

Kaw Valley Almanac

March 12 - 18, 2018

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Day	Moon rises	Moon south	Moon sets	% Illum.	Phase
Monday	04:48 AM	09:51 AM	02:55 PM	26%	New Moon
Tuesday	05:30 AM	10:38 AM	03:50 PM	18%	
Wednesday	06:08 AM	11:25 AM	04:47 PM	11%	
Thursday	06:44 AM	12:12 PM	05:46 PM	6%	
Friday	07:17 AM	12:58 PM	06:47 PM	2%	
Saturday	07:49 AM	01:45 PM	07:48 PM	0%	
Sunday	08:20 AM	02:32 PM	08:51 PM	0%	



Stinging nettles are edible if steamed or boiled to remove the stinging hairs and are emerging, as shown here right under last year's stalks. They are found along rivers and elsewhere where there are rich deep soils and one of the first spring greens you can harvest.



Saturn, Jupiter and Mars south at dawn; Venus, Mercury low west just after sunset

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	06:42 AM	07:36 AM	07:25 PM	08:20 PM
Tuesday	06:40 AM	07:35 AM	07:26 PM	08:21 PM
Wednesday	06:38 AM	07:33 AM	07:27 PM	08:22 PM
Thursday	06:37 AM	07:32 AM	07:28 PM	08:23 PM
Friday	06:35 AM	07:30 AM	07:29 PM	08:24 PM
Saturday	06:34 AM	07:28 AM	07:30 PM	08:25 PM
Sunday	06:32 AM	07:27 AM	07:31 PM	08:26 PM

Nature Notes

§ Our drought will continue this week, which is affecting the emergence of some spring wildflowers even. But if you have spring pollen allergies, you know that cedars, maples and elms continue to bloom and put out their pollen, which on windy days is even more irritating.

§ With the dark moonless night skies and approaching spring equinox on March 20, this is a good time to observe the "zodiacal light," a faint column of light reaching up in the west after dusk and in the east before dawn around a third of the way up the sky and following the zodiac, or path of the planets and sun. It is actually dust in the disk of the solar system that becomes more visible in the night sky when we are around either the spring or fall equinoxes.

§ There are still hundreds of thousands of snow geese and thousands of ducks, hundreds of trumpeter swans and nearly a hundred eagles at Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge, and hundreds of thousands of Sandhill cranes moving to the Platte River through Kansas as spring migration continues.

§ This is a good time to identify some invasive plants: Bradford pears will be blooming white, and honeysuckle shrubs are greening up. Both should be removed due to their habit of taking over and killing out most other species.