



## “Where in the World Is” the 2007 KNPS Annual Meeting?

- CLUES:** (1) We'll see **sand dunes** (and the plants whose roots stabilize them).  
(2) The location is **central** so the travel won't be too grueling for most of us.  
(3) Our headquarters will be at a **nature center** that has “over 300 species of woody plants, and hundreds of varieties of birds”.  
(4) We'll also visit a **world-class golf course** that doubles as a nature preserve.  
(5) While in the area, you could also visit the **Kansas Underground Salt Museum**.  
(6) It's place where you can meet up with other **native plant friends**, old and new.

**ANSWER:** Hutchinson, Kansas, and surrounding area. (Did you figure it out?)

During the weekend of September 21 to 23 those attending the annual gathering of KNPS members and friends will have the opportunity to experience the unique geology and ecology of sand prairies as we tour Dillon Nature Center (clue 3), Sand Hills State Park (clue 1), tour and lunch at the historic Prairie Dunes Country Club (clue 4), and visit Bethel College's Sand Prairie Preserve. The 10 to 40 foot high dunes are remnants of wind-blown sands from the Arkansas River deposited at the end of the Ice Age. You will also have a chance to see some of your late summer favorites in the woody sites and also the beautiful grassland prairies in the areas between the dunes.

The Theme for this year's meeting is: “Wildflowers for the Masses.” Our three outstanding guest speakers will reveal three different ways we and others, as part of the “masses,” can have greater access to our Kansas plants by: learning more about the big picture of “The Vegetation of the Great Plains: Places, Processes, and Plants” by Craig Freeman; discovering how to give children an entry way into the natural world, including the plants, “Helping Children Know Wild Places” by Brad Guhr; and getting some help on planting and growing prairie plants in our communities and backyards, “Recipe for a Prairie Garden” by Scott Voigt.

We will have our slightly quirky Silent Auction again. Last year the contributions ranged from hand-make paper from plant fibers to an original painting to cookies for the trip home to a special bottle of wine. Go through your plant-related pictures and pick out some to submit to the photo contest. You will also have free time to explore the area, shop and visit, laugh, and share memories and plant hunting tales with people who find the same joy in native plants that you do.

More information is found on the newsletter inside pages. You will also receive a letter with the reservation form for our “Annual Wildflower Weekend” or AWW. Send your form in and start making your travel and overnight accommodations plans. It's going to be “AWWesome.”

### Inside this issue:

|                               |      |
|-------------------------------|------|
| President's Message           | 2    |
| Info about Annual Meeting     | 2    |
| Presentations                 | 4    |
| Wildflower Tours and pictures | 5-10 |
| Wildflower Events             | 11   |
| Featured Plant                | 12   |
| Annual Meeting                |      |

**Have you renewed your membership in KNPS? Check the first line in the address to see if you need to renew.**

The Kansas Native Plant Society Newsletter is printed four times a year: Winter (January), Spring (April), Summer (July), Fall (October). The deadline for submitted material is the 5th of December, March, June and September.



Kansas  
Native  
Plant  
Society

**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.**

# Message from KNPS President

*By Jeff Hansen*

Oh boy, I sure do love early summer weather. The past few days have been low humidity, cool nights, and a nice mix of clouds and sun. Just yesterday I was collecting the seeds for the Millenium Seed project and I came upon three fritillary butterflies on one purple milkweed bloom. The contrasting orange and purple was incredible. I'm really enjoying the white flowers that seem to predominate this season on the prairie. There is showy evening primrose, white wild indigo, prairie larkspur, and the beardtongues. Hope you all are out enjoying all the blooms.

Last weekend I attended the Wilson

County Wildflower Tour. What really amazed me was how interested the people in my group were about each plant. They wanted to know how to identify every single plant. This experience reiterated to me that we need more education on plants for the general public. People do want to know more. And this year's annual meeting which takes place under our newly coined name "Annual Wildflower Weekend" will deliver this information.

We always called the big KNPS weekend of events when we hold our general membership meeting the "Annual Meeting." Well, to most, meetings are boring. KNPS is not boring: our Annual Meeting isn't boring; therefore we wanted the name

to match the event.

I want everyone to bring at least one item to the silent auction and one picture for the photo contest. Everyone loves seeing pictures of plants from around the state and you should show off your work. The more things we have on the auction, the more fun we have. And the weekend is filled with fun. You will learn a lot, but mostly its just fun fun fun. And we all learn more when we are enjoying ourselves.

So plan on attending our 2007 Wildflower Weekend. Also, I want everyone to start thinking about where they want to hold the 2008 Annual Wildflower Weekend. Does your town want to host us?

## KNPS Annual Wildflower Weekend, Hutchinson KS., September 21-23

**Theme: "Wildflowers for the Masses!"**

9:00 am Annual Business Meeting: President Jeff Hansen.

### Friday, September 21

### Past Accomplishments. Future Plans.

2:00 pm Fall Board Meeting (Board members only)

10:00 am Awards. Election of new KNPS Board members.

