

For the Love of Grass

*A sojourn through the Flint Hill of Kansas
and the Sand Hills of Nebraska*



By
*Curtis Sharp, Bob MacLauchlan,
Jack Carlson and Wendall Oaks*



For the Love of Grass

Four friends and colleagues traversed three states and 2000 miles simply for the love of viewing plants in their native environment. Our principal destinations were the Flint Hill of Kansas and the Sandhills of Nebraska. This is a brief summary of what we saw and where we saw our plant friends.

We assembled in Julesburg, CO about noon on September 9, 2008, and departed shortly thereafter.

Day 1, Observational Stops 1 - Western Kansas

Our destination for the evening was Garden City, KS. Our route took us south on US 385, then east into Kansas on US 34. We made three stops; one just north of St. Francis, one just north of Scott City, KS and our last stop was the Sandsage Bison Range and Wildlife Area, slightly southwest of Garden City KS. All the plants we saw at the three sites are listed below. Although the Sandsage Bison Range and Wildlife Area site was disappointing in that the range was badly infested with a host of invasive plants, it contained multiple species.

Species identified among the three stops included:

Grasses

Andropogon gerardii Vitman

Andropogon hallii Hack.

Bothriochloa ischaemum (L.) Keng

Bothriochloa laguroides (DC.) Herter ssp. *Laguroides*

big bluestem

sand bluestem

yellow bluestem

silver bluestem



Tenpetal blazingstar at Sandsage Bison Range and Wildlife Area

Bouteloua curtipendula (Michx.) Torr.
Bouteloua dactyloides (Nutt.) J.T. Columbus
Bouteloua gracilis (Willd. ex Kunth) Lag. ex Griffiths
Eragrostis trichodes (Nutt.) Alph. Wood
Schizachyrium scoparium (Michx.) Nash
Sorghastrum nutans (L.) Nash
Sporobolus cryptandrus (Torr.) A. Gray
Panicum virgatum L.

sideoats grama
 buffalograss
 blue grama
 sand lovegrass
 little bluestem
 indiangrass
 sand dropseed
 switchgrass



Seed heads of indiangrass and big bluestem, with some switchgrass in background

Legumes, Forbs, Shrubs, and Trees

Artemisia filifolia Torr.
Desmanthus illinoensis (Michx.) MacMill. ex B.L. Rob. & Fernald

Euphorbia marginata Pursh
Grindelia squarrosa (Pursh) Dunal
Gutierrezia sarothrae (Pursh) Britton & Rusby
Helianthus annuus L.
Liatris aspera Michx.
Mentzelia decapetala (Pursh ex Sims) Urb. & Gilg ex Gilg
Rhus trilobata Nutt.

sand sagebrush

 Illinois bundleflower
 snow-on-the-mountain
 curlycup gumweed
 broom snakeweed
 common sunflower
 tall blazing star
 tenpetal blazingstar
 skunkbush sumac

We retired for the evening in Garden City, KS

Day 2, Observational Stop 2 - The Belpre Wayside

On the morning of September 10 we proceeded east, had breakfast in Dodge City, and continued towards Hutchinson, KS. Zooming along, near Belpre a most robust native grass prairie was observed on the north side of Route US 50. We stopped and were delighted with what we found. It was not being grazed, and could be a CRP planting. The four horseman, switchgrass, big and little bluestem and indiangrass were the dominate species, with switchgrass the most dominate. Several plants exceeded 7 feet. Plants identified:

Grasses

Andropogon gerardii Vitman

Panicum virgatum L.

Schizachyrium scoparium (Michx.) Nash

Sporobolus airoides (Torr.) Torr.

Sorghastrum nutans (L.) Nash

big bluestem

switchgrass

little bluestem

alkali sacaton

Indiangrass

Forbs

Lotus unifoliolatus (Hook.) Benth.

Solanum L.

