

stewardship notes

Winter 2007
Volume 18, Number 4



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Kansas Land Trust

Local leaders launch open space program



Baldwin Woods, October 2006. Photo by Edward Robison.

Douglas County and its major city, Lawrence, have taken the first step toward implementing a unique open space preservation program by issuing a request for proposals from landowners interested in protecting their property. Called ECO² (eco-squared), the community-funded plan provides several methods for preserving land, one of which is purchased conservation easements. The owners of the land pictured above have asked the Kansas Land Trust to act as their partner in this process, to prepare and submit a proposal and, if it is selected, to prepare and hold the conservation easement.

This 300-acre proposal includes a large expanse of

oak/hickory forest near Baldwin City and is adjacent to KU's Bridenthall Reserve and other protected properties. It is valuable for its high-quality forest, sandstone cliffs, riparian area and pasture. It is part of an 8,000 acre deciduous forest known as Baldwin Woods. Currently, only 1,000 acres are protected.

KLT is eager to help Douglas County landowners with the application and easement process and expects the ECO² program to become a model for other communities in Kansas and nationwide. For more information about ECO², go to the KLT website www.klt.org and view the article in our Summer 2007 Newsletter or call KLT and we will provide a copy.



RoxAnne Miller, Executive Director

Published quarterly by the

Kansas Land Trust

16 E. 13th St.
Lawrence, KS 66044-3502
785-749-3297
info@klt.org
www.klt.org

Sponsor Member



Editor: Lynn Byczynski
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.

board of directors

Beverly J. Worster, President
Catherine Hauber, Vice President
Bryan Welch, Treasurer
Kelly Kindscher, Secretary

Lynn Byczynski Myrl Duncan
Julie Elfving Chelsi Hayden
Donna Luckey

staff

RoxAnne Miller, Executive Director
Steve Roels, Conservation Associate
Karen Johnson, Administrative Assistant



One of the tasks for KLT at this time of year is preparing the annual budget. Certainly, this is an important part of our work, but when there's too much paperwork and numbers without some balance and inspiration...let's just say I'm not at my best. At times like this, I occasionally have to set the paper and details aside and turn to any number of things that boost my spirit. I visit the land we preserve, spend time with people I care about, or take time to read something inspirational. These things restore me and I am reminded why shuffling all the papers and attending to the details of budgets are important.

This morning, in just that spot, I turned to some inspirational reading. I got lost in a wonderful article by William Cronan, “Saving the Land We Love: Conservation and American Values.” He describes the natural places we protect in the city, suburb, working landscapes and wilderness as “cultural landscapes.” And he boldly states something I have believed for quite some time: “If we fail to protect nature in all of these cultural landscapes, we will fail to protect nature in any of them.”

Cronan argues that an urban green space, as a symbol of nature, is just as important as wilderness. A symbol of nature provides a critical way for us to reconnect with nature and helps us pass on to our children the value of caring for the world that sustains us. While some land trusts preserve only landscapes, working lands, or urban areas, collectively we preserve all of these. I have come to understand that what really fires my passion is to work on a mix of all of these lands. KLT is planning and doing projects within that full range, from large working landscapes in the Flint Hills to urban and suburban properties in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. Let us remember these are cultural landscapes because we are not just preserving lands and ecosystems, but the human values those lands embody. And it is those values that create the desire and the means for conservation.

So before I turn back to the budget, I want to encourage you to tap into some inspiration - perhaps by reading the article that inspired me. You can go to the following link online to read it in the Land Trust Alliance's Special Report: http://www.lta.org/publications/exchange/special_issue.html. We have a limited number of the printed issue to distribute, so if you can't access it online, just give us a call and we'll send it to you.

On behalf of everyone at the Kansas Land Trust, I'd like to thank you for your support in 2007. May your holidays be filled with pleasures of all kinds, including time to experience and appreciate the natural world you are helping to preserve.

Place a KLT bucket under a dripping faucet...

