

## Make a Difference with Your Charitable Giving

This holiday giving season, please join me in prioritizing prairie! I give my time and charitable contributions to Grassland Heritage Foundation because GHF is effective at helping students, gardeners, landowners, and others build prairie literacy and access tools for learning, management, research, restoration, and prairie protection. I invite you to maintain your annual GHF membership and make use of member discounts at GHF workshops and native plant sales.

How did you become interested in the prairie? Did you visit a prairie with a parent or teacher when you were young? Did you long for a bit of wildness, and then found it in our prairie remnants? Were you awed when you learned about prairie biodiversity? Were you affected when you learned how little prairie is left? Something about the prairie reached you, and you're still here: a GHF member, a prairie enthusiast, a native plant fan, and a remnant seeker. You're helping protect prairie in your own way. Will you keep an ongoing commitment to help others learn about, experience, and protect tallgrass prairie in eastern Kansas?

You can make a real difference. Think about the impact of a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduate student's ecology research, and what that graduate student will accomplish over their careers. Think about how a child who learns a bit about prairie ecology at an event will have greater confidence to learn more later on. Consider the breadth and duration of benefits that will come from restoration projects made by landowners with access to restoration resources.

We're fortunate to have Kim Bellemere and Frank Norman on board to further our mission of protecting prairie, and they're ready to do more when we have the financial resources to make it possible. Please give what you can.

Andrea Repinsky, President

*"When people talk about traveling to the past, they worry about radically changing the present by doing something small, but barely anyone in the present really thinks that they can radically change the future by doing something small." (Unnamed source)*

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*Prairie Appreciation Day at Snyder Prairie*



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

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### GHF Officers

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Secretary: Sue Holcomb  
Treasurer: Steve Holcomb  
Assistant to the Treasurer:  
Kevin Bachkora

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Jonathan Wilson, Topeka  
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Kim Bellemere: Education and  
Membership Coordinator  
Frank Norman: Preserve Manager

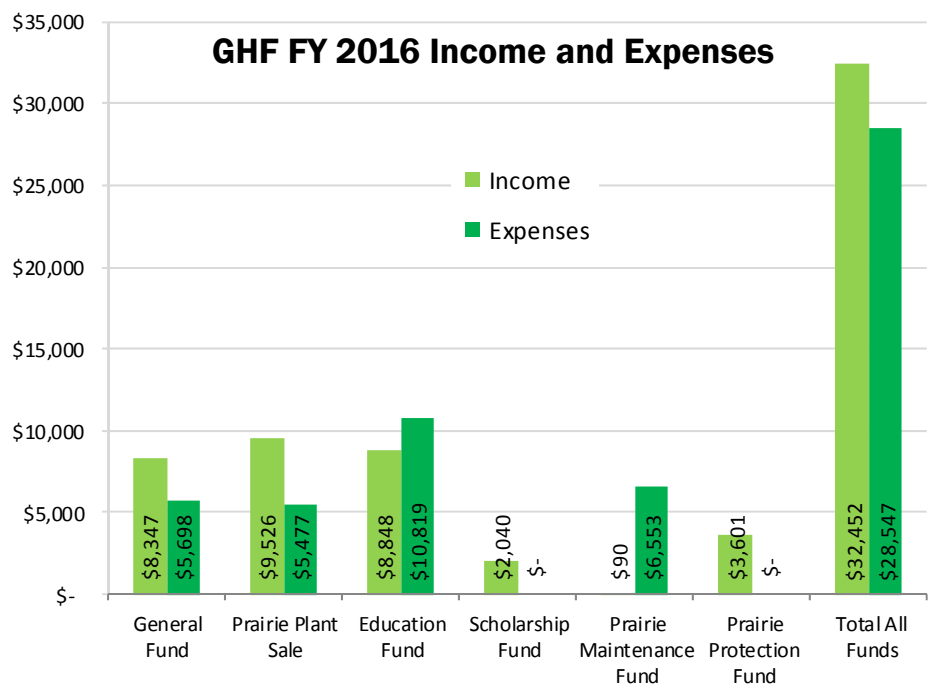
# 2017 Annual Report

In 2017, GHF maintained active committees that plan GHF's education, land management, and land protection activity. At GHF's annual November planning meeting, the board reviewed and updated goals and strategies. This year, veteran board member Ann Simpson returned to the GHF board, and we welcomed Matt Garrett to the board.

GHF maintained active public engagement through the newsletter, events, and online – with a new website, Facebook, and Instagram.

