

Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

# PrairieWindow

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



Fall 2014 Vol. 24 No. 3

## Joy to the WORLD: Luminary Walk Will be a Multicultural Celebration

*Nov. 28 and 29, Dec. 5 and 6 - 5:30-8:00 p.m. each night: \$5 for adults, \$4 for members, senior citizens & college students, \$2 for children (ages 3-15)*

In keeping with Hesston College's celebration of multiculturalism this year, the 2014 Luminary Walk "Joy to the World: A Multicultural Celebration" will include performers, crafts, stories and an outdoor nativity featuring a variety of cultural perspectives.

Each evening will begin with storytime and crafts from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Prairie Pavilion, with crafts and stories from Swedish, Hispanic, Russian-German and African American perspectives. From 6 to 7 p.m. an outdoor nativity will be accompanied by individuals reading the Christmas story in a variety of languages. If you are proficient in a foreign language, please contact the arboretum office if you would like to volunteer during this portion of the event. From 7 to 8 p.m. each night, there will be performers, including the Lindsborg High School Swedish Dancers on November 29.

The traditional luminary walk activities will continue to be a part of the event, including roasting marshmallows around the fire pits, enjoying cookies and almond tea in the Visitor Center and reveling in the beauty of a winter evening illuminated by thousands of lights and hundreds of candles.

Of course, we could never pull this wonderful event off without the help of over 100 volunteers. To volunteer, call or email Janelle at [arboretum@hesston.edu](mailto:arboretum@hesston.edu).



*Photo credit: Tom Sawin*

## Holiday Sale in the Gift Shop! Nov. 28 and 29 3 to 8 p.m.

Join us in the arboretum gift shop on "Black Friday" and "Small Business Saturday" and stock up on books, cards, and gift items created by local artists.

Members will receive 10% off all items. The gift shop will be open both days from 3 to 8 p.m.

This year we are pleased to welcome several new artists and consignors to the sale, including nature photographer David Ediger and Wanda Headrick of Flinthills Aromatherapy.

Come shop and enjoy the arboretum lit up for the holidays!



# Prairie Window Project: A Teenage Prairie

by Brad Guhr, Education Coordinator

The 12-acre prairie reconstruction at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains known as the Prairie Window Project is reaching a significant, new stage of maturity in its sixth year of growth. Deep root systems have developed to support a matrix of full-size grasses, a variety of colorful wildflowers, and a bounty of seed heads. For the first time, it looks like and gives the feel of being a REAL prairie.

I can't help but reflect on its numerous developmental similarities to those of raising my 14-year old son, Henry. Each demanded preparation and planning, was nurtured with grand hopes and dreams, and required a significant investment of time and economic resources to shepherd them to their current state of maturation. Just as many lessons of my childhood and a rich array of ancestral influences have contributed to Henry's development, the arboretum's tallgrass youngster was conceived only after years of studying the local prairies of South Central Kansas and collecting seeds from over 170 plant species.

I recognize that many of our Marion County prairie remnant seed sources near Lehigh, laden with bluestem, blazing star, blue salvia, and goldenrod, were the same prairies where my Grandpa Henry introduced me to wonders such as rolling vistas, scissor-tailed flycatchers, and ruts of the Santa Fe Trail. It gives me great comfort to know that the remains of dozens of my ancestors in Marion County cemeteries, and maybe even mine someday, will be cycled through the 10-foot deep root systems of big bluestem, switchgrass and Indian grass many times over in the coming millennia.

My son and the Prairie Window Project have each



*Many perennial species in the Prairie Window Project (including big bluestem, shown above) have now reached full maturity.*

benefited greatly from the work and support of many others, along with some helpings of luck. They are beneficiaries of the nutrient-rich soils of Kansas, and both have surpassed me in height this fall. They have plenty of room to grow in complexity, mature and diversify, and I am coming to terms with the fact that most of my influence to shape these two beings has already been given. I marvel at what they have become in their young lives. I will be watching with great anticipation what new developments are to come.

