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Highlights from the year 2000

Two conservation easements were completed, with nearly 100 more projects under consideration. One property with a KLT conservation easement sold to a new owner. KLT now holds easements on three properties with subsequent landowners from the original grantors of the easements.

More than forty people attended the dedication celebration in May for the conservation easement donated in 1999 by Hortense "Tensie" Oldfather on 60 acres of forest and open space land southwest of Lawrence.

Nearly eighty people attended the Wildflower Walk, held in June on the Akin Prairie, east of Lawrence. The event was hosted by easement donor Tom Akin and his daughter Linda Akin Renner of California and son Larry Akin of Texas.

The KLT Board of Directors developed a strategic plan; adopted a monitoring policy, altered the easement criteria, making them more strict; formally amended the KLT by-laws; and revised its model deed of conservation easement--all important organizational advancements.

The Kansas Land Trust received grants from the William T. Kemper Foundation and the Funding Exchange, providing crucial unrestricted funds for operating expenses.

Kansas Land Trust presentation folders were completed, thanks to earlier funding from the National Park Service, the William T. Kemper Foundation, and from former board member Leo Lauber.

The KLT mailing list grew to 1,500 names, with the Board of Directors directly involved in building and renewing membership.

Lawrence artist Lisa Grossman donated the artwork for a third style of Kansas Land Trust note cards. These cards, sold in retail outlets and directly through KLT, augmented receipts for the year.

Staff and board members gave presentations on conservation easements and the work of land trusts to several groups this year and set up display tables for a number of events or conferences. Legal intern Amy Trainer attended KLT board meetings, took and wrote minutes, and conducted research on conservation easements, while journalism interns Cati Coy and Katie Jaeger offered their writing skills and other administrative assistance.

The Kansas Land Trust is one of more than 1,200 land trusts involved with grassroots conservation across the nation. KLT maintains Sponsor Membership in the Land Trust Alliance, which promotes voluntary land conservation and strengthens the land trust movement by providing the leadership, information, skills, and resources land trusts need to conserve land for the benefit of communities and natural systems. LTA president Jean Hocker, speaking on behalf of LTA's land trust members, including KLT, said, "When open land is lost, we lose an important part of who we are. Land links us to our heritage and sense of self. We have a responsibility to pass it on as we received it."