

PRAIRIE PLAINS LINK



Olson Nature Preserve - Beaver Creek and oxbow wetland.



The Boone Central High School greenhouse class, taught by Katie Wilson, is working with Prairie Plains Greenhouse Manager Sarah Bailey to grow native plants for Olson Nature Preserve. Sarah delivered seeds and instruction to the students



in Albion on December 6. The class visited Gjerloff Prairie in September, where they toured the seed barn and greenhouse to learn about the prairie restoration process. They also explored the prairie to learn more about the ecosystem while harvesting common milkweed and lead-plant seed to be used in their greenhouse. The students will transplant their seedlings to areas along Beaver Creek that are in need of higher species diversity.

Further details about the Prairie Plains-Boone Central partnership can be found in the August-September *Prairie Plains Link*.



NEWSLETTER
December, 2018

THANK YOU!

Thanks so much to all of our year-end contributors! Our record of loyal and generous member contributions continues; 2018 budget goals were exceeded for individual giving. Donor support is vital for the annual budget as well as planning for years to come, as we expand our educational reach with the Education Center. And about that . . . ⇨



We were walkin' in a winter wonderland at Bader Park on December 8 at the annual winter bird hike. Even though we saw very few birds, it was a beautiful way to celebrate the end of the 2018 park tour program!

Announcing a substantial year-end grant:

We have \$150,000 from the Robert and Bethel Kolar Charitable Trust, a local Hamilton County foundation, that we now are challenging our supporters to match. This grant is a huge boost for work on the Charles L. Whitney Education Center, especially as we prepare for the south entry terraced patio construction. We will report more on this project and interior finish progress in future newsletters.



Cedar Attack is a year-round battle, commandeered by Land Steward Jeff Gustafson.

FAQ: "What do you guys do in the winter time?"

Answer: We plant prairies, work in the greenhouse, kill cedars and other invasive trees on our own and others' properties, monitor and assess needs of all preserves, begin the prescribed burn season, continue educational events including guided hikes and Winter Explore - and prepare for the rest of the year's programs. Plus: year-end accounting and completion of an independent audit. No thumb twiddling going on!



A 1.5-inch rain in late November made for less than ideal planting conditions in December on this 82-acre Wetlands Reserve Easement (WRE) site north of Clarks in Merrick County. The ground was frozen underneath, but would thaw daily by noon, at which time both ATV and EZ Flow were unable to move. Just another day in the life of Prairie Plains Restoration Director Mike Bullerman!



He's got this. In spite of occasional setbacks (see photo & caption above), Mike has it together for the next planting on the slate.



Working with the seeds of over 220 species of native plants, the diversity of form and color - even smells - never fails to amaze us. Greenhouse seeds and plants are labeled with a four-letter code using the first two letters of the genus and species. So in this image, from left, we have *Psoralea tenuiflora* (PSTE), *Anemone cylindrica* (ANCY), *Dalea candida* (DACA), *Hieracium longipilum* (HILO) and *Liatri punctata* (LIPU).



A beautiful flowering tree in December?? Nope - it's the fruit of the vine, bittersweet - at Olson Nature Preserve.

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.

Prairie Plains Resource Institute is an educational land trust incorporated in 1980 as a non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt membership organization based in Aurora, Nebraska.

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Reminder:
Prairie Plains Resource Institute's 2019 Annual Meeting of Members
Saturday, January 19, 2019
Marquette Community Center
302 Marquis Avenue
Marquette, NE
1:00-3:00 p.m.
Refreshments served following the meeting.