3:00 pm All attendees meet at Dillon Nature Center, 3002 E. 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. Phone: 620-663-7411

10:30 am Refreshment break. Silent Auction continues.

3:15 pm Presentation: Dillon Nature Center – Jim Smith

10:45 am Presentation: "Helping Children Know Wild Places" by Brad Guhr

3:30 pm Tour the Nature Center

11:15 am Presentation: "Recipe for a Prairie Garden" by Scott Voigt

5:00-6:00 pm Free time (Check into lodging - see suggested list on following pages)

11:45 am Break

6:15 pm Dinner at Grand Prairie Hotel, 1400 N. Lorraine Street  
Phone: 620-669-9311

12:00 noon Lunch at Dillon Nature Center

7:30 pm Presentation: "The Vegetation of the Great Plains: Places, Processes, and Plants" by Craig Freeman

1:30 pm Caravan to Sand Hills State Park

8:30 pm End

3:30 pm Exploration, shopping, and dinner on your own.

**Saturday, September 22 Dillon Nature Center (3002 E. 30<sup>th</sup> Ave.)**

Sunday, September 23

8:00 am Registration. Coffee, juice, and rolls.

10:00 am Meet at Prairie Dunes Country Club, 4812 E 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. Phone: 620-662-0581

Set up Silent Auction

12:00 noon Lunch at the Prairie Dunes Country Club

Set up Photo Contest.

2:00 pm Tour Bethel College's Sand Prairie Preserve (about 20 miles east of Hutchinson)

Set up merchandise displays.

# Annual Wildflower Weekend Continued

## Hotel Room Blocks

The following hotels have reserved blocks of rooms for our members. Please mention this when making reservations.

## Room Block Hotels

### *America's Best Value Inn* (20 rooms)

Single - \$55

Double - \$60

620-662-6394

1315 E. 11th

Hutchinson, KS

### *Hampton Inn* (18 rooms)

\$89.95

620-665-9800

1401 ½ E. 11th

Hutchinson, KS

### *Comfort Inn* (22 rooms)

\$89.95

620-663-7822

1621 Super Plaza

Hutchinson, KS

### *Microtel Inn & Suites* (10 rooms)

\$69.95

620-665-3700

1420 N. Lorraine

Hutchinson, KS

### *Grand Prairie Hotel* (20 rooms)

\$89.00

866-577-7527

1400 N. Lorraine Street

Hutchinson, KS

## Other Hotel Options

### *Holiday Inn Express*

620-669-5200

1601 Super Plaza

Hutchinson, KS

### *Best Western Sun Dome*

620-663-4444

11 Des Moines

South Hutchinson, KS

### *Econo Lodge*

620-663-1211

15 E. 4th

Hutchinson, KS

### *Scotsman Inn*

620-669-8281

322 E. 4th

Hutchinson, KS

## Bed & Breakfasts

### *Elisha House*

620-669-0856

100 Crescent Boulevard

Hutchinson, KS

### *Prairie Moon*

620-662-8343

1403 N. Main

Hutchinson, KS

### *The Painted Garden*

620-665-6100

408 E. 1st Ave

Hutchinson, KS

## Hutchinson Attractions

Kansas Underground Salt Museum

Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center

Historic Fox Theatre

Dillon Nature Center

Carey Park

Hutchinson Zoo

Hedricks Exotic Animal Farm

Hutchinson Art Center

Kansas Kids Museum

Kansas Splashdown Indoor Water Park

Reno County Museum

Salt City Splash Aquatic Center

## Photo Contest

The Photo Contest is the perfect opportunity to show off your photography.

## Rules

1. Photo submissions are accepted from KNPS members only.
2. The subject of all entries must be native plant species or native landscapes in the state of Kansas.
3. Two entries per category per KNPS member are allowed.
4. Photos may be in color or black and white.
5. Photos should range in size from 4" x 5" to 8" x 10".
6. Each photo must be mounted on poster board. Matting is optional. No frames, please.
7. Each photo must have a label with the following information:

Category (see below)

Photographer's Name and City

Title of photo (include plant species name, if applicable)

Location where photo was taken

Camera type (e.g. SLR, digital)

8. Photographs will be judged according to the following criteria: Composition, Sharpness, Exposure, Color, Appropriateness to category, Presentation, Full label information

9. Digital photographs that are cropped or enhanced must be indicated as such.

10. Bring your photos to the Annual Meeting. Do not send photos to KNPS.

11. Categories

**Trilogy:** three photos of the same species showing different stages of the plant (i.e. of the flower, fruit, and whole plant – all matted together).

**Flora:** a photo of a whole plant or plant part. Examples: flower, fruit seed, leaf, bark, or bud.

**Fauna:** a photo of animals using native plants. Examples: larva eating a plant, birds eating seeds, insects pollinating native flowers.

**People:** a photo of people enjoying native plants and their habitats. Examples: people at a KNPS outing, people enjoying a favorite bloom.

**Scenery:** a photo of a native landscape such as a prairie, woodland, or wetland. Examples: fire in the Flint Hills, sunrise on the wetlands.

