



Kansas Native Plant Society

Summer Newsletter

Volume 37 Number 3
July 2015

2015 Annual Wildflower Weekend— What's Special

The 37th AWW will be held in Manhattan, Kansas from Friday, September 25 through Sunday, September 27. Reserve the dates and plan to join us. Read on for a preview glimpse of the wonders that await.



Catch your breath as you are greeted by a glorious profusion of dotted gayfeather
Photo by Nancy Goulden

Flint Hills Discovery Center— by Nancy Goulden

A little more than two years ago, the Flint Hills Discovery Center opened near downtown Manhattan. Two areas of the permanent exhibits on the first floor are of special interest to KNPS plant lovers. The first is a series of outstanding photos of Flint Hills' flowering plants taken by KNPS board member and former President Valerie Wright. The plants are arranged by blooming times. The second area focuses on The Underground Prairie with a unique display of the root systems of the major Flint Hills grasses. We think of Big Bluestem as an "amazingly tall grass," but wait until you see the part of the plant that is underground.

You may also be interested in the following displays: artifacts of the Native Americans who lived in the area; reminders of the cowboys and ranching, the contributions of the Europeans who came to the Flint Hills (railroads, university). There is a temporary exhibit and the children's play area on the second floor. To set the stage, you may want to start your visit by viewing the 18-minute "immersion experience" film in the Flint Hills Discovery Center theater.

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Have you renewed your membership in KNPS? Check the first line in your address for your membership expiration date. If the date is past, your membership has expired. To continue receiving the newsletter, please renew now.

The Kansas Native Plant Society Newsletter is printed four times a year: Winter (January), Spring (April), Summer (July), Fall (October). Readers tell us how much they enjoy the newsletter in color and in the paper format. Contributions help us continue to produce a publication of this length in this form. You may send your gift to KNPS at Kansas Native Plant Society, R.L. McGregor Herbarium, 2045 Constant Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66047-3729.



The mission of the Kansas Native Plant Society is to encourage awareness and appreciation of the native plants of Kansas in their habitats and in our landscapes by promoting education, stewardship, and scientific knowledge.



President's Message

By Mike Haddock

I want to take this opportunity to cordially invite everyone to our 2015 Annual Wildflower Weekend, which will be held September 25-27 in Manhattan. The Kansas Native Plant Society last gathered in Manhattan for an AWW in 1984; so we are very excited to welcome our members and friends to the northern Flint Hills after a thirty one year absence! The planning committee has lined up a number of interesting sites for botanizing and with the above average amount of precipitation that we received in May and June, we expect to see truly spectacular displays of autumn wildflowers. As you peruse the other articles in this newsletter, please note the "lead story", starting on Page 1, describing some "special" aspects of the upcoming AWW.

On May 18th, I was privileged to represent KNPS at a "Conservation Celebration" held on a hilltop prairie overlooking the Kansas River Valley. KNPS board member and former Society president Valerie Wright and her husband Simón Malo have placed 143 acres of native Flint Hills grassland into a conservation easement. Conservation easements are voluntary legal agreements between landowners and eligible organizations such as the Nature Conservancy and the Kansas Land Trust that protect habitats from activities such as subdivision, conversion of native grassland to crop tillage, or urban expansion. Landowners may still manage the land as they have for decades, but fragmentation is avoided and the integrity of the grasslands maintained. The evening was cool with not a cloud in the sky, and there was an abundance of wildflowers in bloom. Representatives of a number of organizations gave brief talks, including the Nature Conservancy, the Kansas Land Trust, the Kansas Native Plant Society, Konza Prairie Biological Station, and the Friends of Konza Prairie. After the presentations, the crowd dispersed to enjoy the sun setting over the scenic landscape, and to do a bit of botaniz-

ing. Valerie and Simón are saluted for their forward-thinking conservation efforts.

