



Kansas Native Plant Society



Newsletter

Volume 33 Number 4
October 2011

KNPS AWW 2011—Different, but Really Good text by Nancy Goulden, photo by Matthew Richter

Every Kansas Native Plant Society Wildflower Weekend is **different** but also the **same**. We have a basic framework we usually follow that includes a business meeting, excursions to find and identify plants, speakers, a silent auction, photo contest, and lots of food and socializing. Those were all part of the September 16, 17, 18 weekend in Lawrence, but there were also some planned changes, plus unpredictable variables that gave this year's AWW its own special flavor.

Even before we left our homes this time, there were clues that the 2011 weekend might be different. Because of the weather forecasts, most of us packed some kind of jacket or rain-gear. And this was wise—at various times on both Saturday and Sunday, we had showers, BUT, there seemed to be some kind of mysterious force at work. Every time we were about to start an outing, the rain just seemed to stop. The result was we were able to complete visits to all SEVEN (at least according to my count) scheduled locations and eat outside at the barbecue on Friday evening if we wished.

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Have you renewed your membership in KNPS? Check the first line in your address for your membership expiration date. If the date is past, your membership has expired. To continue receiving the newsletter, please renew now.

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.



AWW trekkers illuminated by a shaft of sunlight, with billowing clouds above and golden prairie underfoot. Photo by Matthew Richter

The weather is only one element that contributes to the unique nature of our annual gathering. For many, their experiences on the plant outings define the AWW for them. This year we had not only a large number of sites for our plant searches, but a rewarding variety of ecosystems, including a medicinal plant garden, reclaimed grasslands, woods, incredibly rich, preserved native prairies, a remnant prairie in town, and reclaimed wetlands.

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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.



President's Message

Outgoing President, Craig Freeman

At the 2011 Annual Wildflower Weekend in Lawrence, Kansas, Mickey Delfelder of Topeka and Mike Haddock of Manhattan were elected as President and President Elect, respectively, of the Kansas Native Plant Society.

It has been my sincere pleasure to lead this wonderful organization during the past two years, and I want to thank everyone for their encouragement and support. The strength of KNPS comes from you, the members, who actively support and promote our mission, volunteer your time and resources, and participate in KNPS-sponsored events. I cannot recall a time in my two decades with the organization when our members have been more engaged, our board more dedicated, or our future more promising.

To maintain our upward trajectory, Mickey, Mike, and the Board will need your continued support, energy, and ideas. With your help, we will continue to excel at 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.”

Incoming President, Mickey Delfelder

At the Fall 2011 meeting, I was chosen to become the next President of Kansas Native Plant Society. I feel that I have some big shoes to fill, and I’m certainly going to try my best to uphold the standard that the recent presidents have set. A special thank you to outgoing President Craig Freeman who has done a great job leading our

organization the past 2 years.

At some point in each of our lives, we were all newcomers to learning about the plants and wildlife. Although I have always had a love of the nature, I am a relatively new addition to the joys of native plants and KNPS. I first became involved just 4 short years ago, but it has certainly been a fun and rewarding time.

My first outing was to Oakwood Farms along the Shawnee/Jefferson County line in 2007. I work from home as a software developer and I wanted to find a nature-related organization that would get me out of the house. After comparing and contrasting several local groups, I chose the Kansas Native Plant Society because I would receive a free wildflower poster with my membership! It was a fantastic choice and I’m pleased to say that the poster still hangs on the door of my home office.

Longtime KNPS member Jeff Hansen led the walk that night and I was surprised to learn that there was such a big area of virgin prairie just a few miles from where I grew up. Many of you have been witness to (or maybe victims of) Jeff’s enthusiasm – and I have been no different.

But I have come to learn that the enthusiasm for native plants does not begin or end with Jeff. I have yet to meet a member who is not excited to either learn about native plants or share his or her knowledge (and in most cases, do both). KNPS is a great organization because of you, the membership, and your willingness to be active participants.

I am looking forward to the next year and hope I get to meet many more of you. Feel free to share something new with me!



KNPS AWW 2011

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The diversity of plants provided a wonderful opportunity for fans to add more than a few new plants to their life lists. The members really seemed to like the outing choices. They just didn’t stop coming, even up to the last location on Sunday afternoon. Cars of walkers kept showing up, regardless of the challenges of navigating complex routes or threatening weather.

