



Konza Prairie Bison Tour!



Save the Date

**Sunday, September 27th
at Konza Prairie Headquarters**

4pm FOKP Annual Meeting & Children's Activity

5pm Bison BBQ & Potluck

6pm Bison Tour on Konza Prairie

RSVP by September 20 to 785-587-0381 or keeped@ksu.edu

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VISIONS OF THE FLINT HILLS

AN ANNUAL ART BENEFIT FOR FRIENDS OF KONZA PRAIRIE

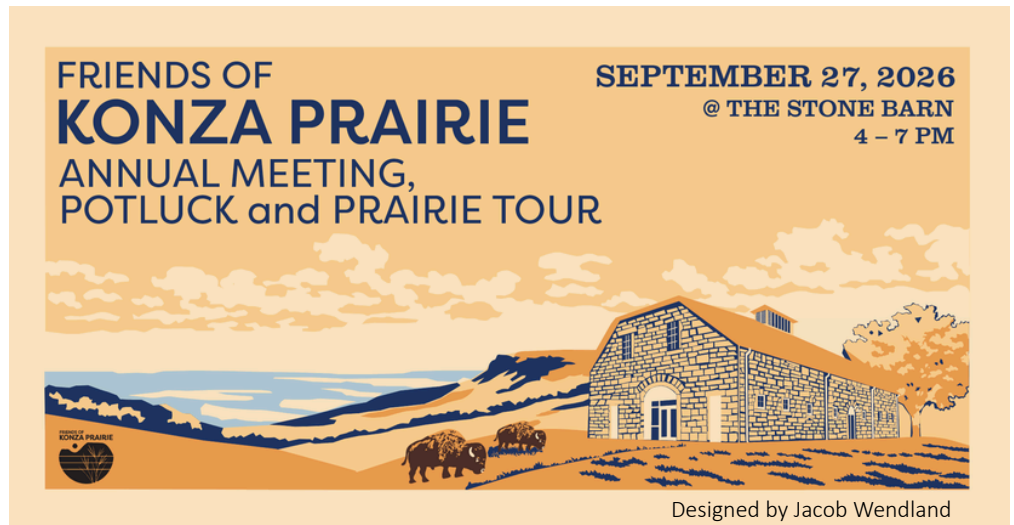
SEPTEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 9, 2026

OPENING RECEPTION **OCTOBER 2, 2026** FROM 5 P.M. - 8 P.M.

Buttonwood Art Space | 3013 Main Street, Kansas City, MO

BISON & BLUESTEM

Friends of Konza Prairie (FOKP) invites all members to join us for our annual general meeting, bison BBQ and potluck dinner, and guided bus tours of the prairie with bison-viewing opportunities on Sunday, September 27. This much-anticipated event is a highlight of our year, offering a unique opportunity to connect, learn, and experience the beauty of the Konza Prairie firsthand.



4 PM - MEETING & KIDS' PRAIRIE DISCOVERY HOUR

The annual meeting will begin at 4pm in the historic Stone Barn, with updates on FOKP, the Konza Prairie Biological Station, and the Konza Environmental Education Program. During the meeting, trained volunteers will supervise a fun outdoor activity for children.

5 PM - BISON BBQ & POTLUCK

After the meeting, we'll gather at 5pm for a potluck dinner featuring delicious bison burgers from Konza Prairie. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a meal with fellow members, board members, and staff, and to make new friends who share a similar appreciation for the tallgrass prairie. We encourage everyone to bring a dish to share and ask that you **RSVP for burgers by September 20 to: 785-587-0381 or keep@ksu.edu, specify how many people in your group plan to attend and eat bison burgers.**

6 PM - GUIDED PRAIRIE TOURS

The evening will conclude with guided bus tours of Konza Prairie starting at 6pm. These tours will take you to areas seldom seen by the public, offering breathtaking views and a chance to observe bison in their natural habitat. You'll learn about the ongoing research and management efforts that help preserve this critical ecosystem, as well as the unique ecology of the tallgrass prairie. We plan to offer two different tour lengths, both with opportunities to view bison (depending on their location). A shorter bus tour (approximately one hour) will be available and, for those looking to soak in the prairie's beauty, a longer option will be offered, possibly (given weather and circumstances) culminating in a sunset view from atop a hill on Konza Prairie. A wheelchair accessible bus will be available, but we encourage you to let us know as soon as possible if you require any special accommodations.

