



KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER OF THE KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

JANUARY 2021

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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:

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

NATIVE PLANTS IN URBAN SETTINGS

Challenges of Native Landscaping in Southeast Kansas

— CYNTHIA (CINDY) FORD

Southeast Kansas is rich in native plant diversity. This part of the state lies on the boundary of two large biomes: the eastern deciduous forest to the East and the prairies to the West. More rainfall than in the rest of the state (approximately forty inches per year) amps up the variety of habitats available to grow many species found in both forested and grassland areas.

Due to the environmental advantages of the region in terms of location, rainfall, and plant diversity, I would expect to find native plants incorporated into landscaping around homes, parks, and downtown areas in our regional towns. — CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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KNPS NEWSLETTER STAFF

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

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University of Kansas
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Lawrence, KS 66047-3729

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MIKE HADDOCK PHOTOS

KNPS 2021 KANSAS WILDFLOWER OF THE YEAR

Compass Plant | (SILPHIUM LACINIATUM)

— BRAD GUHR

Compass plant (*Silphium laciniatum*) is the Kansas Native Plant Society 2021 Kansas Wildflower of the Year (WOY).

Found in roughly the eastern two-thirds of Kansas, this erect perennial has stiff, hairy, and sometimes glandular up to two-foot long leaves. The two to five-inch inflorescences are scattered along a flowering stem that can be up to nine-foot tall. Both central disc and outer seed-producing ray flowers help cue that this species is in the Sunflower (*Asteraceae*) family. Compass plant thrives in both lowland prairies with clay loam to silt loam soils as well as dry, hillside prairie habitat with rocky calcareous soils.

Broken stems exude a gummy resin that can be chewed like gum, and the genus name *Silphium* comes from the Greek word “silphion,” referring to a North African plant bearing resin. The word “laciniate” means to cut or slash into narrow, irregular lobes which describes the compass plant leaves. The common name refers to the plant’s tendency to align basal leaves generally north and south, which helps the plant save water by deflecting most of the hot, mid-day summer sunlight.

Once developed over four to five years, fifteen-foot deep compass plant roots make this species extremely drought-tolerant and long-lived. It is an aesthetically-pleasing option for the urban landscape thanks to bright yellow flowers in July to August and stately leaves holding their shape through the winter. If you do not weed-out new seedlings, however, the tall-statured compass plant can take over a garden.

Compass plant flowers are pollinated primarily by long-tongued bees, but the flowers also attract many other bees and flies and occasionally butterflies. A host of insects eat the plant’s vegetation including a prairie cicada (roots), *Silphium* beetle (stems and flower heads), gall wasps (stems), and an aphid (sucking juice from the stem). Birds and small mammals eat the large one-half inch seeds. Cattle eat young compass plant leaves and will eradicate this species over time on regularly-grazed pastures.

Seeds show improved germination success with at least two to three months of cold, wet stratification.

To see additional photos and a detailed description of *Silphium laciniatum*, visit kswildflower.org.



— LORNA HARDER ILLUSTRATION

President’s Message

KRISTA DAHLINGER

Welcome to a new year! As we enter winter 2021, are you making plans for new experiences and time outdoors engaged in nature? We expect this time of year to be cold and wet, interspersed with days that are mild enough to be outside. Take advantage of indoor time to review places you have already explored and to research for new locations. Although a majority of Kansas lands are privately owned, public access lands are abundant. The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP&T) manages twenty-eight State Parks, many of which include a body of water or river, where open prairie, wetlands and woodlands can be found along with camping facilities, cabins and hiking trails. The KDWP&T website lists more than fifty trails for hiking, biking and equestrian use. There are about seventy Fishing Lakes listed on KDWP&T Fishing Atlas page. Locate the nearest County or City reservoir lake, where trails and picnic areas make excellent destinations. The Nature Conservancy in Kansas manages lands that are open to the public in western Kansas at Little Jerusalem and Smoky Valley Ranch in the west, Cheyenne Bottoms in central Kansas, and Konza Prairie and Tallgrass Prairie National Park in the Flint Hills of eastern Kansas. You can also explore rivers in Kansas that are part of the National Water Trails System. Included are segments of the Kansas River, Arkansas River, and Missouri River. These rivers have launch access points available along their courses. River’s edge and sand bars can be explored. With all of these destination options, there should be several locations to explore within an hour’s drive from just about any place in Kansas.

KNPS programs continue into 2021. The Plant A Prairie Program, made possible by the Gary and June Kliesen Memorial Fund, will provide native plants for twenty school gardens so that children can experience native plants. School children will engage in the installation of the gardens and observe the plants as they grow, bloom and produce seeds, and also observe the insects and birds that rely on native plants for food and cover. The Plant A Prairie gardens can be visited by all students at the schools, increasing the total exposure to the program.

KNPS seeks to engage segments of the population that have not yet explored nature and native plants. Lack of opportunity or mentors, or minimal exposure to flora or principles of ecology can lead to limited involvement in nature and native plants. Exploring for native plants provides an opportunity for shared observation,

exercise, conversation and inquiry, thus encouraging a future native plant enthusiast at any age. Sharing knowledge about plant identification techniques and collecting photographs of interesting plants is routine for the experienced person, but for someone on a first trip to a remote and unfamiliar location the experience may open up a new world. On your explorations in 2021, consider extending an invitation to a future native plant enthusiast. The more advocates there are for nature and native places, from a diverse population, the greater the awareness is for access, enjoyment and stewardship.

If you have not yet signed up for the weekly listserv email notice to receive the Events Calendar, now is the time to do so. Outdoor events, book author interviews, plant sales, educational workshops and walks will be added. If you know of a native plant related event to be listed, please use the submittal form on the KNPS website to send the details. Small events are welcome and encouraged. One highlight of 2020 exploration was a small event attended by only eight people. It included a visit to a local museum, take-out lunch from a local restaurant, and an afternoon walk on an undisturbed sand hill prairie. If you would like to host a small group for a walk on undisturbed vegetation on private property, please feel free to email me at krista.knps@gmail.com and we can discuss arrangements.

