



KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

VOLUME 43, NUMBER 2

NEWSLETTER OF THE KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

APRIL 2021

DILLON NATURE CENTER



FEATURED NATURE CENTER

Dillon Nature Center

— JOHN GALLAGHER, SUPERINTENDENT

The Dillon Nature Center is a 100-acre “experimental arboretum” and designated National Urban Wildlife Sanctuary on the northeast side of Hutchinson that overflows with delights for every variety of nature lovers. Here you will discover more than 300 species of woody plants, hundreds of varieties of wildflowers and native grasses, nearly 200 species of birds, and a large sampling of other wildlife along three miles of National Recreation trails. It also includes a spring-fed pond stocked with trout and catfish, surrounded by beautiful flower gardens and outdoor sculptures. Children can let their imaginations run wild at the Jim Smith Family Playscape, an outdoor playground experience that allows youth to use all five senses in exploration and unstructured nature play. The DNC is the perfect place for a day out in the Kansas sun, no matter the season, to enjoy some healthy time in nature.

Of course DNC’s 100 acres of wooded trails and managed prairie was not always the nature retreat that it is today. Up until 1940, this area was part of the Rivers Banks orchard, (Rivers Banks, being a man’s name, not a location.) It is said that there was a secluded dirt road that snaked through the orchard that was known as “Lovers Lane.” Unfortunately for Mr. Banks and all of those young lovers, there was an early freeze in 1940 that killed all of the fruit trees.

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OUR MISSION

The mission of the Kansas Native Plant Society is to encourage awareness and appreciation of the native plants of Kansas in their habitats and in our landscapes by promoting education, stewardship, and scientific knowledge.

The Kansas Native Plant Society Newsletter is published quarterly: Winter (January), Spring (April), Summer (July), Fall (October). Readers tell us how much they enjoy the newsletter in paper format. Contributions help us continue to produce a publication of this length in this form.

You may send your gift to KNPS at:

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

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KNPS NEWSLETTER STAFF

Cynthia Rhodes cynthrhodes@gmail.com
Copy & Assignment Editor

Brian L. Martin
Design & Layout Editor

Phyllis Scherich
Proofreader

KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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

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Hairy Crabweed: Watch out for this one!

— MARK MAYFIELD

The year 2020 was unique in many ways. A record number of people spent a record number of hours in their gardens planting new flower beds and expanding old ones. This brings concerns about the increasing spread of an under-recognized annual garden weed. Other states report this plant also as an agricultural weed and that it can naturalize in moist woodlands. Iralee Barnard invited Mark Mayfield at the KSU Herbarium to explain the spread of the invasive weed, Fatoua, in Kansas.

COURTESY OF KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY HERBARIUM



In September, I was reminded of an interesting and relatively recently introduced plant that is gaining Kansas homeowners’ attention after I received three requests for its identification. The plant is known as hairy crabweed (*Fatoua villosa*), a member of the Mulberry family. It has been in eastern Kansas since at least 2000 (and I suspect much longer). It grows fairly inconspicuously into late summer when it produces large numbers of small flowers in dense auxiliary clusters of the alternate leaves. When flowering, it resembles a stinging nettle (*Urtica*) with leaves like a mulberry (another common name is “mulberry weed”). At about the time the seeds are being produced most abundantly and temperatures cool, the plant begins to senesce and the leaves and inflorescences change to a pale red or pinkish-brown that stands out more

sharply against the background. At this point, gardeners panic but its seeds have already been propelled from the fruiting structures.

Hairy crabweed was first reported formally in North America from Louisiana in 1964, where it was found then as a weed in greenhouses, flower beds, and vegetable gardens and had been present in southern Louisiana for at least fifteen years. My first experiences with it were in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in the 1990s. It was reported in southeastern Oklahoma in 1981, and a report for Missouri in 2001 gives documentation it had been wild at the Missouri Botanical Garden there since the early 1990s. All the evidence from these reports suggests that the plant is prevalent in nurseries and greenhouses from which it is transplanted with potted vegetable and perennial garden plants. Occurrences have been recorded in at least twenty-two states mostly in the eastern United States. In Kansas, it was first reported from a 2004 collection made in Douglas County although I first received a specimen for identification in 2000 from Shawnee County. I first saw live plants in the pots of several bedding plants at a local retail store in Manhattan (2008). More recently, I have noticed patches invading yards in my neighborhood west of Kansas State University. Submissions for identification have come from eastern Kansas, west to Sedgwick County, but with a concentration in Johnson, Shawnee, Riley, and several southeastern Kansas counties. It is not clear that it is spreading significantly as a naturalized plant, but perhaps it is moving between adjacent yards in suburban settings.

Hairy crabweed can be recognized by its alternate leaves that resemble a mulberry leaf but with a more marked sinus where the petiole joins the blade (the blade base is emarginated). The tiny flowers are produced on peculiar flattened cymose axes like nothing else in our flora. Like a mulberry, it has a cloudy (but not really white) sap that drips from wherever the live plant is cut. It can produce new growth below the mower blade’s reach, and once it produces seeds, will take a significant effort to eradicate. However, when planting new bedding plants it can be kept under control by removing as much of the soil as possible and being vigilant for it and other weeds to emerge. If you would like to submit an image for identification, you can send it to herbarium@ksu.edu, or send a sample to the herbarium at Herbarium, Division of Biology, 1717 Claflin Rd., Manhattan, 66506.

President’s Message | KRISTA DAHLINGER

On January 21, 2021, the KNPS Board of Directors met virtually. Total KNPS member numbers were down somewhat in January. We encourage members to renew their memberships as soon as possible. Dues can be paid electronically through the KNPS website or by printing the renewal form on the website and mailing a check. Our Public Policy committee reported on a commitment by the utility company Evergy to create habitat for the Monarch Butterfly on easement lands they manage below utility lines. Also, we discussed concerns about destruction of prairie in areas of unmonitored surface mining for limestone rock.

This winter we heard from Ken O’Dell, Kansas City Region Leader, and he is stepping down from Region Leader responsibilities. Ken has been writing feature articles about trees for the newsletter for many years. His photographs and informative articles have been a welcome part of each issue and we thank him for his dedicated efforts to connect people with the trees and native plants in the Overland Park area.

