

Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

PrairieWindow

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



Fall 2018 Vol. 28 No. 3

New Mission Focuses on People-Land Relationships

by Brad Guhr, Education Coordinator

Our Dyck Arboretum staff and board, with the help of consultant John Simmering, have been doing a lot of self review over the last year in search of a new mission statement for the future. Our two-part mission statement for the past few decades has been as follows:

"The Dyck Arboretum of the Plains promotes, through education and stewardship, the conservation and use of plants native and adaptable to Kansas. The Arboretum maintains gardens and prairie plant collections for education and conservation, providing a natural setting for reflection and appreciation of nature."

While it was relevant in the early days of the Arboretum, for what we have evolved to today, this old mission statement has become restrictive. It doesn't recognize the relationships we develop with our supporters through music, history, culture, the arts, rentals, healthy bodies, and environmental stewardship. This old mission statement is also quite long, hard to remember, and mixes mission with vision.

Our consultant gave us guidance to make our new mission statement simple, inclusive in scope, and unrestrictive in geography. After many meetings, round table discussions with members and supporters, surveys, individual staff reflections and feedback sessions with our board, we came up with the following new mission statement:

"Dyck Arboretum of the Plains cultivates transformative relationships between people and the land."

To support our mission, we have four elements we feel should be included in our vision statement.

- **Education** - Introduce people to the native landscapes of Kansas, promote ecological diversity, encourage citizen science, and re-connect people to nature.
- **Community** - Enable people to find a sense of place, encourage empathy for diversity of people and organisms, and create both active and passive community engagement experiences.
- **Arts** - Be a source of diverse educational experiences and provide innovative and creative pathways to help people connect to our mission.
- **Organizational Sustainability** - Model sustainable management of staff, infrastructure and finances, for long-term health of the Arboretum.

Thanks for following what we do and for helping support our mission. We welcome your input as we continue to craft a new vision for the future. The relationships we cultivate with you are what we are all about!



Fall/Winter Landscaping: Spice Up your Winter Garden

by Katie Schmidt, Horticulturist/Grounds Manager

Blooms fade and foliage freezes, but winter temperatures do not have to spell the end for your garden's beauty. By using plants that provide color, texture, and structure through the off season you can ensure your yard is a winter wonderland every year.

For color, try using winterberry and holly species like *Ilex decidua* or *Ilex verticillata*. These shrubs come in full size or dwarf varieties and produce stunning red or yellow berries that stand out amongst the tans and browns of the winter landscape.

To add rich visual texture to the garden, use plants with sturdy seed heads like *Echinacea*, *Penstemon* and *Baptisia*. Their dark black seed heads and interesting shapes will create contrast in the frost and snow, and be a welcome food source for songbirds.

Lastly, structure plants, those that hold their shape into winter, will be eye-catching in comparison to other garden plants that flop over or die back to the ground. Use columnar grasses such as 'Northwind' *Panicum* or 'Oktoberfest' *Miscanthus* for their tight vertical habit to anchor your garden design long after the growing season has ended.



Switchgrass, bluestem, maidenhair and other showy grasses add texture and color to the winter prairie landscape. Pair these with darker seedheads for contrast.

Brad Guhr Receives KNPS Excellence in Botany Award

On Friday, September 7, at the Annual Meeting of the Kansas Native Plant Society, Dyck Arboretum Education Coordinator Brad Guhr was surprised to receive an award, presented by former Arboretum board member and senior scientist at the Kansas Biological Survey Craig Freeman. Here is an excerpt from Freeman's presentation of the award:



Guhr was presented with the Stephen L. Timme Award by Craig Freeman on Friday, September 7. Photo by Krista Dahlinger-Miller.

"The Stephen L. Timme Excellence in Botany Award is given to an individual who has made an important contribution to botany in the state of Kansas in the form of research or education. The award honors Dr. Stephen L. Timme, late Professor of Botany at Pittsburg State University, who served on the KNPS Board from 1990-2006 and as President from 1995-1996.

"The 2018 Stephen L. Timme Excellence in Botany Award goes to Brad Guhr. Brad is the 12th recipient of the Timme Award.

"Brad Guhr is a resident of Newton, Kansas, and has served on the board of the Society since 2004. [Also] in 2004 Brad joined the staff of the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains..., acquiring a range of duties broadly focused on native plant-based environmental education for children and adults. Brad's duties include developing educational programming, overseeing the Arboretum's Prairie Window Project, and coordinating two of the Arboretum's highly successful programs: the Prairie Window Series Concert and the Kansas Earth Partnership for Schools Program. Through his many efforts, Brad has had a far-reaching impact on the science literacy and conservation ethic of thousands of children and adults, especially through the EPS Program. Few individuals in the state have done as much as Brad Guhr to promote natural history education, fundamental principles of conservation, and stewardship for the land among the next generation of Kansas."

Congratulations, Brad, on your award and many thanks for the impact you have had on the Arboretum and Kansas schools.

Register for our 2019 Native Plant School!

The Dyck Arboretum of the Plains offers numerous workshops that encourage the use of native plants in landscaping. Native plants are drought tolerant, ornamental, and provide food and shelter to wildlife. A landscape rich with native plants can be enjoyed for its beauty and the wealth of birds and pollinators it attracts.

All classes are \$10 per person, or \$50 when you register for all six classes ahead of time. Members receive a 10% discount. Visit dyckarboretum.org/arboretum-events/ to register.

Native Plant Basics

Thursday, Jan. 31, 7 p.m. or Saturday, Feb. 2, 9 a.m.

This class will include an introduction to basic native plant botany including leaf structure, nutrient uptake, soil/root interactions, and plant families. You will leave this class better acquainted with plant systems and needs, along with a good start on how to identify native plants in the wild.

Designing with Natives

Thursday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m. or Saturday, Feb. 23, 9 a.m.

Come learn the basics of landscape design, focusing on plants native and adaptable to our area. You will learn design principles that create beautiful and resilient garden beds with year long interest and be introduced to our favorite perennial plants.

A Guide to Native Landscape Maintenance

Thursday, March 7, 7 p.m.

In this session you will learn the tips and tricks of pruning, limbing, trimming, and mulching that will keep your garden looking its best. This will include information about fall and spring clean-up practices that will improve your yard and its habitat value for insects and birds.

Plant Propagation

Thursday, March 21, 7 p.m.

Come learn with us about propagating your own plants via seed or cutting. We will cover the biology of seeds and how to get the best germination rates as well as proper technique for rooting fresh cuttings.

Composting

Saturday, March 30, 9 a.m.

Composting is an easy and rewarding way to turn your kitchen scraps and yard waste into useful material while also saving it from the landfill. We will learn about compost pile biology, construction and maintenance as well as how to build your own rolling compost bins.

Gardening for Wildlife

Thursday, April 11, 7 p.m.

This class will focus on how to create a home landscape that supports wildlife. Attract birds and insects to your yard by educating yourself on host plants, food sources, and eco-friendly landscape management practices.

March Magic: New and returning events for the whole family!

POTTERING ON THE PRAIRIE is coming to the brand new Prairie Discovery Lab at the Dyck Arboretum on Saturday, March 23, 2019, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Even though our favorite magical stories occur in a fictional world, they are based on natural wonders that happen around us on the prairie. At this event, participants will have a variety of activities to choose from to explore these wonders first hand.

Join Professor Goering and Professor Krause's herbology class, learn about different woody plants in Katie's wand-making workshop, and discover our prairie's own plant magic through lessons, hands-on activities in the greenhouse, and magical snacks and drinks.

Mark your calendar now and watch our website and Facebook page for more information in the coming months.

Oh, and don't forget your favorite magical costumes!

On Saturday, March 9, 2019, the Arboretum will host its 9th Annual **GO GREEN LEPRECHAUN RUN** 2 mile fun run and 6th 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 in several costume categories.

The race will be chip-timed and medals will be awarded to the top runners. See our website for details and a registration form.

Online registration begins in the new year!



Watch for updates on the progress of our Horticulture and Utility Building via social media and email!

2019 Winter Lecture Series

by Brad Guhr, Education Coordinator

Stimulate your intellect and expand your horizons during January, February and March at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains. Featured topics for this coming series are ancient civilizations, natural area conservation, and snakes. Lecture begins at 6:30 p.m. **Cost: \$5 per person.**



Tuesday, January 29, 2019 with Donald Blakeslee **Finding the “Lost City” of Etzanoa**

Possibly one of the largest prehistoric urban settlements in North America has been found. Quivira was the name which early Spanish explorers used for the territory of the ancestors of the Wichita tribe. In 1601, the founder of the colony of New Mexico led a small army onto the plains to visit the site, so we have eyewitness descriptions of the town – five miles long on both sides of the Walnut River with a population of about 20,000 people. In this presentation Dr. Donald Blakeslee, Wichita State University archaeologist, will discuss the proof that the site lay at today’s Arkansas City and the archaeological work that has begun to analyze the way of life of the people and their connections to distant places.



