



KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER OF THE KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

JULY 2022

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Spring/Summer Mini-AWW Outings Report

— CYNTHIA RHODES

KNPS board members, members, and interested parties converged on Miami County the weekend of June 10 through 12 for the Spring/Summer Mini-Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) and board meeting. Enthusiastic parties participated in excursions to a pollinator garden, remnant prairies and woodlands, and a state park nature trail to explore the bountiful eastern Kansas flora. Literally, a good time was had by all (including the plants and pollinators)!

Friday afternoon and evening found out-of-town visitors arriving to the area surrounding Paola, the town designated as headquarters for the weekend. While several members visited private prairies and woods as they had time in the cooler evening hours, others took in an urban farm in the KCK area. And since Paola was hosting the annual car show, slick and shiny automobiles were seen cruising around town all weekend.

Starting at 8:00 am on Saturday, visitors were invited to Long Lips Farm for a leisurely stroll through Lenora Larson's exquisite pollinator gardens and prairie. Lenora was present and cheerfully visited with all as they admired her beautifully blooming plants artfully arranged amongst shade trees, unique statues, and peaceful water features. An interesting highlight was to observe the colony of digger bees (*Anthophorini*) that reside underneath Lenora's back porch. A group photograph was taken of those attending, and a bumble bee or two are in the photo if one looks closely enough! Thank you, Lenora, for hosting our delightful visit.

Leaving Long Lips Farm late in the morning, visitors proceeded south to the United Methodist Church in Fontana for the board meeting, eating lunch along the way. There were many yard sales during the weekend, but no one stopped to shop because all knew there was

— CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

OUR MISSION

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.

The Kansas Native Plant Society Newsletter is published quarterly: Winter (January), Spring (April), Summer (July), Fall (October). Readers tell us how much they enjoy the newsletter in paper format. Contributions help us continue to produce a publication of this length in this form.

You may send your gift to KNPS at:

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Check us out online at www.ksnps.org
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KNPS Spring/Summer Board Meeting

— PHYLLIS SCHERICH

Fourteen KNPS board members (one virtually) and one guest met June 11 at the Fontana United Methodist Church with President Krista Dahlinger presiding. The meeting commenced at 12:30 pm. Roll call was taken and announcements were given by Krista. The minutes of the January 2022 virtual board meeting were reviewed and approved. Full committee reports were received by board members prior to the meeting, including the following brief summaries.

Membership – Remaining fairly stable.

Nominations – All board members up for 3-year renewal have agreed to renew, except one who has moved and one who did not respond. We will need to nominate a president-elect and a treasurer at the AWW in August.

Awards – Two applicants have been selected and notified to receive the \$1,000.00 Bancroft Memorial Scholarship.

Finance – Earl Allen has asked to step down as treasurer after five years of service. His report was reviewed and accepted. A line item will be added specifically for donations to the Plant A Prairie project.

Website, Outreach, Social Media, Google Group – The new website is now up and working. Anthony and Krista are submitting articles to the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Magazine.

Newsletter – April Newsletter was sent to 700+ patrons. The July Newsletter is currently in production.

Plant Resources and Stewardship – Wildflower of Year for 2022 is *Liatris punctata*; for 2023 is *Dalea purpurea*.

Plant A Prairie – Thirty projects were selected to receive prairie garden kits for fall 2022. This initiative is supported by the Gary and June Kliesen Memorial Fund and others who have contributed to this project.

Old Business – Krista announced 2022 AWW will be held in-person in the Emporia area August 26, 27, and 28. An itinerary is currently being planned. Members will receive an invitation in the mail later in the summer. Information will be posted on the KNPS website and social media sites.

New Business – Maintenance and further development of the KNPS Website was discussed, with funding coming from a Phillips 66 Grant.

The meeting was adjourned by Krista at 2:37 pm, whereupon members proceeded outside under a shade tree for the board photograph.

President’s Message

— KRISTA DAHLINGER

What a wonderful time the KNPS board, members, and guests had in Miami County at the June spring/summer gathering. The board has not met in-person for several years and it was wonderful to interact in person again. I want to thank Lenora Larson and Sara Cornett for sharing their “best” places with KNPS over the weekend. Lenora’s butterfly garden haven, Long Lips Farm, is an absolute delight; a few photos can only attempt to capture all of the plants or even most of the butterflies there. Sara Cornett invited KNPS to walk a special family prairie remnant where the diversity of native plants was astounding. We found so many outstanding plants in bloom and many in either pre- or post-bloom condition. After the prairie, we traveled to a nearby woodland with enormous, mature trees and a steep, shaded bluff. It was a real treat for KNPS to be allowed access to these locations for an immersive experience in plant communities that have so far avoided modern disturbance.

We spent a morning at Hillsdale Lake on the Hidden Spring Nature Trail to learn from Craig Freeman about some of the identifying characteristics of oak trees, and also his strategy for entering a woodland where views are obscured — breaking plants into groups: trees, understory shrubs, forest floor plants, vines. Brad Williamson provided a Mosses photo guide for us to use to identify flagged examples on the trail where different species were visible growing on rocks, trees and soil. Miami County, we appreciate your natural beauty! I will also thank Kelli Egbert, Dennis Everett, and Scotti Staats for sharing their native plant places with us.

KNPS holds two gatherings each year: one in late spring and the other in early fall. If you live in an area that has three to five undisturbed habitat locations to explore, nearby hotels, local restaurants, historical places, and cultural attractions that you would like to share with other KNPS members and guests, please send us a note at email@KSnp.org and let us know what we have been missing. We enjoy seeing all parts of Kansas and look forward to visiting new locations at each event.

The KNPS Plant A Prairie program has completed distribution of native plant gardens to schools and public places over the past three years. Information collected from applications reveals that over 10,000 school children in Kansas are able to engage with the prairie gardens by helping to maintain the gardens through observation and learning about botany and ecology principles, noting insect interactions, identifying birds that visit, as well as experiencing the gardens as places to recreate or relax. Thirty gardens have been approved for 2022 with plant delivery scheduled for September. As these gardens mature and grow

into their landscapes, we look forward to sharing stories and images from these gardens.

I want to encourage everyone to get out to State Parks and Fishing Lakes and natural wildlife areas this summer — morning or evening hours are better to avoid the heat. If you are a gardener, study plant communities in natural settings to see what works in nature, then apply those observations to your own gardens. If you have access to native plant seeds and are interested in growing plants or helping others, send an email at seeds@KSnp.org to advise what you may have available for winter sowing.

KRISTA DAHLINGER PHOTOS



ABOVE, TOP TO BOTTOM Pond at Lenora Larson’s Long Lips Farm; Giant Swallowtail at Lenora Larson’s Long Lips Farm.

LEFT Green Dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*) at Hillsdale Lake.



LEFT TO RIGHT Pale spike lobelia (*Lobelia spicata*), Slender Venus' looking glass (*Triodanis leptocarpa*), Smooth beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*), and Toad trillium (*Trillium sessile*).

Mini-AWW

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

work to do at the upcoming meeting at the church. For a summary of board meeting actions, see the meeting article elsewhere in this Newsletter.

After the board meeting concluded and a board photo was taken, the group car-pooled to KNPS member Sara Cornett family's remnant prairie southwest of Fontana. As the group stood on the edge of this profuse prairie, a collective gasp could almost be heard! Such abundance and diversity presented a feast for the eyes as members (all with heads looking downward) slowly progressed into the field, audibly remarking as a new plant was sighted and identified. Among the varieties at this prairie were counted Tube penstemon (*Penstemon tubaeformis*), Ohio spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*), Slender Venus' looking glass (*Triodanis leptocarpa*), Pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*), Pale-spike lobelia (*Lobelia spicata*), and several varieties of milkweed including the federally protected Mead's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*), a rare and treasured sighting for sure! There was so much to find, observe, and identify; fortunately plenty of time was allotted for a good perusal of at least the middle of this pasture.

