Native plants in urban settings

Native plantings mitigate city water concerns

— JAMI SEIRER, HAYS

Though the last couple of years have been extremely wet (by Hays standards...), water availability is still a major concern to the area. By city ordinance, from June 1 – September 30, outdoor water use is prohibited from 12:00pm – 7:00pm. If drought conditions worsen, changes in restriction dates and times may be necessary.

To help educate and prepare residents of Hays for these and future deteriorating conditions, the City of Hays has implemented a “Water$mart” conservation program. Rebates on high efficiency washing machines, low-flush toilets, and a turf conversion program encourage water conservation both indoors and out. The turf conversion program pays $1/sqft. for the replacement of irrigated cool season turf such as Tall Fescue or Kentucky Bluegrass with the native, drought-tolerant, deep rooted Buffalo grass.

The well-visited Sunrise Park in Hays is home to living models of water conserving native grass species installed by the City of Hays for residents to view in preparation for landscape and turf conversion. In the southwest corner of the park, ornamental grasses requiring minimum maintenance and low- to no- supplemental watering are displayed. In the northeast corner, a set of turf plot displays showcase various cultivars of buffalo grass. Sunrise Park is also known for its pollinator garden, established in 2018 by volunteer members of the Hays Beautification Committee in conjunction with the Hays Parks Department. The garden was planted with a variety of native wildflower seed to provide nectar and pollen to a wide range of pollinators. Residents are encouraged to stop by the pollinator plot, but signs in the area remind them, “Don’t touch! Let the pollinators bee.”

Another place in Hays where native plants are showcased is the Vineyard Road Nature Trail which features a scenic adventure through Kansas wetland and prairie habitat. Loads of wildlife and native plants can be found while strolling through the mile-long trail. Interesting woody plants also have a home at Vineyard Park, where both native and... — CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
well-adapted cultivars of trees and shrubs are displayed and labeled along the organically mulched trails. The parks department occasionally adds locally recommended ornamental trees to this display to give residents an idea of the trees’ growth habits and characteristics. By displaying these model trees, the city hopes residents will choose trees for their yards which will be appropriate for the available spacing and location, drought tolerant, and well-adapted to the heavy alkaline clay soils found in Hays.

Frontier Park, home of the largest disc golf course (18 holes, par 60) in Hays and host to the hallowed Oktoberfest, also offers a variety of native plantings. Frontier Park Dark Forest, established in the early 1980s, features a beautiful grove of sumo oak trees, many of which were planted by resident squirrels. Big Creek Nature Trail, straddling the banks of Big Creek and extending within the bounds of Frontier Park, highlights other important native tree species such as cottonwood, horehound, cypress, eastern redbud, Kentucky coffee-tree, hackberry, chinquapin, and oak, and the introduced Osage orange and catalpa. It is important to note, if exploring these areas, beware of the also native introduced Osage orange and catalpa. It is important to note, if exploring these areas, beware of the also native introduced Osage orange and catalpa. It is important to note, if exploring these areas, beware of the also native introduced Osage orange and catalpa. It is important to note, if exploring these areas, beware of the also native introduced Osage orange and catalpa. It is important to note, if exploring these areas, beware of the also native introduced Osage orange and catalpa. It is important to note, if exploring these areas, beware of the also native introduced Osage orange and catalpa. It is important to note, if exploring these areas, beware of the also native introduced Osage orange and catalpa. It is important to note, if exploring these areas, beware of the also native introduced Osage orange and catalpa. It is important to note, if exploring these areas, beware of the also native introduced Osage orange and catalpa. It is important to note, if exploring these areas, beware of the also native introduced Osage orange and catalpa. It is important to note, if exploring these areas, beware of the also native introduced Osage orange and catalpa. It is important to note, if exploring these areas, beware of the also native introduced Osage orange and catalpa. If you are ever around Hays, or just driving through, be sure to make time to stop and enjoy the native landscaping. Colorful displays of sunflowers, yarrow, salvia, tickseed, lirius, milkweed, gaura, penstemon, and lobelia provide a beautiful backdrop to unique limestone rock features mined from the nearby quarries. Many buildings in Hays are constructed using local limestone, as well, which when paired with the beautiful native trees, shrubs, grasses, and herbs of Kansas, offer some of the best urban landscaping you have ever seen!

Ornamental grass display, Sunrise Park. Source: City of Hays Parks Department.

Reveling in Rarity

We had a great time in South Central Kansas for our May 17 to 18 spring KNPS board meeting at Dyck Arboretum in Hesston and mini Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) outings in Eastern Harvey County near Newton and at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge near McPherson. We were lucky to fit these two days of events into the middle of an episode of weather rarity — roughly half the area’s 34 inches of average annual precipitation fell in record-breaking fashion during the month of May. The excessive rainfall resulted in flooding, damage to personal property and transportation infrastructure, and economic loss for the agricultural region. But always in search of the silver lining, I will highlight some of the gem experiences that came out of this spring gathering of board members and membership.

