

Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

# PrairieWindow

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



Summer 2013 Vol. 23 No. 2

## A Prairie Garden, a Labor of Love

by Scott Vogt, Executive Director

A love for plants and an eye for the Kansas prairie's beauty were the spark and vision for the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, a treasured Hesston landmark that is left as Evie Dyck's ongoing legacy. Evie passed away April 7, 2013 at the age of 88.

Along with her husband Harold, she established the arboretum in 1981. Their vision of a landscape featuring native Kansas plants and trees makes this garden unique. It was their hope that the arboretum would encourage a greater understanding and appreciation of the prairie and the simple beauty of Kansas.

The site chosen for the arboretum was adjacent to the Schowalter Villa retirement community and one block south of Hesston College.

"We wanted it to be close enough to the villa and the college so that residents and students could walk in it and enjoy it throughout the year," Evie explained in a previous interview. Because of the Dycks' desire to see the arboretum become a non-profit educational facility, Hesston College was a logical choice as an operating organization.

Now the arboretum has matured into one of the largest native plant gardens in the region, featuring more than 1,000 native and adaptable trees, shrubs,

*Continued on Page 2*



*Elva Mae Dyck, August 19, 1924 - April 7, 2013*

## Prairie Window Concert Series 2013-2014

Due to scheduling challenges, the full line-up for the 2013-2014 Prairie Window Concert Series is not yet available. Please stay tuned for the full schedule by email or in your mailboxes in the coming weeks.

However, we are pleased to announce six of the eight concerts at this time. All concerts are scheduled for Sunday at 4 p.m., unless otherwise noted:

The Steel Wheels on Saturday, October 12 at 7 p.m. at the Historic Newton Fox Theatre; Milkdrive on November 3; The Stray Birds on January 12; Phoebe Hunt on February 9; Guy Davis on February 23; and SHEL (March or April, date TBA).

**SEASON TICKET  
EARLY BIRD SPECIAL  
THROUGH AUGUST!**

ONE FREE SHOW  
and seating preference

**Members \$126/\$63**

**Non-members \$140/\$70**

Call 620-327-8127  
for season tickets.

# Tour the Land Institute and Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery

with Scott Vogt, Executive Director/Horticulturist

For years I have wanted to take a tour of the Land Institute near Salina and learn more about their agricultural operations. The Land Institute has worked for over 30 years on research and development of agricultural solutions. They try to address the unsustainable aspects of agriculture. Their purpose is to develop an agricultural system with the ecological stability of the prairie and a grain yield comparable to that from annual crops. This work is intriguing and the vision of using perennial plants to produce food for the world is noble to say the least. This tour will be an enjoyable experience.

We will combine the tour of the Land Institute with a tour of the Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery in Lindsborg, Kansas. Birger Sandzén was a teacher at Bethany College. He began his teaching career in 1894 but it wasn't until 1899 that he became the principal art teacher at Bethany. He was a gifted artist, teacher and musician. The gallery has the largest collection of his art in the world. Join the arboretum on this day trip excursion north to experience two Kansas treasures and we will even make a short stop at Coronado Heights. Van transportation included.

**Tour Schedule:** Thursday, September 12, 2013

9 a.m. – Vans leave for Salina

10 – 11:30 a.m. – Guided Tour of the Land Institute

12 – 1 p.m. – Lunch on your own, Main Street Lindsborg

1 – 2:30 p.m. – Tour of Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery

2: 45 – 3:15 p.m. – Coronado Heights

4 p.m. – Arrive back at the arboretum

**Cost \$30 member/ \$35 non-members (RSVP by September 10)**



*Evie Dyck, continued from Page 1*

wildflowers, and grasses. The arboretum is a tremendous gift to the community and has become a regional attraction.

The mission of the arboretum, “to promote through education and stewardship the conservation and use of plants native and adaptable to Kansas,” has never been more relevant. Sustainable landscaping using native plants and the conservation of prairies have put the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in the forefront of all things related to the prairie.

Evie's vision of a place to appreciate the natural beauty of Kansas was ahead of its time. Her legacy is established in the arboretum and will be present as it continues to flourish. The Dyck's vision has been recognized many times over by the thousands of people who visit the arboretum each year for educational events, entertainment, or enjoyment of nature.

