

5th Annual Native Plant Sale



Saturday, May 20th
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Trinity Episcopal Church Lawn
1011 Vermont Street
Lawrence, KS 66044



Join GHF for our 5th annual sale which will feature
OVER 50 species of native wildflowers and grasses!



All plants are **locally grown** Kansas natives and are **neonic free**.



Discounts available for GHF members who order ahead of time and pay and pick up at the event. Contact us at ghfplantsale@gmail.com or 913-856-4784 for more information.



Talk to the Experts—Landscape and prairie experts will be on hand to help you choose plants and give planting advice.

President's Column

Spring is the perfect time for optimism based in action. I get the same optimistic feeling every year when I'm in the garden planting new vegetable and native plant seeds. We expect good things to happen, but much of what we want won't happen without our intervention. Like gardening, there may be a mix of instant and long-term benefits from many of GHF's activities, from increased prairie literacy among everyone Kim Bellemere contacts as GHF education guru, to surprise prairie sprouts in a field cleared of trees under the watch of Frank Norman, our land manager. The diversity of GHF activities recognizes that everyone appreciates the prairie in a different way. Some of us get to be a prairie hero wielding a chainsaw or loppers, hacking out prairie invaders. I love to lop, myself, and I'm glad to also have had the opportunity to understand the prairie in a new way thanks to Wade Myslivy's workshop on using native plant materials to make cordage and baskets. Your relationship with the prairie might involve your walking shoes, walking partners, binoculars, or paintbrush.

Local action is more important than ever as landowners' rights to create conservation easements in Kansas comes under another threat, an application has been filed for a fracking site 14 miles from the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, and loss of prairie remnants in northeast Kansas continues at a rapid pace. Something that we all can do is maintain our annual GHF membership. I'm excited to announce that GHF has a new website to help you do that. Take a look at www.grasslandheritage.org, and please share your photos and ideas for website content. We always aim to use your contributions well, so I'm glad to report that we received a free year of payment processing through Stripe's non-profit assistance program. For all of 2017, when you donate to GHF via the website, Stripe transfers your donation with no processing fee.

We also modernized our membership database, receiving a free year of the database service through Tech Soup. Also, I donated my time to build the new GHF website with GHF board input. Overall, we saved about \$2,500 for programs and activities, and we ended up with a more efficient system.

Grassland Heritage Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) membership organization dedicated to prairie preservation and education.

GHF News is published three times a year by

Grassland Heritage Foundation.

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GHF Officers

President: Andrea Repinsky

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Secretary: Sue Holcomb

Treasurer: Steve Holcomb

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2017 Board of Governors

Annual elections were conducted at the January 9, 2017 Annual Meeting of the Grassland Heritage Foundation Board of Governors, held in the Jayhawk Room of the Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical Building. Governors elected for 3-year terms were: Jennifer Dropkin, Rex Powell, Chip Taylor, Gary Tegtmeier, Megan Withiam, returning member, Ann Simpson, and new member, Matt Garrett. Matt is a biologist with Johnson County Park & Recreation District. Directors elected were: Andrea Repinsky, Megan Withiam, Steve Holcomb, and Mike Campbell. Officers elected were: President, Andrea Repinsky, Vice-President, Megan Withiam, Secretary, Sue Holcomb, and Treasurer, Steve Holcomb. Thanks to Mike Campbell and Joyce Wolf for serving on the nominating committee.



