



Kansas Native Plant Society

Fall Newsletter



Volume 29 Number 4
2007

KNPS AWW (Annual Wildflower Weekend) –TRULY AWESOME

By June Kliesen

I do indeed feel sorry for all the members who weren't able to make it to our AWW (Annual Wildflower Weekend). It was truly awesome – great speakers, unique and informative tours of the Dillon Nature Center, Sand Prairie State Park, the Prairie Dunes Country Club, and the Bethel College Sand Prairie Preserve. We had the best turnout ever for our Photo Contest. I don't know how the judges managed to pick our ribbon winners; they were all so good. We also had a great Silent Auction with members upping their bids to make sure they got the treasures they just had to have. Add to that the opportunity to see old friends and make new ones, as well as finding "new" native plants, and you have a weekend to remember.

On Friday afternoon, before the specific events began, the Board held its scheduled meeting. It was Jeff Hansen's last Board Meeting as President. He will be missed as our "Fearless Leader." He has accomplished a great deal in his tenure as KNPS President. Following the meeting, Jim Smith, showed us the wonderful Dillon Nature Center. Hutchinson is lucky to have it!

Friday evening we had our Annual Banquet at the Grand Prairie Hotel. The food was wonderful, and many of us went back for seconds in anticipation of two more full days of meetings and field trips. Craig Freeman gave us a terrific slide show of "The Vegetation of the Great Plains."

During the Membership Business Meeting on Saturday morning at the Dillon Nature Center, Jeff reviewed the advances we have made over the last year as well as some plans for this coming year. We had two recipients for the Rachel Snyder Award; Kim Shrank accepted for the Wichita Clinic and Rollin Sachs accepted for the Health Department in Topeka. Dwight Platt, a long time member (and board member and former President) of KWS and KNPS received the Excellence in Botany Award for promoting native plants.

Our special speaker for the morning was Brad Guhr of the Dyck Arboretum who presented a slide show that showcased the Prairie Window Project in schools, as well as the work he is doing to educate the next generation of environmental stewards. He is doing a great job, and it was a joy to hear about the work he is doing.

Dillon Nature Center served us an excellent and hardy box lunch. Mother Nature cooperated by giving us a lovely, sunny, but not too hot, day to eat out-

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Have you renewed your membership in KNPS? Check the first line in the address to see if you need to renew.

The Kansas Native Plant Society Newsletter is printed four times a year: Winter (January), Spring (April), Summer (July), Fall (October). The deadline for submitted material is the 5th of December, March, June and September.



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.

PRESIDENTIAL FAREWELL

By Jeff Hansen

My two-year term as President is over. When I first agreed to serve as president, I was a bit nervous about leading board meetings and was really nervous about leading the general membership meeting. But in reality, I was just barely nervous, and found I loved doing both jobs. I love this organization, and all the people I meet through it. I've developed some of the best friends through KNPS. I want to reflect on some of my proudest accomplishments as Board Member and President over the past few years. I hope it doesn't sound as if I'm bragging. It's just that I feel so good about helping the organization and furthering our mission to people.

The first big accomplishment was bring-ing together all of our documents and organizing them on the web site. The web site now contains anything and everything about the organization. If someone needs to know something about KNPS, you can direct them to our website.

As President I wanted to make our board meetings fun AND productive. Since we are all volunteers, I didn't want to scare people away by everything being only about work. To make



Past President: Jeff Hansen
Photo by June Kliesen

the board meetings more enjoyable, I instigated having an outing associated with the meeting. I believe this improved attendance too. Hopefully in the future, we can open up these outings to the general membership. Here's a big thank you to the board – we worked together as a team.

Working on the brochure with Shirley Braunlich was a huge task and a huge accomplishment. I think it's one of the biggest reasons we've been attracting new members. It's so nice to go to an event, tell people about KNPS, and hand them a brochure.

Probably the one idea that I see as having the biggest impact on educating the public is the "county wildflower

tour". If we can keep getting more counties to host wildflower tours, we can reach more people. We don't have the resources to put on tours all across the state, but conservation districts and NRCS offices do. Thanks to Krista Dahlinger for putting the guide for wildflower tours together.

My number one goal was to increase membership in the organization. With 86 new members in 2006 out of a total of 359, I think this was accomplished. By the middle of September, there were 66 new members in 2007.

The Annual Wildflower Weekend in Hutchinson was a great way to end my Presidency. I had so much fun with so many different people. It was great seeing the existing members welcome all the new members and include them in all our activities.

My next big KNPS project is to come up with a plan to make renewal easier. So expect to hear more from me. I also want to focus more on publicizing our organization in other publications. Even though my Presidential term is over, I will continue to work for KNPS.

Jeff Hansen aka "Harry Aster"

KNPS AWW –TRULY AWESOME

(Continued from page 1)

side under the trees. I think there were about 80 of us there for lunch. Then we were off to Sand Hills State Park where we ran about trying to catch the "experts" so they could tell us all kinds of neat information about the new plants we were seeing. I must admit, it was getting pretty hot wandering over those sand hills, but it was worth it!

Sunday morning we met at the Prairie Dunes Country Club (Wow! Is that an amazing golf course?) for a tour of their natural areas by the manager Stan George and a box lunch on the veranda. Then we car pooled along the back roads for our afternoon foray at the Bethel College Sand

Prairie Preserve. This walk was led by Dwight Platt emeritus faculty member at Bethel who was instrumental in getting the preserve set aside. We had to eat a lot of dirt on that county road to get there, but again, it was worth it. If you didn't make it to this annual meeting, you missed a good one. Hope to see you next year.

