

# FOKP Incoming President Joe Gelroth

## A PERSONAL NOTE OF THANKS

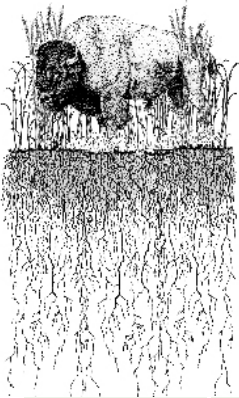


Thank you for being a member of Friends of Konza Prairie. In addition to supporting Konza Prairie as a whole, your contributions of time and money over the years have meant so much to me on a personal level. Since FOKP began, members like you have supported area students with field trip experiences to Konza Prairie. In each of the 22 years that I taught in the USD 383 Manhattan/Ogden district, my students at Theodore Roosevelt Elementary and Eugene Field Elementary directly benefited from your support. My fifth or sixth grade students learned about the structure and function of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem, the geologic history of the Flint Hills, the names of dominant prairie inhabitants, and the roles of plants, bison, fire, soil, wildlife and climate on Konza Prairie. They enjoyed the nature hikes, seeing the bison herd, and being student scientists in the Schoolyard Long Term Ecological Research (SLTER) activities. These opportunities were available to them as a result of your generosity. And although I retired from teaching in 2013, I appreciate your continued support of FOKP, through the Konza Environmental Education Program's staff and docent volunteers. Their expertise helps teachers and their students experience the uniqueness of the tallgrass prairie.

Thank you as well for your support of the Konza Prairie Nature Trail system. Thousands of visitors walk, hike, or run along the trails every year, and their numbers increase yearly. I've worked as a trail maintenance volunteer and seasonal employee for nearly twenty years, and I have seen how these visitors enjoy experiencing that portion of the Konza Prairie Biological Station that is open to the public. Users of the Konza Prairie Nature Trail are local residents, Kansans, visitors from throughout the United States, and guests from other countries. They leave with a better knowledge and appreciation of the uniqueness of the Flint Hills, and you have contributed to this.

Lastly, thank you for your support of the Konza Prairie Biological Station. Many FOKP members are fire crew volunteers, bison roundup volunteers, and biannual Visitors' Day volunteers. You help support the KPBS mission of tallgrass prairie ecosystem research, education, and conservation.

THANK YOU



Research

Education

Conservation

Docent Roundup & Awards  
Saturday, Jan. 16, 2016, 10 a.m.

FOKP Winter Event "Cure for Cabin  
Fever," Sunday, Jan. 31st, 2 p.m.

See page 17 for more information





## FOKP Outgoing President Diane Barker

The Happiest of New Years to all Friends of Konza Prairie members! Thank you for your loyal and generous support of FOKP. You can be proud of the fact that of the 24 Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) stations funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Konza Prairie Biological Station (KPBS), with its unique Konza Environmental Education Program (KEEP), is the only LTER station that has a docent training program. Because of that cadre of well-trained docents, KPBS is the only LTER with an extensive on-site K-12 environmental education program. Thank you for making KEEP the successful program that it is!

Because of your participation, 2015 was an eventful year for FOKP as we forged new relationships and strengthened established ones. We had a lot of fun along the way. In the September issue of the B&B I reviewed the events to date. Let's review what's happened since then. On Sept. 27th, KPBS hosted Manhattan Running Co.'s 3rd Annual Konquer the Konza 25K with an added 10K race. The races attracted over 300 runners and KEEP received a generous donation of \$4,000. The race is becoming a Manhattan area tradition.

Our Annual Meeting and Bison BBQ on Oct. 3 was a huge success, even if tears were shed. The minutes from the 2014 Annual Meeting were approved, the 2015 financial statement reviewed, and the slate of new Board Members elected. The 2015 Docent Class graduated without a hitch. In saying goodbye to Hallie Hatfield, the Assistant Environmental Educator, Jill Haukos, Director of KEEP, played a beautiful video tribute to Hallie, reminding us how kind, astute, and efficient she is. We miss you, Hallie! We then made presentations to members who have contributed significantly to FOKP over the years.

### Nancy Calhoun

Besides being an active docent since graduating in 2007, Nancy donates her skills as a computer programming consultant to KEEP. As Valerie Wright describes it, after Nancy retired from a 17-year career at K-State's Information Technology Assistance Center (iTAC) in 2005 she offered her expertise. She spent innumerable hours, first overhauling the KEEP website (Fall 2007), then creating a protected section For Docents Only (Spring 2008), and setting up an on-line volunteer sign up (Spring 2009). Nancy continues to help with the data management system for KEEP's statistical needs.

Annie Baker fondly remembers getting to know Nancy, sitting shoulder-to-shoulder in the Hulbert Center office after morning field trips, sharing lunch and poring over code. Nancy's expertise greatly improved the program's capacity to serve and recognize our docents. Thank you, Nancy, for your much appreciated assistance!

### Jim Koelliker

Jim began helping out with projects on Konza back in 1978 when Dick Marzoff, as Jim puts it, "first dragged me out there." In 1980 he helped design and install the concrete flumes. His work teaching hydrology to docent classes and others earned him Honorary Docent status. Jim just completed six years on the Board, serving on the Program Committee all six years, as Chair for the last four. He and Ann Murphy changed the Winter Event held in December to the Cure for Cabin Fever held on the last Sunday in January. The membership is much happier with this arrangement, and they really like the soup! He has directed parking for many events like Visitors' Day. He served as Board Secretary for two years. Finally, he was responsible for contacting the K-State student organization that built the small bridge on the Nature Trail. Thank you, Jim, for all you do!

### Ann and Pat Murphy

Ann has been an active docent ever since training in 2005. She served on the Board and on the Program Committee from 2007-2012. She and husband Pat perfected the hospitality portion of events. They set up tables and chairs, grills, provided drinks, paper products, condiments, set out the food, and did the break down, all serenely, and with a smile. Ann also made bison chili for the docent and annual BBQs. When Ann went off the Board, she continued to handle the hospitality portion of FOKP events with Pat's and loyal volunteers' help. Thank you, Ann and Pat, for years of hassle free events!

