

## Upcoming Events

Groundhogs Workdays

9AM - Noon

Saturday, April 12 & Saturday, June 14

Snyder Prairie, Mayetta, KS

Weather dependent

GHF's 13th Annual Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 10, 10 AM – 1 PM

Trinity Episcopal Church, 1011 Vermont

Street, Lawrence, KS 66044

Annual Native Plant Sale in Emporia

May 17th, 11 AM - 1 PM

Prophet Aquatic Research and Outreach

Center, Emporia State University, 601 E.

18th Ave, Emporia, KS 66801

Watch social media and email for work

days at Prairie Park in Lawrence and

BlackJack Battlefield and Nature Park

near Baldwin City.

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## Native Plant Sales

**GHF's 13th Annual Spring Native Plant Sale** will be held Saturday, May 10th, 2025 from 10 AM to 1 PM at Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown **Lawrence, KS**. In addition to in-person shopping, we are offering pre-orders exclusively for GHF members. We'll have approximately 65 species of Kansas native plants available! Individual plants are \$4.50 each on May 10th, available to anyone with no pre-order.

Members may pre-order plants at a discounted price of \$4.00 each from April 21 to May 04. A few premium species will be available at a higher price. We are thrilled to share that we will be taking pre-orders online, through the website, this year! We are waiting to verify plant availability, so the storefront is not up and running yet. Watch your inbox for an email with further details on our pre-order process this year. For more information on becoming a member, and to learn how to pre-order, visit [www.grasslandheritage.org/plantsale](http://www.grasslandheritage.org/plantsale) or email [ghfplantsale@gmail.com](mailto:ghfplantsale@gmail.com).

Our spring plant sale is GHF's biggest fundraiser of the year. All of the money earned from this sale will be used to further promote our mission of prairie preservation through education, stewardship, and land protection. This year GHF is excited to provide educational activities during the sale for youth, as well as to host Dr. Liz Koziol, who will share information about how native soil fungi improve native plants' vigor and longevity. Dr. Koziol will have limited amounts of inoculum available for cash purchase or people can place orders.

New this year—we are partnering with the City of Lawrence to provide discounted Rain Garden Kits available only at the sale. Plans are to have two varieties of kits with 12 plants in each at a discounted price.

As always, GHF welcomes any and all who are interested in volunteering their time to help make the plant sale as successful as it is! There are multiple days and activities, ranging from tagging plants to helping customers find the perfect plant for the perfect spot. If you are interested in learning more about volunteering with us to support the plant sale, please email Nicole at [grasslandheritage@gmail.com](mailto:grasslandheritage@gmail.com).

**The Prophet Aquatic Research and Outreach Center (PAROC) and GHF** are pleased to announce that they will once again host a Native Plant Sale for the community in and around **Emporia**. Join us at the PAROC on May 17, 2025 from 11 AM to 1 PM for in-person shopping, educational activities for youth, and information on how native plants will add beauty and habitat for birds, pollinators, and more!

If you live in the Emporia area and are interested in volunteering your time to help set-up or assist customers at the sale, please email Nicole at [grasslandheritage@gmail.com](mailto:grasslandheritage@gmail.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  
Editors: Sue Holcomb, Reb Bryant, Helen Alexander**

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Shawnee Mission, KS 66201**

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**grasslandheritage on Instagram**

### **GHF Officers**

**President: Mike Campbell  
Vice-President: Roxie McGee  
Secretary: Laird Ingham  
Treasurer: Steve Holcomb  
Assistant to the Treasurer:  
Kevin Bachkora**

### **Board of Governors**

**Sara Abieta, Lawrence  
Helen Alexander, Lawrence  
Lisa Ball, Lawrence  
Steve Case, Overland Park  
Lisa Castle, Lawrence  
Reb Bryant, Lawrence  
Mike Campbell, Eudora  
Kathy Denning, Lenexa  
Steve Holcomb, Olathe  
Sue Holcomb, Olathe  
Laird Ingham, Lawrence  
Daphne Mayes, Emporia  
Brent Mortenson, Atchison  
Andrea Repinsky, Lawrence  
Sandy Sanders, Lawrence  
Megan Withiam, Lawrence  
Chip Taylor, Emeritus, Lawrence**

**Program Director and  
Preserve Manager  
Nicole Stanton-Wilson**

## **A Note from the President**

As newly elected president, I want to begin my first newsletter column by thanking Sue Holcomb for her years of hard work on behalf of GHF. Sue served as president for the last 7 years and has logged uncounted hours on behalf of the group. You could be forgiven for thinking that Sue has kept the group running single-handedly except her husband Steve has logged an equally countless number of hours as our treasurer. Happily, despite taking a well-earned break as Prez, we're not losing Sue entirely, as she continues on the board of governors and is continuing to volunteer with the group in a number of capacities.

To introduce myself, my name is Mike Campbell and I've served as GHF's secretary for a number of years. I have also helped out with many other GHF tasks. For example, I believe I have helped at the spring plant sale every year we've held it. I know I've logged many hours out at Snyder Prairie in almost all weathers from pleasant spring and fall days to winter cold and miserable summer heat. I've cut brush and trees out there, removed fence, sprayed invasive plants and helped with burns. I was even out there for the Red Cedar Debacle, and if you don't know what this was, don't ask. Since we purchased Leadplant Prairie, I've spent time down there working on invasive teasel and sericea. Finally, I've actually served as president previously, possibly before many of you joined the group.

As for me, personally, I live in Eudora and work as a biology instructor at Neosho County Community College's Ottawa campus. I wish we had a prairie restoration program, but it turns out more students are interested in Nursing or Occupational Therapy jobs so I teach lots of Anatomy and Physiology. My wife also works in biology, running the introductory undergraduate lab classes at KU. Without meaning to, we doomed our sons to follow a similar path. Both started college with different majors, but ended up pursuing biology degrees. I swear we didn't force them!

If I close my eyes and dream a little dream about what I would like to accomplish as president, it would be to buy and protect more prairies. We're not really in a position to do that right now, so I will be racking my brain to figure out how to make that happen. But this is Kansas, right? *Ad astra per aspera*. One thing I will have on my side will be the strong organization I'm inheriting from Sue which has experienced tremendous growth under her leadership. I look forward to the challenge of continuing her legacy.

Mike Campbell shamsoup@yahoo.com

### **A Brief Note from Sue Holcomb**

As Mike says, I'm not going anywhere. I want to take this time to thank you all for making this time shepherding GHF both challenging and immensely enjoyable. But, I want to thank Steve Holcomb, who has been our Treasurer every year since 2007. I have served in several different roles, but am stepping back as others are taking on responsibilities. Taking advantage of technological aides, we hope to be able to spread our activities among many. Feel free to still reach out to me.  
sholc2003@yahoo.com

### **GHF Board**

The board of governors met January 25 to elect a new slate of members, officers, and directors.

*Front row left to right, Nicole Stanton-Willis, Sandy Sanders, Helen Alexander  
2nd row, Reb Bryant, Roxie McGee, Sara Abieta, Sue Holcomb, 3rd row, Laird Ingham, Lisa Ball, Brent Mortenson, Andrea Repinsky, Lisa Castle, Mike Campbell, and Megan Withiam*

*Not present: Steve Case, Kathy Denning, Steve Holcomb, and Daphne Mayes*

So sorry for the blurry photo. I got in a hurry and didn't get the settings right. Sue H.

