



Little Bluestem Runs for Kansas State Grass

By Nancy Goulden and Valerie Wright

"On a sunny day somewhere between summer and fall, Little Bluestem was gently swaying back and forth in the breeze. Blue's white fluffy seed curls on their red-orange stalks moved a little with each puff of air." This image of Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) captured in the children's tale, "Little Blue's Story" will remind many KNPS members why they have a special affection for this modest cousin of Big Bluestem.

As far back as the summer of 2005, the Board began discussions about supporting the selection of a State Grass. At that time, Board member Gary Weisenberger introduced the idea of a State Grass after being contacted by Marci Penner, Director of the Kansas Sampler Foundation. Little Bluestem was suggested as a likely candidate. Several KNPS Board members weighed in on the attributes of Little Blue. The July minutes record that the Board would help "in whatever way we can." Science teacher Jan Alderson and her students from Shawnee Mission South High School launched the campaign to name Little Bluestem as the official Kansas State Grass in 2006. They involved their State Representative Kevin Yoder who agreed to sponsor the bill. The bill to name Little Blue was not given a hearing, but the supporters were determined to try again in 2007. Letters of support were sent, and the advocates were given a hearing before the Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee of the State Legislature in February of 2007. The committee heard arguments for a State Grass from Jan Alderson, Valerie Wright and Joan Leavens, but no vote was taken on the issue.

In preparation for the third attempt in 2008, a KNPS *ad hoc* committee made up of Valerie Wright, Nancy Coombs, Sister Pat Stanley, Iralee Barnard, and Nancy Goulden was formed to develop materials related to Little Bluestem for teachers and students. The committee focused both on providing information about this common (found in every county in Kansas) and appealing native grass and also on creating student aids to encourage and assist Kansas school children in playing an active role in the naming process. State icons, such as the State Flower, Tree, Bird, and Reptile were nominated by Kansas school children.

These educational materials are now available on the KNPS Website www.knps.org where they can be viewed and downloaded for classroom use. Background aids include: an informational letter directed to teachers and administrators; sample letters for students to use as a guide when composing letters to state representatives; bibliography of print and electronic sources related to Little Bluestem and photo gallery of Little Bluestem pictures. Resources designed for student use are: "Little Blue's Story" (for elementary students); descriptions of Little Bluestem to aid in identification; fact sheet about Little Blue, plus a line drawing of the grass to color. Viewers are encouraged to contact email@ksnps.org to report how their classrooms are supporting this project and to share teaching and learning ideas and aids.



Schizachyrium scoparium
Drawing by Iralee Barnard

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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.



**Kansas
Native
Plant
Society**

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.

Message from KNPS President

By Michael Heffron

On September 22, 2007, at the Dillon Nature Center in Hutchinson, Kansas, I officially became the current President of the Kansas Native Plant Society. I deeply consider this a great honor and opportunity to serve an organization that I have fondly been involved with for over 20 years – most recently as a board member. The full significance of my new position within KNPS has not completely sunk into my psyche yet. But I am sure it will soon become more real as all of my presidential duties unveil themselves during the upcoming months.

For those who do not know me very well, here is a very short biography: I was born in Burlington, KS, but raised in Des Moines, IA, where I graduated from East High School. Does that make me a Kansian? I served as an electronic technician in the U.S. Navy for four years. I earned my A.A. degree (business) from Grandview College, Des Moines, IA, and my B.S. (biology) and M.S. degrees (zoology) from Emporia State University. Since graduating from E.S.U. I have taught biology classes full-time at the community college level for over eighteen years and am currently teaching at Butler Community College in El Dorado, KS. For the past thirteen years I have lived with my beautiful wife in a rural setting near Eureka, KS, where I enjoy gardening, yardening, hiking, camping, martial arts, my pets, and my grandchildren. Oh yes, did I also mention that I like being outdoors?

