



# Kansas Native Plant Society

## Autumn Newsletter



Volume 30 Number 4

October 2008

### The Awesome AWW

by Evelyn Reed

The 2008 KNPS Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) began at the Sternberg Museum in Hays on Friday afternoon, October 3. KNPS Board Members met at one o'clock, and after the meeting, joined other attendees to caravan north of Plainville, to an *Echinacea angustifolia* study area used by Kelly Kindscher, to learn the effects of harvesting on the plant. At the site, members noted other species of plants, especially the *Clematis fremontii* (Fremont's clematis), and some found creatures of the arachnid and reptile classes, including a prairie lizard that seemed to enjoy perching on Earl Allen's hat. After joyously scampering around over the hills for a couple of hours, all returned to the Sternberg Museum for dinner served by the Gutierrez Restaurant in the Expeditions Room.



Dr. Kelly Kindscher leads an AWW tour of Echinacea sites.

After dinner, Kelly Kindscher, author of the popular books *Edible Wild Plants of the Prairie* and *Medicinal Wild Plants of the Prairie*, gave a presentation, "The History and Impact of *Echinacea Angustifolia* Harvest in Kansas." Afterwards, Kindscher answered questions and autographed books. I love what he wrote in one of mine: "In praise of prairie."

Saturday began at the Whiskey Creek Grill with registration and set-up for the Silent Auction, Photo Contest, and merchandise display. At nine o'clock, the membership business meeting began. A report of KNPS participation in the 2008 Symphony in the Flint Hills near Council Grove was given. The location for the 2009 Symphony will be

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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 5th of December, March, June and September.



Kansas Native Plant Society

The mission of the Kansas Native Plant Society is to encourage

awareness and appreciation of the native plants of Kansas in their habitats and in our landscapes by promoting education, stewardship, and scientific knowledge.

near Florence, Kansas. KNPS also took part in the mid-September Wildflower Weekend at the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve. KNPS has committed to be a part of both events again in 2009. The meeting date for the 2009 AWW will be September 18–20, somewhere in southeast Kansas. As a number of KNPS members are also Kansas Ornithological Society (KOS) members, it is desired the two groups have different meeting dates, which will be easier to do now, as Stan Roth reports KOS will meet the first full weekend of October “in perpetuity.”

Other business included plans for a Legacy Fund, detailed by Earl Allen. This is a fund separate from the budget. The Nominations Committee reported the selection of Board members for three year terms and the slate of KNPS officers. Both reports were accepted. Sister Pat Stanley was commended with gratitude for serving 18 years as treasurer, and making major contributions to the newsletter and website. Fred Coombs reported on the progress of the plans for native plant propagation along roadsides and the forthcoming Position Paper of the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). He also urged us to let KDOT know when we are really impressed with an area of good native plant management, suggesting their phone number be on our website and in the newsletter. (You can reach KDOT at (785) 296-3566.) Sheryl Dunn, a KDOT environmental representative was present. Valerie Wright presented the Awards and announced winners in the Photo Contest. The business meeting was then adjourned.

During break, the 30th Anniversary Cake was served, and everyone scurried around bidding on items in the Silent Auction, which continued throughout the morning until noon.



Krista Dahlinger and Jane Freeman with KNPS Cake

Next Frank Norman gave an informative presentation, “Medicinal Plants of the Prairie.” He maintains that all plants are medicinal. They connect us with nature and assist the body in its own healing. It takes a lot of work to become educated in their use, and even master herbalists are not physicians and cannot diagnose and prescribe. It is extremely important to be sure you correctly identify a plant before using it, and you need to know its medicinal properties and be aware of any possible drug interactions. Frank told of the medicinal properties of many plants.



Cindy Ford demonstrates use of natural plant dyes

Cindy Ford showed samples of wool and other materials she had dyed with native plants. Different parts of the plants can be used. The fiber being dyed and its preparation can make a large difference in the color produced; cotton, wool, bamboo, and even dog hair work well. A created fabric called tensile can be dyed, but polyester cannot. A mordant, often alum, vinegar, sometimes tin, chrome, or copper, is a chemical used to bond the color with the fiber. Different ones produce a different color with the same plant.

After lunch at the Whiskey Creek Restaurant, AWW participants traveled to the Cedar Bluff Reservoir to tour the bluffs area. After being thoroughly aired out by the high winds, members returned to Hays for an evening meal and relaxation.

The weather was cloudy and drizzly Saturday morning as members met in the Home Depot parking lot to leave for the Wilson Reservoir. Only cloudiness prevailed the rest of the day as we hiked the Rocktown Trail. The variety of plants here was much greater than on the previous tours. Valerie Wright brought our attention to various grasshoppers. The rock formations create a magnificent landscape. All in all, I personally had an awesome AWW.





