

## **Kiwanis-Mary Hall Park Native Plant Area Update**

2004 was an exciting year for the Master Gardeners working on the native plant area at Kiwanis-Mary Hall Park in Rapid City. It all started in April when the Rapid City Fire Department agreed to accomplish a controlled burn of the southwest corner of the park to control the smooth brome grass and to remove years of dead grasses and forbs. Following the burn a chemical treatment was applied to the rapidly greening brome to further reduce its competition with native grasses and forbs.

In May I received a \$511 grant from the SD Game Fish & Parks as part of their Wildlife Diversity Small Grant Program. The grant was used to cover the expense of the brome grass reduction, and to purchase of native grass and wildflower seed from Stock Seed Co. in Nebraska. Additionally, I purchased 2 x10 redwood lumber to construct a sign for the native plant demonstration. I also purchased treated pine and cedar to construct a brochure box. The brochure (attached) design was forwarded to Doug Backlund for review prior to having 150 copies printed locally. More copies will be printed for the upcoming years as well. Additional pine and cedar lumber was purchased for birdhouses. To date only two of these have been built and placed, but the remaining four will be constructed and placed this winter.

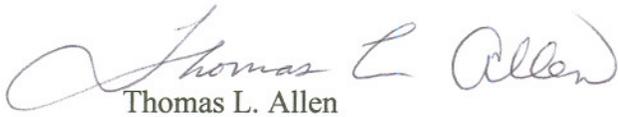
The overall results of this year's work have been exciting for the volunteers and the numerous visitors who have enjoyed the new additions to the park flora. Many new native prairie plants were started from seed which was purchased with grant funds. Over 175 transplants, including purple prairie and white prairie clover, *Penstemon strictus*, *Penstemon grandiflora*, *Ratibida pinnata*, *Machaeranthera tanacetifolia* (Prairie Aster), *Echinacea purpurea* and *Echinacea pallida*, as well as *Rudbeckia hirta* and *Rudbeckia amplexicaulis* were added to the diverse flora growing in the native plant area. I was also able to identify twenty new species this spring/summer. These included Scarlet Globemallow, Crested Prickly Poppy, Prairie Spiderwort, Buffalo Burr, Smooth Penstemon and several others. Additionally, larger groupings of several other species were noted as a result of the brome grass reduction efforts, including Big Bluestem, Switchgrass, Little Bluestem, Sideoats Grama and Blue Grama grasses. Approximately 80-90 percent of the transplants survived the dry summer with the twice weekly (in some cases) supplemental watering provided by several Pennington County Master Gardeners. The transplants should all be ready to shower us with lots of color in 2005.

The ten pounds of native grass seed and four pounds of wildflower seed were sown the first week of November and should be a great addition to the species already present. The focus of the native plant demonstration project will continue to be on providing the children of Rapid City an area where they can see the types of native wildflowers and grasses that originally flourished in mixed grass prairies of the region.

I wish to thank the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department and the folks with the Wildlife Diversity Small Grant Program for accepting my project for funding this year. I am attaching a copy of the brochure I designed, as well as pictures of the sign and brochure box. I am hoping that a web site for the native plant area will be financed and completed this winter.

There have been a number of deer who have browsed on the transplants in the native plant area. This summer there was also a rabbit that fed in the area as well. During my time watering the transplants this summer, I noted numerous insects including many varieties of bees that I had never noticed before. They were probably there before, but the brome grass and build up of dead plant materials may have made it more difficult to see them. This summer and fall I noted quite a few birds feeding in the area. These included doves (summer) chickadees and juncos (fall). I am hoping that the inclusion of bluebird and wren houses will increase the numbers of birds living in the area as well.

This concludes my report. Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you again for selecting my project for a grant this year!

  
Thomas L. Allen



Sign and brochure box



Prairie spiderwort

The Kiwanis – Mary Hall Park native plant area was developed to help teach local students and other park visitors to identify and learn the names of some of the native plants of a mixed grass prairie. Most of these same plants might have been seen anywhere in this area a hundred years ago. A prairie is a grass land community of plants and animals which has evolved so that the plants and animals actually support each other. South Dakota is privileged to have had vast acres of three types of prairies at one time. The types of animals living on the prairie vary by the types of plants that grow there. The prairie developed based on the amount of moisture received, and are named based on the height of the plants that grow there - tall grass, short grass and mixed grass prairies. Many of the plants have seeds that are easily dispersed by animals, ranging from catching on their coats or being digested and distributed in the animal's waste. Others are spread by the wind. Central and most of Western South Dakota consisted primarily of mixed prairie plants, whereas the eastern part of the state was tall grass and the southwestern part was short grass prairie. There are more than 115 different species of trees, shrubs, grasses, rushes, sedges, and wildflowers in Kiwanis-Mary Hall Park. Many are native species to the mixed grass prairie. Additionally, nearly two dozen introduced or exotic species are found here as well.