To begin my first message to KNPS as President I want to thank all KNPS members and the Board of Directors for supporting my presidency so far. Let's hope that I don't do anything to change their minds. More specifically I want to personally thank Jeff Hansen for his devoted efforts as President over the last two years. Jeff's enthusiasm embodies what KNPS represents. In the *KNPS Fall Newsletter* (2007) Jeff reviewed his major accomplishments for KNPS during his presidency. If you have not read these, please, do so-- they are very commendable. Jeff, thanks for your inspiring leadership and friendship!

As the new KNPS President I do not currently have a specific personal agenda in mind for my tenure. However, I would initially like to reiterate something Jeff Hansen stated in his *Presidential Farewell* in the *KNPS Fall Newsletter* (2007) and that I also emphasized during our Annual Wildflower Weekend: "Membership in KNPS should be FUN!" The excitement of going on a distant wildflower tour and learning about a new wildflower, e.g., Indian paintbrush, from some wildflower authority, e.g., Carl Paulie, is what attracted me to our society over twenty years ago and has kept me enthused about it ever since. I sincerely feel that enjoyment and appreciation for these wild native plants are the heart and soul of KNPS. And involvement with KNPS should also be educational. Therefore, my most important mission as KNPS President will be to continue helping educate our members, the public, and myself about the beauty and value of our native plants in Kansas.

Some of the accomplishments that were either launched or continued during Jeff Hansen's KNPS Presidency that I do hope we will continue to maintain and/or enhance are: 1) a very informative and user-friendly KNPS website, 2) a quality KNPS brochure, 3) more county wildflower tours, 4) fun and productive board meetings accompanied by wildflower outings, and, of course, 5) increasing KNPS membership.

Before closing I would like to thank each person who has ever worked diligently to make "our wildflower society" so successful. Without these devoted efforts by so many individuals KNPS would not have grown and flourished like it has. Even though we are "an organization," the bottom line for our success will always be "individuals" working together to make a difference. So please get involved at what ever level you personally feel comfortable. You can and will make a difference. Together let's make KNPS bigger and better by having fun and learning!

Fringed Puccoon–Kansas Wildflower of Year

The 2008 Wildflower of the Year, Fringed puccoon (*Lithospermum incisum*), chosen by Kansas Associated Garden Clubs and Kansas Native Plant Society, is one of those delightful spring surprises. It is found throughout the state on dry upland prairies or dry woods.. Fringed Puccoon is usually not common enough to be taken for granted; but the occurrence of the blooming plant during April and May is sufficient that alert wildflower fans have a good chance of spotting the elegant, but modest, perennial. What most searchers notice first are the trumpet-shaped bright yellow flowers, with their charming frilled lobes. They are found in crowded clusters at the top of the 4 to 16 inch tall plants.



Lithospermum incisum (Fringed Puccoon)

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Dark green, narrow, linear leaves, arranged in alternate pattern on multiple stems provide a complementary bouquet-like setting for the sun-burst of flowers.

These showy early spring flowers are cross-pollinated. However, a second set of self-pollinating flowers is produced in late spring or summer. The casual observer may be unaware of these later flowers because they are much smaller and the colorful corolla is minute (less than 1/4 inch long) or completely missing.

The “fringed” part of the name is obvious from the decorative edges of the five-lobes of each flower. “Puccoon” is an Indian word used to refer to plants that produce dyes. In the case of most species of the Puccoons, including *L. incisum*, a purple dye is produced from the roots. This group of plants also has a variety of medicinal applications. The genus “*Lithospermum*” (“stone seed”) comes from the single seed in each of the 4 shiny, white nutlets of the fruits.

