



Kansas PRIDE Newsletter

Spring 2007

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PRIDE Workshop Creates Partnerships

Each PRIDE community has a local connection to information at the state and regional level. That connection is the county or district extension office. On March 13, PRIDE community members and Extension staff met to increase knowledge and understanding of the community development process, and learn from the experiences of extension professionals and community members.

K-State scientist, Dr. Alan Stevens presented information about "Show your PRIDE through Beautiful Community Plantings" initiative. The Prairie Star flower collection is a fantastic resource for PRIDE communities provided through K-State Horticulture. The Prairie Star collection consists of annual flowers of great vigor and spectacular bloom throughout the entire summer growing

season. Prairie Star annuals have the vigor to grow and bloom like crazy under lazy gardener care. For more information visit: www.prairiestarflowers.com

Linda Bachelor, AmeriCorps project director, discussed opportunities for youth and communities to come together to provide youth leadership and opportunities for employment of youth in your community.

For more information visit PRIDE Web site: www.kansasprideprogram.com.

The afternoon session included information on community fundraising through special events and resources available for agents working with the PRIDE program. It was a great opportunity for all in attendance to recognize the advantages of working together for community betterment.



Dan Kahl discussing the community development process

April 15th a Date to Remember

When you see the April 15th date do you think of the tax filing deadline? That certainly is true, but it is also an important date associated with the Kansas PRIDE program. It is a time to think about the future of your PRIDE program as the 2008 PRIDE entry forms and government resolution are due. It is also time to celebrate and recognize our accomplishments.

The STAR Nomination and Community of Excellence Request also should be submitted. Don't forget to recognize the youth that have made a difference in your community with a Leadership Award Nomination or Community Service Nomination. If you need forms they can be downloaded from the PRIDE Web site at www.kansasprideprogram.com.

Kansas Communities Protecting Their Environment

Rossville, Melvern, and Greeley PRIDE groups have engaged their local citizens to learn more about their local “natural” resources and community improvement. The Healthy Ecosystems-Healthy Communities (HEHC) Project teams are exploring important connections between natural resources such as water, wildlife, and native plants and community planning and sustainability.

Ecosystems are just that – they are “systems.” And systems function better if all the parts are working. What you do (or don’t do!) to one part can affect other parts and possibly the overall ability of a system to function. For example, if a leaking radiator isn’t fixed, it can lead to the failure of your car’s engine and become a major expense to repair – and in some cases it might not be repairable. Communities are finding that it is easier and cheaper to protect their resources and that people prefer to live in communities with plentiful resources.

The Healthy Ecosystems-Healthy Communities Project helps communities look at projects with new eyes. For example building a park: how will the storm water from the park affect the creek and the lake it drains to? Should we build a filter strip along the edge of the park to clean the storm water before it goes into the lake where we get our drinking

water? We now know that our creek is a designated “critical habitat area” for two endangered species of animals–what can we do to lessen our storm water impact in this area? Are there native plants that we can use to reduce water and pesticide use in the park, but still provide a useful and eye-pleasing landscape that supports local wildlife?

When asked about her work on the wildlife assessment, Dee Robinson of Melvern said, “Sure, it’s been a lot of work, but I’m learning a lot of things about the wildlife here that I didn’t know before.”

Soon, these communities will be using their hard-earned knowledge to set and achieve new goals and begin projects to benefit their communities and their local water quality. Let’s give them a big hand for their hard work and continued commitment to their communities.

For more details on the Healthy Ecosystems-Healthy Communities Project and how to protect your community’s natural resources, water quality, and economic potential visit the Healthy Ecosystems-Healthy Communities Web site at: www.kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu/healthyecosystems/

– Submitted by Sherry Davis, Project Coordinator,
Healthy Ecosystems-Healthy Communities Project

Nation Trust Grant Funds for Historic Preservation

The National Trust can help your community in several ways. If you are working to save a historic building or site, there are several grant programs available to assist you. Grant amounts range from \$500 to \$10,000 and require a one-to-one cash match. Nonprofit organizations with current 501(c)3 status, as well as local governments, may apply. Eligible projects include architectural plans, feasibility studies, structural investigations, educational programs and workshops. Application deadlines are February 1, June 1 and October 1. National Trust publications are available on a wide variety of historic preservation subjects, ranging from establishing a local historic district to how to organize a tour of historic homes in your community (www.preservationbooks.org). The Trust’s Center for Preservation Leadership holds events such as the National Preservation Conference, workshops for aspiring preservationists, and training for nonprofit organizations.

