

Soup and Song 2025

Sunday, Jan. 26th, 2025 4 - 6 pm

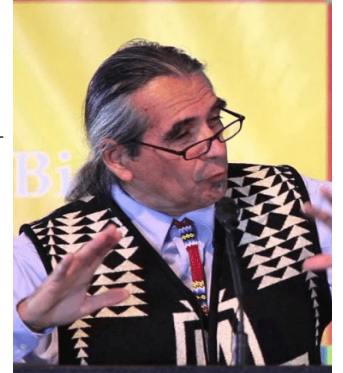
& Bluestem

Please join Friends of Konza Prairie (FOKP) in the Stone Barn at Konza Prairie Biological Station (KPBS) for the annual Soup and Song event. During this time, we will celebrate a guest speaker and musicians while enjoying a delicious potluck of soups, time of conversation, and partaking in great moments of connection. Please invite your friends and bring a soup and/or bread item to share. The cost is free for FOKP members, or \$10 for non-members at the door. Collected proceeds will go to FOKP, which works to support the Konza Environmental Education Program and general operations of KPBS.

To register for Soup and Song and share if you will be bringing a soup and/or bread item, please fill out the following survey: <https://bit.ly/fokpevent> Or, you can call (785) 587-0381 to register.

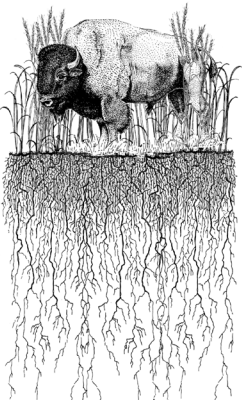
Program: Dr. Daniel Wildcat

Daniel Wildcat, Ph.D., is a professor at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, and is an accomplished scholar who writes on Indigenous knowledge, technology, the environment, and education. He is also the director of the Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center, which he founded with colleagues from the Center for Hazardous Substance Research at Kansas State University. Dr. Wildcat helped design a four-part video series entitled *All Things Are Connected: The Circle of Life*, which dealt with the land, air, water, biological, and policy issues facing Native nations. A Yuchi member of the Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma, Dr. Wildcat formed the American Indian and Alaska Native Climate Change Working Group, a tribal-college-centered network of individuals and organizations working on climate change issues. Further, he helped organize the Planning for Seven Generations Climate Change Conference sponsored by the National Center for Atmospheric Research. He is also the author of several books, such as *Red Alert! Saving the Planet with Indigenous Knowledge*.



Performance: Dr. Alice Boyle and Robert Rosenberg

Dr. Alice Boyle and Robert Rosenberg compose the band Kaw Creek, which combines their passions of caring for the prairies and music. Dr. Boyle and Robert also join various other musicians for dances and local shows. As examples, their music specialties include contra dance, concerts, new and trad tunes, fiddle, banjo, and guitar.



Research

Education

Conservation

Winter 2025

FRIENDS OF
KONZA PRAIRIE



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Upcoming Events:

Sunday, January 26, 4pm: Soup and Song 2025,
Meet at the Stone Barn on Konza Prairie



Bison



KPBS Director's Report

John Blair

I hope that you were able to spend some time on the prairie this fall. The spring and summer rains supported an exceptionally productive year for prairie grasses and wildflowers and the extended mild temperatures produced spectacular autumn colors well into November.