“Incism” means “cut into” and, of course, is describing the margins of the flower lobes. Alternative common names for *L. incisum* are: Wayside gromwell, Narrowleaf gromwell, and puccoon. Because this is such an attractive plant, KNPS members may be interested in adding it to their own native plant gardens. Former KNPS President Jeff Hansen reports that he has found Fringed Puccoon “pretty easy to grow.” He has been growing it from seed and has had good germination and also good seed production from the adult plants. He notes that seeds may germinate in either spring or fall. Jeff will have plants for sale in the spring and seeds for sale next fall. You can contact Jeff at: www.kansasnativeplants.com. Kelly Kindscher in *Medicinal Wild Plants of the Prairie* recommends root cuttings as a alternative means of propagation, and in some cases, a more reliable approach over either seeds or transplanting. He says, “Root cuttings 5 cm long, taken in the fall and treated with a root hormone, will produce some success. The cutting should be planted right side up 5 cm deep.” We would suggest that KNPS members also check other sources in their area for Fringed Puccoon. Tell your local nursery about “Wildflower of the Year” and encourage them to stock and promote Fringed Puccoon.

Meet the New KNPS Board Members

Jocelyn Baker - Manhattan, KS

1. Where are you from, where do you live, what do you do for a living? I am originally from Melbourne, Australia, but have lived in Savannah Georgia for about 25 years, and came to Manhattan, Kansas 11 years ago. I taught biology, geology, atmosphere and space at the Manhattan High School, and am currently retired.

2. How did you become interested in wildflowers and other native plants? While a graduate student at the University of Adelaide, South Australia, I collected, pressed, and identified plants from my back packing trips to the Flinders Ranges, South Australia. When I first came to Manhattan, I taught several botany classes in which the study of the tall grass prairie was an integral part. Therefore, in my first summer in Kansas, the learning of the common forbs, grasses and woody plants became my goal, for preparation for the coming school year. Much of my knowledge about native plants I learned during docent training at the Konza Prairie. I have enjoyed serving as a docent since 1997, working mainly with student groups. Summer of 2006, I worked as an intern for the Chicago Botanic Gardens, collecting native plant seeds from the tall grass prairie in the Flint Hills, in connection with the Millennium Seed Bank Project.

3. What are some of your favorite native plants and why? It is difficult to select only one favorite wild flower, however I have selected Blue false

indigo (*Baptisia australis*). In the spring its growing shoots look like asparagus, and it makes such a gorgeous display each May on the hills surrounding my home. It is amazing that any of its seeds survive the insect onslaught throughout the summer months.

4. What is your favorite natural area in the state and why? I am most familiar with the Flint Hills, and it would be difficult to beat the Konza Prairie with its plant diversity, size and the presence of bison.

5. What do you like best about the organization? I am interested in education and conservation of natural areas. The goals of the KNPS mesh closely with mine.

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Jocelyn Baker helps a student at Konza Prairie

Michael Haddock - Manhattan, KS



1. Where are you from, where do you live, what do you do for a living? I was born and raised in Beloit in north-central Kansas. I have lived in Manhattan since 1989 and am a faculty member at Kansas State University. For many years I served as Agriculture Librarian, but now my position is Chair of the Sciences Department for K-State Libraries.

2. How did you become interested in wildflowers and other native plants?

My interest in plants traces back to time spent with my father as a boy. As we would check the cattle in our pastures, he would describe how Native Americans and pioneers used various plants we encountered. I still have a very strong memory of the first time he dug up *Echinacea angustifolia* and had me chew on a piece of the root. It numbed my mouth as if I had been at the dentist. As a boy, I also collected and pressed plants for 4-H projects. My early interest in plants laid fairly dormant until 1996, when I made the decision to create a web site on Kansas wildflowers and grasses. Now my family thinks I am obsessed with it!

3. What are some of your favorite native plants and why? I cannot really say that I have a true “favorite”. Every plant that I encounter is fascinating in

its own way. I do feel that Ten-petal mentzelia (*Mentzelia decapetala*) is particularly beautiful if one is lucky enough to encounter it fully open and Leavenworth eryngo (*Eryngium leavenworthii*) is one of our more interesting plants. I am also fond of Indian blanket flower (*Gaillardia pulchella*), pincushion cactus (*Escobaria vivipara*), and wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*).