State Parks: <https://ksoutdoors.com/State-Parks/Locations>
Kansas Water Trails: <https://ksoutdoors.com/KDWPT-Info/Locations/Rivers-and-Streams-Access>



KRISTA DAHLINGER PHOTOS

ABOVE Paw Paw — El Dorado State Park
BELOW, L TO R Wild Indigo Shrub — Butler State Fishing Lake; Prairie gaillardia; Elderberry Shrub — Sandhills State Park



Native Landscaping

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Highway edges would be beautiful rights-of-way with continuous strips of wildflowers and tall grasses. After all, native plants are acclimated to the natural conditions in this area and should be the easiest to grow.

When my husband and I first moved to the area in 1985, the highways were quite enjoyable to travel because of the native wildflowers changing with the seasons. Then, with improvement of the roads, the native plants were replaced with fescue grass and mowed from fence row to fence row. I miss the interesting drives looking for flowers in season, linking me to the natural changes in the year. (The highway beautification program in Texas has been so successful. Why can it not work here in Kansas?) In recent years, there seems to be less mowing along our highways and a meager attempt has been made to sow a few native species along isolated areas of roadside. I would like to see this practice expanded and promoted throughout by the State.

I have not seen many native plants used in towns of the area either. Pittsburg parks are typical fescue playgrounds with some neighborhood parks sporting nursery shrubs and annuals. An exception is in Galena, where their city park, lying on Shoal Creek at the edge of town, is a wonderland of Ozarkian woodland mixed with grassy recreational areas. The historic fort parade grounds at Ft. Scott are planted with buffalo grass...native to Kansas but not prevalent in eastern Kansas. The fort would historically have had tall grass, but the buffalo grass is more easily maintained because of its short height.

Pittsburg State University is a showplace of landscaping. It is as beautiful as a country club, but very few native plants are used in the design. Many of the plants have traditionally been splashy, colorful annuals in beds that require high maintenance. Even tulips are treated as annuals where they are placed carefully in rows and then removed after their bloom. Encouragement of using more native species to give the campus greater linkage to the

natural areas outside of the city, greater sustainability, and less maintenance, has, so far, not replaced tradition.

A few blocks from campus is an historic house that was once owned by Dr. Theodore Sperry, a former faculty member of the Department of Biology. In the 1960s he purchased one acre of land in Pittsburg, built a house on the property, and landscaped it as several small habitats: woods, prairie, glade, and pond. He brought in native plant species to embellish each habitat. Even though Ted Sperry is now deceased, his one acre still stands out in the neighborhood



DELIA LISTER

of suburban houses and typically landscaped yards. He called his property "Paradocs"...a paradox in the neighborhood and because he and his wife both had doctorates.

One part of the campus, four miles west of Pittsburg, demonstrates native landscaping for educational purposes. A small prairie was established and a landscaped garden close to the residence features native plants, showing what can be done with appropriate pollinator plants and succession of color for an attractive yard. The university property is an old coal strip mined area, common around southeast Kansas.

There are a few other homes in Pittsburg that have small plots of native plants mixed with nursery purchases, popularized by the trend of establishing pollinator gardens. Most of the plants that owners use, however, are commercial non-natives or native species that have been genetically altered to produce larger flowers. Some home owners are fortunate to have large yards where they can let part of their yard "go back to nature". Most homes in southeast Kansas, however, have manicured and predictable yards with foundation shrubs, a few trees, fescue grass, and some annuals.

Native plants do not seem to be popular in landscaping country properties in the area even though there is often space. Either residences that are in the country look like they belong in the suburbs or most commercial farm houses simply have fescue grass and a few isolated trees on an island surrounded by cropland.

Why is there so little interest in using native plants in landscaping in my part of the state? (1) Most people are just not familiar with native plants and, frankly, consider them to be weeds. Yes, some of them can be a bit pushy in a landscape. (2) Towns can enforce regulations of plant height in yards based on the messy look of an abandoned house or a vacant lot. Several native plant species do get quite tall, although short species can be selected for landscaping or tall plants can be pruned. (3) If a small prairie meadow is established in town, burning the plot is banned. (Neighbors get very nervous around fire.) (4) Native plant sources

ON THE COVER Author's front yard
ABOVE & OPPOSITE University property four miles west of Pittsburg
LEFT Wooded area on the Speery property

are not as available as commercial nurseries. There is mail order, but most landscapers want to see the plants before buying them. This is where a local plant nursery has an advantage. In addition, many "natives" are not always *locally* native. Landowners may take a general regional approach to landscaping around their houses where they purchase interesting plants that may be native a few counties away.

Personally, I would not give up my native garden. I replaced my front yard turf with native plants and have been so pleased with the results. Every year is a bit different in composition, color, and attraction of insects. I am addicted to landscaping plants and continually find more interesting native plants to add to my plot. Like walking into a candy store, I feel like there are so many choices of native plant species to select, that the sky is the limit if I were to mirror the native diversity of our region. Good thing I live in the country....



DELIA LISTER

FEATURED NATURAL AREA Pawnee Indian Museum

— ANDREW MITCHELL

In August, I was heading back from spending time at the Jamestown Wildlife Area in Cloud and Republic counties, when I noticed a sign on the highway for the Pawnee Indian Museum. The memory of my last visit to the museum was vague at best, as it was during a field trip in grade school. I had to go!

Having the day to myself, I proceeded to make a U-turn and head to the museum. Being 2020 and a year with nearly everything only open by appointment, I was not surprised to find that the museum was not open. But the grounds are open from dawn to dusk for hiking. So I hiked.

If you can get to the museum when it is open, it is a treat. You can see how the Pawnees lived and how they ate, hunted, and made tools. If you are interested at all in the history of Kansas and Native Americans, then you need to check it out.

Around the museum, there are nature trails that extend in several directions. I hiked a trail into a steep ravine and found many plants native to the Smoky Hills of Kansas. There were also several wet ditches where wetland plants waited for identification. I had been searching out these wetland species this year and was greatly excited.

Plants you will find growing here include brownish beaked-rush (*Rhynchospora capitellata*), white prickly-poppy (*Argemone polyanthemus*), and wild licorice (*Glycyrrhiza lepidota*). There was also an abundance of butterflies, bees, and other insects among the native plants.



