

Kaw Valley Almanac

October 2 - 8, 2023

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Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	08:58 PM	03:39 AM	11:05 AM	89%
Tuesday	09:38 PM	04:32 AM	12:16 PM	82%
Wednesday	10:24 PM	###	01:23 PM	73%
Thursday	11:17 PM	06:22 AM	02:22 PM	63%
Friday		07:16 AM	03:12 PM	3rd Quarter
Saturday	12:16 AM	###	03:54 PM	43%
Sunday	01:17 AM	08:57 AM	04:28 PM	34%



The beautiful blue petals of the gentian are gracing some prairies this time of year, as is evidenced in this photo. Other photo-friendly fall flowers to look for include a wide variety of goldenrods, drought-shortened perennial sunflowers, boneset and false boneset, lingering liatris and azure sage, and a host of plants are ripening their seeds this fall and winter for sprouting in the spring.



Sun

Jupiter rises E, Saturn SE at dusk; Venus E at dawn.

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:26 AM	07:17 AM	07:02 PM	08:03 PM
Tuesday	06:26 AM	07:18 AM	07:00 PM	08:01 PM
Wednesday	06:27 AM	07:19 AM	06:59 PM	08:00 PM
Thursday	06:28 AM	07:20 AM	06:57 PM	07:58 PM
Friday	06:29 AM	07:21 AM	06:56 PM	07:57 PM
Saturday	06:30 AM	07:22 AM	06:54 PM	07:55 PM
Sunday	06:31 AM	07:23 AM	06:53 PM	07:54 PM

§ Woods are turning the first shades of fall, perhaps delayed by the long dry spells we've had this summer. Walnuts, hickories and acorns are dropping to the ground, locust pods are filled out, grapes are ripe and osage oranges are dropping or growing larger.

§ Speaking of woods, in the morning the eastern arboreal orb weaver spider has woven many a web across paths and between trees to catch the still prolific insects. According to Hank Guarisco's *Pocket Guide to Common Kansas Spiders*, this common spider eats large insects such as moths, cicadas and katydids and is itself prey for mud dauber wasps.

§ Fall bird migration will be in full swing after the cold front shifts winds to the north again midweek, with many species of songbirds passing through. Seagulls leave reservoirs in the morning, returning after sunset, while ducks and redwinged blackbirds abound.

§ Did you know that there are over 4,300 miles of hiking trails in Kansas, with more added all the time? Find some near you on the <https://www.getoutdoorskansas.org/trails> website or their free app, and if you don't have time for one of those, consider grabbing your friend, your dog and explore the neighborhood, with an eye on nature to see if you can spot some of the things going on talked about in the almanac!

§ An annular eclipse isn't as spectacular as a total eclipse, but it's still pretty cool to watch, with 60-80% of the sun obscured in Kansas starting ~10:30am and ending ~1:15pm on Oct. 14.