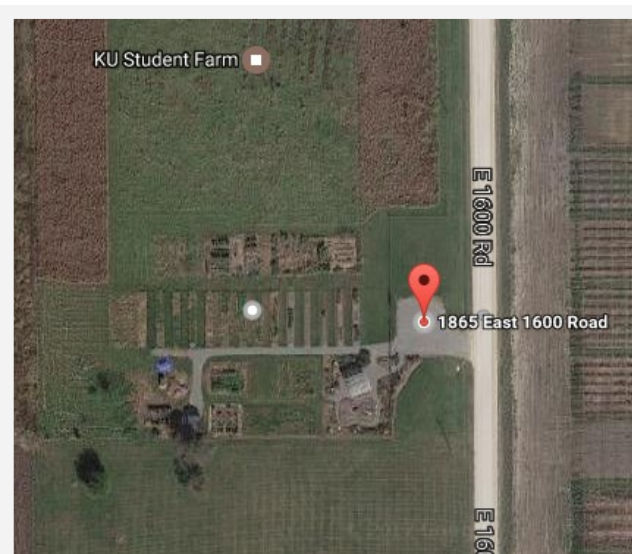
From left: Ann Simpson, Joyce Wolf, Steve Holcomb, Sue Holcomb, Megan Withiam, Mike Campbell, Angie Babbit, Andrea Repinsky, Jennifer Dropkin, Matt Garrett, Kim Bellemere, Gary Tegtmeier **Board members missing:** Rex Powell, Chip Taylor, Jonathan Wilson

GHF Gardening with Native Plants Workshops

GHF is excited to host a series of workshops on gardening with native plants thanks to a generous donor. All workshops will be held on Saturday mornings from 9:00 – 10:30 am at the University of Kansas Native Medicinal Plant Garden, 1865 E. 1600 Road, Lawrence, Kansas.

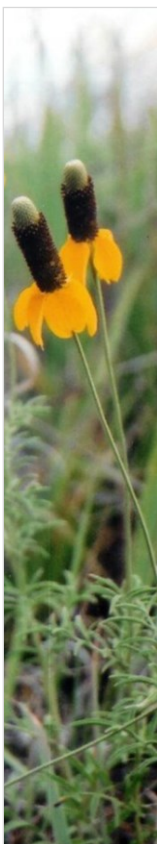
Each workshop will focus on a different aspect of native plant gardening and will finish with a tour of the interpretive section of the KU Native Medicinal Plant Garden, enabling attendees to observe the plants throughout the growing season.

Attendees at the June 17th workshop are also invited to attend the Spring NMPG Open House and tour the garden with Dr. Kelly Kindscher, Senior Scientist, Kansas Biological Survey. Space is limited and an RSVP is required for each workshop. Participants can enroll in individual workshops and attendance at all workshops in the series isn't required.



University of Kansas Native Medicinal Plant Garden
Map data: Google, DigitalGlobe

Email Kim Bellemere, GHF Education Coordinator, at grasslandheritage@gmail.com for more information and to RSVP.



May 27th – “What to Plant Where”

Courtney Masterson, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Environmental Science (JCCC), Research Assistant (KBS), Owner/Ecologist (Native Lands, LLC)

Courtney Masterson will talk about the basics of native plant gardening including choosing the right plant for your location, soil and sun requirements, and how to plant natives. Attendees will also plant seedlings. Frank Norman will also contribute.

June 17th – “Landscape Design with Native Plants”

Ann Simpson, GHF board member and landscape designer

Ann Simpson will inform about important design considerations when using natives in home landscapes.

August 19th – “Wildlife in the Garden”

Angie Babbit, Communications Coordinator for Monarch Watch

Angie Babbit will focus on pollinators and other wildlife that rely on native plants for food and habitat and participants will look at specific plants (milkweed, for example) to better understand how wildlife interact with them.

September 23rd – “Divide and Multiply ”

Courtney Masterson, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Environmental Science (JCCC), Research Assistant (KBS), Owner/Ecologist (Native Lands, LLC)

Courtney Masterson will instruct on how to prepare the garden for winter and how to divide plants and collect seeds in order to expand the garden.

To receive your newsletter in pdf form by email, contact Sue Holcomb, sholc2003@yahoo.com or 913-856-4784. Enjoy your newsletter in full color on our web site www.grasslandheritage.org. Also, please let us know if you no longer wish to receive the GHF News. Thank you!