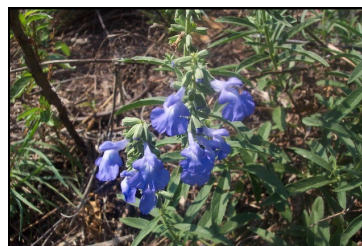


Photo by Phyllis Scherich

THE NEW MEMBER AWW EXPERIENCE

Three first-time attendees at the Annual KNPS Wildflower Weekend share their memories and experiences

Kate Lewis, Reno County, Kansas

I hoped the Kansas Native Plant Society annual meeting would answer some of my backyard habitat questions. Since my recent move to Reno County, I've become infatuated with learning about wildflowers and native plants that will attract a variety of wildlife to my back yard, conserve water and reduce mowing (who truly enjoys mowing?), and especially, how to remove painful sand burrs and puncture vine from my lawn.

Searching the internet led me to the Kansas Native Plant Society. I noticed the annual meeting would be in Hutchinson, just a few miles from my house. The "Wildflowers for the Masses" weekend schedule promised seminars, awards, photo contests, a silent auction, lunches and dinners, and native sand hills prairie tours. I couldn't think of a better way to learn at least some ideas of what will grow in my yard.

So, I enthusiastically jumped into the weekend activities. After the first day, I felt I had just attended the casual and friendly gathering of the most esteemed Kansas botanists, teachers, ornithologists, and more. This feeling intimidated me a bit. My career is advertising. How would I really fit in?

I didn't need to worry or feel shy. The next day the group toured Sand Hills State Park, and I began to learn that many members had never seen the plants native to the sand hills. I was

able to recognize and produce at least a common name for a few plants on the tour. The other members thrilled in the new tidbit of knowledge, and so did I with theirs. To me, that became the beauty of the Kansas Native Plant Society. Everyone has knowledge to contribute, even if you think you don't. All you have to bring (besides water, sunscreen, bug repellent, a note pad, and maybe a camera and a good field book) is your curiosity and love of nature.

Some other tidbits I learned are:

- * I need to learn plants' scientific names, as common names can be so confusing!

- * Sand burrs do not survive the shaded ground that the taller wildflowers and grasses provide (yay!).

- * The sand hills contain clay "lenses" that hold water, and can sustain water loving plants in the most unlikely places.

- * Prairie dogs like short grass prairies, and will leave if the area is not mowed. I wish it were that easy to get rid of moles!

I learned so much more during the "Wildflowers for the Masses" weekend than article space allows. As an advertising person, I'll sum my "newbie" perspective in a sound bite-- "All members, old and new, enjoy sharing as varied a knowledge as Kansas has plants and wildlife!"

If there is any group that can get a person excited about plants; it's the Kansas Native Plant Society. This year was my first trip to the annual meeting, and I was thrilled when asked to write about what the experience meant to me as a new member. During the meeting, I soaked up information provided by the knowledgeable presenters, and I loved learning a slew of new plants on the prairie hikes. By the end of the weekend, I found myself making plans to attend upcoming KNPS events and also thinking about how I can get people involved in involved in my neck of the prairie.

If someone asked me "What was the best part of the annual meeting?" I would respond without hesitation, "The people." I definitely met some characters, and I found out that you don't have to have a degree in botany to fit into the group. You just have to enjoy the natural world around you, and a good imagination for inventing plant names is a definite plus. I felt at ease in the fun atmosphere, and I benefitted from the other KNPS members' knowledge as I was introduced to the tallgrass prairie ecosystem on our outdoor excursions. I came away from the annual meeting with great memories! I am excited about attending upcoming KNPS events because I can't wait a whole year to be around those people who share my enthusiasm for native plants. I hope to see you all again soon!

Re-Fueling My Enthusiasm Chelsea Juricek, Garden City

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THE NEW MEMBER AWW EXPERIENCE - cont'

(Continued from page 3)

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Steve Christiansen Prairie Village, KS

Really enjoyed my first annual "AWW" meeting. Even the hotel food was great!

I really am in "AWW" over the incredible plant knowledge owned by many of the KNPS members who are so gracious about sharing with others. The beautiful Sand Hills State Park

with its incredible diversity of native plants was a unique opportunity for me to glean that knowledge while enjoying a beautiful day with good people. An atmosphere of colorful serenity seemed attached to the tranquil scene of groups of people contemplating the flora while slowly threading their way among the little hills and draws along

the trail. That kind of atmosphere brings to mind a line from the poet William Wordsworth for whom nature was his principal muse: "Beauty, a living Presence of the earth, waits upon my steps; pitches her tent before me as I move." Sorry I had to miss Sunday and look forward to other events.

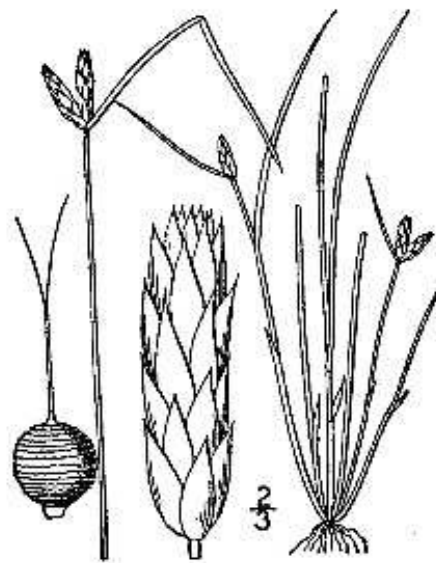
THIS ONE IS REALLY, REALLY, REALLY RARE!

