Something for Everyone at the 28th KNPS Annual Meeting

Some came, motivated by the contagious “restoration urge,” to learn more of the complex processes of reversing or saving patches of prairie on their property, in their county, or even their backyard. Some came to retreat from their weekday-lives and, with the ease of childhood, wander the prairie with others who “speak their language” and instantly share the joy of discovery. Some came to touch base with the small-town Mid-west surroundings of town square and two-lane roads that remind them of other times. Some came to visit with old friends, both people and plants. Some came for the first time to a KNPS gathering, hoping to find their kind of people and their kind of place. And in Holton, Kansas, on the second weekend of September, around 80 KNPS members found what they wanted and left energized, inspired, and eager to meet again. (Expanded coverage of the events and activities of this special weekend are found on the inside pages of this newsletter.)

Holton is a little town with a lot of style. Many of us chose to stay at the Hotel Josephine, an old, one of a kind hotel just off the square. KNPS members filled all but one of the rooms. It was reasonably priced and centrally located, which added to its appeal. The weekend started with a Board Meeting at the Coombs home in rural Jackson County and then a tour of their native plant garden and prairie restoration there, which was impressive to say the least. That evening we enjoyed a great dinner at the Red Rock Guest Ranch and a very interesting program on the Millennium Seed Bank Project presented by Betsy Allen of the Chicago Botanic Gardens. An added treat was the “roller coaster” ride, up and down the steep hills as we drove to dinner.

After a productive business meeting on Saturday morning, two awards were presented. Sylvia Michaelis, working with the City of Topeka, accepted the Rachel Snyder Memorial Landscaping plant garden and prairie restoration there, which was impressive to say the least. That evening we enjoyed a great dinner at the Red Rock Guest Ranch and a very interesting program on the Millennium Seed Bank Project presented by Betsy Allen of the Chicago Botanic Gardens. An added treat was the “roller coaster” ride, up and down the steep hills as we drove to dinner.

The Kansas Native Plant Society Newsletter is printed four times a year: Winter (January) Spring (April), Summer (July), Fall (October). The deadline for submitted material is the 15th of December, March, June and...

Fred Coombs describes his prairie restoration to visitors. Photo by Krista Dahlinger

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.

(Continued on page 2)
Wildflower Wanderings

By Jeff Hensen

Autumn has arrived and with it comes the multitude of fall flowers and grasses. I’m amazed how it’s nearly October and many flowers are just beginning to bloom. Many of the asters are putting out their first flowers of the year, as well as many of our prairie grasses such as little bluestem and Indian grass. Some of the ladies tresses orchids are still waiting to bloom. I love these late bloomers, and I love watching all the colors erupt on the prairie – the red sumacs, the bronze grasses, all mixed in with the golden-rods and asters. I hope you take some time to enjoy Kansas’s prairie autumn.

With fall came the annual meeting of KNPS. Wow, what a weekend! The setting, the people, the programs, the prairie, and even the weather made for an informative, enjoyable, and memorable native plant gathering. Everyone appreciated and enjoyed the programs that all focused on restoration of prairies. And even with the inclement weather, people were ready and willing to explore Snyder Prairie and the other private prairies. I’m sure there would have been a larger turnout on Sunday if the weather hadn’t been so wet.

The coming year will be exciting with our plan to involve county conservation districts in hosting wildflower tours of their areas. Our membership voiced their disdain for all the unnecessary mowing that takes place on Kansas roadways. Therefore we will be revamping our support for reduced mowing and spraying on our state and local roadways. As promised we will be holding our annual membership event next year in a different geographic region of Kansas – the Arkansas River Lowlands. It will take place at the Dillon Nature center in Hutchinson, and we plan to visit the Sand Prairie state park.

Thanks again to all who attended the annual membership meeting in Holton. It’s so good to see all of us enjoying the native plants and their environs in our state.

Annual Meeting - cont”

(Continued from page 1)

Award recognizing the use of native plants in landscaping the Storm Water Control Project at Jackson and Eight Streets. The Excellence in Botany Award was given to Anita Smith of Fredonia for her successful organization and leadership of the Wilson County Flower Tours. Anita has been a longtime contributor to KNPS as a member and board member, enthusiastically generating and supporting worthwhile projects for the good of the organization and to promote education and awareness of native plants. The morning session concluded with two presentations: the Prairie Window Project from Brad Guhr and the Management of Snyder Prairie from Frank Norman.