JOIN, RENEW, AND SPREAD THE WORD

This is an event you won't want to miss, whether you're a long-time member or new to the FOKP community. It's a day to celebrate the prairie, our shared achievements, and the exciting future ahead. We look forward to seeing you there! Want to join or renew your membership?

Visit <https://keep.konza.k-state.edu/fokp/>. Your contribution is tax-deductible and helps introduce local children to the tallgrass prairie.

Come celebrate the beauty of the Flint Hills!

Visions of the Flint Hills

The Visions of the Flint Hills benefit art show is the largest annual fundraiser for FOKP. It invites artists who are inspired by the beauty of the Flint Hills to submit their artwork for a juried show. Sales of their art are split, with 50% going to the artist and 50% going to FOKP. It benefits both groups because the artwork gets a large and appreciative audience who have a high likelihood of purchasing a piece.

The show – held at the Buttonwood Art Space 3130 Main St., Kansas City – opens Wednesday, September 28, and runs until December 9. You may also view and purchase artwork online here: <https://buttonwoodartspace.com/show/2026-visions-of-the-flint-hills>

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www.ButtonwoodArtSpace.com

Congratulations on Dr. John Blair's Retirement

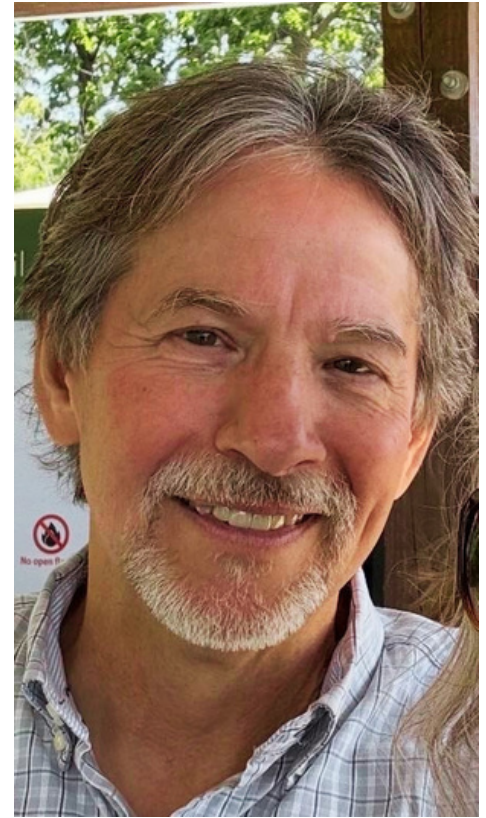
by Jill Haukos

The success or failure of any program is often laid at the feet of its leaders. Success for a biological station is defined as financial health, community support, abundance of resonating output, and lack of personnel turnover. If we look at any of these metrics, it will become obvious that the operations of the Konza Prairie Biological Station (KPBS) have been successful.

KPBS has been lucky to have had effective leadership throughout the years, beginning with the vision of Dr. Lloyd Hulbert, through 8 different directors, up to the most recent director, Dr. John Blair.

John Blair has been a presence at KPBS since 1992, when he joined the faculty at K-State (after obtaining a PhD. in entomology - with ecology emphasis, from the University of Georgia). Since that time, his connection to Konza has evolved. Initially, he was a site researcher, collaborating with other KPBS scientists. Those collaborations eventually led to his position as the Principal Investigator of the Long-term Ecological Research project for 18 years, that then segued into taking on the reins as director in 2018 when John Briggs retired.

It's always fascinating to learn about the path one takes in their professional life. Did John Blair intend to work on grasslands? Does he even like grass? I asked him these questions, and more:



What did you want to be when you grew up?

I'm still working on figuring that out... I was always interested in understanding how things work, and I think that's why I was drawn to science. As a child, I was drawn to books about any aspect of science, including machines, astronomy, and nature. Biology was a special interest, and I had a very good biology high school teacher who helped solidify my decision to pursue a degree in biology.

When did insects become something that interested you?

I've always been fascinated with the incredible diversity of insects. I grew up playing in the secondary growth forests and old fields of northeastern Ohio. The insects were diverse and abundant, and I spent a lot of time observing, collecting, and trying to identify them. My interest in insects was rekindled in college when I took my first entomology class. That class and another in ecology during my junior year really led me to pursue graduate degrees in entomology and ecology.

