



Kansas Native Plant Society

Summer Newsletter



Volume 30 Number 3

July 2008

Calling All Wildflower Lovers to Hays in October

By June Kliesen

As a western Kansas girl, I must admit that I have a warm spot in my heart for Hays, Kansas. This is where I got my Masters and where I had my first introduction to the beauty of the Kansas prairie. My undergraduate degree was pretty much lab oriented and my committee at FHSU decided that I needed to broaden my background; so they introduced me to field biology. It was a real eye opener to get out on the prairie and see all the lovely things I had missed while inoculating cultures and bedazzling my Micro students with the intricacies of the Krebs Cycle. I remember trying to keep up with Dr. Tomanek, who must have been 40 years my senior, as he bounded across the prairie sharing his excitement, knowledge, and enthusiasm for the wildflowers and grasses native to that area.

Some of you may have similar memories of your introduction to and "seduction by" the prairie plants of west/central Kansas. For others, the KNPS Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW), October 3-5 at Hays, may be your first opportunity to explore the native plants found in the more western areas of the state. Finding **new plant species** you have never seen and adding them to your life list is, all by itself, a good enough reason to join other plant and nature fans for our yearly get together.

There are three unique field trips planned, one on each day of the weekend. Our theme this year is Ethnobotany (cultural uses of native plants) and what better way to introduce this timely topic than to go to a private ranch on Friday to see the **site of the *Echinacea* study** directed by Kelly Kindscher from KU. Most of you know that the native purple coneflower (our KNPS symbol) has been harvested heavily and carelessly to be sold as an herbal remedy. Kindscher's study, which focuses on the impact of harvesting techniques, is fueled by the desire to preserve and respect the plant. On the outing, we hope to see large stands of *Echinacea* as we learn about how the wild plants are harvested. We will also see Fremont's clematis, resinous skullcap and other plants suited to the thin limestone soils here.

The field trip, which starts from the **Sternberg Museum**, isn't until 3:30, so if you have the time, come early and use that time to visit the Sternberg at a reduced rate of \$4. It's a bargain, even at the full price! Now you have two more good reasons to come to AWW in October.

Our **keynote speaker** for Friday evening is **Dr. Kelly Kindscher**, who will follow up on our trip to see the *Echinacea* with a presentation on "The History and Impacts of *Echinacea angustifolia* Harvest in Kansas." Dr Kindscher is a well-known Ethnobotanist who has written a number of books. You may be familiar with *Medicinal Wild Plants of the Prairie* and *Edible Wild Plants of the Prairie*. His presentation is sure to be the highlight of the meeting! Reason #4, but who's counting?

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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.



KNPS President's Message

by Michael Heffron

Greetings to my favorite friends-- the wildflower enthusiasts. When I last visited with you in the KNPS Spring Newsletter, I was excited about the upcoming spring wildflower season. The spring native plants were a little slow in blooming, but when they did flourish, they did not disappoint us. During the earlier part of the spring we were blessed with the Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), May Apples (*Podophyllum peltatum*), Ground Plums (*Astragalus crassicaarpus*), Fringed Puccoons (*Lithospermum incisum*), and Prairie Ragworts (*Packera plattensis*) blooming in their full glory. More recently we have been enjoying some of our showier native plants such as the Beardtongues (*Penstemon tubaeflorus* and *cobaea*), Spiderworts (*Tradescantia ohiensis* and *bracteata*), Purple coneflowers (*Echinacea pallida* and *angustifolia*), the Coreopsises (*Coreopsis grandiflora* and *tinctoria*), Catclaw sensitive briar (*Mimosa nuttallii*), and Butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*).

Hopefully you have been fortunate enough to enjoy these and many other native plants by joining one of the many scheduled Kansas area native plant and wildflower events that already have been conducted throughout the state this spring and very early summer. All of these outings are very informative social events and just plain fun! For example, I was fortunate enough to enjoy the

extremely well-organized annual Wilson County Wildflower Tour on Saturday June 7th. Approximately 130 folks enjoyed viewing and learning about the ethnobotany and folklore of over 50 flagged native plants and grasses. As usual, it was a real treat to spend the day outdoors enjoying native plants with some of the nicest people in the state of Kansas.

If you have not taken advantage of one or more of these flowering events so far it is not too late. Please, peruse the schedule of our events enclosed in this newsletter on pages 7 and 8 and choose an event that is closest to you or just pain tickles your fancy. Then go have an invigorating day outdoors with some really neat and knowledgeable people and enjoy the beauty and energy of native plants in their heart-warming natural habitats!

Also, you do not want to miss this year's KNPS Annual Wildflower Wildflower Weekend (AWW), which will be held on the weekend of October 3-5 in Hays, KS. As usual this is the biggest and most exciting formal event of the year for KNPS members. It will afford you direct exposure to other KNPS members from around the state and also the KNPS Board of Directors. For even more fun, bring yourself and one or more of your friends to Hays this fall. I sincerely hope to see you and your friends there in October. Until then, continue having a great summer outdoors, viewing the exquisite native plants of Kansas!