Eventually, the group was called to proceed to the next stop which was a remnant woodland and rocky bluff nearby. As we walked along this shade-dappled trail, those who were listening and looking closely at the trees heard a couple of wood thrush calling, and caught quick glimpses of a summer tanager flitting past. The rest of the members were looking down at the forest undergrowth to

locate and identify the unique flora to be found. Among the distinct finds at this stop were Purple milkweed (*Asclepias purpurascens*), Wild yams (*Dioscorea villosa*), numerous varieties of sedges, a Pawpaw thicket, and the unique find of the Toad trillium (*Trillium sessile*). It was noted that several black walnut trees in this woodland were so tall that those that climbed to the top of the bluff looked up and still could not see the tops of these old majestic trees! Thank you, Sara and family, for showing off your marvelous prairie pasture and woodland this weekend!

Sunday morning at 9:00 am found members gathered under a picnic shelter at the Hillsdale Lake Visitor Center on the northeast side of the dam. The trail that the group would explore is an upland and floodplain forest area with limestone outcrops and natural springs. Due to the heat and humidity expected later in the day, it was determined to spend more time at this Hidden Spring Nature Trail area and postpone the afternoon's outing at La Cygne Reservoir and Wildlife Area to a later date yet to be determined.

Explaining to those gathered, Craig Freeman used several small branches of oak leaves to determine what characteristics to look for as identification purposes. Growing at this site are Red oak (*Quercus rubra*), White oak (*Quercus alba*), Bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), Saw tooth oak (*Quercus acutissima*), and Pin oak (*Quercus palustris*), among others. As we observed the smaller leaves were at the top and the larger leaves were at the bottom, Craig explained that it was because the photosynthesis process requires light, therefore, the

upper leaves that received more light didn't need to be as large as the lower ones to complete the process. As members entered the forest trail, all kept Craig's remarks in mind to interpret the woodland landscape and to see if actual evidence could be found. And sure enough, the evidence was there!

Fortunately, Brad Williamson had prepared trail-sized booklets of mosses growing along the trail for observers to use to locate and identify mosses that were flagged. Those with loupes were able to observe some tiny and unique features of the (*Leskea gracilescens*) or Necklace chain moss to name one in particular.

And while members were looking up to identify the trees and looking down to observe the mosses, they also looked around and sighted several understory plants including the Michigan lily

(*Lilium michiganense*), Scarlet cup fungus (*Sarcoscypha coccinea*), and Green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*). Thank you, Craig and Brad, for helping observers refine and polish their discriminatory and identification powers of the abundant flora along this marvelous trail. Also, thank you, Krista and all those who planned and facilitated this weekend's outstanding tours.

Once again, as lunch time came and went, the group finally emerged from the woodlands near the visitor's center, met for one last time to say farewells, and headed off to respective homes and other destinations to conclude this fantastic Mini-AWW weekend. "See you at the end of August at the AWW!" was a fondly repeated farewell. We would love to see you at Emporia in the heart of the Flint Hills August 26 to 28. Make plans now and join us!

BOOK REVIEW

Stories from the Shack by Estella Leopold

— BRAD GUHR

Any book related to one of my favorite books of all-time, *A Sand County Almanac* (1941) by Aldo Leopold, will certainly be on my reading list. When I found out that Estella Leopold, Aldo and Estella Leopold's youngest child of five, came out with the book *Stories from the Shack* (2016), I could not wait to read it.

Estella wanted to document her personal childhood Shack stories of experiences from the 1930s and early 40s for Aldo and Estella's five grandchildren. Her stories through the seasons about construction, wildlife encounters, ecological restoration, hunting and gathering, adventures with family members, shared meals, and making music together weave throughout the book. The stories are vivid, entertaining, and nicely illustrated by nearly 100 photos taken by her brother, Carl. Since I have visited and toured the Shack a few times over the years and come to know the layout of the grounds, I truly enjoyed the four detailed maps found in the book that highlight locations where many of the stories occurred.

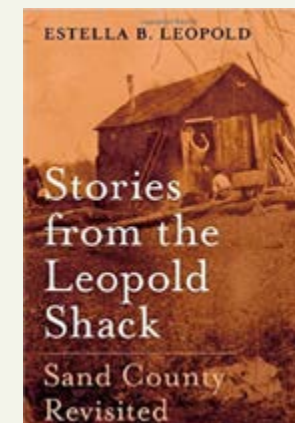
There is plenty of overlap between Estella's personal memories and her father's famous essays.

However, *Stories from the Shack* stands alone as an embodiment of what Aldo strived for in the development of his Land Ethic that featured prominently in the earlier classic...the importance of connecting people and the land. The Shack experiences these siblings shared over many years obviously helped each of them develop a deep sense of place in an ecological community. Through hard work on weekends at the Shack, they came to love the land. They were turning degraded agricultural land into native forests and prairies. They were restoring the land, and it in turn restored them. It is no surprise that all five of them went on to pursue successful careers in land conservation-related fields.

I will highlight three of many favorite parts of the book:

Construction Tales — The rebuilding of the fireplace in the Shack is an intriguing story. They followed guidance from Benjamin Franklin in a 1786 article about firebox dimensions and chose a massive piece of limestone from a Madison quarry to be the centerpiece over the firebox. Such transfer of a rock today would surely include cranes and forklifts. They used logs, 2x4 boards, and levers to roll, push, pull, pry and maneuver the piece into place.

It was a major undertaking. I also enjoyed the stories of their scavenging and recycling boards that had floated down the river for a bunkhouse addition to the Shack and the building of the outhouse, humorously referred to as the "Parthenon."



Ecological Observations —

The family's astute documentation of nearby natural areas helped inform their ecological restoration decisions and practices as they set out to repair the degraded landscape around the Shack. They saw a nearby white pine forest remnant as "an ecological landmark" to mimic their pine plantings. They also collected plants and seeds of approximately 150 species of wildflowers and grasses from

a nearby railroad right-of-way where fires had helped conserve remnant prairie. Memorable wildlife encounters Estella vividly recalls include adventures to watch for and listen to woodcocks, band chickadees and call for owls.

Carrying Conservation Forward — The family planned for the future by starting the Aldo Leopold Foundation and Leopold Center. These entities are conserving the Leopold legacy promoting ecological restoration education going forward. Each of the children also longed for their own "shack" somewhere in their later years. Through this quest, they solidified and modeled the unifying theme of simplistic connection with stewarding a piece of land where they would develop a sense of place.

Previous visits to the Shack especially helped these tales come alive for me. I enjoyed visualizing where many of Estella's stories occurred. I found it meaningful to sit in one of their chairs in front of the fireplace where they cooked and sang, visit the Wisconsin River where they collected wood, swam, and observed thousands of sandhill cranes, and stand at the location where the "Good Oak" once existed and reread the essay that memorialized it. These connections between stories and place are powerful and memorable.



LEFT The Cornett family's highly diverse remnant prairie.
ABOVE White Jelly Fungus (*Ductifera pululahuana*) at Hillsdale Lake.

