

Kaw Valley Almanac

July 24 - 30, 2023

www.kawvalleyalmanac.com twitter: @KVAAlmanac

Monday	12:40 PM	06:29 PM		34%
Tuesday	01:42 PM	07:12 PM	12:10 AM	1st Quarter
Wednesday	02:48 PM	07:59 PM	12:34 AM	53%
Thursday	03:57 PM	08:51 PM	01:03 AM	64%
Friday	05:09 PM	09:48 PM	01:38 AM	74%
Saturday	06:20 PM	10:51 PM	02:23 AM	83%
Sunday	07:25 PM	11:56 PM	03:20 AM	91%



This colorful and dangerous looking wasp is the great gold digger wasp, *Spheg ichneumonius*. It's a rather harmless nectar eating wasp, as shown here on some rattlesnakemaster that is just beginning to bloom. Harmless unless you are another insect! It stings insects, then inserts them into a tunnel and lays an egg, which hatches and eats the paralyzed insect.



Sun

Venus, Mercury, Mars W at dusk, Jupiter, Saturn SE at dawn

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	05:13 AM	06:14 AM	08:39 PM	09:50 PM
Tuesday	05:14 AM	06:15 AM	08:38 PM	09:49 PM
Wednesday	05:15 AM	06:16 AM	08:38 PM	09:48 PM
Thursday	05:16 AM	06:17 AM	08:37 PM	09:47 PM
Friday	05:17 AM	06:18 AM	08:36 PM	09:46 PM
Saturday	05:18 AM	06:19 AM	08:35 PM	09:45 PM
Sunday	05:19 AM	06:20 AM	08:34 PM	09:44 PM

§ In addition to an increasing number of sunflower species and liatris, area prairies are displaying blooming rattlesnakemaster, wild petunia, ironweed, compassplant, gray coneflower, euphorbia corollata, vervain and slender mountain mint. A few goldenrods might be starting to bloom with rigid goldenrod, eupatorium and boneset not far behind.

§ This week is National Moth Week, and there are plenty of them flying or perched around night lights. Check out www.nationalmothweek.org on how you can submit your finds,

§ And moths are just the tip of the nocturnal iceberg, It's the perfect time to spend some time outside listening to and identifying the wide number of katydids, crickets, lightning bugs, tree frogs and beetles calling away, bumping against screens, hanging out on windows or lighting up a field. To identify katydid sounds, they're all at the <https://orthsoc.org> website.

§ During the daylight hours, insects are the dominant animal, with spiders not far behind. To identify insect and spiders by site, use sites like www.insectidentification.org and look under Kansas to see if you can identify them. For cicadas, try the www.cicadamania.com

§ When it gets too hot and dry, some animals aestivate, a type of summer hibernation where they typically hole up in the ground and wait for cooler, moister conditions. Salamanders, snails, worms, frogs and maybe even some ground squirrels have been known to hunker down in this manner.