**Landscaping:** a photo of native plants used in a landscape created by people. Examples: your favorite garden.

## Poster

Every member is entitled to a 2' by 3' KNPS Wildflower Poster. If you do not yet have your poster, pick it up at registration.

## Silent Auction

The Silent auction fundraiser will be held during the business meeting Saturday morning, September 22. Proceeds will

## Events Continued

benefit the programs of KNPS. Bring a few items to donate to the auction and help KNPS prosper. Items such as artwork, crafts, books, posters, apparel, jellies, cookies, breads are just a few of the items that would be appropriate. This activity ends up being a good mixer for the members and there is always some aggressive bidding on certain items.

## Presentations

### From Dried Plants to Paper

By Vondie O'Connor

On April 22, KNPS President Jeff Hansen taught a class of eager students the fine art of making paper from native plant material. We met Sunday morning at the Karl-lyle Woods campus of Washburn University in Topeka, a beautiful, secluded campus once owned by the Menninger family and now used as a biology laboratory. Jeff began the session with a discussion of the history of papermaking and how the process evolved over time. Next we learned the actual process of making paper in general and talked about the tools and chemicals needed for the process. Jeff shared his experience of the native plants that he had used most successfully and showed beautiful examples of many of the papers he had made with various stems, leaves, and seeds of plants harvested from the prairie.

Each student selected a plant to work with and we began the process of making our own paper. Thanks to Jeff and a few of the students who had brought a variety of dried native plants, we had a good variety of plant material from which to choose. The first step was to cut the plants into 1 inch pieces, add this to a solution of sodium carbonate, and then bring the mixture to a boil on stoves set up outside. It was a beautiful sunny day, so while the plant material was cooking, Jeff led a nature walk to identify spring wildflowers on the campus, and to point out the unfortunate results of the introduction of non-native plants, such as imported honeysuckle, and their effect on the habitat. We returned to the lab, had a quick lunch, and then began processing our respective plants.

The boiled material had to be thoroughly rinsed to remove all of the sodium

carbonate, and then depending on the plant, had to be pounded with a rubber mallet to further break down the stem fiber, and processed in a blender to separate the material even further. The resulting fiber was suspended in a tray of water. Jeff brought several different sized screens and frames (called deckles and molds) used to catch the water-suspended fiber in thin sheets that were then transferred to pieces of cloth (called felts). With a little practice, all of us mastered the process. The sheets of fiber and felt were stacked and put into a press to remove much of the water. After a few minutes, the stack was removed from the press, and the individual felts were separated to dry a little. Finally, when it was dry enough to work with, we peeled the paper off of the felt and laid it out to dry. It was amazing to see our resulting papers of golden rod, false indigo, and little bluestem, among others.

When all was said and done, we had learned a little bit about an amazing craft from a great teacher, had observed several beautiful wildflowers and abundant wildlife, and had enjoyed great fellowship with nice and interesting people. What a great way to spend a day.

### Civic Improvement Club Blossoms



The plant/paper drying. It was interesting to see the fibers dried to paper. Jeff Hansen made the afternoon very fun and interesting for us all.

Photo by Vondie O'Connor

### Out

By Evelyn Reed

Phyllis Scherich gave a Power Point presentation about wildflowers at the April 10, 2007, meeting of the Civic Improve-

ment Club in Comanche County. She showed slides of at least 135 plants, mostly flowering, to ten members and one guest in a very appropriate setting, the rural home of hostess June Kliesen. Members answered roll call by sharing what their favorite wildflower is. Some didn't know the name of the flower they liked, but did find out what it was from the program.

All of the flowers shown are present on the Merrill Ranch where Phyllis lives. Most of them are desirable plants, but some of those shown are considered as less desirable. These include silky locoweed, common dandelion, field bindweed, prickly pear cactus, hedge bindweed, buffalo gourd, cocklebur, buffalo bur.

Some of the plants are found infrequently, if ever, in other parts of Kansas. These include Oklahoma phlox, blue funnel lily, narrow-leaf globe mallow, and Texas scorpion weed. Plants that have medicinal uses include Black Sampson (narrow leaf coneflower), scientific name *Echinacea augustifolia*. It is still used to ward off colds. The root contains pain-reducing compounds, and chewing a small portion will numb the tongue. Native Americans used this plant to treat toothaches, sore throats, mumps, wounds, and burns.

Many of the plants are edible, but one should be sure they have the right plant, and also that it hasn't been sprayed or subjected to other undesirable compounds. The common dandelion leaves are used in salads, and wine is made from other parts of the plant. The roots of western salsify can be eaten, also the roots of purple poppy mallow. Both the fruits and leaf pads of prickly pear cactus can be used--minus the prickly spines, of course! Blossoms of the yucca, or small soap weed are used in salads, and the green seed pods of the Devil's claw are sometimes pickled.

