

EVENTS

Native Plant Sale at Jungle House

Saturday Sept. 10, 10 AM to 12 PM
924 Delaware St., Lawrence KS

Native Plant Sale at Cottin's Hardware Farmers Market

Thursday Sept. 15, 4 PM to 6:30 PM
1832 Mass. St., Lawrence KS

Prairie Park Community Restoration Days

2811 Kensington, Lawrence KS
October 8, 9 AM to 12 PM: Native Plants and Their
Indigenous Importance and Uses
October 29, 1 PM to 4 PM: Bush Honeysuckle
Removal

Native Plant Seed Collection

Saturday October 15, 9 AM to noon
GHF's Snyder Prairie in Mayetta KS
RSVP at grasslandheritage.org/seedcollection

Seed Collection for the Prairie Park Project

October 22, 2022, 1 PM–4 PM
KU Field Station Armitage Education Center

Congratulations to Monarch Watch for
30 years of monarch butterfly conservation!
See p. 5 and monarchwatch.org/events for a
list of great events to support and celebrate
Monarch Watch.



Grassland Heritage Foundation

FALL NATIVE PLANT SALES



<p>Saturday, September 10, 2022 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM At Jungle House 924 Delaware St, Lawrence, KS</p>	<p>Thursday, September 15, 2022 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM At the Cottin's Farmer's Market 1832 Massachusetts St, Lawrence, KS</p>
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Fall is a great time to plant natives! Pick up yours at GHF's Fall Native Plant Sales. About 15 species will be available at each sale.

For more information about our fall sales, visit www.grasslandheritage.org/fallplantsale.



Community Conservation at Prairie Park

GHF is excited to begin a new prairie education and restoration project at Prairie Park in Lawrence, Kansas! We have partnered with Native Lands LLC to help lead a prairie restoration project with Lawrence Parks and Recreation that will serve as a refuge for wildlife and pollinators; an outdoor classroom for children, teachers, and adults; and a community space that reflects what the historic landscape of Douglas County would have looked like prior to European settlement.

Since European settlement, Douglas County has gradually lost its dominant ecosystem, the tallgrass prairie, due to development and agriculture, habitat fragmentation, fire suppression, and invasion by woody and non-native species. Currently in Douglas County, less than 1% of the original continued p. 4



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

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Kaitlyn Ammerlaan

A Note from the President

The GHF fall plant sales are coming soon. So, now is the time to prepare. Even though I know a lot about native plants, my choices aren't always the best.

I decided to buy blue sage, *Salvia azurea*, at the spring sale, originally planning to put it with some goldenrod. When I couldn't find the goldenrod, I decided it would look great in my pink and purple garden out in front of my fountain. Well, it loved the spot and just kept getting bigger. It's now well over 6 feet tall and was sprawled all across the front sidewalk. Apparently, it is getting plenty of water from the fountain and me watering the rose turtlehead in the pot next to it. I've staked it to a small post for now, but I'm afraid this is one that I probably need to try to move. But, the bees absolutely love it and I even saw a hummingbird feeding!

Another plant I love, but is getting too big, is tall coreopsis, *Coreopsis tripteris*. I think I may have gotten it from Missouri Wildflowers Nursery as it is found more in Missouri than Kansas. Since it's a tall plant, I planted it in the center of my rain garden. But one spring, I had a lot of mud wash down to the middle. So, I dug up some shovelfuls of dirt and dumped them up on the edge. I must have gotten some roots and it ended up loving the new location and it growing like crazy. I have cup plant close to that end, so the two bullies are fighting each other for space. They both have beautiful yellow flowers. Now, I've discovered that my sneeze weed, *Helenium autumnale*, is also at that end of the garden. It's just now getting ready to flower, but is much taller than I remembered. I've lost some of my smaller plants at that end, but plenty are filling in.



Staked sage (L), Sneezeweed (top R), bumblebee enjoying blue sage (bottom R)

We discovered last year that common milkweed is on the list of noxious weeds in Lawrence. As I mow off numerous shoots every time I mow the lawn, I can understand why people think it might not be a good neighbor. An additional problem with native plants is just that many don't stay in one place. They spread by roots, rhizomes, seeds, etc. So, as time passes, you may find your carefully planned garden looking a bit different than you plotted out.

