



2010 AWW – Not Just for the Birds

by June Kliesen

When the KNPS Board plans our annual meetings, they always try to find new and different habitats for us to see, but these meetings do so much more than expose us to different areas and different plant life. We also get to share our time with like-minded people who care about the prairie and are interested in maintaining this very productive biome, and have lots of fun doing it!

The weekend started out with a board meeting at the new Kansas Wetlands Education Center on Friday, September 17th, where the board handled all the items that are necessary for our organization. But the really interesting part of the AWW (Annual Wildflower Weekend) starts after the business meeting with the first of the field trips. This year the Board and the members prefaced the field trip with a presentation about the Education Center by Curtis Wolf. Here we learned how important the 41,000 acres in Cheyenne Bottoms and the 22,000 acres at Quivera are to the waterfowl, which use these areas as a stopover in their migrations.



Pelicans, goldenrod and sunflowers at Cheyenne Bottoms - photo by P. Luedke

With Curtis as our tour guide, we were able to learn something about managing the water resources and see huge flocks of White Pelicans, smaller groups of Great Egrets and Dowitchers and the more solitary Great Blue Herons and White-faced Ibis and others too numerous to mention.

After this tour, we were on our own with our visit to the 8,000 acre Nature Conservancy land to the north of Cheyenne Bottoms. This was a challenge since there was a fair amount of water on the roads we had to travel, but our intrepid members sallied forth through all the water and managed to emerge safely (but muddily) on the other side. As usual, we all spread out over the landscape trying to spot the most interesting plants we could find until the mosquitoes drove us out.

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The Kansas Native Plant Society Newsletter is printed four times a year: Winter (January), Spring (April), Summer (July), Fall (October). Readers tell us how much they enjoy the newsletter in color and in the paper format. Contributions help us continue to produce a publication of this length in this form. You may send your gift to KNPS at Kansas Native Plant Society, R.L. McGregor Herbarium, 2045 Constant Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66047-3729.



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.



KNPS President's Message by Craig Freeman, photos by David Welfelt

The 32nd annual meeting of the Kansas Native Plant Society (AWW) was held in Great Bend from September 17–19. It was a weekend of learning, camaraderie, and fun. Dozens of people made the event possible, but I want to thank several who were especially instrumental in the success of AWW 2010.

Curtis Wolf, Manager of the Kansas Wetland Education Center, hosted the Friday board meeting. Curtis gave a talk about Cheyenne Bottoms following the board meeting and guided us through the Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area that afternoon. We were fortunate to have Curtis explain the importance of this remarkable wetland.

Our meeting Saturday was in the Great Bend Public Library. Terri Hurley, Director of Public Relations for the library, was immensely helpful with pre-meeting arrangements. She helped prepare the room on Friday, arrived at work early on Saturday morning to give us extra time to set up, and welcomed attendees to the meeting. Terri is a wonderful ambassador for the library and the city, and the library was the perfect venue for our gathering.



Rob Penner, The Nature Conservancy

Rob Penner, Cheyenne Bottoms & Avian Program Manager for The Nature Conservancy, gave us access to TNC's preserve Friday evening and was our guest speaker at the meeting. Rob helped us understand how TNC's work at Cheyenne Bottoms is protecting elements of North America's biodiversity. Kristen Polacik from Ft. Hays State University, one of our two Bancroft Scholarship awardees, gave an informative talk about her research on tamarisk.

Karen Kline-Martin from Great Bend catered a wonderful meal following the meeting on Saturday. I'm still salivating over those blackberry jamble bars! Karen also recommended the Great Bend Coffee Company for our coffee break treats, and owners Paul and Barbara Wagner did not disappoint. The muffins, scones, and pecan cinnamon rolls—hot from the oven—were scrumptious.

Rita Schartz with the USDA NRCS in St. John assisted with early planning and advertising, and provided commentary during several of our outings. We were privileged to have her share her knowledge of plants, vegetation, and conservation issues.



Rita Schartz, USDA NRCS

Marla and Bud Brocher (and Ore) of Pawnee Rock were the gracious hosts for our Sunday outing. Not only did they permit us to explore their section of land near Pawnee Rock, but Marla's homemade rolls and other goodies ensured the nourishment that some of us needed to ford the Arkansas River.



Marla and Bud Brocher, with Pres. Craig Freeman

Finally, I want to thank everyone who took part in the activities during the weekend. Each of us learned new things, made new friends, and found time to smile and enjoy the company of others. The meeting exemplified what is special about the Kansas Native Plant Society, and I look forward to AWW 2011.