## KNPS Recognizes Outstanding Members

by Valerie Wright

At this year's annual meeting, three special awards were given to members who in some way stood out for service to the Society and greater community in Kansas. A new award honoring those who give their time and expertise to the forward movement of KNPS was presented to two very deserving people. The first "Sheldon H. Cohen Award for Outstanding Service to KNPS" was given to Shel himself. A charter member who served on the Board for many years, edited the newsletter for 17 years, and played a major role in updating our bylaws, Shel Cohen agreed to have his name on this award. What he did not know was that he would be the first recipient.



Shel Cohen receives the first Shel Cohen award



Nancy Goulden

The second recipient for 2008 was Nancy Goulden, co-editor of our current newsletter, who is also active in the State Grass initiative and has been the organizer of the KNPS Symphony on the Prairie volunteers who carry out the wildflower education at the Symphony site.

She also has contributed to a manual for learning how to identify our native plants and is successful in encouraging others to write for the newsletter. This newsletter is our way to

communicate with our members and attract new people to KNPS, so we are pleased to recognize Nancy for her excellent work.



Howard Reynolds receives Excellence in Botany Award

This year we recognized Howard Reynolds of Hays, KS, who is also a charter member of KNPS, with the Excellence in Botany Award. This award is given to an individual who has made an important contribution to botany in Kansas. Howard taught at Fort Hays State University for 25 years, helped build the University herbarium and continues to help with plant identifications after his retirement. His colleagues say they can always count on him to get it right. Howard has taught innumerable students during his career.



Meredith Fry receives Rachel Snyder Garden Award

The Rachel Snyder Memorial Landscape Award was given to Washburn student, Meredith Fry, for her native plant garden on campus called "Ichabod's Prairie Patch." Meredith got funding for the plants, created a plan and, with the help of fellow students, bedded the plants. This was part of a class project and the required "transformational experience" at Washburn. Meredith has committed her time to maintain the garden for the next three years until she graduates. Meredith hopes that the garden will be an inspiration and will reconnect others to their wildflower heritage.



# KNPS Photo Contest Winners

by Valerie Wright

The Photo Contest was held during the Annual Meeting on Saturday morning. More than 60 photographs representing six categories were entered. This was more than last year's entries and many were very fine photos. The Awards Committee (Cindy Ford, Mike Haddock, and myself) had some difficulty choosing the best. We chose 6 First, 7 Second and 5 Third place ribbon winners. They are listed here by category.

### Scenery Category Winners:

1st Place – Jim Mayhew, Abilene, “Foggy Morning”

2nd Place – Fred Coombs, Holton, “Bur Marigold”

3rd Place – Jim Mayhew “Winter in the West”



Foggy Morning by Jim Mayhew

### Fauna Category Winners:

2nd Place – Fred Coombs, Holton, "Zebra Swallowtail"

2nd Place – Jeff Hansen, Topeka, "Cricket Frog"

2nd Place - Jeff Hansen, Topeka, “Tiger Swallowtail”



Zebra Swallowtail by Fred Coombs

### Garden Category Winners:

1st Place – Jim Mayhew, Abilene, “Grayhead Prairie Coneflower”

2nd Place – Phyllis Scherich, Wilmore, “View of Fred and Nancy Coombs Garden”

3rd – none



Grayhead Prairie Coneflower by Jim Mayhew

### People Category Winners:

1st Place – Jeff Hansen, Topeka, “Milkweed Lover”

2nd Place – none

3rd Place – Jeff Hansen “Horsethief Canyon”



Milkweed Lover by Jeff Hansen

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## KNPS Photo Contest Winners

Continued from page 4

### Collage Category Winners:

1st Place – Norman Kruse, Waterville, “Kansas Wildflowers”

1st Place – Rita Schartz, St. John, “Indian Blanket”

2nd place - none

3rd place - Rita Schartz, St. John, “Illinois Bundleflower”

3rd place – Jim Mayhew, Abilene, “Prickly Poppy”



Kansas Wildflowers by Norman Kruse

### Flora Category Winners:

1st Place – Krista Dahlinger, Mulvane, “Cup Plant”

2nd Place – David Welfelt, “Dew on Sumac Leaves”

2nd Place – Rita Schartz, St. John, “Catclaw Sensitive Briar”

3rd Place – Phyllis Scherich, Wilmore, “Blue-eyed Grass”



Cup Plant by Krista Dahlinger



Detail from Indian Blanket by Rita Schartz



## VERY Successful Silent Auction!

by Krista Dahlinger

WOW! We raised a whopping \$963 this year during the Silent Auction fundraiser! Items donated this year included a set of Royal Horticultural Society wildflower dinner plates, coffee mugs with the KNPS echinacea logo, wine, coffee, tea, Jane Freeman's applesauce brownies, new and old books, cactus, wildflower seeds, Jeff Hansen's handmade wildflower paper note cards, pressed flower note cards, Nancy Coombs homemade pickles and jelly, US Postage commemorative wildflower stamps, framed wildflower photographs and slide collection, a sun hat, calendars, a bag of goodies from Botanica in

