



# KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

VOLUME 41, NUMBER 1

NEWSLETTER OF THE KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

JANUARY 2019

MIKE HADDOCK



## IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	3
KNPS Member Profile	4
2019 AWW	6
Native Plant Gardens	7
Moths in Your Butterfly Garden	8
Garlic Mustard Meets the Egg	9
Calendar	10
Showy Goldenrod	12
Flint Hills Quilts	12
Sycamore Tree	13
Native Plant Meadows	14
Grant-Bradbury Prairie Park	15

### KNPS 2019 WILDFLOWER OF THE YEAR

## Woolly verbena – *Verbena stricta*

– BRAD GUHR

Woolly verbena (*Verbena stricta*) is the Kansas Native Plant Society 2019 Wildflower of the Year (WOY). It is also known by the common name hoary vervain.

Found throughout Kansas, this two to five foot tall, stout and erect perennial, with dense hairs on stems and leaves, thrives in dry prairies, pastures, and disturbed areas. With up to twelve foot deep roots, this species is very drought tolerant. In a natural prairie setting, woolly verbena is not aggressive. However, cattle do not like the bitter taste of this species, so when competing species are eaten, woolly verbena will spread in a grazed pasture.

Even though this species has a square stem and opposite leaves like all plants in the mint family, woolly verbena is in the closely related Verbenaceae or vervain family.

The flowers are five-petaled and fused at the base to form a tube. Purple one-half inch flowers bloom in pencil-like terminal clusters during late summer: July to September. Seeds form as four nutlets per flower and are eaten by small birds and mammals. Leaves are larval host food for common buckeye butterflies.

Woolly verbena is a popular species to have in a native plant garden due to its erect form and showy late-season color. It can bloom for four to six weeks, attracts a variety of pollinators, and spreads easily by seed when competition is low. Seeds germinate readily with two months of cold, wet stratification.

To see these photos by Michael Haddock and a detailed description of *Verbena stricta*, visit [kswildflower.org](http://kswildflower.org). – CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## OUR MISSION

*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.*

*The Kansas Native Plant Society Newsletter is published quarterly: Winter (January), Spring (April), Summer (July), Fall (October). Readers tell us how much they enjoy the newsletter in 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  
University of Kansas  
2045 Constant Ave.  
Lawrence, KS 66047-3729

## KNPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<i>Brad Guhr</i> President	Newton, KS
<i>Krista Dahlinger</i> Vice President	Mulvane, KS
<i>Earl Allen</i> Treasurer	Manhattan, KS
<i>Mickey Delfelder</i> Secretary	Topeka, KS
<i>Phyllis Scherich</i> Past President	McPherson, KS
<i>Rondi Anderson</i>	Fort Scott, KS
<i>Iralee Barnard</i>	Hope, KS
<i>Shirley Braunlich</i>	Lawrence, KS
<i>Nadine Champlin</i>	Sabetha, KS
<i>Craig Freeman</i>	Lawrence, KS
<i>Lorna Habegger-Harder</i>	Hesston, KS
<i>Mike Haddock</i>	Manhattan, KS
<i>Jeff Hansen</i>	Topeka, KS
<i>Michael Heffron</i>	Eureka, KS
<i>Karen Hummel</i>	Manhattan, KS
<i>Michael Kaye</i>	Topeka, KS
<i>Joan Manor</i>	Wamego, KS
<i>Brian L. Martin</i>	Hesston, KS
<i>Andrew Mitchell</i>	Horton, KS
<i>Mark Neubrand</i>	Salina, KS
<i>Chad Phillips</i>	Soldier, KS
<i>Cynthia Rhodes</i>	Whitewater, KS
<i>Matthew Richter</i>	McPherson, KS
<i>Dee Scherich</i>	McPherson, KS
<i>Paul Showalter</i>	Shawnee, KS
<i>Anthony Zukoff</i>	Holcomb, KS

## KNPS NEWSLETTER STAFF

<i>Cynthia Rhodes</i> Copy & Assignment Editor	<i>cynrhodes@gmail.com</i>
<i>Brian L. Martin</i> Design & Layout Editor	
<i>Phyllis Scherich</i> Proofreader	

## KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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

## LEARN MORE ABOUT KNPS

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



MIKE HADDOCK PHOTOS



## Woolly verbena — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### Past KNPS WOY Selections

2018	Cobaea penstemon ( <i>Penstemon cobaea</i> )	2005	Rose verbena ( <i>Glandularia canadensis</i> )
2017	Plains coreopsis ( <i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i> )	2004	Missouri evening primrose ( <i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i> )
2016	Golden alexanders ( <i>Zizia aurea</i> )	2003	Large beardtongue ( <i>Penstemon grandiflorus</i> )
2015	Green antelopehorn ( <i>Asclepias viridis</i> )	2002	Fremont's clematis ( <i>Clematis fremontii</i> )
2014	Blue-eyed grass ( <i>Sisyrinchium</i> species)	2001	Thickspike gayfeather ( <i>Liatris pycnostachya</i> )
2013	Little bluestem ( <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> )	2000	Maximilian sunflower ( <i>Helianthus maximiliani</i> )
2012	Lead plant ( <i>Amorpha canescens</i> )	1999	Butterfly milkweed ( <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> )
2011	Prairie coneflower ( <i>Ratibida columnifera</i> )	1998	Black-sampson echinacea ( <i>Echinacea angustifolia</i> )
2010	Catclaw sensitive briar ( <i>Schrankia nuttallii</i> )		
2009	Prairie larkspur ( <i>Delphinium virescens</i> )		
2008	Fringed puccoon ( <i>Lithospermum incisum</i> )		
2007	Purple poppy mallow ( <i>Callirhoe involucrata</i> )		
2006	Blue sage ( <i>Salvia azurea</i> )		

## President's Message

BRAD GUHR

I am excited to start my two-year term as president, and I will begin my first newsletter address with a short statement of what I love about KNPS. This organization facilitates exploration of the diverse array of plant communities found throughout the state and we do so with a variety of knowledgeable, friendly, and caring people. The rich experiences we share as people exploring our Kansas native prairies, wetlands, savannas, and forests are genuine, meaningful, and long-lasting.

For me, the root of what makes this KNPS experience so enjoyable is diversity. When the diversity of the plant communities and the people exploring them is high, the more I can enjoy our gatherings. It is, therefore, fitting that I get to help introduce the new KNPS Statement of Diversity, Inclusion, and Non-Discrimination Policy. The full text is featured in this newsletter and I encourage you to read it.

It is pretty well understood that when a native plant community has more biological diversity, it has a better array of ecosystem functions and greater resiliency in recovering from disturbance. Similarly, I believe that human communities work better when they represent diversity. As our Kansas human population grows more diverse with every generation, KNPS will increase its chances of maintaining relevance and growing our membership well into the future. We did not have to create this statement, but I am glad we did. Thank you to Shirley Braunlich and Michael Kaye for the time they put into crafting this policy.

Also in this issue is the announcement of our 2019 Wildflower of the Year, woolly verbena (*Verbena stricta*). This stately, dry prairie species adds spires of purple to the late summer grasslands that are showing off to a backdrop of blue and green hues of extending warm season grasses. When blooming, woolly verbena is a fine place to look for butterflies in search of nectar. Get familiar with this species if you do not know it already, and I challenge you to find it in bloom and make its acquaintance this summer on a prairie near you. Plan to revisit woolly verbena again a month later to collect some seed and bring it back to your garden for more enjoyment in the future.

