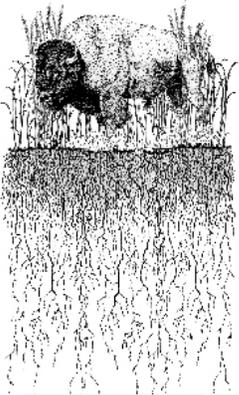


# & Bluestem



2017 FOKP Calendar now on SALE!

The eagerly awaited FOKP 2017 Calendar is here! All photos were taken by members of Friends of Konza Prairie, and Valerie Wright wrote the captions. New merchandise, including the much requested grasses design t-shirts, "The Autumn Calf" with bison plush, and calendars will be available at the Annual Meeting. Cash, checks and credit cards accepted. Calendars are \$15 and will also be available at Claflin Books.



Research

Education

Conservation

Konquer the Konza 10K and 25K Run  
Sunday, Sept. 18, 7:30 a.m. (see page 8)

FOKP Fall Meeting  
Sunday, Sept. 25 (see page 9)  
Annual Meeting - 4:00 p.m.  
Dinner - 5:00  
Bison Loop Tour - 6:00

Visions of the Flint Hills Art Show and Benefit  
Friday, Oct. 7th, 4 p.m. (see page 10)



Sept 2016

# Bison



## KPBS Director Dr. John Briggs

Dear members of the Friends of Konza Prairie,

It is almost the end of July and most years, things are quieter on the prairie this time of the year as most researchers are taking some time off before the end of the field season sampling. However, this year, no matter what time of the day I go out there, I see many individuals in the field. In addition, the Konza Prairie Biological Station (KPBS) staff is busy mowing/haying the many miles of fireguards and repairing bison/cattle fences that are necessary for our long-term fire and grazing experiments. And as many of you know this June and July it has been very hot out there! It is an “even” year so sometime soon we will conduct our summer burns. These watersheds (SuA and SuB) have been burned every two years since 1994 and are extremely important in our ongoing efforts to convince many land owners that they do not have to burn tallgrass prairie just in the springtime. As I have mentioned in earlier issues of this newsletter, smoke management is becoming a serious issue in the Flint Hills, and the research at KPBS provides much needed evidence that the tallgrass prairie can be burned at almost any time of the year.

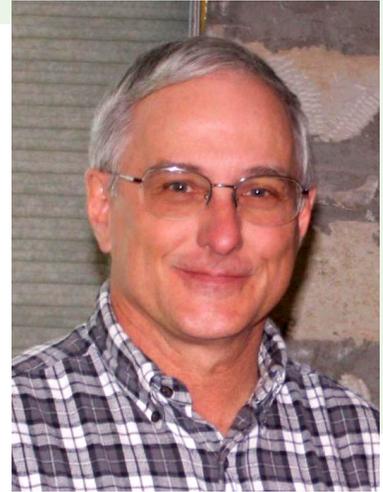
I have had to make a very difficult decision this summer. I have decided that KPBS will NOT host the biennial Visitors’ Day this year. As many of you know, this has been a long-term tradition of KPBS to open the research areas every two years and let the general public visit areas that are usually off-limits. In addition, we have highlighted the ongoing research by displaying posters and having KPBS staff, K-State faculty, and graduate students talk about their many research projects. It has always been well attended and, as I mentioned, not hosting it this year is very difficult for me to announce. I made this decision after discussing it with the Konza Prairie Advisory Committee (consisting of K-State Biology faculty members and a representative of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) of Kansas) and the KPBS staff. My primary reason is due to the ongoing financial problems that the state and university are enduring. It is the end of July and I still do not know what my budget is for this fiscal year, which started 01 July 2016, how much our budget will be reduced, and if the reduction will be permanent. As all might be able to guess, we have real costs in hosting Visitors’ Day with the many hours of staff time involved with getting the site ready, not to mention the day of and the cleanup afterwards. In addition, we are having some major expenses this year with the replacement of numerous windows/doors at the Hulbert Center and the Konza Meeting Hall. This was not unexpected, it is required as part of our lease agreement with TNC, and we knew we had to replace them this year. Given the unexpected expenses that the flood in May created, all of our reserve funds are gone. In addition, we had to purchase a new hay baler to replace one that was many years beyond its life expectancy. This piece of equipment is vital to our long-term fire and grazing research program, the main focus of KPBS.

My primary goal during this financial crisis we are in is to make 100% sure that we have the necessary KPBS staff and support to continue the three-fold mission of KPBS: long term ecological research, education, and prairie conservation. Although the main reason for not hosting the Biennial Visitor’s day was financial, I have other reasons as well. The addition of the Flint Hills Discovery Center in Manhattan, KS, and the Tallgrass National Preserve (with a new visitor’s center, hikes and tours of the bison herd) provide opportunities for individuals to learn, see, and experience tallgrass prairie that were not available in the past. In addition, more and more individuals are visiting the prairie at KPBS via the Nature Trail. Thus, individuals can still experience the tallgrass prairie, and we will take this time to evaluate if we want to continue this tradition.

