

Kaw Valley Almanac

August 6 - 12, 2018

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Day	Moon rises	Moon south	Moon sets	% Illum.	Phase
Monday	01:35 AM	08:45 AM	04:01 PM	35%	New Moon
Tuesday	02:21 AM	09:42 AM	05:08 PM	24%	
Wednesday	03:15 AM	10:43 AM	06:12 PM	15%	
Thursday	04:17 AM	11:45 AM	07:11 PM	7%	
Friday	05:25 AM	12:48 PM	08:04 PM	2%	
Saturday	06:38 AM	01:48 PM	08:50 PM	0%	
Sunday	07:52 AM	02:46 PM	09:30 PM	1%	



These stink bugs have found each other and are mating on the dried out seedhead of the native gray coneflower. Even as most plants are going dormant and otherwise shutting down due to the drought, it is good to see that some forms of life are able to carry on. You can help birds by putting out water, which will also be utilized by many different kinds of insects, which are an important food source for those birds.



Sun

Saturn, Jupiter S/SW at dusk,
Mars in E after dark;
Venus west just after sunset

Day	Gets light	Sunrise	Sunset	Gets dark
Monday	05:26 AM	06:26 AM	08:26 PM	09:36 PM
Tuesday	05:27 AM	06:27 AM	08:25 PM	09:35 PM
Wednesday	05:28 AM	06:27 AM	08:24 PM	09:33 PM
Thursday	05:29 AM	06:28 AM	08:23 PM	09:32 PM
Friday	05:30 AM	06:29 AM	08:22 PM	09:30 PM
Saturday	05:31 AM	06:30 AM	08:20 PM	09:29 PM
Sunday	05:32 AM	06:31 AM	08:19 PM	09:28 PM

Nature Notes

§ We need a deep, soaking rain to keep the area soybean fields growing and filling out the seed pods for a passable harvest. Otherwise the beans will be following area corn crops, which if they were not irrigated are a total loss or being turned into ensilage to feed to the cattle.

§ Sideoats grama, a native grass, is small enough and has deep enough roots to have seeded out. Many native grasses have yet to send up many seed heads in order to conserve moisture. Perennial sunflowers are holding off blooming and are even dropping many of their leaves and are about half their normal height when compared to wetter years. Many compass plants are blooming some, but the flower stalks are also much shorter this year. Most forbs/native wildflowers are following suit.

§ This next Sunday night/Monday morning is the Perseid meteor shower, one of the most reliable meteor showers of the year. Since it occurs when the moon sets early, the subsequent dark skies after midnight should be good for viewing up to 60 or more meteors an hour, weather permitting.

§ It's interesting to see that some plants of the same species are very wilted and even dead while others seem much less affected by the drought. It's probably the roots, the soil and maybe some wetter spots: good time to figure out which.