



Kansas Native Plant Society

Summer Newsletter



Volume 33 Number 3
July 2011

33rd Annual Wildflower Weekend in Lawrence, September 16-18, 2011

text by Craig Freeman, photo by Phyllis Scherich

The highlight of the KNPS year for many society members is the annual meeting, and the accompanying plant-related activities, planned for members from all over the state. This year native plant enthusiasts will converge on Lawrence, Kansas, September 16-18, for the Kansas Native Plant Society's 33rd Annual Wildflower Weekend. The meeting will be a marvelous opportunity to renew acquaintances and make new friends, both plants and people, while you learn about the floristically rich plant communities of northeast Kansas. KNPS last held an annual meeting in Lawrence in 2001.

Activities begin on Friday, September 16, with a meeting of the Board of Directors from 1-3 pm at the Kansas Biological Survey. From 3:30-6 pm, attendees join the board to visit part of the University of Kansas Field Station to learn about efforts to restore and maintain local plant communities, to view prairies and forests in various stages of succession, and to see the famous Rockefeller Prairie.

On Saturday, September 17, the membership meeting will be held in the Apollo Room in Nichols Hall on the West Campus of the University of Kansas from 8 am-1:30 pm. It will include the annual business meeting, elections, awards, and the always popular silent auction and photo contest.



The Silent Auction entices bidders and raises funds for KNPS projects.

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Have you renewed your membership in KNPS? Check the first line in your address for your membership expiration date. If the date is past, your membership has expired. To continue receiving the newsletter, please renew now.

The Kansas Native Plant Society Newsletter is printed four times a year: Winter (January), Spring (April), Summer (July), Fall (October). Readers tell us how much they enjoy the newsletter in color and in the paper format. Contributions help us continue to produce a publication of this length in this form. You may send your gift to KNPS at Kansas Native Plant Society, R.L. McGregor Herbarium, 2045 Constant Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66047-3729.



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.



President's Message

by Craig Freeman

Nature's beauty, diversity, and wonder are easily taken for granted, especially when they occur at our doorstep. But every journey outdoors holds the potential of an unexpected discovery, a new insight, a novel connection, or a deeper appreciation of even those things that we consider common, ordinary, and run of the mill.

Some of my recent work for the Kansas Biological Survey has been at the Ft. Riley Military Reservation, where colleagues and I are reassessing the quality of prairies. I visited many of the prairies at Ft. Riley 10 years ago while conducting baseline vegetation studies, but Ft. Riley is a big place--larger than Wyandotte County, Kansas--and nearly 120 large, high-quality tallgrass prairies have been documented there. Last week, while surveying a training area that I've visited several times before, I found myself on a familiar trail. Arriving at a fork, I realized one branch meandered into an area that I had never visited before. I'm sure I earlier assumed it would be like dozens of other sites similarly situated on the bluffs overlooking the Kansas River, but curiosity got the best of me this time, and I decided to see what was down that unexplored path. Nearing the trail's end, dogwood and sumac thickets gave way to a clearing perched on a high ridge between a densely forested canyon and a steep bluff that fell away to the Kansas River flood plain below me. Carpeting the thin, limestone-

derived soil of the ridge was a small but splendid tallgrass prairie unlike any I had seen before. Dense swaths of porcupine grass and three-flower melic grass were in bloom, and coneflowers, wild onions, goldenrods, and gayfeathers filled spaces among the grasses. The overgrown trail was the only evidence that anyone ever had visited this place. I stopped in my tracks, amazed by what I was seeing. Was this a vestige of a once more-common-prairie-type isolated along the bluffs of the Kaw, or was it just a chance co-occurrence of prairie plants isolated at this spot since continental glaciers retreated from the heart of North America. I'll never know, but I felt privileged to experience this place, and I'm still wrestling with how to catalogue it in my brain's inventory of natural communities. I can't wait to revisit the prairie to see what other surprises it holds.

The Kansas Native Plant Society annually provides dozens of opportunities to experience remnants of the state's natural heritage. KNPS-sponsored events allow participants to visit prairies, forests, glades, and wetlands that often are inaccessible--frequently accompanied by land owners or land managers eager to share their knowledge and respect of these unique places. I encourage you to take advantage of the diverse events scheduled this year, to learn about our state, to explore its remarkable landscapes, and to enjoy the company of fellow nature enthusiasts. And don't forget to take that trail that you've never before explored. Who knows what treasures you'll find at its end.



Landscaping: Digging Native Plants Along Highways?

by Jeff Hansen

KNPS recently received this question via our website: "Is it illegal to dig wildflowers along a US Highway, specifically Highway 69? What are the laws covering the digging of wildflowers on country roads?"

I really didn't know the legality of taking plants from highway roadsides, but did know some people do habitually attempt to dig up plants to transplant. I took the question to Clay Adams, District 1 Engineer for KDOT. He explained, "The Secretary of Transportation has jurisdiction over the state highway right of way. No one is allowed to do anything on the right of way without the permission of the Secretary. This is normally handled with a Use of Right of Way permit from

the District office. We have not, and would not, allow this type of activity by the public."

We, as a Society are encouraging KDOT and local entities to use native plants along our roadsides. It is counterproductive to encourage them to plant native wildflowers, only to have people transplant them to their gardens.

