



Kansas Native Plant Society

Summer Newsletter



Volume 34 Number 3
July 2012

34th Annual Wildflower Weekend
Winfield, KS: September 21-23, 2012
"Native Plants & Insects: Exploring the Relationships"

KNPS ANNUAL MEETING: FOCUSING ON NATIVE PLANTS AND INSECTS AND SO MUCH MORE

By Mickey Delfelder, photo by Genie Gnagi

The largest KNPS event of the year is our Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW), generally held in the fall in different regions of the state each year. It's a time for native plant enthusiasts to gather and commune; to renew old acquaintances and to make new ones.

This year's event, the 34th Annual Wildflower Weekend, finds us in Winfield, Kansas— an hour's drive south-southeast of Wichita.



Regal & Great-spangled Fritillaries on Common Milkweed

It's a diverse region on the edge of the southern Flint Hills and Arkansas Lowlands. Just 45 miles, east or west and you could find yourself in no less than five other physiographic regions. It should be a great weekend of plant diversity; good chances you will encounter species you've never seen before.

As with past AWWs, the events and outings are free, although there will be a meal reservation fee if you'd like to eat lunch with

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IS THIS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER? Check the first line of your address on the back page. If the date is 12/31/2011 your membership has expired, and this will be your **LAST** newsletter. Renew your membership now to continue receiving the KNPS newsletter. You can renew online at ksnps.org and click "membership".

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 Mickey Delfelter

Compared to many of our long-term members, I have been a KNPS member a fairly short time. But, I am thrilled that the last two years have been a period of exciting membership growth for us, due in a large part to the development of the Membership Regions. For those of you who don't know, we have divided the state into 21 regions — united not only in geography, but geology and population density as well. Because of the vastness of our state, it was not always easy or practical for someone living in one corner of the state to participate in activities clear across the state. The 4- to 6-county-sized Membership Regions were designed to promote activities and create a local community of members who may not otherwise get together.

Each Region has a region leader responsible for scheduling, managing and promoting local events. The number of events and the types of outings vary by region, but we all know each region offers its own special opportunities.

Since I am located in Topeka, I have been fortunate enough to attend events in nearby very active regions. There is no doubt that the Kansas City region is one of the most lively, due in great part to Ken O'Dell and his wonderful associates. In the past year, they have orchestrated outings in both native woodlands and native prairies, plus held programs on butterflies and native plants. I attended a native plant seedling class at the Overland Park Arboretum this spring that really sparked an interest in growing native plants from seeds. The class, limited to 12 attendees, was full and included at least 3 people from Shawnee County.

I also attended a recent outing in Sabetha (Atchison Region) that had over 30 attendees, many of whom had never visited a native prairie before.



Sabetha children wear their tick clover 'badges' while viewing a katydid up close.
From left to right, Nicholas, Sarah, Timothy, and Clarissa Hemman.

This outing was enhanced by a short presentation by a local historian who discussed Territorial trails in the region and another presentation on the importance of pollinators by the local Pheasant's Forever representative.

The Topeka region has hosted woodland walks this spring and co-hosted several birding/wildflower outings with the Topeka Audubon Society. I am now looking forward to visiting the other active regions in the near future.

Around the state, the Colby, Concordia, Dodge City, Garden City and Scott City regions are still waiting adoption, so if you live within one of these regions and want to become more involved with KNPS, please consider volunteering to serve as a leader. Or if your region already has a leader,

contact him or her to offer an event suggestion or just to introduce yourself!

If you aren't sure which region you are in or if you are looking for more information in general, visit the KNPS website and then click on the Member Regions in the left column.

I don't have enough room to individually thank all of the leaders and other volunteers who put in the time and effort to make this work. But from this guy who still feels like a newcomer, I would like to offer a big collective **"Thank You!"** to all the volunteers for continuing to help build this great organization.



Landscaping: Herbaceous Greenbrier text and photo by Jeff Hansen

This spring at the Sabetha City Lake wildflower walk, we saw my one of my favorite vines, herbaceous greenbrier (*Smilax herbacea*). It is also known as herbaceous carrion flower because the flowers are pollinated by carrion flies.

As I was explaining the characteristics of the plants, KNPS member, Mary Jo Kearns, informed me that the shoots of the greenbrier can be eaten. So I snapped off the tip of one of the shoots and was simply amazed by the flavor. It was sweet and tender and simply delicious. I have always found raw asparagus to be one of the most delicious vegetables. But after trying a raw greenbrier shoot, it takes top honors with me.

Herbaceous green briar is mostly found in the eastern half of the state. It can be found in rich woods and thickets. As the name implies, it is not a woody plant. When the plant is emerging in the spring, it sends up a stalk that looks much like a stalk of asparagus. When mature, the plants may reach 6 feet tall. They have tendrils to help them climb. The stems are completely smooth with no prickles. The flowers are not that showy, but the resulting fruit is an attractive cluster of blue berries.

After doing a bit of research, I found that all of our *Smilax* species have edible shoots. Kansas has one other abundantly encountered species of *Smilax*. It is the unloved bristly greenbrier (*Smilax tamnoides*). It is also known as *S. hispida*. I love all native plants, but this one is not a favorite of mine. I say it is unloved because it is covered with prickles along the woody stems. I've been impaled by its prickles numerous times. One definitely should wear leather gloves when dealing with bristly greenbrier. It also tends to grow like a



Herbaceous greenbrier
Smilax herbacea

weed, growing in places it's not wanted. Interestingly some stems of bristly greenbrier have no prickles while others will have extensive prickles. The prickles are not a problem on new shoots because the plants are so tender.

In my yard, I always remove any bristly greenbrier. New plants are always sprouting up, brought in by birds. But now I'm tempted to let a few grow. Before spring, the woody stem could be cut off at ground level to encourage new growth in the spring. The tender new growth could be harvested and eaten.

If you live in southeast Kansas, you may encounter another woody species. It is saw greenbrier (*Smilax bona-nox*). It also has prickles and is woody. Its leaves are arrow shaped, with lobes at the base and a rounded tip.

As far as growing the herbaceous greenbrier, I'd really like to get a population of it started in my garden. I'm hoping Ken O'Dell will write an article on propagating the herbaceous greenbrier from seed or cuttings. The fruits will be ready this fall.



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

A few weeks ago, I was searching the KNPS website for Ken O'Dell's article on propagating Leadplant. One of the gems I found on the site was a wonderful KNPS newsletter index, which covers the publication from Spring 2004 onward. This fantastic compilation was created by Manhattan member, Guy Coffee, and it includes plant listings by both common and scientific name. Articles are also indexed by author, which makes it handy to find Ken's advice. The index is nicely formatted and available for download or printing by going to the newsletter page and clicking the index link at the top.



KNPS ANNUAL MEETING

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us on Saturday. We are still finalizing plans related to the outings. We will certainly visit private native prairie sites in the Flint Hills and Osage Questas. Sites being considered include Chaplin Nature Center in Arkansas City and the Slate Creek Wetlands in the Arkansas Lowlands. Stay tuned to the KNPS website and watch for the AWW invitation in your mailbox later in the season for the specifics.

On the weekend, activities kick off on Friday, September 21, with a meeting of the Board of Directors from noon to 2 at Southwestern College, followed by a nearby outing. Then from 5 to 7, you are on your own for supper in Winfield and to rest and rejuvenate for the evening's activity.

At 7 p.m., attendees and guests are invited to enjoy a free concert at Richardson Performing Arts Center (Southwestern College) by the nationally known bluegrass ensemble: The Tallgrass Express String Band. We will be treated to their special brand of music that focuses on the inspiration they draw from the plants and scenery of the Flint Hills. Although this event is open to the public, it is sponsored by KNPS, so our members will certainly get some of the best seats in the house.



Tallgrass String Band: Annie Wilson, Loren Ratzloff, Carl Reed and Charlie Loughridge (media photo)

On Saturday, September 22, the morning activities will be in Wroten Hall at Southwestern College. The annual business meeting begins at 9; however, the doors will open at 8. Coffee, tea and pastries will be available at no charge. The Awards and Elections are scheduled for 9:45.

During a short mid-morning intermission, you can view spectacular photography submitted to our photo contest and participate in the silent auction. 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. Prints 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 (flora, fauna, people, scenery, garden and KNPS wildflower of the year— Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*) for 2012), 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. See the KNPS website for additional details related to the photo contest.

You can also help support KNPS by bidding on items in our popular silent auction. The auction is a fundraiser for our organization, with proceeds going to support our multitude of programs. You, the attendees, are encouraged to bring a few items to donate to the auction as well as participate in the lively bidding. Books, posters and home-baked goodies are popular donation items. If you cannot attend but would still like to donate something, please contact KNPS (email@ksnps.org) for more information.

At 10:45, we will be treated to a special presentation entitled "*The Flying Flowers of Kansas*" by Jim Mason, Naturalist, Great Plains Nature Center and author of the new Pocket Guide to Common Kansas Butterflies. This ties in nicely with our weekend theme, and there are a lot of people already excited to see this program.

The noon-hour brings us a catered lunch, but by 1 p.m., we should be primed and ready for our first afternoon outing. Saturday evening you are free to relax and enjoy the amenities Winfield has to offer. We recommend heading to supper with KNPS buddies— it's sure to be a good time. Activities on Sunday, September 23 start at 9. We will hit at least one more location in the morning, then perhaps have another outing late morning or early afternoon.

About 4 to 5 weeks before the AWW, 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.

Each AWW brings new plants and exciting adventures. If you have never attended, please consider coming— we don't think you'll be disappointed. We look forward to seeing everyone in Winfield in September.



April - The “New May”?

