

INSIDE this issue

RTK Spotlight: Carrie Allison 2
Pre-Symphony Photo Insert 3&4
Photo Contest Ends August 15 5

Register now for 2018 Kansas Range Schools!

- Learn more about rangeland management at one of two Kansas range schools hosted by Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition.
- Mid & Short Grass School is scheduled for August 7-9 at Ringneck Ranch near Tipton, KS.
- Tallgrass School is scheduled for August 21-23 at Camp Wood YMCA near Elmdale, KS.
- Participants will learn to identify plants, figure stocking rates, monitor vegetation response and write a drought mitigation plan plus basic rangeland management skills.
- Each range school costs \$350 per student, which covers room, board and tuition for the 2 ½ day school.
- Scholarships of \$175 are available for most ranchers and eligible college students.
- Scholarships of \$125 are available for natural resource agency personnel.
- To register or learn more, visit www.kglc.org, email barth.crouch@gmail.com or call 785-452-0780.

Thank You and Congratulations!

Thank you to the winning bidders during the Pre-Symphony in the Flint Hills live auction!

Symphony prairie art print 1 of 100 -
Tony Caputo & LewJene Schneider

Flint Hills map - Jane Koger

Quarter beef - Glenn Walker

Quarter beef - Kevin Allison

Personalized metal sign - Kevin Kniebel

Hand-framed longhorn canvas prints -
Danny McCurry

Hand-crafted lap quilt - Gary Gilbert

Greater Prairie Chicken hunt - Scott Strickland

Framed photograph - Raymond Sproul

RTK Celebrates 15 Years

By Samantha Weishaar, RTK Associate Director

This year Ranchland Trust of Kansas (RTK) celebrates 15 years. Thanks to generous support by donors, RTK has been able to accomplish many goals since its creation in 2003.

RTK was founded by the Kansas Livestock Association with the intent of assisting land-owners, on a voluntary basis, to ensure grazing lands remain productive and available to future generations. To date, RTK has done just that by assisting 13 families in conserving over 13,000 acres on 18 conservation easements of agricultural grazing lands for future generations of farmers and ranchers.

Over the past 15 years, RTK has had the opportunity to be involved with many great programs and organizations, including the Kansas Leopold Conservation Award and Partnership of Rangeland Trusts. We have even been able to create some new programs of our own, including the Brand Legacy and Next Generation programs.

One of RTK's greatest accomplishments to date was becoming an accredited

land trust in 2017. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission awarded RTK accreditation and we received national recognition by joining only 372 ac-



RTK was recognized as an accredited land trust at Land Trust Alliance Rally in Denver, October 2017

credited land trusts across the nation that have demonstrated their commitment to professional excellence and maintaining the public's trust in their work.

Unfortunately, as RTK continues to grow, there are not enough resources and financial support available to meet the demand. The conservation projects also exceed the number of staff we have

available. Last fall, RTK addressed this issue and launched a capital campaign. Through the goals of this five-year campaign, RTK hopes to secure enough funding to complete voluntary conservation easements on an additional 10,000 acres and hire a full-time executive director. It will be impossible to complete our goals without the continued support of generous RTK donors.

It is very important that RTK's supportive friends come together for the next five years, not only to give during our annual giving program, but also to give toward our capital campaign. The success of RTK's future and the future of Kansas landscapes and grazing lands depends on you!

RTK has created a brochure highlighting its accomplishments and campaign action plans. RTK board and staff members would love to visit you and give you the opportunity to learn more about the campaign and future of RTK.

Together we can save iconic Kansas landscapes and grazing lands forever. 🌾

Opportunity for Native Grazing Land Protection in the Smoky Hills

By Stephanie Manes, RTK Smoky Hills Coordinator

The Ranchland Trust of Kansas (RTK), in partnership with Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism and Pheasants Forever, received \$1.18 million in funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for the purchase of voluntary conservation easements on agricultural lands in Ellsworth, McPherson, Ottawa and Saline counties that provide quality habitat for grassland birds such as prairie chickens.

These funds are matched by RTK and must be obli-

gated and spent by March 2019.

Landowners in these counties interested in placing a conservation easement on their ranch should contact Stephanie Manes of RTK at stephmanes@gmail.com or (620) 388-3843 to apply for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).

Applications may be submitted at any time, but those received prior to August 17 will be ranked for near-term funding. 🌾

OUR MISSION

To preserve Kansas' ranching heritage and open spaces for future generations through the conservation of working landscapes.

CONTACT INFORMATION

6031 SW 37th Street
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 273-5115

www.ranchlandtrustofkansas.org

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STAFF

Mike Beam
Executive Director
mike@kla.org

Samantha Weishaar
Associate Director
samantha@kla.org

Stephanie Manes
Smoky Hills Coordinator
stephmanes@gmail.com



- Sound Finances
- Ethical Conduct
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- Lasting Stewardship

RTK Spotlight: Carrie Allison

By Samantha Weishaar, RTK Associate Director

Carrie Allison of Eureka is the newest member of the Ranchland Trust of Kansas (RTK) Board of Directors. Carrie grew up in Albany, Oregon, until her family moved to Rolla, Missouri, when she was 14.

After high school she attended the University of Missouri Columbia where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education. Carrie taught for one year in Alvarado, Texas, then married Kevin Allison and moved to Geneseo, Illinois. They lived in Illinois for nine years where all three of their children were born.

The Allisons moved to Larned, Kansas, in 1996.

Kevin and Carrie have two daughters, Audrey (Tyler) Schultz and Meredith Allison, a son, Nolan Allison, and a granddaughter, Annie Schultz. Audrey and Meredith are both Kansas University graduates and Nolan is a Kansas State University graduate.