Prairie Landscaping: The *Echinacea* Genus

Text and Photos by Jeff Hansen

Late spring and early summer bring a big rush of blooming native wildflowers. With so many to choose from, I thought it would be fun to focus on a specific genus rather than a species. So let's talk about the Purple coneflowers of the *Echinacea* genus. Within Kansas we have three wide-spread species, which are all prairie species: the Pale purple coneflower (*E. pallida*), found roughly in the eastern quarter of Kansas; Narrow-leaved purple coneflower (*E. angustifolia*), found in the western four-fifths of the state, and the less famous Topeka purple coneflower (*E. atrorubens*), found from Topeka southward in the eastern third of the state. You may also encounter *E. purpurea* in Kansas. This is the commonly used landscape species, and it sometimes escapes from gardens. It is native to Cherokee County, Kansas, in the Ozarks.

When speaking of the purple coneflowers, I find it best to use scientific names, and in this case, the



Pale Coneflower
E. Pallida

scientific names are shorter than the common names. In addition, if someone uses the term purple coneflower, it's difficult to know which species the person means.

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Prairie Landscaping *Continued from page 2*

My two favorites for the landscape are *E. angustifolia* and *E. pallida*. *E. angustifolia* has more of a pink or purple bloom with wide ray petals. Its pollen is yellow. *E. pallida* has narrow, pale pink, ray petals that tend to droop down as the flower ages. Its pollen is white. *E. atrorubens* has short ray petals with yellow pollen and is less showy than the other two, but still attractive. I like it for its glossy smooth leaves and stems. The other species have hairy leaves and stems.



Narrow-leaved Coneflower
E. angustifolia

They all have blooms that last about a month. They are strong plants that stay upright and tend not to flop over. They attract butterflies to the blossoms, and birds like the seeds. I've even seen hummingbirds feeding on *E. pallida*. An added benefit of growing them in your gardens is that the roots can be used for medicinal qualities. Often in the fall, I will dig up a couple roots to store



Topeka Purple Coneflower
E. atrorubens

in the refrigerator. When I feel a cold coming on, I chew on root. It seems to nip it in the bud. To propagate plants, you need to collect seeds and sow them in the fall. Most of my experience is with *E. pallida*, and I find that it requires about 3 months of cold moist stratification to break the seed dormancy and get it to germinate. So it's important to sow in the fall. Since they are prairie species, all three require full sun. They also seem to prefer dry rocky soil. But I have had success growing them in my rich, heavy, clay soil. The soil should be well-drained as they don't like it too wet.

I sell the seed and plants through my website www.ksplants.com and at the Lawrence Farmers' market. Kevan Hodges and Bob Broyles both sell native plants at the Wichita farmers' market. Also try the Dyck arboretum in Hesston and Kaw River Restoration Nursery in Eudora.

PHOTO CONTEST AT ANNUAL MEETING: Look at a group of KNPS members on a outing, and four out of five walkers will have their cameras out, focused on a plant, snapping away. We love our plants and love to try to get the perfect picture (or at least a passable one) of each "jewel of the prairie or woodlands." At the annual meeting, there is always a crowd gathered around the display of photo-contest-entries (the results of our "plant portrait" obsessions), intrigued and pleased with the images. They also want to check to see which photos received which color of ribbon and which have been named "Best in Show."

We hope each member will go through her/his collection of pictures of **native species** or **native landscapes** in the **state of Kansas**, mount them and bring them with you to the Annual Wildflower Weekend. Our KNPS photographers find a variety of ways to capture their favorite plants and settings. Referring to the categories that are used for sorting the entries for judging (**collage, flora, fauna, people, scenery, garden**), may be helpful in choosing your entries. You may enter up to **four pictures in each category**. The judges look for both technical and aesthetic properties such as **composition, sharpness, exposure, color** and **presentation**, plus that impossible to describe "WOW" factor. Complete rules (and we do follow them) are found on the website www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org. With your entries, we'll have a wonderful photo gallery at our gathering in Hays.

Don't Miss Wilson Lake Outing at AWW

by Iralee Barnard

If you still need a reason to go to the KNPS Wildflower Weekend in September, a very good one would be the trip to Wilson Lake. Wilson Lake is located in the scenic Kansas Smokey Hills and harbors a variety of wildflowers from both east and west. This trip will be a **high point** of the weekend. Fall is such a colorful time when the grasses ripen and are at their best. Sand bluestem (*Andropogon hallii*), alkali sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*), sand lovegrass (*Eragrostis trichodes*), and plains muhly (*Muhlenbergia cuspidata*) can be found at Wilson Lake.

The unusual field snake cotton (*Froelichia floridana*) and beautiful scarlet gaura (*Gaura coccinea*) make their show along the Burr Oak Nature Trail. This three-quarter mile loop trail is located at Sylvan Park below the dam. As many as seven yellow goldenrods (*Solidago spp.*) are listed on the lake, and nine species of pink and white smartweeds (*Polygonium spp.*) could be blooming there. Be sure to see the soapberry tree (*Sapindus saponaria*) along the Burr Oak Trail. The glossy, golden clusters of soapberry fruits hang in the trees until frost.

Rocktown Trail gets its name from the colorful sandstone rock formations originating in the Cretaceous period. This three-mile-loop trail is in Lucas Park west of the dam. Look for the lacy, white, sometimes with tints of red, eriogonum (*Eriogonum annuum*). Engelmann's milkweed (*Asclepias engelmanniana*), plains milkweed (*A. pumila*), and broadleaf milkweed (*A. latifolia*) may still be blooming along the trail. The yellow composite flowers of camphorweed (*Heterotheca latifolia*) may not be easily recognizable, but the strong odor of camphor is a sure identification feature for this plant.

