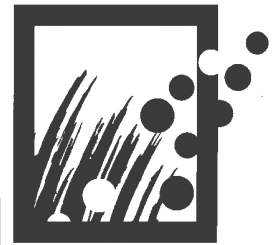


Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

PrairieWindow

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



Summer 2018 Vol. 28 No 2

Staff

Scott Vogt

Executive Director &
Horticulturist

Brad Guhr,

Education/Prairie Restoration/
Concert Series Coordinator

Janelle Flory Schrock

Office Manager

Katie Schmidt

Horticulturist/Grounds Manager

Board of Trustees

Anthony Swartzendruber
(Chair) - Hesston

Lorna Habegger Harder
(Vice Chair) - Hesston

LeAnn Clark - Hesston

Christine Downey-Schmidt -
Inman

Regina Dyck - Hesston

Diane Gjerstad - Wichita

Michael Kaye - Topeka

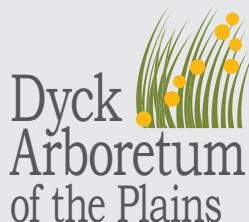
Mark Landes - Hesston

Gil Oliva - Hesston

Jonathan D. (J.D.) Spicher -
Weatherby Lake, MO

John Torline - North Newton

Marilyn Wilder - Hesston



Prairie Plants Thrive in Community

by Katie Schmidt, Horticulturist/Grounds Manager

Prairie plants in the home garden behave quite differently from the same plant out in the Flint Hills or other remnant prairies. Kansas gayfeather and pitcher sage in the prairie are tall and striking, but in the home garden they are prone to flopping over. This is because plants, like humans, depend on community.

For thousands of years, prairie plants have grown crowded and intertwined with many other species, not separated by tidy lines of mulch in our gardens. The prairie is full of interrelated layers, each shading or supporting the next. Considering this, it is obvious why gayfeather and pitcher sage flop without the help of rigid supporting plants like big bluestem or compass plant. Installing plant communities rather than isolated mulch islands can help you create diverse gardens that look great year round and require less maintenance.

Mimic Nature: When installing prairie plants, consider how they grow in the wild and what tier of the prairie the plant belongs to - is it the tallest plant in the prairie, or in a middle layer? Does it creep along the ground in the shade of thick grasses? Does it benefit from support? Choosing plants with those needs in mind leads to happy, long lived gardens. But planting in community doesn't have to mean planting hundreds of species! To keep things tidy, choose just a few species that complement each other and plant those enmass for dramatic effect.

Plant Thick: An important part of creating plant communities in landscape design is planting thick. Each plant needs room to grow, but too much extra space leads to rampant weed growth. Empty space also requires more mulching and leaves soil exposed to sun, wind and compaction. To efficiently cover exposed soil, try plugging forbs into a short matrix of grass or sedge. The short grasses will keep weeds down and grow in the understory of tall flowering species.

Good neighbors can make all the difference. Prairie plants do best when surrounded by their kin, all working together and fulfilling their niche. If you need help choosing a plant community for your landscape, contact us for a consultation, or visit us at the FloraKansas Fall Native Plant Festival September. 6-9.



Must-Have Natives for a Diverse Butterfly Garden

by Scott Vogt, Executive Director/Horticulturist

When planting a butterfly garden, it is important to remember this - while flowers will attract butterflies, nectar isn't the only thing that they need. Host plants for their larvae are just as important. A well-rounded butterfly garden includes both nectar plants and larval host plants.

As you think about your landscape, does it have the plants essential to take butterflies from egg to butterfly? Can butterflies spend their entire lifecycle in your yard? The building blocks for a successful butterfly garden provide food for adults along with specific host plants where they can lay their eggs, larvae can hatch, feed, pupate and ultimately emerge into the butterflies we are mesmerized by.

It is true that butterflies are very particular creatures. They only choose plants that provide caterpillars (larvae) with the specific nourishment they need to mature. Below are a few larvae host plants and the types of butterflies you will help by adding them to your yard.

Bur Oak or *Quercus macrocarpa*

Larval Host: Edwards Hairstreak, Horace's Duskywing butterfly. Over 500 species of showy moths and butterflies are supported by oaks as a group.

This native oak can be found throughout the state. It will become a large stately tree with a broad rounded habit.

Smooth Milkweed or *Asclepias sullivantii*

Larval Host: Monarch

Monarch butterfly larvae only eat milkweed plants. This native wildflower is abundant in prairies, thickets and roadside ditches. In my opinion, this is one of the prettiest milkweed varieties.

Blackhaw Viburnum or *Viburnum prunifolium*

Larval Host: Spring/Summer Azure, Baltimore Checkerspot and several moth caterpillars including the Hummingbird Clearwing Moth.

This is one of the two native viburnums to Kansas. You can use them as a privacy screen or train them into a lovely ornamental small tree.

Other wonderful larval host plants such as golden alexander, asters, pawpaw, blue false indigo, blackeyed susan, buttonbush, and iron plant can be purchased at the Fall Native Plant Festival.



Bur Oak, Quercus macrocarpa



Smooth Milkweed, Asclepias sullivantii



Blackhaw Viburnum, Viburnum prunifolium

JOIN US FOR NATIVE PLANT SCHOOL: SUMMER SESSION!

Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. - Choose from two classes, then enjoy a grounds tour.