4. What is your favorite natural area in the state and why? Again, I have no one favorite. The Konza Prairie Biological Station south of Manhattan is a wonderful resource and I spend a great amount of time exploring it. Other locations around the state that I find particularly good when looking for wildflowers are: the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Chase County, Lake Wilson in Russell County, Scott Lake State Park in Scott County, Lake Kanopolis in Ellsworth County, and Elk City Lake in Montgomery County.

5. What do you like best about the organization? Interacting with such a wonderful group of down-to-earth folks who share a love of native flora.

Evelyn Reed - Coldwater, KS

1. Where are you from, where do you live, what do you do for a living?

You could say my life has gone from Coldwater to Coldwater. I was born here, lived in rural eastern Comanche County, Greensburg, Enid (Oklahoma), Kiowa, Hardtner, rural western Barber county, and returned to Coldwater in 1969. I retired in 1999 after 27 years as librarian in the Coldwater Library. Since 2002 when my husband died, I live on Social Security and KPERS, plus a small income from inherited land that has recently been sold. My time is occupied serving as a board member of the Iroquois Center for Human Development (ICHHD), and membership in various other organizations and groups.

2. How did you become interested in wildflowers and other native plants? My interest in wildflowers started when I was a very young child, walking the “hills of home” near Mule Creek. This was a couple of miles south of where June Kliesen lives. Many fellow KNPS members will remember her place from the annual meeting held at Coldwater. That event, plus a written report I prepared on wildflowers in a college English class, the Last Trail Ride of the Merrill Ranch, helping with a local bird and wildflower walk, friendship with Phyllis and Dee Scherich and June Kliesen, and helping with the KNPS Annual Meeting held in Coldwater has enhanced my interest.

3. What are some of your favorite native plants and why? Many of my favorite native plants have a very pleasant aroma: Blue funnel lily (*Androstephium coeruleum*), Catclaw sensitive briar (*Schrankia nuttalli*)



Evelyn Reed
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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!

 **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, KNPS Board Member (email: fjnorman@sunflower.com) (785) 887-6775 (home) or (785) 691-9748 (cell).

January 27: Kaw Valley Eagles Day in Lawrence, KS. Celebrate the return of the eagles and learn about the environment, 10am-4pm. Programs include information on area Bald eagles and other wildlife. Exhibitors will offer educational resources related to the environment. The Jayhawk Audubon Society sponsors this event. Location: Free State High School, 1 block north of 6th & Wakarusa, Lawrence, KS. Contact Ed & Cynthia Shaw (email: eishaw@ku.edu) (785) 842-0475.

February 16: 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, KNPS Board Member (email: fjnorman@sunflower.com) (785) 887-6775 (home) or (785) 691-9748 (cell).

February 21-23: First Kansas Natural Resources Conference. Conference theme: "Where Do Trees Belong in Kansas? The Role of Trees on the Kansas Landscape." A joint meeting of organizations includes: Great Plains Society of American Foresters, Kansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Kansas Chapter of the Soil and Water Society, Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Kansas Section of the Society for Range Management, and Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams. A broad spectrum of environmental and natural resources topics will be offered. Everyone interested is welcome to attend! The conference will be held in Wichita. Registration info: [www.k-state.edu/fisheries/KNRC]. Save money by registering before January 25. Contact Dan Meyerhoff, (email: dan.meyerhoff@ks.usda.gov) or (785) 625-2588.

February 22-23: Grow Native Program: Landscape Design with Missouri in Mind in St. Joseph, MO. This program is for landscape enthusiasts and professionals. Early registration, \$25, is due December 31. The registration form may be found at [<http://www.grownative.org/image/eventslib/PDF-231.pdf>]. Contact for more information: (email: luann.cadden@mdc.mo.gov) (816) 271-3100, ext. 235.

