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Winter 2003 Highlights

In 2002, the Kansas Land Trust completed four conservation easements, bringing the total acres protected to approximately 2,850. Also, in 2002, three parcels of land with KLT conservation easements were transferred to subsequent owners from the original grantors of the easements. An additional parcel with a KLT conservation easement was sold to the second owner following the original easement grantor. Kansas Land Trust conservation easements run with the land. The land can be conveyed, and, thanks to the easements, all future owners become stewards of the land.

The 2002, KLT paid staff included Executive Director RoxAnne Miller and Special Projects Director Laurie Ward, each half-time. After volunteering early in the year, University of Kansas urban planning graduate student Andrea Repinsky was awarded KLT's first part-time work-study position. And KU students Chris Dove, law; Yoshi Terai and Lori Kruger, urban planning; and Casey Mulligan and Samantha Nondorf, journalism, all served KLT as interns.

KLT began a Geographic Information System (GIS) database project to assist with conservation planning and education in the Kansas River watershed.

On June 25, 2002, the Board of Directors adopted the national Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices as guiding principles for the organization and approved a Kansas Land Trust Conflict of Interest Policy.

During the year, the board agreed to hire the accounting firm Mize, Houser & Company of Lawrence to conduct an annual certified audit for KLT.

On May 4, 2002, about two dozen attended the dedication celebration for the conservation easement donated in 2001 by the Mission Valley's Fin & Feather, LLC on nearly 800 acres in Miami County. Vice president and plant ecologist Kelly Kindscher led a prairie and woods walk on the land.

On June 15, more than 100 attended a wildflower walk, led by Kelly Kindscher on the Akin Prairie east of Lawrence.

On September 26, nearly 40 were in attendance in Lawrence to dedicate two conservation easements, one protecting 37 acres, donated in 2001 by Bob and Betty Lichtwardt, and one protecting 14 acres, donated earlier in 2002 by Francis Kelly and Cheri Varvil. Craig Freeman, curator-in-charge of the KU R. L. McGregor Herbarium and associate scientist at the Kansas Biological Survey, led a woods walk following the ceremony.

On September 29, approximately 80 individuals gathered on Heritage Hill in Saline County to dedicate a conservation easement donated by the children of Kenneth L. and Mary Bell Stauffer, preserving prairie, woods, land history, and with access to the public. Kelly Kindscher led a walk following the dedication program.

The KLT mailing list grew to 2,150 names, with the Board of Directors actively involved in friend-raising for the organization.

Lawrence artist Lisa Grossman donated the use of two landscape paintings for a sixth and seventh style of Kansas Land Trust note cards. These cards were sold in retail outlets and

directly through KLT, with proceeds going to further the organization's land-saving mission. Additionally, KLT offered t-shirts for sale, with promotional and monetary benefits.

The KLT Board of Directors in 2002 voted in favor of KLT's participation in the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), authorized under the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, to purchase conservation easements on farm and ranch lands. The FRPP is administered in Kansas through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service state office in Salina.