Feel the Love! | NANCY GOULDEN

In the future, when we think back on the 2016 KNPS Annual Wildflower Weekend, what will members remember? One thing will be the seemingly unending rain all day on Friday, followed by ideal sunshine and comfortable temperatures on Saturday and Sunday. Without a doubt, a second memory will be the opportunities to discover and identify wildflowers and other plants in both prairie and woodland habitats.

A very special highlight will be the Saturday morning keynote presentation by Betsy Betros on the topic of “Pollinators: Listen to the Hum, See the Beauty, Feel the Love!” Betsy deftly used slides to coincide with her keynote, blending words and pictures together, allowing the audience to effortlessly take in and understand both. She began her talk by emphasizing what pollinators “do” that benefits humans, such as contributing to the making of the food we eat and the plant products we use for clothing.

Betsy went on to focus on two major groups of insect pollinators: butterflies and moths. Butterflies do not detect the fragrance of flowers, but instead use their vision to see the colors of the blossoms. She informed listeners that moths are... CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
actually more important than butterflies as pollinators. Moths have a great sense of smell and some varieties can locate flowers that release their fragrance only at dusk, such as the Evening Primrose that blooms late in the day. Members also learned about the unique Yucca moth which lays its eggs only on the Yucca plant.

Another important category of pollinators that Betsy included were flies. These insects visit plants for sugar, which they taste with their feet. Bee flies (these are “flies” not “bees,” in spite of their bee-like appearance) are attracted to flowering plants for food, extracting the nectar using their long tongues.

Concluding her presentation with “real” bees, Betsy proclaimed them as the “most important pollinators.” Categories of bees include: carpenter bees, sweat bees, and bumble bees. Bumble bees merely have to flutter their wings to cause pollen to fall out of the flower. The females of many bee varieties collect pollen to feed their young, some carrying the pollen on their legs, while others carry the pollen on their abdomens.

Thanks to Betsy, KNPS members certainly will look at bees (and other insects) in our gardens and on walks in a whole new, appreciative, and loving way!
Whole-hearted, I applaud the efforts of those responsible for an AWW to Remember in Fort Scott. One highlight for me was the opportunity to spot a Downy gentian in full bloom. Now I am looking forward to a two-day spring board meeting and outing in the Cedar Point area in May, and the 2017 AWW in Concordia in September. Watch for dates on the KNPS Events calendar.

Autumn, with its profusion of colors, has arrived. In the Red Hills of Kansas, I look forward to spotting the first wildflowers in the spring, but often forget the fall forbs and grasses that are just as spectacular. Furthermore, I do not overlook or take for granted the MUTED REDS of Indian grass and little bluestem grass, the BRIGHT BURGUNDY of sumac, the SOFT GRAYISH-GREEN of sandsage, the carpet of MUTED CREAM of buffalo grass, the YELLOWISH-GREEN of annual broomweed, or the BLACK-BROWN, round seed heads of black Sampson dotting the hillsides — rising above other foliage in the area.

Contrast these with the GRAYED-WHITES of the heath asters, the deeper SAGE-GREEN of the yucca — often with dark brown seed pods still commanding attention, backed by the DEEP GREEN of eastern red cedar trees and the golden yellow amidst the remaining bright green leaves of the cottonwood and ash trees, accent by an occasional LEMON-YELLOW colony of Riddell ragwort. I am elated to find the GLOSSY IVORY, twisted blooms of lady's tresses and stop to take a moment to bend closely to whiff their tantalizing fragrance, and then notice nearby AZURE blue erect dayflowers.

The eye-popping YELLOWS of the many varieties of sunflowers, the wax goldenweed, camphor weed, slender golden weed, and goldenrods are contrasted by the softer BABY-BLUE final blooms of the pitcher sage, gerardia with its funnel-shaped five-lobed PINKISH flowers, the SOFT GREEN spikes of Louisiana sage, MAGENTA dotted gayfeathers, and Fendler’s aster growing on the sloping hillsides with its dainty LAVENDER petals.