Wichita, fresh fruit and a basket of vegetables and herbs. Looking over the tables of auction items always proves to be a treasure hunt for beautiful and useful items. All of the monies collected from the Silent Auction go into the KNPS general fund to pay for our major expenses: communication of news and events by way of our newsletter (in color!), the annual informational brochure, and improvements to the KNPS website.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Silent Auction or purchased item(s). Your generosity to KNPS is appreciated and enables us to continue our mission: *to encourage awareness and appreciation of the native plants of Kansas in their habitats and in our landscapes by promoting education, stewardship, and scientific knowledge.*

## The Big Three O!

text and photo by Valerie Wright

The KWS-KNPS anniversary cake at the Annual Meeting had a big “30 Years” in the center with the old and new logos in the corners. It was a marble cake prepared by Augustine's Bakery in Hays, and it was delicious (see photo, page 2). On view at the meeting were the bound copies of the early KWS newsletter (volumes 1-16) and other organization memorabilia.

As you all read in the last newsletter, in 1978 a group of ladies in Topeka brought to culmination their efforts to organize a society for the love of wildflowers. It is amazing today that 688 people joined! These were the charter members of the Kansas Wildflower Society. Thirty years later we are still going strong. Of our current 443 members, 27 charter members are still active.

Charter members still active are: Iralee Barnard, Betsy Betros, Edith Bronson, Kit Carlson, Sheldon Cohen, Virginia Cohen, Donna Cooper, Joyce Davis, Joyce Fent, Edna Hamera, Robert Hansen, WW Holland, Wes Jackson, Gwyn Johnson, Carol Kliewar, Eugene Leon, Carol Litwin, Fred Markham, Carroll Morgenson, Marilyn Nellis, Dwight Platt, Joanne Ramberg, Howard Reynolds, Stan Roth, James Townsend, Paul Willis, and Valerie Wright. If you are a charter member and you are not on this list, please let us know by sending a message to [e-mail@ksnps.org](mailto:e-mail@ksnps.org) or a note to the Society address.

We thank all the charter members who have stayed with us through the years. Present at the Annual Meeting in Hays there were: Sheldon and Virginia Cohen, Donna Cooper, Howard Reynolds, Stan Roth, and Valerie Wright.



KNPS Charter Members at AWW: Stan Roth, Valerie Wright, Howard Reynolds, Donna Cooper, Virginia Cohen, Shel Cohen



## KNPS Legacy Fund Established

by Krista Dahlinger

In April 2008 the KNPS Board of Directors approved the creation of a Legacy Fund. The purpose of the Legacy Fund will be to create income on invested money, and also to establish an account of funds to be made available to pay for large-scale projects that KNPS determines are appropriate for the organization. To open and establish the KNPS Legacy Fund, a minimum investment of \$2,500 is required. KNPS has received pledges of \$1,750 so far, and will continue to collect financial pledges until the \$2,500 level is met.

KNPS is organized under IRS 501(c)3 rules, and your contribution to the KNPS Legacy Fund is tax deductible. If you would like to make a financial pledge to help establish the KNPS Legacy Fund, please send an email to KNPS at [email@ksnps.org](mailto:email@ksnps.org) with your name and contact information, and the amount of your pledge. If you would like information as to the investment fund we have chosen, or if you have any other questions, please contact KNPS by email, or our Treasurer, Krista Dahlinger at 316-258-6341 to discuss further details. With any financial investment, there is some level of risk involved.





## KNPS President's Message

by Michael Heffron

Wow! What a wonderful wildflower year 2008 has been! As usual KNPS has had many satisfying accomplishments. KNPS membership continued to strengthen with growing numbers and enthusiasm. The KNPS Newsletter increasingly informed its readers about society activities and events and the exciting world of wildflowers in Kansas. The KNPS website has improved to become one of the most impressive wildflower resources in the state of Kansas and maybe the nation. KNPS as usual sponsored dozens of adventuresome wildflower tours throughout the state from spring to fall. KNPS worked again with other groups and individuals in June to help make the Symphony in the Flint Hills a big success. KNPS provided tour guides for a "Wildflower Weekend" in September at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. And most recently (Oct. 3-5) KNPS enjoyed its Annual Wildflower Weekend in Hays, KS, where members enjoyed: the famous Sternberg Museum (Fri.); field trips to an on-going *Echinacea* study site (Fri.), Cedar Bluffs Reservoir (Sat.), and Wilson Lake Reservoir (Sun.); presentations from Dr. Kelly Kindscher


(Fri.) on *Echinacea*, Dr. Cindy Ford on native plant dyes (Fri.), and Frank Norman, master herbalist on medicinal plants (Sat.) This year's AWW was indeed a fun affair for all who attended and only to be topped by next year's KNPS AWW in southeast Kansas. These "wildflowers" that we persistently seek out to enjoy in the Kansas' grasslands are truly "gems of the prairie." Just like the precious stones we humans often value, many of these prairie plants also sparkle amidst the seas of grass they inhabit. They are indeed biological treasures that should be valued for both their ecological value and aesthetic beauty. These "icons of survival" have the strength to survive a wide range of dramatic weather changes throughout the year and still manage to bloom when the weather requirements are appropriate. But it is their softness combined with this hardness that seems to be their most admirable quality. It is truly amazing that these living creatures could be so physically tough but provide so much delicate visual beauty to their human admirers. Please, don't miss the next exciting episode in this perpetual adventure— Wildflowers 2009. (See upcoming events below.)