Evie's role in the arboretum diminished over the past few years, but her wishes and vision live on in the plants, landscapes, buildings, and educational programs. This garden gives visitors a sense of the prairie, which is exactly what Evie wanted to see happen. Thank You Evie!

## Fall FloraKansas Plant Sale Begins September 5th

Fall is a good time to plant native plants. Add sun or shade-loving native plants to your landscape at a time when they are easy to establish. Members can contact us by August 1 to preorder plants!

**Thursday, Sept. 5, 1-7 p.m. (MEMBERS ONLY)**

**Friday, Sept. 6, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.**

**Saturday, Sept. 7, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.**

**Sunday, Sept. 8, Noon-4 p.m.**



# Introducing Brett Prothro, Our New Grounds Manager

*“Do not hire a man who does your work for money,  
but him who does it for love of it.” -Henry David Thoreau*

My name is Brett Prothro and I love being outdoors. It is with great pleasure and privilege that I have the honor of serving as Dyck Arboretum’s new grounds manager.

I grew up in Augusta, KS, the youngest of three boys, where I graduated from high school in 1997. I then moved down the road to Winfield, where I studied music and communications while running track and cross country at Southwestern College. I met Marathana Furches, my rock, in Winfield and we were married at Dyck Arboretum in 2005. Professionally I have been the head groundskeeper at Prairie View, Inc. in Newton, a carpenter, custom furniture builder, and a lawn care professional. Marathana and I now live in North Newton with our 2-year-old energized cannonball, our son Atticus.

I am blessed and grateful to be a part of a team with the same goals and high standards in mind, doing what we can to make Dyck Arboretum an inviting place for people not just to come to but to experience. While this is a job from which I draw a paycheck, it is something more that can never truly have a price tag on it. Scott, Janelle, Brad, myself, and countless volunteers have the joy, honor, privilege and duty to make Dyck Arboretum the best it has ever been. We do this for the benefit of all who care to stroll the grounds and experience the majestic beauty and subtle nuance that is nature in Kansas.

For we are but passengers here, riding towards the great inevitable. Long after we are physically gone from this place, nature will live on, perhaps with our imprint and perhaps not. The best we can do is make sure that generations to come will know what it is to walk peacefully in a field of buffalo grass, to witness the unmatched beauty of a flowering crabapple, to hear the birdsong overtures of early morning spring.

Thank you all for your patronage and I look forward to crossing paths with you as you enjoy what I am lucky enough to experience every day.



*Brett Prothro*

## Calling All Preschoolers! Explore Nature This Fall with Junior Prairie Explorers

Give your child the opportunity to know the prairie through children’s literature, art projects, and hands-on outdoor exploration with education coordinator, Brad Guhr, during Junior Prairie Explorers, four sessions in October.

Topics will include sunflowers, insects, birds, and grasses. Children ages 2-5 are welcome to attend. The workshop will occur Tuesday, October 1, 8, 15, and 22 from 10-11:30 a.m.

The cost of four sessions is \$35 for Arboretum members; \$42 for non-members. Parental involvement is optional.

Registration is limited and reserved with payment. Call (620) 327-8127 to register.



# Landscaping to Attract Pollinators

by Scott Vogt, Executive Director/Horticulturist

I was looking at my yard the other day and realized I could be doing so much more with my landscape. I want beautiful plants and season-long bloom. I want to choose plants that require less water. I want to provide a setting that attracts pollinators of all forms.

**For the Fall FloraKansas Plant Sale, we are focusing on planting to attract pollinators.** Monarch populations are dwindling. Bees are threatened by disease, pesticides and beehive decline. According to Monarch Watch, the United States consumes habitat for monarchs and other wildlife at a rate of 6,000 acres a day, or 2.2 million acres per year. We could help these dire situations by providing food and shelter for these declining species. We could offset these losses by creating a landscape that welcomes pollinators.

**How do we start?** Generally, pollinators need three things: food (nectar and pollen), water, and shelter. Native plants are more attractive to different pollinators than exotics. Our native pollinators have adapted to the native wildflowers.

