



KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

VOLUME 45, NUMBER 3

NEWSLETTER OF THE KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

JULY 2023



ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT The federally endangered Mead's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*); Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*) BRIAN L. MARTIN PHOTOS

Mini-AWW is Gigantic Success!

— CYNTHIA RHODES & BRIAN L. MARTIN

The 2023 Mini-AWW excursions began on Friday, May 19 after the Spring/Summer board meeting and in the light rain with a car caravan to the Anderson County Prairie Preserve. The property visited is protected by The Nature Conservancy and serves as an outdoor laboratory for the Kansas Biological Survey, a research center at the University of Kansas. Prior to their visit, this small, but hardy group of botanizers were informed by Craig Freeman as to the nature of various research projects on the property, and were then thrilled to find, among other tallgrass prairie plants, the federally endangered Mead's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*) nested in the beautiful and damp late-afternoon prairie setting.

Saturday morning found thirty-two enthusiasts rendezvoused at the romantic Paintbrush Prairie which is managed by the Kansas Land Trust (KLT). Members were met at the illustrious prairie by Mary Kowalski, owner, and Kaitlin Stanley, the new KLT Executive Director. This property has a total of 251 vascular species that the late Gary Tegtmeier and Mary Kowalski cataloged with the help of Caleb Morse, KU Biodiversity Institute. The landscape did not disappoint with carpets of the red-showy Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*) blooms covering the rolling landscape. Also located were Mead's milkweed, nodding bulrush (*Scirpus pendulus*), and obedient plants (*Physostegia angustifolia*).

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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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KNPS Spring/Summer Board Meeting Notes

— KRISTA DAHLINGER

The KNPS Spring/Summer Board meeting was held in Iola on the campus of Allen County Community College on May 19. KNPS currently has nineteen board members with seventeen in attendance. We would like to add several new board members to serve on various committees. KNPS members are invited to attend board meetings to hear about ongoing committee projects and to assist in planning annual events.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership — Membership numbers remain steady. A reminder mailing will go out soon to those who have not renewed for 2023. Currently there are 699 members; 636 in Kansas and 63 in other states.

Awards — Two worthy applications were received for the Mary A. Bancroft Memorial Scholarship Award. Both will receive scholarship funding in 2023.

Finance — KNPS finances are in a good position to sustain regular business. Donations to the General Fund, Scholarship Fund, Legacy Fund, and the Plant A Prairie program continue to be received in addition to membership dues. A new banking signature card was circulated so that Nadine Champlin could be added to the checking account.

Website, Events, Publicity, and Outreach — The Facebook statewide page and the Plant ID group continue to add members. The KNPS listserv has just over 1,100 members and the KSNPS Instagram page has about 1,200 followers.

Public Policy — The Nationwide Monarch Candidate Conservation with Assurances Agreement / Candidate Conservation Agreement Initiative is being monitored by Pam Tennison-Rindt for activities related to habitat creation and management of vegetation located in utility easements. This is a program that benefits the Monarch butterfly population by providing location and appropriate plants.

Newsletter — Our newsletter team’s final edition will be the Fall 2023 – Annual Wildflower Weekend Newsletter. We are looking for a person or a team to take over production of the KNPS Newsletter starting with the January 2024 issue. Responsibilities include requesting and editing articles and images, and layout of the Newsletter for printing and distribution. Cynthia and Brian have upgraded the look of the newsletter during their tenure and we appreciate all of their good work to keep the KNPS membership informed about native plant happenings across Kansas.

Plant Resources and Stewardship — The Wildflower of the Year program has been renamed the “Native Plant of the Year” to include trees, shrubs, grasses, and vines. The 2023 Native Plant of the Year is purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*). Everyone is encouraged to collect seeds to give away or offer plants at the Silent Auction at the 2023 AWW in Salina. Loss of prairie habitat to invasive species is an issue the committee will be working to address through KNPS media to promote awareness of land management and vegetation populations.

Plant A Prairie Program — Thirty-one gardens were approved for 2023; nearly 100 gardens will have been awarded through the program. There are sufficient funds in reserve to continue the program for four or five years. The Committee will be glad to accept donations of seeds for the existing gardens to use to increase plant diversity and also to replace plants that did not thrive.

2023 AWW — There was discussion about hotel availability and vegetation conditions in north central Kansas where the 2023 AWW initially had been planned. The board agreed to change the location of the 2023 AWW to Salina on the planned dates September 22, 23, and 24, 2023.

Annual Native Plant Appreciation Month — Shirley will request the Kansas Governor award the 2023 Proclamation for the month of September.

President’s Message

— ANTHONY ZUKOFF

The growing season is in full swing and from all the amazing shares on the Kansas Native Plant Society Facebook community group it looks like Kansas is blooming from east to west!

The season kicked off in May with an amazing display of blooms in high quality tallgrass prairie at the spring Mini-AWW outing in Iola. Members were granted access to private properties in Anderson and Allen Counties that harbored a variety of species including the federally protected Mead’s Milkweed. At the time, the western half of Kansas was still in the grips of a significant drought, so as an inhabitant of western Kansas, the lush spring growth of the tallgrass prairie was a welcome reprieve and I greatly enjoyed visiting with all the fellow native plant enthusiasts that joined us that weekend! If you know anyone that is not already a member of our society, get them to join! Outings like the one in Iola are one of the amazing perks of being a part of the Kansas Native Plant Society.

Since then, the western part of the state has been given a welcome respite from the drought. Between six to eight inches of rain has accumulated in many areas of western Kansas since the middle of May. That may sound quite low for everyone in eastern Kansas, but for many western Kansas areas, that is already fifty percent of the annual precipitation! It never fails to amaze me how quickly the shortgrass prairie can respond to this bounty of rainfall.

During a recent outing at Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park in Logan County, a variety of blooms greeted hikers despite the location receiving less than six inches of rain in the past year. Additionally, the sandsage prairie along the Arkansas River in Finney County has exploded with color in a short amount of time.



Little Jerusalem Badlands

ANTHONY ZUKOFF

The purple of spiderwort, crisp white blooms of sand verbena, and bright yellow drifts of sunflowers are already coloring the roadsides. This is all a great reminder that our native plant communities can withstand challenges like drought even when it seems dire to us. The shortgrass prairie of western Kansas would not be here today if it were not adapted to the fickle rainfall of the region.

While the 2023 AWW is relocated to Salina this year due to the recent drought, keep an eye out for future outings in western Kansas. And join us in Salina this fall (September 22, 23, and 24) at the 2023 Annual Wildflower Weekend for an amazing time botanizing with friends!

