



SMOKY HILLS AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2936 Salina, Kansas 67402-2936

Fall 2015

SHAS September 2015 Meeting

Join us on **Thursday, September 17th** for our free monthly program.

Location: Kansas Wesleyan University, Peters Science Hall, Room 229

Event Schedule: Social and refreshments start at 7:00pm program starts at 7:30 P.M.

Guest Speaker: Cynthia Hoffman from the Rolling Hills Zoo will be presenting “ **Masters of the Night: The True Story of Bats** ”. The program will explore the myths that have held fast throughout the years. Are bats



really blind, blood-sucking, squeaky creatures that get tangled in your hair? Discover that bats, the only flying mammals, are actually gentle, beneficial little animals.

Join us for dinner at Gutierrez Restaurant at 5:30 PM. Please RSVP Dan Baffa, 620-271-8891 or danbaffa1@yahoo.com if you wish to join us for the pre-meeting dinner.

Speaker Biography: Cynthia Hoffman attended K-State and graduated in journalism from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Inspired by her father she has always had a fascination and respect for animals and nature. When she lived in the Florida Keys she became involved with the Dolphin Research Center in Marathon, Florida. When she returned to Kansas she heard they were building a zoo in Salina and began volunteering in 1998. She joined the staff in the education department in 2008.



SHAS Calendar 2015-2016

*We have great activities planned for 2015 & 2016.
Save the dates!*

September 17 - Bats with Cynthia Hoffman

October 15 - Bees and Pollinators

November 19 - Open

December 17 - Christmas Bird Count
pep-talk with Chuck Otte

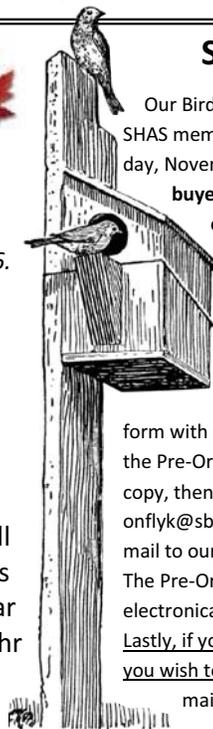
January 21 - Water Pollution with Wes McCall

February 18 - Holistic Healing with April Lewis

March 17 - Bird identification with Mike Radar

April 21 - Landscaping for Birds with Brad Guhr

May 19 - Spiders with Jason Graves



SHAS Fall 2015 Bird Seed Sale

Our Bird Seed Sale will continue this year thanks to the efforts of SHAS member, David Haight. The Abilene seed sale will be held Friday, November 6, at MKC Co-op in Abilene. **As a courtesy to Salina buyers the SHAS Board will pickup and transport your pre-orders from Abilene to the Elmore shopping plaza on the morning of Saturday, 7-November.** We will also deliver the pre-order to you if the pickup time is inconvenient. In late Sept – Early Oct we will send via first class mail our Fall 2015 Bird Seed Pre-Order Form to the Prospective Buyers. All seed buyers from last couple of years are considered ‘Prospective Buyers’ and will be mailed a pre-order form with details on pricing and pickup times. If you wish to receive the Pre-Order form electronically in lieu of the printed and mailed copy, then please forward your e-mail address to Jeffrey Kasoff, dragonflyk@sbcglobal.net. You can return the completed form via regular mail to our PO Box in Salina or e-mail to dragonflyk@sbcglobal.net. The Pre-Order form will also be posted on our website and will be electronically sent to all members and friends already on our E-list. Lastly, if you do not recall last time that you ordered seed from us and you wish to receive a printed copy of the Pre-Order form, then please mail us a note with your name and mailing address.

**All SHAS Program Meetings are open to the public and held at Kansas Wesleyan University, Peters Science Hall (PSH), Room 229, unless otherwise noted. Social and refreshments begin at 7:00 PM, program starts at 7:30 PM. Dinner with speaker 5:30 PM. Please RSVP to Dan Baffa, 620-271-8891 or danbaffa1@yahoo.com if you wish to join us for the pre-meeting dinner.*



A Message From The SHAS President



Your Smoky Hill Audubon Society Board of Directors have been busy this summer. We have identified several goals for the Harold Lear Smoky Hill Audubon Society Refuge. First and foremost we want to make it as user friendly as practical for visitors both human and animal. We will do this by mowing regularly, removing poison ivy close to the trails and attempt to control nonnative and invasive species. For the last two years we have burned two different parcels at our refuge in an effort to control smooth brome. Smooth brome is a nonnative invasive species that discourages ground nesting birds. By burning we also control small eastern red cedar which is a native invasive plant. We plan on removing forty to sixty mature red cedars each year. Since 1950 oaks in Kansas have increased in numbers by about two hundred per cent. In that same time red cedars have increased 15,000 per cent taking up valuable grazing and nesting sites for a wide variety of species.