If you are interested in obtaining more information about any of these programs, please

contact: Amy Cole, Senior Program Officer & Regional Attorney, Mountains/Plains Office; National Trust for Historic Preservation; 535 16th Street, Suite 750; Denver, CO 80202; Phone: (303) 623-1504; Fax: (303) 623-1508; E-mail: amy_cole@nthp.org; www.nationaltrust.org



The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America’s communities. Recipient of the National Humanities Medal, the Trust was founded in 1949 and provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to protect the irreplaceable places that tell America’s story. Staff at the Washington, D.C., headquarters, six regional offices and 28 historic sites work with the Trust’s 270,000 members and thousands of preservation groups in all 50 states. Located in Denver, the Mountains/Plains Office of the National Trust works in partnership with local and statewide organizations to save historic places and build a stronger grassroots preservation movement in eight states in the region, including Kansas.

Onaga PRIDE

This Onaga PRIDE story begins in 2005 when civic leaders, along with Pottawatomie County Economic Development, chose areas they felt needed improvement in order for this rural farming town of 700 to survive.

The first item PRIDE undertook was to change the visual perception of Onaga by cleaning up and working on downtown beautification. Blooming petunia baskets were placed on the light poles downtown, a new stone planter was built and landscaped, along with pulling and spraying weeds. The first annual Onaga Junk Funeral (Clean-up) was held with more than 100 showing up to bury our junk.

An all volunteer PRIDE/Chamber dinner was held to raise funds to have a construction estimate prepared in order to apply for a downtown Streetscape Reimbursement program through the Kansas Department of Transportation. Since being selected, planning is underway for a spring 2008 renovation of our downtown area!

When the opportunity became available to be a Pilot City for the Governor's Rural Task Force, Onaga applied to concentrate on housing, including new, renovations and condemnations, and we were again a successful applicant. After 2 years of volunteers working together, Onaga is ready to offer ten free building lots in a new subdivision with no specials, These lots qualify for the City Neighborhood Revitalization — a 10 Year, and sliding scale tax rebate program. This took a joint effort of the Community Hospital Board, who owned the land; the City Council enacting new programs and paying for the water and sewer extensions; our local lumber yard making material price concessions; plus

recruiting two local partners of Heritage Builders from Manhattan to develop the new subdivision.

Another area PRIDE/Chamber volunteers tackled were that there is no safe public playground equipment in Onaga. Not only was that a danger to our children, but this group realized if we want to attract young families to our area a quality playground was a must. Twenty-three active chairpersons have headed an effort to have our children design their playground dreams, raised \$100,000 dollars for materials and are now recruiting volunteers to build a new, composite lumber playground. An old fashion barn raising build for the playground will be April 18 - 22, 2007!

The final big project that has required a great deal of PRIDE cooperation was not originally planned. However, the owners of our beautiful, scenic rolling hills, 9-hole golf course, Cool Springs, announced they were closing on December 31, 2006 due to declining revenue. Many PRIDE/Chamber Members felt this was an important part of our small community. Many people became involved and more than \$60,000 in operating funds and memberships were raised in 6 weeks. The owner has reopened and will oversee the course until legal and financial means can be arranged for the City to purchase this recreational facility. A corporation of golf members is being formed to assume the responsibility of the daily management of the golf course. They plan to use more marketing and cut expenses by volunteering for many jobs, to keep this golf course open.

***Volunteers
are the only
human beings
on the face
of the earth
who reflect
this nation's
compassion,
unselfish
caring,
patience, and
just plain
love for one
another.***

—Erma Bombeck

—Lois Loucks, Onaga PRIDE

Clean Communities through Community Service

The Kansas PRIDE program initiative Keep Kansas Clean is a great opportunity for communities to make their towns a shining example of Kansas Pride. Along with this opportunity comes some obligation and responsibility to certain segments of our society. The elderly, disabled, and financially challenged are sometimes unable to comply with city ordinances enacted to keep communities clean.

Some of the elderly who have taken great pride in the appearance of their property most of their lives, may have valid reasons for not being able to maintain their property. Health and financial issues are the most common of all the related reasons given when they are asked why their property does not meet city ordinances.

I realize that city ordinances must apply equally to all residents and businesses in a community and that being considerate of people's special needs promotes harmony within a community. I have been involved in city government for more than 20 years and can assure you that most of our senior citizens will sacrifice health and nutrition needs to maintain the appearance of their property.

Most of what I have said about the elderly also applies to the financially challenged and disabled. First and foremost governing entities must make a clean community affordable and convenient. A few suggestions are reduced rates or free days at the land-fill or disposal site. A place for yard waste, appliances, tires, and other disposable items that mar the appearance of any community.