## Kansas Area Native Plant Wildflower Events


Information provided by Kansas Native Plant Society. Email: [email@KSNPS.org](mailto:email@KSNPS.org). Website: [www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org](http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org)

Visit our website for more events. Please share this information and contact us about additional events to note. Thank you. **Sturdy shoes, long pants, insect repellent, sunscreen, a hat and water** are recommended for outdoor events.


### **2008 Events - Mark your calendar now and plan to attend these fabulous happenings!**

 **November 8:** Papermaking Workshop at Karlyle Woods in Topeka, KS. Jeff Hansen, Kansas Native Plant Society Past President, will teach us how to make paper using native plant fibers. In this class we will learn the different types of plant fiber, the process of extracting the fiber from the plant, and the process of forming sheets of paper from the resulting fiber. We will work in teams of two with each team processing a different plant fiber into paper. The resulting paper will be shared equally among class members. Class runs from noon to 4pm. Karlyle Woods is located at 3440 NW Button Rd in Topeka. The cost of the workshop is \$25 and is limited to 12 people (Ages 12 and up). All materials and equipment are provided. Food will also be provided. Please sign up by contacting Jeff Hansen (785) 806-6917.


**November 8:** Perry Lake Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS. This was one of the first National Recreation Trails in Kansas. Help Kansas Sierra Club begin our 18th season of maintaining the Perry Lake Trail. We'll be refurbishing the part of the trail between Old Military Trail and 94th St. that flanks a new stream bridge to be built this fall. Steve Hassler (913) 707-3296

 **November 15:** Volunteers are needed for prairie maintenance and preservation projects. Assist the Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs [[www.grasslandheritage.org](http://www.grasslandheritage.org)]. Wear appropriate clothing. No special skills or tools needed. For details, please contact Frank Norman, Kansas Native Plant Society Board Member [[fjnorman@sunflower.com](mailto:fjnorman@sunflower.com)] (785) 887-6775 (home) or (785) 691-9748 (cell).

### **2009 Events - Mark your calendar now and plan to attend more fabulous happenings!**


 **January 17:** Kansas Native Plant Society Winter Board Meeting in Abilene, KS. Meet at the Kirby House Restaurant at 11am to eat; we're ordering from the menu. The meeting begins at noon. Our snow date is January 24. [[email@KSNPS.org](mailto:email@KSNPS.org)] (785) 864-3453.


## **Kansas Area Native Plant Wildflower Events** *Continued*


 **January 17:** Volunteers are needed for prairie maintenance and preservation projects. The Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs meet on the third Saturday of every month except December. [www.grasslandheritage.org]. For details, please contact Frank Norman, **Kansas Native Plant Society** Board Member [fjnorman@sunflower.com] (785) 887-6775 (home) or (785) 691-9748 (cell).

**January 25:** Kaw Valley Eagles Day in Lawrence, KS. Celebrate the return of the eagles and learn about the environment, 10am-4pm. Programs include information on area Bald eagles and other wildlife. Exhibitors will offer educational resources related to nature. The Jayhawk Audubon Society sponsors this event. Location: Free State High School, 1 block north of 6th & Wakarusa, Lawrence, KS. Contact Ed & Cynthia Shaw [eishaw@ku.edu] (785) 842-0475.


**April 18th & 25th:** Missouri Prairie Foundation Spring Plant Sales 7am - noon. Location: City Market, 5th & Walnut, Kansas City, MO. [http://www.moprairie.org] (888) 843-6739.

 **April 18:** **Kansas Native Plant Society** Spring Board Meeting and Outing at the Overland Park Arboretum. Our meeting will be in the classroom, 10am to 1pm. Bring your own lunch. We will tour the diverse grounds with Ken O'Dell and Lynda Ochs of the Arboretum, 1:30-4:30pm. We will hear about the prairie restoration project and other ongoing work. The Arboretum address is 8909 W. 179th St., Overland Park, KS. [email@KSNPS.org] (785) 864-3453.


 **May 7-11:** Flora Kansas: Great Plains Plant Bazaar at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, Hesston, KS. This plant sale features hard-to-find native perennials plus classes and tours. **Kansas Native Plant Society** co-sponsors Dyck Arboretum events. Members only sale dates May 8-9 sale dates; 10% members discount at the sale on all days. Admission charge is by donation. [arboretum@Hesston.edu] (620) 327-8127.


 **May 9:** Barber County Wildflower Tour. Meet at the Medicine Lodge High School, 8:30am. Enjoy continental breakfast and slides of flowers we expect to see. Buses provide transportation. Morning participants return to the school at noon. Full-day participants enjoy a delicious lunch and entertainment at a tree-shaded country park. Ride through the beautiful gyp hills to a second site. Refreshments served before we return to the school around 3:30pm. Barber Co. Conservation District and **Kansas Native Plant Society** are co-sponsors. Send Pre-paid reservations before May 5th, \$8 half-day, \$15 full-day. Barber Co Conservation, 800 W. 3rd Ave. Medicine Lodge, KS 67104-8002, phone (620) 886-3721, ext. 3.