It was standing room only in Cortelyou Conference Center. When the meeting ended, Cindy Quinlan's crew served bison burgers. Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Meeting.

Oct. 2nd was the opening of the 7th Visions of the Flint Hills Art Show and Benefit, and the 2nd year that FOKP has been the beneficiary. We thank Jon and Wendy McGraw at Buttonwood Financial Services for creating Buttonwood Art Space. This unique gallery supports artists and area 501(c)3 organizations by holding benefit art shows. Buttonwood makes no profit from these shows, which allows the very generous artists to split their earnings 50/50 with the featured 501(c)3 organization. You can view all the art from all the shows going back to 2010 by going to <http://visionsoftheflindhills.org>. To see a short video of the Konza Environmental Education Program in action and the art show, please go to <http://visionsoftheflindhills.org/2015-video/>

Photo by Kathy Drungilas



Here is the list of winners: <http://visionsoftheflindhills.org/the-art/2015-art-work-flint-hills/2015-art-award-winners/> And the list of artists <http://visionsoftheflindhills.org/the-art/2015-art-work-flint-hills/2-15-artists/> This link explains why a Kansas City, MO, gallery is interested in the Flint Hills. The three short videos illustrate the importance of this vanishing ecosystem, grasslands <http://visionsoftheflindhills.org/preserving-flint-hills-prairie/>

Thank you, Kathy Drungilas, for putting the show together, creating beautiful promotional materials, and for tuning in to the opening to take photos remotely. Cally Krallman did an admirable job as juror. It had to be tough with so many wonderful pieces. She wrote an edifying explanation of her choices.

It was an inspiring evening of meeting artists, discussing Konza Prairie, and sampling Tallgrass Brewing Co.'s tasty brew. The food and music were scrumptious as well. Mark Feiden and Jim Hoy provided an extra spark to the evening, offering their interactive book, Prairie Fire (with photographer Edward C. Robinson III). By downloading a free app, you can watch certain pages ignite!

A very special thank you to all of our sponsors shown on the poster. We thank our additional supporters: Blueville Nursery, Little Apple Brewing Co., and Hilton Garden Inn. Thank you to the fantastic artists for entering their work and sharing their profits. You are most generous! Thank you to everyone who purchased art. The result of everyone's generosity was \$7,881.56 for FOKP and KPBS, which goes to KEEP. This is an incredible example of forging new relationships and strengthening established ones.

On Oct. 22, the Prairie Studies Initiative showed a documentary "When the Well Runs Dry" featuring Kansas farmers, ranchers, and residents of rural communities sharing their concerns about water shortages. As KPBS is a member of the Prairie Studies Initiative, I encourage you to learn more and see a calendar of events at [beach.k-state.edu/prairie-studies](http://beach.k-state.edu/prairie-studies)

Only two members are cycling off the Board this year. Thank you, Jim Koelliker and Susie Johnson, for your excellent service. We are pleased to welcome two new board members. Connie Hall is the Director of the Convention and Visitor's Bureau for Junction City. Lucas Shivers is the Director of Elementary Education for USD 383. You can learn more about our new board members from their bios in the Sept./Oct. issue of the B&B, pages 12 & 13.

Shelley Wiggam served admirably as the graduate research student representative to the Board. We wish her continuing success with her research on pollinators and patch burn grazing.

Please note two additions to the newsletter to enhance communication among members. On page 18, we have published the names of our 39 new members for 2015. We have added the email addresses of committee chairs and the president to our standard list of committees and members on page 19.

This is my last column as President and I thank you for the opportunity to serve. The gavel has passed to the very dedicated and knowledgeable Joe Gelroth. You have a good Board that works well together, makes informed and well-considered decisions, and is forward thinking. I look forward to working with them for my last two years on the Board.

**Visions of the Flint Hills**  
AN ART SHOW  
BENEFITTING  
friends of  
**KONZA**  
prairie

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!**

**BISON LEVEL**

THE TRUST COMPANY  
Meadowlark Hills

**PRAIRIE CHICKEN LEVEL**

Ladybird DINER  
Briggs AUTO GROUP  
BURNETT AUTOMOTIVE  
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**FLINT HILLS LEVEL**

CIVIC PLUS  
TALLGRASS BREWING CO.  
Little Apple Toyota/Honda  
The Nature Conservancy Kansas





## From the Stone House

Director of Education  
Jill Haukos

### Tallgrass – why so tall?

It is currently late autumn transitioning into winter here on the prairie. The tallgrasses have been golden for a while and it occurred to me to recall back to the point when the grasses began to change color. Of course it's a progression, rather than one specific day, but there is a definite point when, regardless of what the calendar says, the plants determine that the seasons are changing and start sending sugars from the leaves down to the roots and begin to shut down photosynthesis.

In watersheds that have been recently burned, the transitions are the easiest to see. The bright verdant, insistent green of May slowly begins to transition to a mixture of gold and green by June. The cool season grasses (bromes, fescues, blue grasses, timothy, June grass, wild-rye) finish their growth and let the warm season superstars (bluestems, switchgrass, Indian grass, sideoats grama) take over. Simply, cool season grasses' photosynthetic processes favor temperatures of 15 – 30 °C (50 – 86 °F) and the warm season grasses' photosynthetic processes function best at 30 – 45 °C (86 – 113 °F).

The warm season tallgrasses continue their growth in earnest during the summer months. Data from Konza indicates that rain received during July is the key to achieving the tallest grass in September. So the question becomes, why do the tallgrasses grow so tall? The answer may not be what you were expecting...