2023 Annual Wildflower Weekend: September 22, 23, 24 in Salina!

Friday, September 22 1:00 to 3:00
Board meeting at the K-State Salina campus College Center Conference room. Lunch is prior to the meeting at the KSU cafeteria next door in the same building, pay at the door. Members are welcome to attend the board meeting.

3:00 Botanize at the Marty Bender Nature Area, a 206-acre natural area near Salina with a 2.8 mile loop trail that offers prairie views and a walk along the Smoky Hill River. Owned by The Land Institute, the area is a site for research, education, and community engagement.

Saturday, September 23 8:00 to Noon
Membership meeting and annual silent auction will be held on the Kansas Wesleyan University campus in Salina. Guest speaker for the event is Edward Pembleton of Manhattan. A native of Missouri, Ed spent most of his professional career as an educator, conservationist, naturalist, and tour leader. After a thirty year absence, he and his wife, Sil, returned to Kansas and their beloved prairies in the Flint Hills. Make plans to attend!

1:00 Botanize on private properties, Rock City a five acre park overlooking the Solomon River south of Minneapolis, and Ottawa State Fishing Lake located on Sand Creek in the Smoky Hills east of Minneapolis.

Sunday, September 24 9:00
Botanize at Kanopolis Lake situated in the rolling hills, bluffs, and woods of the scenic Smoky Hills southwest of Salina. The Kanopolis State Park, with its towering sandstone bluffs and caves and crevices of Horsethief Canyon, offers more than thirty miles of trails, fifteen of which are on the Smoky Hill Wildlife Area..

Watch for more details to be posted on the KNPS website and social media, and all members will receive an invitation by postal mail in late July. There are many hotels in the Salina area, but one that is getting rave reviews is the newly renovated Homewood Suites by Hilton, located in downtown Salina. Join your friends for an exciting and inspiring weekend in the Salina area. All are welcome!



ABOVE, TOP TO BOTTOM Showy stonecrop or Widow's cross (*Sedum pulcellum*); Red cup fungi (*Sarcoscypha dudleyi*); Wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

Mini-AWW

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After a delicious lunch and socializing time at the Dutch Country Café in Garnett, the twenty-seven member KNPS entourage met at the Leadplant Prairie, a 17.7 acre hay meadow near the town of Welda which is managed by the Grassland Heritage Foundation. This prairie is on the popular Prairie Spirit Trail that runs between Ottawa and Iola, giving hikers and bikers direct access to an authentic prairie experience. The Kansas Biological Survey personnel counted 199 plant species on this prairie, including Mead's milkweed. Plant finds by KNPS botanizers that day included Scribner's panicum (*Dicanthelium oligosanthos*), clasping Venus' looking-glass (*Triodanis perfoliata*), green milkweed (*Asclepias viridiflora*), and Atlantic wild indigo (*Baptisia alba*).

The KNPS troopers continued on to Colony to peruse two private prairies in the area. Property #1 has 198 species identified and botanizers busily found and identified wild hyacinths (*Camassia angusta*), plains larkspur (*Delphinium carolinianum*), prairie turnips (*Pediomelum esculentum*), showy stonecrop or widow's cross (*Sedum pulcellum*), cursed crowfoot (*Ranunculus sceleratus*), and limestone adder's tongue (*Ophioglossum engelmannii*). Moving on to Property #2, the undeterred KNPS crowd admired the sloping prairie and found on its landscapes the thickspike gayfeather (*Liatris pycnostachya*) and shooting stars (*Primula meadia*). The exhausted, but happy group hungrily made their way back to Iola and met at Sam and Louie's Italian Restaurant for a scrumptious evening meal and visiting about the day's plant discoveries: sharing photos and reliving memories with each other.

Sunday morning found sixteen adventurous Mini-AWW botanizers meeting at the gravel parking lot of the new Lehigh-Portland State Park. The trails of this park are built on the site of a former cement plant and quarry along the banks of Elm Creek in Iola. The trails consist of over 2.5 miles of wide gravel trails and over twelve miles of natural-surface trails for mountain biking, trail running, and nature hikes. Led by John Leahy, Director of Trails for Thrive Allen County, and Randy Rasa, board member of Thrive Allen County and formerly of Grassland Heritage Foundation, the group hiked through the Lehigh Prairie, Meandering Glade, and Stone Wall Glade areas of the park before hiking to explore John Brown's cave! Botanizing treasurers included a glade of widow's crosses, the tiny, but brilliant red cup fungi (*Sarcoscypha dudleyi*), and cliff-brake fern (*Pellaea glabella*). Steep hills, mature trees, and sunny ravines make this an excellent location for prairie botanizing, and everyone agreed that a return trip soon should be in the works!

Happy and worn-out members left the area to return home with memories and photographs of many beautiful plants to identify and catalog in personal files and share on social media. All are looking forward to the big AWW (Annual Wildflower Weekend) to be held in Salina on September 22-24 later this fall. Check the KNPS website and Facebook pages for current information regarding this botanizing social event, and **COME AND JOIN US!**

Plant A Prairie: Kansas teachers embrace native plants

— PAUL SHOWALTER

Rochelle Butler of the Hamilton school district did not mince words when she applied recently to KNPS for a Plant A Prairie garden kit. Her educational goals, she said:

"To plant our own tallgrass prairie to increase understanding of the ecosystem, and instill a sense of place and pride of being a part of the Flint Hills Prairie."

Hers was one of thirty-two winning proposals in a very competitive round of applications. A record number of applications were received, and a record number were funded. Applications are accepted in the spring; the kits arrive in mid-September in time for fall planting.

Since its inception four years ago, ninety-nine schools and youth organizations have participated. Kansas teachers and leaders of youth organizations are eligible. The free program is on track to engage more than 15,000 Kansas students through 2023.

The Plant A Prairie garden kit features live native plants selected at the Taylor Creek Nursery to match local growing conditions. Each kit contains a grass or sedge, a milkweed, and colorful forbs — eight species, thirty-two plants in all, sufficient for an eight foot by ten foot mini prairie.

Other kit items include a garden sign, planting and care instructions, a "Wildflowers & Grasses of Kansas" field guide, links to teaching resources, and expert advice by email or phone.

Read on for comments from some of this year's Plant A Prairie recipients...

Chris Bellar, Conway Springs High School, Conway Springs:

Plant A Prairie is a place "for students to learn more about pollinators, native plants and how a healthy prairie ecosystem works. Students will use this site for studies in biology and environmental science."

