



Rose verbena should be plentiful on the hillsides

Spring Wildflowers at Olathe Prairie Center

Saturday, April 9, 10:00-11:30 am

26235 West 135th Street, Olathe, Ks, 66061

<http://kdwpt.state.ks.us/KDWPT-Info/Locations/Museums-and-Nature-Centers/Prairie-Center>

Come and experience the delicate ephemeral spring flowers at Olathe Prairie Center with Sue Holcomb and Edna Hamera. We will meet in the parking lot on 135th west of Cedar Niles Road (before you reach Moonlight Road if coming from the east). They recently burned that entire area and it should be nice and green by April.

Contact Edna Hamera at ednahamera@gmail.com for more information.

This event is sponsored by Grassland Heritage Foundation, Kansas Native Plant Society and Kansas Masters Naturalists.

4th Annual GHF Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 14, 2016 9:30 am – 1:30 pm

Lawrence Public Library Lawn, 707 Vermont, Lawrence, Kansas

Talk to the Experts! Landscape and prairie experts will also be on hand to help you choose your plants and give advice on how to use them in your landscape.

Support GHF as we sell a variety of wildflowers and grasses that would be great for your yard! Over 40 grasses and wildflowers will be available including multiple species of milkweeds, Cardinal Flower, Little Bluestem, Wild Columbine, numerous coneflowers, and other species native to our area.

GHF Members can pre-order plants for pick up at the event! If you are a dues-paying GHF member in 2015 or 2016, you can place your order ahead of time then pay and pick up at the sale. GHF members also receive a price break for ordering early! Email us at ghfplantsale@gmail.com and we'll send you the details. Not a member? Join online at www.grasslandheritage.org.

Native wildflowers and grasses are beautiful, hardy, can thrive in home landscapes - and pollinators love them!



Milkweed



Coreopsis



Coneflowers



Golden alexanders with
penstemons



Buttercup

President's Column

GHF's previous President, Craig Freeman, led the Board in establishing GHF's foundational documents by updating our mission statement and writing core values and a vision statement. We confirmed and clarified our long-standing focus on education, stewardship, and land protection in northeast Kansas (see below).

In order to take the next steps in our strategic planning update, the board devoted time at the 2016 annual meeting to brainstorm goals and action steps. We discussed how to measure whether we've been successful at providing prairie education, stewardship, and land protection, plus priority tasks for how to ensure that success. As always, we wish for more resources to meet our ambitious goals, whether that means we have more staff time, volunteers, funding, or board members. A great new resource is the Kaw Valley Native Plant Coalition. Numerous individuals and organizations have gathered to communicate and collaborate toward a common passion for protecting and promoting native plants. The coalition has already expanded the resources of all organizations, and many of the planned activities directly implement our mission. I'm hoping that we can offer project, research, and professional development opportunities to students involved in the coalition. The coalition has formed through the leadership of Kim Bellemere, GHF's education and membership coordinator. We're proud of her for receiving the much-deserved Kansas Association for Conservation & Environmental Education (KACEE) award for her good work.

Andrea Repinsky
adheron@yahoo.com

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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Grassland Heritage Foundation

Mission Statement

Grassland Heritage Foundation preserves prairies in eastern Kansas through education, stewardship, and land protection.

Core Values

Prairies are fundamental elements of our ecological, cultural, and economic heritage.

As unique reservoirs of biological diversity and providers of ecological services, prairies must be maintained for future generations.

Our understanding of the ecology of prairies and the formulation of management practices that maintain their health must be science-driven.

Education affords citizens of all ages the opportunity to learn about and better appreciate the diverse benefits of prairies.

Children and adults derive emotional, creative, and intellectual benefits from visiting and learning about prairies.

Volunteers and citizen scientists are essential in promoting and implementing the mission of the Grassland Heritage Foundation.

Vision Statement

Grassland Heritage Foundation ensures an enduring legacy for future generations by preserving prairies in eastern Kansas.

Approved at the February 14, 2015 Annual Meeting

Grassland Heritage Members to Receive KACEE Environmental Education Awards

The Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) recently announced the recipients of the 2016 Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education Awards. Nominated by their peers, these awardees exhibit outstanding innovation, leadership and achievement, as well as collaboration and cooperation within and beyond the environmental education field. Awardees will be recognized at an Awards Celebration hosted by KACEE on Friday, April 1, 2016. The event is sponsored by KACEE, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and Sunset Zoo.

