

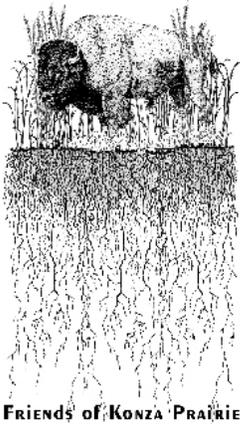


As we prepare for the FOKP Annual Meeting on October 4, it's good to look back at this year's accomplishments, and to look forward to future possibilities. This year's actions so far have included the following:

- Winter soup potluck, with Gene Towne's talk about bison survival on Konza
- Spring event, with Dave Rintoul's talk and slide show about grassland avian populations
- Butterfly Hill flower walk
- Upgraded signage at the Nature Trail Kiosk
- Added a position for a graduate student on the FOKP Board (Shelly Wiggam-Ricketts is our first graduate student member)
- Added capability to take point-of-sale credit card payments
- Trained first cohort of Kansas Master Naturalists
- Funded the Valerie Wright Legacy Fund to endowed status
- Made docent training videos available on YouTube for make-up and refresher use
- Provided educational opportunities and field experiences for many school groups, including Environmental Educator and docent participation
- Hosted "Konquer the Konza" race, sponsored by Manhattan Running Company
- Joined Arts and Humanities Association of Manhattan, and participate in collaborative educational efforts
- Led hikes in conjunction with the Symphony in the Flint Hills
- Welcomed Hallie Hatfield as new Assistant Environmental Educator
- Upgrades at the Konza site include construction of a new cottage for visiting researchers, and a new hydraulic bison chute.

It has been a busy and productive year so far, but we need your help to keep up the good work. Looking forward, it is clear that educational funding is increasingly problematic in the state of Kansas. Please renew your memberships with that in mind, and encourage your friends to join

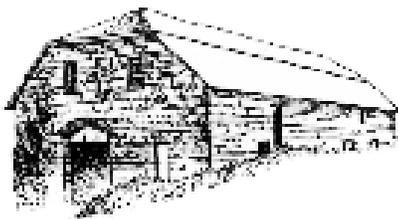
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Research

Education

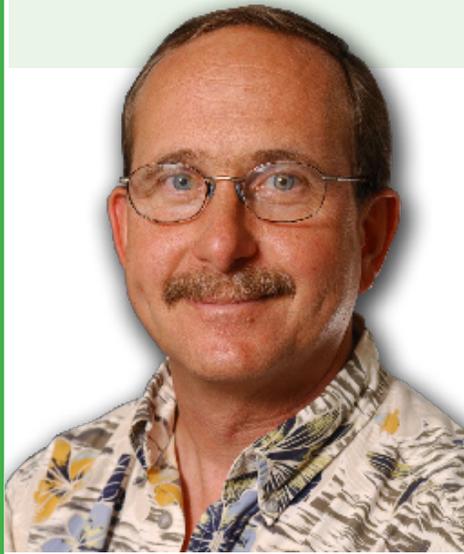
Conservation



Friday - October 4
6 p.m. FOKP Annual Meeting
Konza Meeting Hall

7 p.m. BBQ/Potluck Hulbert Center
(see page 13 for more information)

See page 12 for more upcoming events



DIRECTOR
John Briggs



I have been busy with a conference held in Manhattan, KS, that was co-hosted

by The National Wildlife Federation and Kansas State University from August 12th-14th. I served as the local host and now that it is all over, I can say that all of the hours that I put into it were worth it. (That was not what I was saying the week before the conference!).

The conference, *America's Grasslands: The Future of Grasslands in a Changing Landscape*, was not the typical conference I usually attend as they are dominated by scientists. This conference brought together over 200 individuals from a variety of occupations, including researchers, natural resources professionals, farmers and ranchers, policy experts and conservationists. I am proud to say that Kansas State University was very supportive of the conference and they ("they" = Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President, Vice President of Research, Dean of Agriculture and Dean of Arts and Sciences) provided funds to partially support 30 graduate students from 10 different universities (including K-State) to attend this conference.

We met to discuss the conservation of North America's grasslands and the opportunities and outlook for these vital ecosystems in a changing landscape. This conference had a particular focus on working collaboratively with ranchers to conserve grasslands and I will say that based upon the feedback from the meeting, most attendees went away with more respect and admiration for the ranchers. It is obvious that if we are going to save grasslands in North America (and I am not sure that we will be able to do that unless some changes occur; more about this below), that private landowners are the key.

