

PRAIRIE PLAINS LINK



Mike Bullerman, Sarah Bailey and Jeff Gustafson kicked off the new planting season in December with this 180-acre Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) seeding northwest of Aurora. At least 500 acres more to go!



Mitzi Fox
(1934-2013)

Bequest: With deepest gratitude we announce that Prairie Plains has received a bequest of \$190,000 from the estate of Mitzi Fox of Albion, Nebraska. Mitzi was a long-time member, served on the board from 1997 to 2008, and was a champion of the Olson Nature Preserve (see tribute in the Summer, 2013 *Prairie Plains Link*). The Board of Directors has dedicated \$150,000 of the bequest toward the completion of the Charles L. Whitney Education Center.



The December 14 Winter Bird Hike brought to a close a great year of Bader Park tours. Next hike is February 22, 7:00 a.m. with a focus on winter birds and migrating waterfowl.

With interest and attendance growing, we are also now offering a new outdoor education program:

Winter Explore Days!

This program is a collaboration between Prairie Plains and Bader Park. It is geared toward families with elementary school-aged children, but anyone is welcome to attend. There are three events scheduled, all on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon:

January 11 at Bader Park - A hike through the forest and along the Platte River, searching for birds active in winter, and other animals and tracks (if there's snow!), ending at the Bader House for hot chocolate and making winter bird feeders.

February 1 at Griffith Prairie - Investigating how animals and plants survive harsh Nebraska winters, along with exploring the beautiful Platte River Bluffs - and if there's snow, there may be sledding! Bring cameras on this trek if possible because we'll also be learning how to capture great winter photos.

February 22 at Bader Park - Experience the beginning of the spring waterfowl migration, then learn about outdoor survival skills in winter. Families will have the chance to help each other build a winter survival shelter and a fire. Once that fire is going, we'll enjoy hot dogs and s'mores for lunch!

There will be a \$10.00 registration fee per family for each Saturday. For more information and to register, please contact Sarah Bailey at sarahppri@hamilton.net or Pat Carlson at baderpark@gpcom.net.



NEWSLETTER
December 2013

Approaching Events

Annual Meeting of Members
Saturday, January 18, 2014

Marquette
Community Center
Marquette, