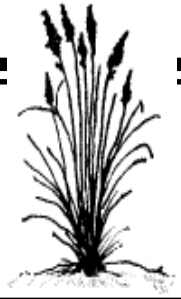


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# GHF NEWS

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Grassland Heritage Foundation Newsletter

December 2006

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## Plan to join us for a winter celebration of prairie

Friday, January 26, 2007

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Unitarian Fellowship Hall

1263 North 1100 Road, Lawrence, KS

This winter event will involve prairie discussions, good food, door prizes or silent auction. Come and hear what Grassland Heritage is doing and what it hopes to accomplish in Douglas County.

Watch for your invitation or call Rebecca at 785-218-8893 for more details and to RSVP.

### Web Site Update

Be sure to check out the new look of the GHF web site! Board member Amy Carlson has donated countless hours changing the look and making it more practical and easier to use. You can now read the newsletter online, make your donation by credit card through Click & Pledge, or sign up a new contact. The board members with passwords can submit an event for the calendar or update the membership data. The new site makes use of the graphics that were developed for our brochures, unifying our organization's look.



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

### Annual Meeting

The GHF **Annual Meeting** is scheduled for **Saturday, February 24th** from 8:30 am to 12:30pm in the Conference Room 130 in Higuchi Hall, the Kansas Biological Survey offices. Elections will be held, plans made for 2007, and updates on existing programs.

Board members are "required" to attend, but the meeting is open to anyone interested in the organization.

Contact outgoing president Sue Holcomb 913-856-4784 or sholc2003@yahoo.com for more information.

### GHF's Rolling Prairie Learning Lab Out and About in Lawrence

The Rolling Prairie Learning Lab has been busy with community outreach efforts. Three events were scheduled this past fall:

August 27 at the Kansas Fiddling & Picking Competition, October 14 at the Lawrence Public Library, October 28 at the Lawrence Community Mercantile

The Rolling Prairie Learning Lab is a marvelous opportunity to promote GHF. Spearheaded by Board members, Amy Carlson and Rex

Powell, the RPLL provides a means to educate the public about native Kansas prairies and prairie conservation. Each event evolves around a central theme such as prairie animals or prairie patterns. A fun art project and hands on activities are included to enhance the learning experience. What a great time to discuss the importance of prairie conservation with mom and dad while the little ones enjoy working on an exciting art project or getting their faces painted.



Two Rolling Prairie Learning Labs are planned for January 2007. The Lawrence Public Library has invited us to join them at their Kansas Day celebration, date to be determined. We will also be rolling out to the **Kaw Valley Eagles Day** on **January 21** at **Free State High School**. Watch the website for dates and times and come out and join us!

## Message from the President

My plans are that this is to be my farewell address as president of GHF. It is well beyond the time for someone else to take the reigns of this organization. I had great plans when I became president and have had my share of joys and disappointments. I've been extremely lucky to work with some wonderful people and learned a lot from them. I've watched the group's focus shift away from the Prairie Center to most of its efforts going to Snyder Prairie and now to saving prairie in Douglas County. We're developing more technological savvy with our web site and the newsletter. We still face the challenge of retaining members and gaining new ones, and never having enough volunteers.

But like most of the presidents before me, I'll not be going far. I plan to remain on the board, keep volunteering at the office, and at least for now, keep working on the newsletter.

What each of you needs to consider is how you can be part of the future of GHF. What skills do you possess that can assist with our mission? What projects are you interested in? What events can you help organize? We are looking for new board members, but also for people that want to be involved on a smaller scale. As prairies vanish the opportunities to learn about them do too.

Join us at the winter gathering in January or at the annual meeting in February. Plan to attend Groundhogs or a walk on the prairie. Take time this year to get involved!

*Sue Holcomb*



We were excited to find ladies tresses (left) on the replanted east side of Snyder Prairie. The rocky soil helped these tiny plants to compete against the greasses. See Jeff Hansen's article on page 4 on how competition effects what you should plant in prairie gardens.

From the **Iowa Prairie Network News** another place to look for information on identifying grasses <http://www.eeob.iastate.edu/research/iowagrasses/>. This site is based on the inventory by Lynn Clark of Iowa native grasses. Many of the species are common throughout the midwest.

Kansas City WildLands  
Community Ecological Restoration Workdays  
Save these dates!