Roadsides are obvious places where wildflowers are found. The practice of spraying to kill weeds destroys the lovely wildflowers as well as the weeds. If you know of places where there are colonies of wildflowers in the right-of-way along your property, you can request that the area not be sprayed. Mowing also inhibits growth and propagation of wildflowers.

# Wilson County Annual Wildflower Tour

By Gina Thompson

The Wilson County 12th Annual Wildflower Tour was held on Saturday, June 2nd at a remote location a few miles south of Coyville, Kansas. The wildflowers were diverse and abundant with over 55 plants identified and flagged. Favorites included the prickly Catclaw Sensitive Brier, Scurfpea, and Pale-Spike Lobelia to name a few. Two "mystery" plants were also included in the tour, as was a burnt cedar tree, noted in the flower guide as a landowner's favorite type of cedar. Also noted was where a large hay bale had rested too long, causing the native plants to be smaller in size and less diverse than other areas of the meadow.

Approximately 60 people of all ages attended and enjoyed the wildflower tour which included a continental breakfast and a picnic lunch. Though the possibility of rain

was forecast, the day was sunny and warm. The Conservation Auxiliary and the Wilson County Conservation District were thanked by participants for co-hosting another well-planned and successful wildflower tour.

Jeff Hansen was one of the guides at the tour.

Photo by Donna Gallon



## Tallgrass Prairie "Wildflower Weekend"

By Iralee Barnard

Eight KNPS volunteers participated in the NPS "Wildflower Weekend" at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve June 9 and 10. Guided prairie walks, prairie bus tours, paper making and plant dying demonstrations were

part of the program. Wildflowers were showy and abundant on the nature trail. Butterfly milkweed was the favorite. Several people commented on how much they enjoyed the activities. Planning has already begun for 2008, but the date may be changed. Watch for announcements.

## Barber County Wildflower Tour

By Phyllis Scherich

*Spring Up With Wildflowers* was the theme of the May 12 Barber County Wildflower Tour. After breakfast of homemade cinnamon rolls, fresh fruit and coffee and a slide show featuring local wildflowers, all loaded onto buses for a tour into the Gyp Hills southwest of Medicine Lodge. Leaders for the event, organized by the Barber County conservation district, were Harold Kline, Dr. Melvin Conrad, Dr. Stephen Timme, and Glen Snell. The beautiful spring weather provided the numerous participants with a wonderful display of early spring wildflowers. During the morning stop, 32 wildflowers were identified including scarlet globemallow, prairie groundsel, cobea penstemon, rabbit tobacco, and Lambert's crazy-

weed. A special "find" was the "true leaf" stage of the prickly pear cactus. They were narrowly oblong, succulent, and had a fleshy color. The tiny cactus pads were just emerging.

Lunch featured BBQ beef sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans and pie. Break-time entertainment consisted of two readings, which the performer will take to a national competition. The afternoon stop showcased 30 more wildflowers including the wild blue indigo, white-bract hymenopappus, small soapweed, blue funnel lily, citron and downy paintbrush, and yellow flax. Bonuses on the way home included watching the Larson Trail Riders as they returned from a day of riding and spotting a large group of the pink pincushion cactus blooming brightly along the roadside.



Group at Barber County Tour  
Photo by Phyllis Scherich

# Konza Prairie Annual Wildflower Walk

By Valerie Wright

Konza Prairie Biological Station held the Friends of Konza Prairie's seventh annual Wildflower Walk on Sunday, June 10th. The evening was perfect for 115 visitors who walked the Butterfly Hill Trail. Seventeen Konza Prairie Docents, including several KNPS members and

Board representatives Nancy Goulden, Earl Allen and Valerie Wright, registered visitors, organized walks, promoted KNPS and led groups of approximately ten visitors. They pointed out and named sixty-six species of tallgrass prairie plants in bloom. Butterfly Milkweed, Purple Coneflower, and Showy Evening Primrose are always the favorites. Both the Claspings and Slimpod Venus'-looking-glasses, peeking out from the grasses, were surprising plentiful. This year's diversity was greater than usual because of the good rains, with a lot of buds and blooms on every plant.



Milkweed landscape - Konza  
Chod Hedinger

## Cowley County Wildflower Tour

By Krista Dahlinger



Photo by Krista Dahlinger

On Saturday June 9, the 2007 Cowley County Wildflower Tour took place at the Winfield City Lake. The morning began by gathering at the Winfield High School at 8:00 a.m. for coffee, doughnuts and registration sign-in. Dr. Charles Hunter of Southwestern College presented a slide show and informational pre-

view of some of the wildflowers to be seen later that morning. Approximately 25 wildflower enthusiasts attended the event, some knowledgeable about wildflowers and some not; all boarded a school bus for the short trip to the lake.

