

Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

# PrairieWindow

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



Spring 2016 Vol. 26 No 1

## Symposium on Prairie and Plains Indian Bonds: Recognizing Connections and Brokenness

by Brad Guhr, Education and Prairie Restoration Coordinator

On Saturday, April 2, 2016, the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains will host its annual spring educational symposium focused on the bonds between Native Americans and the prairie. For thousands of years, Plains Indians relied on prairie for their food, medicine, building materials, and spirituality. Prairie also benefited from the presence of Indigenous Peoples and their frequent use of fire for purposes of hunting, safety and ritual. However, during an astonishingly short span of time in the 1800s, the presence of these people and this plant community were both vastly diminished and their bonds mostly broken.

An article by historian and Wichita Eagle reporter Beccy Tanner provided the inspiration for this day, and she will set the tone by introducing the 1800s treaties. Kansas historian and emeritus professor, Dr. Leo Oliva, will discuss events that hastened bison extermination including the whiskey and robe trades and prairie destruction via the Homestead Act. Mennonite Central Committee educators Karin Kaufman Wall and Erica Littlewolf will present the powerful participatory learning experience entitled *Loss of Turtle Island* that depicts the historic relationship between Indigenous tribes and European settlers.

First-hand accounts depicting life on the Great Plains and stories of recent descendants will be shared by Louis Stumblingbear, Marc Brown, Glenda Brown, "Grandma Bel", and DeWitt Domebo representing Kiowa, Sioux, Choctaw, Cheyenne, and Comanche tribes. The day will wrap up with an earth-healing message of hope from Haskell Indian Nations University professor, Dr. Daniel Wildcat that involves "Indigenous knowledge" and a symbiotic relationship between nature and culture.

Registration and a continental breakfast are at 8:30 a.m. followed by introductions at 8:50 a.m. The day will end at 4 p.m. The cost is \$40 for Arboretum members and \$50 for non-members, including a full day of presentations, continental breakfast, and lunch.

Register by March 30 using our website, or contact the office at 620-327-8127 or [arboretum@hesston.edu](mailto:arboretum@hesston.edu).



*Assiniboine Hunting Buffalo, 1851 (artist Paul Kane, oil on canvas)*

## Go Green Leprechaun Run on March 12

On Saturday, March 12, 2016, Dyck Arboretum of the Plains will host its 6th Annual Go Green Leprechaun Run 2-mile fun run and 3rd annual 10K race. The 10K race starts at 8:30 a.m., with registration at 7:45 a.m. The 2-mile fun run starts at 10 a.m., with registration beginning at 9:15 a.m. Participants are invited to wear costumes and may win prizes for the following contest categories: The Color Green, Recycled/Repurposed Materials, and Most Irish.

Medals will be awarded to the top runners in age groups. 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, Waste Connections, Inc., and Road ID.



# Summer Soirée Will Feature “Kansan of the Year” Jim Hoy

by Janelle Flory Schrock, Office Manager

The board and staff of the Dyck Arboretum are pleased to announce that our guest speaker for the 4th Annual Summer Soirée on Sunday, June 12th, from 6 to 9 p.m. will be Flint Hills “Cowboy Poet” and this year’s “Kansan of the Year” Jim Hoy.

Jim Hoy is Emeritus Professor of English at Emporia State University (ESU). Reared on a stock ranch near Cassoday, he has lived in the Flint Hills area all his life, except for graduate school in Missouri and a teaching stint in Idaho. He is currently the director of the Center for Great Plains Studies at ESU.

Hoy holds a B.S. degree (1961) from Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS; an M.A. (1965) from Emporia State University; and a Ph.D. (1970) from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He taught two years at El Dorado (Kansas) Junior High (1963-65) before moving into college teaching. He served as Chair of English at ESU for ten years, returning happily to the ranks of full-time teaching and research in 1990. He retired in 2014.

His chief interest is the folklife of ranching, both historical and contemporary, with special emphasis on the Great Plains and particularly the Flint Hills of Kansas. He explores this interest in frequent lectures and programs for school, community, and professional groups throughout the region. Since 1983 he has written (with Tom Isern) a weekly newspaper column, “Plains Folk”. He has published over one hundred articles, both scholarly and journalistic, and is the author or co-author of nine books, including “Flint Hills Cowboys: Tales of the Tallgrass Prairie”, published by the University Press of Kansas.

Hoy’s research has taken him onto the backroads of the American West, the tracks of the Australian bush, and the lanes

of the English countryside, seeking, among other things, to discover cattle guards, hay barracks, folk songs, and old-timers willing to talk about the way things were.

*If your work is your life, then what better life  
Than to ride the Flint Hills in the dawn?  
And what better time to have lived in the Hills  
Than the days of Granville and John.*

*But the days of Granville and John have passed  
Never to come again,  
And seldom today will anyone see  
The likes of these good men.*

- From Jim Hoy’s “In the Days of Granville and John”

As a folklorist and a native plainsman, Hoy is committed to documenting and celebrating the lives of his fellow plains folk, seeking out the extraordinary in the ordinary while encouraging pride of region in those fortunate few who dwell in the Great Plains and understanding of region in those who must live elsewhere. (Information gathered from the biography of Jim Hoy at [emporia.edu](http://emporia.edu).)

