



Kansas Native Plant Society

Summer Newsletter



Volume 35 Number 3
July 2013

Come to 35th Annual Wildflower Weekend at Salina

It's almost that time again when KNPS members from all across the state and beyond meet together for our Annual Wildflower Weekend. This year we have chosen the Salina area in the middle of the state for the September 13-15 gathering. Our theme is: "Landscapes of the Smoky Hills: Then and Now."



Coronado Heights Vista
Photo by Mark Neubrand

The locations for our outings represent both historical and contemporary sites. Look at the article on "special outings and events" on page 3 for a preview of where we'll be hiking and exploring for plants.

The indoor activities on Saturday morning will be at the Kansas Wesleyan campus in Salina. The "now" part of the theme will include presentation of this year's awards and the business meeting. The "then" will be represented by President Mickey Delfelder's presentation, titled "From KWS to KNPS, a 35-Year Retrospective." As Mickey highlights changes and developments over the 35 years since the "society" was formed, we will be able to remember our own treasured experiences with him. We hope many of our charter and long-time members will plan to join us so we can recognize them and visit with them about their memories of our organization over the years.

Continued on Page 2

Inside This Issue

President's Message	2
KNPS Photo Contest	3
KNPS Silent Auction	3
KNPS Special Outings and Events	3
Early Kansas Plant Collectors Part 2	4
Rare Woolly Milkweed	6
Upcoming Events	7
Sand Prairie Tour	9
A Visit to "Grassland Gardens"	10
Featured Plant: Showy Evening Primrose	12
KNPS Tech Corner	12
Membership News	13

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

Last fall, the Center for Great Plains Studies at the University of Nebraska Lincoln released a map of the top 50 ecotourism sites in the Great Plains. (For those of you not familiar with the term, “ecotourism” generally means travel to destinations where flora, fauna and cultural heritage are the main attractions.) Not surprisingly, seven different properties in Kansas made the list: Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area; Cimarron National Grassland; Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge; Konza Prairie Natural Area; Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge; Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve.

I imagine that most of us have long been ecotourists, even before the term gained traction in the mid-80s. Hopefully you continue this trend and support these, and other local attractions throughout the state. Each of those properties is a great destination in and of itself, but each property has additional nearby attractions as well. At TPNP, for example, you can hike the park or take the shuttle bus out to see the bison. Nearby in Cottonwood Falls, you can tour the 1873 courthouse and enjoy a catfish fry and live music

at the Emma Chase Cafe. After spending a few hours (or more!) at Konza Prairie near Manhattan, tour the Flint Hills Discovery Center, visit the Mt. Mitchell prairie in nearby Wamego or take a drive down the Flint Hills Scenic Byway.

And Kansas has more to offer than just these seven destinations. From the Arikaree Breaks in the northwest to the small sliver of the Ozarks in the southeast, from the wooded rolling hills and the Four State Lookout in the northeast to the Cimarron National Grasslands at the southwest, each corner of the state and every spot in between has quaint little small-towns with friendly people and good food.

Each of us will get the opportunity to demonstrate ecotourism to the fullest this fall while wearing sour KNPS gear. As you'll read elsewhere in this newsletter, the 35th Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) takes place in Salina the second weekend of September. We will be able to experience local eateries, a few historical sites and wildflower tours on both public and private properties. Plus we have a multitude of stops we can make on the journey to Salina.

I hope each of you will be able to make the AWW at Salina. If you have never been and you are nervous about attending— don't be shy, come on over and join us for what is sure to be a great weekend.



35th Annual Wildflower Weekend

Continued from Page 1

The final portion of the Saturday morning program will be turned over to our guest speaker, Allen Casey, former KNPS board member and Biologist/Soil Conservationist with the USDA NRCS Plant Materials Center. His presentation, “Soil Erosion: Dust Bowl to Today” will explain

the evolving use of plants, introduced and native, in the control of soil erosion in the Great Plains.

Two of the events we all look forward to will also take place on Saturday morning— the silent auction and photo contest. We hope you are planning to participate in both. You will find the information you need to make your preparations in the short articles on p. 3.

See you in the Smokey Hills!



Smoky Hill Panorama — Photo by Iralea Barnard



KNPS Photo Contest

By Valerie Wright

What an amazing year for wildflowers! If you are out capturing images, this is the year to enter the KNPS photo contest. In 2013, the photo contest will be **ALL DIGITAL**. The **deadline for entries is September 1**, two weeks in advance of the Annual Wildflower Weekend. No photos will be accepted after this date. Digital photo submissions are accepted from KNPS members only. Selected photos will be shown on the KNPS web site and printed in the fall KNPS newsletter.

The Awards Committee will judge photos based on the same categories and rules as in previous years with the following changes. Photos will not be printed but sent to us digitally. Judging will take place prior to the annual meeting. At the meeting, all photos will be shown on screen. Winners will be announced on Saturday, September 14. The rules will be on the website soon along with the explanation of how to submit your photos. Watch for them along with the complete announcement of the annual meeting. And don't forget the Wildflower of the Year— Little Bluestem!
;



KNPS Silent Auction By Krista Dahlinger

The Silent Auction fundraiser is part of the Saturday morning meeting each year at the AWW. In the past, members and guests have brought donations of new and old plant books and guides, home-made cookies, jams, jellies and all kinds of plant-themed goodies to be auctioned off. We have also received live plants and seeds, artwork, picnic items, hats, and bird houses. We have added a Raffle item to the lineup as well— anyone can take a chance to win a higher value item. I'd like to encourage everyone to bring an item or two to donate to the Silent Auction— your donations translate into fun browsing and a successful fundraising event each year.



KNPS Special Outings and Events Planned for AWW

By Susan Reimer

A tram tour to see bison, lunch by a castle with a view of the Smokey Hills, a sandstone cliff with bison tracks, and of course, fall wildflowers.... These are some of the things members and guests will experience at our Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) September 13-15 in the Salina area.

Our weekend will start on Friday the 13th— hopefully a lucky day— with a tram tour to see the bison and wildflowers at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge in McPherson County. Weather permitting, we will then head to Buffalo Hill, a 160-acre private prairie bordering Maxwell, to hike and view the plants in this native prairie. Later in the evening we will have a fire by the McPherson State Lake at Maxwell where we can roast hot dogs, make “s’mores,” and enjoy the friendship and camaraderie of fellow wildflower enthusiasts.

Our Saturday morning meeting with talks, photo contest, awards, and silent auction will be held at Kansas Wesleyan in Salina, and after lunch we will head off for another field trip. This will be a rare opportunity to visit a site that is normally closed to the public. The Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range, west of Salina, encompasses a large and unique example of Dakota Hill Tallgrass Prairie, containing good quality grassland communities. The nearly 34,000 acres is a valuable reservoir of biological diversity for the Great Plains. The Air National Guard Range will be our first stop, and, if we have time, we will visit another nearby private prairie.

Our fun continues on Sunday morning north of Lindsborg where we will explore and “botanize” on Coronado Heights. We can climb to the castle

Continued on Page 4



lookout for a great view of the surrounding countryside. Before heading on to Kanopolis State Park and Horsethief Canyon, we'll have our catered box lunch at Coronado Heights.

Buffalo Tracks Nature Trail in Horsethief Canyon will take us through prairie and down into

a sandstone canyon along Bison Creek where we will eventually come to the spot where Native Americans forced the bison over the cliff. The grooves from the bison are still visible in the sandstone.

Be sure to mark September 13-15 on your calendar now and watch for the mailing or listing on our website with detailed information. Don't miss this year's AWW in the mixed grass prairie of central Kansas!



Early Kansas Plant Collectors Part 2

Text and photos by Iralee Barnard

As Professor of Botany at Kansas State College (now KSU), Frank Gates saw a need for books that would enable the general public to learn about Kansas plants. To meet this need, he wrote Wildflowers in Kansas (1933), Grasses in Kansas (1937), and Weeds in Kansas (1941).



Gates' book Wildflowers in Kansas and many more titles— Available at Amazon.com

In preparation for publication of up-to-date Kansas floras, Gates wanted more complete information about the plants in the state. In the late 1920s, he recruited individuals across the state to send plant specimens for

identification. Many people responded. Some only sent a few plants, but 30 people from various counties in the state sent 50 or more specimens; 14 of those people collected 100 or more. A handful of his collectors eventually published extensive plant lists for their counties.

Many of these people were not students of Gates and had not previously studied botany. They had other jobs, yet they became devoted to plant collecting.