Michael Forsberg from Lincoln, NE, gave the keynote address "Great Plains: America's Lingering Wild," and it was excellent! Please keep track of your favorite

PBS TV station as his documentary (by same name) is scheduled to be shown this fall. Watch it and you will be inspired to do more to save grasslands!

Another interesting part of the conference was hearing from Julie Sibbing, who is the Director of Agriculture and Forestry Programs at the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) in Washington, DC. She manages NWF's work to increase carbon storage and improve wildlife conservation in agricultural and forest lands, on the use of cover cropping on agricultural lands and conservation of America's declining grasslands. She has worked on agricultural conservation policy for 14 years. Most of you probably have been following the lack of any progress in Congress this year and one of the many items that they have not been taken care is the Farm Bill. It was extremely interesting to hear about the politics involved with this legislation. I got an education concerning the impact this bill has on conservation programs in the U.S. and how groups like The National Wildlife Federation and Ducks Unlimited (to name just two of them) work extremely hard on this bill. This is why I am somewhat worried about the future of grasslands in North America.

Go to this link <http://www.nwf.org/What-We-Do/Protect-Habitat/Healthy-Forests-and-Farms/Farm-Bill.aspx> for more information on the Farm Bill and its impact on North American grasslands. The following is from this website:

"Some of the nation's most successful voluntary conservation programs take place under the federal Farm Bill. Across the country, farmers are protecting wildlife habitat, controlling soil erosion and reducing polluted runoff with technical and financial assistance from Farm Bill programs. The Farm Bill is among the largest sources of conservation funding in the federal government.

Through such programs as the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, hundreds of millions of dollars are available to

(John Briggs continued on bottom of page 3)

Continued...

(President's message continued from page 1)

Friends of Konza Prairie. If you own a business, or know a business owner, please contact John Briggs to learn about corporate memberships. John can be reached at jbriggs1@k-state.edu, phone 785-532-0140.

The Flint Hills and grasslands continue to be an important contributor to the prairie ecosystem. Konza Prairie Biological Station is a unique resource for research and education, and it is important that we continue to make the KEEP educational programs available to school children. We're counting on your support, and appreciate your help more than you know.

Please come to the Annual meeting and potluck on October 4. The meeting is at 6:00 p.m. in the Stone Barn, followed by the potluck. How long has it been since you had a good bison burger? Here's your chance, and I think Ann Murphy plans to bring some of her good "sloppy Joe/sloppy bison" mixture as well. Please let us know how many folks you're bringing by calling 587-0441 by October 1.

-Karen

(John Briggs continued from page 2)

private landowners to keep wetlands, grasslands and other fragile lands protected as wildlife habitat.

The National Wildlife Federation works to ensure that worthy Farm Bill conservation programs are reauthorized at appropriate levels, structured to achieve maximum wildlife and environmental benefits, and fully funded during the annual appropriations process."

One of the top priorities of the National Wildlife Federation is developing a Sodsaver Provision in the Farm Bill. Very briefly, Sodsaver is a provision that, if added to the next Farm Bill, could help protect America's prairies and forests from being converted into cropland. Sodsaver does not prohibit farmers from breaking out new land; it ensures that they do so at their own risk, and not at the expense of taxpayers. Most of the land that is being converted from native ecosystems to cropland is marginal, highly erodible, and prone to flooding. If the risk of growing crops on this land was not underwritten by taxpayer-subsidized crop insurance and disaster assistance programs, these sensitive lands probably would not be farmed. This, of course, is only a

very small sample of what is in a very complex bill and I would encourage everyone to learn more about the Farm Bill and become involved in the process to assure that Congress passes a bill that is "grassland friendly."

As you can tell, I was influenced by the Grassland Conference, especially on the policy side of things. I also want you to know that things are not looking good in Kansas regarding financing of higher education. We have had zero increases from the state for a while now and this year we are facing cuts, with more cuts coming next year. Thus, the importance of FOKP cannot be overstated. I would like to thank you for your continued support to FOKP. You are the reason we have an Environmental Educator (who is going an excellent job!). As always, please contact me (jbriggs1@ksu.edu; 785-532-0140) if you have any questions or concerns about KPBS as we continue to develop as one of the finest biological field stations in the world.

-John

*John M. Briggs
Professor of Biology
Director of Konza Prairie Biological Station
Kansas State University
Division of Biology 104 Ackert Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506
785-532-0140*



FROM THE STONE HOUSE...

Jill Haukos, Environmental Educator



“Water = Life”

Water is the driving force of all nature.

- Leonardo da Vinci

We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one.