American bird's-foot trefoil

nightshade



Very tall grass, and it is switchgrass

Day 2, Observational stop 3 - Dillon Nature Center

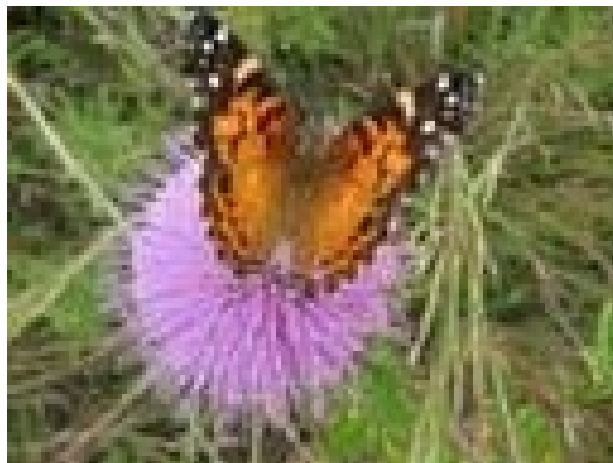
From The Belpre Wayside we proceed to the Dillon Nature Center, just on the northeast edge of Hutchinson, KS. What a gem. We found:

Grasses

<i>Andropogon gerardii</i> Vitman	big bluestem
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> (Michx.) Torr.	sideoats grama
<i>Eragrostis trichodes</i> (Nutt.) Alph. Wood	sand lovegrass
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> L.	switchgrass
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> (Michx.) Nash	little bluestem
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> (L.) Nash	Indiangrass
<i>Tridens flavus</i> (L.) Hitchc.	purpletop tridens

Legumes, Forbs, Shrubs

<i>Agalinis aspera</i> (Douglas ex Benth.) Britton	tall false foxglove
<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i> (Michx.) Greene	partridge pea
<i>Cirsium altissimum</i> (L.) Hill	tall thistle
<i>Commelina erecta</i> L.	whitemouth dayflower
<i>Croptilon hookerianum</i> (Torr. & A. Gray) House var. <i>graniticum</i> (E.B. Sm.) E.B. Sm.	Hooker's scratchdaisy
<i>Froelichia floridana</i> (Nutt.) Moq.	plains snakecotton
<i>Gaillardia aestivalis</i> (Walter) H. Rock var. <i>aestivalis</i>	lanceleaf blanketflower
<i>Helianthus maximiliani</i> Schrad.	Maximilian sunflower
<i>Lespedeza capitata</i> Michx.	roundhead lespedeza
<i>Oenothera biennis</i> L.	common evening primrose
<i>Salvia azurea</i> Michx. ex Lam. var. <i>grandiflora</i> Benth.	pitcher sage
<i>Solidago altissima</i> L.	Canada goldenrod
<i>Verbena stricta</i> Vent.	hoary verbena



There were other species believed to be introduced:

<i>Bothriochloa bladhii</i> (Retz.) S.T. Blake	Caucasian bluestem
<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i> L.	common mare's-tail

Upon leaving Dillon Nature Center one member of our foursome recalled leaving his coat at the Center, so we returned. Of course we will never mention his name.



Day 2, Observation Stop 4 - Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, School Site

Our arrival in Cottonwoods Falls was near sunset on September 10th. But our zeal drove us to the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, mostly acquired by the Nature Conservancy and operated by the National Park Service. Available daylight suggested a short visit instead to the Lower Fox Creek School, which was part of the Preserve. The site for the schoolhouse was donated by Stephen F. Jones, former owner of the ranch which is now part of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. The deed stipulated that the property would revert back to the ranch owner when the place was no longer used as a school. The first school term began on September 1, 1884, and closed in 1930.

Lower Fox Creek School



Visiting the school did not damper our plant identification spirit. In the school yard and surrounding area we observed several plants, and identified those below.

Grass

<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> (Michx.) Torr.	sideoats grama
--	----------------

Forbs

<i>Gaura longiflora</i> Spach	longflower beeblossom
<i>Helianthus annuus</i> L.	common sunflower
<i>Liatris punctata</i> Hook.	dotted blazing star
<i>Salvia azurea</i> Michx. ex Lam. var. <i>grandiflora</i> Benth.	pitcher sage
<i>Solidago altissima</i> L.	Canada goldenrod

Day 3, Observational Stop 5 - Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve and Surrounding Countryside

In the Flint Hills, we drove south on Highway 177, stopping at a rest stop before the Bazaar turn-off. Then a left turn through the village of Bazaar following the back roads denoted on the maps contained in the Prairie Eyrth book by William Least-Heat Moon, English professor at the University of Missouri. Then past the Kansas Turnpike and around to Matfield Green, then north on 177 past the Knute Rockne crash site through Cottonwood Falls to the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve.

Plants identified on the route, including the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve bus tour, are below.

