



KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER OF THE KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2023

BRIAN L. MARTIN



Dr. Alan Wedel and Mike Haddock inform KNPS members and friends about the mid-grass prairie typical of the Smoky Hills region north of Salina. Members then divided into groups to explore the two box canyons, the mid-grass prairie, and the pond areas. (Tour #2)

The Smoky Hills Host the 2023 AWW

— CYNTHIA RHODES & BRIAN L. MARTIN

Due to the ongoing drought this year, the KNPS board decided to hold the 2023 Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) in the oasis of the Smoky Hills region with the headquarters at the K-State Salina Aerospace and Technology campus on Friday and Kansas Wesleyan University campus on Saturday, September 22-24. Native plant enthusiasts from across the state gathered for meetings and tours where the rolling hills of tallgrass and mixed grass prairies meet floodplain forests and wetlands along the Solomon, Saline, and Smoky Hill Rivers. Sixty-two members registered for the weekend and enjoyed the amazing variety of native plants as well as the dramatic geography that hosts their native habitats, in spite of the unseasonably hot weather.

Tour #1: Following the afternoon board meeting held at the Salina K-State campus Student Union, forty-five members, friends, and students gathered and proceeded to the Marty Bender Nature Area, southeast of Salina. This 206-acre natural area owned by The Land Institute features a three-mile long trail through prairie and woods along the Smoky Hill River. Several scientific research plots are located on the site, and additional features include art installations, plant and wildlife viewing, a tree swing and picnic area, scenic overlooks of the river and Salina region, and a community book share box. ECO Coach and Science teacher Melanie Falcon brought six students from the Smoky Valley Public Schools USD 400 Lindsborg to join KNPS members and friends in botanizing at the site. The students were adding hands-on botany

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OUR MISSION

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

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

You may send your gift to KNPS at:

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

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KNPS Board Meeting Minutes

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY – SALINA CAMPUS
SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

— KRISTA DAHLINGER

- 1) Meeting minutes from the May 19, 2023 Spring/Summer Board meeting in Iola were approved.
- 2) **Membership** — There are currently 707 members, 648 in Kansas and 59 in 24 other states.
- 3) The supply of “Gems of the Plains” posters has been exhausted and will not be reprinted.
- 4) **Nominations** — Three current board members are returning for terms running from 2023 to 2026. Three new board members have been nominated for the same term. Anthony Zukoff will continue as President through the fall 2024 meetings. Krista Dahlinger will return as Secretary. Earl Allen will continue as Treasurer through the first part of 2024 before turning duties over to Nadine Champlin. Karen Hummel is stepping down from the KNPS board after many years of dedicated service to the organization.
- 5) **Awards** — Two worthy applicants will receive \$1,500 each for the Mary A. Bancroft Memorial Scholarship Award in 2023: Jack Sytsma and Ceyda Kural.
- 6) **Treasurer** — Minimal funds are held in the checking and Paypal accounts, enough to cover routine expenses, the remainder of liquid funds are transferred to the American Century Money Market account where they earn interest. Donations to the Plant A Prairie program total \$805 year-to-date for 2023 and more donations continue to be received in conjunction with payment of membership dues. In general, income and expense are as expected and as budgeted for at the beginning of this year.
- 7) **Website – Social Media – Outreach** — The KNPS webpage has a new Events Calendar page — anyone can sign up for the KNPS listserv, submit details about an event to be listed, and view the Events Calendar from a single page.
www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/eventspage
- 8) The Annual Photo Contest was held online again in 2023 and received over seventy entries covering all six categories.
- 9) The Kansas Governor issued a “Proclamation of Native Plant Appreciation Month for September” in 2023. A copy of the Proclamation has been posted to the KNPS website.
- 10) The KNPS Google Group listserv has 1,173 members. The KNPS Facebook page has 6,804 followers and the Plant ID Group has 5,163 members. The KSNPS Instagram page has 1,248 followers.
- 11) **Newsletter** — 697 summer issue newsletters were mailed out in July. Ken O’Dell and Jim Ernst have retired from providing articles on trees. Personnel from the Kansas Forest Service have agreed to submit feature articles beginning with the Fall 2023 newsletter. This is the final issue to be produced by Cynthia Rhodes and Brian Martin who have produced and improved the quarterly KNPS Newsletter for the past eight years. Cynthia thanked everyone for the articles and photos they have contributed. KNPS is looking for a new team to assemble articles and images beginning with the winter 2024 issue.
- 12) **Plant Resources and Stewardship** — Brad brought Purple Prairie Clover seeds (2023 Native Plant of the Year) for the Seed Swap event, with a nice display from the “Growing Native Wildflowers” manual produced by Dwight Platt and Lorna Harder. The committee looks to increase education about the Native Plants of the Year through seed distribution and education about how-to grow native plants from seed. Input is needed for a list of future Native Plant of the Year species, to include trees and shrubs. The Committee will work on developing education and awareness of invasive plants species spreading into natural areas.
- 13) **Plant A Prairie** — Jamie Parrott has agreed to head up seed collection and distribution for the program. Donated seeds collected at the 2023 AWW meeting will be packaged and made ready to distribute to the Plant A Prairie gardens across Kansas to add to plant diversity. Several private prairies owners have offered seed collecting on their lands for the program. There were thirty-two gardens awarded in 2023. A copy of Mike Haddock’s “Wildflowers and Grasses of Kansas” field guide is now being distributed to each garden ►

President’s Message

— ANTHONY ZUKOFF

The year is wrapping up and the first frost of the season has arrived as I write this message. It has been a pleasure to serve as president, and I want to thank the board for all their help and support during my first term. I would also like to thank the membership for their support of the Kansas Native Plant Society.

It is always a great time meeting and interacting with fellow native plant enthusiasts. It is the plants and amazing wild spaces that bring us all together, but I think the shared experiences we have



Little Jerusalem spring drama:
Prince's plume

while exploring these spaces are what make being a part of the society such a joy. I love the excitement shared over seeing a new plant, for example, Mead’s milkweed, that some members saw for the first time during the spring foray near Iola. It would have been hard to get a good selfie with that lifer milkweed without help! Exploring new places like beautiful Kanopolis Lake State Park at the recent Annual Wildflower Weekend with people who stop to look at odd looking leaves and taking an hour to hike a half mile because we must find every species for

project. In 2023 the total cost per garden was \$105 for the plants, book and the Plant A Prairie garden sign. KNPS newsletters are being sent to the Kliesen family to keep them updated on the “native plants in schools” legacy made possible by their family contribution.

14) **Non-Profit Award** — KNPS received an Application for Non-Profit funding in the amount of \$1,000 for Kansas ECO-Meet events that will be conducted from September to November in 2023. The information on the application states that funding would be applied to scholarships paid to students who earn them at the State Final meet held November 2, 2023. Students compete in teams of four, and approximately 600 students participate each year. This year’s theme is Shortgrass Prairie. Several board members spoke highly of their experience with the Kansas Eco-Meet organization. This statewide annual event has students participating in a wide range of activities, some based on native plants, ecosystems, art and theater. The Board voted unanimously in favor of awarding the funding.

15) **AWW Business** — Phyllis described the chance meeting of Ed



Plains hymenoxys after spring rains at Monument Rocks

the list, and furthermore exchanging tips on how to identify plants in unfamiliar habitats. What more could a native plant aficionado ask for?

I am certainly looking forward to the 2024 season. With the ongoing relief from drought, western Kansas could be in store for a colorful spring and summer. Keep an eye out for details on the spring meeting that is planned for the Scott City area at the end of May. In the meantime, I hope everyone enjoys the fall and winter seasons. Do not forget that our wild spaces can be enjoyed year-round; go out and find some fall and winter intrigue. See you all next spring!

and Sil Pembleton and learned about their extensive history as nature educators and advocates. We look forward to hearing Ed’s talk titled “Spark Plant!” tomorrow at the Membership meeting.

16) Next the board discussed scheduling of 2024 Board meetings. The January 2024 Winter Board meeting will be held at the Kansas Wetland Education Center near Cheyenne Bottoms on January 20, with January 27 as a weather back up date. The 2024 Spring/Summer Board Meeting will be held in southwest Kansas which shows potential for a super bloom next spring. Scott City will serve as the central location. Tentative dates are May 31-June 2 or June 7-9. Final dates to be set at the 2024 winter Board meeting. The 2024 AWW location may return to north central Kansas in the Phillipsburg area. The Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge would be a place to visit with other locations in the surrounding area. Final dates to be set.

17) **Photo Contest** — Anthony has been heading up the Photo Contest and is willing to turn oversight of the contest to someone new. Contact Anthony if interested.

18) Meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

ANTHONY ZUKOFF PHOTOS

Smoky Hills AWW

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

experience to their classroom science knowledge in preparation for upcoming ECO Meet competitions against teams from other schools in the region and state. With the assistance of KNPS members and Aubrey Streit Krug of The Land Institute, the students were able to identify fifty-plus species of plants along the trail. Memorable finds included rough agalinus (*Agalinus aspera*) and cobraea penstemon (*Penstemon cobraea*) in the rocky drainage area to the side of the trail.

The Annual Membership Meeting was held on Saturday in the Peters Science Hall on the Kansas Wesleyan University campus with sixty-two members present. Activities included election of new and returning Board of Directors and a show of appreciation for retiring board member Karen Hummel, announcement of awards and scholarships, and the presentation of the winners’ photos from this year’s AWW Photo Contest. Special guest speaker, Ed Pembleton of Manhattan, presented an inspiring and thoughtful message on “Spark Plants” and had audience members write down their spark plants at the conclusion. These ideas were collected and will be compiled in a form that can be presented at a later date. Due to space constraints in Peters Hall, there was no silent auction this year, and the meeting was adjourned before the noon hour.

Tour #2: After a lunch break at a favorite restaurant or café in Salina, members proceeded on to their second tour stop of the weekend. This private property prairie is currently owned by Dr. Alan and Sandy Wedel and encompasses 1280 acres just south of Rock City by Minneapolis. It is a Dakota sandstone mid-grass prairie typical of the Smoky Hills region and consists of open pasture grassland with several ponds, wooded areas, rocky outcrops,

and two small box canyons. There is a small herd of fifteen bison which the botanizers did not encounter. Sixty-two members and friends met at this stop, including eight students and their dedicated teacher from the Smoky Valley Schools. The gathering members split into three groups with some proceeding to the pond area, another group to the box canyon area, and the third

group stayed in the main prairie grass area. Findings included silky aster (*Symphyotrichum sericeum*), bushy seedbox (*Ludwigia alternifolia*), and woolly croton (*Croton capitatus*). The gem of this prairie was a slender ladies’ –tresses (*Spiranthes lacera*) which many had to kneel down to whiff its delicate aroma.

Tour #3: In staggered timing, members left the Wedel’s prairie and proceeded to Rock City, the third stop for the weekend. Rock City Park is a nationally recognized natural landmark with over two hundred large sandstone concretions scattered throughout. Of particular interest to the group were the native plants growing around and in the cracks of the rocks themselves. Following the



Cave at Kanopolis Lake BuffaloTrack Canyon

KRISTA DAHLINGER PHOTOS

nature trails around the huge boulders, botanizers found purple cliffbrake ferns (*Pellaea atropurpurea*), Lee’s lip fern (*Myriopteris gracilis*), and common evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*), among a variety of other native plants. Many in the group enjoyed a short break browsing through the small gift shop and purchasing an icy-cold can of soda to enjoy in the shade of the picnic area before progressing on to the next stop.

Tour #4: The last stop on Saturday was at the Ottawa State Fishing Lake and Wildlife Area east of Minneapolis. Twenty-nine botanizers (including the students and their teacher) met at the group shelter house area in the shade of several enormous cottonwood trees. This area includes a ninety-five acre lake surrounded mostly by tallgrass prairie with wetland plants located in the shore area adjacent to the lake. Some explored the out-and-back trail along the southeast side of the lake shore, while most investigated the plant-life in the shade next to the dock area. Plants identified included nodding beggar-ticks (*Bidens cernua*) and duckweed (*Lemna minor*).

