



Kansas Native Plant Society

Spring Newsletter
Volume 37 Number 2
April 2015

The following article, a report of the history and evolution of a "wildflower outing," is not typical of what we usually print in the newsletter. However, there are several aspects of "Discover Salina Naturally," that are unique and worthy of sharing with our readers. Although we are a state-wide organization, the majority of KNPS events take place in the eastern-third of the state, especially near our larger cities. This story may provide a plan (collaborating with other "nature" groups) and encouragement for our KNPS members wherever they live to "grow" a local outing. Nancy Goulden, Editor

"Discover Salina Naturally," A Melting Pot of Native Plants and Nature

Text and photos by Mark Neubrand

How do you get people—ordinary people—outside and appreciating nature? This was the problem I discussed in 2012 with a fellow Smoky Hills Audubon member Doug Rudick. Doug had owned a Wild Bird Crossing store in Salina, and led bird walks for the public and yearned to do it again. He also had his backyard on the Master Gardener's tour as an example of native plants in an urban setting. I was an avid nature photographer and Audubon member and had been recruited by Iralee Barnard to manage the Salina Area for KNPS.



Guests browse the Salina KNPS booth at Discover Salina Naturally

I admitted from the start that I was not well-versed on native plants, but I had experience at "promotion" from owning a printing company in Salina. I had joined KNPS for the photography contest after seeing a brochure at an Audubon meeting. Our initial idea was a simple combination of bird walk and plant walk in Lakewood Park in Salina. We found another ally with Barb Goode, from Kansas State

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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 Mike Haddock

As I sit down to compose this message, the ground is white and big snowflakes are falling. I am truly looking forward to the landscape greening up and wildflowers beginning to bloom! It seems as if it has been a long, cold winter, but we should count our blessings. It could always be worse-- just think about the people of the Boston area. As the days lengthen and the temperatures warm, please consider participating in some of our KNPS regional events. We have a very active and dedicated group of regional leaders who plan, arrange, and conduct many excellent local activities. No matter what part of Kansas you live in, you should be able to find KNPS activities of interest. Our Kansas City, Topeka, and Wichita regions are particularly active, offering a variety of events throughout the year. Many of our regions have developed Facebook pages and regularly upload beautiful photos and information of interest. There are also non-KNPS regional events listed on our events page, including some that have occurred annually for many years and are highly recommended. Examples include the Barber County Wildflower Tour, which will be held on Saturday, May 10th and the Wilson County Wildflower Tour on Saturday, June 6th.

This year, the KNPS board has decided to hold a single spring meeting and outing, and forgo a meeting in the mid-summer July heat. On Saturday, May 2nd, the board of directors will meet at the Klinefelter Barn located on Highland Community College's Klinefelter Farm near Hiawatha, Kansas. The barn was constructed in the late 1800's and is an example of the "Swiss dairy barn" style. KNPS members are welcome to attend the board meeting. Following the board meeting, we will botanize around the farm site and trails. Members who plan to join us for the walk

should be at the barn at 2:00 PM. Directions and a map may be found on the events calendar section of the KNPS website.

Please also mark your calendars for our 37th Annual Wildflower Weekend, which will be held in Manhattan September 25-27. KNPS has not held an annual meeting in Manhattan since 1984; so we are very excited to host this year's AWW! We will botanize at a variety of habitats near Manhattan, including the Konza Prairie Biological Station. We also hope to arrange an opportunity to visit the Flint Hills Discovery Center, which is a must-see destination for any visitors. Our annual business meeting and program will be held on the morning of Saturday, September 26th in the Big 12 Room of the K-State Student Union. As a university town, Manhattan offers a wide variety of dining establishments and lodging options. Detailed AWW information should be available by early summer. We hope to see many of you in the Little Apple!

Lastly, if you will bear with me, I would like to put in a shameless plug for a new reference book on Kansas flora. *Kansas Wildflowers and Weeds* is being published by the University Press of Kansas and will be available at the end of March. I co-authored the book with KNPS board member and former president Craig Freeman and Janét Bare, author of *Wildflowers and Weeds of Kansas*, which was published in 1979. We worked together on this project over the course of five years and are thrilled to see the finished product available. The book includes full descriptions of 1163 species, plus brief mentions of several hundred other plants that occur in our state. As well, it includes 743 color photographs. Hopefully, it will prove a worthy addition to the literature on Kansas flora.



TECH NOTES

By Mickey Delfelder

2015 has brought a new item to the KNPS online store. You can now pick up KNPS decals for your automobile and home for just \$5. Get more than one and share with friends. You can still purchase KNPS hats, t-shirts and other items in the store. Just visit kansasnativeplantsociety.com and click on Store in the lefthand column.

