

PRAIRIE PLAINS LINK



Drone's eye view of the March 27 prescribed burn at Gjerloff Prairie. The Education Center is in the background (upper left); across the Platte is a 2007-8 Prairie Plains restoration on privately owned Bush Island. See more on video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FHTnh7ZRj8>



NEWSLETTER
March, 2018



Challenging spring for burning
Spring? What spring?! Indeed - the days safe for prescribed burns have been few and far between, but we've managed a couple so far, two restoration sites at Gjerloff (March 27) and a Sherman Ranch unit (March 29). Just 8 or 9 to go!

Left: Mike Bullerman split his time at the Gjerloff burn between working the black line and practicing drone photography (one result shown in top shot).



Sherman Ranch hikers witnessed a sky full of migrating geese at dawn on March 3.



David Vetter won the bid for "Soup & Pie & Crane-watching" at the January fundraiser. We had a great evening March 31, dining at The Nature Conservancy's Derr House, followed by a trip to TNC's Uridil blind, where we viewed thousands of Sandhill Cranes flying into the Platte. From left: Bill Whitney, Charlie Ponec, Glenda Vetter, David & Jean Vetter. Thanks to TNC / Mardell Jasnowski for partnering with us on the event.

In the Greenhouse:
Prairie violet "parent plants" (foreground) are kept in the greenhouse in pots, and used to propagate new seedlings that are transplanted into cone-tainers. After further development in the cone-tainers they are planted in restoration projects on Prairie Plains properties and elsewhere. It is important to plant prairie violets into restoration sites that border or connect native prairies that have existing regal fritillary butterfly populations. The regal fritillary depends on the prairie violet as their larval food source. Growing prairie violets and planting them into the right restoration sites can help improve existing regal fritillary populations in somewhat degraded prairie landscapes or potentially help them expand their range into restorations surrounding native prairie.





Approaching Events



Walking Tour of Sherman Ranch

(23rd & O Rd., Hamilton Co.)
followed by visit to Gjerloff Prairie
and the Education Center

Saturday, April 21, 9:00 a.m.

Everyone's invited! Guided walking tour of prairie and river frontage at Sherman Ranch, led by Prairie Plains Founder/Director Bill Whitney. Participants will need to be able to walk leisurely for about 1.5 hours. The tour will be followed by a visit to Gjerloff Prairie - just a five-minute drive from Sherman Ranch - for refreshments and a tour of the Education Center.

This tour is one of the 2018 **Nebraska Science Festival** events held across the state from April 19 to 28. The Festival began in 2013 as an initiative of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, which continues to administer the program with the assistance of a number of organizations and individuals interested in the advancement of science literacy. The Science Festival is designed to make science accessible, interactive, relevant and fun for kids and adults alike.

Learn more:
www.nescifest.com

Earlybird hikes at Bader Park

Saturdays, April 28 & May 5, 7:00 a.m.

Gjerloff Prairie Hike

Saturday, May 19, 9:00 a.m.



A Conference on Tourism and Conservation in the Great Plains

Younes Conference Center in Kearney, NE.
Organizers: Center for Great Plains Studies,
Nebraska Tourism Commission and Heartland
Scenic Byways. Prairie Plains Director Bill
Whitney is one of many speakers as well as
a field trip leader; Wednesday's trips include
a guided exploration of Bader Park, Gjerloff
Prairie, Sherman Ranch and the Dark Island
Trail. Conference details: [https://
www.unl.edu/plains/2018-ecotourism-
symposium](https://www.unl.edu/plains/2018-ecotourism-symposium)



SOAR 2018: FLIGHT 27

Week One: July 9-12 Week Two: July 16-19

For students presently in grades 3-6.

Registration has begun! Download and

**print form OR just register online: [http://www.prairieplains.org/
education/soar.html](http://www.prairieplains.org/education/soar.html)**



Youth Naturalist Program

June 18-22

**For students presently in
grades 6-10. The time to register
is NOW! Go to: [http://
www.prairieplains.org/
education/youth-naturalist-
program.html](http://www.prairieplains.org/education/youth-naturalist-program.html)**



**Winter Explorers
enjoyed a
beautiful
morning at
Sherman Ranch
on March 10.
Perhaps we
should schedule
Winter Explore
Days through
May?!**

**THANK YOU to our March volunteers: Cliff Dill & Mike Stewart (burning);
Celia McConkey (greenhouse work); and Alex Briner (fence repair).**

PRAIRIE PLAINS LINK

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**Preserving, restoring and maintaining
Nebraska native prairies -
Creating opportunities for education,
research, stewardship and place-
based community development.**

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