The CHALK-WHITE ipomopsis, the delicate LUMINESCENT WHITE with deep yellow centers of sand lilies, the WAXY-WHITE blooms of the prickly poppy, and the final AIRY-WHITE blooms at the ends of elongated spikes of stenosiphon share the prairie with the SILVERY-GRAY spreading tops of the umbrella plant. Showy DEEP YELLOWS of partridge peas with their dark centers, black-eyed Susans, and reblooming dandelions accent the HONEY-YELLOW of sand dropseed grass. If I am in a sandy area I might spot Rocky Mountain bee plants still attracting butterflies with their SHOCKING-PINK blooms and GOLDEN-GLOW four-point evening primroses.

Every area of our beautiful state comes alive with its own, unique combinations of plants and colors, as I recently witnessed during the Fort Scott AWW, and I am now viewing since our move to McPherson. See for yourself!
Just think: in Fort Scott, Kansas, back in 1958, a small group of people cared enough about a segment of a prairie ecosystem called “the Prairie,” to put aside a portion located on the fort property to be preserved. Kelley Collins, retired head ranger of Fort Scott National Historic Site presented this significant fact as well as many other details regarding the Fort’s approximately five acre prairie on Friday afternoon at the 2016 AWW. The reclamation of Fort Scott itself began with the city’s efforts to gather land pieces that were once homes, hotels, schools and shops and turn them back into the fort. The city leaders’ vision was realized in the late 1980’s and the decision was made to put the fort into Federal hands. The original planting of the prairie consisted of five grasses and eight forbs. With continued investigations of what a southeast Kansas prairie may have originally looked like, what the 1840’s Fort Surgeon’s report regarding plants on the fort said, what local prairies look like today, and then compare all this to what was currently growing at Fort Scott, this prairie continues to evolve. The surgeon’s reports included a list of Latin names for many plants. A map from Kelley’s Friday afternoon presentation showed the original land formations including the Marmaton River and Buck Run Creek. From these documents, the audience could visually see how the landscape had changed over time.

After Kelley’s talk, members toured the prairie site finding the compass plants that had come in on grass transplants from prairie sod that was rescued when local Highway 69 was expanded. Tour members found: Big Bluestem, Side-oats Grama and Eastern Gamagrass, and many Forbs — giant Willow Sunflowers, Black Sampson, Black-eyed Susans, Rosinweed, Lead Plant, False/White Wild Indigo, and various Asters. The gradual, but continual and careful restoration efforts made by the Fort Scott staff, including Kelley Collins, has brought the original grasses and forbs to a remarkable count of over 180 plants presently. This compact but energetic prairie location is an extraordinary historic park for visitors from all over the country and world to visit. Stop by when you are in the area. You are in for a treat!

Hedges’ Prairie Patch

On Friday evening, AWW members were scheduled to visit the Hedges’ Prairie Patch just west of Fort Scott. But it was decided prior to leaving that it would be better to move this field trip later in the weekend due to the very wet, rainy weather.

On Sunday afternoon, members caravanned to the Hedges’ prairie where they were greeted by the hosts and a little quiz on seed heads! Nearly everyone enjoyed seeing if they knew their stuff.

The Hedges’ prairie was an excellent example of a restored prairie that is in the early stages of development. This was evident by the plant species found there. Members were asked to identify and list the species found while exploring. One of the most prominent grass species was Silver beardtongue (Bothriochloa laguroides), often referred to as Silver Bluestem. While many confuse it with the exotic invasive Old World Bluestem (Bothriochloa bladhii), Silver beardtongue is a warm-season, perennial native that is often found in prairies whose conditions are poor for other species. As soil and foraging conditions improve, Silver beardtongue will often disappear.