Finally, even though we find ourselves now approaching the depths of winter and a time that is furthest away from the growing season of the flowers of our native flora, let us still enjoy its dormant benefits. Appreciate what these native plants are still doing for us with their organic, matter-rich root structures that are building soil and holding moisture. Appreciate how this dormant vegetation is still providing important cover and food for a host of wildlife species. Tomorrow is the 70th Annual Halstead-Newton Christmas Bird Count and I will be searching woodland thickets, brushy marshes, and upland prairies with other bird watchers and appreciating what variety of birds can be found utilizing our Kansas native vegetation.

Thank you for your interest in our Kansas native flora and for your support of the Kansas Native Plant Society.



Greta Hiebert, Gregg Friesen, and Kyle Miller Hessed birding Sand Prairie

## KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

*Statement of Diversity, Inclusion, and Non-Discrimination Policy 2017, revised August 11, 2018*

The Kansas Native Plant Society (KNPS) is about people and plants. By actively contributing to publicly available nature education, conservation, and the expansion of scientific knowledge of the natural world, KNPS firmly commits to helping people appreciate the diverse variety of Kansas's native plants. In her first message as KNPS President, Phyllis Scherich wrote in the 2015 Autumn Newsletter: "I view Kansas Native Plant Society as a vibrant (full of energy and enthusiasm) and dynamic organization. Each member has something special to contribute to its success." She added, "Being able to interact and share with so many knowledgeable members elevates my understanding of the plants."

We prize the enthusiasm, practical knowledge, and expertise of our members. We do our utmost to expand the diversity of our membership, our board of directors, and our choice of other organizations and coalitions as partners. Moreover, we recognize that conservation of plant diversity is best advanced by contributions of people with diverse backgrounds, experiences, beliefs, and cultures.

It is our firm policy that we invite members of the public to accept membership in KNPS without limitation on race, religion, color, national origin, gender identity and gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, and other characteristics protected by law. Indeed, access to the diversity of human experience through inclusion and outreach will help us celebrate our native plant heritage and preserve that heritage for future generations. We will serve a broader community and attract some of the most dedicated supporters of conservation and education as members and leaders.

The ever-increasing human diversity of our world today reminds us, as we pursue KNPS's mission of inclusion, that we must connect with a diverse range of stakeholders. Participation in KNPS must be broad if we are to draw from that rich palette of perspectives and approaches needed to enjoy fully the natural world and to meet current and emerging challenges impacting native plants and their habitats, and impacting our society.

## Stan Deneke: Portrait of a County Noxious Weed Director

— MICHAEL KAYE

Mitchell County in North Central Kansas sits on a 719 square mile chunk of Greenhorn Limestone in the Smoky Hills uplands crossed by the Solomon River. It is ranching, farming, and post-rock country. Mitchell County is home to the world-famous Ball of Twine displayed in Cawker City, and now weighing in at 19,973 pounds of the sisal twine provided to casual visitors or to participants in the annual August Twine-a-Thon who want to further the continued expansion of the great ball.

Beloit is on the Solomon River and on highway U.S. 24. It is the county seat and is home to most of Mitchell County's population. Beloit boasts some prized civic, educational, and tourist attractions. Residents are proud of their limestone Courthouse built in 1901 (and once called the Queen Mary of Kansas Courthouses), their restored and repainted Honey Creek school house (renamed the Little Red School House), and St. John's Catholic Church built in 1901, whose stone towers can be seen at a distance from the South and East. Beloit also surrounds the forty-acre tree-lined campus of the Mitchell County branch of NCKTC: North Central Kansas Technical College.

Stan Deneke (DEN uh kee) is the Mitchell County Noxious Weed Director, a KNPS member, and a lifelong resident of Mitchell County. Two years ago, Stan joined KNPS at the suggestion of his friend Trish Remley, a KNPS member who operates Grassland Gardens in nearby Miltonvale.

*“At a young age my father taught us to leave the land in better shape than we found it. Leave the fence rows for habitat, and work around nature without causing damage... I landed a job at a garden center digging trees and such. That's when I discovered my true passion for plants.”*

— STAN DENEKE, MITCHELL COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED DIRECTOR

Stan grew up in Beloit and still works in the Beloit area. He has been Weed Director for the last four years. He sells herbicides to farmers, ranchers, landowners and governmental agencies within the county to control noxious weeds. He helps users select the best herbicide for their purposes and advises on other methods of weed prevention and eradication such as mechanical, biological, and cultural: a term of art referring to different types of farming methods such as crop rotation or planting cover crops. This is known as Integrated Weed Management and is a policy of the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Stan also provides the public with information for identifying and controlling noxious weeds that can cause economic loss to farmers and ranchers. Twelve plant species designated as noxious weeds are listed in the Kansas Noxious Weed Law K.S.A. 2-1314 to

2-1333. The law also identifies two other noxious weeds that counties can choose to control if they wish. Noxious weeds are plants the legislature has determined are detrimental to the environment or dangerous to humans or livestock. The law, originally enacted in 1937, requires all persons, companies, and agencies to eradicate and prevent the spread of weeds on their properties that the legislature has identified as noxious.

Under the Noxious Weed Law, state and local officials have broad authority to designate, control and eliminate noxious weeds and to establish enforcement powers including quarantines, penalties, weed seizures, and forcing property owners to control noxious weeds on their land. The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) has identified some best weed control practices.

(Source: [wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/NOXIOUS-WEEDS-FACT-SHEET](http://wssa.net/wp-content/uploads/NOXIOUS-WEEDS-FACT-SHEET))

Here are several:

1. For effective weed control, the noxious weed list should be short and limited to plants that pose the greatest threat.
  2. States should focus on tailoring programs to reflect each community and its noxious weed challenges and should emphasize partnerships over penalties.
  3. Early weed detection and an early response approach is a proactive way to eradicate noxious weeds, identify issues, and focus on early intervention.
  4. Weed control departments should pursue a fully integrated approach to weed management that goes beyond the use of herbicides.
  5. The weed department should broaden its reach by collaborating with state and local agencies and organizations.
- Applying these standards, Kansas noxious weed law, Mitchell County landowners, and Stan Deneke score well.

Stan keeps in contact with county landowners and ranchers. In the fall, he sends them a reminder letter titled “Pasture Maintenance a Must” or “Pasture Cleanup Time” or similar title with a message about the current level of the noxious weed threat, the relative success of earlier local weed control efforts during the year, and he urges them to be better stewards of the land and responsible neighbors, often by conducting appropriate chemical spraying. His letters refer to an “explosion of thistles this year,” or he writes that pastures were “bombarded with Musk Thistle” leading to “problem weed control” until harvest. He urges farmers, ranchers, and landowners to book their pasture spraying jobs in the fall when it is a slower time for the aerial applicators and encourages application of chemicals with sufficient residual strength to carry over to the spring which in turn boosts pasture forage production and keeps grass healthier for livestock.

The Noxious Weed Department is also responsible for controlling and eradicating noxious weed infestations on county owned property and rights of way. Just as he assists ranchers, farmers, and private landowners, Stan helps local government to comply with the noxious weed law.

