

# New for 2019! Hike with Researchers for FOKP members

**Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> - 10 am**

Meet at the stone house (Hulbert Center) at the KPBS headquarters and hike 1-3 miles with a Konza Prairie researcher.

See the spring flowers, talk about fire management, and feel free to ask questions about on-going research on the tallgrass prairie.

No RSVP needed – just feel free to join us!



Caitlin Broderick- Masters student at her research of the irrigation plots



Dr. Jesse Nippert discussing Konza research with visitors

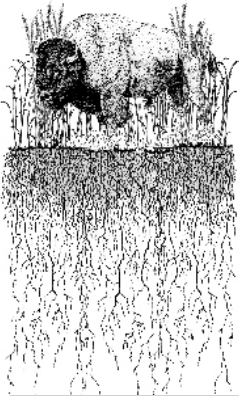
Research

Education

Conservation



Spring 2019



## 2019 Annual Wildflower Walk

**When: Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6:30 pm**

**Where: Konza Prairie Biological Station**



Spiderwort

NOTE: You will proceed past the entrance to the Nature Trail and enter into the KPBS headquarters area. Volunteers will be on hand to help direct you.

Cost: \$10/person or free to members of the Friends of Konza Prairie



Butterfly milkweed

How far: You can turn around whenever you like, but the whole trail will be approximately 1.5 miles or 1.5 to 2 hours.

No reservations required - bring a friend, and come out and join us!



Purple coneflower

Photos by Jill Haukos



Plains Larkspur

## Discovering the Konza Prairie

Cydney Alexis, FOKP Board President



**Coming to Kansas** - When I first mentioned to friends and family that I was moving to Manhattan, Kansas, I encountered a lot of stereotypes about Kansas: so remote, so flat, so boring and so on. Besides what I ingested about Kansas via *The Wizard of Oz* as a child, I did not have many preconceptions about Kansas. When I drove up on I-70, I was breathless at the sight of the tallgrass billowing in the wind. I wanted to know more about this place. I thought of Willa Cather's ballads to the middle west and re-read *My Antonia* to get into the spirit of the prairie.

**Prairie Beauty** - Since moving to Manhattan, I took it as a personal challenge to share Kansas' beauty with anyone who would listen or view my efforts--and that meant, in part, sharing my affection for the place everyone reading this also deeply loves, the Konza Prairie. When I am on the Konza—walking, running or photographing—I share Willa Cather's feeling that in the prairie, I am at “the edge of the world”:

*“Only the sun and sky were left,” she writes, “and if one went a little farther, there would be only sun and sky, and one would float off into them, like the tawny hawks which sailed over our heads making slow shadows on the grass.”*

Anyone who has lived in and loved the prairie knows that feeling of infinity on a sunny Kansas day; your horizon on the prairie feels broader and longer than in any other place. To be on the Konza means to be present with the hawks and turkeys and crickets that frequent it, but also the earth, and the sun, and the sky. And the mighty wind.

**Unmatched Wind** - Having spent most of my life in Florida and Wisconsin did not prepare me for the Kansas wind—the wind is as much a part of one's Kansas existence as water is in Florida and snow is in Wisconsin. Its presence is undeniable on the Konza, but it makes Kansas unique, too—one of the most interesting sites to study weather patterns and to understand how wind power can serve the state.

This connection with the Konza is what motivated me to join the Friends of the Konza Prairie and to accept the role of chair of the board. The Kansas tallgrass prairie, and prairies in general, is an endangered resource. I want to do my part to help preserve it and to share its beauty and importance with others.

Those others are readers like you, but also students throughout Kansas whose teachers bring them to the Konza to learn about natural resources worth fighting for, efforts sustained through your membership and donations.

Thank you for supporting the Friends' educational mission; a keystone to making Kansas distinct for wind and wonders like Konza.

### Call for Photos for the 2020 Konza Calendar!

It is time to choose the photos you would like to submit to the calendar committee for the 2020 calendar. You are asked to choose five of your very best, high resolution photos that you have taken while on the Konza Prairie Biological Station. Submission criteria include the following:

1. Images must be taken on the Konza Prairie Biological Station, and may include landscapes, flora, fauna, or activities at Konza (research, environmental education, etc.) We hope to receive images taken at different seasons on Konza, and we are particularly interested in unique and original subjects.
2. Images must be in LANDSCAPE format. The printed calendar will contain photos printed approximately 10 inches horizontal by 7 1/2 inches vertical. Portrait format photos may be considered for use on FOKP note cards. Email photos to [jpwatson40763@gmail.com](mailto:jpwatson40763@gmail.com).