ANDREW MITCHELL PHOTOS



TOP, L TO R Brownish Beaked-Rush; White Prickly-Poppy; Wild Licorice
ABOVE Pawnee Indian Museum in Republic County

To get to the Pawnee Indian Museum from Belleville, head west on US Highway 36 to K-266, then turn right onto K-266 and go eight miles to the museum parking area. Parking and hiking is free, but to tour the museum (when open) you must pay a small fee.

In Remembrance

EVELYN DALE (LENERTZ) REED

January 31, 1933 – August 22, 2020

Evelyn Dale (Lenertz) Reed, 87, passed away Saturday, August 22, 2020, at Newton Medical Center in Newton, Kansas. Born January 31, 1933, at a residence in Coldwater, Kansas, she was the daughter of Philip and Susie (Thompson) Lenertz.

Evelyn was nearly a lifetime resident of Comanche County. She graduated from Wilmore High School in Wilmore and attended Phillip’s University in Enid, Oklahoma. On August 14, 1954, she married Floyd D. Reed in Kiowa, Kansas. He preceded her in death on September 29, 2001.

Evelyn worked as the librarian for the Coldwater/Wilmore Library for 27 years. She was a member of the Coldwater United Methodist Church and U.M.W. Other memberships include: Civic Club; Red Hat Society; B.P.W.; Bowling Club; Kansas Archaeological Association; Kansas Native Plant Society; and Iroquois Center Board of Directors. She was a published poet and enjoyed photography, bird watching, and genealogy research.

She is survived by two daughters: Doreen Hadley (Bruce) of Newton, Kansas and Karen Wall (Jeff) of Grant, Nebraska; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and a host of other family members and friends.



In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, one son: Dirk Reed; and one sister: Neta L. Shipley.

A private family graveside service was held at Crown Hill Cemetery in Coldwater.

Remembering Evelyn

— PHYLLIS AND DEE SCHERICH

Former KNPS board member, Evelyn Reed, passed away in August, 2020. Evelyn spent most of her life on ranches in Comanche and Barber Counties in Kansas, moving into Coldwater for retirement. She loved the out-of-doors which led to her interest in wildflowers and birdwatching. She enjoyed many other hobbies: writing poetry, archaeology digs, genealogical research, and local history. Evelyn, June Kliesen, Dee, and I spent many hours prowling the Red Hills locating and identifying the wild flowers, also organizing several local wildflower/birding events. On one of our outings, a large rattlesnake appeared nearly under our feet; Evelyn, in her own gentle way, quietly backed around: more interested in getting a closer look than being frightened. We miss her and her involvement in everything she did, but feel blessed to have been her friend. She once told me that of all the organizations to which she belonged (and there were many) KNPS was her favorite.

Exerpts of obituary and photo from Hatfield-Prusa Funeral Home

SISTER PATRICIA MAE STANLEY

January 8, 1934 – November 6, 2020

Sr. Patricia Mae Stanley, CSJ, 86, was born January 8, 1934 in Ashland, Kansas to George Edward and Bertha Ford Stanley and entered eternal life November 6, 2020.

Her education began in Indiana public schools where the family lived until World War II began. Her father was inducted into the army making it necessary for the family to move back to Kansas where her mother had relatives. She attended diocesan schools in Ashland, and Eldorado, Kansas. Following the completion of elementary school, she entered the Congregation of St. Joseph in Wichita, completing high school at Mt. St. Mary’s. Sister Patricia received the habit in March, 1949 and made final profession July 26, 1955.

She obtained her B.S. from St. Mary of the Plains College in Dodge City, an M.S. in Computer Science from the University of Evanston, Indiana in 1988, with additional computer training from EDS in Dallas, Texas; Chabot University, Hayward, California; and Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska.

She served the congregation as an elementary and middle



school teacher for thirty-two years in Kansas, Colorado, and California before transitioning to a college teaching career. She began this at St. Mary of the Plains College, and when the College closed, she accepted a position at St. Mary College in Leavenworth until 1996, when she was elected to a position on the Congregational Leadership Team. In 2000-2002, she helped the Diocese of Wichita begin the set-up of their computer network, and then worked solely with the Congregation IT Department until her death.

Sr. Patricia was a woman of many interests. She was a member of the Kansas Wildflower Society, participating in many hikes with groups to identify and photograph many Kansas plants, participated in Audubon Society bird counts, and was interested in family genealogy as a member of the DAR.

She was preceded in death by her parents and is survived by her sister, Ginny Dove; brother, George Stanley; three half-sisters: Joni Stanley, Sali Stanley, Stephanie Martin; and two half-brothers, Alan Stanley and Thaddeus Stanley.

Due to the Covid pandemic, services were held privately for residents of Mt. St. Mary Convent with interment following in the convent cemetery.

Excerpts of obituary taken from The Wichita Eagle.

In Remembrance

GARY E. TEGTMEIER

July 6, 1940 – July 4, 2020

Gary E. Tegtmeier of Westwood, Kansas, passed away peacefully the morning of July 4 in the home of his devoted partner, Mary Kowalski. He died just two days shy of his eightieth birthday following nineteen months in treatment for leukemia.

Gary was born July 6, 1940, in Belleville, Illinois, to Walter Tegtmeier, Jr., and Marion (Simon) Tegtmeier, and grew up as the couple’s only child surrounded by doting maternal and paternal grandparents as well as Walter’s five sisters. He graduated from Belleville Township High School and excelled academically, athletically, and musically. He attended the University of Chicago, where he was a member of the basketball team and Psi Upsilon fraternity, and Southern Illinois University, where he ultimately earned a Ph.D. in microbiology. There he met his former wife of thirty-five years, Diane (Ogrizovich) Tegtmeier, whom he married in 1965. Following their years in Carbondale, the couple moved to Kansas City where Gary went to work for the Centers for Disease Control before joining the Community Blood Center in 1974. Fittingly, the gift of blood donations, and the kind of work to which he dedicated his career, helped extend his own quality of life over the final months.

More important to Gary were family, friends, and causes in which he believed deeply. Perhaps more than anything else, Gary loved the wilderness and dedicated much of his life to environmental and conservation causes. After retirement, he could often be found traversing wild, unspoiled places throughout the Midwest and elsewhere in pursuit of rare birds or plant species, of which he shot and printed hundreds of thousands of photographs. He invested nearly as many dollars and hours of sweat into the preservation and stewardship of the planet. He leaves a legacy of having preserved and improved thousands of acres of native tallgrass prairie.