BRIAN L. MARTIN PHOTOS

Ferns: Horsetails of Kansas

— CRAIG FREEMAN

Among the fern allies most familiar to Kansans are the horsetails or scouring-rushes, members of the genus *Equisetum* (*Equisetaceae*). *Equisetum*, with fifteen species and found nearly worldwide, is the sole surviving group of an ancient lineage of plants that included tree-like species once abundant in Carboniferous swamps about 360 million years ago. The oldest fossils of *Equisetum* date to the early Jurassic, roughly 200 million years ago, and evidence suggests that they were important in the diet of some herbivorous dinosaurs, like duck-billed dinosaurs.

The name *Equisetum* is from the Latin *equis*, horse, and *seta*, bristle, alluding to the coarse black roots. The common name scouring-rush refers to the rush-like appearance of some species and the abrasiveness of their stems, due to the presence of small sand-like particles deposited in the plant's cells. This silica stiffens the stems and gives them their rough texture. Consequently, some species have been used to clean and polish metal, and for fine sanding of wood.

Horsetails thrive in damp or wet environments, such as marshes, wetlands, wet prairies, riverbanks, damp forests, and ditches. The green, erect-stemmed plants that we see are the sporophytes — the diploid generation of the plant. The sporophytes are recognized by their jointed, tubular stems bearing longitudinal ribs, whorled leaves reduced to small scales at the nodes, and spores borne in cone-like structures, called strobili (singular strobilus), at the stem tips. The scale-like leaves are fused along their margins and form a short sheath tipped with dark teeth. All horsetails are perennial, with stems arising from deep-growing rhizomes. Most species are less than a meter tall, but one tropical species grows to eight meters tall. The strobili

resemble small armored cones comprising tightly fitting, polygonal plates. Each plate is attached to the central axis of the strobilus by a small stalk. Sporangia, where haploid spores are produced, form a ring under each plate. As a strobilus matures, its central axis elongates, causing the plates to separate and exposing the sporangia to the air, which causes them to dry, split, and release their spores. Dispersal of the tiny, short-lived, photosynthetic spores is aided by four moisture-sensitive, strap-like wings called elaters. The elaters expand and contract in response to humidity changes and help carry the spores on air currents. If a spore lands in a suitable site, it germinates and grows into a green, unisexual, haploid gametophyte typically a few millimeters long. Although rarely

seen, horsetail gametophytes can be locally abundant, especially on exposed mud or sand along rivers, streams, and ponds. Sperm, from male gametophytes, and eggs, and female gametophytes, must fuse to produce a diploid zygote and, eventually, a new sporophyte plant.

Three species and one hybrid of *Equisetum* occur in Kansas. Not surprisingly, they are found most frequently in the wetter, eastern half of the state, but they do occur sporadically in western Kansas where there is reliable soil moisture.



Equisetum hyemale ssp affine

Equisetum laevigatum A. Braun (smooth horsetail) is our most common and widespread species. Documented in more than half of our counties, it occurs nearly statewide but is infrequent in the southeastern sixth of the state. Smooth scouring-rush is distinguished by stems lacking black bands below the sheaths or with bands only on lower stem segments, sheaths longer than they are wide, and strobili that are blunt-tipped. *Equisetum kansanum*, described in 1912 from plants collected in Clay County, Kansas by botanist John H. Schaffner, is a synonym of *E. laevigatum*.

Equisetum hyemale L. subsp. *affine* (Engelm.) Calder & Roy L. Taylor (scouring-rush horsetail, rough horsetail) has been recorded in about a quarter of our counties. It is most common in the eastern quarter of Kansas, with widely scattered populations in central and northwestern Kansas. Common scouring-rush can be recognized by the conspicuous black band below the sheaths of all stem segments, sheaths about as long as they are wide, and strobili that are pointed. The stems often last more than a year, remaining green through the winter, and sometimes form dense, nearly impenetrable stands in floodplains and ditches. Older stems sometimes branch near their ends, with the remnants of the older stems found among the branches.

Equisetum xferissii Clute (intermediate horsetail, Ferriss' horsetail) is a naturally occurring, sterile hybrid between smooth and common horsetail. The multiplication sign ("x") before the specific epithet indicates this is a hybrid species. Known from nearly forty counties, intermediate horsetail is encountered most frequently in the northeast quarter of the state. It can also be found at scattered sites in the southeast and central parts of Kansas, and at a few locations in the west. It sometimes is found outside the range of one or both parents, possibly due to plants persisting from a time when both parents were present or by the dispersal of rhizomes. Unlike its parental species, which have green, spherical, viable spores, intermediate horsetail produces white, misshapen, inviable spores. The stem characters are roughly intermediate between its parents.

Our last species, *Equisetum arvense* L. (field horsetail), occurs mostly in the northeast quarter of Kansas and sporadically in the southeast. It has been collected in about twenty counties. Unlike our other horsetails, which have strobili borne on green aerial stems, field horsetail produces strobili on fleshy, brown to grayish orange, non-photosynthetic stems. These fertile stems emerge in the early spring and die back to the ground soon after the spores are released. The sterile stems are green and branched.

The next time you are driving the Kansas back roads or exploring a marsh or river floodplain, watch for these living fossils. They are a fascinating and often overlooked component of our Kansas flora.

CRAIG FREEMAN

KNPS Annual Wildflower Weekend 2022

— KRISTA DAHLINGER

Mark your calendar for August 26, 27, and 28 to join KNPS in the "Heart of the Flint Hills." This year's Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) will take place in the Emporia area, between the Cottonwood and Neosho Rivers, where we will visit nearby tallgrass prairies and also the Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge.

The AWW is our most popular event each year where members are invited to enter their photos in the Annual Photo Contest, winners of the Mary A. Bancroft Memorial Scholarship are announced, KNPS Awards are given, KNPS Board Members are elected, and the Annual Silent Auction takes place. Jerry Jost, Executive Director of the Kansas Land Trust, will be our speaker

on the topic of Conservation Easements – we will learn what options are available to landowners to place protections on their lands from being divided or developed.

The Saturday business meeting will be held indoors in the afternoon, with outdoor activities scheduled in the cooler morning and early evening hours. A weekend itinerary will be published on the KNPS website in late-July, and all members will receive a printed invitation with itinerary in the mail. Mark your calendar now and plan to join KNPS in the Heart of the Flint Hills in late August. See you there!

Buffalo Hill Hiking Trails Open

— CYNTHIA RHODES & BRIAN MARTIN

After moving back to central Kansas in late 2002 upon the death of her husband, Susan Reimer and her two brothers, Toby and Kent, saw a for sale advertisement in a local newspaper about 160 acres with trees and native pasture next to Maxwell Wildlife Refuge. It was the following June, and as they walked this verdant prairie, green and blooming, Susan wishfully mentioned, "If only we could see the bison." She continued the story saying the Maxwell bison herd emerged over the hill in the adjoining pasture to her delight. Susan bought the acreage with every intention of eventually giving it to Maxwell Wildlife Refuge. Recently, she graciously donated her quarter section of native rangeland adjacent to the southern border of the refuge to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) to be managed by the Public Lands Division as an area where the public can hike and explore native prairie.

A formal opening ceremony was held on Thursday, July 7 at 10:00 AM at the Buffalo Hill Hiking Trails trailhead area to acknowledge Susan's donation and initiate the trails. Remarks were given to a crowd of twenty people by KDWP personnel: Jason Black, Cliff Peterson, Stuart Schrag, and others. KNPS members Brad Guhr and Phyllis Scherich noted Susan's involvement in KNPS as an active member and past board member for many years. Friends of Maxwell Wildlife Refuge board member Ken Stafford and new refuge director, Trisha McMullen, also presented remarks stating when people request where to hike at Maxwell, now the response can be to hike Susan's trails on Buffalo Hill.