If you are not too tired, there is another one-mile-loop in the Hell Creek Area called Dakota Trail. Here you might find rough gerardia (*Agalinis aspera*), pink toothcup (*Ammannia coccinea*), and Fendler's aster (*Aster fendleri*) in flower. Prickly poppy (*Argemone polyanthemus*) is an interesting plant with its huge crepe-paper petals, spiny leaves, and thick yellow sap. Around 4 p.m. ten-petal mentzelia (*Mentzelia decapetala*) flowers open and close about midnight. Three species of mentzelia are reported at the lake. The Wilson Lake Plant Checklist also includes mosses and lichens. Ask for a copy of the plant list at the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers office. The plant list is also available online. Go to the Wilson Lake Corps web page www.nwk.usace.army.mil/wi. Then scroll to Natural Resources and click on Plant Checklist.



Reports of KNPS 2008 Outings

by KNPS Contributors

Cedar Crest

Text and Photo by Jeff Hansen

On Thursday, May 8 at 7pm, the first annual Governor's Woodland Wildflower Walk at Cedar Crest, the Governor's residence in Topeka, took place. It was well attended by 26 people of all age groups. The majority of attendees were not members of KNPS. People learned of the event because an announcement was passed on to Kansas Trails Council members (who helped build the trails) and Topeka's Prairie Packers, an outdoor club. It was also offered as a class with Topeka's "The People School," an adult education organization.

Unfortunately the plant seen most often was the Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) shrub, which is a very invasive plant originating in Asia. However, people also had the opportunity to see blue phlox, woodland violets, and May apples in bloom. The paw paw and bladdernut were blooming as well. Trees of note were the chinkapin oak, bur oak, shagbark hickory, basswood, and sycamore. Non-flowering plants of interest were the bladder ferns, rattlesnake ferns, and the various mosses.



Blue Phlox
Phlox divaricata

When we reached the rich bottomland forest, the stinging and wood nettle greeted everyone. KNPS member, Nancy Coombs, mentioned how delicious stinging nettle is when cooked. She had made stinging nettle lasagna!

Other plants seen, but not yet blooming, were sweet Cicely, touch-me-not, giant hyssop, Pitcher's leather flower, elmleaf goldenrod and American bellflower. The trout lily and dutchman's breeches had already bloomed.

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Outings: Cedar Crest *Continued from page 4*

My favorite part of the walk was seeing the children exploring the woods. The children were quick to learn, and enthusiastic.

Coffey County

Text and Photo provided by Krista Dahlinger

Girl Scout Troop 18 from Waverly and their family members, and several Red Hat ladies were among the attendees at the 2008 Coffey County Wildflower Tour on May 31 north of Burlington. We met at the Black Bear Bosin Shelter House across Coffey County Lake from the Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant. Jim Minnerath from the US Fish and Game office started the morning presentation by showing samples of plants that we would see later, and told us their characteristics as well as the importance of fire in prairie management.



Young naturalists with milkweed leaf and caterpillar

The Scouts were alert and questioned Jim about how he could touch the Hemlock if it were poisonous. Dan Haines, a naturalist for both the Coffey County Conservation District and WNOC led our group to a meadow where we toured flagged plants and matched them to photos on a plant list. Eastern gamma was present, as were Deptford pinks and Tallspike lobelia. Several scouts were diligent in checking off each plant. We returned to the shelter to enjoy grilled hamburgers, hot dogs and beans. One Scout stated her favorite plant on the tour was the spiderwort. She also liked the new "weird" plant names she learned, but was not at all fond of the poison ivy. Many thanks to Kristi Vogts and Mary Lou Ponder with the Coffey County NRCS office for reserving the shelter, preparing the plant list, arranging lunch and publicity; to the tour guides: Bob Culbertson and Amy Zavala from the KS Parks and Wildlife office, Bob Harkrader of NRCS; Jim Minnerath and Kevin Scherich for sharing their time and talents. Dan Haines, I can never forget MAD Horse Chestnut as an indicator of what tree I am looking at.

Coblentz Prairie Foray

Text by Shirley Braunlich, photos by Foray Members

The Third Biennial Coblentz Prairie Foray was held on June 1, 2008. Grassland Heritage Foundation and KNPS co-sponsored the event. Leaders were Carl Paulie, Jeff Hansen, and Shirley Braunlich. Forty people attended. Foray hikers included fifteen intrepid visitors representing the Virginia Native Plant Society. Some Virginians drove twenty hours for the opportunity to explore tallgrass prairies in Kansas. Other folks who attended arrived from as far away as Crested Butte, Colorado, and as near as a mile down the road in Berryton, Kansas.

Coblentz Prairie is a great example of the native tallgrass prairie. Fittingly, Governor Sebelius signed a proclamation making June Kansas Native Plant Appreciation Month. This was a wonderful and timely opportunity to enjoy our natural heritage. We admired the large pink and red Sioux Quartzite boulders, glacial erratics on the prairie. The question remains unsettled whether this could be the furthest south the glaciers advanced in Kansas or if a glacier melted some distance to the north and melt-water brought the rocks.