Text and photos by Phyllis Scherich

The unusual weather most Kansans have faced this past year or two produced a spectacular wildflower show this spring in many areas. Record high temperatures last summer in some parts of the state, coupled with recent drought conditions left the prairies, pastures, roadsides and other areas in prime condition for invasion of “opportunistic” wildflowers. In our area (south-central Kansas), and others, the warm season grasses and forbs did not grow or grew very little in the summer of 2011. What was left from the previous season was consumed by livestock and wildlife or was devastated by aging and weather. In our Red Hills area of the state, any standing “grasses” in Conservation Reserve Programs (CRP) were mowed and baled for hay to feed cattle during the winter. This resulted in large areas that look as if they have been overgrazed or mowed close or burned the previous year.

These conditions, followed by timely winter and early spring rains encouraged plant succession. “Succession” is a process of ecological change, involving the progressive replacement of earlier biotic communities with others over time. Succession usually begins with the disturbance of a pre-existing ecosystem, followed by recovery.

The weather and human events also helped set the stage for an abundant and beautiful display of wildflowers this spring that included an invasion of “surprise” plants—a surprise because many were blooming much earlier than usual and because many were spotted that were unexpected in that location.

Though all “weeds” are opportunistic by nature, many species of all kinds of plants are also adapted to exploit newly available habitats when circumstances have reduced the numbers of their usual competitors. Many plants that ordinarily could not be seen for the canopy of the previous season’s growth were fully exposed this year. One outstanding example of this in our area was the Carolina anemones. We always search for these small early-bloomers that open in the morning and close by mid-to-late afternoon, hoping to find them in the “usual” places—sometimes with little success. We found large colonies of them—stretching several hundred feet—in areas where we had not seen them before. There were bluish purple, darker purple, and white ones. Not only were they abundant, but the plants and the blooms were larger than ones we have seen here before.

Scarlet globe mallow was another that caught our eye. For several years, I have been protecting a small colony of them in our yard as I enjoy them so much. This year they dotted the prairie with their brilliant orange blooms. Often we only find them in disturbed sites such as edges of the pasture trails, and they are often short, almost lying on the ground. But, as they were competing with the taller foliage around them this year, they stretched tall and were loaded with blooms. We also found a large patch of narrow-leaf globe mallow in areas where we have located it in earlier years— but not every year.

Nancy Goulden in the Northern Flint Hills keeps finding surprise plants. “This last week I have had a hearty patch of naturalized Deptford pinks (*Dianthus armeria*) blooming in my yard. I have never even seen ONE there before. I vaguely remember several years ago bringing a handful of seeds down from the hills where I always see them and tossing it in my native plant patch. This appears to be the year they decided to not only germinate for the first time, but flourish.”



Carolina anemones (*Anemone caroliniana*) Buttercup family (*Ranunculaceae*)

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April - The "New May"?

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Jeff Hansen from Topeka reported: "I had an interesting "weed" pop up in my yard. It was a salvia— and a native one at that, *Salvia reflexa*, Lanceleaf sage. I have never seen it before in my yard, and I've been here 20



Look carefully to see scarlet globemallow, grooved flax, wild onion, baby white aster, meadow flax and more.

years. Had it just been overlooked? Just two plants."

And from the Kansas City area Ken O'Dell commented: "We were sitting on the front porch looking up into one of our prairies and hay fields, and my wife commented that the Ox-eye daisies were really blooming this year. I went over to our west prairie and both Ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare* -- Steyermark) and *Penstemon digitalis* are both very prolific this year. They are noticeable because of the

(number of) flowers this year, and it also seems as if the *Penstemon digitalis* is somewhat taller in flower scapes. The Ox-eye Daisy is introduced and naturalized in many U.S. states and the Penstemon is native here."

We have found many plants blooming several weeks earlier than usual. On May 21, we found a blue pitcher sage blooming! Usually they do not bloom until August in our area. And on June 4 we observed a Ten-petal mentzelia opening at its usual late afternoon time.

My husband, Dee, has made another observation. We have several plants that are now blooming and setting seed when they are very small. For



Scarlet globemallow (*Sphaeralcea coccinea*)

instance we have Clammy-weed, *Polanisia dodecandra*, that is only about 2" tall with seed pods on them. Other plants are "normal" size. They have been blooming for at least three weeks, and we usually don't see them until the second week of June. He is also seeing Kochia weed, *Kochia scoparia*, doing the same thing. Are they just rushing through the seasons???!!!!

Perhaps you have made your own observations in your area of wildflowers that you've seen this year that you hadn't noticed

before or hadn't seen blooming as early in the season. Just when we begin to think we know when and where to look for specific wildflowers, Mother Nature throws us a new twist!