Following lunch on Saturday, the group caravanned to the Snyder Prairie to see for ourselves the management practices and results Frank Norman had described that morning.

Plant Walks on the Prairie–the Heart of KNPS

By Lorraine Kaufman

If members had to choose what aspect of the Annual Meeting they enjoyed the most, the prairie forays would definitely be near the top, maybe even above the food. The outing destinations that had been chosen not only provided close-up examples of restoration, preservation, and conscientious management, but also a variety of beautiful, interesting settings and plants.

Sunday morning, we awoke to thunder, lightning and plenty of rain, but still about 25 hardy souls persevered and completed the planned activities prairie visits.

Friday Afternoon Outing

On the pleasant late summer afternoon of September 8, an expectant group of 48 prairie lovers drove up the lane leading to the home of Fred and Nancy Coombs. Tall, gently waving
prairie grasses surrounded us like a sea. We learned we were looking at a restoration begun about 40 years ago when Fred’s father and uncle planted native prairie grasses on what had been cultivated land, originally owned by Fred's great-grandparents. Fred and Nancy have continued the restoration by encouraging and planting forbs, such as the blooming Ashy Sunflowers (*Helianthus mollis*) and Pitcher's Sage (*Salvia azurea* Lam.), which wafted before us in the breeze. It was evident that much planning, work, patience and watchful care had been given to return this land to a beautiful, thriving prairie.

Nancy has brought many of the flower gems of the prairie to her doorstep creating a lovely wildflower garden and transforming it into a haven and heaven for butterflies that flit from flower to flower.

Craig Freeman, Jeff Hansen and others readily shared their knowledge of nature's secrets, helping us identify grasses, flowers, and insect habits. Fred and Nancy extended warm hospitality, and it was an inspiration to be in this quiet and peaceful place with friends who were also eagerly searching for a "new" prairie treasure.

**Saturday Afternoon Excursion**

We wandered over the newly mowed path into the Snyder prairie on the overcast afternoon of September 9, noticing the change of species as we descended from the hilltop toward the creek. Two small, lone specimens of Rough Rattlesnake Root (*Prenanthes aspera*) were blooming here. Proceeding up the next incline, we found a colony of brilliant Button Blazing Star (*Liatis aspera*). Occasional Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes*) stood alone straight and tall as a toy tin soldier, undeterred by the taller prairie grasses around them.

A part of the evidence of this prairie management was the piles of cut red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) trees waiting to be burned. After careful searching, we found one blooming Downy gentian (*Gentiana puberulenta*), hesitant to open fully without the sun. With its brilliant sapphire blue coloring (in full sun) and habit of growing and hiding at the feet of tall surrounding grasses, this lovely wildflower could qualify as a rare jewel of the prairie.

Since the group of 36 treasurer hunters scattered in different directions on the prairie, I feel there was much I didn’t see and would welcome a return visit on a sunny day.

**Sunday Morning Foray**

*By Earl Allen*

In spite of rain, thunder, and potentially slippery road conditions of Sunday morning, 25 members decided to go ahead and caravan to a privately owned prairie remnant. Jeff Hansen promised that the trip would be well worth it, or the attrition rate would likely have been higher.

When the caravan reached the site, the rains eased and revealed a beautiful view of large expanses of Stiff Sunflower (*Helianthus pauciflorus* Nutt.) and Flowering Spurge (*Euphorbia corollata* L.) dotting the prairie and an adjacent low-lying wet area. Scattered, large round bales of hay indicated a portion of this site had recently been harvested for hay. The Coombs had arranged for the owner to leave a couple of acres for us to view. In addition to the two acres, the owner graciously left two other large areas for us to search for native plants. As we spread out and walked over the prairie, we found many varieties of plants including Slender Ladies Tresses (*Spiranthes laceravgracilis*), Thick Spike Liatris (*Liatis pycnostachya*), Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), Sawtooth SunFlowers (*Helianthus grosseserratus*) over ten feet tall, and Showy goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*).

