

Summer Edition

September 2016

## Plein Air Painting Workshop with Louis Copt

September 17, 2016 from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Snyder Prairie, Mayetta, KS

Bring your art supplies and a camera for a fun and informative morning of Plein Air painting with artist Louis Copt at Rachel Snyder Prairie, southeast of Mayetta, KS. All levels of students are welcome.

Louis will do quick demonstrations in oil and watercolor. The focus of the workshop will be on image selection, composition, atmospheric perspective, color mixing, temperature and value.

We will be working outside, so please dress accordingly. Wear neutral colors. Bright colors can reflect on your canvas and interfere with your color choices. Be sure to bring water and sunscreen. A brimmed hat is a good idea. The workshop is \$40.00 per person. RSVP and pre-payment required. Contact Kim Bellemere, GHF Education Coordinator, at 785-840-8104 or [grasslandheritage@gmail.com](mailto:grasslandheritage@gmail.com) to RSVP.



In 2011, Louis Copt was named "Governor's Artist" by the Kansas Arts Commission

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Prairie Discovery Day

September 17, 2016 from 11:30 AM to 3:00 PM

158<sup>th</sup> St. and U Rd., Mayetta, KS

**Prairie Discovery Day** is the annual prairie picnic and walk at GHF's Snyder Prairie and is your chance to experience one of our most beautiful tallgrass prairies. Parking is limited so carpooling is encouraged.



**11:00 AM - Catch a Ride at the Topeka Zoo.** Free bus to Snyder Prairie leaves from the Topeka Zoo parking lot. An RSVP is required to ride the bus so contact GHF by Sept. 12 to reserve your spot.



**11:45 AM - Picnic on the Prairie. Free lunch!** GHF will provide lunch for everyone. Bring a lawn chair or picnic blanket and your water bottle. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own re-usable plates and eating utensils although some will be available for those who forget or don't want to pack anything extra.



### 12:00 PM - Family Fun Booths!

- See live prairie animals from the **Topeka Zoo**.
- Discover the prairie watershed with the **Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation**.
- Learn about butterflies and other pollinators with the **Douglas County Conservation District**. We may even catch and tag a few.
- Go on a guided walk at 12:15 PM or 1:30 PM and learn about Snyder Prairie's plants and history.



**3:00 PM - Return to the Topeka Zoo.** Free bus to Topeka Zoo parking lot leaves from Snyder Prairie.

**RSVP and let us know that you're coming, whether you ride the bus or not. We would love for you to join us!**

RSVP with Kim Bellemere, at  
[grasslandheritage@gmail.com](mailto:grasslandheritage@gmail.com) or  
785-840-8104.



Sponsored by the Topeka zoo,  
Douglas County Conservation  
District, and Potawatomi tribe.

## ***President's Column***

Douglas County has continued to lose its remaining prairie remnants over recent decades. 18% of the county's remaining high-quality prairies were lost in the last 10 years.

Dr. Kelly Kindscher of the Kansas Biological Survey shared the results of "A Natural Areas Inventory of Douglas County in Northeast Kansas" in a March presentation in Lawrence. This is the most detailed inventory that has been completed in the county. The goal was to identify the loss of prairie since the last inventory in 2005. Dr. Kindscher and his team added high-quality forests to the inventory, recorded locations of rare plants, and identified conservation opportunities in selected areas such as the Baldwin Woods, an historic oak-hickory forest north of Baldwin City. Known prairies were visited, and new sites were found. Each site was graded from excellent to poor quality. He said that the team found 76 prairies of grade A, B or C on 1,352 acres, and 27 high-quality forest tracts.

Over the past 10 years, Douglas County lost 257 acres, and few high quality sites are protected. Another 29% of the county's high-quality prairie had been lost between 1988 and 2005. Dr. Kindscher said that most of it has been converted to cropland. Rocky hilltop sites have been used for house construction. Other contributors to the losses of natural areas are change in ownership, change in management, spreading tree seeds, and lack of burning.

Dr. Kindscher recommended forming a Lawrence/Douglas County green space program and more mitigation to compensate for the loss of plant communities.

*Andrea Repinsky*  
adheron@yahoo.com

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

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## **4<sup>th</sup> Annual GHF Native Plant Sale**

The GHF Native Plant Sale was held on May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Lawrence Public Library Lawn. Although Kim was a little worried about attendance as we were setting up, we had a big crowd when we opened and the day went very well thanks to the many great volunteers.