Native Crabapple Trees

By Ken O'Dell

The first time I saw one of our wild native crabapple trees growing in Kansas was about three years ago. This interesting tree is native and very thinly scattered in 16 counties in Kansas. Crabapple is native in just a few Midwestern and Great Plains states. Jeff Hansen received information from Craig Freeman as to where these trees were in Johnson County, Kansas, and we started tracking them down. This tree was originally given the scientific name *Pyrus*

ioensis, a name that is still in many of our older books including *Flora of the Great Plains*. More recently, the taxonomist have corrected the name to *Malus ioensis*. The tree is commonly called either “Wild crabapple” or “Iowa crabapple.”



Crabapple Trees—Photo by Mike Haddock



Crabapple Blossom—Photo by Jeff Hansen

This beautiful tree grows to 20 feet tall and nearly as wide if grown in the open. The flowers, which bloom in late April and May, are very fragrant and rose-pink to nearly white. Wild Crabapple grows in the edges of woodlands, hedge rows and thickets. The greenish-colored fruit is apple-shaped and from about 1” or 1 1/4” in diameter. The past three years the only “ripe” colors I have seen in this grove in Johnson County are green to a nearly lime-green color as the fruit ripens.

I have seen these trees once or twice each year since my first sighting. The book *Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines in Kansas* show the champion Wild Crabapple in Kansas to be 1/2 mile north of the entrance to the Miami County State Lake. It is no longer there, and I found no one who was familiar with it. Our wild crabapple suckers

freely, and I had this in mind looking for other wild crabapple trees in that area. There are no small wild crabapples in that area that I could find. The new list by www.kansasforests.org does not list any champion wild crabapples.

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Native Crabapple Trees

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If you have, or find, a wild crabapple and will measure the circumference and estimate the height and spread, I would like to receive the information. If it appears to be a champion, we will check it out and



Crab apple fruit with seeds—Photo by Ken O'Dell

let you and the Kansas Forest Service know about it. I am retired, but you can contact me at ken@springvalleynursery.com. Send an email to me if you want to see these wild crabapples, I will give you directions to them, or perhaps we can all get together and visit them.

I have gathered seed twice from the wild crabapple. Germination and growth seems to be quite easy in cool greenhouse conditions. I clean the seed from the hard green fruit in late August and early September. Then I put the clean seed in a Ziploc bag mixed with moist peat moss or potting soil. Leave it in the fridge just above freezing until mid-January, and then plant it in pots with moist soil and bright conditions. A south or west window is good. Germination came within a few days, and the first set of leaves appeared like a breath of fresh new plant life. The seedlings I grew three years ago are now planted outside and are about 4' tall with some low branching. Clean dark green leaves change to a ruby red in autumn.

Report on KNWAC Meetings

By Elizabeth Petroske KNPS REPRESENTATIVE

On January 29 and again on March 4, 2015, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) held meetings of the Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council (KNWAC). I attended as voting representative for KNPS, and Cynthia Rhodes attended as our alternate representative. The head of KDWPT, Robin Jennison, was also present for the second meeting. The purpose of state advisory boards is to provide local expertise and scientific advice to our government agencies, and KNPS has previously been involved with KNWAC.

Topics discussed included various conservation and management of natural resources programs currently going on across the state, such as the studies of prairie chickens, prairie dogs and black footed ferrets, and long nosed bats. Most of the board members are vertebrate biologists, but since plants determine quality of habitat for animals, they are also interested in native plants. Some KDWPT employees have been attending prairie restoration workshops and were interested in indicator plants for prairie habitat quality.

KDWPT is also interested in expanding outdoor education opportunities and citizen science projects (such as the long running Audubon bird counts). They would like to do more scientific surveys and assessments of natural habitats throughout the state as part of a "total landscape" or ecosystem approach to management of non-game wildlife.

These projects (<http://kdwpt.state.ks.us/Services>) might be of interest to some of our members spread throughout the state. I will also try to find out about federally funded land conservation, environmental mitigation and easement programs that KDWPT operates that could benefit native plant habitat landowners. For example, there is a new Monarch Conservation Program for the Midwest migration routes that was just announced: (<http://www.fws.gov/savethemonarch/>). The next KNWAC meeting will be in September 2015; if anyone has topics they would like me to find out about please email me at epetroske@hotmail.com.



