

Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

PrairieWindow

to promote through education and stewardship, the conservation and use of plants native and adaptable to Kansas



Fall 2017 Vol. 27 No. 3

Luminary Walk: Family Night on Dec 2

Nov. 24 and 25, Dec. 1 and 2 - 5:30-8:00 p.m. each night: \$6 for adults/\$3 for children ages 3-12, (For advance tickets, \$5 for adults/\$3 for children ages 3-12)

The Winter Luminary Walk has always been a wonderful way for the Arboretum to attract visitors at a time when “The Prairie Sleeps” and many of us overlook the beauty of nature. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Arboretum office for \$5/adult and \$2/children (ages 3-12) and will be available for purchase until noon on Friday, December 1st.

A new addition to the schedule this year is Family Night on Saturday, December 2nd. On this night only, children 12 years old and under will be admitted for free when accompanied by a paying adult. Included in the Family Night festivities will be face painting, craft-making and storytelling under the Christmas tree in the Prairie Pavilion. Hayrack rides through the Prairie Window Project will also be available on this night only.

The traditional luminary walk activities will continue to be a part of the event. They include s’mores around fire pits, cookies and almond tea in the Visitor Center and reveling in the beauty of a winter evening illuminated by thousands of lights and candles.

There will be performances or presentations each weekend in the Prairie Pavilion, featuring the nationally-known children’s author Jane Kurtz on November 24, who will be reading and signing her newest book, “Planet Jupiter”. The Angel Feet Dance Troupe will perform on November 25 and Newton Community Children’s Choir on December 1.

Many hands make lighter work for this event. Please call or email Janelle at arboretum@hesston.edu if you would like to volunteer. Jobs include working admissions, kitchen, gift shop, fire pits, setting out jars and lighting candles.

Adults and children of all ages enjoyed roasting marshmallows around the fire pits during the Winter Luminary Walk in 2016. Come see what we have planned for Family Night - Dec 2nd, 5:30 to 8 p.m.



Holiday Bazaar in the Gift Shop

*Nov. 24 and 25
3 to 8 p.m.*



Shop local at the arboretum gift shop the last Friday and Saturday of November for books, cards, and gift items created by local artists. Items will be made of wood, metal, repurposed items, recycled glass, ceramics and more.

Members will receive 10% off all items. We are pleased to welcome Lavender & Clover, as well as other artists and consignors from Hesston, Newton, Moundridge and McPherson. Come shop and enjoy the Arboretum lit up for the holidays!

HUB FULFILLS ARBORETUM NEEDS

Over the past few years, the proposed Horticulture and Utility Building (HUB), including the Prairie Discovery Lab (PDL), has grown from a dream in the minds of Arboretum staff and board members to a reality. With approximately \$60,000 left to raise, we are hoping to start HUB construction during the spring of 2018. Consider a year-end donation to help us reach our fundraising goal. Here are a couple of ways we are excited to utilize the HUB:

IMPROVE ORGANIZATIONAL EFFICIENCY - In my few years here at the Arboretum, I have spent a lot of time in the little brown work truck. Driving back and forth to our off-site shop multiple times a day, everyday, can make you really appreciate even the dumpiest of vehicles. All our essential tools and machinery are stored off Arboretum grounds, meaning that every time I forget a shovel, need to use the weed eater, or grab the wrong wrench - off I go to the shop!

Construction of the HUB, half of which will be an onsite storage facility for grounds equipment, means I will no longer waste countless hours driving to and fro on tractors and mowers or fuss about loading and unloading tools. Having necessary items onsite and close at hand will mean more efficiency and productivity for me, as well as greater potential for our volunteers and student workers. To have all the hedge trimmers, chainsaws and rakes just steps away is a groundskeeper's dream!

Keeping the grounds healthy and beautiful is a labor of love for our staff and volunteers, but the addition of the HUB will help us to maximize our efforts and improve the visitor experience.

- Katie Schmidt, Grounds Manager

EXPAND EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH - The proposed Prairie Discovery Lab will enhance the Arboretum's educational outreach. Our Earth Partnership for Schools Program is connecting more teachers and students with the prairie each year and educational visits to the Dyck Arboretum grounds continue to grow. To date, 223 teachers from 70 schools have been trained on our prairie gardening curriculum, reaching more than 37,000 students.

Our native plant gardens, reconstructed prairie, stream, pond, and rain gardens are our best educational tools. However, project based learning is made more productive with appropriate indoor space for interaction with the natural elements of plants, soils, wildlife, and water. The new PDL, complete with equipment storage and durable work spaces, will take pressure off of our existing facilities, where educational activities compete with rentals and events and also cause wear and tear in carpeted spaces. The PDL will also give better access to visitors young and old with limited mobility.

- Brad Guhr, Education Coordinator

Nature is a Powerful Teacher

One of the most rewarding experiences we have at the Arboretum is connecting children with the outside world. There are so many things that kids can learn from hands-on activities in the Arboretum that they cannot learn sitting in a classroom. Students who frequently use outdoor spaces for learning often develop happy and healthy bodies and minds, become confident, self-directed people and creative learners. We believe this helps them contribute to society and to become active global citizens.

