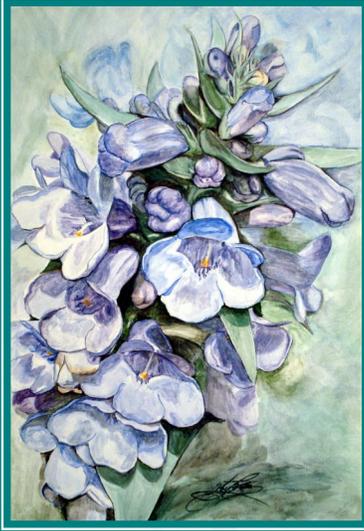


# The Penstemon

Newsletter of the Nebraska Native Plant Society



## 2022 Board Members

**President:** Dr. Kay Kottas

**Vice President:** Rae Powers

**Secretary/ Treasurer:**

Dr. David Sutherland

**At Large Board Members:**

Dr. Mark Hammer

Jim Locklear

Glenn Pollack

Dr. Mackenzie Taylor

**Website:** Dr. Mackenzie Taylor

**Listserve:** Dr. Mark Hammer

**Facebook Page Administrators:**

Glenn Pollock, Dr. David Sutherland

## 2008 Charter Members

Elaine Nowick

Robert Kaul

Kay Young

David Sutherland,

Kay Kottas

Rachel Simpson

Tatanya Livshultz

Louise A. Speer

Robert Egan

Glenn Pollock

Dianne Blankenship

William Blankenship

Richard Voeltz

Steven Rothenberger

Alison Krohn

## From the Presidents Notebook

Hello. I am Kay Kottas, the new NENPS President in 2022. I am a former instructor of Horticulture and North American Plant Identification at UNL and of Botany at Nebraska Wesleyan. In 2008, as one of the founding members, I was working on my dissertation on the life stages of the federally endangered blow-out penstemon (*Penstemon haydenii*), our Societies plant mascot if you will. The picture in the upper left is an image of a water color painting I did. Yes, I dabble in that in my spare time.

Frankly, spare time is as rare than the penstemon. I am President and owner of Prairie Legacy Inc. We do environmental survey work, design and implement research to help land managers assess their impacts on the landscape. We consult in the restoration of natural areas and sell native plants and seed. I also own the farm homesteaded by my Great, Great, Grandparents (the Witts) called Witt's End Homestead. I have been converting it from a conventional farm into a local ecotype native plant and seed production farm. Funny thing is, I declined to take the Presidency of this organization from Elaine Nowick, our founding Chair, and several times since, sighting my busy schedule. Since I could no longer fit another thing into my schedule, I finally volunteered.

Despite the busy schedule, I hope to engage your help in making the NENPS more active in the coming years. To that end, I am starting what I hope will be the first of many newsletters. We will make it semi annual this year and if all goes well, perhaps it will become a quarterly publication. I would like to invite you to invite someone you know to become a member. Then take a look at what you might be able to contribute. I know we have many talented and educated individuals. Here is what I have in mind.

### Please let me know if you would like to

write website content,

lead, organize or suggest field trips

staff an educational booth

produce brochures or other educational materials for a booth

Give, organize or suggest a presentation

Write articles for the newsletter

Give/write a book review

I believe these a obtainable goals which will help move us forward in support of our mission. Now who wants to start a podcast?! Just kidding, sort of. Are there any experts out there? I hope this year we can satisfy your curiosity and share your expertise as we all explore the world of native plants.

NENPS Website : <https://nebraskanativeplantsociety.weebly.com/>

For Membership: <https://nebraskanativeplantsociety.weebly.com/join.html>

Membership in the Nebraska Native Plant Society is open to anyone with an interest in native plants of the state. Print the application below and mail it to the address provided on the form with your \$10.00 annual dues (January to December).

A large portion of dues are used to fund grants for research projects related to native plants.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- July 23, 2022

Kay will be speaking at the Wild Plants Party at Mulhall's Nursery at 11:30 AM generally on the topic of why Native Plants. She will have a list of plant species of high value to Monarchs in honor of their listing as endangered species and a list of plant species which have associated specialist insects. In addition you will be able to get some landscape plans for raingardens, frontyard friendly native gardens, and waterwise gardens for your landscapes.

- July 28, 2022

Justin Everson and Bob Henrickson from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum will present A waterwise landscapes lunch-and-learn webinar @ 12Noon (CST) If you plan to attend the webinar, please register in advance for this meeting here: [https://unl.zoom.us/meeting/register/TJYqdeGgqz4sHdd-6tqItpOQmqNPCHwGSE6j](https://unl.zoom.us/j/8446121212). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The webinar will be recorded and posted for later viewing.

- August 13, September 10, October 8

Wachiska Audubon has seed collection activities throughout the summer.

"Second Saturday Seeds" will be returning for 2022!! Please join us for a visit to the prairie!! We will meet at 9:00 AM from June through October to see what is growing, blooming, and living on the prairie. If we find any ripe seeds, we will collect some for sale to Prairie Legacy. This seed will then be used to create more prairie. Everyone is welcome to take some seed home for their own pollinator gardens.

August 13th, September 10<sup>th</sup>, and October 8<sup>th</sup> we will be at Dieken. This drier prairie is closer to Lincoln, just south of Unadilla. This will be our chance to collect seeds including purple and white prairie clover, Rudbeckia, and three species of Liatris,



Please dress for rough walking and the weather, Bring along gloves, clippers, and a bucket for seed collecting. If it is raining we will cancel. Check our website for directions to the prairies. If you would like to carpool, please call the Wachiska Office at least 5 days before the event and leave your name and phone number, If you have any questions about the event, call Beth at 402-417-3928, Hope to see you there!

- Late August .....Date TBD

Dr. David Wedin, UNL, and PhD candidate Kathryn Hogan present

a morning visit / discussion at the Bobcat Prairie Restoration Experiment The couple hour session will include a tour and discussion of what we have learned after 4 years in our 24-acre experiment at Bobcat Prairie, and a brief visit to a few High Diversity Local Ecotype (HDLE) prairie restorations of different ages nearby in the Prairie Corridor. In the meantime, you are certainly welcome to visit the experiment on the north side of Bobcat Prairie at any time. The restoration treatments are gorgeous after half of it was burned in May 2022. It's located on one of the highest points in the Prairie Corridor; the view is nice and there's always a breeze.

If anyone has other events they would like to share, please get in touch!

Pictured on left is Bobcat Prairie by David Wedin