At all of the sites, I observed the obvious enthusiasm (verging on passion) as individuals or small clumps of walkers spotted plants, called others over to share their finds or to get some help on identification. I was repeatedly impressed with the high levels of knowledge of our members as I listened to them puzzle out together the family and often the species of the “mystery plant” they had found. If they were stymied, there was always one

of our “experts” around to consult. In my opinion, this year’s participation and commitment on the tours was a feature of the 2011 AWW that I will remember. (See articles on outings, pages 3 to 5)

Conditions and circumstances vary and certainly influence how we feel about an experience, but maybe the most important factor is the people. The size of the turnout may be another factor that shapes the weekend. It is difficult to determine just how many actually attend since some come to only one session, and others are there from start to finish. Best estimates are that there were 65 at the events on Friday; 80 Saturday morning; 33 for Sunday outings. Overall, we think approximately 90 different attendees came to at least one activity during the weekend, and others were there from start to finish. This makes 2011 a very well attended AWW – another difference.

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KNPS AWW 2011

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Raw numbers, though, don't tell the whole story. My perception is that there seemed to me to be an unusual sense of friendliness and camaraderie this year. Some members come to AWW every year and easily reunite with people they know from other years. This time we seemed to have had a fairly large number of first-timers. I saw and heard people introducing themselves to some of those they had not met before, and before the weekend was over, I observed previous strangers walking and talking together; and eating and chatting together. These are very good differences.



Valerie Wright and Madonna Stallings intently scrutinize a sunflower. Photo by Ken Barnard



AWW – Fieldtrips

Friday - KU Field Station

On Friday afternoon, the eager plant enthusiasts divided themselves into three groups: one to visit the Native Medicinal Plant Research Garden; the other two to follow two different trails up to the lookout point.

Ken O'Dell writes about the **medicinal plant garden site**. "The Native Medicinal Plant Research Garden is part of the KU Field Station, Kansas Biological Survey in Lawrence. We observed an interesting variety of plants, including species of *Artemisia*, *Achillea*, *Baptisia*, *Asclepias*, *Echinacea*, *Pycnanthemum*, *Eryngium*, *Monarda*, *Urtica*, and several others, both native (and surprising) some introduced from other parts of the world, with no visible attempt to keep down cross pollination of native and introduced species.

The research area has about 5 acres of flat bottomland with less than one-third of the area being used. The project of the KU Medicinal Plant Research Program is a collaboration between the botany lab of Kelly Kindscher (Kansas Biological

Survey) and the medicinal chemistry lab of Barbara Timmermann."

The **two hiking trails** gave access to prairie and woodland-edge areas. The first impression was one of "YELLOW" because of the variety of sunflowers and goldenrods in bloom. With help from Craig Hensley, Jeff Hansen, Shirley Braunlich, Mike Haddock and Craig Freeman, who had volunteered to be our "expert" leaders, we started sorting out the species of these two groups. But before long, spontaneous smaller groups formed and everyone was sharing new finds and information. The most excitement probably came from locating Lady's tresses (*Spiranthes lacera*) and Downy gentian (*Gentiana puberulenta*).

Saturday - Fredricks Prairie and High Prairie

Saturday afternoon, a caravan of vehicles, full of plant treasure-hunters wended their way on secondary roads up to Leavenworth to explore two privately owned native prairies. The owners had generously left the prairies uncut this year so that KNPS visitors would have the richest possible abundance of the late-summer plants. They further added to our pleasure by providing a hayrack to ride up to the first site, **Fredricks Prairie**.



AWW members ride to the hilltop site at Fredricks Prairie. Photo by Ken Barnard



AWW – Fieldtrips

We saw again the yellow landscapes of sunflowers and goldenrods, interspersed with highlights of blue (from Blue sage) and magenta (from the *Liatris* plants). Closer looks revealed a rich feast of additional species. Walkers especially enjoyed the scent from the narrow-leaf mountain-mint. Finding the pink Slender Milkwort was also a treat. The "siren song" of finding more special plants kept pulling the searchers on, but they were finally pulled away to visit the second site.

High Prairie was similar, but had a low area that was wetter than the hillsides. Here eagle-eyed flower fiends found a collection of several Gentians, always a September KNPS favorite.

