

Sunflower Journeys

The Complete Seasons

This document is an index to topics found in the Sunflower Journeys television program produced by KTWU/11 Public Television in Topeka, Kansas.

This series has been made possible by the generous annual support of the agencies and individuals listed on each season.

*Selected shows are viewable online at watch.ktwu.org.
DVDs are available at libraries throughout
Kansas, ordering online or by contacting us through the
information listed below.*

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2015: 2800 Series

(There are no show titles for this season. Please refer to episode number.)

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2016: 2900 Series

Sunflower Journeys continues to be a popular show at KTWU, and opportunities to travel across the state and bring out-of-the-way places to our television audience continue in this 29th year of the show. In addition to our on-air presence, a series was developed for the web on Facebook, where the ‘Throwback Thursday’ concept was combined with the Sunflower Journeys archives of shows. Each week we pull out a segment from the past, dust it off and uploaded it to our social media audience on Facebook. One of the most popular segments to be shared in 2016 focused on the natural Waconda Springs in Jewell County, where the area was submerged to create a flood control reservoir. Even though it was posted one time, it was shared for months afterward.*



Episode #2901 “A Show For Kids”

Camp Wood YMCA’s 100th Year: We travel to Elmdale, KS to visit Camp Wood YMCA, which, has celebrated it’s 100th anniversary in 2016. We tell the story of how this parcel of Flint Hills land was donated for the camp and of the camp’s early ethnic diversity.

Kansas Learning Center for Health: The Kansas Learning Center for Health is located in Halstead, KS and for 50 years, has they have supplied educators and visitors of all ages with a full-service museum that includes hands-on exhibits and instructive materials related to science and health. This is the second oldest health museum in the nation.

Plains People - Sarah Higerson: We arrive at the Deanna Rose Childhood Farmstead museum at dawn, when Supervisor of Animal Care, Sarah Higerson prepares to feed breakfast to the animals. Sarah visited the farm from an early age, and appreciated the farmstead as a child. She was a natural fit to care for the animals as an adult.

Episode #2902 – “Hobbies”

Acoustic Sounds, Inc.: We visited Salina, KS, 15 years ago and interviewed Chad Kassem at Blues Masters Studio. At that time, the vinyl record was more of a historic novelty. Since then, there has been a boom and revival of the format and we see their 10 reconditioned record pressing machines that have been added since our last visit. The machines run around the clock, pressing famous classic rock, jazz and almost any variety of recorded sound.

Bubbling Backyards: The Topeka Area Water Garden Society tour highlights water features in backyards throughout the Topeka area. Pond Hosts welcome visitors, while homeowners are on hand to describe what all goes in to making a beautiful water feature.

Plains People - Margie Hunter, Geocacher: Margie is a dedicated fan of geocaching and we find out what she find interesting about this hobby. She uses GPS equipment to track a location and sign the logbook upon arrival.

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Episode #2903 – “Remembering WWI - 100 Years Later”

James Clark Hughes WWI Collection: We visit the Kansas State Historical Society and see the James Clark Hughes exhibit of wartime memorabilia. Born in 1888, Topekan James Clark Hughes had a vast collection of World War I memorabilia which included photographs, clothing and display of his daily POW diary.

The Artwork of War: In the World War I era, visual media was used to tell the wartime story to folks back home. We visit the Wichita State University and the Kansas Museum of History and look at posters that were used to express thoughts through art.

Plains People - Doran Cart: We meet Doran Cart, senior curator at the national World War I Museum in Kansas City, MO. He opens a new exhibit that uses many artifacts from the museum’s vast collections and we watch construction of the exhibit and the public opening.

Episode #2904 – “Art”

Topeka Art Guild’s 100th Anniversary: We meet members of the Topeka Art Guild and learn about their 100th year anniversary. The guild has created an atmosphere for artists through the decades and today, they have a gallery in Topeka, KS, to show off the work of area artists.

Paint Therapy – Art Uncorked: We visit Margie Mudge and Chelsea Smith at Paint Therapy Uncorked in Topeka, KS, to see art in action as people who haven’t even picked up a paintbrush create beautifully paintings at this local version of the “paint and sip” phenomenon.

Plains People - Pake McNally: We trek to Hardtner, KS, and visit Pake McNally. He relates the history of the blacksmith shop that inspired him as a young boy. He later took over the shop, and carries on the traditions of his original mentor, Tom Smith.

Episode #2905 – “Education”

Teaching History Through TV Commercials: We visit a classroom at Washburn University to see how vintage TV campaign commercials are used to help college students study past Kansas Governors. By watching the commercials, they are able to form opinions on how the candidates expressed themselves through political discourse. Washburn professor Bob Beatty offers his insight on the use of the commercials, and several students describe the process and what they have learned.

K-State Unmanned Aircraft Training: We visit Salina, KS, to get a first-hand look at the K-State Unmanned Aircraft Training Center. The program teaches the building and operation of flying drones.

Plains People - Justin Coffey: Sunflower Journeys descends on Dodge City High School to visit with Justin Coffey, the 2016 Kansas Teacher of the Year. We watch an interactive class work on math problems using real-life experiments involving water-powered rockets, gravity and stopwatches and video production.

Episode #2906 – “Agriculture”

Clydesdale Horse Breeding: We visit a Clydesdale Horse Breeding operation in Goddard, KS. While there are very few operations of this type in Kansas, the Cowskin Creek Clydesdale Farm, run by Scott and Janet Schwindaman, is one of the largest in the state.