Fifty two wildflowers had been flagged for the tour, and it was interesting to view two very different groups of wildflowers in bloom on the same day on opposite sides of the lake. The showstoppers of the day included a massive or-

ange butterfly milkweed in full bloom, green milkweed, deptford pink, lead plant, and evening primrose in bloom and with winged seed pods. Although grasses were only knee high, the group was shown how to identify big bluestem, little bluestem, indian grass and switch grass by ligule shape. Just one *Lespedeza sericea* plant had been located and flagged, and we learned to identify this plant by its leaf shape. Several tour guides shared information on tall grass prairie characteristics, such as soil nutrient availability, root strategies, protein content and palatability of different grasses and forbs, and plant populations, as indicators of prairie health and evolution. The sun stayed behind cloud cover most of the morning making for an enjoyable morning among the wildflowers.

Sponsors and tour guides for this event were: KNPS (Krista Dahlinger); USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (Barry Barber and Katie Wilson), Cowley County Conservation District, Cowley College (Richard Tredway, retired), Southwestern College (Dr. Charles Hunter), the Kansas State University Research and Extension office and the Cowley County Farm Bureau (Denise Noonan). Many thanks to these organizations and tour guides for their time and resources given to the wildflower tour event, and thanks also to the office personnel at the Winfield City Lake and NRCS office. *The Steps to Success - Wildflower Tour* brochure was consulted while planning this tour and proved to be very helpful - also, areas for improvement for the brochure have been noted.

# Photo Gallery — More pictures from Field Trips



**Wilson County**

Round-fruited St John's wort

Photo by Donna Gallon



Cats claw - Photo by  
Donna Gallon

## **Barber county**



Nipple cactus in bloom - Photo  
by Phyllis Scherich

## **Konza**



Slimpod Venus'-looking-glass -  
Photo by Chod Hedinger



Sulphur cinquefoil - Photo by  
Chod Hedinger



Butterfly milkweed.- Photo by Chod  
Hedinger



Sullivan's milkweed

Photo by Chod Hedinger

# Photo Gallery — More pictures from Field Trips

## Neosho



Indian paintbrush  
Photo by Mike Haddock



Shooting star  
Photo by Mike Haddock



Shooting star, *Dodecatheon meadia*  
Photo by Mike Haddock



Prairie irid  
Photo by Mike Haddock

## Comanche



Spider antelopehorn milkweed  
Photo by Phyllis Scherich

Close up of flower head



## Calhoun



Eastern gamma grass.  
Photo by Nancy Goulden



Prairie phlox Photo by Nancy  
Goulden



Sulfur cinquefoil Photo by  
Nancy Goulden

# Calhoun Bluff Prairie Walk

by Shirley Braunlich

Twenty-nine people gathered for an improbable Wednesday evening to experience Calhoun Bluff Prairie. Looming storms passed in time to allow the foray, and we enjoyed a beautiful sunset instead of rain. This 55-acre Glaciated Tallgrass prairie displayed a blanket of diverse and colorful flora. Vivid blooms included the orange flowers of Gama Grass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*) and Butterfly Milk-



Sunset - Photo by Nancy Goulden

weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*); purple Venus' Looking-Glass (*Triodanis perfoliata*) and Wild Alfalfa (*Psoraleidum tenuiflorum*); yellow Serrate-leaf Evening Primrose (*Calyophus serrulatus*) and Fringed Loosestrife (*Lysimachia ciliata*); pink Prairie Phlox (*Phlox pilosa*) and Cat's Claw Sensitive Briar (*Mimosa quadrivalvis*); blue Pale Spiked Lobelia (*Lobelia spicata*), and white New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*). Kansas Native Plant Society President Jeff Hansen led an engaging hike. Jeff made sure everyone was familiar with his favorite sedges and the

showy flowers too.

This privately owned prairie on the east side of Topeka holds much history. It was once the site of a town named Calhoun. Because of the historical significance of the land, the owner was able to stop a planned highway from being built through the prairie. You can learn about the area's history by reading the book Oakwood Farm: Biography of a Kaw Valley Homestead by Martin Jones.



Prairie landscape - Photo by Nancy Goulden

This event was especially important because "Sunflower Journeys" Producer Jim Kelly joined our walk and filmed a variety of views of the prairie. Kansas Native Plant Society and the importance of preserving native plant species will be mentioned in a future episode of the local "Sunflower Journey's" television show. Don't despair if you were unable to attend this outing because the owner generously invited us to arrange a future visit.

## Neosho County Field Trip

By Carl Paulie

On May 12, we had our flower tour. There were 4 in attendance. High gas prices probably kept most people away. Those in attendance were: Myself, Nancy Delozier, Marilyn Armstrong and Michael John Haddock, Author of *Wildflowers & Grasses of Kansas*, University Press of Kansas. Some highlights were: Shooting Stars, a few Indian Paintbrush, Irids, Spiderwort, Plains Indigo, Blue Indigo,

Penstemon cobaea. P. digitalis, Hoary Puccoon etc.

Michael said he'd photographed a number of species which he hadn't yet seen. We all had a splendid time.

