

stewardship notes

Spring 2008
Volume 19, Number 1



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Kansas Land Trust

Annual Report

January 1 through December 31, 2007

Mission Statement: *The Kansas Land Trust is a non-profit organization that protects and preserves lands of ecological, scenic, historic, agricultural, or recreational significance in Kansas.*

Highlights of 2007

The Kansas Land Trust's seventeenth year was a great one. KLT completed four conservation easements in 2007, including the largest single parcel conserved so far, 630 acres of native grassland in Riley County. Membership continues to be strong and the steady contributions of members were crucial as KLT expanded its capacity to preserve significant Kansas lands. Efforts to develop public funding for conservation easements continued to bear fruit this year.

KLT reached more than 550 people through events, seminars and presentations. KLT's efforts to educate Kansans about the need for conservation and opportunities for landowners, attracted interest from landowners in 22 counties. KLT staff visited many excellent properties in 2007 and a large number of landowners are ready to move forward with easements in 2008.

We are extremely thankful for the generosity of donors who gave to KLT through general funds, grants, and stewardship contributions. Our members can take much pride in the statewide conservation service they support.

Easement Activity

KLT now holds 30 easements preserving a total of 5,776 acres. Four properties were added in 2007 on 1,027 acres in Geary, Riley, and Johnson Counties. Two of the new easements were purchased using funding from the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program, the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program, and the State Conservation Commission. Two of the easements were generously donated by the landowners.

KLT responded to 70 new easement inquiries and applications on 24,287 acres in 22 counties in Kansas and Missouri. During the year, representatives of KLT visited 15 properties in eight counties



Snow on the Mountain (Euphorbia Marginata) blooms along a creek on the Bacon Ranch in Morris County.

Photo by Steve Roels

to assess conservation values on lands with easement inquiries. Every existing easement property received a monitoring visit by KLT staff.

Events

KLT hosted four events in 2007. A dynamic combination of home style cooking and activities such as nature walks and easement tours attracted over 200 people. KLT events give our members an opportunity to see the results of their support and thank easement donors for protecting their lands. The enthusiasm shown by those attending events has even inspired neighbors of conserved lands to begin working on their own easements with KLT.

In February, we held our annual old-fashioned Community Supper in Lecompton. Our 88 guests enjoyed a great home-cooked meal and a talk, "Going Wild in Kansas: Reflections from a Native Son," by Randy Scholfield, columnist for the Wichita Eagle. On May 5, 18 people attended KLT's Prairie and Woods Walk through Doug and

Ruth Ann Guess's easement-protected property. KLT hosted a Picnic and Prairie Tour of Jane Laman's easement on June 23. Fifty-five people enjoyed good food and live music; those who went on the wildflower walk also had a chance to see the rare Regal Fritillary butterfly. Over 40 KLT supporters were disappointed when the October 13th Barbeque and Ranch Tour on the Bacon Ranch in Morris County was cancelled due to rain. KLT is planning a 2008 event for the Bacon Ranch so members can get a chance to visit this spectacularly scenic Flint Hills property.

KLT and Fort Riley hosted the KLT/ACUB Partner Forum on May 21, attended by 25 people, representing a variety of conservation entities/agencies. Each group presented information about their programs for landowner assistance on preserved lands. The goals of the

forum were: (1) Allow conservation organizations to learn about each other's efforts in the Fort Riley area and identify opportunities for joint efforts or mutual assistance; (2) Create dialogue between conservation organizations that will continue into the future; (3) Develop a comprehensive list of assistance programs for landowners who desire to implement conservation management practices or voluntarily restore/improve wildlife habitat.

Financial Report

The KLT Board of Directors is committed to ensuring the sound fiscal management of funds. Berberich Trahan & Co. conducted the annual audit and reported on August 28, 2007 that the financial statements fairly present the cash, revenues and expenses for the year ending December 31, 2006. Our funding continues to support our remarkable growth through increases in membership contributions, grants, and stewardship gifts.

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stewardship notes

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Designer: Karen Johnson

mission statement

“The Kansas Land Trust is a nonprofit organization that protects and preserves land of ecological, scenic, historic, agricultural, or recreational significance in Kansas.” As a land trust, the organization uses a variety of long-term land protection mechanisms but primarily accepts conservation easements from willing landowners. Conservation easements are legal agreements by which landowners voluntarily restrict the type and amount of use permitted on their property. The Kansas Land Trust (KLT) is tax-exempt as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations of easements or land to KLT for conservation purposes may have potential tax benefits for donors. KLT is funded by individual contributors, private foundations, corporations, and government agencies.