Carrie said, "Unlike myself, our children were raised with cattle, 4-H and a strong background in agriculture. Our quality family time was working cows and building electric fence."

While raising their family, Carrie stayed home while teaching part time. When her kids were all in school, she went back to work teaching special education while working on her master's degree through Fort Hays State University. She received her master's degree and worked in special education for six years, then taught second grade until their family moved to the ranch at Eureka the summer of 2013.

"Kevin and I were fortunate to be able to purchase the ranch we now live on after buying a neighboring pasture in 1999. We have always loved the Flint Hills and were intrigued by its beauty and history and felt very blessed when we were able to become stewards to a place of our own," Carrie said.

The original acreage the Allisons pur-

chased had been in absentee ownership for many years and had over 40 names on the existing deed.

Carrie said, "There were so many owners involved over the years that the place had sort of slipped through the cracks in the area of management. We have worked hard to restore the pastures to a healthier state. Fortunately, the prairie is resilient and it has made a good recovery."

The Allisons worked on improving their ranchland through the help of local Natural Resources Conservation Service and programs available in their area.

"After we bought the first pasture, Heather Fuesz introduced us to RTK. We learned about RTK and its goals to preserve and maintain the prairies of the Flint Hills and we were drawn to its mission," Carrie said. "As a new board member, I would like to see more opportunity for some of these places that need special attention."

Carrie's interest and knowledge in prairie education is apparent. Both Kevin and Carrie want to help educate people about this beautiful area they call home. They are passionate land stewards and she will be a great asset to the RTK Board of Directors.

Carrie added, "Our children have a very vested interest on the ranch and are constantly reminded what a privilege it is to be stewards of the tallgrass prairies of Kansas. We are only here for a short while and it is our job to take good care of and maintain this beautiful area for future generations to come."

Carrie's passions line up with RTK's mission as she is aware of the importance of conservation for future generations of farmers and ranchers.

"We want our future generations to be able to see the horned toads, collared lizards, prairie chickens, quail, all prairie wildlife and native flowers and grasses maintained alongside the grazing cattle. We want to be able to say that we used it, enjoyed it, and left the prairie better than we found it," Carrie said.



RTK Feature Story: The Power of One

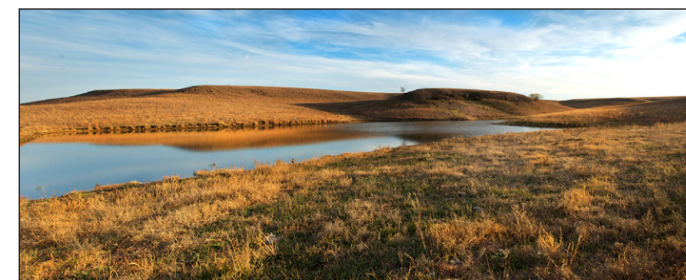
By Tim Connell, RTK Board Member

"Our remedies oft in ourselves do lie." - William Shakespeare

Shakespeare had it right. The remedies to our problems often are within our own power to solve. The prairies of our state - the Flint Hills, the Smoky Hills, the Gypsum Hills, the Red Hills and all the places in between - are being eroded by housing, ranchettes, and industrial uses. It is most evident in the eastern part of the state. It is easy for an individual to say, "Those forces are beyond my control. I am powerless to stop them." That conclusion would be incorrect.

Your individual contribution to Ranchland Trust of Kansas (RTK) can be leveraged with other funds to purchase and maintain conservation easements across the state. Conservation easements continue the use of prairie as prairie for eons

to come. If enough of us support RTK, the "remedy" to the loss of prairie will come from ourselves. That is why I support RTK and hope you will as well.



Glenn & Barbara Walker Conservation Easement in Smoky Hills

RTK Photography Contest Ends August 15

By Samantha Weishaar, RTK Associate Director

The Ranchland Trust of Kansas (RTK) invites professional and amateur photographers to submit photographs for its seventh annual photo contest to showcase the natural beauty of ranching and grazing lands across the state. The competition offers Kansans the chance to explore and capture the many activities, seasons and faces of Kansas' ranching tradition.

Participants should submit photos expressing the mission of RTK: "To preserve Kansas' ranching heritage and open spaces for future generations through the conservation of working landscapes." This may include landscape, livestock and people, with preference to grasslands, grazing land, ranchers, cattle and much more.

Participants may enter up to five photos. The entry deadline for the contest is August 15, 2018. Entries will be judged by a panel of professionals in the field of photography and RTK representatives.

All prizes for the contest are sponsored by Wolfe's Camera of Topeka. Wolfe's will award 10 photo cards to all 10 category winners. Categories include: Grand Prize, Landscape, Livestock, People, Youth (ages 5-17), Kansas Livestock Association Member, Fan Favorite via Facebook voting and Honorable Mentions. The grand prize winner will receive their choice of an 11"x 14" stretched photo canvas or a 12" x 18" metal print of their winning photo.

For full contest rules and to enter, visit www.ranchlandtrustofkansas.org (News, Events, Photo Contest, Entry Form). For questions, please contact Samantha Weishaar at (785) 273-5115 or samantha@kla.org.



2017 Livestock Category Winning Photo by Kerstin Mitchell

Yes, I would like to support the Ranchland Trust of Kansas' Capital Campaign!

My gift is enclosed:

☐ \$100-\$249 Friend ☐ \$250-\$499 Sponsor ☐ \$500-\$999 Steward ☐ \$1,000+ Patron ☐ Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Payment: ☐ Check enclosed ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Return this form with your contribution to: Ranchland Trust of Kansas • 6031 SW 37th Street • Topeka, KS 66614

The Ranchland Trust of Kansas is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization. A contribution to RTK is a tax-deductible, charitable contribution.