Long time GHF Board of Governors member, **Joyce Wolf**, of LeCompton, Kansas is this year's recipient of the **lifetime achievement award for excellence in environmental education, the John K. Strickler Award**. This award, named after one of KACEE's founders and first executive director, honors the lifetime achievements, contributions, and leadership of individuals in the Kansas conservation and environmental education field. Joyce has been involved in environmental education for more than 30 years and is familiar to, respected, and trusted among those who work in the field of environmental education. With early beginnings in leading educational efforts on the Clean Air Act, to her leadership for the Jayhawk Audubon Society, the consistent pattern in Joyce's career and volunteer work is a dedication to the important role that good environmental education plays in understanding and caring for the places we live. In her volunteer work with Jayhawk Audubon, Joyce and her husband Ron frequently lead a project called the Wetlands Learners Program, (now the Learning About Nature Project.) Both projects involved taking students to sites where they could have hands-on experience in nature and develop an awareness, appreciation, and understanding of complex environmental issues. This hands-on, up-close, and interactive form of environmental education epitomizes excellence. From 1995–2001, Joyce served as the Executive Director for the Kaw Valley Heritage Alliance (KVHA). The mission of the KVHA was to form a broad coalition of organizations cooperating to promote greater awareness, appreciation and stewardship of the cultural and natural resources of the Kansas River (Kaw) Valley. Joyce successfully wrote a significant grant from the EPA, which permitted the KVHA to hire two coordinators to plan and carry out the "Rollin' Down the River" festival in 1997. This successful grant also led to the first Kaw Valley Eagles Day event, a highly successful event that showcases many organizations and approaches to environmental education. 2016 is the 20th Kaw Valley Eagle Days Celebration and it seems fitting that Joyce be honored for her leadership this year. Her involvement in environmental education in Kansas is extensive and long-term.



Joyce Wolf, of LeCompton
Lifetime achievement award for excellence in environmental education—the John K. Strickler Award

Kim Bellemere, of Lawrence, Kansas, our GHF volunteer coordinator will be receiving a **Community/Non-Profit Award**. These recognize outstanding leadership, achievements, and collaborations by individuals and organizations with at least five years' experience in conservation and environmental education in Kansas. Kim has a contagious passion for conservation and community. Her leadership in several non-profit organizations, including the Grassland Heritage Foundation, the Kansas Women's Environmental Network and the Kaw Valley Native Plant Coalition demonstrate her passion for both environmental education and gathering people together to make a difference. Ms. Bellemere exemplifies the importance of civic engagement in environmental education. Over the last several years, Kim has worked extensively in environmental education with youth and parents in northeast Kansas. She was a member of the Lawrence Sustainability Network Leadership Council from 2009-2011 and a co-founder and coordinator of the Raintree Montessori School Monarch Waystation Program from 2009 to 2013. The projects she founded at schools in Kansas continue to thrive and encourage our students to appreciate native plants and animals. At her current position with Grassland Heritage Foundation (GHF), Kim serves as the Membership and Education Coordinator and is responsible for organizing and planning educational activities, reaching thousands each year. Kim works within and between communities to identify volunteers, target projects appropriate for GHF, and educate the public on the importance of conservation work. Most recently, Kim was instrumental in founding the Kansas Women's Environmental Network, a network of more than 200 women from around the state who share ideas, information, job opportunities, host a book club and more, ultimately encouraging the kind of collaboration and cooperation among and between organizations that makes a difference. KACEE is pleased to honor Kim Bellemere for her leadership in environmental education.



Kim Bellemere, of Lawrence, Kansas
Community/Non-Profit Award

Audubon of Kansas Silent Spring Conference

Saturday, April 9, 2016 Lawrence, Kansas

www.audubonofkansas.org/about/silent-spring-conference-2016



GHF is proud to be one of the non-profit sponsors of this 1st Annual Conference to address local and global environmental issues. Speakers will focus on threats to wildlife from pesticides, habitat loss, and climate change. Learn ideas to combat these problems in your yards, gardens and farms! Understanding our global problems can lead to appreciation of those natural resources and the critical benefits they provide. Only then can we best address causes and take action to offset any harm.

Primary Speakers: Ann Birney with a historical performance of Rachel Carson, Stephen Lerner's film: "When the Well Runs Dry" with commentary by Tom Averill of Washburn University and Matt Sanderson of KSU, Jennifer Hopwood from the Xerces Society, Dr. Leonard Kristalka, Director of the KU Museum of Natural History.