The deadline for submitting your photos is Friday, June 21. We have had wonderful photos submitted in past years and we hope to have some more great and beautiful photos this year. Docents, FOKP members, and faculty/staff are eligible to submit photos. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff or Patti Watson, 740-502-3749 or 740-502-1130 or the email above.



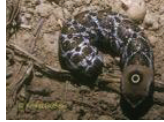




Butterflies and moths are always fun to see and identify and the tallgrass prairie at Konza is home to many different species. These insects, in the taxonomic order *Lepidoptera* (meaning "scale-wing") all have a life cycle consisting of an egg, caterpillar (larva/larvae – plural), pupa/pupae (in a chrysalis), and adult. If you've ever planted a butterfly garden than you're already aware that certain species of butterfly or moth will only lay their eggs on specific plants.

Here's a list of the tallgrass species and the preferred food sources (to look for while visiting Konza or other Flint Hills prairie areas) for their caterpillars:

**Juanita Sphinx Moth**



antenna plant

dame's rocket, many others

**Ottoe Skipper**



autumn witchgrass.  
 little bluestem

milkweeds, alfalfa,  
 asters

**Monarch**



any native milkweed

milkweeds, asters, liatris,  
 coneflowers, beebalm

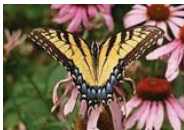
**Regal Fritillary**



violets – esp. bird's Foot

hoary vervain, milkweeds,  
 coneflowers, thistles, beebalm

**Tiger Swallowtail**



Male

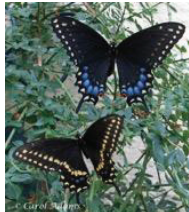


Female

ash, cottonwood, willow

milkweeds, joe-pye weed

**Black Swallowtail**



Female

Male

Queen Anne's lace, native  
 parsley

milkweed and clover

**Painted Lady**



legumes and mallows

asters, joe-pye, ironweed

## A "THANK YOU" shout out to the Gundersons

Karen Hummel



Darren and Shelly Gunderson handled the Friends of the Konza Prairie treasurer duties quietly and efficiently for from 2006 to 2018. They often hiked the Konza trails and fell in love with the prairie. They took docent training in 2006.

### **His Story**

Darren first connected with Konza as a biology teacher at Ft. Riley Middle School, when he took the KEEP teacher training and started bringing his students to participate in KEEP environmental science activities in the early 2000s. He served as a media technical advisor for the teachers' workshops. Darren came on the FOKP Board to finish out an unexpired term in 2006, and he continued for two three-year terms, serving as treasurer the entire time.

### **Her Story**

Then in 2012, Shelly was nominated to the Board, and she served two three-year terms, also serving as treasurer the entire time. In their role as treasurer, they not only managed finances, but also handled merchandise sales, and counted the trail donations collected at the Konza trailhead.

### **Background**

Darren and Shelly met at Northwest Missouri State University, where Shelly was an assistant food service director and Darren was working in the cafeteria. Beginning in high school, Darren had worked summers at Camp Tomah Shinga south of Junction City. When he graduated from Northwest Missouri State, he took a position teaching Biology at Fort Riley Middle School and was also hired as director of Camp Tomah Shinga. Shelly followed him the next year, taking over food service at Camp Tomah Shinga.

### **Current Roles**

Shelly is director of child nutrition at Geary County USD 475. She is a cadre trainer and wellness coach for the Kansas State Department of Education, and travels throughout the state several times a year to do training classes and coach fellow food service directors. Darren has been technology manager for USD 475 for more than 15 years. When he transitioned from biology to information technology, he convinced the school district to write into his contract the ability to continue association with KEEP activities.

### **Hobbies**

Darren and Shelly are both licensed steam engineers. Every Labor Day weekend, they travel to Rollag, Minnesota, for the Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion. Every Father's Day weekend, they go back to help teach and demonstrate at the annual Steam School. Darren's primary interest is threshing machines and sawmills. Shelly loves locomotives.