Early pitcher sage bloom (*Salvia azurea*)

2012 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 14:** Native Plant Society Summer Board Meeting and Outing. Botany exploration and hike at Wyandotte County Lake Park at 9am. Bring your lunch. Board meeting at 1pm. [email@KSNPS.org] (785) 864-3453

 **July 14:** Long Lips Farm Garden Party, 5pm-midnight. This fourth annual event celebrates a four-acre butterfly garden set in a rural 27 acre property that includes pasture, lake, swamp and hardwood forest. Over 500 plants, including many natives, populate the planted gardens that are certified wildlife habitat by the North American Butterfly Association and Monarch Watch. This will be a KNPS caterpillar/native plant tour and the Idalia Butterfly Society members will assist with identification of butterflies, moths and dragonflies. Miami County Master Gardeners will lead tours and discuss the plantings. Hillsdale BBQ will be supplied. Guests should bring a side dish to pass, their beverages and lawn chairs. Children are welcome to swim or fish in the lake. Please, NO PETS. Sponsor: Idalia Butterfly Society. Address: 27995 Plum Creek Road, Paola, KS
Contact: Lenora Larson [Lenora.longlips@gmail.com] (913) 284-3360 (cell)

 **July 21:** Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs. Snyder Prairie Workday: *Sericea lespedeza* Control. Volunteer prairie maintenance and preservation projects 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 21:** Chase County Tallgrass Prairie Walk, 8-10am. Enjoy a walk on the tallgrass prairie in the heart of the Flint Hills at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve on the second Saturday of each month. We will meet at the Bottomland Trailhead which is about 2 miles south of the headquarters. Take the dirt road at the cemetery on the east side of hwy 177 about 2 miles south of the Preserve HQ buildings. This will be a leisurely informal walk to enjoy the wonders of the prairie and identify native flora. Glenn Fell will be the official "guide" but everyone's knowledge will be called upon for an informal and fun experience. This is a KNPS Emporia Region event. Please RSVP Glenn if you plan to attend. Contact: Glenn Fell [glennfell13@gmail.com] (620) 794-8478

 **August 2:** : Kansas Wildflowers Presentation, 7-8pm. Learn the fundamentals of wildflower identification. There are nearly 2100 species of wild flowering plants growing in Kansas. Learn how to identify our many wildflowers and other plants by learning various characteristics of different species. A slideshow presentation will cover our most primitive plants (mosses and ferns) to our most evolved (asters and orchids). Information on local wildflower walks will also be covered. Presented by Jeff Hansen of Kansas Native Plant Society. Sponsor: Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library. Call Kathy at (785) 580-4540 for more information. Meet in the Anton Room (202) at Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library. Contact: [hanjd@cox.net] (785) 806-6917

August 6-10: The North American Prairie Conference will be in Canada. The University of Manitoba will host the 23rd Biennial NAPC. The theme Celebrating Our Prairie Heritage is meant to explore where we have been, our current state of knowledge and where we should be heading, and have a great time doing it. Many have been inspired by previous NAPC's to discover more about our fascinating prairie ecosystems, their natural and human history, creating a lifetime passion for one of the world's greatest grasslands. For more information contact: [www.napc2012.org] [info@napc2012.org] (204) 832-0167.

 **August 18:** : Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs. Snyder Prairie Workday: *Sericea lespedeza* Control. See July 21 info.

 **August 18:** : Chase County Tallgrass Prairie Walk. See July 21 info.

September 1: 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. Fall Wildflower Tour - September 1st and 8th, 10 A.M.

Kansas Area Native Plant Wildflower Events— Continued

September 7-10: FloraKansas Great Plains Plant Bazaar. Sponsored by Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, Hesston, KS. [www.dyckarboretum.org] [arboretum@Hesston.edu] (620) 327-8127

 **September 8:** Tuttle Creek Lake Fall Wildflower Walk, 10am-noon. Plan to be a part of the fall wildflower walk, led by KNPS guides. This is an opportunity to see and learn about the fall flowers of the Flint Hills such as: boneset, tall thistle; curly cup gumweed, liatris (gayfeather); several different species of sunflowers and also goldenrods and native asters. Each participant will receive a free copy of A Pocket Guide to Kansas Flint Hills Wildflowers and Grasses to use during the hike and then take home. Meet at Tuttle Creek Lake Visitor's Center near Manhattan, KS. So that we will know how many to expect for the outing, please pre-register with UFM Community Learning Center [info@tryufm.org] or (785) 539-8763. There is no registration fee. Contact for more info: Paul Weidhaas 785-539-8511

 **September 8:** Wildflower Tour at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, McPherson County, KS. See September 1 info.

 **September 15:** Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs. Snyder Prairie Workday: Seed Collection. See July 21 info.

 **September 15:** Chase County Tallgrass Prairie Walk. See July 21 info.

 **September 21 - 23: Kansas Native Plant Society's 34th Annual Wildflower Weekend will be in Winfield, KS. We will visit natural areas in and around Cowley County. Come enjoy native plants with us in the southern Flint Hills of Kansas! The weekend is filled with outings, programs, a silent auction, photo contest, dinner, and socializing. Please contact KNPS for more information. [jemail@KSnpS.org] (785) 864-3453**

September 28-30: The Land Institute's 29th Annual Prairie Festival is in Salina, KS. This year's festival features writer Wendell Berry among the speakers! Also enjoy art, music, dancing, guided prairie walks, bird watching, children's activities, and food. [www.landinstitute.org] (785) 823-5376.