The search engine GoodSearch donates a few cents to nonprofits each time it is used, like a dripping faucet filling a bucket of the user's choice. Now, GoodSearch is offering an even better way to raise money for nonprofits - GoodShop, in which many online retailers will rebate a percentage of each purchase to the nonprofit of your choice. KLT is enrolled in these two programs, and we encourage our members to use them to raise funds for land preservation in Kansas. Here's how it works: Go to www.goodsearch.com and in the box that says “Who do you GoodSearch for?” type in Kansas Land Trust. Then you can type in your search terms in the box below. Every time you use this search engine, a few cents

are contributed to KLT. When you shop online, start on the GoodSearch home page. You'll see a box that says “Who do you GoodShop for?” Click on that, and when the page loads you'll see dozens of online retailers and the percentage of your purchase that they will donate. Most donations range from 1% to 5% - a significant amount of money over time, and especially during the holiday gift-buying season. Be sure to choose KLT as the charity of your choice before clicking through to the retailer's web site. This is a great way to funnel corporate philanthropy dollars to local causes. There is no cost to you. Thanks for thinking of KLT as you search and shop online.



by Elizabeth Schultz

Scenic Drives-Barber and Clark Counties

Scenic Drives in Southwestern Kansas do not have a burger stand or a souvenir shop on every corner. Scenic Drives in Southwestern Kansas do not have corners. Often deeply rutted, they unroll over hills, bend around buttes, cross cattle guards into open range. Scenic Drives in Southwestern Kansas cause you to pause, to get out of your car and be overwhelmed by colors and shapes, by bird and wind songs, by scents of plants, by the widening of land and sky as well as the minute eco-systems in a clump of sand lilies by the side of the road. In passing through this area with Coronado, his lieutenant, Juan Jaramillo accurately noted, "It is a hilly country, but has table-lands, plains, and charming rivers."

With the High Plains behind us, we turned off Highway 160 onto the rough Gypsum Hills Scenic Drive in mid-afternoon in mid-September with grey rain clouds smudging the blue sky. The long stretches of red-gold milo and green-gold corn fields had given way to a rumpled earth of many colors. Mesas, the still standing sediment of shallow seas from the late Permian Period of 260 million years ago, appeared in layers of rusty red siltstones, sandstones and shale, colored by iron oxide, striped with thin layers of soft white gypsum. Weather in the course of those millions of years had rounded some mesas into brick-colored "flower pots," while others appeared sheared clean off revealing the sky drifting behind them.

Our drive twisted and turned among these hills, known as either the Red Hills or the Gypsum Hills, with grasses-big and little bluestem, side oats and blue grama-moving across them in swatches of green, just beginning to take on autumn's golden tinge. Cedars dotted these hills and filled their crevices and canyons, turning them into dark green spillways. In this already vivid landscape, the bright yellows of broom snake-weed, curlycup gumweeds, Missouri goldenrod, and common sunflowers, the whites of snow-on-the mountain, steno-siphons, annual eriogonum, and bractless mentzelia, and the dashes of magenta gay-feathers created galaxies of color among the grasses and along the road. We stopped the car to look more closely at a constellation of flowers and discovered a cluster of insects-tiger beetles, bees, a paper wasp-hovering, clinging, squirming into and around them. A small prairie lizard scurried away on our arrival, scattering sand and contributing to a whirl of sounds. Back in the car and once more focused on the panorama, we came soon to a second sudden stop-this time for a tarantula resolutely and visibly trucking across the road in front of us. She had business to attend to as did we, having promised to be in Ashland by nightfall. We paused briefly to examine one another in the roadside grasses before

respectfully parting company. Mule deer emerged suddenly on the road ahead of us, flickering their large, leaf-like ears, demanding that we stop again, emphatically indicating that this narrow road only *seemed* owned by humans and their vehicles.

The next morning leaving Ashland, we headed north off Highway 160 on the road to Clark State Fishing Lake under grey skies. Dark, wind-driven tumbleweeds jammed up against fences outlined the road and divided the fields of grass or corn which spread out between craggy buttes. Occasionally showing some of the red we'd seen yesterday, these buttes, the remnants of the Ogallala mortarbeds, appeared ghostly in the day's muted colors. On an austere, treeless crest named Monte Cristo, a monument honored three Benedictine brothers who had been massacred in 1876 after struggling to create a monastery here. Canyons, seamed with subtle greys and creams and rose, cracked the land open, and the cottonwoods here, stunted by the wind, developed thick curvaceous trunks. One cottonwood, however, grew straight up several stories from a canyon's interior, its canopy expanding in a profusion of leaves and large branches around the canyon's rim. In the expectation of seeing mammoth bones projecting from the earth here, we'd left the car to visit this particular site, but found instead a homesteader's cast-iron Giant Majestic stove rusting in the grass. A light drizzle softened the edges of this day.