Describing his work as Weed Director Stan says, “It is a job that requires us to know our plants, chemicals and laws. Knowing the plants in our area prevents us from spraying out our good plants and knowing our chemicals allows us to reduce the impact to our environment and use them in a safe manner.” Then he adds, “One part of the job I really love is identifying plants.”

Mindful of the impact of noxious weed eradication on native grasses and wildflowers, Stan tries to select and use those chemicals that are least harmful to the environment. He wants “to give back to the land” he watches over as weed director. In what may be an unusual step for a weed director, Stan decided not only to continue paying close attention to the native plants and grasses he encounters in his work fighting the war on weeds, but he would also add to the landscape by planting native wildflowers throughout the county. Spending much time out on the county roads, Stan began to think, “Wouldn't it be neat to have wildflowers on hillsides. People could stop and look.”

The Mitchell County Noxious Weed Department at 1313 E. 8th Street on the edge of Beloit occupies a modest one story, one-room standalone building. The department has two employees: Stan Deneke and Cyndee McCullough his office assistant and helper. Before working with Stan, Cyndee was, for thirteen years, office assistant to Stan's predecessor. She shares Stan's love of wildflowers: “I have always loved going and walking through pastures and roadsides and looking at wildflowers and taking pictures of them even before I knew the names of the plants and am growing some of them in my own land, and we have also started raising honey bees.”

Cyndee maintains the County Weed Directors Association of Kansas (CWDAK) member directory. All county weed directors are eligible for CWDAK membership. Stan is a member. CWDAK offers weed directors forty hours of basic training and offers a professional development certificate for weed director work. The organization goals include improving the weed program in Kansas and the status of weed directors and affording opportunities to discuss common problems of weed director work. Among those problems is the belief among some CWDAK members that some members of the public believe that, as weed directors do their jobs, weed directors inflict unnecessary collateral damage on the environment and on wildflowers.

Cyndee edits the bi-monthly CWDAK Newsletter. She keeps weed directors up to date on news from each of the state's five weed control districts. The newsletter calendars upcoming events and meetings, lists county job openings, and includes updates on the Kansas Department of Agriculture which is authorized to adopt official methods for noxious weed eradication and control.



The newsletter reaches weed directors in all Kansas counties, and the Kansas Department of Agriculture Weed Specialist.

In 2016, Cyndee and Stan founded the Mitchell County Wildflower Project. Stan began collecting wildflower seeds and obtained funding for additional seeds for the project through donations from local farmers. He devised a seed mix consisting of butterfly milkweed, common milkweed, pitcher sage, pyrethrum daisy, black-eyed Susan, purple coneflower, scarlet flax, Mexican hat, white yarrow, false indigo, bee balm, purple prairie clover, *Coreopsis*, *Liatris*, blue flax, *Penstemon cobaea*, and Indian blanket flower seeds. He broadcast these seeds at 26 locations he had selected along roads throughout the county. He planted seeds on hillside rock outcroppings that were not adjacent to crops. He wanted to protect the wildflowers from the effects of chemical spraying. Sometimes, he did not plant on the roadsides to avoid strong competition from weeds and grasses.

Stan has designed a roadmap of Mitchell County displaying the locations of the wildflower plantings. Photos of the types of wildflowers he has planted border the map. During the drought of 2017, Stan sometimes felt discouraged, though he still hoped to see wildflowers along and near county roads. That fall, he filled a thirty-gallon drum with mixed wildflower seeds and set out to replenish his earlier plantings. To his surprise, he found wildflowers already emerging at many of his planting sites.

Mitchell County is proud of its limestone courthouse and church in Beloit, of Beloit's designation as a USA Tree City, and of a history of tree planting on the prairie dating back to the post-civil war era. Mitchell County can be proud of festivals like the Twine-a-thon. People can drive, bicycle, and walk the county roads of Mitchell County and enjoy wildflowers, but remain unaware that someone has been planting wildflowers at chosen sites throughout

the area—for them. No public signs identify the Mitchell County Wildflower Project.

Stan Deneke, who learned from his father to “leave the land in better shape than you found it,” has run a garden center, planted scores of trees across a college campus, serves on the Beloit USA Tree Board, joined KNPS, and, working with Cyndee McCullough, has fashioned the Mitchell County Wildflower Project. As Weed Director, Stan finds helpful ways to lead the county noxious weed prevention and eradication effort and to encourage the growth of healthy pastures and fields without harming the environment, grasses, wildflowers, or the people of Mitchell County.

He will leave the land in better shape than he found it.



## 2019 AWW to be “A Walk in the Woods”

— ANDREW MITCHELL

Join us September 14, 15, and 16 in Atchison and Brown Counties for the 2019 Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW). This year’s theme is “A Walk in the Woodlands,” where we will learn about and discover flora in the beautiful woodland remnants of eastern Kansas.

On Friday, September 14, the annual fall board meeting will take place in Horton, followed by a tour of the natural area around Mission Lake. This lake sits on the edge of an oak-hickory remnant forest in south-central Brown County. Members will be able to observe wetlands and a small-scale forest remnant on this afternoon hike.

The main event, the KNPS business meeting, will be held on Saturday at a location yet to be determined in Atchison. The guest speaker and possible topics such as Champion Trees of Kansas or spring ephemerals of the woodlands are still under consideration at this time.

Wildflower walks will focus in on the native flora of the woodland remnants in eastern Kansas. Walks on both Saturday and Sunday will be in native woodland remnants near the bluffs of the Missouri River.

Atchison is an old city with many interesting, historical sites, so please plan to visit local attractions while you are in the area. There are several hotels and bed and breakfast spots available for your stay in the town and surrounding area. It is advisable to make reservations in advance of the weekend.

Mark your calendars for September 14, 15, and 16, for the 2019 AWW in northeastern Kansas and come see the woods and bluffs for yourself!

TOP Jackson Park Trail  
RIGHT *Clematis pitcheri* at Mission Lake



### NATIVE PLANT GARDENS

## Plants I Regret and a Few Surprise Keepers

MICKEY DELFELDER

I have learned much in the four years since I established my native garden in Topeka. (Read the Winter 2016 newsletter for the background on this garden where I converted my 800 square foot garden of vinca and bermudagrass into a native plant landscape with nearly 100 species.) Many of the plants are now reaching maturity and spreading their wings (and seeds!); moving around the garden to find that niche where they can thrive for years to come.

I found a few plants that I would not recommend for a small-to-medium home garden like mine, plus a few plants that were new to me that I now eagerly await each spring. I make a concerted effort to deadhead each fall, but I always miss a few and, of course, that is no guard against plants that propagate underground.

There is a saying “right plant, right place.” Sometimes I just want that place to be somewhere else. Here is my naughty list:

- **Cutleaf coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*)** — I was warned and I did not listen. Despite the handsomeness of the foliage and bright yellow flowers, this is a prolific seed producer with an excellent germination rate. I moved my large specimen to a nearby prairie restoration this fall, but I will be dealing with seedlings for years to come. If you have a woodland restoration area, this is the plant for you.