Sunday Outings: The Reward of Persistence by Craig Freeman

A steady rain fell as I arrived at 8:30 am at the Prairie Park Nature Center in southwest Lawrence – not the way I hoped the day would begin with three outings planned as the finale of the 2011 AWW. Our tour of the adjacent prairie was scheduled to begin at 9 am, but I was certain the day was going to be a rainout. In spite of the conditions, as the hour approached, vehicles slowly filtered into the parking lot. To my amazement, nearly 20 people were assembled when we started the tour, and hints of blue sky appeared in the west. We spent nearly an hour walking the perimeter of forb-rich Prairie Park, viewing azure aster, heath aster, showy goldenrod, gray goldenrod, rough gayfeather, sawtooth sunflower, and dozens of other fall-blooming species, and discussing the challenges of maintaining prairie habitat in an urban environment. By the end of the walk, there were 25 of us.

The group then motored several miles southwest to the kiosk at the Baker Wetland Restoration Site, where Dr. Roger Boyd of Baker University gave an overview of the history of the wetland project. On the mud flats and around wet depressions along the boardwalk, we discovered four different flat-sedges, two spike-rushes, five smartweeds, and many other wetland species typical of eastern Kansas, including a half-dozen species previously undocumented at the site.

Around noon, we broke for lunch, with most participants migrating to nearby Broken Arrow Park, where we had time to review the morning's discoveries. Around 1 pm, our caravan departed for Coblenz Prairie, nearly 20 miles away in west

-central Douglas County. There, we joined others who arrived earlier, forming a group of nearly 25 prairie and wildflower enthusiasts.



Wetland plant identification at Baker Wetland Restoration Site.

Photo by Krista Dahlinger

Coblenz Prairie, a glaciated tallgrass prairie just north of the Wakarusa River floodplain, was splendid, with the rich colors of goldenrods, asters, gayfeathers, and sunflowers contrasted against dark clouds of the late summer sky. Undeterred by fleeting showers, we hiked to the top of the hill on the prairie's west side for a magnificent view of the surrounding countryside. There, new KNPS board member Craig Hensley, demonstrated how to catch, handle, tag, and release monarch butterflies, also indentifying assorted bugs and butterflies encountered along the way.



Craig Hensley demonstrates monarch butterfly handling.

Photo by Krista Dahlinger

By mid-afternoon, most people were ready to conclude the long but rewarding day. However, a group of 10 die-hards decided to extend the afternoon by visiting the east side of the prairie. Minutes after starting our hike parallel to a long ridge, and while marveling at an overhead cloud bank that marked a passing front, we were stunned to see a perfectly formed cold-air funnel in the distance. For several minutes we watched and



AWW – Fieldtrips



Cold air funnel above AWW trekkers at Coblenz Prairie. Photo by Matthew Richter

photographed the long, graceful funnel hanging beneath a low cloud deck about five miles to our southwest. We later learned that the funnel was reported by law enforcement near Carbondale. And if that were not enough, as the northwest wind picked up with the passing front, the sky filled with tens of thousands of migrating green darner dragonflies surfing the wind gusts and feeding on insects dislodged from the prairie below. It was a truly magical end to the weekend, which Craig assured us was the reward for persistence and “being one with nature.”

Cold Air Funnel By Mickey Delfelder

One of the sights on the Colbenz Prairie tour on Sunday afternoon was a brief cold air funnel. Cold air funnels are considerably weaker than a typical tornado and rarely reach the ground. They form in a shallow cool air mass, often behind a cold front. They usually only last a few minutes, so we were in the right place at the right time.



KNPS AWW Saturday Morning Events

KNPS members obviously like being outside, but we also enjoy the indoor opportunities to learn about the organization, its progress and projects at the Annual Business Meeting. Our Saturday morning activities, which also included the Silent Auction, Photo Contest and a guest speaker, were all scheduled indoors at the auditorium of Raymond Nichols Hall on the KU campus. This was fortunate since it was raining heavily outside.

Annual Business Meeting and Awards

In the Business Meeting, President Craig Freeman announced that current membership has reached 655 paid members. That is up from the historic low of 300 and moving toward the all-time-high of 800 members.

We also learned from Craig that this past year KNPS has funded the following projects: \$300 to the Kansas Grazing Lands Association, “Adult Range School;” \$250 to Sterling College for the “Heritage Tree Walk;” and \$250 to Daryl Stubbs

for “Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management.” Freeman reported that KNPS officers elected by the KNPS Board for next year are: President, Mickey Delfelder; Vice President, Mike Haddock; Secretary, Nancy Coombs; and Treasurer, Krista Dahlinger.

