

PRAIRIE PLAINS LINK



Sarah Bailey

Migratory waterfowl on the Platte at Bader Park, February 26th



Sarah Bailey

The 2011 Prairie Plains-directed Bader Park Walking Tour Program opened its 29th season Saturday morning, Feb. 26th with a 7:00 a.m. Earlybird Tour - and it was one for the record books! The group of seven

hikers experienced spectacular waterfowl viewing along the river and sandpits in the park. Although it was a brisk 9 degrees, there was very little wind, and the landscape was beautiful with a blanket of fresh snow. The sight and sounds of tens of thousands of birds - dominated by Canada geese, mallards and pintails - kept everyone fully occupied and distracted from chilling toes.

The Bader Park walks offer many perks: fresh air and exercise on trails through prairie, woodland and riverside; viewing wildlife and learning more about the natural history of the Platte River environs; and pleasant social interaction (usually including some fine carbs & coffee at the end)! It's never too late for resolutions, so make it one of yours to join us in enjoying these morning strolls through Bader Park this year. See the schedule of spring & summer walks on the flip side of this page.



Sarah Bailey

Prairie Plains

RESOURCE INSTITUTE

NEWSLETTER
February, 2011

It's Spring!
(in the greenhouse)



Amy Jones

Greenhouse construction continued through February, but Sarah wasn't about to wait for the last nail to go in before getting her hands back into the seeds. Above, she spent a good part of her birthday on the 16th planting prairie violets. At right, she's inserting the sharp points of needle and thread grass seeds into cone-tainers.



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Join us for a work day at Griffith Prairie & Farm on April 2nd!

We'll be removing an old fence to prepare for a new one that will be built this spring. If we have enough volunteers, we'll also be able to tackle some of the other jobs that need to be done, such as siding removal from one of the storage sheds and landscaping/tree work. When the work is done volunteers are welcome to explore the prairie. If this sounds like the type of thing you'd enjoy doing on a spring day, please meet us at 9:00 a.m. at the Blue Barn on the farm (4 miles west of the Hwy 14 Marquette corner - 22nd Road - then .5 mile north on M Rd, east side). Please bring clothing and footwear appropriate for the work and the weather; a pair of leather gloves, pliers, wire cutters and claw hammers if you have them, and a lunch and water to last you throughout the day's activities. If you intend to participate, please contact Steve Winter at stephen.winter@okstate.edu, 405-334-8533 or 402-310-5469.

Spring & Summer Prairie Plains Events

Sat., March 5th: Bader Park Earlybird Walking Tour, 7:00 a.m.

Sat., April 2nd: Volunteer Work Day, Griffith Prairie & Farm, 9:00 a.m. - See above for details.

Sat., April 30th: Bader Park Earlybird Walking Tour, 7:00 a.m.

Sat., May 7th: Bader Park Earlybird Walking Tour, 7:00 a.m.

Sat., June 4th: Griffith Prairie Fun Run, 9:00 a.m.
Details TBA

Friday-Sunday,
June 10th-12th: Annual Sioux County Ranch Trek, Details TBA

Sat., June 18th: Bader Park Walking Tour, 9:00 a.m.

Monday-Thursday,
June 20th-23rd & SOAR - Big Bend Camp
June 27th-30th Details: rjhultquist@gtmc.net

Monday-Friday,
July 11th-15th & SOAR - Aurora Camp
July 18th-22nd Details: janppri@hamilton.net



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Already sprouting:
Lambert's locoweed
(*Oxytropis lambertii*) on
the left, and prairie turnip
a.k.a. Indian turnip
(*Pediomelum esculentum*).

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is a publication of

Prairie Plains

RESOURCE INSTITUTE

Prairie Plains Resource Institute is an educational land trust incorporated in 1980 as a non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt membership organization based in Aurora, Nebraska.

MISSION:

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

Link Editor & Layout
Jan Whitney

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THANK YOU

to Mert Griffith (pictured below on far ladder) and Scott Jones for lots of assistance throughout the greenhouse construction project.



Amy Jones