Grace Collins, Garfield Elementary, Ottawa:

"We raise monarch butterflies in the fall; the idea of having milkweed on campus is exciting."

Lori Fordyce, Hiawatha High School, Hiawatha

Plant A Prairie will help us "expand our prairie and hopefully increase the number of people using the walking trail and new outdoor learning space."

Jerry Epp, Newton High School, Newton:

"We are developing a new outdoor wildlife area. I appreciate KNPS providing native plants to organizations around Kansas! It is important to me that future generations of Kansans understand and appreciate our native history."

Cindy Apple, Broadmoor Elementary, Louisburg:

"It is our goal that this sustainable prairie will provide yearly lessons and opportunities for our students. We hope to grow the area and promote native plants to our families."

Aaron Batterbee, Gardner-Edgerton High School, Gardner:

The project goals are to "increase campus biodiversity and

2023 PLANT A PRAIRIE PARTICIPANTS

Isley Elementary	Bel Aire
Conway Springs High School	Conway Springs
Gardner Edgerton High School	Gardner
Hamilton OLC	Hamilton
Halstead Middle School	Halstead
Haysville West Middle School	Haysville
Hiawatha High School	Hiawatha
Jackson Heights High School	Holton
Royal Valley High School	Hoyt
Kingman Co. Hawk 4-H Club	Kingman
Langston Hughes Elementary	Lawrence
Southwest Middle School	Lawrence
Broadmore Elementary	Louisburg
Newton High School	Newton
Prism Microschool	North Newton
Northview Elementary	Olathe
Garfield Elementary (2)	Ottawa
Ottawa Middle School	Ottawa
Ottawa High School	Ottawa
Pittsburg High School	Pittsburg
Central Heights Middle School	Richmond
Bickerdyke Elementary	Russell
Sedgwick Schools	Sedgwick
Spring Hill High School	Spring Hill
Stockton Unified School Dist. (2)	Stockton
Jardine Elementary	Topeka
Wichita Heights High School (3)	Wichita
Izora Elaine Dean Ed. Center	Wichita

enhance the area where students from all district buildings can come and learn about native plants and why they are so important."

Frances Berghout, Langston Hughes Elementary, Lawrence:

"We are redesigning our garden space...to include a micro prairie" with plants from Plant A Prairie and native plant seed. "We hope that by introducing native plants into our garden we can invite wildlife into our space."

Amy Schroeder, Sedgwick Schools, Sedgwick:

"Our biology students will care for the garden space. All students study ecology and various topics related to habitats throughout the curriculum at Sedgwick. We want to utilize the garden to educate students in grades K-12."

Plant A Prairie is made possible through support from the Gary and June Kliesen Memorial Fund and through generous gifts from KNPS members and friends. Your support is greatly appreciated.

SEED COLLECTORS NEEDED

Plant A Prairie is seeking native seed for school gardens. Target species include: coreopsis varieties; bee balm; foxglove beardtongue; purple poppy mallow; purple coneflower; black-eyed Susan; and several others. Seed from home gardens and the wild (with permission) is welcome.

For more information, write "Seed Collection" at plantaprairie@gmail.com.



Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie – Part 1

— MICHAEL STUBBS

Seventy years ago, the State of Kansas through its agency the Kansas State Historical Society, was gifted thirty acres of historic hilltop prairie in Wabaunsee County three miles south of Wamego. By accepting the gift, officials agreed to create a state park named “Mount Mitchell” as a memorial to the abolitionists of the Connecticut Kansas Colony who had settled nearby. This group came to Kansas Territory in 1856 to ensure that Kansas would enter the Union as a state free from slavery. The thirty-acre plot was part of the farm of colonist and Underground Railroad stationmaster William Mitchell.

A natural leader, Mitchell was elected Captain of the Wabaunsee Prairie Guards, the local free-state militia stationed in Lawrence on Mount Oread during the summer of 1856. Mitchell’s son Will bequeathed the property to the State upon his death in 1953.

For many reasons, a park was never developed and in 2002 the Historical Society decided to return the property to Will Mitchell’s heirs. When area residents learned of the plan, they contacted the Mitchell family and began a joint grassroots effort to have the property transferred to local control so their grandfather’s dream of a memorial park could be realized. With the help of local legislators, including then Senator Laura Kelly, the property’s transfer took place on the 125th anniversary of the colony’s arrival in Kansas in April of 2006. The grassroots group that accomplished the transfer eventually became the nonprofit Mount Mitchell Prairie Guards.

Mount Mitchell has witnessed a great deal of human activity over thousands of years: Native people considered it sacred, mountain men traversed it on their way to and from the Rockies, and explorer Charles Fremont used it while mapping the route of the Oregon Trail. After the establishment of Fort Riley in the 1850s the trail became known as the Topeka-Fort Riley Road. Freedom-seekers escaping slavery are known to have traveled it in wagons hidden under loose corn on their way to the Mitchell cabin where Captain Mitchell and his sister Agnes gave them shelter and care.

Through the efforts of the Prairie Guards and the support of their many partners, the Park is now a Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area Star Attraction, and a National Park Service Network

to Freedom Site commemorating the Underground Railroad. It is also an auxiliary site of the Brown v. Board National Historic Park and the U.S. Civil Rights Trail. It was designated a historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2022. In addition, the Park is an auxiliary site of the Kansas River Water Trail, an official Monarch Butterfly Waystation, and a featured attraction along the Native Stone Scenic Byway and the Road to Oz. When planned visitor amenities are realized, the Park will be eligible for inclusion in the Kansas African American History Trail.

In 2019, the Prairie Guards purchased 125 additional acres of the former Mitchell farm that joined the Park on the north: a twenty-five-acre prairie hay meadow and 100 acres of former cropland enrolled in the Department of Agriculture’s Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

Created in 1985, this farm program has two primary goals: reducing soil erosion on highly erodible cropland and curbing the production of surplus commodities. Secondary objectives include improving water quality, fostering wildlife habitat, and providing income support for farmers. In Kansas the perennial cover is required to be a specific mix of native forbs and grasses.

Kansas Trails Council member Mike Goodwin designed the original walking trails at Mount Mitchell in 2009. When the Prairie Guards expanded the Park from forty-five acres to 164 acres in 2019, Goodwin returned to devise a plan to double the length of the Park’s trail network. It became immediately evident that the terraces in place in the former crop ground were an impediment to expanding the trail system. The terraces’ unnatural changes in elevation created wet and dry areas that made it necessary to place the new trails along the tops of the terraces. This severely limited where trails could be located and prevented a rational design. The obvious solution was to remove the terraces. Even though the acreage was no longer used for agriculture it was still in the CRP and getting permission to remove the terraces proved to be a formidable task.

