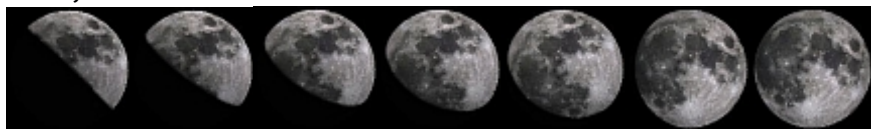


Kaw Valley Almanac

February 27 - March 5, 2023

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Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	11:07 AM	06:52 PM	01:42 AM	1st Quarter
Tuesday	11:50 AM	07:44 PM	02:44 AM	59%
Wednesday	12:39 PM	08:36 PM	03:40 AM	68%
Thursday	01:35 PM	09:26 PM	04:29 AM	77%
Friday	02:34 PM	10:15 PM	05:11 AM	84%
Saturday	03:35 PM	11:01 PM	05:47 AM	90%
Sunday	04:36 PM	11:45 PM	06:17 AM	95%



Signs of spring come late to the warm season grass dominated tallgrass prairie. Nevertheless, it can be a great place to observe striking patterns in the dormant grasses and forbs, including the abstract swirls found in this patch of eastern gamagrass. Take a walk and see for yourself!



Sun

Venus, Jupiter very close to each other W, Mars S at dusk

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	05:59 AM	06:56 AM	06:11 PM	07:08 PM
Tuesday	05:58 AM	06:54 AM	06:12 PM	07:09 PM
Wednesday	05:57 AM	06:53 AM	06:13 PM	07:10 PM
Thursday	05:55 AM	06:52 AM	06:14 PM	07:11 PM
Friday	05:54 AM	06:50 AM	06:15 PM	07:12 PM
Saturday	05:52 AM	06:49 AM	06:16 PM	07:13 PM
Sunday	05:51 AM	06:47 AM	06:17 PM	07:14 PM

§ Upwards of 2,000,000 (yes, that's 2 million) snow geese were at Loess Bluff National Wildlife Refuge last weekend, to say nothing of the over 1,000 Trumpeter Swans. How long will they stay there--who knows? If you can't make it over there, it is worth checking the closest wetlands and reservoirs for migratory waterfowl who have started that northward migration, waiting for that latest snowstorm up north to melt some more before continuing on that journey.

§ The first rounds of early spring thunderstorms not only bring much needed moisture to drought-stricken areas in Kansas; listen for the early spring boreal chorus frogs that might be heard in wet areas, as well as the early calls of the American woodcock around dawn or dusk.

§ This is a good time to take pictures of vegetation along your regular walks, taking care to remember where you took them so that in coming weeks you can take more photos from the same spots, documenting the progress out of dormancy that will occur. Things will change weekly through March and April, so start taking notes of the unfurling sequences of spring.

§ Underneath and between dormant prairie grasses you can often find a mix of soil lichens, fungi and mosses, that create a "biocrust," which protects the exposed soil from erosion and helps retain moisture. These important structures are sensitive to being disturbed by walking on them, and grow very slowly so treat them with respect!