We have a good diverse plant list at the refuge. As a zoologist I studied animals, but animals are dependent on plants to flourish. So a good zoologist must also be a good botanist. Sad to say that I am at my ripe old age trying to learn as many grassland species as I can. To help me and all of our visitors your board has set a goal of labeling plants at the refuge with informational signs that have a picture, distribution map and the natural history of some of the most common species of plant at the refuge.

We have received a grant from the Hutchinson Zoo to purchase shrubs and have planted many to provide and "edge effect" bordering our desirable trees. This edge effect provides a refuge for grassland birds and forage for woodland species.

And on October 3rd we will have a work day at the refuge. With enough people we can get this done. If need be we can schedule another work day again sometime in October. The more people we have the more that will get done. But as Margaret Mead once said, "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed it's the only thing that ever has".

Best regards,
Dan Baffa



Fall Work Bee And Picnic!

Please donate your skills and time at the Harold Lear Sanctuary on **Saturday, October 3** from 8:00 to noon will be our work bee followed by a picnic potluck with grilled hotdogs and hamburgers for everyone! Please bring a side dish or dessert.

Here is a partial list of some of a few things we would like to get accomplished:

- Remove or prune trees that obstruct view from blind.
- Remove broken pole in picnic area.
- Weed eat around trees in picnic area to remove trash.
- Take out unnecessary poles in prairie.
- Remove logs next to trails.
- Prune or remove plants encroaching on trails.
- Remove 40 mature cedars.
- Remove rabbit protection from trees.
- Install deer protection on vulnerable trees.
- Remove hazards and future hazards over trails.
- Plant remaining shrubs.
- Finish painting shed.
- Haul trash around shed to dump.
- Remove shrubs at stairs of blind.
- Spray or "mop" poison ivy next to trails.
- Pick up trash.
- Remove small cedars in prairie.



We are planning of getting volunteers to give us a hand this year, so let us show them we appreciate their help by our support and good food! The Sanctuary is located 1/2 mile west on W Stimmel Rd from Ell-Saline Elementary School .



Don't forget!... Please send your email address to dragonflyk@sbcglobal.net. We will be reducing the number of printed newsletters we mail to members.



Signage Progressing at the Sanctuary

The board of directors voted to post signs at the Sanctuary several years ago to identify plants. Following the seeding project several years back, more interest was shown in developing the sanctuary as a showcase for Kansas Native Flowers.

As area director for the Kansas Native Plant Society, I volunteered to help with the project. The identification of the plants and their locations presented somewhat of a challenge. A plant that blooms in the spring is gone in the fall and the same is true in the fall. Chasing the plants down, marking them and having the markers visible in the surrounding vegetation and convenient to the mowed trails kept the project from moving forward.

As a solution to the problem I proposed we create a series of large signs that could be placed appropriately along the trails. Their purpose would be to educate the visitor as they walked the paths. The first sign is done and deals with Native Kansas Flowers. It should be available for inspection at the first membership meeting.

The second sign will offer information about some of the key trees that are present at the Sanctuary. It should illustrate the shape, leaves and possibly bark of the more common trees. Hopefully if you carried a leaf back to the sign you could identify the tree that caught your eye.

More signs are planned for the near future and we would like to enlist the help of the Audubon membership. We would like to create a sign for prairie birds and another for water fowl. If you have a picture of a bird that you have seen at the sanctuary, please email the picture to me at mneubrand@cox.net and I will try to include it in the sign. We will try to explain that different birds are seen in different seasons. If it takes more than one sign, that should not be a problem.

Other signs for grasses, and possibly small animals would also be appropriate.

The signage is being paid for with funds provided as memorial gifts after Harold Lear's passing. We hope to make him proud that future members of Audubon care as much for the sanctuary as he did.

Mark Neubrand 9-5-2015

Smoky Hills Audubon Harold Lear Wildlife Sanctuary

First established in 1977 by the Smoky Hills Audubon Society comprising 67* acres of prairie, woodlands and wetlands. Maintained by local volunteers. Please respect their hard work. *Leave only footprints — Take only pictures.*

When the first European settlers crossed into what is now "The Great Plains," they were probably astonished by what they saw. Landscapes that resembled the Savannas of Africa with large trees dotting the grasslands. When they looked upon hundreds of miles of only grasslands, the best name they could find for this alien environment was prairie, (the French word for meadow). We now know that this vast Meadow has a complex ecosystem we have come to call the Great Plains.

*Harold V. Lear Wildlife Sanctuary is a 67-acre sanctuary in Lawrence, Kansas. It is a memorial to Harold V. Lear, a conservationist and naturalist who lived in Lawrence from 1911 to 1981.