### **Long Johns and Loppers!**

KCWL Winter Community Restoration Workday, Sunday, February 25, 2007, 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Focus for this workday is on removing invasive woody plants. Sites include Ernie Miller Park prairie in Olathe Kansas; Hidden Valley Park in north Kansas City, Missouri; Blue River Glades in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Missouri Natural Areas Day!** Saturday, April 14, 2007

### **Get Planting!**

KCWL Spring Community Restoration Workday, Saturday, May 5, 2007, 9:00 am to noon. Focus will be on planting wild flower seedlings grown from locally harvested seed. Sites include Rocky Point Glades in Swope Park, KCMO; Ernie Miller Park prairie in Olathe, Kansas; Jerry Smith Park prairie in south Kansas City, Missouri. For more information about any of these ecological restoration workdays or to register for a workday, contact Linda Lehrbaum, Kansas City WildLands coordinator at 816-561-1061 x116 or [Linda@bridgingthegap.org](mailto:Linda@bridgingthegap.org).

### **Grassland Heritage Foundation**

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

*GHF News* is published quarterly by Grassland Heritage Foundation. The GHF Office is located at 5460 Buena Vista, Roeland Park, KS. (913)262-3506

#### **Send mail to:**

P.O. Box 394  
Shawnee Mission, KS 66201

#### **Website**

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

#### **Email Address:**

[email@grasslandheritage.org](mailto:email@grasslandheritage.org)

#### **Officers**

President: Sue Holcomb  
Vice-President: Andrea Repinsky  
Secretary: Mike Campbell  
Treasurer: Kevin Bachkora  
Asst Treasurers: Rich Kaufman  
Ann Simpson

## Prairie Odds & Ends



GHF is a partner organization in KC Wildlands

## A Special Thanks to our Dues Paying Members

Below are listed those who have contributed financially to GHF from September 2005 through December 2006. Please let us know of any omissions or corrections. This list does not include life members or those who have given of their time and talent or other non-cash items. [Editor's note--please forgive me if you see names not in correct order or extra spaces. Taking our info and making it into this list is always a monstrous undertaking--COMPUTERS!]

Dr David H. Alspaugh	Helen Gilles	Frank Norman
Fred & Denny Apt	Doug Guess	Hortense Oldfather
Gaylord & Erma Atkinson	Dr. Edna Hamera	Cynthia Pederson
Angie Babbit	Jeff Hansen	Pfizer Foundation
Georgiana Baer	Don Hansen	Dr William Pilchard
Iralee Barnard	Laurel J. Harbour	Paul Post & Kay Keily
Bobbie Barnes	Anne Harvey	Rex R. Powell
Frank & Betty Baron	Mary A. Haskin	Alexis Powell
Steve Baru	Phillip Hedman	Carolyn Pugh
Joan & Bert Berkley	Marjorye & Barney Heeney, Jr	Laura Ramberg
Estelle Berman	Angela & Jason Henderson	Julie Rehm
Nick & Denise Bertram	Steve & Kerry Herndon	John & Barbara Rossbach
Deborah Borek	John & Cindi Hickey	Byril J. Sanders
Lee Boyd	Peter M Hierl	Virginia Schalling
Shirley Braunlich & Peggy Robinson	Walter & Jean Hierstiener	Karl Schletzbaum
Richard A. Brune	Margaret G. Hilton	Philip Schrodt
Diana Busey	Bruce Hogle	Owen J. Sexton
Mike & Julie Campbell	Jennifer Hopwood & Tim Dickson	Shawnee Garden club
Janet Armstrong Canterbury	Don Hrenchir, Sr,	Ann Simpson
Ray & Beth Chao	Carole Hunter	Simpson Foundation
Stephen W Churchill, M.D.	Elaine Hyde	Ronald Sisk
Mary Conrad	Ruth N. Isenberg	Beverly Smith
Fred & Nancy Coombs	D.C. Jenkins	Joyce Steiner
Mel & Mary Cottom	Bob & Penny Jones	Ruth Stepien
Pete Cuppage	Don & Yulonda King	Al & Linda Storms
Dick & Ellie Dawson	Barbara Kleinman	Jerry Taylor & Nancy Bryant Foundation
Sarah Dean	Elliott Krefetz	Chip & Toni Taylor
Jill DeWitt	Mark Larson	Gary Tegtmeier
George & Susan Dobbelaere	Karla Leuenberg	Sandra Tholen
Jim Donovan Family	Cathy W. Lewis	G W Tomanek
Carol Fields & Charles Downing	Derald Lind	David & Vicky Unruh
Robin Ruether & Jason Dremsa	Brad Loveless	James Ussary Living Trust
Jane Drury/R Amos	Margie Lundy	David L. Wagner
Herb & Pat Duncan	Doug & Beth Martin	Martha Wagner
Ruth & Roger Dunning	Harry & Charlotte McDonald	Betty Joan Wagstaff
Julie Elfving	Pauline Middlemiss	Gary Weisenberger
Roger & Virginia Emley	Cynthia Miller	Edgar A Wilcox
Elizabeth Epstein	Mary P Miller	Paul Willis
Sue Ericsson	Wayne & Judy Morton	Dot & Gordon Wingerd
Bill & Kathi Fair	Patrick & Mary Beth Musick	Ron & Joyce Wolf
Marsha Forcum	Milton & Carol Noelken	Clifford H. Wormcke
Craig & Jane Freeman	Stan & Sandy Nolind	John Wright