We had passed small ponds where ancient shells could be discovered imbedded in rock and where great blue herons fished as we wound our slow way toward Clark State Fishing Lake. Created by damming Bluff Creek in 1934, the lake shone below us as we stood on the rimrock surrounding it as swirling swallows lassoed the light rain above us. The road plunged precariously down to the lake, hugging a cliff and giving us a lizard's eye view of the colorful flowers on its face--the prickly pear's plump red fruits, the Carolina horse nettle's purple blossoms, and the gleaming petals of an unusually late blooming plains yellow primrose. At the lake, with summer's visitors gone, picnic tables and camp sites were vacated, although a community of turkey vultures had moved into a dead cottonwood by the headquarters. With no wind, the lake itself seemed resting in time. Coming around its northern tip, however, we saw a creek gushing and frothing white water through a red canyon over an upheaval of red rocks--the tumultuous result of nine inches of May rain in a 91,000 acre watershed, a dramatic sign that a Scenic Drive in Kansas on a grey day may be astonishing and wondrous. ▀



KLT recalls generosity of Hortense “Tensie” Oldfather

The Kansas Land Trust is among the many organizations that benefited from the vision and generosity of Tensie Oldfather, a Lawrence philanthropist who died on October 2.

Mrs. Oldfather contributed regularly to KLT, and made several large gifts at critical points in our organization's history. She also donated a conservation easement on her own land, 60 acres of forest and cropland in Douglas County.

Kelly Kindscher, a founding board member, recalled going out to visit Tensie and her husband Charley Oldfather during the first year or two of KLT's existence.

“I remember sitting down in their living room, with lots of light streaming in, over a cup of tea, and visiting with them about our organization and what our purpose and goals were, and what we wanted to do during the next year,” he said. “They thought about it and sent us a check. In the second year or third, I remember going out, continuing the discussion, and they wrote us a very nice check on the spot! I can't remember exactly, but it was for \$5,000 or \$10,000. At that time, this was a tremendous boost to our organization and the biggest check that we had received. Their generosity was really wonderful and helpful to a fledgling organization.”

Laurie Ward, a former executive director of KLT, recalled working with Mrs. Oldfather:

“When I came to work for KLT, I began meeting with and having telephone conversations with Tensie, who was still living in her old house on the property. For some months, we talked mostly about her life and her family. She told me about how her seven children grew up outside, enjoying nature around them, gardening, and raising a few farm animals. For a while, she would only briefly touch on the concept of donating a conservation easement.”

“Finally, one morning, Tensie called to tell me she had lived through her last



The Oldfather farm protected by KLT.

winter out in the country, and she began planning her move to Brandon Woods. The completion of the conservation easement occurred fairly soon after that.”

“My strongest impressions of Tensie are her forthrightness, reasoning, foresight, and thoughtfulness. Tensie stated that she didn't want the landmark forested hill to become just another development or to see the land divided up for houses. She understood the value of the prime farmland portion of the property. Tensie wasn't sure if any of her children would ever return to the homestead, but she was satisfied, knowing that KLT would take care of the land, as she was no longer able to. Tensie's and Charley's philosophy was that one doesn't own land but serves a while as its caretaker.”

The Oldfathers moved to Kansas from Milwaukee in 1950 when Mr. Oldfather accepted a position on the KU law faculty. At about the time the last of their seven children left home, Mrs. Oldfather received a substantial inheritance. She always said she didn't want to live like a rich person, but instead wanted to make a difference in the city she had come to call home.

She and her husband donated millions of dollars to KU, especially to

Kansas Public Radio and Oldfather Studios, which house KU's film department. Mr. Oldfather died in 1996, and Mrs. Oldfather continued to support a wide range of causes and organizations in Douglas County. In 2000, she gave \$4 million to start the Douglas County Community Foundation, which led many other individuals and businesses to contribute. By 2005, the foundation's endowment had grown to \$10 million and it gave \$186,000 to 38 nonprofit organizations in the county.

RoxAnne Miller, KLT executive director, said, “I enjoyed visiting with Tensie about the current work at KLT. Her contributions will live on through all of KLT's work, but particularly in the Flint Hills and in the preservation of her farm.”



Tensie Oldfather, 1999, in her rural Douglas County home.



Riley County family protects rangeland

The Kunze family of Randolph, Kansas, has placed a conservation easement on 640 acres of native prairie north of Manhattan. The section of land, which has no buildings on it, is now preserved in perpetuity for grazing cattle, hunting and fishing.

The Kansas Land Trust was able to purchase the conservation easement with funding from three sources: the state of Kansas, the federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, and the Army Compatible Use Buffer program.

Mr. Kunze frankly states that money was the motivation for him to place the land in a conservation easement. He could have sold the land for other uses for more money than the easement, but KLT showed him how an easement would allow him to own the land, preserve it in its natural state - and still use it for profit.