This annual fundraiser provides an evening of education, excellent food, music and a silent auction for Arboretum members and supporters. The meal will be catered this year by Tom Basore of The Water’s Edge Restaurant and the four course menu will include seasonal items and, of course, The Water’s Edge’s famous home-made ice cream.

Tickets are \$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 [www.dyckarboretum.org](http://www.dyckarboretum.org) or call the office at 620-327-8127 no later than June 1st.

*Left: Flint Hills ranchers Jim and Cathy Hoy. Below: Members and friends of the Arboretum filled the Prairie Pavilion for food, music and education at the 2015 Summer Soirée.*





# Native Landscape Class: Take Your Landscape in A New Direction

Wednesday, March 23 or Tuesday, April 5(6:30-9:00 p.m.)

Saturdays, March 19 or April 9, (9:00-11:30 a.m.)

Looking for a new approach to improve your landscape? This class is the first step to a transformed garden. It will provide the foundation you need to begin to create that garden oasis you have always dreamed about, but never quite achieved.

The basic principles of landscape design will be turned into steps you can take to create a sustainable, easier to maintain, beautiful garden; a garden that works with/for nature and not against it, attracting wildlife and pollinators.

Join Scott Vogt as he takes you through the process of planning, designing, installing and maintaining a native landscape.

Come prepared with a scale drawing of your landscaping site. As part of this class, Scott will provide individual assistance with your plan and be available for follow-up questions as you complete your design. Attendees will receive a

discount, on top of their 10% member discount, at our 2016 spring plant sale to purchase the plants from their design.

Cost is \$20/person, \$15/members. Come Saturday, March 19 or April 9, 9-11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 23 or Tuesday, April 5, 6:30-9 p.m. Call the Arboretum for reservations.



## A Thank You & An Invitation to Volunteers

by Janelle Flory Schrock, Office Manager

Last weekend we enjoyed a wonderful gathering at our Volunteer Breakfast and Work Day. A group of nearly thirty people - for the most part strangers - volunteered their morning on a gorgeous Saturday in February to clean up the Arboretum grounds, kitchen and gift shop for spring.

Coming out for a morning to clear out flower beds or sort through kitchen cabinets is only one way that our volunteers help us. There is also a team of music-lovers who commit to kitchen duty or seating coordination or gift shop duty during our concerts, and the passionate supporter of the arts who lines up shows for our small gallery. We have a handful of grounds helpers who put in over 300 hours of weeding or mowing or greenhouse transplanting during the growing season.

We have board members who make important decisions for the organization, but who also cook soup or contribute a pan of cinnamon rolls now and again for an event. And of course, we have hundreds of you who, year after year, fill your two or three hour slot at the Leprechaun Run or the plant sales or the Luminary Walk.

We appreciate each one of you very much.

**And yet, there is always room for one more! If you have been thinking about volunteering, now is a great time to let us know!** Visit our website at [www.dyckarboretum.org/volunteers](http://www.dyckarboretum.org/volunteers) to sign up for upcoming opportunities, or sign up for our email list under "Contact Us" and indicate that you would like to learn about volunteering. We'd love to have you join the team.



## Winter Lecture Series

Tuesday, March 29 @ 6:30 p.m.  
Supper at 6 p.m.

Kansas is home to nearly 150 species of fish, but even the most active anglers will only see a handful of those species in a lifetime. While some stream fish grow quite large, many of them rarely reach lengths of more than a few inches. Limited public access to smaller streams keeps these fish from view of the casual angler and naturalist.

Kansas fisheries biologist Jessica Mounts is author of the new Pocket Guide to Kansas Stream Fishes. She will talk about the big minnows and small catfish "hiding" in our streams and rivers and distributing copies of her guide.

RSVP by Friday, March 25 for supper.



# Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

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## A Day with the Director on June 2nd: Prairie Lavender Farm & Rock City

Recently, I have been learning more about lavender. I have been intrigued by its toughness and fragrance. The Prairie Lavender Farm near Bennington, Kan. has over 4,000 plants thriving as part of their small business. On June 2nd, we will visit the farm at the peak of the lavender bloom. At this stop, we will tour the grounds and visit their gift shop, featuring products produced from the farm.

Our next stop will be Rock City near Minneapolis, where we will have time to explore this five-acre park that contains nearly 200 huge Dakota Sandstone concretions, each up to 27 feet in diameter. They are very interesting even if you don't want to climb on them. This place claims that there is no place else in the world with so many huge concretions.

Lunch will be a surprise, but trust me, it will be delicious. Leave the Dyck Arboretum at 8 a.m. and return before 6 p.m. The cost of registration is \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members, which covers the entire trip except lunch. RSVP by Tuesday, May 31.



### Staff

Scott Vogt, Executive Director/  
Horticulturist  
Brad Guhr, Education Coordinator  
Janelle Flory Schrock, Office Manager  
Katie Schmidt, Grounds Manager/  
Horticulturist

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