Valerie Wright from the Awards Committee introduced and presented plaques to the following winners: Sheldon H. Cohen Award for Outstanding Service, presented to Shirley Braunlich; Rachel Snyder Memorial Landscape Award, presented to Betsy Knabe Roe. (For a description of Betsy’s prairie restoration/memorial project, look on p. 6.) The recipient of the Mary Bancroft Memorial Scholarship, Jacob Olsen from Fort Hays, was not able to attend.

Presentations

Following the business meeting, a panel consisting of four leaders (Krista Dahlinger, Ken O’Dell, Fred Coombs, and Jeff Hansen) representing four of the newly organized KNPS Regions, shared their experiences and insights

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AWW Saturday Morning

Continued from page 5

about regional events they have organized, successes and disappointments, and plans for the future. Then, Rex Buchanan, Interim Director of Kansas Geological Survey and co-author of the popular book Roadside Kansas entertained and informed those in attendance about the geology of our state. (See a review of the presentation on p. 12)

Before and during breaks, there was a constant flow of attendees around the tables holding the Silent Auction objects (see p. 9) and the entries in the Photo Contest. The contest winners were announced at the end of session (see p. 9). Then we all went through the food line and found places to enjoy the lunch and visit with other KNPS friends, both old pals and new acquaintances.



Shirley Braunlich receives the Sheldon Cohen Award for Outstanding Service. Photo by Krista Dahlinger



Prairie Restoration/Memorial Project

By Betsy Knabe Roe, Rachel Snyder Memorial Landscape Award Winner

“Revival” is an eco art, prairie restoration project that began in 2010 with ongoing interventions such as “Etain,” a spring planting ceremony. The 3-acre field, located on Birdrunner Wildlife Preserve in the Flint Hills of Geary County, was formerly cropland and the last parcel to be restored to tallgrass prairie.



“Revival” memorial, remembering Jan Garten. Photo by Betsy Knabe Roe

The original installation of stickwork was created as a memorial to Jan Garton, a Kansas environmentalist responsible for saving Cheyenne Bottoms Wetlands. This artwork was created from invasive dogwood saplings that I harvested from the fields and is composed of 18 structures that form a spiral. The viewer walks across the field and interacts with the installation by walking through the woven forms.

The piece encourages the viewer to slow down and look at this environment in a new and reflective way.

This spring I choreographed a performance artwork, Etain, for seeding. The participants lay on the ground in groups to mark the four directions. I then outlined their shapes with white sand. After they arose, we all spread and worked native wildflower and grass seed into the marked spaces. These plots came alive with native wildflowers this summer and served as a reminder of the beauty of cooperation – humans and nature.


I continue to work by gathering native plant seed and planting, cutting back invasive plants and trees, and encouraging wildlife. Our connection to the land/nonhumans is what makes us human.

2011 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 22:** Native Plants that Birds Need for Food and Shelter Program, 10am. The Kansas City Region of the Kansas Native Plant Society will have a presentation by Alan Branhagen on native plants that birds need for food and shelter. Alan is Director of Horticulture at Powell Gardens and the Kauffman Memorial Garden in Kansas City. Alan was born and raised in Iowa and received his Master of Landscape Architecture from Louisiana State University. He designed many projects at The Powell Gardens, including the recently completed Heartland Harvest Garden. Alan is the author of The Gardener's Butterfly Book by the National Home Gardening Club. He is an all around plantsman and naturalist specializing in garden design, edible landscapes, native plants and restoration of native landscapes. and landscape designs for wildlife especially birds and butterflies. This presentation will be at the Overland Park Arboretum, 8909 W. 179th St. Overland Park, KS on Saturday, October 22, at 10am. The Arboretum is located 1/2 mile west of Highway 69, on the south side of Overland Park. Contact: Ken O'Dell [ken@springvalleynursery.com] (913) 837-5112

October 22: Wild Area Hike at Roaring River State Park in Cassville, MO. Go on a four-mile hike through Roaring River Hills Wild Area during the height of fall color, 9am. Wear comfortable hiking shoes and bring water and a sack lunch or snack. The hike will also tour a portion of Roaring River Cove Hardwood Natural Area. [<http://www.mostateparks.com/roaringriver.htm>] (417) 847-3742

 **November 13:** Clear Bush Honeysuckle at Felker Park, Topeka, KS from 10am-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 supply 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. Please contact Jeff if you plan to attend. Contact: Jeff Hansen (785) 806-6917

 **November 19:** 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 Board Member [fjnorman@sunflower.com] (785) 887-6775 (home) or (785) 691-9748 (cell).