The Polar Vortex of February is behind us and spring is rapidly approaching. Rain in mid-March soaked the soil, and I imagine seed coats softening and splitting apart, the radicle roots preparing for just the right moment to emerge. Burned areas in my native plant garden began to show green sprouts within days after the first rain. I am thinking ahead to places I want to return to, to look for Pawpaw trees and vines in wooded areas, to look for the yellow flowers and square seed pods on Rattle box plants in wet sandy soils, and for the cudflower family of plants and the black striped American Lady butterfly caterpillars that seek them out. I hope all KNPS members are pre-planning locations for their native plant excursions for 2021.

I am looking forward to exploring for plants with other people! On Saturday, June 5th, KNPS is planning a socially distanced event in the Garden City area for people in western Kansas, and for those who wish to travel there. Also, KNPS is planning for the Annual Wildflower Weekend to be held September 17, 18 and 19, 2021 in



KRISTA DAHLINGER PHOTOS

southeast Kansas. These ecoregions in the east and west offer a wide variety of plants to observe and learn about as we spend time outdoors in nature. Keep an eye on the website Events Calendar for details about these events.

Each year I create written lists of plants identified during plant walks, parks visits, and roadside meanderings. Reviewing these lists is a great way to rehearse plant identification. Looking up the plants on www.kswildflower.org or in the field guides reinforces the common and Latin names, and gives additional details about leaf shape, plant family, and historical uses. Reviewing the names and photographs creates character for new plants and they are easier to identify the next time. I will encourage everyone to make and keep plant lists with location and dates either on paper or on an app such as iNaturalist, and count how many new plants you learn about in one year.

ABOVE Paw Paw — El Dorado State Park
BELOW, L TO R American Lady Caterpillar; American Lady Caterpillar on Cudweed; Paw Paw — El Dorado State Park



SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2021

Deep Roots Hosts Virtual Plan It Native Conference

— SARAH BEIER

Deep Roots and its partners present the annual Plan It Native Landscapes Conference, which will be held virtually again for 2021. The event features three half-days packed with interactive sessions, inspiring keynote speakers, and opportunities to connect with the native plant community. While nothing can replace the energy of being together in-person, our virtual conference is the next best thing!

About Deep Roots

Deep Roots (formerly the KC Native Plant Initiative) is a not-for-profit organization comprised of multi-sector partners working to increase native plant landscapes. Our mission is to encourage the appreciation, conservation, and use of native plants in the heartland.

Deep Roots’ partners consist of small and large businesses, municipalities, state government agencies, parks departments, not-for-profit organizations, and individuals. Partners collaborate to share resources, opportunities, and create synergy to plant more native species and provide education that results in more native landscapes.

In 2019, Deep Roots created the Plan It Native Landscapes Conference to help increase the collective native plant expertise of the region. In 2020, more than 560 people from 40 states and four countries attended online, turning a regional conference into an international event.

Plan It Native 2021

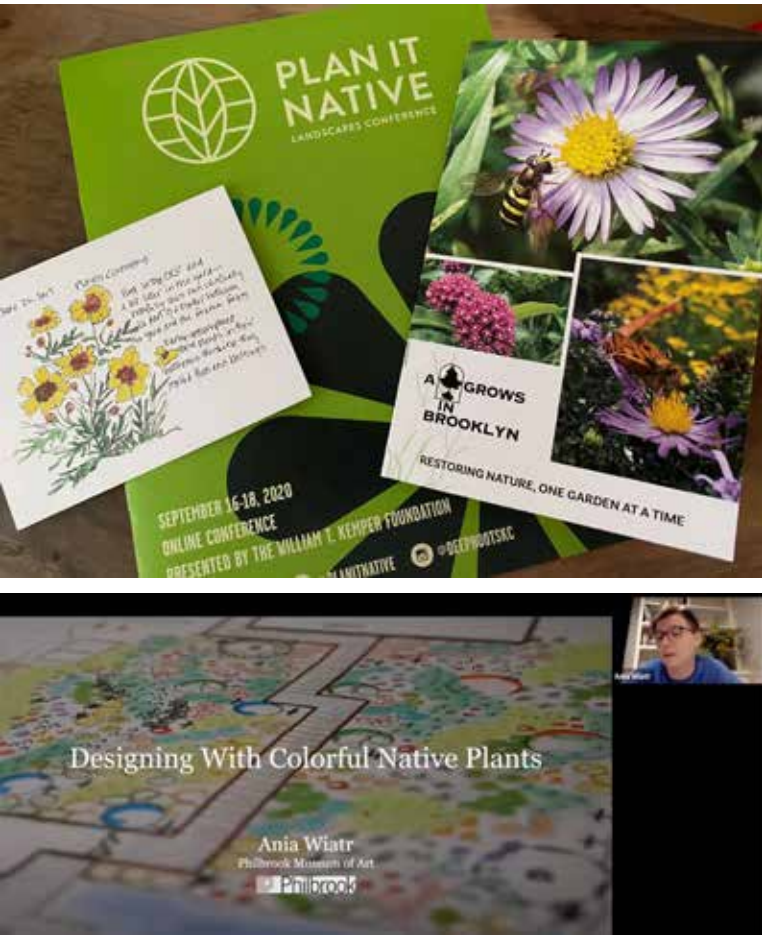
Plan It Native provides education relevant to professionals, native plant enthusiasts, and home gardeners. Whatever your experience with native plants, you will find resources to grow your knowledge. You will learn from speakers who understand your challenges and provide expert advice to help you advance.

The conference organizing committee is currently looking for sessions to complete our agenda. Plan It Native is organized into three tracks:

Business & Design — From formal to naturalistic, from the greenhouse to the retail counter, these sessions will help you create more beautiful and beneficial projects.

Land Stewardship & Management — Sessions on the establishment, restoration, and management of native woodland, wetland, riparian, and prairie.

Policy & Communications — A new track for this year, these sessions will help you build awareness and action for native plants within your community.



TOP Welcome kit for virtual attendees printed on 100% recycled paper with renewable energy in a zero-waste facility.
ABOVE Virtual native plant design session with Ania Wiatr at Plan It Native 2020.
LEFT Getting started guide helps conference attendees navigate the virtual event space with ease.

Visit planitnative.org to learn more, view example topics in each track, and send us your ideas!

The Virtual Experience

We selected our conference platform with ease of use in mind and have provided support systems to help attendees make the transition. Options include: a sustainably printed conference program with getting started guide, pre-conference orientation sessions, and help desk volunteers staffing phone and email hotlines.

All breakout sessions will be available on-demand after the conference. You can attend in the way that works for your schedule and continue learning for months after the live event.