At the end of May, I had the opportunity to participate in one of our many KNPS regional events. Board member Anthony Zukoff hosted a small but enthusiastic group for a visit to the Sandsage Bison Range and Wildlife Area outside Garden City. I made the 4.5 hour trip out west a day early and was able to spend time at Lake Scott State Park, one of my favorite spots to botanize. After several years of severe drought,

that area looked like a different world—very green and lush. Though I have visited Lake Scott several times previously, on this trip I took time to visit nearby Battle Canyon, the site of the last engagement in Kansas between Native Americans and the U.S. Cavalry. At this geologically fascinating landscape, I encountered a number of high plains wildflowers in bloom: scarlet



Conservation Celebration: Presentations by Diane Barker, Friends of Konza Prairie; Valerie Wright, landowner; Mike Haddock, KNPS; Eva Horne, Konza Prairie; Ginny Moore, Kansas Land Trust; Brian Obermeyer and Rob Manes, The Nature Conservancy. Photo by Patrick Gormely

globe mallow, Berlandier's flax, running fleabane, Engelmann's daisy, western wallflower, stemless tetraeneuris, and spike ipomopsis. The next morning at the Sandsage Bison Range, there were unbelievably beautiful displays of the highly fragrant sweet or snowball sand verberna (*Abronia fragrans*) and the very showy large-flower cut-leaf evening primrose (*Oenothera grandis*). I reiterate what I have written in earlier President's messages, namely that you should take advantage of our KNPS regional events. You will find it well-worth the effort!

We hope to see many of you attending our September Annual Wildflower Weekend in Manhattan!



Sand verberna. Photo by Mike Haddock



2015 Annual Wildflower Weekend

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Butterfly Hill— by Karen Hummel

Butterfly Hill, on the Konza Prairie Biological Station, is a small patch of prairie providing glimpses into the history of the area and current research in progress, as well as an opportunity to experience Flint Hills' vistas and flora.

At the bottom of the hill are the barn and bunkhouse, which were built in the early 1900's of limestone quarried on site. Fusulinid fossils in the stone bear witness to the Permian history of the area as an intermittent shallow sea. The barn has been converted to a Conference Center, and the bunkhouse is home to the Konza Environmental Education Program center and library. A bison corral is situated south of the barn, and the Hulbert demonstration plots to the north-west provide visual evidence of the effect of different prescribed burn treatments on the prairie.

Hiking Butterfly Hill in September will allow visitors to experience the tallgrass prairie at its finest, with grasses at their peak growth, flowering and setting seed. Look, also, for colorful asters, sunflowers, goldenrod, gayfeather and other treasures.

At the top of Butterfly Hill, be sure to take in the 360-degree view of the prairie. Look for bison on the hills and grazing lawns to the south, and count the limestone layers in the hills across the valley cut by the Kings Creek tributary. Breathe in the pure prairie air and allow yourself to experience the sense of deep history and enduring beauty of the Flint Hills.



Big bluestem silhouetted against the pale sky, amidst the golden hills and red sumac. Photo by Nancy Goulden

Guest Speakers/Business Meeting-by Mike Haddock

This year both of our Annual Wildflower Weekend program speakers are PhD candidates, one at the University of Kansas and one at Kansas State University. These young scholars have demonstrated a lifelong appreciation of our prairie resources. Both are previous recipients of our Kansas Native Plant Society Mary A. Bancroft Memorial Scholarship. The Bancroft Scholarship supports graduate student research that enhances our understanding of native plant species or their ecosystems and conservation. Kathy and Shelly's areas of research focus on plant-pollinator interactions and rangeland pollinator diversity in relation to tallgrass restoration and patch-burning grazing. Their AWW presentations will be very informative and complementary.

Kathy Roccaforte hails from Omaha, Nebraska. She received a B.S. in Biology from Creighton University, and a M.S. in Biological Sciences from the University of Nebraska. Kathy recently received the Entomological Society of America's President Award for her research poster that was presented at the ESA's annual meeting. Kathy's current research has been generously funded by many organizations, including the Kansas Native Plant Society, the Grassland Heritage Foundation, the Nature Conservancy, Prairie Biotic Research, Inc., the Association for Women Geoscientists, and the University of Kansas.

