



GHF NEWS

Fall Edition

December 2018

EVENTS

GHF Post-Holiday Potluck Party

Sunday, January 6, 7 pm at the Holcombs' in Olathe. See p. 8 for details.

GHF Annual Meeting

Wed. Jan. 9, 7 pm, Lawrence Public Library. More on p. 8.

Groundhogs Prairie Restoration Work Days

Jan 19, Feb. 16, March 16, April 20, May 18 at Snyder Prairie, Mayetta, KS. More on p. 7. Sign up with Frank at fijnorman52@gmail.com

Kaw Valley Eagles Day Celebration

Saturday, Jan. 19, 8:30 am—4 pm, Billy Mills Middle School, 2734 Louisiana St., Lawrence

Kansas Native Bees Presentation

Monday, Jan. 25, 7 pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, 1245 New Hampshire, Lawrence Co-sponsored by Jayhawk Audubon Society

Kaw Valley Seed Fair

Saturday, Feb. 9, 9 am—3 pm, Douglas County Fairgrounds, 2021 Harper St., Lawrence

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Introducing Leadplant Prairie!



We don't get the fun of announcing a new site acquisition very often, so please join us in celebrating the protection of Leadplant Prairie! Thanks to your support and the help of realtor Dean Goodell, GHF just purchased this 17.7-acre high-quality prairie in Anderson County! Please plan to join us there for a members' event in the spring, and please consider helping us rebuild our prairie protection fund with your donations!

How Will Climate Change Affect the Prairie?

Climate change is upon us. New reports issued this fall from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the US National Climate Assessment show us that climate change is progressing and will have significant impacts across North America.

So, what does that mean for the tallgrass prairie? To learn more, GHF partnered with the KU Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and the Lawrence Public Library to host our first ever forum on the topic. The November 7th forum was led off by local author and climate change expert Ken Lassman who spoke about the process of climate change and its global impacts. He was followed by Dr. Jesse Nippert, grassland ecologist and Principal Investigator at the KSU Konza Prairie LTER who talked about impacts to the tallgrass prairie specifically.

Some of the biggest takeaways from the presentations include: 1. We're likely to see changing weather patterns that include warmer winters and nights as well as more frequent droughts punctuated by large rain events. 2. We'll probably receive the same amount of rain annually, but it will come less frequently and in larger amounts instead of frequent, smaller events. 3. Those rain events may lead to more frequent flooding. Impacts to the prairie may include an increase in invasive species, more woody encroachment, and potentially more landscape fragmentation.

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

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Assistant to the Treasurer:
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Joyce Wolf, Lecompton
Ron Wolf, Lecompton

Staff

Kim Bellemere: Education and Membership Coordinator
Frank Norman: Preserve Manager

A Note from the President

It's that time of year again when we start to plan next year's activities and lament that we just don't have enough volunteers to do all the things we'd like to do. So, once again I'm imploring you to step forward. There are many ways to assist, ranging from full-time commitments to one-time participation.

We are currently recruiting for our Board of Governors. This is the policy and planning body of GHF. We meet 6 times a year, usually in Lawrence. A governor's term is for three years. If you've been involved with our group and want a greater voice, this would be a positive step forward. We also have four directors who are charged with making day-to-day decisions between our regular meetings. We usually do this work via email. We also seek a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer who each serve one year terms.

We also need people willing to serve on our committees. The Education Committee works with Kim Bellemere on presentations, our efforts to produce educational materials, and outreach to the public. The Land Management Committee develops policies and best practices for the management of our properties including setting a calendar of projected work at each site. They oversee Frank Norman, our preserve manager. The Fundraising Committee is seeking new ways to raise money for our Prairie Protection Fund. The Scholarship Committee sends out notices of our offering and evaluates submissions. The Plant Sale Committee handles all the planning for this program: ordering plants, arranging details of the sale, publicity, and all the logistics of the day of the sale.

Our new prairie near Welda, Kansas is going to require maintenance. We are looking for anyone who lives south of Kansas City who might want to be involved. We need to make contacts for services as well as solicit volunteers to help with work days or help plan outings for the public. Since most of us live an hour away, anyone closer would be an asset. It's a fairly small prairie, so not an overwhelming task. Any work on it has the added bonus of being able to visit a beautiful prairie on a regular basis.

