

## Zoom Cure for Cabin Fever

The annual Cure for Cabin Fever will be January 31. We do not anticipate being able to meet in person yet in January so there will be no soup supper or general meeting at Konza Prairie. The Cure for Cabin Fever will be a two-part event.

**Part 1:** An independent hike of Butterfly Hill. Come out at 12:00 noon on Sunday, January 31, to hike the Butterfly Hill trail of the Konza Prairie headquarters. Flags will be placed to allow you to find the trail. There will be docents and other volunteers along the trail to answer questions and help with way-finding. This event will last until 1:30 pm.

**Part 2:** We always have a guest speaker for our annual Cure for Cabin Fever event and this year, to ensure the health and safety of everyone, we're having our speaker come to us through a Zoom conference - at 2:00 pm.

This year's speaker will be Mike Haddock, who serves as Associate Dean for Research, Education and Engagement at K-State Libraries. His topic will be "Flora of the Konza Prairie". Mike is the author of Wildflowers and Grasses of Kansas: A Field Guide. He also created the website [www.kswildflower.org](http://www.kswildflower.org). His most recent book Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines in Kansas, co-authored with Craig Freeman, received the Author's Award of Excellence from the Midwestern Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture in 2020. His presentation will be on Zoom.



If you are not familiar with using Zoom, here is a video explaining how it works:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697>

Once you are familiar with Zoom, or if you are already a Zoom expert, all you need to do is click on this link at **2:00 pm, Sunday, January 31** - to join the event: <https://ksu.zoom.us/j/91713269182>

Members are welcome to attend a practice session using this Zoom link on January 17 at 2:00 PM if you are unfamiliar with Zoom.

Research

Education

Conservation



Winter 2021



## New Trail Race Coming to Konza Prairie!

In cooperation with the Manhattan Running Company, there will be a new trail race at Konza Prairie in the Spring of 2021.

On Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting the "Tallgrass Tribute Ultra" – a race with two distance options: 50K (30 miles) or 12K (7.4 miles).

These two races will begin at Konza headquarters and will soon move onto the Nature Trail. Runners will traverse loops of the Trail, keeping track of the number of loops as they go. Runners registered for the 50K will be required to complete 5 complete loops of the Nature Trail!

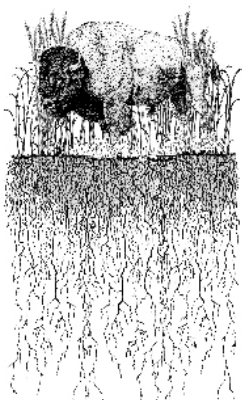
Konquer the Konza will still occur at the autumn trail race.

Proceeds from this race will go to the Konza Environmental Education Program.



## FOKP Calendars Available!

Calendars may be purchased at  
Claflin Books and Copies 103 N 4th St,  
Manhattan, KS 66502





## KPBS Director's Report John Blair

As I write, it is early December and the sun is shining. The cool temperatures and shorter day lengths of the last few months were accompanied by the senescing of prairie grasses and the departure of our summer resident birds (and even some migratory insects). The pleasant extended autumn we enjoyed will soon transition

to winter on the prairie, but I wonder what this winter will be like. You may have read that 2020 is on track to become one of the three warmest years on record for the planet. Record global temperatures were accompanied by increases in concentrations of the three major greenhouse gases and record low levels of Arctic sea ice. In fact, records of global temperature that date back to 1850 reveal that the six warmest years have all occurred since 2015. The Earth's climate is clearly changing. How will this affect our prairie ecosystem? Will this change the synchrony of plants and animals that rely on seasonal cues? Understanding the ecological consequences of climate change is part of the research mission of Konza Prairie and of other biological stations around the world. Of course, understanding the impacts of climate change is not enough. We must also support science-based policies to slow climate change and develop sound management practices that will help mitigate the negative impacts of climate change. Fortunately, there are many scientists working at Konza Prairie and elsewhere with these goals in mind.