Our 2020 virtual attendees were full of praise for the experience. Said one survey response, “You all knocked the virtual conference out of the park! The platform you used was easy to navigate and engaging.”

Mark your calendar to attend Plan It Native on September 22-24, 2021. And watch for more details to come!

SATURDAY, JUNE 5 IN GARDEN CITY

Come to the Mini-AWW!

— ANTHONY ZUKOFF

Join fellow Kansas Native Plant Society members on Saturday, June 5 for the 2021 Spring Mini-AWW (Annual Wildflower Weekend) gathering. Botanizing in the sandsage prairie along the Arkansas River, members can explore the newly established Wildwood Park in Finney County. Wildwood is 130 acres of riverside sandsage prairie featuring several large ponds. Fishing, camping, picnicking and easy to moderate hiking are all available at the park. A five-dollar day use fee is required with additional fees for camping for those interested.

After lunch on Saturday, the nearby Sandsage Bison Range and Wildlife Area will be another foray location. The Bison Range features an Outdoor Wildlife Learning Site (O.W.L.S) near the main office which has a sandy, mowed walking trail and a small pond. Members will also have an opportunity to visit a couple of Garden City parks to observe two Kansas Champion Trees, a Pinyon Pine and a Southwestern White Pine near Lee Richardson Zoo, and a large urban Playa at Forest Lake Park.

Attendees will meet at Wildwood Park (293 Wilderness Drive, Garden City) at 9:00 AM on Saturday, June 5. Dress for weather



conditions expected in early June including hiking shoes, wide brim hat, plenty of water, and be sure to bring your camera. This will be a completely outdoors, socially distanced event.



2021 Annual Wildflower Weekend September 17 - 18 - 19, 2021

We will explore habitats and native plants in southeast Kansas near Pittsburg and Galena. The flora is influenced by the “Ozark Plateau” that extends into Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. We will plan to visit prairies and forested lands, on rocky, cherty soils derived from the oldest rocks in Kansas. Mark your calendar and plan to attend the AWW in 2021.

ABOVE RIGHT Bigroot Morning Glory
RIGHT Ozark Trillium



MIKE HADDOCK PHOTOS

COURTESY OF DEEP ROOTS

Remembering Joan Manor, KNPS Board Member

1946 – 2020

On Contemplating Life and Faith

"We are made of star-stuff." This was a quote she remembered. Being away in the night, she saw herself under stars and commented, "We are star-stuff. But more I think.

We are who we have loved and championed. Who we have failed and forgotten, and who we have forgiven. We are what we've done, and said, and thought, and ignored. We are what we have believed, and what we have refused to believe. We are star-stuff. But more. We are words and action, moment and place, doubts and faith. And story." Just in Time

I've had some recent health setbacks, and they are serious enough to send me into a whirlwind of contemplating life. Maybe that is good for us occasionally, huh. I have lived a fortunate life. I think – good career, good retirement – and I married late-in-life to a man I adore. But when that life is threatened, it is only natural that you question the big scheme of things and have a good talk with the Lord.

"Lord," I ask. "Are you done with me down here? I was hoping to get a few more things done!" He probably chuckles when he hears that and probably hears it every second.

It never hurts to think things over in the big picture, and the quote I used to open reminds me that God doesn't look at us as insignificant specks on this earth. He values us for all we are, and indeed, we are a reflection of him. In the big picture, yes, we are a speck of cosmic dust whirling around in the vastness. But we are more because we were created in relation with Him and with others. We have loved and lived and became a life of story and love. That is forever stuff as much as cosmic dust could ever be.

I walked through the cemetery yesterday, a path I enjoy taking as the fall leaves sweep among the gravestones. I enjoy reading the names on the stones, with loving words beside them; sentiments of love that last forever. I found myself remembering my own close loved ones, particularly my mother and grandmothers who left such a legacy of love to me. Their lives are stories of strength and character – women who lived the adventure of settlement and farm life, church and family, death and hardship, yet, dealt out love in bundles for us to grow with and develop upon. They were women of story.

If we believe that we are God's story, then we also know our real test is in the living of a life, which isn't about keeping score of behavior, but rather the process of living our faith. We make our human mistakes and learn from them. Our

behavior is often imperfect, and sometimes we are not as kind as we should be, but through faith, we correct, improve, and become more.

I don't know when my job down here is going to be done, but I don't believe it is just yet. I will live my life today and tomorrow if I am blessed to do so, and know that I still have a story to write. That story is based on faith and a God that has promised to be with me.

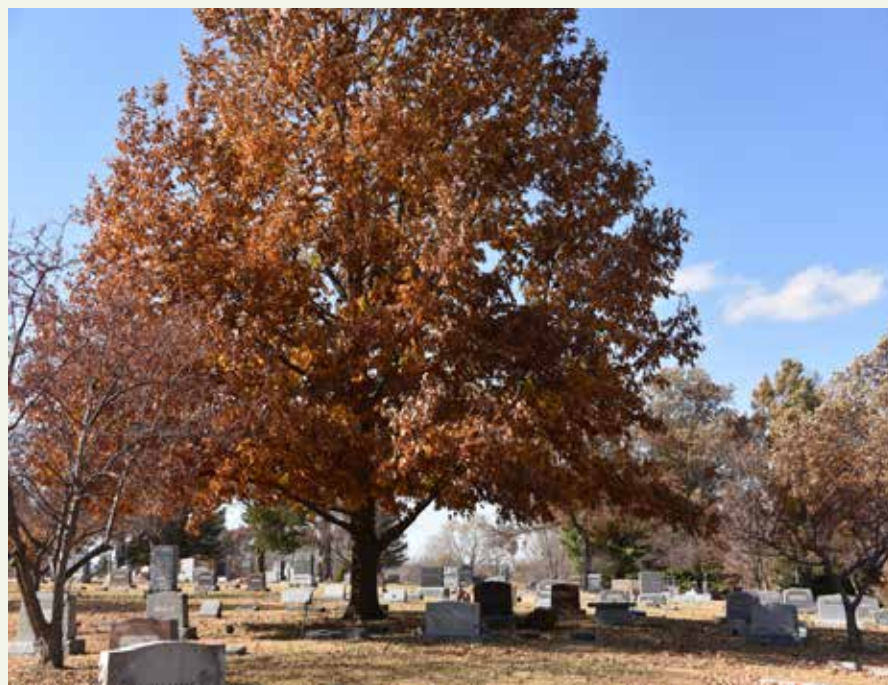
This writing was Joan's last post in her blog at www.joanmanor.com on November 8, 2020. Joan passed away on Wednesday, December 23, 2020 at the Good Shepherd Hospice House in Manhattan, following a battle with cancer.