When did the prairie become a focus? Was there any prairie near where you grew up? Was the first prairie you visited Konza?

I was very familiar with the old fields of Ohio, which included some prairie plant species, but Konza Prairie was the first real prairie I set foot on. My PhD research was done at a forest site in the southern Appalachians, but I knew a little about Konza Prairie from presentations at national ecology meetings. I also knew that Konza was part of the Long-Term Ecological Research network, and the research opportunities here were a major factor that drew me to K-State. So, my journey as a prairie ecologist began with my appointment as a faculty member in 1992 and gradually expanded with new research questions and directions over time. conservation through numerous tours, presentations, and meetings with a broad and diverse variety of local, regional, national, and international groups.

With Gratitude to Dr. John Blair (continued)

What do you like about the prairie?

There are so many things... as a scientist, I appreciate the complex physical and biological factors and interactions that underpin the dynamic nature of the prairie. That makes this such a fascinating ecosystem to study! I also love the incredible diversity of plant, animal, and microbial life on the prairie, and the seasonal and annual variation that occurs there. Maybe one of the things I like most is the sense of “connecting with nature” that happens when I’m alone on the prairie. Oh, and the bison!

What were some goals you had as director of KPBS?

My major goal was to facilitate research and continue the legacy of scientific discovery that is a hallmark of Konza Prairie. That involved maintaining the prescribed fire and grazing treatments that are the focus of long-term research at Konza but also working with researchers to initiate new projects and coordinate the vast number and variety of research projects at the site. Of course, this wouldn’t be possible without a knowledgeable and dedicated staff, and I’m pleased that I was able to support exceptional existing staff members and fill open positions with outstanding new people. Another goal was increasing philanthropic support for the station, and we made significant progress in growing endowed funds to support the KPBS mission now and in the future.

What's your proudest achievement as director of KPBS?

I think one of the most impactful things I did was raise visibility and awareness of the significance of KPBS’s contributions to science and conservation through numerous tours, presentations, and meetings with a broad and diverse variety of local, regional, national, and international groups.

What's your new role with KPBS?

I plan to stay involved with some research as an emeritus faculty member, and I want to continue participating in education and outreach events that inform the public, land managers, and policy makers of the importance of prairie conservation. I also plan to assist with some Konza management activities that I really enjoy, including prescribed burning and bison roundup.





Meet Dr. Eva Horne, Interim KPBS Director

I grew up on a farm in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in extreme northeastern Tennessee. I received a Bachelor's degree from East Tennessee State University in 1985 with a major in Biology and a minor in Art. From there, I went to the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now the University of Louisiana, Lafayette), where I pursued a Master's degree in Behavioral Ecology, working on the territorial behavior of female salamanders and graduating in 1987.

For the next several years, I worked as a research assistant on the monogamous behavior of a species of cichlid fish at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. I finally came to Kansas State University in 1991, where I did research on the food caching behavior of woodrats and completed my Ph.D. in 1996. Currently, I am still at K-State working as a Teaching Professor. I teach, coordinate, and design material for the large introductory Principles of Biology course and teach an upper-level course in Behavioral Ecology. Over the years, I have mentored many undergraduates in independent research projects involving reptiles and amphibians. My own research interests currently focus on bison wallows and the organisms that live in them. I have been the Assistant Director of Konza since 2000, with a brief stint as Interim Director from 2005-2008. On the side, I design and stitch cross-stitch patterns (my alias is "FireWing Designs"), design and make beaded jewelry, read, and 'train' my dogs (3 rat "terrors": Havoc, Umber, and Raven).



Dr. Horne can be reached at ehorne@k-state.edu or 785-532-5929



FOKP President's Message

Sarah Jackson

Dear Friends of Konza Prairie,

Our Annual Meeting is just around the corner, and we look forward to gathering once again to celebrate another great year! This event is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on what we have accomplished together, connect with fellow members, and look ahead to the opportunities that await us.

This year's Annual Meeting will feature a potluck dinner with bison burgers, updates on the work of Friends of the Konza Prairie (FOKP), and a guided bus tour through Konza Prairie. It is always a highlight of the year and a great chance to experience the prairie while spending time with others who share a passion for protecting and promoting this special place.