- **Choose the appropriate location for your landscape.** Native plants generally require less water and thrive with minimal attention if properly sited and established. Look for a sunny area with shelter from the strong winds. Design your landscape to include a water source. Match the plants with the site and soil you have.
- **As you are designing, group flowers in clusters.** A cluster of species of wildflower in bloom will attract more pollinators than individual plants scattered throughout the landscape. I like to plant in groups of at least three, five, or seven and include plants with purple, white, yellow, blue or violet.
- **Choose plants to encourage a diversity of pollinators.** Wildflowers come in a variety of shapes and sizes. This diversity is attractive to pollinators, too. There are over four thousand species of bees in North America. They are different in size, and shape and they feed on different shaped flowers. Having a diversity of plants means more pollinators can benefit.
- **The design should include a succession of bloom.** Wildflowers should be coming into and out of bloom during all seasons of the year. With several plant species flowering at once, and a sequence of plants flowering through spring, summer, and fall, you will sustain a range of pollinator species that fly at different times of the season.
- **Plant milkweeds.** Monarch Watch encourages the planting of milkweed species because monarch larvae feed exclusively on milkweeds. For our area, they recommend common milkweed, swamp milkweed, and butterfly milkweed. We will have these milkweeds at our fall plant sale on September 5-8. (See more information about our plant sale on page 2, or at [www.dyckarboretum.org](http://www.dyckarboretum.org).)



From left to right: Honeybee on thistle, regal fritillary on butterfly milkweed, (opposite page) Delaware skipper on tall thistle, monarch caterpillar on swamp milkweed.

# Mark Your Calendars for the Second Annual Prairie Pumpkin Festival

## **Schedule:**

Sat, Oct 12: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

## **Admission:**

\$4 Adults (\$3 Members)

\$2 Children Ages 3 to 15 (\$1 Members)

Children 2 and under are free

The second annual Prairie Pumpkin Festival is rapidly approaching. On Saturday, October 12, come to the arboretum and enjoy time outside, having fun with family and friends. Kids will enjoy riding the barrel train, hayrack rides, petting zoo, face painting, duck races and playing in the hay.

Children and adults are welcome to decorate a pumpkin and compete for prizes. Bring your own pumpkin from home and display it or choose from an assortment of pumpkins available at the arboretum. As the sun is setting, we will illuminate the decorated pumpkins along the path for a truly ghostly experience.

There will be fun for the whole family including fall-themed activities, food vendors, and the popular hedgeapple launcher.

Arboretum members and supporters who would like to help make this event a success are invited to contact Scott Vogt for information about volunteering.



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**What would your motivations be to change your landscape?** Is it important to provide habitat for bees and butterflies? Is it important to conserve water? Do you want more from your landscape than sporadic blooms and a haphazard design? Are conservation and stewardship efforts important to you?

If you want to get your landscape certified as an official Monarch Waystation go to [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org). If you have questions about landscaping with native plants, the arboretum staff and volunteers will help you plan and design a landscape that meets your expectations at the fall FloraKansas plant sale. We offer varieties of plants that pollinators love. No effort is too small to have a positive impact!





## Sample-mania! Kids Summer Camp Was A Success!

by Brad Guhr, Education Coordinator

Sample-mania! 2013, our June summer camp for 6-10 year olds, was geared towards helping kids appreciate and gain a closer connection to the natural world around them. This was done in a quantitative way and introduced science inquiry and critical thinking. Themes for the four consecutive days were pond life, trees and shrubs, wildflowers, and insects.

We started each day devising one or more questions/hypotheses that we wanted to test and then set out on the grounds to collect data and challenge our theories. We studied Kansas natural history by learning to be more observant, conducting inquisitive research, and paying attention to colors, textures, behaviors, and numbers. In the process we also go wet and dirty, took some of the “eeewww” factor out of harmless animals and plants, and even had a bit of fun along the way.



## All Volunteers Invited to Attend Appreciation Evening July 30

On Tuesday, July 30, all who have volunteered at the arboretum during the last year OR who are interested in volunteering in the coming year are invited for a traditional summer barbecue and program of appreciation.

Attendees are welcome to arrive as early as 5:30 p.m. for check-in. Food will be served at 6 p.m. and a brief recognition of our various teams of volunteers will occur at 7 p.m. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the evening and a special token will be given to every volunteer who attends.

Registration for this event is FREE to all volunteers, but we would like to have a head count by Monday, July 22. Please include in your RSVP (by phone or by email to [arboretum@hesston.edu](mailto:arboretum@hesston.edu)) your preference for a plant sale coupon or for a t-shirt featuring the new and improved arboretum logo. If you would like a t-shirt, please include your t-shirt size.