Shelly Wiggam started restoring native tallgrass prairie at the age of eleven on family land in the Blackland Prairies of Texas and continued to restore and conserve Blackland Prairie from junior high through her time as an undergraduate. Shelly served as a volunteer with NRCS-Fort Worth, as well as The Nature Conservancy-Texas, and also actively restored prairie and wildlife on private land of family and friends. In 2014, Shelly received the Wildlife Society Janice Lee Fenske Award for Excellence in Wildlife Biology and in 2015 was honored for the Best PhD Poster Presentation at the International Meeting of the Society for Range Management.

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2015 Annual Wildflower Weekend

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Tuttle Creek— by Nancy Goulden

This hiking area is near the lower part of Tuttle Creek Reservoir. You will drive across the spillway to get to the site. It is located at K-State's Rowing Crew's headquarters; however, you will not even notice anything but the plants. Our local KNPS group leads three public hikes along the borders of the circular drive during the blooming season each year. There are always a variety of plants because the area includes both woodlands and prairie.

We will see both blooming plants (such as Dotted Gayfeather, Pitcher Sage, Heath Aster, Stenosiphon, Goldenrods, Fetid Marigold) and plants with seed heads (Big and Little Bluestem, Switch Grass, Indian Grass, AND a bunch of forbs).



Painted lady butterfly on aster. Photo by Nancy Goulden

Bob Haines Pasture— by Earl Allen



Sunset viewed from Haines pasture. Photo by Ken Stafford

You are in for a native plant treat if you are planning on visiting the Haines Pasture at our 2015 AWW. Several of the Manhattan area members have visited this site near Manhattan and have always found it to be a great place to botanize.

Bob Haines will prepare a pictorial history display of the pasture over the many years his family has owned it. He will also document for us the conservation and restoration projects that they have undertaken. You will be able to observe the striking contrast between the Haines family's pasture and some nearby pastures that have not had as much conservation management. You may walk over the several hundred acres of the beautiful Flint Hills with Manhattan area members as your guides. You will experience such varied terrain as creek bottoms, lowland meadows, and limestone-layered hillsides leading up to flat plateaus. Expect to see a wide variety of Native Plants in their natural settings.

Valerie Wright's Restored Prairie— by Valerie Wright

Originally a wheat field, these 5 acres along Shane Creek have been managed for forb diversity. The field is burned annually to minimize annual weeds. The plant list includes 130 native species with grasses. Butterflies abound.



TECH NOTES

By Mickey Delfelder

In 2010, KNPS teamed up with several schools around the state to push the Kansas Legislature to name Little Bluestem the State Grass of Kansas. When the bill became law, the KNPS website was ready to go with educational materials including a crossword puzzle, coloring sheets, bookmarks and posters. You can also find "Little Blue's Story"—along with friends Sunny, Woody, and Larkie—on the KNPS website at www.ksnps.org. Just click on the "State Grass" link in the left-hand column.

The Great Cottonwood Trees

Text and photos by Ken O'Dell

Growing up on a farm or ranch, many youngsters played and rested under the shade of giant cottonwood trees that had staked their claims many years before on a small part of Mother Earth. Some of these young kids were the first to move into Kansas, brought into the state when their parents moved west with the wagon trains on The Santa Fe trail.

The Santa Fe trail passage started in 1821 and was in use for about fifty years, crossing Kansas from east to west. By horseback, covered wagons, or on foot, thousands of settlers traversed the hundreds of miles across the state. The giant cottonwood trees growing by streams, gullies, and ravines gave welcome shade, fuel and in many cases necessary wood to repair wagons. The great plains of Kansas were arid, deserted and not very hospitable. The cottonwood trees were a welcome sight to those who had moved from Ohio, Pennsylvania and points east, as they were accustomed to seeing large forests of tall trees.