Joan was born on November 11, 1946, in Udall, Kansas, the daughter of Joseph F. and Susie Luvern Ketterman Shoemaker. She attended schools in Udall and graduated from Udall High School. Joan then attended college and ultimately earned her Doctorate Degree in education.

Joan was an English and Speech teacher; she taught in several schools in New Mexico and Kansas. She was the Assistant Superintendent at the Goddard School

District for twenty-five years. Joan was also an active member of the United Methodist Church in Wamego. She was very involved in many church activities and bible study groups. She enjoyed traveling, visiting several other countries and states, and taking many scenic photographs. She also loved bird watching and tending her flower and vegetable gardens.

Excerpt and portrait photo from *The Times of Pottawatomie County*. Graveyard photo by Joan Manor.



FEATURED NATIVE PLANT

Purple Poppy Mallow

(*Callirhoe involucrata*)

— JIM MASON

Purple Poppy Mallow (*Callirhoe involucrata*) is a delightful member of the Great Plains wildflower crew. It occurs widely across the eastern half of the U.S. It prefers open sites, and it does particularly well in loose, sandy soils. It is a tap-rooted perennial with a low, sprawling growth habit, spreading out to three feet or more in diameter. Its flowers are typical of the Malvaceae, with an open cup of five, wide petals surrounding a central column containing the numerous stamens (think Rose of Sharon). Both the blossoms and leaves are on rather long stems. The leaves have deep palmate lobes. A pie-shaped ring of one to two dozen seeds are produced by each flower.

The flowers begin appearing in April and may continue to appear into autumn. When mowed in parks or roadsides, it may regrow with numerous blossoms and put on a spectacular show. In Wichita, this makes for a blaze of purple every year in the roadside east of Oak Park between the park boulevard and the Little Arkansas River. Garden specimens planted where they can sprawl out over a ledge will likewise light up the landscape. It is easily established from seed, and plants can be purchased from some native plant nurseries. Missouri evening primrose (*Oenothera macrocarpa*) overlaps in bloomtime. The contrast between its bright yellow flowers and the vivid, dark color of purple poppy mallow, along with their similar growth habits, makes them eye-catching companions.

Purple poppy mallow has an edible root, although it lacks much flavor. It comes out of the ground as a lumpy, pale, carrot-looking thing. One prepares and cooks it like a carrot. Its foliage, along with that of other mallows, is consumed by the caterpillars of the gray hairstreak butterfly (*Strymon melinus*).

Be watching for its knee-high cousin pale poppy mallow (*C. alcaeoides*) during late spring to summer. It is more typical of woodland edges and tallgrass or mixed prairie. While taller, it has similar foliage and flowers. The petals are white or pale pink, and usually separated from each other, whereas the petals of purple poppy mallow overlap in a continuous cup.

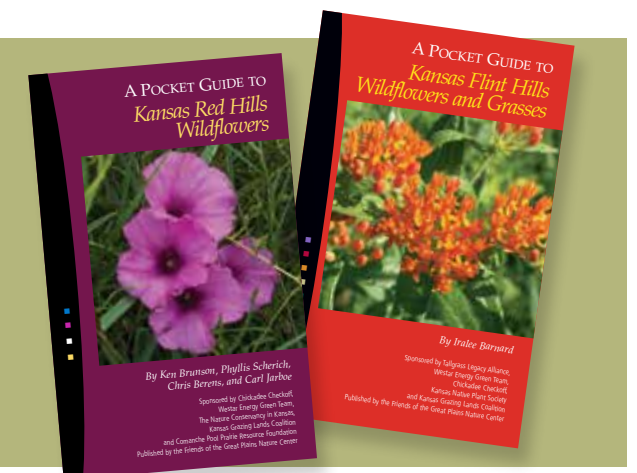


TOP Purple Poppy Mallow
ABOVE Pale Poppy Mallow

TECH NOTES

— KRISTA DAHLINGER

The Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita has coordinated publication of many small pocket guides for plants and animals in Kansas. Two guides for Kansas plants are "Kansas Red Hills Wildflowers" for south central and western Kansas, and "Kansas Flint Hills Wildflowers and Grasses" for eastern Kansas. These pocket guides can be downloaded for free as PDF documents to your smartphone or computer. Point your browser to: https://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/pocket_guide.php



— LORNA HARDER ILLUSTRATIONS

Butterfly Bartending with Native Flowers

— LENORA LARSON

Humans and butterflies agree: flowers belong in every garden. Experienced butterfly gardeners know that without caterpillar host plants, there will be no butterflies. But once the adults have emerged from their chrysalis, they appreciate the occasional sip as they search for love and their caterpillar’s food plant. And in the spring and fall, migrating butterflies absolutely need nectar as the power drink to fuel their journeys. However, if you offer only flowers, you are not a butterfly gardener. You are a bartender, a saloon-keeper, providing adults-only beverages.

Understanding Pollination, the Love Connection for Plants

Flowers need love, i.e., the boys (pollen) and the girls (ovaries) must get together to have offspring (seeds). Since plants cannot go wandering to find mates, they have enlisted insects to carry pollen from flower to flower for fertilization. Pollinators do not know that they are providing an essential service so flowers must first entice passing insects with fragrance, color and shape. Then they reward the visitor with nectar to ensure frequent repeat visits.

Bees are the champion pollinators and the only insect that gathers and processes nectar and pollen to feed their young. And they are also the only insect that is “flower faithful”, repeatedly visiting flowers of the same species rather than indiscriminately flitting about. Flower flies, AKA Syrphid or Hover Flies, and beetles are also important pollinators and moths are the chief pollinator of night-blooming flowers. Butterflies are valuable pollinators, but they are not flower faithful and are casual drinkers, unlike the bees which are totally focused on feeding their children (or nieces and nephews

in the case of honey bees). Flowers can select their pollinators. For instance, if the preferred pollinators are flies or beetles, the flowers may be greenish without nectar and its pollen serves as a bribe. Adult butterflies do not eat, so these pollen-only flowers are of no interest. Our native Paw-paw sends a clear message to flies, its preferred pollinator. The flowers smell like carrion and are maroon, the color of rotting meat.