Terraces have been a soil conservation measure used on Kansas cropland since the 1930s. They are built to retain water on the field

OPPOSITE, LEFT TO RIGHT Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie Park; Freedom’s Frontier campers explore Mount Mitchell.
MICHAEL STUBBS PHOTOS

and to control runoff, keeping topsoil on the field. Since this former cropland is now a public park with permanent vegetative cover, the risk of erosion has been greatly diminished.

After being returned to native grasses and forbs in 2010, the wetter areas in the terrace channels and the drier areas on their ridges evolved into separate micro habitats. Plants favoring either of these conditions presented at all seasons a “striped” man-made alteration of a prairie landscape. Terraces are a feature of row crop agriculture, not native prairie. The Guards’ goal is to re-establish the Park’s prairie landscape by unifying the CRP acreage with natural tallgrass prairie of the original Park.

The Prairie Guards asked Greg Kramos with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help with our dilemma. Kramos manages the Service’s Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program that helps landowners conserve and improve wildlife habitat. Eventually the effort became a joint project with the Prairie Guards, the

ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT Historic Mitchell Farmstead from the summit of Mount Mitchell before cropland conversion to the CRP; Cream wild Indigo on the north slope of Mount Mitchell. MICHAEL STUBBS PHOTOS

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Farm Service Agency (FSA), The Nature Conservancy, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

After many meetings and discussions that eventually involved the state’s FSA Director, it was agreed that to restore the natural hydrology of the site, improve its historic aesthetics, and improve the diversity of the native plant community without causing any significant soil erosion problems, ten of the thirteen terraces should be leveled and revegetated with the original CRP seed mix enhanced by additional native forbs. How this was accomplished will be related in the next newsletter.

BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT Missouri evening primrose (*Oenothera macrocarpa*) at the summit of Mount Mitchell with terraces in the distance; Cobaea penstemon (*Penstemon cobaea*) at the summit of Mount Mitchell. SCOTT BEAN PHOTOS



FEATURED NATIVE PLANT

Sentinel of the Plains: Prince’s Plume | (Stanleya pinnata)

— LORNA HARDER

Recently, in casting about for a featured species for this issue, I asked our KNPS president for a recommendation from western Kansas. Anthony’s great response — Prince’s plume (*Stanleya pinnata*)! My personal experience with this species is limited but memorable, and I also found there is so much more to Prince’s plume than meets the eye. It is time to get acquainted with one of our outstanding western native plant species!

My first encounter with Prince’s plume occurred on a Kansas Native Plant Society outing in Gove County years ago. Who could forget the clustered flowering stalks of lemony-yellow flowers with the white chalk outcroppings and blue skies of Monument Rocks as backdrop? Drought tolerant and hardy, Prince’s plume flourishes in habitats like those found in western Kansas’ chalk badlands.

As a perennial sub-shrub or herb, pinnately lobed basal leaves emerge from a woody crown in spring. The unbranched stalks that follow are one to five feet in height, and bear waxy silvery-green, leaves that may become undivided, finer, and thinner as they ascend the stalk.

In late spring, inflorescences growing along the upper portion of the stalk begin to bloom from the bottom. Depending on conditions, flowering continues for several months. The parts of the vibrant yellow flowers come in fours, a form typical of the Brassicaceae (mustard) family. Attached to the stalk by a short stem, each flower has four sepals bending back toward the stem, four upright petals forming an open tube, and a cluster of long stamens that extend well beyond the corolla. Flowers are pubescent (furry) inside, and have four nectar glands that attract an abundance of insects. Crowded together on the stem, they truly resemble a golden plume.

Following blooming, striking narrow, spreading siliques (seed pods of the mustard family) remain on the stalks until they dry and split to release many small (two millimeters) dark, oval seeds. Propagation from seed is generally recommended for establishment.

Seeds raked a quarter-inch into spring-warmed soils will germinate within two to three weeks. However, seeds can also be pre-treated with ninety days of cold stratification, planted in a well-drained soil-less substrate, transplanted into pots when seedlings have established roots, and subsequently planted in the field.

Because of its extended blooming time, Prince’s plume

is an important source of pollen and nectar for a wide variety of pollinators. Historically, seeds, seed pods, roots and leaves have also been used for medicinal purposes by indigenous people.

Prince’s plume is native to desert shrub, sagebrush, pinyon-juniper, and mountain brush communities, usually on selenium-containing shales, mudstones, and siltstones from the Dakotas to Texas in the east and Oregon to California in the west. This species is an indicator for selenium soils and is considered to

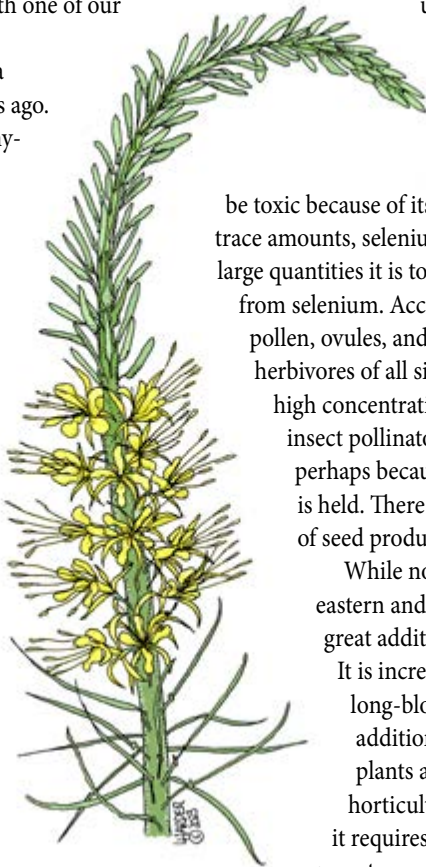
be toxic because of its ability to hyper accumulate selenium. In trace amounts, selenium is beneficial to plants and animals, but in large quantities it is toxic to both. Prince’s plume actually benefits from selenium. Accumulated selenium is mainly stored in pollen, ovules, and leaf margins, and it appears to discourage herbivores of all sizes. Prairie dogs avoid Prince’s plume with high concentrations of selenium. So do aphids. However, insect pollinators are not affected by increased levels, perhaps because of the chemical form in which selenium is held. There is no evidence for negative effects in terms of seed production or pollinator visitation.