September 29: Konza Prairie Biennial Visitors' Day, 8am-5pm. Enjoy guided hikes, hay wagon rides, homestead tours, van tours, exhibits, video, and youth activities, near Manhattan, KS. Presented by K-State Division of Biology, The Nature Conservancy and Friends of Konza Prairie. From I-70, take exit 307 and go northeast on McDowell Creek Road for 4.2 miles to the entrance. [<http://keep.konza.ksu.edu/visit/events.htm>] (785) 587-0441

 **October 14:** Prairie Seed Collecting at Grant Bradbury Prairie Park in Topeka, 1-3pm. Volunteers are needed to help collect prairie wildflower and grass seed for a wildlife restoration area at Warren Nature Area. We will be working with the city to restore an old brome/fescue field to a diverse planting of native wildflowers and grasses. Wear sturdy footwear and long pants. Bring a plastic pail or paper sack for collecting seeds. No experience is necessary. All ages can help. Sponsor: Kansas Native Plant Society. Please contact Jeff if you plan to attend, [hanjd@cox.net] (785) 806-6917



Mobil App of Haddock's Wildflowers Available By Mickey Delfelder

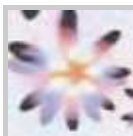
If you are anything like me, you are familiar with Mike Haddock's field guide Wildflowers and Grasses of Kansas and his companion website Kansas Wildflowers and Grasses (<http://www.kswildflower.org>). My field guide is dog-eared, and his website is one of my top 10 this time of year.

In an exciting next step, Mike partnered with North Carolina-based Immersion Media to convert the content for use as a standalone mobile app. The full version of the app features over 500 grasses, forbs and trees found throughout the Midwest. Each plant entry contains multiple photos, a detailed description, and an option to save your own personal notes.

The application also provides advanced searching based on bloom month, color, family name, habitat and more. So if you want to see a list of plants with yellow flowers blooming in July with trifoliate leaves— this handy app will quickly narrow the list down to 5!

A 25-species version of Wildflowers of the Great Plains is available for free, and there is an option to upgrade to 500+ species within the app for a small, onetime charge. Once installed and enabled, you won't need a Wifi connection or phone service to run the app. The app is available today in the iTunesConnect (Apple) store for iPad, iPhone and iPodTouch and the GooglePlay store for nearly all Android tablets and phones.

I will still keep my tattered and book-marked paper copy, but when I'm out on a hike trying to ID a native plant, I might just reach for my phone first and with a few finger taps quickly narrow down the list of suspects.



A Vital Connection: Kansas Native Plants and Butterflies

By Lenora Larson

KNPS Members, lepidopterists and butterflies share a mutual interest in native plants. For many butterflies it is an obligate relationship because their larval feeding stage depends exclusively on a particular plant. Most KNPS members already understand the relationship between the Milkweed family, *Asclepiadacea*, and Monarch caterpillars.

Each species of butterfly has evolved with native plants as its gustatory specialty. For example, only selected members of the genus *Aristolochia* (pipevines) can be eaten by Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars. The Zebra Swallowtail



Euryides marcellus (Cramer) Zebra Swallowtail
Photo by Betsy Betros

caterpillar restricts its menu to just one species of plant, our native *Asimina triloba*, the Paw-paw. It's very simple: no Paw-paws, no Zebras. So if we lose a native plant that is an obligate host, we also lose the butterfly that depends on it. If a female butterfly does not find the correct caterpillar food plant, she will die with a belly full of unlaidd eggs. Just as well, since her babies can eat no other food and would starve to death if the eggs were to hatch on the wrong plant.

Back to the Classroom. A brief biology lesson explains why butterfly aficionados emphasize caterpillar food plants rather than flowers for butterfly survival. The beautiful winged adult butterfly is only one of four stages of this insect's life! Typically adulthood is the shortest stage, lasting only a few days to a few weeks. Adult butterflies have just one purpose: reproduction.

They do not eat or grow— that's the caterpillar's job. Some (but definitely not all) species of butterflies do sip nectar, but any nectar-rich flower with a convenient landing strip and short nectaries will do.

Each stage of the butterfly's life cycle, "complete metamorphosis," serves a different purpose. The egg, like the seed of a plant, carries the genetic information for the next generation. The caterpillar is a single-minded eating machine, shedding its skin repeatedly as it grows to full size. Then it crawls away from the host plant and selects a spot to transform into the chrysalis, the magic chamber where all the caterpillar's organs and tissues liquefy into a butterfly soup. Depending on species, time of year and weather, it may take three weeks to three years before the triumphant adult butterfly emerges, metamorphosed into the flying flower and ready for love!

Butterflies as Botanists. Butterflies are superb botanists, recognizing plants at the molecular level. They "smell" with their antennae, so when an airborne host plant molecule slams into their antennae's chemical receptor, the butterfly is like a heat-seeking missile as it follows the trail of molecules back to its caterpillar's potential food. Male butterflies guard territories over their species' host plant because that is where they will meet the ladies. The pregnant female "tastes" the host leaf with her feet and when the chemical receptor on her foot and the plant molecule connect like a lock and key, she lays an egg. Imported ornamentals from the same genus will also be used if they have the essential molecule that prompts butterflies to lay their eggs.