The continued work of FOKP is made possible by the dedication of our members, volunteers, board, and community partners. Your support helps expand opportunities through the Konza Environmental Education Program, strengthen stewardship efforts, and connect more people with the beauty and importance of the tallgrass prairie.

As we look ahead, we are excited to continue growing our community and creating meaningful opportunities for people to experience Konza Prairie. Whether you volunteer, attend events, renew your membership, and/or introduce someone new to FOKP, your involvement makes a lasting difference!

With the changing seasons just around the corner, we encourage you to spend time at Konza Prairie and experience all that it has to offer. Each visit brings something new, whether you are hiking the trails, observing wildlife, or simply enjoying the landscape. Thank you for your continued support of FOKP. We look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Meeting this September and welcoming you to the prairie throughout the fall!

With Gratitude, Joy, and Prairie Cheer,
Sarah Jackson



Seeing the Prairie

Do you remember the first time you saw - really "saw" the prairie? Do you remember being inspired by it? Or, were you not thrilled much at all?

Over the years, the folks here at Konza Prairie (KEEP staff and docents) have had the opportunity to witness this event over and over again - with kids. The sequence goes like this: kids get off the bus and they don't really know why they're here. To them, the prairie is flat, filled with weeds and snakes, and a place they know they don't want to visit. They are excited to be out of school and this is a fun adventure, but they have no idea why they'd come to the prairie.

In short, we have to teach the kids to appreciate - and even love - the prairie.

The first step is easy. We have the kids look at the prairie and see if they can find any wildflowers. Then we ask them if they can find different kinds of wildflowers - some yellow, some white, maybe some pink or purple. Then we tell them to go and touch the flowers. Then they have to touch a different kind of flower. We then tell them that they've just located at least two, or more, different species of prairie wildflowers.

Then we point out the difference between grasses and wildflowers. Grasses look different from flowers, they have long, skinny leaves and their flowers are much smaller than those of the wildflowers. This is when kids learn that grasses have flowers! Next, kids need to go back out into the prairie and find a grass plant and touch it. Then they need to find a grass that looks different from their first grass and go touch that. We then tell them that they've just located at least two different species of grasses on the prairie!

Then we tell them that the prairie has over 700 different kinds of plants and 70 of those are different species of grasses!

From there, the kids are now invested. They begin to see different kinds of flowers and grasses everywhere! Suddenly they begin to see grasshoppers, then butterflies, then big soaring birds! "Where did those birds come from...?"

My point, I think, is obvious. Kids need to be shown things in nature before they can care about it. Once they see, they care.





What/who initially connected you to Konza Prairie?

My first visit to Konza Prairie was in 1996. I heard there was a “cool hiking trail” south of town and I just had to check it out. They were right, the nature trail was a delight to someone who had just moved to Manhattan from Hutchinson, Kansas, where we had sandhills, but I’d never experienced the Flint Hills until that first little hike. Fast forward to my internship with Park Management and Conservation with KSU, when I assisted a day camp from the Flint Hills Discovery Center as they adventured on that same nature trail. Seeing it through the eyes of our young campers made me want to bring every child I met to the Konza Prairie.

What is your favorite part of Konza Prairie?

It is so hard to identify a single favorite part of the physical place we call Konza Prairie. The entire landscape is a breathtaking reminder of what is so special about our part of the world. The life it holds, the stories it has to tell. Ultimately, my favorite part is that each and every person can benefit from the science and the natural history held in this special place. There is so much more to be discovered as research continues and explorers visit with their children and friends.

What motivated you to join the board?

The Friends of Konza Prairie supports the education efforts of the Konza Environmental Education Program. Connecting with Jill Haukos, the KEEP Director, and partnerships with KEEP throughout my career helped me learn about the amazing opportunities students are getting from this program. Jill invited me to consider a board position, and I was delighted to have the opportunity to support the KEEP program and reach students even when I cannot physically be present on the prairie. The FOKP Board is a very talented group of professionals and passionate about prairie education. It is an honor to sit with them and support KEEP.

What has been your favorite part of being on the FOKP board?