March 15: 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, KNPS Board Member (email: fjnorman@sunflower.com) (785) 887-6775 (home) or (785) 691-9748 (cell).

April 13: Green Landscape Techniques for the Homeowner Class at Prairie Park Nature Center in Lawrence, KS, 2-3pm. Learn to use safer, healthier techniques for creating a great landscape in your yard. Selecting appropriate plants and using safer chemicals for controlling herbicides and pesticides will be the focus of this class. Class is open to ages: 18 and older, fee: \$3. Registration is limited to 40 attendees. (785) 832-7980.

 **April 19:** Papermaking Workshop at Karlyle Woods in Topeka, KS. Jeff Hansen, Kansas Native Plant Society Past President, will teach us how to make paper using native plant fibers. In this class we will learn the different types of plant fiber, the process of extracting the fiber from the plant, and the process of forming sheets of paper from the resulting fiber. We will work in teams of two with each team processing a different plant fiber into paper. The resulting paper will be shared equally among class members. Class runs from noon to 4pm. Karlyle Woods is located at 3440 NW Button Rd in Topeka. The cost of the workshop is \$25 and is limited to 12 people (Ages 12 and up). All materials and equipment are provided. Food will also be provided. Please sign up by contacting Jeff Hansen (email: email@KSNPS.org) (785) 806-6917.

April 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, KNPS Board Member (email: fjnorman@sunflower.com) (785) 887-6775 (home) or (785) 691-9748 (cell).

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

April 27: Gardening for Wildlife Class at Prairie Park Nature Center in Lawrence, KS, 2-3pm. Create a mini-wildlife sanctuary in your own yard using plants designed to provide food and cover for wildlife. Learn about including the right food plants, nesting structures and hiding places. Class is open to ages: 18 and older, fee: \$3. Registration is limited to 40 attendees. (785) 832-7980

May 3: Wildflower Hike at Prairie State Park near Lamar, MO. Experience the beauty of springtime on the tallgrass prairie. Join park staff for a leisurely walk among new grasses and colorful wildflowers. Identification, uses, gardening tips and more will be shared. (417) 843-6711

May 4: Gardening for Kids: Attracting Butterflies and Little Pollinators Class at Prairie Park Nature Center in Lawrence, KS, 2-3pm. Hands-on class includes instruction on preparing the soil, garden plans, seeds and live plants to start a butterfly garden. Class is open to ages: 7 to 14, fee: \$10. Limited to 25 attendees. (785) 832-7980

More 2008 Events - Save these dates. For details, check the KNPS website at www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org

 **May 8-12:** Flora Kansas: Great Plains Plant Bazaar at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, Hesston, KS. (email: arboretum@Hesston.edu) (620) 327-8127.

 **May 10:** Barber County Wildflower Tour. 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.

May 10: Monarch Watch Spring Open House & Plant Fundraiser in Lawrence, KS. (email: monarch@ku.edu) (785) 864-4441.

May 11 & 18: Wildflower Plant & Seed Sales at Prairie Park Nature Center in Lawrence, KS, 1-4pm. (785) 832-7980.

 **May 14:** Evening Foray on Tallgrass Prairie in Leavenworth County, KS. (email: email@KSNPS.org) (785) 864-3453.

 **May 17:** Volunteers are needed for prairie maintenance and preservation projects. (email: fjnorman@sunflower.com) (785) 887-6775 (home) or (785) 691-9748. (cell).

 **May 17:** Dr. Woody Holland's Wildflower Tour of Neosho County, KS. The tour will begin at 1:30pm sharp. (620) 449-2028.