Summary. March through October, KNPS hikes through sunny fields offer excellent opportunities to view adult butterflies. Have you noticed that so many wild flowers are mauve (lavender- pink) or yellow? Butterflies identify nectar plants by sight and those are their favorite colors! Butterfly lovers also happily examine encountered host plants for a glimpse of the equally beautiful caterpillars. KNPS members may email me for a partial list of native caterpillar food plants to enhance their field trip experiences.
Lenora.longlips@gmail.com



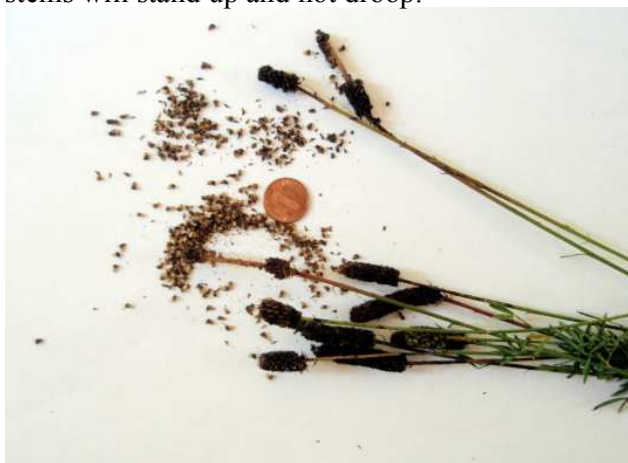
Growing from Seed: Native Prairie Clovers

Text and Photos by Ken O'Dell

Kansas has some species of Native Prairie Clover growing naturally in every county. The three species I am most familiar with are growing native in Eastern Kansas and these are the ones I grow from seed and offer at native plant sales. "They are *Dalea aurea*, *D. candida*, and *D. purpurea*."

We see these wonderful native plants growing in the prairies and pastures where they are mixed in with many other forbs and grasses, and we notice the tall thin stems with the colorful flowers on top waving in the winds. The other forbs and grasses are helping to hold up the thin stems of the Prairie Clover flowers so they do not sprawl near the ground.

I give tours of our prairie to local garden clubs, civic groups and Master Gardeners, and they all are attracted to the flowers of the Prairie Clovers. When growing a Prairie Clover for use in the home landscape, near the house or in a flower bed, it is best to attempt to grow a plant that has many seedlings per pot so when you plant it in the flower bed area it will be full and thick and many of the stems will stand up and not droop.



Dalea purpurea seed

I gather the seed when ripe, which is usually mid- to late summer. Our prairie in eastern Kansas has thousands of these Prairie Clovers scattered all over, and it is easy to pick the seed heads that are ripe. The seed heads will change color, and then the seed will come off very easily. Save the seed in a paper envelope and put in the fridge until February or March. Then plant it directly into 3- or 4-inch pots and put about 25 seed per pot or nearly cover the soil in the pot with the Prairie Clover

seed. I scattered very lightly a thin layer of potting soil on the seed in the pots, not totally covered, but allowing some of the seed to be seen. Place in a sunny window and keep lightly moist. Germination is



Dalea purpurea prebloom

usually pretty good but slow to start. After the seedlings get about ½ inch tall, I sprinkle about 15 or 20 BB-size-pellets of time-released fertilizer in each pot. You should be able to tap the Prairie Clover out of the pot in mid to late April and plant in the ground where you want to see it grow. Prairie Clover does not transplant very well after it starts to grow in the ground as it has by nature a pretty strong root system.

These potted plants of Prairie Clover are not the best way to start Prairie Clover in the pastures or prairies. If I were gathering the seed to put in my prairie, I would immediately scatter it in the prairie as soon as I picked it, and let Mother Nature do her thing and let it grow. The pot-grown plants of Prairie Clover are best to use in the home landscapes and flowerbeds.



Dalea purpurea blooming



INTERNET FACILITATES OPPORTUNITY FOR NATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM KNPS

Because of the tools of the electronic age, Phyllis Scherich, well known for her excellent native plant photography, was given an opportunity to assist a California scientist in her research. Phyllis explains, "I recently had a contact from a Sharon Strauss from the University of California at Davis, CA. She was able to make this contact due to the KNPS website and Michael Haddock's *Wildflowers and Grasses* website!" Sharon, a Professor in Evolution and Ecology Research is studying plants from the genus *Streptanthus* in the Mustard family, specifically looking at plants adapted to living in serpentine soil. She needed a variety of samples from populations that grow both on and off serpentine. So Sharon turned to the Internet.

As Sharon explained to Phyllis, "I was searching for information/possible sources for *Streptanthus hyacinthoides* and did a Google Search under that name; specifically, I was looking for images and names. I found this entry, and your photo had your name on it." Sharon is referring to Phyllis' photo of Twist-flower (*Streptanthus*

hyacinthoides) on Mike Haddock's website.

