

**CURRICULUM VITA**  
**SHARON M. ASHWORTH**

**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 and RECENT WORK EXPERIENCE**

2/16 – present **Horticulture Program Assistant**, K-State Research and Extension  
duties: manage the Douglas County Master Gardener Program, a 160 member volunteer  
organization; coordinate with other local organizations on educational programming

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

8/13 – 8/16 **Program Manager** for the Kansas Natural Resource Council  
special project: produced "The Waters of Kansas" documentary film series  
other duties: public outreach through social media, legislative advocacy

**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.

**PAST WORK EXPERIENCE**

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 – 2016	Kanas State Extension, Douglas County Master Gardener
2009 – 2013	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*

"The Waters of Kansas". Lawrence Public Library Speaker Series. Lawrence, KS, October 16, 2017.

"The Waters of Kansas". Prairie Acre Garden Club. Lawrence, KS, July 18, 2017.

"The Waters of Kansas". Kansas Humanities Council speakers' bureau. Aldersgate Village, Topeka, KS, June 21, 2017

"Wetland restoration at Cheyenne Bottoms, KS." 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." 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, *Ensia* 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

20<sup>th</sup> 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.

Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting, Madison, WI, August 2001.

*Poster:* "The role of species pools in determining initial plant species richness in newly created wetlands." Sharon M. Ashworth and K. Kindscher.

Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, June 1995.

*Oral presentation:* "Strategies for wetland protection in Wisconsin: setting priorities through scientific assessment." Sharon M. Ashworth.

Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, June 1992.

*Oral presentation:* "Quantitative relationship between physical factors and plant distribution in wetlands restored for mitigation." Sharon M. Ashworth.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 1/07 - 2008    Advisory Board, University of Kansas Center for Sustainability
- 8/06 - 2008    Co-coordinator, Honors Program, Environmental Studies Program,  
Univ. of Kansas
- 5/03 - 2007    Society of Wetland Scientists Education and Outreach Committee
- 9/99 - 2007    Field trip leader for several wetland immersion programs sponsored by the  
Ecumenical Christian Ministries, University of Kansas
- 2/07           Reviewer for the journal *Restoration Ecology*
- 7/06           Reviewer for the journal *Environment, Development, and Sustainability*
- 9/05 - 5/06    Curriculum Committee, Environmental Studies Program, Univ. of Kansas
- 8/02 - 5/03    Graduate student representative for the Society of Wetland Scientists Education  
and Outreach Committee
- 8/01 - 5/02    Voting representative for the Graduate Student Organization, Univ. of Kansas
- 2/01           Reviewer, *Journal of Freshwater Biology*
- 1/99 - 5/00    Curriculum Committee, Environmental Studies Program, Univ. of Kansas
- 6/99 - 7/99    Textbook Contributor, *Living in the Environment* by G. Tyler Miller, Jr. 11<sup>th</sup> ed.

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

- 9/93 - 8/95    **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: Wetland Ecologist**  
Evaluated the effectiveness of state wetland water quality standards to protect  
wetland resources and prescribed improvements to the regulatory program.
- 8/92 - 9/93    **Wisconsin Department of Transportation: Water Resources Specialist**  
Designed guidelines for the Department's compensatory wetland mitigation  
monitoring program; implemented wetland mitigation monitoring programs.
- 4/89 - 8/89    **Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection: Wildlife Assistant**

Surveyed waterfowl and game birds, inspected wildlife management areas, and served as wildlife representative for the Environmental Review Team.

- 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