Involve the youth in your community. Most schools have a requirement for community service to

graduate. Coordinate this effort with city equipment and personal to clean up one property or a whole city block. The young people that I have worked with on clean up projects have renewed my faith in the youth in this country. They do an outstanding job.

The service organizations in most communities are looking for projects that are visible and have an impact on the quality of life in their community. Each service organization could adopt an area to clean and might even have a contest for the most improved area. This could become a yearly event with public recognition for the winning organization. The judging could be done by the governing body, the chamber of commerce, the local PRIDE Board or an appointed panel of judges. Appearance is

contagious, the leadership in any community has an obligation to give direction to the appearance of their community.

Appearance determines property values, growth opportunity, tourism potential, and the new dollars it brings. The attitude of the people living there and other factors determine quality of life too numerous to list. Please get the cooperation and permission of all property owners before attempting any clean-up project. By keeping our own communities clean, we keep Kansas clean so the Pride in our State can be seen. Keep Kansas Clean!

— Dean Schmidt, Keep Kansas Clean Committee Member



Allowing youth to participate in community projects creates opportunities for all community members.

Lucas selected as *USA Today's* Most Romantic Location in Kansas

In a recent copy of *USA Today*, the travel staff asked local experts from each state to name their favorite romantic destination. Pam Grout, author of *You Know You're in Kansas When...* and *Kansas Curiosities*, nominated Lucas.

Lucas, a longtime PRIDE community is located in north central Kansas. Known for its creativeness and friendliness, the *USA Today* had this to say about Lucas:

"The creation of art is inherently romantic, and there's plenty of evidence to be found by strolling through the five grassroots-art museums/galleries in tiny Lucas (pop. 436). Lucas is a mecca for primitive folk art; among the works on display are a concrete Garden of Eden with a life-size Adam and Eve."

At press time for the newsletter, this article was available on the *USA Today* Web site, search for "most romantic place in Kansas" at www.usatoday.com



Lucas's creative arts attract people from around the world.

Funding Supports Glasco and Mount Hope Community Learning

The PRIDE communities of Glasco and Mount Hope are participating in the Community Resource Outreach Program in 2007. The Community Resource Outreach Program provides consultation, technical assistance, and mini-grants to Kansas communities interested in starting community education/development programs using UFM's volunteer model. The program helps match talented community members with opportunities to teach skills to others. Programs in Mount Hope included teaching crafts, hosting sporting leagues, and fun activities for the youth of the community. Programs in Glasco include stained glass workshops, photography classes, and classes that help identify and enhance historical preservation and tourism. Some of the classes have spawned on-going groups of quilters, writers, and a self-help group. Other communities participating in the Community Resource Outreach Program in 2007 include Topeka, Inman, and Ottawa.

The Community Resource Outreach Program builds community by providing a network and opportunities to bring citizens together to learn new skills and have fun. With planning, the community can link the classes offered through the Community Resource Outreach Program to supplement community tourism, historical documentation, or arts enhancement as Glasco has done. A community could teach Web page design and maintenance so participants could create and maintain a community Web site, or they could teach First Aid and CPR through the volunteer fire department. There are many ways that the Community Resource Outreach Program can help PRIDE invest in community improvements. Communities are encouraged to explore the possibilities the Community Resource Outreach Program can offer. For more information on this 3-year mini-grant program, visit www.tryufm.org and read the state outreach CRA information.

Help Select the 8 Wonders of Kansas

Would the Arikaree Breaks in Cheyenne County, the Cathedral of the Plains in Victoria, John Steuart Curry's murals in the state capitol, Mine Creek Battlefield in Linn County, the Flint Hills, the Santa Fe Trail ruts in Ford County, Eisenhower's boyhood home, or the Kansas Cosmosphere be on your list if you were choosing the 8 Wonders of Kansas?

Talk about it at home. Talk about it in class. Talk about it as you drive. Talk about Kansas and what it has to offer.

The Kansas Sampler Foundation is launching a campaign and wants the public to help decide the 8 Wonders of Kansas.

Foundation director Marci Penner said, "Kansas is full of riches and this campaign will give everyone a reason to discuss, argue, discuss some more and even go out to see some of these places. That's the whole idea behind it – to inspire travel around the state and a renewed sense of pride in who we are and what we have."

Most contests being conducted around the world are looking for the Seven Wonders of a particular area. Kansas will take it a step further and use eight to recognize the eight rural culture elements that the Kansas Sampler Foundation has long used to help communities assess what they have and to help explorers see Kansas with new eyes. The eight elements are architecture, art, commerce, cuisine, customs, geography, history, and people.

"Eventually we will choose the top eight places for each element. For now, we're just looking for the top overall attractions in the state."

