

Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

PrairieWindow

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



Summer 2014 Vol. 24 No 2

Volunteer Appreciation Cookout: Celebrating the hands and feet of the arboretum

by Janelle Flory Schrock, Office Manager

If a non-profit organization's staff is its "back bone", then the volunteers are the hands and feet. Certainly staff spend many hours performing the daily tasks needed to make the arboretum function, but it is our volunteers who show up, event after event, week after week, day after day, and make everything happen. They work, not for accolades or money, but out of a desire to make this arboretum more beautiful and enjoyable for future generations. Volunteers walk our mission, talk our mission, and take our mission out into the community.

In gratitude for the over 2,000 hours of work performed by these 150 plus individuals in the past year, arboretum staff are hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Cookout, on Sunday, August 10. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., with a meal at 6 p.m. The evening will feature a classic summer cookout theme, a short presentation of gratitude by staff, some door prizes, and a special gift for each family.

We invite all who have volunteered over the past year to come and receive our most sincere appreciation. Also, please bring guests who are interested in volunteering in the future.

Please RSVP by August 1st to let us know you'll be there!

Left: Loretta Neufeld counts up a plant order at the fall plant sale last year. Right: Salma Kani, Carla and Steve Scott, and Margie Knupp address invitation cards for the Summer Soirée.



Landscape Solutions

Do you have a problem area in your landscape? Do you want a more sustainable landscape that attracts pollinators? Do you want a landscape that requires less water and takes less time to maintain?

Let the arboretum be a resource. Attend one of our landscaping classes and let us help solve your challenging landscape situations.

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

Come prepared with a scale drawing of your landscaping site. Attendees will receive an additional 5% discount at our upcoming fall or spring plant sales to purchase the plants from their design.

Cost is \$15/person, \$12/members. If you need help with a **shaded area** come on Tuesday, July 29, 6:30-8 PM or if your landscape area is **sunny** come on Tuesday, August 12, 6:30 -8 PM.

Call the arboretum for reservations. Classes are limited to the first ten who register.

Fall Plant Sale

Join us for the fall FloraKansas Plant Sale, September 5-7. Member sale is Thursday, September 4, from 1 to 7 p.m. See our website for a full schedule and plant list.

Prairie Window Concert Series 2014-15

Hesston, Kansas


Friday, August 22, 2014 at 7 p.m. (Historic Newton Fox Theatre)
RED MOLLY

Back by popular demand! Gorgeous a capella ballads, bluegrass-tinged folk and a touch of jazzy western swing with trademark three-part harmonies, signature dobro licks, and inventive arrangements.


Sunday, October 5, 2014 at 4 p.m.
COTTON WINE

A Nashville duo with a captivating stage presence that is easily matched by their stellar voices, mastery of multiple instruments, and innovative song-writing. Like Simon & Garfunkel singing/dancing to Mumford & Sons.


Sunday, October 26, 2014 at 4 p.m.
WILLIE WATSON

After years with Old Crow Medicine Show, Willie's new solo career is flourishing with high lonesome tenor vocals and his claw hammer banjo, guitar and mouth harp. Roy Orbison meets Bob Dylan meets Leadbelly...


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

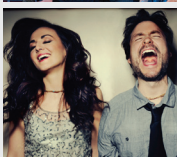
Fresh off a Grammy nomination for their new album *Sweetheart of the Sun*, The Greencards continue to fill venues and delight audiences with their lights-out instrumentals, tightly blended vocals, and musical prowess.


Sunday, January 18, 2015 at 4 p.m.
NORA JANE STRUTHERS AND 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. (McPherson Opera House)
THE STEEL WHEELS

They are topping Americana music charts, touring at a blistering pace, 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

Adults/Children (18 & under): \$20/\$10 (\$25/\$15 for The Steel Wheels)

10% discount for Dyck Arboretum members - \$18/\$9 (\$22.50/\$13.50 for The Steel Wheels)

Season tickets for members \$148.50/\$76.50, season tickets for non-members \$165/\$85 (sales tax not included).

SEASON TICKET EARLY BIRD SPECIAL - JULY ONLY!

ONE FREE SHOW (members \$130.50/\$67.50, non-members \$145/\$75) and seating preference

Call 620-327-8127 for tickets or go to www.dyckarboretum.org/events and classes or follow QR code below.



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Earth Partnership for Schools 2014 Summer Institute

by Brad Guhr, Education Coordinator

"If you build it, they will come." This slightly paraphrased quote from the 1989 movie *Field of Dreams* was used repeatedly during the eighth annual Earth Partnership for Schools (EPS) Summer Institute at Dyck Arboretum June 2-6. The quote was in reference to a common phenomenon observed after building a prairie garden -- the resulting attraction of insects and other wildlife. Eighteen participants absorbed this lesson well during a field trip to Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, a tour of prairie gardens around Hesston and Newton, and multiple studies of native habitats around the arboretum throughout the week. They learned how native plants attract wildlife by providing cover, sweet nectar sources, bright colors, edible tissues, sap, fruits, and seeds. These insect visitors in turn attract a whole host of predators looking for food too and the biological web of a native planting grows in richness and complexity.