- **Sunflowers (*Helianthus sp.*)** — All of them! I planted Willowleaf sunflower (*H. salicifolius*), Ashy sunflower (*H. molos*) and Hairy sunflower (*H. hirsutus*). They all love to spread by root, so even deadheading will not keep you ahead of these. Jerusalem artichoke (*H. tuberosus*) is tolerated only because it is surrounded by concrete on three sides and easily mowed off on the fourth. If I had a wooded area, I would not hesitate including Hairy sunflower because of its bright yellow flowers in July.

- **Honorable mention: Common and Showy milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca* and *A. speciosa*)** — It is tough to say “don’t plant these” because of the critical role they play in Monarch conservation. So I will just say “plant these but know what you are getting into!” They spread rhizomously, but are easily trimmed back if they start spreading too far. Plus, they are some of the most aromatic plants around when in full bloom. Other milkweed like Butterfly milkweed (*A. tuberosa*) and Purple milkweed (*A. purpurascens*) are well behaved.

I have lost a few species in the past few years, but that is not surprising given the survival-of-the-fittest mentality that I started with. In their place, there have been a few really good surprises from plants that I never would have thought to include, if not with a recommendation from a good friend.

- **Prairie petunia (*Ruellia humilis*)** — Is it possible to be both dainty and hardy at the same time? This low-grower is one of the later to appear in my garden each spring. Each flower lasts for just a single day, but there is always more tomorrow. Once it gets going, it can bloom for four months in full sun or part shade. It is easy to transplant and I have spread seed of this all over my garden to fill in along the edges and between larger plants.

- **Small skullcap (*Scutellaria parvula*)** — Perhaps my biggest surprise is this little guy that you would normally find in rock

outcroppings or woodland edges. Only two to three inches high when it blooms, it has formed a large colony on one side of my garden. It is dense enough to keep out most weed seedlings, but readily fills in under established natives. Sadly it only blooms for a few weeks in the spring, but the flat seeds are interesting and a food source for little critters. I am introducing it to other parts of my garden and it is also spreading by seed and root as it sees fit.

- **Pussytoes (*Antennaria neglecta*)** — Often considered a “lawn weed,” this native plant has done well in my garden, but is now getting shaded out. Their soft, velvety leaves come from some of spring’s earliest growth and their Q-tip like flowers are a great pollinator source for early spring bees. In 2018, I began moving clumps from my garden beds to other areas of my yard with full sun. With adequate rain, the foliage will stay silky and smooth until after the first freeze.

- **Honorable mention: Clammy weed (*Polanisia dodecandra*)** — As a potentially weedy annual, this is probably not the plant for someone who wants a more formal garden. However, this stinky, sticky (clammy), hardy self-seeder is my single greatest insect attractant in the hot summer months. Although one plant may produce 100 seedlings, my experience is that they outcompete each other so you are only left with a few mature plants. I enjoy this plant so much that I collect the seeds each fall, then spread it throughout my garden in hopes that they will fill in all of the bare spots next year.

Hopefully my experiences will save some of you the headache of going through what I went through. As much as I like growing these plants, I still feel a bit of remorse for removing native plants from my garden. Thankfully in these instances, they have found new homes where they can thrive and spread their wings once again.

### TECH NOTES

In winter, while not actively gardening, there is time to reflect on what we will do differently in our gardens in the coming year. Shall we add more native plants for color and beauty? Perhaps we would like to choose specific host plants to attract insects or benefit pollinators in our gardens. A couple of handy plant identification guides are available online: *Kansas Flint Hills Wildflowers and Grasses*, and *Kansas Red Hills Wildflowers*. These guides are available to download as PDFs to your computer or smart phone. Plants are listed by common name and Latin name, and include descriptions of leaf shape, plant height, habitat, characteristics, and bloom time. There are colorful photos of each plant in bloom to help you identify plants throughout the year. Links to pocket guides can be found at: [www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/pocket\\_guide.php](http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/pocket_guide.php)

— KRISTA DAHLINGER

# Moths in your Butterfly Garden | LENORA LARSON

Pity the drab moths as they fly in the gloom of night. Do they wish to be beautiful butterflies, dancing in the sun and sipping the flowers' sweet ambrosia? Indeed, butterflies evolved from moths about sixty million years ago. However, some moths also fly during the day and nectar on flowers, so why are they not classified as butterflies? Let us review the differences between these two suborders of the Lepidoptera.

## Differentiating Moths and Butterflies

The beauty of the Clouded Crimson Moth rivals any butterfly. In general, moths and butterflies differ in size, color, body shape, wing position, and behaviors for mating and feeding. Unfortunately for the amateur lepidopterist, exceptions abound. For instance, moths typically have heavier, furrier bodies with proportionally smaller wings. However, Skipper butterflies break this rule with their stout furry bodies and small wings resting at half-mast. Moths rest with their wings outspread, while resting butterflies hold their wings perpendicularly to hide the brilliant colors. But feeding butterflies may also sit with wings spread flat like a moth. Are size or bright wing color reliable clues? No, some moths, like the Luna and Cecropia, are large and brilliantly colored, while some butterflies, like the Dainty Sulfur, are very drab and diminutive. Butterflies have tongues and sip from flowers, rotten fruit, or moist

scat. Conversely, most adult moths have no tongue. But there are many exceptions such as some species of Loopers, Webworms, and Sphinx (Hummingbird) Moths. In addition, all the Flower Moths have tongues and nectar on flowers.

How can you ever know which is which? Must you do a DNA test? No, one differentiator between moths and butterflies needs no caveat: antennae. Even the smallest, drabest butterfly has thread-like antennae with a club-like knob at the end. The thread-like antennae of Skipper butterflies always sport a perky terminal crook that resembles a crochet hook. Moth antennae may be feathery, comb-like, or thread-like, but they never have a terminal club or hook.

## Favorite Nectar-sipping Moths

Many of the diurnal nectar sipping moths have wing spans of an inch or less, but they are far more numerous than the much larger Swallowtails and Monarchs. Often squadrons of them will be found nectaring together on flowers with small blossoms. For example, the Corn Earworm Moth is a green-eyed apricot-colored beauty that nectars in late summer. Looper and Webworm species sport fancy wing patterns, reminiscent of paisley. The colorful "flower moths" in the genus *Schinia* rival any butterfly's beauty.

The Ozarks region boasts seventeen species of Sphinx moths, whose caterpillars are all "hornworms" with a jaunty tail on their butts. Those species called 'Hummingbird Moths' are large with tongues to drink nectar by day or evening. White-lined Sphinx Moths, whose caterpillars dine primarily on members of the Evening Primrose family, may be the most common moth in your garden. With a tongue exceeding six inches, they specialize in tubular flowers. Likewise, the Clearwing Bumble Bee Moth fools you into thinking that it is a Bumble Bee as it hovers and nectars on your flowers.

## Summary

Moths still predominate in number of species and number of individuals. The Ozarks region has over 2,500 species of moths, but less than 100 species of butterflies. However, some moths emulate the best traits of butterflies, i.e., their beauty and their usefulness as pollinators. Not all Hummingbirds are avian; not all Bumbles are bees! And next time you see a small nectaring butterfly, check its antennae—you may be admiring a flower moth.