Prairie makes a resurgence in Johnson County, Kansas

Photos and article by Matthew Garrett

What's your first thought when you think of Johnson County? Is it prairie? Johnson County was once 84% tallgrass prairie. Less than .006% of that remains today according to the Kansas Biological Survey's natural areas inventory in 2005. Many of those remaining intact remnant prairies are managed by the Johnson County Park and Recreation District. JCPRD prairies straddling the state line creates an interesting mix of species in transition between the Flint Hills of Kansas and the Grand River grasslands of Missouri.

Beyond the management of numerous high diversity remnant prairies across the county, JCPRD began aggressively restoring prairie in 1998 at Kill Creek Park in Olathe, KS. As the agency has grown, so has our understanding of prairie restoration. JCPRD transitioned from seed drills and spring plantings to dormant season broadcast seeding and moved from commercially purchased seed to emphasizing local ecotype seed collected by volunteers. The recent addition of a mechanical seed stripper continues to improve the efficiency of seed collection. Hard to collect conservative species are grown in a local ecotype seed garden at Shawnee Mission Park, protected from deer and rodents, including prairie violets and multiple milkweed species.



Ogg Road Prairie at Shawnee Mission Park

JCPRD is currently working on a 100 acre pollinator specific prairie restoration just west of Shawnee Mission Park funded by the 2015 Monarch Conservation Grant Fund in partnership with Burroughs Audubon of Greater Kansas City and is scaling up seed collection efforts for a 500 acre prairie restoration near Edgerton, KS. The future Big Bull Creek Park

is 2,000 acres and upwards of 700 acres will be restored prairie from US 56 Highway to Miami County straddling I-35. This ambitious project will be the largest prairie restoration in the Kansas City region when completed.



Liatris pycnostachya

JCPRD supports prairie research and education in the Kansas City region as well. Recently JCPRD funded graduate research out of KU focused on deer browse preference in prairie, hosted a regional prairie restoration conference with the Kansas City Native Plant Initiative, and educates thousands of children at Ernie Miller Nature Center in Olathe. In 2017, JCPRD contracted with a bee specialist to complete an extensive bee survey focused on both Kill Creek and Shawnee Mission Park to compliment a study done in 2016 at two KC Wildlands sites on the Missouri side.

Coming this June, look for the opening of Lexington Lake Park in Desoto, KS just off K-10. The 465 acre park contains a 10 acre former hay meadow that was recently discovered to have a population of the federally threatened Mead's Milkweed. Our prairie roots are still in Johnson County and they're growing!

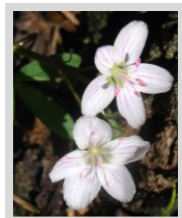


Matt Garrett conducting a controlled burn

Spring Wildflowers

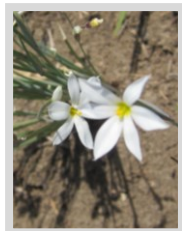
Photos and article by Sue Holcomb

When the weather starts getting warmer, life returns to the prairie. There's not much to see from a distance, unlike later in the year. The early flowers are all small and low to the ground. They have just a short amount of time to grow, flower, and attract pollinators. It takes up-close viewing to spy these beauties. If a prairie has been burned in the spring, the flowers will be much easier to spot. But you can also find them breaking through the previous year's growth. The following are some of the flowers, and one sedge, that I can usually find in local prairies. Be sure to watch for wild strawberries and the multiple violets that are also in bloom.



Spring beauty *Claytonia virginica*

Look for white petals with distinct pink veins and two opposite dark green leaves on the stem. These are often plentiful as "weeds" in lawns.



Blue-eyed grass *Sisyrinchium campestre*

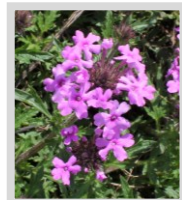
This plant is in the iris family, not a grass. The leaves fold along the midrib. 6-pointed star-shaped flowers (3 sepals & 3 petals) arise at top of unbranched stems, seeming almost unnaturally attached.

They range from very blue to white (possibly due to alkalinity of the soil) and have yellow centers. Look for these on sunny days, as the flowers won't be visible on a cloudy day.



