



Wildflower of the year; 2004

Missouri Evening Primrose

©Lorna Harder

Oenothera macrocarpa

News from Maxwell

SPRING AT MAXWELL WILDLIFE REFUGE

It is a pleasant June afternoon for Prairie Day at the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge in McPherson County. The Refuge is set in the Gypsum Creek watershed in the southeast portion of the Smoky Hills.

From the visitor center, Elaine and I walk westward to the upland prairie and mark the checklist furnished by the Refuge. We organize the observed plants by plant families, recording only those in bloom today. Near the visitor center we note the common St. John's-wort. Introduced from Europe, its yellow petals display tiny dark spots suggesting drops of St. John's blood. Livestock eating this plant become highly sensitive to light.

A flowering stalk of prairie larkspur that attracts our attention. The upper one of five petal like sepals of each white flower bears a long curved spur containing nectar which attracts bumblebees and other pollinating insects. Like most larkspurs, this species is

poisonous to cattle.

We can't help but notice the magenta red of the purple poppy mallow. Its white relative, the pale poppy mallow is not on our checklist. The roots of poppy mallows can be eaten raw or cooked.

We recognize the familiar wild prairie rose and, another family member of the rose family, the sulfur cinquefoil, not on our checklist. The five leaflets of each leaf remind me of strawberry leaves.

The catclaw sensitive briar displays its soft pink balls of flowers. Elaine touches its leaflets to watch them fold together, but they have already responded to this afternoon's breezes.

We see two legumes, wild alfalfa, or scurfpea, and blue wild indigo. The handsome purple-blue of "indigo" develop into inflated, woody, black fruits with beaked tips.

We check off the plains evening primrose with its yellow petals. In the roadside ditch approaching the Refuge headquarters, we had seen the white showy

evening primrose.

We enjoy the two wood sorrels, violet and yellow, with their sour three-parted leaves. The pioneers appreciated tart taste of oxalic acid in the absence of rhubarb and gooseberries. We recall that the yellow flowers of the butterfly milkweed we see here would be a deep orange in Chase County and red in eastern Kansas and Missouri

The Virginia ground cherry's light yellow flowers are dark spotted toward the throat. Its flowers mature to form bladder like fruits, each containing a pea-sized berry.

There are two species representing the sunflower family; daisy fleabane and yarrow. In both, the disk flowers are bisexual and the ray flowers are only female. The daisy fleabane disk flowers are yellow; the ray flowers are white the name "fleabane" refers to its supposed ability to banish fleas.

In yarrow, or milfoil (meaning thousand leaf referring to its many leaf divisions), both ray and

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The Kansas Wildflower Society is dedicated to developing an awareness of the beauty of Kansas Wildflowers, the value of their use in landscaping public areas and their place in our ecology.

Wildflower Wanderings

By Valerie Wright, President, KWS

With this issue of the Kansas Wildflower Society Newsletter, we start a new format and an exciting time in the history of our organization. On April 3, 2004, your Board of Directors met at Konza Prairie with the commitment to build on our past successes and look into the future for new paths to walk. The Newsletter Committee was one of several important committees that sat down together and brainstormed ideas for getting more information to you about our Kansas native

plants. The committee looked at a number of formats from other native plant societies, and decided to use the format you are reading now as a step into the future. Sister Patricia Stanley volunteered to be our new editor. Several people will be helping her bring in articles, photos and artwork. I hope that you will also take an interest in this newsletter and write or draw or add in some way to the information published here. We have many talented people in this Society and we would love to have your valued participation!

At the Spring Board meeting several committees envisioned the future role and impact we would like to have as a Society. Our long-term goal is to become the leader in Kansas of native plant programs. We now have a Publicity Committee to promote the Society's its programs so that more people can take advantage of them. We added a committee called Native Plant Resources as an umbrella group over the plant, seed and gardening committees of the past. They will develop, along with the Education Committee, new materials about plant and seed

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An Invitation

Ever wonder where content comes from in a Newsletter? So does the editor. That's why we are asking you, the reader, to send articles, or book reviews, or tour descriptions that pertain to wildflowers. Maybe it is a wildflower planting you saw. It could be **your** wildflower planting. Other good content might include a gardening tip that worked for you or something you heard. An example of this is a tip heard from a Master Gardener at the Home and Garden show. Maybe

you've heard this one. If you have trouble with squirrels digging up your plants or rabbits eating them, spread human hair clippings on the ground. Does it work? I have no idea but lets give it a try. If you try it let us know

*You can help make the
"Newsletter" great.
Send us articles, book reviews,
tour descriptions.*

your experience.