We are able to carry out these learning experiences with your help. Your gift to the Arboretum allows us to connect with local schools and teach classes that will have positive impacts on students for years to come. Your support will help us develop a whole new group of citizen scientists that appreciate and protect the prairie.

Would you consider making a tax-deductible donation to support the Arboretum?

*Make checks payable to:
Dyck Arboretum of the Plains
PO Box 3000
Hesston, KS 67062.*

*Please mark this box and return
to the Arboretum with your gift, or
donate online at
dyckarboretum.org/giving-opportunities*

Ways You Can Give:

Support for the Earth Partnership for Schools Program
\$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other \$ _____

Support for the Horticulture and Utility Building (HUB)
\$250 _____ \$500 _____ Other \$ _____

Needed for the Arboretum:

— \$100 toward new kitchen flooring
— \$400 toward new hedge trimmer
— \$700 for a new projector in the Visitor Center
— \$ _____ Other Amount



JOIN OUR NATIVE PLANT SCHOOL

The Dyck Arboretum of the Plains offers numerous workshops that encourage the use of native plants in landscaping. Native plants are drought tolerant, ornamental, and provide food and shelter to wildlife. A landscape rich with native plants can be enjoyed for its beauty and the wealth of birds and pollinators it attracts.

Sunny Native Landscapes

Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 6:30-9 p.m.

Shady Native Landscapes

Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 6:30 -9 p.m.

Let the arboretum be your educational resource. Attend one of our "Native Plant School" landscaping classes and let us help solve your challenging landscape situations. Join me as I take you through the process of planning, designing, installing and maintaining a natural landscape. Please bring your questions, comments, photos, scale drawings of your landscape site, plant specimens, etc. to these design sessions.

Attendees will receive an additional coupon for our 2018 plant sales to purchase the plants from their design. The cost per person is \$20 for non-members or \$15 for members. Call the Arboretum for reservations. Classes are limited to the first ten who register.

How to Establish a Buffalograss Lawn

January 25, 2018 at 7 p.m.

This class will take you through the steps of establishing a buffalograss lawn from site preparation and seed selection to planting and maintenance. Cost is \$10/person, \$8/members. No limit to this class.

Birdscaping

Thursday, March 15 at 7 p.m.

Participants will learn how to attract birds to their yards year-round. Subtle changes in how you landscape can make a big difference. Planting with birds' needs in mind will attract greater numbers and more variety of your feathered friends. Katie Schmidt will help you look at your yard from a bird's point of view. Cost is \$10/ person, \$8/members. No limit to this class.

Native Plants Essentials

Thursday, March 29 at 7 p.m.

One of the wonderful things about working with native plants is that they provide a lifetime of enjoyment and discovery. For those of you that want to learn more about native plants, this

class will introduce you to soil types, prairie ecology, native plant communities, and why native plants are important. The concepts of conservation, preservation, and stewardship are important components of this class. Cost is \$10/person, \$8/members. No limit to this class.

Rain Gardens 101

Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 7 p.m.

Learn how to build your own rain garden! We'll explore the critical role rain gardens can play in controlling the amount of stormwater runoff, and how they add beautiful landscaping to your yard at the same time. Cost is \$10/person, \$8/members. No limit to this class.

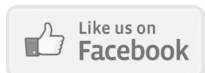
Native Landscape Consultation

Native landscape consultation is available at Dyck Arboretum with Scott Vogt. For homeowners and businesses, Scott will visit your site for an initial consultation, evaluate your soil type and light conditions, and help you identify your design style. He will then provide designs that are pollinator-friendly, drought-tolerant, diverse and provide color throughout the seasons.

Costs: Initial consultation \$50 plus mileage, \$40/hr design time. Typical designs take 2-5 hours.

Scott's is limited to 10 designs for winter/spring. For more information call (620) 327-8127. or email scott.vogt@hesston.edu.





SAVE THE DATE: March 10, 2018 Go Green Leprechaun Run

On Saturday, March 10, 2018, Dyck Arboretum of the Plains will host its 9th Annual Go Green Leprechaun Run 2 mile fun run and 6th annual 10K race. The 10K race starts at 8:30 a.m., with registration at 7:45 a.m. The 2 mile fun run starts at 10 a.m., with registration beginning at 9:15 a.m. Participants are invited to wear costumes and may win prizes in several costume categories.

Medals will be awarded to the top runners in age groups. See our website for details and a registration form.



Staff

Scott Vogt, Executive Director/
Horticulturist
Brad Guhr, Education/Prairie Restoration/
Concert Series Coordinator
Janelle Flory Schrock, Office Manager
Katie Schmidt, Horticulturist/
Grounds Manager

Board of Trustees

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John Torline - North Newton
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New Board Member Approvals Pending