Plants can be limited by a number of factors: sunlight, CO<sub>2</sub>, soil nutrients, and, most typically, water. A plant grows differently depending upon what is missing. When water and/or soil nutrients are limiting, then the plant allocates energy to the production of root tissue – structures needed to seek out these limiting materials in the soil. When water and soil nutrients are plentiful the plant can allocate energy and resources in a different direction – towards the sky.

Photosynthesis powers the life processes of a plant and it requires water, light energy and CO<sub>2</sub>. If the first two ingredients are abundant then the plant can take steps to get more of the third – CO<sub>2</sub>. Plants only absorb CO<sub>2</sub> through their leaves and to get more CO<sub>2</sub> a plant needs more leaves. In order for a grass to get more leaves it must first produce more stem tissue. As a result of stem production the plant gets taller.

Now you know the answer to one of life's burning questions – why does tallgrass get so tall?



**Congratulations**, Jill, for your election to co-chair of the Education and Outreach Committee (EOC) at the All Scientists Meeting in Estes Park, CO, in September. The EOC develops cross-site LTER programs for K-12, undergrad, graduate, and teacher education.



## KPBS Director Dr. John Briggs



Dear members of the Friends of Konza Prairie,

This issue is larger than usual so I will keep my comments very brief. I would like to focus on the financial support for the Konza Environmental Education Program (KEEP). As many of you are aware, KPBS has three main missions: 1) long-term ecological research, 2) education and 3) prairie conservation. Education at a major research university like Kansas State University usually includes only undergraduate and graduate students. However, KPBS with the KEEP leadership, is working with K-12 and also the general public to expand our education efforts.

This is unique for a research program at a research university but I am proud to say that with FOKP support, coupled with an enthusiastic leader (Jill Haukos), our program is thriving. That said, as with any program like KEEP, more private funding is necessary for it to continue. FOKP is essential for some of that funding but I would also like for anyone who is interested in KEEP to continue their excellent work to consider what other folks have done and talk to the KSU Foundation about the possibilities about advancing the KEEP program at KPBS with a private gift that goes beyond the dues you gladly give to KEEP. I am happy to report that we do have many private gifts in place that are dedicated to the KEEP program but it is imperative that we continue this effort to keep the program moving forward. As always, I am very grateful to everyone's generous financial support to Konza and KEEP and if you want more information about setting up a larger private gift to KEEP, please contact me (jbriggs1@ksu.edu; 785-532-0140). We can talk about options and most importantly I can get you in touch with the KSU Foundation. We have wonderful folks at the Foundation who have worked with KPBS and can guide you through the process.

--john (John M. Briggs, Prof. Biology)

*P.S. If you remember my last column, I predicted that bison weights this fall were going to be lower due to the excess precipitation we received over the summer. Guess what, I was WRONG! Bison weights this fall were a bit higher than the long-term average!*

### Subject: Prairie-chicken policy

The Greater Prairie-chicken is a stalwart of the prairie and it's magical mating ritual done each spring on bare, raised ground called a lek is a wonder to behold. Konza Prairie is home to a Prairie-chicken lek and docents of the Konza Environmental Education Program have offered guided tours to the lek each spring for the past several years.

This year, in an effort to both provide an additional service to our FOKP members and to encourage new members to join, we are requiring those that request a Prairie-chicken tour to be a member. Since an individual membership costs \$30/year, it is only \$5 more than the original cost of the tour, plus new members are able to reap the other benefits of FOKP membership such as participation on the autumn Bison BBQ Event.

Membership has its privileges and in this instance membership in FOKP comes with a full year of privileges, tax-deductibility, and the knowledge that by supporting FOKP one is supporting an amazing program of environmental education at Konza Prairie.

If you're interested in viewing the Prairie-chickens, call Ashley Thackrah at (785) 587-0381 to reserve a seat. Tours are lead from March 24- April 24 on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday very early mornings.

## Friends of Konza Prairie - A Retrospective of The Past 20 years

FOKP has completed its twentieth year in support of public education on Konza, and it's time to look back at how the organization came into existence. To prepare, we interviewed early FOKP officers Ginnie Arthur, Ann Feyerharm, and Bob Kruh. We visited with John Zimmerman and Dave Hartnett. We reviewed early documents, including *Bison & Bluestem* newsletters. Don Kaufman suggested clarifications and additional comments after reading an earlier version of this retrospective.

The creative push for what became Friends of Konza Prairie came from Phoebe Samelson, beginning in about 1990. She met with Don Kaufman (Coordinator, Konza Prairie Research Natural Area) to discuss her ideas about developing a group of individuals who were not involved in research activities on Konza, but who would provide support for non-research activities on Konza Prairie. At this time, requests for tours were growing and could not be dealt with easily by Konza researchers. Don Kaufman was supportive and encouraged Phoebe to pursue the idea. He suggested that she interact with John Zimmerman, who at that time was overseeing the requests for tours of Konza Prairie.

Friends of Konza Prairie was established in 1994. Dave Hartnett recalls Jim Reichman was Konza Director and his wife, Jessica, was curator of the KSU art collection. Jessica was working to establish the Friends of Art initiative, in support of building an art museum on campus. Jim adopted the model, establishing Friends of Konza Prairie with 61 members. Jim and Jessica reportedly had a friendly rivalry regarding who could garner the most members for their respective Friends organizations.

In 1995, Jim left KSU for a position in Santa Barbara, California, and Dave Hartnett became Konza Director. James Nedreskey, a photographer from Lawrence, was an artist in residence on Konza. He was granted access to the preserve in exchange for photographs. Some of these photos were incorporated into an 8-page brochure promoting the Konza Prairie Biological Station and environmental education.

One of the early challenges of FOKP was to establish roles and responsibilities, in the context of the Konza three-part mission of research, conservation, and public education. Bob Kruh played a key role in facilitating discussions between the Konza Board and the FOKP Board, resulting in adoption of the first FOKP Bylaws. FOKP was charged with raising funds for Konza education and public outreach programs, and with supporting those programs by member participation.