During the foray Carl Paulie won praise for spotting the federally protected Mead's Milkweed. This plant had already been recorded on the list, but no one had seen it recently.

Carl noted Mead's Milkweed will often remain dormant to wait for the right conditions. Other plant highlights included Blue eyed grass, Breadroot scurfpea, Eastern gamma grass, Golden alexanders, June grass, Narrow leaf milkweed, New Jersey tea, Pale purple coneflower, Porcupine grass, Prairie Parsley, Prairie phlox,



Meads Milkweed
Asclepias meadii

Showy beardtongue, Umbellate bastard toadflax, Violet wood sorrel, and Yellow star grass. New list additions are Hairy fimbriatylis and Curly-cup gumweed.



Hairy Fimbristylis
Fimbristylis Puberula

We also admired much wildlife on the prairie. Jeff spotted a Prairie racerunner. Someone else recognized a Leopard frog. Shirley identified a Giant swallowtail butterfly. Krista Dahlinger viewed and photographed a beautiful Eight-spotted forester moth. Bird sightings included Great blue heron and Redheaded woodpecker. Among the striking bird songs we heard Dickcissel, Mockingbird, Western meadowlark, and Yellow-billed cuckoo. One area of the prairie contained burrowing-holes that were likely made by a Bobcat.



Eight-spotted forester moth

In spite of the great diversity on this prairie, vulnerabilities seem ever-present. One area of the prairie is covered by a large patch of invasive Crown vetch. The legally noxious weeds Multiflora rose and Sericea lespedeza were noted. We also discovered a small Milo field carved into the prairie; evidently someone wanted to attract quail or other animals to hunt. Carl suggested that if the Milo field is left alone, it will likely return to prairie. Feral hogs are another recent problem in this area. When domestic pigs escape, they revert to their wild instincts and genes as they reproduce; some grow tusks and wiry hair. Government agents, armed with shotguns and helicopters, have successfully captured most of the hogs. The largest one found in the Clinton Lake area weighed about 425 pounds.

We will hold another outing here again, but if you want to visit this prairie on your own, pay attention to deer and turkey hunting seasons. The area is open to public hunting, managed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Wilson County

by Gina Thompson

The 13th annual Wilson County Wildflower Tour was held Saturday, June 7th. The day began with a continental breakfast at Fredonia High School. Booklets, bottled water, and lanyards were given to each of the 133 attendees. T-shirts, hats, wildflower books, handmade baskets, and native plants were available for purchase.

Buses were used to transport the attendees to a beautiful meadow approximately 4 miles northwest of Fredonia. Over 57 plants were identified and discussed by knowledgeable group leaders, including two leaders from the Kansas Native Plant Society. Plants identified included Red Clover, Illinois Bundleflower, Manyflower Scurfpea, Pitcher Sage, Compass Plant and Wild Hyacinth, to name a few.

A picnic lunch of roast beef sandwiches, chips, cookies, vegetables and refreshments was served. A brief program was given by a representative from the Wilson County Historical Society. A cool southern breeze and a cloud-covered sky throughout the day kept the attendees from parching in the warm weather. The event was sponsored by the Conservation Auxiliary and the Wilson County Conservation District.

Friends of Konza Prairie Wildflower Walk

Text and Photo provided by Valerie Wright

On June 8th, the cool front passed through Konza Prairie in time for the 8th Annual Wildflower Walk. Stormy weather to the East gave a backdrop of dark clouds, but there was no rain.

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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.

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

July 19, August 16, September 20 and October 18: 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 [fjnorman@sunflower.com] (785) 887-6775 (home) or (785) 691-9748 (cell).

August 2: Wildflower Hike at Prairie State Park near Lamar, MO. Experience the beauty of summer on the tallgrass prairie. Join park staff for a leisurely walk among new grasses and colorful wildflowers at 10am. Identification, uses, gardening tips and more will be shared. [prairie.state.park@dnr.mo.gov] (417) 843-6711.

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.

August 9: Wild Herbs Workshop at Pioneers Park Nature Center in Lincoln, NE. Get acquainted with some common plants and interesting natives, 9:30am. Their usefulness may surprise you! The registration fee is due August 4. [nfurman@lincoln.ne.gov] (402) 441-7895.

 **August 16 & 23: Plant Identification Workshop and Outing in Douglas County, KS.** Learn how to identify Asters (Sunflowers) and Legumes (Beans) with Caleb Morse, Collection Manager for the McGregor Herbarium. Beginners, as well as those more advanced wishing to brush up on their skills, are invited. The emphasis will be to help participants past the confusion, "darn yellow composites...", and to become more familiar with two ubiquitous plant families. Participants will have available mounted specimens, as well as fresh specimens for review. You are also welcome to bring any legume or aster plants you may have been wondering about. August 16 session will be held at the R.L. McGregor Herbarium in Lawrence, KS from 10am to 12:30pm. August 23 session will be held at the Ivan Boyd Prairie in Baldwin City, KS from 10am to 12:30pm. Kansas Native Plant Society sponsors this workshop. Registration is free, but limited to 16 people. Contact Caleb to sign-up: [cmorse@ku.edu] (785) 864-4493.

