

Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

PrairieWindow

cultivating transformative relationships between people and the land



Summer 2020 Vol. 30 No 2

Celebrate “100 for Harold” during September

by Janelle Flory Schrock, Office Manager



“A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.”

- Greek Proverb

September 2nd will mark 100 years since the birth of one of our two Arboretum founders, Harold Dyck. As a successful businessman and community leader who deeply loved his family, town, and state, Harold and his spouse Evie founded the Arboretum in 1981 to create a place for people of all ages to enjoy the beauty of Kansas.

When Harold first began investing in the future of the Arboretum, he could not have foreseen the challenges we would encounter in 2020. What he did know is that people would always need the beauty of nature - for inspiration, for joy, for space, for healing.

And my, how we've benefited this year from that investment so long ago! Although many of our events and social activities have come to a standstill, the visitors just keep on coming and the wildflowers just keep on growing.

One Dyck family member commented recently that, even in the final years of Harold's life, after he was no longer able to walk around the pond, he would drive Evie to the Arboretum and sit in the parking lot and just watch with joy as families came and went. Harold Dyck truly loved to see the Arboretum being used and enjoyed by the community.

In Harold's spirit of community engagement and generosity, we invite you to join us in celebrating the month of September by following his lead. Our goal is for 1,000 supporters of the Arboretum to be inspired to give #100forHarold toward a vibrant and growing Arboretum and local community.

Consider giving 100 dimes, 100 dollars, or 100 ten dollar bills to the Arboretum. Purchase 100 plants to create a pollinator garden or to give to your neighbors.

Or, think about other ways of giving, such as challenging your friends to walk 100 laps around the pond, or serve 100 volunteer hours here or at another local charity that benefits the prairie.

YOU ARE INVITED to an all-outdoor birthday party kickoff on Wednesday, September 2nd at 7 p.m. We will serve Harold's favorite birthday desserts and enjoy the beauty of the Arboretum and our community. Physical distancing and masking policies will be observed. Stay tuned for more information via dyckarboretum.org, and notifications on the Arboretum grounds.



Harold (far left) and Evie (fourth from right) celebrate a birthday with their extended family.

Landowner Spotlight: Carolyn and Terry Schwab

by Brad Guhr, Prairie Restoration Coordinator

Terry and Carolyn Schwab live on 109 acres in Eastern Harvey County affectionately known by a former neighbor as the “Foothills to the Flint Hills.” While much of the county land has been converted to cropland over the last century, the Schwab property has remained in prairie.

The property was a moderately overgrazed cattle pasture when they acquired it in 1993. They set out to increase habitat for wildlife and enhance their avid hobbies of birding and fishing. Their initial land investment efforts were extensive and laborious as they manually dug out musk thistle, cut Osage orange and eastern red cedar trees, and repaired holes in the pond dam. Prairie maintenance today consists of a rotation of mowing and prescribed burning (with the help of the local fire department) to control the invasion of woody plants.

In addition to their extensive prairie restoration efforts, Carolyn invests a great deal of time monitoring and reporting on the biodiversity observed on site. Daily



walks to document bird populations, track phenology of flowering plants and photograph butterflies are all part of what she sees as being an informed land steward.

The Schwabs are considering registering the property with the Kansas Land Trust to protect this native prairie in perpetuity. Thank you, Carolyn and Terry for this important work!

Prairie Window Concert Series On Hold for Now

by Brad Guhr, Prairie Window Concert Series Coordinator



To say that our social lives and leisure activities have been disrupted over the last four months is an understatement. Nowhere is that impact felt more than in the live music business. Touring artists and concert venues have been stuck in a holding pattern with only more postponements and cancellations in sight.

In early March 2020 when COVID-19 hit, we were about ready to announce the Prairie Window Concert Series (PWCS) eight-show lineup for 2020-2021. Since then, that excitement has had to be tempered and turned into hopefulness, looking forward to the day when we can safely gather again indoors to enjoy live music. That day of

gathering will not be this fall, and it may not be in spring either. Fall 2020 dates are being moved to Fall 2021 and postponements for spring 2021 dates are being considered.

