* that occur in Kansas and belong to the family Apiaceae (the parsley family, formerly called the Umbelliferae). The family is represented by some 30 genera in the state. *Lomatium* (lo-mah-tee-um, with winged fruit or seeds) *foeniculum* (fee-nik-ew-lum, Latin for fennel) are stemless (**aculescent**), **herbaceous** (soft-stemmed), perennials with a thick taproot. The leaves occur at the base of the plant and are **petiolate** (with a leaf stalk), and **pinnately dissected** (leaflets on both sides of the rachis – like a feather) or **ternate** (divided into 3 leaflets). The leaf stalks are generally purplish. The flower stalk



(**peduncle**) generally far exceeds the leaves. The flowering portion of the plant (**inflorescence**) is a **compound** (made up of 2 or more parts) **umbel** (the flower stalks, **pedicels**, arise from a common point – compound umbels are small umbels, called **umbellates**, that occur on the ray of a larger umbel). The flowers consist of 5 small petals and are yellowish to yellowish-green. The plants may reach around 20 inches tall, but are generally much shorter – 6-12 inches. Fruits are

winged and contain oil tubes. The species is found on rocky prairies, dry prairies, and rocky glades throughout Kansas. No economic value could be found for this species. However, some other members of the genus have been used by western Amerindians as a wash for swollen or broken bones, to treat headaches, stomachaches, colds, bronchitis, and various other ailments. The oils in at least some species of *Lomatium* may cause skin rashes.

NOTE: If anyone is interested in botanical terminology made simple, I highly recommend *Plant Identification Terminology: An Illustrated Glossary* by J. Harris and M. Harris. Published by Spring Lake Publishers, Spring Lake Utah. The book can be purchased from Amazon.com for \$14.25 plus shipping. This is an excellent book for beginners that provide a written definition and an illustration for hundreds of botanical terms.

Letter From The Kansas Trails Council

Our mission at the Kansas Trails Council (KTC) is to promote the development and enjoyment of trails in Kansas. One way we accomplish this mission is to periodically provide free trail building workshops so trail enthusiasts learn how to build sustainable trails. At our last workshop in Topeka, I was fortunate to meet Jeff Hansen, president of the KNPS, and learn more about your organization.

As we talked about our two organizations, it became obvious that our members share many interests. Every time we are using or working on trails, we are also enjoying the nearby native plants. Trail volunteers often ask us to identify a plant they have seen along the trail and the KNPS website has

proved invaluable when researching Kansas' plants.

Kansans use nearby trails for hiking, running, biking, horse riding, bird watching, fishing, geocaching*, sporting events, orienteering and viewing wildlife and plants. Interestingly, most of the trails in Kansas have been built and are maintained entirely by volunteers. Working on your favorite trail will give you a new appreciation for the dedication of our members and volunteers who have built and maintained many Kansas trails over the past 30 years.

We would enjoy having KNPS members join us on a trail workday at a

nearby trail. Trail workdays and other information about the KTC can be found on our website at: www.kansastrailsCouncil.org.

As a new member of the KNPS, I look forward to further collaboration between our two organizations. See you on the trails!

Michael Goodwin
President, Kansas Trails Council

* "To learn more about geocaching, see <http://www.geocaching.com>"

KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

R.L. McGregor Herbarium
University of Kansas
2045 Constant Ave
Lawrence, KS 66047-3729

Phone: (785)864-3453

Email: kansaswildflowers@yahoo.com



Address Service Requested

We are on the Web

www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org

Membership Information



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 Native Plant Society to:

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

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student | \$5.00 | Check membership category desired: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual | \$15.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family | \$25.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Organization | \$35.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Contributing | \$100.00 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Lifetime | \$500.00 | |

A membership in 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 by the KNPS Administrative Office.

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.