One early focus of FOKP was researching the history of the Dewey Ranch and other properties now designated as Konza. A history committee was formed, and it met regularly. Charlie Given is the current FOKP historian. Charlie has an impressive repository of stories of the early days. A history can also be found on the Konza website at <http://kpbs.konza.k-state.edu/history/>.

Another major focus of FOKP was public outreach and education. That was highlighted in the Docent Spotlight article in the Autumn 2015 *Bison & Bluestem* newsletter, featuring the work of Phoebe Samelson and her work on behalf of the Konza Docent Program. FOKP was also instrumental in crafting a position statement for an Environmental Educator. That position was created, and Valerie Wright was brought on board to start the Konza Environmental Education Program in 1997. Support of KEEP remains as the mission of FOKP.



# Friends of Konza Prairie - A Retrospective of The Past 20 years

## Konza Directors

1972 – 1986	Lloyd Hulbert
1986 – 1987	Don Kaufman (acting director)
1987 – 1990	Ted Barkley
1990 – 1991	Don Kaufman
1992 – 1993	Ted Barkley
1993 – 1995	Jim Reichman
1995 – 2006	Dave Hartnett
2006 – 2008	Eva Horne (interim director)
2008 – Present	John Briggs

## History of FOKP Officers

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer
1994 – 1996	Ginny Arthur		
1997	Ginny Arthur	Tim Keane	Jerry Lowenstein
1998 – 1999	Ann Feyerharm	Ginnie Arthur	Bob Kruh
2000 – 2001	Clint Riley	Phoebe Samelson	Andrea Krauss
2002 – 2003	Jim Guikema	Dru Clarke	Andrea Krauss
2004	Charlie Given	Dru Clarke	Andrea Krauss
2005	Loren Alexander	Nancy Goulden	Andrea Krauss
2006	Dan Franke	Nancy Goulden	Verlyn Richards
2007	Larry Loomis	Nancy Goulden	Verlyn Richards
2008	Larry Loomis	Vickie Clegg	Darren Gunderson
2009	Patrick Gormely	Greg Zolnerowich	Darren Gunderson
2010	Vickie Clegg	Greg Zolnerowich	Darren Gunderson
2011	Mike Haddock	Jim Koelliker	Darren Gunderson
2012	Greg Zolnerowich	Jim Koelliker	Darren Gunderson
2013	Karen Hummel	Jim Koelliker	Darren Gunderson
2014	Karen Hummel	Clancey Livingston	Shelly Gunderson
2015	Diane Barker	Carol Gadbury	Shelly Gunderson

## Bison & Bluestem Editors

1989 – 1993	Gary Merrill (Division of Biology). Don Kaufman was involved in discussions concerning initiation of a newsletter focused on research and other activities on KPRNA, and contributed to the naming of the news letter.
1993 – 1998	Valerie Wright
1998 – 2000	Nancy Worthington
2000 – present	Cynthia Jeffrey

## Charter Members of FOKP 1994

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Joye Ansdell	Elizabeth Dodd	Katherine Hummels	Leon & Karen Rappoport
John & Karen Armbrust	Glee & Raleigh Eggers	Sue Carolyn Hunt	John & Mary Beth Reese
Karen Barker & Chris Ramseyer	Nelda J. Elder	Terry & Marilyn Kastens	Kathy & Mike Riordan
Dan & Norma Beatty	Holly C. & Beth Fryer	Don & Glennis Kaufman	Faith Roach
Carla Bishop	Joe & Janette Gelroth	Tina & Berl Koch	Martha & Dick Seaton
Glenn & Rosemary Busset	Muriel Graham	Jim & Susan Koelliker	Michael Stubbs
Myron & Nancy Calhoun	Doris Grosh	Bob & Jan Kruh	Dean & Shirley Taylor
Mike & Dru Clarke	Gary & Carolyn Haden	Karen & John McCulloh	Ben & Marilyn Tilghman
Dr. & Mrs. Sheldon Cohen	Bob & Cathy Hansen	Terry Miller	Max & Lynn Urich
John & Pat Conderman	Russell Clay Harvey	Roy & Miriam Milleret	Ken & Nina Warren
Gordon & Annie Cunningham	The Herald Family	Grace Muilenburg	Valerie Wright & Simon Malo
Brock & Bettie Dale	Hittle Landscape Architects	Office of the KSU President	Westar Energy
Sue David	Ted & Arlene Hopkins	Larry & Barbara O'Neill	Dave Wilken Family
Earl & Dee Dockins	Jean Hulbert	Dwight Platt	Don & Jan Wissman
	Mark Hulbert	Diane Post	



# Friends of Konza Prairie - A Retrospective of The Past 20 years

## Timeline of Significant Events

Listed below are historical events and milestones for Konza.

Those items directly related to FOKP are listed in **BOLD** for easy reference.

