

Dyck Arboretum of the Plains

# PrairieWindow

*cultivating transformative relationships between people and the land*



Spring 2021 Vol. 21 No. 1

## Adapting Together: Volunteering Amidst a Pandemic

*by Janelle Flory Schrock, Office Manager*

“Just like plants, organizations need to adapt to changing circumstances in order to thrive and grow.” After the year we’ve had, you’d think this sentence was written as a commentary on the challenges of the pandemic. In fact, it’s from an article about volunteering published in our February 2020 newsletter, just as COVID-19 was beginning to spread throughout the United States.

We had grand plans for the Arboretum in 2020, including the roll out of a volunteer database software called “Better Impact”, a system that would help our staff manage our nearly 150 volunteers more efficiently and easily onboard new volunteers, matching their gifts and skills with the needs of the Arboretum.

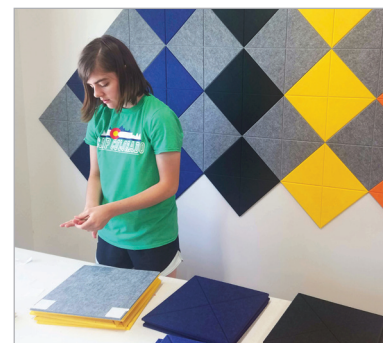
Alas, 2020 had other plans. We adapted, focusing our energies on the most essential tasks, with the help of a skeleton crew of volunteers. Included in that crew were Gerry Selzer, Steve and Elaine Schurr, Gaylen Neufeld, Dennis Hoheisel, Art Mullet, Larry Nikkel, and Lindy Reynolds, who all assisted Katie on the grounds.

To help with routine office tasks, Jeannine Hoheisel and Gary and Gladys Voth assisted with mailings from their homes. Barbara Beesley began assisting in the gift shop again in late fall, covering the office on Wednesday mornings. And board and committee members LeAnn Clark and Lorna Harder brought creative energy and willpower to make our pandemic-adapted Winter Luminary Walk a huge success!

With this small crew, we were able to become familiar with Better Impact and envision how useful it will be in growing our volunteer program in this “new normal”.

With a bit of hope on the horizon and enthusiasm for engaging our service-minded community of supporters in new, more effective ways, I will reiterate the invitation I extended last year: “*We look forward to being on this journey of adaptation with you and invite you to volunteer in 2020 2021!*”

To create your Dyck Arboretum volunteer profile on BetterImpact, visit [www.dyckarboretum.org/volunteers](http://www.dyckarboretum.org/volunteers).



*Left to right: LeAnn Clark and Lorna Harder assemble holiday activity kits for families to pick up at the Winter Luminary Walk. Gerry Selzer and Katie Schmidt work in the plant nursery during the summer. Lindy Reynolds applies decorative acoustic tiles to the wall of the Prairie Discovery Lab.*

# Croak! Ribbet! Bzzzt! Plonk!

## Hop into Spring with the Frogs & Toads of Kansas!

Coming in March for the kids in your life, an action-filled Activity Pack! Created in collaboration with Hesston Public Library, and suitable for K-4th grade, the pack introduces children to the remarkable world of frogs and toads commonly seen and heard during a Kansas spring. The cost of each activity pack is \$15 for non-members. Members may apply coupons or discounts.

Included in the Activity Pack:

- An activity bag with materials and instructions for both indoor and outdoor activities that will help you create a backyard habitat, learn



to identify common frogs and toads, or make frog-themed cookies/crafts

- An online mini-class introducing the intriguing lives of frogs and toads
- A special selection of books featuring frogs and toads, available at the Hesston Public Library, March through May. These titles will be available for check-out at the Hesston Public Library
- A free plant from the Spring FloraKansas event, selected by staff to go with your backyard frog habitat

For more information, contact the Library (620-327-4666) or the Arboretum office.

## From the Director's Desk...

This winter, we have been doing some cleaning and organizing work. In the process, we have come across some items that have caused me to reminisce about when I first started working here at the Arboretum 25 years ago. It is hard to believe that my first day on the job was July 8, 1996. At that time, there were no buildings on site and our offices and shop were on the Hesston College campus.

There have been tremendous positive changes to the Arboretum over those 25 years. I will not take the credit, because so many people have done the hard work before me and with me to help the Arboretum grow.

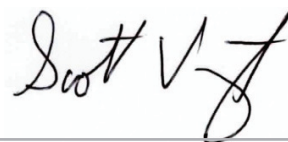
This fall we will celebrate the Arboretum's 40th birthday on October 10. We are working on celebration details that will be revealed later this summer.

In the meantime, I will leave you with a few words from our founders, Harold and Evie

Dyck, from an archived letter from March 2000: "The Dyck Arboretum of the Plains is an emerging resource for native plants in the Great Plains. Since founding the Arboretum in 1981 it has been primarily a labor of love. Today a remark we often hear is "This is one of the best kept secrets in Kansas."