- Jacques Yves Cousteau

It’s amazing to see what happens to the prairie when the rain arrives. The response seems immediate; I can almost hear the grass growing. Some researchers have postulated that the healthy response of plants to rain after a drought is due to the high availability of nutrients in the soil that went unused previously due to the lack of water. In short, plants seem to be making up for lost time! For the record, Konza Prairie received 15.5” of rain in April-July and the plants noticed. In 2012 for that same time period, we had a measly 8.3” of precip.

This has been an interesting year phenologically and hydrologically. Plants and animals are moving at a more sedate pace in their activities when compared to their hurried schedule of 2012. Butterfly milkweed was recorded first blooming on May 5th, in 2012. This year it first bloomed on June 13th. The regal fritillary was first spotted on June 2nd in 2012 and on July 1st in 2013. Other species of butterfly are having population explosions. The silvery checkerspot has been so abundant along the Nature Trail that our visitors have reporting sensations of walking through butterfly clouds! Life seems to cue in immediately to the environmental conditions.

The big bluestem is certainly making a statement this fall. As I write this, it is mid-August and the bluestem is well over 6’ tall and is flowering. Visitors to Konza Prairie

will see what a tallgrass prairie looks like since the grass near the Nature Trail kiosk is particularly healthy and tall. It’s early yet but I’m anticipating that the Indiangrass, switchgrass and little bluestem will make similar emphatic statements.

Until recently Kings Creek was dry and we were unable to do our Stream Macroinvertebrate education exercise due to the lack of water. Stream researchers were struggling to find sites along the creek that were suitable for their data collections. The creek started running again after the repeated rains of July. It was even reported that the water started flowing through the Spring House of the Hokanson Homestead – just as initially intended by the Hokanson family. Water flowed into the stone basin through one hole and out back into the stream through the other hole. Tom Van Slyke, the Konza site manager, stated that he’d never seen that happen in all his time here at Konza Prairie.

Regardless of your reason for coming to Konza Prairie, I hope you get a chance to visit us this autumn. You will see grasses, wildflowers, butterflies, dragonflies, aquatic plants, fungus, moss, and many other forms of life in full abundance and glory. See you on the prairie!



Kings Creek - Jill Haukos



Big Bluestem - Jill Haukos



Hallie Hatfield
Assistant Environmental Educator



photo by Jill Haukos

Welcome to our new Assistant Environmental Educator Hallie Hatfield

Hallie Hatfield has joined KEEP as the new Assistant Environmental Educator. Hallie grew up in the Flint Hills and has always been fascinated by the area's natural beauty. She first visited Konza Prairie while attending Kansas State University. At KSU, Hallie majored in Secondary Education with a concentration on Earth and Space Sciences. After receiving her Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from K-State, she went on to teach 8th grade science at Seaman Middle School in Topeka, KS. Hallie left teaching to start her family. She currently lives in Wamego with her husband, Dustin, and their 8 month-old daughter, Anora.

Hallie is excited to begin work with the Konza Environmental Education Program, she is eager to introduce students to the tallgrass prairie and help them to explore! Hallie says she "looks forward to meeting all of the great staff and docents on the prairie!"

Be sure to tell Hallie "Welcome to Konza" when you get a chance to meet her!



*When was the last time you saw water in
Hokanson Homestead spring house?*



Hokanson spring trough photos by Jill Haukos

FOKP Board Member Candidates

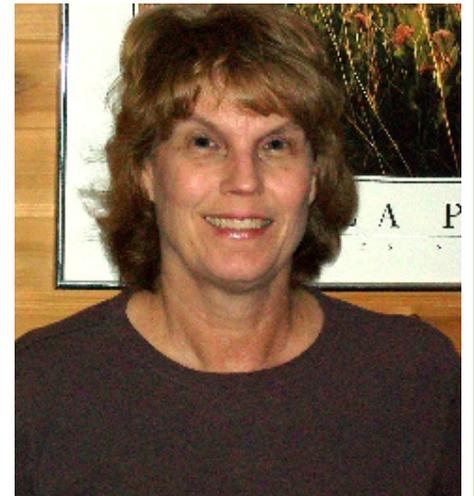
Donna McCallum was born and raised in Chase County, and has always had a love and deep appreciation of the Flint Hills. While raising her two children, she attended K-State part-time, and after many years graduated with a Master's Degree in Journalism with an emphasis in marketing and public relations. During her thirty years of employment, she has worked with elders at a nursing home, the Seniors Service Center, and finally at Meadowlark Hills in programming and marketing. After retirement, she enrolled in and completed the Konza docent program in 2012.