- 1971 The first tract of Konza, 916 acres in Geary County, was purchased from Theo Landon (Mrs. Alf Landon, 2/3 interest) and Nancy Landon Kassebaum Baker (1/3 interest), jointly.
- 1972 Controlled burns were initiated on Konza.
- 1977 A 7,220 acre ranch (the Dewey ranch) north of the original Konza land was purchased by The Nature Conservancy from Dr. David McKnight, and leased to KSU Division of Biology for a price equal to taxes on the land.
- 1977 Joe Gelroth became the first Konza site manager. He and his wife Janette moved onsite.
- 1979 480 acre Thowe ranch was purchased by The Nature Conservancy, and annexed to Konza.
- 1979 King's Creek, a central tract of 2,619 acres on KPRNA, was added to the U.S. Geological Survey's network of benchmark watersheds.
- 1980 This year marked the official dedication of Konza Prairie Research Natural Area.
- Early 1980's Construction of fence surrounding the bison area was initiated using state/university funds and financial support from a National Science Foundation grant to Lloyd Hulbert. The fence for the Phase 1 (western) portion was completed in time for the introduction of bison to this area in 1987, while construction of the fence enclosing the Phase 2 (eastern) portion of the bison area continued so that bison could be introduced to the Phase 2 area beginning in 1992.
- Mid 1980's The area north of Kings Creek was designated for public trails, and all other Konza property was designated for research. Lloyd Hulbert, being inundated by requests for Konza tours, enlisted the help of John Zimmerman. John initiated regular walks, and was joined by a faithful following, who would become the first docents.**
- 1984 The first of the biennial Konza Prairie Visitors' Days, with guided tours and hikes, demonstrations, and presentations was held on site. The goal of this recurring event was to communicate information and in sights concerning the natural history of the Flint Hills tallgrass prairie, objectives and purpose of Konza Prairie Research Natural Area, and research goals associated with the site, and initially with the Long-Term Ecological Research project. The activities on Visitors' Day would allow aspects of ranch history, natural history of plants and animals, and research to be shared with large numbers of adults and children without using small group tours. These Visitors' Days were planned to be repeated during late summers or early falls in even-numbered years, which has occurred.**
- 1985 Lloyd Hulbert published "History and use of Konza Prairie Research Natural Area" in The Prairie Scout (Vol. 5, pages 63 – 93). This history, along with more historical information, may be found online at <http://kpbs.konza.k-state.edu/history/>.
- 1986 Don Kaufman became acting director of Konza Prairie after Lloyd Hulbert's death.
- 1986 – 1987 The role of Konza Prairie in conservation of, and research in tallgrass prairie, continued to be recognized by the University, the state, and the nation. This was highlighted by articles in Kansas! (a magazine produced by the Kansas Department of Economic Development), the Topeka Capitol-Journal, the Star Magazine (published by the Kansas City Star), and Perspectives (the magazine featuring research at Kansas State University).
- 1987 The first bison from Fort Riley were introduced onto Konza. Dave Hartnett recalls being in a vehicle following the stock trailer, and watching it swerve as the bison lunged inside. When they got to Konza, the trailer door would not open, due to bison bending it. Dave Sampson, Konza maintenance manager, had to use a torch to open the door and free the bison to the holding pen.
- 1987 Ted Barkley was named coordinator of Konza Prairie.
- 1989 The LTER annual workshop was initiated.

# Friends of Konza Prairie - A Retrospective of The Past 20 years



Konza Prairie was founded in 1971 under the leadership of Professor Lloyd C. Hulbert of Kansas State University, after years of dedicated efforts to establish a field station for ecological research in the tallgrass prairie region.

*Photo courtesy of Steve Hulbert*



Dr. John Zimmerman leading a tour



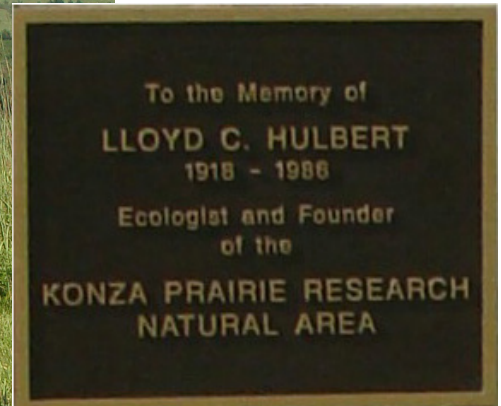
Early Konza Prairie Visitors' Day



First bison on Konza since the 1880s



# Friends of Konza Prairie - A Retrospective of The Past 20 years



John Zimmerman on the Konza



John Zimmerman and Karla Lilley



1994 Karen Bargabus, Valerie Wright, Ann Feyerharm



1994-95 docent class: Myron Calhoun, Tamara DePue, Charlie Given, unknown, Janet Throne, Wilton Thomas, unknown, John Zimmerman, Phoebe Samelson, Allen and Harriette Janke



Bill Phillips, Ed and Velma Skidmore



## Friends of Konza Prairie - A Retrospective of The Past 20 years

- 1990 Gary Merrill replaced Joe Gelroth as Konza site manager. Don Kaufman was named Konza Prairie coordinator.
- 1990 The first Konza newsletter was published in August 1981. This was followed by other intermittent newsletters. In March 1990, efforts were made to develop a newsletter that would provide information about research activities and accomplishments on Konza Prairie to researchers, administrators, and others. In a memo to researchers and friends from Don Kaufman, the newsletter and its intent were described, and suggestions for a name and logo for the newsletter were requested. This led to the name of Bison & Bluestem for the first newsletter and its subsequent versions. Historical copies of the Bison & Bluestem are on file in Hale Library on the KSU campus, and online at <http://keep.konza.ksu.edu/docents/newsletter.htm> .**
- 1990 Roger Routson was chosen as the first visual artist to focus his work, a series of paintings and drawings, on Konza Prairie. This effort was encouraged and supported by the Department of Art as well as the College of Arts and Sciences.
- 1990 The limestone and bronze monument commemorating Lloyd Hulbert's contributions to creation and development of Konza Prairie was installed on the hill above the Hulbert Demonstration Plots.
- 1990 In early 1990, Phoebe Samelson met with Don Kaufman to share her ideas for a non-research group to support activities on Konza Prairie. Her efforts eventually led to the formation of the Friends of Konza Prairie.**
- 1990 In summer 1990, plans for a Konza patch were finalized so it would be available by the 1990 Visitors' Day. The patch was given for donations of \$10.00 in support of student research. The Bison Prairie Patch (sew-on patch) was provided to donors. Nearly \$400 was raised during that Visitors' Day, which at that time seemed a real success! Some members still wear this patch.**
- 1990 Friends of Konza Prairie was an agenda item for a September 1990 meeting of the Konza Prairie Advisory Committee (Don Kaufman, Coordinator; Dave Hartnett, Alan Knapp, Tim Seastedt, John Zimmerman, Gary Merrill). The discussion undoubtedly involved a discussion about the appropriateness of such a group, and how it could be initiated. This is the first time that the name, Friends of Konza, is mentioned. Kaufman's agenda also lists another possible name, The Konza Grassroots. Phoebe Samelson's efforts, along with support from others, led to the eventual creation of Friends of Konza Prairie.**
- 1990 Konza hosted an Elderhostel instructed by Gary Merrill, Dave Hartnett, John Briggs, Don Kaufman and Elmer Finck.
- 1991 The largest wildfire on Konza Prairie began during the morning of April 5, 1991, when the wind increased and blew sparks from a completed burn into an unburned treatment unit near the south gate, and from there spread north and east. The tall billowing smoke column was visible to Don and Glennis Kaufman as they walked from east of Ackert Hall toward Bushnell Hall at about 11:30 am. By midnight, the fire had consumed nearly 6,000 acres of prairie, mostly on Konza, but including some privately owned pasture east of K-177, and private lands north of Konza. Control of the fire required fire crews and emergency personnel from Riley and Geary counties as well as the Konza volunteer fire crew composed of faculty, staff, and students, and additional help from the general community.
- 1991 The Nature Conservancy held their annual meeting at Konza Prairie in early October, with nearly 400 people in attendance. TNC used this meeting as an opportunity to highlight Konza Prairie to their members and others. Of interest is that the presentations were held in the Columbian building, as there were no other suitable facilities on the site.
- 1992 The Konza Docent program was started, with John Zimmerman leading.**
- 1992 Ted Barkley became KPRNA coordinator.
- 1993 Jim Reichman became KPRNA coordinator.