16th Annual Earth Day Parade & Celebration

Saturday, April 23, 2016

11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at South Park

www.lawrenceks.org/swm/earthday

Visit the GHF Table at the Lawrence, Kansas, 16th annual Earth Day Parade and Celebration! Live Music, Local Food Vendors, Kids Activities + More! Free Admission - Weather Permitting, No Rain Date.

Symphony in the Flint Hills

Saturday, June 11, 2016

South Clements Pasture, Elmdale, KS

www.symphonyintheflinthills.org

The 2016 Symphony theme is *Future of the Flint Hills* and this year's event will include presentations by prairie experts, walks, and other educational activities followed by a performance by the Kansas City Symphony.

Kansas City WildLands

www.bridgingthegap.org/hike-wild-lands

Kansas City WildLands is a coalition of resource professionals, private conservation organizations and conservation minded citizens established to restore and manage the remnants of Kansas City's original landscape. Grassland Heritage Foundation is a partner in this organization and we encourage you to visit Wildlands sites. Relatively undisturbed prairie, glade, savanna and forest natural communities still exist on public lands in the metro area, but they need our help. Over time, many such communities have been overtaken by trees and brush, invaded by exotic plants and deprived of the natural processes that maintained them. In addition to a lack of management, these natural communities also suffer from a lack of recognition and appreciation by urban public. An equally important dual goal of the wildlands coalition is to involve citizen metro communities in the care of these lands that represent Kansas City's natural heritage. Check out these sites to visit prairies and woodlands.

Groundhogs Our Prairie Maintenance Group



Hopefully, by the time you read this, GHF will have conducted their first prairie burn of the season. Our manager would like to have multiple burns, so you still have a chance to participate in a burn.

Prescribed burning is a tool that we employ strategically with specific objectives in mind. Frank Norman plans which areas of our property we will attempt to burn in any given year. Then he must watch for the right conditions. The wind, moisture, clouds, and number of volunteers available all effect whether a burn is a "go". If you'd like to see and help at one of our burns, you must contact Frank and let him know you're interested.



Prescribed fires are an important prairie management tool

If you do plan to attend, there are several safety items to keep in mind.

- Be sure you are healthy enough to participate. It can be strenuous and often involves inhaling smoke.
- Always wear appropriate clothing. Denim jeans and long sleeved cotton work shirts are relatively fire resistant and afford moderate protection from heat. Wool is also acceptable. Particularly avoid easily melted synthetics such as nylon. These can cause serious burns. A cap or hat of natural material is needed to cover the hair. Gloves (preferably leather) and high top boots are mandatory.
- Be sure to bring plenty of water and snacks to keep up your energy. GHF owns some tools, but you can enquire what else we might need, if you have equipment of your own.

After burn season, there is still plenty of work to keep prairie as prairie. We constantly fight invasion of undesirable plants into the prairie. Work continues through the year to remove trees, invasive species, non-native species, and noxious weeds. Work days are the 3rd Saturday of each month, April 16, May 21, and June 18.

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Contact **Frank Norman** at 785-691-9748 or
fjnorman@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.
.....

Planting tips for your native plants

By Sue Holcomb and Kim Bellemere

Do you want to attract pollinators?

Provide food for wildlife?

Want plants that don't require a lot of water?

Want perennials you don't have to plant every year?



Purple asters

Native plants will meet those goals. Some plants are more aesthetically pleasing. Some will freely reseed, others not. Some are full of nectar, others are host plants for different species. Some are compact and full of blooms, others are large plants that won't work well in your front yard.

Much of the advice on planting natives is the same as any garden plants.

- **Choose plants that bloom at different times.** Unlike cultivated plants, natives will bloom for a relatively short time. Some of the most beautiful bloom in June, but others do follow, all the way through to late fall. In July and August the flowering plants slow down and the grasses will grow taller and become more of a statement. Late summer is the arrival of the yellow composites, the goldenrods and late in the year, the asters. Grouping several plants of the same species will provide a showier display. Be sure to purchase plants with different color blooms that will complement each other.
- **Know the conditions of your site:** full sun, part sun/shade, full shade; wet or dry locations; well-draining soil, sandy, or clay. Check to see if the plant you're considering will work in those conditions.
- **Get your site ready for planting.** Soil will need to be prepared. Any grass or weeds growing where you will plant will need to be removed. You can dig up plants, or if you plan ahead, cover with black and deny sun. If you've chosen shade plants you will need to add organic material to replicate a forest floor. Be careful of tilling under trees, as you can damage the roots. Usually the sunny areas won't need much amending. Tilling will open the soil and allow roots to grow. If the soil is particularly poor, you may want to fertilize, just this once, to help plants get es-

tablished. Plants that prefer dry conditions won't like organic material that holds water in the soil. Mulch will be a good idea while plants are getting started and will help keep weeds from germinating in the open spaces. As plants get big, you will need less.

