

2018 Winter Lecture Series

by Brad Guhr, Education Coordinator

Stimulate your intellect and expand your horizons during January, February and March at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains. Featured topics for this coming series are birds, insects, and bats. Come for supper at 6:00 p.m. or just the lecture at 6:30 p.m. (\$5 for lecture (free for students), \$10 for supper and lecture). **Call 620-327-8127 by 4 p.m. on Friday before the Tuesday lecture, for supper reservations.**



Tuesday, January 30, 2018 with Jeff Hansen **Creating Bird Friendly Habitat**

To survive and prosper, birds require food, water, shelter, and nesting sites. By providing all four, we can attract birds to our landscapes. Jeff Hansen is a knowledgeable enthusiast of the natural world, and after going native with the landscaping of his suburban Topeka home, Jeff has documented more than 100 bird species on his property. Learn some of the Kansas native plants that provide food and shelter for birds, various bird feeder options, how to provide water in various forms, natural and artificial nesting options, and how Jeff solved his starling problem.



Tuesday, February 27, 2018 with Dr. Jon Gering **Insect Diversity in Grassland Habitats**

Why are there so many animal species on Earth? Prior to becoming the new 15th President of Bethel College, Professor Jon Gering worked with his students at Truman State University to address this long-standing ecological question. He will summarize his research findings on beetles in deciduous forest tree crowns and katydids in grassland habitats while revealing the peculiarities of ecological field research that often go unrealized by the general public. An interactive session on 'singing' insect identification and natural history will empower the audience to become aware of the abundant 'soloists' (the cicadas, crickets, and katydids) in Kansas parks and grasslands. (Photo: Bruce Marlin)



Tuesday, March 27, 2018 with Curtis Schmidt **Bats of Kansas**

Bats are fascinating creatures. Fort Hays State University's Sternberg Museum of Natural History's Zoologist and Bats of Kansas coauthor Curtis Schmidt is a great advocate of these nocturnal mammals. Their populations thrive near streams and when insects are abundant. They roost in caves, built structures, and forests. As the prairie state of Kansas gradually becomes more wooded, the range for many species of bats continues to expand into our state. Learn more about their expanding ranges, common habits, challenges of white-nosed syndrome, and ways that you can improve the chances of having bats join the ecology of your own landscape.