**If you would like to help ensure another color issue for October, send your contribution to: KNPS, R.L. McGregor Herbarium, 2045 Constant Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66047-3729.**

# Comanche County Nature Tour

By Evelyn Reed

Saturday, the 19th of May, began with overcast skies that became sunny as the 28 people who attended the Nature Tour visited several sites to see flowers and listen to birds. Everyone gathered at the cafeteria in South Central High School at 8:30 in the morning for



Attendees learn about the Indian hemp dogbane from Dr Bob Nicholson of Ft Hays State University. Photo by Phyllis Scherich

cinnamon rolls, coffee, orange juice and fruit. The group then heard Stan Roth, noted naturalist, tell about the Gypsum/Red Hills. Bob Nicholson, a prairie ecologist from Hays, and Tom Flowers, a renowned naturalist who writes a column in the *Dodge City Globe*, and is author of the book, *Birds of Meade County*, also assisted with the tour. Other persons of expertise present were Joyce Davis, an avid and extremely well-informed birder from Dodge City; Dr. Ely, a retired biology professor from FHSU, who is doing research on the moths of Kansas; and Mike Haddock, author of the very popular and useful book, *Wildflowers and Grasses of Kansas*.

Among the 23 plants seen at the first site, Lake Coldwater, were: purple poppy mallow, Indian hemp dogbane, Oldfield toadflax, catchweed bedstraw and Englemann's daisy. At the second area, these additional plants were noted: Western yarrow, Venus' looking glass, pokeberry, sow thistle, wavy thistle, and sandhill plum.

In the afternoon, the group visited the Kliesen Ranch where they located over 15 plants and flowers in the sandy area that was dominated by sand sage. Twistflower plants, spiderwort, lazy daisies, small flowered gaura, plains larkspur, yucca, cutleaf evening primrose, Carolina puccoon, butterfly milkweed, day-flowers and white polygala were also seen. At the second stop, a hilly area, there were numerous cobaea

penstemons and cat-claw sensitive briars, plus the many-seeded plants of the blue funnel lily, lemon paintbrush, downy paintbrush, low fleabane, scarlet globe mallow, blue wild indigo, breadroot scurfpea, stemless hymenoxys, Lamberts crazyweed, a vast area of a yellow variety of Berlandiere's flax, and ratany, making a total of 36 plants flagged in this area. In the area of the house itself, woolly loco, wild onion, gailardia, false dandelion, rock pink fame flower, goatsbeard, Dakota verbena, yarrow, old plainsman, big bluestem, little bluestem, and plains larkspur were added to the list.



Comparing common dandelion, false dandelion, and western salsify.

Photo by Phyllis Scherich



Part of the group on the deck at June & Gary Kliesen's home after enjoying lemonade and homemade cookies following the afternoon tour at the Comanche County Nature Tour. Photo by Phyllis Scherich

## ***2007 Kansas Area Native Plant & Wildflower Events***

Information provided by Kansas Native Plant Society, R.L.McGregor Herbarium, 2045 Constant Ave., Lawrence, KS 66047-3729.

Online: [www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org](http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org)

Email: <kansaswildflowers@yahoo.com> or email@knps.org

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

**July 13-14:** Iowa Prairie Conference at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, IA. Here is your chance to see lots of great Loess Hills prairie in northwest Iowa! [<http://www.ipc2007.com/>] Post-conference field trips will be held on July 15. Among the field trip options will be a chance to visit Olson Nature Preserve in Nebraska near Albion; we'll explore the eastern-most extension of the Nebraska Sand Hills. Contact Dianne Blankenship <bennaid@hotmail.com> (712) 255-3447

 **July 21:** Volunteers are needed for prairie maintenance and preservation projects. Assist the Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs [[www.grasslandheritage.org](http://www.grasslandheritage.org)]. Wear appropriate clothing. No special skills or tools needed. For details, please contact Frank Norman, Kansas Native Plant Society Board Member <frank.norman@appliedeco.com> (785) 887-6775.

**July 21:** Hike with a Naturalist at Lakeside Nature Center in Kansas City, MO at 10:30am. Discover Lakeside Nature Center within Swope Park. Explore the natural ecosystems of Oak-Hickory Forests, Riparian Zone Forests, Limestone Glades, Oak Savannas. Trails will be chosen for each hike as appropriate for the season (i.e...no hiking in the wetlands during a flood!)...so call ahead to register and learn which trail will be explored. There is no fee for these guided Nature Hikes. Plan to return to the Nature Center around Noon. For more information and to register, call (816) 513-8960.

**August 4:** A Bloomin' Good Tour at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, 10am - 2pm. Join us on the cusp between the early summer and fall blooming wildflowers for a memorable prairie experience. Guided tour of the refuge at 10, followed by Lunch & Victorian "language of the flowers" display at Victorian Tea & Treasures in Canton at 11:30. We will tour three local backyards after lunch. The Refuge is located 6 miles north of Canton, KS. Registration is \$18 per person. For reservations, call (620) 628-4455 or (620) 628-4484.