How Butterflies Choose Flowers

Although they can sip nectar from many species of flowers, butterflies are highly discriminating. Favorites will attract swarms of butterflies, while other flowers, perhaps even more beautiful and fragrant to humans, will have no visitors. Butterflies choose flowers by their color and shape. Their complex eyes detect a much broader light spectrum than human eyes, including ultraviolet and polarized light. While the caterpillar host plants should be scattered throughout the garden (butterflies find them by smell, not sight), flowers are most beckoning when they are planted together in large masses for the near-sighted butterflies. Which colors are most welcoming? It does not seem to matter since copious nectar is the trump card.

The flower’s shape must function as a landing platform since butterflies alight and “taste” with the chemical receptors on their feet. Some of our most beautiful and fragrant flowers are physically incompatible with butterflies’ relatively short tongues. (Note: “tongue” is the correct word, not proboscis, per the North American Butterfly Association.) The nectar of large tubular flowers like lilies or our native honeysuckle is inaccessible without a long tongue like

hummingbirds and hummingbird moths. Conversely, small tubular flowers like Salvia or Monarda are butterfly magnets since the nectar is within the butterfly tongue’s reach. Bigger is not always better!

Selecting Native Nectar Flowers

Ornamental flowers are often hybrids and may lack nectar and/or pollen and may also be invasive. Native plants are a far safer choice for a butterfly garden. There are literally hundreds of plant species to choose from since Kansas has about 2,000 native plants. However, not all natives are nectar sources. Wind pollinated plants like grasses and most trees have no need for pollinators and do not produce nectar. Others like elderberries are self-fertile and despite their showy flowers do not produce nectar. Since even natives can be aggressive spreaders, carefully consider whether you should add a plant like white snakeroot to your garden. Yes, butterflies love its nectar, but its goal is world domination.



LENORA LARSON PHOTOS



Spring	Summer	Fall
Mustards	Bee Balm & Phlox	Ironweed
Redbuds	Milkweeds	Asters
Rose Verbena	Liatris	Goldenrod
Ninebark, Wild Plum & Cherry trees	Echinacea, Rudbeckia, Coreopsis	Joe Pye Weed & Boneset
New Jersey Tea	Partridge Pea & Wild Senna	Sunflowers, esp. Bur Marigold
Spider Milkweed	Button Bush	Salvias

Because butterflies cruise your yard from March to November, you need a variety of flowers blooming to span the nine months. The table provides examples by season of the Kansas native nectar sources in my garden.

Summary

As a saloon-keeper serving adult beverages to migrating and lovelorn butterflies, you can attract the largest number and variety of butterflies by following these simple guidelines:

- NO insecticides! Do not invite patrons to your pub and then poison them.
- A sun-drenched garden: both butterflies and nectar-rich flowers are sun lovers.
- Focus on native flowering plants. Note: often native nectar plants will also be a host plant for a particular species of butterfly.
- Serve a variety of high nectar “drinks” blooming from March through November.
- Arrange the flowers in large masses, blocks of color, to provide visual cues.



OPPOSITE Great Spangled Fritillaries on milkweed.
TOP Tiger Swallowtail on phlox.
ABOVE Painted Lady on echinacea.

Information provided by Kansas Native Plant Society, see more events on our website: www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org
Please share this information and contact us about additional events to note. Thank you! email@KSNPS.org
Sturdy shoes, long pants, a hat, insect repellent, sunscreen, and water are recommended for outdoor events.
Mark your calendar now and plan to attend some fabulous happenings!

Before you travel, use the contact information to confirm an event is still happening and not cancelled or rescheduled.

APRIL | 22

GROW NATIVE! WEBINAR: EARTH DAY SPECIAL WEBINAR KEEPING OUR WATER HEALTHY: NATIVE PLANTS AND WATERSHEDS PANEL, 4:00-5:00 pm. Learn about native plants and water quality from a panel of professionals (Ronda Burnett, Dale Blevins, and Dr. Lisa Shulte Moore) as they break down the steps all of us can take to keep watersheds healthy. The webinar will begin with Stream Teams United's new educational video, and the panelists, moderated by Stream Teams United Executive Director Mary Culler, will break down how native plants play an important role in clean water for all Missourians. Cost: free. Register online at: <http://www.moprairie.org>. The webinar, to be held via Zoom, will be 45 minutes including a question and answer session. The webinar will be recorded, and sent to all registrants as well as posted to our YouTube channel. Sponsor: Missouri Prairie Foundation. **Contact: Brooke Widmar, moprairieops@gmail.com, 573-808-7007**

APRIL | 22

"EXPLORING THE NATURALIST TRADITION: A LEGACY OF PASSION, PROSE, AND POETRY," BY DR. JEFFREY FOUQUET, EDUCATOR & EMN. Social hour 5:30pm, presentation 6:30pm. Can you find lessons and metaphors for living in the natural world? Gather friends and spread the word for an entertaining and inspiring Earth Day exploration that celebrates passion, prose, and poetry! Sponsor: K-State Research and Extension. **Contact: Tara Markley, Tara.Markley@jocogov.org, 913-715-7000**

APRIL | 23-26

FLORAKANSAS SPRING NATIVE PLANT FESTIVAL, Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, 177 W. Hickory, Hesston. Hundreds of varieties of plants available, many locally grown. Knowledgeable staff and volunteers on hand to answer questions and give suggestions. **Member pre-sale April 22 (EARTH Day).** **Contact: dyckarboretum.org, 620-327-8127**

APRIL | 24

SUNRISE PROJECT'S ANNUAL PLANT SALES in Lawrence, 10am-2pm. Native plants from Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries: swamp milkweed, rose verbena, bee balm, southern blue flag, yarrow, columbine, blazing star, wild sweet William, sky blue aster, greyhead coneflower, Missouri coneflower, willow leaf sunflower, rattlesnake master, beardtongue, and purple coneflower. Masks are mandatory. We will also have Thursday/Friday options for those that that would like to make an appointment to shop in the greenhouse with limited numbers, social distancing and masks. Location: 1501 Learned Ave., Lawrence. **Contact: melissa@sunriseprojectks.org, 785-865-1618.**

MAY | 15

GRASSLAND HERITAGE FOUNDATION SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE, 10:00am-3:00pm. Location: Trinity Episcopal Church Courtyard, 1011 Vermont St., Lawrence. Information: www.grasslandheritage.org. **Contact: info@grasslandheritage.org**

