

Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

PrairieWindow

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



Spring 2018 Vol. 28 No 1

Attend the Native Plant Landscaping Symposium on Saturday, February 24th

by Brad Guhr, Education and Prairie Restoration Coordinator

For nearly 20 years, we've seen many of the same native plant landscaping folks at our plant sales. We always wonder what their landscapes look like at home and love to hear their stories, but we rarely have time to ask them more questions about their gardens. Why do they garden with native plants? Are they wanting to achieve a certain aesthetic? What wildlife do they attract? What are their planting and maintenance routines? Do they prefer a manicured or wild approach? What is the inspiration that keeps them going?

On February 24th, ten experienced gardeners will tell us their unique stories. Their landscaping styles range from wild and ecological to horticultural and manicured, but they are all on the spectrum of native plant gardening.

Speakers include Dwight Platt of North Newton, Lorna Harder of Hesston, Bob Simmons of Newton, Jay Super of Maize, Joanna Fenton-Friesen of Newton, Denise Scribner of Goddard, Duane Friesen of North Newton, Pam Paulsen of Hutchinson, Laura Knight of Wichita, and Lenora Larson of Paola. Spend a day at the Arboretum to hear the vignettes of these native plant gardeners, get a virtual tour of their landscapes in photos, and have your questions answered.

With hundreds of years of collective gardening experience in the room, it will be an enriching and inspiring day for you to think about creating, shifting, or enhancing your native garden!

Visit our website for scheduling and speaker details. The registration fee is \$50 for Arboretum members and \$60 for non-members, and includes a full day of presentations (8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.), continental breakfast, and lunch. RSVP deadline is February 21 (620-327-8127 or arboretum@hesston.edu).



Platt Harder Simmons Super Fenton-Friesen Scribner Friesen Paulsen Knight Larson

Join us for the 8th Annual Go Green Leprechaun Run!

On Saturday, March 10, 2018, the Arboretum will host its 8th Annual Go Green Leprechaun Run 2-mile fun run and 5th annual 10K race.

This year, both races will use chip timing from The Timer Guys. Both races will begin simultaneously at 9:30 a.m. with registration at 8:30 a.m.

Participants are invited to wear costumes to show their Green and/or Irish spirit. Medals will be awarded to the top runners in each age group.

See our website for details and registration information.

Sponsors include Atomic Sports, Golden Plains Credit Union, Excel Industries, Inc., GLC Real Estate, Kropf Lumber, Inc., Newton Medical Center and Waste Connections, Inc..



Summer Soirée: An Evening in the Gardens

The Dyck Arboretum staff and board are delighted to invite everyone to the Summer Soirée, a feast for the senses on the evening of Friday, June 15th, from 6 to 9pm.

This garden party fundraiser will feature live music on the patio, plein air painting by local artists, and an exciting live auction to benefit the Arboretum Annual fund. Catering by Kaye will provide a light three-course meal.

The evening will include ample time to stroll the gardens and enjoy the midsummer blooms of butterfly milkweed, bee balm, coneflower and black-eyed susan.

Staff will be stationed at various locations on the grounds, ready to share their knowledge of native plants and prairie ecology with guests.

Tickets are available at \$80 for individuals, \$150 for two, or \$550 to reserve a table of eight. Contributions are tax-deductible, less the fair market value of the evening.

To reserve tickets to the Summer Soirée, visit our website at dyckarboretum.org or call the office no later than June 1st.



Stay tuned throughout the spring for additional details, including the names of our participating artists and musicians, a mouth-watering menu, and items in a live auction that you won't want to miss!

A Day with the Director to Abilene on May 31st

Join me, Scott Vogt, on May 31st for a bus trip to some of the most fascinating parts of Historic Abilene, Kansas. Our day will begin at the Seelye Mansion, a three-story Georgian style home that was voted one of the "8 Wonders of Kansas Architecture". The 11,000 square foot home, built in 1904, includes 25 rooms. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and contains most of the original furniture and Edison light fixtures.

Following the tour, we will sit down to a family style meal at the Brookville Hotel. It is one of the best fried chicken dinners in Kansas. After lunch, we will have time at the Abilene Depot before our ride on the Abilene and Smoky Valley Railroad. The 2-hour ride on the rails of history will take us through ten

miles of beautiful farmland and the scenic Smoky Hill River countryside between Abilene and Enterprise.