**Welcome to new members since our last newsletter:** Angie Babbit, Frank & Betty Baron, Ray & Beth Chao, Bill & Kathi Fair, Marjorye & Barney Heeney, John & Cindy Hickey, Mark Larson, Brad Loveless, Mary P Miller, Patrick & Mary Beth Musick, Carolyn Pugh, Laura Ramberg, Philip Schrodt, David & Vicky Unruh, Ron & Joyce Wolf

## Prairie Happenings

### Prairie Landscaping

by Jeff Hansen

If you are thinking of using native prairie plants in your landscape, it's important to select ones that work well in the site that you plan to plant. Some species are very aggressive, and planted without competition can take over a garden. Remember that in their natural environment the plants come into a sort of equilibrium in the prairie. Different plants keep other plants in check.

I've found that certain plants do well with competition from grasses, while others are out competed by the grasses. For example, something like showy beardtongue (*Penstemon cobaea*) doesn't like much

competition and will lose out to more aggressive plants. In the wild, it tends to grow in very rocky sites where other plants don't do well. The same is true of button gayfeather (*Liatris aspera*)*right*. I try to plant these in areas where the soil is poor and a bit rocky.

I've also tried to grow more sideoats grama and little bluestem in my gardens to compete with some of the more aggressive wildflowers. What I've found is that some of the taller wildflowers will out-compete these grasses. For example, I have grey-headed coneflower and beebalm growing with these grasses, but they get so tall so early that they shade out the grasses.

I've also got big-bluestem, indiangrass, switchgrass, and Canada wildrye growing among the taller wildflowers to help keep them from getting to tall. This works for the most part, but sometimes the grasses get so tall that they flop over. Indiangrass is probably my favorite that does NOT flop over.

There are some wildflowers that do really well without any competition and stay upright. One of my favorites is ohio spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*). It stays upright and blooms for about a month. The same goes for pale coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*). It doesn't flop and blooms a long time. If you have too much competition for these, they tend to not be able to compete.

Some plants they I stay away from that just tend to be too aggressive are sunflowers such as sawtooth sunflower (*Helianthus grosseserratus*) and goldenrods such as giant goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*). Willowleaf sunflower (*Helianthus salicifolius*) is a good choice for not being too aggressive. Gray goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*) is a goldenrod that doesn't spread aggressively.



Often times it takes experimentation to see what works best in YOUR garden. I've read in published literature on the subject of native prairie gardening that rattlesnake master is too aggressive, but in my garden I find that it's not aggressive at all. It's best to experiment. Poor soil and dry conditions can help keep some plants in check. But if you have rich soil and it rains plentifully, plants may grow too well. [*Editor's note-I've found that willowleaf sunflower spreads by roots very easily in my garden and grows very tall. Perhaps the soil is too rich and gets watered too much. This is just the point that Jeff is making.*]

My best advice is to experiment a little and to read published books on the subject such as Shirley Shirley's *Restoring the Tallgrass Prairie*. Good luck and enjoy our grassland heritage.

### Roadsides and pollinator conservation: The relationship between native bees and floral diversity

by Jennifer L. Hopwood, University of Kansas, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Bees are significant pollinators in both natural plant communities and agricultural settings, and as such are ecologically as well as economically valuable. With concerns over declines in pollinator populations, finding ways to increase suitable habitat for these important pollinators is vital. In highly human-impacted environments, marginal habitats (hedgerows, roadsides, crop margins) may be valuable habitat for bees, providing foraging and nesting opportunities in landscapes in which resources are otherwise scarce. In recent years, the Department of Transportation of several Midwestern states, including Kansas, has piloted roadside restoration projects. Sections of roadsides were seeded with native forbs and grasses, in order to prevent erosion, reduce maintenance costs, and attract tourists. Roadsides restored to native vegetation may have conservation value to native bees because such roadsides have reduced exposure to pesticides, support plants that serve as pollen and nectar sources, and are unplowed and therefore could be potential nesting sites for ground nesting bees. Comparisons were made in Northeastern Kansas between seven roadsides seeded with native prairie vegetation and seven roadsides that had not been seeded and had an abundance of weedy, non-native plants.