## Friends of Konza Prairie - A Retrospective of The Past 20 years

- 1993 Gary Merrill resigned, and Tom Van Slyke started as site manager.
- 1994 **The first FOKP Bylaws were adopted, with 61 charter members. Charter members are listed at the end of this chronology.**
- 1995 Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) was started.
- 1995 Jim Reichman resigned, and Dave Hartnett became KPRNA Director.
- 1996 **The first Environmental Educator was hired – Valerie Wright.**
- 1996 **The Stone House was renovated and named Hulbert Center, with education classrooms, library and offices. Space designation plan was Environmental Education (ground floor), Offices and Library (main floor) and housing for visiting scientists (top floor).**
- 1996 The first grant for public facilities on Konza was awarded by The Coleman Company, headquartered in Wichita, KS.
- 1997 Valerie Wright and Nancy McClanathan supervised 12 Landmark volunteers (high school students from around the nation) to establish a native garden at Konza headquarters. The students also participated in the bison calf-count, and helped with trail maintenance.
- 1997 **FOKP members collected 90 sacks of seeds for prairie restoration.**
- 1998 The first prairie restoration project was initiated on Konza.
- 1998 Konza was featured on KTWU public television Sunflower Journeys.
- 1998 The Konza website was begun.
- 1998 RAMPS was installed.
- 1998 **Konza grasses T-shirt was introduced. The shirts were sold at Westside Market.**
- 1999 The Hokanson homestead trail was completed.
- 1999 **The Nature Trail Kings Creek bridge was installed.**
- 2000 Konza Prairie Research Natural Area (KPRNA) was renamed Konza Prairie Biological Station (KPBS).
- 2000 **Limestone “benches” were installed on the Nature Trail, funded by the Samelsons.**
- 2000 The first Schoolyard LTER program was held.
- 2000 **Jan Evans was hired as assistant to Valerie.**
- 2000 **FOKP funded stream-crossing signs along McDowell Creek Road for Shane Creek and Kings Creek.**
- 2000 **KEEP received a \$27,850 grant from Kansas Dept. of Commerce & Housing, Travel & Tourism Development Division, for the Hokanson barn renovation and composting toilet.**
- 2000 Patricia DuBose Duncan’s Smithsonian Exhibit of prairie art was displayed at the Beach Museum of Art on the KSU campus.



Dave Hartnett  
Earl Allen  
Charlie Given  
Valerie Wright  
Annie Baker  
Loren Alexander  
Jean Craig  
Phoebe Samelson  
Janet Throne



# Friends of Konza Prairie - A Retrospective of The Past 20 years



1996 Valerie hired as EE, John Zimmerman, Dave Hartnett



1995 Phoebe Samelson and Valerie Wright



1998 Bridge



Red Shirts



1997 Ginny Arthur (First FOKP President)



1998 Valerie Wright gathered seeds for replanting the field across from Ranch house



Early FOKP annual meeting in barn



## Friends of Konza Prairie - A Retrospective of The Past 20 years



Docent committee 2002- Ted Hopkins, Jan Olewnik, Gordon Cunningham, Page Twiss, Phoebe Samelson, Charlie Given, Jim Craig, Earl Allen, Doris Burnett, Jocelyn Baker, Jan Evans



Staff: Sue Hunt, Tom Van Slyke, Dave Hartnett, Annie Baker, Jim Larkins, Barb Van Slyke, Eva Horne, Valerie Wright



FOKP Board: Loren ALEXander, Nancy Worthington, Jan Olewnik, Joe Gelroth, Jim Guikema, Dru Clarke, Page Twiss, Gayle Bennett, Eva Horne