- **Water when needed,** this will be important the first year, but will be needed much less in subsequent years. Weeds need to be controlled, so they won't outcompete your new plants. You will soon learn to recognize weed seedlings that you can pull. Be careful not to uproot your good plants.
- **Next year, before spring growth begins you will want to clean out your beds.** Some stems will need to be cut, some will just break off. Some plants will have a rosette that stays green much of the year. If you're lucky enough to be out in the country, you can plan your own burn to remove the dead material.
- **Some species will even work well planted in pots.** I've personally been happier doing this with some of the smaller specimens. It gives them a chance to grow without completion, you can move them around easily, and you won't lose them in an already crowded garden.



Spiderwort

Some plants that will tolerate shade:

- **Woodland Phlox (Wild Sweet William)** - *Phlox divaricate*. Partial to full shade. Mat forming. Attracts butterflies.
- **Golden Alexander** - *Zizia aurea*. Full sun to partial shade. Re-seeds easily. Host plant for swallowtail butterflies.
- **Wild Columbine** - *Aquilegia Canadensis*. Full sun to partial shade. Re-seeds easily. Attracts hummingbirds.
- **Wild Bergamot (Bee Balm)** - *Monarda Fistulosa*. Full sun to partial shade. Re-seeds easily. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.
- **Spiderwort** - *Tradescantia ohiensis*. Full sun to partial shade. Tolerates poor soil. Drought tolerant.
- **Round-leaved Ragwort (Groundsel)** - *Packera obovate*. Full sun to partial shade. Good groundcover. Attracts butterflies.

Continued on page 6...

Planting tips for your native plants continued...

These sun loving plants are drought tolerant and easy to establish:

- **Prairie Blazing Star** - *Liatris pycnostachya*. Tall, upright clump forming. Tolerates poor soil. Attracts birds.
- **Prairie Dropseed** - *Sporobolus heterolepis*. Clump forming grass. Tolerates black walnut trees. Attracts birds.
- **Pale Purple Coneflower** - *Echinacea pallida*. Upright clump forming. Re-seeds easily. Attracts butterflies.
- **Butterfly Milkweed** - *Asclepias tuberosa*. Clump forming. Tolerates poor soil. Monarch butterfly host plant.
- **Rose Verbena** - *Glandularia Canadensis*. Clump forming. Tolerates poor soil. Attracts butterflies.
- **Spiderwort** - *Tradescantia ohioensis*. Clump forming. Tolerates poor soil. Very showy.
- **Wild Bergamot (Bee Balm)** - *Monarda fistulosa*. Upright clump forming. Re-seeds easily. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.

- **Grey-headed Coneflower** - *Ratibida pinnata*. Upright clump forming. Re-seeds easily. Attracts butterflies.
- **Foxglove Beardtongue** - *Penstemon digitalis*. Clump forming. Deer tolerant. Attracts butterflies & birds.
- **All Aster species** - *Symphotrichum sp.* Clump forming. Important nectar plant for migrating monarchs.

Sue Holcomb and Kim Bellemere have written articles on planting natives in landscapes before.

Check out some of the newsletters from the previous years for more information: July 2015, July 2014, March 2014, April 2013, July 2011, and June 2010.

Our plant supplier has an online handbook for planting natives. Check it out for more useful information at:
www.appliedeco.com/tcrn/AES_Handbook_8.5x11.pdf

GHF Board Members at our recent Annual Meeting

Thanks to Craig Freeman for hosting us!



From left: Rex Powell, Angie Babbit, Joyce Wolf, Andrea Repinsky, Steve Holcomb, Jonathan Wilson, Jennifer Dropkin, Megan Withiam, Sue Holcomb, Frank Norman (Snyder Manager) and Mike Campbell

Not pictured: Gary Tegtmeier and Chip Taylor

Research Scholarships Available

Thanks to the generosity of Susan Lordi Marker, GHF will be offering scholarships up to \$1000 to be used for research into monarchs or pollinators. This will be available for either graduate or undergraduate students at Kansas colleges. We are developing our application and requirements right now. Contact Sue Holcomb, sholc2003@yahoo.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.