Finally, I hope many of you who are reading this newsletter have already purchased the new book about KPBS! Jill Haukos, our KPBS Director of Education, has written a book about a bison calf that was born in August. It is part of the LTER Schoolyard Children’s Book Series and is available on Amazon (both Kindle and hardcover). It is a wonderful book. You can learn more about the numerous struggles the bison have on KPBS. It is beautifully illustrated and I know you will enjoy it! As always, please contact me (jbriggs1@ksu.edu; 785-532-0140) if you have any questions or concerns about KPBS as we try to continue to develop as one of the finest biological field stations in the world.

John M. Briggs  
Professor of Biology  
Director of Konza Prairie Biological Station, Kansas State University  
Division of Biology 104 Ackert Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506

## FOKP President Joe Gelroth



### FOKP Board of Directors Updates Bylaws

At their May 5, 2016 meeting, the Board of Directors updated the FOKP bylaws. Eleven years had elapsed since the last update, and changes were necessary to reflect the current operation of the Konza Environmental Education Program.

The updates enacted were:

1. Language that addressed the Konza Prairie Environmental Educator position was changed to reflect the position's current title: the Konza Prairie Director of Education.
2. The duties of the Docent Committee and the Education Committee were moved from FOKP to KEEP.
3. With the reduction in the number of Board Committees, the number of elected board members was reduced from 15 to 12.
4. The Facilities Committee was renamed as the Volunteer Engagement Committee. It shall strive to provide opportunities for FOKP members to assist with maintaining the public access area on Konza Prairie Biological Station. Opportunities may include facility maintenance and informational services.
5. The Publications Committee was renamed the Publications & Publicity Committee. It shall be responsible for preparing, printing, and distributing newsletters and other publications as appropriate. It shall also appropriately publicize FOKP events and activities.
6. A paragraph was added to the duties of the Executive Committee requiring the records and publications of the FOKP Board to be deposited annually with the Kansas State University Archives.
7. The Development Committee's duties were updated. It will be responsible for planning and implementing activities to solicit cash and other donations. The funds it receives will be managed in conjunction with the KSU Foundation to support FOKP's long-term educational programs.
8. The Program Committee's duties were simplified. It shall be responsible for organizing events and activities for FOKP members.

It is hoped that these changes to our bylaws will make the functioning of our organization more efficient. Copies of the updated bylaws will be available at our annual meeting on Sunday, September 25. If you desire a pdf copy delivered to your e-mail's inbox, please contact me at [joe.gelroth@gmail.com](mailto:joe.gelroth@gmail.com).



## From the Stone House

Director of Education  
Jill Haukos

### The Autumn Calf

In August of 2012 Donna McCallum (KEEP docent) and I were driving around the KPBS Bison Loop road in anticipation of the upcoming Visitors' Day. My motivation was to show Donna the gates involved with leading a Bison Loop tour so she could help with the upcoming tours.

We were thrilled to see the bison herd near the road that day and saw some of the large bulls sparring over the cows. It was already an exciting day when we saw, much to our surprise, a young, orange-colored bison calf in amongst the herd. Remember that the timing of this drive was August – orange calves belong to the months of April and May!

After doing some fact-checking, I discovered that this calf most likely had been born in August and its mother was a bison cow that was well known to the Konza folks, #358 – Gene Towne's (herd manager at the time) favorite bison. This cow was a seasoned mother and Gene indicated that she knew how to take care of her babies. The question was, however, would this young, small calf be able to gain enough weight before the onset of winter? No one knew, thus began the story that is now immortalized in the children's book entitled "The Autumn Calf."

"The Autumn Calf" is the latest addition, and the Konza Prairie contribution, to the SLTER Children's Book Series – a series of books that, when completed, will represent each of the 25 different LTER research sites in the United States. The books are designed to reflect the research priorities of each site as well as features that make each of the LTER sites unique. "The Autumn Calf" focuses on the bison herd but also touches on the use of fire for prairie management, tallgrass biology, bird migration, predator-prey relationships, and phenology. It is designed for a 4th grade reading level.

The book is currently available from the KEEP office, the LTER Network Communications Office (<http://www.lterschoolyardseries.com>), as well as Amazon. We are anticipating that local book sellers (Clafin Books on 4th St.) will carry the book as well as the plush bison calf that can accompany the book.

The artwork, done by Fort Collins artist Joyce Turley, is gorgeous, with rich colors that transport you to the autumn, winter, and spring prairie. If you're familiar with Konza, you'll see places in the book that you recognize, such as the stone barn and the bison corral. It's a lovely story that both children and adults seem to enjoy. Get yourself a copy of the book (\$15.95 plus tax) and a plush calf (\$7.00) and find out if the little autumn calf survived the winter.