Native Wildflowers

This sign was paid for by the Harold V. Lear Memorial Fund

Spring April—May	Summer June—August	Fall Sept.—Nov.
<p>Wild Blue Yucca—Probably the most familiar and widespread of Smoky Hills Wildflowers. It is a perennial herb that grows in open areas. It is a member of the Asparagus family. The leaves are narrow and pointed. The flowers are small and white. The plant is very hardy and can survive in a wide range of soil conditions.</p> <p>Leafy Spurge—This plant is very common in the Smoky Hills. It is a member of the Euphorbia family. The leaves are thick and fleshy. The flowers are small and yellow. The plant is very hardy and can survive in a wide range of soil conditions.</p> <p>Heart Spurge—The name "Heart Spurge" refers to the heart-shaped leaves of this plant. It is a member of the Euphorbia family. The leaves are thick and fleshy. The flowers are small and yellow. The plant is very hardy and can survive in a wide range of soil conditions.</p> <p>Ground Hells—All parts of this plant are toxic, but the leaves and seeds are especially so. It is a member of the Ranunculaceae family. The leaves are heart-shaped and the flowers are yellow. The plant is very hardy and can survive in a wide range of soil conditions.</p> <p>Coral Hairroot—This plant is a member of the Ranunculaceae family. The leaves are heart-shaped and the flowers are yellow. The plant is very hardy and can survive in a wide range of soil conditions.</p> <p>Checkered White—This plant is a member of the Ranunculaceae family. The leaves are heart-shaped and the flowers are white. The plant is very hardy and can survive in a wide range of soil conditions.</p> <p>Royal Fillybur—This plant is a member of the Ranunculaceae family. The leaves are heart-shaped and the flowers are yellow. The plant is very hardy and can survive in a wide range of soil conditions.</p> <p>Prickly Pear—This plant is a member of the Cactaceae family. The leaves are thick and fleshy. The flowers are small and yellow. The plant is very hardy and can survive in a wide range of soil conditions.</p> <p>Blue Fescue—This plant is a member of the Poaceae family. The leaves are narrow and pointed. The flowers are small and white. The plant is very hardy and can survive in a wide range of soil conditions.</p>	<p>Large Beardtongue—Native Americans used the roots to treat various ailments, including toothaches and stomachaches, and the leaves were used to treat fevers and chills.</p> <p>Red Root—Great Plains Native Americans used this plant for numerous medicinal purposes, including treatment of colds, fevers, stomach ailments, respiratory difficulties, and more. They also used it to perfume their hair and clothes. The dried roots were used as a preservative when boiled in water. Often visited by Mason Bees.</p> <p>Common Milkweed—In the spring, a host of Native American tribes used the young stems and leaves as a source of food. Common milkweed was also used medicinally by Native Americans.</p> <p>Purple Coneflower—Native Americans showed the roots to treat respiratory problems, which is how the common name "Astragalus root" originated. The leaves of this plant are used to treat various ailments, including colds, fevers, and stomach ailments. It is also used to perfume hair and clothes.</p> <p>Rigid Goldenrod—Rigid goldenrod has deep roots that allow it to compete well with native grasses. It increases in emergent pastures, boggy places, and the Dan Marsh. Often visited by Long Horned Bees, Green Leaf Bees and Leaf Cutter Bees.</p> <p>Woolly Yucca—This plant is a member of the Asparagus family. The leaves are thick and fleshy. The flowers are small and yellow. The plant is very hardy and can survive in a wide range of soil conditions.</p> <p>Butterfly Milkweed—Native Americans showed the roots to treat respiratory problems, which is how the common name "Astragalus root" originated. The leaves of this plant are used to treat various ailments, including colds, fevers, and stomach ailments. It is also used to perfume hair and clothes.</p> <p>Blue Verbena—Native Americans used the leaves to treat various ailments, including colds, fevers, and stomach ailments. The dried roots were used as a preservative when boiled in water.</p>	<p>Common Plantain—Common plantain contains a mucous that was used by Native Americans as a poultice for various ailments. Some tribes burned the dried roots to ward off lightning during storms. They believed that lightning occurred more frequently where common plantain grew, and they would not camp in those locations.</p> <p>Floral Mullein—Native Americans used floral mullein to treat colds, coughs, rheumatism, sore throats, and more. The roots were used to treat various ailments, including colds, fevers, and stomach ailments. The dried roots were used as a preservative when boiled in water.</p> <p>Daylily—Ancient Egyptians believed that the color of this genus signified life, thus the name "Flower of Life". Daylilies are very hardy and can survive in a wide range of soil conditions.</p> <p>Indian Blanket Flower—The Kiowa Indians believed the flowers brought good luck.</p> <p>Maxillaria Sunflower—This is a highly ornamental plant. It is a member of the Orchidaceae family. The leaves are heart-shaped and the flowers are yellow. The plant is very hardy and can survive in a wide range of soil conditions.</p> <p>Butterfly Milkweed—Native Americans showed the roots to treat respiratory problems, which is how the common name "Astragalus root" originated. The leaves of this plant are used to treat various ailments, including colds, fevers, and stomach ailments. 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