We offered 41 species of native plants with 3041 sold, this includes 28 members' pre-sales of 573 plants. We only had to return 30 at the end of the day thanks to wonderful customers.

Thanks again to the 21 volunteers the day of the sale who contributed over 70 hours. We also had committee members who worked since January and a crew that worked most of the day before filling orders.

We had great coverage by the media including at least 2 magazine articles/mentions, one newspaper article, a handful of newsletter mentions, and the event was listed on numerous community calendars and was shared widely by other organizations on Facebook.

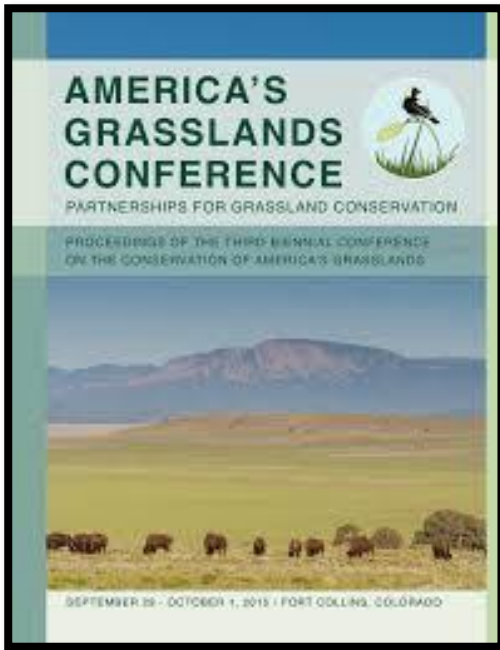
We sold a much larger variety of plants than in the past and three other organizations hosted native plant sales around the same time. The additional sales didn't hurt us at all, in fact, they may have helped us as we all shared information about each other's sales.



Special thanks to Elliott Duemler and Taylor Creek Restoration Nursery/Applied Ecological Services for growing our plants, helping us figure out what to order, and all the assistance getting sorted and loaded. Thanks to Cottin's of Lawrence for donating use of tables for the event, as well as delivery and setup. Thanks to the City of Lawrence for allowing us to rent this wonderful space for the day.

## Proceedings from Third America's Grasslands Conference

Ranchers, conservation groups, researchers, government agencies, and other stakeholders are partnering in innovative and exciting ways to conserve America's iconic prairies, according to the Proceedings of the 3rd Biennial Conference on the Conservation of America's Grasslands, recently by the National Wildlife Federation.



*America's Grasslands Conference: Partnerships for Grassland Conservation* was held in Fort Collins, CO from September 29-October 1, 2015. The two-day conference, which was co-hosted by National Wildlife Federation, Colorado State University and

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, included more than 70 speakers and poster presentations. The conference brought together around 225 biologists, policy experts, ranchers, federal and state agency staff, graduate students and conservationists.

These conference proceedings provide open access to a high quality source of information on nine topics related to grassland conservation, including grazing management, grassland-dependent wildlife, landscape planning, energy development, climate change, and federal policy. The third grasslands conference also continued to emphasize the innovations in creating economic opportunities with working lands and market based instruments to keep grasslands thriving.

"Our remaining prairies throughout the grassland region are vestiges of one of the mightiest ecosystems ever to grace the earth. Our prairie soils and grazing lands made North America into an agricultural powerhouse like nowhere else in the world. And what remain may be called remnants, but they are not artifacts, they are teeming with life—living laboratories of genetic resources that we cannot afford to lose. They are perhaps all the more precious because they are so scarce and so vulnerable" said Carol Davit, the Executive Director of Missouri Prairie Foundation in her opening keynote address at the conference.

[http://www.nwf.org/~media/PDFs/Misc/2015-Americas-Grasslands-Conference\\_Proceedings-FINAL-070816.ashx](http://www.nwf.org/~media/PDFs/Misc/2015-Americas-Grasslands-Conference_Proceedings-FINAL-070816.ashx)

## Oher Prairie Events This Fall

### Prairie Wildflower Day at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

September 10, 2016  
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Enjoy a day filled with guided wildflower hikes, prairie bus tours, artwork, natural plant dying demonstrations, and kid's fun. **FREE**

Contact Name: Eric Patterson, at 620-273-6034 ext 242  
Visitor Center, 2480B KS Hwy 177, Strong City, KS 66869

### Native Plant Sale

September 17, 2016  
10:00 AM to 2:30 PM (or until sold out)

Missouri Department of Conservation "Monarch Mania" Event, Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center 4750 Troost Ave., Kansas City, MO 64110. The Discovery Center is partnering with the Missouri Prairie Foundation to offer a native plant sale to benefit monarch butterflies. Missouri Wildflowers Nursery will be providing plants that are desired by monarchs (and other wildlife) and will look great in your home landscape. New England aster, buttonbush, purple coneflower, several species of milkweed, including marsh milkweed, along with a wide selection of other pollinator species will be for sale. Get a jump-start on your 2017 pollinator garden! A portion of proceeds will be donated to the Missouri Prairie Foundation to help conserve vital pollinator habitat on its native prairies. Call 816-716-9159 if you have questions.