*Photo by Jill Haukos*

## Kings Creek Flood Causes Nature Trail Bridge Relocation

Heavy rains on Tuesday evening, April 24, 2016, washed out the Nature Trail Bridge over Kings Creek and resulted in the bridge being deposited 75 yards downstream. Three to four inches of rain in a very short period of time caused the largest flooding event since the Nature Trail Bridge was built over Kings Creek. Although the bridge was cabled to prevent it from washing downstream during a high water event, the cable proved insufficient to withstand the force of a large oak tree floating downstream. The oak tree collided with the bridge, the cable connection slipped, and together the tree and the bridge floated away. The Nature Trail was closed to the public until repairs could be made.

By the next morning, it was clear that the bridge's support structures were beyond repair and would have to be completely replaced if the bridge was to be reinstalled at the same location. Such repair would have required significant time and expense, so it was decided to install the bridge in a different location.



Damaged east support structure

As luck would have it, the entangled oak tree and bridge came to rest where relocation was possible. Once the oak tree was cut up to allow the bridge to be freed and flood debris was removed from the site, repairs to the bridge's handrails and planking were necessary.

In addition, the Nature Trail had to be rerouted and new signs installed. Three weeks later, on Wednesday, May 18, the bridge over Kings Creek was reinstalled and the Nature Trail was reopened to the public.



Bridge entangled with oak tree



*Photos by Joe Gelroth*

## Nominees for the FOKP Board

### Allie Lousch

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Though not a native Kansan, Allie calls Konza Prairie her “native state.”

She recently returned to Kansas after a few years working with an international humanitarian organization. Before that Allie worked with Sunset Zoo as Marketing / Development Officer and currently works at the Chapman Center for Rural Studies at K-State. Since her first Konza experience, she has appreciated the all-season access to six miles of hiking trails and the natural history of the prairie. Allie sees herself as a co-steward of the Konza and will continue to invite people to explore the sea of tallgrass... wisely and respectfully.

She is happy to apply her career experience in Marketing/Development among grassroots organizations and civic government to further the mission of Friends of the Konza Prairie. Whether this means serving on the Board or as ad hoc ambassador, she will continue to celebrate the heart-opening land, south wind, and adventures to be had on the Konza Prairie.

### Jessica Fiscus

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Jessica is employed by the Riley County Health Department as the Health Educator and spends a portion of her time doing community outreach. She serves on community coalitions and workgroups, participates in community events, and collaborates with community partners.

Organizations and activities she devotes time to include: Manhattan Area Risk Prevention Coalition (MARPC), Flint Hills Wellness Coalition, Head Start Policy Council, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Bike Month Planning Committee, Mental Health Task Force, Water Matters Day (Konza Rotary Club), Sticker Shock (MARPC), Okt-FLU-ber Fest (Riley County Health Department), Bug-A-Palooza (Riley County Health Department), Luau on the Lawn (Riley County Health Department), Purple Power Play in the Park, and others.

She considers herself very fortunate to have the opportunity to spend time at the Konza Prairie Biological Station. She enjoys the natural beauty that it offers, and finds a peaceful connection with nature when hiking the trails. Jessica feels she could serve as a valuable member of the Friends of the Konza Prairie Board and is passionate and well positioned to help achieve its mission of research, education, and conservation. Our community is incredibly lucky to have the KPBS available, and Jessica is honored to be nominated to serve on the FOKP Board.

## Nominees for the FOKP Board

### Donna McCallum

A native Kansan, Donna was born and raised in Chase County, “the heart of the Flint Hills.” Because of this, she has always had a deep appreciation of the Flint Hills and the tallgrass prairie. While planning for retirement, she became a docent for the Konza Prairie. Donna truly enjoys leading school children on hikes, gathering grasshoppers, and leading bison tours. Her other volunteer jobs include delivering meals to the homebound and ushering at McCain Auditorium and, of course, volunteering for events on the Konza.

She has worked 3 jobs, 10 years each, that included College Hill Nursing Home, The Riley County Seniors’ Center, and Meadowlark Hills. As you might guess, Donna loves working with children and the elderly.

Her education includes an undergraduate degree in Liberal Arts and a Masters in Public Relations, with both degrees from Kansas State University.

Donna hopes to inspire others with her reverence for the Konza Prairie and the Flint Hills by being a member of the Board of the Friends of the Konza Prairie and a docent



### Joe Gelroth

Joe Gelroth has been involved with the Konza for years! He enrolled at KSU in the fall of 1973 and earned his Master’s degrees in Biology and Agronomy. One of his advisors was Dr. Lloyd Hulbert. His early work with Dr. Hulbert coincided with the initiation of research at Konza Prairie that included pasture burn studies and establishing watershed units and different burning intervals.

