

Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

PrairieWindow

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



Fall 2016 Vol. 26 No. 3

Luminary Walk - The Prairie Sleeps Celebrating the Quietness of the Winter Landscape

Nov. 25 and 26, Dec. 2 and 3 - 5:30-8:00 p.m. each night: \$6 for adults/\$3 for children ages 3-15, (For advance tickets, \$5 for adults/\$3 for children ages 3-15)

The Winter Luminary Walk has always been a wonderful way for the Arboretum to attract visitors at a time when many of us overlook the beauty of nature. While winter can be cold, damp, and seemingly uninteresting, it can also be a time to observe the beauty of calm, quiet, dormancy, hibernation...a time to see the prairie as it sleeps.

This year, for the first time, there will be the opportunity to purchase tickets in advance at the Arboretum office for \$5/adult and \$2/children (ages 3-15). Advance tickets will be available for purchase until the end of business on Wednesday, November 23.

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

There will be performances each weekend in the Prairie Pavilion, featuring Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts Dance Company on November 25. The full schedule of performances will be announced on our website, social media and via our email announcements.

Many hands make lighter work for this event. Please call or email Janelle at arboretum@hesston.edu if you would like to volunteer. Jobs include working admissions, kitchen, gift shop, fire pits, setting out jars and lighting candles.



Holiday Bazaar in the Gift Shop

*Nov. 25 and 26
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. Items will be made of wood, metal, repurposed items, recycled glass, ceramics and more.

Members will receive 10% off all items. We are pleased to welcome back to the sale several artists and consignors from Hesston, Moundridge, Hutchinson and McPherson. Come shop and enjoy the Arboretum lit up for the holidays!

Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

VISIONS & LEGACIES

By Janelle Flory Schrock, Office Manager

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."
- Nelson Henderson

At what point does someone's vision or dream for the future become their legacy? Is it when that person is no longer living? Is it when certain milestones or goals are reached? Does it happen slowly, over time, with each acorn or seed that is sown, or with each adult or child who learns something new? Is it when the vision is passed on, capturing the imagination of a new generation?

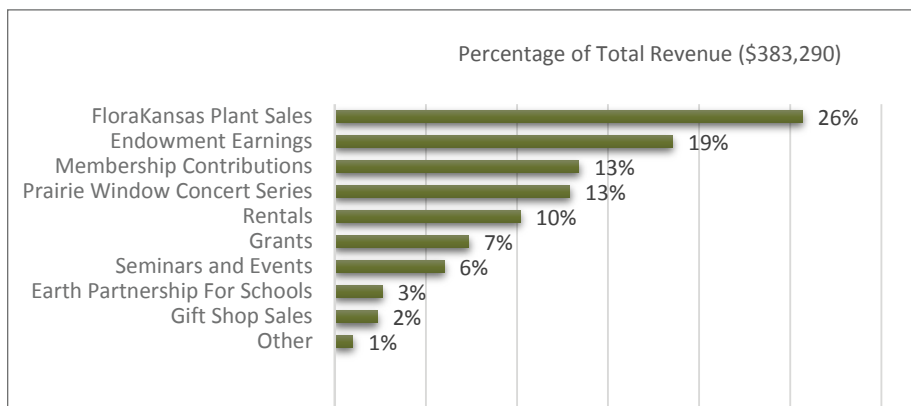
When Evie and Harold Dyck first shared their idea of an arboretum in Hesston with their family, friends and community members, they only had a vision and an empty piece of land with which to inspire others to join them. But they planted that first bur oak tree, and the vision began to grow.

That tree is now on the eastern edge of our parking lot. It is easy to miss, but for the many acorns it drops on the pavement in autumn. Many will not notice it, nor the small plaque at its base that reads "Bur oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*. The first tree planted in the Arboretum, October 10, 1981." It is only one of many trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses that have since been planted here, all playing a part in creating a living, breathing, dynamic landscape.

In the median of the parking lot, there now also grows a small "Leopold" black oak sapling - planted this fall on the 35th birthday of the Arboretum - the shade under which our children and grandchildren may take refuge. It is a reminder that our work isn't done yet. It begins a new legacy for us.

We hope you will join us this year in sharing the vision of the Dyck family and in building on the ever-growing legacy of the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains.

OVERVIEW OF REVENUE 2015-16



BY THE NUMBERS

So much has happened at Dyck Arboretum over the past twelve months! Here are some of the accomplishments you helped us achieve!



150
VOLUNTEERS

17,257
NATIVE
PLANTS
SOLD

23
WEDDINGS



33
TEACHERS
AT EPS



694
MEMBERS

2,390
CONCERT
GOERS



2,200
VOLUNTEER
HOURS



10 NEW
EDUCATIONAL
SIGNS



A PARTNERSHIP AND A LEGACY

By Scott Vogt, Executive Director

"Whoa, these roots go as deep as a basketball goal!"