By Nancy Goulden

On the Sunday hike at Bethel College's Sand Prairie Preserve, the KNPS group visited a little dried up pond where they were introduced to the unlikely fern, Western Water-clover or four leaf clover fern. That was unique enough, but there was more to come. As the main body of the group hurried off chasing more new plants, Jeff Hansen stayed behind and kept looking in the dried-up wetland where he spotted a small bullrush that grabbed his attention. It turned out to be Hall's bulrush (*Schoenoplectus hallii*), an incredibly rare plant. Based on information provided by Craig Freeman, "there are documented records from only 12 states" and "documented records from only 12 counties in six states in the last

five years." The last sighting in Harvey County, Kansas, was in 1997. Craig's information also stated: "The conservation organization NatureServe gives Hall's bulrush a global rank of G3, meaning that it is vulnerable and known from 21-100 populations worldwide. The Kansas Natural Heritage Inventory of the Kansas Biological Survey gives it a state rank of S1, meaning that it is critically imperiled in Kansas and known from five or fewer populations. WOW!

USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions*. Vol. 1: 329.



IT'S RENEWAL TIME!

The KNPS membership year is January to December. Now is the time for members to renew for next year. To find out whether you need to renew, please look at your address label on this issue of your newsletter. Your mem-

bership expiration date and membership category are listed above your address. L=Lifetime, C=Contributing, O=Organization, F=Family, I=Individual, S=Student. The dues amounts for these levels of membership are listed on the renewal form on the back page of the newsletter.

KNPS ELECTIONS HELD

By Craig Freeman



Membership in attendance
Photo by Craig Freeman

Eleven members were elected each to serve three-year terms on the Board of Directors of the Kansas Native Plant Society at the 29th annual meeting on September 22, 2007, in Hutchinson, Kansas.

New board members are Jocelyn Baker – Manhattan; Mike Haddock – Manhattan; and Evelyn Reed – Coldwater. Past board members continuing their service include Krista Dahlinger – Mulvane; Jeff Hansen – Topeka; Michael Heffron – Eureka; Carl Paulie – St. Paul;

Dee Scherich – Wilmore; Phyllis Scherich – Wilmore; Patricia Stanley – Bel Aire; and Julie Torseth – Hesston.

There were two outgoing board members with 15 years of combined service to the organization: George Lippert – Chanute (6 years); and Ann Simpson – Fairway (9 years).

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

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY WILDFLOWER TOUR

By Jeff Hansen and Nancy Coombs

When did you last stand in the middle of a hill prairie surrounded by sideoats grama, big bluestem, Indian grass, lead plant, round-headed prairie clover, narrow-leaved bluets, and New Jersey tea, while looking out over the distant Kansas River floodplain on an absolutely stunning early fall evening? Have you ever seen cat-tail (*Typha angustifolia*) plants climbing up a slope? Or soon-to-be migrating Monarch Butterflies clustering on Willow trees in a native limestone outcropping?

These scenes, and many others of equal natural interest, were experienced by over 30 people on Tuesday, September 11, 2007, at Belvue Oregon Trail Nature Park, about 5 miles west of St. Marys, Kansas. The tour was hosted by the Pottawatomie County Conservation District. Alex Miller, Range Management Specialist in the Westmoreland Field Office, organized and advertised it well with a colorful announcement and press release. Dennis Schwant, Conservation District

board member, also helped set up the tour. Alex and Jeff Hansen, Kansas Native Plant Society President, led the tour up and down paved trails and into the prairie. Prior to the start of the tour, everyone attending introduced themselves, their town of residence, and why they came to the tour. Ranchers, farmers, teachers, retirees and some teens ranged from Paxico to Wichita in Kansas, and even out to Portland, Oregon. As people gathered at the picnic shelter, Jeff said a few words about KNPS and handed out brochures.

Then we were off! While identifying native wildflowers and prairie grasses as well as some invasive plants, Jeff and Alex entertained the crowd with tidbits about Native American and pioneer uses of plants including forage value to livestock. Ragweeds and puncture vine were pointed out as we first approached the prairie. Noxious weeds like Johnson grass and field bindweed also were shown. The plants that were really putting-on-a show were the native grasses: sideoats grama, big bluestem,

and Indian grass. Attendees learned that common boneset was thought by pioneers to help heal bones because of the leaf's arrangement around the stem. Tall boneset and false boneset were also pointed out— all growing in close proximity. Did you know the milky sap from snow on the mountain was sometimes used to brand cattle? It was fun and interesting to hear the attendees share their plant knowledge with the rest of the group. As the sun went down, sloppy joes, macaroni salad, chips, cookies, lemonade and ice tea prepared and served by Molly Schmidt, Janice Plummer, and Bob Lieneman of the Pottawatomie Conservation District, were enjoyed by all. A special thank you goes out to all who made this tour exceptional.

If you would like to help ensure other color issues, send your contribution to: KNPS, R.L. McGregor Herbarium, 2045 Constant Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66047-3729.

A DAY AT DILLON NATURE CENTER

By Michael Heffron

The fall 2008 Annual Wildflower Weekend kicked-off Friday, September 22, at the Visitor's Center of Dillon Nature Center, Hutchinson, KS. Dillon Nature Center, a division of the Hutchinson Recreation Commission and located within the city of Hutchinson, is a unique facility. This uniqueness is enhanced by the fact that DNC is surrounded by an energy plant, a railroad track, and a major city street!

DNC Director Jim Smith energetically launched our introduction to the center with an historical review of DNC's development. The center's roots go back to the 1970's beginning with a few simple gardens and DNC serving as Reno County's first community vegetable garden. However, the first true flower gardens weren't

tional plaques, plant name tags, and sidewalks throughout the gardens and around the pond.