Sharon's explanation continues. "Then I had to figure out how to get hold of you. So I "googled" your name and among quite a few listings found one associated with the Kansas Native Plant Society. It seemed that you would be that Phyllis. I visited that site and posted a request to get in touch with you. And here we are. Internet sleuthing yields valuable research information and specimens!"

The contact was followed up by a request to Phyllis for samples of the plant. Phyllis explains: "Sharon asked N. Ivalu' Cacho, a postdoctoral fellow in the Strauss Lab at the U of Cal/Davis, to send materials and instructions on how and what samples she needed for her research. The twist flower we had identified (*Streptanthus hyacinthoides*) grows on June and Gary Kliesen's ranch about 5 miles away, not ours. I enlisted June's help. And we gathered the requested samples, packaged them as directed, and sent them to the Strauss Lab. Sharon has also asked for some seed when it is mature, which we plan to do."



2012 Cowley County Wildflower Tour

Text and photo by Krista Dahlinger

The 2012 Cowley County Wildflower Tour took place on June 9 this year with 85 people attending. We toured the Radcliff Ranch in eastern Cowley County that covers over 10,000 acres and has been managed by the same family since 1872. Their prairie-plant-management philosophy has proved successful for cattle production on these rocky soils, and there were plenty of grasses and blooming plants for us to see.

Two school busses conveyed us to the tour site where plants had been flagged and were described through the eyes of four different tour guides, each with a different expertise in grasses, shrubs, or unique characteristics or uses. The Natural Resource and Conservation Service personnel assembled an information package for each person, including the popular Kansas Flint Hills Wildflowers and Grasses pocket guide.

Of course the Fringe Leaf Ruellia blooms we flagged the day before were gone, but luckily others were blooming nearby, and we saw large patches of Wild Quinine. Both the Blue Wild Indigo and the pale Long Bracted Wild Indigo were past blooming, but we were able to identify the plants by the seedpods and leaf shape. A Dung Beetle had been collected and his life's work was detailed by a reliable source.

After the tour, we were treated to a demonstration by Mike Marker's border collie at Plum Creek Ranch, and watched as he skillfully moved steers in and out of the feeding pen-- what a great experience to see this cowboy and his dog work perfectly together as a single-minded team. Then we were off to lunch at the Massey ranch near Dexter where Prairie Chickens can be observed on their leks early each spring. Many thanks to Kent Radcliff, Mike Marker and Bob Massey for allowing us access to their "homes on the range" and to the NRCS office for working so diligently to make our wildflower tour event seem effortless.



Cowley County Wildflower Tour



KNPS Loses Two Former Board Members

By Craig Freeman

In April 2012, the Kansas Native Plant Society lost two former board members who were tremendously influential in the establishment, growth, and evolution of the organization.

Dr. Stephen Lee Timme (b. 1950), Emeritus Professor of Botany and Director of the T.M. Sperry Herbarium at Pittsburg State University, died April 10 at the age of 61. He was a board member from 1990-2006, served as President Elect in 1994, and as President from 1995-1996. One of Stephen's greatest accomplishments was promoting a multi-day annual meeting that includes workshops, outings, and other social activities to increase attendance and promote education. His concept has evolved into the 3-day Annual Wildflower Weekend, which now attracts around 100 participants annually. Stephen helped establish the Excellence in Botany Award, which recognizes individuals who make important contributions in botany in Kansas in the form of research or education. He also led the first formal effort to change the name of the organization from the Kansas Wildflower Society to the Kansas Native Plant Society. Though unsuccessful during his presidency, Stephen's idea eventually was endorsed by the membership in 2005.

Stephen was born August 27, 1950 in Kansas City, KS. He served from 1969-1970 in the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam, where he received two purple hearts. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in biology from Missouri State University (1978, 1981) and Ph.D. in botany from Mississippi State University (1985).

Stephen taught biology, botany, ecology, and plant taxonomy at Pittsburg State University for nearly 20 years. His research specialties included bryophyte systematics, floristics, and ecology, and tropic botany. Stephen was an avid photographer, and many of his photographs appear in the four books that he authored or co-authored: "Wildflowers of Mississippi," "Wildflowers of the Natchez Trace," "Medicinal and Useful Plants of the Upper Amazon," and "Wildflowers of Southeast Kansas."

He is survived by his wife, Susan Lee

(Shroyer) Rozgaja; two sons, Caleb Timme and Zach Timme; his mother, Esther Timme; two brothers, Wyatt Timme and Matthew Timme; and one sister, Robin Timme.

Dr. Ronald Leighton McGregor (b. 1919), Curator Emeritus of the Ronald L. McGregor Herbarium at the University of Kansas, died April 21 at the age of 93. He was a charter member of the Kansas Wildflower Society, served on the board from 1979-1993, and as President Elect in 1979 and from 1981-1982. Ron provided some of the enthusiasm, energy, and support that led to the establishment of the Kansas Wildflower Society in 1978, and he helped organize and guide the fledgling organization. He was a frequent contributor to the newsletter; his brief but always informative articles covered topics in floristics, botanical exploration, and Kansas history. Even after stepping down from the board, he routinely helped society members with plant identification.