This small prairie was an excellent after-lunch destination for the group, with the Hedges’ providing a golf cart for those inclined to rest after a long weekend of hiking. Members reveled in the beauty of the sights and the sounds of the many varieties of plants and insects. Besides the grasses, we saw broomsedge, prickly pear, rose verbena, asters, and goldenrods. The Indian grass had not begun rampaging yet, as it tends to do, and here and there was some little bluestem popping through. Members really enjoyed the time on this new prairie and were sad to leave for the next site. But, as a parting farewell, the Hedges’ celebrated our visit with ice tea and water for all. Thank you for a delightful prairie visit!
KNPS Board of Directors Meeting

Kick offs at football games are always exciting — the anticipation of what might be unfolding is exhilarating. Similar excitement and exhilaration was felt by many directors of the KNPS Board as Phyllis Scherich (current president) “kicked off” the 2016 Annual Wildflower Weekend at 1:00 p.m. on September 16, 2016 with the KNPS fall board meeting in the Grand Hall at the Fort Scott National Historic Site in Fort Scott, Kansas. And to everyone’s delight there were neither penalties nor injuries — although there was an occasional board member who got a little out of line and had to be temporarily sidelined!

Making the arrangements for an event like AWW requires a lot of planning, much perseverance, and lots of leg work. Therefore, special thanks must be extended to Rhondi Anderson and her committee, Fort Scott National Historic Site, and Fort Scott Community College for making the 2016 AWW possible in the historic and scenic Fort Scott area.

Board of Directors meetings for any organization always include reports from various committees working on the necessary “nuts & bolts” issues within the organization. Here are some highlights from committee reports that may be of interest to KNPS members.

The membership committee reported that Individual, Family, Student, & Organization memberships declined from the previous year, but Contributing & Life memberships increased. Fortunately, this actually yielded an increase in income from membership dues. Efforts are always being made to attract more members to the KNPS. If readers have any suggestions for recruiting new members please contact a board member.

The nomination committee nominated the following individuals for a one-year term (2016-2017) as an officer for the KNPS: Mickey Delfelder (Topeka) – Secretary, Krista Dahlinger (Mulvane) – Treasurer, Craig Freeman (Lawrence) – Vice President, Phyllis Scherich (McPherson) – President. The Board of Directors voted unanimously to accept these nominations.

The nomination committee also nominated four new Directors to the KNPS Board of Directors: Lorna Habegger-Harder (Hesston), Mike Kaye (Topeka), Andrew Mitchell (Horton), and Chad Phillips (Soldier). We are looking forward to working with these exceptional individuals in the future. It must be noted that Lorna is not really new since she was a Director for many years prior to her 10 year hiatus. We welcome back Lorna with her treasure trove of knowledge for identifying and nurturing Kansas native plants!

Sadly KNPS has accepted the resignation of five Directors who have chosen to step down after 53 collective years of distinguished service to KNPS: Fred Coombs (Holton) – 11 years, Nancy Coombs (Holton) – 11 years, Chelsea Erickson (Stockton) – 6 years, Ken O’Dell (Paola) - 8 years, and Valerie Wright (Manhattan) – 17 years. Valerie also served as KNPS President from 2004 to 2006. Thanks to each of you for your dedicated years of service to our great society! You will each be missed.

Rhondi Anderson, participating as the KNPS voting representative at the recent Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council meeting in Salina held earlier in September, gave a brief report.

Plains Coreopsis (Coreopsis tinctoria) was nominated and approved to be the 2017 KNPS Wildflower of the Year.

The AWW committee proposed the 2017 AWW be held in Concordia, Kansas where Cloud County Community College is located. Following enthusiastic discussion, the board “tentatively” approved that proposal. However, please wait for official confirmation before making your plans and reservations.

Looking forward to the year 2017, several important KNPS dates have been “tentatively” proposed. Be prepared for more exciting and eventful experiences with your KNPS.

The Winter board meeting will be held at Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kansas, on January 14, 2017, of course, weather permitting.

A combined Spring/Summer board meeting will be held at Cedar Point near Florence, Kansas, on May 19 and 20.

The 2017 AWW will be held in Concordia, KS where Cloud County Community College is located. The September dates have not been selected yet.

Phyllis adjourned the meeting, whereupon the board members lined the back of the Grand Hall for a group photo. Members then enthusiastically headed for the fort Visitor’s Center for a presentation and prairie tour led by former Park Ranger Kelley Collins.

