

Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

PrairieWindow

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



Fall 2015 Vol. 25 No. 3

‘Tis the Season For Giving: Luminary Walk Will Encourage Generosity

*Nov. 27 and 28, Dec. 4 and 5 - 5:30-8:00 p.m. each night: \$5 for adults,
\$4 for members, senior citizens & college students, \$2 for children (ages 3-15)*

The Winter Luminary Walk has always been scheduled to create a bridge between two holidays that focus our thoughts and actions on giving. Thanksgiving is a time to be with family and friends and to give thanks. In addition to observing many faith rituals, we celebrate winter holidays with the sharing of food and gifts.

In this spirit of giving, Luminary Walk 2015 will be a celebration of generosity. Attendees are encouraged to give a donation of \$1 or more to a selection of non-profit organizations in Harvey County that provide either food, housing or safe haven to people in need.

Performances at 7 p.m. each weekend in the Prairie Pavilion will include: Angel Feet Dance Company on November 27 and Konza Ringers handbell ensemble on December 5. Additional performances will be announced on our website.

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

We could never pull off this wonderful event without the help of many volunteers. Please call or email Janelle at arboretum@hesston.edu if you would like to help with this event.



Holiday Sale in
the Gift Shop
Nov. 27 and 28
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.

Members will receive 10% off all items. The gift shop will be open both days from 3 to 8 p.m.

This year we are pleased to welcome several new artists and consignors to the sale, including Phil Barker's Hand-turned fountain pens and James Butler's beautifully illustrated children's book "Beautiful Bugs: A to Z". Come shop and enjoy the arboretum lit up for the holidays!

New Signs Will Enhance Arboretum Experience

By Janelle Flory Schrock, Office Manager

The Arboretum staff and board are excited to share several new additions coming this winter that will enhance the educational experience for visitors to our grounds. Throughout this year, Arboretum staff have been working together with Flint Hills Design and board chair Lorna Harder to develop a series of ten interpretive signs to be installed by the end of the year. A corresponding visitor brochure and online self-guided tour will complement the signs.

Each sign will include a horticultural or biological focal point, a line drawing by Lorna Harder, and a link to the website with additional information.

We are very grateful for financial support from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, for design work by the team at Flint Hills Design, and for Lorna's expertise and



countless hours of drawing and editing. These signs will help us promote our mission and we look forward to seeing how they enhance the visitor experience.

Annual Membership Rates to Increase on January 1, 2016

Our supporters choose to become members for a variety of reasons. Some have been members for decades. Some have invested time, energy and resources in the original vision set forth by Harold and Evie Dyck in the 1980s. Some live in Hesston and enjoy walking the grounds on a weekly or daily basis. Some enjoy the discounts at our plant sales and concert series. Whatever your motivation, we sincerely hope that you know your annual membership fee is put to good use to further our mission.

Over the past two years, Arboretum staff and board members have discussed membership rate increases. The Arboretum always strives to keep memberships affordable for all. Therefore, we have not raised our membership rates in over 18 years, even as the costs involved in maintaining the Arboretum have continued to increase significantly. Our rates rank among the lowest of over 200 public gardens in the American Horticultural Society. Currently, the support we receive through memberships represents about 15% of our annual budget.

For these reasons, the following rate increases will take effect on January 1, 2016: An Individual membership will be \$35 and a Family membership will be \$50. Individual senior citizens over the age of 55 will receive \$5 off their individual membership (\$30 fee). Senior couples may wish to choose the Family membership. Members will continue

to have the option to become "sustaining members" by giving above and beyond these amounts at the Steward of the Earth (\$100), Pioneer (\$250), Plainskeeper (\$500) and Conservator (\$1000) levels.

We are as committed as ever to making your experience as a Dyck Arboretum of the Plains member the best that it can be. The price adjustments approved by our board of trustees will allow us to continue offering membership benefits you currently enjoy, while also providing crucial support for the educational and outreach programs, dynamic events, and critical conservation efforts, which are so integral to the Arboretum's mission.

Your membership to the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains is a partnership and we make every effort to be good stewards of your gift. Consider it an investment in our mission to promote native plants, support for your favorite events, or simply a gift to a garden you value in the Hesston community.

What does membership at the Dyck Arboretum mean to you? Whatever the reason, we ask you to stay connected with us through your annual contribution and your communication with the staff and board. We invite you to share with us your reasons for being a member and your questions or suggestions at any time. Your support is vital to the future growth of the arboretum.

Legacy of Giving: 35 Years of Paying it Forward

By Scott Vogt, Executive Director

"He that plants trees loves others beside himself."