In Saline County in 1929, a 51-year-old bachelor working jobs around the county as a carpenter and painter began collecting for Gates and continued collecting plants until his death at age 71. His name was John Hancin. He was born in Sweden in 1878 and came to Kansas when he was young. He settled near the Swedish community of Lindsborg. As a young man in 1900, he resided in Smolan. For a time, he lived in three rooms above a store in Assaria, and other times roomed over a shop on Fifth Street in Salina.

While working with Gates, Hancin collected over 2,000 Saline County specimens, including duplicates deposited at Bethany College in Lindsborg (these were subsequently transferred to KSU in the early 1990s, along with a large seed collection). Hancin's Saline County plant list, published in 1939, contains ca. 800 species.

Hancin had no car so he would hitch a ride 10 miles out of town and walk back collecting plants along the way. He also traveled by train and "botanized" at the stops. The year 1930 was his busiest when he collected over 700 specimens.

Some of the rare, unusual, or hard to find species that Hancin collected in Saline County are woolly milkweed (*Asclepias lanuginosa*), pitcher's stitchwort (*Minuartia patula*), threestamen waterwort (*Elatine triandra*), blackfoot quillwort (*Isoetes melanopoda*), water purslane (*Didiplis diandra*), Hillman's panicgrass (*Panicum hillmanii*), and marginal wood fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*). He collected six species of dodder (*Cuscuta*), but only one orchid is recorded, nodding lady's tresses (*Spiranthes cernua*).

Continued on Page 5



Early Kansas Plant Collectors Part 2

Continued from Page 4

Hancin also began collecting for L.H. Bailey of Cornell University in the 1940s. At that time Bailey was working on a monograph of *Rubus* (blackberries, raspberries, and dewberries). Bailey named a new species of dewberry after its discoverer. *Rubus hancinanus* or Hancin's dewberry (also poetically called "windswept prairie dewberry" by PLANTS Database) only occurs in Kansas and Missouri and was first found in Saline County.

Letters to Bailey reveal Hancin's feeling about plants. He says, "I botanize like some people go fishing— not so much for what I hope to find, but rather just to go forth and 'list to nature's teaching'." In another letter he writes, "I do not pretend to be a botanist but I have always been interested in plants and if I can be of assistance to you I shall be glad to co-operate."

In 1898, Hancin served as private in the 20th Kansas Volunteer Infantry and, as a veteran of the Spanish American War, was buried in Wichita at Old Mission Cemetery.



Hancin's dewberry
Rubus hancinanus

In September 2013, Saline County will be the location of the KNPS Annual Wildflower Weekend. On Sunday one of the field trips will be to an area referred to by Hancin as the "buttes." He collected several plant specimens at Smoky Hill Buttes. A list of the species Hancin collected at the buttes will be available on the KNPS website giving participants of the September outing the opportunity to search for the same plant species in the area where he collected them 80 to 90 years ago.



View from Coronado Heights in Smoky Hill Buttes area

Continued on Page 6



Early Kansas Plant Collectors Part 2

Continued from Page 5

Scientific plant collection continues in Kansas, and new information is always being gained about our native plants. Unfortunately the number of acres of native prairie keeps shrinking as prairie remnants continue to be plowed. Also we continue to lose native plants to careless herbicide spraying of pastures and roadsides. Invasive plants, too, have taken over many acres of original prairie.

Hancin did most of his collecting along roadsides in Saline County. Today those roadsides are dominated by smooth brome grass with few

prairie plants. I could find only a vestige of Hancin's dewberry at the original location where he collected it.

Botanist, John Schaffner, in his 1913 publication of the characteristic plants of Clay County, Kansas, said: "Even now it would be difficult for one who has never seen the original, endless sweep of green vegetation as it extended over hill and plain, before the advent of the early settlers who came in great number in 1869-71, to form a clear conception of the prairie's former grandeur or to realize the important floristic changes that have already taken place and that are still in progress."

It is through the legacy of the early plant collectors that we are able to imagine the full scope of the Kansas prairie flora.



Extremely Rare Woolly Milkweed in Saline, Dickinson, and Marion Counties

Text and Photos by Iralee Barnard

Woolly milkweed (*Asclepias lanuginosa*) is listed on the state heritage ranks as critically imperiled because of extreme rarity. Since very few individuals are known, this species is considered especially vulnerable to extirpation from the state. This is the most threatened rank, and denotes local extinction. Woolly is even more imperiled than Mead's milkweed.



