



Amanda Shaw joined Dave Kendall as the series co-host for the 14th season of *Sunflower Journeys*.

2001: 1400 Series

Rekindling a popular theme from a few years ago, this season of *Sunflower Journeys* takes to the roads less traveled for a cultural tour of Kansas. The series follows a geographic route around the state on two-lane highways, stopping in to visit the people, sights and stories that make up the Sunflower State.

#1401: “Big Springs to the Bowersock Dam”

The Victory Highway: *KC Star*

columnist and *Newshour with Jim Lehrer* contributor, Jim Fisher talks to *Sunflower Journeys* about his favorite Kansas roadways, including US Highway 40. Fisher comments on the history of Kansas travel, as well as why he loves the state.

Kansas Springs: *Sunflower Journeys* stops in Big Springs, a town that was once a watering hole for travelers on the Oregon Trail. Here *Sunflower Journeys* looks at a project by the Kansas Geological Survey to inventory the location and condition of freshwater springs in Kansas.

The Bowersock Dam: *Sunflower Journeys* moves on to Lawrence, a town that had a vision of becoming a manufacturing city in the late 1800s. *Sunflower Journeys* examines the history of one key player in this movement, J.D. Bowersock, a man who harnessed the power of the Kansas River to spur the industrialization of the young Kansas town.

#1402: “Lawrence to Atchison”

Circle S Ranch: Visit the Circle S Ranch and Country Inn north of Lawrence. Owner Mary Stevenson talks with *Sunflower Journeys* about the history of the ranch, which has been in her family for five generations. Stevenson describes her shift from cattle rancher to inn proprietor.

First City of Kansas: *Sunflower Journeys* explores a new self-guided tour of Leavenworth, where visitors use state-of-the-art kiosks to learn the colorful history of the first city in Kansas.

The Atchison Trolley: The journey continues to Atchison, a city once home to numerous magnates of the railroad and shipping industries. *Sunflower Journeys* takes a trolley tour of the community’s historic mansions and tells the story of some its famous figures.

#1403: “Horton to Blue Rapids”

The Golden Eagle Casino: This program begins with a visit to the Golden Eagle Casino near Horton. Here *Sunflower Journeys* talks with members of the Kickapoo Nation about the local impact of casino gaming.

Clean Water Farms: The next stop is the Kansas Rural Center in Whiting, where *Sunflower Journeys* introduces viewers to a program called Clean Water Farms, which helps farmers reduce runoff that carries topsoil and pollutants into streams and lakes.

County Fairs: The show ends up in Blue Rapids for a visit to the Marshall County Fair. *Sunflower Journeys* explores the history and importance of county fairs in small communities.

#1404: “Marshall County to Junction City”

The WPA in Marshall County: This story surveys the WPA sites in Marshall County. *Sunflower Journeys* talks with local historian Oretha Ruetti and KU history professor Lloyd Sponholtz about the impact of the 1930s program on the region’s architecture.

Kansas Landscape Arboretum: It’s on to Milford Reservoir, where extension horticulturist Gus van der Hoeven takes viewers on an outing at the Kansas Landscape Arboretum near Wakefield.

The Pennell Collection: The last stop is Junction City, where a new book explores the history of the community in the early 20th Century through the photographs of J.J. Pennell, a local photographer whose work won national recognition and remains a valuable collection today.

#1405: “Chapman to Salina”

Kansas Auto Racing Museum: The journey begins in Chapman, where the newly opened Kansas Auto Racing Museum celebrates the history of Kansans and their cars. *Sunflower Journeys* talks to the museum’s creator about his love of the pastime.

Great Plains Theatre Festival: The next stop is Abilene for a visit to the Great Plains Theatre Festival. Here *Sunflower Journeys* introduces viewers to some big-city actors who’ve brought their talents to the Kansas plains.

Blues Masters: Listen in on musical legends at the Blues Masters at the Crossroads concert at Blue Heaven Studios in Salina. *Sunflower Journeys* meets the man behind the studio’s success, whose efforts to record Blues musicians is winning national acclaim.

#1406: “Hedville to Ellsworth”

Rolling Hills Refuge: The first stop on this journey is at Rolling Hills Refuge in Hedville. *Sunflower Journeys* talks to Charlie Walker, the park’s creator, and meets a few of the animals that live there.

The Brookville Hotel: *Sunflower Journeys* stops in Brookville, where the community’s famous restaurant attraction, The Brookville Hotel, recently packed up and left town.

C.O.W.B.O.Y. Culture: End up in Ellsworth, where the C.O.W.B.O.Y. Society hosts its annual Fall Roundup featuring shooting contests, historical reenactments, and an old-fashioned Cowboy Ball. *Sunflower Journeys* talks with Jim Gray, the society’s founder.