**August 4:** Wildflower Hike at Prairie State Park near Lamar, MO. Summer may fade into fall, but that does not mean the flowers are fading. Beat the heat and come out early to enjoy the colorful wildflowers and grasses of the prairie. Identification, uses, folklore and more will be shared. (417) 843-6711

 **August 18:** Volunteers are needed for prairie maintenance and preservation projects. Assist the Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs [[www.grasslandheritage.org](http://www.grasslandheritage.org)]. Wear appropriate clothing. No special skills or tools needed. For details, please contact Frank Norman, Kansas Native Plant Society Board Member <frank.norman@appliedeco.com> (785) 887-6775.

**August 18:** Hike with a Naturalist at Lakeside Nature Center in Kansas City, MO at 10:30am. Discover Lakeside Nature Center within Swope Park. Explore the natural ecosystems of Oak-Hickory Forests, Riparian Zone Forests, Limestone Glades, Oak Savannas. Trails will be chosen for each hike as appropriate for the season (i.e...no hiking in the wetlands during a flood!)...so call ahead to register and learn which trail will be explored. There is no fee for these guided Nature Hikes. Plan to return to the Nature Center around Noon. For more information and to register, call (816) 513-8960.

**September 1:** Wildflower Hike at Prairie State Park near Lamar, MO. Experience the 'height' of the tallgrass prairie while enjoying a peaceful walk among tall grasses and fall wildflowers. Plant identification, gardening tips, and medicinal and edible uses will be shared. (417) 843-6711

**September 8-9:** FloraKansas Great Plains Plant Bazaar. This is the largest native plant sale in Kansas featuring hard-to-find native perennials, shrubs and trees plus fun 'gardenabilia'. Saturday offerings: classes, demonstrations, and tours from professionals. Hours: Saturday 8am-4pm, Sunday noon-4pm, and Monday 8am-8pm. Contact the Arboretum about becoming a member and special members-only early sale dates. Admission charge is by donation. Location: Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, 177 West Hickory Street, Hesston, KS. Hesston is 30 miles N of Wichita. <arboretum@Hesston.edu> (620) 327-8127

 **September 15:** Forest Foray at Douglas State Fishing Lake, 10am. The east side of the lake is a diverse forested habitat. Explore this unique area with Kansas Native Plant Society. Caleb Morse, Collection Manager for the McGregor Herbarium will lead the foray. The lake is three miles northeast of Baldwin City, KS. Take Hwy 56, turn north onto E 1950 Rd to N 450 Rd and go west. Meet in the parking lot off N 450 Rd. To car pool from Lawrence, meet at 9:15am in the parking lot for the McGregor Herbarium / Bridwell Lab and Monarch Watch, Constant Ave. & Crowell Dr, West Campus at KU. <cmorse@ku.edu> (785) 864-4493

McGregor Herbarium / Bridwell Lab and Monarch Watch, Constant Ave. & Crowell Dr, West Campus at KU.  
<cmorse@ku.edu> (785) 864-4493



**September 15:** Forest Foray at Douglas State Fishing Lake, 10am. The east side of the lake is a diverse forested habitat. Explore this unique area with Kansas Native Plant Society. Caleb Morse, Collection Manager for the McGregor Herbarium will lead the foray. The lake is three miles northeast of Baldwin City, KS. Take Hwy 56, turn north onto E 1950 Rd to N 450 Rd and go west. Meet in the parking lot off N 450 Rd. To car pool from Lawrence, meet at 9:15am in the parking lot for the McGregor Herbarium / Bridwell Lab and Monarch Watch, Constant Ave. & Crowell Dr, West Campus at KU.  
<cmorse@ku.edu> (785) 864-4493



**September 15:** Volunteers are needed for prairie maintenance and preservation projects. Assist the Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs [[www.grasslandheritage.org](http://www.grasslandheritage.org)]. Wear appropriate clothing. No special skills or tools needed. For details, please contact Frank Norman, Kansas Native Plant Society Board Member <[frank.norman@appliedeco.com](mailto:frank.norman@appliedeco.com)> (785) 887-6775.



**September 21-23:** Kansas Native Plant Society's 29th Annual Meeting will be held in Hutchinson in south central Kansas. We will visit sand prairies in and around Reno County. The weekend is filled with outings, programs, a photo contest, dinner, and socializing. Please contact KNPS for more information. <[email@KSNPS.org](mailto:email@KSNPS.org)> (785) 864-3453



**October 20 and November 17:** Volunteers are needed for prairie maintenance and preservation projects. Assist the Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs [[www.grasslandheritage.org](http://www.grasslandheritage.org)]. Wear appropriate clothing. No special skills or tools needed. For details, please contact Frank Norman, Kansas Native Plant Society Board Member <[frank.norman@appliedeco.com](mailto:frank.norman@appliedeco.com)> (785) 887-6775.



Please visit our website for more 2007 events, [www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org](http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org).

