

Kaw Valley Almanac

October 17 - 23, 2016

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Day	Moon rises	Moon south	Moon sets	% Illum.	Phase
Monday	08:11 PM	02:13 AM	09:08 AM	99%	
Tuesday	08:59 PM	03:12 AM	10:19 AM	95%	
Wednesday	09:52 PM	04:11 AM	11:28 AM	88%	
Thursday	10:49 PM	05:10 AM	12:30 PM	79%	
Friday	11:48 PM	06:08 AM	01:26 PM	69%	
Saturday		07:04 AM	02:15 PM	58%	3rd Quarter
Sunday	12:49 AM	07:56 AM	02:59 PM	47%	



The trees and warm season prairie grasses are not the only thing turning color; this native prickly pear cactus, found on a rocky hillside, has reddened fruit that jumps out at you like a bright red sumac leaf. Some folks harvest the fruit to make a tasty jelly--if that's you, now is the time to pick them!



Sun

Mars, Saturn SW, Venus, low W in evening; Jupiter, Mercury low east at dawn

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:39 AM	07:33 AM	06:39 PM	07:41 PM
Tuesday	06:40 AM	07:34 AM	06:37 PM	07:40 PM
Wednesday	06:41 AM	07:35 AM	06:36 PM	07:39 PM
Thursday	06:42 AM	07:36 AM	06:34 PM	07:37 PM
Friday	06:43 AM	07:37 AM	06:33 PM	07:36 PM
Saturday	06:44 AM	07:38 AM	06:32 PM	07:35 PM
Sunday	06:45 AM	07:39 AM	06:30 PM	07:33 PM

Nature Notes

§ Asters continue to bloom as sunflowers, goldenrods and many other species are in the seed ripening stage. This is an excellent time for gathering native plant seed and you can still pull noxious plants like sericea lespedeza and honeysuckle before they drop their seeds or are eaten by birds, thusly spreading the problem.

§ Clinton Lake, along the Kaw and the Wakarusa/Baker Wetlands are fine locations to watch migrating birds gathering, flying and swarming, particularly around sunrise and sunset. Seagulls can be seen all day long if you look up in the sky.

§ The next two weeks is a good time to spot area native prairies because unlike the green cool season grass brome and fescue hay fields, the warm season prairie grasses are coppery and reddish.

§ Deer activity is starting to increase with the beginning of rutting season. Look for their "rutting," i.e. areas where they've scraped the leaves and grass off, leaving patches of bare dirt that is rutted by their hooves. Drive carefully especially after sunset and before sunrise when deer are most active, and it's common that if you see one deer, another one might be coming up behind soon.