I know general requests for volunteers aren't received as well as one-on-one appeals, but we don't want to miss your contributions because we haven't met and gotten to know you. Please step forward to volunteer, whether it's for a long-term position or to help out for one event! You can contact me via email at sholc2003@yahoo.com, call me at 913-856-4784, or feel free to contact Kim Bellemere to volunteer with programs she supervises.

Sue Holcomb



Sullivan's milkweed in the Holcombs' garden

Landowners Learn about Restoration Realities

Have you ever wondered how a prairie restoration works or what steps are involved? This year, 50 rural landowners know more about the realities of restoring prairie thanks to a collaborative project with the Jayhawk Audubon Society.

This spring and fall, JAS and GHF jointly hosted two Restoration Realities workshops aimed at educating landowners on the mechanics of conducting a small-scale restoration and how those restorations can benefit wildlife, particularly grassland birds. The workshops were conducted at the home of GHF Membership and Education Coordinator Kim Bellemere, where she and her family initiated a 2-acre restoration in the spring of 2018.

During the workshops, participants heard from JAS Board Treasurer Jennifer Delisle, who talked about the connection between native plants and birds and how many grassland birds use prairie for food and shelter. Prairie ecologists Frank Norman, owner of Norman Ecological, Inc., and Courtney Masterson, owner of Native Lands LLC, also spoke about the steps involved in conducting a new prairie restoration from old brome or crop fields. Kim Bellemere shared her family's restoration experience and the "realities" of restoring their small acreage. County and state agencies and non-profit organizations provided resource materials on cost-share programs and other services available to anyone wanting to conduct a restoration.

While there are many resources available about the steps in reconstructing or restoring a prairie, the reality of creating a new prairie from scratch can be messier or less ideal than some books would indicate. Consequently, one of the goals of this project was to help landowners see and understand what a new restoration actually looks like. To that end, the workshops included tours of the new Bellemere project as

well as older restorations on neighboring properties. In the spring, participants toured three properties, comparing the appearance and plant make-up of the new Bellemere project vs. a neighboring CRP field and a long-term restoration with a diverse plant community. The fall workshop at the Bellemere property let participants see what species had grown during the first summer and learn about fall maintenance of a new prairie project.



With any luck, a few landowners were inspired to start their own restoration projects provide more food and shelter for our native wildlife. We can't wait to follow up in the spring to see what they're planning.

Funds for the workshops were provided by the National Audubon Society. We thank them for their support as well as the Jayhawk Audubon Society (JAS) for spearheading the project. It was a great collaboration and we hope we can do more work together in the future. To learn more about JAS and the Plants for Birds program, visit their website at www.jayhawkaudubon.org/plants-for-birds.

How Will Climate Change Affect the Prairie?

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The good news is that as a diverse ecosystem, the tallgrass prairie has some built-in resiliency. That said, it will be important for land owners and managers to understand how the prairie may be impacted and what that may mean for their management plans. As Kansans we're very lucky to be the stewards of the last remaining expanse of prairie in the world. We don't want to lose any more of it to the invasive species or woody invaders that will increase because of climate change.

We plan to host more climate change related events and forums in 2019 including a workshop for land managers.

In the meantime, we encourage everyone to learn all they can. Ken Lassman has created a comprehensive list of science-based climate change resources. Please email us at grasslandheritage@gmail.com for the complete list or watch our website where it will be posted soon. You can also listen to a part of the Nov. 7th event which was recorded by KKFI radio, at www.kkfi.org/podcasts/eco-radio-kc.

We extend our thanks to Ken Lassman and Jesse Nippert for speaking and Dr. Helen Alexander with the KU Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Kristin Soper with the Lawrence Public Library for partnering with us.

GHF Annual Report

2018 has been an exciting year with lots of activity. Parts of this report refer to the calendar year, and others to our fiscal year, which runs from September 1 to August 31.

We were excited to welcome three new members to the GHF board early in the year. Ted Abel, Courtney Masterson, and Roxie McGee added new experience and expertise. Later in the year, Jennifer Dropkin and past GHF President Angie Babbit concluded their Board service, and Ron Wolf joined the board. Thank you to all board members for their outstanding service.