While not a probable candidate for landscapes in eastern and central Kansas, Prince’s plume makes a great addition to western Kansas yards and gardens. It is increasingly recognized as a tough, beautiful, long-blooming native perennial that makes a great addition to xeriscapes within its range; seeds and plants are becoming more commonly available for horticultural purposes. If grown in wetter climates, it requires elevated, well-drained rock gardens with poor to average soil in full sun. Fine gravel mulch can aid in maintaining moisture for establishing plants.

So, look for hardy Prince’s plume when roaming our western prairies, appreciate its beauty in its arid habitats, and if you are considering a xeriscape, try adding it!

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— LORNA HARDER ILLUSTRATION



ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT Lemon beebalm (*Monarda citriodora*); Butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*); Catclaw sensitive briar (*Mimosa quadrivalvis*). BELOW Shell-leaf beardtongue (*Penstemon grandiflorus*)

FEATURED NATURAL AREA

A Pleasant Spring Surprise

— CYNTHIA RHODES & BRIAN L. MARTIN

We decided late the evening before to take a day trip to botanize on Saturday, June 10, and Cowley State Fishing Lake was next on our field list. We both had visited this lake before, but many years ago, and with the recent droughty weather, we were not sure what to expect. With a sense of adventure and excited anticipation, we set out for a day of springtime exploration on the South-Central Kansas prairie.

The weathered stone sign that greeted us at the entrance to the park told us that the Cowley County State Park was originally named Lake Waldschmidt in 1954. The October, 1953 issue of the *Kansas Fish and Game* magazine announced that the new Cowley County State Lake, was to be located thirteen miles northeast of Arkansas City on a deep canyon of Panther Creek. The lake was forecasted to develop into an outstanding bass fishing lake because of its planned depth of forty-two feet, with eighty surface acres and a dam fifty-two feet high and nine hundred feet long. Since ninety-five percent of the drainage area of 4,550 acres is pastureland, siltation was not anticipated to be a problem. The site of the lake was acquired from the children of the late Sam Waldschmidt, pioneer resident of the county.

The shady Waterfall Road twists and turns on the north side of the lake from the entrance to the west until you get to the dam area where there is a turn-around and parking area to get out and look at the dam (which was disappointingly dry that day, but must be beautiful and dramatic when flowing). The prairie around the north shore was somewhat overgrown, but there was evidence of recent mowing and parcels had been burned, possibly last winter/early spring to control woody shrubs and grassy overgrowth. We decided to investigate the re-growth in the burned areas, and we were pleasantly surprised by what we found.

A pretty little lake set in rolling green hills, it is surrounded by a lovely canopy of trees which include hackberry, hickory, pecan, mulberry, and oak (sawtooth and chinquapin). The

burn-rejuvenated prairie was emerging around interesting limestone boulders arranged in rows parallel to the lake. It almost seemed as if giant children had lined up the rocks for us “tiny people” to ponder. We found the red variety of butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), spider milkweed (*Asclepias viridis*), green milkweed (*Asclepias viridiflora*), a profusion of wild 4 o’clock (*Mirabilis nyctaginea*) and lemon beebalm (*Monarda citriodora*) blossoms, hoary vervain (*Verbena stricta*), grooved flax (*Linum sulcatum*), black sampson echinacea (*Echinacea angustifolia*), and plains larkspur (*Delphinium carolinianum*), to name just a few. The find of the day were a few healthy shell-leaf beardtongue (*Penstemon grandiflorus*) in the middle of a rocky knoll.

The park has a boat ramp with parking area, primitive campsites with covered picnic tables and campfire pits, vault toilets, and fishing piers. Non-wake fishing vessels are permitted on the lake, but there is no swimming allowed. Wildlife we glimpsed that day included a singing yellow-billed cuckoo, swallow tail butterflies and fritillaries, and a fascinating snowberry clear-winged sphinx moth. We did find the old rusty staircase leading down to the lake level, but did not descend as it creaked louder than we did when we tried! And we stopped at Henry’s Candy Company for our favorite delicious candies to nibble on our way home. For a sweet, pleasurable botanizing day-trip idea, keep the Cowley State Fishing Lake in mind for your next adventure.



BRIAN L. MARTIN PHOTOS

MIKE HADDOCK



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.

JULY | 21

MOTH MANIA. Great Plains Nature Center, 6232 E. 29th St. N., Wichita, 9:00 to 11:00 PM. This is a night time adventure through the GPNC trails to see and learn about moths, spiders, and more as you stroll through their favorite places. **For more information and to register:** info@gpnc.org, 316-683-5499

AUGUST | 2

INTEGRATING NATIVE PLANTS INTO YOUR HOME LANDSCAPE, K-State Garden Hour, On-line, Noon to 1:00 PM CST. Dr. Sharon Ashworth, Douglas County Horticulture & Natural Resources Extension Agent, will discuss the ecological benefits of native plants and how to successfully integrate natives into your landscape. 45-minute presentation, 10-15 minutes for questions and answers. **To register:** hnr.k-state.edu . **For more info:** 785-532-6170

AUGUST | 19

PRAIRIE TALK: THE PATTON/JOHNSON STORY, Pioneer Bluffs, 695 KS-177, Matfield Green, 1:30 to 2:30 PM. This Prairie Talk will focus on how farming and ranching were equally important to the economic survival of pioneer Flint Hills families. This symbiotic relationship between farming and ranching still exists today. **For information:** Lynn Smith, lynn@pioneerbluffs.org, 620-753-3484

AUGUST | 26

FALL WILDFLOWER & BISON TOUR, Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, 2565 Pueblo Rd, Canton, 8:00 AM. Board a tram for a ride through first Maxwell's bison herd, then continue up the trail to unload and walk through the vibrant fall wildflowers on one of Kansas' last remaining native prairies. Cost \$15.00. **To reserve, call 620-628-4455, email Maxwellwildliferefuge@gmail.com**

SEPTEMBER IS KANSAS NATIVE PLANT APPRECIATION MONTH! Each year Kansas Native Plant Society appeals to the Governor to renew this proclamation as an opportunity to promote greater appreciation for the floral diversity, value, and beauty of Kansas native plants and their habitats. This effort began in 2006. **More info:** kansasnativeplantsociety.org

SEPTEMBER | 2

SUNSET FALL WILDFLOWER PHOTO TOUR, Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, 2565 Pueblo Rd, Canton, 6:30 to 8:00 PM. Board a tram for a ride through first Maxwell's bison herd, then continue up the trail for sunset wildflower photos and long distance shots of the herd. Check-in at 6:15 PM. Cost \$35.00. **To reserve, call 620-628-4455, email Maxwellwildliferefuge@gmail.com**