Clouded Crimson Moth



Corn Earworm Moth



White-lined Sphinx Moth



Clearwing Bumble Bee Moth

LENORA LARSON PHOTOS

# Garlic Mustard Meets the Egg

KAREN HUMMEL

Easter is barely three months away. Thus, it may be fitting to feature an herbal plant for an upcoming spring recipe — Garlic Mustard Deviled Eggs. Garlic mustard smells and tastes like garlic. It can be used in pesto, in salads, or boiled and served as a pot herb with bacon, similar to wilted spinach. The roots have a horse-radishy taste. They can be ground and used in a similar manner to the horse radish root.

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolate*) is a naturalized species introduced from Europe 150 years or so ago. It is a biennial, producing round-leaved rosettes which last through the summer in the first year. The second year plant produces heart-shaped leaves, and flowering stocks with 4-petaled white blooms. The average seed production is 600 seeds per plant, allowing the plant to crowd out native species, especially invading forest understory areas.

So garlic mustard is a pest. But it is a delicious pest. According to Wikipedia<sup>1</sup>, "Garlic mustard is one of the oldest discovered spices to be used in cooking in Europe. Evidence of its use has been found from archaeological remains found in the Baltic, dating back to 4100-3750 B.C.E." It contains traces of cyanide, as do other mustard relatives such as broccoli, cabbage, and kale, so it should be used rather sparingly for seasoning or boiled and drained to remove the trace toxin.

The deviled eggs we made, using a chiffonade of leaves from a first-year rosette, were especially beautiful and delicious. The recipe follows. (Instructions are detailed, and could be used by beginning cooks, children or grandchildren.)



KAREN HUMMEL PHOTOS

<sup>1</sup> Saul, Hayley; Madella M; Fischer A; Glykou A; Hartz S; et al (21 August 2013). "Phytoliths in Pottery Reveal the Use of Spice in European Prehistoric Cuisine". PLOS One. PLOS. 8 (8):e70583. Bibcode:2013PLoS...870583S. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0070583. ISSN 1932-6203. PMC 3749173 . PMID 23990910. Retrieved 22 August 2013.

## Garlic Mustard Deviled Eggs



### INGREDIENTS

- 6 hard cooked eggs (It's good to use eggs at least a couple of days after purchase or harvesting)
- 1 cup loosely packed mustard garlic leaves (About half will be used to garnish the serving plate, and half will be used in the egg yolk mixture)
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon vinegar
- 1 teaspoon yellow mustard (I like Coleman's mustard powder)
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- A dash of pepper to taste (I prefer white pepper, but fresh ground is fine)
- Garnish (I used cross-section slices of baby sweet peppers on the eggs, and garlic mustard leaves around the rim of the serving platter)

### DIRECTIONS

1. Cover raw eggs with water in a sauce pan. Bring water to a boil. Turn heat off, cover pan with a lid, let stand for 14 minutes. Drain water.
2. Refrigerate eggs overnight or until cold throughout. (This method ensures the eggshells can be easily peeled and will not adhere to the white.)
3. Fill a bowl with water. For each egg, gently bounce it on the counter all around the shell to crack it. Immerse the egg in water, find the loosest spot in the shell, and start there, gently removing the shell from the egg.
4. Using a sharp knife, split each egg in half symmetrically, removing the yolk to a mixing bowl. Arrange the white halves on the serving platter.
5. Mash the yolks til evenly crumbly. (I use a fork.)
6. Thoroughly wash the mustard garlic leaves. Reserve about half (the prettiest leaves) for garnish.
7. Finely chop the remaining leaves.
8. Add the mayonnaise, vinegar, mustard, salt, pepper and finely chopped mustard leaves to the egg yolks and mix well.
9. Fill the egg white cups with the yolk mixture. Garnish as you wish.
10. Enjoy.

Information provided by Kansas Native Plant Society, see more events on our website: [www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org](http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org)  
 Please share this information and contact us about additional events to note. Thank you! [email@KSNPS.org](mailto: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!

**JANUARY | 28**

**KANSAS NATIVE BEES PRESENTATION.** 7 pm. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1245 New Hampshire, Lawrence. **Contact:** [Jayhawk Audubon Society www.jayhawkaudubon.org](http://www.jayhawkaudubon.org)

**JANUARY | 29**

**FINDING THE LOST CITY OF ETZANO** lecture, Hesston. In this presentation Dr. Donald Blakeslee, Wichita State University archaeologist, will discuss the archaeological work that has begun to analyze the way of life of the people and their connections to distant places. Lecture begins at 6:30 pm. Cost: \$5 per person. Sponsor: Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, 177 West Hickory Street, Hesston. **Contact:** [Brad Guhr brad.guhr@hesston.edu](mailto:Brad.Guhr@hesston.edu) (620) 327-8127

**JAN | 31 - APR | 11**

**NATIVE PLANT SCHOOL AT DYCK ARBORETUM OF THE PLAINS,** Hesston. Six classes on basics, design, maintenance, propagation, composting and gardening for wildlife. Advance registration for each class is \$10 or \$50 for all six. Arboretum members receive a 10% discount. **Contact:** [dyckarboretum.org](http://dyckarboretum.org) (620) 327-8127

**FEBRUARY | 9**

**KAW VALLEY SEED FAIR** at Douglas County Fairgrounds, 9 am to 3 pm, Lawrence. You are invited to bring saved seeds or packaged seeds to share at exchange tables. Vendors and organizations, including Grassland Heritage Foundation, will bring information about native plants, vegetable gardening, and seed starting. **Contact:** [GHF@grasslandheritage.org](http://GHF@grasslandheritage.org)

**FEBRUARY | 26**

**CONSERVING THE GEMS OF KANSAS LECTURE** in Hesston. Rob Manes, Kansas Chapter director of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will share about the 139,470 acres TNC has permanently protected in Kansas to enhance wildlife habitat and protect native plant diversity, including the new Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park. Gain a greater appreciation for the diversity of our state and be inspired to visit Kansas' natural areas. Lecture begins at 6:30 pm. Cost: \$5 per person. Sponsor: Dyck Arboretum of the Plains,

177 West Hickory Street, Hesston. **Contact:** [Brad Guhr brad.guhr@hesston.edu](mailto:Brad.Guhr@hesston.edu) (620) 327-8127

**MAR | 16 - APR | 13**

**GREATER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN BOOMING TOURS WITH FLINT HILLS DISCOVERY CENTER.** Registration begins in January. [www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/378/Greater-Prairie-Chicken-Booming-Tours](http://www.flinthillsdiscovery.org/378/Greater-Prairie-Chicken-Booming-Tours). **Contact:** [fheducation@cityofmhk.com](mailto:fheducation@cityofmhk.com) (785) 587-2726

**MARCH | 20**

**NATURE BOOK CLUB IN LAWRENCE.** Join us to talk about fiction and nonfiction connected to the natural world. New book recommendations from co-leaders Jake Vail and Shirley Braunlich and other book club members. Meet 6:30-8 pm at Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St. Lawrence. RSVP is helpful, but not required. **Contact:** [sbraunlich@lplks.org](mailto:sbraunlich@lplks.org) (785) 843-3833