As a proponent of using native plants in our landscapes, the last thing I recommend people do is dig plants from public and private lands. Most people try to transplant plants when they are blooming. This is the most stressful time for a plant, and usually guarantees failure. Furthermore many of our prairie plants have deep roots, and it's difficult to get but a small part of the root when transplanting. By trying to dig plants from the wild, the plant is eliminated from its habitat.

A better alternative is to purchase plants or seeds from a nursery. If there is a plant you want in your garden, study the plant. Learn what

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Landscaping: Digging Native Plants Along Highways?

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conditions it needs to thrive. Make sure your yard meets those conditions, and you should meet with success. See the resources page of the KNPS website with a list of nurseries that sell native plants and seeds. They are listed under "Native Landscaping, Commercial resources of wildflowers, grasses, and trees".

Collecting seeds is another option. You need to have permission to collect seeds. Timing of the seed collection can be difficult with some plants. Some drop their seeds when they are ripe. Consult literature on growing specific species from seed so that you are successful. The KNPS website resources page lists books on prairie restoration, and many of these have instructions on growing plants from seed.

Let's all do our part to help keep the plants in their habitats. We can create more habitat by using seeds or by purchasing nursery grown plants.



Activities of KNPS Regions Very Beneficial by Jeff Hansen and Regional Leaders

Having someone who lives in a region coordinating the planning of events has increased the number of events across the state. These local events give people an opportunity to meet others in their area and become more involved in KNPS activities.

These are some examples of what leaders are doing across the state. The Kansas City region under the guidance of Ken O'Dell had a great turnout of nearly 50 people for a presentation at the Overland Park Arboretum on butterflies and the native plants they need to survive. Glenn Fell, regional leader of the Emporia region, is planning monthly walks at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. The Atchison region's Fred & Nancy Coombs hosted a Prairie Restoration talk and tour in Holton. Shari Butler of Cimarron National Grasslands is representing KNPS at their Grassland Heritage Festival in Elkhart. These are just a few examples of new things happening across the state because of the work of our regional leaders. Thank you KNPS regional leaders.

Below are reports from several of the regional leaders sharing their experiences as they shepherd their new regions into being. You will notice a diversity of activities and also how the numbers participating are influenced by the location and the number of current members in different parts of the state.

Wichita Region - Krista Dahlinger

April 23rd this year, after the KNPS Board meeting at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, the Wichita Region had its first foray to see the young plants sprouting at the 240 acre park in Wichita. We veered off the sidewalk immediately to see pale *Baptisia bracteata* in bloom. There had not been a lot of rain so the marsh and ponds were low, but turtles, geese and herons were present. Last year's stems and seed structures could be seen in areas that had not been burned, with this year's plants growing in their bases to help identify what the juvenile plants might be. The areas that had experienced a burn were a lush green and remarkably not "brushy."

Jeff Hansen, Mickey Delfelder and Allen Casey from KNPS stayed after the board meeting and were a great help identifying plants. Many of those that came for the walk already had some experience with native plants and nature in general and shared their knowledge about what we were seeing. And several people who were new to looking at natives were taking notes to use later.



Plains wild indigo (*Baptisia bracteata*) Photo by Mike Haddock.

The event had been posted in the Wichita newspaper and on the KNPS Calendar of Events. The Wichita Region includes Sedgwick, Sumner, Harper and Kingman Counties. A trip to the Slate Creek wildlife area (Sumner Co.) is being planned to see the wetlands plants (sedges, milkweeds, smartweed, cordgrass and others).

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KNPS Regions

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No experience is required to attend any of the KNPS events or to enjoy a day outdoors. Please feel free to contact me to be added to the Wichita Region email list--or just keep an eye on the KNPS webpage Calendar of Events. If anyone has a place in mind to visit, please let me know.

Kansas City Region - by Ken O'Dell

In January of 2011, we started planning, and discussing what might be important at the first meeting. We reserved the meeting room at the Overland Park Arboretum in Johnson County for Saturday, March 5th, at 10 am. Then we sent out a notice of the meeting to the 55 members in this four county region and also invited Extension Master Gardeners from Miami County and the Late Bloomers Garden Club. We had 40 members and guests register at this first meeting.

During the session, we asked questions about: how many meetings to have each year; preferred times of day and day of the week to hold the meetings; suggestions for speakers at future meetings; whether we should meet in the same place each time; suggestions for wildflower and prairie tours. For the time being, we will meet at 10 am on some Saturdays at the Overland Park Arboretum.

We had a wildflower tour on April 10, 2011, with 60 attending. It was a good tour with lots of questions and full of good spirit. Our next meeting was June 4, at 10 am at the Overland Park Arboretum. Lenora Larson, a member of KNPS and a nationally known expert on butterflies, gave a presentation on native plants that butterflies need to survive. On July 9th, we will have a tour of Long Lips Farm where Lenora Larson has many "butterfly plants" and a Monarch Waystation.

The Kansas City Region group is in the process of contacting future speakers and setting up several interesting presentations and an identification class in the near future.

Lynda Ochs is the rep in Johnson County and Craig Hensley is the rep in Wyandotte County. We still need a rep for Leavenworth County. The representatives will work with me, and we will decide on speakers or tours to offer to the Kansas City Region. Perhaps next year or the following year, one of the reps will take over the duties of deciding on and calling the meetings.

Topeka Region - Jeff Hansen

Our May 4th Wednesday night woodland walk along the Shunganunga Creek at the Warren

Nature Area in Topeka was enjoyed by a dozen people. About half of those in attendance were new members of KNPS! We walked into the woods along the creek to see the local flora. This area had been cleared of the exotic Amur honeysuckle a year ago. Those in attendance were treated to the blooms of the Paw Paw tree. Most on the walk had never seen this tree before, let alone the blooms. We also saw a few blooms of Virginia waterleaf, Sweet Cicely, and blue phlox. We also encountered a plethora of invasive exotics such as Japanese honeysuckle, oriental bittersweet, Amur maple, and garlic mustard. This was a good walk to show the ill affects of invasive species on our native plant communities. As usual the best part of the walk was bringing together a bunch of strangers that share an interest in native plants.

Atchison Region - Nancy Coombs

The first meeting of the KNPS Atchison Region was held Saturday morning, May 14, 2011. Frank Norman of Norman Ecological Consulting, LLC, gave a PowerPoint presentation at the Beck-Bookman Library in Holton. Frank's topic was the on-going reconstruction work at the Snyder Prairie near Mayetta, a 140-acre tract of prairie owned and managed by Grassland Heritage Foundation. The meeting was attended by a group of seven people, two of whom were KNPS members. Holton, Denison, Soldier and Valley Falls were represented. Following the presentation, the group caravanned out to the prairie where they enjoyed a light lunch and explored the land until mid-afternoon. Of special interest were the rare Prairie Turnip as well as Bastard Toadflax and Prairie Gentian.

Planning for this event began in early March. All KNPS members in the region were mailed or emailed invitations and the program was advertised in the Holton, Sabetha, Atchison, Oskaloosa, Valley Falls, and Horton newspapers. Those who attended were delighted with Frank's talk and especially interested in the walk he led on Snyder Prairie. All agreed that events featuring other parts of the region should be scheduled.

Pratt Region - June Kliesen

The Pratt Region of KNPS had our first outing Saturday, May 14th. I kept it simple. Organization is not my strong suit. I simply e-mailed or called all twelve members of our region and invited them to come to our ranch for a wildflower walk. We collectively decided Saturday morning was the best time for us to get together. I encouraged them

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KNPS Regions

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to bring along anyone who might be interested. We only had 7 come, but then there were only 12 on our membership list. All of the attendees were very knowledgeable about wildflowers, and I learned a lot from them. Four were members and the others were not. We really had a great time and plan to get together again. High points of the day were spotting Plains Larkspur and a very showy Carolina Puccoon.

It was nice to have a small group as we were all very relaxed and enjoyed the interaction with everyone. We even ended the day with a late lunch at Busters in Sun City! This was a treat for me as I learned that you don't have to be a genius to have a successful tour. Plant lovers are happy to share what they know with others. We were able to pool our knowledge and identify everything we saw.



Carolina Puccoon

Lithospermum carolinenses

Photo by June Kliesen



Hikes and Outings

Shunga Bioblitz Finds New Plant in Kansas - Jeff Hansen

While walking the trails in the parks along Shunganunga Creek in Topeka, some KNPS members came across a shrub we could not identify. It was just beginning to leaf out on April 16th, the day of the event. On my daily walks at the park, I would often stop by to visit this shrub to determine what its identity was. It had opposite leaves and peeling bark. After more research, I found some similar trees growing in the city's tree nursery about half a mile away. These trees were fringe trees (*Chionanthus* sp.). But I wasn't sure if they were the native species that is found in the southeastern US or the Asian species. I took some specimens of the trees to Caleb Morse of the R.L. McGregor Herbarium in Lawrence. He determined the tree was the Chinese fringe tree (*Chionanthus retusus*) and not the American fringe tree (*C. virginiana*). The tree produces fruit that is eaten and dispersed by birds. It is the first documented case of this species escaping cultivation in the United States. The plant is not listed in the USDA plants database.

Tuttle Creek Wildflower Walks - Nancy Goulden

2011 is the second year of a partnership between Park Ranger Paul Weidhaas at Tuttle Creek Lake near Manhattan and a team of KNPS hike leaders. Paul organizes and promotes three

wildflower outings during the summer months, and KNPS provides the outside expertise (Paul is a KNPS member and really knows his plants, too.) The first event for this year was May 7. A group of 25 visitors (this number is up from those who attended hikes last year) came out on a pleasant Saturday afternoon to enjoy the spring flowers. The hike leaders, Karen Hummel, Nancy Calhoun, and Nancy Goulden passed out Iralee Barnard's pocket-sized identification book, [A Pocket Guide to Kansas Flint Hills Wildflowers and Grasses](#) to the participants. What a difference this tool makes!! The hikers, from elementary school children to senior citizens and in-between, became eager active participants in using the book to locate pictures and descriptions of the plants and talk about them in the group. The probability that they will remember Rose verbena, Prairie groundsel, Blue-eyed grass and New Jersey tea went way up. And if they don't, they can check back in their pocket guide when they are home.

Not only were the explorers excited about the flowering plants, but they also saw several collared lizards sunning themselves on the limestone boulders by the trail. Each time one was spotted, the group would freeze, quit talking and shoot pictures of the colorful blue and green lizards. The next Tuttle Creek/KNPS walks will be July 2 and August 20.

Rock Springs Wildflower Walk - Karen Hummel Photos by Bev Knopp.

On May 21, 32 native plant lovers and half a

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Hikes and Outings

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dozen hike leaders and staff met to spend a day exploring select sites at Rock Springs 4-H Center south of Junction City, Kansas. The day was comfortably warm with a light breeze, perfect for the day's activities. This outing was organized by Chelsea Schrack, Environmental Education Director at Rock Springs. Participants ranged in age from a year-old toddler to retirees. Experience level varied as widely as age range. It was a magical day, though, and at the end we all felt a common bond based on appreciation of the gifts of nature.

The wildflower walk began with a continental breakfast and an orientation at 9:00 am in the Flint Hills Building. We divided into four groups led by KNPS guides: Diane Barker, Jocelyn Baker, Nancy Calhoun, and Karen Hummel, and hiked first to the Springs, and then to a horse-pasture meadow. Rock Springs is a 700-acre retreat and conference site. It is named for the natural spring flowing rapidly and abundantly from a limestone escarpment above the Ranch House and water wheel.

Tour participants were provided with a copy of Iralee Barnard's Pocket Guide to Kansas Flint Hills Wildflowers and Grasses, and a handout describing plant morphology. Tour guides aided the participants in use of these identification tools during the hike. Notable plants in the area of the springs included blooming Wild columbine and Watercress. Missouri evening primrose took the prize as being the most abundant and showy bloom in the horse pasture. Other notable forbs included Blue false indigo, Beardtongue, Wild rose, Pale poppy mallow. This was a rich site. In our advance scouting, we identified more than seventy notable plant species. Of these, 25 of the most common were described in the Pocket Guide. The view



Nancy Calhoun and group use pocket guide to identify plants



Big sisters introduce brother to the Missouri Evening Primrose

from the horse pasture was a 360 degree Flint Hills panorama, which added to the beauty of the hike.

The group dined in the Rock Springs dining hall, then representatives from each of the hike groups reported on their findings. One notable report was the timely solution to an emerging infestation of Black swallow-wort in the horse meadow. When the tour guide pointed out the plant, a tour member, who serves on the Rock Springs Board, photographed the plant with his Blackberry, sent it to the 4-H director, who forwarded it to a Rock Springs manager, who reacted quickly to buy the stuff to spray this invasive plant that afternoon! This was effective communication, quick thinking and teamwork at its best. The tour was well organized and enjoyable. All of us who participated are hoping for the chance to do it again in the future.

Konza Prairie - Valerie Wright

On June 5, the Friends of Konza Prairie Wildflower Walk attracted 101 people to the tallgrass prairie. Although the evening was quite warm, a breeze helped cool us down before sunset. This year registration was held in our renovated barn, now called "the Konza Meeting Hall". Since it is air conditioned, those waiting to form groups were able to sit in comfort, or amble about the sales tables. A slide show of Mike Haddock's wildflower photos was playing in the lecture hall. Nancy Goulden "manned" the KNPS information table that attracted interested parties with the new wildflower guide for the Flint Hills (A Pocket Guide to Kansas Flint Hills Wildflowers and Grasses by Iralee Barnard). People returning after the walk with their guides were positive about their experience. Many thanks to the Konza Prairie Docents for guiding the tours.

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2011 Kansas Area Native Plant and Wildflower Events

Information provided by Kansas Native Plant Society, see more events on our website: www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org. Please share this information and contact us about additional events to note. Thank you! [email@KSNPS.org]

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

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

 **July 10:** Papermaking from Plant Fiber Workshop in Topeka, KS. Jeff Hansen will teach us how to make paper using native plant fibers. Learn the different types of plant fiber, the processes of extracting the fiber and forming sheets of paper from the resulting fiber. Participants will work in teams of two to make paper from various fibers. The resulting paper will be shared equally among class members. The class will be conducted at historic Karlyle Woods, 3440 NW Button Rd in Topeka, 10am-3pm. Sponsor: Kansas Native Plant Society. Cost is \$35 and includes lunch. The workshop is limited to 12 people (Ages 12 and up). All materials and equipment are provided. For more information and To sign up, visit [http://www.prairiepapermaker.com/workshop.html]. Reservations required. Contact: Jeff Hansen (785) 806-6917.

 **July 16:** Kansas Native Plant Society Summer Board Meeting and Outing in Manhattan, KS. Everyone is welcome; we will botanize at Konza Prairie, 9:30-11:30 am. Meet at the Konza parking area, located along McDowell Creek Road, west off of KS177 near Manhattan. Lunch and the Board meeting will be in the Hemisphere Room of Hale Library at K-State. Lunch is at noon. Non-Board Members should plan to bring their own lunch. During lunch, we will visit the Seaton Hall's green roof. Seaton Hall is adjacent to the Hale Library. The green roof is a research project of the Landscape Architecture Department. The board meeting runs from 1-3pm. Sponsors: Kansas Native Plant Society and K-State Libraries. Contact: Mike Haddock [haddock@ksu.edu] (785) 776-0680.

 **July 16:** Volunteers are needed for prairie maintenance and preservation projects. The Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs meet on the third Saturday of every month except December. [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).

July 16, August 6, September 8: Prairie Seed Collection at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Strong City, KS. Help The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service with vital prairie restoration by collecting seeds at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, 9am-noon. The seeds collected will be used to restore prior cultivated areas on the preserve. The workdays are a great opportunity to learn more about the prairie plants and about the restoration work that is being done at the Preserve. Sponsor: The Nature Conservancy--Kansas Chapter. If you would like to participate or have questions, please contact Ruth Palmer [rpalmer@tnc.org] (785) 233-4400.