Ag Heritage Park, Alta Vista, KS: We visit this vast collection of memorabilia commemorating early agricultural life in rural America and learn the history of why this tourist destination was set up, and what the dedicated owners try to accomplish.

Plains People - Katherine Kelly: We meet Katherine Kelly, the executive director and co-founder of Cultivate Kansas City, which is a nonprofit working to grow food, farms and communities for a healthy local food system.

Episode #2907 – “Places To Visit”

The Bridges of Cowley County – Revisited: We visited Cowley County in Kansas in 2001 to see the counties’ historic stone arch bridges. We returned in 2016 to see what work has been done to promote the bridges and to keep them in the public eye. Soon after we were there, one of the bridges collapsed from heavy rains.

Ball-of-Twineathon: One of the most iconic tourist stops in Kansas, the Ball of Twine in Cawker City, KS, is a stop this season while they are having their annual community picnic and Twine-a-thon.

Plains People - Brent Harris: We introduce you to Brent Harris in Dodge City, KS. The billboards you see on highways leading to Dodge display Brent with his cowboy hat, and vest. He is the “brand ambassador” of the city and welcomes visitors to the Boot Hills Museum.

Episode #2908 – “Recreation”

Glen Elder Fishing Tournament: We visit the Annual Glen Elder Youth Fishing Tournament held at Glen Elder Reservoir in north central Kansas. Youngsters learn how to fish from experts.

Dynamic Discs: We stop at Emporia, KS, to learn about the soaring popularity of Disc Golf with the Dynamic Disc company. Jeremy Rusco, is owner/president of the growing enterprise, and walks us through their vast warehouse and retail storefront. The city of Emporia opens its arms to accommodate disc golf players from around the country for annual tournaments.

Plains People - Jonathan & Kristin Conard: We meet brother and sister team Jonathan & Kristin Conard, the authors of the Kansas Trail Guide, and follow them on some trails throughout the Flint Hills.

Episode #2909 – “Kansas History”

Rocky Ford Fishing Area: We uncover the early history of the Rocky Ford Fishing Area, an historic river crossing near Manhattan, KS. At one time there was a power generating station there, but we uncover a really interesting fact about the dam in that there was an underwater banquet to celebrate it’s completion.

Fifty Years of Historic Preservation in Kansas: We learn what fifty years of the Historic Preservation Act has done for the state of Kansas. Vance Kelley of the Kansas Preservation Alliance and Patrick Zollner, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, weigh in on the accomplishments the act has helped the state accomplish.

Plains People - Combat Air Museum: In our Plains People segment, we meet Stu Entz & Kevin Drewelow, who restore historic aircraft at the Combat Air Museum in Topeka, KS.

Episode #2910 – “Events & Destinations”

The New Kansas Riverkings Museum: We take a look at The Kansas Riverkings Museum in Lawrence, KS, a new place to visit near downtown that depicts the rich history of early anglers who made a living by fishing in the Kaw River.

Sunflower Music Festival: We learn about the Sunflower Music Festival, an annual Topeka, KS, event, where audience members experience some of the best classical music in the area. Musicians visit from all over the world to perform in this event.

Plains People - Boulevard Drive In Theater: It's off to the Boulevard Drive-In Theater, one of the last theaters of its type in the state located in Kansas City, KS.

Episode #2911 – “Festivals”

Capital City Food Truck Festival: We visit an event that was created just for the fun and enjoyment of eating - the Capital City Food Truck Festival in Gage Park, Topeka, KS. Rosa Cavazos of Visit Topeka describes the festival's popularity. Social media played a big part in the festival's first year turnout, and in 2016, the second year of the event, the turnout was even greater, and many more food trucks were added.

Old Shawnee Days: We visit Old Shawnee Days in Shawnee, KS, to see a celebration which acknowledges the accomplishments of the community's agrarian ancestors, and brings the community together with many activities that highlight the region's past.

Plains People - Skylar Arneson: We visit McPherson, KS, and meet Skylar Arneson as he competes in the McPherson Festival of Cultures (McPherson Scottish Festival) Highland Games, despite a significant downpour that threatens the competition.

Episode #2912 – “Kansas Food & Drink”

Destination Dining: We visit Paola, KS, to see why Beethoven's #9 Restaurant has become a spot for destination dining. Linzi Weilert and her mother Jeanie Clerico are co-owners of Beethoven's, and talk about the popularity of German cuisine and their returning customer base. Kelli Hilliard of Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, gives tips on destination dining throughout Kansas.

Most Wanted Vodka: We visit a distillery in Atchison, KS that creates Most Wanted Vodka, a family-owned business that has been making spirits for seven generations.

Plains People - Greg Fox: We meet Greg Fox, a restaurateur and musician in Topeka, KS. Greg runs the RowHouse Restaurant, in downtown Topeka, and shares his love of food with his patrons.

Episode #2913 – “Communities”

Small-Market Radio: We start in Beloit, KS at radio station KVSU, “The Voice of the Solomon Valley,” to see how radio enhances a small community in ways that satellite radio cannot. As an example, the station started a “Joke of the Day,” segment that led to a significant fundraising campaign for a local charity.

NoMar District in Wichita: We meet up with WSU Professor of History Jay Price as he walks us through the NoMar District in North Wichita, KS, an Hispanic business community

that faces challenges in attracting business and a maintaining its sense of community, yet remains optimistic about its future.

Plains People - Scott Stebner: We visit with Scott Stebner, a photographer who spends a lot of time documenting the farming and ranching community in Kansas. He takes us to the Sauble Ranch near Cedar Point, KS and shows us how he documents Pat Sauble, surrounded by the land he has lived and worked on all his life.

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