GHF continues to be part of a strong regional conservation community. GHF staff and board have been active volunteers and organizers of the Kaw Valley Native Plant Coalition (KVNPC), initiated by Courtney Masterson and GHF's Kim Bellemere. GHF's mission benefits from our collaboration with KVNPC, Kansas Land Trust, the City of Lawrence, Jayhawk Audubon Society, Climate and Energy Project (CEP), Kansas Biological Survey, Free State High School, and more. Collaboratively, we've organized outings, events, and planted new public native gardens, such as the garden in Brook Creek Park in Lawrence.

In recent years, GHF has spent slightly more than we have brought in. This year, regular membership dues and donations were supplemented with additional grants and gifts. A native plant gardening grant allowed GHF to fund additional staff hours to organize workshops and materials. CEP funding gave GHF opportunity to advocate for the role of prairie in addressing climate change. We are currently selecting recipients of scholarships for graduate research, thanks to donations dedicated to the scholarship fund. GHF hosted successful native plant sale fundraisers in the spring and fall. Meanwhile, GHF maintains a reserve of funds that can be used for land protection and other major project needs that arise.



## Prairie Education Report

## GHF Annual Report

2016-17 was another active year for GHF! Thanks to Kim Bellemere's work, GHF continued to participate in fun and worthwhile annual projects like the Kaw Valley Seed Fair and the Topeka and Douglas County Water Festivals and we started some great new projects.

One of the most exciting is a native plant gardening workshop series (See p.6). After piloting the series last summer, we're planning to expand the workshops in 2018, opening them up to more participants, as well as creating new handouts and native plant gardening guides. We're also excited about a new partnership with the Kansas Biological Survey, assisting them in their work to speak with landowners about the historic, cultural, and natural heritage of Douglas County. Watch for community forums in February and March.

Thank you to everyone who attended a workshop, bought a native plant, or visited our table at a local event. We're looking forward to seeing everyone again in 2018!

Educational outreach events included Eagles Day and the Kaw Valley Seed Fair. GHF's workshops included the native gardening series and a Plein Air painting workshop at Snyder Prairie with Louis Copt. We continued our presence at the Topeka and Douglas County Water Festivals, where we reached a large number of students. Prairie walks were held at Prairie Discovery Day, with Baker University, and at a celebration of 4 years of the Free State High School prairie restoration project.

### Education events by the number

9 events tabled, 850 contacts

7 workshops and presentations, 172 contacts

4 youth-focused events, 600 contacts

3 prairie walks, 110 contacts

23 total events hosted or worked

1720+ total contacts

90 total volunteer hours, including native plant sale and board members' time at events, but not meetings.

## Snyder Prairie Restoration and Maintenance

During FY 2017, Groundhogs—GHF's prairie restoration volunteers who meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month except June, July, August, and December—contributed approximately 84 volunteer hours over 7 Saturdays plus one additional day to cut brush and pile debris, assist in spring prescribed burns, and control invasive plants (e.g., sericea lespedeza, red cedar, rough-leaved dogwood, garlic mustard, and musk thistle). Most of the activities were conducted with the goal to make haying possible in more areas of the property. This year, Bruce Yonke, GHF subcontractor, continued his efforts with brushing, invasive weed control, and assisting with prescribed burns. Dwayne Hug, heavy construction operator, removed a portion of a hedgerow and performed access road improvements. Bare areas were reseeded with a grass cover crop and some native prairie species.

Groundhogs, led by Frank Norman, were joined by new and returning volunteers including Myron Leinwetter, Ted Abel, Gary Tegtmeier, Andy Domann, Melvin Depperschmidt, John Flavin, Andrea

Repinsky, Jason Keezer, Steve and Sue Holcomb, and Wayne Rhodus.



*Preserve manager Frank Norman at Snyder Prairie*

In FY 2018, Groundhogs will continue with similar efforts described above, plus Bruce Yonke will continue with haying efforts. Our

contracted and volunteer efforts are all aimed at maintaining the native prairie, improving the quality of restored prairie, and reducing the extent of woody encroachment on the property. In addition, GHF has initiated a timber stand improvement and bush honeysuckle removal program on its 52 acres of woods with substantial financial assistance from the NRCS's Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

# 2017 Contributors

**GHF Annual  
Report**

“Thank you” to these members and donors who contributed financially to GHF over the past year. This does not include life-time donors or other who volunteered their time and efforts to GHF in other ways.