KNPS Elections Held

— CRAIG FREEMAN

Eleven members were elected each to serve three-year terms on the Board of Directors of the Kansas Native Plant Society at the annual meeting on September 17, 2016, in Fort Scott, Kansas. New board members are Lorna Habegger Harider – Hesston (returning after a 10-year hiatus from the board), Mike Kaye – Topeka, Andrew Mitchell – Horton, and Chad Phillips – Soldier. Past board members continuing their service include Krista Dahlinger – Mulvane, Brad Guhr – Newton, Mike Haddock – Manhattan, Jeff Hansen – Topeka, Michael Heffron – Reece, Dee Scherich – McPherson, and Phyllis Scherich – McPherson. Stepping down from the board were Fred Coombs – Holton (11 years of service), Nancy Coombs – Holton (11 years of service), Chelsea Erickson – Stockton (6 years of service), Ken O’Dell – Paola (8 years of service), and Valerie Wright – Manhattan (17 years of service).

Officers elected by the KNPS board each to serve one-year terms were: Mickey Delfelder, Secretary – Topeka; Krista Dahlinger, Treasurer – Mulvane; Craig Freeman – Vice President; and Phyllis Scherich, President.
2016 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

FLORA

1. Sand Lily — John Morrison
2. Breadroot Scurfpea — David Weifelt
3. Canada Wild Rye with Dew — David Weifelt

FAUNA

1. Bullfrog in Duckweed — James Bresnahan
2. Indigo Bunting in Willow — James Bresnahan
3. Monarch Enjoying Fall Asters — Phyllis Luedke
SCENERY

PEOPLE

1 Salt Fork Sundown — John Morrison
2 Baker Wetlands — James Bresnahan
3 Sand Creek Trail — David Welfelt

1 Wildflower Tour Small Groups — John Morrison
2 Wildflower Tours at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve — David Welfelt
3 Tallgrass Prairie — Phyllis Scherich
One of my childhood chores was a daily walk down the half-mile long lane to our mailbox. Each fall, I was more than compensated for this task by brilliant red-orange fruits of the bittersweet vines that grew along the sides of the road and onto the fences along my trek. The bittersweet’s tendrils entwined branches and twigs of shrubs and trees along the ditch, and its bright decorative fruits seemed aflame against the bright blue sky. When paired with a white fluffy floating cloud, the scene was unforgettable. During early summer, the bittersweet’s subtle greenish-white to yellow blossoms were harder to see, but I always looked for them as a promise of the fall spectacular to come.

Typically found in woodland areas, the bittersweet grows anywhere it can find a suitable perch and can climb to heights of sixty feet up thickets on rocky slopes. It typically blooms during May and June with male and female flowers developing on separate vines. The female flowers then produce drooping clusters of 6-20 globular fruits by late September. As they dry, the orange outer coats of these berries split into three sections to expose the crimson seed cover inside.

To make an attractive arrangement, hang the stems upside-down until dry. Cut the stems into desired lengths and arrange them artistically in a wooden bowl or vase. Your bittersweet bouquet will remain a bright spot to cheer you all winter!

— ILLUSTRATION BY LORNA HARDER
You know how some people stop for yard sales? That is what I do for wild flowers and furthermore, that is how I found the Lyons’ prairie. Last fall while driving east on Highway 31 towards Fulton, I found myself stopping to get a closer look at an enormous field of wondrous Maximilian Sunflowers and very tall Big Bluestem Grass. It literally took my breath away. The bird calls alone were incredible, and I found myself being hypnotized by the waving grasses in the light fall breezes.

After some inquiries this past spring, I learned from a friend that this beautiful prairie was owned by the Lyons family. And after a conversation with Pat Lyons, who recommended that I visit with Jerry Lyons, owner of this field of absolute glory, I did just that one very early summer morning. I asked Jerry if we AWW wildflower enthusiasts could visit this prairie. And, after some consideration, Jerry said yes! Now Pat, of course, was right: this is a story that needs to be told to the end.

Jump forward a year, and there we were: AWW attendees and friends exploring that gorgeous prairie early Sunday morning and having lovely conversations with each other and the Lyons family who grew up there. The place was alive: butterflies fluttering from flower to flower, grasses well over one’s head, and people standing in awe next to Maximilian Sunflowers that towered a good eight to ten feet!