It has been a very busy fall at the station this year! In addition to the usual end-of-season activities and visits from off-campus researchers, we hosted a workshop in September on below-ground plant processes led by Dr. Jitka Klimešová (Czech Academy of Sciences) and Dr. Jackie Ott (US Forest Service) in collaboration with local K-State scientists Jesse Nippert and John Blair. The workshop provided training in a range of ecological methods to graduate students from the US and several other countries. Later in September, K-State professor Lydia Zeglin hosted filmmaker Ariel Waldman, who spent a week filming on site as part of a documentary on the hidden world of tallgrass prairie ecosystems. Konza Prairie was also prominently featured during the national Natural Areas Conference (NAC24) held in Manhattan in October, with KPBS researchers providing plenary talks, giving research presentations, and leading multiple field trips for the 300+ attendees from around the US. Other fall activities included tours for visiting researchers and conservation groups, the annual FOKP meeting, and the opening of the Visions of the Flint Hills event in Kansas City, with a special K-State Alumni event on October 1. We also conducted our annual bison round-up on Halloween this year. Despite the timing it wasn't scary at all! KPBS site manager (Patrick O'Neal) and bison herd manager (Jeff Taylor) led an efficient group of experienced 'bison wranglers' and all 271 animals were weighed, tagged, and sorted in less than eight hours. Shortly after round-up, we hosted a group of conservationists from Colorado to learn more about our grassland and bison management. I also will be speaking to the EPA Region 7 office this month about our grassland conservation efforts. Finally, as I write this, we are preparing to conduct our annual prescribed fall burning, part of the season-of-fire studies, which will wrap up our major field operations for 2024.

I wish you a healthy and happy 2025 and thank you for supporting our research, education, and conservation mission. I look forward to seeing many of you at FOKP events in the coming year. As always, please feel free to contact me (jblair@ksu.edu; 785-532-7065) with any questions or concerns about KPBS or to find out how you can contribute to our long-term goals.



FOKP President Nellie Hill-Sullins

As the new year approaches, it's a great time to look ahead to what 2025 has in store. The Annual Meeting set the tone for the year ahead by electing new board members and a president-elect. We welcomed Patrick O'Neal, KPBS Site Manager, as an ex-officio member of the board and to lead our event parking services. I have immense gratitude to Patrick for taking on parking from the legendary Jim Koelliker, who has long been the welcoming face when drivers arrived to park for FOKP events. Thank you, Jim, for your service.

I am honored to introduce and welcome new board members Jessy Wilkes, Amber Myers, and Kathy Hund. (See page 4) Jessy is a Natural Resource Specialist for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Her goals for serving FOKP include supporting educational events about the tallgrass prairie ecosystem for the public. Amber works at the Flint Hills Discovery Center as the Education Supervisor. She believes that the first step to preservation is experience and that experiencing the prairie by truly immersing ourselves in it almost always inspires a love that cannot be broken. Kathy is a retired Kansas educator and is now a walker, reader, grandparent, and volunteer worker. She wants to share her appreciation for our native prairie and share the tallgrass ecosystem with our community. Please join me in welcoming these new board members to their role! I am excited about the enthusiasm and experience they bring to our board.

Our president-elect is the incredible Dr. Sarah Jackson. She is an assistant professor of Parks Management and Conservation at Kansas State University. Sarah started her service to the FOKP board in January of 2024 and has since contributed immensely to many facets of our organization, including co-leading and promoting the Wildflower Walk event, and she is now the lead of our Soup & Song event. Beginning in January 2026, Sarah will serve as the FOKP board president. I am very excited for Sarah's strong leadership, infectious energy, and kind communication to help us grow our membership, increase our visibility, and bring together all FOKP members to advance our mission. Please help me welcome Sarah to the president-elect role! Thank you, FOKP members, for the opportunity to continue to serve as FOKP president during 2025. I look forward to seeing you on the prairie. Have a happy and healthy 2025!



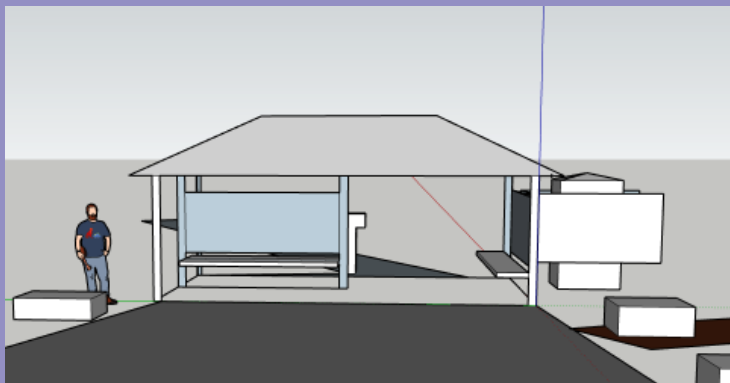
A New Start to the Konza Nature Trail!