Send information to :

Sister Patricia Stanley
3700 East Lincoln
Wichita, KS 67218

Ph:316-689-4024E-
mail:pstanley@csjwichita.org

Deadlines: December 15, March 15,
June 15, September 15.

New Members

NEW MEMBERS AS OF 4/1/04

Alberto & Barbara Broce, Manhattan
David & Mary Sue Carlson, Chanute
Nancy Calhoun, Manhattan
Krista Dahlinger, Mulvane
Brock & Bettie Dale, Manhattan
Dottie Evans, Manhattan
Clyde & Marilena Ferguson, Manhattan
Ann Feyerharm, Manhattan

Charles Given, Wamego
Chod Hedinger, Manhattan
Nancy Highgate, Salina
Ted & Arlene Hopkins, Manhattan
Sue Hunt, Manhattan
Gary & Cindy Jeffrey, Olsburg
Margaret Jones, Manhattan
Lon & Nancy Lewis, Topeka
Nancy Lusk, Andover

Jim Morrill, Manhattan
Nancy Ohlenbusch, Manhattan
Verlyn Richards, Manhattan
Phoebe Samelson, Manhattan
Eldonna Silvia, Kansas City
Ted Smith, Lawrence
Madonna Stallmann, Manhattan
Catherine Carol Thompson, Nortonville

WELCOME!

Wildflower Wanderings continued

(Continued from page 2)

sources in Kansas. The Education Committee has always been important for our Society. They will work with all of the committees to make more information and new educational programs available backed by professional expertise.

All of the new information, programs and ideas will be highlighted on our new and improved web site. We will soon have a new address, a new format and plenty of new information. The Web Site Committee has great ideas for the future. And, yes, there will be lots and lots of color photos of Kansas'

native plants!

The KWS Board has begun plans for an exciting Fall Annual Meeting. An article about the meeting at

Sedan, Kansas, will be in the next issue. I hope you enjoy this issue of your new Kansas Wildflower Society Newsletter.



Members of the board present at the April 3rd meeting at Konza

Websites to Wander

Have you been to the KWS website www.cs.hesston.edu/kws? One of the decisions made by the KWS board, April 3 was to get our own domain name. The website will still be hosted by Hesston Community College. Lorna Harder is working on a new design and update and hopes to have it finished by Fall.

There are several floral websites in

cyber space. One is designed by our president elect, Jeff Hansen at www.kansasnativeplants.com

Another website was designed by the late Fred Meyer. The board learned that some one has offered to maintain the site. Visit www.ku.edu/heritage/wildflowers/ and remember Fred as you peruse it.

Do you have floral websites to recommend?

Send to pstanley@csjwichita.org

News from Maxwell continued

(Continued from page 1)

disk flowers are whitish. Elaine comments on its spicy aroma. Plains Indians used this plant to treat many ailments. But it also contains a poison.

The only grass we see blooming is the short Scribner panicum. It remains green all winter, producing

seeds in June. Most of the tall prairie grasses will send up flowering stalks later this summer.

The tiny-flowered prairie blue-eyed grass (not a true grass) is the only member of the iris family we see today. Seen along the road approaching the visitor center were many yucca, or small soapweed, noted for its many uses by the

American Indians, and its unique pollination process involving a moth. It is a member of the lily family.

Even this brief immersion in wild country gives our souls a lift.

Mr. Paul G. Jantzen

107 N Madison St Hillsboro, KS 67063-1648

Wanted: a New Name

Are you creative? Now is your chance to gain fame. With the new look for the Newsletter a new name is needed. The name should reflect the mission of the society. See the first page to refresh your memory. An example could be **The Blazing Star** or **Coneflower News**.

The name will appear on the front page on the left.

Fill in the form to the right and send in your suggestions to the address on the back of the newsletter. At the fall meeting the membership will vote on the name.

The following is my suggestion for the Newsletter Name:

Your Information:

First and Last Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Deadline: September 15, 2004

Native Plant Sale

Hard-to-find native plants and a wide array of adaptable plants for sale with expert advice from staff and Kansas Wildflower Society members.

The fifth annual spring Flora-Kansas will offer the largest selection of native plants for sale in Kansas. Seminars, tours, and food on Saturday, May 15 offer gardeners an opportunity to spend the day, see spring plants in bloom at the arboretum, and learn how to use them in their own landscapes. Click on Plant Info for help on which plants to choose for your yard. Click on Flora-Kansas for a partial listing of plants for sale. For a complete sale list, e-mail us at arboretum@hesston.edu.