Hats Off! To Members Who Have Well-served the Mission of KNPS

by Valerie Wright



Craig Freeman, Lorraine Kaufman, Valerie Wright
photo by Phyllis Scherich

The recipient of the 2010 Sheldon H. Cohen Award for Outstanding Service to KNPS was Lorraine Kaufman. She has been a member of our Society for many years going back to the early days when we were called the Kansas Wildflower Society. Her enthusiasm for the native prairie has brought many others to learn about the plants growing all around them. Some of her "students" are now on the Board of KNPS because of her influence. Her writings about the prairie for our newsletter and in her column "Wildflower Watch" show her continuing love for all things prairie. And she puts into practice what she says on her own land with her family conservation efforts that our organization supports.

This year we recognized Iralee Barnard of Hope, KS, with the Excellence in Botany Award. This award is given to an individual who has made an important contribution to botany in Kansas. Iralee has had a long association with native plants. She was the contact with the public for many years at the K-State Herbarium and a helpful resource to all who needed plant identifications. Her work at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve has added 500 species to their plant list. The recent publication of *The Pocket Guide to Kansas Flint Hills Wildflowers and Grasses* adds greatly to her important accomplishments.



Iralee receives Excellence in Botany
photo by David Welfelt

Note: The Pocket Guide to Kansas Flint Hills Wildflowers and Grasses is on line. Take a stroll through The Meadow! at <http://www.gpnc.org/meadow.htm>



Annual Wildflower Weekend Photo Contest Winners

The 2010 Photo Contest attracted more than 50 beautiful photos from dozens of members. Contest results:



1st: "Large Flowered Gaura"
David Welfelt



2nd: "Hedge Parsley Hooked Bristles"
Phyllis Luedke



1st: "Passion Flower"
Phyllis Luedke

Fauna



1st, Best of Show: "Juniper Hairstreak on Queen Ann's Lace"
David Welfelt



2nd: "Bumblebee on Bitter Sneezeweed"
Phyllis Luedke

Scenery



1st: "Barber County Landscape"
Phyllis Luedke



2nd: "Deer Creek Winter Scene"
Phyllis Luedke

Garden



1st: "June Mix"
Rita Schartz



2nd: "Echinacea Seed Heads in Heavy Snow"
Phyllis Luedke

People



"1st Pass, Tallgrass on Paint Creek"
Matthew Richter



"A Lotus by Any Other Name"
Susan Reimer



"Great Plains Photo Shoot"
David Welfelt

Overheard at the AWW

This is a perfect place for a meeting. (Thanks to Great Bend Library)
I'd bid on something, but I want everything!
I didn't know a plant could do that!
It's a muhlenbergia—but those were good guesses.
Why do pelicans stay in large groups?
That plant smells like maple syrup!
They have black bills and yellow legs.
"Texas tacks"—I like that name.

The devil's claw made me do it.
Dodder – it's to a plant like a tick is to you.
(Response) – I only have one daughter!
Jeff's playing with the peduncle.
Can we all do the Little Bluestem wave?
When you get up, have someone check your behind for the fragile prickly pear!
What an awesome view if it weren't so foggy.
I like "coyote willow" better. (*Salix exigua*, AKA sandbar willow)
What comes after May flowers? Pilgrims.



Silent Auction: Unique Treasures and Support for Treasury

by Krista Dahlinger



Silent Auction items on display. Photo by Phyllis Scherich

The Silent Auction at the AWW in Great Bend raised about \$600 for the KNPS general fund. A big THANK YOU to everyone who brought items to donate again this year. Items included giclee-print prairie scenes, hand stitched wall hangings, jelly and jam made from many native fruits, wildflower photographs and a collage, newer and vintage plant books, an antique botanical-pressed-flower collection, pressed flower and block printed note cards, pottery, kitchen utensils, hats, and a single-edition printed wildflower book. We also received a homemade zucchini bread and a blueberry pie from the Farmers Market taking place outside in the parking lot of the library. We also sold many of the new colorful KNPS t-shirts and hats, as well as several copies of the *Wildflowers of Southeast Kansas* book Dr. Stephen Timme donated to KNPS. "Thank you" to everyone who donated and everyone who bid.



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Saturday morning we met at the Great Bend Library for our general business meeting with the membership. It was great to see old friends as well as new faces.



Kristen Polacik explains her research on salt cedar photo by Phyllis Scherich

Listening to our president, Craig Freeman, going over our various activities really impressed on us that we do have an important impact on the health of our native prairies. I was struck at the importance of our group in accomplishing

this mission with our awards, scholarships, and our part in designating Little Blue as the Kansas State Grass, as well as our work to limit wasteful roadside mowing. During the business meeting, we also elected new (or slightly used) officers. We then heard from one of last year's Mary A. Bancroft Memorial Scholarship recipients (Kristen

Polacik from Fort Hays State University) about her research on saltcedar, and gave a number of awards, had the photo contest and conducted the Silent Auction to help raise money for our many projects. It was a busy morning. We also had a presentation by Robert Penner of the Nature Conservancy who described their work to improve this area.

