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Highlights from the year 2001

Two conservation easements were completed during 2001, bringing the total acres protected by the Kansas Land Trust to approximately 2,725.

On August 15, 2001, RoxAnne Miller was hired as the fifth executive director of Kansas Land Trust. (The first four were Kelly Kindscher, half-time, 1991 to mid-1992; Carol Estes, half-time, mid-1992 to mid-1993; Joyce Wolf, half-time, mid-1993 to December 31, 1997; Laurie Ward, half-time, January 1, 1998, to August 15, 2001; with no paid staff during the first year after incorporation in 1990.) Laurie Ward moved to the newly created half-time position of special projects director, bringing KLT paid staff, with RoxAnne Miller's half-time executive director position, to one full-time equivalent for the first time in the organization's history.

During the fall, the KLT board approved a lease on the organization's first-ever business office at 16 E. 13th Street, Lawrence.

On March 27, 2001, the KLT Board of Directors adopted the following policy:

The Kansas Land Trust End-of-Year Policy

No easement shall be approved and signed in a calendar year, unless it has passed all stages of negotiation and is ready for formal resolution to accept prior to the November Board of Directors meeting.

As well, the board approved revisions to the KLT model easement, the template used for writing conservation easement agreements between landowners and the land trust.

KLT confirmed its commitment to regular monitoring visits on all properties with KLT conservation easements. Legal intern Chris Dove assisted with the preparation of monitoring materials, and several board members conducted visits.

On June 2, more than 75 people attended the Wildflower Walk, led by Kelly Kindscher, on the Akin Prairie, east of Lawrence.

More than 30 people attended the dedication celebration on June 9 for the conservation easement donated in September, 2000, by Jennifer E. Kennedy on a 24-acre tallgrass prairie in Wabaunsee County. Kelly Kindscher led a wildflower walk on the land now owned by Tom and Joan Doll.

The Kansas Land Trust and the Lawrence Arts Center co-sponsored the Kansas Conference on Imagination & Place, October 19-21, 2001. About 200 persons attended the conference, held at the Lawrence Arts Center and featuring presentations by eight national and local speakers. The Kansas Land Trust produced several arts activities in conjunction with the conference: an art exhibition, "Imagination & Place: Three Perspectives," on display in the Lawrence Arts Center Raymond Eastwood Gallery from October 5-30, 2001, and viewed by 2,000 to 2,500 visitors; an opening reception for the art exhibit on October 6, 2001, attended by an estimated 50-60 people; a reception and gallery talk led by the exhibit artists on October 20, attended by 50; a writing workshop, "Write from the Earth," on October 21, with 50 participants; and a mapping workshop, "Mapping Home," October 21, with 50 participants.

The KLT mailing list grew to 1,900 names, with the Board of Directors offering important assistance with friend-raising.

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

The Land Trust Alliance, a national organization of land trusts, launched a "Land Trust Quality Initiative," in which the Kansas Land Trust decided in 2001 to participate. In conjunction with this program, KLT began reviewing the "Land Trust Standards & Practices," as guiding principles for the responsible operation of the organization, which is run legally, ethically, and in the public interest and conducts a sound program of land transactions and stewardship.