Tom Allen, a local Kiwanian and master gardener had the dream and has been active in coordinating the establishment of this area. You are invited to walk through the area and look at the labeled plants and then to attempt to identify others, or if you wish, just enjoy the beautiful native plants in this area.

## FIND THESE PLANTS!

<u>COMMON</u>	<u>BOTANIC</u>
___ New England aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>
___ Wild flax	<i>Linum lewisii</i>
___ Downy paintbrush	<i>Castilleja sessiliflora</i>
___ Pasque flower	<i>Pulsitilla patens</i>
___ Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>
___ Skeleton rush	<i>Lygodesmia juncea</i>
___ Prairie coneflower	<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>
___ Pale purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>
___ Crested prickly poppy	<i>Argemone pleiacantha</i>



<u>COMMON</u>	<u>BOTANIC</u>
___ Western Goatsbeard	<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>
___ Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>
___ Indian grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>
___ Needle & Thread grass	<i>Stipa spartea</i>
___ Green milkweed	<i>Asclepias viridiflora</i>
___ Prairie cordgrass	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>
___ Purple prairie clover	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>
___ Prairie aster	<i>Aster paludosus</i>
___ Maximillian sunflower	<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>
___ Shell leaf penstemon	<i>Penstemon grandiflorus</i>
___ Clasping coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia amplexicaulis</i>
___ Prairie Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia occidentalis</i>
___ Big Bluestem grass	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>
___ Little Bluestem grass	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>
___ Hood's phlox	<i>Phlox hoodii</i>
___ Prairie smoke	<i>Geum triflorum</i>
___ Squirreltail grass	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>
___ Bluegrama grass	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>
___ Fringed sage	<i>Artemisia frigida</i>
___ White sage	<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>
___ White prairie aster	<i>Aster falcatus</i>
___ Smooth blue aster	<i>Aster laevis</i>
___ Western wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>

## COMMON

False boneset  
Dotted gayfeather  
Wild bergamot  
Thin-leaved evening primrose  
Black-eyed susan  
Canada goldenrod  
Purple Meadow rue  
Poison ivy  
Prostrate vervain  
Hoary vervain  
Darkthroat shooting star  
Narrow leaf bluebells  
Stemless hymenoxys  
Downy paintbrush  
Meadow deathcamas  
Pasque flower  
Woolly sedge  
Curlycup Gumweed  
Common sunflower  
Hairy goldaster  
Scarlet gaura  
Thin-leaved breadroot  
Leafy phlox  
Narrowleaf four-o'clock  
Green needle grass  
Prairie cinquefoil  
Common star lily  
White prairie clover  
Wild prairie rose  
Prairie Dropseed  
Switchgrass  
Smooth scouring rush  
Sandbar willow

## BOTANIC

*Kuhnia eupatorioides*  
*Liatris punctata*  
*Monarda fistulosa*  
*Oenothera biennis*  
*Rudbeckia hirta*  
*Solidago canadensis*  
*Thalictrum dasycarpum*  
*Toxicodendron rydbergii*  
*Verbena bracteata*  
*Verbena stricta*  
*Dodecatheon pulchellum*  
*Mertensia lanceolata*  
*Hymenoxys acaulis*  
*Castilleja sessiliflora*  
*Zigadenus venenosus*  
*Anemone patens*  
*Carex lanuginosa*  
*Grindelia squarrosa*  
*Helianthus annuus*  
*Heterotheca vilosa*  
*Guara coccinea*  
*Psoralea tenuiflora*  
*Phlox alyssifolia*  
*Mirabilis linearis*  
*Stipa viridula*  
*Potentilla arguta*  
*Leucocrinum montanum*  
*Dalea candida*  
*Rosa arkansana*  
*Calamovilfa longifolia*  
*Panicum virgatum*  
*Eqisetum laevigatum*  
*Salix exigua*

# KIWANIS - MARY HALL PARK NATIVE PLANT AREA



PRESENTED BY THE

**RAPID CITY PARKS DEPT.  
RAPID CITY KIWANIS CLUBS  
PENNINGTON CO.  
MASTER GARDENERS**

A grant from the SD Wildlife Diversity Small Grant Program  
paid for the cost of printing this brochure.