After a delicious catered lunch, we carpoled to Quivera National Wildlife Refuge, only losing a few of our members along the way. At Quivera we found hoards of Pelicans who put on a graceful show for us, and later we found our lost members. After Quivera, Rita Schartz, the Stafford Conservation Officer, took us to the Jeff DeWerff Ranch, where findings included a 5 foot Bull snake and an invasive grass, *Fragmites*.



Earl Allen displays examples of *Ammannia Auriculata*, *A. coccinea*, and *A. Robusta*. Photo by P. Scherich

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We want your opinion on the 2010 Annual Wildflower Weekend! Even if you were not able to attend this year, we want to hear from you. Please visit our website and take our short survey by **October 31st**. On the Home Page, go down to "News." Find "Sept. 10:2010AWW Survey"; then click.



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Both Friday and Saturday night we shared our discoveries of the day with other plant enthusiasts, which is often the best part of the day. It is as much fun to share our finds together as it is to find a new plant! Sunday we met at Pawnee Rock and arrived in time to see a parade of antique cars coming down from the hill. We were pleasantly surprised to find a wealth of wildflowers atop that small hill—quite surprising since it was so very dry, and it was such a small site. It was like finding an unexpected treasure, and we all scampered up and down the Rock checking out each other's finds.

From there we headed off to the Brocher Ranch, south of Pawnee Rock, where Marla Brocher had laid out a magnificent spread of homemade baked goods for our breakfast. This land had not been grazed for 2 years and also proved to be a treasure drove of wildflowers. It was very obvious that the Brochers are working hard to improve this land. We climbed in the back of a few pickups to see more of the ranch. It took us back to our childhood to ride in the back of a pickup and to go wading in the river. It was a wonderful way to end a great weekend of botanizing with old friends and new. We hope to see you next year at our AWW weekend.



Group photo of 2010 AWW participants atop Pawnee Rock. Photo by David Welfelt and Mickey Delfelter



Memorable Moments: Personal AWW Highlights from the KNPS Board

Phyllis Scherich: If I have to pick one, my favorite part of the weekend was the Sunday morning outing! What a great time of sharing and enjoying a beautiful area. It is so special when private landowners share their "space" with us.

It was special to have the privilege of seeing Lorraine Kaufman receive her award, as she is probably why I am a member of KNPS.

Susan Reimer: My most memorable moment came when Lorraine Kaufman and Iralee Barnard received their awards. Not knowing that either of them were to receive awards but knowing that both were thinking of not coming to AWW this year, I was so glad that I had encouraged each of them to ride with me to Great Bend and participate on Saturday!

Craig Freeman: Two things that will stick with me about the weekend: The genuine kindness and accommodation of each of our hosts during the

weekend: Curtis Wolf at the Kansas Wetland Education Center, Terri Hurley and the rest of the



Curtis Wolf, in denim shirt and shades, leads tour of Cheyenne Bottoms. Photo by Phyllis Scherich

staff at the Great Bend Public Library, and Marla and Bud Brocher at their property on Sunday. They made this AWW really special for me.

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2010 Kansas Area Native Plant and Wildflower Events

Information provided by Kansas Native Plant Society, see more events on our website: www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org. Please share this information and contact us about additional events to note. Thank you! [email@KSNPS.org] **Sturdy shoes, long pants, a hat, insect repellent, sunscreen, and water are recommended for outdoor events.**

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend some fabulous happenings!


October 20-22: Patch Burning Workshop in Bartlesville, OK. Theme: Opportunities and constraints in managing for heterogeneity on privately owned ranches. Bus Tour of Tallgrass Prairie Preserve on Thursday. Interpretation and Q&A led by Bob Hamilton. Discussion/presentation by adjacent ranchers about their first experiences with leaving portions of a pasture unburned and effects on cattle performance and wildlife. Thursday evening enjoy a barbeque and social-time at the Preserve Headquarters. Friday concurrent sessions: (1) Rancher focus group with OSU facilitator to assess rancher attitudes and perceptions about heterogeneity management; (2) Continued participant presentations and/or round-robin discussion of PBWG issues. Note: Invited ranchers will be able to apply for travel scholarships through OSU to attend the meeting. Sponsor: Oklahoma Tallgrass Prairie Preserve. Contact: Bob Hamilton [bhamilton@TNC.ORG] (918) 287-4803.