Woolly milkweed in Dickinson County

During a period of more than 130 years, the total number of herbarium records for woolly milkweed at KU and KSU combined is 39, and some of these are duplicates or repeat collections at the same site. John Hancin found woolly milkweed in Saline County in 1935 west of Brookville.



All the flowers have dropped from this woolly milkweed. Size can be seen as compared to nearby plants

It was later recorded in Saline County in 2005 at the Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range, one of the locations of the September AWW outings.

A new woolly milkweed discovery was made in 2013. In June, two new populations of woolly milkweed were found. County records were established for this species in both Dickinson and Marion Counties. The discoveries were made by Iralee Barnard and Linda Ihde. There were six plants in total. The pictures shown here and others are the only record of the plants. Because of their rarity no collection was taken.

2013 Kansas Area Native Plant & 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 13:** Kansas Native Plant Society Summer Board Meeting and Outing in Hutchinson, KS. Botany exploration and hike at Sandhills State Park, 9am. Bring your lunch. Board meeting at Dillon Nature Center, 1pm. [email@KSNPS.org] (785) 864-3453.

July 20: Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs. Volunteer prairie maintenance and preservation projects, third Saturday each month except Dec. [www.grasslandheritage.org]. Wear appropriate clothing. No special skills or tools needed. For details, please contact Frank Norman [fjnorman@sunflower.com] (785) 887-6775 (home) or (785) 691-9748 (cell).

July 20: Creatures of the Night: Nothing by Black Light surrounded by a garden of native plants, Paola, KS. Potluck dinner at 7pm; bring a dish to pass, adult beverages and lawn chairs. All are welcome to come early to enjoy the garden with its many native plants, birds, butterflies and pollinators in action. We'll set up black lights at sundown and should start seeing action by 9:30pm. Participants are welcome to further explore the property, which includes a lake, swampy woodlot, and a meadow in restoration process. Sponsor: Idalia Butterfly Society. Directions: Long Lips Farm (27995 Plum Creek Rd) is north of Paola, 1/2 block south of K-68 on Plum Creek Road. Look for the Long Lips Farm sign on K-68, 6.5 miles west of K-7/169. Contact: Lenora Larson [lenora.larson@gmail.com] (913) 284-3360.

August 6-8: Mid/Shortgrass Range School at Lake Scott in Scott City, KS. The 2013 School theme is "Creating Range Wealth through Soil Health." This 3-day school covers basic principles of grassland ecology focusing on soil health, plant identification, forage measuring and monitoring, wildlife/livestock interactions—especially the Lesser Prairie Chicken, rangeland improvement concepts, practices, and systems. Wednesday is spent on The Nature Conservancy's Smoky Valley Ranch. The course is a blend of hands-on field exercises and classroom instruction using a cadre of instructors from NRCS, Ft. Hays State University, K-State Agronomy/Extension/Ag Station, TNC staff, state agency staff, and ranchers. Sponsor: Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition. Visit www.kglc.org and look in the navigation bar for 2013 Range Schools for more details. Apply online, or use the forms available by contacting Tim Christian, State Coordinator, and [tdchristian@cox.net] (620) 241-3636.

August 12-14: America's Grasslands Conference: The Future of Grasslands in a Changing Landscape, Manhattan, KS. The National Wildlife Federation, along with Kansas State University, is pleased to announce the second America's Grasslands Conference. We're bringing together researchers, natural resources professionals, farmers and ranchers, policy experts, and conservationists to discuss the conservation of North America's grasslands and the opportunities and outlook for these vital ecosystems in a changing landscape. August 12th will be a day of optional field trips to local grasslands in Kansas. The conference will take place at Hilton Garden Inn on August 13-14. Speaking, sponsorship, and vending opportunities are available. Please contact us to get involved. Contact: Aviva Glaser [glasera@nwf.org] (202) 797-6616.

August 17: Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs. See July 20 info.