One of the great things about our field trips is listening to members shout out that they have found something they think would be of interest to the others. Craig Freeman and Frank Norman altered course to view a stand of beautiful Downy Gentians (*Gentiana puberulenta*). Down the hill, the sound of Jeff Hansen’s voice indicated he had found something of note. It became the unofficial “discovery of the day,” the presence of several Ear-leaf False Foxgloves (*Tomanthera auriculata*). Craig Freeman believes this is the first sighting of this species in Jackson County, and most members present had never seen one until Jeff spotted them.

**Sunday Afternoon**

It was nearly one o’clock before we left for our next stop. We arrived at the beautiful prairie remnant of Stephen and Sally Iliff. As people got out of their cars, they were drawn to a bright green expanse that was interrupted with dozens of our previously viewed *Spiranthes lacerav*. The grasses and forbs made a sea of green prairie in all directions. We used the opportunity to have Craig Freeman instruct us on how to identify many of the grass species that were present. For example, members present should now be able to identify Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) by the fragrance of the spikelet.

After some time enjoying the view and the plants, it was announced that it was lunchtime. Our hosts, the Iliffs, had grilled dozens of hotdogs for us. Drinks, raw vegetables, a variety of chips, and cookies accompanied the hot dogs and were enjoyed on the Iliffs’ front yard while gazing out over their patch of prairie.

**Results of KNPS Elections**

*By Craig Freeman*

Six members were elected each to serve three-year terms on the Board of Directors of the Kansas Native Plant
Society at the 28th annual meeting on September 9, 2006, in Holton, Kansas. New board members are Earl Allen – Manhattan, and Jane Freeman – Lawrence. Past board members continuing their service include Shirley Braunlich – Lawrence; Cynthia Ford – Pittsburg; Craig Freeman – Lawrence, and Nancy Goulden – Manhattan.

There were five outgoing board members with 47 years of combined service: Donna Cooper – Hays (1 year); Allison Hamm – Wichita (2 years); Gary Weisenberger – Toronto (6 years); Marion McGlohon – Ulises (10 years); and Dwight Platt – Hesston (28 years). Dwight Platt is a charter member and served twice as President of the Society.

Officers elected by the KNPS board each to serve 1-year terms were: Phyllis Scherich, Secretary – Wilmore; Sr. Patricia Stanley, Treasurer – Bel Aire; Michael Heffron, President Elect – Eureka; and Jeff Hansen, President – Topeka.

Officer-elected Second Annual Silent Auction
Results
By Krista Dalinger
This year 39 items were donated to the Silent Auction at the Annual Meeting. Especially appealing treasures included a bottle of Paul Jaboulet Aine red wine donated by new members, Vondie and Aureta O’Connor, and an original wildflower oil painting donated by Joanie Whitenight of Lawrence, Kansas. Jeff Hansen’s set of laminated wildflower placemats received the greatest number of bids (8) and his hand-made paper samples (made from native plants) also claimed many bids. Hats, shirts and tote bags were very popular this year, as well as candles, journals, soap, bunnies, pressed and dried flower arrangements, and homemade pickles and cookies. Phyllis and Dee Scherich donated an enormous basket filled with tomatoes, peppers and other garden goodies.

Total sales for this year’s Silent Auction came to $445.00! Many thanks to everyone for their generous donations this year and also a great big thank you to the bidders for making the Silent Auction a great fund raising event.

Photo Contest
By Sister Patricia Stanley

Four people entered the Photography Contest. All won recognition. Meredith Fry from Topeka won a 2nd place for her photograph of Dalia Candida and a 3rd for her entry of Cardinuus nutans. Nancy Golden won 1st place for a close up of Indian Grass. Patricia Stanley won 1st place on flower parts of Euphorbia marginata and 2nd place for clouded crimson caterpillar using a plant for protection. Valerie Wright won 2nd place for

L-R Meridith Fry, Patricia Stanley, Nancy Goulden

Plant Walks on the Prairie – the Heart of KNPS cont’

- Agalinis tenuifolia S(new) slenderleaf false foxglove
- Agrimonia parviflora S small-flower agrimony
- Agrimonia pubescens S downy agrimony
- Amorpha canescens S, K, I leadplant
- Antennaria neglecta C, S, K, field pussy's-toes
- Asclepias incarnata C, K swamp milkweed
- Asclepias stenophylla K narrow-leaf milkweed
- Aster drummondii S Drummond's aster
- Aster ericoides C, S, K heath aster
- Aster oolentangi C, S, K azure aster
- Aster pilosus C, S hairy aster
- Buchnera americana C American bluehearts
- Carex umbellata I low sedge
- Ceanothus americanus S, K New Jersey tea
- Cornus drummondii C, S rough-leaf dogwood
- Dalea multiflora S round-head prairie-clover