## Spring Prairie Landscape Consultations Available

Prairie landscape consultation is available at Dyck Arboretum on both small and large scales. For homeowners and businesses, we'll provide designs that are diverse and provide color throughout the seasons. Costs: Initial consultation \$50, \$40/hr design time. Typical designs take 2-5 hours. Limit 10 designs for spring.

For larger native or reconstructed prairies, we can also assess your land for exotic species management or woody tree control (cost: \$50). Prescribed burning services to help landowners develop an action plan for prescribed burning and assistance with the burn are also available. Cost: starting at \$300 and may be more depending on the size of the property. For more information call (620) 327-8127.





# 2015 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 prehistoric insects, Kansas grasses and cooking with wild game. 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 noon on Friday before these Monday lectures, for supper reservations.**



## *Monday, January 26, 2015 with Roy J. Beckemeyer* **Buried Treasure Under the Prairie**

The Kansas/Oklahoma Permian rock layer first excavated near Elmo, Kansas, tells a fascinating story of a time nearly 300 million years ago when Kansas was near the equator, and insects ruled the skies - including gigantic dragonflies. Roy J. Beckemeyer, a retired aeronautical engineer and avocational entomologist, is a great storyteller of this time. Fascinated with insects and the mechanics of flight, Roy will share his research and photos as you imagine yourself in prehistoric Kansas.



## *Monday, February 23, 2015 with Iralee Barnard* **Grasses of Kansas**

Ever wondered about the grasses along the roadside, in the pasture, or in your lawn? Botanist and former National Park Service employee Iralee Barnard and her new grass field guide can help you! Her book is filled with detailed color photos, clearly described identification tips, distribution maps, and an illustrated glossary that all make grass identification easy. Iralee will review her book, show many photos, and discuss why grasses are important, how they grow, and their interesting features.



## *Monday, March 30, 2015 with Michael Pearce* **From the Prairie to the Plate**

Michael Pearce has long been a favorite outdoors writer for The Wichita Eagle. Whether sitting in a tree stand, standing on the edge of a fishing boat, peeking out of a marsh blind, propped against a tree under camouflage, or walking a prairie with his dog, Hank, Michael has experienced and shared eloquently with us the natural wonders of Kansas. Decades of hunting and fishing have also made Michael an expert in the kitchen; he has recently produced *Michael Pearce's Taste of the Kansas Outdoors Cookbook* that will tempt your taste buds with recipes including tequila lime goose in chimichurri sauce, pheasant macaroons, and more. Michael's photos, field stories, and book review will inspire you to get outdoors and enhance your ability to enjoy the wild cuisine of Kansas.

# Prairie Window Concert Series 2014-15

Hesston, Kansas

The PWCS is enjoying its sixth season at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains. The first three shows with Red Molly at the Historic Newton Fox Theatre and Cotton Wine and Willie Watson at the Arboretum were a great time and wildly successful events. Come join us for one of the five remaining shows. Gourmet food and music in a prairie garden setting . . . a unique and enjoyable experience that you won't want to miss!



Sunday, November 16, 2014 at 4 p.m.

## SHEL

With ethereal harmonies, mature song-writing, remarkable musicianship, an infectious stage presence, and an incredible knack for self promotion, it comes as no surprise that these sisters have become folkpop stars.

Sunday, December 7, 2014 at 4 p.m.

## THE GREENCARDS

Fresh off a Grammy nomination for their new album, *Sweetheart of the Sun*. The Greencards continue to fill venues and delight audiences with their lights-out instrumentals, tightly blended vocals, and musical prowess.



Sunday, January 18, 2015 at 4 p.m.

## NORA JANE STRUTHERS & THE PARTY LINE

"Fans of Dixie Chicks, Alison Krauss and Dolly Parton, take notice: Nora Jane Struthers embodies everything you could want in an Americana singer-songwriter." — NPR Music



Sunday, February 22, 2015 at 4 p.m.

## THE STEEL WHEELS at the McPherson Opera House

They are topping Americana music charts, selling out shows across the nation, and taking festivals by storm. You'll understand why when you see their high energy show. Be there!



Sunday, April 19, 2015 at 4 p.m.