We are pleased that we were able to reward three scholarships for prairie research during the year, to Pam Blackmore at Kansas State University on Butterflies, Tallgrass Prairie, and Green Roofs; to Emily Kaemmar from Kansas University to study Restoring Prairie Soil Microbes with Tailored Compost; and to Theo Michaels of Kansas University for research on Exploring Novel Methods for Tallgrass Prairie Restoration: Prairie Monoliths as Catalysts for Restoration. All these projects are addressing restoration,

which GHF has been stressing in our own programming. We look forward to sharing results of their work.

We voted to increase our education programs this year and we were pleased with the numbers of people who attended our talks. Kim had to find larger locations a few times! We emphasized more outreach to adults and were happy to see new members join as a result. Work at Snyder Prairie to eliminate invasive honeysuckle and improve the timber stand was funded by a grant and was completed by a contractor. Frank Norman continues to follow up with assessments. Our social media presence is also being improved. Work continues on the website and outreach via Facebook, Instagram, and via email using Mailchimp. This has enabled us to improve our communication, especially to inform everyone of last-minute changes.

Our big news was the decision to purchase Leadplant Prairie. This helps fulfill our mission to preserve prairie in its most fundamental way. We look forward to the coming year to introduce this beauty to the public.

Groundhogs and Prairie Management Report

GHF hosted 8 Groundhogs outings plus two additional volunteer events during 2018. 11 people made 25 visits to Snyder Prairie volunteering a total of approximately 124.5 hours. During those events, volunteers assisted Preserve Manager Frank Norman and contractor Bruce Yonke in cutting red cedars and other trees, clearing brush, burning prairies, controlling invasive species, seeding disturbed areas with native grass and wildflower seeds, and fixing our old footbridge.

Kudos to the volunteers including Ted Abel, Gary Tegtmeier, Jim Jennings, Myron Leinwetter, Courtney Masterson, Brian Roh, John Flavin, Craig Freeman, Mike Campbell, and Melvin Depperschmidt. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Please consider volunteering in 2019. You get the opportunity to do some important restoration work, do something physically demanding, get out in the open air, and develop some camaraderie.

This year, Frank Norman also monitored the results of our large 2017 timber stand improvement project and he continued reseeding of a re-graded area.



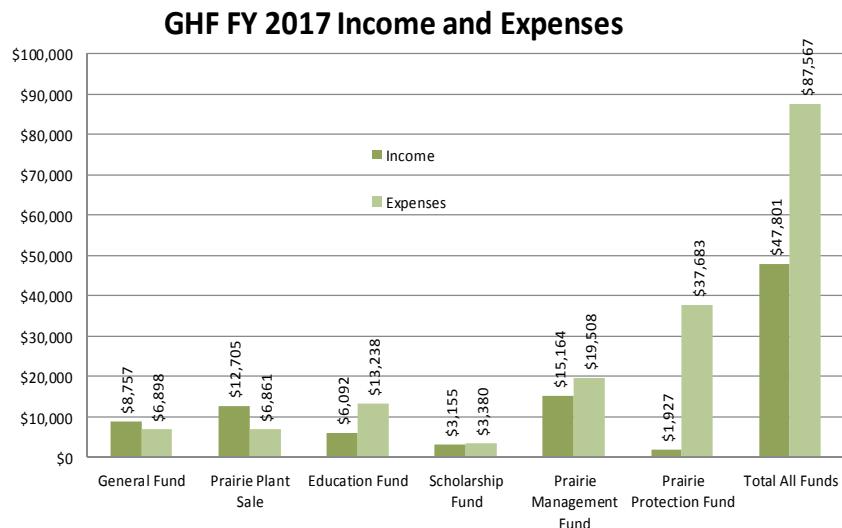
Stacking a burn pile of woody vegetation cleared from the prairie.



Spring burns at Snyder Prairie

Treasurer's Report

Our budget appears greatly expanded this year. The purchase of Leadplant Prairie is reflected in the Prairie Protection Fund activity. We hope to raise money to replenish this fund. NRCS provided nearly \$14,000 to pay for the control of honeysuckle at Snyder Prairie and timber stand improvement work. The education budget was increased, thanks to project-based funding sources, for Kim Bellemere to spend more time on Restoration Realities, activities related to the Climate + Energy Project, development of restoration manuals, and on native plant workshops.