Grasses

<i>Andropogon gerardii</i> Vitman	big bluestem
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> (Michx.) Torr.	sideoats grama
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> (Willd. ex Kunth) Lag. ex Griffiths	blue grama
<i>Eragrostis trichodes</i> (Nutt.) Alph. Wood	sand lovegrass
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> L.	switchgrass
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> (Michx.) Nash	little bluestem
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> (L.) Nash	Indiangrass
<i>Spartina pectinata</i> Bosc ex Link	prairie cordgrass
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> (A. Gray) A. Gray	prairie dropseed
<i>Tridens flavus</i> (L.) Hitchc.	purpletop tridens

Legumes, Forbs, Shrubs

<i>Amorpha canescens</i> Pursh	leadplant
<i>Artemisia filifolia</i> Torr.	sand sagebrush
<i>Helianthus annuus</i> L.	common sunflower
<i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i> Nutt.	bigfruit evening primrose
<i>Salvia azurea</i> Michx. ex Lam. var. <i>grandiflora</i> Benth.	pitcher sage
<i>Solidago altissima</i> L.	Canada goldenrod
<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i> Moench	coralberry

The following exotic species were observed. The broomweed infestation was severe.

Amphiachyris dracunculoides (DC.) Nutt.
Nepeta cataria L.

prairie broomweed
catnip



The broomweed is in the foreground of the left picture. Most of the plants in the background of both pictures are indiagrass.

We enjoyed a nice lunch in Cottonwood Falls, and had the good fortune to bump into our lodging proprietor of the following evening. It was fortunate in that he advised us of the items left behind, which we recovered. From there we proceeded north to the Konza Prairie, just south of Manhattan, KS.

Day 3, Observation Site 6 - Konza Prairie Biological Station, Kansas State University

This was a delightful site. The Konza Prairie Long-Term Ecological Research has an education and outreach program about one of the most productive grasslands in North America, the tallgrass prairie. The Konza Prairie program began 1982 with a focus on fire, grazing, and climatic variability as three key drivers that affect ecological pattern and process in grasslands worldwide.

Plants identified included:

Grasses

Andropogon gerardii Vitman
Bouteloua curtipendula (Michx.) Torr.
Bouteloua gracilis (Willd. ex Kunth) Lag. ex Griffiths
Eragrostis trichodes (Nutt.) Alph. Wood
Panicum virgatum L.
Schizachyrium scoparium (Michx.) Nash
Sorghastrum nutans (L.) Nash
Sporobolus heterolepis (A. Gray) A. Gray
Tridens flavus (L.) Hitchc.

big bluestem
sideoats grama
blue grama
sand lovegrass
switchgrass
little bluestem
Indiangrass
prairie dropseed
purpletop tridens

Legumes, Forbs, Shrubs, Trees

Allium stellatum Fraser ex Ker Gawl.

Ceanothus americanus L.

Eupatorium altissimum L.

Helianthus annuus L.

Helianthus maximiliani Schrad.

Helianthus tuberosus L.

Liatris punctata Hook.

Oenothera macrocarpa Nutt.

Oligoneuron rigidum (L.) Small var. *glabratum* (E.L. Braun) G.L. Nesom

Quercus macrocarpa Michx.

Rhus trilobata Nutt.

Rhus glabra L.

Salvia azurea Michx. ex Lam. var. *grandiflora* Benth.

Solidago altissima L.

Stenosiphon linifolius (Nutt. ex James) Heynh

Verbena stricta Vent.

autumn onion

New Jersey tea

tall thoroughwort

common sunflower

Maximilian sunflower

Jerusalem artichoke

dotted blazing star

bigfruit evening primrose

stiff goldenrod

bur oak

skunkbush sumac

smooth sumac

pitcher sage

Canada goldenrod

false gaura

hoary verbena



Some members of the group were so overcome with the grass they chose to lie down and roll in it, appropriately dubbed Homo sapiens ssp. wallowensis. We all marveled at its beauty.

We retired for the evening in Manhattan.

Day 4, Observational Site 7 - NRCS Manhattan Plant Materials Center

September 12 was the undesigned rain day, which it did. We enjoyed a morning visit at the NRCS Plant Materials Center, reviewing their activities and physical plant. Unfortunately, the downpour kept us out of the fields.

Day 4, Observational Site 8 - Homestead National Monument

By late morning we departed, drove north into Nebraska, then west to Beatrice, Nebraska and the Homestead National Monument. We took in the displays and short movie, then out to circumnavigate the 100 acre restored prairie.

Grasses

Andropogon gerardii Vitman

big bluestem

Sorghastrum nutans (L.) Nash

Indiangrass

Spartina pectinata Bosc ex Link

prairie cordgrass

Forbs, Trees

Maclura pomifera (Raf.) C.K. Schneid.

osage orange

Populus deltoides Bartram ex Marsh. ssp. *monilifera* (Aiton) Eckenwalder

plains cottonwood

Solidago altissima L.

Canada goldenrod

And one dominant introduced grass:

Bromus inermis Leyss.

smooth brome



Daniel and Agnes Freeman were the first homesteaders arriving 1863. The museum is in the background.

Day 5, Observational Site 9 - Willa Cather Memorial Prairie, Red Cloud, NB



Saturday morning, September 13, broke clear in Red Cloud, NB. We were off to the Willa Cather Memorial Prairie 5 miles south of town. This prairie was established in the spring of 2006 in order to “-- restore and conserve the rare native grasses, plant life, and wildlife of its delicate ecology”. It had previously been grazed at varying intensities, which were reflected in the vegetation, as shown below.



Both sides of the fence were part of the Memorial Prairie.

Plants observed were similar but not identical to those at the Konza Prairie. The two new species observed are listed first.

Onosmodium bejariense DC. ex A. DC.
Astragalus canadensis L.

soft-hair marbleseed
Canadian milkvetch

Repeats included:

Grasses

Andropogon gerardii Vitman
Bouteloua curtipendula (Michx.) Torr.
Bouteloua gracilis (Willd. ex Kunth) Lag. ex Griffiths
Eragrostis trichodes (Nutt.) Alph. Wood
Panicum virgatum L.
Schizachyrium scoparium (Michx.) Nash
Sorghastrum nutans (L.) Nash
Sporobolus heterolepis (A. Gray) A. Gray
Tridens flavus (L.) Hitchc.

big bluestem
sideoats grama
blue grama
sand lovegrass
switchgrass
little bluestem
Indiangrass
prairie dropseed
purpletop tridens



***Our undesignated,
but immensely
effective, leader
can be seen in the
distance of this
lovely site***

Legumes, Forbs, Shrubs, Trees

Eupatoriadelphus fistulosus (Barratt) King & H. Rob.
Euphorbia marginata Pursh
Juniperus virginiana L.
Oligoneuron rigidum (L.) Small var. *glabratum* (E.L. Braun) G.L. Nesom
Rhus typhina L.
Salvia azurea Michx. ex Lam. var. *grandiflora* Benth.
Stenosiphon linifolius (Nutt. ex James) Heynh
Symphoricarpos albus (L.) S.F. Blake

Trumpetweed (Joe-Pye weed)
snow on the mountain
eastern redcedar
stiff goldenrod
staghorn sumac
pitcher sage
false gaura
common snowberry

Unidentified species included:



...blooming cow pies



...mama and baby blooms



...the whole family

Following a pleasant detour to a Red Cloud book store, we were off to the Sand Hill of Nebraska.

Day 5, Observational Site 10 - Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest

Not far into the Sand Hills we made our first observational site at the Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest. There it was, completely hand planted, competing for our beloved native grass.



While we did not see it, blowout penstemon (*Penstemon haydenii*), the rarest plant species native to the Great Plains, which grows only in the Sandhills, can be found in the forest.

Other plants observed at the site include:

Andropogon gerardii Vitman
Calamovilfa longifolia (Hook.) Scribn.
Eriogonum annuum Nutt.
Oenothera biennis L.

Panicum virgatum L.
Schizachyrium scoparium (Michx.) Nash
Sorghastrum nutans (L.) Nash

big bluestem
 prairie sandreed
 annual buckwheat
 common evening
 primrose
 switchgrass
 little bluestem
 Indiangrass

Trees used to establish the forest were:

Juniperus virginiana L.
Pinus banksiana Lamb.
Pinus ponderosa C. Lawson
Pinus sylvestris L.

eastern redcedar
 jack pine
 ponderosa pine
 Scots pine

The survival of this forest is questionable without on-going human intervention.