August 6: Prairie Seed Collection at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Strong City, KS. See July 16 for more information. Sponsor: The Nature Conservancy--Kansas Chapter.

August 16-18: Tallgrass Rangeland Management Class at Camp Wood in Elmdale, KS. The theme for 2011 is Looking Past the Fence - rangeland watersheds from top to bottom. The school is designed to meet the needs of ranchers, landowners, land managers, and anyone interested in understanding Kansas grasslands and how to balance economic viability and resource sustainability. Costs for the school is \$300 per person and includes course materials, lodging, meals and other incidentals involved while at the schools. Deadline for registration is July 15. Space is limited to 35 participants, so early registration is advised. Sponsor: Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition. Address: 1101 Campwood Rd, Elmdale, KS. Contact: Tim Christian [tchristian@cox.net] (620) 241-3636.

 **August 20:** Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs prairie maintenance and preservation projects. See July 16 info.

August 23-25: Mid/Short-Grass Rangeland Management Class at Camp Lakeside in Scott, KS. Deadline for registration is July 22. Space is limited to 35 participants, so early registration is advised. Sponsor: Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition. Registration and scholarship forms are available online at [www.kglc.org], 2011 Range Schools. For more information, see August 16-18 above. Address: 300 East Scott Lake Drive, Scott, KS. Contact: Tim Christian [tchristian@cox.net] (620) 241-3636.

Kansas Area Native Plant Wildflower Events - Continued

September 3: Fall Wildflower Tour at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, McPherson County, KS. Board the tram for a tour of the prairie with wildflowers and buffalo, 10 am. 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 8: Prairie Seed Collection at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Strong City, KS. See July 16 for more information. Sponsor: The Nature Conservancy--Kansas Chapter.

 **September 8-11:** FloraKansas: Great Plains Plant Bazaar at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, Hesston, KS. This plant sale features hard-to-find native perennials plus classes and tours. Kansas Native Plant Society co-sponsors Dyck Arboretum events. Ask about member's only sale dates; 10% members discount on all days. Admission charge is by donation. [arboretum@Hesston.edu] (620) 327-8127.

 **September 16-18:** Kansas Native Plant Society's 33rd Annual Wildflower Weekend will be in Lawrence, KS. We will visit natural areas in and around Douglas County. Come enjoy native plants with us in northeast Kansas! 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.

 **September 17:** Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs prairie maintenance and preservation projects. See July 16 info.

September 23-25: The Land Institute's 30th annual Prairie Festival in Salina, KS. The festival features speakers, artists, music, drama, dancing, guided prairie walks, bird watching, children's activities, and food. Featured artist Lisa Grossman is a painter and printmaker based in Lawrence, Kansas, whose work focuses on the open spaces and prairies of Eastern Kansas and the Kansas River Valley. [www.landinstitute.org] (785) 823-5376.

 **October 15:** Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs prairie maintenance and preservation projects. See July 16 info.

NOTE: Please also check the KNPS Website www.ksnps.org for additional events and outings that are added after newsletter publication. Just click on "Events Calendar" to read about many, many more opportunities. You will also find instructions for signing up to receive an events listing via email once a week.

KNPS Role in



Kansas Grazing Lands Range Schools

text and photo by Tim Christian

Agendas and speakers are being firmed up for two adult range management schools organized by the Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition, Inc. (KGLC). The 2011 tallgrass school is August 16-18 at Camp Wood YMCA, Elmdale; and the mid-/short-grass school is August 23-25 at Camp Lakeside, Scott County State Lake, and Smoky Valley Ranch in Logan County. KNPS has had an integral part in these schools, providing two presenters, Iralee Barnard and Jeff Hansen, to bring information on native plants and their botany. Iralee and Jeff have shared their vast knowledge of Kansas plants in formal classroom settings and in informal small group environments, often one-on-one.

The theme for 2011 is Looking Past the Fence: rangeland watersheds from top to bottom. The schools are designed to meet the needs of ranchers, landowners, land managers, and anyone interested in understanding Kansas grasslands and how to



Jeff Hansen with the 2010 Range Management class

balance economic viability and resource sustainability. Cost for the schools is \$300 per person, including course materials, lodging, meals. Deadline for registration is July 15-east and July 22-west. Space is limited to 35 participants. This fee is a great value, but even so, we try to offer every eligible rancher, college student, and agency personnel scholarship funds to reduce out-of-pocket costs. Registration and scholarship forms are available online at www.kglc.org, 2011 Range Schools. KNPS has provided two scholarships of \$150 each over the past two years.

For more information on the the 2011 range management schools, contact Tim Christian, KGLC coordinator at 620-241-3636, e-mail [tdchristian@cox.net].



Annual Meeting

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The silent auction is a fund-raiser, with proceeds benefitting the programs of KNPS. Attendees are encouraged to bring a few items to donate to the auction. Artwork, crafts, books, posters, clothing, jellies, and baked goods are but a few of the items donated in the past. If you cannot attend the meeting, but would like to donate auction items, please contact the KNPS administration office to arrange a donation.