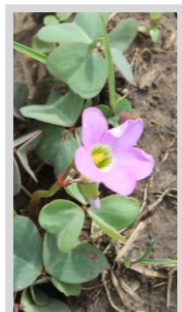
False garlic *Nothoscordum bivalve*

White flowers sit atop a stalk in an umbel shape. They have 6 "petals". They do *not* have a garlic smell.



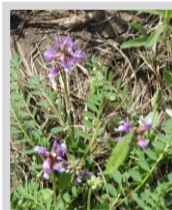
Rose verbena *Glandularia Canadensis*

Often found in large numbers on rocky hillsides, especially south-facing. These spreading plants can produce bright pink blossoms throughout the summer under the right conditions.



Violet wood sorrel *Oxalis violacea*

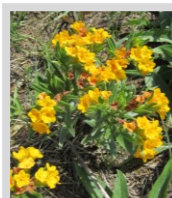
Corollas are funnel shaped with 5 lavender petals lighter near the base. Leaves are trifoliate like clover, leaflets are heart-shaped. They fold and droop at night or on overcast days. Both the leaves and flower stalks arise from a bulb. The plant has a sharp, sour taste. Native Americans fed the bulb to their horses to make them faster.



Ground plum, Milk vetch *Astragalus crassicaarpus*

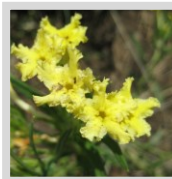
This plant is a member of the bean family with fruit that tastes like peas. But be careful, because this is the same family as locoweed! Leaves are compound with many leaflets.

Flowers are cream to light purple colored with darker tips in the classic pea shape.



Hoary puccoon *Lithospermum canescens*

Bright orange yellow flowers with a tubular corolla with 5 rounded lobes. Narrow, very hairy leaves help conserve moisture on the dry glades and rocky bluffs where this is found.



Fringed puccoon *Lithospermum incisum*

Flowers are a paler yellow and fringed as the name suggests. Native Americans used the roots of puccoons for dye and medicinal purposes.



Wild parsley *Lomatium foeniculaceum*

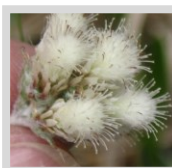
This plant is found on rocky hilltops, slopes, and dry prairies. The light feathery leaves are edible and said to taste like parsley or celery. The yellow flower is an umbel above the leaves.



Bastard toadflax *Comandra umbellata*

This is a native hemiparasite that completes photosynthesis, but also uses the roots of other plants for nutrients and water. The flowers

have 5 white sepals, no petals and occur in small clusters at the tips of the stem. My photo shows appearance before the flower opens.



Field cat's foot or pussy toes *Antennaria neglecta*

This is a "dioecious" plant with pistillate *female* and staminate *male* flowers on different plants. They form large colonies and often a patch will have just one type of flower. Male plants will have brownish stamens above the flower, while female plants have heads that are just white and slightly larger. The fuzzy white clusters give it its common name. The patches of basal leaves are visible even when the flowers are not.



Mead's sedge *Carex meadii*

I like looking for this sedge because it's one of the easiest to identify. It has distinctive pale bluish green triangular stems, somewhat folded. The male flowers are in the showier stalked head above the rest of the plant, with the smaller female flowers located below.

Groundhogs



Groundhogs tree-cutting

Want to spend some quality time on Snyder Prairie? We need more workers to join our Groundhogs in preserving and improving our Snyder Prairie. No experience is necessary. We just need people willing to cut trees, lop sumac and rough-leaved dogwood, help with burns, collect seeds, remove invasives, and any other chores need to be done. Even if you can only attend once or twice, you are still welcome! Snyder Prairie is located near Mayetta, Kansas about 20 miles north of Topeka. Groundhogs meets the third Saturday of the month usually at 9:00am. They will meet in April and May, then take off for the summer, and reconvene in September.

Contact our site manager, **Frank Norman** at 785-691-9748 or fjnoman@sunflower.com to get on the volunteer list and be informed of work day activities. ***Please don't show up without contacting us, as we may need to cancel on a given workday.*** Always dress for the prairie with long pants, gloves, a hat, and sturdy shoes or boots, and bring along water.