If you wish to preorder your choices for pickup on the 17th, contact Missouri Wildflowers Nursery: 573-496-3492 or email: [mowldflrs@socket.net](mailto:mowldflrs@socket.net).

### Grow Native! Workshop on Converting Non-native Landscapes to Prairie

September 23, 2016  
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Grasses and Wildflowers, and their maintenance. Hosted by Powell Gardens, Kingsville, MO. Speakers include Alan Branham, Dr. Quinn Long, Mike Leahy and Matt Bunch. Topics will include history of native grasslands in the Kansas City area, eliminating non-native vegetation, seeding mixes and rates, planting maintenance, aesthetic and ecological considerations of plantings, and tour of prairie remnants and plantings at Powell. Geared to parks and recreation professionals, landowners, municipal planners, landscape designers and landcare professionals. Lunch included. \$50 per person for non-MPF members; \$40 per person for members. Register at [GrowNative.org](http://GrowNative.org).

### Prairie Jubilee at Missouri Prairie State Park

September 24, 2016  
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Celebrate the tallgrass prairie at Prairie State Park. Take part in activities such as a living history loop, where visitors can interact with interpreters and others to learn what it was like to live on the prairie. Listen to live music and the sounds of the prairie. Take a ride out to see the bison and enjoy trying some bison for lunch. Visit with people from other organizations and agencies that partner to help protect and preserve the tallgrass prairie. This event is sponsored by Missouri State Parks. 128 NW 150th Lane, Mindenmines, MO  
For more information contact Katy Holmer at 417-843-6711.



## Groundhogs Our Prairie Maintenance Group

Prairie remnants don't naturally remain prairie in these days of small parcels, suppression of fire, and introductions of invasive plants. Our Snyder property manager, Frank Norman, coordinates volunteers who cut trees, lop woodies, collect and spread seeds, and many other maintenance projects. This group meets at 9:00am on the 3rd Saturday of most months. Upcoming dates are: September 17, October 15, and November 19. No Groundhogs in December.

Snyder Prairie is located at 158th & U Rd, near Mayetta, Kansas. It's about 20 miles north of Topeka up Hwy 75.

Contact **Frank Norman** at 785-691-9748 or [fjnoman@sunflower.com](mailto:fjnoman@sunflower.com) to get on the volunteer email 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.



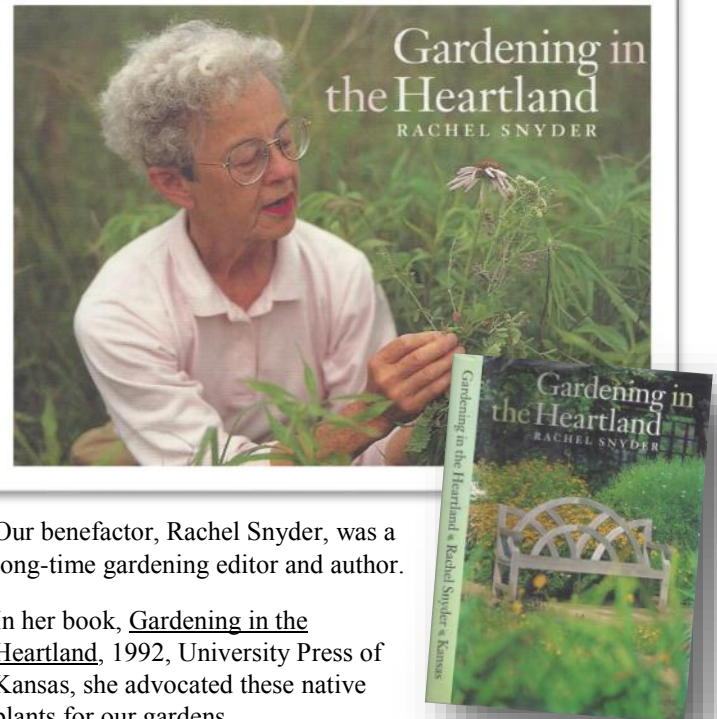
## Deerfield Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> graders with Kim Bellemere at FSHS prairie

Kim Bellemere, GHF's Education & Volunteer coordinator, during a presentation at the Free State High School Prairie.