 **June 1:** Join the Third Biennial Coblentz Prairie Foray, 1pm. (email: kansaswildflowers@yahoo.com) (785) 864-3453.

 **June 7:** Wilson County Wildflower Tour in southeast Kansas. Contact Gina Thompson (620) 378-2866 with questions.

June 7-8: Maxwell Wildlife Refuge Prairie Days 9am-4pm. Admission is \$2; prairie tours every hour are \$5 per person. The Refuge is located 6 miles north of Canton, KS. (email: maxwell@kitusa.com) (620)-628-4455

 **June 8:** Friends of Konza Prairie Annual Wildflower Walk, 7pm. Telephone reservations are due June 3, (785) 587-0441.

 **June 14:** Dr. Woody Holland's Wildflower Tour of Neosho County, KS. The tour will begin at 1:30pm sharp. (620) 449-2028.

June 21: Enjoy Wildflowers & Birds at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Strong City, KS. To carpool from Topeka, meet at the Starlite Skating Rink at 6:30am.

 **June 25:** Celebrate the Sixth Annual Grant-Bradbury Prairie Jaunt! (email: email@KSNPS.org) (785) 864-3453.

August 4-8: The North American Prairie Conference will be in Winona, MN. (email: 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: email@kansasnativeplantsociety.org) (785) 864-3453.

Discover Unique Plants of Tallgrass Prairie

by Iralee Barnard

Deep in the heart of the Kansas Flint Hills, there is a place that is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the natural history and the ranching legacy of the tallgrass prairie. This place, called Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, is two miles north of Strong City in Chase County. Fortunately for us all, the Tallgrass Preserve is open to the public year round to learn about and enjoy our natural and cultural heritage. For native plant enthusiasts there are 10,894 acres of rolling hills and open prairie. The Tallgrass Preserve's vascular plant list documents nearly 500 species of grasses, trees, and wildflowers. The scenery is continually changing.

If you have a sharp eye, in mid-April you might find the limestone adder's tongue (*Ophioglossum engelmannii*). This is an unpretentious little plant closely related to ferns. Its oval leaves are most easily spotted on open ground where the prairie has been burned. In early summer colorful prairie clovers (*Dalea spp.*), cat-claw sensitive briar (*Mimosa quadrivalvis*), foxglove penstemon (*Penstemon cobaea*), butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and many more are blooming on the South Wind Hiking Trail. During late September and into October, lady's tresses orchids (*Spiranthes*) can be found along the prairie trails. Two species of lady's tresses bloom in the fall, but a third species, the tallest and most delicate, *S. vernalis*, flowers in July.

Of course, fall is the time for grasses. Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), and switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) stand four to six feet tall with waving seed heads. The preserve is home to 71 species of grasses and 28 species of sedges and rushes. Riparian forests line two of the major creeks that flow through the preserve. The forest was present along

these creeks at the time of the original government surveys in 1856. Some interesting herbaceous forest species include green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*), sweet-scented bedstraw (*Galium triflorum*), Tennessee bladder fern (*Cystopteris tennesseensis*), and American beakgrass (*Diarrhena americana*). In the springtime before the trees have their full set of new leaves, those who take the county road that crosses Fox Creek may spot the great blue heron rookery in the top of one large, old sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*). Common along Fox Creek are bur oaks (*Quercus macrocarpa*), some estimated to be nearly 300 years old. The largest bur oak at the preserve has a circumference of 17' 5".

Springs and wet areas are abundant at Tallgrass Preserve. Wetland plants are especially showy in autumn. Intensely luminous yellow patches of coreopsis beggar-ticks (*Bidens polylepis*) cover large seep areas on the hillsides and can be seen from the Red House Hiking Trail. It is also spectacular to see masses of cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) and narrow-leaf gerardia (*Agalinis tenuifolia*) blooming side by side in prairie draws.

The Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is a very new addition to the National Park Service. The preserve was established by an act of Congress in 1996. Management continues to evolve, and little by little more areas are returned to their historic condition and opened to visitation. Someday soon there will be American bison roaming on the preserve prairie. To find information about visiting see www.nps.gov/tapr/planyourvisit/index.htm or call 620-273-8494. Information about the upcoming Second Annual Tallgrass Preserve Wildflower Weekend will be in the next issue of KNPS News.

