



**GRASSLAND
GROUPIES**

www.grasslandgroupies.org

2022

Annual Report



2024



A grassland cannot exist without disturbance.

This biome is inextricably linked to the forces that cause harm. Sweeping wildfires, interminable drought, the grazing of trillions of hungry insects— if you take all of that stress away, a grassland will simply cease to exist.

In spite of the adversity, grasslands are adapted to rebound, to grow, and to *thrive*. By necessity, those of us who work to conserve the natural world are much the same.

The field of environmental education has its own endemic stressors. At times, the “disturbance” to our efforts is exhausting, yet we remain committed to the ideal of leaving a better land for our future generations.

Thriving Amid Disturbance

In our fourth year of operation, Grassland Groupies refused to stagnate. We made positive strides forward in our mission to inspire global grassland conservation, greatly outperforming many of our previous bests. The key to this success lay wholly in community.

2024 saw us forge many new relationships in the science and education community, to the great benefit of our mutual audiences. We cultivated curiosity, grew science literacy, and engaged people’s energy to act in defense of our world’s most underappreciated ecosystems. In 2025, we want GG to continue becoming a strong and unique thread in our conservation tapestry.

After all, there is no greater indicator of ecosystem health than diversity. The staff and volunteers of Grassland Groupies bring something special to the environmental education mix, and in concert with our fellow educators, we are confident we can make an impact together— no matter what the world throws at us.

Cheers to a resilient 2025!

*Your GG Team:
Nicole, Rachel, and Allan*



2024

Our Year in Numbers

Creating Curiosity:

10,503

Total Persons Reached
via Programs

2.3x

Growth from 2023
In-Person Reach

64

Total Programs, Events,
& Field Trips in 2024

2,779

New Podcast
Listeners in 2024



Building Community:

28

Partner Organizations
Worked Alongside

200+

Volunteer Hours
in 2024

50%

Increase in ICT Bee
Fest Attendance

5

New/Improved
Gardens in ICT



Seth Macy: Volunteer of the Year 2024



2024



Educators on the Move

In 2024, Grassland Groupies mobilized our outreach in a big way. We are proud to say that we **more than doubled** the number of people that we engaged directly with impactful, in-person education.

Through exciting collaborations with our wonderful peers and partners, we took our message to people across the state, from schools and museums, to farms and gardens, even to Big Gay Markets and prairie chicken leks.

When it comes to inspiring conservation action for our home ecosystem, we pursue (and create) every opportunity we can. We're excited to hit the road again in 2025. Keep an eye out for GG at a grassland near you!





2024

Gaining Ground: Bee City Wichita in 2024



Last year the Bee City Wichita initiative improved upon existing gardens in Wichita while also creating new pollinator gardens at Earhart Environmental Magnet, Kansas Wildlife Exhibit, and the Riverside Community Garden. Committee members also met with several USD 259 schools to help begin to plan even more pollinator habitats and found an American Bumblebee, listed by the IUCN as Vulnerable, using our Pawnee Prairie garden! In 2025 we will be unveiling a Bee City Wichita garden certification program complete with signage for your garden.



Interested in getting involved with Bee City Wichita?

See our website for the next free and open to the public committee meeting date and full commitment list:

grasslandgroupies.org/bee-city-wichita



2024



ICT Bee Fest Welcomes Over 750 Guests

Last September, we brought Wichita's largest native plant and pollinator celebration back to the Mid-America All-Indian Museum with a record number of people coming to connect with their local bumblebees, butterflies, and blooms. We're looking forward to some exciting changes for the 3rd Annual ICT Bee Fest next year, and we hope you'll join us.

Thanks to our 2024 Partners:

The Mid-America All-Indian Museum
Kansas Wetland Education Center
Kansas Wildlife Exhibit
Sedgwick County Master Gardeners
Sedgwick County Conservation District
Xerces Society
Boeing
KMUW
and all of our vendors and volunteers!



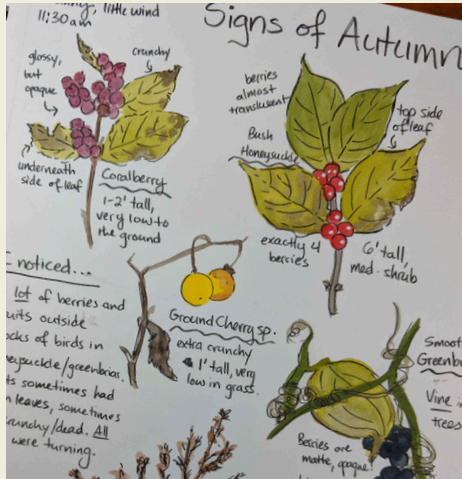


2024

Coming in 2025

NATURE JOURNAL WORKSHOPS

Nature journaling is a powerful tool that integrates art, science, and language to encourage a more careful and deliberate experience of our immense world. Rachel Roth will lead a series of free, public journaling workshops throughout the seasons of 2025 to help you become a better observer. Be sure to follow us for upcoming dates!



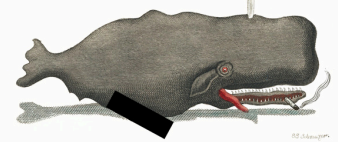
NEW PODCASTS

We are excited to launch new seasons of both The Best Biome and Filthy Animals to our growing listenership. As always, the former covers topics and tales related to our precious global grasslands for all ages, while the latter examines the wildly inappropriate and downright dirty animal behavior for our adult listeners. We believe variety is key to building scientific literacy.

Both have new monthly episodes releasing in March 2025: Best Biome on 2nd Thursdays, Filthy Animals on 4th Thursdays.



**filthy
ANIMALS**
sex, drugs, and ecology



BACK ON CAMPUS

The Grassland Groupies team will be returning to Friends University for another semester of their successful Grassland Ecology course in Fall 2025 to help train future conservationists.

We hope to adapt the concepts of this course for middle and high school audiences as well this year, and for our youngest learners, we'll be offering a hands-on prairie ecology day-camp at the Kauffman Museum in Newton this June.



2024

A Grassroots Organization

Highly motivated individuals can accomplish incredible things, but they can seldom do it alone. The three staff that comprise Grassland Groupies have poured a tremendous amount of energy into our many projects, but without donors and volunteers who share our passion, none of it would be possible.

We are especially grateful to have such support in what is becoming a very difficult time for our field. With federal resources in jeopardy, small individual contributions sustain organizations like ours. Modest donations and merchandise purchases are what allow us to make an impact in our community.

Whether you've helped us already, or hope to do so in the future, we are glad to have you along for this conservation journey!

grasslandgroupies.org/give/

Goldenrod Supporters:

The Byrd Family, Evergy

Indigo Supporters:

*Brown, R., Denny J., Catt, C., Love, M., Picanço, V., Stice, T.,
Whitfield, S., Boeing, Mid-America All-Indian Museum*

And thank you to all our volunteers.



2024

Contact Us



American Bumblebee in Pawnee Prairie Park pollinator garden. Photo: Seth Macy

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