Tuesday, February 26, 2019 with Rob Manes **Conserving the Gems of Kansas**

Since 1951, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has worked to protect the lands and waters on which all life depends. In Kansas, TNC has permanently protected 139,470-acres, including five preserves that are open to the public, and empowered private landowners to enhance wildlife habitat and protect native plant diversity. Explore these places with director Rob Manes, from the famous Flint Hills in the east to the new Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park in the west. You’ll gain a greater appreciation for the diversity of our state and be inspired to visit Kansas’ natural areas. (Photo: Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park © Laura Rose Clawson/TNC)



Tuesday, March 26, 2019 with Curtis Schmidt **Common/Uncommon Snakes of Kansas**

Snakes are fascinating creatures. Fort Hays State University’s Sternberg Museum of Natural History’s Zoologist Curtis Schmidt is a great advocate for this segment of reptiles. But they are largely misunderstood, and commonly feared due to a lack of education. There are roughly 100 species of snakes in Kansas, and Curtis will address a subset of the common and not so common species one could encounter in South Central Kansas. He’ll even talk about some of the venomous species and snakebites. Prepare to gain a greater appreciation for this much maligned yet important part of our state’s wildlife population. Live specimens may be present! (Photo: Eastern Hog-nosed Snake, Curtis Schmidt)

SPRING 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JAN 13	4:00 p.m. The Barefoot Movement PRAIRIE WINDOW CONCERT SERIES	7:00 p.m. Plant Propagation NATIVE PLANT SCHOOL	MAR 21
JAN 27	4:00 p.m. Moors & McCumber PRAIRIE WINDOW CONCERT SERIES	9:00 a.m. Pottering on the Prairie SPECIAL EVENT	MAR 23
JAN 29	6:30 p.m. Finding the “Lost City” of Etzanao WINTER LECTURE SERIES	6:30 p.m. “Common/Uncommon Snakes of KS” WINTER LECTURE SERIES	MAR 26
JAN 31	7:00 p.m. Native Plant Basics NATIVE PLANT SCHOOL	9:00 a.m. Composting NATIVE PLANT SCHOOL	MAR 30
FEB 2	9:00 a.m. Native Plant Basics NATIVE PLANT SCHOOL	4:00 p.m. Krista Detor PRAIRIE WINDOW CONCERT SERIES	APR 7
FEB 21/23	7:00 p.m. Thurs or 9:00 a.m. Sat Designing with Natives NATIVE PLANT SCHOOL	7:00 p.m. Gardening for Wildlife NATIVE PLANT SCHOOL	APR 11
FEB 26	6:30 p.m. “Conserving the Gems of Kansas” WINTER LECTURE SERIES	8:00 a.m. to 7 p.m. FloraKansas Member Day NATIVE PLANT FESTIVAL	APR 25
MAR 7	7:00 p.m. Native Landscape Maintenance NATIVE PLANT SCHOOL	Times Vary FloraKansas Public Days NATIVE PLANT FESTIVAL	APR 26-29
MAR 9	8:30 a.m. Go Green Leprechaun Run 2MILE/10K FUN RUN	4:00 p.m. Guy Davis PRAIRIE WINDOW CONCERT SERIES	APR 28
MAR 10	4:00 p.m. The Special Consensus PRAIRIE WINDOW CONCERT SERIES	<p>Come explore the prairie with us! Visit www.dyckarboretum.org/events to learn more and register.</p> 	



Winter Luminary Walk is almost here!

The Winter Luminary Walk "The Prairie Sleeps" will take place Nov. 23 & 24, and Nov. 30 & Dec. 1 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Arboretum office for \$5/adult and \$2/children (ages 3-12) and will be available until noon on Friday, December 1st. Tickets at the gate will be an additional \$1 per person.

The final night of the event will be Family Night on Saturday, Dec. 1st. On this night only, children 12 years old and under will be admitted for free when accompanied by a paying adult. Included in the Family Night festivities will be hayrack rides, face painting and craft-making.

Also on Dec. 1st, Hesston College Performing Arts ensembles will provide music around the Arboretum from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Then, at 7:15 p.m., the Hesston College Choir will lead all participants in a "Community Carol Sing" on the grounds or in the Prairie Pavilion, depending on weather.

The traditional luminary walk activities will continue to be a part of the event. There will be performances or presentations each weekend in the Prairie Pavilion, featuring harpist RoJean Loucks on Friday, Nov. 23 at 7 p.m. The Bethel College Academy of Performing Arts Dance Troupe will perform on Friday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m.

Many hands make lighter work for this event. Please call or email Janelle at arboretum@hesston.edu if you would like to volunteer. Jobs include working admissions, kitchen, gift shop, fire pits, setting out jars and lighting candles.



Staff

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

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