The photo contest is a great opportunity to show off your favorite photos of native plants and Kansas landscapes. Photos are accepted from KNPS members only, and entries are limited to four photos per category per person. Photos should be no smaller than 4" x 5" and no larger than 8" x 10"; each must be mounted on poster board (matting is optional). Photos must be labeled on the back according to category (collage, flora, fauna, people, scenery, and garden), photographer's name and city, photo title, location where the photo was taken, and camera type. First, second, and third place ribbons will be awarded for photographs in each category judged best in terms of composition, sharpness, exposure, color,

appropriateness to category, and other criteria.

A special presentation is planned following the silent auction and photo contests, and a catered lunch will be available to attendees from 12:30-1:30 pm.

At 2 pm, we will car pool to central Leavenworth County to visit several privately-owned tallgrass prairie hay meadows. Though these prairies will have been hayed earlier, participants will be able to experience these rare tallgrass prairie remnants. Our tour will conclude when attendees are ready to head back to Lawrence.

Activities on Sunday, September 18, will commence at 9 am. We will car pool from Lawrence south to Baldwin Woods, a National Natural Landmark managed by the University of Kansas, to hike the trails and explore oak-hickory forests and sandstone glades.

Later this summer, a full description of the weekend's activities, directions to meeting and outing sites, motel and restaurant information, and reservation forms will be mailed to KNPS members. Please watch our web site for periodic updates and new information. We look forward to seeing you in Lawrence in September.



Hikes and Outings

Continued from Page 6 - photos by K. Dahlinger

Cowley County - Krista Dahlinger. On June 11, the Cowley County Wildflower Tour took place at the



Cowley County Wildflower Tour participants enjoy the tour Snyder Ranch on Otter Creek. The Natural Resources Conservation Service planned an enjoyable event again this year, with temperatures cooperating by staying in the mid 80's. Several people who had not attended a wildflower tour before expressed that it was a much better experience than they had anticipated.

We traveled by bus from the meeting place to the ranch where about 45 plants were marked with flags. Participants could choose to walk through

the pasture accompanied by guides who specialized in identifying the characteristics of grasses, forbs or shrubs, or to stay on the bus and ride to an area where minimal walking was required to see native plants. The pastures are managed with minimal grazing pressure; so plant diversity was high even though the year has been very hot and dry.

After exploring for blooms and discussing plant characteristics, uses and lore, we headed to the homestead for lunch in the shade of a huge Cottonwood tree and heard short talks on pasture management, watershed and water quality management in the area that is so important to continuing native plant productivity on the prairie.



Double treat - Butterfly milkweed with fritillary



Virginia Native Plant Society Visit

Between June 11 and June 18, visitors from the Virginia Native Plant Society explored a variety of sites in Kansas with hosts from the Kansas Native Plant Society. At their mid-way point stop at Konza Prairie near Manhattan, the Virginia guests were asked to respond to the question: **“What for you was the BEST THING about VNPS native plant hikes in Kansas?”** Some of the hosts from KNPS were asked the same question. Below are their answers.



Virginia Native Plant Society members prepare to botanize with docents at Konza Prairie Biological Station. Photo by Jim Mayhew

Virginia Native Plant Society

Keith Shelton: Very pleasant to be in the prairie with the huge vistas with many native plants, and to know that many people are working and studying to maintain and enhance the unique ecology.

Ellen Shelton: My favorite part of Kansas is my daughter who goes to Kansas State and is doing research on Blue Stem grass. I also really enjoyed the soft green grass with the beautiful cone flowers, milkweed, and many others.

Val Morgan: That the hikes are in Kansas—the grass, the sky, the feeling of being in this setting.

Bob Eggleston: The accumulative expertise of the docents was great—for the flora, the birds, and the overall ecology. Thanks.

Diane and Rick Flaherty: The expertise of the guides was exceptional and added to that was the wonderful variety of knowledge AND everyone was cheerful, fun, helpful, willing to answer the most basic questions. Wonderful experience.

Cathy Meyer: I share my colleagues' gratitude for the hospitality you'all showed us. We've all seen pretty pictures of prairie wildflowers, but seeing them in the flesh is breathtaking. And ordinary park guides would go nuts at the pace of our walks, but you know what it is like to botanize a new area.

Sally Anderson: Experiencing the prairie ecosystem that we have all heard so much about

has been fantastic. I thought it was interesting that our first prairies in the eastern part of the state had so many familiar plants, but as we moved westward, there was more and more that was new and different. Seeing the prairie at night has been a special experience—the moon on the evening primroses and coyotes yipping in the distance are a great memory.

KNPS Participants

Shirley Braunlich: I particularly enjoyed the way that the plants served as bridges connecting our respective native plant experiences in Kansas and Virginia, the joy expressed by VNPS members in getting to walk on native prairie, and being serenaded by a whip-poor-will as dusk fell on Kill Creek Prairie.

Glen Fell: I walked with the VNPS group on the Southwind Trail at the Preserve, and I am attaching a photo from that walk. But I also walked with them at the Kaw Heritage Trail, and for me that was the highlight. There I talked with them about the native people who used the native plants of our region, prairie, and woodland, to subsist. The best moment was when we all gathered in the Kaw Indian earthen lodge at Allegawaho Park south of Council Grove, and I told them the story of the Kaw people and how from 1825 to 1872, they lost their homeland and had to walk to Oklahoma in 1873. I could tell the group liked getting some cultural and historical background of

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VNPS Visit

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our regions' native people in the context learning our native plants.