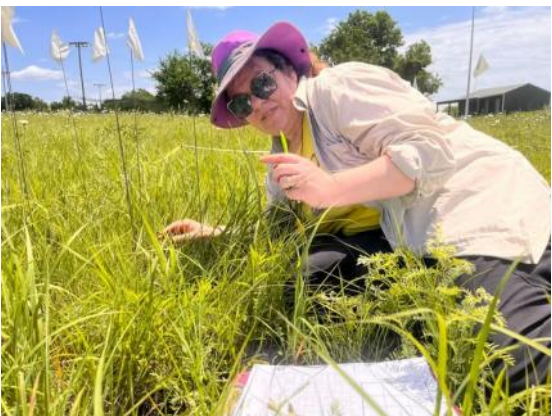


## Meet the new members of our Board of Governors

A Texas native, **Lisa Ball** first fell in love with the prairie while working one summer banding birds on the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in Pawhuska, OK. She came to Kansas for her Master's in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and she has taught science for Lawrence Public Schools for 22 years. Her students tag monarch butterflies each year and last year they grew and gave away over 500 native milkweed plants as a community project. They have installed two native pollinator gardens at the school and this year she even has two native plant interns. One of the highlights of the school year is always their annual trip to the Konza Prairie Biological Station, where they engage in grassland citizen science and take lots of bison selfies (from the safety of the bus!) She looks forward to working with Grassland Heritage Foundation to participate more directly in grassland conservation.



**Lisa Castle** is fascinated by plants and plant communities of all sorts, but prairies have become a particular passion since she started studying prairie turnips (*Pediomelum esculentum*, not related to turnips) and their harvest. She works on conservation ecology and ethnobotany projects at the Kansas Biological



Survey and teaches field classes at KU and is looking forward to her 25th season of tracking prairie turnip population dynamics.

**Sandy Sanders** is grateful to have been influenced early in life by her father's love of nature and her mother's concerns raised by Rachel Carson in *Silent Spring*. Becoming involved in environmental education in the 1970s, she helped create Lawrence Public Schools' first EE curriculum, train teachers in EE, and plan field trips to Coyote's Head, a 5-acre area near Clinton Lake leased by LPS. After retiring from classroom teaching, she wanted to return to EE and was enlisted by Rex Powell to re-vamp Lawrence Bird Alliance's educational outreach efforts. She developed the Learning About Nature Project, which has taken over 10,000 public school K-7 grade students

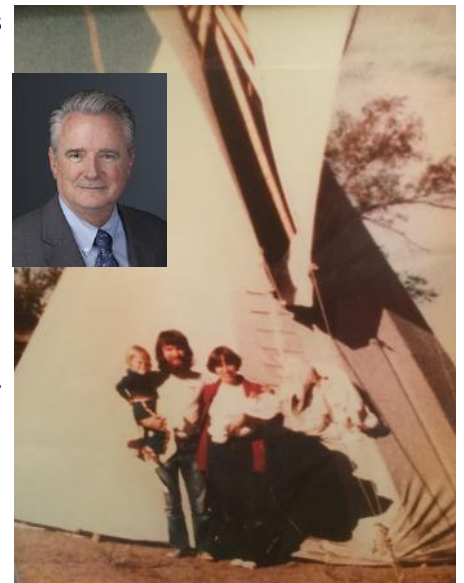
on EE field trips to learn about natural ecosystems, especially wetlands. Sandy appreciates the many individuals and organizations that partnered with her to implement this 20-year (2005-2025) effort.

Sandy believes it's crucially important to reconnect people of all ages, especially kids, with nature. Research is abundantly clear that experiencing the natural world is beneficial to all aspects of human health and well-being. Learning to value nature and the vast array of flora, fauna, fungi and more that inhabit Earth's local and global ecosystems is essential to conserving, preserving, and fully enjoying the complex world of which we're an integral part.

Sandy has long respected GHF's mission and is honored to be involved in it. She's also on the Lawrence Bird Alliance's Board of Directors and co-chairs the local chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby. She and her husband enjoy flamenco, sailing, natural environments, good books, travel, family and friends, and—most of all—their son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren.