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Dear Kansas Land Trust Members and Friends,

We are pleased to report another year of growth and successful land protection in Kansas. Special thanks goes to our members and donors presented in the Honor Roll in this issue. Also, the financial report shows that KLT has reached a new level of economic stability that will allow the board to plan additional outreach and hire enough staff to fulfill the demand for more land protection. The dedicated support of our members has again given us the funding base essential for taking another step forward in the steady expansion of our work to serve more and more landowners in our state.

Another person who deserves much credit for the success of KLT over the past several years is RoxAnne Miller, our Executive Director for the past seven years. Early in 2008, RoxAnne accepted a position with a land trust in North Carolina. She felt it was time to move on and explore new areas. The Board gave her a good send-off and Ft. Riley representatives presented a plaque recognizing her achievement in working to establish the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program at the base.

RoxAnne guided us through some significant changes by initiating programs using federal and state funding to purchase easements in the Flint Hills, she also refined the detailed process that assists landowners in the steps needed to complete an easement at a pace most comfortable for them. She encouraged the participation of Kansas artists and writers in promoting the mission of KLT and recognized the importance of events that connect our members with the easements they help protect. This led to her improvements to our website and two color editions of our newsletter among other things. We send a big thank you to RoxAnne, wish her the best, and will miss her.

We expect a new executive director to be on board in a few weeks and will introduce that person in the next newsletter. In the meantime, the office is fully functional, with the exception of start-up work on new donated easements. We are fortunate to have staff members—Steve Roels, Karen Johnson, and Kevin Kobler—all experienced in what needs to be done. Members of our Board of Directors are stepping up to provide the legal, administrative, and financial direction needed. During a transition such as this, we are reaping the benefits of having always maintained a “working board.” I look forward to introducing you all to a new executive director very soon.

Working together, I know we can all look forward to new opportunities and continued success in protecting the lands we love in 2008.

Bev Worster

KLT President

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Grants

In 2007, KLT was able to improve conservation easement monitoring and documentation through a grant from the Kingsbury Family Foundation. The 2007 Kingsbury grant also funded an in-depth study of KLT’s long term stewardship costs, aiding the Board of Directors as they work to strengthen KLT’s financial future. The K.T. Wiedemann Foundation made a generous grant to the Kansas Land Trust’s Flint Hills Campaign. The Kansas Work Study Program also provided funds for our intern.

Staff, Volunteers & Board

2007 was RoxAnne Miller’s seventh year as the Executive Director. Steve Roels, full-time conservation associate, and Karen Johnson, part-time administrative assistant, marked one year with KLT in the fall. Jami Jeffrey, an intern with KLT, graduated from KU in May and moved to California, where she has done work with another land trust.

The expertise of the KLT Board of Directors was in demand as always in 2007; board members provided assistance with review of legal documents, assessing and monitoring easement properties, communicating with members, and writing and editing articles for the newsletter. KLT would also like to thank board members and volunteers who helped organize and work KLT events and staff a KLT information booth at events.

Communications

KLT published four issues of Stewardship Notes, our quarterly newsletter. Member donations allowed us to print the summer and winter issues in full color.

Education

Over the summer, Steve and RoxAnne took a three-day course—Principles of Rangeland Management: Grass and Animal Ecology in Kansas—offered by the Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition. RoxAnne attended the eastern school in Elk County as part of a class of 35 people, and Steve attended the western school in Kingman County with a class of 16. Both RoxAnne and Steve received a high score on their final plant identification exam.

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In October, RoxAnne, Karen, and Steve attended the 2007 Land Trust Alliance Rally in Denver, Colorado. They attended workshops on a wide range of topics including: "From strategic planning to strategic positioning" and "Using state wildlife action plans: case studies and strategic conservation." More than 2,200 people assembled in the shadow of the Rockies to share expertise, strengthen collaboration, and celebrate recent successes of the national land trust community.

Outreach

KLT staff and board members gave eight educational seminars and presentations on conservation easements, reaching a total of more than 355 people during the year. Audiences included the Abilene Rotary Club, Topeka Sierra Club, Riley County 2025 Planning Committee, and the Kansas Land Improvement Contractors Association.