Thursday, May 13, 2004
through

Monday, May 17, 2004

May 13 & 14 Members Only,
Please
8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

May 15 - 17 Non-members
Sale
Saturday 8 - 4 p.m.
Sunday Noon - 4 p.m.
Monday 8 - 8 p.m.

Visitor and Education Center
Dyck Arboretum of the Plains
177 W. Hickory Street
Hesston, KS 67062



Penstemon Grandiflorus
Barber County

2004-2005 Kansas Area Wildflower & Native Plant Events

Please share this information with other interested folks and contact us with information on other events to note. Thank you!

For outdoor events we recommend bringing sturdy footwear, long pants, insect repellent, sunscreen, a hat and water!

May 1: Spring Woodland Flower Hike, Kansas City, MO. At 9am a bus will take us to a location where we will hike and enjoy the spring woodlands flowers at marsh and glade locations. This event is sponsored by the Kansas Sierra Club [kansas.sierraclub.org]. Doris Sherrick <bjsherrick@aol.com> (816) 779-6708

May 1: Visit Snyder Prairie for a tour of all habitats on this Grassland Heritage Foundation [www.grasslandheritage.org] property at 10am. Rain date: May 2. We will see both prairie and woodland spring ephemerals. Jeff Hansen will lead us on an exploration of the unburned virgin prairie, the newly cleared/burned cedar prairie, the burned virgin prairie, the oak savannah, and the woods. The burned sections should be greening up for our walk. We will also be updating the master list of plants found on the Snyder property. Some areas may be muddy, so wear appropriate shoes. Directions: 25 miles north of Topeka on Hwy 75 to 158th Rd., 4 miles east (right) to U Rd., and a quarter mile south (right) to entrance across from the private residence. For more information, contact Jeff Hansen <hanjd@earthlink.net> (785) 478-1993.

May 1-2: Powell Gardens Spring Plant Sale, 30 miles east of Kansas City on Highway 50, Kingsville, Mo. This huge Grow Native [www.grownative.org] event boasts great native plants in the beautiful setting of Powell Gardens [www.powellgardens.org]. Proceeds benefit the K.C. Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society. Admission: \$7 adults; \$6 seniors; \$3 children. Hours: 10am - 5pm. Saturday, noon-5pm Sunday. Volunteers needed, contact the KC Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society for information: call Sue Hollis (816) 561-9419 or Dan Rice (816) 461-0206.

May 8: Barber County Spring Wildflower Tour. Meet at the Medicine Lodge High School at 8:30 am for registration. We'll enjoy a continental breakfast and short slide presentation with some of the flowers we expect to see on the tour. Then we'll board school buses, which will take us to the first plant identification sight. Morning tour participants will return to the school at noon. Full day tour participants will travel to a tree-shaded country park for a delicious barbeque lunch and enjoy some spirited entertainment by a "surprise" guest. After lunch we'll take a short ride through the beautiful gyp hills to a second plant identification site. Afternoon refreshments will be served before we ride back to the school around 3:30 p.m. At \$6, the half day tour includes breakfast and transportation to and from one identification site. The full day tour (\$12) includes breakfast, transportation, two identification stops, lunch, and afternoon refreshments. Pre-paid reservations should be sent before May 3. Order your official Barber County Wildflower Tour t-shirt (\$10) now! Barber County Conservation Office, 800 W. 3rd Ave. Medicine Lodge, KS 67104-8002, phone (620) 886-3721, ext. 3.

May 8: Join experienced walk leaders Coleen Davison and Edna Hamera for a joint outing for Grassland Heritage Foundation and Kansas Wildflower Society at the Prairie Center, 9am. Meet at the parking lot by the red barn on Cedar Niles rd. off W. 135th St. in Olathe, KS. For additional information, contact the Grassland Heritage Foundation [www.grasslandheritage.org] (913) 262-3506. For weather cancellations the morning of the walk, call (913) 856-4784.

May 8: Kansas City Wildlands Community Ecological Restoration Workday - Get Planting!!! Plant native flowers and remove invasive garlic mustard to help our fragile prairies, forests and glades thrive, 9am - noon. Three different locations: Ernie Miller Park remnant prairie, Olathe, KS, managed by Johnson County Parks and Recreation District, Jerry Smith Park remnant prairie, south Kansas City, MO, managed by Kansas City Missouri Parks and Recreation, and Rocky Point Glades at Swope Park, Kansas City, MO, managed by Kansas City Missouri Parks and Recreation. [www.kcwildlands.org] For more information, or to register, contact Linda Lehrbaum, KCWL Program Coordinator <linda@bridgingthegap.org> (816) 561-1061 x116.