**Steve Case** is a former science teacher, with many years of middle school and especially high school teaching. In 1997, he became a research associate professor at KU and directed the Center for STEM Learning (and the UKanTeach program). He returned to high school teaching after leaving KU and retired in 2024. Steve has had important interactions with GHF and prairies in his past. In 1985, he became the resident director of the Prairie Center and worked in this capacity for 12 years. He was responsible for habitat management, education and public engagement, and fundraising. In 1997, he worked on the transition of the Prairie Center to Kansas Wildlife and Parks through the Kansas Nature Conservancy.



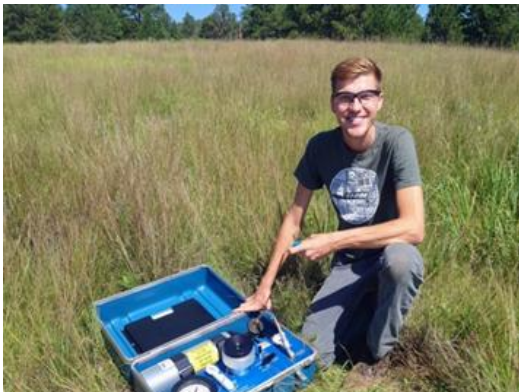
Steve Case KU Photo and his family at the 1978 Tallgrass Prairie conference at Camp Wood. Yes, they stayed in the Teepee for the four days they were there.

***Thank you all for volunteering!***

## Exploring Range Distribution and Genetic Diversity of Big Bluestem: Insights for Conservation and Management

Jack Sytsma, PhD Student at Kansas State University

Understanding how plants respond to climate across their range is key to predicting their response to rapid environmental change. Conserving grasslands, especially under predicted climate change, is a mission for the Grassland Heritage Foundation. To support these efforts, the GHF generously supported our project aimed to identify plant variation within a species's native distribution. Our focal species, big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardi*), is the dominant tallgrass prairie species and is widely distributed across the US, facing a range of precipitation and temperature gradients. Populations across its range, especially at range margins, may be useful in climate mitigation as they often experience more extreme climates. However, these populations are often fragmented with low genetic diversity. The goal of this study was to characterize patterns of abundance, functional trait performance, and genetic diversity across the range of big bluestem. Our study was amongst the most widespread studies of a prairie grass and provides key insights into plant function under different climate scenarios.



In 2023, we conducted a study of 26 spatially distributed populations exposed to broad climatic gradients (CO-NC & TX-MN) to test how plants

respond to precipitation and temperature in their natural habitats. We measured form, function, and genetic diversity of big bluestem

across its native range and found all traits showed a strong response to precipitation and aridity, but a weak to no response to temperature alone. In 2024, supported by the GHF grant, we sequenced our plants using genotyping by sequencing. We chose to test this as genetic diversity is the raw material for plant species evolution and thus regulates the ability to adapt to environmental change. This may have important im-

Photo: Texas sampling site near Dallas, TX, USA. Above left, Sytsma assessing water potentials as a proxy for drought tolerance at Wind Cave National Park, South Dakota, USA.

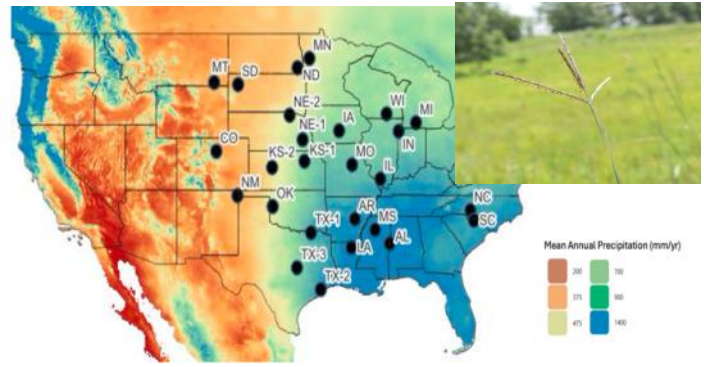


Figure: Map of the 26 populations of big bluestem sampled in summer 2023 across a precipitation gradient of 350-1400mm/yr. The inflorescence of big bluestem is shown at the top right, from the Wisconsin prairie.

plications for the ecological and evolutionary potential of populations as well as community evolution.

In our genetic analysis, we generated over 14,000 genetic differences among our 26 populations. Populations in the core showed highest genetic diversity and declined in marginal popula-

tions. In terms of genetic structure, the core sites showed the highest admixture and non-core sites showed little to no admixture.

This demonstrates a potential lack of gene flow among these populations despite showing traits ideal for restoration in drought or maximizing biomass yield. By combining abundance, traits, and assessments of genetic diversity, we document differences among populations of big bluestem which will aid in conservation of these populations at range edges and those at risk from climate change.

Overall, we tested abundance patterns, trait-based, and genomic analyses which will help inform future restoration using this foundation prairie grass. This also allows for a more comprehensive understanding of species' response to climate which will aid in modeling species distribution under future climates. Therefore, due the generosity of the Grassland Heritage Foundation's grant, our findings will facilitate the prediction of future plant responses to climate change and can be used to guide restoration efforts and mitigate environmental change.

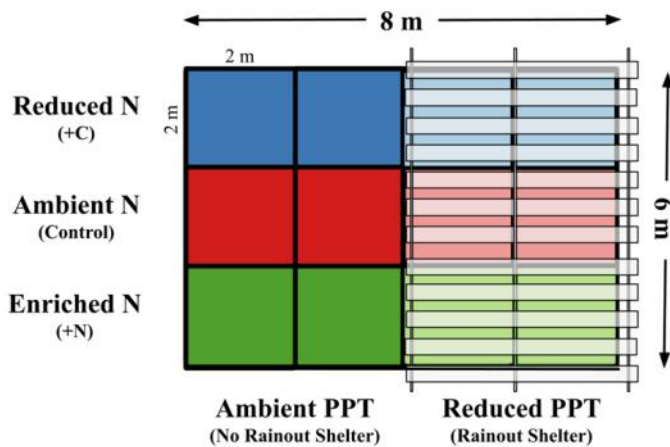
Photo of the Missouri site at Tucker Prairie, MO, USA. Below: Sytsma measuring photosynthetic rate of *A. gerardi* at the Colorado site near Boulder, CO, USA.



## Soil nutrients, not drought, impact soil microbes in a prairie restoration experiment

In 2022, Ashley Bowman was awarded the Rachel Snyder Memorial Scholarship from GHF for her work at the Konza Prairie Biological Station in Manhattan, KS. Bowman, who is currently finishing her Ph.D. at the University of Kansas, performed this research in a decades-long prairie restoration experiment that manipulated both soil nutrients and, more recently starting in 2020, rainfall to understand how these can impact restoration success.

While soil fertility and rainfall can certainly impact the plants we see in a restoration, Bowman aimed to find out how these manipulations shake things up belowground. This is important because conventional agriculture intensely disrupts and degrades the soil microbial community. These soil microbes are critical for maintaining biodiversity and the function of tallgrass prairies as carbon sinks. Previous research suggests that human activities associated with nitrogen enrichment and increased drought under climate change can hamper the recovery of soil microbes and some of their functions. Bowman specifically wanted to know how the total amount of soil microbes (measured in the mass of carbon and nitrogen) and their activities changed with different nutrient and water levels.



Picture of Ashley's experimental design at the Konza LTER site.

To do this, she took soils from experimental plots that either had reduced (via carbon addition), unaltered, or enriched nitrogen in the soil and either was left open to the sky or had a "rainout shelter" to reduce the rainfall in a plot. Interestingly, Bowman found that soil samples from reduced soil nitrogen treatments saw the highest biomass of soil microbes, which was the opposite effect that reducing nitrogen had on the plant community; these plots had the lowest plant biomass. These treatments also saw the highest level of microbial activities important for maintaining nutrient cycles in prairies. She did not detect any drought effects on soil microbes possibly because of a large amount of rain before sampling.



Bowman under one of the rainout shelters in her experiment.

So what could this mean for life belowground in prairies? Bowman says it's a bit unclear at this point with just one snapshot in time, but her work definitely shows the role that soil fertility can play in altering the recovery of soil microbes in prairie restoration. However, understanding how site conditions and climate impact important soil health indicators like soil microbes and their activity is key to restoring healthy, functioning tallgrass prairies. *Summary by Reb Bryant*

## Scholarship Recipients for 2025

Thank you to all the students who applied for our Gaylord Atkinson Memorial Scholarship and the advisors who took time to write letters of recommendation. A committee read and assessed the applications, and we are happy to announce the recipients of this year's scholarships:

**Logan Anderson**, KSU, a Master's student in Biology, "There's no place like a home range: factors affecting Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) home range sizes."

**Alec Glidden**, KSU, a Ph.D. student in Biology, "Cumulative effects of seasonal fire on soil fertility and storage of organic C and N."

**Helen Winters**, KSU, a Master's student in Biology, "Reciprocal garden study of climate adaptation in a dominant native prairie grass: Identifying climate-matched populations for conservation and restoration."

**Yufan Zhou**, KU, a Ph.D. student in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, "Plant-soil feedback and competition between annual and perennial species link to prairie species succession."

We also awarded partial grants to:

**Izuchukwu O. Okafor**, KSU, a Master's student in Biological and Agricultural Engineering, "Developing grassland fire danger index to enhance prescribed burning for prairie conservation in the Flint Hills."

**Klara Stevermer**, KSU, a Master's student in Biology, "Physiological responses to elevated atmospheric drought in three biochemical subtypes of warm season C<sub>4</sub> grasses."

We look forward to seeing their results in future issues.

## Sustaining Prairies Grants

The selection committee chose to fund 4 projects in the latest round of applications in January. *We are planning to accept applications again this summer (due July 15th, 2025). If you work on a prairie or planting that is accessible to the public, look for application information on the web site.*

**2025 Grants: Free State High School** prairie requested funds to buy new coveralls that make it easier to get students out into the prairie and some high quality signs to direct guests to the plot and provide educational content. The **City of Clearwater and Hammers Prairie Park and Nature Center Foundation** asked for funding for supplies to host a scavenger hunt. **KC Farm School**, KC, KS has planted prairie ribbons throughout their property to serve as ecological corridors. They are looking for money for professional advice on managing their prairies, staff time to develop SOP for future maintenance, and backpack water sprayers for controlled burns. **Lawrence High School Career and Technical Education-Environmental Research Station** submitted plans for tools for control of invasive Liriope and development of a mobile prairie for sharing with 5th graders.

### Last year's recipients have submitted their reports:

Linda Strieby at **Blue Valley Northwest High School** shared this: We applied for the Sustaining Prairies scholarship in February 2024. One of our goals was to print and install informational signs in two kiosks that flank our prairie restoration. We were able to do that with the help of the scholarship. (Photo below)



We also used the funds for purchase of native prairie plant seeds for use in the restoration. The environmental club members began a cold stratification process in January with those seeds to raise seedlings in the next few months to transplant into our prairie. We have had a higher success rate using seedlings (plugs) to get plants growing before the dry summer months. Those seed types included: Bearded Foxglove, Swamp Milkweed, Prairie Blazing Star and Wild Blue Indigo.

We will use the remaining funds to purchase a heavy-duty trimmer to use for cutting invasive weeds such as prickly lettuce

early in the spring before other desirable plants emerge. Thank you for providing the funds which help make our prairie restoration area an educational experience for all our students at BVNW High school.