Early surveyors' records from the state auditor's office in Topeka frequently mention trees: cottonwood, elm, oak, walnut, hackberry, sycamore, cedar (a juniper, *Juniperus virginiana*), plum, redbud and others.

It was obvious these giant cottonwoods were the king of the prairie, as they stood 20, 30 or even 40 feet above all the other trees on the stream banks. In 1937, the cottonwood tree was designated as the State Tree of Kansas. Our original state tree at the capitol has passed

away and a new cottonwood is now growing in its place.

Northwest of Wichita on K96 highway lives the large cottonwood named the "Honking Tree" or the "Lucky Tree". Honk as you pass this beloved old giant and you will have good luck. It is said that a few bus loads of students passing this tree on their way to play basketball or football games did not honk and lost their games that very day.

The Wilderness Center in Johnson County, Kansas, has some of the most magnificent cottonwoods you will ever see. They are giants among giants that grew to that enormous height because of the water table deep under ground. You will frequently see cattle and horses taking advantage of the shade cast by these giant trees on ranches and farms throughout Kansas.



Jan Curry, John Kenney, Netti Biggs stand at the base of a massive cottonwood at the Johnson County Wilderness Center.

In winter these same enormous cottonwood trees stand like naked beacons and are totally content with their position in life. The dead or dying branches and trunks of our great cottonwoods provide food and housing for birds, insects and mammals. Birds make their homes in the decaying branches. Woodpeckers make cavities looking for insects to eat or feed their young. Owls frequently nest in larger cavities of cottonwoods. As the mature trunks of the dying trees fall to the ground and decay, a world is created unlike any other, as Mother Nature makes use of every part of the tree.

Cottonwood trees are either male or female. The males have colorful, two-inch long catkins that appear two weeks before the female flowers, which are similar in shape but frequently have only a light green coloring.

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Between the Bentley and Maize Road exits on K96 highway lives "The Honking Tree"

The Great Cottonwoods

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The female flowers are pollinated by the constant Kansas wind that carries the pollen from the male trees. The wind usually blows from the west. In winter it is easy to see that the wind has formed the twigs, branches and sometimes the entire tree into a shape that points slightly east to northeast.

Female trees have a white fluff in the seed pods whether they have been pollinated or not. When pollinated, this fluff contains a tiny seed, one-tenth of an inch long—about the size of the tip of a toothpick. The cottony fluff

is carried by the wind and with luck falls near a stream or some other source of moisture. When moisture is present, the seed germinates quickly. Tiny roots grow one-fourth of an inch each day as the seedling tries to anchor itself into the soil or sandbar below. If for any reason the moisture does not last three or four days the tiny seedling dies, and the spreading of the seed by Mother Nature will have been for naught. Of the thousands of seeds a tree produces each year, it is rare for one to live more than a few days or weeks. It is tough out there!

The bark of a young cottonwood tree is greenish-

white and smooth. As the tree grows older the bark becomes gray and deeply furrowed, with two-inch wide, flat-topped ridges. The bark protects the old trees from intense heat and cold and offers some protection from fire. Autumn leaf color is an attractive golden yellow.

New leaves in springtime often have a slight reddish tint and then change to a smooth light green, hanging

from the twigs by petioles that allow the leaves to shimmer and twist in the slightest breeze. This shimmering gives more open space for sunlight to penetrate the outer branches and touch other leaves beneath. We all know that leaves produce the oxygen that we breathe every moment of our lives. Leaves take in carbon dioxide from the air, water comes up from the roots, and this interacts with sunshine. Through the magic of



Cottonwood trees in Clark County. Photo by Jamie Boren

Mother Nature the leaves make oxygen for us to breathe and energy in the form of sugar (carbohydrates) to sustain the tree.

The Kansas champion cottonwood tree is in Sheridan county in the far northwest part of the state between Hays and Goodland, near the town of Studley. It is 96 feet tall and has a crown spread of 127 feet. The circumference of the trunk is 35 feet. By standard champion tree scoring methods, it is awarded an impressive 553 points. More information is provided by the Kansas Forest Service at <http://www.kansasforests.org>.

