

Prairie plains Link



Griffith Prairie, September, 2010

Sarah Bailey



Amy Jones



Amy Jones

monthly newsletter
of



September, 2010

September for Prairie Plains is about continuous, intense harvesting which can be interrupted only by bad weather (there wasn't any), equipment breakdowns (the usual number) or by the time spent with students for their annual fall field days. It's all been great this year; the seeds have been plentiful and viable, and the education events all had great weather and enthusiastic learners. The October *Link* will focus more on seeds, including photography by our keen-eyed intern, Sarah Bailey.



Bill Whitney

Top two & down: Grass harvest in the northern restored prairie acreage of Bader Park near Chapman; Sarah & Amy collecting thickspike gayfeather (*Liatris pycnostachya*) in the Fairbury area; Sarah & Bill checking out the blooming willowleaf aster (*Aster praealtus*) in a roadside ditch near Olson Nature Preserve. At right, just a few of the many species of seeds stored in the blue barn at Griffith Farm. Every available space will be packed this year!



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Orchid Study at Ranch: This summer Gerry Steinauer, Hillary Loring and Bob Steinauer did a vegetation survey in the Guadalcanal



Bill Whitney



Gerry Steinauer

Memorial Prairie (Sioux County Ranch) wet meadow to get baseline information related to the rare Ute lady's tresses orchid (*Spiranthes diluvialis*). Gerry returned in August to count orchids, reporting a population in excess of 500 individual plants.

Prairie Plains Link is a publication of



- an educational land trust incorporated in 1980 as a non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt membership organization based in Aurora, NE.

MISSION:

Maintaining and restoring Nebraska ecosystems - Creating opportunities for education, research, stewardship and community development.

Link Editor & Layout
Jan Whitney

Photos by Prairie Plains staff members unless noted otherwise.

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September 24th was an excellent day for the annual outing to Griffith Prairie for Aurora 7th graders. Prairie Plains intern Sarah Bailey led the session about insects. Other September outdoor education events included the annual Aurora 5th grade field day at Bader Park and the annual Heartland sophomore biology and English students' visit to Marie Ratzlaff Prairie Preserve.

THANK YOU to:
Steve Winter and Jim Schalles for seeds and harvesting assistance; and to Trevor DeMaranville for work on the combines.



Scenes from Sept. 11th Bader Hike. Left & clockwise: Regal Fritillary, Eastern Kingbird, the small but spirited group of hikers, sunflower, the Platte River and backwater area. Photos by Sarah Bailey.

Mark your calendars for these Bader Park hikes: Oct. 16th, Nov. 13th & Dec. 11th - all Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. Another event coming up at Bader Park: Halloween Fun Night, Saturday, Oct. 23rd. For more info, email baderpark73@yahoo.com.