SEPTEMBER | 6

SEED SAVING FROM YOUR GARDEN, K-State Garden Hour, On-line, Noon to 1:00 PM CST. Jesse Gilmore, Wildcat Extension District Horticulture Extension Agent, will discuss the merits of seed saving, the different types of flowers and seeds, and which plants are most suited to seed saving. 45-minute presentation, 10-15 minutes for questions and answers. **To register:** hnr.k-state.edu . **For more info:** 785-532-6170

SEPTEMBER | 8-10

FLORAKANSAS: FALL NATIVE PLANT DAYS at Dyck Arboretum, Hesston. This plant sale features hard-to-find native perennials plus classes and tours. Member's only sale Sept. 7; 10% members discount on all days. Admission charge is by donation. **For more info <https://dyckarboretum.org/arboretum-event/florakansas-fall/> 620-327-8127**

SEPTEMBER | 12

NATURE BOOK CLUB, hosted by Lawrence Public Library in Lawrence, 6:30 to 8 PM. 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 or call 785-843-3833**

SEPTEMBER | 16

HEARTLAND CONSERVATION ALLIANCE VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS, 9106 Chestnut Avenue, Kansas City, MO. 9:00 AM to Noon. Invasive honeysuckle removal at The HOP (The Heartland Overlook Preserve), forty acres of oak and hickory trees

nestled on the bluffs overlooking the Blue River in south Kansas City. **Register and learn more:** www.heartlandconservationalliance.org/calendar 816-945-8505

SEPTEMBER | 19

COUNTERPOINT MUSIC, FILM & CONSERVATION FESTIVAL, Flint Hills Counterpoint, 1660 E. 90th, Peabody, 4:00 to 8:00 PM. Celebrate an evening full of music, art installations, and land stewardship ecology at the Flint Hills Counterpoint Home Base culminating in a premiere evening showing of the film "Reclamation Meridian" accompanied by a live musical performance. Sponsored by Humanities Kansas. **For details:** www.flinthillscounterpoint.org and **information:** flinthillscounterpoint@gmail.com or call 316-258-2342

SEPTEMBER | 22-24

KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY'S 44TH ANNUAL WILDFLOWER WEEKEND (AWW) in the Salina area. Enjoy a full weekend of outings, board meeting, membership meeting, programs, silent auction, photo contest, local dining, and socializing! Come and Join Us! Watch for more details at the KNPS website and social media. **Members will receive an invitation and itinerary through postal mail in July. Contact: email@ksnps.org**

OCTOBER | 4

PUTTING YOUR GARDEN TO BED: WINTER GARDEN PREP, K-State Garden Hour, On-line, Noon to 1:00 PM CST. Anthony Reardon, West Plains District Horticulture Extension Agent, will speak about all of the various gardening tasks that can help your landscape throughout the winter and prepare your garden for the growing season to come. 45-minute presentation, 10-15 minutes for questions and answers. **To register:** hnr.k-state.edu . **For more info:** 785-532-6170

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

LIFETIME MEMBERS AS OF 6/10/23 (\$500 MEMBERSHIP LEVEL—ONE TIME PAYMENT)

Earl Allen – Manhattan
Steven Anderson – Burr Oak
Susan Appel – Leawood
Mary Apt – Iola
Iralee & Ken Barnard – Hope
Bob Barnhardt – Durango, CO
John Barnhardt – Nixa, MO
Rebecca Barnhardt – Bucklin
Robert G. Jr. & Martha Barnhardt – Bucklin
Roger Barnhardt – Lakin
Susan Blackford – Manhattan
Caroline Blakeslee – Boise, ID
Erin Bockwinkel – Shawnee
William Bradley – Overland Park
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Cowley County Conservation District – Winfield
Allyson Davis – Johnson

Barbara Davis – Wichita
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Mick Delfelder – Topeka
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Lusk Family Foundation – Andover
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Chad Phillips – Soldier
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Carolyn Schwab – Newton
Ashley Sherman – Lawrence
Bob & Doris Sherrick – Peculiar, MO
Jason & Lisa Spangler – Austin, TX
Kim Stanley – McPherson
Margy Stewart & Ron Young – Junction City
Lisa Stickler – Bucyrus
Ray Woods – Independence

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS AS OF 6/10/23 (\$100 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVEL)

Helen Alexander – Lawrence
Ed & Marilyn Amstrong – Mulvane
Jill Bergerhofer – Stilwell
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Rick Warshauer – Volcano, HI
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Doug Wirtz – Vacaville, CA
Valerie Wright – Manhattan

NEW MEMBERS FROM 3/14/23 TO 6/10/23

Toni Henderson – Olathe
I Support Learning, Inc. – Olathe
Debra Jeffery – Easton
Virginia M. Miller – Fairway

Patrice Murphy – Independence
Julie Olson – Arkansas City
Karla Stout – Hutchinson
Josey Schanen – Fort Scott

Kaitlin Stanley – Lawrence
Thomas Torma – Lawrence
Mary Torrance – Topeka
Patricia Trull – Paola

MEMBER RETURNING AFTER A HIATUS

Jennifer Zollinger – Wichita

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 12/31/2023

CYNTHIA RHODES

6505 NW INDIANOLA RD

WHITEWATER KS 67154-8843



Regulatory Protections affecting Native Plants and Habitats

— PAM TENNISON-RINDT

Federal, State, and Local regulations provide varying levels of protections for our native plants in Kansas; many are indirect and not well known unless one specializes in environmental review and permitting of proposed construction projects. These regulations may especially be of interest to citizens concerned about protecting our Kansas native plants as they can have influence regarding their regulation and impact. Having a better understanding of how these regulations and their corresponding regulatory processes protect native habitats might assist in more people recognizing and participating in these protective activities through providing important and informed feedback at various levels. Therefore, this article seeks to summarize these protections in the state of Kansas and how citizens might be involved.

The *Clean Water Act* of 1972 and its subsequent acts, as regulated by authority of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Corps of Engineers Regulatory (CoE), and by General Permit to the Kansas Department of Health (KDHE), is an important federal regulatory protection. Another federal regulation is the *Endangered Species Act* of 1973 which is regulated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). State regulations include acts and statues as regulated by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP), and the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources (DWR). In addition, local permits, such as Conditional Use permits, are often the first line of approval for those seeking to develop or build at a specific area. These permits are quite variable as they are regulated by the individual counties, cities, and other municipalities in which they are located.