The institute attracted a group of passionate educators from organizations and schools including Botanica and Riverside Elementary in Wichita, Sunset Elementary, Chisholm Middle and St. Mary Catholic in Newton, El Dorado Middle, Erie USD, Yoder Charter, Mulvane Middle, and Hesston Elementary. Participants heard presentations, practiced curriculum activities, conducted studies, toured gardens, developed an action plan, planned a grant proposal, wrote reflectively, pulled weeds, made art, and carried out a planting. These teacher teams will take what they learned back to their schools and engage their students in multiple ways with prairie gardens and the EPS curriculum.

EPS is made possible through support from Cargill, Inc., Kansas Health Foundation, Citizens State Bank, Harvey County Farm Bureau, Newton Kiwanis Club, Kansas Native Plant Society and KS Dept. of Wildlife and Parks and Tourism.



Top: Teachers practice wildflower identification at Maxwell Wildlife Preserve. Bottom right: Vicky Hilgers from Mulvane MS finding geometry in nature. Bottom left: Institute participants flex their weeding muscles after a session of pulling invasive yellow sweet clover from a restored arboretum prairie.

Landscaping for *Late Season Interest*

by Scott Vogt, Executive Director and Horticulturist

Fall is one of my favorite times of the year. The days are warm, the nights are cooler and the hottest part of the year is behind us. It also means that many of my favorite plants will be putting on a show. They have held on all season and endured the harsh Kansas environment to punctuate the landscape with blooms, forms and textures. I want to highlight some of these plants that offer fall interest and add beauty to the landscape throughout the winter.

Asters and other Fall-Blooming Perennials

No fall garden is complete without asters. They come in such a wide array of sizes, shapes and bloom colors that there is truly one for any garden situation. Here are just a few you might want to include in your landscape.

Aromatic aster-*Aster oblongifolius* ‘October Skies’ (1)- This variety of our native aromatic aster forms a dense mound up to 30 inches wide 18-24 inches tall. The one inch sky blue flowers cover the entire plant in late September and continue into October. It is a favorite of many different pollinators. It is not picky about where it grows but performs best in full sun and medium to dry conditions. Other asters for sunny areas with other bloom color are: Aster KICKIN ‘Lavender’ (lavender), Aster ‘KICKIN ‘Lilac Blue’ (light blue), Aster KICKIN ‘Pink Chiffon’ (light pink) and *Aster ericoides* ‘Snow Flurry’ (short-white).

White Woodland Aster-*Aster divaricatus* ‘Eastern Star’ (2)-Most shade gardens are heavy on spring blooms but lack late season interest. White woodland aster prefers the shade and makes a nice groundcover. The dense mats of leaves and stems have a touch of burgundy and the tiny white blooms develop from August through September. Overall height is just 12 inches but the spread can be several feet. Plant them in dappled shade in a medium to moist soil. Another great shade lover is Wood Aster –*Aster cordifolius* ‘Avondale’

Threadleaf Bluestar-*Amsonia hubrichtii* (3)- In May and June, clusters of small powder blue, star-like flowers top the stems, which are encircled with soft, narrow leaves resembling pine needles making each plant look like a small shrub with feathery texture and incredible fullness. I have found them to be extremely hardy, drought tolerant and very low maintenance. The real show develops in September when the foliage turns a butter yellow fading to a golden brown by October. One specimen plant is spectacular in each season of the year but ten or more massed together and strategically located are quite stunning. Individual plants can reach up to 48 inches tall and 24-36 inches wide. This species prefers full sun to partial shade and an average garden soil.

Helen’s Flower, *Helenium autumnale*- If you love a plant with bold flower colors, then this one is for you. It ranges in color from yellow to red and grow best in a sunny to partial shade situation and average to moist soil. Try these varieties - *Helenium* ‘Fuego’ (4) (yellow-orange), ‘Ruby Tuesday’ (ruby-red), ‘Double Trouble’ (bright yellow) and ‘Red Jewell’ (red-orange).

Goldenrod, *Solidago* sp.-Goldenrods get a bad rap for causing allergies in the fall because they bloom at the same time ragweed is releasing its pollen. Goldenrods don’t cause allergies, but do produce great yellow blooms in the fall. Try *Solidago* ‘Little Lemon’ (5) if you need a compact perennial for the front of the border. The soft yellow blooms complement fall mums, pumpkins and autumn leaves and attract pollinators on warm autumn days. Other forms include *Solidago* ‘Fireworks’, ‘Wichita Mountains’, ‘Golden Baby’, *Solidago rigida*, and *Solidago nemoralis*.