One of the most important and longest running research projects at Konza Prairie is the Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) program funded by the National Science Foundation. The Konza LTER grant, initially funded in 1980, supports a comprehensive program of research, education, and training at Konza. The Konza LTER program also is one of K-State's most successful and productive research programs, producing more than 1,900 scientific publications, nearly 300 graduate theses and dissertations, and 16 books to date. The LTER grant is competitively evaluated

for renewal every six years. The eighth, and most recent, renewal was just awarded under the leadership of Dr. Jesse Nippert. This \$7.12M renewal will fund the next six years (2020-2026) of long-term research on tallgrass prairie ecology, and will help us better understand the causes and consequences of climate change and other regionally important environmental changes in the Flint Hills. A tremendous amount of work goes into preparing these large, complex grants, so congratulations to Jesse Nippert and the other Konza LTER scientists that continue to make this program so successful! You can find the K-State press release on the LTER renewal here - <https://www.k-state.edu/media/newsreleases/2020-12/konza-prairie-receives-nsf-renewal.html>.

In other news, I'm happy to report that our annual fall bison round-up went more smoothly than ever, thanks to the efforts of Konza staff and our experienced "round-up crew". As you know, we manage the bison herd as part of our experimental grazing studies. The herd is rounded-up every fall, to record weights, tag and vaccinate bison calves, and select animals that will be auctioned off to maintain a constant herd size. This year, we also were able to add 16 female bison from a herd at the Midewin Prairie in Illinois. These animals, which have Yellowstone heritage, will add new genetic diversity, which is important for the long-term health of our herd. The new bison were isolated for the first 30 days, and released to mix with the rest of the herd in late November. I'll provide a update on the herd and integration of the new bison in a future newsletter.

As 2020 draws to a close, I think it's fair to say this year was one for the record books! We weren't able to do many in-person events at the station for our Friends and visitors, but we were able to provide continuing access to the Nature Trail, and a number of virtual events and on-line educational nuggets. Please know that your support allows us to continue our mission of research, education, and conservation, even during challenging times. So, on behalf of all of us at the Konza Prairie Biological Station, thank you, and here's to a less "interesting" 2021! As always, please feel free to contact me ([jblair@ksu.edu](mailto:jblair@ksu.edu); 785-532-7065) with any questions or concerns about Konza. Stay safe, wear your masks, and be kind to one another.

### In Memoriam - Charlie Given (1929 – 2020)



Charlie Given, graduate of the KEEP docent class of 1995, passed away December 26, 2020. Charlie was a huge presence within the KEEP program, and indeed, within the Konza Prairie family.

He loved working with kids and especially enjoyed participating in the SLTER (hands-on) activities in which the kids actively collect data and make scientific observations. Kids and other docents alike loved him because he had so much knowledge to share and was tireless and endlessly optimistic. I knew that when Charlie was there that the kids would have a wonderful experience on the prairie.

For many years Charlie was the official historian for Konza Prairie and served in that capacity on the board of the Friends of Konza Prairie. He knew all of the minute details about the land when it was first settled, who owned what parts, and what manager worked during what years. Details and back stories were his forte and I loved to hear about the trains bringing in the "party girls" for the cowboy dances.

Personally, Charlie was one of the first docents that I met when I started my position with KEEP in 2012. He was so warm and welcoming that he instantly made me feel like I had found a new Kansas family. Sadly, his declining health and devotion to wife Pat (along with her health limitations) required Charlie to cut back on his time with Konza. His last day with us was actually captured in a photo that you see here. I'm so grateful to have had the chance to capture that moment and to have had Charlie Given as a friend and colleague. He will be missed. - Jill Haukos

KEEP will be offering a new class in the **Kansas Master Naturalist (KMN)** program, beginning Saturday, February 6, 2021.

A Master Naturalist is someone who has a deep interest and passion for the natural world and its components. It doesn't mean that person is an expert on every part of the living world, just that they have an interest in it and have received some training on the components of the plants and animals of their area.

Interested? Sessions will be on Saturday mornings at 9:00 am in the Konza Prairie stone barn (Konza Meeting Hall). Registration is \$120/person and includes 11 sessions with instruction on plants, animals (birds, mammals, fish, insects, reptiles & amphibians), geology, and ecology. Admission is limited to 10 people to allow for social distancing in the barn. A ZOOM link will be available for those who would like to watch sessions but not complete the program.

Those who complete the KMN training are then asked to contribute 40 hrs./year as volunteers at various places around Kansas. Volunteering as a docent at Konza Prairie is one of the options for KMN participants (for existing docents).

Contact Jill Haukos at (785) 587-0381 or [konzaed@ksu.edu](mailto:konzaed@ksu.edu) if you would like to join the class.



### **Topics:**

Interpretation (how to communicate with an audience)

Geology & Soils

Ecology

Weather & Climate

Entomology

Ichthyology (fishes)

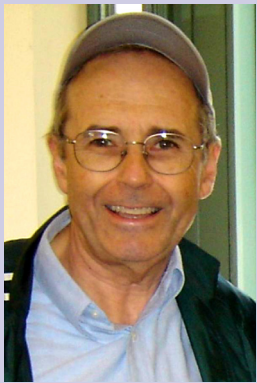
Mammalogy

Ornithology

Botany

Herpetology (reptiles & amphibians)

### **FOKP President Jim Koelliker**



Wow! 2020 has been the most unusual of my 42 years of being able to work, volunteer, and love the Konza Prairie. As a water resources person, I am used to dealing with unusual conditions – floods, drought, snowstorms, tornadoes, heat and cold, and I have seen them all – but never a pandemic.

I agreed to serve as your president for the 2021 year and I hope it will be one that we are able to return to some normalcy before it ends, but only time will tell. Certainly, we have had to curtail our in-person activities, but I believe FOKP has adapted well, particularly the main purpose of it to support the Konza Environmental Education Program (KEEP).

Our amazing environmental educator, Jill Haukos, has adapted her vital education program to an outstanding online program and the self-guided wildflower walk on the Nature Trail gave many users the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful splendor of the spring safely. If you have yet to find Jill's nearly daily *Konza Nature Nugget* on Facebook, you are missing a tremendous amount of info about many aspects of Konza. It is great for all ages. The opportunity to learn so much from a highly skilled educator awaits you.

I will especially miss helping with what was to be our 10<sup>th</sup> annual *Cure for Cabin Fever* event that would have been on the last Sunday of January. Ann Murphy and I started them in 2012. I am hopeful that by September we will be able to have our FOKP annual meeting and potluck so that we can again get together in person to celebrate with other Friends.

2021 really needs to be recognized and celebrated because it is the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the founding of the Konza Prairie Biological Station and the 25<sup>th</sup> year since the beginning of KEEP. Both are monumental testaments to the sustained effort of so many scientists, docents, and members of FOKP to not only keep them both operating but to recognize their importance in the past and even more their importance to continue and enhance education, research, and conservation of the Flint Hills ecosystem.

I assure our advisory board can and will work tirelessly to make the most of the gem that is Konza. I really encourage you as a Friend of Konza Prairie to continue your support for our organization that is vital to the future. Step up your financial support and invite your friends to become members.

And, yes, just like we have endured unusual events in nature, we will get through this pandemic and come out stronger and wiser on the other side.



# Docent Spotlight: Kathy Tuttle

Jill Haukos



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

After 35 years of teaching in a classroom setting, and several field trips to the Konza Prairie, I knew I wanted to continue learning and teaching about this beautiful preserve.

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

I especially love being outdoors, photography, wood working, painting, restoring antiques.

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

I have a greater understanding of the Konza Prairie via the docent education and meeting wonderful people!

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

Gathering with family, watching the sun rise and set, and the beauty in nature.

### The KPBS Staff:

**Director** John Blair, Ph.D.

**Assistant Director** Eva Horne, Ph.D.

**Administrative Asst.** Barb Van Slyke

**Director of Education** Jill Haukos

**KPBS Project Manager** Jim Larkins

**KPBS Burn Coordinator** Patrick O'Neal

**Environmental Educator** 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.

### The FOKP Executive Board:

**President** Jim Koelliker

**Treasurer** Noah Busch

**Historian** Joe Gelroth

### The FOKP board members:

Cydney Alexis (re-election for 3 years Dec. 2019)

Chris Bailey (re-election for 3 years Dec. 2020)

Josh Brewer (re-election for 3 years Dec. 2021)

Noah Busch (re-election for 3 years Dec. 2020)

Kelly Carmody (re-election for 3 years Dec. 2021)

Kelly Yarbrough Frasier (re-election for 3 years Dec. 2020)

Joe Gelroth (term expires Dec. 2019)

Allie Lousch (re-election for 3 years Dec. 2019)

Courtney Masterson (re-election for 3 years Dec. 2021)

Donna McCallum (term expires Dec. 2019)

Lucas Shivers (term expires Dec. 2021)

Ken Stafford (term expires Dec. 2020)

Joining the board on January 1, 2020:

Jim Koelliker 3 year term expiring Dec. 31, 2022

Jeff Watson 3 year term expiring Dec. 31, 2022

Marcia Rozell 3 year term expiring Dec. 31, 2022

## Konza Rock Stars!

Congratulations to 3 new **Konza Rock Stars** – an award established in 2018 as the highest award available to be awarded to a person who has provided exemplary service to the Friends of Konza Prairie. Awardees receive a piece of Konza Prairie itself – a unique piece of limestone from the bison area that is engraved and painted with the Konza Prairie Biological Station logo. No one piece is the same.



***Cindy Jeffrey:***

Long-time editor of the Bison & Bluestem newsletter  
Two-term FOKP board member  
KEEP Docent - class of 1999  
FOKP advocate at KSU Communications and Marketing



***Stormy Lee Kennedy:***

Two-term FOKP board member  
and current honorary member of the board  
Past chair of Sales and Marketing Committee  
Long-time community advocate for FOKP, KEEP and  
Konza Prairie - assisting in the annual sales of the  
FOKP Calendar through her store, Claflin Books and Copies.



***Ken Stafford:***

Past FOKP President - 2-term FOKP board member  
Active KEEP Docent - class of 2011, past Docent of the Year  
Volunteers for trail and site maintenance  
Volunteers for fire crew

### Past Konza Rock Star Award Recipients:

2018:

Diane Barker  
Karen Hummel

2019:

Joe Gelroth  
Donna McCallum  
Valerie Wright

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



#### MISSION

Konza Prairie Biological Station (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. The Friends of Konza Prairie (FOKP) promotes the interests of KPBS as they pertain to its mission of research, education and conservation.

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Bison & Bluestem is published by the Friends of Konza Prairie

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## New and Renewing FOKP Members

Thank you all for your support of the Friends of Konza Prairie!

Members who have newly joined or renewed their membership since the last issue of the Bison & Bluestem include:

#### Little Bluestem

Jocelyn & James Baker  
John & Joan Blair  
Tom & Jody Boeding  
Jane Bowers  
Charles & Sandra Bussing  
Nova Clarke  
Kitra Cooper  
Steve Coulson  
Bill Cutler & Elisabeth Suter  
Jerry Dees & Deborah Murray  
Amy Fish  
Mary Ann Fleming  
Don Garwood  
Amanda Gaulke  
Lisa Grossman  
Ruth Gurgel  
Dustin & Hallie Hatfield  
Dave & Jill Haukos  
Jim, Mary & Mike Higgins  
Katherine Hummels  
Sue Carolyn Hunt  
Susan Kamphaus  
Stormy & George Kennedy  
Roger Kinderknecht  
Tom & Andrea Krauss  
Dennis & Elaine Lang  
Vera Langemeier  
Bob Lewis  
Donna McCallum  
Jan & Gerad Middendorf  
John Mitchell  
Carol & David Pacey  
Paul Post & Kay Kelly  
Stephanie Reeck  
John & Mary Beth Reese  
Dustan Ridder  
Carolyn Roberts  
Marcia & Tim Rozell  
Jim & Nada Schroeder  
Dick & Martha Seaton  
Bradley & Susie Shaw  
Marcia Stockham  
Michael Stubbs  
Rodney & Judith Taylor  
Bruce & Mindy Thierolf  
Ron & Heather Thomas  
Jim & Beth Turtle  
Elisabeth & Richard Vanderlip  
Stacey & Jim Warner  
Karen Wells & Dan Francke  
Brad & Carol Williamson

Nancy Withee Knorp  
Kelly Yarbrough

#### Big Bluestem

Mitch & Susan Adams  
BBN Architects, Inc.  
Mary Breneman  
Bill & Doris Burnett  
Lonnie & Mary Beth Clark  
Jane & Randall Cobb  
Larry & Laurel Erickson  
Craig & Jane Freeman  
Stanley & Letha Mae Glaum  
Rob & Toni Gunderson  
Mike & Toni Haddock  
Chod & Sari Hedinger  
Bobbie & Dave Kromm  
Karen & John McCulloh  
Palmer & Marty Meek  
Paul & Nancy Ohlenbusch  
Ginny & Jeff Petersen  
Wally Post & Diane McClenny-Post  
Carl & Marty Reed  
Susan Reimer  
Phyllis & Warren Slocombe  
Betty Sterling  
John & Joan Strickler  
Elisabeth & Richard Vanderlip  
Dave & Betsy Weigel

#### Flint Hills

Terry & Ginny Arthur  
Myron & Nancy Calhoun  
Haines Family LLC  
Phil & Irene Jeffries  
Michael & Linda Jones  
Phillip Marzluf & Anne Longmuir  
Verlyn Richards  
Max & Kay Russell  
Ken & Kris Stafford  
Ben & Marilyn Tilghman

#### Prairie Chicken

Dan & Beth Bird  
Mary Cottom  
Karen Hummel  
Joe & Anne Jezak  
Sue Maes & Dennis Hemmendinger

Courtney Masterson  
John Purdon and Family  
Jacque Staats & Richard Oberst  
Ken & Nina Warren  
Keith & Sue Ann Wright

#### Bison

Earl Allen  
Joe & Janette Gelroth  
Dr. & Mrs. Duane Miksch  
Grant & Toni Milleret  
Mary Vanier

#### Tall Grass

Mary & Carl Ice

#### Meritrust Members

Brett Bennett  
KeiAnna Boykin-Johnson  
Michael Clark  
Dana Crawford  
Luis De Leon- Hiraldo  
Miuveen Diana  
Siobhan English  
Nicholas French  
Michelle Fuller  
Robert Gallimore  
David Gaume  
Ruth Gurgel  
Aaron Hamilton  
Amy Holmes  
Richard Holt  
Christopher Hudgins  
Sladana Hudson  
Ashley Hund  
Natasia Jackson  
Brandon Jackson  
David Jordan  
Erica Keefover  
Katarzyna Kohler  
Dalhoe Koo  
Harvey Larson  
Chelsea LeClair  
Ryan Lovett  
Andrew Ludvik  
Alexander Meeks  
Colleen Moore  
Patrick Mushrush  
Jesus Nicolas-Salazar  
Emily Oldland  
Nicolas Ouano  
Jonathan Penner  
John Qusted

Curtis Robles  
Michael Speckman  
Justin Stachnik  
Laurie Stocker  
Roger Strunk  
Rhonda Sweeney  
Shawn Teenor  
Robert Urton  
Gregory Waldrip  
Marcus Washington  
JeMarion Willis

**Thank you!**