My favorite part of being on the FOKP Board has been connecting with other prairie enthusiasts, and getting an insider view of the phenomenal work that KEEP is doing for prairie education. Working alongside Jill Haukos and learning from her as I chair the annual Wildflower Walk is so fun. Those chats with her about the grasses and flowers are fun, and she can’t help but educate me every step we take along a trail. Seeing her passion about sharing the prairie is contagious and invigorating.

What would you like to see in the future of FOKP?

I have so much fun at the annual FOKP events such as Soup and Song, the Wildflower Walk, and the Bison Tours in the fall. I would love to see FOKP find even more ways to support KEEP financially so that staff and educational materials are always available for both the tried and true classes and newly developed student experiences.



What motivated you to become a docent?

I have wanted to be a part of Konza Prairie since 1983, when I saw a posting on a bulletin board in Waters Hall for student research assistants. I read the job description and instantly wished I could apply. But Chris, (my husband), and I were finishing our last semester at K-State, we were graduating. It was time to move on. Even though we hiked the Natural Trail many times through the years, it always felt like I had missed my opportunity to really know the Konza. And then, somehow, I became aware of the Docent Training Program, the timing was perfect, and this time I was able to apply!

What has been the best part of being a volunteer?

There are so many best parts! I enjoyed every day of the training classes. The other docents are an amazing group of people, and getting to know them has been great. And being with the kids of course! I especially like the hands-on activities, like catching grasshoppers! So much fun!

What brings you the most joy in your life?

My family brings me the most joy in my life. I also love sunrise, morning sun, sunset, and happy grandchildren.

What are some of your hobbies and interests?

I enjoy hiking, reading, a bit of gardening, and pickleball. I monitor a group of bluebird nest boxes. I have recently been learning to play mahjong, and I am a county election board worker.



Prairie People Happy Hour Report

Rain Couldn't Stop Another Great Prairie People Happy Hour

Friends of Konza Prairie's third annual *Prairie People Happy Hour* brought another wonderful crowd together on Thursday, June 4. Although the evening's heavy rain forced us to move indoors at the Flint Hills Discovery Center, the weather did little to dampen the spirit of the event. Instead, it created a memorable atmosphere as guests gathered on the Discovery Center's second-floor balcony, watching the downpour through the building's towering glass windows while enjoying an evening of music, conversation, and community.

Prairie enthusiasts filled the space throughout the evening. While adults visited with old friends and met new ones, many children made themselves right at home in the Discovery Center's Prairie Playscape, making it an especially enjoyable event for families.

The evening featured lively acoustic folk and roll music from The Grateful Dudes, including special guest Sally Vee of *Sally and the Hurts*. Their music provided the perfect soundtrack as guests mingled, shared stories, and celebrated the growing community that has formed around Friends of Konza Prairie.

Manhattan Brewing Company once again provided beverages for the evening, and attendees had the first opportunity to purchase new Friends of Konza Prairie merchandise featuring a beautiful original design by local artist Mary Gordon McFall. The event also gave visitors a chance to learn more about FOKP and sign up for memberships before the annual Wildflower Walk at Konza Prairie Biological Station. Support from the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation, River Creek Farms, and Ancient Ocean Beef Co. helped to make the event possible.

Rain or shine, the evening once again demonstrated that there is a thriving community of prairie people in the Flint Hills.



Wildflower Walk Report



The 2026 Wildflower Walk was held on Sunday, June 7. More than 100 members participated in the walk this year. The KEEP docents served as wonderful trail guides, with 10 docent volunteers serving as stationary stops along the trail and 10 guides who led groups of up to 12 participants of all ages. The docents shared their prairie knowledge and passion with their group and many happy faces returned after their walk.

One of the neatest things about the annual Wildflower Walk is getting the opportunity to learn from these passionate prairie educators, many of whom have spent their lives dedicated to conservation and knowledge of this endangered ecosystem.

The rainy and warm days leading up to the event proved to create the perfect wildflower array. Some species that are rarely, if ever, spotted for the annual walk were already going strong, having bloomed a little earlier than the typical year. Several of these surprise species were flagged along the trail to draw attention to them so that more people could notice, identify, and enjoy them. Jill Haukos spotted several species growing in places she hadn't seen them in before. It's always a treat when the prairie brings us something unexpected.