In addition to being a Konza docent she volunteers at the Flint Hills Discovery Center, delivers Home Delivered Meals, and ushers at McCain Auditorium. By being a docent at Konza and a volunteer at the Flint Hills Discovery Center, she hopes to inspire others with her reverence for Konza Prairie and the Flint Hills.



Doreen Towne, originally from Butler County, has lived in the Manhattan area since 1974. She accompanied her husband, Gene, who was working toward his B.S. degree at the time. She's always loved the outdoors and nature, and accompanied Gene when he taught UFM wildflower classes in the early 80s. This is where she got her first taste of learning prairie plants. Doreen graduated as a Konza Docent in 2009 and has led numerous school groups in hikes and bison loop tours and has led FOKP wildflower walks for the past 4 years.

She is a Program Coordinator for Food Safety Education at AIB International, coordinates training sessions all over the world, and has been with AIB for 29+ years. Doreen and Gene have 2 children and 2 grandchildren.



Elizabeth Dodd teaches creative writing and environmental literature in the English Department at Kansas State University. Her work focuses on the relationships between human beings or societies and the larger-than-human world.

Elizabeth has included environmental teaching in her professional work for nearly three decades. She has been a writer-in-residence on Mount St. Helens and in Chaco Canyon. She has brought KSU students to watch prairie chickens on Konza Prairie and sandhill cranes along the Platte River.

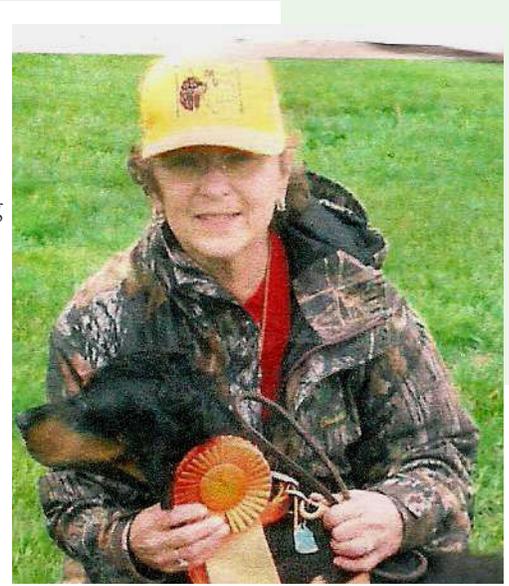
She was the writing director for James Sherow's National Endowment for the Humanities summer institute for K-12 teachers, "People, Prairies, and Plains" and she collaborated with Cheryl Morrow's NASA summer institute for Four-Corners region K-12 teachers regarding astronomy in the desert southwest.

Elizabeth is the author of six books, most recently *Horizon's Lens*, a collection of nonfiction essays contemplating the way human beings experience the aesthetics of time. And, when time permits, she enjoys participating in the annual burns on Konza Prairie.



Susie Johnson grew up in the Flint Hills and developed a love of and appreciation for the tallgrass prairie as she walked with her Dad and their bird dogs looking for birds and observing the flora and fauna. She graduated from Junction City High School, and after attending Baylor University for two years returned to her home state and graduated from KSU with a BS and MS in Education.

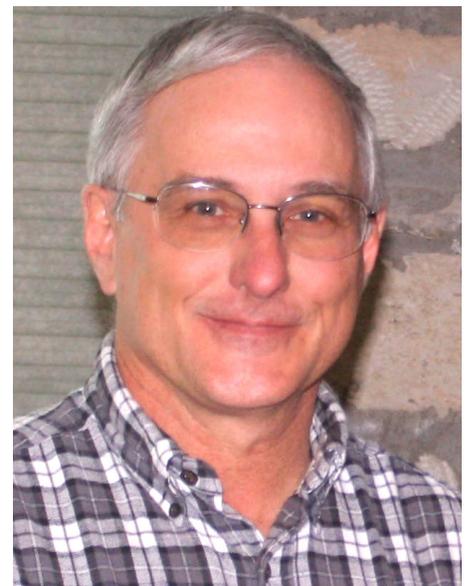
Being a prairie girl, she found the congestion of California claustrophobic and returned once again to Kansas. After teaching in Junction City for 28 years, Susie retired and became a docent for the Konza Prairie where she could combine her two loves; walking the Flint Hills and working with young people. Susie is a proud parent of one daughter, Victoria, three Gordon Setters, one English Setter, and one German Short Hair Pointer.



Ken Stafford has lived in Manhattan for three years and works in technology. He is an active Konza docent, and frequent prairie hiker.



Joe Gelroth has been involved with the Konza for years! Please read his interview on page 10 and 11.