Day 5, Observational Site 11 – Valentine National Wildlife Refuge

Leaving the Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest, we traveled north on highway US 83 to the Valentine Wildlife Refuge is south of the city of Valentine, Nebraska. Although it was Saturday, and no employees were on site, it was available for our botanizing. We found a rich flora of:

Grasses

<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> L.	creeping bentgrass
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i> Vitman	big bluestem
<i>Andropogon hallii</i> Hack.	sand bluestem
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> (Michx.) Torr.	sideoats grama
<i>Calamovilfa longifolia</i> (Hook.) Scribn.	prairie sandreed
<i>Eragrostis trichodes</i> (Nutt.) Alph. Wood	sand lovegrass
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i> (Ledeb.) Schult.	prairie junegrass
<i>Muhlenbergia pungens</i> Thurb.	sandhill muhly
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> L.	switchgrass
<i>Paspalum setaceum</i> Michx.	thin paspalum
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> (Michx.) Nash	little bluestem
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> (L.) Nash	Indiangrass
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> (A. Gray) A. Gray	prairie dropseed



Five or six foot bluestem in the Sandhills is impressive

Grass-like, Legume, Forb, Shrub

<i>Amorpha canescens</i> Pursh	leadplant
<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i> L.	Indianhemp
<i>Artemisia campestris</i> L.	field sagewort
<i>Artemisia filifolia</i> Torr.	sand sagebrush
<i>Carex</i> L. (three possible species, <i>C. duriscula</i> , <i>C. filifolia</i> , <i>C. inops</i>)	sedge

<i>Cycloloma atriplicifolium</i> (Spreng.) J.M. Coult.	winged pigweed
<i>Glycyrrhiza lepidota</i> Pursh	American licorice
<i>Ipomopsis longiflora</i> (Torr.) V.E. Grant ssp. <i>longiflora</i>	flaxflowered ipomopsis
<i>Prunus pumila</i> L.	sandcherry
<i>Solidago missouriensis</i> Nutt.	Missouri goldenrod
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> (L.) S.F. Blake	common snowberry
<i>Symphyotrichum ericoides</i> (L.) G.L. Nesom	white heath aster

Winged pigweed (*Cycloloma atriplicifolium*), a low tumbleweed of the sandhills.



Starts green

turns a little red

then redder

last brown and breaks off

Another ‘almost lost or forgot’ item bedeviled us at this site; a lost blueberry--, uh blackberry. A return to and sweep of the area by calling its number soon returned the lost berry.

Following the recovery we retired in the community of Valentine, NB for the evening.

Day 6, Observational Site 12 - Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge.

On our drive through the Refuge on the morning of September 13, we found many old fiends, including:

Grass

<i>Andropogon gerardii</i> Vitman	big bluestem
<i>Andropogon hallii</i> Hack.	sand bluestem
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> (Michx.) Torr.	sideoats grama
<i>Bouteloua dactyloides</i> (Nutt.) J.T. Columbus	buffalograss
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> (Willd. ex Kunth) Lag. ex Griffiths	blue grama
<i>Elymus canadensis</i> L.	Canada wildrye
<i>Hesperostipa comata</i> (Trin. & Rupr.) Barkworth	needle and thread
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> L.	switchgrass
<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i> (Rydb.) A. Löve	western wheatgrass
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> (Michx.) Nash	little bluestem
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> (L.) Nash	Indiangrass
<i>Spartina pectinata</i> Bosc ex Link	prairie cordgrass
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> (A. Gray) A. Gray	prairie dropseed

Tree

Pinus ponderosa C. Lawson

ponderosa pine

Plus a few other interesting species.



While the entire day could have been spent at the Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, there was more sites to be seen, so we headed west on US 20, stopping first at a private ranch about 30 mile west of Valentine.

Day 6, Observational Site 13 - Route US 20 Private Ranch.



***Excellent managed pasture,
containing:***

Grass

Andropogon hallii Hack.
Calamovilfa longifolia (Hook.) Scribn.
Koeleria macrantha (Ledeb.) Schult.
Hesperostipa comata (Trin. & Rupr.) Barkworth
Panicum virgatum L.
Pascopyrum smithii (Rydb.) A. Löve
(This was the dominate plant in the stand.)
Schizachyrium scoparium (Michx.) Nash
Sorghastrum nutans (L.) Nash

sand bluestem
prairie sandreed
prairie Junegrass
needle and thread
switchgrass
western wheatgrass

little bluestem
Indiangrass

Legume, Forb, Shrub

Artemisia ludoviciana Nutt.
Helianthus annuus L.
Psoraleidum tenuiflorum (Pursh) Rydb.

white sagebrush
common sunflower
slimflower scurfpea



How sweet it is!!