**MARCH | 26**

**COMMON/UNCOMMON SNAKES OF KANSAS LECTURE** in Hesston. Zoologist Curtis Schmidt of the Sternberg Museum of Natural History will increase your appreciation for this much maligned yet important part of our state's wildlife. Curtis will address a subset of the common and not so common species one could encounter in South Central Kansas, including some of the venomous species and their snakebites. Live specimens may be present! Lecture begins at 6:30 pm. Cost: \$5 per person. Sponsor: Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, 177 West Hickory Street, Hesston. **Contact:** [Brad Guhr brad.guhr@hesston.edu](mailto:Brad.Guhr@hesston.edu) (620) 327-8127

**MARCH | 30**

**INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL IN OAK PARK** in Wichita. Asian bush honeysuckle is an invasive plant causing serious habitat damage in many Wichita parks. Spend 3 to 4 hours removing these plants, directed by the Wichita Parks Department staff. Tools, gloves, and bottled water will be provided. This is good exercise and a positive contribution to preserving habitat quality at one of the best local birding spots. Meet by the stone arch at the southwest corner of the park

at 9 am. Sponsor: Wichita Audubon Society. **Contact:** [Pete Janzen janzen@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:Pete.Janzen@sbcbglobal.net) (316) 519-1970

**APRIL | 6**

**SPRING CLEANUP AT CHAPLIN NATURE CENTER** in Wichita. From 10 am to 3 pm, the center needs your help with a variety of outdoor projects to help get the trails and facility in tip-top shape for school programs and visitors. Be sure to wear old clothes and bring a pair of work gloves. Soft leaf rakes and/or tree pruners needed. Sponsor: Wichita Audubon Society. **Leader:** [Shawn Silliman cnc@wichitaaudubon.org](mailto:Shawn.Silliman@cnc@wichitaaudubon.org) (620) 442-4133

**MAY | 3-4**

**WING 'N WETLANDS WEEKEND** in Great Bend. Experienced guides will take you on multiple field trips to Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge during peak shorebird migration. Greater prairie-chicken lek viewing opportunities will also be available. Festival hosts include The Nature Conservancy of Kansas and many more. **Registration fee required.** **Contact:** [kansas@tnc.org](mailto:kansas@tnc.org) (785) 233-4400

**MAY | 4**

**SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK AT KLINEFELTER FARM,** Hiawatha. Come to Klinefelter Farm, managed and owned by Highland Community College, for a spring Wildflower Walk. Plants to see include spring ephemerals such as *Hydrophyllum*, *Cardamine*, *Dicentra*, *Phlox*, and others, trees such as *Asimina* and *Quercus*, and much more! Wear good hiking shoes or boots; bring insect repellent, water, and your camera. Address: 1774 230th St., Hiawatha. Meet at the Barn parking lot at 9am before heading into the woods. Sponsor: Kansas Native Plant Society. **Contact:** [Andrew Mitchell andrew@grimsgardens.com](mailto:Andrew.Mitchell@grimsgardens.com) (785) 409-8940

**MAY | 11**

**MONARCH WATCH SPRING OPEN HOUSE AND PLANT FUNDRAISER** in Lawrence. Buy native milkweeds and other plants to attract butterflies to your landscape. Located in Foley Hall, 2021 Constant Ave, near the greenhouse on West Campus at KU. **Contact:** [monarch@ku.edu](mailto:monarch@ku.edu) (785) 864-4441

**MAY | 17-18**

**KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SPRING BOARD MEETING AND OUTINGS** in Hesston. The meeting will be held at Dyck Arboretum Fri, May 17, 1 to 3 pm. The meeting will be followed by a tour of a species-rich prairie hay meadow. Saturday's prairie tours will feature unique Smoky Hills plant communities, geologic features, and wildlife displays. **Contact:** [Brad Guhr brad.guhr@hesston.edu](mailto:Brad.Guhr@hesston.edu) (316) 217-4566

**JUNE | 2-5**

**NORTH AMERICAN PRAIRIE CONFERENCE** in Houston, TX. [www.northamericanprairie.org](http://www.northamericanprairie.org) **Contact:** [prairiepartner@gmail.com](mailto:prairiepartner@gmail.com) (713) 581-0818

**JUNE | 19**

**NATURE BOOK CLUB** in Lawrence. Join us to talk about fiction and nonfiction connected to the natural world. New book recommendations from co-leaders Jake Vail and Shirley Braunlich and other book club members. Meet 6:30 to 8 pm at Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St. Lawrence. **RSVP is helpful, but not required.** **Contact:** [sbraunlich@lplks.org](mailto:sbraunlich@lplks.org) (785) 843-3833

**JULY | 26-28**

**AUDUBON CONVENTION** in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. [www.audubon.org/conservation/2019-convention](http://www.audubon.org/conservation/2019-convention). **Contact:** [convention@audubon.org](mailto:convention@audubon.org) (212) 979-3196

**SEPTEMBER | 13-15**

**KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY'S 41ST ANNUAL WILDFLOWER WEEKEND (AWW)** in Atchison. Discover flora in woodland remnants in two Kansas counties, Atchison & Brown. Enjoy a full weekend of outings, board meeting, membership meeting, programs, silent auction, photo contest, lunch, and socializing—join us! **Contact:** [Andrew Mitchell Andrew@grimsgardens.com](mailto:Andrew.Mitchell@grimsgardens.com) (785) 409-8940

**SEPTEMBER | 18**

**NATURE BOOK CLUB** in Lawrence. Join us to talk about fiction and nonfiction connected to the natural world. New book recommendations from co-leaders Jake Vail and Shirley Braunlich and other book club members. Meet 6:30 to 8 pm at Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St. Lawrence. **RSVP is helpful, but not required.** **Contact:** [sbraunlich@lplks.org](mailto:sbraunlich@lplks.org) (785) 843-3833

**SEPT | 27-29**

**ANNUAL PRAIRIE FESTIVAL AT THE LAND INSTITUTE,** Salina. The festival features speakers, art, music, dancing, guided prairie walks, bird watching, children's activities, and food. **Contact:** [www.landinstitute.org](http://www.landinstitute.org) (785) 823-5376

**DECEMBER | 18**

**NATURE BOOK CLUB** in Lawrence. Join us to talk about fiction and nonfiction connected to the natural world. New book recommendations from co-leaders Jake Vail and Shirley Braunlich and other book club members. Meet 6:30 to 8 pm at Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St. Lawrence. **RSVP is helpful, but not required.** **Contact:** [sbraunlich@lplks.org](mailto:sbraunlich@lplks.org) (785) 843-3833

Join the KNPS email list to receive the latest event announcements: [www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/email\\_list.php](http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/email_list.php)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

NEW MEMBERS FROM 9/16/18 TO 12/09/18

Andrea Alexander – Emporia  
 Ashley Allison – Wichita  
 Jocelyn Anderson – Leawood  
 Sarah Boston – Wichita  
 Helen Ann Caples – Bonner Springs

Jennifer Chaffee – Perry  
 Allyson Chitwood – Wichita  
 Erin Dean – Wichita  
 Erica Duncan – Andover  
 Sue Evanicky – Parsons  
 Chandler Foresman – Maple Hill

Valentine Jemutai – El Dorado  
 Sharon Nelson – Johnson  
 Kathleen Schulte – Wichita  
 Janice Sroufe – Wichita  
 Dean Stramel – Hays  
 Abigail Urban – Wichita

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

Want to know the status of your KNPS membership? Check the mailing label on the back of each issue for your membership expiration date.