## BARNABY BRIGHT

"Barnaby Bright has a graceful, uplifting energy reminiscent of the Indigo Girls, but also have a virtuosity that is extremely unique." —Steve Morse, former critic at the Boston Globe, Billboard Magazine & Rolling Stone



Ticket Pricing before sales tax: Adults \$20/children \$10; Dyck Arboretum members receive a 10 percent discount - \$18/\$9. Call 620-327-8127 for tickets. Go to [www.dyckarboretum.org/events](http://www.dyckarboretum.org/events) and classes or follow QR code below for YouTube videos, links to performers' websites, and a full list of underwriters.



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# Stories of Giving: An Invitation from the Director

*By Scott Vogt, Executive Director*

As we near the end of the calendar year, this is a great time to reflect upon the memories that we've made. I want to take this opportunity to tell you a few stories about the arboretum.

This summer, a man from Wichita, who had been golfing in Hesston, thought he would venture down Main Street and come to the arboretum. He appreciated the gardens and enthusiastically promised to bring his wife back for a visit.

One weekend, a woman from Virginia walked around the arboretum as she was visiting a relative in Hesston. She was so impressed with the gardens that she later donated \$100 online to support our mission.

In early October, a member of 16 years said she came to the arboretum on a Sunday afternoon and later came in to tell the staff it was the most beautiful she had ever seen the gardens in her time living in Hesston. That comment made my week!

Extended families, including multiple generations, frequently come through the Visitor Center, walk the grounds, and feed the fish and turtles. I wish you could see the faces of the children and hear the conversations we have with those who are seeing the arboretum for the first time or rediscovering its beauty.

The arboretum is a unique and special place. Our mission to promote through education and stewardship, the conservation and use of plants native and adaptable to Kansas has never been more important. This mission directs our vision for the future and connects us to our prairie heritage.

In my short time as director, I have come to realize how vital it is for our success and growth, that those who utilize and appreciate the arboretum support us in many different ways. These gardens wouldn't exist, but for the many people who volunteer and give generously.

At this time of year, we invite you to partner with us either through a membership or end of the year gift. Your annual investment in the arboretum through membership is vital to our continued success and growth.

An additional way to support the arboretum is by becoming a Path Partner. (See gift form below.)

We are hopeful that those who enjoy the arboretum can help maintain this local resource. Your support perpetuates the gardens for the joy and enlightenment of others. Simply return the form below to become a Path Partner or go to [www.dyckarboretum.org](http://www.dyckarboretum.org) to make an additional donation, renew a membership, or start your support. Thank you!



## Help Us Repave Our Path: Become a Path Partner!

Through gifts from the Estate of Harold and Elva Mae Dyck, the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, the Hesston Lions Club, the Hesston Women's Civic Club, Excel Industries, Inc., and individual donors, we have been able to repave 650 running feet (one foot of path, ten feet wide) of path over the past 18 months. We have approximately 1,200 running feet left to fund.

If you enjoy using our walking path, or simply wish to help make it safer and more enjoyable for others to use, become a Path Partner!

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$65 for One Running Foot of Path
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$130 for Two Running Feet of Path
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$325 for Five Running Feet of Path
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$650 for Ten Running Feet of Path
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mark this box and return to the arboretum with your gift. Thank you! Make checks payable to Dyck Arboretum of the Plains.*



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P.O. Box 3000  
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[www.dyckarboretum.org](http://www.dyckarboretum.org)  
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## 5th Annual Go Green Leprechaun Run on Mar. 14

On Saturday, March 14, 2015, Dyck Arboretum of the Plains will host its 5th Annual "Go Green Leprechaun Run", including the 2-mile fun run and 10K race! The 10K race starts at 8:30 a.m., with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m. Registration for the 2-mile fun run begins at 9:15 a.m. and the race starts at 10 a.m. Participants are invited to wear costumes and may win prizes for their costumes. In addition, other fun activities for children of all ages will be available, including the Pot o' Gold Scavenger Hunt, the bike raffle, snacks and other games. Prizes will also be awarded to the top runners in a variety of age groups. See our website under events for more details and to download the registration form.

**Stay up-to-date  
via our website,  
Pinterest,  
Facebook,  
and our blog,  
"Prairie Notes".**



### Staff

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

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