

Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

PrairieWindow

cultivating transformative relationships between people and the land



Spring 2019 Vol. 29 No 1

Native Plants at the State House

by Katie Schmidt, Grounds Manager and Horticulturist

At Governor Laura Kelly's inauguration ceremony on January 14, native plants from Dyck Arboretum were featured in the inaugural stage decorations. The Arboretum provided cuttings, including big bluestem, black eyed Susan, red twig dogwood and evergreens.

The inauguration planning committee originally contacted Dyck Arboretum to rent a mass of potted pines and spruces to line the stage. But we didn't have a stock of potted plants to give them. Instead I asked, "Why not something native? Why not something that reflects the beauty of Kansas in January?" They were thrilled with that notion, and I put them in contact with Kirsten Bosnak of Blue Morning Glory Studio (Lawrence, KS), an eco-friendly florist who regularly designs with native and home-grown materials.

Kirsten graciously invited me to personally partner in the floral design, and we worked together to create displays that honor Kansas' prairie heritage. Cuttings from the Arboretum paired with stately white tulips and glazed clay pots made for formal, yet earthy, arrangements that stayed true to the prairie aesthetic. We brought the beauty of Kansas in winter, with all its subtleties — seed heads, dried grass, and a dusky color palette.

Though those special arrangements will fade from memory, our gardens and grounds serve as a place for people to be inspired by the beauty of native flora and educated about the Kansas ecosystem. To recognize the value native plants, either as cuttings in a vase or living in the landscape, is part of a rewarding and transformative relationship with the land.

Below: Katie, Kirsten and helpers meet Governor Laura Kelly at the State House. Right: Dried grasses, evergreens, mixed with vases of white tulips brought a formal feel to the event while still showcasing Kansas flora. Inauguration photo courtesy Jerry Jost.



Join Us for a Two-day Trip to Tulsa!

Dyck Arboretum is partnering with Hesston Recreation and Community Education for a fun overnight outing to Tulsa Wednesday, June 12 -Thursday, June 13.

Scheduled stops are Tulsa Botanic Garden, Philbrook Museum and Gardens, the Gathering Place, Port of Catoosa and Will Rogers Museum—each of which offer something unique and interesting.

Included in the package is charter bus, lodging, all admissions and four meals. Double occupancy \$259/single \$296.

Registration for this trip will be through the Hesston Recreation Community Education website-hrce.org- and will open by March 1. We expect this trip to fill quickly so mark your calendar now and watch for a reminder email later this month.

For more information you may contact Susan Lamb at lambs36@yahoo.com



Why Are We Members of the Dyck Arboretum?

by Gaylen and Loretta Neufeld, Arboretum members

We have always appreciated the Arboretum for its beauty and as a peaceful place to spend some leisure time. Now we needed to think in specific terms about what it is that draws us into its environs.

1. We appreciate the emphasis on education about our natural world, our native plants, and the prairie ecosystem. Prairies represent a unique ecosystem that doesn't always receive attention. It is a subtle beauty and once we begin to appreciate it, the importance of a healthy soil, the wildlife, the native vegetation, and the importance to humans becomes apparent.

2. The Arboretum provides other opportunities by scheduling lectures and workshops to help us learn about this part of the natural world. It is also an opportunity for children to engage with the outdoors and to learn of its benefits for our general well-being.

3. It is a wonderful place to retreat from the noise and busyness of the "outside" world. A walk around the grounds puts us in touch with the songs and flights of birds, the insects flitting about, the different kinds and coloration of vegetation, and to the gorgeous sunsets that Kansas offers. If one takes the time to quietly observe, the interactions among nature's inhabitants becomes apparent and leads to an appreciation of our environment.

4. Membership in the Arboretum allows entrance to over 250 other botanical gardens due to reciprocal relationships.

5. The Arboretum is a valuable asset to the Hesston community, a place which enhances the quality of life here. Additionally, the plant sales, concerts, venues for activities such as weddings and receptions all bring people into the community.

Our membership helps to sustain the Arboretum and its programs to educate about the beauty and benefits of our native plants and the prairie ecosystem.



Gaylen and Loretta Neufeld

From the Director's Desk...

Dear Friends,

We have been enjoying a typical Kansas winter with all its temperature swings, snow, sleet, and rain. The moisture we received late last year puts our prairie plants in a good place moving into spring. These warm sunny days make us itch to get out in the gardens. It is time to start removing last year's growth before the prairie comes to life in a few months.

If you are interested in volunteering for spring cleanup day on March 2 from 10 am to 1 pm, let us know through email or by phone. Katie always appreciates the help.

The spring FloraKansas Native Plant Festival is quickly approaching. April 25-29 will be here before you know it. We will have another great selection of plants that will thrive in your landscape. We have had great response to our Native Plant School classes. I hope you can attend one of these informative programs. If you are not able to attend, come to the sale where we can chat more about your native plant garden.



Last fall, we crafted a new mission statement that captures the full scope of the work we do at the Arboretum: "The Dyck Arboretum of the Plains cultivates transformative relationships between people and the land". Whether caring for your own little garden or visiting the beautiful Flint Hills, being in nature changes us. It is our goal in 2019 to connect not only you but many others to the land as we recognize the bond we share with the natural world around us.

In January, we rolled out a new tiered-benefits membership program. Although it was a new concept, many of you have renewed your membership with the Arboretum. As an Arboretum member, we appreciate your efforts to partner with us. We cherish the relationships we have developed with you and the trust you have in us as an organization.