MAY | 20

VIRTUAL KNPS SPRING/SUMMER BOARD MEETING, 7:00pm. Information: email@knps.org

JUNE | 5

KNPS MINI-AWW MEETING, 9:00am, Garden City. Meet at Wildwood Park, 293 Wilderness Drive, (\$5.00/day use fee). After lunch, tour the nearby Sandsage Bison Range and Wildlife Area, and a couple other GC parks. **Contact: Anthony Zukoff, azukoff@gmail.com.**

JUNE | 12

JUNETEENTH WILDFLOWER WALK in conjunction with the Geary County Stone Soul Festival, 11:00am-6:00pm. Juneteenth marks the end of formal slavery in the United States—a milestone along our freedom-way. The prairie embodies freedom! Co-sponsored by Audubon of Kansas with the Junction City Juneteenth Community Association. **Contact: aok@audubonofkansas.org, 785-537-4385**

JUNE | 16

NATURE BOOK CLUB hosted by Lawrence Public Library in Lawrence. Meet 6:30-8:00 pm via Zoom. 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. **Contact Shirley to RSVP: sbraunlich@lplks.org, 785-843-3833**

SEPTEMBER | 17-19

KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY'S 42ND ANNUAL WILDFLOWER WEEKEND (AWW) IS IN PITTSBURG. Enjoy a full weekend of outings, board meeting, general membership meeting, programs, silent auction, photo contest, lunch, and socializing—join us! **Watch for updates!** Information: email@ksnps.org

SEPTEMBER | 22-24

PLAN IT NATIVE LANDSCAPES CONFERENCE PRESENTED BY DEEP ROOTS KC, VIRTUAL CONFERENCE. Information and registration: planitnative.org. **Contact: Sarah Beier, sarah@deeprootskc.org**

SEPTEMBER | 23

VIRTUAL AWW FALL BOARD MEETING, 7:00pm. (This date will be used if we cannot meet in person in SE Kansas.) Information: email@knps.org.

SEPTEMBER | 24-26

THE ANNUAL PRAIRIE FESTIVAL AT THE LAND INSTITUTE by Salina. The festival features speakers, art, music, dancing, guided prairie walks, bird watching, children's activities, and food. Live streaming access is available! **Contact: www.landinstitute.org, 785-823-5376**

JULY | 24-28, 2022

THE 2022 NORTH AMERICAN PRAIRIE CONFERENCE, Lincoln, Nebraska. Information: <http://www.northamericanprairie.org/>

Join the KNPS email list to receive the latest event announcements: www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/ email_list.php

NEW MEMBERS FROM 12/30/20 TO 3/21/21

Crystal Barkley – Lawrence
Jill Bergerhofer – Stilwell
Allison Cambern – Olathe
Nova Clarke – Fort Scott
April Cozine – Kechi
Heather Cwach – Stillwell
Nickie Daneke – Lawrence
Charlotte & Bob Dulohery – Wichita
Ben & Mary Dunlap – Wichita
Jessica Dunn – Lawrence
Corey Entriken – Leawood
Sara Feeney – Wichita
Kathy Gates – Deep Roots – Fairway
Kayleigh Geel – Emporia

Julie Haller – Olathe
Kelly Haller – Topeka
Jane Withee Hebert – White City
Jan Holmes – Ottawa
Lisa Jackson – Olathe
Cynthia Katzer – Paola
Emily Koch – Kansas City
Crystal Kochenower – Wichita
Linda Lansdown – Wichita
Sheila Lefler – Lansing
Douglas Long – Ottawa
Shirley Mello – DeSoto
David Mitchell – Overland Park
Barbara Morgan – Ellsworth

Mount Mitchell Prairie Guards, Inc. – Eskridge
Michael Paget – Overland Park
Jessica Power – Gardner
Andrea Repinsky – Lawrence
Kim Rutter – Chanute
Janelle Flory Schrock – McPherson
Michael Sizemore – Lawrence
Patricia Sullivan – Salina
Amanda Taylor – Wichita
Kathy Tidwell – Emporia
Patricia Warner – Overland Park

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

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

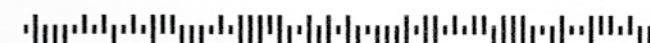
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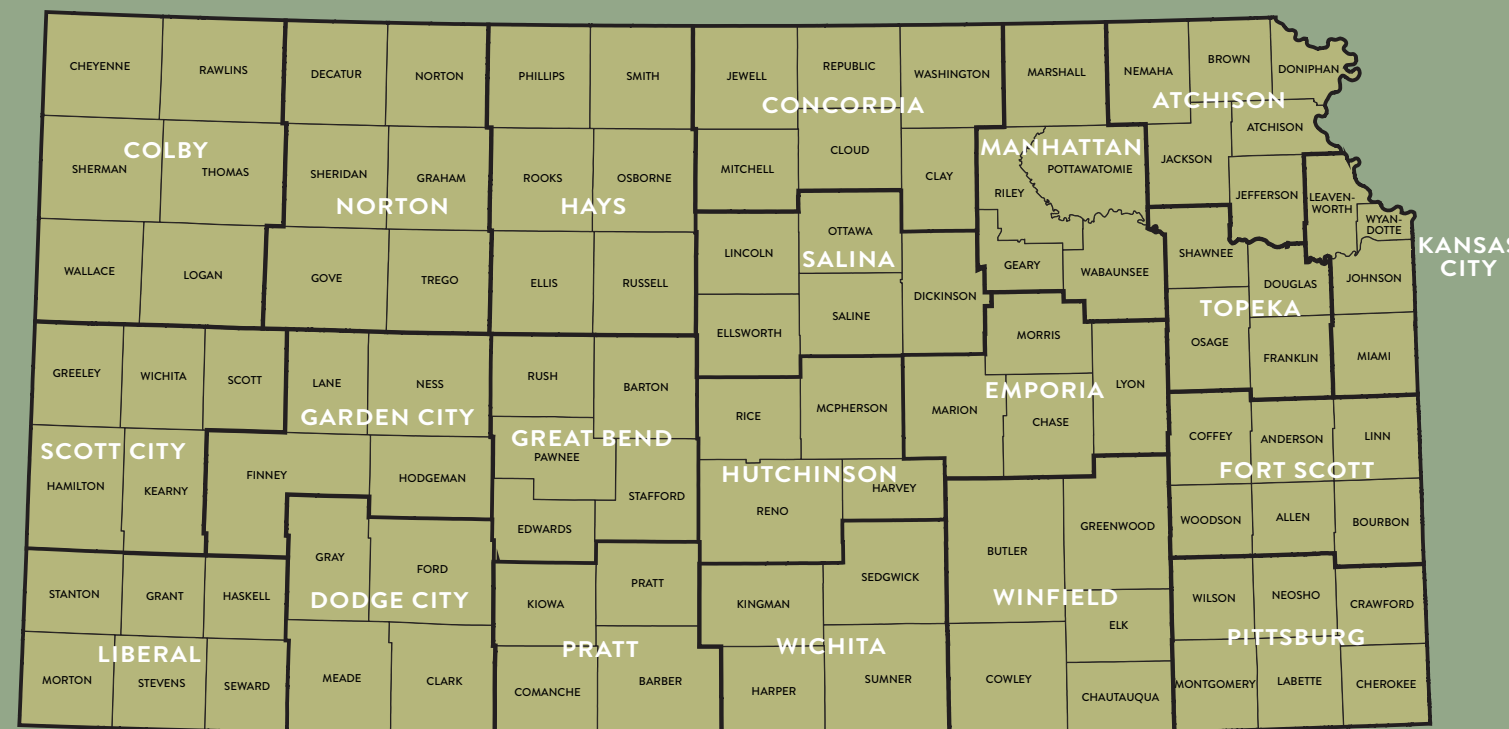
CYNTHIA RHODES