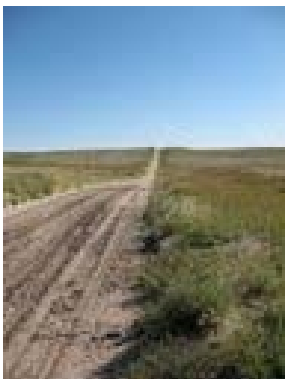
Shortly after departing this site, sand lovegrass became prevalent along the highway roadside, green due to rain runoff from the asphalt. A brief stop at the Arthur Bowring Sandhills Ranch State Historical Park, near Merriman, Nebraska suggested some excessive grazing practices, and limited opportunity for new plant finds. Jack did go behind a red cedar and emerged with a *Poa* species that was not identified, but looks like *Poa pratensis* L. Kentucky bluegrass. Also observed was a typical plant of *Muhlenbergia pungens* Thurb., sandhill muhly, showing the typical growing out to a ring, or center died out.



We arrived in Chadron in time for lunch at Helens. Upon our departure we were refueling when Wendall's phone rang. It was the most delightful young woman who served us at Helens. Someone had left their coat, and in the pocket was a cell phone. But who to call? Fortunately, the bill was paid with credit card, so she called the matching name. Another bullet dodged. We collected the coat and headed east, towards Gordon, on US 20.

Day 6, Observational Site 14 - The Old Jules Excursion

The balance of the afternoon was devoted to the **Old Jules Excursion**. Jules Sandoz emigrated from Switzerland and homesteaded on the northern edge of the sandhills in the 1880's. Fortunately, but not unusual, Jack had memorized the maps in the book *Old Jules* by Mary Sandoz, his daughter. He directed us to as close as the roads would get us to the Jules home site.



This wasn't as close as Jack had hoped, but he accepted the situation until Wendall, who was driving, insisted we drive to the top of yonder hill.

Things began to fall into place. First we saw a cemetery, which contained the remains of several Sandoz. While there, a local rancher, Ken Frey, came along. Old Jules in the early 20th century had sent advertisements back to Switzerland in an effort to get Swiss immigrants to come and homestead close to him. Ken was the grandson of a man who had responded.

He knew his way around and led us to the exact spot of Old Jules home site, provided other detailed information and directed us to early land holdings of Old Jules. There we found the grave site of author Mary Sandoz, and a nearly 100 year old orchard established by Old Jules.



Old Jules Home Site, pictures and a stone marker behind the pictures.



It's great when a plan comes together (grave site of Mary Sandoz).



Leaving the orchard, after a successful quest for Old Jules.

Throughout the quest for Old Jules we continued to evaluate the flora. The first three are exotic grasses.

Agropyron cristatum (L.) Gaertn.
Bromus tectorum L.
Vulpia myuros (L.) C.C. Gmel.

crested wheatgrass
 cheatgrass
 rat-tail fescue

Native Grass

Bouteloua dactyloides (Nutt.) J.T. Columbus
Bouteloua gracilis (Willd. ex Kunth) Lag. ex Griffiths
Schizachyrium scoparium (Michx.) Nash

buffalograss
 blue grama
 little bluestem

Forb

Argemone polyanthemus (Fedde) G.B. Ownbey

crested pricklypoppy

The End

There are no standards to measure the success or failure of such a sojourn. Expectations, yes. On that score card, it far exceeded those of the author.

One related and one unrelated plant item warrants mentioning. First, there was some discussion to the effect that the four horsemen should become 5 horsemen. The new addition is *Tridens flavus* (L.) Hitchc. purpletop.

The second item relates to forgotten or lost items. Our youngest member lost or forgot the most, 2nd and 3rd youngest tied, and the oldest lost or forgot nothing.

As the sun disappeared in the western sky, we departed the Jules orchard, and our **For the Love of Grass** sojourn ended. The night was spent in Alliance, NB. On the morning of September 15 drove to Julesburg, CO and parted company, vowing that we would do it again.

Curtis Sharp
Bob MacLauchlan

Jack Carlson
Wendall Oaks