Jul 26: "Natives for the New Front Yard" (Scott) or "Plant Communities Design Workshop" (Katie)

Aug 9: "Native Plant Landscaping for the Shade" (Scott) or "Native Shrubs for the Landscape" (Lorna)

FloraKansas: September 7 to 9 Public Sale • Member Pre-Sale: September 6, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Spotlight on our Members: Gregg Friesen

by Gregg Friesen

We joined the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in the early years of the Arboretum's existence. What initially was simply a move to support what looked like a great organization in a small community ended up providing us with a wealth of resources that have enriched our lives. I'll share just a few of those experiences that have meant much to us over the years.

When we first moved into our home 30 years ago, we inherited a lawn of Bermuda grass with a few overgrown cedar trees. My dislike of mowing combined with Joanna's passion for wildflowers led to an initial move where we took one narrow strip of the lawn out of grass production and turned it into a wildflower bed. From that small beginning, we advanced to a lawn filled with wild flower gardens that provides us with a beautiful landscape and wonderful educational opportunity for visitors to our yard.

Our yard has hosted over 30 species of butterflies and well over 100 species of birds, allowing us a wonderful outdoor experience in the middle of the city. The Dyck Arboretum's annual plant sale has been an integral part of the process of building this wonderful garden.

A second important benefit of our Arboretum membership has been the wide variety of educational opportunities provided by the Arboretum staff and others. Our window into the plant and animal life around us has grown through programs about bats, bees, grasses, ecosystems, and even aesthetics. Joanna and I have both been able to help in some of these educational programs and enjoyed the contact we've had with others and the chance to share our passions related to the Kansas outdoors. The conservation ethic promoted by these programs is an important part of our membership.

Finally, the Arboretum membership includes a membership in the American Horticultural Society and with that comes access to a wide range of gardens throughout the country. We have visited gardens in Elkhart, Indiana; Denver, Colorado; San Francisco and Mendocino, California; and Chicago, Illinois; along with several others. These experiences are both enjoyable and educational and usually come at no cost.

We encourage people to see the Arboretum membership as a resource that expands from one's own yard into the community, and far beyond.



Gregg Friesen and Joanna Fenton Friesen

Annual Wildflower Weekend to Feature EPS Schools

by Brad Guhr, Education Coordinator

The Kansas Native Plant Society (KNPS) will be featuring its Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) September 7-9 in Wichita. KNPS is a statewide organization with a similar mission to Dyck Arboretum that is celebrating its 40th anniversary at the 2018 AWW.

There are many reasons why Dyck Arboretum members will be excited about and should attend the 2018 AWW. 1) Rarely has the AWW been so close to us in south central Kansas; 2) The focus on "Native Plants in Urban Areas" couldn't more perfectly fit what we regularly promote; 3) This AWW falls on the same dates as our FloraKansas Native Plant Festival - cross pollination between the two events will be easy; and 4) AWW tours and presentations will feature native prairie gardening efforts by teachers and students at four Wichita area schools active in our Earth Partnership for Schools (EPS) Program.

The AWW will kick off Friday afternoon with the KNPS board meeting at Great Plains Nature Center. EPS native plant gardens will be featured with tours at Earhart Environmental

Magnet Elementary Friday evening and Peterson Elementary Sunday morning. Two other EPS schools (McLean Elementary and Maize High) will be featured with teacher presentations at the Saturday evening banquet at Two Olives in Wichita.

Native remnant and reconstructed prairies as well as prairie landscaping will be featured during tour stops Saturday afternoon at Via Christi Hospital, Cessna/Textron, Wichita Art Museum, and other times during the weekend at Heller's Grove, and Prairie Pawnee Park.

The Saturday morning annual meeting features a photo contest, silent auction, a 40th anniversary presentation with photos and stories, and a keynote presentation by Katie Kingery-Page, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and Reginal & Community Planning at KSU and a native plant enthusiast.

You won't find a more knowledgeable and generous group regarding native plant education in Kansas than KNPS folks. Many more details can be found at kansasnativeplantsociety.org.



Address Service Requested

Introducing our 2018 Summer Interns!

Sam Hatch: I grew up around Harvey County and graduated from Newton. I'm a student at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky and my major is in Agriculture & Natural Resources. I'm delighted I get to work here!

The reason why I contacted Dyck Arboretum about interning is because I like Kansas. Many people think it's boring and want to live elsewhere (usually by mountains or the sea), but for some unknown reason I have always liked Kansas and felt a sense of belonging. I knew Brad Guhr from church and oftentimes when we spoke, he got me excited about Kansas. I'm interning here because I hoped I might get the chance to discover why I inexplicably appreciate Kansas so much.

One of the things I like the most about interning here is the knowledge I have gained about the prairie, especially the flora. Before starting, I could only name a couple native plants; however, I can now name over a dozen plants (and recognize many more!) that are Kansas natives. I've enjoyed my time immensely so far and can't wait to see what the rest of the summer brings!



Desiree Corona: I am a Hesston College alum and transferred to Goshen College to earn my BA in business. A few interests of mine include painting and drawing, good conversations, and drinking too much coffee. My passion though, is traveling, experiencing different cultures while continuously learning about the world.

This summer, I am an intern here at Dyck Arboretum. Some things that I am and will be working with include marketing, giving tours of the facilities, as well as helping with events such as weddings. In my search for an internship, I was looking for an organization that has a good mission and a welcoming business culture. I wanted to work somewhere that would allow me to be creative, take on a variety of different projects, and push me out of my comfort zone. Also, I just love the natural and beautiful environment here!

The thing that I most enjoy about interning here is that I feel empowered. The staff here has been very friendly and helpful whenever I have a question. I have been able to choose the projects that I want to work on and have been given liberty to be creative.