Dalea purpurea C, S, I purple prairie-clover
Desmodium illinoense C, S Illinois tick-clover
Desmodium paniculatum S(new) paniacled tick-clover
Desmodium perplexum S(new) Dillen’s tick-clover
Desmodium sessilifolium C, S sessile-leaf tickclover
Echinacea pallida S pale purple-coneflower
Eryngium yuccifolium C, S rattlesnake master
Eupatorium altissimum C, S tall joe-pye-weed
Euphorbia corollata C, S, K, I flowering spurge
Gaura longiflora S, K large-flower butterfly-weed
Gentiana puberulenta S, K downy gentian
Helianthus mollis C ashy sunflower
Lespedeza capitata C, S, K, I round-head bush-clover
Lespedeza cuneata C, S sericea lespedeza
Lespedeza violacea S violet bush-clover
Liatris mucronata K eastern dotted gayfeather
1. June Kliesen records the joe-pye-weed as Nancy Goulden and Diane Backer examine it with Dee Scherich in the background. (Photo by Phyllis Sherich)

2. Sign on a shed on the Coombs property. (Photo by Valery Wright)

3. Nancy and Fred Coombs, Earl-, Jeff Hansen (Photo by Craig Freeman)

4. Lorraine Kaufman (Photo by Phyllis Sherich)

5. Picnic lunch at the Iliff's Prairie (Photo by Craig Freeman)

6. Steve and Sally Iliff (Photo by Craig Freeman)

7. Jake (the dog) was a very active member on Sunday’s trip. (Photo by Phyllis Sherich)

8. White and blue Pitcher’s Sage (Photo by Phyllis Scherich)

9. The Coombs study the Pitcher’s Sage. (Photo by Craig Freeman)

10. The brave ones on a rainy Sunday (Photo by Dee Scherich)
2006-2007 Kansas Area Native Plant & Wildflower Events

Information provided by Kansas Native Plant Society, R.L. McGregor Herbarium, 2045 Constant Ave., Lawrence, KS 66047-3729.

Online: www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org Email: <kansaswildflowers@yahoo.com>

Visit our website for additional events. Please share this information with interested folks and contact us about other events to note. Thank you!

Sturdy shoes, long pants, insect repellent, sunscreen, a hat and water are recommended for outdoor events.

2006 Events

November 4: To Battle! KC Wildlands Fall Community Restoration Workday, 9am to noon. Our largest workday will focus on removing invasive honeysuckle from several sites in the Kansas City region. This is a great Group Workday! Long pants, sturdy shoes and a hat are strongly recommended. Insect repellent, gloves and drinking water are supplied. Contact Linda Lehrbaum for questions or to register. <linda@bridgingthegap.org> (816) 561-1061 x116

November 11: Perry Lake Trail Maintenance with Kansas Sierra Club, Perry, KS. Enjoy a crisp fall day helping us maintain the Perry Lake Trail between Lawrence and Topeka. For more information on current conditions as the time approaches, visit: [http://www.perrylaketrail.net] <steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org> or (913) 707-3296

November 18: Volunteers are needed for prairie maintenance and preservation projects. Assist the Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs, 3rd Saturday every month except December [www.grasslandheritage.org]. Wear appropriate clothing. No special skills or tools needed. For details, please contact Frank Norman, Kansas Native Plant Society Board Member <frank.norman@appliedeco.com> (785) 887-6775.

2007 Kansas Area Native Plant & Wildflower Events

January 20: Volunteers are needed for prairie maintenance and preservation projects. Assist the Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs, 3rd Saturday every month except December [www.grasslandheritage.org]. Wear appropriate clothing. No special skills or tools needed. For details, please contact Frank Norman, Kansas Native Plant Society Board Member <frank.norman@appliedeco.com> (785) 887-6775.

January 21: 12th Annual Kaw Valley Eagles Day in Lawrence, KS. Celebrate the return of the eagles and learn about nature and the environment, 11am-4pm. Programs include information on Bald eagle nests along the Kaw and prairie wildlife. Exhibitors will offer resources related to the environment. The Jayhawk Audubon Society sponsors this event. Location: Douglas County Fairgrounds (Bldg 21) 21st & Harper, Lawrence, KS. Contact Ed & Cynthia Shaw <eishaw@ku.edu> (785) 842-0475

February 3: Papermaking Workshop with Kansas Native Plants, Topeka, KS. Betsy Roe, Professor of Art at Washburn University, will teach us how to make paper using native plant fibers. Bring your own plant material or collect from the woods and prairie at Karlyle Woods, NW 35th St & NW Button Rd. This free workshop is limited to 12 people (Ages 12 and up). Please sign up by contacting Jeff Hansen, Kansas Native Plant Society President, <email@kansasnativeplantsociety.org> (785) 478-1993.

February 17: Volunteers are needed for prairie maintenance and preservation projects. Assist the Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs [www.grasslandheritage.org]. Wear appropriate clothing. No special skills or tools needed. For details, please contact Frank Norman, Kansas Native Plant Society Board Member <frank.norman@appliedeco.com> (785) 887-6775.

March 17: Volunteers are needed for prairie maintenance and preservation projects. Assist the Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs [www.grasslandheritage.org]. Wear appropriate clothing. No special skills or tools needed. For details, please contact Frank Norman, Kansas Native Plant Society Board Member <frank.norman@appliedeco.com> (785) 887-6775.

April 21st & 28th: Missouri Prairie Foundation Spring Plant Sales 7am - noon. Location: City Market, 5th & Walnut, Kansas City, MO. [http://www.moprairie.org] (888) 843-6739
April 21: Volunteers are needed for prairie maintenance and preservation projects. Assist the Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs [www.grasslandheritage.org]. Wear appropriate clothing. No special skills or tools needed. For details, please contact Frank Norman, Kansas Native Plant Society Board Member <frank.norman@appliedeco.com> (785) 887-6775.

April 27-29: Wings 'N Wetlands Weekend in Great Bend, KS. Wildlife Extravaganza: Birds, reptiles, mammals & wildflowers! Enjoy Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, Quivera National Wildlife Refuge, workshops and more. Contact Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau <information@visitgreatbend.com> (620) 792-2750

May 12: Barber County Spring Wildflower Tour. Meet at the Medicine Lodge High School, 8:30am. Enjoy continental breakfast and slides of some of the flowers we expect to see. Buses will take us to the first plant stop. Morning participants will return to the school at noon. Full-day participants will travel to a tree-shaded country park for a delicious lunch and entertainment. Ride through the beautiful gyp hills to a second site. Afternoon refreshments will be served before we ride back to the school around 3:30pm. Barber Co. Conservation District and Kansas Native Plant Society are co-sponsors. Pre-paid reservations should be sent before May 7th, $8 half-day, $15 full-day. Barber Co Conservation, 800 W. 3rd Ave. Medicine Lodge, KS 67104-8002, phone (620) 886-3721, ext. 3.

May 19-20: FloraKansas: Great Plains Plant Bazaar. The largest native plant sale in Kansas features hard-to-find native perennials, shrubs and trees plus fun 'gardenabilia'. Saturday offerings: classes, demonstrations, and tours from professionals. Hours: Saturday 8am-4pm, Sunday noon-4pm, and Monday 8am-6pm. Contact the Arboretum about becoming a member and special members-only early sale dates. Admission charge is by donation. Location: Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, 177 West Hickory Street, Hesston, KS. Hesston is 30 miles N of Wichita. <arboretum@Hesston.edu> (620) 327-8127

May 19: Volunteers are needed for prairie maintenance and preservation projects. Assist the Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs [www.grasslandheritage.org]. Wear appropriate clothing. No special skills or tools needed. For details, please contact Frank Norman, Kansas Native Plant Society Board Member <frank.norman@appliedeco.com> (785) 887-6775.

June 2: Wilson County Wildflower Tour in southeast Kansas. Gather at Fredonia High School, 916 Robinson Street, 8:30am. Enjoy home baked pastries and booths of education and interest. Buses will transport participants to a wildflower site to join small group tours led by professional leaders or opt for self guided experiences. Lunch will be included for the registration price of only $8, payable by May 28 to: Wilson Co Conservation, 930 N 2nd Street, Fredonia, KS 66736. For further information please contact <anita.smith@ks.nacdnet.net> (620) 378-2866.