PHYLLIS SCHERICH

ABOVE Gary Tegtmeier and his “devoted partner” Mary Kowalski in a photograph taken on May 3, 2020 at his Paintbrush Prairie. Photographer Phyllis Scherich says, “We were fortunate they happened to be there when we visited. Instead of just being able to drive by, we got to roam around in the flowers at our leisure.”

Gary is survived by Mary Kowalski, his partner for more than two decades; daughter Kristen Tegtmeier Oertel, her husband Robert Oertel, and children Owen and Lily of Tulsa, OK; son Walter Tegtmeier, his wife Stephanie Tegtmeier, and children Bella and Barrett of Leawood, KS; former wife Diane Tegtmeier and partner Jim Gilkeson of Ashland, OR; brother-in-law Sam Ogrizovich and his wife Jane Ogrizovich of Palos Heights, IL; nephews Jeremy Ogrizovich of Dyer, IN and Jason Ogrizovich of Des Moines, IA; and a long list of beloved family members and friends he leaves behind. A memorial service and musical tribute to Gary will be announced at a later date.

Excerpts of obituary located at The Kansas City Star.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

NEW MEMBERS FROM 9/14/20 TO 12/12/20

Hakam Altohol – Wichita
Gaberial Clark – Wichita
Samantha Cloninger – Wichita
Susan Sexton Cooley – Berryton
Collier Coombes – Douglass
Lindsay Cowin – Mulvane
Lauryn Creighton – Wichita
Megan Curts – Wichita
James Daft – Shawnee
McKenna Everhart – Benton
Steven Finell – Shawnee

Austin Gibbs – Conway Springs
Lesley Hayward – Topeka
Sally Isiaho – Wichita
Ana Martinez – Wichita
Jevin McWithey – Mulvane
Azure Morgan – Wichita
Winnie Rop – Wichita
Tevin Rose – McPherson
Karen Schneck – Manhattan
Sharp Bros. Seed Co. – Healy
Tara Smith – Toronto

Bradley Stuewe – Salina
Tania Tapia – Wichita
Martha Tymony – El Dorado
Samira Watts – El Dorado
Chantel Weber – Wichita
Evelyn Williamson – Pittsburg
Mike Williamson – Lyons
Evelyn M. Worku – Wichita
Riley Y – Maize
Tyler Zehring – Derby
Hanna Zenner-Hulse – Benton

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL

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

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

I 12/31/2021
CYNTHIA RHODES
6505 NW INDIANOLA RD
WHITEWATER KS 67154-8843





ABOVE, L TO R Sunset Sandbars Kansas River — Lisa Grossman;
Ohio Buckeye — Courtney Masterson; Volunteers removing invasives
— Dawn Buehler; Riverbank bloom — Dawn Buehler

NATIVE PLANTS IN URBAN SETTINGS

Along the Kaw...Our Riverbank Restoration Project

— KIM BELLEMERE, DAWN BUEHLER, AND COURTNEY MASTERSON

We pushed off at Lawrence into the early morning fog and quiet waters of the Kaw. We are the only people here, but we are not alone. Along the banks, we watch as deer and beaver move about the river's edge. Early morning is their time, too, and we feel the presence of being in their space. The Kansas River, known locally as the Kaw, is home to a variety of animals including a record 27 nesting pair of bald eagles that use the river as their home. All of the animals exist within the ecosystem of the Kansas River, but their habitat is at risk.

Dawn Buehler, Friends of the Kaw's Kansas Riverkeeper and Executive Director, and Courtney Masterson, Ecologist and Owner of Native Lands, LLC, had been talking for several years about finding a way to partner for the benefit of native plants and rivers. So, in 2018, they partnered on a collaborative demonstration project designed to showcase how native plants can protect water quality along the Kansas River in Lawrence, Kansas.

This native plant restoration project involved removing non-native and invasive plant species along the north bank of the river and replanting the area with native wildflowers, grasses, and trees. The project took place on a five-acre, one-mile section of the riverbank and resulted in the planting of over 2000 wildflowers and grasses, 500 native trees, and 50 pounds of native seed at the Lawrence Riverfront Park and Mountain Bike Trail.

Why conduct a native plant restoration here? The connections between river water quality and the health of the surrounding ecosystem are very pronounced in areas like this, known as the riparian zone. The riparian zone is the last line of defense in preventing runoff pollution from entering our waterways. Strong riparian zones also help to control erosion and maintain stream health, provide wildlife habitat, and shade aquatic life near the river's banks. Non-native plants harm the riparian zone's ability to do these important functions.

The native plant restoration along the riverbank at the Lawrence Mountain Bike trail occurred from 2018 to 2020. The goal of the restoration was to protect water quality and showcase how that can

be accomplished by returning, or restoring, native plants to the riverbank. During the two-year restoration, project partners worked with over 450 community volunteers to remove invasive and non-native plants and replant native wildflowers, grasses, and trees. Over 500 native trees and 2000 wildflowers were planted by volunteers along the trail, adding over 50 new plant species, bringing much needed plant diversity to the space.

The project did not just involve planting trees and wildflowers. Education was an important part of it, too. During every one of the over thirty workdays, volunteers learned about how native plants impact the riverbank and why they matter to wildlife. Presentations were made to area community organizations and schools. Students from both Free State High School and Lawrence High School learned about water quality through Friends of the Kaw's Kids About Water Program, a water quality issues and action curriculum. The students also visited and helped at the project site. Students from the University of Kansas Environmental Studies Department gathered data throughout the restoration, recording the changes in plant cover and experiencing restoration ecology first hand.

This project was funded in part by the Douglas County Natural and Cultural Heritage Grant Program. Friends of the Kaw managed and guided the project with a committed and talented ecology partner in Native Lands LLC, which directed the restoration work at the site. Together, they provided hours of volunteer and student education. Partners for this project also included Lawrence Mountain Bike Club, the City of Lawrence, Every Green Team, and a strong and committed workforce of community volunteers.

The Kansas River, locally known as the Kaw, is an important part of many Kansans' lives. It is the largest prairie-based river system in the world and drains a 61,000 square mile watershed that includes almost the entire upper half of Kansas, eastern Colorado and central Nebraska. The river originates at the junction of the Smoky Hill and Republican Rivers and runs 173 miles to meet the Missouri River at Kaw Point in Kansas City, Kansas.