After telling the history of her actions leading up to this ceremony, Susan was presented with a gift of gratitude for the land donation from the KDWP personnel in the form of a lovely framed print entitled "Prairie Monarch." When asked for a rationale for her actions today, Susan responded, "I asked myself: why wait until I'm dead? I wanted to do this now!" By the numerous rounds of applause extended, ceremony attendees agreed that Susan is leaving a special legacy to current Buffalo Hill Trails hikers and those yet to come in the future.

Take some time out this summer and fall to walk these newly opened hiking trails through native prairie at Maxwell Wildlife



ABOVE, TOP TO BOTTOM Susan (fifth from left) recounts the history of Buffalo Hill Hiking Trails on a warm July morning; Stuart Schrag and KDWP personnel present the framed print "Prairie Monarch" to Susan at the trailhead.

Refuge, 2565 Pueblo Rd, Canton. For more information, click maxwellwildliferefuge.com or call 620-654-7230. Note that the refuge visitor center is only open during tours, and the tour schedule may be found at the website tour calendar. The hiking trails are open year around.

BRIAN L. MARTIN PHOTOS

FEATURED NATIVE PLANT

Marbleseed | (*Onosmodium molle*)

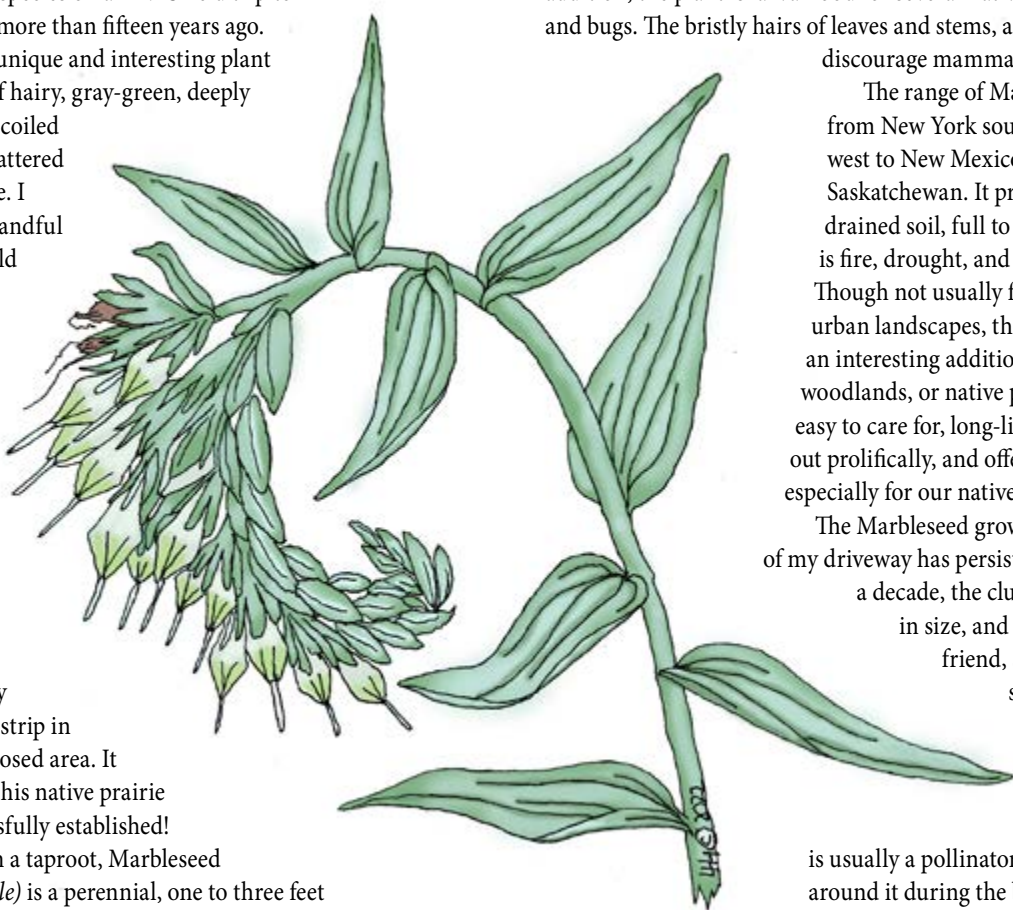
— LORNA HABEGGER HARDER

Thirty plus years ago, we began reclamation of the narrow strips of land, formerly agricultural fields that bordered our quarter-mile long driveway. Filled with weedy, introduced species for the most part, I wondered if we could convert these strips to some semblance of prairie. Methodology has been simple and totally un-scientific: widen the strips, burn, mow, broadcast seed of grasses and forbs as available, and then sit back and let the natural order proceed.

Thus, the small pearly white nutlets of Marbleseed found their way into this prairie-to-be landscape project. I was introduced to this species on a KNPS field trip to the Konza Prairie more than fifteen years ago. Marbleseed was a unique and interesting plant — subtle clumps of hairy, gray-green, deeply veined leaves with coiled flowering stems scattered through the prairie. I collected a small handful of seeds on that field trip, subsequently tossed them into the border strip, and waited to see what would happen. A year or more later a single plant appeared, a clump of several flowering stems growing at the very edge of the border strip in a dry, gravelly, exposed area. It was thrilling that this native prairie species had successfully established!

Emerging from a taproot, Marbleseed (*Onosmodium molle*) is a perennial, one to three feet tall, with multiple pale green, unbranched hairy stems. Alternate grayish-green leaves are sessile, one and one-half to three inches long, one-half to one inch wide, and with smooth margins. They are hairy on both the upper and lower leaf surfaces, and have three to seven conspicuous, parallel veins.

The main stems of the plant produce coiled racemes of flowers that occur on only one side of the raceme and face downward when blooming. Tubular corollas are white, one-half to three-quarters inch long, with a hairy green calyx, and a pistil with a long style that protrudes from the closed corolla tip. Blooming occurs in late Spring and early Summer. The raceme uncoils and straightens as the flowers bloom.



One to four hard, white nutlets are produced by each flower, ripening and dropping in early fall. Seeds on the ground may take several years to germinate. Pouring hot water over collected seeds and soaking them for twenty-four hours softens the hard seed coat to speed germination. Reproduction is by seeding for this species.

Marbleseed flowers offer both nectar and pollen to pollinators. Bumblebees are one of this species' important pollinators, but I have observed Monarchs nectaring on the plant as well. It is reported that other species of native bees and beetles also visit the flowers. In addition, the plant is larval food for several native moths, butterflies, and bugs. The bristly hairs of leaves and stems, and mild toxicity discourage mammalian grazers.

The range of Marbleseed extends from New York south to Louisiana, west to New Mexico, and north to Saskatchewan. It prefers rocky, well-drained soil, full to part sun, and it is fire, drought, and grazing tolerant. Though not usually found in native urban landscapes, this species makes an interesting addition to prairies, open woodlands, or native plant gardens. It is easy to care for, long-lived, it does not seed out prolifically, and offers food and habitat, especially for our native insects.

The Marbleseed growing at the edge of my driveway has persisted for more than a decade, the clump has increased in size, and like a dependable friend, shows up each spring, producing a lovely clump of flowering stems in early summer. There

is usually a pollinator or two hanging around it during the blooming season.

Insofar as I have observed, no offspring from the parent plant have successfully established in the driveway "prairie" to date, perhaps because cross-pollination is required. Broadcasting additional seed from a new source is planned as available. In the meantime, this single Marbleseed plant continues to delight each year!