Born in Green, Kansas, on April 4, 1919, he graduated from high school in Oregon, Missouri, in 1937. He received his B.S. degree in botany from the University of Kansas (1941). He served in the U.S. Army from 1942-1946, stationed most of that time in the Pacific Theater. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Kansas (1948, 1954) and then was appointed to the KU faculty. He served as Chair of the Department of Botany from 1957-1969, Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences from 1969-1973, and Director of the Kansas Biological Survey from 1973-1983. He advised 21 M.A. and 19 Ph.D. students and was coordinator of the Great Plains Flora Association, which published the Atlas of the Flora of the Great Plains in 1977 and the Flora of the Great Plains in 1986. During his career, he authored nearly 200 papers and books and collected nearly 42,000 specimen numbers in the U.S. and Mexico.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Dorothy M. McGregor.

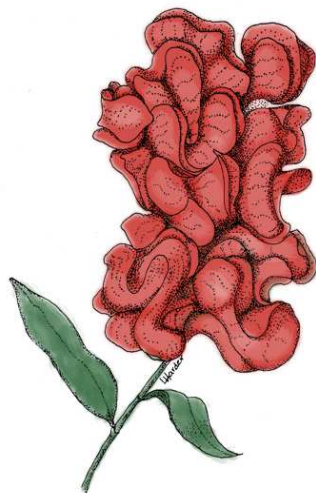
The Kansas Native Plant Society, and all native plant enthusiasts, have benefited immensely from the enthusiasm, knowledge, and leadership of these two botanists. Stephen and Ron will be missed.



Featured plant: Veined Dock, *Rumex venosus*

Text by Lorraine J. Kaufman, Illustration by Lorna Habegger Harder

Grace, my mentor of all things growing in the Kansas prairie, then explained that she learned this from her grandmother, Drusilla Cole, one of the first settlers in the Moundridge area in 1873. "She was a repository of knowledge of all things wild and natural in her prairie world," Grace declared. How glad I am that she was also willing to share with me.



Grace hadn't finished my lesson, as she continued, "Wild begonia— isn't that a prettier name than veined dock?" Anyway, *Rumex venosus* is a perennial herb that inhabits disturbed and sandy soil, notably near the Little Arkansas River. It spreads from an underground stem that produces shoots and roots. The leaves emerge from stalks about four inches long. The small flowers have no petals but instead produce frilly and rose-colored sepals that expand at maturity to nearly two inches across.

I became so fascinated with this unusual flower that I gently and lovingly clipped one 8-inch stem and took it home. I hung it up-side-down to dry among my other wildflower trophy specimens. Although I have discarded those others through the years, I couldn't give up my lovely, pinkish begonia. Here it appears now after 28 years, its loveliness preserved by Lorna's artistic hand and eye.

Veined dock, aka Wild begonia (*Rumex venosus*)

Membership News

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Phillip Eastep
Sally Haines
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Shirley Braunlich & Peggy Robinson - Lawrence
Kit Carlsen - Lawrence
Sheldon & Virginia Cohen - Topeka
Fred & Nancy Coombs - Holton
Craig & Jane Freeman - Lawrence
Dale & Jackie Goetz - Overland Park
Debbie Junghans-Johns - Junction City
Edna Hamera - Shawnee Mission
Kansas Turnpike Authority
Myron Leinwetter - Rossville
Susan Reimer - McPherson

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Gordon & Mary Reist - Salina
Robert Russell - Lawrence
Gary Tegtmeier - Westwood
Ron & Joyce Wolf - LeCompton
Valerie Wright - Manhattan

NEW MEMBERS 3/7/12 TO 6/9/12

Margret Baker - Olathe
Samuel Balbuena - Wichita
Lanee Blake - Wichita
Shawn Blake - Wichita
Stephanie Boyles - Shawnee
Troy Brasher - Lenexa
Donna L. Brown - Leavenworth
Denise Brubaker - Lawrence
Krystal Carlile - Derby
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Jameson Fay - Towanda
Kristina Franklin - Wichita
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Grimm's Gardens LLC - Hiawatha
Ryan Harbin - Wichita
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Kathryn Hewett - Harvard, MA
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NEW MEMBERS 3/7/12 TO 6/9/12

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Eldor C. Kaiser - Lenexa
Maizie Main - Wichita
Raymond Manyiri - Wichita
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Olivia McNeil - Andover
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL GUIDELINES

Annual dues are for a 12-month period from January 1 through December 31. Dues paid after December 1 are applied to the next year. Note to new members: the first year of annual membership is effective from the date of joining through December 31 of the following 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:

Membership Category:

Name:		Student	\$10.00
Address		Individual	\$20.00
City/State:		Family	\$30.00
Zipcode:		Organization	\$35.00
Phone:		Contributing	\$100.00
Email:		Lifetime	\$500.00
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