

Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

# PrairieWindow

*cultivating transformative relationships between people and the land*



Fall 2020 Vol. 30 No. 3

## Virtual Spring Symposium Puts the Focus on Fungi

*by Brad Guhr, Education and Prairie Restoration Coordinator*

We at Dyck Arboretum spend a great deal of our energy promoting the flora of Kansas and a fair bit of time promoting our fauna. But mycologist Giuliana Furci argues that we should be promoting equally the three Fs: Flora, Fauna, and Fungi.

Fungi truly are critical to our human survival on earth. As mostly unseen elements of our landscape, it is easy to take for granted their essential services of filtering water, decomposing organic materials and helping plants absorb nutrients and water. When they do become visible to us as mushroom fruiting bodies for just days during their life cycle, they can do so much more. *“Mushrooms are ephemeral and during that short time, they can heal you, feed you, kill you, or send you on a spiritual journey.”* -Paul Stamets, Mycologist

On February 20, 2021, we will explore the fascinating world of fungi during our virtual symposium. The symposium will include: 1) viewing and discussion of the acclaimed documentary film *Fantastic Fungi*; 2) presentation by Ben Sikes, University of Kansas professor of microbial ecologist and Kansas Biological Survey fungi expert; 3) presentation by Sherry Kay, field mycologist and co-author of the new edition of the book *A Guide to Kansas Mushrooms*; presentation by Lyndzee Rhine, Great Plains Nature Center naturalist and author of *A Pocket*

*Guide to Common Kansas Mushrooms*; and 4) edible gourmet mushroom cultivation workshop with Pam Paulsen, Reno County Extension Horticulture Agent. Registration for the workshop portion is limited.

Visit our website for registration, details and instructions.



### *Oh Lovely Neighbor!*

She's so close that I can walk  
in moments to her door,  
And she's so gracious,  
I know I need never knock --  
but simply enter in and greet her.

Oh greet her  
with grateful eyes upon her beauty,  
and heart wide open  
to receive her gifts  
as I am served and held so well  
by my lovely neighbor --

This place of cherished land,  
replete with trees  
that please my spirit,  
with gentle pond and stream  
that welcome ones like me,  
so weary from too much world,  
and too much weight of duty.

Oh good, good neighbor,  
Right glad I am to have you here,  
To know you're near!

*Celia Anne Venable*  
*September 2020*

The poem above was one neighboring member's creative and heartfelt contribution to our "100 for Harold" challenge in honor of our founder's 100th birthday.

**To all who participated in  
#100forHarold, we thank you!**

# 2021 VIRTUAL Winter Lecture Series

Join us for Winter Lecture Series in January, February and March, this year from the comfort of your own home via Zoom. Featured topics for this coming series are petroglyphs, birds, and conservation. Lectures begin at 6:30 and end by 8 p.m. **Cost: \$5 per person. Register at [dyckarboretum.org](http://dyckarboretum.org) or in the Arboretum office. Access to Zoom will be sent to all registrants via email.**



**January 26 - Petroglyphs of the Kansas Smoky Hills with Rex Buchanan:** Long before the arrival of Euro-Americans, native inhabitants of what is now Kansas left their mark on the land: carvings in the soft orange and red sandstone of the Smoky Hills. In his new co-authored book, *Petroglyphs of the Kansas Smoky Hills*, Rex Buchanan offers readers a look at the stories and carvings of the region's first people—and a chance to appreciate an important feature of Kansas history and its landscape that is increasingly threatened by erosion and vandalism. Rex will present the fascinating story of what is known of the petroglyphs, how and when they were made, and what they can tell us of the early people of Kansas.



**February 23 - The Diversity of Kansas Birds with Bob Gress:** Kansans are fortunate to have front row seats on the Central Flyway. The annual migration of hundreds of bird species funnels through Kansas every spring and fall. In addition to farmlands and native prairies are two unique wetlands, Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. Few have taken better advantage of these wildlife watching areas than Bob Gress. Bob's immense knowledge of wildlife biology, decades of experience in wildlife photography, patience to get the right photo in all weather conditions, and skilled story-telling make him one of the most entertaining wildlife presenters in our region. (Photo of whooping cranes by Bob Gress, <http://www.birdsinfocus.com/>)



**March 30 - Conservation Stewardship in the Flint Hills with Tony Capizzo:** The Flint Hills, a large expanse of tallgrass prairie in Kansas, extend from north of Manhattan, past Wichita and into northern Oklahoma. Thousands of visitors are welcomed every year at celebrated nature preserves like Konza Prairie and Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, but nearly all of this sea of grass is privately-owned rangeland grazed by cattle. Tony Capizzo leads The Nature Conservancy's work in the Flint Hills, where the organization partners with landowners to steward the landscape they love. Tony will explain the role ranching plays in prairie conservation and share a vision for the future of the Flint Hills.

## Member Spotlight: John & Joanna Lehman



Six mornings a week 88 year old John Lehman and I, his wife, Joanna, can be seen circling the lake -- John pedaling his adult tryke and I with my 4-wheeled walker. We believe this keeps us physically fit and mentally alert. We enjoy the unique sights and sounds of each arboretum season -- the Weeping Willow and giant Cyprus foliage of spring and summer, the red-orange Maple of autumn, and the aromatic cedar and brown oak leaves of winter. In spring the Crab-apple, Lilac, Forsythia, Columbine and Evening Primrose are a delight. We may spot a Great Blue Heron stalking unwary fish or a pair of Canada Geese flanking their goslings crossing the lake. We listen for the deep-throated croak of a bullfrog, the harsh cry of Bluejay and Crow, the "Cheer-cheer-cheer" of the Cardinal and the "Chic-a-dee dee" of the little bird of that name as it flits among the Cyprus branches.