In addition to the garden areas, DNC currently hosts over 250 species of trees, shrubs, and vines combined with numerous species of native grasses, wildflowers, and animals, e.g., ~200 species of birds throughout the year.

Some of the blooming native wildflower species observed on this warm, dry, and windless day were Blue sage, Showy partridge pea, Joe-pye weed, Grayhead prairie coneflower, Rosinweed, Common sunflower, and various "asters." Some of the more recognizable species of trees

were Hackberry, Cottonwood, Bald cypress, oaks, maples, and pines. Native grasses seen included Big bluestem, Little bluestem, Indian grass, Switch grass, and Prairie cordgrass. As could easily be seen from our day's visit, DNC has developed into a comfortable home for both native and non-native species of plants.

Besides being a convenient natural refuge for the citizens of Hutchinson to experience, the nature center is also actively involved in various programs and on-going projects such as butterfly tagging and prairie restoration. With future landscaping projects also planned, DNC will continue unfolding as a natural refuge for those wild species in need of a niche near a city. It should be noted that



Wading through reclaimed prairie at DNC
Photo by Valerie Wright

with "no paid" horticultural staff, most of these accomplishments at DNC have come from private donations, memberships, program fees, gift shop sales, plant sales, and physical work from both the DNC staff and countless volunteers over the years.

So if you want to enjoy the feel and beauty of nature, but not stray too far away from the city, why not visit Dillon Nature Center located at 3002 E. 30th Ave, Hutchinson, KS? You will easily discover how nature and civilization can easily co-exist together.



On the trail. Photo by Valerie Wright

planted until 1988. In 1994 five annual flower beds and several perennial beds were developed for the Visitor Center's grand opening. Then in 1999 over 2200 plants were grown just for the annual beds. Additional features that now embellish DNC include an entrance walkway composed of donation bricks, a bronze grizzly bear sculpture, a waterfall area, lime-stone terraced beds, benches; and informa-



Resting under the trees in Sand Hill Park
Photo by June Kliesen

KNPS 2007 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

by Valerie Wright

The Photo Contest was held during the Annual Meeting on Saturday morning. Nearly three dozen photographs, representing six categories, were entered. This was the largest number of entries in many years. My job as Awards Committee Chair was to organize the photos and be sure the photographers names were not viewed by the judges. The Awards Committee (Cindy Ford, Craig Freeman, and Fred Coombs) chose 18 First, Second and Third place-ribbon-winners. They are listed here by category. Two photos of mushrooms were placed in the Fauna category because the fungi are more closely related to animals than plants.

Collage: 1st Place - Phyllis Scherich "Buffalo Bur"
(no 2nd or 3rd place winners)

Scenery: 1st Place - Steve Christiansen
"Indiangrass Along Rock Wall"

2nd Place - Phyllis Scherich "2007 Symphony Site"

3rd Place - Rita Schartz "Alcove Springs"

People: 1st Place – Valerie Wright "2006 Symphony in the Flint Hills"

2nd Place – Rita Schartz "Prairie Princess"

3rd Place – Jeff Hansen "Snyder Prairie"



Indiangrass Along Rock Wall



Prairie Princess



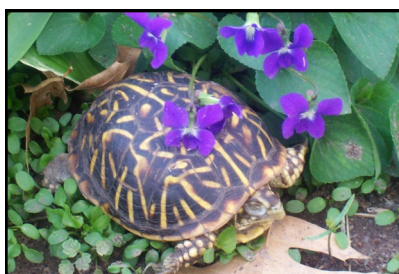
2006 Symphony in the Flint Hills

Fauna: 1st Place – Nancy Goulden "Bison on Konza"

2nd Place – Rita Schartz "Waking up in a Bed of Violets"

3rd Place - Phyllis Scherich "Morel"

3rd Place - Jeff Hansen "Earth Stars"



Waking up in a Bed of Violets



Bison on Konza

Flora: 1st Place – Valerie Wright "Eastern Gamma Grass in Bloom"

2nd Place – Valerie Wright "Penstemon cobaea on Konza Prairie"

3rd Place – Valerie Wright "June Grass"

3rd Place - Jeff Hansen "Thickspike Gayfeather"

3rd Place – Jim Smith "Carolina Anemone"



Penstemon cobaea on Konza
Prairie

2007 ANNUAL WILDFLOWER WEEKEND EXITING PLANT AND ANIMAL SIGHTINGS

By Shirley Braunlich

Outstanding plant and animal finds were observed in the sand hills during our Annual Wildflower Weekend in the sand hills. We visited three sites in Reno County: Dillon Nature Center, Sand Hills State Park, and Prairie Dunes Country Club and one site in Harvey County, Bethel College's Sand



Accompanied by a Tortoise shell Cat. Marilyn Armstrong

Prairie Preserve. The recorders included Earl Allen, Shirley Braunlich, Craig Freeman, Brad

Guhr, Jeff Hansen, June Kliesen, Carl Paulie, Dwight Platt, Evelyn Reed, Phyllis Scherich, Ruth Steinke and Sandra Tholen



Then we marched up a Sand Hill - single file. Marilyn Armstrong

A prairie dog town recently moved into a mowed area of tallgrass prairie at the Dillon Nature Center. This prairie had been mowed for 50 years and was finally allowed to grow tall again, the prairie plants survived. Under the current plan only trails are to be mowed, but one area was mowed due to miscommunication. Prairie dogs moved into this mowed area; they are

safer where they are able to see predators. Nature Center staff plan to continue mowing the new prairie dog town to benefit the prairie dogs, and so far the prairie dogs don't seem to mind the mowers.