An Interview with Joe Gelroth



photos by Jill Hankos

the crew and was hard to contain. Lloyd negotiated to get a tractor, rake and baler to manage the fire guards. Other tools in use were drip torches and flappers.

To establish the fire guards, Lloyd drew the map of where he wanted the guards to be, along the top of the watersheds, using a stereoscope mapping technique. Once he had created the map, Lloyd would say “Here, Joe, go do it.” Joe and his assistant, Jerry, would eyeball and flag the paths, using old roads where possible. Lloyd would verify the work, then the fire guards were mowed and 5-foot orange-paint-topped metal conduit stakes were placed at intervals to ensure the crew could find the fireguard path for the next mowing.

Burns were done in April, finishing in May. June was spent fixing equipment and developing next year’s burn plan. In July, they started mowing the fire guards, followed by raking, baling, and collecting the bales. No mowing was allowed in September, to allow nutrients to be transmitted from the leaves to the roots. Mowing started again in October—fireguards for the watersheds to be burned the next spring.

Once the mowing was complete, they burned the fireguards, in conformance with the “Black Line” burning technique. They burned the hillside guards first, locating the fire trucks on flat areas at the tops and bottoms of the hills. Next they burned the lowlands, choosing times when the vehicles could travel without getting stuck in mud. Upland fireguards were burned last. The watershed burns began again in April.

One year, Lloyd and Joe did the burns without other assistance. There was a lot of advance planning, but little equipment and no radios for communication. Later, Elmer Finck was a regular on the fire crew. Dr. Finck is now the Biology Chair at Fort Hays State University. Joe shared that Lloyd’s initial vision, before the McKnight purchase, was to build a caretaker’s cottage and machine shed in what is now watershed C2.

Joe was involved in this project from the early days. In 1977, the Nature Conservancy acquired the historic Dewey Ranch from Dr. David McKnight, and Joe was hired as Lloyd Hulbert’s research assistant. He and Janette moved onsite, living in a modular home close to the ranch house. Mike Johnson, Assistant Director, lived in the house currently inhabited by the Larkins.

Small sections of the property were leased to the Agronomy Department, and were used for crops or seed production. At one point, Lloyd considered a project to restore this farmland. They chose an area just to the left, as one turns in to Konza Lane, to be used as a pilot project.

Konza Prairie Biological Station has been influenced by the intense dedication and efforts of many. Some of these individuals are well known, while others are largely unsung heroes. One of the arguably unsung stalwarts retired this year, and we will take this opportunity to share a bit of his story.

Joe Gelroth came to KSU in the fall of 1973 as a graduate of Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas. Joe was assigned Dr. Hulbert as a temporary advisor, and he took Hulbert’s Plant Ecology class. He would go on to earn Master’s degrees in Biology, with an emphasis on Stream Ecology; and in Agronomy, with an emphasis on Crop Ecology.

Joe’s early work at KSU coincided with the initiation of research at Konza Prairie. On December 30, 1971, the Nature Conservancy had signed the deed to purchase 916 acres of unplowed pastureland north of I-70 from Elizabeth Cobb Landon. This was the birth of Konza Prairie. Dr. Hulbert led the effort to initiate pasture burn studies on the land, establishing watershed units and burning at six different intervals, beginning in 1972.

The initial land contract provided that no 4-wheel-drive or large motorized vehicles be used on the property. There were no grazers at that time, and the burning was managed using a couple of ATV’s and a couple of small carts holding 50-gallon water bladders and run by 3-horsepower engines. The initial plan was to burn three years, then rest for three years, repeating the cycle. The first year, the fire guards were mowed using personal home lawnmowers. The range had been grazed while owned by the Landons, and the burn was manageable. The second year, without grazing, the grasses grew tall. The burn got away from

The field was disked. Watershed 2B was harvested, and the hay, complete with seed, was broadcast onto the disked field, using a manure spreader. Then the field was left to watch and see what nature would do. We can still observe the succession of species there. Another revegetation project was conducted after establishment of the stream weirs. In that case, the Plant Materials Center was hired to mow the seed heads from around the Hulbert monument and spread the seed around the weirs.

The historic Dewey Ranch had been broken into large pastures, separated by barbed wire fences. Part of Joe's job was to remove those fences, salvaging the posts where possible, and winding up the wire for disposal. It took a year or so to develop a range plan. There was discussion of introducing grazers including bison, pronghorn and elk. The area designated for grazers was established as the south branch of Kings Creek, expanded to include the barn and old corral area. The old corral had been taken down, and was replaced with an early version of a bison corral, designed and constructed by Joe, with the help of some students from KSU who hired on for summer work.