August 16: Wildflower Wonders at Pioneers Park Nature Center in Lincoln, NE. See what's blooming in the Nature Center's gardens and prairies, 9:30-11am. Learn more about native plants that you might want to consider for your own garden. The registration fee is due August 12. [nfurman@lincoln.ne.gov] (402) 441-7895.

September 4: Prairie Seed Harvesting at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Strong City, Kansas. Help the preserve harvest seeds for the restoration of the bottomland prairie areas, 9am - noon. [www.nps.gov/tapr/planyourvisit/events.htm] (620) 273-8494.

September 6: Fall Wildflower Tour at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, McPherson County, KS. Board the tram for a tour of the prairie with wildflowers and buffalo, 10am. There is also a self-guided walking tour with flowers flagged. The Refuge is located 6 miles north of Canton, KS. [http://www.cyberkraft.com/maxwell/] (620) 628-4455.

September 6: Wildflower Hike at Prairie State Park near Lamar, MO. (See August 2 entry above for details.)

 **September 13-14: 2nd Annual Wildflower Weekend at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Chase County, KS.** Bring the family; the weekend will be educational and enjoyable for all ages, 10am-4pm. Members of the Kansas Native Plant Society will be on hand to lead wildflower and medicinal plant hikes and teach you how to make paper from grasses and wildflowers. [www.nps.gov/tapr] [tapr_interpretation@nps.gov] (620) 273- 8494.

September 20: Wildflower Wonders at Pioneers Park Nature Center in Lincoln, NE. See what's blooming in the Nature Center's gardens and prairies, 9:30-11am. Learn more about native plants that you might want to consider for your own garden. The registration fee is due September 16. [nfurman@lincoln.ne.gov] (402) 441-7895.

September 20: Prairie Day at Jerry Smith Park in south Kansas City, MO. This is the only surviving remnant prairie in Jackson County. This year marks ten years of prairie restoration efforts at Jerry Smith Park, administered by Kansas City Parks and Recreation. This tenth anniversary of the rebirth of this prairie will also be celebrated by the expected dedication of a new hiking trail. The day will feature exhibits, activities, food and guided hikes on the prairie from 2-6pm with live music at dusk. Sponsors include Kansas City Parks and Recreation, Kansas City Power and Light, Kansas City Wildlands, Missouri Dept. of Conservation and Missouri Prairie Foundation. For directions and more info. visit [www.kc.wildlands.org] or contact Burr Oak Woods (816) 228-3766.

Kansas Area Native Plant & Wildflower Events Continued

September 26-28: The Land Institute's 29th Annual Prairie Festival is in Salina, KS. The festival features speakers, art, music, dancing, guided prairie walks, bird watching, children's activities, and food. [www.landinstitute.org] (785) 823-5376.

September 27: Konza Prairie Biennial Visitors' Day, 8am - 4pm. Featuring guided hikes, wagon rides, homestead tours, driving tours, and youth activities, **near Manhattan, KS.** K-State and Friends of Konza Prairie sponsor the Visitors' Day. From I-70, take exit 307 and go northeast on McDowell Creek Road for 4.2 miles to the entrance. [www.ksu.edu/konza/keep] [konzaed@ksu.edu] (785) 587-0381.

September 27: Prairie Jubilee at Prairie State Park, near Lamar Missouri. Visit Missouri's largest remaining tallgrass prairie, at nearly 4,000 acres. Learn about life on the prairie during a day filled with activities and entertainment. Events include guided wagon rides to view the bison herd, and prairie restoration activities. Wildflower gardening plants will be for sale, with advice offered on care. Storytelling and traditional music will fill the air. A bison burger lunch will be available for a small fee. This fun event for young and old is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. [prairie.state.park@dnr.mo.gov] call (417) 843-6711.

October 2: Prairie Seed Harvesting at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Strong City, Kansas. Help the preserve harvest seeds for the restoration of the bottomland prairie areas, 9am - noon. [www.nps.gov/tapr/planyourvisit/events.htm] (620) 273-8494.

 **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@KSNPS.org] (785) 864-3453.

 **November 8: Papermaking Workshop at Karlyle Woods in Topeka, KS.** Save the date. See workshop details in next newsletter.

Information provided by Kansas Native Plant Society, see more events on our website:
www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org.

Calling All Wildflower Lovers To Hays in October

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Saturday will open with our **annual business meeting** at Whiskey Creek Wood Fire Grill. KNPS recognition awards will be presented and new board members elected. Our two speakers during the Saturday morning session will continue with the theme of human and plant connections. **Frank Norman** will share information about "**Native Medicinal Plants of the Prairie**" and **Cindy Ford** will talk about the process of "**Dyeing Wool with Native Plants**," based on personal experience.

Throughout the morning, we will try to top other bidders in the competition for choice items in the **Silent Auction**. The money raised by the Silent Auction helps to support some of our programs. If you would like to donate an item to the auction, we would gratefully accept it. In the past we have had books and artwork, food and drink, hand-made paper of plant fibers, and others too numerous to mention. It's always fun! While you are looking for Silent Auction goodies to bring to AWW, look through your wildflower pictures to see what you would like to submit to the **Photo Contest**. The rules for the Photo Contest are listed in this newsletter (page 3) as well as on the website.