6505 NW INDIANOLA RD

WHITEWATER KS 67154-8843



MEMBERSHIP REGIONS



Mother Nature's *Not So Native* naturally planted trees

— KEN O'DELL

History tells us that for centuries human beings have moved around planet Earth from the arctic to the tropics, from the deserts to the mountains, and we brought our favorite plants, weeds, grass, and trees with us. Centuries later, the historic world travelers brought back seeds and plants from their travels and distributed the offspring to others interested in what was growing in other parts of the world. The revised and expanded edition of *Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines in Kansas* by Michael John Haddock and Craig C. Freeman was published by the University Press of Kansas in 2019. This revised edition lists several of the non-native naturally planted trees that are now growing naturally in Kansas and gives us new interest in *Not So Native* **naturally planted trees**.

I have a well worn copy of this book, and it is not yet two years

into the non-natives listed in the book. Many of these non-natives are familiar to me. I remember as a kid in the 1940's playing around a grove of what we called silver maples which were actually silver poplar or white poplars (*Populus alba*). When I revisited the old home site in the 1960's, this grove appeared to be ten times larger than what I remembered as a youngster. The Silver poplar tree was introduced from Europe and Asia in the 1700's and is now growing naturally in much of the United States and parts of Canada.

Here are just a few of the non-native trees that have naturally planted themselves into our Kansas soils. I like to look in *Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines in Kansas* and read what our local experts say about these non-natives, and I also go online and put in the correct scientific name with MOBOT or USDA in the title search and read what the Missouri Botanical Garden and the United States Department of Agriculture say about them. Some of these trees may be invasive in your area, so you can decide for yourself the pros and cons on non-natives.

The Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*) was brought to the states in 1905 and has been used widely as hedge and shelter belts. In high school in the early 1950's, I was paid (ok, I was overpaid) 33 cents per hour to plant what we then called Chinese elms and multiflora roses in hedge rows and fence lines in one or two counties in Missouri for what was said to help wildlife and wind erosion. Many a farmer and rancher have since cursed these elms and multiflora roses because they have taken over! We planted the elm seedlings about one foot apart using a pick axe or the dibble bar. I am not sure if I could correctly identify a Siberian elm today. To be sure, I would have to study it for a season with the flowers, seed, nodes, twigs, and leaves. The champion Siberian elm in Kansas is in Mission Hills in Johnson County.

LEFT Branches of silver poplar
BELOW LEFT Leaves of silver poplar
BELOW Underside of silver poplar leaf

KEN O'DELL PHOTOS



The Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) is a United States native which is not native in Kansas but has reseeded naturally in some of our waterways and has been planted in many Kansas counties. We have planted a dozen of the bald cypress here on our farm over the past twenty-five years and most of them are thirty feet tall and doing well. Some thrive near the big ponds and some grow in the dry edges of prairies with no added water; both sets of trees are doing well. The champion bald cypress tree in Kansas is in Herington in Dickinson County. The Amur Maple (*Acer tataricum ssp. Ginnala*) is native in Asia. The champion Amur Maple in Kansas is in Baldwin City, Douglas County on the Baker University campus. Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), Golden rain tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*), Bradford pear (*Pyrus calleryana*). Interesting information is available in the book and online for these three non-native trees. Go to <https://www.kansasforests.org> for a list of the **Kansas Champion Trees**; the site lists native and non-native trees.

With the Not So Native naturally planted trees added to *Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines in Kansas* and with the many other species of *Not So Native* trees that we humans are planting around our houses and farms, I can spend hours studying trees and looking at some of the new species I have recently planted and conclude that life is good, and trees make it better.



ABOVE Golden Rain tree in June

Apply Now for a fall Prairie Garden Kit

— PAUL SHOWALTER

Kansas teachers K-12, as well as leaders of youth groups such as 4-H, scouts, camp and day camp groups, and others, can receive a free Plant A Prairie garden kit this fall from the Kansas Native Plant Society. **Applications are being accepted through May 17, 2021 for delivery mid-September 2021.** (There is no guarantee late applications can be accepted).

Prairie gardens planted last fall are just beginning to emerge. Soon teachers and students will see first blooms, and a fledgling mini (8' x 10') prairie will begin to take shape. The kits contain local native plants that are well-adapted to weather extremes and which will also support birds, bees, and butterflies.

The Plant A Prairie garden kit includes 32 live plants (eight species) selected at the nursery to match local growing conditions. Kits include: planting instructions, a colorful wildflower ID poster, a garden sign, links to teaching resources, and expert gardening advice via phone or email. Kansas teachers K-12 and leaders of youth organizations are eligible to apply. The number of kits is expanded this year, but supplies are limited.

To learn more and to download the brief Plant A Prairie application, go to: www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/plant_a_prairie.php



ABOVE Plant A Prairie Wonder Workshop

RICHARD BEEMAN

Dillon Nature Center

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dillon Companies, in 1941, bought the land and developed it into a private recreation area for their store employees. Ray Dillon, Sr. was the driving force behind the development of the recreation area. He brought in Dr. Walter Bartlett (who developed the Bartlett Arboretum in Belle Plaine) to give him landscaping ideas. The recreation area became very popular for swimming, softball, fishing, picnicking, etc. It was commonly called Dillon's Lake.