Education Report

Wow, what a busy year! In 2017-2018, GHF sold 3,300 plants during three plant sale days, we educated close to 250 people on using native plants in their gardens, and we forged new partnerships with great organizations like Kansas Biological Survey, Jayhawk Audubon Society, City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation Dept., Douglas County Master Gardeners, and Kansas Rural Center.

One of the highlights of our year was hosting the GHF Native Plant Gardening Workshop Series for a second time. Funding from an anonymous donor enabled us to provide workshops on a variety of gardening topics and a native plant garden tour. We're also almost ready to publish new native plant gardening handouts. Interest in native plant gardening is "growing" and we're excited to be a part of that movement. We're going to continue promoting gardening with native plants and hope you all will join us for a workshop, forum, or other event in 2019.

Not only did we educate gardeners about native plants, we planted some gardens as well! Through a partnership with the Kaw Valley Native Plant Coalition and the Lawrence Parks and Rec. Dept., GHF, the Jayhawk Audubon Society, and the Blue Moon Neighborhood Group designed and installed native gardens at Oak Hill Cemetery in Lawrence. This is the second GHF garden in Lawrence, joining the Brook Creek Park garden planted in East Lawrence in 2017. Oak Hill Cemetery is on the National Register of Historic Places and a fascinating place to visit. A big thanks goes to the volunteers for their help installing the garden and to Courtney Masterson for her great design work!

Another highlight was working with the Kansas Biological

Survey (KBS) on their project to identify natural and cultural historic sites in Douglas County. We assisted with planning four forums where landowners, KBS staff, and community organizations came together to learn about our cultural and natural resources and talk about how to better protect important historical sites. KBS will continue their work in 2019 and we can't wait to see what happens next.

Because of the timing of our fiscal year, some of the projects we worked on in 2018 aren't reflected in this year's numbers even though they're sure to have a big impact with time. For example, we're currently working with the Douglas County Master Gardeners and the Kansas Rural Center to write and publish a prairie restoration and native plant gardening manual. The manual will be divided into different sections addressing the gardening/restoration processes based on project size – and it will be available online! Look for more info. in the summer of 2019.

It's a great time to be a "prairie person!" While threats to the prairie are still present and need to be addressed, we are seeing more and more people who are excited about the prairie and want to learn more. Our next year will include events focused on climate change, native gardening, prairie restoration, and of course, we'll visit the newly acquired Leadplant Prairie. We hope you'll join us for all of it!

FY 2017 Education Events By the Numbers

Total contacts through events: 1,500

Events tabled: 6

Educational events hosted or participated in: 13

Garden workdays: 5

Donors from September 1, 2017 to December 2018

Ted Abel
 Dr. David Alspaugh
 Sharon Ashworth
 Kathy Ayers
 Kevin & Angie Babbitt
 Andi Back
 Georgiana Baer
 Robert G. Barnhardt, Jr.
 Joanne Berns
 Deborah Borek
 Janet Bouley
 T. Bransky
 Stan Brower
 Denise Brubaker
 Richard A. Brune
 James Burbage
 Lynn Byczynski
 Mike & Julie Campbell
 Daren Carlisle
 Keith Coleman
 Mary Conrad
 Phyllis Copt
 Julia Cotter
 Mary Cottom
 Bruce & Lucy Cutler
 Jessica Daniels
 Daniel Dannenberg
 Ann Danner
 Evelyn L. Davis
 Rick & Diane Deitz
 Kathy Denning
 Melvin Depperschmidt
 Karen Dove

Laura Downey-Skochdopole
 Carol Fields & Charles Downing
 Roger & Virginia Emley
 John Flavin
 Craig & Jane Freeman
 Matthew Garrett
 Dean & Lisa Goodell
 Tracey Graham
 Martha Hagen
 Edna Hamera
 Jane Hanni
 Mary Haskin
 Jean Hiersteiner
 Steve & Sue Holcomb
 Carole & John Hunter
 Greg & Patty Hylton
 Jerry Jost
 Kathy Kinder
 Kelly Kindscher
 Jill Kleinberg
 Tad Kramar
 Carolyn Kusmin
 Marie Alice L'Heureux
 Becky & Lisa LaBlanc-Willis
 Kathryn Lange
 Myron Leinwetter
 Phil & Ellen Loomis
 Dennis & Susan Lordi Marker
 Margie Lundy
 Linda Mangelsdorf-Oshel
 Elizabeth Marshall