Ancestral Arts Workshop

On March 4, 2017, GHF hosted ancestral arts workshops on cordage and beginning basketry. Thanks to Wade Myslivy for sharing his expertise and to those who attended and made a donation. Thanks to Courtney Masterson for these photos.



Wade Myslivy



Bird and Wildflower outing at the Prairie Center

Saturday, Apr 29th, 2017 @ 7:30-10:30
26235 West 135th Street, Olathe, Kansas

Contact: Edna Hamera

ednahamera@gmail.com 913-963-9149

Leaders: Micky Louis and Edna Hamera

Sponsor: Kansas Native Plant Society & K-State Extension Master Naturalists



Enjoy a 3-mile nature walk to look for spring migrants, ground and song birds as well as spring ephemerals. Hike is moderate level with hills and crossing streams. You are welcome to come for part or the entire walk. Wear sturdy shoes. Long sleeves & pants may be more comfortable. Bring water, binoculars, sunscreen and insect repellent may be needed. We will meet in the parking lot by the stone house at 135th and Cedar Niles Rd.

Visit a Prairie

In addition to our Snyder Prairie, the Johnson County prairies, and the Prairie Center in Olathe, here are some places to visit and perhaps see bison.

- ◆ **Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Strong City, Kansas**
<https://www.nps.gov/tapr/planyourvisit/index.htm>
- ◆ **Prairie State Park, Mindenmines, Missouri**
<https://mostateparks.com/park/prairie-state-park>
- ◆ **Konza Prairie Public Hiking Trails**
<http://keep.konza.k-state.edu/visit/index.html>
- ◆ **Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, Osage County, Oklahoma**
<https://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/oklahoma/placesweprotect/tallgrass-prairie-preserve.xml>

Research Scholarships Still Available for 2017

Scholarships for **up to \$1000** to be used for research into monarchs or pollinators are available for either graduate or undergraduate students at Kansas colleges.

Contact us at ghfscholarship@gmail.com if you are an interested researcher. Recipients will be asked to acknowledge the support and share the results of their work with our group.

We have previously given our scholarships through the Kansas Native Plant Society and will use a similar process.

We depend on your contributions! Please help GHF complete its mission by sending your donation today. The date of your last contribution is printed above your name on the mailing label. **Send to** Grassland Heritage Foundation, PO Box 394, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201.

Membership Categories: __\$20 Friend __\$35 Family __\$50 Steward __\$100 Sustaining __\$250 Conserver
__\$500 Patron __\$1000 Benefactor __\$5000 Founder __\$15 Student/Retiree

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

_____ Send my newsletter by mail **OR** _____ Send my pdf newsletter to the above email address

_____ Contact me about volunteering

_____ Gift in *honor* or *memory* of (mark which) _____

Your contribution will be placed in the general fund unless you designate your donation for :

_____ Rachel Snyder Memorial Scholarship Fund

_____ Prairie Protection

_____ Education programs

_____ Prairie Management

Special Donations

Large donors: Anonymous donor who funded our Gardening with Native Plants Series, Robert G. Barnhardt, Jr. (*Land Acquisition/Protection*), David Wagner (*In memory of Larry Wagner*), Martha Wagner, (*In memory of Larry Wagner & honor of David Wagner*)

Deborah Borek (*Land Acquisition/Protection*), Ronald L Sisk
Westar Energy Spirit of Giving for a matching gift to Melvin Depperschmidt

In memory of Larry Wagner: Frances & Caroline (an aspiring prairie champion) DiSarro

Land Acquisition: Bill Cutler & Elisabeth Suter, Rex Powell,
Marie Alice L'Heureux, Andrea Repinsky

In honor of Ken Lassman: Dr. Artie Shaw

Rachel Snyder Scholarship Fund: Toni & Chip Taylor

Gift Membership to Karen Seibel: Margaret Rose

Monthly Donation Plan: Kenneth & Gayle Nicolay

GHF Members

New Members: Stan Brower, Laura Downy-Skochdopole, John W Head, Brady Karlin, Marsha Sodamann, Travis Weller, Kathy Witherspoon