KLT information booths were spotted by hundreds of people at two Earth Day events, the Symphony in the Flint Hills, and the Community Forum on Kansas Environmental Issues in Prairie Village. Visitors to the booths were able to learn about the work of KLT and register to win beautiful prairie inspired work by local artists.

Merchandise & Gifts

KLT is thrilled to offer Doug Guess' new book, *Walking the Prairie*, a collection of Doug's watercolors and poetry to our members and friends. We continue to sell note cards featuring Lisa Grossman's Flint Hills landscapes, native wildflower note cards by Doug Guess, and prints of some of the photos from *The Kansas Landscape, Volume I and II*. New or renewing KLT members who gave \$100 or more received a gift of *The Kansas Landscape: Images from Home, Volume II*, the second book of photos by Mark Feiden and Edward C. Robison III.

Developing Funding

This year we dedicated many hours to developing public funding for land preservation, focusing our efforts on enhancing federal, state, and local funding for the purchase of conservation easements in Kansas. That effort reaped dramatic results in 2007, with the receipt of more than \$650,000 in federal and state funding for purchasing conservation easements. KLT used \$311,500 in state funds to leverage \$1,144,000 in federal funds. Eighty-five percent of these funds were paid directly to the landowners and fifteen percent covered the actual costs of doing the easement work. Landowners then contributed generously to provide for the long-term stewardship of their protected properties.

KLT accomplished some great things in 2007. Perhaps just as importantly, KLT laid the groundwork for the continued success of both donated and purchased easement programs. With so many Kansans newly excited about conservation, KLT has already started on another year of protecting the lands we love. Thank you for your dedicated support of this important work.

2007 Conservation Easement (CE) Activity					
County	Completed Easements	Completed CE Acres	Inquiries & Easements in Process	Inq. & In Process CE Acres	Total Acres
Allen			1	320	320
Butler			2	2,513	2,513
Clay			3	735	735
Comanche			2	960	960
Dickinson			2	700+	700+
Douglas	9	433	11	731+	1,194+
Ellis			1	+	+
Franklin			2	255	255
Geary	1	208	9	3,985	4,193
Hamilton			1	6,000	6,000
Harvey			2	478	478
Jackson			1	200	200
Jefferson	3	584	1	320	904
Johnson	2	172	3	97	269
Labette			1	373	373
Leavenworth			3	1,805	1,805
Linn	1	240	1	60	300
Marion			2	237	237
McPherson			1	80	80
Miami	1	800	1	600	1,400
Morris	1	500	3	1,332	1,832
Osage	1	53			53
Pottawatomie			3	2,120	2,120
Riley	7	1,302	27	7,157+	8,459+
Saline	1	20	1	90	110
Shawnee			3	395	395
Sumner	1	1,300	1	10	1,310
Wabaunsee	1	24	2	3,000	3,024
Washington			2	1,760	1,760
Out of State	1	140	3	368+	508+
31 Counties	30	5776	95	36,681+	42,487+



Frank Norman, ecologist, leading a wildflower walk at the Guess Prairie in Douglas County.

Photo by Steve Roels



kansas land trust 2007 honor roll

We offer our sincere appreciation to these friends who contributed to the Kansas Land Trust between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2007.
Please let us know if your name has been omitted or misspelled.

Gregory and Cynthia Abbott
Barbara Abercrombie
Phil and Gail Acuff
Carly S. Adams
Lois Adriance
Lon and Lynn Akerberg
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Cathryn Tortorici
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Photos by Steve Roels

Top: A hairstreak butterfly (*Satyrium* spp.) sips nectar from a Wild Hyacinth (*Camissia scillooides*) on the Guess Prairie.

Bottom: Cream Wild Indigo (*Baptisia bracteata*) brightens up the Guess Prairie each spring.

IN HONOR

Doug Guess

Bert & Rochelle Chronister

Don & Beverley Worster

Peter Mancall & Lisa Bitel

Rick Stein

Mark Howe

Charlie Fautin & Susan Easton

Daphne Fautin & Robert Buddemeier

mark your calendars

★ Birdwatching Walk in Baldwin Woods, Saturday, April 26th, 10 a. m.

Led by Steve Roels, Kansas Land Trust Conservation Associate. Steve is an avid birdwatcher who previously worked on the Michigan Breeding Bird Atlas project. He has a life list of over 500 bird species from around the world.