We will finish the day with a stop at the Russell Stover Candies Outlet Store. No trip to Abilene is complete without a stop for chocolate.

Space for the trip is limited to the first 50 people. Our bus will leave the Arboretum at 8 a.m. and return around 6 p.m. \$75 members/\$85 for non-members will cover the entire trip including lunch. RSVP by Friday, May 18.



We'll ride the Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad passenger train on May 31!



But first we'll enjoy a family-style fried chicken meal at the Brookville Hotel!!

Don't Miss the FloraKansas Native Plant Festival!

Over the past 20 years, the event known as FloraKansas has seen its share of changes. From a few native plants under a tent in the parking lot to thousands of plants sold from our fully functional greenhouse, and from "Great Plains Native Plant Bazaar" to FloraKansas Native Plant Sale", the event has been growing and expanding just like our organization.

This spring our biannual FloraKansas plant sale is being upgraded to a festival! In addition to purchasing plants, attendees will be able to enjoy tours of the grounds led by our plant experts, horticulture classes on a variety of topics, guest speakers, and yard games for the kids *all free of charge*. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

With the much anticipated completion of our new Horticulture and Utility building and such enthusiastic support among our members, we felt FloraKansas had the potential to be so much more than simply a plant sale, and we hope you agree!

The FloraKansas Native Plant Festival will still include the traditional plant sale hours. The member pre-sale will be on Thursday, April 26th from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and the public sale

of plants will be available on Friday, April 27th through Monday, April 30th (see Native Plant Guide or website for all hours).

Stay tuned for a more detailed schedule of the Festival. In the meantime, enjoy perusing your plant list and planning your native garden for 2018. Current Arboretum members may submit plant pre-orders until April 16th.



HUB will "Keep the Vision Growing"

We have some exciting news. The Horticulture and Utility Building (HUB) will become a reality in 2018!

Through end of the year contributions and additional gifts in 2018, we have raised enough funds to begin construction in the coming months.

I want to thank everyone who contributed to this facility. It has long been a goal of mine to have a space at the Arboretum for our grounds keeping equipment and tools, combined with a classroom for hands-on activities.

This facility will certainly increase our efficiency and expand our environmental programming and classes, which will help the Arboretum continue to sustain its mission.

In 2018, as construction is initiated, there are still opportunities to contribute to the HUB project. There will be additional equipment, tools and resources needed for the HUB and Prairie Discovery Lab to be fully operational.

We envision the classroom full of children, learning about the prairie through hands-on activities using soil, water, plants and seeds. Adult classes will focus on native plant landscaping and displays will show the cultural and natural history of the Great Plains. The educational possibilities are endless.



If you are interested in contributing to the HUB, there are several tax deductible options for giving, including required minimum distributions, stocks, or a simple donation.

We are so thankful for your help as we approach completion of the "Keep the Vision Growing" capital campaign.

Ways You Can Give:

Needed for the HUB:

- \$350 Microscopes or Entomology Equipment
- \$500 Projector or Plant Propagation Equipment
- \$1,000 Cabinets or Chairs
- \$4,000 Golf Cart with maintenance box
- \$_____ Other Amount

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: www.dyckarboretum.org/giving-opportunities



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Godwin, Gaeddert to Showcase Art in Arboretum Gallery this Spring

We are pleased to welcome two new artists to the Arboretum Gallery this spring, Sue Godwin of McPherson and Leah Faye Gaeddert of North Newton.

Sue Godwin was raised in Michigan, where her love of landscapes began. She earned her Associates of Applied Science-Commercial Art degree in 1984 from Northwestern Michigan College.

Sue is represented at Strecker Nelson West Gallery in Manhattan, Kansas, where she was recently one of the featured artists in the gallery's Holiday 2017 show.

Living in Kansas since 2001, Sue has a deep appreciation for the rural landscape around her, as well as landscapes seen on her many travels around the world.

Leah Gaeddert, a former art teacher in the Hesston school district, runs her own business, Lavender & Clover, from North Newton, selling her paintings and products made from fabrics printed with her illustrations. Gaeddert has a love of nature and in particular, the prairie landscape.



Above: Sue Godwin's show of landscape paintings "The Views Around Us" will be in the Visitor Center Gallery through the end of March.

Below: In April and May, Leah Faye Gaeddert will showcase her watercolor paintings of native plant species, insects and prairie animals.



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