August 20-22: Tallgrass Range School at Camp Wood YMCA, Elmdale, KS. The 2013 theme is "Creating Range Wealth through Soil Health." The School covers the basic principles of grassland ecology focusing on soil health, plant identification, forage measuring and monitoring, wildlife/livestock interaction—especially the Greater Prairie Chicken and Northern Bobwhite Quail as well as other grassland birds, mammals, and aquatic species, and rangeland improvement concepts, (continued on page 8)

Kansas Area Native Plant Wildflower Events— Continued

August 20-22: Tallgrass Range School at Camp Wood YMCA, Elmdale, KS. (continued from page 7) practices, and systems. The cadre of instructors includes NRCS, K-State Agronomy/Extension/Geography, state agencies, organizations, and ranchers. Most of Wednesday is spent on a neighboring ranch to interact with a ranching family as they share their management and production philosophies. Sponsor: Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition. For more information, go to www.kglc.org and look in the navigation bar for 2013 Range Schools for more additional details and online application processes, or contact Tim Christian at tdchristian@cox.net (620) 241-3636.

 **September 7:** Tuttle Creek Lake Fall Wildflower Walk, Manhattan, KS, 10am-noon. Plan to be a part of the fall wildflower walk at Tuttle Creek Lake, led by guides from Kansas Native Plant Society. 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. So we will know how many to expect for the outing, please preregister with UFM Community Learning Center (785) 539-8763 or info@tryufm.org. There is no registration fee. Contact: Paul Weidhaas (785) 539-8511.

September 7 & 14: Fall Wildflower Tours at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, McPherson County, KS. Board the tram for a tour of the prairie with wildflowers and buffalo, 10am. There is also a self-guided walking tour with flowers flagged. The Refuge is located 6 miles north of Canton, KS. [<http://www.cyberkraft.com/maxwell/>] (620) 628-4455.

 **September 13-15:** Kansas Native Plant Society's 35th Annual Wildflower Weekend will be in and around Salina, KS. We will visit natural areas in the surrounding area. Come enjoy native plants with us in central 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 13-16: FloraKansas Great Plains Plant Bazaar is sponsored by Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, Hesston, KS. [www.dyckarboretum.org] [arboretum@Hesston.edu] (620) 327-8127.

 **September 21:** Jones Park Prairie Walk, 6pm. Jones Youth Recreation Park in Emporia has prairie remnants on it. Join us to explore this park and seek out native prairie plants. We hope to see sunflowers, blue sage, gayfeathers, goldenrods, asters as well as many native grasses in their full glory. Sponsor: Kansas Native Plant Society. Meet at the parking lot off of Jones Avenue. Contact: Glenn Fell [glenfell13@gmail.com] (620) 794 8478.

September 21: Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs. See July 20 info.

September 27-29: The Land Institute's 30th Annual Prairie Festival is in Salina, KS. Enjoy exciting speakers, art, music, dancing, guided prairie walks, bird watching, children's activities, and food. [www.landinstitute.org] (785) 823-5376.

October 3: Collecting and Saving Seeds Demonstration, Paola, KS, 6:30pm. Kansas native plant enthusiasts and gardeners know that seed saving is often the best means of acquiring these beauties. Ken O'Dell will demonstrate the basics of seed saving. He will show various collecting and drying techniques, followed by cleaning and packaging. Proper storage, essential to seed viability, will also be discussed. The final step in seed-saving, next spring's planting, will be demonstrated to assist participants in achieving a successful outcome. Sponsor: Miami Co Extension Master Gardeners, address: 104 S. Brayman. Contact: Lenora Larson [lenora.longlips@gmail.com] (913) 284-3360.

 **October 13:** Prairie Seed Collecting at Grant Bradbury Prairie in Topeka, 1-3pm. Volunteers are needed to help collect prairie wildflower and grass seed at Grant-Bradbury Prairie Park (SW University Blvd & SW Westview Rd) 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. Volunteers should wear sturdy footwear and long pants. Bring a plastic pail or paper sack for collecting seeds. Pruning sheers are helpful too. No experience is necessary. All ages can help. We will celebrate afterwards with a stop at the Blind Tiger Brewery at 37th & Kansas. Sponsor: Kansas Native Plant Society. Contact Jeff Hansen if you plan to attend: [hanjd@cox.net] (785) 806 6917.

October 19: Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs. See July 20 info.



Sand Prairie Tour

Text and photos by Allen Casey and Mickey Delfelder

Kansas is home to many different ecosystems and each one has plants and animals found only in those areas. Sand Prairies exemplify one of these unique ecosystems. Sand prairies in Kansas are found along the Arkansas River from the Colorado line to Harvey County. They are also found along the Cimarron River and some of its tributaries.

In May of 2013, KNPS members, Mickey Delfelder and Allen Casey attended a tour, sponsored by The Missouri Prairie Foundation, of remnant sand prairies in southeastern Missouri.



Earthstar Fungus at Stop One of the Sand Prairie tour

These sand prairies were formed from sand deposits from the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers confluence. Much of the historic sand areas were wetlands and ridge tops that covered the historic floodplains of these two mighty river systems. When settlement started in the area, many of these prairies were drained with a very intricate system of canals, and converted to farmland to the extent possible. Less than one percent of the sand prairies remain.

The tour started at a sand prairie that had post oaks, blackjack oaks, prickly pear cactus, splitbeard bluestem grass, and earthstars fungus. The next stop was at a sand blows and dunes area that showcased plants such as plains puccoon,



Plains Puccoon at Stop Two of the Sand Prairie tour

umbrella sedge, jointweed, sand milkweed, and British Soldier Lichens. The final tour stop was at a sand savannah that contained black hickory, sand hickory, Patterson's bindweed, Venus' Looking Glass, and several sand swale wetland areas. Much of the discussion at all three stops centered on the plant species that are special to each sand ecosystem type and the management that goes on to preserve these areas.

As with many areas in Kansas, these sand ecosystems are threatened and in need of preservation. Tours such as this one are great to showcase the beauty and importance of native plants and their unique ecosystems.



Mickey Delfelder photographs a specimen during the Sand Prairie tour

It was one of those late-May afternoons when the best of Kansas' natural elements come together— blue skies from horizon to horizon, fluffy white clouds, gentle breezes, mild temperature and sunshine. We drove along the empty gravel road, enjoying the green vistas of central Kansas (north of Abilene and west of Clay Center). We spotted the sign "Grassland Gardens Nursery and Flower Farm." This was our destination, the unique enterprise of KNPS member Trish Remley and her family. It is a little difficult to know just what to call it. It is a business, but so much more.

As Trish began to lead us around the variety of gardens and growing plots on the farm site, it was instantly clear that "Grassland Gardens" had evolved over the past 15 years from Trish's love of plants and the desire to

fulfill others' needs and "wants" for plantings and plant products.

Our first stop, the

Butterfly/Hummingbird Garden is a good example of her understanding and passion for the natural world.

She not only selected plants with blooms in the red/orange/pink families that attract these much-loved flying visitors, but also made sure to include plants with different blooming dates in order to entice the nectar-seekers throughout the flowering season.

Here is a partial list of the plantings in this garden: butterfly milkweed, monarda, red salvia, purple coneflower, and butterfly bush.

Although only a few early blooms were out when we visited, we did see some butterflies and also honey bees from Trish's husband Chad's hives.



Grassland Gardens Butterfly Garden

We moved on next to the section of samples of Ornamental Grasses. Trish grows and sells about 60 different grass varieties. Most of her grass clients want to use the grasses for landscaping in their yards. Included among the samples we saw were varieties of Little Bluestem, Big Bluestem, Switch Grass (Red and Blue Switch, Tall Switch for example). Some grasses are planted and grown in a large field area made up of 3- to 4-foot-wide plots, essentially a farm-field nursery. In the fall, visitors can see huge rows of grasses in their mature glory.

Continued on Page 11



Grassland Gardens Ornamental Grasses

Our next stop was quite a surprise-- a whole orchard of blueberry plants. Those I expect to find in the wet, boggy eastern states, but not the arid prairie-land of Kansas. This is a project of son James. Growing blueberries in what for them is an alien environment, means artificially increasing the acidity of the soil and amount of moisture. But it works. The plants flourish and produce great quantities of fruit.



Example of dried floral arrangement
(photo from GG website)

For me the best stop was the last—the drying room. I counted approximately 90 bunches of dried plant materials hanging on lines from the ceiling to close to the floor.

There were a variety of intense colors and types of plants, both grasses and forbs. The drying plants included ones I would never have thought to use such as artemisia, snow-on-the-mountain, yarrow, rose hips, and blackberry lily.



Grassland Garden Drying Room

These are the raw materials Trish uses to construct dried floral arrangement such as wreaths and bouquets. She takes custom orders designed to match specific decors or desires. Visitors can look at photos of the wide variety of dried-plant art Trish has made to help them make their choices.



Iralee Barnard enjoys the Grassland Gardens Nursery and Flower Farm displays.