#1407: “Wilson to Ellis”

Wilson’s Midland Hotel: *Sunflower Journeys* stops in Wilson, where an unlikely group of town boosters are working to refurbish the historic Midland Hotel. The project was recently helped by a grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Great Post Rock Wall: The next stop is Lucas, for a visit to the Grassroots Arts Center. Here *Sunflower Journeys* looks at the construction of The Great Post Rock Limestone Wall, a new exhibit honoring the region’s unique architecture.

Abandoned Farmsteads: *Sunflower Journeys* introduces viewers to a determined brother-sister team who are devoting themselves to “monuments of the past”. They’re in the midst of an extensive project to document Kansas’ abandoned farmsteads through their stunning photographs.

#1408: “Fort Hays to Great Bend”

Old Fort Hays: *Sunflower Journeys* visits Old Fort Hays, where area residents step back in time with costumes and candlelight to celebrate Christmas Past. Viewers gain a glimpse of the holiday during the Victorian era.

Victoria’s Colonists: In Victoria, *Sunflower Journeys* meets two sisters who descend from the community’s original British colonists. Their unique heritage and determination to preserve their family’s ranch has recently drawn the attention of the BBC.

Lustrons in Kansas: It’s on to Great Bend, for a look at the Lustron Homes of the 1950s. *Sunflower Journeys* explores the motivation behind prefabricated housing and the history of these all-metal homes in the area.

#1409: “Larned to Pratt”

Scouting in Kansas: The journey continues in Larned at the Central States Scout Museum, which touts the largest collection of scouting memorabilia west of the Mississippi. *Sunflower Journeys* talks to the museum’s curator and explores the history of scouting in Kansas.

The Biggest Well: Next it’s a stop at the World’s Largest Hand-dug Well in Greensburg for a real live treasure hunt. Divers and community members venture to the bottom of the well to unearth a 25-year-old time capsule, as well as a century’s worth of artifacts and money tossed into the well.

Wildlife Photographers: *Sunflower Journeys* lands in Pratt to talk with two veteran photographers from the Kansas Department Wildlife and Parks. The photographers share their knowledge of the state’s diverse wildlife and their passion to capture its beauty.

#1410: “Isabel to Wellington”

Exploring Route 42: The first stop is Isabel, where *Sunflower Journeys* meets up with Kansas author Mil Penner for a lesson on cultural sightseeing along Route 42. Viewers learn what stories lay beneath the surface of even the smallest and quietest communities.

Cotton in Kansas: *Sunflower Journeys* visits a new cotton gin along the Oklahoma border near Anthony and examines how cotton is harvested and processed. Gary Feist, manager of the Ok-Kan cotton gin, and Bill Kellogg, gin supervisor describe the ginning process.

Kansas Wheat Festival: *Sunflower Journeys* drops by the Kansas Wheat Festival in Wellington and explores the social impact of the festival with farmers and organizers of the event.

#1411: “Ark City to Sedan”

Bridges of Cowley County: *Sunflower Journeys* stops first in Arkansas City, where a local teacher’s sketches have led an influx of visitors to tour the historic stone Bridges of Cowley County.

Cedar Vale & the Big Caney River: *Sunflower Journeys* stops to reflect on life in the small southeastern Kansas town of Cedar Vale and explore the community’s relationship with the Big Caney River. Tour of local sites follows the river as it winds its way toward Elgin, once known as “the town too tough to die.”

The Emmett Kelly Museum: Sedan is the final stop for this show. *Sunflower Journeys* talks with a local resident who recalls the world famous circus clown who made his name on the sad-faced character “Weary Willie”.

#1412: “Caney to Toronto”

Opothle Yahola: The first stop lands viewers on Highway 75 near Caney, where part of the highway has been designated Opothle Yahola Memorial Trail by the State of Kansas to honor the important spokesman for the Creek Nation who led his people on an exodus from Indian Territory.

Neewollah: Moving on to Independence, *Sunflower Journeys* attends Southeast Kansas’ biggest celebration, enjoying the parade, stage shows and various other festivities of Neewollah, which derives its name from Halloween.

The Cross Timbers: It’s a journey to The Cross Timbers region of Southeast Kansas, where biologists Craig Freeman and Jason Deal talk about the various plant species found in the region and the human activities that threaten it.

#1413: “Yates Center to Topeka”

Courthouse Squares: *Sunflower Journeys* stops in Yates Center, a small community whose picturesque courthouse square was the first to be named on the National Historic Register. *Sunflower Journeys* examines the history of the town, as well as the community’s efforts win recognition for the square.

The Music Box: It’s Saturday night live in Burlington at The Music Box. *Sunflower Journeys* meets the Nashville artist who’s turned the old theater into a weekly country music show. See how she and her music are reviving Saturday nights in this small town.

Kansas Turnpike: *Sunflower Journeys* ventures off its two-lane route and onto the Kansas Turnpike for a look at how the modern speedways affect our travel habits and our sense of place.

*This season of *Sunflower Journeys* was funded in part by the Kansas Humanities Council, Footprints of Lawrence, the Blanche Bryden Foundation, the Southwestern Bell Foundation and the Friends of KTWU.