In addition, after helping erect the bison fence, he bought bison from the Maxwell game preserve in Canton, Kansas in 1987, which along with bison from Fort Riley were the first bison released on Konza.

He stayed with the Konza until 1990 then earned a teaching certificate and taught elementary school at Eugene Field and Roosevelt schools until retiring in 2013.

Joe and wife Janette were charter members of the FOKP in 1994. He served on the FOKP Board from 1997 till 2003. During this time, he was instrumental in getting a grant proposal providing transportation for school children to come to the Konza for hikes and science activities.

In 1998, Joe was offered the job of maintaining the hiking trails during the summers and has spent the last 18 summers doing this. Joe improved the trail conditions significantly after he discovered cut limestone building stones in an abandoned quarry on the Konza. He placed the limestone blocks across the path at strategic locations to prevent erosion.

Joe again has served on the FOKP Board and as President for the past year. After his term as president is complete, he will continue serving on the Board.





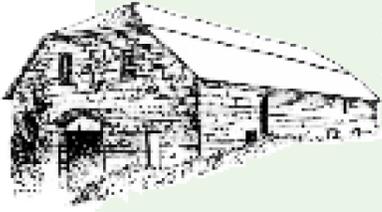
## The 3rd Annual Konquer the Konza trail race

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We'll be offering both the 25k (15.5 miles) and 10k (6.2 miles) races again this year on Sunday, Sept. 18th. This race raises up to \$4,000 and is one of our major fundraisers of the year. If you have the time and want to come out for a very fun, beautiful day at the peak of the autumn tallgrass season, please consider joining us! (Register with The Manhattan Running Company [manhattanrunningco.com](http://manhattanrunningco.com).)



*Photos by Barbara Van Syke (both)*



## SUNDAY - Sept 25, 2016

4:00 p.m. FOKP ANNUAL MEETING

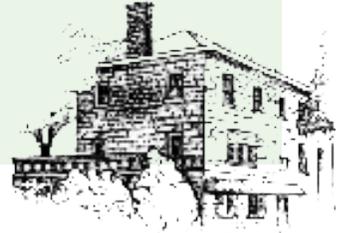
DOCENT AND KANSAS MASTER NATURALIST GRADUATION

5:00 p.m. BISON BBQ AND POTLUCK

BRING YOUR OWN CUPS, PLATES, SILVERWARE

6:00 p.m. BISON LOOP TOUR

WE HAVE A SCHOOL BUS



Be prepared for a few eyeopeners at this year's Friends of Konza Prairie Annual Meeting. We'll grant you that the best reasons to attend are to remind yourself of the timeless beauty of Konza, and to refresh acquaintances with long-time and recently made friends.

### But wait! There's more!

1) **Look at the new organizational changes.** The current Board, under the capable leadership of Joe Gelroth, has made some much needed changes to "business as usual." Joe has the advantage of being associated with the Konza, and with the Friends program from the beginning. This year, the Board undertook a detailed review of the FOKP Bylaws wording, and the functional operation of the Konza Environmental Education Program. Keeping the original intent, the Board scrubbed, updated and approved the bylaws. The changes are summarized in Joe's President's Message in this B&B. The newly approved Bylaws will be distributed at the Annual Meeting on September 25. The Board of Directors recommends the candidates for the Board for approval by vote of the FOKP membership at the annual meeting. Please review the information about Board candidates and be prepared to vote at the meeting.

2) **The newly published children's book, "The Autumn Calf,"** with the plush toy bison calf, is ideal for your early Christmas shopping for children and grandchildren. Come prepared to purchase with cash, check, or credit card.

3) Our **new merchandise** includes a functional and stylish tote with water bottle pouch, and corresponding ball cap. By popular request, we also restocked the "Grasses" and "KPBS" t-shirts.

4) The **2017 FOKP Calendar** will be available. This is another candidate for early Christmas shopping. This year's photographers contributed many beautiful views of Konza flora, fauna, and landscapes to bring you pleasure all next year.

5) If you haven't **renewed your membership** to FOKP, you may do so at the Annual Meeting. Your support of this organization is crucial to the continued success of the Konza Environmental Education Program, and the thousands of school children that participate in immersive science education activities each year.

So join us at the FOKP Annual Meeting. **Please note that the date is set for Sunday, September 25, 2016,** to avoid conflicts with members employed at work during the week, and to allow sports fans to attend the September 24 KSU/Missouri State Football Game and KSU Band Day. Meeting time is **4:00 pm** to allow time for the business meeting, the potluck, and the Bison Loop tour before sunset.