The last few participants and volunteers came off the trail just after sunset, choosing to end the evening on Butterfly Hill for that last amazing blast of color from the prairie sky. Thank you to all of the volunteers, docents, educators, and KEEP team for supporting this annual event. A very special thank you to all of our new and returning members who make the Wildflower Walk such a successful and fun experience every single year. We appreciate your support of prairie education at Konza Prairie!



Wildflower Walk Report (continued)



Photos by Jessy Wilkes and Amy Meng

New or Renewed FOKP Memberships

This list designates NEW and RENEWING FOKP members who have joined since the last newsletter.

QUESTIONS REGARDING MEMBERSHIP? Please contact friendsofkonza@gmail.com

Student

Landon Albrecht
Kourtney Dibben
Xiao Faria daCunha
Kimberly Guerra
Mary K. Hellmer
Luke Holliday
Roam Hoskin
Wendy Justice
Amelia Meng
Thomas Misilo
Zachary Morgan
Peyton Overturf
Riley Sanford
Jonathan Staten
Guy Sturdevant
Mary Ware

Little Bluestem- Individual

Annie Baker
Erin Bishop
Heather Brown
Sean & Amy Cochran
Sharon Dodd
Barbara Drolet-Villman
Dennis Everett
Judith Fleeker
Emily Foltz
Rebecca Kimmelfield
Christopher Kortge
Erika Krueger
Rebecca Lexa
Agnes Lis
Judy Lohe
Douglas May
Jonathan Mertz
Nancy & Joe Moore
Catherine Rocky
Melinda Rose
Rick & Marilyn Ross
Larry Sanson
Grant & Emily Topjon
Zoe Urban
Cindy Vadakin
Kristin Vorhies
Steven Woolpert
Elizabeth Zlitni

Little Bluestem— Family

Lisa Ball
Brian Ball & Joy
Swallow
Scott & Jill Bean
Stephen Bridenstine &
Erin Strathe
Keith & Anne Collett
Christy Crenshaw
Briann Crosier
David Defries & Wendy
Matlock
Herb Dillon
Jan & Alex Escandon
David & Connie Farmer
Heidi Grabil
Katherine Grover
Dan & Carolyn Harden
Deborah Herald
Nellie Hill-Sullins &
Daniel Sullins
Aline Hoey
Tim & Sharon Keane
Gregory Kennedy &
Marguerite Quirey
Steven & Katherine
Kirk
Ron & Carol Klataske
RonDee & Zoey
Klataske
Ryan & Rachel Klataske
Greg & Kelly Krotz
Stephen & Janice Lohe
Lance & Kristen
Luftman
Tim May
Louis & Amy Meng
Susan Merchant
Joe, Trisha & Zinnia
Moore
Deborah Murray
The Larry O'Neill
Family
Lindsay Pennock
Daniel Picking
Paul Post & Kay Kelly
Zakary Ratajczak &
Vera Smirnova

Lora Reynolds
Joseph & Laura Rix
Marcia & Tim Rozell
Linda & Tom Ruzicka
Susan Sanders & Jim
Haley
Scott Schlender &
Thomas Fish
Tim Schrag
Don & Judi Schultz
Christen Skaer & Luke
Carter
Lauren Stachew & Talis
Rehse
John Stamey & Michelle
Iseman
Jeff Stephens
Anna Stiehr
Larry & Eleanor Strecker
Andrew Walker & Kim
Weir
Justin & Erica Walsh
Cynthia Warner
Erin Wiersma

Big Bluestem

Betty Burlingham
Mark & Annette Duff
Miriam EdelmanCasee
Eisele
Bret Flanders & Kara
Northway
Karina Galinskaya &
Shahid Akhter
Janet Hanson
Dustin & Hallie Hatfield
Gary Mignano
Vicki and Bob Mikulecky
Terry & Mike Olson
Jim Schmidt
Aubrey Streit Krug &
Adam Krug
Gina Taylor
Jim & Beth Turtle
Keen Umbehr
Tom & Barb Van Slyke
Ryan Wilson & Kristen
Hoffman

Flint Hills

Mary P. Barkley
Preston & Diana Chapel
Dan & Latane Donelin
Haines Family LLC
Greg & Maura Gathers
Loren & Jaime Minnich
Frank Padula
Jonas Sturr
Jenny Tucker
Yiran Zhu & Jennifer Ifft