Patricia Duncan SITES Exhibit

The Tallgrass Prairie: An American Landscape was a Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit by photographer and artist Patricia Duncan in 1976. It was displayed in over 300 venues in all 50 states, raising public awareness of the tallgrass prairie as a precious and quickly vanishing ecosystem. Duncan was part of "Save the Tallgrass Prairie" here in Kansas, whose members worked tirelessly on the formation of the National Tallgrass Prairie Preserve outside Strong City.

This exhibit presents information about the ecology, culture, and history of the prairie, from what was known of early Native American inhabitants to the mid-1970s. You can view a digital version of these historic panels here:

<http://beach.k-state.edu/prairiestudies/patduncan.html>

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

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

_____ Rachel Snyder Memorial Scholarship Fund

_____ Prairie Acquisition

_____ Education programs

_____ Prairie Management



Special Donations

Topeka Zoo Conservation Committee

Westar Energy Spirit of Giving *matching gift from
Melvin Depperschmidt*

Prairie Acres Garden Club *in thanks to Kim Bel-
lemere for a presentation*

In Memory of Lawrence Wagner: *David L. Wagner*

**In Memory of Lawrence Wagner and Honor of David
Wagner:** *Martha Wagner*

In Memory of Pete Cuppage: *Gayle & Richard Wyman*

In Memory of Betty Steffan: *Julie Trowbridge-Alford*

In Memory of Harry N. Trowbridge: *Julie Trowbridge-
Alford*

In Honor of Gary Tegtmeier: *Deborah Borek*

In Honor of Amy Jane Kellogg: *Thomas Kellogg &
Nancy Hubble*

For Education: *Ron & Joyce Wolf, Dale Nimz*

Scholarship Fund: *Toni & Chip Taylor, Susan Lordi
Marker to benefit research in monarchs or pollinators*

For Prairie Preservation: *Robert G. Barnhardt, Jr.*

For Prairie Acquisition: *Rex Powell & Marie Alice
L'Heureux, Barbara & Dick Schowen*

New Members: *Julie Trowbridge-Alford, Stan Brower,
Marnie Clawson, Dale Nimz*

Members Returning after an lapse: *Mary Conrad,
Dale Funk, Dr. Edna Hamera, Thomas Kellogg & Nan-
cy Hubble, Margie Lundy, Richard & Betty Marshall,
Zora Milne, Frank Norman, Cynthia Rhodes, Gayle &
Richard Wyman*

Thank you to:

**Samantha Snyder, Andrea Repinsky, and Jason
Keezer** for manning the GHF table at the Kaw Valley
Eagles Day

Megan Withiam, Tasha Wolff, and Samantha Snyder
for working at the GHF table for the Kaw Valley Seed
Fair.

Sharon Gan-Yang for doing the layout for our news-
letter

Kevin Bachkora for monthly accounting assistance

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To receive your newsletter in pdf form by email, contact Sue Holcomb, sholc2003@yahoo.com or 913-856-4784. Also, please let us know if you no longer wish to receive the GHF News. Thank you!

Help Wanted!

GHF is an organization that depends on volunteers for most of what we do. Here are some areas that we can use some help. Let us know if you find something that interests you!

Newsletter: We're still looking for someone to help with the writing and editing of the GHF News. Ms. Gan-Yang has been assisting with layout, but we need more participation in the content portion.

Groundhogs: Frank Norman leads this volunteer group that works at Snyder Prairie, Mayetta, Kansas on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Restoration work includes burns, tree cutting, lopping invasive woody plants, eradication of non-native species, collection of seeds and replanting, etc.

Event participation: Ms. Bellemere organizes our table at various environmental events, but we can always use more people helping out in our interactions with the public. Do you have an area of expertise in prairie education you'd be willing to share? Kim is always on the lookout for speakers and event leaders.

Plant Sale: This is our one fundraiser and is labor intensive on that one day. There are several jobs that we need assistance with, counting, giving advice, keeping plants stocked and watered, setting up and taking down.

Web Site: We are currently looking for a maintenance person for our site to keep it updated and add a few features. There is a small budget for this service.

Board of governors: Our organizing body meets bi-monthly in Lawrence. We currently have 12 members but would love to have up to 3 more.



Kim Bellemere is our volunteer and education coordinator. Call her at 785-840-8104 or email grasslandheritage@gmail.com if you'd like to get involved!