Surprising and ubiquitous plants were found throughout the weekend. Jeff Hansen found two rare Kansas plants: Curly threeawn grass (*Aristida desmantha*) was growing at Sand Hills State Park and Hall's bulrush (*Schoenoplectus hallii*) was growing at the Bethel Preserve. Craig Freeman noted that Hall's bulrush is critically imperiled in Kansas and known from five or fewer populations. Dwight Platt pointed out another rare plant at the Bethel Preserve; Dwarf burhead (*Echinodorus tenellus*, a.k.a. *Echinodorus parvulus*) is a small delicate plant in the Water-plantain family.

It was a surprise to see Carolina Puccoon, a.k.a. Carolina gromwell, (*Lithospermum carolinense*) in bloom at Prairie Dunes Country Club; it normally blooms only in May and June. One of the showiest flowers we



This is a big park and a long trail. Fred Coombs

spotted at Sand Hills State Park is known by many different names: Heavenly mistflower, Blue mistflower, Blue boneset, Wild ageratum (*Conoclidium coelestinum*, a.k.a. *Eupa-*

torium coelestinum). Many new plants were added to attendees' life-lists, including Small water-pimpernel (*Samolus parviflorus*), Western Water-clover, a.k.a. four leaf clover fern, (*Marsilea vestita*), Multi-headed monarda, also known as Spotted bee-balm (*Monarda punctata*), Prairie blanket-flower (*Gaillardia aestivalis*, a.k.a. *Gaillardia fastigiata*), Sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*), Slenderleaf false foxglove, a.k.a., Narrow-leaf agalinis (*Agalinis tenuifolia*), White boltonia (*Boltonia asteroides*), Plains gayfeather (*Liatris squarrosa*), Showy-wand goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*), and Pitcher's clematis (*Clematis pitcheri*). Among the common plants spotted at nearly every site were Slender snake-cotton (*Froelichia gracilis*), Deer vetch, a.k.a. prairie trefoil, (*Lotus unifoliolatus*), Annual wild-buckwheat (*Eriogonum annuum*), Four-point evening-primrose (*Oenothera rhombipetala*), Hooker's scratch daisy, a.k.a. Slender goldenweed, (*Croptilon hookerianum*), and Sand love grass (*Eragrostis trichodes*).



You've heard of three awn? This is curly awn. Krista Dalinger



Another interesting find was the rattle box. Jolene Grabill

2007 - 2008 Kansas Area Native Plant & Wildflower Events

Information provided by Kansas Native Plant Society, Email: <email@KSNPS.org> Website: www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org

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

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

November 3: Volunteer Workday at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Strong City, KS. The Kansas Chapter of The Nature Conservancy is hosting this workday. Brian Obermeyer of the Kansas Chapter's Flint Hills Initiative and Kristen Hase, Natural Resource Program Manager for the National Park Service, have scheduled a brush management work day. Volunteers will meet 9am at the parking lot of the historic ranch headquarters. Please dress warmly with heavy gloves for handling brush and close-toed tennis shoes or boots. Please contact Ruth Palmer to sign up for the work day <rpalmer@tnc.org> or (785) 233-4400.

November 3: Kansas City WildLands Fall Ecological Restoration Workday in Kansas City, MO, 9am-Noon. To Battle! Our largest workday of the year focuses on removing invasive exotic honeysuckle. Several sites in Kansas City, MO are included. This is a GREAT group workday! Contact Linda Lehrbaum, KC WildLands Coordinator, at <linda@bridgingthegap.org> or 816-561-1061, ext. 116

November 10: Perry Lake Trail Maintenance with Kansas Sierra Club, Perry, KS. Join us as we continue our 16-year tradition of maintaining the Perry Lake Trail. Bring a lunch, work gloves, and outdoor hand tools. Contact Steve Hassler <steve.hassler@kansas.sierraclub.org> (913) 707-3296

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

November 22: Protecting and Conserving Birds, Animals and Plants in Kansas, 7:30pm. Program at the Great Plains Nature Center, by Ken Brunson, Wildlife Diversity Coordinator, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Ken Brunson will talk about projects created by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and 38 supporting organizations to protect the 81 bird species, 33 mussels, many fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and crustaceans in need of conservation. This free program is sponsored by the Wichita Audubon Society. The Great Plains Nature Center is located at 6232 E. 29th St N. (29th and Woodlawn), Wichita, KS, (316)683-5499.

2008 Events - Mark your calendar now and plan to attend some fabulous happenings!

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

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April 19th & 26th: Missouri Prairie Foundation Spring Plant Sales 7am - noon. Location: City Market, 5th & Walnut, Kansas City, MO. [<http://www.moprairie.org>] (888) 843-6739

 **May 8-12:** Flora Kansas: Great Plains Plant Bazaar at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, Hesston, KS. The largest native plant sale in Kansas features hard-to-find native perennials, shrubs and trees plus fun 'gardenabilia'. Kansas Native Plant Society co-

sponsors Dyck Arboretum events. May 8 & 9 are for members only; contact the Arboretum about becoming a member. Members receive a 10% discount at the sale on all days. Individuals can join at the sale on any day and receive the member discount. Saturday offerings: classes, demonstrations, and tours from professionals. Admission charge is by donation. <arboretum@Hesston.edu> (620) 327-8127

 **May 10:** Barber County Wildflower Tour. Meet at the Medicine Lodge High School, 8:30am. Enjoy continental breakfast and slides of flowers we expect to see. Buses will provide transportation. Morning participants will return to the school at noon. Full-day participants will enjoy a delicious lunch and entertainment at a tree-shaded country park. Ride through the beautiful gyp hills to a second site. Refreshments will be served before we return to the school around 3:30pm. Barber Co. Conservation District and Kansas Native Plant Society are co-sponsors. Pre-paid reservations should be sent before May 5th, \$8 half-day, \$15 full-day. Barber Co Conservation, 800 W. 3rd Ave. Medicine Lodge, KS 67104-8002, phone (620) 886-3721, ext. 3.