June 2-3: 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. <maxwell@kitusa.com> (620)-628-4455

June 9: Visit Snyder Prairie near Mayetta, KS, 9am. Grassland Heritage Foundation has done a lot of work at Snyder and opened up new areas. This outing is co-sponsored by Grassland Heritage Foundation and Kansas Native Plant Society. Frank Norman, KNPS Board Member, will lead us and help us identify the plants we see, he'll also show us the different management areas and how the plants have responded to burning, red cedar removal, etc. We'll most likely walk until we get too hot, possibly until 11 or 11:30, weather permitting. Snyder Prairie is about 15 miles north of Topeka on Hwy 75. To get to the site, drive east on 158th Road at Mayetta and go about 3 miles to U Road, and then go south approximately another half-mile and park along the roadside next to the Hug's driveway. Make sure not to block their driveway or any potential movement of large vehicles in and out. Contact the GHF office with questions, <email@grasslandheritage.org> or (785) 262-3506.

June 10: Friends of Konza Prairie Annual Wildflower Walk, 7pm. The walk will be co-lead by Valerie Wright, Kansas Native Plant Society Past President, and Konza Docents. There is a charge of $5 for those who are not Friends of Konza Prairie members. Telephone reservations are due June 5, (785) 587-0441. Meet at the Konza Biological Station located along McDowell Creek Road, west off of KS177 near Manhattan, KS [http://www.ksu.edu/konza/keep] (785) 587-0381.

June 13: Calhoun bluff prairie walk, 7pm. Visit a high quality glaciated bluff prairie and see uncommon plants like prairie willow, blunt-leaf milkweed, and prairie phlox. Other interesting plants growing on this prairie include: Culver's-root, sweet coneflower, and porcupine grass. This farm was also the site of the early town of Calhoun. Owner Martin N Jones will give a little presentation on the history of the farm before our walk. The farm is private and this is the first time the site has been open to Kansas Native Plant Society. KNPS President Jeff Hansen will lead the walk. We will meet at 7pm at Ree's Fruit farm / apple orchard parking lot and caravan up to the parking area. Ree's Fruit farm is at the intersection if Hwy 24 and K-4 on the east side of Topeka. <email@kansansnativeplantsociety.org> (784) 478-1993
1. Jerusalem artichoke (Photo by Phyllis Scherich)
2. Blue Gentian (closed) (Photo by Phyllis Scherich)
3. Spiranthes (Photo by S. Patricia Stanley)
4. Cardinal Flower (Photo by Phyllis Scherich)
5. Clouded Crimson moths mimicking pink gaura blossoms (Photo by S. Patricia Stanley)
6. Liatris squarosa, (Button Liatris) (Photo by Phyllis Scherich)
7. Catepillar (Photo by S. Patricia Stanley)
8. Flowering Spurge (Photo by S. Patricia Stanley)
9. Bidens (Photo by S. Patricia Stanley)
10. Furry caterpillar (Photo by Phyllis Scherich)
11. See page 10
Speakers Develop Theme of Stewardship of Native Plants and Habitats

By Ann Feyerharm and June Kleisen

Following dinner on Friday night, September 8, at the Annual Meeting, Betsy Allen, Seed Bank Coordinator from the Chicago Botanic Garden, gave a presentation high in interest and rich in information, titled “Seeds of Success: Millennium Seed Bank Project.”

Imagine trying to meet a goal of collecting 10 per cent of the world’s seed-bearing flora! This is the challenge first formulated at the British Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, at Wakehurst Place in 1995. The hope is that long-term conservation efforts of seeds will ensure future plant diversity. Partnerships now exist in 20 places worldwide; in the United States the program is called “Seeds of Success.” Ten to fifteen agencies are currently doing the majority of the work in this country.

The Chicago Botanic Garden became involved in 2003 with a goal of collecting seed from 1500 native species at a rate of 300 species each year. The major focus is on prairie biomes, and to a lesser extent savannahs and woodlands. Primary collection points are in Oklahoma, Illinois and Kansas’ Konza Prairie. The trick is to be at the right place at the right time and hope for dry weather!