Thoroughly, but pleasantly tired, the hungry group concluded the day’s tours and headed back to Salina for a delicious and memorable supper at Martinelli’s Little Italy Restaurant and then on to their respective lodgings for the night.

Tour #5: Sunday’s only tour stop was at Kanopolis Lake State Park where the group of twenty-five dedicated botanizers met at the Buffalo Track Canyon Trailhead for the morning’s event. This .95 mile trail follows Bison Creek, which once watered buffalo and wild horses. The hardy group mastered the ups and downs of the trail, explored numerous mysterious caves, and jumped the soggy seep-streams more than once as they made their way through the wetland underbrush and rocky outcroppings. Plant finds included field snake cotton (*Froelichia floridana*), fall boneset (*Eupatorium serotinum*), white snakeroot (*Ageratina altissima*), marsh fern (*Thelypteris palustris*), and red love grass (*Eragrostis secundiflora*). A small, but mighty troupe became separated from the main group of botanizers at one point and made their own foray back to the trailhead botanizing the whole way to end their morning’s hike.

Hungry, tired, and thoroughly pleased with their findings in spite of the hot winds and ongoing droughty weather, KNPS members and friends left with new botanical discoveries recorded in memo notepads and heartfelt goodbyes and well-wishes to colleagues until next year’s Mini-AWW in the Scott City area at the end of May and the 2024 AWW. Our sincere appreciation to those who were involved in planning and organizing this year’s AWW in the Salina/Smoky Hill area. And to all: come and join us next year; you are most welcome!

2023 KNPS Awards and Scholarships

— CRAIG FREEMAN

Two awards were presented at the 2023 AWW in Salina, and two scholarships, awarded earlier in the year, were announced. Paul Showalter of Shawnee was the recipient of the Stephen L. Timme Excellence in Botany Award. The award honors Stephen L. Timme, late professor of botany at Pittsburg State University, and former KNPS Board member and President. It is given to an individual who has made an important contribution to botany in the state of Kansas in the form of research or education. Paul was recognized for his tireless work promoting, organizing, and managing the KNPS Plant A Prairie Project, which has engaged thousands of students at nearly one hundred schools across Kansas, promoting prairie appreciation and native plant awareness. Paul also has been an active volunteer and trainer for Kansas City Wildlands and the R.L. McGregor Herbarium at the University of Kansas. He has been a member of KNPS since 2014 and has served on the Board since 2017.

Brian Martin, Hesston, and Cynthia Rhodes, Whitewater, both received the Sheldon and Virginia Cohen Memorial Award for Service to KNPS. The award honors the memory of Sheldon and Virginia Cohen, charter members of the Kansas Wildflower Society and tireless supporters of KNPS. It recognizes an individual who has made exemplary contributions to KNPS through their service. Brian and Cynthia were nominated for their exceptional work since

2016 in planning, designing, and editing the KNPS newsletter, which receives consistent praise from readers for its production quality and articles. Brian and Cynthia have been members of KNPS since 2011 and 2012, and members of the Board since 2015 and 2014, respectively. In addition to the newsletter, they regularly share their talents and expertise on standing committees and as active participants at meetings and events.

The Mary A. Bancroft Memorial Scholarship Award is a cash award that supports graduate student research that enhances our understanding of native plant species or their ecosystems and conservation. Established in 1998, the award honors Mary A. Bancroft of Ottawa, long-time member and supporter of the Kansas Wildflower Society. In June, KNPS awarded two scholarships, each for \$1500, to Jack Sytsma, a PhD candidate at Kansas State University for his proposal “Decadal study of local adaptation of the dominant prairie grass in reciprocal gardens across the rainfall gradient of the US central grasslands” and to Ceyda Kural, a PhD candidate at the University of Kansas for her proposal “Tripsacum dactyloides: a native plant model to study microbial contributions to local adaptation and drought tolerance.” Congratulations to these award recipients.

KNPS Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

KANSAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, PETERS SCIENCE HALL, SALINA, KANSAS — SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

— KRISTA DAHLINGER

- 1) Anthony Zukoff, President, welcomed approximately sixty members and guests to the KNPS 2023 Annual Membership meeting. Krista Dahlinger announced the Seed Swap activity being held at the back of the room and invited those who were willing to try growing native plants to please pick up some seeds.
- 2) **Board Member Elections** — Returning Board members are Cynthia Rhodes, Paul Showalter and Anthony Zukoff for 2023–2026 terms. Three recently nominated Board members are Elizabeth “EJ” Jamison, Jamie Parrott, and Jacob Penner. Phyllis Scherich nominated Kelly Egbert, and Rhonda Cash offered to serve as a Board member for the 2023 – 2026 term. The Membership voted unanimously to approve all five new Board members.
- 3) **Awards** — Craig Freeman announced two excellent candidates for the Mary A. Bancroft Memorial Scholarship Award in 2023 and introduced Jack Sytsma and his area of study, “Decadal Study of Local Adaptation of the Dominant Prairie Grass in Reciprocal Gardens Across the Rainfall Gradient of the US Central Grasslands.” Ceyda Kural was awarded a 2023 Bancroft Scholarship for her area of study “Tripsacum dactyloides: a Native Plant Model to Study Microbial Contributions to Local Adaptation and Drought Tolerance.” The Sheldon and Virginia Cohen Memorial Award for Service to KNPS was awarded to

Brian Martin and Cynthia Rhodes for their excellent production of the quarterly KNPS Newsletter for the past eight years and assistance provided to KNPS activities. Brian’s layout upgrades and Cynthia’s scheduling of articles have kept KNPS members informed about native plant happenings across the state.

- 4) **Featured Speaker** — Ed Pembleton gave an inspiring talk about first experiences in learning about memorable plants, sparking interest in native plants for the first time, the “Spark Plant.” His presentation included audience participation as he discussed unique features of porcupine grass and its corkscrew action to connect with ground, yucca plants that host a unique pollinating moth, and five-pointed stars found in cottonwood tree stems and the geometric connection to leaf location around branches that allows maximum sunlight to reach each leaf.
- 5) The **Annual Photo Contest** was reviewed to see the top three picks in each category by a panel who reviewed the seventy-plus photos that were entered. So many great images were submitted that it was difficult to choose only three photos from each category.
- 6) The Membership Meeting adjourned close to noon, and everyone headed out to lunch before the first tour stop of the day.