Then there is photography. Darren is interested in vintage photo equipment and 3-D photography (<http://phereo.com/5850302d8884282367000000>.) Shelly is a gifted art photographer ( [www.alittleplaceontheinternet.com](http://www.alittleplaceontheinternet.com).) She posts a photo a day. She recently logged her 2,000<sup>th</sup> entry.

Darren also does metalwork and woodwork, mainly for restoration purposes. He is restoring a 1928 Chevy, and owns a 1960 BMW motorcycle and vintage cameras, including a Cirkut camera first made in 1904 that relies on a clockwork mechanism and gear to take panoramic shots.

Shelly has a large backyard garden railway with several Live Steam locomotives. In good weather, the couple enjoys riding in Shelly's restored 1966 fire engine red Mustang convertible.

Darren and Shelly look forward to joining other docents in enjoying hikes on the lovely Konza.





The 2018 KEEP Docent Roundup and Awards celebration was held on January 26. During this event the KEEP docents gather to reflect on the previous years' activities and to celebrate the accomplishment of most active participants.

We traditionally invite a guest speaker and this years' speaker was Dr. Matthew Sanderson, KSU Professor of Sociology, who spoke very eloquently about Climate Change and communicating the science of Climate Change with a diverse audience.

The review of 2018 followed with some of the following statistics of the year for KEEP:

Total # persons visiting through KEEP:	3,004
Students visiting through KEEP:	2,571
Total # activities accomplished in 2018:	209
Total # schools visiting:	31
Total # students participating in hands-on science:	846
Total # docents active in 2018:	64
Total # hours donated by docents:	2,517

If we do our jobs right then everyone wins during a school visit – the kids, the teachers, and the docents. The kids get a wonderful experience that we hope becomes a lasting memory. The teachers get an opportunity to address specific Next Generation Science Standards with their students in an effective and fun way. The docents have an opportunity to share their love for the prairie with a receptive audience with the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts are appreciated.

**The 2018 KEEP Quality Docents**



Back row (L-R): Bob Shannon, Mike Jones, Jim Koelliker, Steve Henry, Steve Paige, Bill Baack, Earl Allen, Chod Hedinger, Jim Copeland.  
Middle row: Jeff Watson, Chris Wilson, Patti Watson, Nancy Calhoun, Karen Hummel, ML Stahl, Stan Glaum, Forrest Chumley  
Front row: Retta Kramer, Mary Breneman, Buz Bruzina, Carol Pacey, Diane Barker.

Not pictured: Caitlin Broderick, Don Garwood, Joe Gelroth, Colleen Hampton, Susie Johnson, Bob Lewis, Bobbi Luttjohann, Mary McInteer, Palmer Meeck, Dick Oberst, John Parsley, Cindy Quinlan, Ken Stafford, and Kathy Tuttle.

The docent volunteers with the Konza Environmental Education Program are an amazing group of people. They not only donate their time and energy but also generously share their knowledge, experience, and unlimited enthusiasm for nature. The following docents were the most active in 2018 – they earned the **“Quality Docent”** designation for assisting with at least 3 activities and participating in at least 3 in-service events:

Earl Allen	Nancy Calhoun	Colleen Hampton	Jim Koelliker	Palmer Meeck	Bob Shannon
Bill Baack	Forrest Chumley	Chod Hedinger	Retta Kramer	Dick Oberst	Ken Stafford
Diane Barker	Jim Copeland	Steve Henry	Bob Lewis	Carol Pacey	ML Stahl
Mary Breneman	Don Garwood	Karen Hummel	Bobbi Luttjohann	Steve Paige	Kathy Tuttle
Caitlin Broderick	Joe Gelroth	Susie Johnson	Mary McInteer	John Parsley	Jeff Watson
Buz Bruzina	Stanley Glaum	Mike Jones		Cindy Quinlan	Patti Watson
					Chris Wilson

Every year we make special note of that docent (or docents) who was the most active docent trainee, and the experienced docent who contributed the most volunteer hours.