The beauty of the tallgrass prairie of the Flint Hills is undeniable, and there's no better place to experience it than the Konza Prairie Nature Trail system.

What had been a rather pokey kiosk that served as the trailhead for this amazing experience will soon be gone. In its place will be a brand-new Visitors Pavilion – complete with a new series of signs, all designed to better communicate with our visitors

What will we be saying to our visitors?

- The rules, of course. But we'll try to use clear language and descriptive icons.
- Background on the Konza Prairie Biological Station – its purpose and design.
- Descriptions of the common grasses and wildflowers that might be seen.
- Information on the bison herd.
- Information on the use of fire as a prairie management tool.
- History of the area and of the people who used the land prior to European settlement.
- Information on the Friends of Konza Prairie and how folks can get involved.

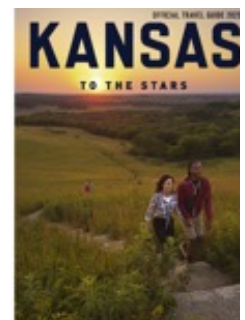


The new Pavilion will direct visitors **through** the building rather than around it. Gently guiding them not only through to view the signage but also by the new, interior donation box. We hope our visitors find the entrance prettier, the instructions clear and intuitive, and wayfinding easy and informative.

We have a large incentive to get moving - Kansas Tourism has put a photo of people hiking the Konza Nature Trail on the cover of the 2025 Official Kansas Travel Guide. Because of this publicity we expect a large uptick in the number of visitors in 2025.

Thanks goes out to the Goldstein Charitable Foundation and the Caroline Peine Foundation who have provided the funds to get this project off the ground.

We have a lot to say to the 30,000 – 45,000 or so people who visit every year! Construction will begin in late 2024 and continue into early 2025.



See you on the prairie! - Jill

New Members of Friends of Konza Prairie Board



Jessy Wilkes (but you can call her Jess, Jessy, Jessica, no preference from her) is originally from Omaha, Nebraska, but has lived in Manhattan since 2021 and is happy to call it home now. Jessy works as a Natural Resource Specialist for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). She graduated from Kansas State University in 2023 with a Master of Science in Horticulture and Natural Resources. The Konza Prairie Biological Station (KPBS) has been a place of learning, respite, recreation, solitude, and interpersonal connection for her. As a Friends of Konza Prairie board member, she is committed to serving the greater needs of the KPBS and our community. Her goals while serving include supporting educational events about the tallgrass prairie ecosystem for the public. Additionally, she is interested in making connections between the KPBS and the importance of expanding conservation in our landscape through discussions of woody encroachment, prescribed burning, regenerative ranching, etc. Agriculture is the most important economic driver and the largest land use in our state. As a professional who works with farmers and ranchers, she believes in the importance of educating the greater public on the work they do and how it relates to the core mission of the KPBS.

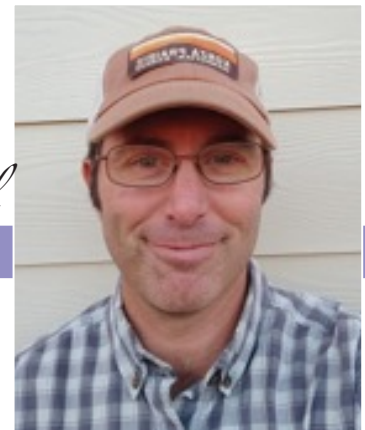
Amber Myers works at the Flint Hills Discovery Center as the Education Supervisor. Amber earned dual B.S degrees at Kansas State University in Park Management and Conservation & Conservation and Environmental Science in 2014. She has enjoyed her time in environmental education roles at the Discovery Center, Milford Nature Center, and Wilson and Kanopolis Lakes. Amber is an award-winning environmental educator with KACEE and Certified by the National Association for Interpretation as an Interpretive Guide. Amber is passionate about sharing nature with people of all ages. She believes that the first step to preservation is experience and that experiencing the prairie by truly immersing ourselves in it almost always inspires a love that cannot be broken. Amber and her husband, Josh, live in Manhattan with their dog Merlin and cat Neville. Amber's a proud mom of two adult children and a companion to her dad, Dale