As always, we are thankful for the support we receive throughout the year. Whether volunteering or giving financially, you help us accomplish so much more than we could on our own, you are truly part of the Arboretum family.

On behalf of the board and staff, I thank you for your support of the Arboretum and our mission.

Scott V. J.

HUB Grand Opening Coincides with FloraKansas

by Scott Vogt, Executive Director and Horticulturist

After three years of planning, working, and giving, the Horticulture and Utility Building (HUB) is nearly complete. We are so excited about the possibilities this new solar-powered facility will bring to the Arboretum. Not only do we have a space to store our essential equipment to maintain the grounds, but the Prairie Discovery Lab will allow us to expand the types of classes we can offer to students and adults. Experiential hands-on activities with soil, seeds and water are now possible with concrete floors for easy clean up.

Our Native Plant School classes will be held in the Prairie Discovery Lab over the next few months, as well as the spring FloraKansas Native Plant Festival in April.

As part of the plant sale festivities, we will be hosting a dedication and open house on Friday, April 26, 6 to 7:30 pm. We will be serving hors d'oeuvres, mocktails, and sparkling cider starting at 6 pm. The dedication ceremony will begin at 7 pm.

Donors to the HUB Project, Dyck Arboretum of the Plains Arboretum members and community members are invited to attend this special event.

We look forward to showing you what this facility has to offer. Watch for further details in the coming months.

The HUB includes a Prairie Discovery Lab classroom, restrooms, kitchen, workshop, and storage areas. This building will also greatly enhance the bi-annual FloraKansas Native Plant Festival. Join us for an open house on Friday, April 26, 6 to 7:30 pm.



Kansas EPS Still Going Strong in Thirteenth Year

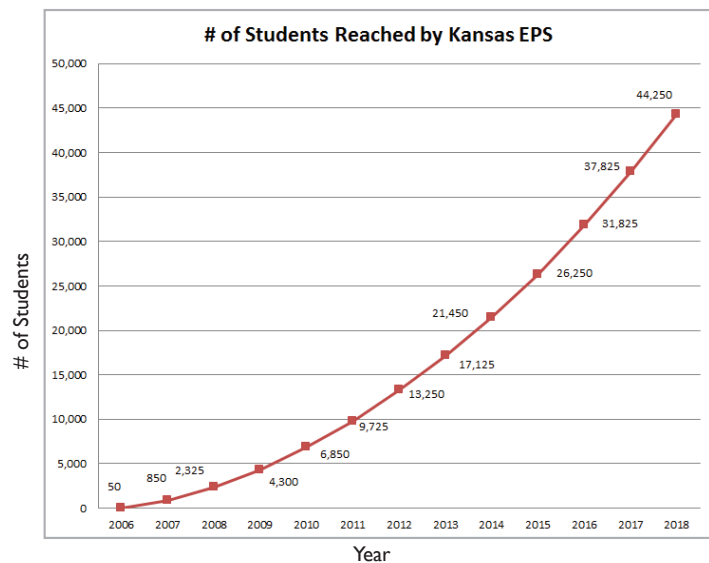
by Brad Guhr, Education and Prairie Restoration Coordinator

The Kansas Earth Partnership for Schools Program (EPS) at Dyck Arboretum is making an ever-growing mark in Kansas. The EPS message is clear — get kids outside and in touch with their natural surroundings to teach them about the prairie and natural history of Kansas.

To date, 257 teachers from 78 schools/entities trained during summer and winter EPS Institutes at the Dyck Arboretum are transformed by its unique curriculum. They regularly remark that this institute provides some of the most inspiring training



Peterson Elementary students plant a new prairie garden. An EPS garden planted a decade earlier blooms in the background.



they have ever received.

These passionate educators are also passing their infectious energy along to their students by the thousands. An estimated 44,000 students have been reached in Kansas since the first summer institute at Dyck Arboretum in 2007. Students learn about the prairie and its plant species, get dirty planting them on school grounds, enjoy the wildlife attracted to them, and learn education benchmarks in a fun, project-based learning format.

Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

Hesston College
P.O. Box 3000
Hesston, KS 67062
620-327-8127
www.dyckarboretum.org
arboretum@hesston.edu



Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hesston, KS
Permit No. 5

Meet our 2019 Intern, Coel Ediger

Hi, my name is Coel Ediger, I'm a British Columbian native and recent graduate from Dalhousie University. I have a background in biology and communications and have spent most of my working days either studying the tiny lives of beneficial fungi and insects or talking to the public about conservation and biodiversity! So what better place to intern than the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains?

I am excited to learn more about this landscape, so starkly different from my own. Growing up in the temperate rainforests of British Columbia, grass isn't something you see as a wild sprawling ecosystem. It's lawn. The prairie here has an incredible diversity and is a testament to the tenacity of the landscape. It has so many colors and configurations, and I am excited to see how it evolves over the next six months.

During my internship, I will be helping to build community around our native plants and tailored terraces, connecting myself and others to the land and its other foliar, feathered and furrier inhabitants.



Staff

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

Board of Trustees

Anthony Swartzendruber - Hesston
(Chairperson)
LeAnn Clark - Hesston
Connor Dyck - Houston, TX
Diane Gjerstad - Wichita
Lorna Habegger Harder - Hesston
Mark Landes - Hesston
Gil Oliva - Hesston
Jonathan D. (J.D.) Spicher -
Weatherby Lake, MO
John Torline - North Newton
Marilyn Wilder - Hesston