Pictures by Helen Alexander.



## Gardening in the Heartland



Our benefactor, Rachel Snyder, was a long-time gardening editor and author.

In her book, Gardening in the Heartland, 1992, University Press of Kansas, she advocated these native plants for our gardens.

### *Twenty-Five Heartland Native Perennial Wildflowers Suitable in Gardens*

*Amsonia tabernaemontana* (blue star)  
*Aquilegia canadensis* (wild columbine)  
*Arisaema triphyllum* (jack-in-the-pulpit)  
*Asclepias tuberosa* (butterfly milkweed)  
*Callirhoe alcaeoides* (light poppy mallow)  
*Coreopsis grandiflora* (bigflower coreopsis)  
*Echinacea angustifolia* (purple coneflower)  
*Geranium maculatum* (cranesbill)  
*Helenium autumnale* (sneezeweed)  
*Helianthus maximiliani* (Maximilian sunflower)  
*Hydrophyllum virginianum* (Virginia waterleaf)  
*Liatris aspera* (button blazing star)  
*Lobelia cardinalis* (cardinal flower)  
*Monarda fistulosa* (bee balm)  
*Oenothera macrocarpa* (Missouri evening-primrose)  
*Penstemon cobaea* (cobea beardtongue)  
*Petalostemum purpureum* (purple prairie clover)  
*Phlox divaricata* (wood phlox)  
*Ratibida pinnata* (gray-head coneflower)  
*Ruellia humilis* (wild petunia)  
*Senecio plattensis* (prairie groundsel)  
*Silene stellata* (starry campion)  
*Solidago speciosa* (showy goldenrod)  
*Tradescantia virginiana* (spiderwort)  
*Verbena canadensis* (rose verbena)



## Hints for Native Gardens

By Kim Bellemere and Sue Holcomb

### 1. Maintain your garden but not too much.

**Kim:** It's very possible to have a well-manicured native garden but don't be too quick to clean out the old plant material and "put it to bed" in the fall. Many of our native insects (including butterfly caterpillars) overwinter in the leaves litter. Birds will eat the seeds of coneflowers and sunflowers. Hollow flower stems make great nests for native bees. Cleaning everything up in the fall eliminates habitat for insects and other animals.



Grey-headed coneflower

**Sue:** If you live in a neighborhood, you may have to do more manicuring to make sure others don't view your native plants as weeds. Front yard plants should be more organized in structured beds. You will probably want to cut back and clear out next spring as the plants green up from the roots.

### 2. Many of your plants will be eaten and that's good.

**Kim:** Native insects must eat the plants with which they co-evolved. Monarch butterflies are the best example of this as their larva (caterpillars) can only eat milkweeds. They aren't the only insects that rely on milkweeds, however, and the larva of most butterflies and insects have similar relationships with other plants. The good news is that most of the plants will bounce back fairly quickly and they rarely die. If your milkweeds are eaten to the ground, just plant more next year (the old ones will come back, too) and feel good knowing you're doing your part to bring back the Monarchs.



Sullivan's milkweed with beetle

### 3. Use only neonicotinoid-free plants.

**Kim:** Neonics are systemic insecticides that are taken up by a plant's tissues and distributed to all parts of the plant including the leaves, stems, roots, pollen, and nectar. Any insects, including pollinators that feed on that plant, will ingest the insecticide. Neonics are very long lasting and have been found in the tissues of some plants up to 5 years after they have been treated. They are also very common. Always ask retailers if their plants have been treated or purchase plants from trusted sources. Grassland Heritage Foundation, Missouri Prairie Foundation, and a number of other regional organizations host neonic-free native plant sales every spring (and some in the fall). For more information about neonics, go to [www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org).



Bee on culver's root

### 4. Put the right plant in the right spot.

**Kim:** Native plants generally require less maintenance than non-natives but that doesn't mean they are maintenance-free and will automatically grow anywhere. Look for plants that are suited to your *sun*, *shade*, *soil*, and *moisture* conditions. They should be watered through the first summer while they're getting established. Some natives will establish quickly and need to be divided after only a few years, others will take longer and may not bloom for 2-3 years. If you plant natives that are right for your location and gardening style, your garden will require less water and maintenance over time.



Royal Catchfly

**Sue:** I planted some of my little plants in pots to help them get started with less competition. Next year I'll find a spot and get them in the garden.