The 2018 Docent Trainee of the Year:  
**Don Garwood**



The 2018 Docent of the Year:  
**Retta Kramer**

New docent training began at the end of February. Welcome to the following new docent trainees for 2019:



Left to right: Travis Smith, Brad Williamson, Carol Williamson, Kelly Landes, Jim Gaidos, Roger Kinderknecht, Bobbi Luttjohann, Molly Sanderson, Buz Bruzina, Carole Wilds, ML Stahl, Christine Curtis, Hallie Hatfield, Retta Kramer, Jeanette Bosch, Susan Kamphaus, Bill Smriga.

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#### 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:

#### Student

Pam Blackmore

#### Little Bluestem

Leslie Alford  
Karen Barker  
Martha Blackman  
Tom & Jody Boeding  
Will Boyer & Darla Allen Boyer  
Gary & Mary Breckon  
Dennis (Buz) Bruzina  
Denis M. & Donna M. Callaghan  
Larry Campbell  
Preston & Diana Chapel  
Kenneth & Margaret Conrow  
Dennis Crock & Cheryn Miller-Crock  
James & Christine Curtis  
Jerry Dees & Deborah Murray  
Herb & Sharon Dillon  
Ted Downum  
Gwen & Dennis Elliott  
Kevin Fruechting  
Charlie & Pat Grimwood  
Colleen & Kent Hampton  
Terry & Paula Harbert  
Esther Headrick  
Thomas Herald  
Jim, Mary & Mike Higgins  
Deirdre Hoff  
Ann Hyde  
Jan Johnson  
Marc Johnson  
Bruce & Brigitte Kidder  
Nancy Withee Knorp

Tom & Andrea Krauss  
Margo Kren  
Jean & Ronald Lee  
Helen & Jim Linger  
Dave Manning & Retta McDermott  
Donna & Bruce McCallum  
Stephen N. Paige  
Seliesa Pembleton  
Robert Phillips  
Dwight Platt  
Paul Post & Kay Kelly  
David & Sandy Procter  
Cynthia Rhodes & Brian Martin  
Ruth & Glenn Rodden  
Barry & Charlotte Schartz  
Mary Alice & Norm Schlesener  
Martha & Dick Seaton  
Bob & Elaine Shannon  
Sandi & Gary Stith  
Daniel Swenson  
Bob & Betsy Thompson  
Jeff & Patti Watson  
David Wheaton  
Ken & Mollie Wold  
Fred & Judy Works

#### Big Bluestem

Eldon Ayers  
BBN Architects Inc  
Mike & Dru Clarke  
Bob & Jan Davis  
Dan & Latane Donelin  
Bill & Ann Feyerharm  
Marguerite & Neal Fleming

Craig & Jane Freeman  
Patrick & Susan Gormely  
Marty & Sharon Gurtz  
Mike & Toni Haddock  
Joan & Joseph Haefele  
Chod & Sari Hedinger  
Kip H. Lee  
Simon E. Malo & Valerie F. Wright  
Rod Noble  
Paul & Nancy Ohlenbusch  
David & Jennifer Saab  
Phyllis & Warren Slocombe  
Betty Sterling  
Pam & Bobb Stokes  
John & Joan Strickler  
The Trust Company  
Adam Wilkerson

#### Flint Hills

Alice Boyle  
Christeene & Lyle Butler  
Jack & Jan Carlson  
Walter Dodds & Dolly Gudder  
Haines Family LLC  
Gary & Carolyn Haden  
John Laffoon  
Pat & Mary Pat Petrie  
Max & Kay Russell  
John & Beth Thornton

#### Prairie Chicken

John & Ingelin Leslie  
Randee Loomis

#### Bison

Buttonwood Art Space  
Allan Foster & Mary Galligan  
Mark & Lisa Hastings  
Jim & Susan Koelliker  
John McCormick  
Grant & Toni Milleret  
Randy Sedlacek & Mary Ventura  
Dianne Shumaker & Bob Southard

#### FOKP Board Members:

President: Cydney Alexis  
President-elect:  
Treasurer: Noah Busch  
Secretary: Allie Lousch

#### At-Large:

Chris Bailey  
Noah Busch  
Kelly Carmody  
Donna McCallum  
Cindy Quinlan  
Lucas Shivers  
Ken Stafford  
Josh Brewer  
Courtney Masterson  
Kelly Yarbrough Frasier