



J. Dill

A few members visited Griffith Prairie after the meeting, enjoying the Platte River scenery and inspecting the progress on the Education Center.



J. Dill



Plans are well underway for the 16th flight of SOAR's pilot program in Aurora. This summer's explorations carry a theme of "Stories," and will include a few new as well as tried and true activities. SOAR weeks are July 9-13 and July 16-20. Big Bend SOAR Camp - cosponsored by Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary - is set for June 18-21 (Kearney) and June 25-28 (Minden).

Prairie Restoration - Full speed ahead: Seed processing and other prep for spring planting is now a big item on the agenda. So far, we have 518.5 acres in seven counties to plant. The fall harvest yielded seed sufficient to plant about 1000 acres.



We harvested over 2 1/2 barrels of rose hips last fall. A big batch is shown before and after processing in the hammer mill.

Approaching Events

February 10
Annual Cedar Attack
at Griffith Prairie
followed by lunch*
9:30 a.m. or meet at office at 9:00

February 24
Bader Park Earlybird Hike
7:00 a.m.
followed by breakfast*

March 3
Bader Park Earlybird Hike
7:00 a.m.

*RSVP to amyppri@hamilton.net
or 402-694-5535.

prairieplains.org
402-694-5535 ppri@hamilton.net
Aurora NE 68818-2126



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 21
Aurora, NE 68818-2126



monthly newsletter of



January, 2007

A NEW YEAR

All things made new . . . How about all things made icy?! That's how it was for the annual New Year's Day Hike at Griffith Prairie. A little slippery getting around, but what a view! All photos here are from that day.

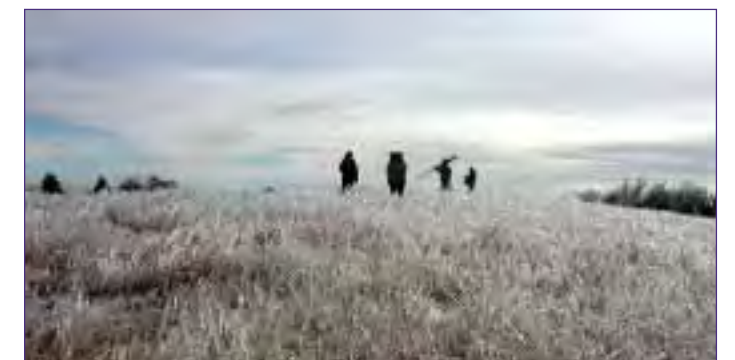
There are indeed some new and exciting things of note: Our new logo (above) and, within a few weeks, our new website. We're still working all the kinks out, but when we do - you're going to be amazed! Amy will notify the member email list as soon as the site is up.

Also amazing is the progress made on the Center at Griffith Prairie, thanks to dedicated, hard-working volunteers. Those on hand to assist architect Lee Schriever, Bill and Amy for interior framing days - January 4, 9 & 10 - were Cliff Dill and Wayne Mollhoff. The big Sands Barn interior tear-down and cleanup event held Saturday, January 27 brought out a crowd of brave souls to assist Bill and Amy with this very chilly and dirty task: Bob Foulk, Mike Huebert, Cale and Cameron Jones, Scott Jones, David Meyer, Larry Sands, Gerry Steinauer and Mike and Diane Stewart. **Thank you** so much to these members and friends for their generous contribution of time and muscle. And once again, thanks to the Mildred Sands Family for the gift of this beautiful barn.

If all goes according to plan, you'll be viewing photos of the Sands Barn at its new home at Griffith Prairie in the next *Link*. We promise that there will be ample opportunity for more volunteer assistance once this historic transfer is made!



Annual New Year's Hike: Only a chilled-out skeleton crew including (l-r) Dorine Galusha, Jan and Bill Whitney, Ernie & Lynda Ochsner and Laura Whitney gathered to crunch around in the surreal landscape of Griffith Prairie on January 1.



Hurray for Volunteers!!!



Education Center interior framing - January 4, 9 & 10: Board members working on boards, President Cliff Dill and Wayne Mollhoff in service above & beyond. We also really appreciated the use of generators loaned for the cause by Schneider's Hardware, Mert Griffith and Cliff Dill.



More de-fencing at Griffith Prairie, January 6: Thanks to volunteers Joe Ford, Fritz & Robin Buckalew and Mike Stewart. For anyone else interested in the sport of de-fencing, there will be several more opportunities coming up!



Sands Barn interior tear-down/cleanup day - January 27



2007 Annual Meeting of Members

January 13, 2007

Bremer Community Center in Aurora

Once again the annual meeting was aptly emceed by Colleen Babcock. Board of Directors President Cliff Dill gave the opening remarks, based on 2006 highlights. Cliff also encouraged everyone to visit PPRI's seven properties, and repeated part of his inspiring address presented at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Education Center at Griffith Prairie Sept. 29.



Colleen Babcock Emcee

Following a brief business meeting, PPRI Director Bill Whitney added his remarks, stressing 2006 accomplishments. The address concluded with Jan's slide program of the year in review.

The 2007 Charles L. Whitney Award for Outstanding Service to PPRI was presented by Norm Smith. This year the award was given posthumously to Bob Zoucha from Albion. Norm gave a wonderful address, including a chronological history of the origins of the Olson Nature Preserve. Although many individuals made this land project possible, the late Bob Zoucha, former Boone County Clerk, was a critical contributor, a major problem solver who helped the group overcome many obstacles. Fifteen members of the Zoucha Family were in attendance as the award was presented to Mrs. Bob (Carol) Zoucha.

The award presentation was followed by a spectacular photography show by Cliff Dill (produced by Jeanne Dill) from his trip to the Galapagos Islands in July, 2005. The show featured the unique fauna of the Islands.

Offering closing comments, Colleen challenged the membership to consider how each of us can contribute to the organization in the future. "PPRI remains a member-based organization. We have quality members but we can grow in quantity!"



Fifty-five members and guests enjoyed the fellowship and food - always a big draw, from the kitchen of Fayne Petersen.



Emma Bullerman found all the excitement exhausting!

Thanks, Jeanne Dill, for photography support!



Cliff Dill Board President



From top left clockwise, Charles Whitney was present to witness the award presentation; Norm Smith describing Bob Zoucha's outstanding service; Mitsi Fox adding her comments during the presentation of the award to Carol Zoucha and family.



Gloria Eckerson, who has never missed a PPRI annual meeting, chats with PPRI ranch lessee Scott Schaefer and Jan Whitney.