After lunch, we will caravan to **Cedar Bluff Reservoir/Wildlife Area** to visit the spectacular

100 feet tall limestone bluffs and look for more typical flora of the region.

Our Sunday field trip will be a visit to the **Wilson Reservoir/Rocktown Natural Area** in Lucas Park. Be sure to read Iralee Barnard's article (page 4) about this area. This is a trip not to be missed. As with all the field trips, experienced plant enthusiasts will be bursting to share their knowledge of the area and the plants which live there.

Don't miss this year's AWWsome meeting. If the outings, the speakers, the Silent Auction and Photo Contest are not sufficient reasons to get you started making plans to attend, here is another very good reason— the fellowship and fun of being with others who are passionately interested in and care about the natural flora of our state, just as you do. If you have never been to a KNPS annual meeting before, expect to be taken in by a group of enthusiastic, warm new friends. Guaranteed a good time for all! Go to the KNPS website and click on "wildflower weekend" for more information, other attractions in the area, and lists of Motels. All members will also receive a letter by mail with detailed information and a pre-registration form. We hope to see you in Hays.

Outings: Konza Continued from page 6



Sunlit hills, Stormclouds and Bison on Konza walk

As the evening drew to a close, the sun came from under the clouds and enhanced the emerald green hills. Many visitors lingered at the bison fence to watch the herd with new calves graze by. Seventy-five participants came from various parts of the state to see over 40 wildflower species in bloom and many other plants in their natural habitat. Several Konza Prairie volunteers, who are also members of KNPS, led the hikes.

Lake Wilson, Russell County

Text and photos by Mike Haddock and Frank Norman

It was a good event on Saturday, June 8, at Lake Wilson in Russell County, though it was pretty windy. There were about 20 participants. The first part of the morning we visited a prairie site overlooking Lake Wilson near Lucas Park that had a good diversity of wildflowers. Some of the plants we encountered during the day were: Fremont clematis, Indian blanket flower, Western Yarrow, Resinous skullcap, Downy paintbrush, Rock sandwort, Prairie spiderwort, Plains yellow daisy, Cutleaf ironplant, Scarlet globe mallow, and Slender greenthread.



Indian Blanket Flower
Gaillardia pulchella

The prairie walk was followed by a hayrack ride out into a nearby pasture to view a solar-powered livestock watering system that uses a natural wetland area as its water source. The cattle were fenced-out of the wetland area and the water is pumped to a nearby tank via solar panels. At lunch, a range specialist from the NRCS described the advantages of the rotational grazing scheme that is used in the pastures we visited. It is allowing the grassland to recover from previous over-grazing and several consecutive years of drought.



Solar Powered Water Pump

This was the first time they had attempted such an event at Lake Wilson, and they hope to continue something similar next year. The workshop was put on by the Russell County Conservation District, NRCS, Smoky Hill RC&D, Corps of Engineers, the Hickmans, and KSU Extension Service.

Cowley County

Text and photo provided by Krista Dahlinger

Exotic *Krameria* and a horned toad were among those present at the 2008 Cowley County Wildflower Tour on June 14th at Winfield City Lake. About 15 people met at the Winfield High School before the tour where Max Thompson presented a slide show of some of the wildflowers we would likely see, including the showy "crowd pleasers" that are easiest to identify. Barry Barber, of the NRCS office spoke about the decreasing Prairie Chicken populations in Cowley County, and consequences of invasive plant species on the Kansas prairie.



Exotic *Krameria*

Outings: Cowley County *Continued from page 9*

After coffee, donuts and fruit, we boarded a school bus and headed to the lake with our plant lists to view the flagged wildflowers. We roamed mostly as a single group to the flagged plants and learned to identify Big Blue, Little Blue, Switchgrass and Indian grass by observing stem and leaf structure in the young plants. In spite of recent storms, blooms were on the serrate-leaf evening primrose, blue wild indigo, lead plant and larkspur. Barry Barber demonstrated how butterfly milkweed got its nickname "chigger weed" by shaking a flower head over a piece of paper. My mother attended this wildflower tour, decked out in a large straw sun hat and very stylish knee high rubber boots. On the way home, she and I reviewed our plant list and realized we had seen about 50 different plants we could recall to talk about after the tour.

Many thanks to Jyl Riebel from the Cowley County NRCS office for coordinating the event this year, to Barry Barber, NRCS, for leading the tour, Max Thompson for his time and talent at the presentation and in the field, and Denise Noonan with the Farm Bureau Office for also lending her expertise to the tour.

Neosho County

Text and photos provided by Carl Paulie



False Dragonhead
Physostegia Virginiana

The Neosho County Native Plant Outing was held June 14. Co-leaders were Bill and Vi Thorne from Chanute, Kansas, and the Southeast Kansas Audubon Society. All had a great time at a prairie on the east bluff along Big Creek located east of Chanute. Highlights of the outing were seeing: Tube penstemon, Pale echinacea, Deptford pink, Butterfly milkweed, Climbing prairie rose, Sulfur cinquefoil, Green milkweed,

Black-eyed Susan, White milkwort, Intermediate false dragonhead, Catclaw sensitive briar, and purple milkweed. Afterwards, we enjoyed soft drinks and cookies and indulged in birdwatching from Bill and Vi's back porch in Cross Timbers, east of the Neosho River.