BUTTONWOOD  
ART SPACE  
3013 Main St. Kansas City, MO 64108  
www.ButtonwoodArtSpace.com



Get ready to be dazzled by Flint Hills artists showing in the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Visions of the Flint Hills Art Benefit. Come and meet the artists and sponsors at the gala opening! As this is the third year FOKP has been the beneficiary of this juried art show and benefit, it seemed appropriate to learn more about how Jon McGraw and his wife, Wendy, came to turn the offices of Buttonwood Financial Services into Buttonwood Art Space, immersing themselves in a thriving art scene while benefitting worthy causes in their community.

I asked Jon if he would answer a few questions about how this gallery, Buttonwood Art Space, with its year-round art show and benefit got started. He graciously agreed.

What inspired you to turn your office into an art gallery?

"I've always believed that in life, you get out what you put in. If I'm doing the right things for the world, it's going to come full circle." Turning the office into an art gallery was an easy decision. Buttonwood Financial Group owns 3013 Main Street as well as 3011 and 3015. 3013 Main was constructed in the 1860's and 3015 Main goes back to 1901. The office is a very unique space containing about 7,600 sq ft, perfect for an art gallery! Jon and the Buttonwood Team wanted to create a space where local and regional non-profit organizations could host events in order to provide awareness and raise money for their cause. It's all about giving back to the community!

What is the most gratifying aspect of running these shows? Or the most fun?

In a traditional art gallery, a percentage of sales will go to the artists, and a percentage will go to the gallery. At Buttonwood Art Space, the percentage that typically goes to the gallery goes directly to the non-profit organization. Operating costs for the gallery are paid by Buttonwood Financial Group, making it possible for the art space to stay focused on giving back to the community. It's incredibly rewarding to be able to put together an exhibit and know we are helping raise money and awareness for the great organizations doing great things. It's a win for artists (sales), a win for non-profits (sales/awareness), a win for the community (buy art and get a tax deduction), and a win for us (awareness and meeting our community members). We love meeting new people at each event while also sharing why Buttonwood Financial Group is so great!

What are some of the other organizations that you sponsor shows for?

Currently, we are hosting an exhibit for BikeWalkKC, "The Art of Human Movement." September 2nd-September 30, we will be hosting for People to People International. Other organizations include: Joplin Regional Arts Coalition (JRAC), MidAmerica Pastel Society (MAPS), KC Jazz ALIVE, KC Blues Society, Penn Valley Park Conservancy, National Multiple Sclerosis Mid America Chapter, TheGolden Hat Foundation, and several others.

How do the artists like the venue?

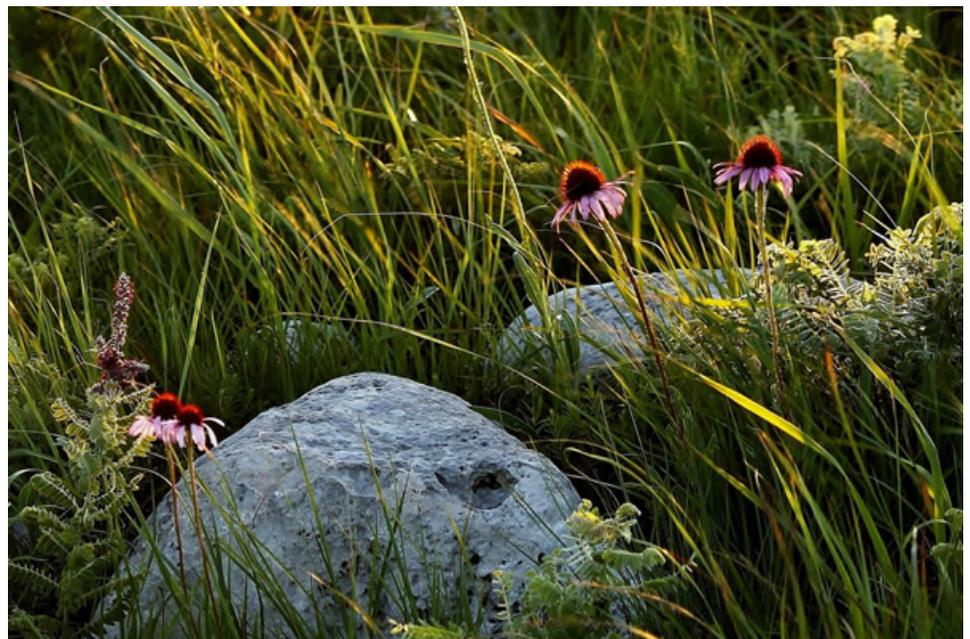
Artists love our space! 3015 Main has the original exposed brick, which provides a unique touch of character while complementing the artwork displayed. Our First Friday receptions typically bring in 300-400 people, which provide great exposure for artists. During events, food and libations are provided at no cost to the community. Artists love showing their art at Buttonwood and are proud to bring their friends/family/followers to our space. Take a tour of this fabulous and fun venue at <https://goo.gl/maps/avgfhWP2KvB2>