December 4: Spread Prairie Seed at Warren Nature Area, 11am-12pm. Help us spread the seed we collected at Grant Bradbury Prairie in the Warren Nature Area. The Warren Nature Area grasslands are being restored to prairie. Meet at the east end of the Felker parking lot near the Bocci Ball courts in Topeka, KS. Please contact Jeff if you plan to attend. Sponsor: Topeka Audubon Society. Contact: Jeff Hansen [hanjd@cox.net] (785) 806-6917

2012 Kansas Area Native Plant and Wildflower Events

 **January 21:** Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs prairie maintenance and preservation projects. See Nov 19 info.

January 21: Kaw Valley Eagles Day in Lawrence, KS. Celebrate the return of the eagles and learn about the environment, 11am-4pm. Programs on area Bald eagles and other wildlife. Exhibitors will offer educational resources related to nature, sponsored by the Jayhawk Audubon Society. Location: Free State High School, 1 block north of 6th & Wakarusa. [eishaw@ku.edu] (785) 843-7665

January 28: The Grassland Heritage Foundation Annual Meeting is scheduled for 9am to 1pm. Elections will be held, updates given on existing programs, and plans will be made for 2012. Board members are "required" to attend, but the meeting is open to anyone interested in the organization. For more information contact President Angie Babbit at [angie.babbit@gmail.com] (785) 840-9934.

🌸 Kansas Area Native Plant Wildflower Events - Continued 🌸

🌸 **February 4:** Kansas Native Plant Society Winter Board Meeting and Outing. The location and time have not been finalized. Our backup date in case of inclement weather is February 11. Please contact KNPS for more information. [email@KSNPS.org] (785) 864-3453

February 11: Kaw Valley Seeds Project Second Annual Fair, Lawrence, KS, 10am-3pm. The Seed Fair will include a seed exchange, exhibits, local producers, speakers throughout the day and a children's activity center. Admission is free. The first year's fair drew more than 300 visitors, and this year's is expected to more than double in size. The Kaw Valley Seeds Project is a nonprofit whose mission is to create a Local Living Seed Reserve by fostering a network of people committed to growing and eating, sharing and bartering, buying and selling primary seed varieties of the Kansas River Valley. In addition, our goal is to educate the general public on the pleasures of growing their own food by teaching them how to save, store and plant seeds from their own gardens, and where to obtain organic and local seed lines. Sponsor: Kaw Valley Seeds Project. Location: Douglas County Fairgrounds, Building 21, 2110 Harper Street in Lawrence. Contact: Daniel Bentley [dan66044@yahoo.com] (785) 842-4418

🌸 **February 18:** Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs prairie maintenance and preservation projects. See Nov 19 info.

🌸 **March 17:** Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs prairie maintenance and preservation projects. See Nov 19 info.

🌸 **April 14:** 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 15:** Overland Park Arboretum Wildflower Tour, 1pm-3pm. Lynda Ochs and Ken O'Dell will lead the Kansas City Region of The Kansas Native Plant Society on a tour of the woodlands at the Overland Park Arboretum. A large wooded area is ripe with millions of spring woodland plants. Meet at the Visitors Center and we will leave at 1pm sharp. Both dirt and mulched pathways, some hills to climb. Plants we will see include Yellow Buckeye, Wild Ginger, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Pawpaws, Bittersweet vines, Wild Geraniums, Bluebells, Mayapples, Jacob's Ladder, Solomon Seal, False Solomon Seal, Elderberry, Bloodroot, several varieties of wild violets in yellow, blue and purple. Sponsor: Kansas Native Plant Society. 8909 W. 179th. St. Contact: Ken O'Dell 913 837-5112

🌸 **April 21:** Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs prairie maintenance and preservation projects. See Nov 19 info.

May 11-14: FloraKansas Great Plains Plant Bazaar. Sponsored by Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, Hesston, KS. [www.dyckarboretum.org] [arboretum@Hesston.edu] (620) 327-8127

🌸 **May 12:** 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 9th, \$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 19:** Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs prairie maintenance and preservation projects. See Nov 19 info.