Moon seed vine with fruit on the Marty Bender Nature Trail

Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie – Part 2

— MICHAEL STUBBS

In the July issue of the *KNPS Newsletter*, we left off our story at the point where the Prairie Guards gained permission from the Farm Service Administration to remove ten of the thirteen terraces at the Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie Park in Wabaunsee County. As previously stated, one hundred acres of the recent addition to the Park is enrolled in the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program. This former prairie had been farm ground for over one hundred years until 2010 when it was enrolled in the program and planted to native grasses and forbs. The seed mix was determined by the Farm Services Administration. The contract expires in the fall of 2025 and will not be renewed since the land is now a public park and no longer used for agriculture.

At the request of the Mount Mitchell Prairie Guards, the creators and managers of the Park, Greg Kramos, biologist with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, took the lead on the terrace removal project. He enlisted the support and advice of Corey Alderson, Director of the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks Habitat First Program, and Tony Capizzo, The Nature Conservancy's Flint Hills Initiative Manager. These agencies and the Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition also provided financial support. Lisa Wainwright, the local District Conservationist of the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, was also a key player in the project. Working together, they came up with a plan that was approved by the NRCS and FSA.

On November 29, 2022, Jon Boursaw, a distinguished member of the Citizen Band Potawatomi Nation, conducted a blessing ceremony before Wamego-based Ebert Construction began leveling the terraces into their valleys the following day. The work in the one hundred-acre parcel took about ten days.

Previously, the Guards had sought seeding advice from Iralee Barnard, retired KSU Extension Field Biologist and author of *Field Guide to the Common Grasses of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska*, Dr. Kelly Kindscher, Senior Scientist, Kansas Biological Survey, Professor, Environmental Studies Program, and Dr. Jesse Nippert, KSU Professor of Biology, and Lead Principal Investigator Konza Prairie LTER Program. These conversations led us to an



Jon Boursaw, distinguished elder of the Citizen Band Potawatomi Nation, conducts a blessing ceremony before the Prairie Guards begin their infrastructure improvements to Mount Mitchell.

understanding of the distinctions between native seed, cultivars, and nativars (see *KNPS Fact Sheet: What is a Nativar*).

We learned that research supports efforts to use local eco-type seed when re-creating prairie. Natives grow wild and are adapted to the region where they grow. They preserve local genetic diversity and healthy ecosystems. Natives also protect ecological function in nature by providing nectar, pollen, seeds, and fruit that are used by a host of wildlife including birds, butterflies, and native bees.

"It has been great working with an organization like the Prairie Guards. Their dedication to the education and protection of Mount Mitchell is amazing. Their efforts to restore and protect rare and declining native plant communities fits perfectly with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Programs goals. We were very happy to be asked to participate in the partnership they developed between the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Farm Service Agency, the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, the Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition, Native Lands Restoration Collaborative, and The Nature Conservancy. Mount Mitchell is another jewel of the prairie with amazing views and a rich history worthy of exploring."

— Greg Kramos

We then contracted with Courtney Masterson, Executive Director and Ecologist of Native Lands Restoration Collaborative, to acquire seed for reseeding the areas disturbed by the removal of the terraces. The original CRP seed mix required by the FSA planted in 2010 consisted of the following grasses: Kaw big bluestem, El Reno sideoats grama, Blackwell switchgrass, Osage Indiangrass, and Aldous little bluestem. Unlisted varieties of forbs planted included Illinois bundleflower, lance leaf coreopsis, blackeyed-Susan, purple prairie clover, Indian blanket, plains coreopsis, upright prairie coneflower, showy partridge pea, greyheaded coneflower, and Maximillian sunflower.

TOM LEOPOLD

Courtney provided us with the following seed from local sources, which was planted the week of February 6, 2023, by Austin Feyh of Feyh Farm Seed: big bluestem, side oats grama, blue grama, switchgrass, western wheatgrass, little bluestem, eastern gamma grass, lead plant, showy partridge pea, plains coreopsis, purple prairie clover, pale purple coneflower, false sunflower, roundheaded bush clover, wild bergamot, stiff goldenrod, grey headed coneflower, common milkweed, wild blue indigo, rattlesnake master, prairie blazing star, wild quinine, prairie parsley, slender mountain mint, prairie coneflower, blackeyed-Susan, prairie dropseed, smooth blue aster, and hoary verbena.

This year common sunflowers grew to twelve feet tall in the valleys where the terrace soil was spread and there was debate among the project team whether or not to mow them early in the season. As reported in the Grassland Restoration Network Blog, a recent experience by Jeffrey Zajac, Area Wildlife Manager for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources convinced the team not to mow. Time will tell if this was the right decision in terms of seedling care. It is too soon to know, but birds have certainly benefitted from the sunflower seed.

"I'm excited to watch this newly planted area mature over time. The Prairie Guards went the extra mile to ensure a more diverse blend of native seeds was distributed, focusing on seeds with local genetics that provide resources for wildlife all year. This planting will feather into the edge of the existing remnant prairie over the years, protecting that invaluable landscape and strengthening the populations of rare native species that have persisted there, against all odds, for thousands of years."

— Courtney Masterson

Presently, a new entrance to Mount Mitchell is being completed at 29000 Mount Mitchell Road on the north side of the Park. It includes a new trailhead with an accessible path to the historic ruts of the Topeka Fort Riley Road, the westernmost route of the Underground Railroad. A new information kiosk relating the many fascinating stories associated with this historic site will be finished in the spring. We encourage the public to come visit this historic prairie jewel at all seasons to witness its ever changing beauty. It is open year-round dawn to dusk.



An accessible pathway from the Park's new trailhead to the ruts of the historic Topeka Fort Riley Road is near completion.

MICHAEL STUBBS



Slender fumewort (*Corydalis micrantha*)

PHYLLIS SCHERICH

Spark Plant

— PHYLLIS SCHERICH

Ed Pembleton, guest speaker for the membership meeting at this year's AWW in Salina, titled his talk "Spark Plants." Birders describe the first bird that got them seriously interested in birding as their "spark bird." During his presentation, Ed shared his "spark plants" and why they intrigued him. Then he had each person in the audience write their "spark plant" and "why" on an index card and turn it in for compilation and use at a later time.