In 1980, Kansas State University was selected by the National Science Foundation to be one of six initial Long Term Ecological Research sites. LTER grants provided for introduction of jeeps, communication radios and other conveniences necessary to move forward with research activities. The additional equipment also facilitated the burns and range management activities.

Lloyd Hulbert wrote the grant for the bison fence, specifying 8-foot high posts strung with high tensile steel at intervals close enough to prevent grazers from slipping through. Initially the fence could be electrified. Joe's assistant in setting the posts was Dave Sampson. Dave invented a core driller to drill through the limestone to set the fence posts. They set the corner posts first, then strung a single wire between the corner posts to establish the perimeter, attaching flags at intervals for visibility. Students were hired to drill the intermediate posts, string the fence wire, and establish the fiberglass stays.

Joe bought the first Konza bison from the Maxwell game preserve in Canton, Kansas, in 1987. He hired local ranchers with trailers to transport one bull and up to half a dozen youngsters. They released the bison to a holding pen near the Konza barn and observed them for a couple of weeks. Then they opened the gate and released the animals into the fenced grazing area. Bison from Fort Riley were added a year or two later. The KSU College of Veterinary Medicine has always been involved in decisions regarding bison management.

Joe had an office in the limestone bunkhouse (now the Hulbert Center), but the conditions were not as we see them now. There was no furniture, so old Biology Department

furniture was brought in. There was an old, now unused cistern off the corner of the bunkhouse. Snakes lived there, and occasionally made their way into the bunkhouse.

Joe and Janette Gelroth bought a home on McDowell Creek Road in 1985. With two young children, they had outgrown the modular home on Konza. Dr. Lloyd Hulbert died of cancer in 1986. Joe stayed on at Konza until 1990. Then he switched gears, earned a teaching certificate and taught elementary school at Eugene Field and Roosevelt schools until this spring. Field trips to Konza Prairie were always included in the curriculum.

Joe and Janette were charter members of FOKP in 1994 and have been members since, currently contributing at Bison level. Joe served on the FOKP Board from 1997 – 2003. He served on the Education Committee, and was a key contributor to the initial grant proposal providing money to pay for school bus transportation of school children to come to Konza for hikes and science activities. He is currently a member of the Facilities Committee.

In 1997, Joe joined Valerie Wright and the Landmark Volunteers, moving the trailhead from the south side of the drainage ditch to the north side, and installing the low pole bridge that spans the ditch. In 1998, Tom Van Slyke called Joe and offered him a position maintaining the hiking trails during the summers. Joe accepted, and has spent the last 15 summers doing trail management. Limestone fragments, called "screening", are used to maintain the walking base on the Nature Trail. Ruts were always problematic, due to rain-induced erosion. Joe improved the trail conditions significantly after he discovered an abandoned stone quarry in the grazed area. The quarry was the end of the excavation path for the stone used to build the barn and bunkhouse. The pit contained a number of "undressed" or rough-faced limestone blocks. Joe used these to place across the path at strategic locations, to prevent erosion. He will continue to help with trail maintenance.

My interview with Joe took place in the Hulbert Center, where he showed me historical features, including the original ice room, now used as specimen, equipment and boot storage. The long storage closet connecting the front classroom with the back hall was originally a passageway for servants, so they would not disturb guests in the parlor with the fireplace. Joe showed me a "nonstandard" 48-star flag he had removed from the barn rafters during the renovation. He had the flag mounted and framed under glass. The night before our interview, Konza had experienced a short power outage during a thunderstorm. As a last act before we left the kitchen, Joe set the clock on the kitchen range. The power outage had left it showing an inaccurate time. This casual but insightful gesture says a lot. Thanks for everything, Joe.



YOUTH-FULL PERSPECTIVE

Claire Larkins

I think nature is incredibly fascinating, especially the way everything works together in harmony. The way some animals and insects eat other animals and insects, some people think is bad. But if it didn't happen, there would be way too many animals and insects, and they would eventually die anyway because there would not be enough food for all of them.

There are many examples of how the world works together, such as the oxygen cycle, with the trees and green plants taking in carbon dioxide and giving off oxygen, and animals using the oxygen and giving off carbon dioxide. And also, the solar system; the way the earth, though moving, stays within the range in which life can survive. Those two examples are extremely important, but there are thousands of examples all around. It really makes you think -- all these things happening in such a way that creatures can live and have unique ways of searching for food and homes, and at the same time plants can thrive, giving food and other things to animals, insects and people for them to use.