“Remnant prairies are rare. Kansas may have more of its original mixed and tallgrass prairie left than any other state, but we should still appreciate the rarity of quality examples still remaining. It was a treat to see the two examples of Flint Hills and Smoky Hills prairie that were exhibiting lush flowering and fruiting vegetation thanks to the abundant available moisture. These prairies exhibited uncommon species and some of those seen included prairie violet (Viola pedatifida), broad-root scurf pea (Pedilanthus esculentus), silver leaf scurf pea (Pedilanthus argyrophyllum), porcupine grass (Hesperostipa spartea), Nuttall’s death-camass (Toscocordium nuttallii), pale poppy mallow (Callithrix alcalinae), Mead’s edge (Carex meadii), black-Sampton purple coneflower (Echinacea angustifolia), and Carolina gromwell (Lithospermum carolinense).

“The once common titan of the prairie, the American bison, is now only found on rare preserves. Maxwell Wildlife Refuge is one place where they can still be viewed thanks to the excellent management of this unique and placed range cubes. The Maxwell setting of quality Smoky Hills prairie vistas complete with fresh buffalo wallows invites visitors in protected tracts with an informative tour guide to experience herds of this majestic mammal up close and personal. Our group enjoyed every minute of it.”

While muddy roads disappointingly made our planned visit to the unique Elm Springs and box canyon feature inaccessible, a last minute suggestion on Saturday afternoon to visit the prairie around Battle Hill at Maxwell was quite fortuitous. Right out of the cars we were greeted by an unusual white flowering blue wild-indigo (Baptisia australis var. minor) that few, if any of us had ever witnessed. Shortly thereafter was the capstone experience of the day for me. I am not sure that I have ever seen Craig Freeman in an excited run with such a look of glee, but his finding the rare (St. State Rank and Coefficient of Conservatism of 9) woolly milkweed (Asclepias lamuniosa) and scurrying to share it with us was just one of those occurrences. Our following search ended up locating a dozen plants in all. So fun!”

“And finally, I must highlight the people of KNPS. Finding people that are so immensely knowledgeable about plants in Kansas, and at the same time, so kind and forthcoming in sharing that knowledge seems like it should be rare. But thankfully, it is not and this kind of fun happens at KNPS gatherings every spring and fall. I cannot wait to do this with you all again at the Atchison AWW in September!”

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FROM TOP: KNPS members explore a quality hay meadow in E. Harvey County. Woolly milkweed (Asclepias lamuniosa), a rare Kansas species; White variant of the usually blue-indigo (Baptisia australis var. minor)
2019 AWW UPDATE

A Walk in the Woodlands

— ANDREW MITCHELL

Join us September 13, 14, and 15 in Atchison and Brown Counties for the 2019 Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW). This year’s theme is “A Walk in the Woodlands,” and attendees will discover and learn about flora in the woodland remnants of Eastern Kansas.

 Spend a wonderful weekend with members and friends of KNPS as we traverse across two Kansas counties: Brown and Atchison. The City of Atchison has a long history of manufacturing and river travel, and is known as the birthplace of Amelia Earhart. Independence Creek and 4th of July Creek werechristened by Lewis and Clark when they stopped just north of Atchison on the 4th of July during their historic journey through the Louisiana Purchase. Brown County is home to Horton, the first city in Kansas to be lit with electric lights, and the county has a scattering of remnant woodlands in rural and urban areas.

On Friday, the KNPS Board will meet at the Mission Lake Christian Camp, 1½ miles north of U.S. Highway 73 on Mallard Road by Horton, twenty-three miles from Atchison. After the business meeting, members and visitors are invited to stay for hiking through the camp’s wooded property and wetlands around Mission Lake. In the evening, weather permitting, there will be a hot dog and s’mores cookout at the camp. In case of rain, members will be encouraged to find dining experiences at local restaurants in Horton or Atchison.

The weekend’s main event will be on Atchison Saturday with the business meeting, silent auction, and awards ceremony to be held in the upstairs room at Jerry’s Again Restaurant at the corner of Kansas Street and 5th Street. The guest speaker is Doug Grimm, owner and arborist at Grimm’s Gardens LLC, a landscape and garden center by Hiawatha. Doug will be speaking on the state champion tree program of Kansas and how to discover and mark a champion tree.

To begin the weekend, Dyck Arboretum welcomed board members, friends, and guests with a spectacular spring display of flowering plants. After the board meeting, members traveled to the Budd prairie just west of Harvey County East Lake. This thirty acre prairie is hayed annually in late June to early July. Small skulpach (Scutellaria parvula), plains wild indigo (Baptisia bracteata), pale penny-mallow (Californica californica), white orangetip (Hibiscus trionum), and the showy orchis, is a rare, wild orchid found in Kansas.