The Kansas River is also a drinking water source for over 800,000 Kansans. It is often referred to as a working river, with such uses as agricultural, irrigation, industrial water supply, municipal water supply, electricity generation, sand mining, and many more public and private uses. Several different fish species live in the river including catfish, gar, and walleye. Land animals that call the riverbank home include great blue herons, bald eagles, beavers, and even river otters.

In 2012, the Kansas River was named a National Water Trail and is one of only three rivers in Kansas that are publicly navigable, meaning the river is available to the public for recreation. There have been several man-made changes that have impacted the Kansas River including the construction of four dams on the mainstem, eleven dams in the watershed, a levee system, and the Bowersock hydro-electric dam located at river mile 52 in Lawrence. The creation of the reservoir and levee systems was prompted by the flood of 1951 when the river crest reached nearly twelve feet above flood stage in Lawrence and 16.3 feet above flood stage in De Soto.

While management of the river has been successful in reducing economic losses from flooding, there are significant ecological impacts that result from separating a river from its floodplain. Floodplains encompass the area of land that is adjacent to the river and stretches from the channel to the banks to the edges of the valley. This area experiences periodic flooding that creates interactions with the land, water and biology that support the natural functions of the river ecosystem. These interactions are also beneficial to water quality and soil health and fertility in the floodplain. The Kansas River and its floodplain, which is up to four miles wide in some stretches, are a dynamic system that play an important role in the overall health, function and ecology of the river system. This Riverbank Restoration Project will benefit the Kansas River and its

floodplain by anchoring the soil with the addition of deep-rooted grasses and trees.

BENEFITS TO THE RIVER AND THE LARGER ECOSYSTEM

The benefits of restoring areas like this are as great as the interconnectedness between the riparian zone and the river. Three of the most important environmental impacts include:

1) Native land and aquatic habitat are improved.

Kansas native prairie and woodland plants attract wildlife by providing food and shelter. They also help shade the riverbank which helps maintain lower water temperature in the river on hot summer days. This in turn benefits the aquatic community and the wildlife that lives along and in the banks.

2) Riverbank erosion is better controlled.

Kansas native tallgrass prairie and woodland plants have strong, deep roots that hold onto soil tightly and create healthy soil. This stabilizes the soil on the riverbank which prevents erosion and maintains a stable stream channel.

3) Pollution is reduced before reaching the river.

Stabilizing the bank with native plants also reduces the number of chemicals and excess nutrients entering the water through erosion and runoff. The vast root system catches many of the chemicals and nutrients before they enter the water, helping to keep the water clean and providing the plants with the nutrients they need to grow.

Before European settlement of this region, fires that swept over the land helped maintain the balance between prairie and forest. The trees and shrubs in the grasslands could not survive the fire's heat, but prairie plants, which are adapted to fire, thrived. Their large root systems helped the plants recover after

— CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Riverbank Restoration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

fire and helped anchor the soil along the river. In the floodplains and riparian areas close to the river, towering trees were kept safe from the wildfires that burned the grasslands. This led to a mix of native prairie grasses and wildflowers as well as woodland shrubs and trees, all of which provided a unique habitat for hundreds of species.

Douglas County exists along the edge of this prairie and woodland ecosystems, along the riparian zone of the Kansas River. In the past, the riparian zone would spread a few miles inland from the river. Areas like the land around the Lawrence River Trails are remnants of these ecosystems. Forested areas are growing in Douglas County for many reasons, including fire suppression. However, these new forests are not the same as the historic old-growth forests that once were common along the river. They lack plant and animal diversity and often contain many non-native plant species.

While wooded areas have expanded, much of the tallgrass prairie has disappeared. It is estimated that less than one percent of the tallgrass prairie exists today when compared to pre-settlement times.

Many of the fragmented natural areas that remain have been invaded by non-native plant species. This causes several problems. Invasive species out-compete native species for space and resources because they lack natural predators and competitors. They do not provide adequate food and shelter for insects and other wildlife.

They also lack the strong, deep, and dense root systems of native prairie and woodland plants that help the riparian areas fight erosion and prevent runoff pollution from entering the river.

This project helps to reverse some of these negative impacts by returning the native woodland and prairie plants back to the riparian zone, thereby helping to restore some of the benefits they provide.

While the project has now been completed, our work will remain in the space that we helped to recreate. Long term maintenance is being provided by the Lawrence Mountain Bike Club and we are never far from the space. We put our hearts into the project and in return, found that even our small project could make a very big

DAWN BUEHLER



Bags of invasives

difference — a difference mostly seen in the way that people think and feel about rivers, native plants, and the greater ecosystem.

FEATURED NATIVE PLANT

Virginia Spring Beauty

— JIM MASON

Virginia Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*) is an early blooming wildflower found in the eastern third of Kansas. It ranges from southeastern Canada to Texas. It is predominantly found in open woodland sites with rich, loamy soil but also occurs in open meadows, roadside ditches and even lawns. It was formerly in the



— LORNA HARDER ILLUSTRATION

(CLAYTONIA VIRGINICA)

Purslane Family (*Portulacaceae*) but was recently moved into the *Montiaceae* (Miner's Lettuce Family). Its former cousins are the familiar purslanes that often show up as yard weeds.

The ankle-high flowers have five white petals with attractive pink lengthwise veins. Two sepals subtend the blossoms, which are about 1/2" across. The flowers have a slight fragrance. The foliage is grasslike and the plant arises from a corm.

The corm is edible and was widely used as food by Native Americans. Since it appears at the end of winter, which can be a hard time indeed, it was a most welcome find. Some would cook them, but they can also be eaten raw and have a pleasant nutlike flavor. The plant can be locally abundant, however taking the corm is the death of that plant, so respect the resource and limit any harvesting to ten percent or less of any group you find. I spotted several at a campsite in northeast Oklahoma where I stayed overnight once in spring many years ago. That is where I had the pleasure of eating one (OK, maybe two).

This would be a good candidate for naturalizing in the right area of a home landscape, but it is not easy to find as rootstock and it takes a few years to grow them from seed. Good luck if you try! Early bloomers like Virginia Spring Beauty are an encouraging sign that winter is on its way out.