This year, I have seen many examples of animals at Konza using their instincts to survive. For example, early one morning we watched a large coyote bounding down the hill behind headquarters in a casual trot. We assumed she was heading to her den after a time of hunting. We often see coons in our yard, uncomfortably close to our chickens (much to the dismay of my dad and the chickens!) One evening we watched two young barred owls playing and insect-diving off of the south end of the lab building under the yard light. They were there for several evenings in a row. We have seen and touched a few horned toads this summer, looking at their fascinating spikes/horns. It's interesting how they grow that way. We have helped several turtles across the road to safety from possibly getting smashed. (I guess their instincts were off course that day!) I enjoy learning about the different turtles we have in the area. I also enjoy looking at the spiders that make webs at night and catch bugs in them. We've seen several different kinds of spiders outside this year (much to the dismay of my mother!) Once this year, on a hike with my mom, I saw a collard lizard, though he was hard to spot due to his camouflaged skin next to the limestone rock he was sitting on.

This summer the wildlife on Konza has been as fascinating, as always! I'm glad I got to see a small portion of it firsthand.



Collared lizard photo by Andrew Ricketts

Konza Prairie Docent Documents New Kansas Plant Species

Jill Haukos

photo by Ken Stafford



Earl Allen and Mike Clarke confer on Plant Identification

On any given Saturday morning you can find them, a group of intrepid docents walking somewhere on the Konza Prairie looking for newly blooming wildflowers. You'll find this group completely focused on their task, conferring or arguing about plant identification and generally having a wonderful time. Invariably, Earl Allen will be there somewhere, his eyes focused on the ground, searching for an oddly-shaped leaf or an interesting flower that hasn't been seen recently, or ever.

With over 576 species of vascular plants, Konza provides a particularly good site for someone to explore and learn the vegetation of the tallgrass prairie. Earl can't really put his finger on what motivates his drive to find and recognize all of the plants of Konza except to say that the Konza docent training program was where (pardon the pun) the seed was sown. Initially he was surprised by the large number of different plant species on the site and enjoyed the process of learning. He used reference books and local botanists to reinforce his identifications and slowly, over time, became a Konza plant identification expert.

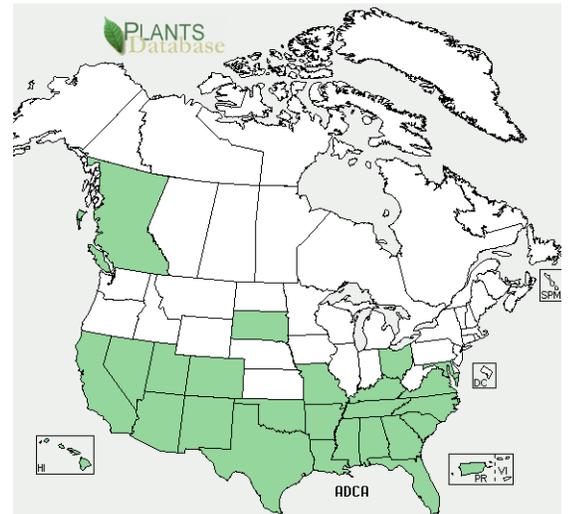
Now, due to the sharp eyes of Earl Allen, we can state that there is one more species for, not only the Konza Prairie plant list, but also for the state of Kansas plant list. This past July, Earl identified the Southern Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum capillus-veneris*) as a species that had not been previously found in Kansas. This plant has been reported in many of the states surrounding Kansas but had been previously unreported until now.

A graduate of the Docent Class of 2001, Earl credits the KEEP docent training program for piquing his interest in plants. He got encouragement from other docents and Konza researchers, all of whom nurtured his botanical development. Earl says that it's a constant learning process best done with a group of people who can help find new plants and reinforce one's knowledge about familiar species. He's quick to credit those other docents who helped in his botanical growth, particularly Charlie Given and Nancy Goulden, as well as the Konza staff who helped with some difficult identifications, namely Gene Towne and Deb Sumerour.

If there is one parting message from Earl, it's this: the docent program is set up for participants to continually learn new things. Come be a docent and see what you can learn.



photo by Mike Haddock



UPCOMING EVENTS



photo by Chod Hedinger

Saturday, September 7th, 9 - noon:
Stream Macroinvertebrates and Stream
Geomorphology docent training.

Saturday, September 14th, 9 - noon:
Grass identification, Hulbert Plots, and Grasshopper
SLTER docent training.

Saturday, September 21st, 9 - noon:
Godwin Hill hike docent training.

Sunday, September 29th, 7 a.m. race start time:
“Konquer the Konza” trail run.