Summer is a busy time at the arboretum, with weddings, watering, weeding, and getting ready for a new year of events. None of these things could happen without the consistent support and hard work of our volunteer work force, which totals over 150 people throughout the year.

**Please join us for a special evening and allow us to share our appreciation of your service and love for the arboretum!**

### 2013 Prairie Wildflower Tours

#### Arboretum Tours:

Spend an hour with Dyck Arboretum Executive Director and Horticulturist Scott Vogt identifying blooming plants in the arboretum displays and strolling through the prairie reconstruction. Follow the arboretum through the seasons with these interactive guided tours.

Tuesday August 13, 6:30 p.m.  
Monday, September 16, 6 p.m.  
Monday, October 14, 6 p.m.

Admission is a suggested donation of \$2. Please call for reservations at least one hour in advance of the tour. Your donation supports our horticultural and educational programs.

# Seventh Earth Partnership for Schools Institute Hosts Teachers from Wichita to Council Grove

by Brad Guhr, Prairie Restoration/Education Coordinator

K-12 Teachers looking for new tools to stimulate their students and enhance their knowledge of the Kansas prairie were all in attendance at our seventh annual Earth Partnership for Schools (EPS) Training Institute from June 3 to 7. During the institute, they were exposed to fresh hands-on, inquiry-based teaching techniques, and rewarding professional development to renew their teaching spirit.

The purpose of EPS is to train educators to restore prairie gardens on school grounds with their students and use these gardens as outdoor learning laboratories. The educational process of teaching students about Great Plains cultural and natural history is just as important as the end product of an aesthetically pleasing native prairie garden.

Teachers engage their students in hands-on and minds-on ways with prairie plants, wildlife attracted to prairie gardens, and how Native Americans and European settlers interacted with and relied on the prairie for their shelter, food, and medicines.

EPS activities foster a student's ability to learn about and relate to the natural environment in many ways - through creative arts, science, social studies, math, and language arts - while developing a sense of place on the Great Plains.

Participants included Sandra Kelso (St. Mary's Catholic School - Newton), Jerry Epp (Newton High), Stephanie Ryan, Erin Pullum (Goddard Middle), Rachel Coats, Sarah Medlam (Stucky Middle School in Wichita), Laura Stevenson (Robinson Middle - Wichita), Shelly Moore (Spaght Multi-Media Magnet Elementary - Wichita), Lisa Grace, Mario Nava, Sarah Vogt (Sunset Elementary - Newton), Daryl Finch (Council Grove High), Tana Rifel, and Debra Casey (Centre Middle). Instructors for the course were DeDee Lehman (Hesston Elementary), Amber Celestin (Butler County Community College, El Dorado), Lorna Harder (Hesston College), and Brad Guhr (Kansas EPS Coordinator).

This program is made possible through generous support from Cargill, Inc., and Kansas Native Plant Society.

*Top to bottom: Mario Nava studies the legume plant family; Jerry Epp, Tana Rifel, and Lisa Grace simulate a dragonfly during "Insect Charades;" Sandra Kelso plants an aster during a group prairie planting.*





Hesston College  
P.O. Box 3000  
Hesston, KS 67062  
620-327-8127  
[www.dyckarboretum.org](http://www.dyckarboretum.org)  
[arboretum@hesston.edu](mailto:arboretum@hesston.edu)



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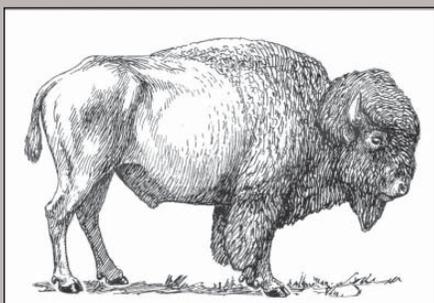
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## Chisholm Trail Box Canyon Tour: Sign Up Today!

**Tuesday, September 24, 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Visit a unique box canyon geological feature, a spring, and waterfall on private land in the Smoky Hills with Friends of Maxwell President, Betty Schmidt and Arboretum prairie ecologist, Brad Guhr.

Enjoy late-season prairie wildflowers, scenic vistas, stories of the cattle-driving cowboys, and get up close and personal with a herd of bison at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge (in a tram, of course).



Expect ~0.5 mile of light hiking along a bluff. BBQ lunch and van transportation included.

Cost: \$40 members/\$47 non-members. Call for reservations by Sept. 20.

### Staff

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

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