Grasses & Shrubs for the fall garden



Grasses

Every garden should contain grasses. The intricate seed heads and vertical form add interest from fall through winter. The strong shapes cast shadows from the low winter sun and the gentlest breeze causes them to sway and rustle. A touch of color brightens the landscape as each grass is transformed with autumn hues. They also provide food and cover for overwintering insects and animals. Consider the following native grasses for your landscape. Further descriptions can be found at our website www.dyckarboretum.org

- **Switchgrass**-*Panicum virgatum* 'Cheyenne Sky', and 'Northwind' (7),
- **Little Bluestem**-*Schizachyrium scoparium* 'Standing Ovation', 'Blaze' and 'Blue Heaven',
- **Big Bluestem** (6)-*Andropogon gerardii* 'Pawnee' and 'Indian Warrior',
- **Indiangrass**-*Sorghastrum nutans*
- **Fountain Grass**-*Pennisetum* 'Little Bunny' and 'Red Head'



Shrubs

There are many shrubs with striking fall foliage and/or fruit. The season's growth is raised to a crescendo as vibrant colors enliven the landscape. Bright reds, oranges, and yellows add a bright touch while other shrubs develop fruit that provides a nutrient rich food source for denizen and migrating birds. Several varieties for fall and/or winter interest are listed below:

- **Tiger Eyes® Cutleaf Sumac**-*Rhus typhina* 'Baitiger'-A beautiful golden-leaved form of cutleaf sumac grows to 6' tall. As magnificent as the summer colors are the dramatic effect of yellow, orange and intense scarlet in autumn are unparalleled.
- **Gro-Low fragrant sumac** - *Rhus aromatica* 'Gro-Low' has a short height and red-orange fall color.
- **Smokebush**-*Cotinus coggygria* 'Golden Spirit'-(8' x 6'), 'Young Lady' (8' x 8') and 'Grace' (12' x 12') leaves transform to shades of coral, orange, and red in fall.
- **Beautyberry** - *Callicarpa americana* (8)- This small shrub puts on quite a show in the fall. As the season develops, each leaf axil is surrounded by loads of small, pinkish to bluish flowers followed by clusters of bright, purple fruits that surround the stem. The flowering to fruiting works its way slowly up each stem until the leaves begin changing to yellow in the fall. After leaf fall, the persistent fruits stay put until the birds nab them. It is tolerant of shade and drought but the best fruiting and growth occurs with plenty of sunlight and consistent moisture.
- **Alleghany Viburnum**-*Viburnum rhytidiphyloides* 'Alleghany' (9)-Beautiful white flowers emerge in spring and develop into clusters of reddish berries in the fall. It is adaptable to a wide range of light conditions from full sun to shade and most soil types.
- Other shrubs and trees with berries, fall color and/or fall blooms include Blackhaw Viburnum-*Viburnum prunifolium* (fall color and black fruit), Caryopteris 'Petit Bleu' (blue flowers), Caryopteris 'Lil' Miss Sunshine' (blue flowers), Black chokeberry-*Aronia melanocarpa* 'Iroquois Beauty' (fall color and black fruit), White Oak-*Quercus alba* (red fall color) and Sugar Maple-*Acer saccharum* (fall color).



Kansas Association of Arboreta and Botanical Gardens will celebrate 30th anniversary at Dyck Arboretum

by Janelle Flory Schrock, Office Manager

On Friday, September 12, 2014, the Kansas Association of Arboreta and Botanical Gardens (KAABG) will celebrate its fall meeting in Hesston, hosted by the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains and Hesston College. The celebration marks the 30th anniversary of the organization's founding meeting, which took place on the Hesston College campus in 1985, four years after the founding of the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains.

Founding member and current KAABG chairman, Dick Weidenbach reports that a 56-passenger bus will depart from Botanica in Wichita, and he expects the van will fill with interested garden enthusiasts and KAABG members from Wichita. He also hopes Hesston gardeners will attend the event for all or part of the day.

"We're really pleased with the turn-out so far and hope to get as many of the founding members of KAABG involved," Weidenbach said.

Founding members who represented the Hesston community at the time were former Dyck Arboretum director, the late Joe Oppe, as well as former Hesston College Plant director, Marvin Schmucker, Jim Yoder and Jim Mininger.

"It was Joe Oppe who invited all of us up to Hesston to form the association," Weidenbach said. "He was not only the director at Dyck Arboretum, but also a member of the Botanica Board of Directors at that time."

For the 30th anniversary gathering, a bus will leave Wichita and arrive in Hesston in the morning, and be welcomed and have lunch at Hesston College. Following lunch, there will be a tour of the Dyck Arboretum grounds with arboretum staff and



Dyck Arboretum pond as it appeared in 1984

an update on the many changes at the arboretum over the past thirty years. In the late afternoon, the bus will return to Wichita for a banquet in the brand new Lotus Hall at Botanica.

The group will include Mary Bartlett Gourlay, granddaughter of the Bartlett Arboretum founders. Harold and Evie Dyck were inspired to create the Dyck Arboretum during a trip to the Bartlett Arboretum.

The association currently hosts two trips each year, in spring and fall, to a garden, arboretum or state park in the state of Kansas. The relationships formed during these trips help public garden professionals and supporters to learn from one another and share ideas. To learn more about KAABG or register for this event, contact Dick Weidenbach at 316-681-2057.



A Hesston family enjoys the duck races at last year's festival.

Prairie Pumpkin Festival: Mark your calendar for Oct. 11, 9 a.m. to dark

Arboretum staff are excited about hosting the 3rd Annual Prairie Pumpkin Festival. Last year's event drew over 500 people to the arboretum for a variety of autumn-themed activities, including the hedgeapple launcher, barrel train, hayrack rides, hay bale maze, and pumpkin decorating contest.

Last year, one of the most popular activities was the pumpkin decorating contest, which includes prizes in a number of age categories. This year, the staff hope to grow their own pumpkins to sell during the week before the event, to be used in the pumpkin decorating contest, or for decorating at home.

Once again, many volunteers will be involved to help monitor the various activities. Please contact Janelle or Scott in the arboretum office if you are interested in participating.

Renovation of sundial garden and Visitor Center entrance flower beds made possible by generous gift

by Janelle Flory Schrock, Office Manager

Over the past several months, the three flower beds at the entrance to the Visitor Center have been undergoing a renovation. After removal and transplanting of some plants and weed control through the winter and spring, the beds were replanted this June. The two front beds will feature xeriscape plants that can survive in drier, rockier soil, and the sundial garden is a more formal, traditional presentation of native and adaptable perennials.

In 2012, the arboretum board of directors set a strategic planning goal that the aging flower beds should be redesigned and replanted within the next several years.

Not long after that decision was made, arboretum supporters Steve and Pamela Read of McPherson approached director Scott Vogt to discuss possible ways to remember Steve's parents, Ronald and Evelyn Read, with a memorial gift, thereby setting into motion plans to renovate the three separate beds at the entrance to the Visitor Center.

The renovation of a flower bed carries with it certain costs, including labor to clear out the plant life that has invaded the bed over time, design hours put in by our horticulturist, the cost of plant material, and of course, maintenance and upkeep.

Sponsoring the renovation of a display bed is a meaningful way to honor or remember those in your family who love or have loved gardening, native plants, and the mission of this arboretum. If you have interest in helping us reach our goal of renovating other mature display beds, Scott would be happy to chat with you. (620-327-8127 or scotttv@hesston.edu)



EPS participants spent a morning planting the sundial garden. The site was prepared by grounds manager, Brett Prothro, and the landscape plan was designed by director and horticulturist, Scott Vogt.

Dyck Arboretum of the Plains Membership

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Membership Levels

Senior Citizen	\$25	Steward of the Earth	\$100
Individual	\$30	Pioneer	\$250
Family	\$40	Plainskeeper	\$500

When you become a member, you become part of the arboretum...not just what it is today, but also what it is destined to become.

As a member you receive:

- Free admission to the garden and to more than 250 gardens and arboreta in the United States and Canada
- 10% discount on arboretum plants at FloraKansas, the spring and fall plant sale
- 10% discount in the arboretum gift shop
- Advance notice and discounts for most arboretum events
- A one-year free subscription to Better Homes & Gardens magazine (optional)

Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

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Visit A Favorite Place

Wednesday, September 10 at 4:30 p.m.
with Brad Guhr, Education Coordinator

Do you have a favorite place on earth that you never get tired of visiting? One of mine is Chase State Fishing Lake (CSFL) in the heart of the Flint Hills. Start by visiting a cool oasis along the spillway stream with woodland vegetation, water falls, shallow pools, and shelves of limestone to explore. Proceed up bluffs overlooking the reservoir with prairie wildflowers in September splendor. As the sun sets, you will be surrounded by buffalo wallows, waves of prairie as far as the eye can see, and endless wind and sky that will take you back to another place in time. Leave the Dyck Arboretum at 4:30 p.m., have supper at CSFL, and return to Hesston by twilight. \$35 members/\$40 non-members will cover entire trip (\$17 for children under 13).RSVP by Monday, September 8.



Staff

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

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