

∞ Prairie plains Link ∞



Central Platte Natural Resources District flood control site west of Grand Island - the last contracted Prairie Plains restoration planting of the year.

monthly newsletter
of



December, 2009

All Things Considered...

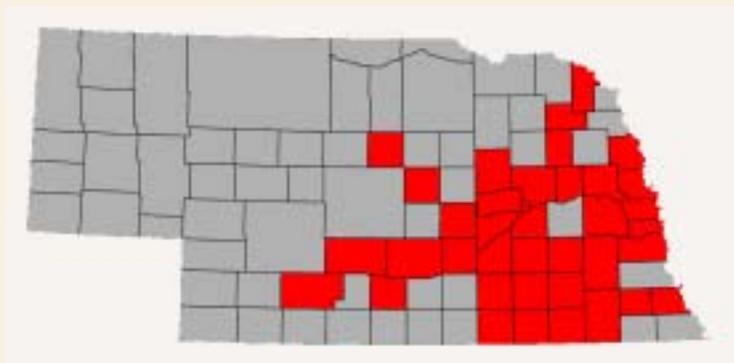
It was a very good year. It was outstanding for the restoration program (see below) - and for both SOAR camps (Big Bend and Aurora). There was a record number of spring and fall education outings with area schools. There were wonderful wildflower walks and an amazing Sioux County Ranch Trek - perhaps the best wildflower walk of all!

We were able to purchase a new-to-us truck and trailer, a huge boost for all stewardship and restoration activities. We received our third GIS grant in eleven years from Environmental Systems Research Institute, allowing us to model preserves and restoration sites in three dimensions and to produce high quality 3D images.

Our online presence has continued to grow; new publications and scrapbook pages have been added to the website, and we can also be found on Facebook and YouTube.

On a different note altogether, it was also the year we lost a beloved friend, member and co-founder of this organization, Curt Twedt - and we will long feel the impact of this loss. As we move on into the new year and beyond, we will be thinking of him, and also of Charles Whitney. Our love and respect for these two prominent figures in the history of Prairie Plains will fuel our determination to accomplish all of our goals, including a fully functioning Education Center.

A Record Year for Prairie Restoration



Counties including Prairie Plains prairie and/or wetland restorations.

Restoration Stats

2009
22 project sites
15 counties
735 acres

Since 1979*
110 project sites
37 counties
6,012 acres



*Although Prairie Plains was officially founded in 1980, the plantings began in 1979.

Coming Up: Two Big Events

Annual Meeting of Members

Saturday, January 16 at the Bremer Community Center
16th (Hwy 14) & L Street, Aurora, Nebraska

- 8:30 Coffee-social
- 9:00 Announcements & introductions
- 9:15 Business meeting
- 9:40 2009 in review (photo show)
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 Presentation of 2010 Charles L. Whitney Outstanding Service Award
- 10:30 Director's comments
- 10:45 Land Preserves photo show by Chris Helzer
- 11:15 Discussion for the good of the order
- 11:45 Remembering Curt Twedt
- 12:00 Lunch

Call 402-694-5535 or email amyppri@hamilton.net by **Jan. 13** to be included in lunch count. Cost is \$15 payable to PPRI.

Fundraiser Banquet

Celebrating 30 years of Nebraska Prairie Conservation
Saturday evening, January 23 at the East Campus Union
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Great Plains Room

- 5:00 Social & preview auction items, ambient music by blues guitarist Myles Jasnowski
- 5:45 Executive Director's Welcome
- 6:00 All-Nebraska meal featuring bison and local produce
- 6:45 Live auction conducted by Dick Turpin
- 7:30 Presentation by National Geographic photographer Jim Richardson (jimrichardsonphotography.com)
- 8:30 More social & music by Myles

Auction items include: Joel Sartore print, bison t-bones and hamburger, Ernest Ochsner oil painting, seed and planting for three acres of prairie, two baskets of Grain Place Foods items, one-day pheasant hunt on TNC's Derr property, guided crane viewing trip and much, much more!

Tickets are \$40 per person.
Please make reservations by calling 402-694-5535 or email amyppri@hamilton.net by **Jan. 19**.



This beautiful flicker was photographed recently by member Gerhard Assenmacher near his home in Niwot, Colorado. Gerhard has donated a beautiful mounted poster entitled "Feathers Along the Medicine Creek" for the Jan. 23 auction. It is an artfully arranged collection of avian photos taken on his property along Medicine Creek in Frontier County, Nebraska. (See photosbygerhard.com)

PrairiePlainsLink
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.*

Learn more and
**BECOME A MEMBER at
prairieplains.org**

THANK YOU

to Jim Senn and Mert Griffith for
snow plowing at Griffith's - which
was no small task!



The year ended with a "blue moon" - the second full moon in a month, which usually has just one - and lots of snow. Photo by Ernie Ochsner.