Landscaping with Clammy-weed

Text and photo by Jeff Hansen

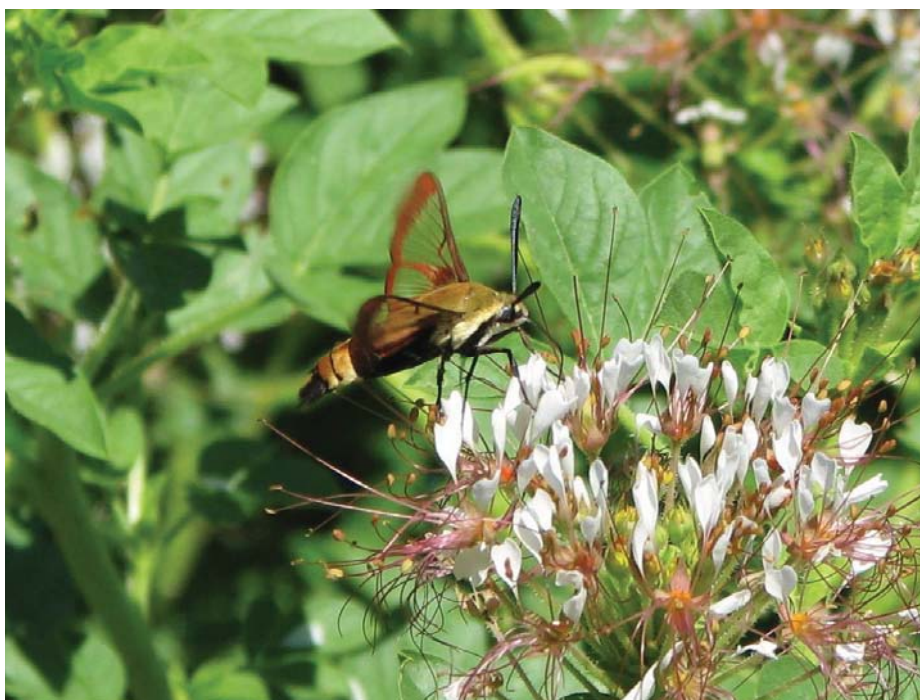
“Clammy-weed” probably isn’t a name that most marketing firms would choose when promoting a plant to the consumer. The plant gets its name from its sticky glandular hairs. Aside from it being somewhat “clammy,” it is a wonderful landscape plant with abundant blooms in the summer, which in turn attract countless pollinating insects. “Weed” is not the term that comes to mind when I think of this glorious plant.

Clammy-weed was a member of the Caper Family (*Capparaceae*) but based on DNA studies, it has been placed in its own family *Cleomaceae*.

The garden plant cleome is also a member of this

family. In fact, cleome’s flowers are quite similar to the flowers of clammy-weed. The clammy-weed is in the genus *Polanisia*. The name originates from *poly* meaning “many” and *anisos* meaning “unequal,” referring to its many stamens of unequal length. The species name is *dodecandra*, which means “having 12 stamens.”

The petals of the flowers are white to pink while the stamens, which extend well past the petals, are purplish, giving the flowering plants a purple hue. After the flowers are pollinated, upright slender seed-filled pods are formed. The plants branch from a central stem, and the leaves are trifoliate. The stems and leaves are covered in hairs.



Snowberry Clearwing Moth on Clammy-weed Blossom

Some of clammy-weed’s best features are its size and drought tolerance. The plants generally don’t get taller than two feet. They branch along the main stem producing terminal clusters of abundant flowers. It prefers dry rocky or sandy soil, which allows it to prosper in less than ideal conditions. A unique characteristic of the plant is the smell of the foliage. It reminds me of green peppers. The green pods also have this characteristic.

The plant is found across the state but mostly in rocky or sandy soils. Look for it in the sandy soils of the High Plains, Smoky Hills, or the Arkansas River Lowlands. Being an annual, it needs

somewhat disturbed soil to compete with perennial plants. The same is true in a garden. The plant also readily sows itself if the seeds are allowed to mature.

My clammy-weeds grow in my vegetable garden and my rock garden. Both have sandy or gravelly soils. The flowers attract a variety of bees, some so small they are barely visible with the naked

eye. It also seems to be a preferred flower of the snowberry clearwing moth. Butterflies are also attracted to its numerous flowers. If you aren’t growing clammy-weed in your garden, you are really missing out on one of the best pollinator attracting plants around. Give it a try; I think you will be quite pleased.

If you are looking for a commercial source of the plant, you can find it on my website at kansnativeplants.com.

Note: A student in botany at Pittsburg State University is hoping to collect native plants on private properties in Crawford and Cherokee counties as part of a MS thesis. Please contact Neil Snow or Sam Young at the T.M. Sperry Herbarium if you know of landowners interested in receiving a list of plants in exchange for access (620-235-4424, or nsnow@pittstate.edu).

Milkweeds for Monarchs

Text and photos by Ken O'Dell

Monarch butterflies and milkweed plants not only go hand-in-hand, but they are tied together forever. Female monarch butterflies lay an egg, one at a time, on milkweed plants only. These milkweed plants are the only food a monarch caterpillar can eat.



Monarch butterfly and larva on milkweed

With twenty species of native milkweed in Kansas, we should find two or three species that we would love to add to our gardens. Six hours of sunlight each day is sufficient, but all day sun is the best.

On our farm in Miami County, we have ten native species growing wild. We gather seed from these and



Prairie Milkweed (*Asclepias hirtella*) Dogbane family

plant the seed in areas where the soil and conditions are also suitable for the seed to germinate and grow into beautiful plants. The seed is brown when ma-

ture; each seed is attached to soft, fluffy, silky hairs that float away on the wind. We have Mead's milkweed, *Asclepias meadii*, in two of our prairies. The flowers on Mead's milkweed are the least showy of all, but the flowers are so droopy in appearance, it seems as if it must be given some extra love. After all, I am after the monarchs, not just the flowers. Purple milkweed, *Asclepias purpurascens*, is in one of our prairies; so I moved some seed to an area near our house. The flowers on purple milkweed are stunning. The plant is frequently four feet tall with several flowers open at one time. The large green leaves have tints of purple in their veins, and this adds to the charm of this native plant.