Dillon Companies gave the land to the City of Hutchinson in 1970 for the Hutchinson Recreation Commission to manage as a public recreation area. The Dillon family wished this property to be used as a public park where people of all ages could learn about and experience nature. It was officially called Dillon Park and the site was run much like a recreation area for the first four years. People paid an entrance fee at the gate of 25 cents for children and 50 cents for adults, and they could come in for fishing, picnicking, swimming, etc.

In 1971, the Living Land Foundation was founded to raise and manage money for projects and programs for the newly created Dillon Park. The original developmental goals were to serve the public's outdoor recreation needs, but also to be an example of sustainable ecological conservation. That same year, the park hired its first naturalist to provide programming for the public and develop children's summer camps. DNC's current Summer Adventure Camp still follows the basic camp model that was developed that year.

The Recreation Commission brought in experts in 1974 to give some ideas about how to turn the site into a nature study area. The name was then changed to Dillon Park Outdoor Recreation and Education Center. Back in those days, the gates were closed to the public and were only open for school groups or by reservation. In 1978, the center focused on getting the area open to the public and to getting the community involved in activities at the center. They did a variety of environmental education programs for the public and worked with school districts on school programs. The gates

were opened more, money-raising began, and the name was changed to Dillon Nature Center. Nature trails were developed and some of the habitat improvements were started.

After receiving a large memorial donation, trees, vines, and shrubs were purchased and planted. The goal was that one day the area would become a place for students to learn about woodland ecology, as well as a diverse habitat for wildlife and an area of ever changing beauty for people to enjoy. Since there are only a couple of tree species native to our area, it was decided to use the area to experiment with different tree species to see how they would grow here. Today, if you visit the DNC you will see this vision realized with mature plants providing food and habitat for wildlife as well as a colorful place to visit in the fall. Plants that continue to do well here that were planted all those years ago include conifers like Eastern Red Cedar, Southwestern White Pine, Pinyon Pine, and Eastern White Pine. You will also find a variety of oaks including Sawtooth, Bur, Pin, and Willow, and maples that include Shantung, Amur, Silver, and Sugar. Other plants that are still doing well here include Black Walnut, American Sweetgum, Bald Cypress, Hardy Rubber Tree, Osage-Orange, Chinese Pistache, American Sycamore, and several varieties of Dogwood, Crabapple, and Sumac.

The nature center's popularity began to grow and around 1989, the staff and the Living Land Foundation board pursued building a new visitor center to handle the increasing number of visitors and programs. Because of their efforts a new building was built and completely paid for with donated money from thousands of people, businesses, clubs, and foundations. The new visitor center officially opened in April 1994. Currently, The DNC's Visitors Center (free admission) features newly renovated and interactive exhibits, a meeting room, natural science classroom, nature library, observation deck, and the Wild Things Gift Shop.

BELOW LEFT Bronze goose sculpture
BELOW DNC pond and visitor center
OPPOSITE, L TO R Visitor hands-on exhibits;
Black Swallowtail on thistle in DNC prairie.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DILLON NATURE CENTER



Today, the DNC staff still delivers a variety of environmental education programs for schools and the public. The nature center also provides a number of community events throughout the year. Nature Therapy Day in May is a morning dedicated to mindfulness and stress relief in the calming atmosphere of nature, activities include outdoor yoga, tai chi, meditation, and forest bathing. For music lovers there is the DNC's Summer Outdoor Concert Series which features the Hutchinson Symphony in June. In August we celebrate the local harvest with our Foodie Fest on the Trail. This event with speakers, a farmer's market, music, cooking demonstrations and children's activities has the goal to educate and encourage healthy food choices and healthy lifestyles for our community members. In October, our Spookwalk is a non-scary Halloween event for young families featuring performances by our local community theatre out on the trail.

Some programs that might be of special interests to Kansas Native Plant Society members include DNC's Nature Lecture Series, covering topics ranging from gardening to finding Kansas' best trails, from invasive species to Kansas archaeology. KNPS members also might be interested in looking into our Kansas Master Naturalist training, where new volunteers develop skills and knowledge about the plants, animals, and ecology of Kansas with the goal of assisting with a variety of programs for organizations throughout the state.

Lastly, KNPS members will most definitely be interested in learning more about our annual Lesser Known Lovelies plant sale in April. This sale features plants grown from seed by DNC volunteers, Betty and James Taylor. These plants are not readily available at most greenhouses, are heat and drought tolerant, and are prolific bloomers that will make your yard look beautiful while attracting a variety of pollinators. These same plants can be found in many

of the DNC's garden beds where they have proven themselves thru the years. Best sellers here include *Angelonia angustifolia*, *Salvia splendens*, *Gomphrena haageana*, and *Asclepias curassavica*.

DNC is located at
3002 E. 30th Ave.
Hutchinson, KS, 67502

Hours:
Trails & Grounds:
Weekdays: 8am – dusk
Weekends and Holidays: 9 am – dusk

Visitor Center Hours:
April – September: Weekdays 8 am – 7 pm
October through March: Weekdays 8 am – 5 pm
Year round: Saturdays 10 am – 5 pm and Sundays 1 pm – 5pm

Contact us:
620-663-7411
Dillonnaturecenter.org

STATEMENT OF EDITORIAL POLICY
The Kansas Native Plant Society (KNPS) Newsletter is published quarterly each year. It features writings, photography, and illustrations to fulfill the Society's mission: to encourage the awareness and appreciation of the native plants of Kansas in their habitats and in our landscapes by promoting education, stewardship, and scientific knowledge. Newsletter content embraces the activities of the Society and includes articles relating to current conservation and ecological developments. The Newsletter accepts manuscripts, photographs, and illustrations for publication that relate to the Kansas Native Plant Society's mission and activities. To assure journalistic independence and integrity, KNPS Newsletter editors exercise sole editorial control over submissions; editors retain the right to make changes and consult with the author(s) as needed. KNPS reserves the right to reject a submission even after it is accepted if it becomes apparent that there is inaccuracy in its scientific content, or KNPS publishing policies are violated.

KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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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:

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.

Kansas Native Plant Society welcomes everyone to join our membership. Read our full Statement of Diversity, Inclusion, and Non-Discrimination Policy on the website, ksnps.org.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Member Information

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County (if KS) _____

Membership Category

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

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