Visions of the Flint Hills

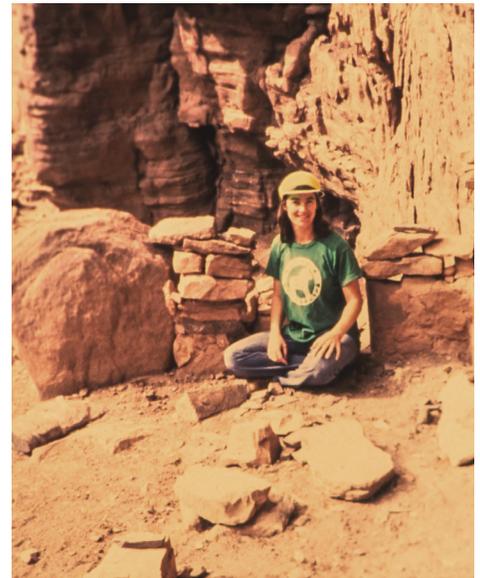
Opening Reception, First Friday,  
October 7, 2016. VIP-Ticket only  
from 4-6pm. Public reception  
6-9pm.

<http://www.buttonwoodartspace.com/show/2016-visions-of-the-flint-hills>

Tom Hoisington  
Photograph



## Docent Profile: Diane Barker



### 1. What motivated you to become a Konza Prairie docent?

It just seemed like a natural progression. I've lived in Manhattan since 1969 and walked many pieces of Flint Hills prairie from Marysville to the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve admiring the diversity of grasses and flowering plants. I wanted to know the names of the grasses and flowers because that would lead to knowing how they related to other elements of the prairie and other plants. I'd heard that docent training was the place to learn about the prairie and that people had a lot of fun. Plus, as an undergrad I'd had a UFM class taught by Gene Towne on grass identification.

### 2. What are some of your hobbies and interests?

Hiking the Grand Canyon was a pastime for a couple of decades. We'd camp on snow on the South Rim, cross to the North Rim and spend a week exploring canyons looking for Anasazi ruins. I heard my first canyon wren and watched my first water ouzel walk under water at Clear Creek. I learned to sail while on vacation in the Hebrides. I just happened into a town called Tobermory on the Island of Mull after a well-known regatta called West Highland Yachting Week. My introduction to sailing was in the frigid waters of the North Atlantic. Sailing on Tuttle Creek isn't as dangerous as the North Atlantic, but it has its moments. When I traveled to Cowes on the Isle of Wight, a major sailing center and home to the Royal Yacht Club. I didn't know anyone, but I sure wanted to sail. With my serviceable sailing skills, I ended up crewing on a classic wooden 45ft. Bermudan Sloop named the John Dorey. Working with Native American Elders and being a board member of Flint Hills Wisdom Keepers is a major interest. Being a Gallery Teacher at the Beach Museum of Art is very rewarding because of the Beach's active educational program and the Prairie Studies Initiative. There's always something fascinating traveling through the Beach.

### 3. What has been the best part of being a volunteer at Konza Prairie?

The other docents, the kids, teachers, parents, K-State faculty, and FOKP members all make it challenging and fun. People who love nature and like to share the experience of being outdoors along with what knowledge they have tend to be good company. Being slightly nerdy, I enjoy the company of plant, animal, weather, water and soil nerds. On a recent Kansas Master Naturalist class, we were seining Kings Creek for darters. Our leader that day, Keith Guido, dipped his hands in the water, telling us to make sure our hands were wet if we handled a fish. Dry hands would disturb the mucus that protects the fish. The little darter that he held up for our inspection was shiny, translucent, transparent, and I felt for all the creatures that have no hands, that venture into a dangerous world face first, trusting, taking their chances. Here was a teacher protecting that tiny being by sharing his knowledge. Every fish he showed us mattered to him. People who teach about and for nature make me want to volunteer at Konza. Watching kids get excited about crawdads, cicadas and flowering grass keeps me volunteering.

### 4. What brings you the most joy in your life?

Family and friends, four grandchildren, five dogs, and laughing. I'm looking forward to standing around in the Konza parking lot with happy docents, waiting for the school busses to show up.

Our Visions sponsors so far this year include:

The Trust Company, Meadowlark Hills, Little Apple Toyota Honda, and Ladybird Diner.



Photo by Jill Haukos

*Dr. Jim Morrill*, KEEP

docent from the class of 2002, passed away on Wednesday, July 27th, after a brief illness.

Jim, a KEEP Master Docent and retired K-State Professor of Animal Science, was one of our most active docents, having led many bison loop tours and nature trail hikes. He recently took an interest in the Hokanson stone barn and brought antique items that were appropriate for the time of the Hokanson family, and set them up in an interesting display with interpretive signs.