Bring your binoculars or come simply for a quiet morning walk through a unique remnant oak-hickory stand that represents the western edge of the eastern deciduous forest. Meet by 10 a. m.; the walk will begin promptly. This visit is hosted by landowners Cathy Dwigans, Ray Wilber and John and Gloria Hood.

Directions to the property from Lawrence: Travel south on Highway 59 for about 8 miles until you reach the intersection just before the Zarco Gas Station. Turn left (heading east) on N 650 Road (also known as 460 highway). Follow 460 highway east for 4 miles until you reach East 1600 Road. Turn right (heading south again) - this will be a gravel road. Travel 1 mile on East 1600 Road and look for two mailboxes together on the east side of the Road, marked 507 & 502 East 1600 Road. Look for the KLT signs. Turn left (east) into the driveway. We'll be there to greet you and will indicate where to park your vehicle.

★ Wildflower Walk on Akin Prairie, Douglas County, Saturday, May 24th, 1pm.

Led by Kelly Kindscher, Plant Biologist with Kansas Biological Survey and Kansas Land Trust Board Member.

We expect a bountiful show of blooms this spring on one of the few pristine native prairies remaining in Douglas County.

Directions to the Akin Prairie property: From K-10 east of Lawrence, turn south on Douglas County 1057. Go two miles, then turn west on 1150 Road, and go approximately .4 mile. Look for KLT signs. A gate to the prairie is on the south side of 1150 Road; you may park along the side of the road.

These events are free and open to the public, no reservation is required.

Please check our website for updates, www.klt.org.

KANSAS LAND TRUST, INC. | DECEMBER 31, 2007

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 157,419.00
CD/SAVINGS/INVESTMENT	193,362.65
FIXED ASSETS	2,883.13
TOTAL ASSETS	\$353,664.78

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$ 2,312.35

EQUITY

EQUITY RESTRICTED FH FUND	101,216.83
EQUITY STEWARDSHIP FUND	86,216.83
EQUITY UNRESTRICTED	163,918.77
TOTAL EQUITY	\$351,352.43

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$353,664.78

INCOME STATEMENT

RECEIPTS

CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 75,117.16
FLINT HILLS FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	25,000.00
GRANTS	43,477.20
STEWARDSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS	15,400.00
INTEREST INCOME	9,983.45
MERCHANDISE	2,957.39
CE PURCHASE GRANTS	724,695.93
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$896,631.13

EXPENSES

OPERATING EXPENSES	\$153,019.14
CE PURCHASE EXPENSES	620,429.83
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$773,448.97

NET INCOME \$123,182.16

Monthly Donor Program

Does the idea of spreading your tax-deductible donation to the Kansas Land Trust throughout the year—eliminating the need for annual renewal notices, reducing KLT's administrative costs, and knowing that your support is helping us each month—sound interesting to you? You can set up a monthly donation by electronic transfer each month from your checking or savings account.



Photo by Steve Roels

Why Monthly Donation?

by Bryan Welch, KLT Treasurer

With two children in private colleges, Carolyn and I don't have a lot of extra cash. Still, we like to support worthwhile causes and we find we maintain our giving better, and get more satisfaction from our charitable gifts if we make a small gift each month. We support several organizations in this way and it feels good every month when our bank sends out the checks automatically. We feel like we're doing what we can, and it is one of the most satisfying things that happens to our checking account.





16 E. 13th St.
Lawrence, KS 66044-3502

Kansas Land Trust

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kansas land trust membership

To the extent allowed by law, dues, contributions, and donations of land or conservation easements are tax-deductible.

Here is my annual membership gift of \$ _____ to the Kansas Land Trust for land conservation.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| _____ \$5,000 Guardian | _____ \$1,000 Steward |
| _____ \$500 Sustainer | _____ \$250 Caretaker |
| _____ \$100 Keeper | _____ \$50 Member |

- My company will match this contribution.
- Tell me how to provide for the Kansas Land Trust in my estate plans.
- I have provided for the Kansas Land Trust in my estate plans.
- Contact me about buying land in need of protection.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State _____

Zip _____

E-mail _____

Tel _____

If you wish to make your gift in memory of or in honor of someone special to you, kindly attach relevant information and address(es). KLT will be pleased to send notification of your gift.

Please mail this form with check payable to Kansas Land Trust. Our address is 16 East 13th St., Lawrence, KS 66044-3502. Questions. Call KLT at 785-749-3297, email info@klt.org, or visit www.klt.org.