Twenty years ago, Jerry Lyons felt that the land could be put to better use and with the desire to return the land to its original state like when his parents came to settle the land in 1912, he did just that. He signed up for CRP and after prepping the soil bed well the following spring, he planted a special seed mix he had received from Kansas State University. This seed mix not only grew, it thrived! Jerry shared that the grasses and forbs would commonly grow ten to fifteen feet tall, and were always alive with birds, deer, butterflies, and a bobcat or two. Even in drought years, the grasses have been significantly taller than any other grass in the area. Since the initial planting, his annual maintenance included the occasional sprays for Lespedeza sericea control and regular spring burns to maintain the prairies.

It is truly amazing how Nature will respond with a bit of coaxing. Nature’s resilience and her desire to reward efforts of care and love are plainly visible to all who were fortunate enough to stop by that Sunday morning at Lyons’ Prairie.

Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge

The author notes: This was my second year going to the AWW or Annual Wildflower Weekend. I am excited to join the KNPS board and am looking forward to planning the next AWW. Now that I have been a member of KNPS for 4 years, I felt the need to share some of my experiences with other members who may not have the opportunity to see some of these great sites.

On Saturday, September 17 (the author’s birthday), KNPS members left Fort Scott together as a large caravan group to head to the Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge. Upon arriving at the refuge, we were greeted by one of the rangers in charge of managing the prairies and land.

The specific site we visited was on the southern end of the refuge, near several woody stands of oak and persimmon trees. There was a large mesic prairie on the east side of the road that most of us explored. Being of a mind to cut through brush and make my own path, this author traveled away from the main group to see what could be found away from the timber, and was rewarded with my first ever sight of the prairie gentian (Gentiana puberulenta). It was a sight to behold: three perfect purple flowers rising from the prairie, just a few inches in height. I proceeded in letting my peers know of my discovery, as many of them were anxious to see it, also.

This writer was also excited to see many other great plants, including Bidens, Helenium, American licorice, motherwort, and Frostweed (Verbesina virginica), the white-flowered version of wingstem. The grasses were also all in bloom, everything from big bluestem to Indiangrass. And the insects were buzzing! I may not be an entomologist, but insects could be my second specialty after plants. And how could one not be both an insect and plant person? There were still a number of passing Monarch butterflies, plus skippers, pierids, and metalmarks. Members also saw grasshoppers, numerous beetles, and the occasional spider.

We were treated to the best spot for wildflowers on this field trip. Next time, we will explore more into the wetlands of the Marais des Cygnes to see what amazing flora and fauna we can find there!
2016 KANSAS AREA NATIVE PLANT & 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!

**Jayhawk Audubon Society Program – When the Well Runs Dry, 7:30 pm.** Presenters: Steve Lerner, Matt Sanderson, Tom Averill. Location: Trinity Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 1245 New Hampshire, Lawrence, KS. Contact: Joyce Wolf rjawolf@sunflower.com  (785) 887-6019

**Winter Bird Gardening Program @ Burroughs Audubon Nature Center and Bird Sanctuary, 3 pm.** Did you know the most effective time to plant native flowers and grasses for spring and summer is in the winter? Imagine everything you need to know and have to successfully plant natives in winter. We will even send you home with a little “present” for your yard. More information: http://burroughs.org Location: 7300 SW West Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015. Contact: mail@burroughs.org Phone: (816) 795-817

**To Battle! KC Wildlands Annual Volunteer Honeysuckle Battle, 9 am – noon.** We will be removing exotic invasive shrub honeysuckle on multiple sites at once, while enjoying the amazing fall beauty of these wild places. This is a fun and festive workday, and great for groups! All volunteers must register online in advance for their preferred work site. Volunteer spots are limited at each site. If you have a group, please contact Linda Lehrbaum linda@bridgingthegap.org  (816) 561-1089

**2nd Sunday Hikes at Clinton State Park.** We will take a 2-hour hike each month on the 2nd Sunday each month. Meet at the State Park Office at 1pm. Each month we will hopefully get to see some of the plants and wildlife in that area of the park. You are welcome to bring leashed pets and children 5 and up. More information and updates: www.facebook.com/ClintonStatePark trudyrubick@yahoo.com or (785) 842-8562

**Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs.** Volunteer prairie maintenance and preservation projects, third Saturday each month except Dec. www.grasslandheritage.org Wear appropriate clothing. No special skills or tools needed. For details, please contact Frank Norman fjtjnorman@sunflower.com (785) 691-9748 (cell). 2nd Sunday Hikes at Clinton State Park. See October 9 info.