Book by KNPS Author Named Notable Book

Iralee Barnard, author and KNPS Board Member, has been informed that her 2014 book Field Guide to the Common Grasses of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska has been selected as one of fifteen “Kansas Notable Books” by the State Library of Kansas. An excerpt from the press release about the book follows. The author highlights the positive aspects of the book that contributed to its selection.

“Field Guide to the Common Grasses of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska is intended to make learning about grasses available to everyone. The information and illustrations address a broad range of expertise as well as interests from home landscaping to range management to wildlife associations. The book’s 415 color photographs are visually demonstrating the differences that separate the species. It is the photographic detail that sets this guide apart from all others.”



2015 Kansas Area Native Plant & Wildflower Events



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

Please share this information and contact us about additional events to note. Thank you!

[email@KSNPS.org]

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

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend some fabulous happenings!

July 18: Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs. Volunteer prairie maintenance and preservation projects, third Saturday each month except Dec. [www.grasslandheritage.org]. Wear appropriate clothing. No special skills or tools needed. For details, please contact Frank Norman [fjnorman@sunflower.com] (785) 691-9748 (cell).

July 18:  Potluck-Dinner and Mothing in a Native Plant Garden, 7pm-12am. 90% of insects, including the Lepidoptera, are highly host-plant specific; so focusing on native plants will foster an incredible diversity of moths that will be drawn to mercury vapor lights after sundown. Enjoy this lush garden and a pot-luck dinner with friends; then watch the insect party after dark. Bring a dish to pass, your adult beverages and lawn chairs, plus swim suits if you wish to dip in the lake. Sponsor: Kansas Native Plant Society. Alert: LONG LIPS FARM is 1 block south of K-68 in northwest Miami County, 27995 Plum Creek Rd, Paola, KS. Some GPS & mapping software is wrong. Contact: Lenora Larson [lenora.longlips@gmail.com] (913) 284-3360 .

August 4-6: Mid-/Shortgrass Range School at Camp Lakeside at Lake Scott, Scott City, KS. The Range School provides an excellent format to learn, interact, and network with people who share similar interests in our state's grazing lands—namely, ranchers, landowners, land managers, agency staffs, and college students. Sponsor: Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition. KGLC offers scholarships (\$175 or 50 percent of the fee) to eligible participants including ranchers, ranch family/help and college students. You must file a scholarship form to be eligible. Contact Tim for the form. Contact: Tim Christian [tdchristian@cox.net] (620) 242-6440.

August 15: Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs. See July 18 info.

August 18: Tallgrass Range School at Camp Wood YMCA, Elmdale, KS. The Range School provides an excellent format to learn, interact, and network with people who share similar interests in our state's grazing lands namely, ranchers, landowners, land managers, agency staffs, and college students. Sponsor: Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition. KGLC offers scholarships (\$175 or 50 percent of the fee) to eligible participants including ranchers, ranch family/help and college students. You must file a scholarship form to be eligible. Contact Tim for the form. Contact: Tim Christian [tdchristian@cox.net] (620) 242-6440.

September 6: Orchestra on the Oregon Trail, Marysville, KS. Journey to Alcove Spring Historic Park for an all-day (1pm-10pm) experience with music and events for all ages. The Topeka Symphony Orchestra and the natural wonder of Alcove Spring will combine as a tribute to a wilderness traversed by the pioneers. Many native plants may be found in the park. The orchestra will perform on the main stage at 6pm, but the day begins when the park gates open at 1pm. Enjoy wagon rides, tours, reenactors, and more before the concert, and stargazing, ghost tours and more music after the concert. Sponsor: Marshall County Arts Cooperative. Contact: Mandy Cook [mandolin79@yahoo.com] (785) 268-0420.

September 11-13: FloraKansas Great Plains Plant Bazaar in Hesston, KS. Sponsored by Dyck Arboretum of the Plains. [www.dyckarboretum.org] [arboretum@Hesston.edu] (620) 327-8127.