Purple Milkweed
Asclepias purpurascens

KNPS Participation at Symphony

Text by Nancy Goulden, photo by Phyllis Scherich

During the afternoon of June 14, fifteen KNPS volunteers joined the thousands of visitors to Symphony in the Flint Hills on a private ranch, just south of Council Grove. As we have the last two years, our members shared information about the native plants and other prairie features with those who arrived early to enjoy the natural setting and special activities before the evening performance of the Kansas City Symphony. We estimate that our KNPS representatives had direct contact with approximately 900 visitors that afternoon. The 30-minute hikes near the symphony site were very popular again this year. There was a constant stream of visitors to the KNPS booth, and our knowledgeable guides, posted along the trail from the parking lot up to the site, talked with group after group about the plants they were seeing as they walked.



Annette Voth, KNPS volunteer, with a young guest

Luckily, the weather gave us that perfect "day in June." The flower display was somewhat understated, but the guests were still very interested

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Outings: Symphony *Continued from page 10*

in the abundant fleabanes (Daisy and Annual) and the Wild alfalfa (Many-flowered scurf-pea), which has been having itself a very good year. Spider milkweed and the Spiderworts were still hanging on and a few Showy evening primroses and Ruellias (wild petunia) were blooming. We found a couple of patches of St. John-wort and Deptford Pinks.

It was very rewarding to see the interest, enthusiasm, and curiosity about the native plants expressed by so many people. They had come primarily for the music but took advantage of the opportunity to enjoy and learn more about their natural world.

Keep in Mind Tallgrass Preserve Wildflower Weekend

by Iralee Barnard

At Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve on September 13-14, the National Park Service is hosting the Second Annual Wildflower Weekend.

Autumn is a colorful time in the Flint Hills. The native grasses are vibrant shades of burnt orange, rust, and cinnamon. Mixed with the grasses at Tallgrass Preserve are the blues and purples of silky aster, smooth blue aster, and saltmarsh aster. Downy goldenrod and willowleaf sunflower will be found in scattered colonies. Dotted gayfeather, blue sage and many other native plants are at their best in autumn.

KNPS members will be present on both days to lead plant demonstrations and flower walks. In addition, there are guided bus tours across the prairie, a gift shop, house tour, and the delight of watching clouds float across the seemingly endless prairie hills.

Come join us!

Second-graders Study and Bond With Native Plants

Text by Jeff Hansen, photos by Delaware Ridge Elementary

Note: The following was not a KNPS sponsored project, but I thought the readers of the newsletter would be interested in this.

Last fall second-grade teacher, Mr. Olson, from Delaware Ridge Elementary in Bonner Springs, KS contacted me about working with their three second-grade classes. The classes were studying Kansas Wildflowers. Last fall, about sixty students and dozens of parents came to Topeka, and we went on a flower searching scavenger hunt at Grant Bradbury prairie in Topeka. It was exciting to see the kids and their parents learning first hand about the prairie.

After the prairie excursion, they all came to my yard to see wildflowers used in landscape. The kids were so excited, running around the yard, investigating different plants and flowers. They especially liked smelling the seeds of gray-headed coneflower.



Native Plant Coach Jeff and Second Graders

During the school year, the curriculum involved wildflowers in all aspect of learning. Each student picked a specific species of wildflower or grass. They researched their species and wrote a report on it. Each did various sketches and finally created their own pen and ink drawing. The drawings were made into note cards. In music class, the students wrote a song about wildflowers.

The students wrote letters to their state representative about declaring Little Bluestem as the state grass. Their senator, Mark Gilstrap, also came and spoke to the students and heard the children's argument for naming a state grass.



Children Petition Sen. Gilstrap for Little Blue State Grass

The teachers and students wanted to have their own wildflower gardens at the school. I designed four gardens for them: a rain garden, a grass garden, a short mix of wildflowers and a tall mix of

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Second-graders Study and Native Plants

Continued from Page 11

wildflowers. At the end of the school year, the children planted the gardens with 100 plants.



Second Graders Plotting the Garden

The teachers involved in the project are Mrs. Rickert, Mr Olson, Miss Rockers, and Mrs. Sinclair. Thank you to all of the teachers and to the school's principal, Cindy Lockyear. Thanks also for Grassland Heritage Foundation's donation of \$150.00 for the purchase of plants.

Southwestern Spotlight: The Salt Cedar Challenge

Text by Chelsea Juricek, Garden City

Photos by Mike Haddock, June Kliesen

Salt cedar and tamarisk are common names for an introduced shrub in the genus *Tamarix*. There are several species of *Tamarix*, with *Tamarix ramosissima* the common species in Kansas. Salt cedar invades riparian habitats and displaces native flora and fauna along with depleting groundwater resources. The name "salt cedar" comes from the salt exuded from the leaves that accumulates in the soil around the plant.

Salt cedar is native to the drier regions in Eurasia and Africa. There are no native *Tamarix* species in North America.

The plant was introduced to the United States in the early-1800s to reclaim and stabilize eroded areas along stream banks in the southwestern states. Salt cedar was also sold to homeowners as an ornamental due to its wide adaptability and showy pink flowers. However, state law now prohibits the sale of salt cedar in Kansas.



