

CURRICULUM VITAE
SHARON M. ASHWORTH
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of Kansas, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, 2003

Dissertation: Vegetation Dynamics of Restored Wetlands at
 Cheyenne Bottoms, Kansas

M.S., University of Wisconsin - Madison, Land Resources, 1992

Master's Thesis: Vegetation Analysis of the South Beltline Highway
 Wetland Restorations

B.A., Environmental Studies, Smith College, 1987

CURRENT WORK

2/16 – present **Horticulture Program Assistant**, K-State Research and Extension
duties: manage Douglas County Master Gardener Program

8/13 – 8/16 **Program Manager** for the Kansas Natural Resource Council
special project: produced “The Waters of Kansas” documentary film series
knrc.weebly.com

6/11 – present **Freelance science writer**: co-authoring a wetland ecology book
publications in popular magazines:
“How Photosynthesis Works: Out of Biology Class and Into the Garden”, June 2014
Mother Earth News.
"Can Software save salt marshes?", November 2015, Ensia magazine.

CURRENT VOLUNTEER POSTS

4/15 – present City of Lawrence Sustainability Advisory Board, Lawrence KS.

10/15 – present Elizabeth Schultz Environmental Fund selection committee member,
Lawrence, KS.

11/11 – present Master gardener, Douglas County Master Gardeners

RECENT PAST POSITIONS

8/08 – 5/11 **Assistant Professor**, Biology Department, Washburn University
Courses taught: Botany, Ecology, Field Biology, Human Impact on the
Environment, Introductory Biology, Introductory Biology Lab, Research in
Biology, Biology Seminar

1/04 – 5/08 **Lecturer**, Environmental Studies Program, University of Kansas
Coursed taught: Principles of Environmental Studies, Wetland Ecology,
Restoration Ecology, Environmental Sustainability: Focus on European

Environments (Summer study abroad course taught in Freiburg, Germany);
Environmental Impact Assessment, Field Botany

8/05 – 7/08 **Project Coordinator**, Kansas Biological Survey, University of Kansas
My responsibilities included the coordination and development of research opportunities, grant writing, outreach, brochure and website development, and facilitation of a restoration working group. In 2006, I co-authored a successful grant application submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for \$74,953.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

2012 – present Kanas State Extension, Douglas County Master Gardener
2009 – present Cordley Elementary School PTA: president, garden committee, and secretary
In 2012, Cordley PTA was awarded one of the Parent Group of the Year awards from PTO Today based on an essay I submitted to the national organization.
2007 Lawrence Open Shelter: provided meals as a member of the Kansas Biological Survey volunteer group
1998 – 2008 Jayhawk Audubon Society: Vice-president, Conservation Chair, Board member
1990 – 1995 Wisconsin Wetlands Association: President, Newsletter Editor.

Invited presentations

“Wetland restoration at Cheyenne Bottoms, KS.” Sharon M. Ashworth. The Fourth Annual Westport Garden Club of America, Annual Meeting and Flower Show, Kansas City, MO, April 2002.

“Wetland mitigation: the good, the bad, and the ugly.” Sharon M. Ashworth. Jayhawk Audubon Society, Lawrence, KS, October, 2001.

OTHER TEACHING POSITIONS

9/98 - 5/01 *Instructor*, Independent Study Program, University of Kansas
Course Title: Principles of Environmental Studies
8/99 - 5/01 *Teaching Assistant*, Environmental Studies Program, University of Kansas
Course Titles: Principles of Environmental Studies
Environmental Impact Assessment
8/97 - 5/99 *Lecturer*, Environmental Studies Program, University of Kansas
Course Titles: Principles of Environmental Studies
Wetland Ecology
8/96 - 5/97 *Adjunct Faculty*, Biology Department, University of Connecticut - Stamford
Course Title: Introductory Biology

- 9/95 - 5/96 *Adjunct Faculty*, Continuing Education Department, Fairfield University
Course Title: Ecology and Society
- 9/90 - 5/91 *Teaching Assistant*, Zoology Department, University of Wisconsin - Madison
Course Title: Introductory Zoology

OTHER RESEARCH POSITIONS

- 8/00 - 12/02 **Kansas Biological Survey, University of Kansas:** *Research Assistant*
Developed GIS database for historic and existing tallgrass prairie habitat.
Analyzed land use changes to evaluate the consequences for carbon sequestration.
Conducted vegetation surveys for prairie and wetland restoration projects.
- 5/91 -10/92 **Institute for Environmental Studies:** *Research Assistant*
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Conducted research on the relationships among soils, hydrology, and vegetation in restored and native sedge meadows.
- 6/90 - 9/90 **Institute for Environmental Studies:** *Field Assistant*
University of Wisconsin - Madison
Assisted with research of wetland hydrology and vegetation.