## Lillabelle Stahl Legacy

*By Jane and Craig Freeman*

Lillabelle Stahl, 92, of Osage City, Kansas, passed away on December 31, 2006. Lillabelle was an active member of the Kansas Native Plant Society, serving on the Board of Directors from 1981—1993. She served as the Society Secretary from 1981—1991. Lillabelle was kind and unpretentious, and her minutes captured in great detail the proceedings of

the organization in its formative years. Beyond the Kansas Native Plant Society, she was active in the Topeka Friends of the Library and Kansas State Grange. At her death, Lillabelle expressed her love of wildflowers, nature, and Kansas by leaving \$1000 to the Kansas Native Plant Society. The unrestricted funds will be used to further the mission of the organization. The members of the Kansas Native Plant Society owe a great debt of gratitude to Lillabelle for her service and her support.



**Put this Date on your Calendar Now**



**29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting September 21-23, 2007**

**Hutchinson and Reno County “Wildflowers for the Masses.”**

## Featured Plant–Buffalo Gourd

Text and Drawing by Dr. Cindy Ford,  
Pittsburg State University



*Cucurbita foetidissima* (Buffalo Gourd)

Even though this vine ranges from Mexico to Missouri and Nebraska, *Cucurbita foetidissima* more often occurs in the western two-thirds of Kansas primarily in disturbed soils. Occasionally a Kansas traveler will spot a large plant along a roadside ditch.

The plant has several common names, including buffalo gourd, wild pumpkin, Missouri gourd, fetid gourd, and calabazilla. The scientific name, *C. foetidissima*, refers to the fetid odor of the plant. It is a fast-growing perennial vine that can reach 18 feet in length. The triangular leaves are longer than wide with prominent venation. Bright yellow flowers develop July through September followed by fruits (gourds) that are two to three inches long, often sporting stripes. The plant is monoecious with

male and female flowers on the same plant and is self fertilizing.

Buffalo Gourd has been useful among native Americans for hundreds of years. It has traditionally been used as food, cosmetics, detergent, insecticide, ritualistic rattles, and even darning balls. The crushed plant serves as a remedy for skin sores. The roots can be eaten as food since it has a sweet starch. The juice of the root tends to disinfect and alleviates toothache pain. The baked fruit not only relieves rheumatic pain, but also is fairly effective as a soap substitute, particularly in removing stains. The seeds and flowers control swelling and if one is afflicted with worms, the seeds can be used as a vermicide.

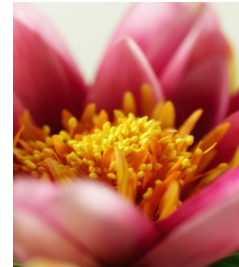
For cultivation of this vine, plan for ample space in the landscape.

## Board Members

Earl Allen  
Iralee Barnard  
Karen Bischooping  
Shirley Braunlich  
Fred & Nancy Coombs  
Krista Dahlinger  
Ann Feyerharm  
Cindy Ford  
Craig & Jane Freeman  
Nancy Goulden

Brad Guhr  
Jeff Hansen President  
Michael Heffron President Elect  
June Kliesen  
George Lippert  
Carroll L. Morgenson  
Frank J. Norman  
Carl Paulie  
Dee & Phyllis Scherich Secretary  
Ann Simpson

Sister Patricia M. Stanley Treasurer  
Julie D. Torseth  
Valerie F. Wright Past President



## NEW MEMBERS 3/11/07 TO 5/20/07

Michael Brandon Adams - Wichita  
Pauletta Carlson - Wichita  
Dr. John W. Chesney - Joplin, MO  
Kirk Farber - Wichita  
Melissa, Neal & Owen Fisher-Isaacs - Lawrence  
Mechelle Foos - Nortonville  
Tom Hammer - Topeka  
Zach Kowalski - Wichita  
Judy Labbe - Salina  
Steve & Amy Logan - Nickerson  
Chee-Quang Ma - Wichita

Denise Mitchell - Wichita  
Cherrie Nolden - Pratt  
Angela Richard - Perry, IA  
Jim & Jennifer Robinson - Wichita  
Stephen Scholtz - Rose Hill  
Kimberly & Ed Shank - Wichita  
Jessica Urton - Wichita  
Tricia Waggoner - Topeka  
Douglas Wirtz - Vacaville, CA\

Welcome!

## Kansas Native Plant Society

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

Phone: (785)864-3453

Email: [kansaswildflowers@yahoo.com](mailto:kansaswildflowers@yahoo.com).



**Kansas  
Native  
Plant  
Society**

## Address Service Requested

We are on the Web

[www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org](http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org)

## Membership Information

[email@kansasnativeplantsociety.org](mailto:email@kansasnativeplantsociety.org) or [email@KSNPS.org](mailto:email@KSNPS.org)



**Kansas  
Native  
Plant  
Society**

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

Annual dues are for a 12-month period from January 1-December 31. Dues paid after December 1 are applied to the next year.

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Name:       |  |
| Address:    |  |
| City/State: |  |
| Zipcode:    |  |
| Phone:      |  |
| E-Mail:     |  |

Check membership category desired:

- |                          |              |          |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student      | \$5.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual   | \$15.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Family       | \$25.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Organization | \$30.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Contributing | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Lifetime     | \$500.00 |

Check membership category desired:

Please complete this form or a photocopy of it. 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 by the KNPS Administrative Office.

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.