

## Friday is River Day on the Platte!



Ornithologist Gary Lingle taught us a few things about birds of the region at the beginning of River Day. Here he is banding a catbird caught in his mist net.



With such low flow in the Platte, our Fish Find was a bit too easy. Netting in deeper pools along the riverbank brought up large catfish and carp struggling to survive.



More great River Day finds, from top: spiny softshell turtle; red shiner in breeding colors; shorthorn redhorse (a first for SOAR). All catches are released after everyone has a chance to see them.



There was just enough water to allow for two of our favorite lively River Day games - River Ball and Raccoons R Us.



The shortage of water didn't allow for tube racing, but we managed to incorporate some tube work in the obstacle course!

*All photos on this page by  
Prairie Plains / SOAR staff.*



## Afternoon Highlights

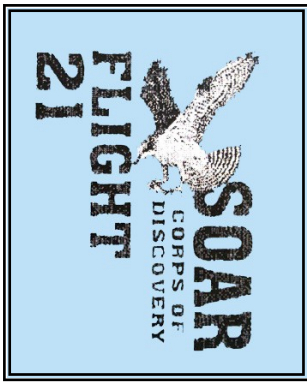


From top left, clockwise - Paul Siebert presented a wonderful interactive music and history program; samples of our mixed photography, writing and art project and (next photo) the group mascot "soft sculptures;" and the Microbe Show - taking a closer look at aquatic samples collected in "Wet & Wild" at Bader Park Natural Area.



Moving on: We have been so fortunate to have these four peer leaders, now graduates, serving SOAR for so many years. Top, from left: Lizzy Cox, Anna English and Taylor Kittle; next shot, Trevor Sullivan. We're hoping they will return as presenters some day!





# SOAR 2012

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### **We would also like to express our thanks to**

volunteers Brad Bangs; Reneé Ekhoﬀ; Scott, Cale and Cameron Jones; Nate Larsen; Gary Lingle; Dean Morgan, Daniel Petersen; John Thompson, Jessica Brock and Rudy van den Boogaart - and to all the campers' parents that contributed extra \$ for snacks;

AND

SOAR has an arrangement with Hastings College that offers area teachers the opportunity to shadow one week of camp for two (or three) hours of credit. These teachers are also great to have on board to offer an extra helping hand. So here's another big THANK YOU to our 2012 "shadowing teachers," Tamera Wert and Leah Ratzlaff!

### Individuals

\*Marvin & Pam Andersen  
 \*Sharon Bishop  
 \*Tom Darbro  
 \*Renee Ekhoﬀ  
 \*Cathie English  
 \*J. Joe Ford  
 \*Mark & Laura Jobman  
 \*Steve Rothenberger  
 \*Jim & Sara Shull  
 \*Shane & Rhoda Thorell  
 \*Robert & Genene Willis  
 \*Sherry Yarnell  
  
 \* Prairie Plains members



SOAR was founded in 1992 as a project of Prairie Plains Resource Institute.

The 2012 planning and teaching staff:  
 Aurora teachers Amy Wilson, Mike Stewart, Bruce Ramsour and Ron Haden; and  
 Prairie Plains staffers Jan Whitney (Coordinator), Amy Jones (Emcee Extraordinaire), Sarah Bailey, Jeff Gustafson and Bill Whitney.



**Special thanks to Bud & Mary Ann Pence for allowing us to SOAR at Lake Mary.**