October 26-29: 37th Annual National Natural Areas Conference is in Osage Beach, Missouri. This year the conference will be held at Tan-Tar-A Resort at Lake of the Ozarks. This national conference brings together natural area conservation professionals, students, and other dedicated, passionate conservationists from around the country. There will be a special Missouri Prairie Foundation--cosponsored Prairie Ecology and Management workshop on Oct. 27 and a guided prairie field trip on Oct. 28. Workshop speakers include: Patch-Burn Grazing & Grassland Conservation--Samuel Fuhlendorf, Oklahoma State University, Nesting Ecology of Grassland Birds--James Herkert, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources, Prairie Plant Ecology--Kevin James, National Park Service, Mead's Milkweed Occurrence & Management--Emily Horner, biologist, Hydrology & Water Quality Characteristics of Tallgrass vs. Agricultural Soils--David Heimann, USGS, Prairie Invertebrate Ecology and Management--James Trager, Shaw Nature Reserve. There is an impressive schedule of speakers, workshops, poster session, vendors, field trips and other activities. The last time this conference was held in Missouri was 2000--so don't miss this one! Full and daily registration is available. Visit the conference web site for full details and to register, [www.naturalarea.org/10Conference]. [NAA2010@dnr.mo.gov] (573) 882-9909, ext. 3244.


 **November 6:** Remove Bush Honeysuckle from Woods at Felker Park, 9am-noon. Help clear bush honeysuckle from the woods along Shunga Creek. We are going to clear an area of the woods of the honeysuckle and other invasives to allow the native species to flourish. The natives are barely hanging on because of the honeysuckle. The area we will be working is adjacent to the bridge at Gage & Shunga Creek. Parking is at the Tennis Courts off of Gage Blvd. Wear boots, leather gloves, long sleeves and pants. Bring a lopper or pruning saw. If you don't want to cut, you can spray the cut stumps. The City of Topeka will be supplying herbicide to treat the cut stumps to ensure the honeysuckle doesn't regrow. Felker Park is a park in Topeka that is off Gage Blvd adjacent to Shunga Creek. Sponsor: [Kansas Native Plant Society](http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org). Please RSVP if you will be attending. Contact: Jeff Hansen [email@KSNPS.org] (785) 806-6917

November 6: To Battle!!! Kansas City WildLands Annual Honeysuckle Battle, 9am-noon. Join us for our biggest restoration event of the year as we battle the dread shrub honeysuckle that threatens Kansas City's beautiful wild places on several sites at once. This is a great group workday! To register or for more information contact Linda Lehrbaum [linda@bridgingthegap.org] (816) 561-1061, ext. 116.

November 6: Perry Lake Trail Maintenance, Perry, KS. This was one of the first National Recreation Trails in Kansas. Help Kansas Sierra Club maintain a section of one of the longest hiking trails in Kansas, located between Lawrence and Topeka. Bring lunch, work gloves, water, and if you have them, a bow saw or loppers. [http://kssierra.org] Steve Hassler [hassler@planetkc.com] (913) 707-3296.

 **November 20:** 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]. Wear appropriate clothing. No special skills or tools needed. For details, please contact Frank Norman, [Kansas Native Plant Society](http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org) Board Member [fjnorman@sunflower.com] (785) 887-6775 (home) or (785) 691-9748 (cell).


 **January 15:** Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs prairie maintenance and preservation projects. See Nov 20 info.


 **January 22:** [Kansas Native Plant Society](http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org) Spring Board Meeting and Outing. The location and time have not been finalized. Please contact KNPS for more information. [email@KSNPS.org] (785) 864-3453.

Kansas Area Native Plant Wildflower Events - Continued

 **February 19:** Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs prairie maintenance and preservation projects. See Nov 20 info.

 **March 19:** Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs prairie maintenance and preservation projects. See Nov 20 info.


 **April 16:** Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs prairie maintenance and preservation projects. See Nov 20 info.


 **April 22:** Celebrate Earth Day Outside With Your Family! Contact us about special events so we may share them on our website, [www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org].

 **April 23:** Kansas Native Plant Society Spring Board Meeting and Outing. The location and time have not been finalized. Please contact KNPS for more information. [email@KSNPS.org] (785) 864-3453.


April 23rd & 30th: Missouri Prairie Foundation Spring Plant Sales 7am - noon. Location: City Market, 5th & Walnut, Kansas City, MO. [<http://www.moprairie.org>] (888) 843-6739.

May 7: 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 will provide transportation. Morning participants will return to the school at noon. Full-day participants will enjoy a delicious lunch and entertainment at a tree-shaded country park. Ride through the beautiful gyp hills to a second site. Refreshments will be served before we return to the school around 3:30pm. Barber Co. Conservation District and Kansas Native Plant Society are co-sponsors. Pre-paid reservations should be sent before May 4th, \$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 13-16:** FloraKansas: 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. Ask about member's only sale dates; 10% members discount on all days. Admission charge is by donation. [arboretum@Hesston.edu] (620) 327-8127.

 **May 21:** Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs prairie maintenance and preservation projects. See Nov 20 info.

June 4: Spring Wildflower Tour at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, McPherson County, KS. Board the tram for a tour of the prairie with wildflowers and buffalo, 10am. There is also a self-guided walking tour with flowers flagged. The Refuge is located 6 miles north of Canton, KS. [<http://www.cyberkraft.com/maxwell/>] (620)-628-4455.

 **June 11:** 6th Annual Symphony in the Flint Hills will be held in the heart of the Flint Hills of Kansas. Get ready for one of the most beautiful sites on the planet and the adventure of getting there. Enjoy this unique pairing of music and prairie! The vision of this concert is to heighten appreciation and knowledge of the Flint Hills as the last major intact tallgrass prairie on the North American continent and will help focus attention on the Flint Hills of Kansas as a national treasure belonging to all Kansans and as a destination for people beyond our borders. Wildflower tours will be led by Kansas Native Plant Society volunteers. Featured is an outdoor concert performed by the Kansas City Symphony. [www.symphonyintheflinthills.org] (620) 273-8955.



KNPS TECH CORNER— by Mickey Delfelder

How large are the Rolling Sand Plains? What are the geological characteristics of the Wooded Osage Plains? How many ecoregions are there in Kansas? Find answers to all of these questions (and more) on the new Ecoregions section of the KNPS website: <http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/ecoregions.htm>.



Newsletter Errata Corrections

CORRECTIONS! We sincerely apologize for two errors in the July issue. For the article on Mead's Milkweed, page 12, the photographer was incorrectly identified. Credit for the photo should go to John Row, also of the USDA NRCS. The caption for the photo on page 6 accompanying the Konza Butterfly Hill outing should refer to Jan Alderson, teacher at Shawnee Mission South, whose class initiated the Little Bluestem proposal.



Memorable Moments:

Continued from page 6

Craig Freeman, cont. Dinner at the Page on Saturday night--what a hoot. We started out with 5 people at one table. As more KNPS people arrived and other patrons left, we took over an increasingly large part of the restaurant by moving and joining tables. It was like a giant game of Tetris. When all was said and done, we had more than 20 people shoe-horned into 6 tables configured like a "T" on steroids. 2010 AWW Memories that will stay with me for years.

Shirley Braunlich: The whole weekend was so much fun! Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves; I laughed with lots of people, both old friends and new acquaintances. Cheyenne Bottoms is the largest marsh in the interior U.S. Cheyenne Bottoms is a fresh water marsh, managed by the state; Quivera is a saltwater marsh, managed federally. Geology is what makes one fresh water and the other salt water.

Purple marsh elder, found at Quivera, has foul-smelling leaves (smells chemical-like) and pleasant smelling flowers. Our Sunday outings were my favorite part of the weekend. We met an adorable diminutive cactus at Pawnee Rock, fragile prickly pear (*Opuntia fragilis*); it rarely flowers. One of my favorite western Kansas natives, ten-petal mentzelia (*Mentzelia decapetala*), was growing on the private land we visited. On the sand prairie were hundreds of thousands of many species of grasshoppers and many holes where pocket gophers and snakes lived. I got to walk in the Arkansas River -- what a fabulous place! The water was clear, the bottom sandy and there were thousands of leopard frogs everywhere! This place was so alive.



Boots or bare feet: KNPS hikers exercised their preference in exploring the Arkansas River

Photo by Mike Haddock

Krista Dahlinger: I continue to enjoy the Zucchini Bread I bought at the Silent Auction. I always look forward with much anticipation to see what items people will bring each year. We ate

some in the car on the way to Quivera.

I enjoyed the private property foray near Pawnee Rock this year. There was an amazing assortment of baked breakfast items in the bed of a truck in the pasture for us when we arrived. The owners told us the history of prairie restoration on their land, and also their future plans. It really helps to feel a connection to a particular place when we get this kind of information. It's wonderful to meet new people who are actively caring for their land, and who decided they would welcome a bunch of plant lovers so we could explore to discover what is growing there.



Krista photographs prickly pear
Photo by K. Hummel

No matter where we went this year, if there was a fence, there was someone to hold the wire until we could all climb through. If there was poison ivy, it was pointed out to the allergic. If there was a plant we had not seen yet, someone would shout out the name of it so we could all come see. You won't leave the prairie wondering what plants you saw with our more "expert" plant people in attendance. Every adventure I've been on with KNPS people has been like this since I first became involved with the group.

Jeff Hansen: Sunday at the Brochers was my big day for memories. I learned that the white silky stuff on prickly pears was caused by cochineal bugs. I watched Krista "stir" the bugs on the cactus to make a red silky mess. I also loved riding in the back of Allen's truck with 10 other members as we drove across the prairie, stopping to look at things.