 **June 1:** Join the Third Biennial Coblentz Prairie Foray, 1pm. This glaciated tallgrass prairie offers diverse native plants as well as uncommon birds like Henslow's Sparrow, notable insects like Golden Byssus skippers, and interesting rocks like Sioux Quartzite. This may be the furthest south the glaciers advanced in Kansas, and large pink and red Sioux Quartzite boulders, glacial erratics, can be found in several areas. Among the 270 recorded plant species, we hope to see the federally protected Mead's milkweed, Prairie phlox, Starry Catchfly, Topeka Purple-coneflower, and Tall Cinquefoil! Other plants of interest include the Adder's Tongue Fern -- one of the few prairie ferns and Cluster fescue (*Festuca paradoxa*) -- a fescue rarely found in Kansas. Kansas Native Plant Society and Grassland Heritage Foundation co-sponsor this event. Co-leaders: Jeff Hansen, KNPS Past President and GHF Board Member and Shirley Braunlich, KNPS Board Member. Coblentz Prairie is 40-minutes west of Lawrence, KS in west-central Douglas County at the intersection of E 1 Road and North 1150th Road; it is part of the Clinton Wildlife area. Meet a half-mile east of the intersection on the south side of North 1150 Rd. <kansaswildflowers@yahoo.com> (785) 864-3453

 **June 7:** Wilson County Wildflower Tour in southeast Kansas. Gather at Fredonia High School, 916 Robinson St, 8:30am. Enjoy home baked pastries and booths of education and interest. Buses will provide transportation. Join small group tours with professional leaders or opt for self guided experiences. Kansas Native Plant Society members will be playing active roles in this event. Lunch is included with the registration price of \$8, payable by June 2 to Wilson Co Conservation, 930 N 2nd Street, Fredonia, KS 66736. Contact Gina Thompson (620) 378-2866 with questions.

 **June 8:** Friends of Konza Prairie Annual Wildflower Walk, 7pm. The walk will be co-led by Valerie Wright, Kansas Native Plant Society Past President, and Konza Docents. There is a charge of \$5 for those who are not Friends of Konza Prairie members. Telephone reservations are due June 3, (785) 587-0441.

 **June 14:** The 3rd Annual Symphony in the Flint Hills will be held in Morris County, KS. Enjoy this unique pairing of music and prairie! The vision of this concert is to heighten appreciation and knowledge of the Flint Hills as the last major intact tallgrass prairie on the North American continent and will help focus attention on the Flint Hills of Kansas as a national treasure belonging to all Kansans and as a destination for people beyond our borders. Featured is an outdoor concert performed by the Kansas City Symphony. [www.symphonyintheflinthills.org] (620) 273-8955

June 21: Enjoy Wildflowers & Birds at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Strong City, KS. To carpool from Topeka, meet at 6:30am at the Starlight Skating Center 301 SE 45th St. Contact Dan Gish with questions (785) 232-3731

 **June 25:** Celebrate the Sixth Annual Grant-Bradbury Prairie Jaunt! Join Kansas Native Plant Society and Grassland Heritage Foundation on Topeka's premiere prairie park. This 80-acre tallgrass prairie includes over 296 plant species. Jeff Hansen, KNPS Past President and GHF Board Member will lead the tour at 7pm. Directions: Take Topeka Blvd south to the University Blvd intersection (stoplight), take a right. Take University west about half a mile - when the road curves south, you are at the driveway to the park gate. There is a small brick building at the driveway. <email@KSnpS.org> (785) 864-3453

August 4-8: The North American Prairie Conference will be in Winona, MN. Winona State University in Minnesota will host the 21st Biennial NAPC. For more information contact: Bruno Borsari, Ph.D. <bborsari@winona.edu> (507) 457-2822.

 **October 3-5:** Kansas Native Plant Society's 30th Annual Wildflower Weekend will be held in Hays, KS. We will visit mixed-grass prairies in and around Ellis County. Come enjoy native plants in the Smoky Hills of Kansas with us! The weekend is filled with outings, programs, a silent auction, photo contest, dinner, and socializing. Please contact KNPS for more information. <email@kansasnativeplantsociety.org> (785) 864-3453

PRAIRIE DUNES OUTING

By Krista Dahlinger



A view of the Prairie Dunes Country
Photo by Krista Dahlinger

On Sunday September 23, under clear blue skies, about 35 KNPS members and guests had the opportunity to view the native wildflowers and grasses at the Prairie Dunes Country Club in Hutchinson, Kansas. Superintendent of Groundskeeping, Stan George, CGCS, spoke to the group in the shade of an outdoor patio and told the story of how Prairie Dunes came to

be, as a beloved project of the Carey family of Hutchinson. Work on the golf course began in 1935 when the first nine holes of the course were laid out, links style, reminiscent of golf courses the Careys visited in Scotland. Teams of mules pulling scrapers were used to shape areas between the dunes to form the fairways and greens between 1935 and 1937. The second nine holes were added in 1957.

Prairie Dunes is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year and has continuously ranked among the top 25 golf courses internationally. This foray was an added treat to our Hutchinson area Sand Hills Tour weekend theme.