Ten thousand seeds per species are required, all collected within a week. At least 50 individual plants from one population must be sampled, with only 20 per cent of available seed taken. Volunteers, such as Konza Prairie Docent Jocelyn Baker and KNPS President Jeff Hanson, are contributing to collection efforts. Jocelyn reports that the smallest seed collected to date has been the Flat Stem Spike Rush. The largest? Eastern Gamma Grass.

After collection, volunteers and staff dry, clean, count and bank the seed. The secret to the next step of long-term seed storage, said Betsy, is to reduce both moisture and temperature. As threats to plant diversity skyrocket due to population growth, it’s important that plants be conserved either in-situ, like preserves, parks, grazing lands, or ex-situ, such as DNA banks, botanic gardens, and seed banks. Kansas native plants will be well represented in the Millennium Seed Bank Project.

Our Friday night speaker was a tough act to follow, but I think our KNPS members, Brad Guhr and Frank Norman, rose to the occasion at the General Meeting on Saturday morning.

Brad Guhr, Educational Coordinator at the Dyck Arboretum, presented a program on the “Prairie Window Project” that is attempting to restore 18 acres at Hesston to reflect the 6 different ecological types of communities found within a 60 mile radius of Hesston. This involves more work and organization than it might appear. Each unique community must be inventoried and the plants rated as to importance. Then seeds must be collected and cleaned: the sites prepared for planting, and the seeds mixed before they are finally planted by hand. Although the Dyck Arboretum has some paid personnel, Brad relies on dedicated volunteers to do most of this very time-consuming work.

Frank Norman, of Applied Ecological Services, spoke about the work he is doing at the Snyder Prairie, a 140 acre tract 18 miles north of Topeka. This land was donated to the Grassland Heritage Foundation by Rachel Snyder who wanted it to be restored and preserved for future generations to enjoy. Managing this land has provided lots of challenges for Frank and his hardy band of volunteers. Probably the most challenging has been the control of invasive species—most notably the woodland species. Frank employs a number of different strategies to remove these invaders, primarily cutting, stacking and burning cedar trees, although he also uses herbicides selectively. Frank reiterated the importance of volunteers in his work. This is where our KNPS members can really make a difference by offering their help in these and other important restoration projects!

NEW MEMBERS 7/20/06 TO 9/16/06

Betsy Allen - Glencoe, IL
Stacey Bosley - Goddard
Kay Coward - Topeka
Molly Cox - Leon
Martin Drey - Lecompton
Fred M. & Sheila A. Fernkopf - Holton
Meredith Fry - Topeka
Dale Funk - Omaha, NE
Wanda Gillen - Silver Lake

Richard C. Heinze - Shawnee
Margaret Holcomb - Holton
Steve & Sally Iliff - Hoyt
Dr. Randy & Sue Kidd - McLouth
Brian Kilmer - Potwin
Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Kratina - Roseville
William Kriepe - Tecumseh
Carey Landwehr - Augusta
Cathy W. Lewis - Mayetta
Connie Magee - Berryton

David McAbee - Topeka
Pat McKinney - Mayetta
Evelyn Nelson - Minneapolis
Vondie & Aureta O’Conner - Rantoul
J. Ransom - Topeka
Phil & Joanne Roudedush - Topeka
Sarah Scannapicco - Rose Hill
Tracy Scherback - Wichita
Don Snethen - Topeka

Welcome!
More About Earleaf False Foxglove—A Rare Find

By Craig Freeman

The discovery of a population of *Tomanthera auriculata* (common name “Earleaf False Foxglove”) on a privately-owned Jackson County prairie the final day of the KNPS Annual Meeting has sparked interest in the plant and its status, both in Kansas and the Eastern U.S. States.

*Tomanthera auriculata* can be locally abundant, as it sometimes is at several sites where it is known to occur in eastern Kansas. Anderson County is one of those places. So too are sites in Shawnee and Jefferson Counties. At the site in southern Jefferson County, Kansas, we’ve seen the number of individuals vary from 10s to 1000s from one year to the next. This is not unusual for an annual species, but this dramatic year-to-year variation means that we focus more on range-wide trend conditions (within and among populations) when assessing rarity.

The species currently has a rarity rank of S2 in Kansas, meaning that 6-20 extant populations are known in the state (ranks range from S1 to S5, with S1 = 1-5 populations; S5 = demonstrably secure). NatureServe gives the species a global rank of G3, meaning that 21-100 extant populations are known worldwide. This is based on population numbers provided by 23 states where the species is known or was known to occur. The species is believed to be extirpated in three states (Michigan, New Jersey, and Texas) and is known only from historic populations (>30 years old) in Alabama, the District of Columbia, and West Virginia.