May 8: Mushroom foray at Martin Park, Lawrence, KS. This event is hosted by the Kaw Valley Mycological Society [www.sunflower.com/~pilott29]. This woodland park, at the northwest edge of the city, has produced some interesting finds in May, but we have not hunted there in recent years. A caravan will leave 601 Mississippi St. at 9:00 a.m. We'll meet at the park at 9:20am. Directions: Go west on 6th street (U.S. 40) through Lawrence to Kasold Drive (2.7 miles west of Massachusetts Street). Turn north one mile to Peterson Road, then west about .8 mile to Martin Road. Turn north and find the park on your left down the hill. KVMS President Sherry Kay <snksy1028@yahoo.com> (785) 842-1245

May 9: Visit the Ft. Leavenworth woods with Caleb Morse. This woodland includes oak-hickory and maple-basswood sections; we hope to see examples of both as well as several orchid species! This event is sponsored by the Kansas Wildflower Society. **Reservations are required by March 19**; contact Caleb <cmorse@ku.edu> (785) 864-4493.

May 9: 1pm-4pm Mother's Day Wildflower Sale sponsored by Prairie Park Partners. A variety of native wildflower seedlings and seeds will be on sale at Prairie Park Nature Center, 2730 SW Harper St., Lawrence, KS. <mbirrell@ci.lawrence.lawrence.ks.us> (785) 832-7980

May 22: Visit the Kansas Land Trust's Flint Hills Tallgrass Prairie Project in Riley County, KS. Kelly Kindscher, KLT President and plant ecologist, will lead this joint outing for Kansas Land Trust and [Kansas Wildflower Society](#) at 10:30 am. Kansas Land Trust has invited Kansas Wildflower Society members and friends to visit this private natural area. Showy plants we may see include: Blue False Indigo (*Baptisia australis*), Cobaea Beardtongue (*Penstemon cobaea*), and Prairie Turnip (*Psoralea esculenta*). This project will protect 205 acres of Flint Hills Tallgrass Prairie located 10 miles northwest of Manhattan, KS. Kansas Land Trust is seeking donations to purchase a conservation easement through the U.S. Department of Agriculture / Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm and Ranch lands Protection Program. This is an opportunity to see the environs your donation will protect. Refreshments will be served after the walk. Directions from Manhattan, KS: From the stoplight at the intersection of Kimball and Tuttle Creek Blvd., drive north on Hwy 24 – 177 (also called Tuttle Creek Blvd.) 9.7 miles. The highway heads north and then swings west/northwest. Do not turn across Tuttle Creek Dam. Take a right onto the paved road marked Blue River Hills Rd. (Riley County Rd. 895 S). The intersection is also marked with Park Service signs pointing to Stockdale Recreation Area. Drive north 1.6 miles down a winding paved blacktop road, around a curving low water creek crossing area, and up to a stop sign at a T-intersection. Turn left onto Stockdale Park Rd. (Riley County Rd. 396 E). After approximately 100 feet, turn back right onto Blue River Hills Rd. (Riley County Rd. 895 S) and proceed uphill about 0.4 miles. Turn left into pasture gate and park. For further information, contact Kansas Land Trust <RoxAnn.Miller@klt.org> (785) 749-3297.

May 22-23: Visit Quivira NWR & Cheyenne Bottoms with the Wichita Audubon Society [[wichitaaudubon.org](#)]. Meet at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge headquarters at 8pm on Saturday evening for a chance to see or hear Black Rails. We have secured permission to be on Quivira property at night. Sunday, meet at the headquarters at 8am for the more usual search for shorebirds, waterfowl and other migrants. Leader: Kevin Groeneweg <was@wichitaaudubon.org> (316) 687-4268.

May 29: Visit the Sand Prairie Reserve, Newton, KS. The [Kansas Wildflower Society](#) is sponsoring this special opportunity to see this private natural area. Meet Dwight Platt and Sandra Tholen, co-leaders of this wildflower walk, in front of the Kauffman Museum in North Newton, KS at 9am. We will car pool from the museum to the prairie. Directions to Kauffman Museum: take exit 34 off I-135, drive south on Main to 27th street. Contact Sandra for more information: <stholen@cox.net> (316) 634-0049.

