

DYCK ARBORETUM OF THE PLAINS PRAIRIE WINDOW

cultivating transformative relationships between people and the land

Fall 2022 Vol. 32 No. 1

Raising a new roof on the greenhouse

This winter, the Dyck Arboretum made an important investment in the future of FloraKansas - a new roof for the greenhouse. Funds to retrofit the roof came from an estate gift by Ruth C. Kaufman.

For Horticulturist Katie Schmidt, this upgrade comes not a moment too soon.

“Our previous polyurethane roof was unsustainable,” she said. “The old style of roof was very time consuming. I spent many precarious hours on a ladder, reclipping the plastic to the sides, patching holes with tape, fixing the inflation fan and tubing.”

According to Director Scott Vogt, before the greenhouse was constructed, Arboretum staff and volunteers propagated plants for the FloraKansas event in a 20 by 30 foot greenhouse on the Hesston College campus. All the plants were loaded on a trailer and hauled to a tent in the Arboretum parking lot. It usually took 3-4 trips to fully stock the tent.

The current 30 by 96 foot greenhouse took nearly a year to complete and cost almost \$50,000. Volunteers Paul Steiner and Byron Kauffman were instrumental in the process of its construction.

The greenhouse has had three generations of polyurethane roof over the past 14 years.

“This new roof will be much less of a maintenance hassle, which means a safer workplace for me and our volunteers,” Schmidt said. “I will have more time to

focus on the PLANTS in the greenhouse rather than the greenhouse itself.”

The unrestricted Kaufman estate gift will underwrite several other needed upgrades for the Arboretum facilities and grounds.



Clockwise from top left: In January the crew from Preferred Builders removed the deteriorating double layer of polyurethane. New bracing and a ridge cap were added to support the Lexan thermoclear plastic sheets. Rosie, the greenhouse dog, plays fetch while volunteer Gerry Selzer prepares the space for spring.

Paying tribute to Miner Seymour

by Brad Guhr, Ecological Restoration Specialist and Concert Series Coordinator

On Sunday, February, 27, at our upcoming concert with Kyshona, we will pay tribute to Miner Seymour, co-founder of the Old Settlers Inn (OSI) Concert Series, precursor to the Prairie Window Concert Series. To read the full story of Miner and how the OSI came to be, visit dyckarboretum.org/tribute-to-miner-seymour.

Miner Seymour was a cheerful and creative soul. When he died in July of 2021, he left a huge legacy for the musical arts in South Central Kansas. He was an inspiration to me on a number of fronts and an important mentor for the Prairie Window Concert Series.

With an abundance of passion and creativity, Miner and his wife Valetta turned a beautiful dream into an epic reality. OSI shows in downtown Moundridge came to be a hot ticket and a beloved tradition for Kansans with a hunger for live music. For 17 seasons from 1993 to 2009, Miner attracted patrons from all over the state by booking professional artists that toured across the country. And many of those shows are still aired today on KMUW's Saturday evening New Settlers Radio Hour.



I attended a number of OSI shows from 2001 to 2009. I came to love the great music and artistry of the OSI. And you always knew when Miner was feeling the groove of the music during a show when he would let out a loud "YO!" from the rear corner of the audience.

The long, row house, 150-seat venue was buzzing when filled with a capacity crowd packed in like sardines. Until I eventually got season tickets, I always felt lucky to get one or two seats for sold-out shows.

For so many important reasons, the Prairie Window Concert Series has kept to its Old Settlers Inn roots.

Miner and Valetta were gifted at shaping the beautiful brand of the OSI and doing so with flare. They took a big city idea and made it thrive in a small town. My mantra in coordinating the PWCS over the last 11 years has simply been..."don't screw it up." They perfected so many aspects of running a music series that stand the test of time.

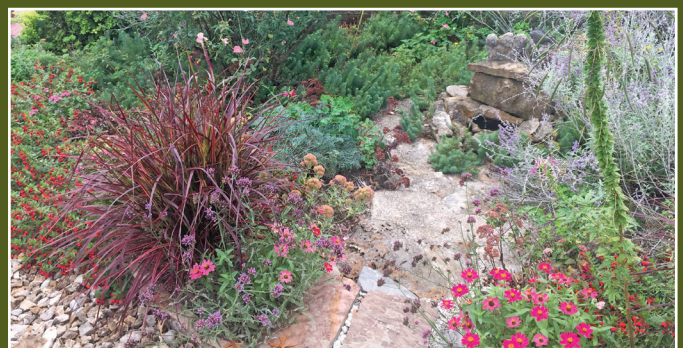
Miner, thank you for all of your inspiring efforts to make the world a better place. May your bright spirit live on in all of us. YO!

Hop on the Botanical Bus: we're going to Kansas City!

Wednesday, September 21, 2022
7:45 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Join us for an excursion to a couple of horticultural havens in and around Kansas City, Kansas, while gaining great ideas for your home landscaping. Our first stop will be at Extension Master Gardener Lenora Larson's 27-acre home oasis. Long Lips Farm is a butterfly and sculpture garden in rural Paola. Her landscape is NABA (North American Butterfly Association), Monarch Waystation, and National Wildlife Federation certified and endorsed as a model pollinator garden by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

After lunch at the local favorite Timbercreek Bar and Grill, our second stop will be at Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. Staff horticulturist



Anne Wildeboor will give us a tour of her favorite horticultural features at the beautiful OPABG ranging from the wild to the manicured.