PUBLICATIONS

"Can Software save salt marshes?", November 2015, *Ensisia* magazine.

"How Photosynthesis Works: Out of Biology Class and Into the Garden", June 2014, *Mother Earth News*.

Ashworth, Sharon M., W. Dean Kettle, and K. Dobbs. Response of herbaceous plant community after removal of woody vegetation in a tallgrass prairie restoration. *Proceedings of the 22nd North American Prairie Conference*, 2010: 24-30.

Kettle, W.D., S. Ashworth, and W. H. Busby. 2009. Prairie Restoration and Outreach in Eastern Kansas II: # 2007-0032-000. Final grant report to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Washington, D.C.), May 28, 2009, 17 p.

Ashworth, Sharon M., B. Foster, and K. Kindscher. 2006. Relative contributions of adjacent species and environmental conditions to plant community richness and composition in a group of created wetlands. *Wetlands* 26(1): 193-204.

Kindscher, K., T. Aschenbach, and S. Ashworth. 2004. Wetland vegetation response to the restoration of sheet flow at Cheyenne Bottoms, Kansas. *Restoration Ecology* 12(3): 368-375.

Taylor, O. R., T. Aschenbach, S. Ashworth, O. Komar, W. Spotts, and S. Williamson. 2000. Magnetic compass orientation of Monarch butterflies (Lepidoptera: Danaidae: *Danaus plexippus* L.): Did observer effects lead to false positive results? *Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society* 73(2):71-76.

Ashworth, Sharon M. 1997. Comparison between restored and reference sedge meadow wetlands in south-central Wisconsin. *Wetlands* 17(4):518-527.

PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting, Providence, RI, June 2015.

Poster: "Telling Our Wetland Stories - Wading Right In: Discovering the Nature of Wetlands A book project featuring the stories of wetland scientists, managers and advocates." Catherine Owen Koning and Sharon Ashworth.

Wisconsin Wetlands Association Annual Meeting, Madison, WI, February 2015.

Oral presentation: "Wading right in: Using stories of wetland adventures as a gateway to understanding." Catherine Owen Koning and Sharon Ashworth.

22nd North American Prairie Conference, Cedar Falls, IA, August, 2010.

Poster: "Response of herbaceous plant community after removal of woody vegetation in a tallgrass prairie restoration." Sharon M. Ashworth, W. D. Kettle.

20th North American Prairie Conference, Kearny, NE, August, 2006.

Poster: "Prairie restoration and outreach in eastern Kansas." Sharon M. Ashworth, K. Dobbs, W. D. Kettle, and W. H. Busby.

Kansas Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting, Wichita, KS, April 2006.

Poster: "Prairie restoration and outreach in eastern Kansas." Sharon M. Ashworth, K. Dobbs, W. D. Kettle, and W. H. Busby.

Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, June 2003.

Oral presentation: "Using joint estimation of a regression equation system to test the stability of vegetation-environment relationships over time". Sharon M. Ashworth and D. Earnhart.

Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, June 2003.

Invited speaker: "A graduate student's perspective". Sharon M. Ashworth

Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting, Lake Placid, NY, June 2002.

Oral presentation: "A test of assembly theory in restored wetlands at Cheyenne Bottoms, Kansas". Sharon M. Ashworth and K. Kindscher.

- 9/88 - 12/88 **International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, WI:** *Habitat Intern*
Trained visiting foreign ecologists in crane capture techniques and wetlands management; conducted prescribed burns for natural area management.
- 6/88 - 9/88 **Bureau of Land Management, Salem, OR:** *Student Conservation Association*
Surveyed, banded, and observed Spotted owls; conducted snag and unique habitat surveys.
- 7/87- 5/88 **National Wildlife Federation, Washington DC:** *Legislative Intern*

AWARDS

- 2010 Travel grant for professional conference, Washburn University
2009 Major internal research grant, Washburn University
2008 KU Center for Teaching Excellence curriculum improvement grant
2002 Best Student Oral Presentation, Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting
2001 Garden Club of America Fellowship in Ecological Restoration
2001 Society of Wetland Scientists Student Scholarship Award
1992 Lois B. Almon Fund; Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters