



Message from the Executive Director:

AOK Is Ready for Growth

As I am closing in on the end of my second year as Executive Director, I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish, **but I am even more excited over what is to come.**

This past year, we held our fifth Celebration of Cranes Festival and our first Kansas Lek Treks Prairie-Chicken Festival. We kicked off our “Nature Adventurepack” program to provide in-person seminars, binoculars, and information to library patrons throughout Kansas. We connected with new members through guided hikes at our sanctuaries. **With your generous support, we purchased a new-to-us vehicle and had it wrapped with images of the major habitat types in Kansas (prairie, wetlands, and forests) so that people can see how AOK works All Over Kansas for the benefit of wildlife.** We set up protocols to document the animals using our sanctuaries so that we can better determine the success of our habitat management. We expanded the ways our supporters can give through work days, a capital campaign for Nature Adventurepacks, and estate planning seminars. We connect with our members and followers through monthly emailed newsletters. We meet monthly with Audubon chapter leaders throughout the state. All these things would not be possible if it weren't for AOK's enthusiastic board, dedicated staff, and loyal supporters like you.

Any one of these things would make an Executive Director proud, but I am equally proud of what we are doing behind-the-scenes. We are reviewing all our procedures so that AOK makes informed decisions

about our finances, endowments, and resources. We are building relationships with donors through personalized communication. We are preparing management plans for all our sanctuaries that not only describe the intentions of the donors and past management practices, but also lay out goals and priorities for the future. We are setting up a system of organizing documents and photos so that information is safely stored, easily retrieved, and accessible to incoming board members and staff.

I have a feeling that all the work we are doing in house and in our Kansas community is laying the foundation for expansion. I don't want to jinx myself by putting in writing how we might expand, but I hope by this time next year, I can tell you about even more new things AOK is doing to “Defend Wildlife and Habitat in the Great Plains through Advocacy, Conservation, and Education.”



AOK's Bronco displays prairie, wetland, and forest habitats.