



A Welcoming Monica Goss Joins AOK as our Director of Philanthropy and Development

Monica Goss joined the staff of Audubon of Kansas in January 2015, a commitment by the Board of Trustees that instantly doubled the full-time staff of AOK. Monica is excited for this opportunity to work with Audubon of Kansas, to help build AOK's capacity, and our expanding opportunities and challenges to preserve imperiled wildlife and diminishing prairies and other precious resources in the central Great Plains.

Monica Goss has lived in Kansas since she was two years old. Kansas has always felt like home. But she didn't fall in love with the prairie until she was a junior at Manhattan! She remembers the specific occasion – a trip to the Konza Prairie Research Natural Area south of Manhattan. Her sister Theresa, a plant biologist, was volunteering at the time and took her to see some of the research plots. Monica became enthralled with her surroundings – the large open sky, tall grass, Bison, luscious greenery and rolling hills. Such serenity! Such beauty! Thereafter, she felt great pride in her home state and was determined to help preserve its beauty.

Monica attended and graduated with a BA in Environmental Studies in 2012 from the University of Kansas. As an undergrad she was involved with environmental advocacy groups, community organizing and outreach. She also became enthusiastic about organic farming/gardening and worked at various farms in the Lawrence area.

Monica completed independent research on prairie restoration and ethno botany at KU, and studied field biology in South India. She has a world view, consistent with a philosophy adapted to a motto that Audubon has used – that is to *"think globally and act locally."* Her parents emigrated from Egypt to the US in the mid '80s; her father accepted a position as a professor of Civil Engineering at K-State in 1992.

Monica married Neal Goss, a native of Pratt in southwest Kansas, in October 2012. Neal is an environmental artist and farmer/gardener. They live east of Lawrence, near Eudora, in a small country home. They have chickens, ducks, and guineas and plan to expand their food gardens and native plant gardens.

Monica is excited for this opportunity to work with Audubon of Kansas – and to help in preserving our imperiled wildlife and diminishing prairies. She has high hopes for the future of this organization. She looks forward to working with everyone who wants to assist in advancing the mission of Audubon of Kansas with financial and other forms of support.

"Sunshine is a welcome
thing. It brings a lot of
brightness."

--Jimmie Davis

An AOK Reception

There are many ways for members and supporters to support AOK conservation and educational activities, and extend our outreach to others who cherish our natural world. One way that is particularly enjoyable is to invite friends to a reception, lunch, or an informal gathering at one's home, ranch, farm or a cafe.

Monica Goss and Ron Klataske can help with planning, invitations, and will participate to provide an overview of AOK. A delightful reception was hosted by Randy and Adriene Rathbun at their home in Wichita this spring. Randy is an AOK Trustee. Although we cannot expect all hosts to share their musical talents, Randy and some of his musical friends gave us an opportunity to tap our toes!



Ron Klataske photos

Pictured from left to right, Adriene Rathbun and Deanna Harms; Carol Cumberland with Habibi, Adriene's adorable Yorkie Poo; Monica and Neal Goss; Randy Rathbun with guitar.