

# Kaw Valley Almanac

May 21 - 27, 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	12:27 PM	07:30 PM	01:44 AM	39%	1st Quarter
Tuesday	01:34 PM	08:21 PM	02:24 AM	51%	
Wednesday	02:39 PM	09:10 PM	03:00 AM	62%	
Thursday	03:43 PM	09:58 PM	03:33 AM	72%	
Friday	04:46 PM	10:44 PM	04:04 AM	81%	
Saturday	05:48 PM	11:31 PM	04:35 AM	88%	
Sunday	06:49 PM		05:07 AM	94%	



The weekly transformations continue in area prairies. This week features the appearance of blooming spiderworts, the lovely 3 petaled native perennial that is related to the ornamental wandering jew. Oxeye daisies have begun to bloom, joining prairie phlox, white wild indigo, star-eyed grass, salsify, bastard toadflax and prairie parsley. A few buttercups, creamy wild indigo and louseworts continue to bloom as well.

## Nature Notes

- § Oaks and other trees have been shedding their male and female parts, leaving piles of dried out anthers, petals and buds as this year's acorns, nuts and fruit have started to grow.
- § Lightning bugs have gone into high gear with the rain; go to a native prairie after dark if you want to be overwhelmed by the nighttime fireworks. June bugs and moths are also thick, while tree frogs and toads join the sounds of the whippoorwill and nighthawk after the sun sets.
- § Come to Liberty Hall this Thursday, May 24 to hear J. Drew Lanham's free talk: Birding While Black at 7pm, followed the next morning by a free nature/bird hike starting at 8am at the Baker Wetlands Discovery Center. The profusion of spring songbirds continues; come see how many you can see.
- § Speaking of the Baker Wetlands, did you know that a mink has been spotted living there this spring? This is a busy time for most mammals, as spring birthing season is in full swing, so drive carefully and keep an eye out for young ones and their very tired parents!
- § Right on schedule: the things I said to look for last week are now happening: fescue grass seedheads, yellow sweet clover blossoms, blackberry blossoms and pine tree "candling."