On Saturday, May 4th, several members of KNPS and some wildflower enthusiasts met in the parking lot at Klinefelter Farm, east of Hiawatha in Brown County. The walk was hosted by Andrew Mitchell, KNPS Board Member and Brown County local. Klinefelter Farm is located in the gently rolling glaciated region of Northeast Kansas. The farm has several mowed trails running more than three miles of property. With bridges across the spring fed creek, overlooks above, and training stations scattered throughout the forest, there is a lot to see. Klinefelter Farm has an abundance of native birds, trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals. The group walked east and south along the trails, checking the springs along the creek, and enjoying the abundance of nature. After exploring the eastern areas of the creek, the group turned north towards a pond situated near the middle of the property. The pond was found to be a treasure trove of rare natives. Off the trail to the east, there is a spot near the creek where native wild orchids grow. (Calanthe spectabilis), the showy orchis, is a rare Kansas native, little known to outsiders of the eastern forests. Among others, they found spring bittercress (Cardamine bulbosa) and Virginia mountain mint (Pycnanthemum virginianum), both rare finds in Kansas.

Walk at Klinefelter Farm

— ANDREW MITCHELL

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PHOTO: ANDREW MITCHELL

plainsman (Hymenopappus calycosus), wild four o'clock (Mirabilis nyctaginea), and tuber false dandelion (Pyrrhopappus grandiflorus) were among findings recorded and photographed by members.

A narrated tram tour to see boom and wildflowers at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge and lunch at the headquarters followed Susan’s prairie walk and was enjoyed by all. More special treats awaited us on the tram: up Battle Hill at Maxwell. Among them were blue flannel (Androsteptum caeruleum), violat wood sorrel (Oxalis violacea), field bonestalk (Eupatorium virginianum), Carolina gromwell/ puccoon (Lithospermum carolinianum), woolly plantain (Plantago patagonica), prairie/Arkansas rose (Rosa Arkansana), and goose’s rue (Tephrosia virginiana).

All KNPS members are welcome to board meetings and any interested persons are encouraged to attend the following tours with us. Join us in Atchison for our fall board meeting and Annual Wildflower Weekend September 13 to 15. And a special thank you to those who share their private meadows and prairies with KNPS.

PHOTO: KRISTA DAHLINGER

RARE PLANTS FOUND ON KNPS OUTING

— PHIL SCHERICH

The weather forecast for the two-day spring board meeting and Mini-AWW tours was for rain, but it turned out to be a great time for the outings. Overcast skies during the May 17-18 weekend made for super photos and comfortable temperatures. Perhaps the highlight was the discovery of the woolly milkweed (Asclepias lanuginosa) by Craig Freeman. At least a dozen of these plants were found nearby by others. This plant has a coefficient of conservatism value of 9 and this finding will be recorded in the Herbarium at Lawrence. Another special discovery during the event was an albino blue wild indigo (Baptisia aurea) nearby. KNPS members and photographers were delighted by these observations!

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PHOTO: KRISTA DAHLINGER
Since 1969 there have been dramatic advances in the understanding of the relationships of flowering plants. Studies of DNA, morphology, cytology, ecology, and phenology, integrated and interpreted with new analytical tools, have caused adjustments to our knowledge of many species, genera, and families originally treated by Stephens. Consequently, an additional important element of this book is to update the nomenclature and circumscribe taxa along lines that are more consistent with current knowledge.

This revised and expanded edition is intended to provide information about the woody plants of Kansas to a new generation of plant enthusiasts and professionals.

Woody Wayne “Woody” Holland, DVM, 94, of Erie, passed away on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at Prairie Mission Retirement Village in St. Paul, Kansas. Woody had a lifelong interest in wildflowers and native plants, collecting flowers and plants from all over the US. He donated extensive collections to KU, KSU, and Pittsburg State. A unique horticultural accomplishment was that he introduced Indian paint brush flowers into Neosho County. He was a charter member of KNPS and was awarded the Stephen L. Timme Excellence in Botany Award in 2001. Woody’s KNPS friends remember him with these shared memories.

What I remember about Woody Holland was that when he led field trips of Neosho County (which he did twice a year for many years), he continued down all the back roads finding more plants until the very last person left. He knew every road, and probably every plant, in the entire county. His outings always drew a crowd of people from all over the state. At wildflower field trips in other counties, while others were out exploring, I would see Woody at his car loading his plant press with new plants. He was an avid plant collector and sent his specimens to many herbaria, especially to KU and KSU.

I did run a query of our specimen database this morning. We currently have 3787 databased specimens that were collected by Woody Holland. Basically all of the specimens that he collected in Kansas and sent here (2693) are databased because we have captured them native. County-level distribution maps show where species have escaped from cultivation at just a few sites in the state.

Somebody or somebodies could extend a wonderful tribute to Dr. Holland by volunteering to to mount and database his backlogged specimens at PSU. I have supervised several (often retired) adult volunteers in this way the past twenty-plus years, and some soon find coming to the herbarium to be one of their favorite activities. (Hint: They know their work is highly valued) — Dr. Neil Snow, Director, T.M. Speary Herbarium, Pittsburg State University

It has been such a long time since I have seen Woody Holland. What an amazing man...a naturalist for sure. I knew him better through the Southeast Kansas Audubon Chapter in Parsons. We went to those meetings before the chapter in Pittsburg was established. He always had an enthusiastic, but low key way of getting excited about to those meetings before the chapter in Pittsburg was established. He always had an enthusiastic, but low key way of getting excited about. He was a charter member of KNPS and was awarded the Stephen L. Timme Excellence in Botany Award in 2001. Woody’s KNPS friends remember him with these shared memories.

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PHOTOS: PAM TENNISON-RINDT

Meeting the Monarch’s Survival Needs: AN INTERIM REPORT ON PORTIONS OF THE KANSAS MONARCH CONSERVATION TASK FORCE – MICHAEL KAYE

April 2019 marked completion of the final draft of the comprehensive and ambitious Kansas Monarch Task Force Conservation Plan two years in the making. The draft was then released for public comment until May 31, 2019 and can be accessed on line at https://salinapost.com/2019/04/30/public-input-sought-for-kansas-monarch-conservation-plan/ or through the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWPT) https://ksoutdoors.com/Wildlife-Habitats/Wildlife-Conservation/Kansas-Monarch-Conservation-Plan.

The Taskforce formed following the Monarch Conservation Summit meeting on June 8-9, 2017. The five Kansas Monarch Task Force work groups collaborated to develop the plan and to set and begin reaching voluntary goals, including identifying best practices and tactics for promoting the health and safety of the Eastern monarch butterfly (Danaus plexippus plexippus), and other native pollinators in Kansas. The Task Force and working groups include 105 people representing 67 diverse public and private organizations from all sectors that affect monarch conservation. Members include people from ranching, farming, and conservation organizations, industry, agencies, academia, and tribal nations. The five sectors cover grasslands, croplands, rights of way, urban and outreach areas, and research and monitoring entities.

The Plan adopts a twenty year objective to conserve, enhance, establish, and create pollinator habitat on private and public lands through non- regulatory, voluntary efforts and actions across Kansas. The Plan includes an initial two year period from July 2018 – May 2020 to establish an implementation plan for core conservation priorities. The Plan is a living document subject to revision due to future events, research, and other influences that may require change. As a KNPS member of the Rights of Way Work Group, I am presenting an interim report on some of the activities that group which is chaired by KNPS member Pam Tennison-Rindt representing KCP&L/Westar Energy. Her organization is an active supporter of monarch and other pollinator conservation efforts and exemplifies the value of public-private partnerships for promoting important conservation goals. The Conservation Plan acknowledges the potential harmful impact of Kansas highway and roadway conditions on pollinator mortality. Highways and roadways have been identified as sources of significant threats to pollinator insects and are an emerging topic of conservation concern.

While the primary focus of the Plan is built around restoration and enhancements of agricultural lands, the Kansas Monarch Conservation Plan identifies the need and importance for conserving, restoring, and enhancing pollinator habitat along roadides, utility, energy, and railroad rights-of-way. In addition to rights-of-way, the Kansas Plan also identifies the need for conservation opportunities within urban, residential, and corporate-owned areas.

The Rights of Way work group has focused on protecting existing native grasslands in rights-of-way as well as on developing best management practices and guidance to help refine roadside mowing and herbicide application practices by local and state entities. The work group set these goals, supported by objectives and implementation strategies. In the introduction to the Rights of Way portion of the Plan, the authors note: “While right-of-way habitat is a smaller component of available land cover within the state, cumulative acreage included within some types of right-of-way easements are [sic] still a significant proportion of the state’s land area. Moreover, the holders of those easements are less numerous than the number of landowners managing grassland and cropland within the state. For instance, Kansas Department of Transportation is thought to maintain and manage more acres of the state than any other single landowner or entity. Given these facts and understanding that the linear nature of rights-of-way make them excellent potential connectivity corridors linking larger areas of potential habitat, the Rights-of-Way Work Group is committed to continuing to work to avoid/minimize impacts to available habitat when obtaining new rights-of-way and managing/enhancing existing rights-of-way to provide benefits to monarchs and other species native to Kansas.”

The Rights of Way Section of the Conservation Plan includes the following goals and objectives. Detailed strategies for implementation are included in the text of the Rights of Way Section.

