

PRAIRIE PLAINS LINK

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

PRAIRIE PLAINS

RESOURCE INSTITUTE

November, 2006

Education Center

Construction:

Excited to be a part of the building process and enjoying great weather for it, our staff, member volunteers and high school Trades & Industries students assisted contractors with assembling insulated concrete forms (ICF) and concrete pouring.



It's not exactly a barn-raising, but the process has some things in common with the old pioneer tradition. Friends & neighbors are pitching in. Questions and ideas are tossed around along with the 2 x 4s and insulated concrete forms (ICF). A solid foundation is being established, materially and beyond the material.

After footings were down, concrete forms were pieced together like giant Legos, and concrete for the south and west walls was poured. The bulk of the wall work was accomplished on November 6-8, thanks to wonderful weather, easy-to-work-with contractors and an ambitious group of seven volunteers with construction experience.

Students enrolled in the Aurora High School Trades and Industries class visited the site two consecutive days and helped assemble the ICF forms and build bracing to support and level the walls. "This was a great example of hands-on learning," according to instructor Scott Jones. "ICF is a relatively new process that isn't covered in textbooks. Being at the site and having the chance to help build the walls provided the students with valuable real-life work experience."

We are now hoping for a few warmer days for pouring the floor. Then, all that remains before moving the barn roof is framing the north and east walls and some minor grading on the west side. We will send an email alert when the date is set for the barn-moving event . . . so now would be a great time to send us your address if you have not already done so!

From the top: ICF construction; Trades & Industries student Joel Schaffert assembling ICF, assisted by classmate Mike Luna; concrete delivery; contractor M.C. van der Merwe directing concrete into ICF form; ever-present volunteers Mert Griffith and Joe Ford; Prairie Plains director Bill Whitney and office manager Amy Jones continue to expand their job descriptions.





Taking shape : ICF forms in place for the south and west foundation walls.



Mike Bullerman captured this sampling of one of our prairie seed mixes. Care to count how many species are represented?

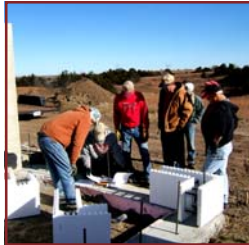
Thank you

to

Rob & Tammy Roberts of Mid Nebraska Land Developers for their generous contribution of earth moving services;

and

All of our volunteer construction workers: Mert Griffith, Joe Ford, Charlie Eckerson, Harry Eckerson, Ernie Ochsner, Bob Leach, Bob Willis and Aurora High School Trades & Industry teacher Scott Jones and his students Joel Schaffert, Dex Schweiger, Mike Luna, Darrin Grosshans, Jared Bredthauer, Cody Bicknase and Matt Koperski.



"Hmmm...first, read the directions..."

Approaching Events

DECEMBER 9:

(NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)

Winter Bird Hike

at Bader Park Natural Area followed by lunch at Espressions. Meet at the office at 8:30 a.m. or at the park at 9:00.



JANUARY 1:

New Year's Day Hike

at Griffith Prairie: Meet at the office at 12:30 p.m. or at the Blue Barn at Griffith's at

1:00. Please let us know* if you plan to attend so we can

contact you for further details or cancellation due to weather.



JANUARY 13:

Annual Meeting of Members

at the Bremer Center (16th & L) in Aurora. Coffee/social at 8:30 a.m.; business meeting 9:00. Lunch catered by Creative Cuisine followed by field trip to the Center construction site. Please RSVP * for lunch (\$10) by January 10.

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

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