Ed's activity ignited an idea to start a new, regular feature article in the *KNPS Newsletter*, and I was asked to submit the first one. To keep this feature going, I challenge each reader to write your "Spark Plant" article and send it to the *KNPS Newsletter* editors for inclusion in an upcoming issue.

My interest in the wildflowers blooming on the cattle ranch we managed in the Red Hills of Comanche County had already been stimulated by a visit from Lorraine Kaufman, late-KNPS member and former writer for the *KNPS Newsletter*. As she emerged from her car, she shared her excitement in "meeting" plants on the ranch she did not know, as she was more familiar with native plants in central and eastern parts of Kansas. This "meeting" stimulated my curiosity, but it was not until later that I noticed one of the first wildflowers to bloom on the ranch and I really wanted to know what it was. This plant had a bright yellow flower with a unique shape punctuated with a spur. The opposite leaves were deeply dissected, reminding me somewhat of a fern. I smelled it and discovered the blossoms had a slightly sweet aroma. The plant was growing in a sandy location. However, without a botany background, I could not identify it with the limited resources I had at the time.

Now, realize this was before we had the Kansas wildflowers books with large, brightly colored pictures, or a website identifying Kansas native plants, or before we could take pictures with our camera and get immediate identifications. It was only after a KNPS member identified it for me that I learned that it was slender fumewort (*Corydalis micrantha*), also known as "scrambled eggs," a name that describes how it looks! Had someone identified it for me before I had studied it and pondered over it for several days, it probably would not have left such an impression on me. But because I was "sparked" by it, this plant, scrambled eggs, led me to want to learn more about other native plants on our ranch as they appeared over the seasons: a passion and curiosity I still possess to this day.

MORRIS CRISLER



Doug Nihart, of Ebert Construction, begins leveling ten of the thirteen terraces.

A Visit to the Old-Growth Pecans of Kansas

— ELIZABETH JAMISON

Everybody loves big trees. They make you feel wonderfully small and insignificant. They hold a mysterious network of roots, mycorrhizae, and microorganisms concealed well below our feet. They support a crown of leaves, branches, birds, and sunlight held well beyond our reach. The only part of a big tree on our level is the trunk, which by the way, is why you should never sleep on bark ID. Perhaps most remarkably, the life spans of big trees offer a connection to both the history and future of us humans. Big trees probably are not the first things that come to mind when considering the history or future of Kansas, but allow me to convince you otherwise.

Prior to European colonization, the lower Missouri River was an untamed system of meanders, oxbows, sandbars, and wetlands carving dynamic paths across its floodplain. Along its periodically flooded banks, riparian forests grew in moist, nutrient-rich soils. These bottomland forests functioned as biodiversity hotspots and corridors for wildlife movement across the landscape. Species such as pawpaw, Canadian wild ginger, and Gray's sedge grew under canopies that contained riparian giants: massive cottonwood, hackberry, elm, black walnut, sycamore, oak, and hickory trees.



ABOVE Missouri River viewed from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Floodplain forest along the Missouri River at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

These forests would have seen animals such as bison, elk, pileated woodpeckers, mudpuppies, and great blue herons. The lower Missouri River and its surrounding ecosystems were used by Native American tribes including the Kaw, Osage, and Missouria for settlement, trade, prayer, burial, food and medicine, and refuge from severe winter weather.

Today, the Missouri River is one of the most altered rivers in the country. The upper Missouri contains six dams, while the lower Missouri contains a navigation channel and hundreds of miles of levees. These structures were constructed to address complex water resource demands such as flood control, water supply, irrigation, navigation, hydropower, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat. Furthermore, many of the forests and prairies of the Missouri River floodplain have been lost to development and agriculture. The resulting river is one that is much less dynamic, buffered, and biodiverse than the historic river who gave rise to the few old-growth riparian forests that remain today.

In 1827, Fort Leavenworth became the first permanent settlement of white Americans on the homelands of the Kaw and Osage peoples in present-day Kansas (Native Land Digital). As the oldest continuously active US military base west of the Mississippi River, it offers a glimpse back into our historic floodplain. The base is home to two hundred acres of old-growth forest that has escaped development or conversion to agriculture. If you look at the aerial imagery of northeast Kansas, you will see a dark green blob cradled inside one of the more obvious meanders that form our squiggly border with Missouri. This blob is the largest contiguous floodplain forest along the lower Missouri River.

My visit to this forest began in an astoundingly long taco line at a natural resources conference. Luckily, I happened to fall in behind Neil Bass, the Natural Resource Specialist at Fort Leavenworth, and the half-mile line passed quickly thanks to our shared enthusiasm for trees. A few months later, I joined several colleagues and local naturalists to meet with Neil on an overcast April day for a tour of floodplain giants. The gem of our tour was a grove of massive pecan trees, home to the Kansas champion pecan tree. The Kansas Champion Tree Program, coordinated by Kansas Forest Service and American Forests, maintains records of the largest tree of each species growing in the state. We had the location pinned on our map. Now we just had to get there.

Our hike began on a double track trail that struck northeast through the forest towards the Missouri River. We passed relatively young pecan, box elder, ash, and basswood trees growing over a blanket of sedges. As we moved toward the river, a box elder midstory became more and more dense. Trees were just beginning to leaf out, and the result was a hazy wall of light green box elder saplings vying for a spot among the overstory pecans. It was impressively smothering. We eventually left the trail to pick our way through this seemingly endless sea of box elders and sedges growing under well-spaced canopy trees. Along our route, we gathered morels, snacked on stinging nettle (if you crush up the leaves with

your fingers, the hairs will not get you!), caught a western rat snake, admired massive cottonwoods, and gazed up at the state champion Kentucky coffeetree.

Thanks to the box elder, we somewhat stumbled into the pecan champ: the tree's enormity an expected surprise. The champion tree rose about ten feet from the ground as a single trunk with a circumference at breast height of seventeen feet four inches (that is sixty-six inches in diameter for you foresters) before splitting into two towering stems that reached 139 feet in height and 122 feet in crown spread. The vertically flaking bark had hues of grey, chocolate brown, and pink. Pieces of this colorful bark covered the ground; decades worth of phloem that had been shed by secondary growth.