Prairie Chicken

Donna M. Callaghan
Jack & Jan Carlson
Megan Kennelly & Kris
Silver
Brad & Joyce Kramer
Josefina Lacasa
Karen McCulloh
Jamie & Alison Rogers
Angie Vorhies
Randy & Debra Williams

Bison

Bill & Doris Burnett
Vicki Clegg & Bert Biles
Karen Penner & Marc
Johnson
Mark & Ann
Knackendoffel
David & Ashley Krasucki

Tallgrass

Allan Foster & Mary
Galligan

Community Memberships

Christian Amposta
Amanda Bacon
Matthew Bailey
Madelyn Bean
Lydia Bowyer
Hannah Boyd
Dearlin Brown
Juan Castaneda
Massimiliano Cavaleri
Larhiana Danielle White
Bard Ditto
Joey Donaldson
Jalen Dupree
James Durand
Florence Ewing
Patricia Falley-Wallace
Marguerite
Fredericksen
Tony Ghorpade
Cherri Glenn
Jeremiah Glessner
Nathaniel Hall
Rita Hatch
Christy Kaegi-Stephens
Konner Kelley
Gabriel Kocher
Drake Koerner
Soubanh Manivong
LaShinique McDonald
Joshua Niederquell
Joshua Patterson
William Rector
Gerardo Reynoso
Millan
Andrew Robertson
Alexis Rowe
Stephanie Spencer
Anthony Tenbrink
Trudy Vanderhall
Darrick Whitely

THANK
YOU!



@FriendsOfKonzaPrairie



@friends_of_konza_prairie



keep.konza.k-state.edu/fokp

The KPBS Staff:

Interim Director Eva Horne, Ph.D.
Director of Education Jill Haukos
Assistant Environmental Educator Monica Shaffer
KPBS Project/Site Manager Patrick O'Neal
Administrative Assistant Christy O'Neal
FOKP Membership Manager Janette Gelroth

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 inquiries, contact Janette Gelroth at 785-587-0381 or friendsofkonza@gmail.com.

The FOKP Executive Board:

President Sarah Jackson (3-yr term expiring Dec. 2026)
Treasurer Conni Briggs (3-yr term expiring Dec. 2027)
Secretary Mike Haddock (3-yr term expiring Dec. 2026)

The FOKP Board Members:

Nellie Hill-Sullins (3-yr term expiring Dec. 2028)
Kathy Hund (3-yr term expiring Dec. 2027)
Ryan Klataske (3 yr. term expiring Dec. 2026)
Brian McCornack (3 yr. term expiring Dec. 2026)
Amy Meng (3 yr. term expiring Dec. 2026)
Amber Myers (3-yr term expiring Dec. 2027)
Susan Religa (3-yr term expiring Dec. 2028)
Jessy Wilkes (3-yr term expiring Dec. 2027)
Mollie Wold (3 yr. term expiring Dec. 2028)

Ex Officio and Honorary Members

KPBS Director Eva Horne, KEEP Director Jill Haukos, KPBS Site Manager Patrick O'Neal, FOKP Membership Manager Janette Gelroth, FOKP Historian Joe Gelroth, Honorary Board Members Stormy Kennedy and Dr. Valerie Wright

Friends of Konza Prairie
Kansas State University
Division of Biology,
116 Ackert Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506-4901
785-587-0441
#308

FRIENDS OF
KONZA PRAIRIE



FOKP MISSION

The Friends of Konza Prairie (FOKP) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes the interests of Konza Prairie Biological Station (KPBS) as they pertain to its mission of research, education and conservation. KPBS is a native tallgrass prairie preserve owned by The Nature Conservancy and Kansas State University and operated as a research station by the Division of Biology. FOKP supports

- The Konza Environmental Education Program (KEEP) for K-12 students. KEEP introduces students to ecology and beauty of the tallgrass prairie. The program also connects students to this amazing ecosystem and introduces them to the science and research of the Konza Prairie Biological Station.
- Upkeep of the Konza Prairie Nature Trail, open to the public.
- Special events throughout the year, such as:
 - Soup and Song in January
 - Prairie People Happy Hour in May
 - Wildflower Walk on Butterfly Hill in June
 - Bison Barbecue and Bison Loop Tour in September
 - Visions of the Flint Hills art show at the Buttonwood Art Space, Kansas City, MO in October/November