Green Milkweed (*Asclepias viridiflora*)

The favorite for many is the orange butterfly milkweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, with magnificent flowers of a dramatic orange coloring. The Kansas Native Plant Society Wildflower of the Year for 2015 is the spider milkweed, *Asclepias viridis*, a low growing, multi-stemmed beauty up to 18" tall and just as wide. It has greenish-white flowers, with tiny bits of dark purple mixed here and there in the blooms. Spider milkweed gets its name because of a small, harmless, long-legged spider that hangs around the flowers. If you are fortunate enough to see the spiders, they are actually more colorful than the blooms.

Here is a list by scientific names of the ten native milkweed species we have on our farm in eastern Kansas: *Asclepias hirtella*, *Asclepias incarnata*, *Asclepias meadii*, *Asclepias purpurascens*, *Asclepias sullivantii*, *Asclepias syriaca*, *Asclepias tuberosa*, *Asclepias verticillata*, *Asclepias viridiflora*, *Asclepias viridis*. You can see photos and descriptions of these ten, plus eight more species of native Kansas milkweeds if you go to <http://www.kswildflower.org>, a great website by Mike Haddock at Kansas State University. Open the site, then click on scientific names and go to *Asclepias* and you will see the colors.

Monarch Watch <http://www.monarchwatch.org> offers information and plants to get us off to a good start as we need more host plants for the dwindling monarch population.



2015 Kansas Area Native Plant & Wildflower Events



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

April 16:  Hillsdale Spring Wildflower Walk. Join Ken O'Dell to explore the 1.5 mile "Hidden Spring Nature Trail," meandering through a native prairie remnant and oak/hickory woodlands, 1-3pm. The trail is well-graded with steps for easy walking, even in the steep sections. Sponsor: Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardeners. We will meet in the parking lot of the Visitors' Center at Hillsdale State Park, 26001 W. 255th St, Paola, KS. There is NO fee to enter this park. Contact: Lenora Larson <lenora.longlips@gmail.com> (913) 284-3360.

April 18:  Old Military Trail Wildflower Walk at Perry Lake, 1pm. Meet at the parking area of the Old Military Trailhead on the west side of Ferguson Road, 1 1/2 miles south of the Ferguson Road/KS92 junction for the 4th Annual OMT Wildflower Walk, Saturday, April 18, 2015. In the past we have seen Trout Lilies, Dutchman's Breeches, Mayapples, Jack in the Pulpit, Bladdernut Shrubs and more. Sponsor: **KNPS-Atchison Region**. For more information, please contact Fred or Nancy Coombs <coombs@rainbowtel.net> (785) 872-3463.

April 18: 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, contact Frank Norman <fjnorman@sunflower.com> (785) 887-6775 (home) or (785) 691-9748 (cell).

April 18 & 25: Missouri Prairie Foundation Spring Plant Sales at the City Market, KCMO. The Missouri Prairie Foundation will hold its Annual Native Plant Sales, 8am to 1pm, at the City Market, 5th & Walnut, Kansas City, MO. A variety of native plants will be available. This is a great opportunity to buy native plants to provide habitat for native pollinators and birds. A generous portion of proceeds is donated by vendors to benefit MPF's prairie conservation work. Sponsor: Missouri Prairie Foundation. Questions? Contact: Doris Sherrick <djsher@fairpoint.net> (816) 716-9159.

April 24-27: FloraKansas Great Plains Plant Bazaar in Hesston, KS. Sponsored by Dyck Arboretum of the Plains. [www.dyckarboretum.org] <arboretum@Hesston.edu> (620) 327-8127.

April 25:  Concordia Wildflower Tour. This is a great opportunity to explore a privately owned, preserved, native area in north central Kansas! There is no charge and anyone can join the tour. Follow a KNPS guide and tour the property to discover wildflowers, native grasses, sedges, trees, shrubs, and more. The rare "Fremont's Clematis" can be found on this property as well as Green Milkweed, Spider Milkweed, Golden Prairie Clover, Old Plainsman and Black Sampson Echinacea to name a few. Sponsor: Kansas Native Plant Society. Meet at 1pm in the SE corner of the Concordia Walmart Parking Lot on College Dr. for introductions and follow a caravan to the tour site. For more information or to confirm attendance contact Nadine Champlin <nadinechamplin@yahoo.com> (785) 285-0054.