Lenora and Anne are entertaining and engaging botanical encyclopedias and the landscapes we will tour will be at the peak of their early fall splendor. Report to the Dyck Arboretum parking lot by 7:30. See our website or call (620) 327-8127 for fee information.

From the Director's Desk...

by Scott Vogt, Executive Director and Horticulturist



Just as the Arboretum has evolved over the past 40 years, I am constantly reminded that we need to continue to evolve along with it.

Due to erosion and vandalism, the island needed a face lift. So we are investing to keep it safe and attractive for many years to come. We have already backfilled the perimeter of the island with rock and soil and seeded the west side with a prairie seed mix.

The poly layers of plastic on the greenhouse roof have been a constant source of anxiety and work. The plastic roof was replaced with rigid polycarbonate sheets in January. Now, the winds can blow and the greenhouse roof doesn't flap and pop anymore. It is ready for many more years of FloraKansas Native Plant Days.

As usage of the Arboretum grows each year, visitors, both local and from far way, need information about the Arboretum, such as hours, garden etiquette, mission, upcoming schedule of events, and admission information. A new welcome sign near the parking lot is being designed and hopefully constructed this spring. With this new sign, visitors will be able to connect with the Arboretum outside our facilities.

A new sculpture was added to our art collection from the multi-media installation "Parallels" from artists Ann Zerger and Chip Parker. Look for it to appear on the grounds in the coming weeks.

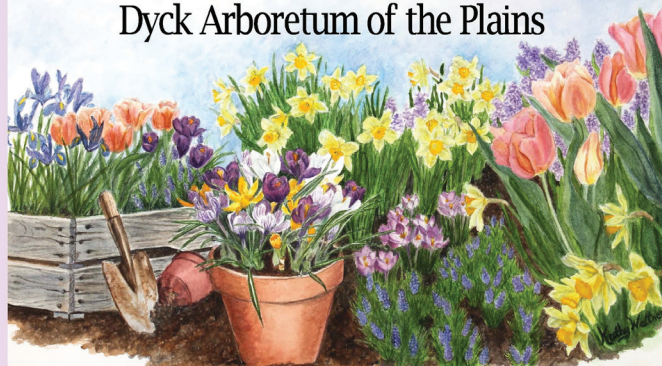
To date, we have raised nearly \$400,000 toward our Growing Resilient Endowment Campaign.

And finally, thanks to support from the Hesston Convention and Visitors Bureau we are pleased to welcome the Harvey County Master Gardeners Home and Garden Show to the Arboretum for the first time this year, which will occur March 5 and 6. Hosting an event of this size allows us to showcase all that the Arboretum has to offer. Attractive facilities, walking paths, artwork, and a beautiful setting will greet garden show visitors.

The common thread that makes these updates possible is generosity. I am so grateful for your generous philanthropic support in the past year. Your investment in the Arboretum's future makes us stronger and more resilient.

2022 HARVEY COUNTY HOME AND GARDEN SHOW

Dyck Arboretum of the Plains



SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 8:30AM-5:00PM
SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 12:00PM-5:00PM



Exhibitors
Plant Supplies
Farmer's Market
Door Prizes
Kid's StoryWalk®

\$1.00 Admission; Under 12 Free

This Location is a Smoking/Tobacco Free Area

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact Scott Eckert, (316) 284-6930.



**Dyck Arboretum
of the Plains**
177 W. Hickory St,
Hesston Kansas

harvey.k-state.edu/lawn-garden/homegardenshow

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Harvey County

Because of you, the Arboretum is growing in mission impact as more and more people relate to the land in meaningful ways. It's encouraging to witness such commitment to the Arboretum's work of connecting people, communities, and the environment.

There is so much to look forward to in the coming year. I invite you to visit the grounds often and join the many events and programs we have planned. I encourage you to connect with the land in your own way, and I wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy 2022.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature of Scott Vogt.



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UPCOMING EVENTS (* = via Zoom)

March 3 @ 7 p.m. NATIVE PLANT SCHOOL*

Seasons of Color with Katie Schmidt

March 12 @ 9 a.m. LEPRECHAUN RUN 2Mi & 10K

March 13 @ 4 p.m. PWCS: DALA

March 22 @ 7 p.m. WINTER LECTURE SERIES*

The Restorative Potential of Native Plants in
Urban Settings with Katie Kingery-Page,

March 24 @ 7 p.m. NATIVE PLANT SCHOOL*

Nativars, Cultivars and Adaptables, Oh My!
with Brad Guhr

March 27 @ 4 p.m. PWCS: Brooks Williams

April 10 2 4 p.m. PWCS: Jeffrey Foucault

April 21, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Member Day

FLORAKANSAS NATIVE PLANT DAYS

April 22 to 25 Public Days

FLORAKANSAS NATIVE PLANT DAYS

April 24 @ 4 p.m. PWCS: Over the Rhine

NEW! SUMMER MUSIC NIGHTS - Thursdays 6 to 8 pm
Save the dates for the evenings of May 19, June 16 & July 7!

Staff

Scott Vogt, Executive Director/Horticulturist

Brad Guhr, Education/Prairie Restoration/

Concert Series Coordinator

Janelle Flory Schrock, Public Engagement
Coordinator

Katie Schmidt, Horticulturist/ Grounds Manager

Board of Trustees

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LeAnn Clark - Hesston

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Robert Dueck - Allen, TX (Vice-Chair)

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Lisa George - Hesston

Diane Gjerstad - Wichita

Monica Miller - Hesston

John Torline - North Newton

Joseph Uhlman - Sedgwick

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the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains is owned by