Von Rothenberger of Osborne County Tourism and a member of the Foundation's Kansas Explorers Club brought the idea to the Foundation and soon the plan was in motion.

Nominations should be attractions that are publicly accessible, open to the public regularly, non-franchise, and that it not be an event. Attractions in large cities, small towns or in the countryside are all eligible.

Nominations can be sent to 8 Wonders of Kansas, 978 Arapaho Road, Inman KS 67546 or e-mailed to 8wonders@kansassampler.org Public nominations will be received through May 6, 2007. A selection committee will sort through all the nominations and come up with a Great 24.

Pictures and explanations of the top 24 nominated sites will appear at kansassampler.org and public voting for the Eight Wonders of Kansas will start mid-May and last until December 31. On Kansas Day, January 29, 2008 Governor Sebelius will announce the 8 Wonders of Kansas!

Nominations should include name of attraction, location, and reason why it's worthy of nomination. Submissions must include the person's name, address and/or e-mail address.

– Marci Penner, Kansas Sampler Foundation (620) 585-2374,
marci@kansassampler.org

PRIDE Community Cleanup Scheduled for April 21 to 28

Do you have a cleanup project planned for the week of April 21 to 28? A clean, attractive community is not only a more pleasant place to live, but the value of the good impression cannot be underestimated. No matter the size of your community cleanup project (clean flower beds, area park, or paint signs that mark the entrance to community) each one will make a difference and show the PRIDE of its citizens.

"Trash attracts trash" is literally true. Fortunately, the reverse seems to be true too – clean communi-

ties tend to stay cleaner. You'll find, over time, the amount of trash collected during maintenance cleanups will greatly decrease. For more information on planning a community cleanup visit the PRIDE Web site at www.kansasprideprogram.com and download the publication *Conducting a Community Clean-Up, Fix-Up Campaign*, MF-931. So remember to "Keep Kansas Clean So Our PRIDE Can Be Seen."

First National Bank Sponsors PRIDE

The First National Bank of Cunningham is a corporate sponsor of PRIDE, and is very proud to be so. First National has been a locally owned, unit bank located in agriculture-dominated south central Kansas since 1925, now with assets of approximately \$22 million. As Eric Meyers, President and CEO of the bank states, investing generously in our own community was long ago woven in to the fabric and culture of this bank, and continues to be a high priority today. Don't underestimate the significance of being locally owned. This local ownership and representation on the Board of Directors ensures bank management has the support of its directors.

Cunningham, as a community, has been a member of PRIDE for 18 years. No one takes more pride in the Cunningham community than Eric's father, Jack Meyers, past President of the First National Bank and now Chairman of the Board. "One or both of my parents have been on the local PRIDE Committee in each of the 18 years of membership," says Meyers. Community involvement by all bank personnel is highly encouraged.

Meyers sees a correlation between the health of a community and the health of the community bank. It's a two-way street. Involvement by the bank in the community enhancement projects garners respect from the community while making the community a more attractive place to live and raise families, which in turn helps maintain the population and viability

of the community. Of course, that's always good news, not just for the bank, but for other businesses in town as well.

Our bank's corporate sponsorship is a way for our bank to give to the organization that has given so much to our community. Yes, it's *our* local people working on *our* local projects to make *our* community a better place to live, but it's within the structure and framework of PRIDE that this community betterment push has fostered. When a community has pride, it shows, ... when people work together, good things happen. Plans don't stop at the drawing board -- they become realities. It takes people power, volunteers that I call "silent

heroes," to make a difference. And the state PRIDE organization and it's dedicated people have always been there for us to assist us in any way.

In recent years, our community has had the good fortune of receiving two monetary PRIDE awards, the Star Award and the Community of Excellence Award. So really, a good portion of the bank's investment as a corporate sponsor of PRIDE has been returned to our own community as recipients of these awards. If, by being a corporate sponsor of PRIDE, we can help the state organization financially, we're all for it because we have seen, first hand, the impact PRIDE can have on communities like ours.

— Eric Meyers, President and CEO of First National Bank of Cunningham



How can we expect our children to know and experience the joy of giving unless we teach them that the greater pleasure in life lies in the art of giving rather than receiving?

— James Cash Penny

Kansas PRIDE Program
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Kansas State University
Manhattan, Kansas 66506

PRIDE Calendar

April 13 – PRIDE Board Meeting, Lenora
April 15 – PRIDE Forms are due
April 21-28 – Kansas PRIDE State-wide Clean up Week
June 11-15 – Community of Excellence Evaluations
July 27 – PRIDE Board Meeting, Lakin
September 28 – PRIDE Board Meeting, Junction City
September 29 – PRIDE Day