Sue Holcomb sholc2003@yahoo.com

Black Jack Battlefield Project Wrap-Up

In June, we completed our two-year, grant funded project at Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park, near Baldwin City, KS. The landscape of Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park now more accurately reflects what the historic landscape of Douglas County may have looked like at the time of the historic Battle of Black Jack. Prior to this project, Black Jack Battlefield had been invaded by non-native plants, altering the services provided by the ecosystem and the cultural aesthetics of the site. Driven by the hard work of volunteers, project partners, and the support of our community, we have removed thousands of invasive and woody plants and brought hundreds of prairie plants back into the landscape. This project has been important in sharing the natural history of Douglas County through hands-on educational events, like seed collection, invasive plant removal, birding adventures, and scientific exploration. With this project, we have begun an important journey toward returning this historically valuable site back to what it may have looked like prior to European settlement.

Black Jack Battlefield Project By the Numbers

- 21 public events hosted over the course of the project
- 240 volunteers
- 649 cumulative hours of volunteer time
- 31 native prairie species collected at Ivan Boyd Prairie
- 1,000+ native plants planted by volunteers into the prairie planting site
- 2 safe and successful burns at the planting site and the remnant prairie
- 1 large tree island removed, rejoining two pieces of remnant prairie
- 3 birding walks led by Dr. Roger Boyd of Jayhawk Audubon Society

Be sure to stop by the site to spot some of the newly established wildflowers and grasses, and to check out the recently installed interpretive signage that highlights the natural history of Black Jack Battlefield!

We hope that you were able to join us for a piece of this project- this project could not have been a success without all of our volunteers' hard work, positive outlooks, and support. It is because of your hard work and donated time that Douglas County is home to a more open and diverse prairie site. Special thanks to volunteers Ted Abel, Mike Campbell, and George Dick who have each contributed many hours to this project and were integral to the project's success!



We would also like to highlight Courtney and Ryan of Native Lands LLC who have helped us lead this project. They have been instrumental in planning and executing all of our events and restoration work. They have guided this project from the start and have kindly shared their knowledge and expertise with us and our community. Additional thanks to our partners Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park and Jayhawk Audubon Society, who have helped us promote and lead multiple events.

This project was made possible thanks to the support of the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council. This important work was funded entirely by a grant from the Natural and Cultural Heritage Grant Program.

To maintain the work that we completed, Grassland Heritage Foundation will continue to have a presence at Black Jack Battlefield, and we will periodically host workdays to keep invasive species at bay. Keep an eye on GHF's website and Facebook page for updates of upcoming events at the site.

Don't miss an event or announcement!

Do we have your email address?
Send it to grasslandheritage@gmail.com



Prairie Park, continued

prairie landscape remains. This project aims to return prairie habitat to a location within city limits that can provide easy access for students, residents, and tourists to peer into the historic landscape. The native vegetation we will establish will resemble the prairie that stretched as far as the eye could see prior to development of the City of Lawrence.

Located just south of Prairie Park Elementary, the project site was identified by Lawrence Parks and Recreation as a site for a potential project due to its location, size, and available amenities. Much of the landscape at Prairie Park has been overtaken by invasive and woody species, like sericea lespedeza and Bradford pear trees, leaving few native grasses and wildflowers. We plan to remove the islands of non-native plants and woody species from the prairie landscape. We will also remove invasive species from the woodland that encompasses the ephemeral creek within Prairie Park, behind the homes in the neighborhood south of the project site. Invasive species will be replaced with a high diversity of trees and wildflowers, restoring five acres of native ecosystem to the park. The residents nearby will still enjoy the view of trees beyond their yards but will also have the added experience of abundant wildflowers and wildlife that will fill the restored space.



Tallgrass prairie
Riparian woodland
Oak hickory savanna

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION MAP
Prairie Park



After receiving funding from a grant from the Douglas County Heritage Conservation Council, we are set to begin public events and workdays this fall. We will be hosting three prairie restoration workdays over the next few months, see below for workday dates and subjects.

August 30, 2022- 5 pm to 7 pm: Sericea Lespedeza and Bradford Pear Removal

October 8, 2022- 9 am to 12 pm: Native Plants and Their Indigenous Importance and Uses

October 29, 2022- 1 pm to 4 pm: Bush Honeysuckle Removal

In addition to the valuable benefits that this project will bring

to the prairie habitat, we will also be integrating community education through each step of the restoration process, serving as a necessary example of large landscape management for our city and local residents. Through the process of developing this project, we were able to collaborate with multiple community partners to amplify the outreach and educational activities that we will be able to provide.

The project includes community driven restoration of about five acres of land back to native vegetation through invasive plant and woody vegetation removal, seeding, and planting of native prairie plants and native trees. Public events will be held at the site through the duration of the project to share skills and information.

The project includes hands-on, paid internships for Haskell Indian Nations University students interested in environmental sciences. These internships will focus on increasing a botanical understanding of the prairie landscape, allow students to dive deeper into their cultural connections with native plants, and strengthen the students' leadership and communication skills.

We will create a professional development course through the Kansas Association for Conservation & Environmental Education about Kansas landscapes and prairie management for educators across the state of Kansas. The project also includes field trips for local high school and elementary students.

International Eyes on the Monarch Butterfly

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) placed the migratory monarch butterfly on its Red List of Endangered Species in July, warning that the iconic butterfly lies on the brink of extinction. The causes include climate change, insecticides, logging, forest fires, deforestation, and development that have disrupted not only the monarch's habitat but also its famed migration.

The IUCN decision came after decades of falling populations, plus reviewing studies, interviewing experts and applying "Red List" criteria. Western monarchs declined by 99.9% between the 1980s and 2021, with some rebound last year. Since the 1980s, various sources estimate populations of eastern monarchs, which make up most of the population in North America, have declined 70 to 95%. The IUCN designation covers both populations.

What does this listing mean for the Monarch? The IUCN action does not trigger regulatory responses in the U.S.. That would come from a listing as 'threatened' or 'endangered' under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife has not listed the monarch butterfly as a federally endangered species, though two years ago, it did acknowledge the species was sufficiently challenged to qualify. Other species were deemed more imperiled at the time and of higher priority. At that time, Monarch Watch commented, "The warranted but precluded decision for monarchs is the right one at this time. It acknowledges the need for continued vigilance due to the numerous threats to the population while emphasizing the need to continue support for programs that create and sustain habitats for monarchs."

UW Madison biologist Karen Oberhauser, in an interview with NPR, said that we continue to save and restore habitat, planting milkweed and nectar species in roadsides and other available land, incentivizing landowners to maintain land for habitat, supporting conservation organizations that protect habitat, and helping tag and monitor monarchs.

Monarch caterpillars depend on milkweed, the only plants they can eat. After leaving their overwintering grounds, in forests in central Mexico or California, depending on the populations, females deposit eggs on milkweed plants as they head north in a multigenerational journey as far as southern Canada. Efforts have been made to protect overwintering habitat but heavy use of glyphosate by American farmers drastically cut out available milkweed plants that the monarch caterpillars rely on. Threats to monarchs also include weather, since a reduced population size will be especially vulnerable to storm events. These conditions are now exacerbated by climate change. The public has planted milkweeds to make up for the losses. But, we need to plant species native to our region and plants that provide nectar during monarch migration. Tropical milkweed may do more harm than good planted in areas where it doesn't naturally grow.



After 30 years of monarch conservation, education and science, Monarch Watch is going to celebrate! Find the full details on the series of planned events at monarchwatch.org/events.

