

PRAIRIE PLAINS LINK

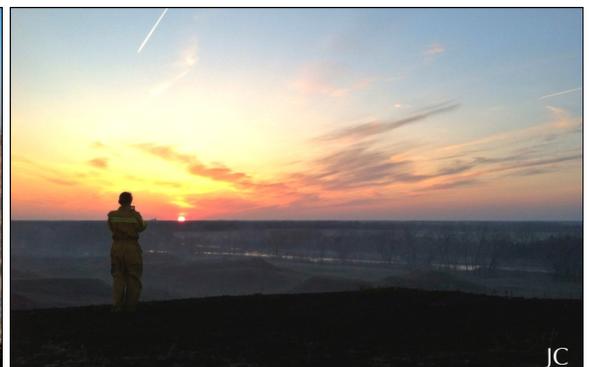


Patches of windflower, or Carolina anemone (*Anemone caroliniana*) are gracing the bluffs of Griffith Prairie. Observed minimally most years, last summer's drought conditions - plus heavy grazing pressure - have reduced competition from other species, allowing these early-blooming prairie gems a spot in the sun.



Conditions were right on April 2nd for the prescribed burn at Griffith Prairie. Amy Jones recorded a surreal landscape.

Prairie Plains field assistant Jameson Crumpler is gaining more hours of prescribed burning experience this spring. As it turns out, he has some photography skills to offer as well. From left, Jameson on duty at the Bader Park prairie; Head fire moving through the bluffs of Griffith Prairie and Sarah Bailey catching the sunset as the smoke is clearing.



Every Year, Every Day in April, it's the same

NEWSLETTER
April, 2013

decision: To burn, or not to burn. Every evening, we're checking online weather forecasts for temperature, humidity, wind speed (can't be too high OR too low) and direction - and of course, precipitation. It is a season of angst. Fire plans are drawn up, permits granted, equipment caravan ready to go - and sometimes it all has to be canceled at the last minute. We did, in spite of it all, have success at Bader Park and Griffith Prairie in April. And that success is very sweet when all goes well - and it has. To be continued - through May. Weather permitting . . .



Greenhouse seedlings are thriving, and being transplanted to various sites, including a native plant garden at the Edgerton Explorit Center in Aurora, a Bush Island restoration site and a new pollinator habitat planting at Koziol Wetlands Management Area (WMA) north of St. Paul. Over 50 St. Paul third grade students participated in the one-acre planting, using seeds provided by Quail/Pheasants Forever and 180 seedlings donated by Prairie Plains. Quail & Pheasants Forever personnel, along with Sarah Bailey from Prairie Plains, emphasized the importance of pollinator species and pollinator habitat restoration in their presentations to the students (photos below).



Griffith Prairie Fun Run/Walk June 1st

Join us at Griffith Prairie for this unique adventure! The 5K/10K run begins at 9 a.m. and the walk at 9:05 a.m. There is a \$20 registration fee for runners and walkers, which includes a t-shirt. The course is a mowed prairie trail with hills and rough terrain. Download the registration form at www.prairieplains.org - from home page, right side, under "A run through the hills," - or email contactppri@hamilton.net to request a form.



Sioux County Ranch Trek, June 8th

Join us for a beautiful day exploring The Guadalcanal Memorial Prairie and Ranch in Sioux County, Nebraska. Meet at the Longhorn Bar and Grill in Harrison at noon (MDT) for lunch, then head out to the Ranch for a riding/walking tour of the property. A prime rib cookout at 6:30 p.m. and a sunset hike up the bluffs are the perfect ending to a wonderful day. More info: 402-694-5535.



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MISSION:

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

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More June-July Events:

**June 15: Bader Park
Tour, 9:00 a.m.**

**June 17-20 and 24-27:
Big Bend SOAR**

**July 8-12 and July 15-19:
SOAR Aurora**

More outdoor fun:

**Have kayak, will travel...to
Bader Park on the Platte!
Follow Bader Memorial Park
on Facebook (and the web-
site baderpark.com) to keep
up on the park's events
schedule.**

THANK YOU to Gerry Steinauer, Alex Briner and Cale Jones for assistance with prescribed burning; Dwayne & Susan Braun for contribution of structural steel braces for the barn (Center) roof and Brock Ekhoft and Greenline Equipment for assistance with equipment used to prepare a new restoration site at Griffith Farm.