Jim took new docents under his wing, especially those who were interested in the bison herd, and took them along on bison tours to show them how he led the tours. He signed up for as many activities as he could humanly do and was an integral part of our program. His quiet cheer and easy confidence will be greatly missed.

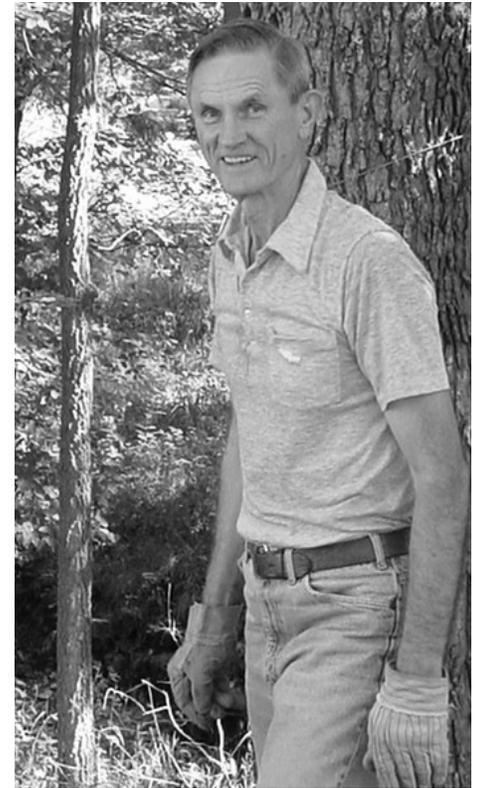


Photo by Valerie Wright

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## In Memoriam

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*Steve Hummel*

Steve was born in Flint, Michigan, and landed in Manhattan because his father, Bill Hummel, accepted a teaching position in the K-State English Department. Steve grew up with literature and poetry, words and music.

With his poet's nature, Steve had a lively wit and an interest in everything. His jobs ranged from selling newspaper ads, operating a forklift, and raising goats, to managing a bookstore. Adept at languages, he learned computers while developing a system for Steel & Pipe Supply and then made a career as a senior product manager at NCR.

His insightful nature made him quick to offer good solutions if you had a problem to solve. He was a great conversationalist in the tradition of Samuel Johnson and challenged people to think in new ways.

Steve and his wife Karen graduated from docent training in 2006. They immediately began giving tours, became FOKP members, and helped Valerie Wright and KEEP in any way they could. They were chosen as 2006 Trainees of the Year and have continued to support FOKP and KEEP. When Steve wanted to give Karen a special Christmas present, that gift became the endowed Valerie Wright Legacy Fund, and a challenge grant, matching additional gifts up to a total contribution of \$5000.

He was a lively, engaged, generous spirit, and a ready wit, which shows in the legacy he leaves for us all. We will miss you, Steve.





Photo by Jill Haukos

## *2016 FOKP Wildflower Walk*

On Sunday, June 12th, the Friends of Konza Prairie hosted its annual Wildflower Walk, where the general public is invited to hike the beautiful Butterfly Hill trail when the spring wildflowers are in full bloom.

This year's event attracted 116 visitors and generated \$670.00 in revenue to help support the Konza Environmental Education Program. With the help of 13 volunteer guides, visitors were treated to a full palate of colors from over 50 different blooming wildflowers, including: purple coneflower, prairie larkspur, showy primrose, Dakota verbena, and the amazing butterfly milkweed.

Thanks go out to everyone who volunteered their time and skill to help with this event, and thanks also to all of the visitors who shared their love of wildflowers with us.



And follow Friends of Konza Prairie on Facebook!

Go Green and Save Paper and Postage  
**GET YOUR BISON & BLUESTEM electronically - in FULL COLOR;**  
request to receive this newsletter electronically as a pdf file;  
just contact:  
Patrick Gormely gormely@ksu.edu  
and please put "FOKP e-B&B." in the subject line.



<http://keep.konza.ksu.edu/friends>

### Elected FOKP Board Members Committee

Diane Barker, 2nd term, 2017 Publications, Nominating, Development  
Chuck Bussing, 2nd term, 2016 Development Chair, Membership  
Elizabeth Dodd, 1st term, 2016 Program Chair, Membership  
Joe Gelroth, 1st term, 2016 Executive/Finance Chair, ex-officio on all others  
Shelly Gunderson, 2nd term, 2018 Executive/Finance, Sales & Marketing Chair  
John Harrington, 1st term, 2018 Nominating, Program  
Karen Hummel, 2nd term, 2017 Publications Chair, Sales & Marketing  
Donna McCallum, 1st term, 2016 Executive/Finance, Nominating Chair, Program  
Cindy Quinlan, 2nd term, 2018 Executive/Finance, Program  
John Reese, 2nd term, 2017 Membership Chair, Development  
Lucas Shivers, 1st term, 2018 Volunteer Engagement, Membership  
Ken Stafford, 2nd term, 2017 Volunteer Engagement Chair, Program