Meet the New KNPS Board Members - Evelyn Reed (Continued from Page 4)

Fragrant gaillardia (*Gaillardia suavis*), Wild plum (*Prunus augustifolia*), Black locust (*Robina pseudoacacia*), and wild grape (*Vitis*). I'm not sure if it is River bank or Winter (*riparia or vulpina*), but I know my paternal grandfather made lots of wine from the whichever it was. As to why these are favorites, I have no idea. They just are.

4. What is your favorite natural area in the state and why? As a KAA (Kansas Anthropological Association) member I have attended annual field schools (aka archeological digs) since 1984. This has brought me "up close and personal" with the soil, plants, etc., in many areas of the state. Of course I'm more familiar with the Red Hills/Gypsum Hills area where I grew up and have lived for 70 plus years, but familiarity did not breed contempt in my case for that is still my favorite area. Why? I suspect part of the reason are the native plants and the landscape of the area.

5. What do you like best about the organization? I like many things about KNPS: the people, learning more about native plants, the meetings. That said, the opportunity to visit different areas and walk among the wildflowers and plants is what I like the best.

CORRECTION. In the Fall issue of the Kansas Native Plant Society Newsletter, Rollin Sachs was incorrectly identified as Ron Sachs. The award Mr Sachs received was for the Department of Air Quality's Clean Air Lawn Project in Kansas City, Kansas, not the Health Department in Topeka. The newsletter staff sincerely apologizes for these errors.



The chances for success in having the Kansas Legislature name Little Bluestem as the Kansas State Grass rise significantly when the numbers of active participants in the campaign, both school children and citizens in general, also rise. KNPS members, especially, should check out the postings on the website and share that information with schools and teachers in their home communities. The committee would welcome classroom ideas, projects, and assignments from members that could be added to the website. Imagine the

impact if every KNPS member recruited at least one local classroom and personally sent at least one letter of support to their state representative. In “Little Blue’s Story,” when Little Blue learns about the role Kansas school children play in naming a State Grass, she asks, “Do you really think the school students of Kansas would do that?” KNPS says, “YES.” We believe with the help of our members, Little Bluestem will be named Kansas State Grass in 2008.

KNPS Plant Identification Booklet and CD Now Available

At the Annual Wildflower Weekend in September, a few copies of the new **KNPS publication Resources for Learning and Teaching Plant Identification** were available for those at the meeting. The booklet is made up of a series of units tailored for plant fans at various levels of experience. It is intended to help users develop their own plant identification skills or add to their “tool kit” when teaching others about plants. Since September, Resources for Learning and Teaching Plant Identification has been refined and a new unit added for those in the intermediate to experienced category.

This is not a field guide, nor a botany text book. Instead it is a collection of common-sense, step-by-step procedures, that experienced KNPS members have discovered as they went through their own trial-and-error processes of learning to identify Kansas’s native plants or to help others learn the tricks of identification. The purpose of these materials is to help others save time and frustration, whether they are beginners or those more advanced who are struggling to identify a rare plant for the first time.

A second separate aid to plant identification is the **KNPS CD Introduction to Plant Families**. This power-point-presentation on disc focuses on using the characteristics of plant families as an identification tool. Delineating features of five common families (milkweed, sunflower, evening primrose, pea/bean, mint) are illustrated in line drawings and a series of colorful photographs of blooming plants from each family. These can be used as a self-tutorial for learning the family features and unfamiliar plants in the family. They also are very helpful to use for classes or workshop on plant identification.

Both the booklets and the cd’s can be ordered by mail. To cover our costs of printing and mailing, each book is priced at \$6.50 and each cd at \$4.00. You may use the order form below to calculate the cost. Any questions or suggestions about the materials should be addressed to Nancy Goulden (email: nag@ksu.edu).