"I didn't know these plants could be medicines...I'd rather eat seeds than swallow pills."

"You mean buffalo and cows and grasshoppers really eat these things?"

These are all observations overheard from children as they planted wildflowers at their schools as part of the Earth Partnership for Schools program. This program is more than fun for these schoolchildren, it is having a profound impact on the way they view and interact with the natural world. These children may become advocates, protectors, and stewards of the prairie.

The Arboretum continues to make its mark in Kansas. Our mission has never been more important. With your gifts, we will continue to develop a community that understands, values, and protects the Kansas landscape.

When you give a gift to the Arboretum, you are planting a seed that is "growing Kansas leaders." Your support of the Arboretum is a partnership not just for today, but for your future, our future, THEIR future.

Whether through membership, a gift-in-kind, donation to a program, planned giving, volunteering, a memorial gift, and/or sponsorship, you are leaving a legacy.

By becoming a contributing member, you not only get to experience the Arboretum for yourself, but you invest in its growth, for the joy and enlightenment of others.

Please consider continued support of the Arboretum this year. Your gifts are truly making a difference.

You can think of the Arboretum...

...as a literal link to your roots

...as your personal landscape consultant

...as a day-trip getaway

...as an outdoor classroom for your children or grandchildren

...as your own nature walk

...as your year-round lawn and garden show

...as an advanced course in ecology

...as a seasonal showplace to bring family and friends

...as a gift to your descendants

Thank you for your connection to the Arboretum. We greatly appreciate your support.

Help Us Celebrate 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 our board and staff, we thank you for your continued support!



Developing a Community of Prairie Stewards: Help Us Celebrate the Value of the Kansas Landscape

by Janelle Flory Schrock, Office Manager

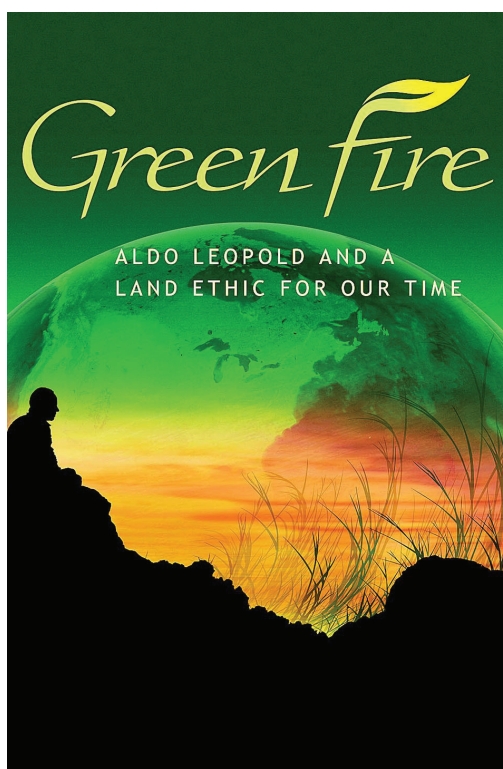
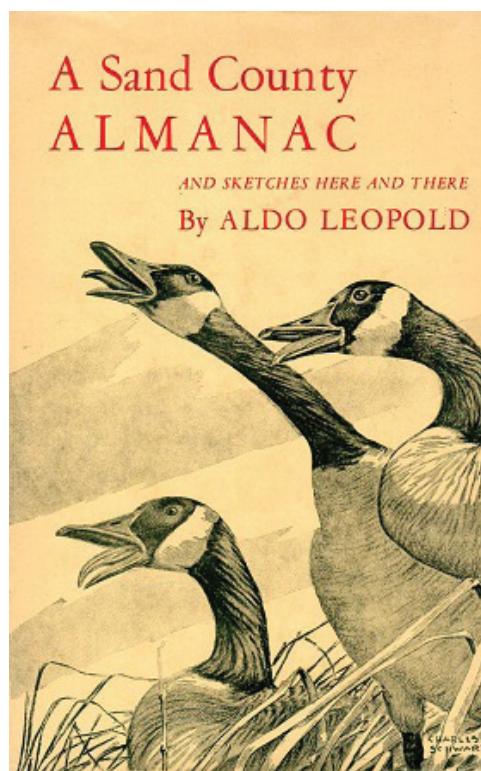
"We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

- Aldo Leopold

When Harold and Evie Dyck established this Arboretum 35 years ago, they did so with a Kansas land ethic in mind. On Monday, October 10th, the Arboretum's 35th birthday, we learned about the life and work of Aldo Leopold, a visionary in land conservation, who also wrote eloquently about developing a land ethic.