Ted Abel  
Helen Alexander  
Suzanne Alongi  
Dr David Alsbaugh  
Michael Babbit  
Robert G. Barnhardt, Jr.  
Joanne Berns  
Deborah Borek  
Stan Brower  
Denise Brubaker  
Richard A. Brune  
Mike & Julie Campbell  
Barbara Clark  
Marnie Clawson  
Mary Conrad  
Fred & Nancy Coombs  
Julia Cotter  
Mary Cottom  
Bruce & Lucy Cutler  
Bill Cutler & Elisabeth Suter  
Daniel Dannenberg  
Melvin Depperschmidt  
Frances DiSarro  
Carol Fields & Charles Downing  
Laura Downy-Skochdopole  
Herb & Pat Duncan  
Julie Elfving  
Roger & Virginia Emley  
Jill Ensley  
John Flavin  
Craig & Jane Freeman  
Dale Funk  
Laura Gilbow  
David & Michelle Gurdy  
Dr. Edna Hamera  
Mary Haskin  
John W. Head  
Jean Hiersteiner

Jamie Hofling  
Steve & Sue Holcomb  
Carole & John Hunter  
Susan Iversen  
Jerry Jost  
Brady Karlin  
Duane & Cosette Kelly  
Mary Kowalski  
Carol & Dave Kyner  
Nicholas Lamberty  
Kathryn Lange  
Myron Leinwetter  
Cathy W. Lewis  
Marie Alice L'Heureux  
Dennis & Susan Lordi Marker  
Margie Lundy  
Barbara Mason  
Roxie McGee  
Florence & Robert Middleton  
Carol Morgan  
Wayne Morton  
Kenneth & Gayle Nicolay  
Dale E Nimz  
Stan & Sandy Nolind  
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Catherine Schwoerer  
Karen Seibel  
Dr. Artie Shaw  
Paul Showalter  
Ann Simpson  
Ronald L Sisk  
Marsha Sodamann  
Westar Energy Spirit of Giving  
Ruth Stepien  
Al & Linda Storms  
Toni & Chip Taylor  
Gary Tegtmeier  
Sandra Tholen  
Ken Tillery  
Ione Unruh  
Kirk & Barbara Vaughan  
Pauline Verbeek  
David L. Wagner  
Martha Wagner  
Joan Wagstaff  
Ozark Wilderness Waterways Club  
Travis Weller  
Kathy Witherspoon  
Pat Wittry  
Ron & Joyce Wolf



## Exhibit Explores Prairie Through Textiles

An exhibit at the Box Gallery in downtown Kansas City, Missouri, offers a tour of prairie landscapes and textures as interpreted by prairie conservationist and artist Susan Lordi Marker.

In 'Echoes of the Prairie,' Marker presents eleven works that incorporate natural materials and innovative processes to reflect her experience of prairie textures, patterns, and tones.

Marker describes her work as repetitive visual marks that cover the cloth echoing the prairie's rhythm and cycles of the seasons. They are the "recordings of what I see, hear and touch. And cloth, as my medium, manifests the natural, tactile environment from which it came."

Susan Lordi Marker received an MFA with honors from the University of Kansas, Lawrence. Her fiber work has won awards in the United States and internationally. Marker is herself an active prairie conservationist, preserving one prairie remnant in Missouri and restoring another site. She is a generous supporter of GHF's scholarship program and other prairie conservation work.

The Box Gallery at 1000 Walnut St., Kansas City, Missouri, will host this exhibit through January 25, 2018. Underwritten by Commerce Bank, the gallery is always free and open to the public Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m. Free parking validation is available at the security office.

Marker has served on the fiber faculty of both the Kansas City Art Institute and the University of Kansas.

In 2000, Susan created Willow Tree®, a line of hand-carved figurative sculpture for the gift industry, distributed and sold worldwide. Susan maintains her studio in the Crossroads Arts District of Kansas City, Missouri.

**More information is at [www.susanlordimarker.com](http://www.susanlordimarker.com)**



*Planting day (left) and late summer (above) at the native plant garden in Brook Creek Park, Lawrence, at 12th & Brook St.*

## Public Prairie Proliferation

2017 saw the development of new native gardens around Lawrence, including Brook Creek Park, Burroughs Creek & 15th St., Kansas Biological Survey, and at the new 'Pollinators' mural on New Hampshire St., led by Courtney Masterson, Kaw Valley Native Plant Coalition, GHF, Brook Creek Neighborhood Association, Spencer Art Museum, and others.

## Native Gardening Workshops

Last summer, GHF was the fortunate recipient of grant funds to create a program educating homeowners on the benefits of native plant gardening and how to incorporate natives into home gardens. As a part of that project, we piloted a workshop series on the hows and whys of native gardening, and we are currently creating written guides that will be available in print and online soon.

We're very happy to announce that we have received funding to host the project again in 2018! We plan to offer two workshops on the basics of native plant gardening and landscaping with natives in March and April, followed by visits to a local garden and additional workshops on wildlife and garden maintenance in the fall. We'll have additional smaller opportunities to learn about and get



GHF Board member and Monarch Watch Communications Coordinator Angie Babbit leads a workshop on native gardening and wildlife

involved in native plants as well.

While enrollment in this year's workshop series was limited, next year the workshops will be open to a much larger group. We'll announce the dates and locations in late January, so watch your email and let us know if you'd like to attend. In the meantime, let us know if there is a topic or native gardening issue that particularly interests you. We'd like to know your questions, too. You can email us at [grasslandheritage@gmail.com](mailto:grasslandheritage@gmail.com) and we'll do our best to incorporate your ideas and questions into the project.

Thanks to everyone who attended the workshops and participated in the project in 2017. We can't wait to get started on the next series and hope you'll join us again!



Seeds collected for the Bellemere restoration demonstration project



## Prairie Restoration Demonstration Project

Sometimes opportunities come along that are just too good to pass up. This spring, we're going to take advantage of a great one. Kim Bellemere, GHF Membership and Education Coordinator, and her family are starting a small prairie restoration on their property outside of Lawrence. Currently, the 2-acre area is planted with cool season grasses but also contains some small trees and shrubs and maybe a few invasive species.

GHF is frequently asked about how to conduct restorations and what resources are available to landowners. The

best way to understand a restoration is to follow one in progress, so we're going to watch, document, and follow the Bellemere restoration from early 2018 through the fall. We'll post online updates with pictures of the project at different stages, we'll research and tell you about financial resources available (and how much a restoration costs), and we'll highlight experts and organizations that are doing great work related to prairies and get their best advice on conducting a restoration. We may also work with our partners to conduct a few workshops and tours of the restoration at different stages.

**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

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Gift in *honor* or *memory* of (mark which) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Rachel Snyder Memorial Scholarship Fund

Prairie Protection

Education Programs

Prairie Management

## Special Donations

*Education Fund:* Ron & Joyce Wolf

*Land Protection:* Travis Weller

*Rachel Snyder Scholarship Fund:* Chip & Toni Taylor

*Monthly Donation Plan:* Kenneth & Gayle Nicolay

## GHF Members

A full list of members is on p. 4. Thanks to all our donors! We're still in our free period at our new payment service. If you go to our website at [www.grasslandheritage.org](http://www.grasslandheritage.org) and click on the Act tab/Join/Donate dropdown, you can make a donation through Stripe and the full amount will go to GHF. *My apologies for any errors in this list. Just let me know and I'll check my entries. Sue H.*

## "Thank you" to . . .

*Angie Babbit and Courtney Masterson* for presenting in the "How to Garden with Native Plants" workshop series

*Roxie McGee and Kelly Kindscher* for volunteering the KU Native Medicinal Plant Research Garden for use during the workshops and for working with the event organizers.

*Sue and Steve Holcomb, Ron and Joyce Wolf, Ken Tillary, Pat Kehde, Jane Medina, Megan Withiam, Andrea Repinsky, and Jason Keezer* for volunteering at the GHF Fall Native Plant Sale

*Cottin's Hardware & Rental* for hosting GHF's fall plant sale at their farmer's market

*Kevin Bachkora* for monthly accounting services



## Gain Restoration Experience as a Groundhogs Volunteer

Want to spend some quality time learning prairie restoration on Snyder Prairie? We need more workers to join our 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 and rough-leaved dogwood, help with burns, collect seeds, remove invasives, and other tasks. Even if you can only attend once or twice, you are still welcome! Snyder Prairie is located near Mayetta, Kansas about 20 miles north of

Topeka. Groundhogs meets the third Saturday of the month, usually at 9:00am. Contact our site manager, Frank Norman at 785-691-9748 or [fjnoman@sunflower.com](mailto:fjnoman@sunflower.com) to join the volunteer contact list. **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.



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## Upcoming Prairie Events

### Kaw Valley Eagles Day

Saturday, January 20, 2018 8:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Free State High School, 4700 Overland Drive, Lawrence, Kansas

Celebrate the return of bald eagles to area lakes and rivers. There will be live bald and golden eagles and other wild critters, presentations, and educational activities hosted by area conservation organizations.

<https://www.jayhawkaudubon.org/kaw-valley-eagles-day>

### Kaw Valley Seed Fair

Saturday, February 10, 2018 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Douglas County Fairgrounds, 930 Harper, Lawrence, Kansas

Attendees are invited to bring saved seeds or packaged seeds to share at exchange tables. Vendors and organizations, including GHF, will bring information about native plants, vegetable gardening, and seed starting. The event will also include many demonstrations and presentations throughout the day.

Kim Bellemere organizes GHF's educational outreach. Call her at 785-840-8104 or email [grasslandheritage@gmail.com](mailto:grasslandheritage@gmail.com) if you can assist at an event or volunteer in another way.

**GHF Annual Meeting and Elections** Tentatively scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2018 7:00pm

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