Earl Allen: Virginians were very pleasant to be with and as knowledgeable about plants as any visitors we have had. You would expect that from those that choose to travel such a distance to look at what the prairie has to offer the plant enthusiast. They had great questions, and were willing to share some of their knowledge about what is available to see in their home state.

Jim Mayhew: That someone would travel so far, and we enjoy it [the prairie grassland] daily. Learning that . . . standing on the other side of the fence, from a 1900 lb bison bull, will only distract [plant lovers] from searching for another wildflower, for just a few seconds.

Karen Hummel: We spent a most enjoyable morning perusing the abundant flora in the Konza Prairie Biological Station Headquarters area. Each of the VNPS group had a phenology checklist, and we found many blooming specimens. The group members were engaging and enthusiastic, and commented on the similarities and differences between plants and plant

communities on Konza as compared to Virginia. Wonderful folks!

Nancy Goulden: The best thing for me was that being with the folks from Virginia on their trip to Kansas was like a very special family reunion. We are their kind of people, and they are ours. Talking about our shared plant relatives gave us instant connections. Both Virginians and Kansans asked questions, shared knowledge and all left richer for the experience. We were all very comfortable ambling along and stopping every few feet to exult together over another plant. That's how it is in "our joint plant lovers family."



VNPS trekkers, silhouetted against a cloudless sky, discover purple prairie clover at Tallgrass Preserve. Photo by Glen Fell.



Growing From Seed

text and photo by Ken O'Dell

Just as I met some very interesting and wonderful people when I joined the KNPS a few years ago, I have also just this year met some very interesting and wonderful people when we started our Kansas City Region of KNPS. Two of them in particular got me interested in growing native plants with our butterflies and moths in mind. Lenora Larson, a member of the KNPS in Miami County and a nationally known expert on butterflies, keeps telling me to grow plants for the caterpillars, and that if I also have some nectar plants for the butterflies, everything will work out, and I will have many beautiful butterflies. I did and I do. Betsy Betros, a member of the KNPS in Johnson County and the author of "A Photographic Field Guide to the Butterflies of the Kansas City Region," has some wonderful information on pollinators in the *Kansas City Gardener*, and Betsy also has a fascinating web site through the Extension Office with Dennis Patton in Johnson County. For more information on butterflies and caterpillars, go to www.naba.org, the North American Butterfly Association.

I am going to tell you how I grow some of the plants needed for the caterpillars and the butterflies. The essential caterpillar food plant for Monarch Butterflies is *Asclepias* species, the milkweeds. Gather the seed when the seed pod, which is usually 3 or 4 inches long, is starting to turn yellowish or light brown. Pick it and take it indoors to open as the silky fluff on the seed will take to the wind and all blow away. Put the cleaned seed in a paper envelope and store in a fridge, not freezer, until spring and then plant in a sunny location where you have prepared the soil. Plant the seed outside in the ground in mid-April. Rub several seeds gently into the ground and cover very lightly just to keep the seed covered. Water twice a week from mid-April until the plants are well established and about 2 inches tall. If you need *Asclepias* seed, go to www.kansasnativeplants.com and contact Jeff Hansen, a member of the KNPS who has Milkweed seed available.

Pawpaw, *Asimina triloba*, is a great food plant for Zebra Swallowtail Butterflies. You will see some rolled up leaves usually at the top of a 10 or 12 foot Pawpaw tree, and this is where the Caterpillars are living and eating. No damage is done to the trees. Collect Pawpaw seed as soon as the fruit turns slightly ripe. Fruit of the Pawpaw is

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Growing From Seed

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usually 3 or 4 inches long and just less than half that wide. Squish out the large black seed which is about the size of a dime, wash the pulp from the seed and store it in the fridge until January. Then plant it in a 4 inch-deep-pot or flat and store this flat in shade preferably where it is cold and some what freezing, which may be the north or east side of a building. Cover this flat with branches as the Pawpaw seed need total shade or they will not germinate. Seed will not germinate until mid- to late-June. DON'T GIVE UP ON YOUR SEED. They will start to germinate much later than most seed. Transplant the seedlings when 3 inches tall to a 4 inch pot and grow for one year, and then plant in the yard or wooded area.

Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars eat only Pipevine leaves (*Aristolochia tomentosa*). This is a native perennial vine that grows to about ten feet with interesting tiny Dutchman's Pipe-shaped-flowers in early May. The seed capsules of Pipevine are large, usually 2 or 3 inches long and half as wide. Save the seed in a paper envelope

after removing from the capsule and store in the fridge. In February, plant 2 or 3 seeds per small pot and let them get started and then shift to a 4 inch-pot and grow on until ready to plant outside. The seed is thin and flat so do cover not more than 1/8 inch deep. If the vine gets too large in the pot, clip off the top, and it will branch out more. If you cannot locate any Pipevine seed, or if Jeff Hansen does not have any, send an email to me, and I will get a few seed to you.



Pipevine seeds with penny shown for scale

Email Ken at [ken@springvalleynursery.com] with any suggestions or questions.



Downy Yellow Violets - (*Viola pubescens* Aiton.)

text by Loraine Kauffman, artwork by Joyce Fent

I was following a narrow cow path along a wooded slope, dappled with April sunshine when I first spied them: downy yellow violets, *Viola pubescens* Aiton. Similar in size and form to purple prairie violets, these had 5 clear yellow petals with brownish-purple veins at the base and heart-shaped dark green leaves on stems that were 6 to 10 inches tall. That was years ago when I was just a kid out exploring in our woodland, but I haven't forgotten the excitement I felt from that first discovery. A perennial forb, downy yellow violets thrive in the moist soil of our woodland in the eastern 1/3 of Kansas.