GOAL 1: Maintain native grassland right-of-way areas and minimize disturbance to existing prairies.

Objective A. Promote the importance of avoiding of native grassed areas when siting new development.

Objective B. Create or revise regionally-specific native grass-forsb seed mixes to better suit monarch/pollinator resource needs.

Objective C. Revise mowing policies to avoid critical monarch migration and hibernation periods.

Objective D. Revise herbicide application policies to avoid broadcast or widespread applications, which negatively impact pollinator habitat, and unnecessarily increase costs.

Objective E. Improve implementation and compliance of monarch/pollinator BMPs within companies and agencies. (Note: BMP means Best Management Practices).

GOAL 2: Restore rights-of-way to native grass-forsb communities, where appropriate.

Objective A. Identify right-of-way sites to restore and enhance monarch habitat.

Objective B. Document and monitor selected restored sites.

GOAL 3: Influence right-of-way companies and agencies with outreach and education.

Objective A. Educate companies and agencies on monarch conservation practices.

Objective B. Educate the public on right-of-way monarch conservation practices.

Pam Tennison-Rindt and Melissa Davison, representing the Kansas Department of Transportation: KDOT, provided updates on some of their respective organizations’ recent conservation practices affecting pollinates. Pam contributed this report about a recent instance of prairie management and restoration of a ten acre borrow area on KCPL’s Westar property. A borrow area refers to a location where the utility takes soil from a portion of its rural land for use in construction elsewhere. The utility can then reseed the borrow area with native grass mix and forbs, thus restoring the prairie after “borrowing” soil for necessary construction elsewhere: “This spring Westar Energy over-seeded a ten acre borrow area on substation property. Several years ago, this borrow area was utilized to supply soil to build up a level pad for the construction of the new Auburn Substation, located adjacent to the original smaller substation (later demolished) in order to keep up with the electrical energy demand of southwest Topeka and surrounding area. The borrow area had been seeded back with a native grass mix; however it had an overall low percentage and diversity of forbs, and very milkweed was present. Forbs that were present included American germander, Baldwin's ironweed, fleabane daisy, hoary vervain, Dakota verbena, and snow on the mountain. A seed mix of higher quality monarch specific nectar forbs and milkweed local to this area were carefully selected with the goal of providing more monarch specific nectar forbs and larval host plants. The borrow area was mowed down, and the seed mix was drilled in with a native seed drill in spring of 2019. Species of the mix were comprised of purple prairie clover, lance-leaf coreopsis, common milkweed and showy milkweed. Westar Energy will monitor this site with the hope of seeing the emergence of needed species and return of monarch butterflies to this area.”

Melissa also reported on KDOT roadside conservation activity in 2018 and 2019.

“In September of 2018, through a partnership with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, KDOT was awarded $65,000 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Approximately 103 acres of pollinator-benefit were scheduled for planting in the spring of 2019 for the restoration and enhancement of rights-of-way for monarchs. Approximately twenty-two acres will be planted in the spring of 2020. Monarch conservation project locations scheduled for 2019 have included 52 acres at the K-35 & US-59 Interchange, 26 acres at the Linn County Rest Area at US-69 and K-52 Interchange, 22 acres at the I-35 and Hewing Road Interchange, 20 acres at the Fulton Lake, 16 acres at the Lawrence County Rest Area on US-60 and US-169 Interchange. Projects are scheduled for 2020 for acreage in I-35 median areas in Franklin County.”

KDOT also has set priorities and goals to establish, improve and maintain pollinator habitat:

1. Continue to plant native grass and wildflower seed mixes on roadside projects.

2. Continue to identify areas of significant acreage for native grass and wildflower/milkweed plantings (rest areas, medians, interchanges).

3. Educate district employees on identification of noxious/ invasive weeds (crown vetch, teasel, Johnsongrass) and the importance of noxious/invasive weed control and spot spraying.

4. Erect Monarch Highway signs at pollinator habitat projects along I-35 to identify these areas as no mow, or low mow pollinator habitat, to help educate the public as to why these areas are not being mowed out on a regular basis.

5. Design and erect signs at pollinator habitat sites (other than I-35 sites) to identify these areas as no mow, or low mow pollinator habitat, to help educate the public why KDOT does not mow out the entire right-of-way in that area on a regular basis.

6. Continue to promote National Pollinator Week each year in June. Send out information via KDOT’s Facebook page, Twitter, blog posts, agency e-mail, and the monthly newsletter (Translines). Design informational displays for the lobby at KDOT Headquarters building to educate and encourage participation in pollinator friendly practices.