May 29: Visit Butcher Falls Nature Center, Red Buffalo Ranch, Sedan, KS. Enjoy a nature trail through wooded river bottom and cross-timbers savanna. Gary Weisenberger, [Kansas Wildflower Society](#) Board Member, will lead this native plant walk from 9-11am. Directions: go 1.5 miles northwest of Sedan on K-99, turn west onto gravel road at sign, go 3 miles to entrance on right. Gary Weisenberger <gjweisen@yahoo.com> (620) 637-2343

May 29: Prairie Plant Hike at Kill Creek Park, Lexington Township, KS. Located within Kill Creek Park, this beautiful 20-acre prairie remnant has one of the rarest plants of the tall grass prairie - Meads' milkweed. We will look for this and many other blooming plants as we hike around this relatively new Johnson County park. This event is hosted by the Kansas Sierra Club [[kansas.sierraclub.org](#)]. Eileen McManus <eileenm@planetkc.com> (816) 523-7823

June 1-5: Join Wichita Audubon Society for an extended field trip to Hutton Niobrara Sanctuary, Nebraska. We'll enjoy Long-billed Curlews, Bobolinks, lots of wildflowers and the fantastic scenery of the Nebraska Sandhills. Visit the new Audubon of Kansas property on the Niobrara River. Leader: Patty Marlett <was@wichitaaudubon.org> (316) 942-2164.

June 5: Don't miss the 9th annual Wilson County Wildflower Tour, in southeast Kansas. Gathering at Fredonia High School, 916 Robinson, at 8:30 am, the group will enjoy home baked cinnamon rolls, browse booths of interest, and receive WC Wildflower Tour lanyards and bottled water. Departing for the prairie at 9:00 am the group will caravan to the picnic site where vehicles may be left. Buses will transport guests to the wildflower sites where leaders will guide them in plant identification, give historical interpretations of the area and explanations of the ecological significance of the sites. More experienced enthusiasts may opt to enjoy a self-guided tour. A picnic lunch will be served, followed by music of the prairie by a regional singer/songwriter, a challenging plant jeopardy game, and other presentations. **Prepaid reservations of \$6/person must be received by June 2.** Send reservations to: Wilson County Conservation District, 930 North 2nd Street, Fredonia KS 66736-2105. For further information, call (620) 378-2866.

June 5: Prairiefest Wildflower Tour, Arkansas City, KS. The tour will include chuck wagon breakfast at Wilson Park, stops for wildflower identification as well as a prairie brush management plan that utilizes goats. There will also be a historical stop...as yet not identified. This is part of the Prairiefest Arts Festival. Admission is \$17.00. Directions: Hwy 77 (Summit) to Wilson Park (NW corner). [[www.prairiefest.org](#)] Ellen Snell <dac@arkcity.com> (620) 442-5895

June 5-6: Maxwell Wildlife Refuge Prairie Days 9am-4pm. Celebrate the prairie, buffalo tours, stagecoach rides, mountain man camps, traders, demonstrations, wildflower and bird walks, cowboys, crafts, and music. Admission is \$1.00. The Refuge is located 6 miles north of Canton, KS. [[www.cyberkraft.com/maxwell](#)] <bernie@wwwebservice.net> (620) 628-4455

More events will be listed in the summer issue of the Newsletter.

Tell Us about Your Field Trip

One way to share your Field Trip experience with the members is to write a report. This can be done by the field trip leader or someone designated to be reporter. The report should be fairly short and include the following: date, place, leader, number of attendees, weather, number of species, most predominant plants. Other pertinent information such type of soil or geographic data may included as well.

A picture or two may also accompany the report. Not all reports will be included in the very next issue but will be published in the Newsletter as space allows.



A roadside beauty now appearing: *Corydalis sibirica*
Taken in Cowley County

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Kansas
Wildflower
Society

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KANSAS WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

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

Phone: (785)864-3453

Email: ccfree@ku.edu

Address Service Requested

We are on the Web
www.cs.hesston.edu/kws

Membership Information



Kansas
Wildflower
Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

Annual dues are for a 12-month period from January 1-December 31. Dues paid after December 1 are applied to the next year.

Name:	
Address:	
City/State:	
Zipcode:	
Phone:	
E-Mail:	

Please complete this form or a photocopy of it. Send the completed form and a check payable to the Kansas Wildflower Society to:

**Kansas Wildflower Society
R.L. McGregor Herbarium
2045 Constant Avenue
Lawrence, KS 66047-3729**

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student | \$5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Organization | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Contributing | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Lifetime | \$500.00 |

Check membership category desired:

A membership in the Kansas Wildflower 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 by the KWS Administrative Office.