"It could have been turned into a rock quarry, or lots for houses, but I'd just as soon keep it the way it is," Mr. Kunze said. "We'll just keep on using it for grass for cattle, and we'll keep on taking care of it."

The land is just north of another piece of land protected by a KLT easement, and neighbors across the road are also moving toward placing an easement on their land. KLT has completed several projects within 3 miles and has others underway. RoxAnne Miller, KLT executive director said, "While much of the Flint Hills has been fragmented into smaller tracts, KLT is decreasing the impact of fragmentation through connectivity of preserved parcels in the northern Flint Hills."

The Kunze family's history in Riley County dates back to the late 1800s, when Hal's grandfather immigrated from Germany. The Homestead Act of 1862 offered free land - a quarter-section, 160 acres - to anyone over age 21 who built a house, dug a well, broke out 10 acres for

farming and lived there for five years. Hal's grandfather reportedly staked the last claim in the county, and got a job at Winkler's Mill while raising cattle. Eventually, his two sons took over the cattle business and expanded it into rented



Darcy and Hal Kunze with miles of prairie behind.

pastures as well as their own land. In 1944, Hal joined his father and uncle in the business. At age 81, he is still raising cattle with his son, Darcy.

Hal purchased the now-protected section in 1960 from his family and used it for summer grass for the cattle.

"We've always had a cow-calf operation," Mr. Kunze explained. "We bring the cattle here (to the home ranch) and calve them out and feed them in the winter. Then, around the first of May, we move them to summer grass," to graze until fall.

Moving his cattle these days involves trucks and trailers, but Mr. Kunze remembers driving them on horseback when he was a boy. "We'd take three days and take 150 cows down there" to the summer pasture.

The land has always been a haven for wildlife, and Mr. Kunze has seen their populations change over the years. Deer are less abundant than they once were, he said, but wild turkeys are much more plentiful. "I can look out the window any day and see 50 to 100 turkeys down there

in the bottoms."

He has seen bobcats frequently over the years. Twice, he said, he has seen mountain lions. "We were deer hunting about six or seven years ago and we saw a mountain lion - he was big, a golden color, and running real fast along the side of the hill," he said. Another time, when his son was in high school, they were going to town for a basketball game at around 6 p. m. and his wife said, "Look, there's a black calf in the road." But as they approached, they saw it was a black cat with a long tail, down on its belly as though stalking prey.

Mr. Kunze laughed and said no, when asked if he reported the mountain lion sightings to Fish and Wildlife. He knows that there supposedly are no mountain lions in Kansas. But, like most farmers and ranchers, he knows they are out there.

He has also seen prairie chickens on the protected property, he said. The land has four ponds that attract migrating waterfowl.

The Kunzes have leased the land to an outfitter that organizes hunting trips. He also has a contract with the state wildlife department to allow a certain amount of fishing in the ponds.

As for raising cattle, Mr. Kunze said he and his son are trying to get out of the cattle business because of health concerns. But he is certain that the land will continue to be used for grazing.

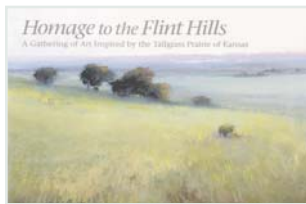
"I can't talk our grandsons into it yet," he said. "Kids can make more money today than we ever imagined. But maybe they will come back to it some day."

Thanks to the KLT conservation easement, that land will always be there, waiting for the next generation of ranchers. ▴

kansas land trust gifts & merchandise

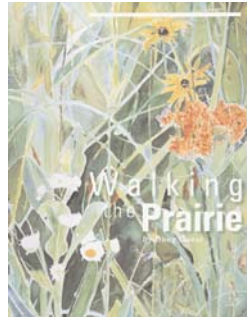
PERFECT FOR A HOLIDAY **GIFT!**

(while supplies last)



Homage to the Flint Hills **A Gathering of Art Inspired by the Tallgrass Prairie of Kansas**

Flint Hills artists contributed their best works to the show collected in this volume. It traveled the state and was shown in the Senate building in Washington D.C. \$20 each.



Walking the Prairie by Doug Guess

Poems and watercolor prints of the Kansas Prairie. Available only through the Kansas Land Trust - \$20

All proceeds benefit KLT.

JOHN HULSEY AND ANN TRUSTY

LIMITED EDITION MATTED PRINTS

Matted prints of two Kansas images, sunflowers and sunset, by Lawrence artists, John Hulsey and Ann Trusty, \$10 each.