References
<https://www.everwilde.com/store/Onosmodium-molle-WildFlower-Seed.html#:~:text=Sowing%3A%20To%20soften%20the%20hard,soil%20lightly%20moist%20until%20germination.>
https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/ws_marbleseed.html
https://www.kswildflower.org/flower_details.php?flowerID=134
<https://www.missouriibotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails>

— LORNA HABEGGER HARDER ILLUSTRATION



BRAD WILLIAMSON PHOTOS

An Enticing Entodon

— BRAD WILLIAMSON

Throughout the woodlands in the eastern half of Kansas (or further west along streams) you will likely find dead, fallen logs of walnut or oak that are resisting decay but have lost their bark. The term to describe these logs is decortified. And likely, along the top surface of most of these downed logs, you will observe a thick, green mat of moss. This moss mat reminds one of a shiny shag carpet. If it is winter to late spring, the green of the moss will be highlighted with the brick red and orange of the sporophytes or reproductive structures growing about an inch above the mat. This moss is *Entodon seductrix*. While *E. seductrix* is certainly an attractive, large moss you have got to wonder what Hedwig was thinking when he first named it. While you will find other mosses in this habitat growing on logs, in my experience *E. seductrix* is the most common.

These solid, grey logs rising like elongated islands off the forest floor are the perfect habitat for *Entodon seductrix*. This is a habitat with ample light and moisture but not likely to be covered in leaves. The *E. seductrix* can also be found down low on tree trunks, on rocks, and on bare soil near trails—places where leaves and litter do not accumulate. One might wonder about the moisture component of a bare log, but once the moss is established it acts as a superior sponge, soaking up any moisture that lands on the log—like the snow in this image when it melts.

About ten years ago in December, I finally mustered up enough courage and gumption to collect some moss and try to identify it using the dichotomous key in Steven Churchill's *A Synopsis of the Kansas Mosses*. The identification keys in this science bulletin are filled with technical jargon, there are no illustrations, and for much of the process observing the characters require a microscope along with some microscope skills, so I had more than a bit of trepidation. Still, I felt that since the key was not too long, I could literally just try every option/branch until I found something that fit. By the way, I do not recommend this booklet for learning mosses but it does provide a checklist and range maps for Kansas mosses.

I drove out to Clinton State park and walked along the hiking trail looking for some moss to try and identify. I was not very far into my walk when my eye was drawn to the moss growing along the

top surface of one of those fallen oaks all lit up by the low angle of the winter sun. One of the best ways to learn how to identify mosses is to start with a conspicuous moss that is not too similar to others. *Entodon* fits that requirement. I hustled back to the office to try and work out just what this moss was.

It was a tougher slog than I had anticipated. I was looking up every other word. Some I could not figure out what they could possibly mean. I was using my hand lens and trying to mount these little leaves on slides to examine under the microscope. I did not have a lot of success but I can be a bit stubborn and persistent. Using the internet I was able to track down some possible candidates that I got from the key and actually find photos of various mosses to help me narrow down the possibilities. More importantly, I found descriptions

to go along with the photos that actually made sense. Pretty sure it was blind luck, but after most of a day, I eventually settled on *Entodon seductrix*.

Once I had a name, I had to take the time to confirm the identification. Yes, it was found in Douglas County. Yes, it is a pleurocarp moss. Yes, the leaves do not really have a midrib (even though the key said they do). Yes, the leaves are one to two millimeters long, oval, and smooth.

Yes, the leaves are tightly placed on the stem creating a round braided yarn effect. Yes, the habitat is correct. As I used more and more resources, I kind of triangulated on the identification. It was a great feeling.

I have taken the time to describe this journey simply because learning mosses is a challenge, but with each success, the more we learn. Recently a number of online and print resources have made the challenge more doable for the novice, but it still requires some work and an understanding that mistakes are often our best teachers. Seems like being seduced by *Entodon seductrix* is a good way to begin. Why not give it a try: see if you can find some in your neck of the woods.

TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT Downed oak with *E. seductrix* and sporophytes; Close up of the "shag" carpet with sporophytes; Close up of the round, smooth and shiny stems, and leaves, along with a few sporophytes; A leaf from *E. seductrix* under the microscope at 10x magnification. Note the shape, the shapes of the cells in different parts of the leaf, the lack of a midrib, and how smooth it appears.

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!

Before you travel, use the contact information to confirm an event is still happening and not cancelled or rescheduled.

JULY | 24-28
THE 2022 NORTH AMERICAN PRAIRIE CONFERENCE will take place in Lincoln, Nebraska. **Learn more:** <http://www.northamericanprairie.org/>

JULY | 29
MOTH MANIA. Great Plains Nature Center, 6232 E. 29th St. N., Wichita, 8:30 to 11:30 PM. This is a night time adventure through the GPNC trails to see and learn about moths, spiders, and more as you stroll through their favorite places. **For more information and to register:** info@gpnc.org, 316-683-5499

AUGUST | 3
LANDSCAPING FOR WILDLIFE, K-STATE GARDEN HOUR, On-line, Noon to 1:00 PM CST. Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent, will discuss basic landscaping concepts that will encourage wildlife to visit your yard. 45-minute presentation, 10-15 minutes for questions and answers. **To register:** hnr.k-state.edu . **For more info:** 785-532-6170

AUGUST | 13
WILDFLOWER HIKE AT MOUNT MITCHELL HERITAGE PRAIRIE, 29377 Mitchell Prairie Ln, Wamego, 8 AM. Join Courtney Masterson on a wildflower walk at Mount Mitchell to see butterflies, milkweeds, compass plant, and many other native plants and insects. **Details:** call 785-537-4385 or click aok@audubonofkansas.org

AUGUST | 14
WILD COLOR/INKS AND DYES FROM NATIVE FLINT HILLS PLANTS, Pioneer Bluffs, 695 KS-177, Matfield Green, 1:30 to 3:00 PM. Learn about the rich array of native Flint Hills Plants that can be used to make a rainbow of dyes and inks from educator, plant enthusiast, and Chase County fiber artist Tracey Graham. Participants will dye a fabric scrap to take home inside a historic granary that is air-conditioned and accessible. Bring a picnic lunch. **To register:** <https://matfieldgreen.org/tracey-graham-wild-color-inks-and-dyes-from-native-flint-hills-plants/> For information: matfieldgreenworks@gmail.com

AUGUST | 20
FALL WILDFLOWER & BISON TOUR, MAXWELL WILDLIFE REFUGE, 2565 Pueblo Rd, Canton, 8:00 AM. Board a tram for a ride through first Maxwell's bison herd, then continue up the trail to unload and walk through the vibrant fall wildflowers on one of Kansas' last remaining native prairies. Cost \$15.00. **To reserve, call 620-654-7230, email Maxwellwildliferefuge@gmail.com**

AUGUST | 26-28
KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY'S 43RD ANNUAL WILDFLOWER WEEKEND (AWW) in Emporia and the beautiful Flint Hills area. Enjoy a full weekend of IN-PERSON outings, board meeting, membership meeting, programs, silent auction, photo contest, local dining, and socializing! Come and Join Us! **Watch for more details at the KNPS website and social media. Members will receive an invitation and itinerary through postal mail in July. Contact:** email@ksnps.org

SEPTEMBER | 3
SUNSET FALL WILDFLOWER PHOTO TOUR, MAXWELL WILDLIFE REFUGE, 2565 Pueblo Rd, Canton, 6:30 to 8:00 PM. Board a tram for a ride through first Maxwell's bison herd, then continue up the trail for sunset wildflower photos and long distance shots of the herd. Check-in at 6:15 PM. Cost \$35.00. **To reserve, call 620-654-7230, email Maxwellwildliferefuge@gmail.com**

SEPTEMBER | 7
RECOMMENDED TREES FOR KANSAS, K-STATE GARDEN HOUR, On-line, Noon to 1:00 PM CST. Dr. Jason Griffin, Woody Ornamentals Horticulture Extension Specialist, will highlight some of the best trees for various Kansas regions. 45-minute presentation, 10-15 minutes for questions and answers. **To register:** hnr.k-state.edu. **For more info:** 785-532-6170

SEPTEMBER | 9-11
FLORAKANSAS: FALL NATIVE PLANT DAYS at Dyck Arboretum, Hesston. This plant sale features hard-

to-find native perennials plus classes and tours. Member's only sale Sept. 8; 10% members discount on all days. Admission charge is by donation. **For more info** <https://dyckarboretum.org/arboretum-event/florakansas-fall/> or call 620-327-8127

SEPTEMBER | 10
EDIBLE PLANT & WILDFLOWER TOUR, Flint Hills Counterpoint, 1660 E. 90th, Peabody, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Explore and learn about the edible plants and wildflowers of Marion County on a walking tour with Aubrey Streit Krug and David Van Tassel of the Salina Land Institute, and Marilyn Jones of Marion County. **For details:** <https://www.flinthillscounterpoint.org/events/edible-plant-wildflower-tour-and-information:flinthillscounterpoint@gmail.com> or call 316-258-2342

SEPTEMBER | 12-16
PLAN IT NATIVE LANDSCAPES CONFERENCE by Deep Roots KC will offer more than twenty live, interactive sessions, three inspiring keynote speakers, and opportunities to connect with peers and sponsors. **More info, conference program, and registration at:** planitnative.org

SEPTEMBER | 13
NATURE BOOK CLUB, hosted by Lawrence Public Library in Lawrence, 6:30 to 8 PM. Join us to talk about fiction and nonfiction connected to the natural world. New book recommendations from co-leaders Jake Vail and Shirley Braunlich and other book club members. **Contact Shirley to RSVP:** sbraunlich@lplks.org or call 785-843-3833

SEPTEMBER | 23-25
ANNUAL PRAIRIE FESTIVAL at The Land Institute, 2440 E Water Well Rd, Salina 67401. The festival revolves around "low Tech" presentations by notable guests in The Land Institute's Big Barn. **Details are at** <https://landinstitute.org/news-events/prairie-festival/>

Join the KNPS email list to receive the latest event announcements: www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/email_list.php

NEW MEMBERS FROM 3/14/22 TO 6/12/22

Melissa Andrik – Osawatomie
Amy Berkley – Lawrence
Samuel Carter – Lawrence
Scotti Claeys – Paola
Ellie Clemmons – Oskaloosa
Caroline Dawson – Mission
Barnabas Hawkinson – Wichita
Mary Kay – Lindsborg
Lindsey Knopf – Gypsum
Marcia Lawrence – Emporia

Peg Lehosit – Lawrence
Shannon Leska – Lavon, TX
Jayne Lewis – Tecumseh
David McCuiston – Lawrence
Mary Miller – Spring Hill
Susan Morgenthaler – Fairway
Lynne Murrow – Wichita
William Narron – Belle Plaine
Isaac Ogle – Fayetteville, AR
Mary Ontko – Baldwin City

Bailey Patterson – Overland Park
Benjamin Patterson – Manhattan
Catherine Rocky – Wichita
Donna Russell – Lawrence
Tina Schindler – St Marys
Susan Whitfield – Lindsborg
Shiloh Williams – Shawnee
Melissa Zwellenberg – Shawnee

MEMBER RETURNING AFTER A HIATUS

Neil Snow – Pittsburg

Jill Haukos – Wamego

LIFETIME MEMBERS AS OF 6/16/22 (\$500 MEMBERSHIP LEVEL—ONE TIME PAYMENT)

Earl Allen – Manhattan
Steven Anderson – Burr Oak
Susan Appel – Leawood
Mary Apt – Iola
Iralee & Ken Barnard – Hope
Bob Barnhardt – Durango, CO
John Barnhardt – Nixa, MO
Rebecca Barnhardt – Bucklin
Robert G. Jr. & Martha Barnhardt – Bucklin
Roger Barnhardt – Lakin
Susan Blackford – Manhattan
Caroline Blakeslee – Boise, ID
William Bradley – Overland Park
Edith M. Bronson – Overland Park
Bob & Nadine Champlin – Sabetha
Fred & Nancy Coombs – Urbana, IL
Donna Cooper – Hays
Daniel Corbett – Topeka
Cowley County Conservation District – Winfield
Allyson Davis – Johnson
Barbara Davis – Wichita

Joseph Davis – Topeka
Mick Delfelder – Topeka
Jim Earnest – Leawood
Phillip Eastep – Cherryvale
Marci Eck – Paola
Lynn Fogle – Paola
Sandy Graue – Sand Springs, OK
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Mike Haines – Prairie Village
Sally Haines – Lawrence
Harriet & Joe Harris – Wichita
R. Clay Harvey – Topeka
Cynthia Higgins – Eudora
Karen Hummel – Manhattan
Nelda & Gilford Ikenberry – McPherson
JK Enterprises LLC – Andover
Brad Johnson – Arma
Margarete Johnson – Lawrence
Michael Kaye – Topeka
Kelly Kindscher – Lawrence
Laura Knight – Wichita
Elizabeth Leech & Steve Frazier – Mercer Island, WA

Lusk Family Foundation – Andover
Douglas R. May – Lawrence
Carol McDowell – Topeka
Brian McFall – Topeka
Joey McFall – Marion
Roxie McGee – Lawrence
Carol Morgan – Topeka
Ken O'Dell – Paola
Dan & Brenda Pace – Pretty Prairie
Cynthia & Ron Pedersen – Mound City, MO
Chad Phillips – Soldier
Warren Resner – Goddard
Carolyn Schwab – Newton
Ashley Sherman – Lawrence
Bob & Doris Sherrick – Peculiar, MO
Jason & Lisa Spangler – Austin, TX
Kim Stanley – McPherson
Margy Stewart & Ron Young – Junction City
Lisa Stickler – Bucyrus
Ray Woods – Independence

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS AS OF 6/16/22 (\$100 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVEL)

Dolores Baker – Fredonia
Nick Bertram – Great Bend
Bill Busby – Baldwin City
Kerry Chapman – Lawrence
Larry Davis – Merriam
Pete Ferrell – Beaumont
Craig & Jane Freeman – Lawrence
Dale Funk – Omaha, NE
Dale & Jackie Goetz – Overland Park
Edna Hamera – Mission Hills
Robert & Cathy Hansen – Kansas City, MO

Lorna Harder – Hesston
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Kathleen Hess – Westwood
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Indio Crow Yoga – Waverly
John Kenney – Leawood
Retta & John Kramer – Milford
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Want to know the status of your KNPS membership? Check the mailing label on the back of each issue for your membership expiration date.

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I 12/31/2022

CYNTHIA RHODES
6505 NW INDIANOLA RD
WHITEWATER KS 67154-8843





Champion Trees in the Flint Hills of Kansas

— KEN O'DELL

The Flint Hills encompasses all or part of twenty Kansas counties from near the Nebraska border stretching south into Oklahoma. In this article, I have highlighted several champion trees that you may find along your way through the middle of our state. I will start on the eastern side of the state and spiral my way to the center and the Flint Hills region. Come along with me and enjoy the ride and the view! By the way, if you are one of those who specifically and lovingly looks at trees, what is needed are several energetic women and men to work with the state champion trees if anyone is interested in getting a small group started.