\*\*\*\*\*AUTO\*\*ALL FOR AADC 670 \*\*\* 4 8 443

I 12/31/2019  
 CYNTHIA RHODES  
 6505 NW INDIANOLA RD  
 WHITEWATER KS 67154-8843



## FEATURED PLANT

# Recognizing Showy Goldenrod | *SOLIDAGO SPECIOSA* NUTT.

— JOAN MANOR

One would expect a plant named “showy goldenrod” would exhibit some stand-out features. This one does not disappoint. It is described in one native plant source as having “very showy clusters of bright yellow flowers on stiff reddish stems with narrow leaves.” It is said to be the easiest of the goldenrods to recognize due to its unbranched stem and the panicle or branching cluster of flowers.

Showy goldenrod grows in a cluster with a rhizomatous root that allows the plant to grow in large clumps. The leaves are lance shaped, with the upper leaves slightly smaller than the lower ones. The plant will grow to a variety of sizes up to 72 inches. The firm root system may send up multiple stems and its rhizomes allow the plant to form a colony and often crowds out other types of plants.

The flower array is a densely branched panicle that may be up to eighteen inches tall, and the firm stem holds it erect, not drooping as with some other goldenrod. The individual flowers have two types of florets. First, there are three to seven outer florets with yellow rays, not all open at the same time, giving the flower an unequal-spacing appearance. These surround a five-lobed yellow corolla with flared lobes. The ray florets are one-fifth of an inch long; the disk florets are about one-sixth inch or smaller.

The goldenrod is connected to an extensive medical lore. Native Americans used it for treating fevers, colds, and for lung problems. A decoction of ground roots was used for hemorrhage or bleeding from the mouth, another for difficult childbirth. Dried stalks or roots could be used with bear grease to form an ointment.

Showy goldenrod is an autumn bloomer, with its deep golden heads swaying above the grasses and other fall blooming plants. Even as the plant turns to seed, the long white fluffy pappus sways in the wind, eventually breaking away to form new plants in the area. Throughout the seasons, it has beauty and is a standout in our native prairie environments.

— LORNA HABEGGER-HARDER ILLUSTRATION



# The Great American Sycamore Tree

— KEN O'DELL

The sycamore tree is distinctive and that is an understatement. It would be rare if any adult driving down our highways that saw a sycamore tree growing in a field would not know what it was.

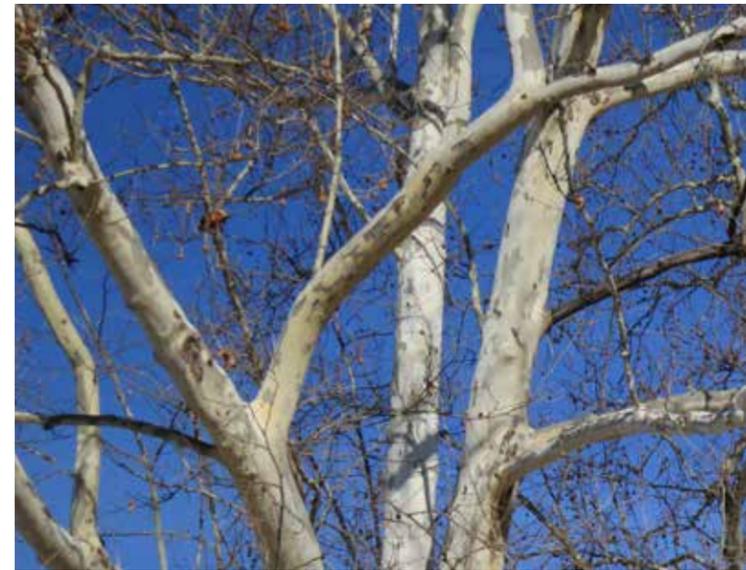
The American sycamore grows native in the eastern half of Kansas and continues to the East Coast. The scientific name, *Platanus occidentalis*, breaks down to mean “flat leaf of the west.” Distinguishing features of the sycamore are the bark, the large leaves, the one inch globe-shaped brown fruit that dangles all winter, and, of course, the large size of the mature tree. The bark of young trees is nearly white. Bark on older trees is nearly white with thin peeling sheets of greenish-brown bark. The large green five to six inch wide leaves usually have three large pointed lobes with coarse teeth between. Older leaves of the season may have five lobes.

The flowers first appear as small balls on the end of a three or four inch long green dangling stem called a peduncle. Male and female flowers are separate on the same tree. Male flowers are a greenish-yellow color, and female flowers are often a bit reddish in color. Pollen in the male flowers matures a couple of weeks before the female flower is ready to receive the pollen. This is Mother Nature’s way of assuring the pollen will be blowing around when it is time for the female flower to be pollinated. When properly pollinated the female flower will grow in size during the summer and by October will be about one to 1-1/4 inches in diameter and be turning a light brown color. This is the familiar dangling seed ball we see in sycamores.

This fruit or seed ball will hang on the tree and by January start breaking apart as the tiny seeds (sometimes as many as fifty in each seed ball) are armed with downy tufts to help the wind carry the seed from the mother tree. The wind also moves the seed a distance from the mother tree so the new seedlings will not be in competition with mother for food and nutrients. Take your hands and tear apart the brown seed ball in the winter time and you will find a much smaller round hard ball attached to and holding the seed together in the center of the fruit ball. This was used as a button many years ago and hence a common name for the sycamore is button tree.

A cold January day finds the sycamore trees glistening in the sunlight as the young white bark struts itself on the newer branches in the top half of the trees. The champion American sycamore tree in Kansas is in Topeka and is listed at 120 feet tall, 124 foot spread and twenty-five foot circumference. This giant beauty is growing at 4916 NW Button Road in Topeka. Mount Washington Memorial Park in Independence, Missouri has the Greater Kansas City Champion Sycamore listed at 117 feet tall and a circumference of nineteen feet six inches. You will see this champion as you enter the park from Truman Road as it is about 100 feet inside the park.

**FROM TOP** Bark of the sycamore tree; Fruit (seed balls) of the sycamore tree; The Great American Sycamore Tree



KEN O'DELL PHOTOS

## Quilt Interpretation of the Flint Hills at Kansas Discovery Center

— JOAN MANOR

Earlier this fall, the Konza Prairie Quilters' Guild displayed its 2018 “challenge” at The Flint Hills Discovery Center in Manhattan. The challenge was to create an individual interpretation of the Flint Hills or Kansas prairie in fabric in a 2 1/2 x 6 foot quilt. The quilts were judged by several local organizations, including Kansas Native Plant Society.

Representing KNPS were Joan Manor, Karen Hummel, and Valarie Wright. The quilts were displayed in the current bison display – truly an appropriate setting. Judging the quilts was not easy. The Flint Hills can be represented in so many ways – through plant life, animals, landscapes, people, geology, lifestyles, etc. Every quilt was personalized beautifully and collectively, those areas were covered.

These quilts were recognized at the general meeting of Konza Prairie Quilters' Guild on October 8. The winners and their affiliated judging organizations follow.