Roxie McGee
 Florence & Robert Middleton
 Mike, Pam & Lia Miller
 Zora Milne
 Andrew Mitchell
 Darla Mitchell
 Carol Morgan
 James Morrissey
 Kenneth & Gayle Nicolay
 Stan & Sandy Nolind
 Frank Norman
 Elizabeth Patton
 Cynthia Pederson
 Kathy Porsch
 Alexis Powell
 Mary Powell
 Rex Powell
 Sylvia Rawlings
 Catherine Reed
 Durand Reiber
 Andrea Repinsky
 David Rock
 Margaret Rose
 Janet & Stan Roth
 Fred & Jenna Sack
 Byril J. Sanders
 Sandy Sanders
 Susan Sanders

Mary and Mike Schnebly
 Barbara & Dick Schowen
 Ann Simpson
 Audrey Singer
 Ronald L Sisk
 Debra Small
 Marsha Sodamann
 Ruth Stepien
 Betty Sterling
 Al & Linda Storms
 Melody Stratton
 Judith Taylor
 Toni & Chip Taylor
 Gary Tegtmeier
 Sandra Tholen
 Margaret Thomas
 Ken Tillery
 Julie Trowbridge-Alford
 Ione Unruh
 Lorie Vanchena
 David L. Wagner
 Martha Wagner
 Ozark Wilderness Waterways Club
 Travis Weller
 Pat Wittry
 Ron & Joyce Wolf
 Tasha Wolff
 Nancy & Doug Yost

Special Donations & New Members since Sept. 2018

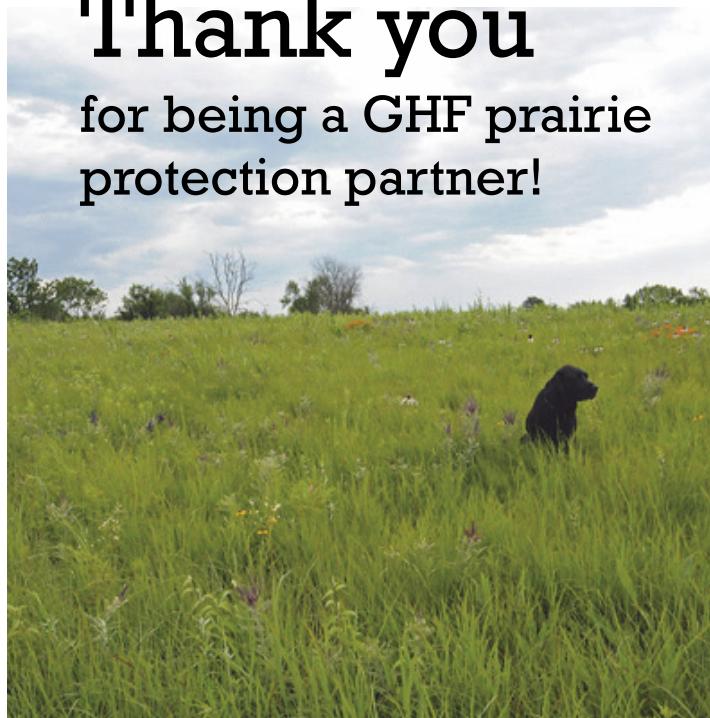
Land Management Fund: Matthew Garrett, Dean & Lisa Goodell, Judith Taylor

Prairie Protection Fund: Janet Bouley, Steve & Holcomb, Greg & Patty Hylton, Gary Tegtmeier, Nancy & Doug Yost

Dennis & Susan Lordi Marker donation divided between Education, Prairie Protection, and Scholarship Funds

New Members: Kathy Ayers, Janet Bouley, T Bransky, Daren Carlisle, Keith Coleman, Dean & Lisa Goodell, Greg & Patty Hylton, Judith Taylor, Nancy & Doug Yost

**Thank you
 for being a GHF prairie
 protection partner!**



We depend on your contributions!