2015 Kansas Area Native Plant & Wildflower Events, Continued



September 12:  Tuttle Creek Lake Fall Wildflower Walk, Manhattan, KS. Plan to be a part of the fall wildflower walk at Tuttle Creek Lake, led by KNPS guides, 10am-noon. This is an opportunity to see and learn about the fall flowers of the Flint Hills such as: boneset, tall thistle; curly cup gumweed, liatris (gayfeather); several different species of sunflowers and also goldenrods and native asters. Each participant will receive a free copy of *A Pocket Guide to Kansas Flint Hills Wildflowers and Grasses* to use during the hike and then take home. So we will know how many to expect for the outing, please preregister with UFM Community Learning Center (785) 539-8763 or info@tryufm.org. There is no registration fee. In case of rain, the walk will be held the following day at the same time. Sponsor: Tuttle Creek Lake and Kansas Native Plant Society. Contact: Paul Weidhaas [Paul.K.Weidhaas@usace.army.mil] (785) 539-8511.

September 19: Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs. See July 18 info.

September 25-27:  **Kansas Native Plant Society's** 37th Annual Wildflower Weekend will be in Manhattan, KS. We will visit natural areas in and near Riley County. Come enjoy native plants with us in the beautiful northern Flint Hills! The weekend is filled with outings, programs, a silent auction, photo contest, dinner, and socializing. For more information please contact KNPS President Mike Haddock [haddock@ksu.edu] (785) 776-0680.

September 25-27: The Land Institute's annual Prairie Festival in Salina, KS. The festival features speakers, artists, music, drama, dancing, guided prairie walks, bird watching, children's activities, and food. www.landinstitute.org (785) 823-5376.

September 29—October 1: The National Wildlife Federation will co-host the American Grasslands Conference with Colorado State University and the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory in Fort Collins, Colorado. Contact for more information: Aviva Glaser, NWF (202) 797-6616, GrasserA@nwf.org.

October 17& Nov 21: Grassland Heritage Foundation Groundhogs. See July 18 info.

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



AWW Silent Auction and Photo Contest

By Krista Dahlinger

Silent Auction: Each year at the Annual Wildflower Weekend, a Silent Auction is an exciting part of the Saturday morning events. Items donated to the Silent Auction can be viewed and bid on during several morning break periods. We welcome all contributions to the Silent Auction fundraiser. Popular items include native plant and nature books, home-made cookies, jams and jellies, live plants, handmade items, local merchandise and about anything of interest to a native plant enthusiast. Please bring an item or two if you can to contribute to this annual fundraising.

Photo Contest: Rules and instructions for submitting photos online can be found at: http://www.kansasnativeplantsociety.org/photo_contest.php Be sure to check the deadline dates, so you submit your photos in time to be included.

Early Plant Collectors—Part 4

By Iralee Barnard

This is the story of two sisters and of romance on the shortgrass prairie . . .

Nellie Bernice Jacobs was born in 1896 in Oklahoma. Her family moved to southeast Kansas by covered wagon when she was seven. In 1928, at the age of 32, Nellie started collecting the plants of Cherokee County.

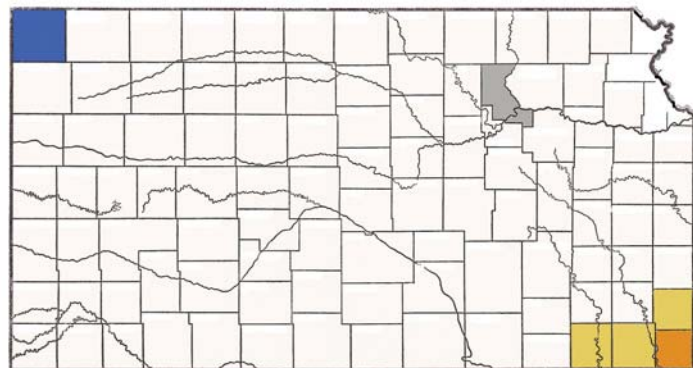
“Miss Nellie,” as people remember her, was employed by KSU (then Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science) in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology. Nellie began work at KSC in 1919 immediately after completing training at Pittsburg Business College. Her job title was Clerk Stenographer II. Nellie was undoubtedly influenced to collect plants by Professor Gates (see Plant Collectors Part 2, Summer 2013) with whom she worked. Nellie retired after more than 40 years at the college.