- 2002 The composting toilets were constructed.
- 2003 Jan Evans left her position as Valerie's assistant, and Annie (Clark) Baker was hired.**
- 2003 A public address system was installed as a memorial to Jim Craig.**
- 2004 Prairie chicken viewing was formally initiated as a docent-guided activity.**
- 2004 Boy Scout Troop # 74 installed benches and outdoor seating at Hokanson.
- 2005 A second prairie restoration program was initiated on Konza.
- 2005 The Patrick Micah Callaghan memorial fund was granted to FOKP.**
- 2006 Eva Horne became interim director of Konza Prairie Biological Station.
- 2008 John Briggs became first full-time director of Konza Prairie Biological Station.
- 2011 Melissa Urick replaced Annie Baker as Valerie's assistant. Melissa served in the capacity until 2012.**
- 2012 Valerie Wright retired as Konza Environmental Educator. The Valerie Wright Legacy Fund was established in her honor.**
- 2012 Jill Haukos was hired as new Konza Director of Education.**
- 2012 Jan Evans returned as assistant to Jill.**
- 2012 Master Naturalist training was initiated, in addition to the annual docent training program.**
- 2013 A graduate student position was added to the FOKP board.**
- 2013 Hallie Hatfield was hired as assistant to Jill Haukos.**
- 2013 The first Konquer the Konza marathon was held at Konza.**
- 2014 The first Visions of the Flint Hills benefit was held at Buttonwood, in Kansas City.**
- 2015 Autumn Calf, a book written by Jill Haukos, KEEP Director, and produced by NSF, was introduced and set to be released in February 2016.**
- 2015 Anna (Zahner) Elson became Jill's assistant, following Hallie Hatfield's resignation to become a full-time mother. Ashley Thackrah assumed the assistant's role in December 2015.**



# Friends of Konza Prairie - A Retrospective of The Past 20 years



Eva Horne, John Briggs, Myron Calhoun



Composting toilets



Renovation of the Barn



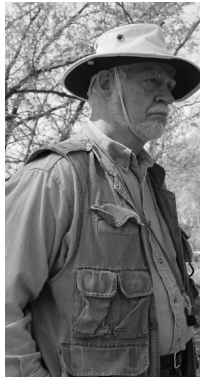
Chod Hedinger



Hoogy and Carol Hoogheem



Loren Alexander



Page Twiss



Sue Hunt



Ann Feyerharm



Nancy Goulden



Jim Morrill



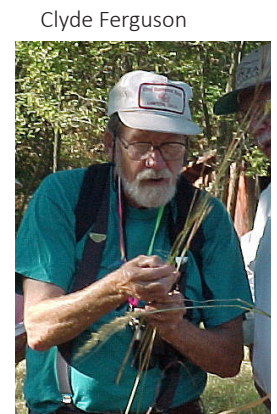
Wilton Thomas



Phoebe Samelson



Charlie Given



Clyde Ferguson



# Friends of Konza Prairie - A Retrospective of The Past 20 years



Jill Haukos explaining the significance of bison scat



Renovation of the barn



Barbara Van Slyke and Ann Murphy at winter event in newly renovated barn



# 6th Annual FOKP "Cure for Cabin Fever"

Sunday, January 31, 2016, 2:00- 4 p.m.

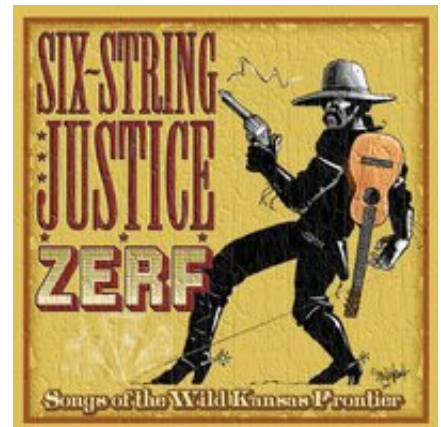
In the Barn at Konza Prairie Biological Station

## Program Highlight: David "Zerf" Zerfas

The original Kansas Cowboy Minstrel, Zerf, scours the plains for the native strains of the Kansas frontier. He has agreed to perform a program that will be tailored to the history of the Konza that includes the Dewey's era.

He has traveled to the Atwood area and gathered information about the Dewey's and the last trial. Also, he has some relevant historical materials that he will bring to share with us. He will have a PowerPoint presentation to go along with his musical performance.

**Soup!** Volunteers have brought wonderful soups in the past, and there are always requests for recipes. So please contact Barb Van Slyke (785-587-0441, bvs.ksu.edu) if you plan to bring a pot of soup. We would like to have recipes ahead of time if possible, so we can have copies available that day.



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and please put "FOKP e-B&B." in the subject line.



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

## New Memberships 2015

Gina Becker  
 Blueville Nursery  
 Paul and Rebecca Bergstresser  
 Gary and Mary Breckon  
 Mary Breneman  
 Briggs Auto Lane  
 Steve Burke  
 Community First National Bank  
 Buttonwood Art Space  
 Civic Plus  
 Crawford family  
 Sally Davis  
 Kay and Darrell Denton  
 Jim Dixon  
 Rita Dole  
 Jack Feiden  
 Larry Gamble  
 Gary Gilson  
 Hatfield family

Hilton Garden Inn  
 Sarah Holmes  
 Dan and Christina Kucharski  
 Pavel Kuropatkin  
 David and Carolyn Lickteig  
 Little Apple Brewing  
 Little Apple Toyota Honda  
 Mark Lucas and Ann Luttrell  
 Manhattan Chamber of Commerce  
 Pat McKoy family  
 John Murdock Inc  
 Jim and Judy Nechols  
 Joan and Butch Nunnally  
 Frank Bouchard and Kerry Regan  
 Betty and John Rintoul  
 Betty Sterling  
 Frank Strutner  
 Michael Stubbs  
 Tallgrass Brewing Co.  
 Emily and Nathan Yeager



Jean Craig, who many of you remember as our “cookie lady,” has passed away. Jean and husband, Jim, were early members of the KEEP docents. They were tireless supporters, Jim as Docent Coordinator for many years and Jean keeping us well sweetened at breaks until 2010. They both breathed life into a nascent program when we really needed it.

Miriam Milleret passed away at the age of 90 on November 29. She was a long-time docent and supporter of Friends of Konza Prairie and the Konza Environmental Education Program. I remember her sense of humor and how she enjoyed taking children on prairie hikes.