**May 16:** Visit the Overland Park (KS) Arboretum with Topeka Audubon Society. Pack a snack and lunch/beverage. To car pool from Topeka, meet at 7am in the Dillon's store parking lot at 29th & California. Contact Dan Gish for additional information [gishbear@cox.net] (785) 232-3731.

 **June 6:** Wilson County Wildflower Tour in southeast Kansas. Gather at Fredonia High School, 916 Robinson St, 8:30am. Enjoy home baked pastries and booths of education and interest. Buses provide transportation. Join small group tours with professional leaders or opt for self guided experiences. **Kansas Native Plant Society** members play active roles in this event. Lunch is included with the registration price of \$8, payable by June 2 to Wilson Co Conservation, 930 N 2nd Street, Fredonia, KS 66736. Contact Gina Thompson (620) 378-2866 with questions.

 **June 14:** Friends of Konza Prairie Annual Wildflower Walk, 7pm. The walk is co-led by Valerie Wright, **Kansas Native Plant Society** Board Member, and Konza Docents. There is a charge of \$5 for those who are not Friends of Konza Prairie members. Telephone reservations are due June 3, (785) 587-0441.

 **June 14:** 4th Annual Symphony in the Flint Hills will be held on a private ranch east of Florence, Kansas deep in the heart of the hills. Enjoy this unique pairing of music and prairie! The vision of this concert is to heighten appreciation of the Flint Hills as the last major intact tallgrass prairie on the North American continent, helping focus attention on the Flint Hills of Kansas as a national treasure and as a destination for people beyond our borders. Featured is an outdoor concert performed by the Kansas City Symphony. [www.symphonyintheflinthills.org] (620) 273-8955.

 **September 12-13:** 3rd Annual Wildflower Weekend at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Chase County, KS. Bring the family; the weekend will be educational and enjoyable for all ages, 10am-4pm. Members of the **Kansas Native Plant Society** will be on hand to lead wildflower hikes. [www.nps.gov/tapr] [tapr\_interpretation@nps.gov] (620) 2738494.

 **September 18-20:** **Kansas Native Plant Society's** Annual Wildflower Weekend 2009 dates are set! Enjoy native Kansas plants with us! Location to be announced soon! [email@KSNPS.org] (785) 864-3453.

 Information provided by **Kansas Native Plant Society**, [www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org](http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org)



## Western Prairie Plants Seen at Cedar Bluff Outing

text and photos by Krista Dahlinger

Saturday afternoon during our Annual Wildflower Weekend, 40 or so enthusiasts braved blowing wind and sand to view wildflowers at Cedar Bluff Wildlife Area in Trego County.



AWW Hikers dwarfed by the magnificent Cedar Bluffs

Cedar Bluff is aptly named for the 100 foot limestone bluffs and abundant cedar trees, and is managed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. The lake dam was completed in 1952. The lake reservoir area covers about 4,000 acres, and the surrounding wildlife area is an additional 7,000 acres. Certain parts of the reservoir and land are off limits during regular hunting seasons to serve as refuge for migrating birds and other wildlife.

The wind blown arid tops of the bluffs present a challenging environment to the plants that take root in the limestone gravel soil. Ravines between the bluffs provide a protective environment for plants to grow.



Oval Leaf Bladderpod  
*Lesquerella gordonii*

Some of the plants we identified that are unique to western Kansas prairie conditions were the 10 Petal *Mentzelia decapetala*), oval leaf bladderpod (*Lesquerella gordonii*), Fendler's aster (*Aster fendleri*), *Stenosiphon*, Nine Anther Dalea (*Dalea enneandra*) and James Nail Wort (*Paronychia jamesii*).



Nine Anther Dalea  
*Dalea enneandra*  
(Skillfully photographed in high breeze)

Also present were the more common yucca, little bluestem, maximillian sunflower, and yellow broom, many of which appeared to be somewhat stunted in growth compared to plants in less arid areas. We found one last bloom on a Fremont's Evening Primrose (*Oenothera fremontii*) which had been half eaten by an anonymous grazer. The 100 foot high chalky limestone bluffs and blue-green reservoir water below us presented a unique backdrop to the afternoon.



Dee Scherich - A careful observer could sight this 'Comanche County Wildflower' at this year's AWW.

## Summary of Keynote Presentation

by Frank Norman

### The History and Impacts of *Echinacea angustifolia* Harvest in Kansas

The Kansas Native Plant Society was fortunate to have Dr. Kelly Kindscher provide a talk on his recent research concerning the sustainability of *Echinacea angustifolia* after wild harvesting in Kansas and Montana. Combined with the KNPS-sponsored foray to one of the research study sites north of Hays earlier in the day, his talk made for an entertaining and very informative evening.