Nellie was one of Harry and Sarah Jacobs’ five children. Nellie’s sister, Anna, was two years younger. Anna received a Life Certificate in teaching from Kansas State Teachers College (now Emporia State University) in 1926. She taught high school and lived with her parents in southeast Kansas. Introduced to the flora project by her older sister, Anna began collecting plants one year after Nellie. From 1929 to 1932 Anna collected 267 Cherokee County plant specimens.

In 1930, Anna moved to St. Francis, Kansas to teach at the high school. The records show that she took a group of biology students to make plant collections in 1931. Mary White was one of the “Biology Class” who went on the trip, and her



“Miss Nellie” Jacobs on the left. K Stater, June 1958.
Courtesy KSU Archives.



Blue is Cheyenne Co., orange is Cherokee Co. and lighter surrounding counties where the sisters collected. Grey is where Nellie worked and lived for 64 years.

27 specimens were sent with Anna’s to Dr. Gates for his study, and these with others, resulted in his eventual publications featuring Kansas plants. Anna also served as school librarian and continued at St. Francis High School until 1967.

John Steller lived in St. Francis. How John and Anna met is not known, but their relationship literally “blossomed.” Out on the high plains of Kansas they collected 28 Cheyenne County plants together in early September 1934. Only a few months after that prairie excursion, they were married and continued plant collection in that county until 1942, John doing most of the collecting after their marriage. John Michael Steller was a carpenter by trade and passed away in 1962.

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Early Plant Collectors—Part 4

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Of the more notable plants that Anna and John discovered in Cheyenne County are manystem pea (*Lathyrus polymorphus*) and hoary fleabane (*Erigeron canus*). From May to June manystem pea is covered with fragrant, bicolored flowers in tints of blue to purple. This legume can be locally common in dry, sandy areas. Hoary fleabane, also called gray daisy, is found in gravelly soil of dry hills and grasslands and has white blooms from June to August. It is rare in Kansas, but widespread in adjoining states to the north and west.



Lathyrus polymorphus

Photo by Chris Helzer

Sister Nellie had an annual 30-day vacation, which she apparently used to go home and do plant work, because she collected every year in Cherokee County until 1948. She also made collections in surrounding counties. Of the many interesting plants found in southeast Kansas by the two sisters are Ozark milkvetch (*Astragalus distortus*)

which flowers from April to June in dry, sandy prairies and rose gentian or Texas star (*Sabatia campestris*) an annual that forms large colonies on sandy soil and has two-inch pink flowers. Another is Carolina coralbead, or snailseed, (*Cocculus carolinus*) a twining, climbing vine in the Moonseed Family found in moist, rich



Sabatia campestris

Photo by Justin Thomas

woods or rocky hillsides. The flowers of coralbead appear in June to July, and bright red fruits are found from July to October.

More than 200 plants were collected in Cheyenne County by Anna or her husband, and nearly 500 in southeast Kansas by one or other of the Jacobs sisters. Nellie was having health problems and in 1983, moved from Manhattan to Cheyenne County to be near her sister. Nellie and Anna were hospitalized in 1985 for different ailments and shared the same room. Both died in the hospital on the same day and are buried at St. Francis.

Thanks to Lewis Browder and to Mary and Norman Morrow for their recollections of the Jacobs sisters.