7. Continue to maintain KDOT’s promoting pollinators webpage, showcasing what KDOT is doing to support pollinator habitat: http://pollinatorpartners.ksdot.org/

Conclusion

KCP&L/Westar and KDOT’s recent conservation actions align well with draft Plan goals for Rights of Way monarch conservation and reflect the values expressed in the draft Conservation Plan Vision Statement: “Recognizing our unique wealth of grassland habitat and milkweed, Kansans will voluntarily protect, enhance, and establish monarch and pollinator habitat through diverse, cross-sector, collaborative conservation efforts.”
10 J U L Y  2 0 1 9  K A N S A S  N A T I V E  P L A N T  &  W I L D F L O W E R  E V E N T S

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 your email! KNSPS

Sturdy shoes, long pants, a hat, insect repellent, sunscreen, and water are recommended for outdoor events. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend some of these fabulous happenings!

SEPTEMBER 12 & 19

SEPTEMBER 13-15
KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY’S 41ST ANNUAL WILDFLOWER WEEKEND (AWW), Atchison. Discover and learn about beautiful native plants in woodland remnants in two Kansas counties. Atchison and Brown. Enjoy a full weekend of outings, board meeting membership meeting programs, silent auction, photo contest, lunch, and socializing—join us! The board meets Friday afternoon in Horton, followed by a tour of the area around Mission Lake. The member meeting, etc. will be in Atchison on Saturday. Walks on both Saturday and Sunday will be in native woodland remnants near the bluffs of the Missouri River. Contact: Andrew Mitchell-Andrew@primsgardens.com, 785-409-8840.

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 6:30-8 pm at Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St. Lawrence. RSVP is helpful, but not required. Contact: sbraunlich@lplks.org, 785-843-3833.

SEPTEMBER 18-20
PLAN IT NATIVE LANDSCAPES CONFERENCE, Intercontinental KC at the Plaza, Kansas City, MO. This inaugural conference brings tools, tips, and experience from leading national and regional landscape professionals to one locale and combines that learning with networking time to help advance landscape practices. Field sessions, keynote dinner featuring Florence Williams. Sponsored by Deep Roots KC. For more information and contact: www.planitnative.org.

SEPTEMBER 27-29

S E P T E M B E R 1 9
THE KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY FOUNDATION FALL NATIVE PLANT SALES. Cottin’s Farmers’ Market, 1333 SW Blvd., Kansas City, MO. 4:30-6:30 pm. GHF will have a variety of locally-grown native wildflower and native species at Cottin’s Farmers’ Market. Plant people will be available to chat about using native plants in your garden. Enjoy the market’s live music, hot food, and produce vendors. This happens GHF’s prairie education programs. Contact: GHF@grasslandheritage.org.

O C T O B E R 1 9
MISSOURI PRAIRIE FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING AND EVENING ON THE PRAIRIE Snowbell Hill Prairie, Harrisonville, MO. Come discuss Missouri Prairie Foundation for more info: info@moprairie.org, 888-843-6739.

O C T O B E R 2 5
38 NORTH FEST at the Carnegie Museum at 9 W 9th St., Lawrence, 6-8 pm. Celebrate outdoor adventure in Kansas through story telling. Submit online and once a year celebrate the best story telling! The format is as true to life as your imagination allows. Written story telling dominated the first year’s submissions in 2018. For more details, see 38northfest.com.

D E C E M B E R 1 8
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, 785-843-3833.

A U G U S T 2 4 & 3 1
WILDFLOWER TOURS AT MAXWELL WILDLIFE REFUGE, Canton. Wear suitable footwear for occasional stops to walk along the trail for viewing and identifying prairie wildflowers. Trains leave at 9:30 am or 10:45 am. Brief visit of the bison herd and under. Reservations required. www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org.

A U G U S T 2 6
FLORESCENCE WORKSHOP AT THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN, St. Louis, MO. This intensive, interactive workshop will provide a better understanding of the world guidance for designing and documenting all phases of native landscape development. Contact: www.naol.org, 510-518-0430.

J U L Y 2 6-2 8

J U L Y 1 6
NEW DIRECTIONS IN AMERICAN LANDSCAPE SUMMER DESIGN WORKSHOP, Grey Swearmond, MO. Intensive, interactive workshop that will provide a better understanding of the world of landscape architecture. Please provide your name and address for us to send you more information.

A U G U S T 1 9
FOUNDATION FALL NATIVE PLANT & WILDFLOWER EVENTS, Strong City, 9 am. Please note: this is a new event brought to us by Roots KC. Florencia Williams. Sponsored by Deep Greens KC and Eden’s Peace. Five information-packed stops to walk along the prairie and under. Reservations required. www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org.

A U G U S T 2 3
TALLGRASS PRAIRIE NATIONAL PRESERVE, Strong City, 9 am. Please note: this is a new event brought to us by Roots KC. Florencia Williams. Sponsored by Deep Greens KC and Eden’s Peace. Five information-packed stops to walk along the prairie and under. Reservations required. www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org.