### FOKP Standing Committees

#### Executive/Finance Committee

1. Joe Gelroth, President
2. Donna McCallum, President-elect
3. Cindy Quinlan, Secretary
4. Shelly Gunderson, Treasurer
5. John Briggs, (ex-officio, KPBS Director)

Nominating Committee (pres.-elect is Chair, 2 Board members, 2 FOKP members at large appointed by President, and KPBS Director)

1. Donna McCallum, Chair
2. John Harrington, (Board member)
3. Diane Barker, (Board member)
4. Greg Zolnerowich, (FOKP member)
5. Ann Murphy, (FOKP member)
6. John Briggs, (KPBS Director)
7. Joe Gelroth, (ex-officio, FOKP President)

Membership Committee (Chair and 1 Board member appointed by President, may have additional members)

1. John Reese, Chair
2. Chuck Bussing, (Board member)
3. Elizabeth Dodd (Board member)
4. Lucas Shivers (Board member)
5. Patrick Gormely
6. Nancy Calhoun
7. John Briggs, (ex-officio, KPBS Director)
8. Joe Gelroth, (ex-officio, FOKP President)

Volunteer Engagement Committee (Chair, 1 additional Board member, KPBS Director, KPBS Site Manager, KPBS Director of Education)

1. Ken Stafford, Chair
2. Lucas Shivers, (Board member)
3. John Briggs, (KPBS Director)
4. Tom Van Slyke, (KPBS Site Manager)
5. Jill Haukos, (KPBS Director of Education)
6. Joe Gelroth, (ex-officio, FOKP President)

Development Committee (Chair, 2 additional Board members, KSU Foundation representative)

1. Chuck Bussing, Chair
2. John Reese, (Board member)
3. Diane Barker, (Board member)
4. Connie Hall, (at-large representative)
5. Shelly Carver, (ex-officio, KSU Foundation)
6. John Briggs, (ex-officio, KPBS Director)
7. Joe Gelroth, (ex-officio, FOKP President)

Sales and Marketing Committee (Chair, 1 other Board member, others as needed)

1. Shelly Gunderson, Chair
2. Karen Hummel, (Board member)
3. Stormy Kennedy, honorary
4. John Briggs, (ex-officio, KPBS Director)
5. Joe Gelroth, (ex-officio, FOKP President)

Program Committee (Chair, 1 additional Board member, KPBS Director of Education)

1. Elizabeth Dodd, Chair
2. Donna McCallum, (Board member)
3. Jill Haukos (Director of Education)
4. Cindy Quinlan (Board member)
5. John Harrington (Board member)
6. Ken Stafford (Board member)
7. Ann Murphy, honorary
8. John Briggs, (ex-officio, KPBS Director)
9. Joe Gelroth, (ex-officio, FOKP President)

Publications & Publicity Committee (Chair, 1 additional Board member, newsletter editor, KPBS Director of Education, & others as needed)

1. Karen Hummel, Chair
2. Diane Barker, (Board member)
2. Cindy Jeffrey, (Editor of Bison & Bluestem)
5. Jill Haukos, (KPBS Director of Education)
4. Greg Zolnerowich
6. Clancey Livingston
7. Valerie Wright, (honorary)
8. John Briggs, (ex-officio, KPBS Director)
9. Joe Gelroth, (ex-officio, FOKP President)

July 2016

**Ex officio and Honorary members**

The Nature Conservancy	Robert Manes	KSU Foundation	Shelley Carver
KPBS Director	John Briggs	Historian	Charlie Given
Director of Education	Jill Haukos	Honorary Board Members	Stormy Kennedy
KSU Faculty Rep.	Tony Joern		Valerie Wright

**Director**

John Briggs, Ph.D.

**Administrative Asst.**

Barb Van Slyke

**Director of Education**

Jill Haukos

**Site Manager**

Tom Van Slyke

**Assistant Director**

Eva Horne, Ph.D.

**Shop Foreman**

Jim Larkins

**Assistant Environmental Educator**

Ashley Thackrah

The Friends of Konza Prairie (FOKP) promote the interests of Konza Prairie Biological Station as they pertain to its mission of Research, Education and Conservation. Membership in FOKP is open to all individuals, groups and businesses that share an interest in the common goal of supporting the Konza Prairie Biological Station. For FOKP membership and general information, call 785-587-0441, or visit the Konza Environmental Education Program (KEEP) website at: <http://keep.konza.ksu.edu> Also, see the back of this issue for a membership form.

Friends of Konza Prairie  
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116 Ackert Hall  
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#308

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