*Valerie Wright*

### Ex officio and Honorary members

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

#### Director

John Briggs, Ph.D.

#### Administrative Asst.

Barb Van Slyke

#### Director of Educaion

Jill Haukos

#### Site Manager

Tom Van Slyke

#### Assistant Director

Eva Horne, Ph.D.

#### Shop Foreman

Jim Larkins

#### Assistant Environmental Educator

Ashley Thackrah

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



## 2016 FOKP Board and Committees

### Elected FOKP Board Members

Greg Adams, 1st term, 2016  
Diane Barker, 2nd term, 2017  
Chuck Bussing, 2nd term, 2016  
Elizabeth Dodd, 1st term, 2016  
Carol Gadbury, 1st term, 2017  
Joe Gelroth, 1st term, 2016  
  
Shelly Gunderson, 2nd term, 2018

### Committee

Docent Chair, Education  
Publications, Nominating  
Development Chair, Membership  
Program Chair  
Executive/Finance, Membership  
Executive/Finance Chair,  
ex-officio on all others  
Executive/Finance, Sales & Marketing Chair,  
Development

Connie Hall, 1st term, 2018  
John Harrington, 1st term, 2018  
Karen Hummel, 2nd term, 2017  
Donna McCallum, 1st term, 2016  
  
Cindy Quinlan, 2nd term, 2018  
John Reese, 2nd term, 2017  
Lucas Shivers, 1st term, 2018  
Ken Stafford, 1st term, 2017

Sales & Marketing, Development  
Nominating, Program  
Publications Chair, Sales & Marketing  
Executive/Finance, Nominating Chair,  
Program  
Education Chair, Program  
Membership Chair, Development  
Education, Facilities  
Facilities Chair, Program

### FOKP Standing Committees

#### Executive/Finance Committee

1. Joe Gelroth, President (joe.gelroth@gmail.com)
2. Donna McCallum, President-elect
3. Carol Gadbury, Secretary
4. Shelly Gunderson, Treasurer
5. John Briggs, (ex-officio, KPBS Director)

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

1. Donna McCallum, Chair (donna\_zick16@gmail.com)
2. John Harrington, (Board member)
3. Diane Barker, (Board member)
4. Greg Zolnerowich, (FOKP member)
5. Ann Murphy, (FOKP member)
6. John Briggs, (KPBS Director)
7. Joe Gelroth, (ex-officio, FOKP President)

**Membership Committee** (2 Board members appointed by Pres., may have additional members)

1. John Reese, Chair (jreese@ksu.edu)
2. Chuck Bussing, (Board member)
3. Carol Gadbury, (Board member)
4. Patrick Gormely
5. Jocelyn Baker
6. John Briggs, (ex-officio, KPBS Director)
7. Joe Gelroth, (ex-officio, FOKP President)

**Education Committee** (Chair, 2 public school teachers, Chair of Docent Committee, 1 Biology faculty, Environmental Educator, others as needed)

1. Cindy Quinlan, Chair (cydq44@gmail.com)
2. \_\_\_\_\_, (Public school teacher, primary)
3. \_\_\_\_\_, (Public school teacher, secondary)
4. Greg Adams (Docent Committee Chair)
5. Tony Joern (Biology Faculty)
6. Jill Haukos (Environmental Educator)
7. Lucas Shivers
8. John Briggs, (ex-officio, KPBS Director)
9. Joe Gelroth, (ex-officio, FOKP President)

**Facilities Committee** (Site Manager, Environmental Educator, member of Education Comm.)

1. Ken Stafford, Chair (krsco49@msn.com)
2. Tom Van Slyke (Site Manager)
3. Jill Haukos (Environmental Educator)
4. Lucas Shivers, (Education Committee member)
5. John Briggs, (ex-officio, KPBS Director)
6. Joe Gelroth, (ex-officio, FOKP President)

**Docent Committee** (Chair must be a docent and serve as Docent Coordinator, others as needed)

1. Greg Adams, Chair (adamsgl49@yahoo.com)
2. Colleen Hampton
3. Ann Murphy
4. Jill Haukos
5. Charlie Given, honorary
6. Phoebe Samelson, Docent Emeritus
7. John Briggs, (ex-officio, KPBS Director)
8. Joe Gelroth, (ex-officio, FOKP President)

**Development Committee** (Chair, 1 other Board member, Treasurer, Foundation rep)

1. Chuck Bussing, Chair (charlesbussing@yahoo.com)
2. Shelly Gunderson, (FOKP Treasurer)
3. John Reese, (Board member)
4. Connie Hall
5. Shelley Carver, (ex-officio, KSU Foundation)
6. John Briggs, (ex-officio, KPBS Director)
7. Joe Gelroth, (ex-officio, FOKP President)

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

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

**Program Committee** (Chair, 1 Board member, KPBS Asst. Director, Environmental Educator)

1. Elizabeth Dodd, Chair (elizabethdodd@gmail.com)
2. Donna McCallum, (Board member – Acting Chair) (donna\_zick16@gmail.com)
3. Eva Horne (KPBS Assistant Director)
4. Jill Haukos (Environmental Educator)
5. Cindy Quinlan
6. John Harrington
7. Ken Stafford
8. Ann Murphy, honorary
9. Barb Van Slyke
10. John Briggs, (ex-officio, KPBS Director)
11. Joe Gelroth, (ex-officio, FOKP President)

**Publications Committee** (Editor of Bison & Bluestem, others as needed)

1. Karen Hummel, Chair (kchummel1@gmail.com)
2. Cindy Jeffrey (Editor of Bison & Bluestem)
3. Diane Barker
4. Greg Zolnerowich
5. Jill Haukos
6. Clancey Livingston
7. Valerie Wright (honorary)
8. John Briggs, (ex-officio, KPBS Director)
9. Joe Gelroth, (ex-officio, FOKP President)

Friends of Konza Prairie  
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Division of Biology,  
116 Ackert Hall  
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#308

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