2021 KANSAS AREA NATIVE PLANT & WILDFLOWER EVENTS

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@KSNS.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.

FEBRUARY | 24

GROW NATIVE! WEBINAR: INVASIVE PLANT Q & A with Dr. Quinn Long and Matt Arndt, 4 to 5 pm. Invasive, non-native plants threaten native biodiversity and have negative economic impacts for the timber and horticulture production, the outdoor recreation industry, and other sectors. Join invasive plant experts to learn more. Drawing from the Missouri Invasive Plant Task Force's list of 142 invasive plants in Missouri, they will answer your questions about why these plants were determined to be invasive, why some plants can be invasive in some situations, but not others, and other invasive plants not on the list. We encourage you to peruse the list ahead of time, and send questions by Feb. 10, so that Quinn and Matt can incorporate them into their presentation as best they can. Cost: free. Register online at: 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 organizer: Brooke Widmar** moprairieops@gmail.com, 573-808-7007

MARCH | 17

NATURE BOOK CLUB hosted by Lawrence Public Library in Lawrence. Join us to talk about fiction and nonfiction connected to the natural world. New book recommendations from co-leaders Jake Vail and Shirley Braunlich and other book club members. Meet 6:30 to 8 pm at Lawrence Public Library or via Zoom. **Contact Shirley to RSVP:** sbraunlich@lplks.org, 785-843-3833

MARCH | 17

GROW NATIVE! WEBINAR: 10 EASY-TO-GROW SPRING EDIBLE NATIVE PLANTS FOR YOUR GARDEN with Nadia Navarrete-Tindall, 4 to 5 pm. Nadia will share information on wildflowers, shrubs, and fruit trees that provide food for you! Identification tips will be discussed, growth requirements, when and what to harvest, what to eat, and how to prepare. Nadia will also point out non-native, edible plants that may show up

in your garden, as well as "look-alikes" that may be toxic or questionable. Note: This webinar on native edibles is intended as general information only. As with any foods, there is a potential for allergic reactions when consuming native edibles. Always seek the advice of a health professional with any questions about touching or eating any plant matter. Cost: free. Register online at: 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 organizer: Brooke Widmar** moprairieops@gmail.com, 573-808-7007

MARCH | 27

HIKE THE RED HILLS AT GANT LARSON RANCH IN BARBER COUNTY. Native plant enthusiasts are invited to join Kansas drone videographer Nick Abt to hike the Gant-Larson Ranch, also known as Gypsum Hills Trail Rides, near Medicine Lodge in Barber County. This is a 3,300-acre ranch with horse trails, hiking trails and camping. The landscape is rugged and features scenic red dirt canyons and buttes, and hosts native plants and animals that are adapted to this landscape. Call 620-886-0776 to make a reservation for everyone in your group, there is a fee of \$10 per person. Dress for weather conditions including layers, hiking shoes, wide brim hat, plenty of water, and be sure to bring your camera. Plan for social distancing outdoors and for masks when distancing is not possible. Hotels are available forty minutes north in Pratt if you are traveling overnight. Gant Larson Ranch, Gypsum Hills Trail Rides, 3212 NW Forest City Road, Medicine Lodge. The ranch is located nine miles west of Medicine Lodge on Hwy 160. Turn north at the "Gypsum Hills Trail Ride" sign. **Please note - Google maps does not pin the correct location - be sure to follow the written directions.** Meet at the ranch at 11 am to start as a group, but feel free to explore on your own. Gant Larson Ranch provides trail maps so that you can find your way around. Restroom facilities are available. Sponsor: Kansas Native Plant Society, **Contact: Krista Dahlinger**, krista.knps@gmail.com, 316-258-6341

APRIL | 20

GO NATIVE! RESTORING THE ECOLOGY OF YOUR BACKYARD FOR BIRDS by Brad Guhr. Free presentation hosted by Wichita Audubon from 7 to 9 pm at Great Plains Nature Center. **Contact Rachel Roth**, lilbluestem@gmail.com, 316-213-9527

JUNE | 12

JUNETEENTH WILDFLOWER WALK in conjunction with the Geary County Stone Soul Festival. 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. **Find out more from aok@audubonofkansas.org**, 785-537-4385.

SEPTEMBER | 24-26

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

DATES NOT SET: THE 26TH NORTH AMERICAN PRAIRIE CONFERENCE at The Meadows Events Center in Altoona, Iowa on the northeast side of the Des Moines metro area. The theme is "Prairie Conservation in a Changing World." **Learn more: www.northamericanprairie.org**, **Contact: Anita O'Gara**, aogara@inhf.org; or **Conference Chair: Tom Rosburg**, thomas.rosburg@drake.edu, 515-271-2920

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

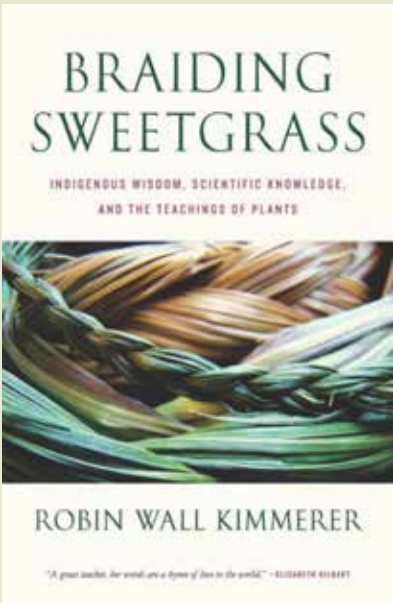
Join the KNPS email list to receive the latest event announcements: www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/email_list.php

BOOK REVIEW

Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

— LORNA HARDER

Sitting in a circle within the Cheyenne Indian exhibit at the Kauffman Museum, children tentatively raise the braid of Sweetgrass close to their noses. Their initial skepticism turns to delight at the sweet scent. As a docent, this was my introduction to a ceremonial plant that is both highly regarded and widely used by North American indigenous groups. When *Braiding Sweetgrass* was published, it piqued my curiosity. It has been a poignant read with stories of Sweetgrass and so much more. So often it reminded me too, of who we are and aspire to be as Kansas Native Plant Society members!



Author Robin Wall Kimmerer is a botanist, teacher, author, and member of the Potawatomie tribe. Through the interplay of stories of indigenous wisdom and empirical science, she lifts out the reciprocal relationships between the natural world and people. Her stories remind us of Earth’s gifts that have enabled humans to flourish across the millennia, and the gifts of gratitude, respect and responsible care required

of us — reciprocity between all citizens of the natural world.

Sweetgrass is best planted not by seed, but by putting roots directly into the ground. Listening, seeing, experiencing plants in their wild settings helps form in us the language of plants. This is a language of intimacy, of deep knowledge, not to be confused, Kimmerer suggests, with the language of botany. She notes that, “To name and describe [in botanical terms] you must first see, and science polishes the gift of seeing.” Taken together, we begin to speak a plant language of head *and* heart.

Wild meadow sweetgrass grows long and fragrant when it is looked after by humans. The people of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy have, from time immemorial, started their days with the Thanksgiving Address that sets gratitude as the highest priority. The Address names, greets and thanks each element of the ecosystem. In so doing it has inventoried these elements of the natural world, and passed along to countless generations, indigenous science lessons that embrace a deep understanding for the care and keeping of Earth.

Sweetgrass is harvested in midsummer, when the leaves are long and shiny. “The Honorable Harvest asks us to give back, in reciprocity, for what we have been given...to find ways to enter into reciprocity with the more-than-human world.” It asks harvesters



to know and care for the ones harvested, whether plant or animal. It asks that harvesters never take the first or the last, or more than half, and only what is needed. It asks

that harvests be shared and never wasted. The Honorable Harvest supports a sustainability that leaves more than it takes, so that “earth will last forever.”

Sweetgrass, as the hair of Mother Earth, is traditionally braided to show loving care for her well-being. We are a nation of immigrants. “To become indigenous is to grow a circle of healing to include all of creation.” Being indigenous means living as if this is a land that feeds us, a land from whose streams we can drink, a land that sustains our bodies and our spirits. It means knowing that our ancestors rest in this land. It means meeting our responsibilities of reciprocity — gratitude and creation care. It means living as if the lives of our children and relatives depend upon it, because they do.

A sweetgrass braid is burned to create a ceremonial smudge that washes the recipient in kindness and compassion to heal the body and spirit. The role of restoration is best stated in Kimmerer’s own words: “The moral covenant of reciprocity calls us to honor our responsibilities for all we have been given, for all that we have taken. It’s our turn now, long overdue. Let us hold a giveaway for Mother Earth, spread our blankets out for her and pile them high with gifts of our own making...Gifts of mind, hands, heart, voice, and vision all offered up on behalf of the earth. Whatever our gift, we are called to give it...for the renewal of the world. In return for the privilege of breath.”

Kimmerer, Robin Wall. 2013. *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Milkweed Press.

TECH NOTES

— KRISTA DAHLINGER

As you explore for native plants in Kansas on hikes, walks, or on unpaved roads, the types of plants you encounter depend largely on the soil in that location. Soils develop from rock below the surface, and may be thick or thin, with more or less sand or organic matter. Kansas has many ecoregions, or areas of common soil type at the ground surface. Here is a link to maps of Kansas from several sources that show the locations of different ecoregions.

<https://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/ecoregions.php>

NATIVE PLANTS IN URBAN SETTINGS

Manhattan’s Pollinator Pockets

— ALFONSO LEYVA

In early 2020, the Parks Division of the Manhattan Parks and Recreation Department (MHKPRD) began an alternate maintenance initiative to restore parkland and open spaces to native prairie habitat. The initiative, called Pollinator Pockets, was introduced to the Manhattan community in June, 2020 during National Pollinator Week. Pollinator Pockets has three goals: increase plant pollinator species, decrease invasive species, and increase ecological awareness through proactive learning and engagement.

MHKPRD maintains diverse public open spaces ranging from urban areas such as City Park to wide-open rolling hills like Warner Memorial Park. The first phase of this initiative targeted spaces with fewer existing programming opportunities. Staff analyzed ten locations, and approximately eighteen acres will be restored to the native prairie at a future date.

In addition to creating more pollinator habitats throughout the City of Manhattan, these Pollinator Pockets will decrease landscape maintenance time and cost. Replacing lawn with native Kansas flowers and grasses reduces the need for regular mowing and drastically minimizes fertilizer and pesticide usage. These pockets will also absorb storm water runoff and provide erosion control.

MHKPRD enjoys working with the community and local organizations whenever possible. During the planning stages of Pollinator Pockets, City staff engaged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWP), Kansas State University, Northern Flint Hills Audubon of Kansas, and members of the Kansas Native Plant Society.

USFWS and KDWP provided a report recommending how to proceed with implementing prairie habitat in Girl Scout Park, Pioneer Park, and Northeast Community Park. Part of this process involved letting the existing vegetation grow to identify the current seed bank. The report suggested a native wildflower, forbs, and grass mix to introduce at these locations to support local pollinators.

Allowing the vegetation at Girls Scout Park and Pioneer Park to grow during the summer season caused mixed reactions from nearby residents. Most of the feedback supported the Pollinator Pockets project; however, some were concerned about the aesthetic and loss of usable open space for drop-in use. Because of this feedback, MHKPRD engaged the community through a marketing campaign on social media, using #pollinatorpockets as the key phrase.

During the same time, the Flint Hills Association of Realtors (FHAR) reached out to MHKPRD and asked how they could partner with the Pollinator Pockets project. They volunteered to help on “work days” at Girl Scout Park and donated toward seeding and signage at the park. MHKPRD is open to partnerships like this and will strive to work with the community similarly.

The Parks Division is working with more than local organizations. Staff also engaged other MHKPRD facilities such as the Flint Hills Discovery Center and the Sunset Zoo, which



TOP Flint Hills Discovery Center
MIDDLE Sunset Zoo
BOTTOM Warner Memorial Park

endeavor to create pollinator habitats on their respective sites. They are excited to partner with the Parks division as Pollinator Pockets takes flight.

For more information on this project, please feel free to contact Alfonso Leyva, Park Planner, at alfonso.leyva@cityofmhk.com or visit www.mhkprd.com/pollinatorpockets.