April 25:  Wyandotte County Lake Park Spring Wildflowers, 1pm in Kansas City, KS. Join Elizabeth Petroske in exploring the woodland wildflowers at Wyandotte County Lake Park. The park's oak-hickory woodlands are full of a variety of wildflowers. Sponsor: Kansas Native Plant Society. Meet up in the main parking lot by the Park office; take the left fork when you come in the 91st entrance at the South end of the Park, 91st St & Leavenworth Rd, Kansas City, KS. The terrain is rugged so boots and jeans are recommended. Contact: Elizabeth Petroske <epetroske@hotmail.com> (913) 906-8024.

April 25: Chisholm Creek Park Honeysuckle Removal. The Great Plains Nature Center and the City of Wichita Park Department are conducting a half-day event to remove bush honeysuckle at Chisholm Creek Park in northeast Wichita. The event will be held from 8:00 am to noon. Bring gloves (leather work gloves are best) and a spade/shovel for digging out the plants. Small honeysuckle plants are easily pulled because of their shallow roots. Meet at the main GPNC parking lot at 6232 E. 29th Street North. A hotdog/hamburger lunch will be provided afterwards for participants. Please RSVP so we have an accurate head count for lunch! Contact: Jim Mason <jim@gpnc.org> (316) 683-5499 x103.

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2015 Kansas Area Native Plant & Wildflower Events, Continued



May 3: Discover Salina Naturally at Lakewood Park, 11am-4pm. The Discover Salina Naturally festival is free--family fun at its finest! Explore over 60 exhibits and booths, go on a nature walk, learn something new, admire the art, visit with historical reenactors, enjoy the entertainment, savor the food and above all-- have fun. Kids will love the special activities! Sponsored by Earl Bane Foundation & Greater Salina Community Foundation. Contact: Barbara Goode <barblj@ksu.edu> (785) 452-9456 .

May 9: Barber County Spring Wildflower Tour in the beautiful gyp hills. Meet at the Medicine Lodge High School at 8:30am for registration. Barber Co. Conservation District and Kansas Native Plant Society are co-sponsors. The full day tour (8:30am-3:30pm) includes breakfast and transportation, two identification stops, lunch, and afternoon refreshments, \$15. Pre-paid reservations should be sent by May 2. Order your Barber County Wildflower Tour t-shirt (\$10) now! Barber Co Conservation Office, 800 W. 3rd Ave. Medicine Lodge, KS 67104-8002, phone (620) 886-3721, ext. 3.

May 16: Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs. See Apr 18 info.

May 30: Go Native: From Plain to Prairie, Restored Prairie Tour @ 8:45am. Meet at the SE corner of the west Walmart parking lot (6th Street) and carpool to two restored prairies in Douglas County that range in size, year, and native plant species. Sponsored jointly by Douglas County Conservation District & Grassland Heritage Foundation. Rain-date is June 6. Questions & RSVP <Jenica.nelson@ks.nacdnet.net> or (785) 843-4260 x3

June 1-30:  June is Kansas Native Plant Appreciation Month! Each year **Kansas Native Plant Society** makes a formal appeal to the Governor for this proclamation. This opportunity promotes greater appreciation for the diversity, value, and beauty of Kansas native plants and their habitats. [www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org].

June 6: Wilson County Wildflower Tour. Experience the Wilson County Wildflower Tour in scenic Southeast Kansas. Tour will begin with a light breakfast at 9 a.m. at the Wilson County Fairgrounds in Fredonia, W. Madison St. With direction, participants will caravan to the site in their own transportation to enjoy at their own pace, or with a knowledgeable guide, the natural beauty of the meadow. Sponsor: Wilson County Conservation District. Pre-registration is requested but not required by calling the Wilson County Conservation District at 620-378-2866 ext. 3. Contact: Pamela Walker <pamela.walker@ks.nacdnet.net> (620) 378-2866 ext. 1334.

June 6: Spring 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. <friendsofmaxwell@yahoo.com> (620) 628-4455.

June 13: 10th Anniversary Symphony in the Flint Hills will be held at the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Chase County. Contact: <info@symphonyintheflinthills.org> (620) 273-8955.

June 14: Friends of Konza Prairie Annual Wildflower Walk, 7pm. The walk will be co-led by Valerie Wright, Kansas Native Plant Society Past President, and Konza Docents. There is a charge of \$5 for those who are not Friends of Konza Prairie members. Telephone reservations are due (5 days early), (785) 587-0441. Meet at the Konza Biological Station located along McDowell Creek Road, west off of KS177 near Manhattan, KS [http://www.ksu.edu/konza/keep] (785) 587-0381. Contact: Jill Haukos <Konzaed@ksu.edu> 785-587-0381.

June 17:  Identifying Common Weeds Workshop, 6:30pm. Jeff Hansen, KNPS Board member, will focus on annual plants that populate disturbed soil. Some common perennial and woody invasives will also be discussed, depending on which specimens are brought by the participants. THIS WILL BE A HANDS-ON SESSION. Bring your fresh plant material in plastic bags, including the roots. Marais des Cygnes Extension Office: 104 S. Brayman, Paola, KS. Sponsor: Marais des Cygnes Extension Master Gardeners. Contact: Lenora Larson <lenora.longlips@gmail.com> (913) 284-3360.