Monarch Watch Banquet Sept. 15, 5: 30 PM, Abe & Jake's

Update Symposium and Lunch, Sept. 16 9 AM, Monarch Watch

Monarch Waystation #1 Sept. 16, 4:30 PM, Monarch Watch

Monarch Watch Tagging, Sept. 17, 8 AM, Baker Wetlands

Author talk on 'Bicycling with Butterflies', Sept. 17, 7 PM, Raven Book Store

Marvelous Monarchs family hands-on science, Sept. 18, 12 PM, KU Natural History Museum

Monarch Watch founder and director Chip Taylor really sees climate change as the worst threat. "Long-term, we will lose the monarch migration due to increases in March temperatures in Texas, increasing summer temperatures in the Upper Midwest, warmer than average temperatures that delay the fall migrations, an increase in drought conditions in the South Region during the fall, and higher than average temperatures at the overwintering sites in Mexico UNLESS we significantly reduce greenhouse gasses. That said, there will be monarchs in the future, but the populations will be local, limited to southern latitudes and mostly non-migratory. Yes, I know, the above scenario is pretty grim, but it is a reality we have to deal with. So, the question becomes: what are we going to do to sustain the monarch migration? To me, it's clear. We have to do all we can to restore and sustain monarch habitats, and we have to support initiatives that favor the reduction of greenhouse gases."

In GHF, we value having Chip Taylor on our board, due to the role of prairie management, protection, and education in supporting monarchs and other wildlife. We also value having the opportunity to directly support monarchs through good prairie management in sites owned by GHF and in sites we're helping to improve, such as Black Jack Battlefield.

Remembering Gaylord Atkinson

We learned of the passing of Gaylord Atkinson on May 12, 2022. Gaylord was a volunteer with GHF back in the 90's. Here he is recognized for his work on a fence along the border of our office prairie. He worked hard to control poison ivy and the Japanese honeysuckle vines trying to take over. In old board minutes, he was thanked for building shelves in the office and helping to move furniture. He worked with the

Groundhogs group at the Prairie Center. In 1999 he was elected to the Board of Governors, but moved to Texas in 2000 to be near family. We'd like to thank Gaylord's daughters for designating GHF as a memorial for their father. A good friend of Gaylord's, Jay Chatham, made a generous donation that the board will decide how best to use in tribute.

July 1998

GHF NEWS

VOLUNTEERS

*Our featured volunteer this quarter is **Gaylord Atkinson**, whose most recent contribution to GHF is a fence along the south end of the Office Prairie in Roeland Park (aka Skateboard Prairie or Poison Ivy Prairie!) The fence was built using only Gaylord's grandfather's hand tools...a real challenge on treated wood!*



North American Grasslands Conservation Act

As we know, grasslands worldwide have been vulnerable, imperiled, or lost to development, invasive species, fragmentation, and other land use changes. A coalition of lawmakers and conservation organizations are hoping to provide new resources for grasslands conservation.

On July 27, the North American Grasslands Conservation Act was introduced in Congress to establish a North American Grassland Conservation Strategy to identify grasslands at risk and identify goals for enhancing grasslands, establish a Grassland Conservation Grant Program for voluntary habitat and rangeland improvement, create National and Regional Grassland Conservation Councils to direct grant funding, and establish research initiatives on native seed crop systems and regenerative grazing. The bill would authorize over \$300 million each year for grassland conservation and restoration.

The legislation was proposed by three Democratic senators and supported by many organizations, including National Wildlife Federation, Land Trust Alliance, Missouri Prairie Foundation, and more.

Proponents aim to support grassland conservation. In order for that to happen, the act needs your support! See 'Take Action' at actforgrasslands.org to urge your representatives to pass the act.

Fall Plant Sale Details

At each sale, we will have 15 species of locally-grown, Kansas natives available for purchase. All plants will be \$4 each.

The plant list and more information about our Fall Plant Sales can be found at www.grasslandheritage.org/fallplantsale.

Grassland Heritage Foundation's plant sales are a great way to find Kansas native plants for your own yard and garden while directly supporting GHF's prairie education and protection work. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you this fall!

Featured plants

Royal catchfly, *Silene regia*. So you don't have a wet spot in your yard for cardinal flower? Here's your option! Bright, fiery red flowers will keep the attention of you and the neighborhood hummingbirds.



Lanceleaf coreopsis, *Coreopsis lanceolata*. The brightest, warmest summer day, in flower form. Easy to grow happiness in a flower bed. It's perennial and short, and it will handle hot, dry conditions. Enjoy!

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.