The research project was prompted by concern of *Echinacea* overharvest as its popularity has risen in the recent past as an herbal product. Although *Echinacea* wild harvest rises and falls with the market, concerns remained that unregulated harvesting could decimate wild populations. Newspaper articles claiming *Echinacea* populations being wiped out or stories of wild harvesters being arrested for harvesting *Echinacea* without permits were common during peak harvest times.

According to Dr. Kindscher, *Echinacea* is especially vulnerable when the price for the wild root is high, which peaked in 1998. Commercial harvests during 1998 through 2001 were estimated to take over 30 million *E. angustifolia* plants. During that time, a pound of *Echinacea* root went for \$22; now it goes for \$11 per pound.

Kindscher and his research team selected a number of sites in Montana and Kansas to substantiate wild harvesters' observations (and their own) that *Echinacea* resprouts after commercial harvesting, even when excessive.

Kindscher's goal was to determine the percentage of *Echinacea* resprouting after harvest and to collect data relating resprouting to harvest sustainability. Kindscher found that approximately 50 percent of *Echinacea* plants resprouted two years after harvest in both Montana and Kansas. Some had multiple sprouts. Depth of root (or root length) at harvest was a significant factor, but root diameter (i.e., root reserves) was not. In other words, resprouted plants had less distance (average of 4.6 inches) to reach the soil surface than those that died (average of 5.7 inches). On the other hand, diameters of roots that resprouted versus those that died were not significantly different. Kindscher also found that seeds germinated. Percentage of seed germination ranged from 30 to 50 percent regardless of state and in spite of drought conditions experienced during the study.

Kindscher said he was less concerned about the impacts of *Echinacea* wild harvesting now that the results are in. With a resprout percentage of 50 percent and a good percentage of seed germination (for a plant that produces a lot of seeds), he feels comfortable with the wild harvesting going on. Kindscher thinks that wild harvesting of *Echinacea* gets people out in and connecting with nature. Of course, harvesting needs to be sustainable and ethical, where *Echinacea* fields are left to rest periodically to allow for recovery and no field is over harvested. Dr. Kindscher believes that the future of *Echinacea* lies in how we protect our pastures. As we all know, wild *Echinacea* is not only threatened by overgrazing, but by habitat conversion and herbicide use. Luckily, tens of millions of plants are growing wild in the Midwest. Hopefully, we will not lose this precious resource.

## Abundant Diversity of Plants Found at Rocktown

text by Mike Haddock, photos by Mike Haddock and Phyllis Scherich

At our Sunday morning foray, 43 KNPS members and friends participated in a visit to the 305 acre Rocktown Natural Area located in Lucas Park at Wilson Reservoir. The Kansas Biological Survey has registered this site as a Kansas Natural and Scientific Area. Though a brisk wind was blowing, the temperature was in the seventies, making for a very pleasant day. Those in attendance were rewarded with a great diversity of plants, which more than made up for the lean observations of the previous day. The lush vegetation was evidence that Lake Wilson received ample moisture during the summer.



Aromatic Aster  
*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*

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## Abundant Diversity of Plants Found at Rocktown

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A large patch of beautifully flowering aromatic aster (*Symphotrichum oblongifolium*) grew near the trailhead parking area. In close proximity were found prairie milkweed (*Asclepias pumila*), heath aster (*Symphotrichum ericoides*), and curlycup gumweed (*Grindelia squarrosa*). At the start of the hike, Stan Roth and Valerie Wright discussed the cochineal insects often found on the pads of prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia*) from which a deep crimson dye is obtained. The insects produce carminic acid that can be extracted to make the red pigment used as a fabric and cosmetics dye and as a natural food coloring. Unfortunately, the cacti can be damaged and sometimes killed by the feeding cochineals. Later, Valerie described various grasshoppers we encountered and informed the listeners about how to differentiate between some of the species.

Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), sand bluestem (*Andropogon hallii*) and little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) were found in abundance. Other grasses encountered included sand lovegrass (*Eragrostis trichodes*), Scribner's panicum (*Dichanthelium oligoanthos* var. *scribnerianum*), Canada wild rye (*Elymus canadensis*), red lovegrass (*Eragrostis secundiflora* subsp. *Oxylepis*), and rough dropseed (*Sporobolus compositus*).



Showy Goldenrod  
*Solidago speciosa*

Fragrant everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium*) was blooming profusely and showy goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*) and Maximilian sunflower (*Helianthus maximiliani*) were still quite evident, though a bit past their peak. Other wildflowers observed in bloom included wax goldenweed (*Grindelia papposa*), purple poppy mallow (*Callirhoe involucrate*), narrow-leaf golden aster (*Heterotheca stenophylla*), annual eriogonum (*Eriogonum annuum*), tall goldenrod

(*Solidago canadensis*), broom snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), Dakota verbena (*Glandularia bipinnatifida*), rough agalinis (*Agalinis aspera*), slender goldenweed (*Croptilon hookerianum*), yellow wood sorrel (*Oxalis dillenii*), and prickly poppy (*Argemone polyanthemus*).

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Though not in flower, western sagewort (*Artemisia campestris*), toothed spurge (*Euphorbia dentate*), buffalo gourd (*Cucurbita foetidissima*), common evening primrose (*Oenothera villosa*), Illinois bundleflower (*Desmanthus illinoensis*), pokeweed (*Phytolacca Americana*), field snake-cotton (*Froelichia floridana*), Texas croton (*Croton texensis*), snow-on-the-mountain (*Euphorbia marginata*), yucca (*Yucca glauca*), ironweed (*Vernonia baldwinii*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*), yellow nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus*), and pincushion cactus (*Escobaria vivipara*) were all observed.



James Clammy Weed  
*Polanisia jamesii*

Somewhat more unusual were James clammy weed (*Polanisia jamesii*), forktip three-awn (*Aristida basiramea*), and six-angled spurge (*Euphorbia hexagona*).



Wilson Lake vista with Yucca and Sumac

This was post rock country, and an abandoned fence row of limestone fence posts ran through the Rocktown natural area. On the west portion of the trail, we encountered red sandstone rock formations that stand 15 to 30 feet above ground level. The name Rocktown alludes to these formations. Everyone present found this to be a highly enjoyable field trip.



## Progress on Kansas Roadside Management AT LAST

Representatives from KNPS have long advocated that Kansas Roadsides be managed in such manner that would take advantage of and showcase our beautiful native grasses and wildflowers, instead of obliterating those plants most at home along the roadsides through extensive mowing, planting of non-native species, and use of herbicides.

At the Annual KNPS Meeting in 2006, the KNPS Board decided to once again push for ecologically sound and aesthetically pleasing roadside policies. A Public Policy Committee, chaired by Fred Coombs, was formed to investigate current policies and search for feasible action that KNPS could support. In July of this year, the committee brought before the KNPS Board a Position Paper developed primarily by Fred Coombs and Ann Feyerharm, detailing what our organization sees as current roadside management problems, background about other agencies and organizations working on maintaining native plants along roadsides, and the steps KNPS recommends for restoration of Kansas roadsides. The KNPS Board approved the paper.

More good news has followed. State Secretary of Transportation, Deb Miller, initiated the KDOT Roadside Aesthetics Task Force to "examine KDOT's approach to aesthetic treatments along Kansas roadsides, review current roadside management practices and recommend changes."

KNPS, represented by Fred Coombs, Jeff Hansen, Mike Haddock, and Jolene Grabill, joined KDOT representatives and eight environmentally conscious groups on the Task Force. The KNPS Position Paper has been shared with this group. The Task Force is now recommending several changes to KDOT policy consistent with our KNPS position paper. The recommendations feature the sole use of native plants along all new roadsides, sharply reduced mowing of rights-of-way, and the enhancement of selected roadside areas, showcasing native grasses and forbs.

Significantly, a new position responsible for KDOT roadside management has been created for Cheryl Dunn, a plant ecologist. At a meeting of the Task Force in early October, Dunn reported that fescue (a non-native) grass seed has now been removed from all seed mixes; mowing is being reduced and KDOT representatives went to Iowa for a recent roadside meeting. They will also be participating in the national roadside management meeting in Missouri. In addition, KDOT is putting the finishing touches on their "interim report" of the Task Force to be presented to the Transportation Secretary. Apparently, at last, the time is right for Kansas native plants.

That's not all. Scott Shields, who represents KDOT and the Scenic Byways program, is working on a wildflower booklet and poster. KNPS has volunteered to furnish photos of the species they use. The KNPS name and logo will be used on the materials. Jeff Hansen reported back to KNPS—"This is all VERY BIG."



## Clay County Native Plant and Wildflower Walk

by Tom Meek

An anonymous golfer made a discovery that led to the first, and possibly annual, Clay County Native Plant and Wildflower Walk. The unnamed duffer discovered a nice variety of wildflowers at the Clay County Public Golf Course. An impromptu tour was held on July 10th.

Thirteen adventurous souls, guided by Annie Baker of the Konza Prairie, identified 26 blooming forbs and 23 other plants. Yellow coneflower, black-eyed Susan and white prairie clover were the most common sightings. Beebalm provided the most spectacular display. A pleasant breeze and interesting scenery made for an enjoyable evening, and the sentiment was expressed that "we should do this again next year."



## KNPS Elections Held

by Craig Freeman

Seven members were elected to serve three-year terms on the Board of Directors of the Kansas Native Plant Society at the 30th annual meeting on October 4, 2008, in Hays, Kansas. New board members are Ken O'Dell, Paola; and Susan Reimer, McPherson. Members re-elected to continue their service include Iralee Barnard, Hope; Fred Coombs, Holton; Nancy Coombs, Holton; June Kliesen, Wilmore; and Frank Norman, Lawrence. There was one outgoing

board member: Ann Feyerharm, Manhattan, who served three years on the board.