Thankfully, I brought binoculars that allowed me to see the crown (seriously y'all, don't sleep on bark ID). Leaves were just beginning to emerge from swollen buds attached to stout twigs that arched in the swirling curves common to the hickory genus (*Carya*).

We are not sure of the exact age of this tree, but estimates put it at well over two hundred years old. These pecans germinated when bison and grizzly bears roamed wild across the Great Plains, when Native Americans fully inhabited their ancestral homelands, and when carbon dioxide concentrations averaged 280 parts per million. These trees were seen by Lewis and Clark as they paddled up the Missouri River on July 1, 1804. They were likely seen by the 418 Nez Perce who were held as prisoners at Fort Leavenworth from November 1877 to July 1878 during a long and tragic fight for their homelands in present-day northeast Oregon (Montana Historical Society Press, 2000).

This is the last old-growth pecan grove in Kansas and the northernmost in the country. It is isolated from pecan populations in the southeast portion of the state, so it is thought that Native Americans gathered seeds from trees farther south and planted them in present-day Fort Leavenworth. In her book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Potawatomi author Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer writes about an Indigenous way of thinking that culminates in such gifts for future generations. She writes, "Collectively, the indigenous canon of principles and practices that govern the exchange of life for life is known as the Honorable Harvest. They are rules of sorts that govern our taking, shape our relationships with the natural world, and rein in our tendency to consume — that the world might be as rich for the seventh generation as it is for our own."

Looking up at this massive pecan, I cannot help but consider what seeds are being planted for the next seven generations. Will there still be pallid sturgeon swimming in the Missouri River? Will



Kansas champion pecan tree. From left to right: Thad Rhodes, Dave Bruton, Elizabeth Jamison, Sklyer Adamson, and Neil Bass.



Small burl on the Kansas champion pecan tree's trunk.

JACOB PEENER & ELIZABETH JAMISON

atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations continue to climb well above today's 420 parts per million? Will sacred natural spaces be protected and accessible to communities who rely on them? It depends on whether we make decisions based on our life spans or the life spans of big trees.

If you would like to learn more about the Champion Trees in Kansas, visit our website: https://www.kansasforests.org/discover_kansas_forests/championtrees.html.

Heads UP! 2024: Go West!

Winter Board Meeting

Saturday, January 20 (weather date Jan. 27)
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Kansas Wetlands Education Center
592 NE K-156 Hwy
Great Bend 67525
Members are welcome!

Spring Mini-AWW

May 31, June 1-2 OR June 7-9
Scott City Headquarters/Area
Lake Scott State Park, Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park, Monument Rocks and Chalk Pyramids, Nature Conservancy's Smoky Valley Ranch, and more!
(Date to be determined at winter board meeting)
All are welcome!

Come and join us out west!

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.

NOVEMBER | 11
HEARTLAND CONSERVATION
ALLIANCE VOLUNTEER

WORKDAYS, Kansas City, MO, 9 AM-Noon. Invasive honeysuckle removal at The HOP (The Heartland Overlook Preserve), 9106 Chestnut Ave., Kansas City, MO 64132, forty acres of oak and hickory nestled on the bluffs overlooking the Blue River in south Kansas City. Trail maintenance and brush clearing. Register and learn more: <https://www.heartlandconservationalliance.org/calendar>, **For questions: info@heartlandconservationalliance.org, 816-945-8505**

DECEMBER | 6
BEEKEEPING BASICS - HOW TO
START YOUR OWN COLONY,

K-State Garden Hour, On-line, Noon to 1:00 PM CST. Ryan Engel, Golden Prairie District Horticulture Extension Agent, covers the equipment you will need, how to source your bees, and what it takes to establish a new colony. 45-minute presentation, 10-15 minutes for questions and answers.
To register: hnr.k-state.edu . For more info: 785-532-6170

DECEMBER | 9 & 16
OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS
ON THE PRAIRIE, Maxwell Wildlife
Refuge, 2565 Pueblo Rd, Canton, 10:00

to 11:00 AM. Board a tram (covered with windows for warmth) for a 45 minute ride through Maxwell's bison and elk herds. Upon return to the visitor center, enjoy Christmas cookies, hot cocoa, cider, and coffee while warming up around a prairie Christmas tree and listening to seasonal stories. Reservations are a must. Adults: \$15.00, children age 4-11 \$7.50.
To reserve, call 620-654-7230, email Maxwellwildliferefuge@gmail.com

DECEMBER | 12
NATURE BOOK CLUB hosted by
Lawrence Public Library, 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 785-843-3833**

2024

JANUARY | 20
KNPS WINTER BOARD MEETING,
Kansas Wetland Education Center, 592 NE K-156 Hwy, Great Bend. Weather alternate date is January 27. **For more information, contact Anthony Zukoff, azukoff@gmail.com . All are welcome**

FEBRUARY | 18
MANHATTAN SEED SWAP, Flint
Hills Discovery Center, 315 S 3rd St.,
Manhattan, 2-5 PM. Start saving seeds to bring and exchange with others in time for the 2024 spring planting season. **More info: 785-587-2726**

MAY-JUNE
MAY 31, JUNE 1-2 OR JUNE 7-9,
2024: KNPS SPRING BOARD
MEETING AND MINI-AWW, Scott
City area. For date (to be determined at winter board meeting) and more information, watch KNPS website and social media sites. **Questions contact: email@ksnps.org. All are welcome**

SEPTEMBER
KNPS 46TH ANNUAL WILDFLOWER
WEEKEND (AWW). 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 dates and more details at the KNPS website and social media. **Contact: email@ksnps.org**

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

Calli Pirner - Wichita
Debra Ringler - Hutchinson
Michael Robbinson - Lenexa
Kris Rogers - Wichita
Glenda Schmidt - Winfield
Vicki Selzer - DeSoto
Josh Thede & Ellen Ramsey - Mission
Abigail Wilson - Bennintgon
Ana Zerger - Moundridge