S T E P T E M B E R 1 7
RESTORATION WORKDAY AT TALLGRASS PRAIRIE NATIONAL PRESERVE, Strong City, 9 am. Looking for a way to get your hands dirty and get back to nature? Join us at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve for this restoration workday! Activities with The Nature Conservancy and National Park Service staff may include planting, weeding, collecting seed, and fern removal. Suggested attire: boots, long pants, work gloves, hat. Pack a lunch if you plan on helping the whole day. Bring your own water bottle. RSVP requested. Contact: Laura, Inselcawson@tnc.org, 785-233-4400.
CHAMPION TREE

Rusty Black Haw

—KEN O’DELL

The common name, rusty black haw or rusty haw, fits this small and beautiful tree to a T. Native in Eastern Kansas into the Southeastern United States, rusty haw is an attractive addition to all of our woodlands and to our urban homes. Miami County State Lake in eastern Kansas has some nice, small, well established colonies of this interesting tree. Driving to the lake on the gravel road you can locate some of these trees along the roadside. The scientific name for rusty haw is (Viburnum rufidulum). The word rufidulum means rusty or reddish in color. Formerly listed in the honeysuckle family, Caprifoliaceae, it is now in the Adoxaceae family.

The dark, rough bark of even the smallest of rusty haw trees is a quick identification mark in the woodlands. Rusty haw will grow to about twenty feet tall. In the light shade of the woodlands it will be thinly branched with the dark, shiny green leaves also giving easy identification. In the dead of winter when no leaves are showing, the tips of the branches have a reddish-rust color to them that earns the common name of rusty haw. Autumn foliage turns a colorful purplish-red to slightly deeper red when the nights get cooler.

Round three to four inch clusters of tiny white flowers in the spring time are followed by dark blue edible berries about one fourth inch in size in the summer. The dark, rough bark of even the smallest of rusty haw trees is a quick identification mark in the woodlands. Rusty haw will grow to about twenty feet tall. In the light shade of the woodlands it will be thinly branched with the dark, shiny green leaves also giving easy identification. In the dead of winter when no leaves are showing, the tips of the branches have a reddish-rust color to them that earns the common name of rusty haw. Autumn foliage turns a colorful purplish-red to slightly deeper red when the nights get cooler.

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FEATURED PLANT

Stiff Goldenrod

—ANTHONY ZUKOFF

When I first encountered stiff goldenrod, I certainly did not realize it was a goldenrod at all. It was a fall morning and I was exploring a rocky bluff in Trego County. The plants had already gone dormant and I was looking at a stout mass of very rough, brown leaves with a single stem of fluffy white seeds rising above. Even when green and growing, the broadly ovate leaves of stiff goldenrod are notably rough to the touch. Early in the season, plants appear as low mounds or clusters of densely packed leaves. As summer kicks in, clusters of unbranched stems rise from the mounds and flat-topped heads of bright yellow flowers emerge.

Stiff goldenrod is present in most of the state with the exception of the southwestern corner. It is a tough plant that easily thrives in dry, rocky prairies and bluff ledges. As with other goldenrods, this plant is highly attractive to many insects and serves as a great nectar source in late summer, especially in terrain where other plants have a hard time surviving. This goldenrod is easily started from seed, grows quickly, and thrives in the garden with minimal maintenance. Bring a little bit of the rough and tumble prairie to your own yard and plant stiff goldenrod this year. The bees will thank you!
Kansas River Celebration

SHIRLEY BRAUNLICH

Ten acclaimed local authors and one renowned musician celebrated the Kansas River on April 6 in Lawrence. These naturalists, novelists, poets, and historians shared their writing and music in connection to the outside world, a sense of place and especially to the Kansas River. The event was great fun with fifty community members joining the celebration at Burcham Park, located on the Kansas River. The authors included: Elizabeth Schultz, Thomas Pecore Weso, Denise Low, David Hann, Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg, Ken Lassman, Annette Hope Billings, Gloria Creed-Dikens, Jake Vail, Doug Hitt, and classical guitarist John Jervis. Shirley Braunlich, KNPS Board Member and Readers’ Services Assistant at Lawrence Public Library organized the Kansas River Celebration and also invited these partner organizations to offer this celebration of the Kansas River: Lawrence Public Library, Friends of the Kaw, Jayhawk Audubon Society, Kansas Native Plant Society, Lawrence Parks and Recreation, and Raven Book Store.

Below are a few of the responses after the event.

Poet Annette Hope Billings wrote: “Saturday was just an altogether sublime day. It was nourishing for my poet soul.” Community member Glenda Bailey-Means wrote: “I really enjoyed this wonderful event! Pretty sure the river felt some love today. Thanks!” Molly Kurokami, Friends of University of Minnesota men’s rowing wrote: “Thank you so much for sharing the pavilion at Burcham Park with the University of MN men’s rowing team on Saturday, April 6. The Kansas River Celebration was a wonderful event and it hit home to me personally because my Mom LOVED poetry and was so happy when it got its own “month” to celebrate. Thanks again.”