Kathy Hund is a retired Kansas educator and is now a walker, reader, grandparent, and volunteer worker. Kathy and her husband have lived in rural Wabaunsee County and raised their family in the Flint Hills. She wants to share her appreciation for our native prairie and share the tallgrass ecosystem with our community.

Patrick O'Neal

New Director of Parking
KPBS Site Manager





1) What motivated you to become a Konza Prairie Docent?

In June 2019, my wife and I moved to Manhattan after spending our professional lives at West Virginia University. She grew up on a farm outside of Humboldt, KS, and graduated from Kansas State University. Her great-grandparents who settled near Manhattan in 1859 raised horses. At that time, Kansas was entirely covered by native prairie that had been inhabited by tribes of indigenous people and vast herds of bison for thousands of years. Following our move, our sister-in-law told us about the Konza Prairie and encouraged us to attend the fall FOKP meeting. During that meeting, I talked to several docents and later signed up for the docent training program offered by Jill Haukos, the director of the KEEP program. During the process of becoming a docent, I learned about the historical importance of native prairie to the region and how grazing, fire, and weather play a critical role in sustaining a healthy prairie.

2) What has been the best part of being a volunteer at Konza Prairie?

The best aspect of being a volunteer at Konza Prairie is helping our visitors gain a greater appreciation of the native prairie ecosystem. I especially enjoy guiding groups of students and adults who visit the Konza Prairie.

3) What brings you the most joy in your life?

My greatest joy in life occurred during my career as a university professor at WVU. From 1990 to 2018, I had the good fortune of teaching our honors level chemistry course, which was populated annually by many of our top freshman students. Because this five-credit course involved 10 contact hours per week, I had the opportunity to work closely with my students as their instructor, mentor, and academic advisor. Many of them have gone on to earn doctoral degrees in chemistry or professional degrees in medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy. Some still keep in touch and I am always overjoyed when I hear from them.

4) What are some of your hobbies and interests?

Over the course of my life, I have had many interests and hobbies. I have always enjoyed being outdoors, whether it be playing different sports with my friends in the summer, ice skating during the Wisconsin winter, and riding my bicycle as a kid or gardening as an adult. I currently spend most of my time on several community gardening activities, including the Woodland Hills Neighborhood Garden near my home on the corner of Sumac and Brierwood Drives, the Butterfly Garden at the Sunset Zoo, and the KSU Gardens. These activities have enriched my life in Manhattan and enabled me to make new friends as well as maintain a positive outlook and healthy lifestyle.

1. Where are you from?

I was born and raised in Coralville, Iowa. While Coralville isn't quite as busy as the large neighboring town of Iowa City where the University of Iowa is located, it is a nice suburban place to live. It offers the convenience of having a large college town nearby while also being close to more remote areas and parks.

2. What inspired you to enter this field of study?

I was always fascinated by nature as a kid and knew that I wanted to one day pursue a career working with natural resources. My original interest was mammalogy, but that shifted when I joined an insect ecology lab as an undergraduate student at Iowa State University. The lab introduced me to the world of pollinators and motivated me to continue my research in that field of study as a graduate student at Kansas State University. More specifically, it was my time spent as a field technician for that lab a few summers ago that made me realize the importance of bumble bee conservation research. We traveled all around the state of Iowa conducting occupancy surveys for the federally endangered rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*). There's nothing more satisfying than knowing your hard work is for a good cause. While we don't have that bumble bee species here in Kansas, we do have other threatened species that I am interested in protecting and studying further.

3. Was there someone in your life who shared your love of nature or influenced you?

Growing up, my parents were both very supportive of my desire to be close to nature. My dad often took me on fishing trips to our local ponds. We would spend hours by the water listening to the birds and watching the wildlife. While we were waiting for a fish to bite, my dad was always willing to answer questions I had about the nearby plants and animals. Even if we didn't catch any fish, it was still a nice and peaceful day outdoors. And my mom, who has the biggest heart of anyone I know, always encouraged me to care for animals, no matter how small. When I was around ten years old, I remember noticing a bumble bee laying weakly on the sidewalk leading up to our house. Wanting to help save it, I ran to my mom who immediately gave me a small container of sugar water to feed the bee, in hopes that it would regain its strength. That was a pivotal moment for me growing up. I realized that we have the power and responsibility to protect even the smallest of insects.

4. Who is your faculty advisor at K-State?

My advisor at K-State is Brian Spiesman, a professor in the Department of Entomology and PI of the Pollinator Ecology Lab.

5. What is your research topic at Konza and how does it fit into the broader science picture?

My research is part of a larger long-term bee sampling effort at Konza led by Dr. Brian Spiesman and Dr. Tania Kim. Not only are we interested in understanding how bee diversity changes over time, but also which grassland management strategies are creating optimal habitat for the bees. Different grassland management strategies may influence the plant community, which in turn can impact the bee community. My project in particular focuses on investigating the direct and indirect effects of different grazing and prescribed fire treatments on the six bumble bee species found in Kansas. Over the past two summers, my team has conducted eight rounds of bee and vegetation surveys across 32 watersheds at Konza. This is important research because we are discovering that two imperiled bumble bee species, the American bumble bee (*Bombus pensylvanicus*) and the southern plains bumble bee (*Bombus fraternus*), are present in several of the watersheds we surveyed at Konza. Considering those two species are under review to be listed as federally endangered, it's very important to understand where they are located and what habitats they are utilizing. In terms of the big picture, rangeland makes up a large portion of the state. Much of that grassland undergoes similar land management practices that are established at Konza. We seek to understand which strategies best benefit bumble bee species so that landowners can adopt the appropriate techniques with pollinator conservation in mind.

6. What is your favorite thing about Konza?

My favorite thing about Konza is the remoteness. Whether you are out there enjoying a recreational hike or conducting research, you're fully immersed in the beauty of the Flint Hills. You would never realize that Konza is located on the outskirts of a college town. Another thing I enjoy are all the different watershed treatments established across the station. One of the main components that drew me to a graduate position at K-State was the opportunity to do research at Konza. Not many places offer the chance to conduct pollinator surveys within bison-grazed areas.

7. What is your least favorite thing about Konza?

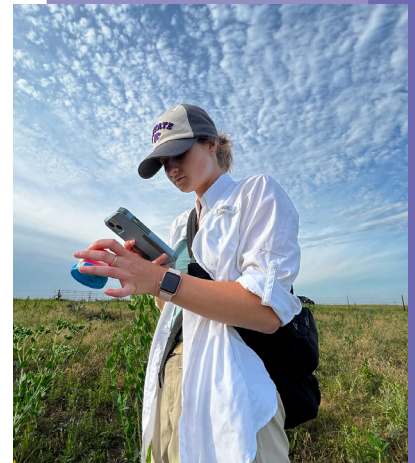
My least favorite thing is how it's the source of SO MUCH of the published work on prairie ecology. I think one site can only tell us so much about the ways an entire ecosystem functions, and I wish there was more of an impetus for grad students (and beyond) to do research at and publish work from a variety of other prairie sites as well.

8. What would be your dream job?

That's a tough question – I don't think there's just one dream job that I'm working towards. There are so many great career opportunities in the natural resources field. I would love to work for either a federal agency or non-governmental organization to oversee survey and habitat restoration projects that will have a large impact on pollinator and wildlife conservation as a whole.

9. What do you like to do when you're not in class or doing your research?

When I'm not in class or working on my research, I enjoy hiking the 4-mile loop at Konza, spending time with my dog (Ash) and cat (Cedar), as well as crocheting gifts for my friends and family.



Visions of the Flint Hills Nellie Hill-Sullins

Friends of Konza Prairie continued to partner with Buttonwood Art Space in Kansas City to host the “Visions of the Flint Hills” art show and fundraiser to showcase regional artists and support environmental education at Konza. This year’s juror was Susan Rose, a Kansas-based Midwest prairie artist, who helped select the works of art for the show. In addition to the Kansas City Buttonwood venue, FOKP also partnered with Downtown Manhattan to host a concurrent “Visions of the Flint Hills: Hometown Edition” in the 409 Art Space on Poyntz Ave.

More than 45 pieces were sold this year with sales split evenly between artists and FOKP, and sponsors generously contributed. Thank you to Zahner, Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation, WTC, Kansas State Bank, Burnett Automotive, Volland Foundation, Civic Plus, Karen Hummel (in honor of Nancy Goulden), Lorne Clement and Lynn Ewanow, Bryan Stouts and Lorri Gfeller, Bayer Construction, Manhattan Brewing Company, and Buttonwood Financial Group, LLC. The 2024 “Visions” effort was made possible by the planning and fundraising team, including Mary Gordon McFall, Heather Hnizdell, Annie Baker, Alicia Firstbrook-Stott, Jill Haukos, Nellie Hill-Sullins, and Macy Vulgamore.



Be a Konza Docent in 2025



The docent volunteers make our program work!

The Konza Environmental Education Program (KEEP) relies on docent volunteers to serve as the heart of the program – leading hikes and assisting with the hands-on activities offered to visiting K-12 school children.

If you have a passion for sharing your knowledge and experience about the prairie with children, then you might be a great Konza Prairie docent!

New docent training commences on Monday, March 24 (9:00 am to 1:00 pm each day), and continues until March 28.

Come join the wonderful community of active docents – all people who share a deep love of the prairie. We’d love to see you there!

Learn more at KEEP.konza.ksu.edu – the online registration form is there too, or contact Jill 785-587-0381

2023 Konza Rock Stars!



Congratulations to the 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.

Noah Busch:

- Past 2-term FOKP Treasurer and Board member
- 9th grade science teacher at Manhattan High School and active participant in the Tallgrass Prairie Storyline curriculum with the Konza Environmental Education Program

Janette Gelroth:

- Long-time Konza Prairie neighbor and advocate
- FOKP Membership Chair
- FOKP Communication Lead

Jeff & Patt Watson:

- KEEP Docents - Class of 2015
- Volunteers for the Summer Teachers' Workshop
- Volunteers for Wildflower Walk
- Hospitality Chairs for FOKP for many years
- Jeff was a 2-term FOKP Board member

Past Konza Rock Star Award Recipients:

2018:

- Diane Barker
- Karen Hummel

2019:

- Joe Gelroth
- Donna McCallum
- Valerie Wright

2020:

- Cindy Jeffrey
- Stormy Lee Kennedy
- Ken Stafford

2021:

- Mike Haddock
- Greg Zolnerowich

2022:

- John Briggs
- Darren & Shelly Gunderson
- Jim Koelliker



Fall Annual Meeting Review

Friends of Konza Prairie Annual Meeting a Success!

Friends of Konza Prairie (FOKP) held their much-anticipated annual general meeting, bison BBQ and potluck dinner, and guided bison-viewing tours on Sunday, September 29th. The event was a resounding success, offering members a unique opportunity to connect, learn about the Konza Prairie, and experience its beauty firsthand.



Meeting and Kids' Activities

The day began with the annual meeting in the historic Stone Barn. Attendees received updates on FOKP, the Konza Prairie Biological Station, and the Konza Environmental Education Program. While the adults were in the meeting, over a dozen children enjoyed a fun, docent-led outdoor activity. Konza Prairie merchandise was also available for purchase inside the barn.