*Tomanthera auriculata* appears to be most imperiled in eastern North America; it may be doing better in the Midwest and southeastern Great Plains. This species is sufficiently rare across its range that it is on the radar screens of most botanists in the eastern U.S. I don’t have current data showing in how many state the species is protected. Additional field work, and the discovery of new populations, like the one in Jackson County, may reveal that the species is doing better than we currently think, but the rate of discovery of new populations may not be keeping pace with the rate of destruction of other populations.

Field Trip to Dingus

By Shirley Braunlich

Another hike through paradise w/Caleb Morse! This was the fifth year in a row for Caleb Morse, Jeff Hansen and Shirley Braunlich to botanize together in a woodland during the spring. And this tradition shall continue!

Dingus Natural Area is a unique wooded locale of 167 acres owned and managed by the Kansas Ornithological Society. The diverse habitat includes mixed sugar maple-basswood and oak-hickory forests with rocky prairie openings on the ridges. The area was burned last year in order to improve the habitat. We crossed several springs--underground water at the surface like a creek w/mysterious beginnings. Attending a foray w/Caleb means learning about several sedges and possibly lichens too! Sedges are grass-like plants w/three-sided, triangular stems. You can feel the edges when you roll a sedge stem between your fingers. Two significant sedges we found at Dingus were Radiate sedge and Rosy sedge; both are considered rare in the state. A lichen is an organism w/a symbiotic relationship of an alga and fungus, but the fungus is always more prominent and the algae may not be visible. During our foray Caleb found two lichens that are new records for Kansas: *Bacidia diffracta* and *Leptogium apalachense*. Four plants were special highlights during our walk: Common hop tree (Ptelea trifoliata) was new for each of us to see; it’s re-
Purple Poppy Mallow (also called Wine Cups), in the Malvaceae (Mallow Family), is a low growing, somewhat sprawling plant, generally with the ends of branches erect. The root is thick and relatively deep in the soil. The leaves are palmately (palm-like or hand-like) divided into 5-7 segments, the segments toothed, parted, or lobed, petiolate (with a petiole = leaf stalk) and wider (to about 4 inches) than long (to about 3 inches). The flowers are solitary, rose to purple, and generally above the leaves, with peduncles (leaf stalk) to 4 inches long or longer. Calyx of five sepals; petals 5, to 1 inch or more long; stamens forming a column that surrounds the ovary (at maturity the fruit containing seeds) and style (the stalk-like structure arising from the apex of the ovary). The fruit is called a schizocarp, which is dry at maturity and splits into segments containing seeds. This species is found from the upper Midwest south into northern Mexico, and west to Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico. It grows in dry prairies, prairie roadsides, and open woods. As far as known, its only economic value is as an ornamental.

Purple Poppy Mallow
(Callirhoe involucrata (T. & G.) A. Gray)

Dr. Stephen L. Timme

Dr. Cindy Ford

Whole-leaf yellow pimpernel
Taenidia integerrima

Photo by Shirley Braunlich

Source of the spring. Photo by Shirley Braunlich

(Continued from page 10)

Whole leaf yellow pimpernel
Taenidia integerrima

Photo by Shirley Braunlich

related to the citrus plant family. Whole leaf yellow pimpernel (Taenidia integerrima) looked very unusual w/a compound umbel flower form; it’s related to parsley. Sideroxylon lanuginosum has the common name Woolly jungle-plum; what a great name! This small thorny tree has edible black fruits, but they may or may not be tasty. The showiest plant blooming was a variety of Canadian onion, Allium canadense var. lavendulare, w/small clusters of star-shaped lavender flowers. Caleb noted an Acadian flycatcher as well as a Parula warbler in the area. The most memorable critter during our trek was a very loud and fussy Wild turkey that we heard but never actually got to see. And we crossed paths w/Cricket frogs and an Eastern box turtle.

Much appreciation goes to the Kansas Ornithological Society for permitting us to visit this extraordinary area. It was an unforgettable trip w/Woolly jungle-plums still lingering in our thoughts!

Photo from website.
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