**2017 KANSAS AREA NATIVE PLANT & WILDFLOWER EVENTS**

**Kansas Native Plant Society Winter Board Meeting at Ottawa University in Ottawa, KS.** We will plan to start the meeting promptly at 1:00 pm and finish by 3:00 pm. After the meeting we may explore native habitat in the area. Our snow date is January 21. Please contact KNPS for more information. www.ksnps.org. email@KSNPS.org  (785) 864-3453

**Kaw Valley Eagles Day in Lawrence, KS.** Celebrate the return of the eagles and learn about the environment, 9am-4pm. Programs on area Bald eagles and other wildlife. Exhibitors will offer educational resources related to nature. Sponsored by the Jayhawk Audubon Society, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Unified School District 497. Location: Free State High School, 1 block north of 6th & Wakarusa. More information: Bunnie Watkins (785) 393-0984

**Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs.** Volunteer prairie maintenance and preservation projects, third Saturday each month except Dec. www.grasslandheritage.org Wear appropriate clothing. No special skills or tools needed. For details, please contact Frank Norman fjtjnorman@sunflower.com (785) 691-9748 (cell).

**Missouri Prairie Foundation Spring Plant Sales at the City Market, KCMO.** Contact: www.moprairie.org or Doris Sherrick djsher@fairpoint.net  (816) 716-9159

**June is Kansas Native Plant Appreciation Month! Each year Kansas Native Plant Society makes a formal appeal to the Governor for this proclamation. This opportunity promotes greater appreciation for the diversity, value, and beauty of Kansas native plants and their habitats.** www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org

**12th annual Symphony in the Flint Hills at Deer Horn Ranch in Geary County, Kansas.** More information: www.symphonyintheflinthills.org/ Contact: info@symphonyintheflinthills.org  (620) 273-8955
Dingus Natural Area

Saturday’s visit to Dingus Natural Area provided a great opportunity to explore a natural plant community not widespread in Kansas. The dimly lit Oak-Hickory woodland was an exciting contrast to the great tallgrass prairie landscapes the group visited during this year’s Annual Wildflower Weekend event. Apart from the almost magical appearance of the location, quite a few interesting plants were to be found. Scattered along the forest floor among the multitude of mushrooms to be seen was a plant that incidentally is often mistaken for a mushroom. Indian Pipe (Monotropa uniflora) was a definite highlight of the foray into the woods. Like many mushrooms, Indian Pipe is a saprophyte and cannot manufacture its own energy and so survives by taking up nutrients from the rich humus of the forest floor.

Throughout the location there was an abundance of various Tickclover species, classic woodland denizens. One in particular, Large-flowered Tickclover (Desmodium glutinosum) provided some ready-to-eat, adhesive snacks while hunting rock outcrops for various species of fern. The plump, velcro-like green seeds have a mild snap pea flavor and a great crunch. Several species of fern were in fact located along the rocks, of which Walking Fern (Asplenium rhizophyllum) and Purple Cliff-brake (Pellaea atropurpurea) provided great excitement. If you find yourself in the Fort Scott region, Dingus Natural Area is definitely a hidden gem worthy of a visit. Upland woods, rich creek bottoms, and glade remnants will keep a hiker captivated all season long.

NEW MEMBERS FROM 6/12/16 TO 9/24/16

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<td>Wamego Community Garden</td>
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MEMBERS RETURNING AFTER A HIATUS

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Now is a good time to pay your 2017 Annual Membership Dues.
Go to: http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org
Click on Online Membership Form – Follow printed instructions.