🌸 **June 1-30:** June is Kansas Native Plant Appreciation Month! Each year Kansas Native Plant Society makes a formal appeal to the Governor for June to be proclaimed as Kansas Native Plant Appreciation Month. This opportunity promotes greater appreciation for the diversity, value, and beauty of Kansas native plants and their habitats. [www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org]

June 2: 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

NOTE: Please also check the KNPS Website www.ksnps.org for additional events and outings that are added after newsletter publication. Just click on "Events Calendar" to read about many, many more opportunities. You will also find instructions for signing up to receive an events listing via email once a week.



AWW Silent Auction By Krista Dahlinger

Many wonderful native plant books, home-made jelly, framed photographs, a live blooming/seeding butterfly milkweed plant and three batches of the popular persimmon and black walnut cookies were just some of the 100+ items donated to the Silent Auction fundraiser this year. Two books were donated for the first ever Raffle— 8 Wonders of Kansas by Marci Penner and Birds of Kansas co-authored (and autographed) by

Bob Gress. Purchases of the donated items brought in just over \$700 to KNPS this year. A big "Thank You" goes out for your generous participation this year. There is always great anticipation to see what items are available and what the final price will be (\$40 for a quart of honey!). A special "Thank You" also to long time member Ruth Steinke, who did not attend the AWW this year but sent her personal copy of Janet Bare's out-of-print wildflower book to the auction.



AWW Photo Contest By Cindy Ford

The Photo Contest has become one of the most popular events of the Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW). This year there were 69 photos submitted. Everyone attending the meeting commented about the quality of the photos and lingered at the table admiring the beautiful entries. First, second, and third place ribbons were awarded for each category as well as a Best of Show award.

There are several changes in the Photo Contest proposed for next year. The "Collage" category will be discontinued. The "Wildflower of the

Year" category has been added. (Next year's Wildflower of the Year is leadplant, *Amorpha canescens*.) A new format for next year is to submit photos digitally so that a powerpoint gallery can be viewed during the meeting. More details will be given prior to the fall meeting.

Thank you to all of the photographers who submitted photos at this year's AWW and a special "big" thanks to Valerie Wright for heading up the Photo Contest Committee. We hope to see your photos in one of the categories at the 2012 meeting. Plan to get some images for at least one of the following: Wildflower of the Year, Scenery, Flora, Fauna or Garden.



2011 AWW Photo Contest Winners



Best in Show
Showy Evening Primrose (*Oenothera speciosa*)
Mark Metcalf



First Place - Garden
Tranquility and Time for the Moment
Bill Muggy

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2011 AWW Photo Contest Winners *Continued from page 9*



Flower of Year First
Plethora of Coneflowers
Craig Hensley



Flower of Year Second
Yellow Prairie Coneflower
Phyllis Luedke



Flower of Year Third
Ratibida in the Pasture
Krista Dahlinger



Fauna First
Banded Pennant on Coneflower
Craig Hensley



Fauna Second
Not Easy Being Meads
Steve Roels



Fauna Third
Bumblebee Drinking from Milkweed
Teresa Wickersham



Flora First
Common Milkweed
Steve Roels



Flora Second
Ohio Spiderwort
Steve Roels



Flora Third
River Oats
Nancy Luis



2011 AWW Photo Contest Winners *Continued from page 10*



People First
Red Beauties
Susan Reimer



People Second
Calamity and Jane
Steve Roels



People Third
Cynthia in the Prairie
Nancy Luis



Scenery First
Welda Prairie
Steve Roels



Scenery Second
Blue Sky Prairie Wildflower
Phyllis Luedke



Scenery Third
Flint Hills Fall
Steve Roels



Reflections on AWW 2011

Jeff Hansen – Friday: Seeing the excitement in people's eyes as they "discovered" a slender lady's tresses orchid. Lingering to the end to admire the flowering parts of the woolly croton, a most handsome plant. Smelling the burnt popcorn leaves of tree-of-heaven. **Saturday:** Finding gentians at the Leavenworth County prairies. Seeing the largest yellow crab spider I've ever encountered. **Sunday:** The last outing of the day at Coblenz prairie and the thousands of migrating dragonflies swarming across the prairie as the rains stop. New member, Craig Hensley, showed us how to catch monarchs as they were feeding at all the goldenrod. We then placed a small sticker on their wing. The last of us to stay on the prairie watched a funnel cloud form on the southern horizon. For many, this was their first funnel cloud. I was amazed by seeing my first "long horn" grasshopper with 4" long antennae. Experiencing all

of this with the attendees of the outing made for a fantastic end to the AWW.