As of November 5, John has logged 1024.2 miles on his tryke and I 268 miles with my walker. John and I hope to celebrate our mutual birthday (his 90th and my 89th) by circling the lake 4 times for him and once for me as we do currently.

-- Joanna Lehman



# Register for the 2021 *VIRTUAL* 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 \$5 per person and will be hosted via Zoom. Members may apply their discount or coupon to class registrations. Visit [dyckarboretum.org/arboretum-events](http://dyckarboretum.org/arboretum-events), or our facebook page to register.

## Starting A Native Plant Garden

Thursday, January 14, 2021 • 7 p.m. • Scott Vogt

This talk highlights design principles you can use to insure success with natives. Along with design concepts, we'll explore perennial flowers and grasses for sun and shade to help you plan your space.

## Mighty Oaks: Kansas Natives for Your Garden

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 • 7 p.m. • Brad Guhr

When you want to choose from a diverse genus of trees that are stately, long-lived, drought-tolerant and attractive to wildlife, it is hard to look anywhere other than *Quercus*. Explore the many oak species native to Kansas that could enhance your landscape.

## Monarchs: Attract & Host a Favorite Insect

Wednesday, February 3, 2021 • 7 p.m. • Brad Guhr

The charismatic monarch butterfly has captured our attention and become a focus of our landscaping. Learn more about the life cycle, migration, needs and preferences of the monarch and what you can do to help mitigate the challenges it faces.

## The Native Cutting Garden

Wednesday, February 24 • 7 p.m. • Katie Schmidt

From bouquets to holiday decor, a well-planned native garden provides everything you need for fresh and dried arrangements. We will cover plant selection and care for sustainably sourcing flowers, grasses and berries from your garden.

## No Fail Natives

Thursday, March 25, 2021 • 7 p.m. • Scott Vogt

This class will give new gardeners and those refreshing older beds a starting point for plant selection. I will include my own A to Z of native plants that have grown successfully here at the Arboretum. Some design principles will also be highlighted.

## From Lawn to Lush: Creating a Native Front Yard

Thursday, April 8 • 7 p.m. • Katie Schmidt

Interested in transitioning some of your front yard space to water-wise, biodiverse, pollinator-friendly habitat? We will cover site prep, plant selection, and design principles to help create your ideal aesthetic without sacrificing sustainability.

# Join Us for a “Pallet-able”, Pandemic-safe Luminary Walk!

We are happy to announce our annual Winter Luminary Walk, November 27 to 29 and Dec 4 to 6, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. This outdoor holiday event provides a safe, fun way to gather with family and friends to enjoy the beauty of the prairie in lights.

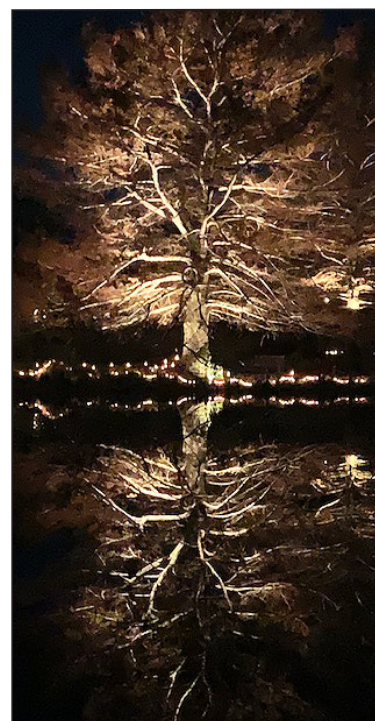
This year's Luminary Walk will feature a “Pallet Palooza,” of decorated pallet trees created by community members. Pallet tree submissions will be on display in the Pavilion windows each night of the Luminary Walk. Pallet tree contest winners will be announced on December 7th!

While there will be no live flame candles this year, you will have the opportunity to make a donation and light a “tribute luminary” to honor or remember a loved one.

Need a snack or drink during your walk? We encourage visitors to swing by The Lincoln Perk or Hesston Bakery & Cafe to pick up hot beverages and treats on your way to the event.

Several changes have been made this year for your protection and to prevent the spread of COVID-19: we are adding Sunday evening hours to our usual schedule; we are limiting the number of individuals allowed on the walkways each hour; and we are switching to online ticket sales only. These changes ensure that each person or group has ample space on the sidewalks to stroll at their own pace and enjoy the sights. With the exception of emergency bathroom facilities, all buildings will be closed.

Experience the quiet beauty of Kansas in winter: native grasses shifting in the wind, lights reflecting in our icy pond, leafless trees lit from below like living sculptures. The Luminary Walk is a great way to kick off the holiday season and find renewed appreciation for the prairie landscape around us. Your ticket purchase or donation supports the ongoing work of Dyck Arboretum. For information on contest, tickets, snow dates, or donating, visit [dyckarboretum.org](http://dyckarboretum.org).



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*Address Service Requested*

## Arb Member Hosting Firewood Fundraiser

One of our Arboretum members has generously donated firewood to be sold to our supporters. Most of the wood is hedgewood from prairie land in Marion County. At this time, we are extending this offer of firewood to our members only.

We are grateful for the creativity and generosity of this donor during what has been a difficult year for all of us!

The firewood is located east of the greenhouse against the property line. Please notify an Arboretum staff member or send us an email to let us know how much you plan to pick up and to arrange for payment.

Suggested minimum donations:  
\$25 for half a row (approx 10 cu. ft.)  
\$50 for a full row  
\$100 for two rows  
\$150 for a cube

For more details, please call the office or email [arboretum@hesston.edu](mailto:arboretum@hesston.edu).



## 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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