Patti Ragsdale with **Botanical Belongings** hosted five sessions of "Prairie Explorers" in 2024. GHF funds supported a variety of fun hands-on activities to engage the interests of both adults and children. Typical sessions included interactive games to match butterflies with their host plants and prairie scavenger hunts. Kids particularly enjoyed looking at insects close-up with "bugnoculars" and pretending to be a butterfly by "flying" with their butterfly capes. At the end of the day, families were invited to take home a small plant for their own garden. Ragsdale also used the "host plant matching game" at five other educational events including Earth Day celebrations with the Basehor-Linwood School District and a Pollinator Week event in Olathe.



**BOTANICAL**  
Belonging

***Dennis & Susan Lordi Marker have pledged to match donations to the Sustaining Prairies Fund. Designate your donation and double its***

## Update on Snyder Prairie

At the time of this writing, GHF's winter burns have continued to be snowed out! Snyder Prairie is finally drying out and favorable weather conditions are anticipated in the coming days. Thank you to all of the interested folks that have read email after email about planning for and then cancelling prescribed burns this winter!

Despite the lack of burning, Groundhogs volunteers have been hard at work working to remove invasive rough-leaved dogwood and bush honeysuckle from Snyder Prairie. GHF is employing two different techniques to remove these woody species. For larger stands (and stems), volunteers have assisted with basal bark application of an oil-water emulsion containing Triclopyr, basal bark oil and water. For smaller scattered stems, or areas where regular mowing is anticipated, volunteers have been cutting and treating stumps with

*(Continued on page 7)*

## 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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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Save postage/printing and email my PDF newsletter **OR** \_\_\_\_\_ Send my printed newsletter to the above address

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact me about volunteering

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

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ Gaylord Atkinson Memorial Scholarship Fund  
\_\_\_\_\_ Prairie Protection  
\_\_\_\_\_ Education Programs  
\_\_\_\_\_ Prairie Management  
\_\_\_\_\_ Match for Sustaining Prairies

You can also send  
membership renewals and  
donations to GHF online at  
[www.grasslandheritage.org](http://www.grasslandheritage.org)

## Thank you

To Kevin Bachkora for continued help with our accounting.

To the steadfast Groundhogs & Board Members who volunteered their Saturday morning(s) to help steward the prairie and remove invasive woody species such as rough-leaved dogwood and bush honeysuckle at Snyder Prairie: Ted Abel, Will, Avery & Drew Boyer, Mike Campbell, Ann Davin, Laird Ingham, and Brent Mortensen.

To Andrea Repinsky for her dedication and fine eye to detail in creating a beautiful online storefront for our Native Plant Sale pre-orders.

To Mike Haddock of [kswildflower.org](http://kswildflower.org) for permission to use some of his photos on our new website store for the plant sale.

To the committee members for the Sustaining Prairies and Gaylord Atkinson Memorial Scholarships. We appreciate the time spent reviewing, analyzing, and ranking applications.

*(Snyder Prairie Continued from page 6)*

triclopyr. Over the next year, GHF's Preserve Manager will continue to monitor the effects of these treatments. To learn more about basal bark herbicide applications to control invasive woody species, read this post (and more!) made by the Grassland Restoration Network's blog. <https://grasslandrestorationnetwork.org/2018/11/26/julianne-mason-on-basal-bark-applications-using-an-oil-water-emulsion-2/>

**Anyone interested in joining GHF's Groundhogs can reach out to Nicole at [grasslandheritage@gmail.com](mailto:grasslandheritage@gmail.com) or sign-up to receive email communications on our website (<https://www.grasslandheritage.org/volunteer>).**

## Special Donations

**Welcome New Members:** Lisa Ball, Lisa Castle, Christine Chulick, Lori Disney, Annabelle Eason, Kasey Fickel, Hazlett Henderson, Edie Higgins, Elisabeth Hooper, Laird & Carol Ingham, David Marker, Kelly Overstreet, Chad Phillips, Gary Sims, Nancy Sirico