Sunflower, 7" x 5"
by Ann Trusty



Evening Ride, 7" x 5"
by John Hulsey

PRINTS OF THE KANSAS LANDSCAPE, VOLUMES I AND II

Photo prints by Mark Feiden & Edward C. Robison III \$30 each. All images are printed on 11 x 14 white paper.



Sunflowers, 9.5" x 12"
Douglas County



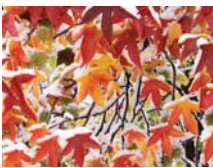
Autumn Forest, 7.5" x 12"
Douglas County



Fall on the Flint Hills II, 8.5" x 12"
Greenwood County



A Blanketed Landscape, 8" x 12"
Wyandotte County



Winter Details, 9" x 12"
Douglas County



Early Summer Shower, 9" x 12"
Rawlins County



Lone Tree, 9" x 12"
Norton County



Sunset on Tallgrass, 7" x 12"
Butler County



Mystic Meadow, 4" x 13"
Douglas County



Pastel Prairie, 5.5" x 13"
Leavenworth County



Ray's Field, 6" x 13"
Douglas County



NOTECARDS

Kansas landscapes and wildflowers by Kansas artists are great for sending

HOLIDAY GREETINGS!

Prints of oil and water color paintings by Doug Guess and Lisa Grossman.
\$10 -- pack of six (one image); \$16 -- variety pack of ten.

LISA GROSSMAN NOTE CARDS

PRINTS OF oil paintings of the Flint Hills. Photographed by James Nedresky.



Winterfield



Summer Clouds



Prairie Twilight



Sky Color Sketch



Shadowed Hills

DOUG GUESS NOTE CARDS

PRINTS OF watercolor paintings of native prairie wildflowers.



Downy Gentian



Mead's Milkweed



Prairie Storm



Rough Blazing Star



Summer Bouquet

PERFECT
FOR A
GIFT!

Indicate your print choice on the order form below.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Telephone: _____
Email: _____

PRINTS:

The Kansas Landscape Vol I & Vol. II (\$30 per print, plus \$6 shipping)

_____ Prints of _____ \$ _____

Sunflower by A. Trusty (Limited Edition, Matted) (\$10 plus \$5 shipping)

_____ Prints of _____ \$ _____

Evening Ride by J. Hulsey (Limited Edition, Matted) (\$10 plus \$5 shipping)

_____ Prints \$ _____

_____ Prints \$ _____

BOOKS: *Homage to the Flint Hills A Gathering of Art Inspired by the Tallgrass Prairie of Kansas* (\$20 plus \$6 shipping each) \$ _____

Walking the Prairie by Doug Guess

(\$20 plus \$6 shipping each)

\$ _____

NOTE CARDS:

Doug Guess Watercolor Paintings of wildflowers on native prairie

_____ *Rough Blazing Star*, six note cards (\$10)

_____ *Prairie Storm*, six note cards (\$10)

_____ *Summer Bouquet*, six note cards (\$10)

_____ *Mead's Milkweed*, six note cards (\$10)

_____ *Downy Gentian*, six note cards (\$10)

_____ Variety Pack of ten note cards (\$16)

Lisa Grossman Oil Paintings of the Flint Hills of Kansas

_____ *Winterfield*, six note cards (\$10)

_____ *Sky Color Sketch*, six note cards (\$10)

_____ *Summer Clouds*, six note cards (\$10)

_____ *Shadowed Hills*, six note cards (\$10)

_____ *Prairie Twilight*, six note cards (\$10)

_____ Variety Pack of ten note cards (\$16)

Please make checks payable to

Kansas Land Trust and mail your order to:

KLT

16 E 13th St.

Lawrence KS 66044-3502

_____ Packs Note cards \$10 each \$ _____

_____ Packs Variety Note cards \$16 each \$ _____

_____ Packs Note cards x \$1.50 shipping \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Feel free to stop by and pick up your merchandise order.



mark your
calendars

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

- The annual Community Supper is moving to Manhattan for 2008.

On Saturday, February 2, 2008 at 6pm the Kansas Land Trust will host our Community Supper in the Union Pacific Train Depot in Manhattan, Kansas. Watch our website for details to be posted soon.

We hope to see you there!



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

Kansas Land Trust
Address Service Requested

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lawrence, KS 66044
Permit No. 190

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 _____

* At this level or higher, receive a free copy of *Walking the Prairie* by Doug Guess. See page 6 for description.

** At this level to \$499, receive a free copy of *A Pocket Guide to Kansas Threatened and Endangered Species*.

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.