### 5. Spend time in your garden and enjoy it!

**Kim:** The plants and the animals that visit will be a little different every year. Spend time watching to see which butterflies stopover. Look for caterpillars on the leaves. See if any plants have migrated and are coming up somewhere new (especially the milkweeds!). As you spend time observing the plants and animals, you'll learn more about what works and what you like. If a plant is too aggressive and you don't want to divide it every year, take it out and plant a similar species that you like better. The best gardens are the ones that feed our pollinators and other wildlife while bringing joy and satisfaction to their gardeners.



Rabbits eat purple prairie clover

**Sue:** I recommend taking lots of photos and notes as a journal to help you make decisions on what maintenance you may want to perform. My cup plants were getting too numerous and taking over, so I deadheaded last year and actually dug up plants this spring. I also notice which time periods seem to be lacking color and try to add plants that bloom earlier or later to fill that niche. You may want to help Mother Nature spread seeds to new locations. Get to know what seedlings look like and how plants start growing in the spring. It will also help in figuring out what the real weeds are that you need to remove.



Side oats gramma in bloom



Ratibida columifera



Monarch caterpillar eating milkweed

**Sue:** There may be some neonic-free native plant sales in the fall as well.

## Board of Governors

The Grassland Heritage Board of Governors is the main planning and governing body of GHF. Our July meeting was held at our Roulund-Wagner property in Olathe. This small piece of prairie was once a home site and is nestled in the northwestern part of the Prairie Center. We had a great potluck dinner and some brief tours.



Mike Campbell and GHF President, Andrea Repinsky, with Gary Tegtmeier in the background



Education & volunteer coordinator, Kim Bellemere, and Jennifer Dropkin

The current board of governors will elect new members, four directors tasked with day-to-day operations, and officers in January. We are scheduling an extended meeting on Saturday, November 12 in Lawrence, Kansas, to make plans for 2017. We'd love to have contributions from our members and we're always looking for volunteers!

Contact Andrea Repinsky, our president, at [adheron@yahoo.com](mailto:adheron@yahoo.com) or contact Kim Bellemere at 785-840-8104 or email [grasslandheritage@gmail.com](mailto:grasslandheritage@gmail.com).

## Research Scholarships Available for 2017

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](mailto: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.

## Bison Sighting

We stopped at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve near Pawhuska, Oklahoma with two of our grandkids in late May and were lucky to drive through a herd of bison. The babies were beautiful! The warning signs freaked out the 7 year old, but we stayed in our car and were perfectly safe. - Sue Holcomb



## Kaw Valley Native Plant Coalition

GHF has recently become involved in a fantastic new collaboration – the Kaw Valley Native Plant Coalition (KVNPC) - and we couldn't be more excited. The KVNPC is a coalition of organization and individuals who will work together to share information and educate the public about native plants and habitat issues. Most of the coalition members are in the Lawrence and Topeka area but the group hopes to eventually branch out to serve the entire Kaw River valley.

A number of organizations in the area work with native plant issues including pollinator gardening, habitat restoration, and prairie preservation. As the interest in these issues has grown in recent years, we've seen an increased need to coordinate activities and share information with one another. By forming the KVNPC, member organizations will hopefully be able to share resources and information, collaborate on projects, and eventually increase our impact, educating even more people about native plants.

The Planning Committee is currently working to establish a plan for the coalition and set goals for the coming year. In the meantime, coalition members have access to a shared email list serve, event calendar, and Facebook page where they can share information. The coalition also has hosted a potluck and prairie walk for members in May at the Guess Prairie and will host a tour of Hidden Valley Camp in Lawrence, this fall.

To learn more about the KVNPC, visit the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/KVNPC> or email Kim Bellemere or Courtney Masterson, KVNPC Co-Chairs, at [kawvalleynpc@gmail.com](mailto:kawvalleynpc@gmail.com).



## 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  
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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

**In memory of Larry Wagner and honor of David:**  
Martha Wagner

**In honor of Gary Tegtmeier:** Rick Mitchell

**Rachel Snyder Memorial Scholarship:**  
Jean Hiersteiner and Jo Ann Myers

**Prairie Acquisition Fund:** Rick Mitchell

**For donations sponsoring our Prairie Discovery day:**  
Topeka Zoo Conservation Committee

### GHF Members

Thanks to the new members who joined since our last newsletter. Many of you joined to pre-order for the plant sale. Thank you for contributing both as members and customers!

