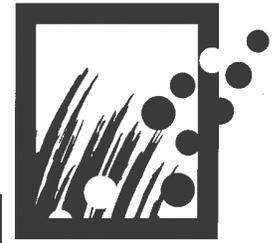


Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

PrairieWindow

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



Summer 2017 Vol. 27 No 2

“Keep the Vision Growing” Campaign Introduced

by Scott Vogt, Executive Director/Horticulturist

The Dyck Arboretum is a unique and beautiful asset to our community, attracting new visitors to Hesston each year. Over the past decade, the gardens have expanded, more than doubling the number of acres maintained. With this growth comes higher demands on staff time for maintenance, but also a multitude of environmental education opportunities that have not yet been realized.

At the Summer Soirée on June 29, staff announced the launch of the “Keep the Vision Growing” Campaign, which seeks to carry out the mission of the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains by addressing the following three key initiatives: 1. optimize organizational efficiency, 2. expand environmental education programming, and 3. enhance visitor experiences.

The campaign addresses these initiatives by providing appropriate space for hands-on learning and garden upkeep with the construction of a new facility. An on-site Horticulture and Utility Building (HUB) has been identified by the Arboretum board and staff as the best strategic capital project to support these objectives.

This facility will address several ongoing challenges, including limited space for equipment storage, and will broaden the scope of what we can accomplish, both horticulturally and educationally.

The HUB will include a 2,600 square foot maintenance space to increase the efficiency and productivity of the Arboretum and provide adequate, secure space for vehicles, equipment and tools. It will also include a 1,400 square foot Prairie Discovery Lab, which be a multifunctional space for both the Arboretum and community. It will serve as a classroom for hands-on experiences, and an additional space for plant sales, the Earth Partnership for Schools teacher training, tours, seminars and field trips. A solar array on the south-facing slope of the roof will make the building energy efficient.

If you are interested in contributing to the success of this project through required minimum distributions or other donations, and/or would like to learn more about the proposed HUB, contact Executive Director Scott Vogt at scott.vogt@hesston.edu or 620-327-8127.



Landscaping with Native Plants

Do you have a problem area in your landscape? Do you want a more sustainable landscape that attracts pollinators, protects soil, conserves water and provides a natural habitat for wildlife? Do you want a landscape that requires less time to maintain?

Let the Arboretum be your resource. Attend one of the upcoming landscaping classes and let us help solve your challenging landscape situations. Join Scott Vogt as he takes you through the process of planning, designing, installing and maintaining a natural landscape. Please bring your questions, photos and scale drawings of your site to these design sessions.

Attendees will receive an additional coupon for either the 2017 fall plant sale or 2018 spring plant sale to purchase the plants from their design. Cost is \$20/person, \$15/Members.

If you need help with a **shaded** area come on Thursday, August 24 at 6:30 p.m. or if your landscape area is **sunny** come on Wednesday, August 30 at 6:30 p.m. Call the Arboretum for reservations. Classes are limited to the first ten who register.

Fall Favorites: Plants to Look Out for at FloraKansas

by Katie Schmidt, Horticulturist/Grounds Manager

Every year we scour catalogs and consult with our vendors to find new and interesting plant varieties to offer at the FloraKansas native plant sale, as well as bring back some favorites that we haven't offered in a while. Here is a list of our favorite plants and their best qualities. All of these varieties will be available at the upcoming fall plant sale:

GRASSES:

- Miscanthus sinensis 'Little Kitten' • silvergrass - dwarf habit
- Sporobolus 'Gone with the Wind' • prairie dropseed - fall interest
- Carex brevior • plains oval sedge - extremely adaptable
- Carex stricta • tussock sedge - perfect for rain gardens
- Panicum "Hot Rod" • switchgrass - red fall color
- Tripsicum dactyloides • eastern gama grass - clump forming native
- Schizachyrium 'Smoke Signal' • little bluestem - dark purple fall color

PERENNIAL FLOWERS:

- Epimedium 'Domino' • bishop's hat - maroon stems, dainty flowers
- Epimedium 'Champagne' • bishop's hat - bright blooming shade plant
- Hemerocallis 'Daring Deception' • daylily - eye catching pinks
- Hemerocallis 'Raspberry Suede' • daylily - unique velvety color
- Penstemon 'Blackbeard' • beardtongue - dark foliage
- Veronica 'Mona Lisa Smile' • spike speedwell - long blooming
- Salvia 'Bumbleberry' • sage - petite habit
- Papaver 'Beauty of Livermore' • poppy - classic red
- Papaver 'Prince of Orange' • poppy - huge flowers
- Penstemon strictus • rocky mountain beardtongue - blue/purple blooms
- Echinacea 'Aloha' • coneflower - tall and bright
- Echinacea 'Intense Orange' • coneflower - resists bloom fade
- Echinacea 'Raspberry' • coneflower - upright habit, true pink
- Heuchera 'Galaxy' • coral bells - distinct spotted foliage
- Heuchera 'Paris' • coral bells - great for borders
- Nepeta 'Limelight' • catmint - neon foliage
- Sedum 'Birthday Party' • stonecrop - drought tolerant
- Aster 'Woods Purple' • compact aster - attractive to pollinators
- Rubus calycinoides • creeping raspberry - ground cover
for sun or part sun
- Rudbeckia subtomentosa 'Little Henry' • black-eyed susan -
quilled flower petals

TREES and SHRUBS:

- Viburnum 'Tandoori Orange' • linden viburnum -
first true orange berries
- Buddleia 'Pugster Blue' • butterfly bush - dwarf bush w/ full size blooms
- Ilex 'Berry Heavy' • deciduous holly - excellent fruit set
- Ilex 'Berry Poppins' • deciduous holly - bright red winter color



Terra Nova Nurseries

Katie's Pick: "Little Henry" Quilled Rudbeckia

"The quilled flower is unique and adds a lot of brightness to the garden. They are great for cutting and arranging because of their long, slender stems."



Proven Winners

Scott's Pick: Viburnum "Tandoori Orange"

"The first true orange viburnum! This shrub will bring such great color to the fall and winter landscape."



Hoffman Nursery

Brad's Pick: Panicum "Hot Rod"

"The combination of drought tolerant warm season grass performance and stunning reddish fall color of this plant make it a roaring favorite to rev up your landscape."

VOLUNTEER WORK DAY AND BREAKFAST:

Join us on Saturday, September 30 from 8:30 a.m. to noon for weeding, mulching and greenhouse clean up.
Call the office or email arboretum@hesston.edu to sign up!

Do You Want a Native Front Yard?

by Scott Vogt, Executive Director/Horticulturist

Something interesting is happening to our front lawns. They are slowly shrinking. The typical large expanse of green lawn is being replaced with low-maintenance, drought tolerant shrubs, perennials and grasses. Homeowners are realizing that this alternative to a mowed lawn has its advantages. Certainly, this new paradigm will require less water over time, but it can be functional and beautiful as well. The potential environmental impacts of making this change can be significant.

Lawn grasses such as fescue and bluegrass require more mowing and watering than native landscapes. Here are some facts about lawns and their impact on the environment:

- There are some 80 million home lawns across the country
- 30-60 percent of urban fresh water is used for watering lawns
- The typical American lawn is irrigated by 10,000 gallons of supplemental water (non-rainwater) annually
- Nearly 70 million pounds of pesticides are applied to U.S. lawns each year
- Approximately \$25 billion is spent on lawn care each year in the U.S.

If you are tired of the traditional front yard and wish to reduce your lawn, a simple landscape design focused on native plants can make a real difference. With their deep roots, native plants can adapt to the regional climate and ecological conditions, while also adding diversity, reducing maintenance and attracting a host of wildlife and pollinators. Use these simple steps as a guide to develop a native front yard.

Step 1: Plan your design, start small. I prefer to lay out a garden hose to get the curves and flow that I want. It is a great way to “fiddle” with the design before tearing anything up. Start small by removing a section of lawn that you can manage. You can convert other areas over the next few years.

Step 2: Investigate plant types. Think about the type of plants that will grow in your area. I group shrubs, perennials and grasses to add impact in the landscape. Strategically locating small trees such as redbuds and disease resistant crabapples will give height and take up space in the design. Consider evergreen trees and shrubs that will give some splashes of green especially in winter.