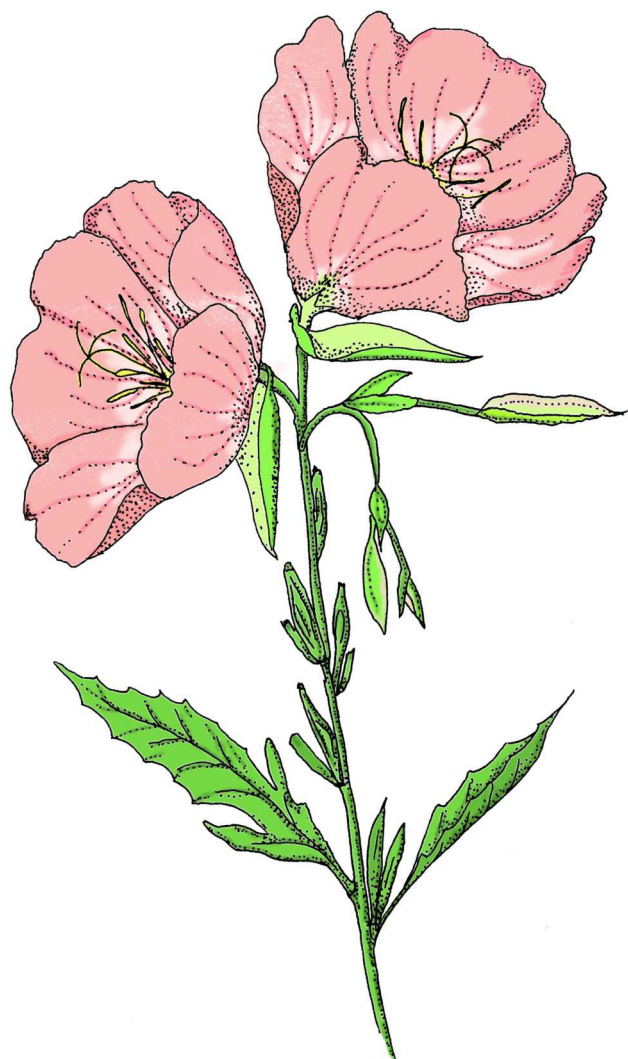
Individuals and groups are welcome to arrange for tours of Grassland Gardens. There are also three weekends for “open-house” public visits, one each in spring, fall, and during the holiday season. For directions and more information about this plant-lovers ultimate outing, check the website: www.grasslandgardens.com.



Featured Plant:

Showy Evening Primrose (*Oenothera speciosa*)

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



I first encountered the showy evening primrose, *Oenothera speciosa*, along the roadsides near our farm near Osage City in east-central Kansas. These large three-inch diameter, four-petaled, cup-shaped flowers were a delicate white color, appearing dainty and feminine as they opened in the evening and closed during the heat of the day.

I next met *O. speciosa* in the garden of my elderly neighbor, wildflower mentor, and friend Grace when we moved to Moundridge. Her specimens were similarly shaped but had a lovely pink-rose hue with thin deep pink lines and tinged with yellow and white at the base of the petals. As it turned out, her primroses were imports from Texas. Though she seemed to have all the answers to my other wildflower questions, Grace didn't know why this primrose becomes more colorful down south, nor have I encountered any other convincing explanation.

Other than the coloration differences, the species is consistent across its wide range— an upright to sprawling plant that is hardy and drought resistant. Fairly fragrant, it is pollinated by hawk moths, hummingbirds, and native bees. Whether in the wild or in the garden— and whether pink or white— it is a wonderful plant you should seek out!



KNPS TECH CORNER— by Mickey Delfelter

Get the most out of your native plant observations for this season. If you find yourself saying “what is that yellow flower blooming over there,” then the KNPS plant identification booklet is for you. Go to www.kspns.org and click on “Resources” in the left navigation. Then, look for “Resource Guide” under the “Plant Identification” category.

Membership News

NEW MEMBERS

FROM 03/10/13 TO 06/15/13

Marcus Agoitia - Maize
Lisa-Marie Armitage - Derby
Nancy Arnoldy & Doug Weller -
Salina
Terinda Barto - Wichita
Corrie Belew - Wichita
Samantha Bishop - El Dorado
Jamie Booth - Wichita
Elisa Bourgeois - Wichita
Gary Breckon - Topeka
Julie Breth - Wichita
Kristin Brown - Wichita
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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
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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
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