

Kaw Valley Almanac

May 14 - 20, 2018

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Sun

Saturn, Jupiter and Mars SW at dawn;
Venus, west just after sunset

Day	Moon rises	Moon south	Moon sets	% Illum.	Phase
Monday	05:21 AM	11:50 AM	06:29 PM	7%	New Moon
Tuesday	05:56 AM	12:42 PM	07:37 PM	2%	
Wednesday	06:35 AM	01:37 PM	08:47 PM	0%	
Thursday	07:19 AM	02:35 PM	09:57 PM	1%	
Friday	08:10 AM	03:35 PM	11:03 PM	4%	
Saturday	09:08 AM	04:37 PM		10%	
Sunday	10:12 AM	05:37 PM	12:04 AM	18%	



From a late start, the hot and dry spell has pushed many plants into fast development, including this antelopehorn milkweed that is already blooming, which is right on schedule for other years that I've observed it blooming. I don't know of any other year that this has occurred at the same time as late blooming lilacs are finishing up, though.

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	05:08 AM	06:08 AM	08:26 PM	09:34 PM
Tuesday	05:07 AM	06:08 AM	08:27 PM	09:35 PM
Wednesday	05:06 AM	06:07 AM	08:27 PM	09:36 PM
Thursday	05:05 AM	06:06 AM	08:28 PM	09:37 PM
Friday	05:04 AM	06:05 AM	08:29 PM	09:39 PM
Saturday	05:03 AM	06:04 AM	08:30 PM	09:40 PM
Sunday	05:02 AM	06:04 AM	08:31 PM	09:41 PM

Nature Notes

- § Black locust trees are blooming their fragrant blossoms this week, and wild cherry blossoms are also out to smell their incredible fragrance. Pussytoes are beginning to go to seed, verbena is still going strong while the first dogbane is about to bloom. Go out each week to a good native prairie and watch new waves of wildflowers blooming. Prairie Park Nature Center prairie is a great place to go watch this pageantry.
- § Lightning bugs have begun; rain will increase their numbers. June bugs are out in masses, dragonflies are back, butterflies are increasing and there are plenty of moths after dark, with frogs and toads ready to eat them. Cope's tree frog is back.
- § Neotropical bird migration is peaking, with over 100 species of birds spotted at Baker Wetlands this past week. If you have a bird feeder, keep an eye out for birds at the feeder that you won't see any other time of year.
- § May is also a very active time for most mammals, with baby rabbits, skunks, raccoons, muskrats, bobcats and beavers joining young coyotes and foxes, to say nothing of mice, shrews packrats and gophers.
- § Things to look for: the first fescue seedheads, the first yellow sweet clover blossom, blackberry blossoms and pine tree "candling."