Section 404 of the *Clean Water Act*, by authority of the EPA, empowers the CoE to have jurisdiction over Waters of the United States (WOTUS). With that authority, the CoE has some regulatory oversight of riparian areas adjacent to the stream, in addition to the direct regulation of any vegetation within the ordinary high-water mark of the channel, such as wetlands occurring within that channel. Also, directly regulated and perhaps most familiar are wetlands associated with an ephemeral, intermittent, or perennial stream, and our larger rivers. These regulated wetlands have typically included those directly abutting or adjacent to a stream and at CoE discretion, those having a less direct connection being located within the floodplain or having a sub-surface connection to streams or rivers. Wetlands of any kind have in recent history been jurisdictional if they have what is called a significant nexus. Waters with a significant nexus are defined by EPA as “*Waters that, either alone or in combination with similarly situated waters in the region, significantly affects the chemical, physical, or biological integrity of traditional navigable waters, the territorial seas, or interstate waters.*” An analysis of significant nexus is complex and aimed at considering the cumulative effect on the integrity of our nation’s waters. However, recently on May 25, 2023, the Supreme Court case *Sackett v. the EPA* was ruled in favor of the landowner, and with this ruling all justices determined the significant nexus to be eliminated and that regulated wetlands must have a continuous surface water connection to a more



Mead's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*)

permanent CoE regulated WOTUS to be considered a WOTUS. This ruling eliminates the jurisdictional protections for many wetlands, estimated to be half of all wetlands within our landscape. Immediately after this ruling, the EPA and CoE indicated effective immediately they will determine WOTUS consistent with the ruling and will soon provide more guidance.

Wherever areas are deemed WOTUS, they are subject to the permitting process regulated by the CoE which incentivizes the avoidance and minimization of impacts through their Nationwide and Individual Permit process. When impact thresholds are kept low (< .10-acre loss to Waters of the US), the required Nationwide Permitting is streamlined and relatively quick. However, when impact thresholds are higher (>.50 acre loss), then an Individual Permit with compensatory mitigation is required with a permit. Such mitigation consists of the creation of new wetlands to replace those lost by project impacts, or by improving altered or channelized streams to replace stream loss. Such mitigation often includes a surrounding buffer of native grass and forb pollinator mixes, and in

some instances, trees are planted in a riparian area or where forested wetlands are created. There are a variety of banks and in-lieu fee providers that specialize in the business of creating or restoring wetlands and improving streams on a large scale and they in turn sell credits from their banks or in-lieu fee programs to those who need compensatory mitigation in the future. Permittee responsible mitigation is also an option, provided there are sufficient protections in place to hold the mitigated area in perpetuity, as is required with the banks and in-lieu providers. The Corps of Engineers Regulatory provides a Public Notice of pending permitted projects many with proposed compensatory mitigation on their Public Notice page, and this provides an opportunity for public comment before finalizing the permit. The primary office regulating this region is the Kansas City Corps of Engineers Regulatory Office.

The *Endangered Species Act* of 1973 established protections for species of fish, wildlife, and plants in decline on a federal level. Review of impacts is required when a project with federal funds or associated with any other type of federal permits, such as CoE 404 permits is initiated. One plant species in our tallgrass prairie region, Mead’s milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*), is protected by this regulation. Existing records or site-specific floristic assessments are often conducted to determine if they are present, however, this species is usually only visible in June and July, so avoidance of quality tallgrass prairies in eastern Kansas is often made due to the time constraints of a floristic assessment. One terrestrial animal, the Northern Long-Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), was recently up-listed from threatened to endangered in March of 2023, providing this species more protection. This bat’s habitat is within the approximate eastern two-thirds of Kansas, and includes hibernacula in the winter — caves, mines, etc., and in the summer, roosts under bark or in cavities, crevices, or hollows of both live trees and standing dead trees. During the active summer season, they forage for insects in upland and lowland forests, woodlots, and tree-line corridors; these areas can also subsequently be considered habitat. Determination of impacts to their habitat is a complex process and a determination key (D-key) for this bat species was recently published by the USFWS.

Avoiding tree removal during their active period is a common strategy to avoid impacting this species. Their listing thereby incentivizes reducing removal of their habitat, thus woodland or riparian areas are deemed to be unsuitable and have some protection.

Review of specific projects impacting federally listed species may be viewed at the Public Notices section of the Corps of Engineers Regulatory website, where a statement of these impacts is evaluated with each permitted project.

Section 402 of the *Clean Water Act*, by authority of the EPA and state issued Construction Storm Water Permits, aims to preserve water quality. This regulation requires a permit and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) with a plan to minimize erosion and provide sediment protections when a construction project will disturb one acre or more of soil. In their permitting process, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) encourages the preservation and use of natural vegetation buffers to protect water quality and the issued permit requires that seventy-percent or more of the bare soil areas be re-vegetated or stabilized by another method before closing the permit. While native grass seed mixes are not required with this permit, they are encouraged by many agencies reviewing the projects and are often used where feasible and consistent with surrounding land use. Such seed mixes are sometimes a native grass and forb seed mix to establish pollinator habitat where it previously did not exist, thus meeting the pollinator goals of many

companies who participate in Monarch Candidate Conservation Programs with Assurances or participate in other company goals to maintain or improve pollinator habitat.

On a state level, through various state statutes and regulations, the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources (DWR), regulates fill in floodplains and impacts to larger Designated Streams. These streams are those with a one square mile drainage area in eastern Kansas, a two square mile drainage area in Central Kansas, or a three square mile drainage area in Western Kansas. Such larger streams often have a mature riparian area associated alongside and wetlands within the floodplain or riparian area. The DWR permitting process encourages minimization of impacts. Projects are posted on the ECA Notices section of the Department of Agriculture DWR website review and comment section, per K.S.A 82a-325-327, the Kansas Water Projects Environmental Coordination Act. While seven specific agencies are provided

the opportunity to comment during the thirty-day posting period, citizens are welcome to review and comment as well.

As designated by the *Kansas Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act* of 1975, state and federally listed threatened and



Long-Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) AL HICKS/NYDEC

The Broadhead Skink (*Plestiodon laticeps*)

endangered species are protected. This act places responsibility for identifying and undertaking appropriate conservation for listed species to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP). This agency reviews proposed project activities and provides recommendations to minimize impacts, and if necessary, issues action permits with special conditions to help offset negative affects to listed species. Many of these listed species (approximately fifteen) are terrestrial or wetland associated, and their defined critical habitat consists of riparian areas with a specific species composition or native grasslands. The Broadhead Skink (*Plestiodon laticeps*), for example, has defined critical habitat of mature stands of oak or other hardwood woodlands within all of Bourbon, Crawford, Linn, and Miami counties. Action Permits for this species often require mitigation by leaving behind the tree trunks as brooding habitat, since replacing mature woodlands is not obtainable on a near term basis. However, in larger areas of impact, replacement of the forested area may be required. In contrast, the Eastern Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale putorius*) has designated critical habitat in forest edges and upland prairie grasslands of fourteen counties in Kansas. An Action Permit for this species often requires a more near-term replacement typically consisting of creating native grassland habitat and/or brush piles.

A county specific listing with description of the state and federally listed species and their critical habitats, as well as other species in need of conservation, is located on the KDWP website. By utilizing this website, a citizen can become familiar with critical

Eastern Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale putorius*)

habitats and thus recognize when and where potential impacts may occur. In addition, a KDWP review of proposed projects is required with submittal of a KDHE Construction Stormwater Permit to ensure that the applicant obtains the required review, considers any recommendations to avoid or minimize impacts, and ultimately obtains any Action Permits needed.

When considering local permits, counties, cities, or other municipalities often require Conditional Use Permits (CUP) for construction of a project to enable impacts to be located within an agricultural or housing use-zoned area. For companies considering projects, these permits are usually the first step of approval sought to construct a new project. While these regulations and permit requirements are quite variable throughout the state, they all have public notices and meetings available to the residents to consider the questions and concerns of adjacent landowners and local citizens. Comments often have great influence over the Zoning and Planning Committees and County Commission's CUP restrictions, requirements, and decisions in granting the CUP. Concerns include impacts to natural habitats, and some counties have extensive CUP application requirements in order to be aware of environmental issues, with a preliminary review of the projects by the regulatory agencies such as the KDWP and USFWS, and sometimes require permitting before approving a CUP. Therefore, keeping a watchful eye on your County Commission's website or newspaper notices provides an excellent opportunity to be informed of proposed projects in your local area.

In summary, native habitats such as wetlands, riparian areas, woodlands, and native grassland areas are often directly or indirectly regulated by federal, state, and local regulations. These regulations change over time based on the current definition of a WOTUS, the status of species as threatened or endangered, re-vegetation as a part of a Construction Storm Water Permit with a SWPPP, or by local regulations and the Conditional Use Permit process. Many companies or developers evaluate the potential impacts and potential permits when siting projects and during their design to avoid and minimize impacts and when necessary permit and compensate for impacts. This process with agency posted notices provides an opportunity to view the proposed projects in addition to avoidance and minimization efforts or mitigation when required. Additionally, new and proposed regulations are posted on federal and state agency regulatory web sites. The local permit process and Conditional Use Permit review and approval process also provides a mechanism for citizens to review and comment regarding project impacts to native habitat, especially those in the early stages of siting or development. It is with this combination of public information and notices by which citizens may become directly involved through opportunities for informed and meaningful feedback about impacts on our native plant communities.

Kansas City District Regulatory Branch (army.mil)
Waters of the United States | US EPA
Kansas Ecological Services Field Office | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (fws.gov)
Industrial Programs Section Stormwater Program | KDHE, KS
Stream and Floodplain Permits (ks.gov)
Environmental coordination notices (ks.gov)
Threatened and Endangered Wildlife / Services / KDWP - KDWP (ksoutdoors.com)

In Remembrance Nancy Ann Rost Goulden

NANCY GOULDEN OBITUARY

We are sad to announce the passing of Nancy Ann Rost Goulden, age 88, on May 12, 2023, in Kentfield, California. She was a long-term resident of Manhattan, Kansas, and cherished the many years she lived there.

She was born in Sedan, Kansas, grew up in Eldorado, Kansas, and spent years in both Pennsylvania and Missouri. She is survived by her sons, Michael and Marc, daughters-in-law, Kelly and Regan, and grandchildren, Emma, Eleanor, Ronan, and Seamus. She was preceded in death by her beloved sister, Nellie.

A devoted teacher and expert at communications, Nancy drew upon her many talents as a faculty member in the Kansas State University Communication Studies department. After retirement, she served as a docent at the Konza Prairie Biological Station and Flint Hills Discovery Center. She loved the Kansas tall-grass prairie and walked countless miles savoring

its ever-changing landscape and sharing it with student groups. She was an active member of First Christian Church and enjoyed living at Meadowlark Hills for several years. Those who were fortunate to become acquainted with Nancy were struck by her commitment to others, strength of will, intelligence, and down-to-earth nature. We will all miss her.

A private family interment will take place at a future date. In lieu of flowers or gifts, please consider a donation to Friends of Konza Prairie or Konza Environmental Education Program.

Nancy was a devoted and long-time KNPS member, board member, and past editor of the KNPS Newsletter. Indeed, Nancy is missed!

Obituary and photo from Legacy Remembers.



Reprinted from KNPS Newsletter July 2016 issue
In Honor of Nancy Goulden

TALLGRASS PRAIRIE NATIONAL PRESERVE

Prairie Pollinators: Wildflowers & Butterflies

— NANCY GOULDEN

Kansas Native Plant Society members had a special opportunity on the weekend of June 18 and 19. We were invited to join the celebration of the National Park Service's centennial AND the 20th anniversary of the Tallgrass Prairie at the special event, "Prairie Pollinators: Wildflowers and Butterflies." On Saturday and Sunday, guests enjoyed both wildflower walks with knowledgeable KNPS guides and a variety of plant-related activities in the barn.

On the main floor of the barn, an area was arranged for speakers and their audiences. On both days, there was a series of expert speakers, focusing on the relationship between plants and their pollinators. Along with other KNPS volunteers, members Cindy Ford demonstrated making dyes from plants and Matthew Richter painted a "portrait" of a wildflower each day. A highlight for KNPS this year was an area reserved for children's activities. They could play "Prairie Bingo" or work on being a "Plant Detective" with an exercise in learning how to identify plants. Also, every visitor got a KNPS button to wear and take home as a reminder of the event. There were 370 people who attended the two-day festivities.

Even from a distance, you could see the groups of KNPS members and guests walking with their leader, then stopping, learning about the plants and moving on. Two plants in particular that caught everyone's attention were our KNPS icon, purple coneflower (*Echinacea angustifolia*) and the bright orange butterfly

milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). Some of the groups included children. It was very pleasing to see how well-behaved the young people were, and how interested they were in learning about the plants. Some of them are working to become full-fledged "Plant Detectives."

Black sampson echinacea (*Echinacea angustifolia*)

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

Name _____
Address _____
City/State _____
Zipcode _____
Phone _____
Email _____
County (if KS) _____

Membership Category

☐ Student \$15.00
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