After our introduction, we forayed out across several fairways onto the dunes. The entire golf course is located on approximately 400 acres of natural sand dunes; with 75 acres of manicured fairways and greens, leaving about 325 acres of the course in undisturbed dunes. Immaculate green fairways form smooth valleys between high sand dunes that were covered in multitudes of grasses and forbs. The native plants, colored from green to gold, blue, yellow and white provided a striking visual contrast in height, color and texture. On the dunes we

seeded and have never been tilled or broken. The interior of the course has been burned every few years since 1993. Many of the cottonwood trees that were present when the course was designed remain, and no trees have been added. We encountered only one two-some on the course and managed to stay clear of the ball in play.

After our foray we returned to the patio and enjoyed lunch served by the



Gathering information about the golf course. Photo by Jolene Grabill



Lunch on the patio at the Prairie Dunes Golf Club
Photo by Craig Freeman

observed an abundance of yucca, deer vetch, Indian grass, showy partridge pea, sandhill plum, switchgrass, Pitcher sage, field snake-cotton, camphor weed, annual buckwheat, Hooker's scratch daisy, cud-flower, rough drop-seed, big and little bluestem and others too numerous to continue listing.

The dunes are not

Prairie Dunes Country Club. During lunch, there was time to visit with new members and guests and discuss our interests in native plants, and to also discover our other common interests. Two of the greatest benefits of membership in KNPS are the opportunity to meet with wildflower enthusiasts in interesting places, and also the opportunity, such as we had on this day, to observe and learn to identify new plants with the help of knowledgeable professionals. Many thanks to Stan George and the Prairie Dunes Country Club for allowing a large number of non-members onto the course to scour the rough for native plants.

KNPS RECOGNIZES NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPES AND OUTSTANDING BOTANIST

By Valerie Wright

The two 2008 winners of the KNPS Rachael Snyder Memorial Landscape Award represent the increasing trend of using native plants across the state by both civic and private groups. Kim



Kim Shank from Wichita Clinic
Photo by Craig Freeman



Rollin Sachs from Clean Air Lawn Care
Photo by Craig Freeman

Shank accepted the honor for the Wichita Clinic at Founders' Circle. Rollin Sachs received the plaque for the Department of Air Quality's Clean Air Lawn Care Project in Kansas City, Kansas.

member (28 years) and twice past President, received the Excellence in Botany Award for his teaching and mentoring of many students at Bethel College over the years, as well as his promotion of native plants in gardens and landscapes. At Kauffman Museum 25 years ago, he initiated and still maintains a reconstructed tallgrass prairie for students and visitors to see the beauty of native plants. "Congratulations Dwight."



Dwight Platt, a founding member of our society, long-time Board
Valerie Wright presents award to Dwight Platt
Photo by Craig Freeman

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SILENT AUCTION

by Krista Dahlinger

The Silent Auction at the KNPS 2007 Annual Wildflower Weekend meeting on Saturday September 22 continued a successful trend. This year a number of interesting books were donated to the auction, both new and vintage. Other donated items included a sunflower quilt, a cross stitched mallard scene, an embroidery daisy and squirrel scene, a basket of herbed vinegar and oil, KNPS hats, drinking glasses printed with birds, a bottle of port, a plate of brownies, sand plum jelly, and



Some of the Silent Auction items.

a leaf prints in a frame decorated with dried seed pods. Jeff's hand-made wildflower paper samples were popular again this year. There was also a great deal of interest in the CD's Nancy Goulden has created as a visual aid for plant identification. Shirley Braunlich was the big spender this year, thank you Shirley. The Silent Auction raised a total of \$417. A big "Thank You" goes out to everyone who donated items to the auction, and also to the auction winners, for your generous support of this event!



Photo Artists: Marilyn Armstrong,
Nancy Goulden, Jolene Grabill,
Krista Dahlinger, Shirley
Braunlich



CRAIG FREEMAN KEYNOTE SPEAKER

By Ann Feyerharm

The keynote speaker for KNPS Annual Wildflower Weekend was our own Craig Freeman. After the Friday evening dinner, Craig spoke on the topic "The Vegetation of the Great Plains: Places, Processes and Plants." If there is anyone more knowledgeable about Kansas plants and local habitats, we have yet to meet them! Craig is currently Curator of the University of Kansas R. L. McGregor Herbarium -- and an important member of the KNPS Board.

How did the 4,000 plant species of the Great Plains evolve and what are the major players? Craig's description of the forces that shaped the plains helps us understand how plants moved in and adapted to local environments. From mountain uplift and subsequent erosion, to rivers, glaciers, wind, cli-



Craig and Jane Freeman at Saturday Banquet--
June Kliesen

mate, geologic layering, fire, grazing and finally human's development of the land, all affected vegetation. Between 160 and 170 plant families are found on the plains prairies. These include flowers, grasses, shrubs and trees.

We were then treated to a fabulous collection of prairie plant slides. Craig has traveled extensively throughout the Great Plains to collect pictures and wonderful plant stories. There is a tremendous diversity of plants and the ways they adapt to their unique environments, from gallery forests to upland prairies. Twenty-five per cent of these regional plants were not here 100 years ago. Many, such as Common Sunflower, Teasel, Canada and Musk Thistle, Field Bindweed, *Sericea les-pedeza*, Purple Loosestrife, Leafy Spurge and Blue Mustard are often found in disturbed habitats.

Members left with a new understanding and appreciation of the local flora as a part of the larger and more complex plant life scene of the Great Plains.

