



Defending wildlife and habitat through:

**Advocacy
Conservation
Education**

News & Updates: November 2021

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People and Birds Flock to Celebration of Cranes



Audubon of Kansas' Annual Celebration of Cranes was held November 5 - 6, 2021. Participants enjoyed lovely weather and cooperative birds. Whooping Cranes were seen both days, and the hundreds of thousands of Sandhill Cranes, White-fronted Geese, and Snow Geese filled the sky. Expert bird watchers helped participants identify birds along a self-paced route. During the mid-day lull in activity, participants enjoyed talks from expert



biologists on topics ranging from bird photography (Dave Rintoul, Ph.D. Biologist, birdwatcher, and photographer), the Personal Prairie (John Price, Professor of English, University of Nebraska at Omaha), the beauty and mystery of wetlands (Dave Haukos, PhD; Kansas State University), and wetland plant ecology (Irene Unger, Ph.D., Baker University). It was a special treat to hear Dennis Rogers talk about the connection between Navajo culture and the environment as well as see him perform traditional dance with contemporary music.

The event is always held the first weekend in November. We hope to see you next year!



Photos (top to bottom):
Celebration of Cranes participants watch the dawn flight (photo by Dr. Jackie Augustine)

Whooping Cranes (photo by Bob Gress)

Gary Haden (AOK Board Chair) and Tom Ewert (AOK Treasurer) prepare spotting scopes for participants (photo by Kelley Hurst)

Quivira sign at sunrise (photo by Dr. Jackie Augustine)

Multitudes of cranes and geese settling in at dusk (photo by Dr. Jackie Augustine)



Dennis Rogers and Cindy Jeffrey posing with a photo of a life-sized Whooping Crane. AOK thanks Cindy for organizing our Celebration of Cranes this year, and [Quivira National Wildlife Refuge](#) for logistical support and for the loan of the Whooping Crane display. (photo by Dr. Jackie Augustine)



Roll up your sleeves!

Work Day at Achterberg Wildlife-Friendly Demonstration Farm

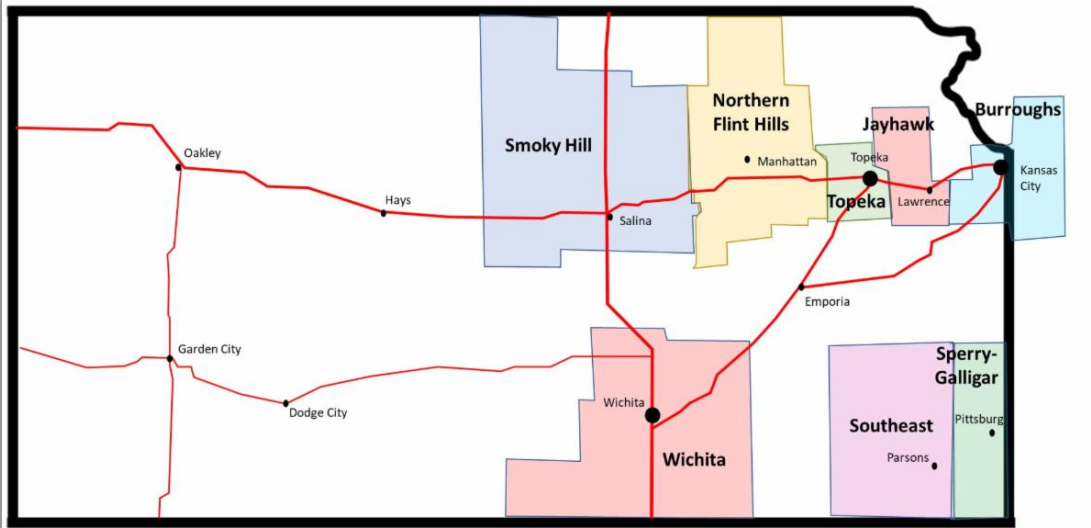
Nov 13, 11am-4pm



We are having a work day at AOK's sanctuary, the Achterberg Wildlife-Friendly Demonstration Farm, on Saturday, Nov 13 from 11am-4pm. With the help of volunteers, we will be clearing a new 0.5 mile section of trail, and invasive elm that is taking over our prairie habitat buffers. Workers should bring work gloves, pruners, loppers, chainsaws and string trimmers if they have them. Lunch will be provided. From I-70, go north on Hwy 14 toward Lincoln, KS. Continue about 9 miles on Hwy 14. Turn left (west) onto Hawk Dr. and continue 2 miles. Turn right (north) onto 170th Rd and continue 1 mile. Meet at the southeast overlook on the corner of 170th Rd and Iron Dr.

This is a great opportunity to help wildlife and see the wonderful riparian woods and prairie buffer strips which support Connie Achterberg's favorite bird, Northern Bobwhite quail.

Connecting with Audubon Chapters



Audubon of Kansas was founded with the support of Audubon chapters in Kansas. Chapters designate a representative to be a member of AOK's board. In order to provide resources for Audubon chapters throughout the state, and to increase connections among chapters, AOK started hosting monthly phone calls with chapters in July. We discuss challenges and learn what other chapters are doing to address those challenges. We also discuss successes, and invite representatives from National Audubon to discuss topics of mutual interest. Six of the seven active chapters in Kansas have participated. For more information contact [Jackie](#).

Wildlife Protections & Wind Turbines

AOK's former board-chair, Margy Stewart, recently wrote a piece on the incongruity between the guidelines set by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and the reality for wind developers vs. wildlife. Margy Stewart and husband Ron Young are the proprietors of a [native-prairie preserve](#) on McDowell Creek and are restoring 70 acres of former crop ground to bottomland tall grass prairie. An excerpt from the article is below:

Can protections for wildlife coexist with industrial wind turbines? Apparently not in Kansas.

In 2017, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism published siting guidelines for wind energy conversion systems in Kansas. The guidelines warn developers away from state wildlife areas, the Tall Grass Heartland, migration corridors, wetlands, zones of wildlife concentration, and — above all — from native prairie.

"The agency considers it critically important to protect the integrity of remaining intact prairie habitats in Kansas," [the guidelines state](#), repeating the admonition throughout the document.

To read the complete article please [click here](#).

Members of AOK's Board share favorite walks, hikes and birding spots!



Mary Powell Suggests:

[Iliff Commons Mixed Use Trail](#) - This trail ascends and descends the steep bluff on the west side of the park and connects with the hiking trail at several points. The trail entertains with little gnomes are added to trees, a log cabin for kids to play in, a treehouse and more. Trail passes through prairie and forest habitats.

These trails are located on private property but are open to the public from dawn to dusk. Please respect the property and leave no trace.

Contact AOK!

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