EPS Summer Institute Hosts Twelfth Group of Kansas Teachers

by Brad Guhr, Education Coordinator

Nineteen teachers with 290 combined years of teaching experience came to the Dyck Arboretum June 4-8 for our 12th Annual Kansas Earth Partnership for Schools (EPS) Summer Institute. They put themselves in the shoes of their students to play, participate, explore, observe, engage, plan and learn.

These educators learned about prairie botany, entomology and ecology, basics of creating and maintaining prairie pocket gardens, studied the macro and micro scales of the prairie, pulled weeds, made art, wrote reflectively, developed skits, learned nature-based math, and ate delicious food for a week. They practiced dozens of creative EPS curriculum activities based on science inquiry and project-based learning. They also wrote a grant proposal and action plan to help them develop a natural schoolyard laboratory where they will engage their students in fun ways of learning hands-on environmental education.

It will be interesting to see how each teacher team engages their students in the coming years with a new-found EPS curriculum and passion for reconstructing prairie gardens on school grounds. To see more photos of these teachers in action at the summer institute, visit our Facebook page.

Thank you to The Citizens State Bank of Hesston, The Chris Mikesell Foundation, Westar Energy, and Harvey County Farm Bureau for helping make this coming year of EPS possible!

Giving Grows the Arboretum

What inspires individuals to donate time, talents, and financial support to the Arboretum? This is a question I have asked donors over the years and ask myself as well. For me, it comes back to relationships. Our relationship with each of you is important to us. Your partnership assures that the beautiful and restorative qualities of the garden are maintained for others to experience.

It is imperative we work together to link people with the land, to encourage students, teachers, visitors and guests to take a more active role in reversing the trends that face native habitat and wildlife. Your support of the Arboretum through planned giving, memberships, required IRA minimum distributions, donations, and underwriting of events are making a difference.

A donation contributes to the immediate growth of the Arboretum, but more importantly, our shared connection with the land ensures future generations can experience the same natural beauty of Kansas we enjoy today.

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

- Scott Vogt

Donate & Make a Difference:

- Support the Earth Partnership for Schools Program
  - $100__ $250__ Other __
- Maintain our Thirty-Acre Prairie Garden
  - $100__ $250__ Other __
- Equip the Prairie Discovery Lab & Solar Panels for the HUB
  - $250__ $500__ Other __

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

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

Photo right: Frame of the HUB as of July 2nd. Follow the progress of the HUB on Facebook or Instagram.