Riding in the pickup bed. Photo by P. Scherich



Memorable Moments:

Continued from page 9

Nancy Goulden: I have a personal affection for the native Four-o'clock plants in the genus *Mirabilis*. So it was with special joy on the Sunday “wander” that I looked up at a small promontory jutting out from the hillside and saw a rather tall four-o'clock decorated with an abundance of the typical pinkish-purple clusters of flowers. This new find (for me) is Carleton’s Four-o'clock (*Mirabilis carletonii*). That gives me four native

Four-o-clocks on my life list! Yea!

Carleton, like his/her cousins I have met thus far has the same clusters of lamp-shade- shaped calyces, usually in pink or purple. BUT the leaves—that is where you find the differences. Bare describes the leaves of my “new best friend” Carleton as “sessile, thick, lanceolate to ovate or nearly deltoid.” Apparently, Carleton had decided to already drop the leaves from the stem below the flower head, but we could see what looked to me like large “leaf scars.”



First-timer's Impressions by Matthew Richter, a new KNPS member

I had a wonderful introduction to the KNPS membership and saw more wonderful things through fresh eyes than I can explain. However, when I got back to my place I felt I could best fulfill your request for a small written piece from a new member, through a bit of verse. Hope it works for your purposes.

“While Walking with Christopher Robin and Charles Darwin”

I did not know until I met you that Prickly Poppy had cadmium yellow sap!
Or, that so many blossoms opened only by the shadow of dusk,
Or that Latin was so useful to sort the tiniest corners of the infinitely complex.

I did not know of star-shaped hairs or polka-dot-eyed hoppers.
Or that eyepieces were as revealing of landscape as hilltops.
I did not know that people would so readily care for people relationships
As they did for the fragile plants and spaces that nurture them.

But now that I see it, it makes perfect sense.



KNPS Outings submitted by KNPS members

Y-KIDS FIELD TRIP to MOONDANCE TREE FARM text and photo by Jill Bremyer

On July 13th , 21 Y-Kids, (McPherson Family YMCA day camp program) 4 instructors and 3 volunteers were hosted by KNPS member Jill Bremyer at the Moondance Tree Farm in McPherson. The purpose of the trip was to learn about the wildflowers, grasses and trees on the 68 acre farm. Although the farm primarily showcases the 8,000 trees and shrubs that have been planted over the past 25 years, there are also wildlife, a pond, miles of trails, and a wildflower meadow.

Despite the very hot weather and horrific mosquitos, the kids showed enthusiasm for learning everything there was to offer. Many of the children pledged to continue to learn more and more about nature's gifts and how to be a good steward of the earth.



Y-Kids visit to Moondance Tree Farm

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TUTTLE CREEK by Diane Barker

We were fortunate to have a sunny, but temperate, afternoon for the second of three nature walks at Tuttle Creek Lake near Manhattan on July 10. The outing was sponsored by the Corps of Engineers and offered through UFM, the K-State/Manhattan free university. Paul Weidhaas, Corps Park Ranger, led the small but intrepid group of plant enthusiasts across the dam to a parking lot above the K-State Crew's boathouse on the east side of the lake.

The plant tour began on the thin gray soil of a terrace that Paul identified as Easley Shale. The KNPS guides, Nancy Calhoun and Diane Barker, were able to share information about the usual suspects that inhabit dry, rocky, shallow, clay or limestone soil. There were large populations of green milkweed and narrowleaf bluets in bloom. Echinacea and Missouri evening primrose were abundant but through blooming. Hairy grama, side-oats grama, round-headed prairie clover, Illinois bundleflower, purple prairie clover, and catclaw sensitive brier were plentiful. The most unusual resident we encountered was slender green thread (*Thelesperma megapotamicum*), aptly named for its spindly appearance.

As we followed a gravel road, the thin soil turned to the rich, black prairie soil, built by hundreds of years of decayed grasses and roots. The big and little bluestem were showing their decidedly blue tint, and we found woolly verbena blooming in purple and white. A nice stand of prairie cone flower was going to seed and had dropped most of its yellow ballerina skirts. We discussed the uses, real and purported, of plants we encountered: Indian hemp dogbane, curly-cup gumweed, New Jersey tea, smooth sumac, daisy fleabane, and prairie wild rose.

The road cut gave us a nice view of the tallgrass roots still holding the rich black soil. Water seeped between the layers of limestone, clay and shale to collect in a ditch, supporting cattails, sedges, cottonwoods, willows and horsetails, those famous survivors from the Devonian era. Climbing back up to the parking area, we had an oak, hackberry, and redbud gallery forest falling away into a ravine on the right, and a steep cut on the left populated by rough-leafed dogwood and smooth sumac.

For our last walk in this series, we returned on August 28 to the same area on the east side of the dam to catch the liatris, Pitcher sage, ironweed, sunflowers, and goldenrod. Antennae plant was blooming. We are already planning the walks for next year, so please watch for the announcements and join us at beautiful Tuttle Creek Lake.

TALLGRASS WILDFLOWER WEEKEND by Angie Richard and Mickey Delfelder

On September 11 and 12, KNPS and the National Park Service co-hosted the 5th Annual Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Native Wildflower Weekend at the TPNP preserve located in the beautiful Flint Hills of Chase County. Sixteen KNPS members helped with the event.

The preserve's 1880's native stone barn housed KNPS interactive displays and demonstrations. Visitors examined Jeff Hansen's handmade paper samples constructed of native plant fibers. Jeff also displayed an assortment of edible native plants. The favorite was the Paw Paw fruit with its banana-like scent. Nancy Goulden set up an interactive display where visitors could "crush and sniff" native wild bergamot, purple prairie clover, and wild marigold. The children's activity center included a native plant-themed crossword puzzle, information on the Kansas state grass Little Bluestem, and an art area.

On Saturday, Frank Norman gave a presentation on medicinal uses of native prairie plants. Outside the stone barn, Heather Brown demonstrated how to make wild plum jam. KNPS members who sampled the jam concurred that it was delicious. On Sunday, Cindy Ford demonstrated dyeing wool with native plant dyes and spinning it into yarn. Iralee Barnard presented her display of yarns dyed with native plant dyes, and distributed her new book, *A Pocket Guide to Kansas Flint Hills Wildflowers and Grasses*.

KNPS wildflower hikes on the nature trails and NPS bus tours on the roads through the preserve allowed visitors to observe the tallgrass prairie up close. Children could go on a nature scavenger hunt through the prairie. The late summer wildflowers included the golden flowers of sunflowers and goldenrod, the Pitcher sage's sky-blue flowers, as well as the contrasting green and white bracts of snow-on-the-mountain. The prairie grasses included tall spikes of Big Bluestem, Indian Grass, Switch Grass, Purpletop, and the Kansas state grass, Little Bluestem.

Eric Patterson from the National Park Service estimated 300 people visited the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve for the native plants weekend. Visitors came from Kansas, South Dakota, Illinois, California, and North Carolina. A gentleman from Connecticut, now living in Tonganoxie, received tips from KNPS member Earl Allen on what plants to use to construct a prairie in his back yard. All visitors seemed enthusiastic about the tallgrass prairie. Nancy Goulden observed a couple from the eastern US standing at the west window of the stone barn looking onto the prairie for the first time, mesmerized. Mission accomplished!

GROWING PLANTS FROM SEED: text and photos by Ken O'Dell

We have several species of Milkweed (*Asclepias*) growing on our farm in Miami County, Kansas. Of the 15 or 20 species of *Asclepias* native to Kansas I have found 6 or 7 species growing wild and have studied the habits of the plants, flowers and seeds. Unlike our native grasses, which are usually pollinated by wind because they do not have fragrance or the type of iridescence to attract pollinator bees, our native milkweed has, with one or two exceptions, the ability to attract many pollinating bees to move the pollen from one flower to another, and consequently, produce many strong, viable, and beautiful seed.

One of the ten most popular native plants in the United States is Butterfly Weed, also known as Orange Milkweed or Butterfly Flower with brilliant, colorful and very noticeable clusters of bright orange flowers in summer. This *Asclepias tuberosa* is native in all but the far northwest United States.

Of the native Milkweed with colorful flowers,



Purple Milkweed
Asclepias purpurascens

Purple Milkweed, *Asclepias purpurascens*, has dark burgundy to wine red flowers in early summer and rarely more than one or two flower clusters at a time standing on branched stems 2 or 3 feet tall. I have over the years grown these from seed collected on our farm and planted several large clusters near our house and barn. If you like giant

aphids, you will like some of these milkweeds because during the summer, large aphids will gather on the milkweed and do their thing. Monarch Butterfly Caterpillars will also be eating some of the foliage, and, in general, all of these *Asclepias* will help Mother Nature survive in all of her wonderful ways.

Another noticeable Milkweed is Swamp Milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*. This species is thinly scattered in many counties throughout Kansas. Attractive off-red or nearly red flowers are 3 inches wide and formed into ball-shaped clusters in June, July, and August. Tall stately stems (up to 4 feet tall) with few branches, are found frequently growing in wet or soggy areas that do not drain well. Our Swamp Milkweed has great ornamental value. Some selections have been made with white to creamy white flowers.

Spider Milkweed, *Asclepias viridis*, is one of the early flowering species with flowers appearing in May and early June. A lower growing species than many of the milkweeds (about 18 inches tall) with a few sprawling branches, Spider Milkweed has one or two clusters of creamy-white flowers with thin, very dark, purplish colored markings in each flower. In our pastures, the cattle frequently graze around these milkweeds, but do not eat them. The plants are noticeable when the seed starts to spread by wind on the open seed pods, and the soft, white, silky hairs lift the seed into the wind and distribute it around.

If you want to grow milkweeds from seed, look at the seed pods, and you will see different coverings for different species. Some coverings are rough and others are quite smooth. They all ripen the same way. The seed pods are mostly 3 or 4 inches long, and depending on the species, range from very thin to plump and full. I gently see if I can pry the seed pod apart just enough to see if the seed inside has started to turn brown. If it is a good dark brown, the seed is ripe and ready to gather. If the seed is still slightly yellowish to light brown, you might give it another week before you pick the seed pod. When ripe, take the seed pod inside, out of the wind, and gently pull apart. I find it easier to immediately pull off the dark brown seed by rubbing my thumb against the seed and pulling it down while holding the entire seed pod firmly with the other hand. This is the easiest way to separate the dark brown seed from the white silk hairs. If you wait for the seed pod to spring open on its own, you will have a bunch of seed mixed with the silky, fluffy hairs, and it is much harder to pick out the seed.



Asclepias Syriaca Seeds

I store the seed in the fridge in a paper envelope and may plant the seed in my greenhouse in mid-January. The seed will start to come up by about mid-March to early April. If I want to start the seeds outside, I go to an area where I want to establish the plants and scuff up the soil with a rake; then spread the seed on top of that area and let Mother Nature help me. You will get beautiful flowers the second year from seed.



Featured Plant: Rattlesnake master *Eryngium yuccifolium* Michx.

text by Lorraine J. Kaufman, photo by Dennis A Kaufman

As a sentry on the prairie, the Rattlesnake master stands tall (up to 3 feet or more) and stiffly erect. With a seemingly “no nonsense” approach to its purpose on the prairie, it has no vivid colors or sweet fragrance to attract admirers. The flower heads are round, greenish, bristly, individually stalked, and top a hairless stem. The sessile, tapered leaves are parallel-veined and edged with sharp teeth along the margins, making them unappealing to even the hungriest insects.

Rattlesnake master blooms in the eastern fourth of Kansas from June to October and is a good indicator of true native prairie. I became quite excited in the early days of my wildflower searches to find them flourishing in a small remnant of our own prairie that I knew had never been grazed. The young plants are nutritious and readily eaten by all classes of livestock, which makes them a “decreaser” and explains their disappearance in most heavily-grazed prairie.

The roots of the Rattlesnake master were used for medicinal purposes by the Creek, Koasait, and Natches Indian tribes and some of their remedies were adopted by early day settlers. Later physicians accepted them as a stimulant, diuretic, and expectorant.

Now you can purchase seed for growing these stately plants in your own wildflower garden.

Include a few seeds of Big bluestem, Indiangrass or Switch grass to get the full impact of this stalwart plant in its true prairie setting.



Rattlesnake Master
Eryngium yuccifolium Michx.

NOTE: The KNPS volunteers who led the hikes at Tuttle Creek had so much fun sharing their information and insights with interested visitors in their own area. However, they would never have had this opportunity if they had not signed to be on the KNPS education volunteers list. Volunteers are matched with requests for assistance at events in their geographic region and then given the option to accept or refuse. Go to the KNPS website and click on “Contact Us.” to have your name added to the list.

Membership News

NEW MEMBERS

Gayle S. Alderson - Topeka
Jocelyn Anderson - Leawood
Danielle Brunin - Lawrence
Roxy Collison - Winfield
Vickie Console - Topeka
Louise Ehmke - Healy
Douglas English - Derby
Diane Feldt - Great Bend
Friends of Hidden Valley, Inc. - Lawrence
Jacob Hadle - Manhattan

Carla Harper - Lawrence
Harriet & Joe Harris - Wichita
Crystal Hinman - Eudora
Sara Howard - Dodge City
Heather Jenson - Olathe
Debbie Johns - Junction City
Jake & Alice Lickteig - Garnett
Kim Oblak - Wichita
Carolyn Oroke - Lawrence
Joan Pritchard - Wichita
Janice Schaeffer - Ozawkie

Judith Schultz - Topeka
Harland J. Schuster - Morrill
Marjorie Snyder - Winfield
Bill & Peggy Sproul - Sedan
Lisa Stickler - Bucyrus
Joni Tucker-Nisbeth - Nickerson
Susan K. Wile - Topeka
Helen Winter - Wichita

RETURNING MEMBER
Steve Kolarik - Augusta

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



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LEARN MORE ABOUT KNPS

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 Contact us by email at email@ksnps.org
 Contact us by phone at 785-864-3453



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	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Organization	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contributing	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lifetime	\$500.00