Tamarisk (Salt Cedar) Blossoms

Salt cedar is a deep-rooted perennial deciduous plant that taps into groundwater, which can cause water table depletions. Reports indicate that one plant alone can transpire about 200 gallons of water per day, over two times the water use of native plants such as cottonwood and willow. Salt cedar ranges in size from 5 to 20 feet tall with evergreen-like leaves and pink to white flowers. The seeds are similar in size and color to pepper and are dispersed by wind and water. Salt cedar can establish a monoculture stand along lakes and streams, effectively prohibiting access to the water and crowding out native plant species. Small mammals and birds may benefit from the thick cover, but research has shown that biodiversity is reduced in salt cedar stands compared to stands of native vegetation.



Tamarisk (Salt Cedar) Along a Creek

Prevention is the best method for salt cedar control. Once salt cedar becomes established it is difficult and costly to control and nearly impossible to eradicate. A variety of control methods are available and include: cultural, mechanical, chemical, and biological methods.

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Salt Cedar *Continued from page 12*

Cultural control involves public education and eliminating the plant from nurseries and internet sales. Mechanical control includes physically removing the salt cedar with heavy earth-moving equipment, which is costly and not recommended for a heavily-infested area.

Chemical control with herbicides is also costly and may contaminate water sources and kill desirable native vegetation. Always read herbicide labels for application instructions and recommended rates. Herbicides can be applied with a cut-stump method or by spraying the whole plant. Once salt cedar has been sprayed, it should not be cut down for 3 years to allow the herbicide to move into the plant's roots because salt cedar readily re-grows from root crowns. Herbicides available for salt cedar control include Arsenal (imazapyr) for riparian areas and Garlon 4 (triclopyr) for non-riparian areas.

Chinese leaf beetle was introduced to the U.S. in 2001 as a biological control for salt cedar. Biological controls are generally cost-effective and best when used for large areas of salt cedar infestation. Several species of Chinese leaf beetles were released in the U.S. after extensive screening in the late 1980s to make sure the beetles do not attack any native vegetation or crops. Biological control, however, is not a silver bullet for salt cedar control, and there are drawbacks. The beetles may be difficult to establish and it can take several years for beetles to kill a salt cedar if there are few beetles feeding on the plant. The beetles will also die if they do not have salt cedar to consume.

Once salt cedar is controlled, landowners and agencies need to follow-up with restoration and revegetation of the native areas. Check out the websites for Kansas Water Office (www.kwo.org) or Tamarisk Coalition (www.tamariskcoalition.org) for more information on salt cedar, control options, and efforts in Kansas and throughout the Midwest.

OUR 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!!!

By Iralee Barnard

A state organization dedicated to the enjoyment of wildflowers was the dream of a group of ladies in Topeka 30 years ago. Through their efforts, the Kansas Wildflower Society was officially organized in September 1978. There have been some changes over the years—we have a new logo, and our name was changed only recently to Kansas Native Plant Society. But the enthusiasm for studying and sharing information about our native Kansas plants is as strong as ever. And the tradition of holding field outings across the state continues.

KNPS will be celebrating our 30 years as an organization this October at the annual meeting at Hays. KNPS would like to know how many charter members are still on our mailing list. Please let us know if you are a charter member. Contact Iralee Barnard at findiralee@yahoo.com or (785) 949-2857 McGregor Herbarium, 2045 Constant Avenue, Lawrence, KS 666047.



Iralee's Charter Membership Certificate

Note: Here are the names Iralee remembers from the original group: Margaret Ragsdale, Joanne Ramberb, Rachel Synder, Lillabelle Stahl, Mary Bancroft, Joanne Brier, Carolyn Litwin, Mary Jo McClure, and Barbara Weir. Mary Jo McClure was the first president. To share information or memories of the "early days," contact Iralee at the addresses given above.

Membership News

New Members

Donna Heck Beebee
Cori Brooks
Carey Carlyle
Monica Cedeno
Camille Gaddis
Carole Davies
Delaware Ridge Elementary
Elliott Duemler
Carol Fox
George Frazier

Sara Frazier
Charles Garrett
Jodi Gentry
Joe Guenzel
Mary Hoard
Joy Jensen
Kansas Dept of Wildlife & Parks
Lillian Lindahl
Susan Witt Ludeman
George Matthews
Jean McCormick

Zainabu Mipawa
Mai Nguyen
Hugh Nicks
Lynette Pauly
Tanya Penner
Marissa Scalone
Roberta Skaggs
Jason & Lisa Spangler
Tallgrass Spiritual Retreat Center
Matt Tomlinson
Dana Van Brimmer

Clyde & Lois Vasey
John Karori Wanjiru
Alice Weis
Amy Zavala

Returning Members

Ronald Haselhuhn - Emporia
Carol Klierer - Grainfield
Marie Stockett & Jeff Wilson - Lawrence

Kansas Native Plant Society

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



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LEARN MORE ABOUT KNPS

Check us out online at www.ksnps.org
Contact us by email at email@ksnps.org
Contact us by phone at 785-864-3453



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Society**

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 calendar year.

Please complete this form or a photocopy. 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. 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.

Membership application/renewal form

Member Information:

Name:	
Address	
City/State:	
Zipcode:	
Phone:	
Email:	
County (if Kansas):	

Membership Category:

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