Returning/Renewing Members: Steve Holcomb, Myron Leinwetter, Ann Simpson, Mike & Julie Campbell, Mary Kowalski, Ken Tillery, Frank Norman, Paul Showalter, Michael Babbitt, Richard A. Brune, Barbara Clark, Mary Cottom, Daniel

Dannenberg, Carol Fields & Charles Downing, Herb & Pat Duncan, Carole & John Hunter, Margie Lundy, Roxie McGee, Florence & Robert Middleton, Kenneth & Gayle Nicolay, Dale E Nimz, Mary Powell, Joan Wagstaff, Marnie Clawson, Mary Conrad, Bruce & Lucy Cutler, Roger & Virginia Emley, Mary Haskin, Jerry Jost, Stan & Sandy Noland, Alexis Powell, Catherine Reed, Durand Reiber, Dr. Edna Hamera, Cynthia Pederson, Kirk & Barbara Vaughan

Our new payment processing service allows anyone to set up a monthly charge. Check it out through the web site! My apologies if we've missed anyone-still learning the new system. -Sue H.

Thank you to

Megan Withiam, Andrea Repinsky, and Jason Keezer for helping to man the GHF table at the Kaw Valley Eagles Day and the Kaw Valley Seed Fair

Megan Withiam for helping with lunch during WEALTH Day at the Capitol

Andrea Repinsky for considerable researching & updating our web site & database

Sharon Gan-Yang for layout for our plant sale flyer & the newsletter

Kevin Bachkora for assisting with monthly accounting

Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical and Capitol City Bank for meeting space

We depend on your contributions!

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_____ Prairie Acquisition

_____ Education programs

_____ Prairie Management

Upcoming events for 2017

KHS History and Environment Fair

Thursday, April 20, 2017, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Kansas Museum of History,
6425 SW 6th Ave, Topeka, Kansas.

This annual event teaches students in grades four through six how Kansans have been "living green" for generations, highlighting the museum's prairie and nature trail and celebrating our state's natural resources and new opportunities for using them. Sponsored by the Shawnee County Conservation District and the Kansas Historical Society.

17th Annual Earth Day Parade & Celebration

Saturday, April 22nd, 2017. Parade at 11:00 am

Celebration from 11:30 am – 4:00 pm, 11th and Massachusetts St., Lawrence, KS. The celebration in South Park features live music, yoga, local food vendors, environmental exhibits and children's activities. Attendees are invited to learn from exhibits about waste reduction, recycling, composting, alternative fuels and vehicles, energy conservation, land preservation, wildlife and habitat preservation, and more.

Gardening with Native Plants Workshops

May through September, see page 3 for more information

Native Plants for Your Yard or Garden

Monday, April 24th at 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Lawrence Public Library Auditorium
707 Vermont, Lawrence, KS

Intrigued by native plants but not sure how use them in your garden? Join native plant experts Kelly Kindscher, Courtney Masterson, and GHF Snyder Preserve Manager, Frank Norman for a conversation about incorporating native plants into your yard, garden, or landscape design. RSVP to kawvalleynpc@gmail.com. Sponsored by the Kaw Valley Native Plant Coalition and the Lawrence Public Library.

5th Annual GHF Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 20th, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Trinity Episcopal Church,
1011 Vermont, Lawrence, KS

Mark Your Calendars! This promises to be our biggest sale yet with over 50 species of native wildflowers and grasses. All plants are locally grown and guaranteed to be neonic free. GHF members may pre-order with a discount and pick up the day of the sale. To verify your membership or learn more about ordering, contact us at ghfplantsale@gmail.com or call 913-856-4784. Also, watch our Facebook page and website for updated information closer to the event.

Kim Bellemere organizes GHF's educational outreach. Call her at 785-840-8104 or email grasslandheritage@gmail.com if you can assist at an event or would like to volunteer in some other way.