Friday, October 4th:
FOKP Annual Meeting and Docent and Kansas Master
Naturalist Graduation. 6 p.m. meeting, 7 p.m. potluck.

WHAT: Annual FOKP Annual Meeting

WHEN: Friday, October 4, 2013, 6 p.m.
7 p.m. BBQ/Potluck

WHERE: Konza Meeting Hall, "The Barn"
Cortelyou Conference Center
BBQ - Hulbert Center

Save The Date!

Join us **Friday, October 4**, at the **FOKP Annual Meeting**. It's a great chance to **visit** with friends, **learn** of current happenings and upcoming events, **vote** on next year's Board members, and **congratulate** this year's docent class. As a bonus, with this year's rainy summer, the autumn flora should be **spectacular**. Don't miss this chance to view it!

Your membership and participation are **vital** to the success of the Friends of Konza Prairie program. We encourage you to come, and to **bring friends** and potential FOKP members who may be interested in knowing more about the prairie and the FOKP program.

The FOKP Annual Meeting will be held in the Konza Historic Barn Cortelyou Conference Center at 6:00 PM, followed by the bison burger potluck dinner at the picnic tables by the Hulbert Center at 7:00 PM. In case of rain, the potluck will be held in the barn.

Don't miss it! Please let us know how many folks you're bringing by calling 587-0441 by October 1. See you there!

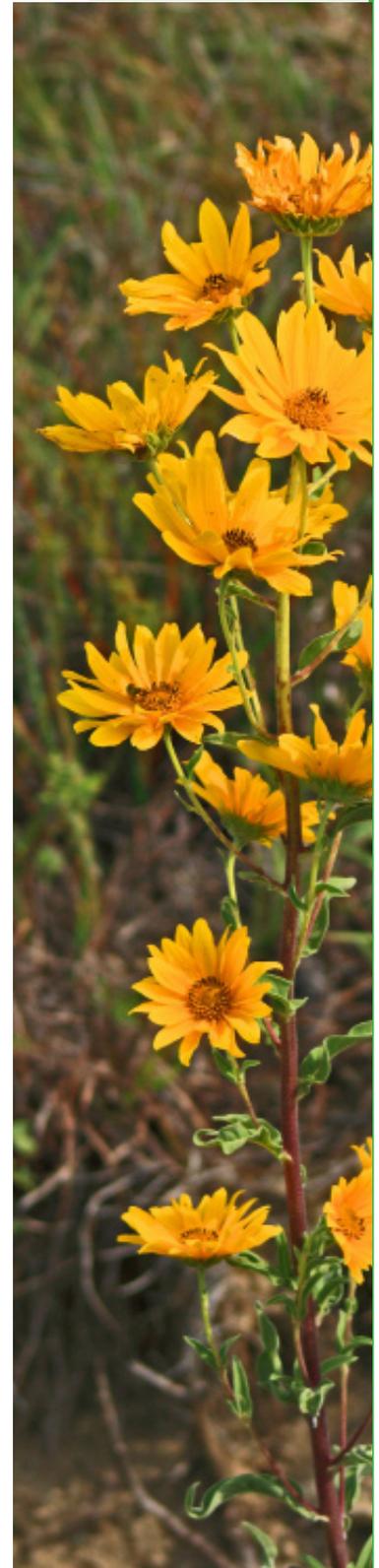


photo by Chod Hedinger

In Memory of Barb Pretzer



Transferring the Membership duties on to Karen Wells, with Nancy Calboon 2007



Helping Jean Craig with Holiday Event 2003

With sadness, we acknowledge the death of Barb Pretzer, former FOKP Board Member. Barb played an important part in the early success of Friends of Konza Prairie, setting up the Membership database and managing it for ten years.

She was an avid supporter of the Konza, and loved to hike the trails. She was known for her intelligence, kindness, organizational skills, and enthusiastic curiosity about nearly everything. She will be missed.

“She shared my Konza computer when I first started, as she did all the membership data base out here. Worked closely with her for a number of years, she was amazing! So sad to hear, she’s a great lady.” - Barb Van Slyke

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FOKP President and KPBS Director serve as *ex officio* members on all committees.

Director
 John Briggs, Ph.D.

Administrative Asst.
 Barb Van Slyke

Environmental Educator (EE)
 Jill Haukos

Site Manager
 Tom Van Slyke

Assistant Director
 Eva Horne, Ph.D.

Shop Foreman
 Jim Larkins

Assistant EE
 Hallie Hatfield

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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Cut on dotted line and Give to a Friend

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Annual Membership (and Benefits):

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Konza Prairie Calendar

Enclose this information with your tax-deductible check payable to
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