Years later in 1983, I joined the Kansas Wildflower Society, now the Kansas Native Plant Society, and learned that the yellow violet had been chosen as the emblem for their Patch Program. The Patch itself is a beautiful three-inch circle of gray cloth embroidered with 3 downy yellow violets and leaves enclosed in a 1-3/4 inch circle bordered by "Kansas Wildflower Society" in bright orange.

The Patch Program was developed in the early 1980s to encourage interest in and promote the knowledge of wildflowers in Kansas. Margaret Ragsdale designed the original Patch, and a committee of Joanne Brier, Jena Coehn, Mrs. Bancroft, and Mrs. Ragsdale devised the criteria and mechanisms for awarding the Patch. Ross Johnson, Shel Coehn and Craig Freeman reviewed all completed applications. Open to all, the Patch Program was



Downy yellow violet (*Viola pubescens* Aiton.)

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Downy Yellow Violets - (*Viola pubescens* Aiton.)

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designed to honor a substantive accomplishment that required diligence and commitment. The initial announcement went out to 1579 members of various groups throughout the state, but only nineteen Patches were awarded at the first ceremony during the 1984 annual meeting. In 1985, I became the proud recipient of the Patch. Two and a half decades later, there are about 150 persons who have been awarded their Patch. It's a challenging undertaking, but one well worth the effort. **Note: The Patch Program and the original patch still exist.** Revised instructions and materials for guiding you through the steps to complete the program and get your patch are found on the KNPS website: www.knps.org. under "Resources, Patch Program, Educational Materials."



KNPS TECH CORNER—

Where We Keep You Informed About KNPS Technology Happenings
by Mickey Delfelder

We all know that kids nowadays use technology as if they were born with WiFi built-in. How about helping the kids in your life connect with the natural world by getting them a KNPS Student Membership? For just \$10, Student members get the same benefits as adults, including the free "Kansas Wildflowers" poster (just pay S&H) and our fantastic newsletter. Plus, a new membership is effective from the join date through the end of the following calendar year! Sign them up online today by going to our website and clicking the **Membership** link at the top of the page.

Membership News

NEW MEMBERS FROM 3/21/11 TO 6/18/11

Ashley Aardrup - Wichita
Adrienne Banta - Wichita
Robert Bergerson - Manhattan
Jana Butterfield - Wichita
Jesse Carrillo - Wichita
Melanie Choukas-Bradley - Chevy Chase, MD
Craig Corpstein - Fort Scott
Keith Coy - Wichita
Gaylen & Jnell Dinges - Shawnee
Tram Doan - Wichita
Linda Dove - Auburn
Terry Downing - El Dorado
Kara Duryea - El Dorado
Sandy Engelkemier - Overland Park
David English - Wichita
Kelton & Linda Farris - Rose Hill
Alanna Felkins - Wichita
Gary Flory - McPherson
Garrett Frawley - Augusta
Kayla Gentsch - Wichita
Slim & Jodi Gieser - Wichita
Kate Grover - Topeka
Nuwan Habaraduwa - Wichita
Jon Koleczek - Clearwater

Erin Landers - Wichita
Lawrence Lee - Andover
Cindy Lind - Wichita
Marc & Donna Linton - Topeka
The Little Flower Farm - McLouth
Pam Lovett - Oskaloosa
Angela Martin - Park City
Brian Martin - Hesston
Sarah McCarty - Wichita
Rogene McPherson - Centerville
MDCV Pollinator Garden - Melvern
Mallorie Mitchell - Derby
Melanie Napier - Wichita
Katherine O'Daniel - Derby
Olumide Odukogbe - Blythewood City, SC
Sharon Olmstead - Winfield
Stephen N. Paige - Topeka
John Pascarella - Olathe
Valentina Peebler - Derby
Kristen Penrod - Andover
Denae Phan - Andover
Hillary Phillips - El Dorado
Kathie Pinter - Clay Center
Plumlee Buffalo Ranch - Alma
Whitney Rademacher - Wichita
Danielle Riemann - El Dorado

James Ross - El Dorado
Susan Russell - Wichita
Nick Ryn - Wichita
Pat Schroeder - Shawnee
Jeanette Sclar - Overland Park
Coral Shannon - Benton
Audrey Shipman - Haysville
June Simmons - Wichita
Adam Skladzien - Wichita
Sara Smith - Augusta
Seth Smith - Augusta
Jon D. Standing - Lawrence
Rick Street - Pretty Prairie
Helga Gabriel Tarimo - Bel Aire
Michael Tate - Kansas City, MO
Michael R. Thompson - El Dorado
Mary Torrence - Topeka
Mackenzie Truelove - Andover
Stacy Tuflly - Goddard
Kenny Udokporo - Wichita
Vernon Vanderpool - Leon
Hank & Karen Will - Scranton
Josh Witsman - Wichita

MEMBERS RETURNING AFTER A HIATUS

Rebecca Armstrong - Bel Aire

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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



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 KS):	

Membership Category:

Student	\$10.00
Individual	\$20.00
Family	\$30.00
Organization	\$35.00
Contributing	\$100.00
Lifetime	\$500.00