June 19-20: Quivira National Wildlife Refuge Bioblitz 2015. Quivira Bioblitz 2015 will be held from 5pm Friday, June 19 through 4pm Saturday, June 20. Bioblitz Headquarters will be the Environmental Education Classroom (EEC), located just south of NE 140th Street blacktop at 1313A NE 140th Avenue (near the Migrants Mile Trail). The Bioblitz Headquarters will serve as a central information center for programs and information, an indoor "Lab" for researchers. It will also have a "Scoreboard" for the species of plants and animals being found. This event is free and designed for people of all ages. note to the public: A Bioblitz is a 24-hour period where the public is invitednote to the public: Bioblitz is a 24-hour period where the public is invited to visit, watch, and/or assist with Bioblitz. *Continued on Page 9*



June 19-20: Quivira National Wildlife Refuge Bioblitz 2015, continued — There will be some scheduled activity, but there is no specific time to visit. Researchers: free overnight lodging, food, and data recording forms are available for researchers. Contact: Barry Jones <barry_jones@fws.gov> (620) 486-2393

June 20:  Coombs Prairie Restoration Tour in Holton, KS, 1-4pm. Tour Fred and Nancy Coombs' ongoing restoration of native grasses and forbs on their 158-year-old family farm. Highlights include reseeding of old fields, pollinator gardens around the house, patch burning, and timber stand improvement. Sponsor: **KNPS-Atchison Region**. Directions: 6 miles east of Holton on K-116, right on X Rd, right on 222nd Road, 3/8ths mile to driveway on the right, 18160 222nd Road. Contact: Fred or Nancy Coombs <coombs@rainbowtel.net> (785) 872-3463

June 20: Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs. See Apr 18 info.

June 25:  13th Annual Grant-Bradbury Prairie Walk in Topeka, 6:30pm-dark. Join KNPS at Grant-Bradbury Prairie Park. This 80-acre tallgrass prairie contains over 300 plant species. On this tour, you will learn and see the plants and animals of the prairie. Bring a camera because the spring wildflowers will be at their peak. Children are encouraged to come. Jeff Hansen, wildflower expert, will lead the tour. Sponsor: **Kansas Native Plant Society**. Directions: Take Topeka Blvd south to the University Blvd intersection (stoplight), take a right. Take University west about half a mile--when the road curves south, you are at the driveway to the park gate. There is a small building at the driveway. Contact Jeff Hansen if you plan to attend. <hanjd@cox.net> (785) 806-6917

July 18 & Aug 15: Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs. See Apr 18 info.

July 18:  Potluck-Dinner and Mothing in a Native Plant Garden, 7pm-12am. 90% of insects, including the Lepidoptera, are highly host-plant specific so focusing on native plants will foster an incredible diversity of moths that are drawn to mercury vapor lights after sundown. Bring a dish to pass, your adult beverages and lawn chairs. Sponsor: Kansas Native Plant Society. Alert: LONG LIPS FARM is 1 block south of K-68 in northwest Miami County, 27995 Plum Creek Rd, Paola, KS. Some GPS & mapping software is wrong. Contact: Lenora Larson <lenora.longlips@gmail.com> (913) 284-3360

Discover Salina Naturally

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University's Environmental Community Awareness Program. Barb had organized a "green fair" as an Earth Day activity in 2012 with about 30 participants, and the event drew more than 100 visitors. For me, it was my first outing as a native plant "expert," and I was eager for another way to reach the public.

All three of us discussed another gathering for 2013, but we wanted a wider audience and broader appeal. We met with the City of Salina's Lakewood Park personnel in the fall of 2012 and planned a new event for the spring of 2013. Funded with grant money from EPA, the group dropped the word "green" and pursued the theme of "discovery." Lakewood personnel suggested that we try to get a broader base with the idea that history might have a wider appeal than nature. Then once they were in the park, we would educate them on all the attractions that shared the nature appeal.

The new "Discover Salina Naturally" event was born. A mission statement was developed: "To build community and promote sustainability through cultural appreciation, historical and environmental education and artist enrichment." In an effort to encourage more people to attend, historical reenactors were added, musical entertainment recruited and the event was scheduled for a Sunday afternoon so as not to compete with children's sports activities.

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Discover Salina Naturally

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The renamed event featured nature hikes through the wooded area of the park led by long-time KNPS member Paul Willis and featured native Kansas plants for sale by Dyck Arboretum from Hesston. Exhibitors grew to 39 and attendance grew to over 800 for the 4-hour event.

The group of organizers had grown to eight volunteers and the goal to get people out in nature seemed to be filling a need. Most of the attendees had small children and the 2013 event was deemed a success. We secured local funding to keep the event free to the public and free to the participants.



