

Kaw Valley Almanac

June 19 - 25, 2023

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Day	Moon rises	South	Moon sets	% Illum/Phase
Monday	06:49 AM	02:45 PM	10:37 PM	1%
Tuesday	07:48 AM	03:36 PM	11:16 PM	4%
Wednesday	08:49 AM	04:24 PM	11:49 PM	9%
Thursday	09:50 AM	05:08 PM		15%
Friday	10:51 AM	05:51 PM	12:16 AM	22%
Saturday	11:50 AM	06:32 PM	12:41 AM	31%
Sunday	12:50 PM	07:12 PM	01:02 AM	40%



Butterfly milkweed is one of the most spectacular of the native milkweeds blooming now. There are 9 butterfly species that eat the milkweed as caterpillars, then drink the nectar as adults, pollinating the flowers on the side. Similarly, there are 2 fly, 6 bee, 3 bug, and 18 beetle species who consume various parts of the plant/nectar, to say nothing of the predatory wasps and bugs that hunt and pollinate the flowers by sticking their feet into slits that contain "pollinaria," bundles of pollen that are then carried to another flower,



Sun

Venus, Mars SSW at dusk, Jupiter, Saturn ESE at dawn

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	04:48 AM	05:55 AM	08:49 PM	10:04 PM
Tuesday	04:49 AM	05:55 AM	08:49 PM	10:04 PM
Wednesday	04:49 AM	05:55 AM	08:49 PM	10:05 PM
Thursday	04:49 AM	05:56 AM	08:50 PM	10:05 PM
Friday	04:49 AM	05:56 AM	08:50 PM	10:05 PM
Saturday	04:50 AM	05:56 AM	08:50 PM	10:05 PM
Sunday	04:50 AM	05:56 AM	08:50 PM	10:05 PM

§ This Wednesday is the summer solstice, the time when more sunlight is converted into biomass than at any other time of the year. Around here, the land converts that solar energy into a profusion of flowers, including echinacea, blackeyed susan, coreopsis, prairie clovers, sensitivebrier, yarrow, daisy fleabane, lead plant, dogbane, hedge parsley, elderberry, oxeye daisy, beebalm, and milkweeds. Yellow and white sweet clover, chickory, crown vetch, Queen Anne's lace and dogwoods can be found blooming along roads. Eastern gamagrass and canada wild rye are seeding out.

§ Also, the sun is higher in the sky than at any other time of year. You can track this by finding a tall object like a flag pole telephone pole, or fence post and when the sun is due south, place a rock or mark at the end of the shadow, then watch that shadow grow longer and longer until it reaches its longest point at the winter solstice in December. When is the sun due south?

Depends on where you are, since our planet is round, right? One way to tell is by using a compass or compass app. You can also go to the [US Naval Observatory website](http://USNavalObservatory.com), plug in your location and see what time "upper transit" occurs. In Lawrence it is 1:23pm CDT; in Garden City is 1:45pm.

§ Wetlands are full of waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds, joined by muskrats, turtles, frogs, toads, snakes, crawdads and more. Fish are spawning and insects are profuse. The best time for a hike is early morning before it gets too hot.