**New Members:** Lora Barnett, Anna Landauer, Courtney Masterson, Carol Morgan, Barbara Clark/Maggie's Farm, Durand Reiber, Ione Unruh, Brian Martin, Brenda Kappelman, J. Bradley Short, Darla Mitchell, Brian Brinkman, Jo Ann Myers, Becky & Lisa LaBlanc-Willis, Barbara Mason, Florence & Robert Middleton, Rick Mitchell, Debra Small, and Susan Smith

**Others renewing:** Richard A. Brune, Janet Roth, Madonna Stallmann, Joanne Berns, and Gary Tegtmeier

**Returning members after a lapse:** Nancy Hamill Winter, Phyllis Copt, Fred & Nancy Coombs, Meredith Fry, Helen Alexander, Danielle Brunin, Wade and Rachel Myslivy

### Monthly Donation Plan

**Kenneth & Gayle Nicolay** for setting up a monthly donation plan. We really appreciate your support!

### Thank you to

Frank Norman, Kelly Kindscher, and Courtney Masterson for leading a walk for KVNPC members in May. Thank you to Brad and Ellen Guess for hosting the group at their prairie.

Helen Kiefer, Mary Conn, Judy True, Donna and Eva Ackley, Phyllis Copt, Laura Milton, Jan Spiegel, Jennifer Deslile, Jamie Hofling, Gary Tegtmeier, Roxie McGee, Frank Norman, Mike Campbell, Rex Powell, Andrea Repinsky, Megan Withiam, and Staci Hendrickson for volunteering during the GHF Native Plant Sale. A big thanks to Sue and Steve Holcomb for helping to coordinate the event. (Along with Kim Bellemere!)

Sharon Gan-Yang for doing the layout for our newsletter

Kevin Bachkora for monthly accounting assistance

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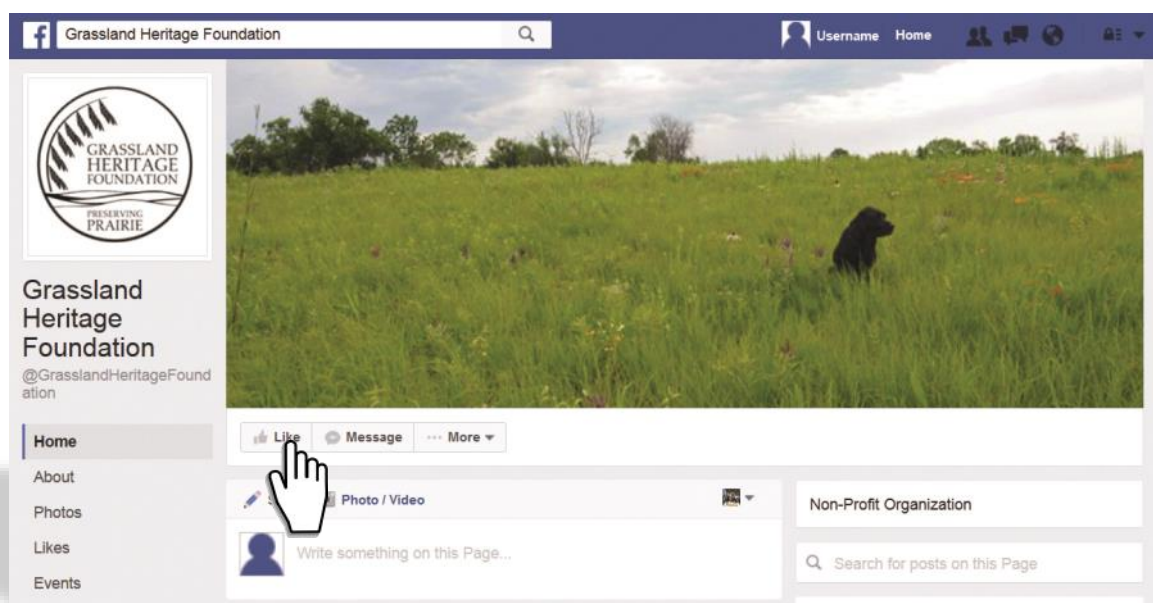


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### Keep informed of all GHF activities!

Follow us on Facebook and hear all the latest news without waiting for a newsletter. Also, be sure we have your email. Kim Bellemere sends out timely invitations to events. Contact her at [grasslandheritage@gmail.com](mailto:grasslandheritage@gmail.com) or Sue Hocomb at [sholc2003@yahoo.com](mailto:sholc2003@yahoo.com) to be added to our email list.



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