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

NEW MEMBERS FROM 6/11/23 TO 10/07/23

Lee Ann Antes - Edgerton
Thomas Arnhold - Olathe
Sharon Ashworth - Lawrence
Mary Brooks - Liberal
Leslie Butsch - Kansas City
Rachel Cole - Overland Park
Emporia Community Foundation - Emporia
Meredith Fry - Topeka
Susan Henderson - Wichita

Becky Herron - Hesston
Holly Higgins - Topeka
Wendy Holman - Lawrence
Janet Kejr - Salina
Katie Link - Hutchinson
Sandra McLeod - Wichita
Elizabeth Miller & Lindy Eakin - Lawrence
Constance Murray - Tulsa, OK
Ed & Sil Pemberton - Manhattan

MEMBER RETURNING AFTER A HIATUS

Krystine Burke - Wichita
Andrew Mitchell - Horton

KNPS Welcomes New Board Members

ELIZABETH "EJ" JAMISON

I grew up in upstate New York where I fell hard for nature over countless hours spent exploring the wetlands, woodlands, and wildlands of the Adirondack Mountains. I am lucky enough to come from a family of environmentalists who had the passion, means, and patience to take me hiking and camping since I was a child. I have been slowing them down to look at wildflowers since I could walk!

My love of the environment continued to grow at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, New York. There, like many biologists before me and many more to come, I learned that plants are way easier to study than animals. Upon completing my BS, I traded the Adirondack Mountains for the Green Mountains where I began my MS at the University of Vermont. My research focused on northeastern pitch pine barrens; a globally rare, fire-dependent ecosystem of great ecological and cultural significance. This work affirmed my drive to steward land for the benefit of both ecosystems and people (not that we are separate entities). Believe it or not, the mosaic of natural communities in pine barrens share a lot in common with the prairies, savannas, and woodlands of Kansas.

Over the course of a single grandiose month in the fall of 2021, I defended my MS thesis, got married to a fellow plant lover, and moved to Lawrence, Kansas where I currently live with my husband, cat, and an ever-expanding native garden. As the Northeast District Forester for the Kansas Forest Service, I work with Kansans in ten counties to improve the plant diversity, wildlife habitat, timber value, and overall health and functionality of their woodlands. I deeply appreciate and enjoy the communities I have joined in Kansas and I am excited to continue growing with KNPS!

JAMIE PARROTT

I grew up in the countryside of Belle Plaine, Kansas, with my father and stepmother. Every spring, as long as I can remember, I fought to save the pretty flowers growing in the grass and garden beds my father insisted were weeds. Unfortunately, I did not win any of those fights. But while I lost those arguments, I never lost my love for the beautiful flowers everyone else around me called weeds.

It was not until my final year at KU, when I was randomly assigned an internship at The Nature Conservancy, that I learned those "weeds" are important players in the once vast prairie, and are disappearing fast. My quiet interest rapidly turned into a burning passion that completely changed my life course.



I am now a K-State student seeking a Master's degree in Park Management and Conservation, studying to eventually hit the ground running in restoring and preserving our native prairies after graduation. In the meantime, I currently work as the Conservation Intern at the Kansas Land Trust, where I monitor conservation easements and assist the director in various projects and research.

The Kansas Native Plant Society has been a great learning experience and source of support for me as I navigate merging an old passion with a new life goal. I am excited to have a chance to give back to the group that has given so much to me! I look forward to working with you all.

JACOB PENNER

My love for nature dates back to my childhood in rural Harvey County, where I cycled through phases of intense interest in everything from spiders to snakes to wolves. Only once I went to college (Goshen College in Indiana) did plants really catch my eye, thanks to an ecology professor who opened my eyes to the simple fact that every single animal I had ever cared about was directly or indirectly dependent on plants. After my undergraduate degree I completed a graduate degree at Syracuse University in New York where I studied the response of grassland vegetation to grazing by wild bison in Yellowstone National Park. Yes, I moved to New York so I could do fieldwork in Yellowstone — academia is crazy like that sometimes. It was here in graduate school that I truly fell off the deep end with native plants, learning how to identify different species of trampled, chewed-up grasses out west and searching for rare orchids and spring ephemerals in the woods back east. As great as this was, I was constantly thinking about what this newfound obsession would look like back in my home state. The appeal of Kansas landscapes, the tallgrass prairie in particular, kept growing whenever I had the chance to return and visit family.

Ultimately, my partner EJ and I moved back to Kansas (Lawrence) from the northeast in 2021 shortly after our wedding. Since returning to Kansas, I have been thrilled to dive into as many habitats, conservation opportunities, gardens, and iNaturalist observations as time allows. Whether it is spring in the woods, summer in the Smoky Hills, fall in the tallgrass prairie, or winter in the wetlands: Kansas has a native plant with a fascinating story to tell!

For my day job I work remotely as a soil scientist for The Nature Conservancy on carbon projects around the world that aim to fight climate change by incentivizing improved agricultural practices on croplands and grasslands. I appreciate the flexibility of working remotely but do not particularly enjoy the distance, which is one of the reasons why I am excited to be active with local groups like KNPS. I look forward to learning more about the organization and helping to grow the appreciation and stewardship of our wonderful native plants!



FEATURED NATIVE PLANT

Ten-Petal Mentzelia | (*Mentzelia decapetala*)

— LORNA HABEGGER HARDER

While casting about for the Fall Newsletter’s feature plant, I entered into conversation with Jamie Parrott, one of KNPS’ newest board members. She enthusiastically suggested MENTZELIA! It is common in western Kansas and it blooms into autumn. It was a perfect species to highlight, so let us get acquainted with Ten-Petal Mentzelia!

I became particularly aware of this species in 2004 while researching the plant specimens collected by Lewis and Clark. Noted as “gumbo-lily” by Lewis, it was collected on white bluffs along the Missouri River in what is now Cedar County, Nebraska in August, 1804. Known also as Chalk Lily, Tenpetal Blazingstar, and Evening Star, it is a drought tolerant species that finds its home on fully exposed, dry, rocky hills, road cuts, and railroad right-of-ways in the western three-fifths of Kansas.