KNPS Spring Board Meeting

Text by Nancy Coombs

After a spring woodland trek along pathways at the Klinefelter Farm near Hiawatha, five carloads of KNPS Board Members and guests followed the big white GMC “Prairie Place” truck to Nadine and Bob Champlin’s delightful new county home near Sabetha. The Champlin’s 40-acre spread includes a



Post Botanizing: Champlin Beach Party

Composite photo collage by Matthew Richter



Matthew Richter displays the result of his plein air painting.

Photo by Phyllis Scherich

newly-planted native patch near a fishing pond with a sandy beach. A sandy beach in northeast Kansas?!

The spanking new beach grew out of four huge truckloads of sand, and that is where delicious hotdogs were roasted on a log fire. A variety of libations, chips, veggies, and fruit, not to mention Nadine’s scrumptious homemade oatmeal/chocolate chip cookies and lemon bread and Bob’s spicy deer jerky were enjoyed by all.

Even the sun, aided by a gentle breeze, swept threatening clouds away. Those who left early missed a painting demonstration by board member Matthew Richter. It was a most genial end to a productive KNPS Board of Directors meeting in the newly restored Klinefelter Barn earlier in the afternoon.



An Interview with Wildflower Photographer Emmett Sullivan

Introduction by Jeff Hansen



Photo of Emmett Sullivan, KNPS volunteer photographer.

As webmaster, one of my duties is adding images to the KNPS Native Plant Gallery. It is composed of images that our members submit. Over the past year or so, one member, Emmett Sullivan, has submitted more photos than anyone else. Many of his photos are of plants most of us have probably never even seen. Of the 126 photos in the gallery, 38 of them are Emmett's. His photos, along with others, have become the most popular page on the website next to the home page. After chatting with Emmett via email, I thought others would like to know more about the man behind the pictures. I asked him to answer the following questions.

Question: Tell us a bit about you. Where did you grow up? Where do you live? What do you do or did you do for a living?

Answer: I grew up in Cherokee County, Kansas. I worked on the farm and for other local farmers. Later, I worked in the coal mines. I retired from mining in 1997, having worked in coal mines in Kansas,

New Mexico, and Wyoming.

Question: How did you become interested in wildflowers and other native plants?

Answer: I saw all the wildflowers in the prairies that we baled the hay on. I looked for all the wildflowers out west also.

Question: What are some of your favorite native plants and why?

Answer: The Indian Paintbrush and the Gay Feather are two of my favorites, but I like to photograph all of them.

Question: Where do you like to go exploring for plants?

Answer: I still go back to the old prairies I worked back in the "fifties;" also I go to the Southwest Kansas Nature Center, near Galena, Kansas. The Nature Center has a lot of things there that you won't find anywhere else in Kansas.

Question: How did you come to know KNPS?

Answer: I became a member of KNPS back in the early 1980's when I knew Rosemary Brewer, who was a Board Member of the Kansas Wildflower Society in those days. I live in West Mineral, Kansas now. Rosemary used to have monthly meetings back then in Paola, Kansas.

Featured Plant: Slenderleaf False Foxglove (*Agalinis tenuifolia*)

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

I was ambling along in a dry bed of the small creek at our central Kansas farm when I first saw it-- a small plant resembling a foxglove with ascending branches, smooth stems, linear leaves, a delightful pale pink corolla and a bell-shaped calyx. Immediately, my "internal wildflower camera" clicked, and I have carried that impressive image with me for 25 years.



Slenderleaf False Foxglove

(*Agalinis tenuifolia*)

After some research, I am quite certain I identified *Agalinis tenuifolia*, one of seven species of *Agalinis* in Kansas. These species are so similar that it is difficult to distinguish one from another, and indeed there are even three variants of *Agalinis tenuifolia*. All bloom from August to mid-October in moist soil of low prairies and roadside ditches, primarily in the eastern 2/3 of Kansas. These plants are not considered rare, though I have only found one other specimen in all these years.

This species is parasitic on a wide variety of plants, including anemone, wild strawberry, pussytoes and several grasses. It is a very interesting plant and one I would like to see more often.

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