BRAD GUHR AND CULTIVATING FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

By June Kliesen



Brad Guhr
Nancy Goulden

Our speaker on Saturday morning was Brad Guhr, Educational Coordinator of the Dyck Arboretum. Brad spoke briefly about the Prairie Window

Project, which deals with prairie restoration

projects reflecting the plant community types found within a 60 mile radius of Hesston. However, the bulk of his talk was about the work the Dyck Arboretum is doing in training teachers and working with children to educate the next generation of environmental stewards. Brad pointed out that

today, most of our children are disconnected from the outdoors. Our rural populations are shrinking daily. Attendance at National Parks is down. Children no longer walk to school, and few even play outside any more. One thing that really struck me is that any seven year old can identify 200 corporate logos, but probably cannot identify a tree in the child's own back yard.

Brad and the Dyck Arboretum are attempting to rectify this as they educate teachers on ways to involve school children in restoration projects. The Dyck Arboretum offers a 40 hour interdisciplinary institute for 3 hours graduate credit to train teachers in methods of study suitable for children. Their "Earth Partnership for Schools" program gives kids the opportunity to restore areas on their own school grounds where they and others can enjoy the results of their work. It also

introduces them to research projects where they can get some hands-on experience.

As an aside, Brad mentioned some great gifts for children such as sweep nets and hand lenses, which would get them out and investigating the world around them. I think this is a great way to get kids out of the house and away from TV and computer games.

Brad finished his talk with an 8 minute video showing children involved in restoration projects. It was truly heartwarming to see the joy and enthusiasm of these children as they danced around planting seeds. I am thankful that we have the Dyck Arboretum and men like Brad who are dedicated to educating our youth in environmental awareness.

Featured Plant–Ten-Petal Mentzelia

Text by Dr. Stephen L. Timme

Illustration by Dr. Cindy Ford

Ten-petal *Mentzelia* (*Mentzelia decapetala* (Pursh) Urban & Gilg) is in the family Loasaceae (the stickleaf family) and occurs throughout most of the Midwest. In Kansas, it essentially extends from Republic County south and west to the state line. Ten-petal *Mentzelia* is an erect biennial or perennial from a taproot, with branching shoots. The leaves are alternate, short petiolate (**leaf stalk**) below and sessile above. They reach a length of 15 cm and a width to 4 cm with sinuate (**margins wavy**) to serrate (**with forward pointed, sharp teeth**) margins and are scabrous (**rough to touch**). The flowers are showy when open and have 10 or about 10, white to cream-



Mentzelia decapetala

colored petals that touch one another or overlap when open. They begin to open in the afternoon and are closed of a morning. The plants flower from July through September. The fruit is an elongated capsule containing many

seeds at maturity. Found along roadsides and disturbed sites in prairies. As far as known, the species has no medicinal value or other economic value. It is closely related to *Mentzelia nuda* (Pursh) T. & G. This species differs from Ten-petal *Mentzelia* in having shorter petals (to 4 cm long) and non-overlapping petals.



Photo by Sister Patricia Stanley

Contributing and LifeTime Members

Contributing Members

Kathy Tidwell
Sheldon & Virginia Cohen
Fred & Nancy Coombs
Tom Hammer
Nancy Lusk
Robert Russell
Jim Townsend

Life Time Members

Earl Allen
Susan Blackford
Barbara Davis
Phillip Eastep
Fink Foundation
Sally Haines
W. Glen & Marjorie F. Neely
Ray Woods



Field Snake-Cotton

Froelichia gracilis

Photo by Jeff Hansen

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS 5/21/07 TO 9/29/07

Bret Bird - Wichita
Doug Blex - Independence
Carol Blocksome - Ransom
Doug & Emily Buehler - Topeka
Michael & Gerri Carlisle - Lawrence
Cowley County Conservation District - Winfield
Janet Cox - Altoona
Mickey Delfelder - Topeka
Jessica Dieker - Towanda
Teresa Ellington - Shawnee
Jane & Richard Elliott - Delia
Kevin & Shannon Fehlberg - Manhattan
Ann Foster - Manhattan
Karen & Steve Hummel - Manhattan
Ethel Landis - Independence

Kathleen (Kate) Lewis - Hutchinson
Dee & Wayne Link - Clay Center
Brian Mathers - Topeka
Robert McElroy - Topeka
Florrie McGinnis - Fredonia
Mary Murawski - Strong City
Richard Nelson - Waterville
Cristina Petty - Hill City
Bill & Cynthia Pfannenstiel - Pittsburg
Nancy Richard - Neodesha
Santa Fe Trail – Chris Day & Janet Armstead - Wamego
Lauren Scopel - Grosse Pointe, MI
Lila Seager - Valley Center
Julie Steinbach - Mission
Charles & Cheryl Thomas - Lawrence

Kansas Native Plant Society

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2045 Constant Ave
Lawrence, KS 66047-3729

Phone: (785)864-3453

Email: kansaswildflowers@yahoo.com.



**Kansas
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Address Service Requested

We are on the Web

www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org

Membership Information

email@kansasnativeplantsociety.org or email@KSNPS.org



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

Annual dues are for a 12-month period from January 1-December 31. Dues paid after December 1 are applied to the next year.

Name:	
Address:	
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Zipcode:	
Phone:	
E-Mail:	

Check membership category desired:

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|--------------------------|--------------|----------|
| ☐ | Student | \$5.00 |
| ☐ | Individual | \$15.00 |
| ☐ | Family | \$25.00 |
| ☐ | Organization | \$30.00 |
| ☐ | Contributing | \$100.00 |
| ☐ | Lifetime | \$500.00 |

Check membership category desired:

Please complete this form or a photocopy of it. Send the completed form and a check payable to the Kansas Native Plant Society to:

**Kansas Native Plant Society
R.L. McGregor Herbarium
2045 Constant Avenue
Lawrence, KS 66047-3729**

A membership in 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 by the KNPS Administrative Office.

The Kansas Native Plant Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

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