Join the KNPS email list to receive the latest event announcements:
www.kansansnativeplantsociety.org/email_list.php
We have ten or eleven species of oak trees in Kansas. None of these are native in the far western reaches of the state, but will certainly grow there under considerations of some human help which may be needed to get the trees started and established. Most oak trees in eastern Kansas frequently need some human intervention to make it through the first year or so.

The sturdy Post Oak trees grow naturally in the eastern quarter of Kansas. The soil and moisture here is good for these trees and gives them a very rich, dark green coloring in the growing season, and sometimes afford some autumn leaf colors.

Post Oak is in the white oak group and with the others in this group the fruit matures in one year. The seed from the white oak group is ready to plant when it falls. They do not have or need the dormancy the red oak group requires. (The red oak group which includes the Pin Oak, Red Oak, and others takes two years for the fruit to grow and mature.) The white oak group and the red oak group have both male and female flowers on the same tree. Male flowers are catkins that usually appear a week or two before the female flowers. Looking at female flowers you can see the tiny round flowers, smaller than the tip of a match as they wait to receive pollen and fertilization. The flowers are wind-pollinated. Post Oak seed are smaller than many other oaks and seem to be a delicious treat for deer, mice, and birds. There is an old Civil War cemetery in Paola, Kansas with five giant Post Oaks in and around forty to fifty war tombstones which provides a great place to pick up acorns.

The leaves of Post Oak are dark green and glossy on the upper side and have a whitish underside with noticeable hairs most of the time. Foliage on young Post Oaks is usually fuller and thicker than it is on older trees. There are many older Post Oak trees at the Overland Park Arboretum and some of these are fifty to sixty feet tall. They have limbed themselves up over the years so the mostly whitish bark gets even whiter as the sun comes through the surrounding trees and branches in the winter time. Younger Post Oak trees frequently have a small, twelve inch long stubble of branches growing on the trunks of the trees. This shows up more in the winter time as the brown leaves will hold on to the twigs on this lower stubble growth until spring time.

The name Post Oak comes from the fact that this oak tree is slower growing than most oak trees and when the timber people would cut the large oak trees for lumber they would leave the smaller Post Oaks, and these Post Oaks would be used for, what else, but fence posts! The scientific name Quercus stellata comes from Quercus, which is the Latin name given to all oaks, and stellata from the tiny clusters of star-shaped hairs on the underside of the leaves.

Fall is a great time to get outside and look at these fine, majestic Post Oak champion trees!

2016 AWW Silent Auction

The Silent Auction Fundraiser at the AWW in Fort Scott was wonderfully successful in 2016. Donations included many new, used, and vintage plant, insect, and garden books. The auction tables held many sun hats, homemade jellies, and cookies, a cast cement garden sculpture, live plants, native plant seeds, and note cards.

Generous bidding totaled $850 this year, resulting in many members enjoying their new treasures. The book raffle resulted in ticket sales of $85 for the new large format Kansas Wildflowers and Weeds authored by Michael Haddock, Craig Freeman, and Janet Bare. Shirley Braunlich donated a copy of The Last Wild Places of Kansas – Journeys Into Hidden Landscapes by George Frazier which brought in ticket sales of $55.

A big Thank You goes out to all generous donors and buyers at this year’s fundraising event. Starting collecting those silent auction treasures today for next year’s AWW fundraiser in Concordia!
SCENES FROM THE 2016 ANNUAL WILDFLOWER WEEKEND

Memories of the 2016 AWW starting at the top left in clockwise order.

• Official group photo taken at the Marais de Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge
• Nipple cactus at the Bourbon County State Lake and Wildlife Area
• Members emerging from the woods at Dingus Natural Area
• The Silent Auction prior to the annual membership meeting at Fort Scott Community College Saturday morning.
• KNPS members view Bourbon Lake Falls at the Bourbon County State Lake and Wildlife Area
• Sign welcoming members to Hedges’ Prairie Patch on Sunday afternoon
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 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
University of Kansas
2045 Constant Ave.
Lawrence, KS 66047-3729

A membership to 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

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Additional Donation: Legacy Fund $_________________ Scholarship Fund $_________________ General Fund $_________________