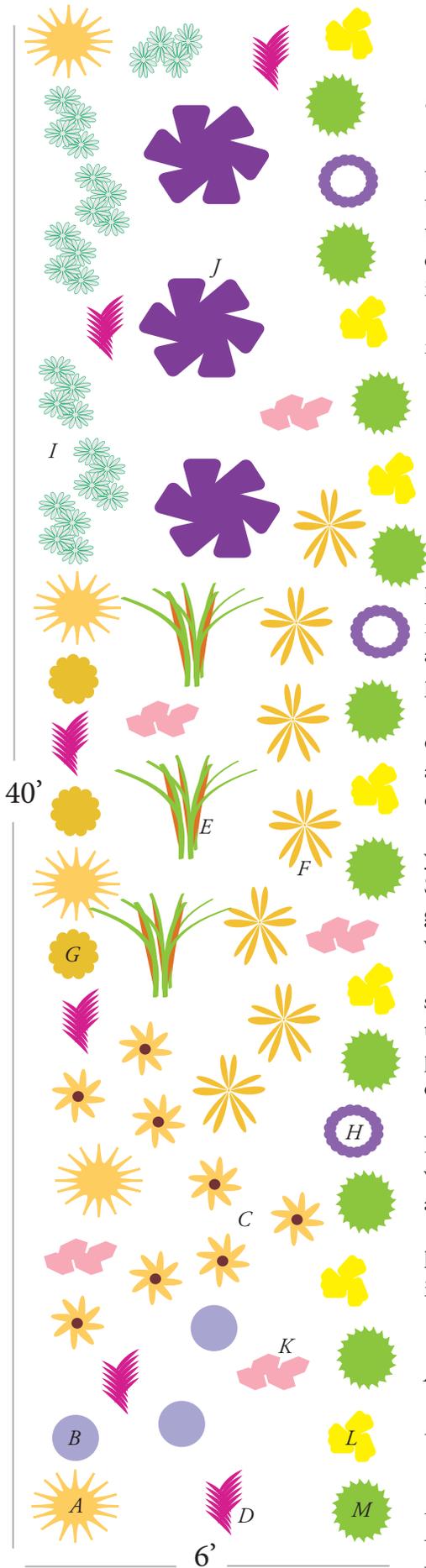
Investigate the types of plants you wish to include in the design, and plan for a succession of bloom to guarantee there are always a few plants flowering throughout the year. Native plants provide nectar and pollen for beneficial insects. Milkweed can provide food for larvae, and fruits and seeds will feed the birds. A monoculture of lawn can be transformed into a landscape alive with diversity and activity.

Step 3: Pick your plants. Find the plants you need for your design by using our Native Plant Guide. Visit the Arboretum to gather ideas of combinations that grow well together and mimic nature. Choose plants from our April and September sales and get them in the ground.

Transform your front yard into an oasis for pollinators and birds. You will be able to look out your front window at a diverse and functional landscape that has a positive impact on the environment.

To the left: Front Yard Design, ideal for sunny, dry areas, such as a “hellstrip”

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. <i>Bouteloua</i> ‘Blonde Ambition’
(blue grama grass) | G. <i>Achillea</i> ‘Coronation Gold’ (yellow) |
| B. <i>Aster oblongifolius</i> ‘October Skies’
(aromatic aster) | H. <i>Callirhoe involucrata</i>
(purple poppy mallow) |
| C. <i>Rudbeckia missouriensis</i> (black-eyed susan) | I. <i>Aster ericoides</i> ‘Snow Flurry’ (beach aster) |
| D. <i>Liatris punctata</i> (gayfeather) | J. <i>Vernonia</i> ‘Iron Butterflies’ (iron weed) |
| E. <i>Panicum</i> ‘Rotstrahlbusch’ (red switchgrass) | K. <i>Penstemon</i> ‘Blackbeard’ (pink penstemon) |
| F. <i>Solidago drumundii</i> (cliff goldenrod) | L. <i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i> (primrose) |
| | M. <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> (prairie dropseed) |



Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

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Kansas City Botanical Bonanza

Wednesday, September 20, 7:45 a.m. to 6 p.m.
with Brad Guhr, Education Coordinator

Join us for this excursion to a couple of Kansas City, Kansas-area horticultural havens while gaining great ideas for your home landscaping. Our first stop will be at master gardener Lenora Larson's 2-acre home oasis. Long Lips Farm is a butterfly garden and sculpture garden in rural Paola. Her landscape is NABA (North American Butterfly Association), Monarch Waystation, and National Wildlife Federation certified and endorsed as a model pollinator garden by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

After lunch at the local favorite Timbercreek Bar and Grill, our second stop will be at Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. Kansas native plant guru Ken O' Dell will give us a tour of his favorite horticultural features at the beautiful OPABG ranging from the wild to the manicured.



Lenora and Ken are entertaining and engaging botanical encyclopedias and the landscapes we will tour will be at the peak of their early fall splendor. Report to the Dyck Arboretum parking lot by 7:30. See our website or call (620) 327-8127 for fee information.

Staff

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

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