Leopold devoted his adult life to studying nature, being in wilderness, and documenting what he heard and saw. (You may recognize Leopold's name from several of the sculptures along our walking path.) Much of Leopold's free time was spent tending a piece of land in Wisconsin with his wife and his five children, restoring it to its most natural, most wild, most harmonious state. Over the course of several decades, Leopold's family planted nearly 50,000 trees on their land, restoring the small farm, with its deteriorating soil and scarce wildlife, back to wilderness. They had a vision and dream of what the land could become, but it required commitment and lots of hard work to realize that dream.

Join us this fall and winter at one or more of several opportunities to learn about Leopold and his life's work of conservation (see calendar of events at right of this page). Come on Monday, November 14, for a viewing of "Green Fire", a full-length documentary about Leopold and a reading from his seminal work, *A Sand County Almanac*. Or join us for several book club sessions in the early months of 2017, or for a celebration of Leopold's birthday on January 11th! There are many ways to connect with this celebration of Leopold's Land Ethic!



35th Anniversary Calendar of Events

- November 5: Cranes and Constellations, trip to Quivira Wildlife Refuge (SOLD OUT)
- November 14, 7 to 9 p.m.: *Green Fire* documentary screening and *A Sand County Almanac* chapter discussion.
- Nov 25 & 26, Dec 2 & 3: Winter Luminary Walk, "The Prairie Sleeps"
- January 11, 6 to 9 p.m.: Leopold's 130th birthday celebration, Dutch oven meal and *A Sand County Almanac* reading

WINTER LECTURE SERIES

Supper 6 p.m., Lecture 6:30 p.m.

- January 31: "Fire Recovery in the Red Hills"
- February 28: "Animal Sounds Around Us: Listening for Birds, Frogs and Insects"
- March 28: "Using Native Plants to Attract Butterflies"

LEOPOLD BOOK CLUB

- January 25, 7 to 9 p.m.
- February 8, 7 to 9 p.m.
- February 22, 7 to 9 p.m.

BIRDING WITH LORNA•

- 8 to 9 a.m. 2nd Saturday of each month
- March 11: Go Green Leprechaun Run

SPRING SYMPOSIUM

- "Celebrating a Kansas Land Ethic" - Dates and speakers TBD

Also: Spring/summer wildflower walks, Birdbath-making class, Leopold bench-making, Phenology wheel observations, prescribed prairie burn. Dates TBD.

2017 Winter Lecture Series

by Brad Guhr, Education Coordinator

Stimulate your intellect and expand your horizons during the winter months at the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains. Featured topics are landscape recovery from fire, listening for wildlife, and landscaping for butterflies. Come for supper at 6:00 p.m. or just the lecture at 6:30 p.m. (\$2 for lecture, \$7 for supper and lecture). **Call 620-327-8127 by 4 p.m. on Friday before these Tuesday lectures, for supper reservations.**



Tuesday, January 31, 2017 with Ken Brunson **Fire Recovery in the Red Hills**

Ecologist and field manager Ken Brunson of the The Nature Conservancy knows a lot about the Anderson Creek Wildfire of March 2016 that consumed about 390,000 acres of land in Oklahoma and Kansas. By some estimates, this was the biggest private lands fire in the U.S. since records have been kept. Several hundred head of livestock were killed, thousands of miles of fence, and at least a dozen houses were destroyed. Positive and negative impacts to land and wildlife varied, and Ken will show photos as part of his presentation about this fascinating story.



Tuesday, February 28, 2017 with Mark Nolen **Animal Sounds Around Us**

“Bioacoustics” can teach us so much about the ways that animals communicate with one another and behavioral ecology in general. Being in tune with and being able to identify the sounds of animals in addition to the visual cues, will also make us much more keenly aware of wildlife populations around us. Biology professor Mark Nolen specializes in this area and will speak about the audial world of wildlife (birds, frogs, and insects, especially) around us that we often don’t see. (Original Eastern Meadowlark Photo by Alastair Rae)



Tuesday, March 28, 2017 with Lenora Larson **Butterflies Go Native**

Kansas native plants and native butterflies have evolved together in symbiosis. Likewise, native plant gardeners and butterfly enthusiasts are natural soul mates. Indeed, only native plants are allowed for garden certification by NABA (North American Butterfly Association). Scientist and Kansas State University master gardener, Lenora Larson, will share her insights on butterfly lifestyles and showcase stunning photographs of our native butterflies and their native plant hosts. Participants will learn how to expand their native plant focus to attract ‘flying flowers’.



Prairie Landscape Consultation

Prairie landscape consultation is available at Dyck Arboretum with Scott Vogt. For homeowners and businesses, we'll provide designs that are drought-tolerant, diverse and provide color throughout the seasons.

Costs: Initial consultation \$50, \$40/hr design time, plus mileage. Typical designs take 2-5 hours.

Limit 10 designs for spring. For more information call (620) 327-8127.



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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