Northwest of Kansas City and located in Wamego in Pottawatomie County, the state champion Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*) was recorded at seventy-one foot tall with a sixty-six foot spread, a circumference of seven foot eight inches, and totaling 180 points. (Do not get confused with the Pottawatomie Township in Franklin County on the east side of the Flint Hills.)

In the town of Denison in Jackson County just north of Topeka is the Champion northern red oak tree (*Quercus rubra*). This magnificent tree is 102 foot tall with a seventy foot spread, a thirteen foot ten inch circumference, and 286 points. In the revised and expanded edition of *Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines in Kansas*, University Press of Kansas, Mike Haddock and Craig Freeman have twenty-eight pages of full color slick paper starting on page 158 showing several oak trees with full color photos of twigs, leaves, flowers, and fruit. This is a great resource; the copy I have is six inches by nine inches and fits in my winter jacket pocket.

There are plenty of great trees to see in our beautiful capitol city of Topeka which is located in Shawnee County on the eastern edge of the flint hills. I frequently visit Gage Park, a beautiful and well-managed natural area located at 635 SW Gage Blvd, just an easy and

quick two minutes off of I-70. My dear friend, Bob Saathoff, would often meet me in Gage Park and show me around. Bob also shared tree seed with me. (Actually he gave me more than I gave him. Thanks Bob!) In this Topeka Park are located three champion trees! First, the state champion Sugar Maple tree (*Acer saccharum*) comes in at sixty-seven foot tall with a fifty-eight foot spread, twelve foot two inch circumference, and totals 227 points. The champion Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvatica*) measures at one hundred foot tall with an eighty-six foot spread, seventeen foot six inch circumference, and 332 points. Finally, the champion Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*) is seventy foot tall with an eighty-four foot spread, a twelve foot circumference, and 235 points. There are many magnificent trees in Gage Park, as well as Topeka itself!

Wabaunsee County is between Topeka and Manhattan and the home to our champion American sycamore tree (*Platanus occidentalis*). This beauty measures in at ninety-four foot tall, with a 101 foot spread, nineteen foot circumference, and 348 points. This tree is actually a few miles north of the city of Council Grove.

The city of Manhattan was founded a couple of years before statehood and is located in Riley County. This city is the home of Kansas State University and the state champion Ohio buckeye tree (*Aesculus glabra*). This tree measures in at forty-six foot tall with a thirty-eight foot spread, an eight foot one inch circumference, and 153 points. I saw this tree a few years ago and it was not in good condition at the time, so it may have been removed. Also in Manhattan is the champion chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*) measuring in at seventy-four foot tall with a sixty-four foot spread, ten foot three inch circumference, and 213 points.

Smack-dab in the Flint Hills is Chase County which is blessed with the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve: one of the great Wonders

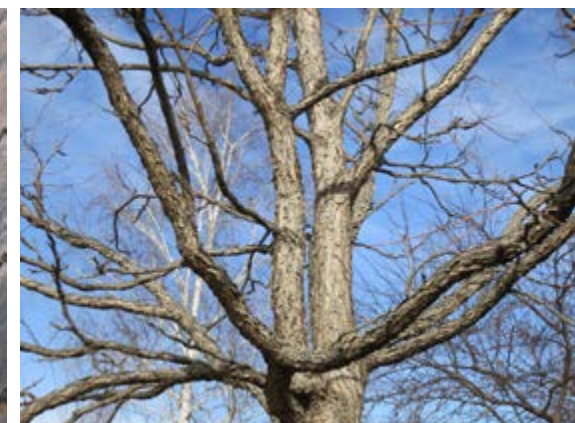
of Kansas because it represents the last significant tallgrass prairie in North America! Thinking about this prairie and the history of tallgrass brings me to the great book *Field Guide to the common grasses of Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska* by Iralee Barnard, University Press of Kansas. The information and photography in this field guide is stunning with close-ups and objects to show the stems, leaves, flowers, and seed in a way that I can relate. Iralee told me about some interesting species of hawthorns (*Crataegus*), and of a special one (*Crataegus pruinosa*) growing in scattered groups on the tallgrass prairie in the Strong City area. I have been there several times and the buffalo will give you a run for your money, so heads up. Oh, and if you do find this special hawthorn, send me a photo.

You may see other champion trees as you drive into the Flint Hills from other parts of the state. The Kansas state champion Kentucky coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioicus*) is in El Dorado, the county seat of Butler County, and east of Wichita. This stately tree is a big tree at seventy-five foot tall with a spread of forty-four feet, a nine foot circumference, and 194 points. A while back, I planted a coffeetree sapling I grew from seed. The seed germinated in 2019 and today the tree is just about five feet tall. Grow you little rascal, GROW.

The small town of Olpe in Lyon County is home to the state champion of the beautiful western buckeye (*Aesculus glabra* var. *Arguta*). This magnificent tree is thirty-eight foot tall with a thirty-two foot spread, a five foot circumference, and 106 points. Olpe is on Highway 99 just south of Emporia. Twenty years ago, Scott Vogt showed me the western buckeye growing at the Dyck Arboretum in Hesston and gave one (yes, ONE) seed to me from this tree. I grew it and planted it in the ground on our farm, and today it is twenty feet tall and loaded with nice yellow flowers each year. Deer do not seem to bother eating or rubbing the buckeye, but they sure take their pleasures on other tree species.

While you are getting to our KNPS events this summer, or just out and about in general, stop and admire a lovely and beguiling tree you find along the way. And maybe even take a photo of the tree itself. Then send me a photo of this tree you found and liked and tell me where you saw it. I want to admire it, too! My email address is ken@springvalleynursery.com. Oh, and remember, what is needed is a small group of tree-lovers just like yourself who want to keep track of these champion trees for others to enjoy.

KEN O'DELL PHOTOS



TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT
Quercus bicolor in September; American Sycamore in December: *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* in July.

BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT 3ft. long leaf of the Kentucky Coffee-tree; Distinctive bark of the Kentucky Coffee-tree.

Caring for Common Ground: Land, Community Restoration, and Spirituality

Caring for Common Ground — the Journey Continues

— LORNA HABEGGER HARDER

On the return from the Caring for Common Ground Institute in Madison, Wisconsin last October, the Kansas Team dreamed of new programming initiatives at the Dyck Arboretum. We wanted programming that encouraged a deeper and more contextualized understanding of our prairie land community. What is the geological history of our prairie landscape? Where does our water come from? Where does it go? What about our soils? Who was here before us — plants, animals and people? What are our personal stories of arrival on this landscape? How do we restore a prairie landscape? How are we informed by our faith/ethics/spirituality? These and other important questions have guided the programming process.

At present there are two programming initiatives underway.

1. Programming extending land community restoration to a wider audience –businesses, colleges, churches, schools, interested local citizens, and others. With Brad Guhr’s creation of a year-long program, and under his leadership, a small study group began monthly meetings in January. Study group members are taking a “deep-dive” into better understanding our land community, past, present and future, exploring our relationship with the land as we actively engage with it, and mindfully practicing the four Rs of the Ojibwe People: respect, responsibility, reciprocity, and restoration.

Throughout each month, study group members are individually engaged in reading and research, observation, and participation in land community restoration. At our monthly meetings, we share our findings, we listen, dialogue, share a meal, and we spend time in a seasonal outdoor activity, e.g., cutting cedars, birding, hunting mushrooms, weeding, collecting seed, and planting. At year’s end, it is our hope that each member of the study group will be able to tell their land community story in a personally meaningful way, a story that has been informed and enriched by this year’s experiences.

2. Programming developed specifically for Hesston College students. Throughout the spring, I have worked with Business Administration faculty in developing a one-hour weekend Caring for Common Ground Institute. The CCG Institute will provide opportunities for students to experience the outdoors, to observe, listen, dialogue, work together, and celebrate a land community. It is our hope that the CCG Institute provides a model that helps students incorporate land stewardship into business practices that are inclusive, equitable and regenerative to the land community; and that students will experience a safe, welcoming space that contributes to their personal and communal sense of well-being.

While this CCG Institute is geared to Business Administration students, additional interest from faculty in the sciences and humanities suggests that we have opportunities to further develop curricula in these disciplines. The first CCG Institute at Hesston College is scheduled for the 2022-2023 academic year.



BRAD GUHR

Study Group seeding the Harder prairie in February.

The Earth Partnership team from the University of Wisconsin and the Holy Wisdom Monastery in Madison continue to support our efforts. With the Garrett Theological Seminary team, we hope to re-convene later this year to write curriculum for Caring for Common Ground for both secular and religious communities. It seems ever more important and needed to build community with the land and in the process, with each other.

Caring for Common Ground . . . the journey continues

KNPS announces 2022 Plant A Prairie Awards

— PAUL SHOWALTER

A total of thirty Plant A Prairie grants were made to Kansas schools and youth organizations this year. Grantees receive thirty-two native plants (sufficient for an 8’ x 10’ garden), a wildflower poster, garden sign, planting instructions, and links to teaching resources. Plant A Prairie applications are accepted in the spring, and kits are delivered in the fall.

Now in its third year, Plant A Prairie is a K-12 hands on project that promotes the state’s biological heritage. Funding is provided by the Gary and June Kliesen Memorial Fund.

Participating organizations for 2022 are...

Ad Astra Academy	Buhler
Bickerdyke Elementary	Russell
Central Plains Elementary – USD 112	Holyrood
Chase County Jr/Sr High	Cottonwood Falls
Chisholm Middle School	Newton
CPS After School Program	Colby
Graber Elementary	Hutchinson
Halstead Middle School	Halstead
Heatherstone Elementary	Olathe
Hillcrest Elementary	Lawrence
Holton Middle School – USD 336	Holton
Lawrence High School	Lawrence
Lyons Middle School	Lyons
Maize High School	Maize
McPherson Alternative School	McPherson
Moundridge High School	Moundridge
New Horizon Ranch	Rantoul
Opportunity Academy – USD 373	Newton
Park Hill Elementary	Derby
Phillipsburg High School	Phillipsburg
Royal Valley High School	Hoyt
South Gray Junior High School	Copeland
Staats Tutoring	Paola
Swenson Early Childhood Center	Osawatomie
Topeka Lutheran	Topeka
Washington Elementary	McPherson
Washington Rural Middle School	Topeka

FEATURED NATURAL AREA

Explore Prairie Lakes

— CYNTHIA RHODES & BRIAN MARTIN

For an excellent outing to a lake near Wichita, we decided to venture south to the Winfield City Lake Recreation Area, and then on the way home to Butler State Fishing Lake and Wildlife Area. Each time we visit these two lakes we are treated with excellent botanizing adventures. For us, this amounts to a rewarding day-trip at any time of year.

Winfield City Lake Recreation Area is located on 141st Road, just eight miles northeast of Winfield in Cowley County, and can be accessed off US-77 by going six miles east on 82nd Road. The lake covers approximately 979 acres of surface area surrounded by 1,446 acres of rolling prairie hills, and shrubby, timbered, spring-fed creek valleys common to the Flint Hills. This lake offers excellent outdoor recreation for camping, boating, fishing, and swimming in scenic South Central Kansas. No permit is needed just for driving through the lake area. However, a permit is required for all vehicles parked on lake grounds. Most of the lake is surrounded by tallgrass prairie, but the north shore has wooded draws, hedgerows, and brushy areas where Timber Creek flows into the lake. Both the North and South Shore Recreation Areas are easily accessible by gravel road.

Plants found in October 2021 and May 2022 included: Leavenworth eryngo (*Eryngium leavenworthii*), Missouri evening primrose (*Oenothera macrocarpa*), Cobaea penstemon (*Penstemon cobaea*), Serrate-leaf evening primrose (*Calylophus serrulatus*), Spider antelopehorn milkweed (*Asclepias asperula*), Greenthread (*Thelesperma filifolium*), Willow-leaf sunflower (*Helianthus salicifolius*), Showy evening primrose (*Oenothera speciosa*), Norton’s flax (*Linum punctata*), and Prairie larkspur (*Dephinium carolinianum*).

Located in Butler County three miles west and one mile north of Latham, **Butler State Fishing Lake and Wildlife Area** was built in 1955. This is a 124 acre lake surrounded by 196 acres of Flint Hills prairie. While there is primitive camping only, this lake also has picnic tables, shelters, grills, a boat ramp, and water available. Most of the land around the lake is native prairie. The upper end

of the lake has some dense woody vegetation along the creek bottoms. In addition to being woody and shaded, the upper end of the lake is also endemic to marsh vegetation. This area becomes a spectacle of color when numerous species of wildflowers are in bloom.

Plants found in October 2021 and May 2022 contained these beauties and more: Pitcher sage (*Salvia azurea*), Purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*), Catclaw sensitive briar (*Mimosa quadrivalvis*), Plains wild indigo (*Baptisia bracteata*), Blue wild indigo (*Baptisia australis*), New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), and Pale poppy mallow (*Calirhoe alcaeoides*).

At the right time of year, either lake can be your peaceful, favorite

BRIAN L. MARTIN PHOTOS



ABOVE, TOP TO BOTTOM Blue wild indigo dazzles in a May meadow at the Winfield City Lake Recreation Area; *Penstemon cobaea* was abundant at Winfield City Lake; The browns, golds, and lingering greens amply color the October prairie at Butler County State Lake.

LEFT A prickly find: Leavenworth eryngo (*Eryngium leavenworthii*) at Winfield City Lake.

retreat in the heart of the Flint Hills. And both can be gloriously filled with the blossoms and smells of a native hay meadow at the peak of the season sure to bring to mind pleasant days gone by. Both lakes are surrounded by gravel roads and can be accessible in any season of the year. Go and see for yourself anytime: these two gems are waiting just for you!

KANSAS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

R. L. McGregor Herbarium
University of Kansas
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Lawrence, KS 66047-3729

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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 year. See upper right of mailing label for expiration date.

Please complete this form or a photocopy.
Send the completed form and a check payable
to the Kansas Native Plant Society:

Kansas Native Plant Society
R. L. McGregor Herbarium
University of Kansas
2045 Constant Ave.
Lawrence, KS 66047-3729

A membership to 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.

Kansas Native Plant Society welcomes everyone to join our membership. Read our full Statement of Diversity, Inclusion, and Non-Discrimination Policy on the website, ksnps.org.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Member Information

Name _____
Address _____
City/State _____
Zipcode _____
Phone _____
Email _____
County (if KS) _____

Membership Category

☐ Student \$15.00
☐ Individual \$20.00
☐ Family \$30.00
☐ Organization \$35.00
☐ Contributing \$100.00
☐ Lifetime \$500.00

Additional Donation: Legacy Fund \$ _____ Scholarship Fund \$ _____ General Fund \$ _____