Bison BBQ and Potluck Dinner

Following the meeting, everyone gathered for a potluck dinner featuring bison burgers from Konza Prairie. The incredible lineup of food was served inside the stone barn, and many members chose to enjoy their meals outdoors.



Guided Bison Tours

The evening concluded with guided bus tours of Konza Prairie, taking members to areas rarely seen by the public. The tours provided breathtaking views and a chance to observe bison in their natural habitat. Participants learned about the ongoing research and management efforts that help preserve this critical ecosystem and the unique ecology of the tallgrass prairie. Two tour lengths were offered, a shorter tour of approximately one hour and a longer option for those who wanted to soak in more of the prairie. For those on the longer tour, it ended with a stunning sunset. The event was a wonderful opportunity for members, board members, and staff to connect and celebrate the prairie, the organization's shared achievements, and the exciting future ahead.

What/who initially connected you to Konza Prairie?

Konza Prairie has held a special place in my life for as long as I can remember. I've hiked the trail countless times, led hikes there for visitors to Kansas, and recommended the trail to everyone who joins or visits our community. I believe that it is truly one of the state's treasures and a great way to experience the beauty of the tallgrass prairie. As a child, I grew up exploring the prairie on my family's nearby land and now, as an adult and parent, I'm proud to take part in an organization that introduces other children to this endangered ecosystem.

What is your favorite part of Konza Prairie?

Although I love the hiking trail and the serenity it provides, I'm also a big fan of the many great people I've met who are associated with the biological station, K-State, FOKP, and the environmental education program. Konza Prairie is at the heart of our local community and part of a scenic rural landscape in the Flint Hills that I greatly value.

What motivated you to join the board?

I was motivated to join a community of "prairie people," and to take part in an organization that I believe in. I've been an FOKP member and taken part in events for years, and I was honored to be invited to help lead the organization into the future.

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

My favorite part, by far, has been the like-minded people I've met and the connections we've formed. I've had the pleasure to help organize our first "Prairie People Happy Hour" at the Manhattan Brewing Company, featuring live music and camaraderie, and I've enjoyed the opportunity to join with the board to organize several other successful events related to the prairie.

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

I hope to see more people in Manhattan, the Flint Hills, and elsewhere become members of FOKP and contribute to our growing community of prairie people. I think the mission of FOKP is vital for the future of a conservation ethic necessary for conserving and restoring the tallgrass prairie, and for protecting the natural, cultural, and scenic values of the Flint Hills.



Retiring!

For over 20 years, Cindy Jeffrey has been the woman behind the curtain, magically creating the *Bison & Bluestem* newsletter layouts. This is Cindy's last issue. Thank you for your incredible service to Friends of Konza Prairie!



Follow Friends of Konza Prairie



www.facebook.com/FriendsofKonzaPrairie



www.instagram.com/friends_of_konza_prairie

The KPBS Staff:

- Director** John Blair, Ph.D.
- Assistant Director** Eva Horne, Ph.D.
- Administrative Asst.** Barb Van Slyke
- KPBS Project/Site Manager** Patrick O'Neal
- Director of Education** Jill Haukos
- Assistant Environmental Educator** Monica Shaffer

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 785-587-0381, or visit the Konza Environmental Education Program (KEEP) website at: <http://keep.konza.ksu.edu>

The FOKP Executive Board:

- President** Nellie Hill-Sullins (3-yr term expiring Dec. 2025)
- President-elect** Sarah Jackson (3-yr term expiring Dec. 2026)
- Treasurer** Heather Culwell (3-yr term expiring Dec. 2025)
- Secretary** Mike Haddock (3-yr term expiring Dec. 2026)

The FOKP board members:

- Heather Culwell (3 yr. term expiring Dec. 2025)
- Nellie Hill-Sullins (3 yr. term expiring Dec. 2025)
- Mollie Wold (3 yr. term expiring Dec. 2025)
- Mike Haddock (3 yr. term expiring Dec. 2026)
- Sarah Jackson (3 yr. term expiring Dec. 2026)
- Ryan Klataske (3 yr. term expiring Dec. 2026)
- Brian McCornack (3 yr. term (2nd) expiring Dec 2026)
- Amy Meng (3 yr. term expiring Dec. 2026)
- Amber Myers (3-yr term expiring Dec. 2027)
- Jessy Wilkes (3-yr term expiring Dec. 2027)
- Kathy Hund (3-yr term expiring Dec. 2027)

Ex-officio and Honorary members

- John Blair Director, Konza Prairie Biological Station
- Jill Haukos Director, Konza Environmental Education Program
- Patrick O'Neal, Konza Prairie Biological Station Site Mgr., Dir. of Parking
- Joe Gelroth, Historian
- Stormy Kennedy and Dr. Valerie Wright Honorary Board Members
- The Nature Conservancy, Open
- KSU Foundation, Open

Friends of Konza Prairie
Kansas State University
Division of Biology,
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#308

FRIENDS OF
KONZA PRAIRIE



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.

FOKP Members

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

QUESTIONS REGARDING MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE SENT TO friendsofkonza@gmail.com

Student

Mary Bull
Althea Groff
Melissa Krumm
Sarah Maschino
Kyle Schroeder

Little Bluestem—Individual

Maria Beebe
Kathleen Bower
Mary Breneman
Nova Clarke
Stephen Coulson
Marshall Hecht
Sarah Jackson
Klint & Amanda Janulis
Marc Johnson
Maria Pfizenmaier
Tina Schreiner
Maureen Sheahan
Mrs. Gladys W. Treichel
Randall Wyatt

Little Bluestem—Family

Roger & Shelley Braden
Dina Clark & Colin Deihl
Peggy Coleman
Steven Deutscher
Herb Dillon
Floyd & Gayle Dowell
Sally Dreher
Jack & Peggy Flouer
Kurt Foley

Margaret Galvez
Jane & Randy Greber
Katherine Hummels
Rick & Barbara Johnson
Patrick & Diane Knight
Donna McCallum
Mark & Luann Miller
Donna & Gary Myers
Amber & Josh Myers
Connor O'Connor
Ed & Linda Olson
Carol & David Pacey
Michael Pepon & Sonja Armbruster
Lynn Schmidt
Lucas Shivers
Rodney & Judith Taylor
Mindy & Bruce Thierolf
Ron & Heather Thomas
Jane Webster
Scott Wilbur
Tracy Williams & Justin Moore

Big Bluestem

BBN Architects Inc
Mark & Gail Bergling
Richard Boydston
BHS Construction, Inc
Bill Cutler & Elisabeth Suter
Craig & Jane Freeman
Laura Gullickson

Rob & Toni Gunderson
Dave Hodgson
Kathy Hund
Susan Kamphaus
Dave Mayer
Raymond McKinney
Stephanie Reeck
Carl & Marty Reed
Bill & Linda Richter
Alesia Roccia
Virginia Schoenthaler
Bob & Elaine Shannon
Ken & Mollie Wold

Flint Hills

Myron & Nancy Calhoun
Elizabeth Dodd
Dan Francke & Karen Wells
Chris & Tom Herald
Bryce & Sheena Koehn
Joe Mocnik & Mirta Lenart-Mocnik
Paul & Nancy Ohlenbusch
Jeff & Patti Watson
Jay Wight

Prairie Chicken

Sara Baer
John & Ingelin Leslie
Greg Sherwood

Bison

Earl Allen
Dan & Beth Bird
Joe & Janette Gelroth
Joe & Anne Jezak
Karen Penner & Marc Johnson
Duane Miksch, DVM
Caroline Thorington

Community Memberships

Austin Andrews
Lucas Antes
Donald D'Augereau
Kenni Kay Evans
Jennifer Lindo Rodriguez
Crystal Meinhardt
Ryan Miller
Brigitte Parks
Cara Porter
Nicole Rakowitz
Michael Root
Brandon Rouse
Christopher Walker
James Williams
David Williams