Discover Salina Naturally Entrance—2014 Event

For 2014, the group explored ways to increase attendance. Food vendors were added, entertainment increased and birds from the Milford Nature Center drew a crowd. More native plants were brought in and more representatives of any group that fit the “Discover Salina Naturally” goal were encouraged to attend. From “cradle to grave,” the exhibitors covered environmentally-friendly cotton diapers all the way to natural green burials.

What had started as a KNPS plant walk and Audubon Bird Walk had grown to over 2,400 people at Lakewood Park. Exhibitors featured outdoor activities from Maxwell Wildlife Preserve, Cheyenne Bottoms, Milford Lake, Rock Springs Ranch, Kanopolis Lake—all places popular with native plant people.

The first Sunday in May is now designated official “Discover Salina Naturally” Event Day and a bigger event is underway for 2015. The event has a web page www.discoverosalina.com and a facebook page “Discover Salina.” Private funding ensures the event is free to the public. KNPS and Audubon remain the major organizers and getting children and families outside discovering nature is still the main focus. I would welcome additional volunteers from KNPS to come help spread the “gospel” of “Native Plants” in a fun, friendly atmosphere. As of the deadline of this article, 60 groups were signed up. The air will be filled with the smell of barbeque and black powder rifles, the sound of blue grass music, and most important, the laughter of kids outside appreciating nature.



Paul Willis prepares hikers for a nature walk at Discover Salina Naturally

Early Plant Collectors—Part 3

Text by Iralee Barnard Photos from archive

Articles in the 2013 Spring and Summer KNPS newsletters (Vol. 35, No.2 & No.3) covered botanists from the past who enriched our knowledge of the Kansas flora. Many early plant collectors are well known and much has been written about them. However, significant collections and considerable added knowledge about our wild flora has been the result of work done by individuals who had no previous training in botany and held unrelated jobs, yet spent hours in the field collecting plants. Most of these individuals are remembered for their contribution to botany only by their names on the herbarium specimen sheets. One of these was Samuel V. Fraser.

Born in Concordia, Kansas, in 1890, the thirteenth in a family of fourteen children, Fraser graduated from Saint Benedicts College at Atchison, Kansas, in 1909 and the American Catholic Seminary in Belgium in 1914. Fifty-two years of his life were dedicated to active ministry in and near Cloud County.

Beginning with curiosity about a plantain growing on the rectory lawn at St Joseph's, eventually Monsignor Fraser was inspired to take up the study of plants by F.C. Gates, professor at Kansas State College (now KSU), in preparation for a manual of the Kansas flora. Fraser began collecting in 1927 and collected continuously every year until 1949. He estimated that he "tramped every acre in Cloud County," amassing a total of 863 Cloud County plant species.

In 1931, Fraser published "The Flora of Cloud County" in the *Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science* (Vol. 34). He also discovered a previously unknown wild onion, and by publishing the first description of the species in 1939, his name is attached to the scientific name *Allium perdulce* S.V. Fraser. He also had another variety of wild onion named after him by Ownbey, *Allium canadense* L. var. *fraseri* M. Ownbey.

Fraser gave his collection of about 2,100 plant specimens and 1,500 vials of plant seeds to Marymount College in Salina in 1963, along with 28 years of personal correspondence with taxonomists in a large number of the major educational institutions. "Your material is excellent," said C.A. Weatherby, assistant curator of Harvard's Gray Herbarium, in a letter of 1936 regarding some Cloud County specimens sent for the Harvard collection.

Fraser's correspondence was lost, but his herbarium was accessioned into the Kansas State University Herbarium when Marymount College closed in 1989.

While living in Aurora, Kansas, for nearly 30 years, Fraser kept an extensive garden of wild plants. Fifty years later when I visited the Aurora rectory in 2010, I could find no trace of his garden, except possibly two small rose bushes near the porch, ironweed (*Vernonia*) taking refuge in one of the rose bushes, and wild yam (*Dioscorea*) climbing the roof downspout.



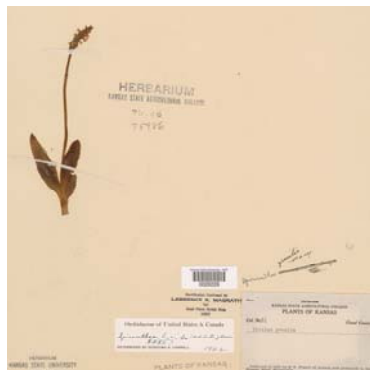
Fraser presents a specimen from his collection to the library at Marymount College

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Early Plant Collectors—Part 3

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I spoke with some local people who remembered him. Many, even close relatives, were unaware of his interest in plants. However, a member of his parish recalled that he drove very fast, but would suddenly stop to run out and look at a plant.



Rare *Spiranthes lucida*, an orchid collected by S. V. Fraser

Respected by all, Monsignor Sam, as he was called, was said to have had a witty humor, a fantastic memory, taught high school Latin during WWI, been an avid coin collector, and played violin near concert level. A truly remarkable person and dedicated botanist, he died in Salina in 1972.



Fraser's home in Aurora, KS. His extensive garden is gone.

Featured Plant: Yellow Star Grass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*)

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

On a mild mid-May morning, I took a walk in our remnant native prairie. Mowed late the prior summer, it had been resting through a cold winter. I was hopeful that some of the wildflowers I had seen there previously would have survived the long winter. I wasn't really prepared for the view that greeted me.

It was as if I stepped into a jewelry store, and all the precious jewels were on display—the choicest specimens that nature could produce. All around me were small prairie wildflowers in all the loveliest colors blended as if on an artist's palette.

I felt I must hurry and see what all the landscape had to offer, but alas, with each step I took I would crush many of these jewels under foot. So I stood quietly letting the view sink into my subconsciousness while I tried to mentally record what I was seeing. Sprinkled throughout were purple violets, yellow fringed puccoon, blue eyed grass, yellow-white false garlic, lavender oxalis, grayish-white pussy toes, pale pink poppy mallow, pink-trimmed Virginia spring beauty, and many more I surely missed.

Outstanding in this array of color was the bright Yellow star grass, *Hypoxis hirsuta*. This diminutive (3 to 8 inches) native perennial with leaves that are linear and pubescent is not a grass at all but can be easily mistaken for grass when it is not in bloom. The flowers appear in loose clusters of yellow "stars", 1/2 to 1 inch in diameter below the tops of the leaves. Yellow star grass blooms for about a month, attracts bees and butterflies, and the seed is eaten by Bob-white quail. The tiny black seeds are elusive and difficult to collect but are available commercially.

I encourage you to search your own prairies for the wildflower jewels of early spring. I hope the prospects of discovering your own gems will encourage you to return again and again through the season as wave after wave of changing colors, shapes and sizes enliven the landscape. It will provide you with never-to-be-forgotten memories!



Yellow Star Grass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*)

Membership News

NEW MEMBERS FROM 12/14/14 TO 3/7/15

Chelsea Abrahamson - Derby
Diana Alexander - Wichita
Kirsten Bartel - Wichita
Connie Beckett & Family - Maple Hill
Debehh Bell - Wichita
Regan Burman - Wichita
Tom Cannon - Iola
Troy & Gloria Carrell - Eldorado
Martin Cloutier - Topeka
Melanie Denning - Wichita
Christopher Hamill - Baldwin City
Mariska Hamstra - Arvada, CO
Gretchen Kallenbach - Wichita
Kristin Kammiller - Derby
Mike Katzfey - Kansas City
Tonya Ketchum - McLouth
Sirenya Maddy - Wichita
Laura Mendenhall - Augusta
Christian Meyer - Sarasota, FL
Erica Miller - Manhattan
Marilyn Moffat - Eureka
Clinton Peirce - Hutchinson
Max & Mary Prose - Beeler
Warren & Tina Pugh - Mayetta
Tyler Schuckman - Maize
Betty Sterling - Kansas City
Susan Sterrett - Wichita
Rebecca Summers - Wichita
Doranne Tewell - Bonner Springs
Maralee Thompson - Lansing
Hank Tyler - Topeka
Hubert Wieland - Marietta, GA

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS AS OF 3/7/15 (\$100 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVEL)

Cynthia Abbott - Clearwater
Shirley Braunlich & Peg Robinson - Lawrence
Kit Carlsen - Lawrence
Sheldon & Virginia Cohen - Topeka
Pete Ferrell - Beaumont
Craig & Jane Freeman - Lawrence
Dale Funk - Omaha, NE
Dale & Jackie Goetz - Overland Park
Nancy Goulden - Manhattan
Edna Hamera - Shawnee Mission

Frances Hewitt - Washington DC
Myron Leinwetter - Rossville
Dan Martin - Ramona, OK
PJ Quell - Merriam
Susan Reimer - McPherson
Jody Toerber-Clark - Wamego
David Welfelt - Newton
Sandy White - Shirley, IN
Doug Wirtz - Vacaville, CA
Valerie Wright - Manhattan

LIFETIME MEMBERS AS OF 3/7/15 (\$500 MEMBERSHIP LEVEL)

Earl Allen - Manhattan
Susan Appel - Leawood
Robert G. Jr. & Martha Barnhardt - Bucklin
Susan Blackford - Manhattan
William Bradley - Overland Park
Edith M. Bronson - Topeka
Fred & Nancy Coombs - Holton
Donna Cooper - Hays
Cowley County Conservation District - Winfield
Barbara Davis - Wichita
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Douglas R. May - Lawrence
Carol McDowell - Topeka
Carol Morgan - Topeka
Marjorie F. Neely - Chanute
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Dan & Brenda Pace - Hutchinson
Carl Paulie - St. Paul
Cynthia & Ron Pedersen - Mound City, MO
Bob & Doris Sherrick - Peculiar, MO
Jason & Lisa Spangler - Austin, TX
Margy Stewart & Ron Young - Junction City
Lisa Stickler - Bucyrus
Ray Woods—Independence

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**Kansas
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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.

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 Catrgory

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