Elizabeth Schultz, Professor Emerita wrote: “Kansas River Celebration last Saturday was wonderful! What a splendid idea to celebrate our river on a beautiful spring day and what a wonderful way to celebrate it—poetry and music and dance. The entire event could not have been more beautifully conceptualized and brought into being. The three comments which you shared with me below embody the wonder which such a diversity of people experienced. It was truly marvelous that the event could embrace the rowers as well as the geese on the river and the poets and listeners on the shore. By all means, I would encourage the library’s sponsoring a similar event next year. Thank you so much for conceptualizing this event and for bringing it into being. I think everyone went home afterwards feeling a renewed sense of relationship with the river and our community, with poetry and music and dance. Gratitude to you, Shirley, for making it happen, Beth.”

See more about this event from the following links.

Read Shirley’s interview with Dr. Elizabeth Schultz—Inspiration From Elizabeth Schultz, Intrepid Advocate and Author

TOP: Presentations were held under the shelter. ABOVE: Friends of the Kansas River information table. LEFT: Participants danced the Elm dance by the Kansas River.

TECH NOTES—KRISTA DAHLINGER

We hope you have signed up for the KNPS��siter to receive the weekly Events Calendar by email. KNPS will be glad to share information from other groups about native plant related events in Kansas. Submit the event detail through the KNPS website at: www.kansansasianprairies.org/events. We would like to help get the word out about wildflower tours, gardening with natives, seed collecting, planting for pollinators, paper making, and more.

Native Plants, Science, and Agriculture: Making Connections

– LORNA HABEGGER-HARDER

It started with this. Globally, there are 30,000 crop plants available; seventy-five percent of the global population depends on twelve crop plants; sixty percent of the global caloric intake depends on just four crop plants – wheat, corn, rice, and potatoes. The consequences? A fragile system that lacks biodiversity and that makes existing crop production vulnerable to repeated catastrophes. So began the American Public Gardens Association’s symposium, Celebrating Crop Diversity: Connecting Agriculture, Public Gardens, and Science. The symposium brought together a diverse group of individuals representing public gardens, universities, federal agencies, and research, conservation, and science NGOs. Hosted by the World Food Prize Foundation and the Des Moines Botanical Garden, the symposium was held in downtown Des Moines’ World Food Prize Hall of Laureates, a centerpiece for the triumphs of global agriculture over the past century. That setting served to initiate the rich and diverse presentations and conversations that followed. The symposium asked several key questions. 1) How do we bioculturally conserve important crop wild relatives (CWRs)? 2) How can science communication be used to engage our citizenry with CWRs in public garden settings? 3) How can we build collaborative relationships between conservation and agricultural communities? 4) How do crop wild relatives factor into ongoing crop breeding projects?

Speakers introduced a continuous flow of stimulating presentations, global collaborative initiatives to address Sustainable Development Goals that maintain agricultural biodiversity; BLM’s program to collect, study, and conserve native seeds; conservation and safeguarding of global CWR germplasm; and conserving the links between biodiversity and cultural diversity. Urban agriculture was also featured, a nod to our increasingly urbanized global community, and the need for healthy food that sustains the environment and that contributes to the health and well-being of our communities.

One important outcome of this symposium is a draft Road Map for Conservation, Use and Public Engagement around North America’s Crop Wild Relatives and Wild Utilized Plants. Prior work (https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-95101-0) describes nearly 300 native crop wild relatives and useful wild species in North America, some of which occur in our Kansas prairies. To date, no clear conservation strategy exists for these important taxa. The Road Map is an action plan to advance the conservation of crop wild relatives in North America and will be presented in full in the upcoming special issue of the scientific journal, Crop Science.

Initially, the connection between native prairie plants and agricultural crops seemed obscure. However, the connection became quite clear when we consider that all crop plants are derived from wild relatives, and that the germplasm of existing wild relatives becomes increasingly important in maintaining genetic diversity in our existing crops where so little genetic diversity remains. Thus, we are challenged at the Dyck Arboretum to identify, collect, grow, and interpret to the public, the crop wild relatives that are native to our Kansas prairies. KNPS might be similarly involved, providing yet one more way we educate our citizenry about the inherent value of native plants.
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)  _________________________________________________________________

Additional Donation: Legacy Fund  $_______________ Scholarship Fund  $______________ General Fund  $_______________

Membership Category

☐ Student  $10.00
☐ Individual  $20.00
☐ Family  $30.00
☐ Organization  $35.00
☐ Contributing  $100.00
☐ Lifetime  $500.00