**Returning Members:** Keith Coleman, Ozark Wilderness Waterways Club, Regina Rohlf

**Education Fund:** Lori Disney, Kasey Fickel, Steve and Sue Holcomb

**Sustaining Prairies and Matches:** Dennis & Susan Lordi Marker, David Wagner, David Marker

**Prairie Protection:** Mary Kowalski, Bitsey Patton, Courtney Masterson & Ryan Riedel, Barbara Schwering

**Prairie Management:** Myron Leinwetter, Kelly Overstreet, Nancy Sirico

**Gift in memory** of Deborah L Ward by Carol Lunn

**Gift in memory** of Michael T Morley by Angela Candela

**Gift in memory** of Gary Tegtmeier by Mary Kowalski

**Gift in memory** of Jean Hiersteiner by Ann Simpson

**Gift membership** from Cynthia Pederson to Chad Phillips

**Gift in honor** of Margery and Albert Nickerson by Barbara Schwering

We'd like to offer our condolences to the family of **Thomas Hawkins** of Halstead, Kansas, who designated memorial gifts to Grassland Heritage Foundation. Our thanks to Gary & Millie Brooks, Kaywin & Regina Bryant, Kay McKenny, Mark & Ronda Meyer, Stephen & Cynthia Seirer, and Kevin Wray, Wray Roofing, Inc for your donations.

**Grassland Heritage Foundation**  
**PO Box 394**  
**Shawnee Mission, KS 66201**

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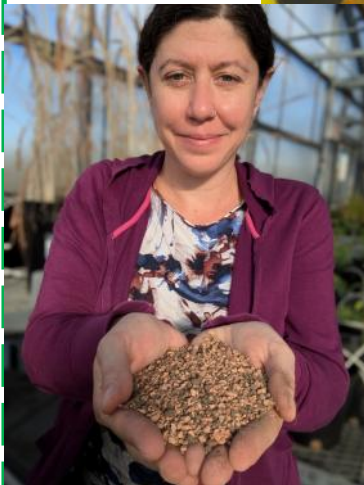
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Enjoy your newsletter in full color on our website: [www.grasslandheritage.org](http://www.grasslandheritage.org).



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### **Visit with Dr. Liz Koziol, an expert on soil fungi, at the GHF spring native plant sale in Lawrence!**

Hear the word “prairie” and most of us think of tall grasses, colorful wildflowers, and busy pollinators. Yet much of prairie life is going on belowground with deep plant roots and a huge diversity of microbial organisms. “Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi” (AM fungi, for short) are a special kind of microbe that live in the soil and are intimately associated with plant roots. These plant-fungal interactions are “win-win”: the fungi help plants take up nutrients and water, while the plants provide carbon to the fungi. Many prairie plants, including favorites like purple prairie clover, leadplant, pale purple coneflower, and rattlesnake master, live longer or grow better when these fungi are present in the soil.



Chat with Liz at her table at the GHF Lawrence plant sale to learn about these amazing microbes. Liz also runs a small business called Mycobloom <https://www.mycobloom.com> that sells a granular product made of AM fungi collected from native prairie soils. Interested people can place orders for inoculum with her at the GHF sale. There will also be a limited amount of inoculum available for cash purchase.

*If we don't have an email address for you and you want to be notified of the Plant Sale details or events, please go to the web site [www.grasslandheritage.org](http://www.grasslandheritage.org) and under the Contact GHF tab, Sign up for Emails.*

EMPIRIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Office of STEM OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

**NATIVE PLANT SALE**

Join PAROC and the Grassland Heritage Foundation in exploring our native plants!  
Purchase plants and enjoy classroom learning activities!

Where:  
601 E. 18th Ave  
Emporia

When:  
May 17th  
11am-1pm