Craig Hensley – What a weekend! This really summarizes my experience at my first (and most definitely not the last) AWW. The plants were great, the education I received from so many talented, intelligent and friendly people was great as well, but what I will take away from the meeting is the people. From Craig Freeman and Jeff Hansen, whose knowledge is simply amazing, to the person who welcomed me into this wonderful group several months ago, Ken O'Dell, I have met so many wonderful folks. Add to that everyone's great interest in native plants and the joy everyone had in learning new things, including me, and this experience could not have been better. To stand on a prairie with so many fellow grassland enthusiasts through rain, cool weather and even a distant funnel cloud on the final day, was simply amazing and I thank everyone for their kindness and

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Reflections on AWW 2011 -

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making me feel welcome. I look forward to the next time we are together.

Matthew Richter – Two and a half days of extraordinary experiences and so many enlightening perspectives shared. Botanists, naturalists, artists, poets, gardeners, writers, ranchers. Excellent spontaneous presentation on indicator species at Baker Wetlands. Richard, a botanist came directly from Hawaii to learn and share. We saw several rare Gentian plants, tagged 7 Monarchs headed to Mexico and watched the brief appearance of a funnel cloud Sunday afternoon west of Coblenz Prairie. I am reminded how interwoven and simultaneously diverse are KNPS experiences.

Rick Waushauer (member from Hawaii) –

As a field naturalist specializing in native and invasive plants, I arrived in Lawrence eager to learn of continental floras. Being appraised of this gathering in advance, a long-overdue visit to family and their land in Comanche County was timed to follow the AWW. My first– and not last– AWW was a real delight, lots of learning blended into play and good humor with some of the most knowledgeable field naturalists in the state.

I very much encourage any member who has not attended an AWW to do so. The conservation focus of the AWW and KNPS members really appealed to me, as that has been the thrust of my work and play for many years at home. The quality and diversity of microbrews and conversation after -hours is a great garnish as well. But primarily, the joy and uplift from mixing with such fine plants and plant fellow lovers inspires the appreciation of the moment and the grist for later reflection.



A Geological Trip Across Kansas: with Rex Buchannan By Chelsea Jurisek

This year's guest presenter was Rex C. Buchannan of the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS). Rex gave an entertaining and informative speech on Kansas geology and its relationship to flora in each of Kansas' physiographic regions. Rex's personal stories and accompanying PowerPoint slide show garnered many compliments and great appreciation from the KNPS crowd.

The oldest of the physiographic regions is located in southeastern Kansas' Cherokee County, the **Ozarks**. Geologic features of the region include Mississippian age (roughly 359 to 318 million years ago) rock outcrops as well as sedimentary rock at the surface. A combination of limestone and precipitation creates unique landscape and flora not found outside the Ozark Plateau.

The **Cherokee Lowlands** is a region where mining was the predominant activity. Many scars remain on the landscape today, despite reclamation efforts. Another unique physiographic region in southeastern Kansas is the **Chautauqua Hills**. The area is thought to be an old river channel where sand turned into sandstone. The vegetation of the area is distinct and is often referred to as the "Cross Timbers."

The **Flint Hills** region is younger than extreme southeastern Kansas by geologic standards, characterized by shallow soils, chert, and alternating limestone and shale layers. Chert, also known as flint, originated in a shallow ocean-like environment, possibly the result of volcanic ash. The tallgrass prairie remnants are found in the Flint Hills region, such as the Strong City and Cottonwood Falls areas where the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve covers 10,861 acres.

The **Red Hills** region is characterized by gypsum rock, which dissolves easily and creates voids in the landscape such as Big Gyp Cave in Comanche County. Rex "marveled" the audience with his spelunking tales and reports of ancient rock carvings found in some of the caves.

The **Smokey Hills** region is made famous by both marine fossil discoveries and a wealth of limestone used for fence posts and family name plaques. The audience was reminded that geology is in a constant state of change, and the collapse of a few of the "hoodoo" spires at Castle Rock and Monument Rocks (Gove County) is a perfect example of this.

Rex continued his tour of Kansas on to the **High Plains**, a region that includes the expanse of Cimarron National Grasslands in Morton County and the highest point in Kansas —Mount Sunflower (4,039 ft) in Wallace County. Another unique area in the high plains is the Arikaree Breaks of Cheyenne County, which is characterized by glacial silt and loess soils.