Kansas Native Plant Society—Elaine Shannon’s “Shades of the Flint Hills”  
Konza Environmental Education Program (Konza Prairie)—Ronna Robertson’s “Seasons of the Flint Hills”  
Audubon of Kansas—Kathy Garvin’s “Parade of Wildflowers”  
The Mercury—Harriette Janke’s “The Natives Are Near”  
Riley County Historical Society—Susie Weir’s “They Always Make Me Smile”  
Flint Hills Discovery Center—Whitney Short’s “Konza Collaboration”

The quilts were on display through January 13, 2019. A visit to the Flint Hills Discovery Center makes a delightful day trip any time. The Discovery Center is located at 315 South 3rd Street, Manhattan.



# Ten Lessons for Urban Native Plant Meadows

— BLOG BY BRAD GUHR

Katie Kingery-Page



I heard a great presentation this past September entitled “Ten Lessons for Urban Native Plant Meadows” by Katie Kingery-Page, Kansas State University (KSU) faculty member in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional & Community Planning.

Ms. Kingery-Page was the keynote speaker at the Kansas Native Plant Society’s Annual Wildflower Weekend and her message fit perfectly with the weekend’s theme of “Native Plants in City Settings”.

I find Katie’s background of fine art, landscape design, and ecology intriguing. When she introduced herself as someone who sees landscape architecture as the design and stewardship of the exterior built environment and that doing so with native plants grounded the experience through a sense of place, I knew that her presentation was going to speak to me.

Katie’s insights in this presentation were based on her experiences with “The Meadow” Project in front of the Beach Museum of Art on the KSU campus. From 2013-16, Katie and her team of volunteers converted a half acre of neglected turf into a native plant meadow. Her ten lessons learned from this process were as follows.

## 1. Build a Coalition for the Life of the Project

It takes all kinds of people to complete a big project, and she showed a diagram of a “volunteer tree” she created.

## 2. Know the Place

Their planting list started with an extensive Flint Hills species template of the plants found at nearby Konza Prairie and was carved down to the resulting planting mix. Hackberry trees removed from the planting site were milled into everything from benches to mushroom-growing media.

## 3. Let the Team Guide the Values

Their team developed a mission statement and goals including that the site would integrate art and science and be a living laboratory that would minimize the usage of water and chemicals.



Early successional, flowering “bacon” or “eye candy” plants Plains coreopsis (yellow) and beebalm (*Monarda fistulosa*).

An outcome of this plan was to forego the conventional use of killing existing vegetation with glyphosate and instead turned to compost smothering and mechanical scraping.

## 4. Develop a Thick Skin...Use Your Tricks

Have patience and do not expect an instant landscape. Using flashy, early successional flowering plants such as the annual species Plains coreopsis (*Coreopsis tinctoria*) – the “bacon of plants” – helps distract onlookers that might otherwise see the weedy nature of the early stages of a planting.

## 5. Tell the Project Story

Stories of these projects need to be told and can be done so through various media. Photos, drawings, and interactive touch tables at the Beach Museum were all used to tell The Meadow Project story.

## 6. Connect to Volunteers’ Joy

Volunteer efforts were critical to the success of the project and instead of “work days”, they had “convene with monarch days” where learning experiences were an attractive part of the labor-filled get-togethers.

## 7. Put a Price on Labor

Weeding is skilled labor amounting to “surgical plant removal” and it should be rewarded. However, if money cannot be given, then at least try to find ways to acknowledge the people helping.

## 8. Embrace Imperfection

Native landscaping is perfectly imperfect and the inevitable weeds can be seen as beautiful too. Learning strategies that aid perception of such projects include maintaining a mowed edge that is critical to the perceived success of otherwise “messy” native landscapes.

## 9. Make Your Project for the Message of Conservation

Such projects are multi-faceted in their environmental benefits, and assessment measures should broadly include plants, soils, storm water, wildlife, and more.

Restoration vs. Conservation – Katie used to use the word “restoration”, but there is a danger in implying that this process can fix all impacts to a diverse remnant plant community. Perhaps “conservation” is better with a focus on ecosystem functions such as soil structure, storm water infiltration, etc.

## 10. Be a Champion...Stay All In

Katie learned early on from school gardening projects that such endeavors need project champions to carry the project through.

The ten lessons in this presentation were familiar to me in a variety of ways. From 2003 to 2008 at Dyck Arboretum, our staff and an extensive team of volunteers and college student interns collected seed from local prairie remnants and planted the thirteen-



“The Meadow” Project. Long view toward the Beach Museum of Art. (Image courtesy of K-State Communications and Marketing)

acre Prairie Window Project. Distinct examples come to mind of our project that relate to each of these lessons and I have blogged about various interpretations of that project over the years. It would be fun to come up with our own ten lessons as well. I can tell you that, similar to The Meadow Project, it included the “design and stewardship of the exterior built environment and that doing so with native plants grounded the experience through a sense of place.”

## FEATURED NATURAL AREA

# Grant-Bradbury Prairie Park, Topeka

— ANDREW MITCHELL

Grant-Bradbury Prairie Park is an eighty acre prairie remnant located on the southern edge of the capitol city of Kansas. According to reports, this prairie has never been plowed, but it is hayed in late summer in harsher years. The park has a good biological diversity present with large numbers of plants, insects, animals, and birds throughout the year.

When I first learned of Grant-Bradbury, it was from some of our Topeka resident members who were planning an informal tour of the park, to be led by Jeff Hansen. I had seen many posts on the KNPS website from Jeff and other members regarding the variety of species they had seen there, and I was curious.

Though I live an hour from Topeka, I was able to visit Grant-Bradbury in August before the drenching rains of later fall. And, even though, weather-wise, 2018 was a tough year for the preserve drying up many of the normally late-summer blooming natives, I was able to observe some of the native plant diversity available to residents of Shawnee County, including ashy sunflower (*Helianthus mollis*), leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*), and Missouri goldenrod (*Solidago missouriensis*).

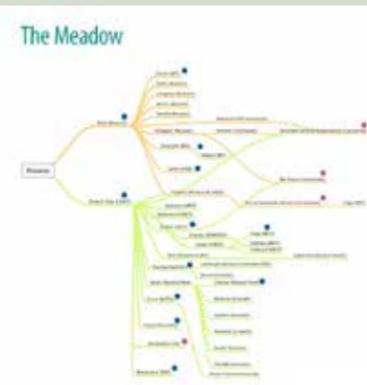
Grant-Bradbury Prairie Preserve is located in south Topeka, west of the Topeka Regional Airport. From downtown Topeka, go south on Topeka Boulevard to SW University Boulevard, turn right (west) on SW University, and the preserve is the first right turn past Premier Farm and Home. There is a nice sign marking the entrance to the preserve. The park is open from 6:00 am to dusk, seven days a week. There are mowed walking trails around the park edges. When you need a break from the political activities of this capitol city, take a New Year’s stroll through this refreshing, easy to reach prairie park.



ANDREW MITCHELL PHOTOS



IMAGES: KATIE KINGERY-PAGE



Flow chart of people critical to the project.



Schematic diagram of prairie and forest-based planting mixes.



All ages are welcome to weed.

RICHARD DEAN PRUDENTI

# KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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

**Non-Profit Org**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Permit No. 867**  
**Newton, KS**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



## 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. See upper right of mailing label for expiration date.

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

### Member Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

County (if KS) \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Category

Student \$10.00

Individual \$20.00

Family \$30.00

Organization \$35.00

Contributing \$100.00

Lifetime \$500.00

Additional Donation: Legacy Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ General Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_