- Thomas Fuller

The Dyck Arboretum of the Plains began with the purpose of paying it forward. It was Harold and Evie Dyck's hope that the Arboretum would encourage a greater understanding and appreciation of the prairie and the simple beauty of Kansas.

The Dycks also dreamed this garden would become important to the community and the state. In many ways, the Arboretum has met or exceeded their original vision by becoming a regional attraction and an important element for quality of life in Hesston.

Next year, we will be celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Arboretum. It is hard to believe how far we have come since that first bur oak tree was planted in the fall of 1981. The Arboretum has been transformed from a wheat field to a vibrant organization with dynamic programs and regional outreach. It has permanence and relevance in the community of Hesston. The Arboretum is fulfilling the mission and vision of its founders.

If you enjoy the Arboretum as a community asset, will you consider a charitable gift to help preserve it for future generations?

Each of you has been part of this transformation, through your financial gifts and volunteer time. Your support perpetuates this local resource for the joy and enlightenment of others.

Your gifts allow us to offer programs like Earth Partnership for Schools (EPS), which has trained 192 teachers from 64 schools over the past nine years, impacting over 26,000 students with the unique EPS curriculum.

Your gifts helped over 20,000 people enjoy their visit to the Arboretum last year. They experienced our educational programs, concerts, plant sales and special events. Over 20 weddings were held on the grounds and most of those included receptions in our facilities. Your partnership through giving is an expression of the original vision of Harold and Evie. By supporting us, you join them in giving to something that is bigger than yourself.

Will you consider a charitable gift this year to help us share our mission throughout Kansas?

A gift at any level is greatly appreciated. **However, this year you have the opportunity to have your gift doubled. Thanks to our Board of Trustees, your end-of-the-year, tax-deductible gift will be doubled up to \$2,500. A gift of \$50 will be doubled to make a \$100 gift. Please use the donation form at the bottom of this page.**

Gifts are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law and can be made in the following forms: cash, in-kind contributions, appreciated stock, mutual fund shares, planned gifts, real estate or grain.

Donate online at www.dyckarboretum.org or use the form below to support the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains this year. Happy holidays and thank you for your commitment to the future of the Arboretum.

Help Us Begin Celebrating 35 Years with a Year End Gift

___ \$35 (35 years x \$1) ___ \$70 (35 years x \$2)
___ \$105 (35 years x \$3) ___ \$350 (35 years x \$10)
___ \$700 (35 years x \$20) ___ \$1,225 (35 years x \$35)
___ \$_____ Other Amount

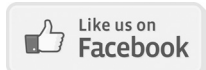
Please mark this box and return to the arboretum with your gift, or donate online at dyckarboretum.org/giving-opportunities

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

On behalf of the board and staff, we thank you for your continued support!



Students at Minneha Core Knowledge Magnet Elementary School planted this prairie pocket garden nearly 10 years ago when the Kansas Earth Partnership for Schools (EPS) program first began. Since that time, EPS participant teachers have been impacting thousands of students, using the hands-on, minds-on EPS curriculum to connect them with Kansas native plants.



Frogs and Squirrels Are My Favorite Colleagues

By Katie Schmidt, Horticulturist

Everyday at work I make new friends. I find leopard frogs hiding in the plant nursery and hummingbirds in the Mother's Garden. Sulfur butterflies delight in the puddles I make while watering and squirrels scold me from above as I mulch the base of their home tree. These are my favorite colleagues, with Scott, Brad and Janelle all tying for second place. Sizzling or snowing, the wonder of nature always pulls me outside and keeps me in raptures, even when the task ahead seems arduous and unending. This is why I love it here, and why I continue to get out of my cozy bed and come to the Arboretum to be bitten by oak mites and scratched by compass plants.

When I graduated from Bethel College last May I didn't expect I would so quickly be gainfully employed, nevertheless employed in my field. I received my degree in Natural Sciences, with a focus in biology. My main area of study centered around botany and plant systems. I spent time assisting Professor Jon Piper in his prairie restoration research every summer and worked at the Kauffman Museum maintaining their prairie reconstruction exhibit. My passion for plants stems (pardon the pun) from gardening with my grandmother, who, with a green thumb of her own, began my education as soon as I could walk. The pictures of me on her mantle, diapered and smiling at marigolds as tall as me, now seem particularly prophetic.

I hope that my lifetime love of cultivating plants will be well placed here at the Arboretum and that I can help the staff in continuing their mission of connecting people to the prairie. I am convinced that time spent in nature benefits the mind, body and soul, and that connection to nature is the thing all humans crave. By keeping our grounds beautiful and accessible, I want to help people connect and feel whole; I want everyone to make friends with my friends, to be in raptures with this place and its lovely inhabitants.



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Katie Schmidt, Horticulturist

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