A member of the *Loaseae* (stickleaf) family, Ten-Petal Mentzelia is a biennial or short-lived perennial. Rising from a deep spindle-shaped tap root, it typically grows as one to several erect stems, up to four feet tall. Leaves are alternate, simple, and lanceolate, two to six inches long, and one-half to one and one-half inches wide, with toothed edges and pointed tips. Leaves are covered with stiff barbed hairs that are able to trap soft-bodied insects like flies and small moths. However, aphids, spiders, and weevils are able to navigate their way through the barbs. Benefits of insect entrapment to the plant remain unknown. The plant sequesters selenium and is unpalatable for livestock.

From July through October, this species produces a spectacular display of creamy white, cactus-like flowers that open at sunset and close near midnight. Inflorescences are produced at the ends of branches and resemble a starburst when open. Each flower has ten creamy white oblong petals one to three inches long and one-half inch wide; and one hundred to three hundred yellow stamens, shorter than the petals, bursting from the center. Flowers have a delicate fragrance.

Flattened, winged seeds are produced in a cylindrical capsule, three-fourths to two inches long and one-half inch wide. Seeds are wind-dispersed when they release from the dried capsule. Four to six weeks of cold stratification are required for germination. Collected seed can be directly planted in fall or early spring, or

started in flats or pots. Direct seeding is recommended because of the long taproot that forms. Plants require adequate drainage, full sun exposure and, depending on location and soils, benefit from the addition of calcium carbonate.

Ten-Petal Mentzelia grows in the western three-fifths of Kansas. Its range extends from Alberta and Saskatchewan in the north, south to Texas and Mexico; and from Nevada and Utah in the west to as far east as Illinois. This species is vulnerable or imperiled in the Canadian provinces, Montana, Wyoming, Iowa, and New Mexico. In the remainder of its range, the conservation status is presently undetermined.

Bractless Mentzelia (*Mentzelia nuda*) is a closely related species and is also found in the western part of Kansas. It is slightly less coarse, with shorter petals that do not overlap, and flowers that open in late afternoon and close near sunset. Other growing conditions remain largely the same.

There is increasing interest in Ten-Petal Mentzelia as a candidate for native, drought-tolerant, pollinator gardens in the west and central states.

Observational data indicates that it attracts a number of bumble bee species as well as at least two species of sphinx moths.

Other pollinators include honey bees and hover flies. With evening primroses, it makes a great addition to a night- blooming moon garden. In a native garden it adds

texture and interest, from green, spidery rosettes the first year, to upright silvery green plants with exquisite white flowers the second, to silvery white skeletal remains at its life’s end. Function and beauty – all part of our Kansas native plant treasures!

References

Bartow, Sage. “Mentzelia decapetala: The Rising Star of Great Plains Wildflowers.” <https://conservancy.umn.edu/bitstream/handle/11299/225179/Mentzelia%20decapetala%20by%20Sage%20Bartow.pdf>

Grand Prismatic Seed. <https://www.grandprismaticseed.com/natives/mentzelia-decapetala>

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=MEDE2

Lewis and Clark Herbarium. <http://www.plantsystematics.org/reveal/pbio/LnC/LnCpublic6.html>

Montana Field Guides. <https://fieldguide.mt.gov/speciesDetail.aspx?elcode=PDLOA030C0>

Nature Serve Explorer. https://explorer.natureserve.org/Taxon/ELEMENT_GLOBAL.2.160758/Mentzelia_decapetala

USDA Plant Database. <https://plants.usda.gov/home/plantProfile?symbol=MEDE2>

Wild with Nature. <https://wildwithnature.com/2022/08/04/mentzelia-decapetala/>



— LORNA HABEGGER HARDER ILLUSTRATION

2023 KNPS PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



GARDEN

1ST: SETTING SUN IN THE MEADOW GARDEN – ANDREW MITCHELL

2ND: POCKET GARDEN – PHYLLIS SCHERICH

3RD: BEEBALM AT K-STATE OLD STADIUM – TERRY OLSEN



FLORA

1ST: DUTCHMAN’S BREECHES – ANDREW MITCHELL

2ND: FAWN LILIES WHERE THE FAWNS PLAY – KELLI EGBERT

3RD: JUST HANGING OUT – KELLI EGBERT



2023 KNPS PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



1ST

WILDFLOWER OF THE YEAR

- 1ST: PURPLE PRAIRIE CLOVER OVERLOOKING CHASE CO. FLINT HILLS — JACOB PENNER
2ND: PURPLE PRAIRIE CLOVER-LABETTE CO. NATIVE PRAIRIE — EMMETT SULLIVAN
3RD: PURPLE PRAIRIE CLOVER-PINK MUTANT — ANDREW MITCHELL



2ND



3RD

PEOPLE

- 1ST: WE FOUND IT! (MEAD'S MILKWEED) — PHYLLIS SCHERICH
2ND: FUN ON THE PRAIRIE — LYNN MICHAEL
3RD: BURNING THE NATIVE GRASS — THOMAS ARNHOLD



1ST



2ND



3RD



1ST



3RD



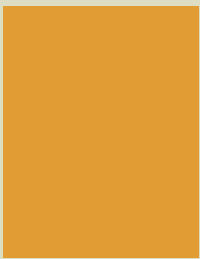
1ST

SCENERY

- 1ST: A PALETTE OF PRAIRIE GREENS FRAMES CLARK SFL — SAMUEL STEPP
2ND: A ROCKY SLOPE LEADS DOWN INTO A LUSH FLINT HILLS VALLEY — JACOB PENNER
3RD: BAKER WETLANDS — SAMUEL STEPP



2ND



3RD



2ND

FAUNA

- 1ST: BLUE SAGE BEE #1 RESTING ON BLUE SAGE — WENDY HOLMAN
2ND: LANDING ZONE, EASTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL ON WESTERN IRONWEED — ANDREW MITCHELL
3RD: MONARCH AND BUMBLE BEE — GAYFEATHER ENTHUSIASTS! — DENNIS KAUFMAN

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

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County (if KS) _____

Membership Category

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☐ Organization \$35.00
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Additional Donation: Legacy Fund \$ _____ Scholarship Fund \$ _____ General Fund \$ _____