ORDER FORM

Checks should be made to: Kansas Native Plant Society and mailed to:
 Kansas Native Plant Society
 R.L. McGregor Herbarium
 2045 Constant Avenue
 Lawrence, KS 66047-3729

KNPS Plant Identification Materials			
Item	Number		Total
Resources for Learning and Teaching Booklet	_____	X \$6.50	_____
Introduction to Plant Families CD	_____	X \$4.00	_____
Total: Amount of Check			_____

Featured Plant-Deciduous Holly (*Ilex decidua* Walter)

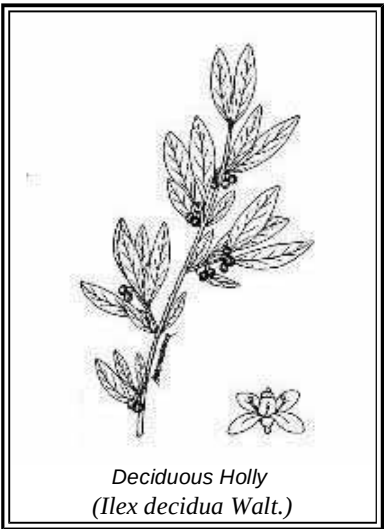
Aquifoliaceae (Holly Family)

Text by Dr. Stephen L. Timme, sketch from USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Wetland flora: Field office illustrated guide to plant species.

Also known as Swamp Holly or Possum Haw, this species is a shrub or small tree that may reach 15+ feet tall. The leaves are alternate and to about 3 inches long and a little more than an inch wide, with finely toothed margins. The plant has “male” flowers on one individual and “female” flowers on a separate individual (=dioecious) or they have both bisexual (containing both sexes) or unisexual flowers on the same plant (=polygamous). The flowers have four petals that are yellowish-green, pale yellow to white, to 4 mm long. The plants flower from April to May. The bright red to reddish-orange, fleshy fruits

have a single seed enclosed in a stoney endocarp (like a peach; fruits are called drupes).

Deciduous hollies are found throughout the southeastern United States, west to Texas and north to Missouri and Illinois. They can be found in low wet woods along streams and in upland, rocky woods. In Kansas, these hollies are found only in the extreme southeastern counties. Deciduous hollies are probably not seriously toxic but contain chemicals that are known to cause diarrhea and emesis if taken in quantity. It is planted as an ornamental.



Deciduous Holly
(*Ilex decidua* Walt.)

Membership News

New Members 9/30/07to 12/16/07

Joseph & Andie Eschbacher - Olathe
Rick Hager - Lyons
Wendy Koerner - Lawrence
Pottawatomie County Conservation
District - (Westmoreland)
Kathy Tidwell - Emporia
Linda Watts - Lawrence

 **Welcome!** 

Contributing Members as of 12/16/07

Sheldon & Virginia Cohen - Topeka
Fred & Nancy Coombs - Holton
Myra Devlin - Augusta
Craig & Jane Freeman - Lawrence
Dale & Jackie Goetz - Overland Park
Edna Hamera - Shawnee Mission
Tom Hammer - Topeka
Nancy Lusk - Andover
Robert Russell - Lawrence
Kathy Tidwell - Emporia

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Earl Allen - Manhattan
Susan Blackford - Manhattan
Barbara Davis - Wichita
Phillip Eastep - Cherryvale
Sally Haines - Lawrence
W. Glen & Marjorie F. Neely - Chanute
Ray Woods - Independence

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Tina Heinrich
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Logan Houk
Katherine Hummels
Sindie Koehn-Fallis
Sacie Lambertson
Dale & Nellie Lambley
Sally McGee
Gary Peterson
Jon Piper

Tom & Katie Pott
Deanna Schaaf
Donna Schenck
Bill Sechler
Sharp Bros Seed Company
Frank Sheldon
Glen Snell
Mary Ann Stewart
Janeen Walters
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Kansas Native Plant Society

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www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org

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email@kansasnativeplantsociety.org or email@KSNPS.org



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

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Check membership category desired:

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