Contribute online or send this form 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

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Your contribution will support prairie conservation in the general fund unless you designate your donation for:

- Scholarship Fund
 Prairie Protection
 Education Programs
 Prairie Management

You can also send
 membership renewals and
 donations to GHF online at
www.grasslandheritage.org

Donations since December 2021

Welcome to new members since the April 2022 newsletter

Amy Berkley, Monica Blanton-Birzer, Shannon Buerger, Samuel Carter, Jay Chatham, Kali Devin, Elaine Gill., Jessie Hogan, Kristy Hughes, Nancy Jones, Courtney King, Shaheen Latif, Bert McClard, Kellee Pratt, Will Pyles, Julie Schwarting, Jon & Sherry Shippee, Benjamin Sikes, Georgia Sizemore, Sarah Smarsh, Joe Stellwagon, Hallie Stephen-Castro, Alexandra Teske, Jonathan Todd, and Linda Wheeler

Donors to our designated funds

Scholarship Fund: Judy Burch

Prairie Education Fund: Julie Schwarting

Prairie Protection Fund: Jay Van Blaricum, Half-Giant Corporation, Courtney King, and Maggie Wagner

Thank you for tribute donations:

- Jay Chatham in memory of Gaylord Atkinson to Prairie Protection, Management, and Education, and Scholarship Funds
- Nancy Jones and Ann Simpson in memory of Gaylord Atkinson
- Ozark Wilderness Waterways Club in memory of Rachel Snyder to Prairie Protection, Management, and Education, and Scholarship Funds
- Shannon Buerger in memory of Margaret DeMarce to Prairie Education Fund
- Joe Stellwagon in memory of Jennifer Stellwagon
- Ann Marie Boncella in memory of Carol Boncella
- Kellee Pratt in memory of Emma Jean Shindler
- Hallie Stephen-Castro in memory of Maryana Stephen
- Byril Sanders in honor of Joseph O Berger to Prairie Protection

Fund

- Benjamin Sikes in honor of Helen Alexander
- Ang Babbit in honor of the women of GHF past and present
- Kathryn Lange in honor of Sue & Steve Holcomb

Thank you to members who renewed. The full list of donors will be in the year-end newsletter.

Thanks to all of you who have set up automatic renewal of your membership or regular donations. Remember, if your credit card expires or you cancel one, you'll need to set up a new payment. You can always check with us if you're not sure of your status. Contact Sue at sholc2003@yahoo.com.

'Thank You' to:

Helen Alexander, James Bresnahan, Roxie McGee, Kimberly Patterson, Courtney Masterson, Ryan Ridel, Jane Medina, Mary Kowalski, Jennifer Delisle, Ann Davin, Mike Campbell, Ken Tillery, Jesse Belt, Megan Withiam, Andrea Repinsky, and Joyce and Ron Wolf for volunteering to help set up and help customers at our Spring Plant Sale. Special thanks to Sue and Steve Holcomb for their work and support during the Spring Plant Sale.

Trinity Episcopal Church for hosting our Spring Plant Sale.

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped out at Black Jack Battlefield this spring and our project partners: Native Lands LLC, Jayhawk Audubon Society, and Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park.

Roxie McGee for her work at the Little Prairie at Little Prairie Community Garden.



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NATIVE SEED COLLECTION WITH GRASSLAND HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Saturday, October 15, 2022
9 am to 12 pm
at GHF's Snyder Prairie in Jackson
County, KS



Prairie Park Prairie Education and Restoration Workdays

Join Grassland Heritage Foundation and Native Lands LLC, in partnership with Lawrence Parks and Rec, this fall at Prairie Park for opportunities to learn about our native prairie landscape! We'll be hosting three workdays this fall:

- **August 30, 2022- 5 pm to 7 pm:** Sericea Lespedeza and Bradford Pear Removal
- **October 8, 2022- 9 am to 12 pm:** Native Plants and Their Indigenous Importance and Uses
- **October 29, 2022- 1 pm to 4 pm:** Bush Honeysuckle Removal



IN THIS ISSUE

See the next remnant prairie we're improving—what's new with the monarch butterfly—what you need to know about fall plant sales—what we can accomplish with one historic battlefield and 240 volunteers