Whatever happens, this much I know...the excitement for live music continues to build! Once it feels safe for concerts to happen again, there will be two postponed shows from last season (DALA and Jeffrey Foucault) ready to reschedule and a new slate of artists (see above) waiting in queue to schedule as well. Our PWCS season ticketholders and Dyck Arboretum members will be the first to know more details when available. Stay tuned.

Garden Kits: Curated for your Convenience

Fall is a great time to plant perennials, and we are excited to help you continue to landscape with native plants at our Fall FloraKansas Native Plant Festival, September 10 (Member Day) through September 13. To make choosing thoughtful assemblages of native plants easy, we are offering three new garden kits.

SHORT STUFF KIT

Not wanting plants to extend over sidewalks, obscure the house, or grow lank and untidy are all good reasons for selecting short native species for your landscape. Add these hearty, attractive, petite perennials to your garden for a small but mighty garden.

RAINBOW KIT

Different bloom colors can attract different kinds of pollinators. This rainbow kit is sure to please them all with plants representing each color in the rainbow, all carefully chosen to grow together in the same conditions.

MONARCH WAYSTATION KIT

When monarchs journey south through Kansas in late summer and fall, we are reminded how important it is to support their dwindling populations by planting habitat filled with nectar and host plants. Do your part for monarchs with this kit based on guidelines from the MonarchWatch.org Waystation Program.



Visit dyckarboretum.org/arboretum-event/florakansas for kit details and consider adding one to your landscape. Starting August 31, Dyck Arboretum members will be able to place pre-orders through our website that will be made available for curbside pick-up. They will be processed in the order they are received. We will see the rest of you in-person with masks and physical distancing September 10-13!

From the Director's Desk...

The last few months have been the most challenging of my 25 year career working at the Arboretum. In spite of the challenges we are all facing this year, interest in public gardens, gardening and horticulture have never been higher. We believe this "new normal" provides the Arboretum a unique opportunity to connect with people who are inspired by the resiliency of native plants.

This spring and summer have been wonderful times to visit the Arboretum. We have seen more people exercising or taking in the gardens during these times. Being outdoors can be tremendously healing and peaceful. Many of you ordered plants online and picked them up while social distancing.

Later you signed up to shop in person in May. Overall, the spring FloraKansas Native Plant Festival was a success, considering that we had a greenhouse full of plants and a lockdown in place. Thanks to the staff for making this possible through quick problem solving and teamwork.

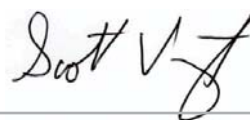


If you have walked around the Arboretum since April, you will notice the final section of the main asphalt path was transitioned to concrete. This new path was completed with funding support from the Sunderland Foundation.

In June, Hanna Eastin from Hesston College completed the donor recognition artwork for the HUB. It combines ceramics with two cottonwood slabs cut from the tree that was removed to make room for this new facility. This is a small way we can permanently recognize all the people who made that building a reality. Come and take a look during FloraKansas.

Here at the Arboretum, we have reason to celebrate. So many positive things are happening in spite of Covid-19. As always, our efforts are bolstered by the support we receive through memberships and contributions. New people continue to find this "gem in Hesston" and support our mission. We are preparing for a strong and beneficial future for everyone, -thanks to people like you.

Take care, everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott V. J.".



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NATIVE PLANT SCHOOL: *virtual* SUMMER SESSION!

To register, visit dyckarboretum.org or call 620-327-8127.
These classes will be FREE. Donations appreciated.

Aug 25 at 7 pm: “Native Plant Selection and Design for Sun”:
Join Scott for a primer on plant selection & design techniques
for creating a prairie garden.

Aug 27 at 7 pm: “Native Plant Gardening Best Management
Practices”: Explore with Brad some best management practices
learned from years of making native plant landscaping mistakes
and the lessons learned while aiming not to repeat them.

Sept 1 at 7 pm: “Shade Gardening in Kansas”: Katie will address
the unique challenges of shade gardening in Kansas, share favorite
shade plants, and provide tips for resilient and beautiful landscaping.

Sept 3 at 7 pm: “Trees and Shrubs for Habitat Gardens”: Scott
will give an introduction to the top performing woody plants best
adapted to Kansas’ climate, from new horticultural introductions
to old favorites.

Staff

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

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