The final stop on Rex's tour of Kansas geology was **Northeastern Kansas**, the most recent geologic area characterized by **glaciations**, edged by the Kansas River to the south and the Big Blue River to the west. A neat geologic feature found in this region are metamorphic rocks (huge boulders) dropped by receding glaciers.

The end of Rex's presentation was heralded by grumbling stomachs as the lunch hour loomed and the KNPS attendees were left hungry for more of Rex's vast knowledge, which can be found in his most recent publication--book by Rex C. Buchannan and James R. McCauley titled Roadside Kansas: A Traveler's Guide to Its Geology and Landmarks (Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 2010, 2nd edition). Pick up your copy today!



Butterfly Milkweed: *Asclepias tuberosa* text by Loraine Kauffman, artwork by Joyce Fent

From May to August, the native butterfly milkweed *Asclepias tuberosa* provides without doubt the brightest highlights you'll see in the prairies of the eastern two-thirds of Kansas.

Butterfly milkweed is a small bush with red-orange flower clusters two to four inches in diameter that top hairy stems nearly two feet tall. The flower clusters are composed of many individual hourglass-shaped florets with five petals below and five erect petals above. The florets have a special "nectar holder" that attracts many butterfly species, particularly Monarchs, giving the milkweed its name. A perennial forb, it grows in full sun and dry, sandy soils. Its sap is clear, unlike the "milky" sap that characterizes most "milkweeds." The flower color ranges from a deep red-orange in central Kansas to orange-yellow and even pure yellow further south. It produces numerous three to five inch long seed pods that contain numerous seeds with tufts of white hair at their tip at maturity.

The milkweed plant contains potent chemicals that were recognized by native American tribes for their medicinal value. Early settlers also used the dry roots. Butterfly milkweed was listed in the US Pharmacopoeia from 1820 to 1905 and in the National Formulary from 1916 to 1936. Monarch butterflies rely on these chemicals for protection while dining on the leaves during their caterpillar phase. The milkweed compounds incorporated into the caterpillars' bodies are toxic to predators, especially birds.

Planted in your garden, these showy plants will brighten your landscape with colorful flowers and beautiful, hovering butterflies. This summer, look for the inspiring myriads of butterflies congregating on *Asclepias tuberosa* and enjoying their "lunch" at their own special prairie "McDonalds!"



Butterfly Milkweed
Asclepias tuberosa

Membership News

NEW MEMBERS

FROM 6/19/11 TO 9/19/11

Sharon Anderson - Wichita
Greg & Karen Barron - Alma
Chance Clark - Augusta
Loretta Craig - Basehor
Kathy Davenport - Wichita
Donna M. Davis - Augusta
MJ Domann - McLouth
Ben Dunlap - Wichita
Marci Eck - Hutchinson
Donald Erickson - McPherson
Tamara Fairbanks-Ishmael - Baldwin City
Denise Fetrow - Cedar Point
Jerry Freeze - Wamego
Krystal Heiman - Scranton
Kris Holmes - Topeka

Veronica Jones - Wichita
Kaw River Restoration Nurseries –
Applied Ecological Services - Baldwin City
Mary Jo Kearns - Valley Falls
John Kenney - Leawood
Desiree Lebron - Wichita
Carrie Lemke - Wichita
Magic Meals Home Delivery - Auburn
Oluchi Mbuguilee - Wichita
Olivia Montgomery - Wichita
Randy Nordquist - Bonner Springs
Alex Ojile - Wichita
Katrina Palan - Newton
Alice Papen - Peru
Alexandra L. Pearce - Wichita
Mallory Petty - Junction City
Lindsey Plank - Andover

Joan Ratzlaff - Salina
Debbie Sawyer - Wichita
Sabrina Scroggin - Towanda
Carole Setser - Manhattan
Elisabeth Suter - Topeka
Rachel Tracy - Derby
Larry Vitera - Kansas City, MO
Frederick Warshauer -
Hawaii National Park, HI
Linda & Larry Wilcox -
Virginia Beach, VA
Jill Wilkinson - Goddard
Robert Wood - Wichita
Michelle Wright - Sedgwick

RETURNING MEMBERS

Sue Smith - Alta Vista

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 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:

Membership Category:

Name:		Student	\$10.00
Address		Individual	\$20.00
City/State:		Family	\$30.00
Zipcode:		Organization	\$35.00
Phone:		Contributing	\$100.00
Email:		Lifetime	\$500.00
County (if KS):			