ALFONSO LEYVA PHOTOS



ABOVE, L TO R Mature Blue Ash tree;
Blue Ash tree on K-State campus

Blue Ash Tree

— KEN O'DELL

The beautiful Blue Ash tree is native in Eastern Kansas and scattered in much of the central United States. Early settlers in this area would use the inner bark of the blue ash to dye wool and yarn to blue shades to use in weaving and felting. *Fraxinus quadrangulata* makes a beautiful shade tree. The genus name *Fraxinus* is Latin for ash. The species name *quadrangulata* is because of the four-sided twigs that are sometimes seen on the trees and on the peduncle of the mature fruit later in the summer. Blue ash is fast growing, drought tolerant, and long-lived. Also, blue ash is reported to be more resistant to the emerald ash borer than the white or green ash.

The ash tree is in the olive family of oleaceae as is the common lilac bush. Light purplish flowers on this ash tree appear in April and May just as the leaves appear. Male and female flowers are normally on separate trees. The clusters of fruit often have a light purplish blush as it ripens to a tan color when fully ripe. The fruit is a samara that spins like a crazy helicopter when it falls to the ground.

Blue ash leaves are odd pinnately compound with seven leaflets of a good green coloring changing to a dull yellow in autumn. Margin of the leaves are coarsely serrated. Leaves of the ash trees are used by native American frogs as a necessary food source. Their tadpoles in very shallow water puddles eat the ash leaves when they fall into the pools.

I first saw blue ash trees in Tennessee years ago, and noticed them mainly because of the light colored bark which is very attractive. If not white, it is at least a light grey coloring. Baseball bats have for years been made out of wood from ash trees. Ash makes good firewood. It will burn when green, but does best when cut, split and stacked to dry for about four or five months with some moisture remaining in the wood. As a youngster we would clean out the wood stove and spread the ashes on the vegetable garden to raise the pH of the soil. I am sure a bag of lime would have done the same, but we had the ashes and had to buy the lime.

In the year 2014, we had a board meeting on the campus of K-State, and at that time there were at least two big blue ash trees near the WWII Memorial that were removed a couple of years later due to construction damage, and as a proactive measure to minimize the effects of the emerald ash borer; an exotic, invasive insect that is decimating the ash tree population as it moves westward across the country. Look for the blue ash tree the next time you are out and about.

FAR LEFT Leaves of Green Ash (left),
and Blue Ash (right)
LEFT Trunk of the Blue Ash



Growing Trees to Keep Kansas Green | KEN O'DELL

On our small, eighty-acre farm in Eastern Kansas, we get sufficient rainfall during parts of the growing season to help our trees grow. When I plant trees, I plan on carrying water to each of these trees in a timely manner. When the COVID virus hit in late January, 2020, I had already planted eight small tree seedlings that I grew from seeds collected elsewhere in Eastern Kansas. I had a total of forty different species or varieties of trees, both native and nonnative, coming up in seed pots that I had in a greenhouse that we built twenty-five years ago. By the end of November, 2020, I had planted over sixty-six newly grown tree seedlings on our farm.

I find it exciting to see the beautiful new cotyledons pushing out of the soil in a seed pot, and then more excitement as I move the tiny seedling into a single pot for the seedling to put on more leaves just as Mother Nature pushes the tiny roots down into the soil. Some or most tree seedlings will put on a quarter inch of new root each day for the first four or five days of their lives as long as they get moisture. Our state tree, the cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) will put on new roots at this same rate from only a tiny seed that is barely larger than a speck of dust. TREES WANT TO GROW. And sometimes they need us to give them a little help or a head start.

I just finished reading the book *Ginkgo* by Peter Crane about ginkgo fossils being found in North Dakota, Greenland, and many other countries of the world, as this tree which we now give credit to China for its homeland may well have been scattered naturally throughout our planet. I planted one *Ginkgo biloba* this year from my seedlings that is now less than two feet tall and looks like a stick. We have one *Ginkgo biloba* that we planted twenty-five years ago that is now thirty feet tall and a magnificent tree in full sun. Another ginkgo is fifty feet from a stunningly strong tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) planted twenty-five years ago that loves this Kansas climate.

I have planted one year seedlings of the following trees listed by the correct scientific name if you want to look them up. Native

trees are listed in the new book *Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines in Kansas* by Michael John Haddock and Craig C. Freeman. If you do not have this book you should have it for reference. I also use *Flora of the Great Plains*, *Flora of Missouri*, and I still use *Hortus Third*. In my mind I have an interesting story about each of these trees: where and what time of the year I first found them, what they looked like, and how I started them as seedlings.

Acer truncatum, *Aesculus flava*, *Carpinus caroliniana*, *Catalpa bignonioides*, *Catalpa ovata*, *Catalpa speciosa*, *Cladrastis kentukea*, *Cladrastis platycarpa*, *Crataegus pruinosa*, *Eucommia ulmoides*, *Fagus grandifolia*, *Fraxinus quadrangulata*, *Gymnocladus dioica*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, *Maaackia amurensis*, *Phellodendron amurense*, *Platanus occidentalis*, *Ptelea trifoliata*, *Quercus acutissima*, *Quercus alba*, *Quercus imbricaria*, *Quercus michauxii*, *Quercus muehlenbergii*, *Quercus nigra*, *Quercus phellos*, *Quercus texana*, *Sapindus saponaria* var. *drummondii*, *Sorbus alnifolia*, *Styphnolobium japonicum*, *Staphyle trifolia*, and *Styrax japonicus*.

Studying these trees and working with them during this pandemic has given me something to do and has kept my mind and hands busy. At this moment, the temperature is in the upper thirties with a five to ten mile per hour wind out of the northwest. I am going to put on a big heavy coat, a warm cap with ear flaps, and go look at trees. I will talk to the young seedlings and I will hug the big trees. With this slight breeze I should be able to feel the enormous strength of these big trees, and I will dream of the seedlings growing to towering trees and providing clean oxygen for us to breathe; to give us shade in the summer; firewood in the winter; homes for birds, bugs, and insects; and eventually falling to the earth that sustained the tree for many years. Life is good.

BELOW, L TO R *Diospyros virginiana* seedlings; *Fraxinus quadrangulata* seedling; *Ulmus rubra* seedling



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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Membership Category

☐ Student \$15.00
☐ Individual \$20.00
☐ Family \$30.00
☐ Organization \$35.00
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