Please help GHF protect prairie 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

Membership renewals and donations
can also be sent to GHF online at
www.grasslandheritage.org



Thank you to . . .

Angie Babbit, Courtney Masterson, and Roxie McGee for speaking at our fall native plant workshops.

Roxie McGee for volunteering at the final Oak Hill Cemetery work day in September.

Sue and Steve Holcomb, Ken Tillary, Roxie McGee, Pat Kehde, Margaret Rose, Bitsey Patton, Andrea Repinsky, Jan Speigel, Jennifer Delisle, and Megan Withiam for volunteering during the Fall 2018 Native Plant Sale.

Jennifer Delisle, Frank Norman, and Courtney Masterson for speaking during the Restoration Realities 2 workshop in October.

Thank you also to the Jayhawk Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society for partnering with us on the Restoration Realities workshop project. Thank you to the National Audubon Society for funding the project.

Ken Lassman and Jesse Nippert for presenting at the Climate Change and the Tallgrass Prairie forum on Nov. 7th. Thank you also to Helen Alexander and the KU Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and Kristin Soper and the Lawrence Public Library for co-sponsoring.

Thanks to Kevin Bachkora for accounting services.

Volunteer Opportunities

Kim Bellemere, our membership and education coordinator, needs help to visit with people about the prairie and GHF. Call 785-840-8104 or email her at grasslandheritage@gmail.com if you can assist or would like to volunteer in some other way.

Join the Groundhogs volunteer restoration crew to preserve and improve GHF's Snyder Prairie! No experience is necessary. We just need people willing to cut trees, lop sumac, help with burns, collect seeds, remove invasive plants, and other tasks. Snyder Prairie is near Mayetta, Kansas about 20 miles north of Topeka.

Groundhogs usually meets the third Saturday of the month at 9:00am. Contact our preserve manager, Frank Norman at 785-691-9748 or fjnorman52@gmail.com.

Please don't show up without contacting us, as we may need to cancel or move a workday. Always dress for the prairie with long pants, gloves, a hat and sturdy boots, and bring water.

Don't miss an event or announcement!

Do we have your email address? Send your email with your membership renewal or to grasslandheritage@gmail.com

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Enjoy your newsletter in full color on our website: www.grasslandheritage.org.



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GHF Annual Meeting

You are invited to our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, January 9, 2019 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the Lawrence Public Library, Meeting Room B. We will hold elections for the Board of Governors, Directors, and Officers, review last year's activities and work on plans for next year. Let Sue Holcomb know if you would like to join us. Email sholc2003@yahoo.com or call 913-856-4784.

Rachel Snyder Memorial Scholarship

The Rachel Snyder Memorial Scholarship Fund was started in 2000 with funds donated in memory of Rachel Snyder, the benefactor of GHF's Mayetta prairie property. GHF is offering scholarships of up to \$1,000 for prairie related research. Preference will be given to graduate students at Kansas universities.

GHF is currently accepting proposals through February 28, 2019. GHF will award scholarship funds in March 2019. You can find a scholarship application on the GHF website, www.grasslandheritage.org, or if you have applied for a Kansas Native Plant Society Scholarship, you may submit a copy of that.

JCPRD & KC Wildlands Seed Team News

Volunteers from across the KC metro area have contributed to another stunning native seed collection effort in 2018. 150+ native species are currently being processed with around 1,000 volunteer hours into the project. Remnant local ecotype seed is prioritized for KC Wildlands remnant sites and the remaining seed is broadcast on Johnson County Parks and Recreation District prairie restorations to increase diversity on large scale projects. The increase in seed volume and diversity wouldn't be possible without KC Wildlands devoting Patti Beedles, seed technician, to orchestrating volunteer work days and the processing of seed. A new relationship with the City of Lenexa, KS will allow the team to grow out rare plants for plugging in 2019. The seed team is always looking for new independent seed collectors. Contact matthew.garrett@jocogov.org for more information.

GHF Post-Holiday Potluck Party

Sunday, January 6, 2019 at 4:30 pm at 26062 W 150th St, Olathe, KS 66061

Sue & Steve Holcomb will once again host a potluck holiday gathering at their home for board members, volunteers, and their guests. Contact the Holcombs at 913-856-4784 to let them know you're coming.