Bees were collected using an aerial net, as well as in fluorescent yellow pan traps that set at varying heights in an attempt to position the pan traps at heights similar to that of flowers in bloom. Roadsides restored to native vegetation were found to support greater bee abundance and richness than weedy roadsides; over twice as many individual bees and nearly 30 species were found on restored roadsides as on weedy roadsides. Only 14 bee species were unique to weedy roadsides, while 41 species were found only in restored roadsides.

The effects of floral resources and roadside characteristics on bee abundance and richness were also investigated, and a prairie remnant was sampled for comparison. Results indicate that increasing floral richness, floral abundance and percent of bare ground encourages greater bee abundance and richness. Width

**Continued on page 5**



On November 18 Groundhogs Frank Norman, Hilary Haley, Jane and Craig Freeman, Steve and Sue Holcomb, Angie Babbitt, and Gus "the prairie dog" worked on planting in the restoration areas immediately to the north of the good prairie at Snyder. These were the areas cleared by the Westar Green Team earlier this year. Applied Ecological Services donated around 660 plants. Species included compass plant, rattlesnake master, yellow coneflower, pale spike lobelia, pale purple coneflower, narrow-leaf mountain mint, and Canadian wildrye, and American germander.



Sue & Steve planting, Frank keeping records and Craig marking GPS locations

## Groundhogs

We're always looking for help with work at Snyder.

Groundhogs generally meets the third Saturday of each month at 9:00am. January 20, February 17, and March 17. Contact Frank Norman at [frank.norman@appliedeco.com](mailto:frank.norman@appliedeco.com).

## Continued from page 4

of the roadside right-of-way, slope and topography, as well as density of traffic of the adjoining road, did not significantly correlate with bee richness or abundance, suggesting that these factors did not substantially influence bee communities. The quality of roadside restoration, as measured by an adaptation of the Floristic Quality Index, also did not correlate significantly with bee abundance and richness, although more recent restorations appeared to have fewer bees and fewer bee species. No statistical difference was found between bee richness and abundance of collections made in a prairie remnant and those made along restored roadsides.

These results suggest that restoring additional roadsides to native prairie vegetation could benefit bee communities in the Midwest and pollinator conservation efforts by providing much-needed habitat in areas that are already set aside from development.

*Jennifer received a grant from the Rachel Snyder Scholarship Fund to help with her research project. This is the abstract of Jennifer's results. She has since left KU and is in Ames, Iowa. Good luck, Jennifer!*

Are you ready to volunteer for GHF as a board member, committee member, or to work on a project? Let Sue know at [sholc2003@yahoo.com](mailto:sholc2003@yahoo.com) or 913-856-4784.

## Thanks

**Amy Carlson** for her work on the GHF web site  
**Andrea Repinsky** for filling in as Secretary in October  
**Applied Ecological Services** for donation of plants for prairie restoration  
**Kevin Bachkora** for providing monthly accounting services for Grassland Heritage  
**Joyce Wolf** for joining our board of governors  
**Andrea Repinsky** for her work on a grant application from the Environmental Fund of the Douglas County Community Foundation, unfortunately we were not selected this year  
**Amy Carlson** for working on the grant application for the Jerry Taylor & Nancy Bryant Foundation, which we were awarded again for 2007  
**Angie Babbitt & Joyce Wolf** for jumping right in as new members and volunteering for the January party

**Don't forget the Kaw Valley Eagles' Day at Free State High School in Lawrence, Sunday, January 21, 2007!**

**Grassland Heritage Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 394**  
**Shawnee Mission, KS 66201**

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Among the beautiful flowers we encountered at the walk with Kansas Native Plant Society members at Snyder Prairie in September, were prairie gentian, ladies' tresses, and button blazingstar.

Don't forget, you can now make your contribution with a credit card at our web site [www.grasslandheritage.org](http://www.grasslandheritage.org) or send the enclosed envelope to the GHF office. See page 1. Thank you for your support!