Officer's elected by the KNPS board each to serve 1-year terms were: Phyllis Scherich, Secretary, Wilmore; Krista Dahlinger, Treasurer, Mulvane; Craig Freeman, President Elect, Lawrence; and Michael Heffron, President, Eureka. Retiring after 18 years as Treasurer was Sr. Patricia Stanley of Bel Aire. The board thanked Sr. Pat for her long and faithful service with a hearty round of applause and abundant hugs. Sr. Pat continues as a member of the Board of Directors.



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2008

## New Member Response to KNPS and AWW

by David S. Welfelt, Newton, Kansas

I joined KNPS back in August because I wanted to connect with people with a like-passion for Kansas and its native plants. Specifically, I wanted to make new friendships with people that could help me increase my understanding and

appreciation of our plants.

I attended the Annual Wildflower Weekend with much anticipation and came away so encouraged with new friends and a renewed passion for plants. I was also excited to have an opportunity to display some of my photographs, another passion of mine. The weekend proved to be more than time well spent for me. Thanks to all who had a part.



## Amazing Increase in KNPS Memberships

by Jeff Hansen

As of September 28, 2008, total memberships were 443. Of these, 40 are gratis memberships, given to other native plant societies and partner organizations. 403 are paid memberships. Paid membership counts for our five membership classes are: Student, 28; Individual, 221; Family, 113; Organization, 113; Contributing, 113; and Lifetime, 8.

So far this year, we have 88 new memberships in KNPS. We also had 45 members who rejoined KNPS after allowing their memberships to lapse. This was the result of a letter being sent out to all

memberships that had expired in the last 8 years.

In comparison with last year, we had 292 paying memberships as of September 2007. But by 2008, we had 403 paying memberships. This is an incredible increase of 38%. Also the number of memberships that did not renew has fallen since September, 2007. At that time we had 67 memberships that did not renew, but in September 2008, only 41 had not renewed. This is the result of sending renewal notices by email and the USPS.

This has been an incredible year for increasing KNPS memberships, which in turn increases our presence throughout the state. If you want to help KNPS continue to grow, consider giving a gift membership.

## Membership News

### New Members 6/16/08 to 10/8/08

Laura Armstrong - Topeka  
Jean Ayres - Village of Loch Lloyd, MO  
Robert G. Barnhardt, Jr. - Bucklin  
Charlene Bensing - Mullinville  
Bob Broyles & Birds, Bees & Butterflies Nursery - Towanda  
Edgar Chrisman - Thayer  
Guy Coffee - Manhattan  
Coffey County Conservation District - Burlington  
Janet Cruse - Parsons  
Anne & Jack Cully - Manhattan  
Rita Doan - Pratt  
Shaun & Cheryl Dunn - Topeka  
Joanne Gallaher - Manhattan  
Kay Gregory-Clark - Burns  
Nikki Guillot - Overland Park  
Gary & Brenda Harter - St. George  
Gwendolyn S. Heckathorn - Wichita  
John W. Henry - Milford  
Art Howell - Shawnee  
Cecile Kellenbarger - Valley Center  
Amy Knight - Andover  
Janet Krack - Wichita  
Robert M. Kruger - Lindsborg  
Greg Laird - Topeka  
Delia Lister - Pittsburg  
Gary Lloyd - Topeka

Marion & Jan Manlove - Clearwater  
James R. Morrissey - Topeka  
Jan Naylor - Mission  
Jerry & Margaret Norton - Oak Park, IL  
Lynda Ochs - Overland Park  
Judy Long O'Neal - Baldwin City  
Carmen Orth-Alfie - Lawrence  
Betty Patterson - Coats  
Thomas Pyke & M C Noonan - Baldwin City  
Christie & David Reynolds - Benton  
Pam Tennison Rindt & Ron & Nicholas Rindt - Topeka  
Norma Schlesener - Manhattan  
Jordan Schmeidler - Victoria  
John M. & Penny Seavertson - Oskaloosa  
Sedgwick County Extension Master Gardeners - Wichita  
Bob & Doris Sherrick - Peculiar, MO  
Marlys Simons - Hays  
Kenneth & Barbara Stelloh - Trenton, NE  
Michael Stubbs - Eskridge  
David Welfelt - Newton  
Sina Wilcox - Burns  
Karin Marie Winn - Overland Park  
Vernon & Linda Wranosky - Colby

### Members Renewing after a Hiatus

Mary Haynes - Chanute

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



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Address Service Requested

**LEARN MORE ABOUT KNPS**

Check us out online at [www.ksnps.org](http://www.ksnps.org)  
 Contact us by email at [email@ksnps.org](mailto:email@ksnps.org)  
 Contact us by phone at 785-864-3453



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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL GUIDELINES**

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

Please complete this form or a photocopy. 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**

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. The Kansas Native Plant Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Gifts to KNPS are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

**Membership application/renewal form**

Member Information:

Name:	
Address	
City/State:	
Zipcode:	
Phone:	
Email:	
County (if Kansas):	

Membership Category:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Student	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Organization	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contributing	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lifetime	\$500.00