We're convinced that this is a unique resource for anyone who shares an interest in the natural beauty of the state. For members, there is the feeling of ownership and personal pride that comes with each achievement, whether it be the opening of the new Visitor and Education Center or the opening of the first wildflower blossom in spring."

The "secret" is getting out. More people than ever are connecting with the Arboretum and our mission. Help us get the word out so we can connect even more people to this special place. I hope to see each of you this spring at the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott V. J.", with a stylized flourish at the end.



# The Four Ps to Creating Your Pollinator Garden

**Take a good look at the area you want to plant. Write down the answers to the following questions to help you in your plant selection:**

- How much space do you have? Remember to select plants that are no taller than half the width of the bed.
- How much sunlight does it get each day (when leaves are on the trees)?
- How moist or dry is the soil?
- Get design ideas from our blog, past Native Plant Guides, or newsletters.

**Now that you have the basic information about your site, it's time to select plants.**

- In our Native Plant Guide, use the columns specifying bloom time, color, height, and light & soil conditions to match plants to your site.
- Make a list of the plants that matchbest with your site.
- Organize plants on your list for succession of bloom throughout the seasons.
- Finally, visit our website and fill out the order form. Add on your membership renewal and/or one or more of our pre-curated garden kits if you like.

**Once you have completed your order on our website:**

- We will email you when your order is ready, with appropriate dates and times for pickup. You can not pick up until you receive the email.
- Pickup will be at the greenhouse, but *please* wait until you are notified!
- If you come to pick up your order during FloraKansas (April 22 to 26), feel free to peruse the plant selection in the greenhouse at that time as well. We can add to your order. *Please bring a mask and follow physical distancing guidelines.*
- For payment, we will email a digital invoice. You can pay from home using a credit card, or bring a check to the Arboretum office.

**In our opinion, this is the best part! We all need extra time outside digging in the soil this spring.**

- Again, use our blog for tips and tricks on getting native plants established.
- Visit [dyckarboretum.org/water-smart](https://dyckarboretum.org/water-smart) for best watering practices.
- If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email!

## PREPARE



## PREORDER

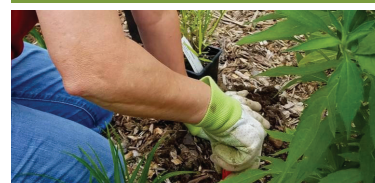


FloraKansas Plant Order Form

## PICKUP/PERUSE



## PLANT



### PRAIRIE WINDOW CONCERT SERIES 2021-22

While the future is not completely clear with regard to COVID safety and indoor gatherings, we are hopeful that it will feel safe to do so again late in 2021 and into 2022. Plans are proceeding with scheduling artists in that window of time and we hope to announce all the details this summer for a lineup. Details will be updated at <https://dyckarboretum.org/prairie-window/>.



### EARTH PARTNERSHIP FOR SCHOOLS SUMMER INSTITUTE

We plan to return to training teachers for Earth Partnership for Schools (EPS), June 7-11, 2021 for our 14th Annual EPS Summer Institute. COVID safety protocols will be implemented per recommendations relevant for that time. Go to <https://dyckarboretum.org/earth-partnership-for-schools/> to learn more and register.



Hesston College  
P.O. Box 3000  
Hesston, KS 67062  
620-327-8127  
[www.dyckarboretum.org](http://www.dyckarboretum.org)  
[arboretum@hesston.edu](mailto:arboretum@hesston.edu)



Address Service Requested

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Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Hesston, KS  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS (\* = via Zoom)

March 25 @ 7 p.m. NATIVE PLANT SCHOOL\*  
No Fail Natives with Scott Vogt

March 30 @ 7 p.m. WINTER LECTURE SERIES\*  
Conservation Stewardship in the Flint Hills  
with Tony Capizzo, The Nature Conservancy

April 8 @ 7 p.m. NATIVE PLANT SCHOOL\*  
From Lawn to Lush: Creating a Native Front Yard  
with Katie Schmidt

April 22, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Member Day on Earth Day  
FLORAKANSAS NATIVE PLANT FESTIVAL

April 23 to 26 Public Days  
FLORAKANSAS NATIVE PLANT FESTIVAL

May 7 to 16 GO PUBLIC GARDENS DAYS

June 7 to 11 Summer Teacher Institute  
EARTH PARTNERSHIP FOR SCHOOLS

## 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 - Hesston (Chair)

Marilyn Wilder - Hesston (Vice-Chair)

LeAnn Clark - Hesston

Mark Diller - Hesston

Robert Alan Dueck - Allen, TX

Connor Dyck - Houston, TX

Lisa George - Hesston

Diane Gjerstad - Wichita

Monica Miller - Hesston

Gil Oliva - Hesston

John Torline - North Newton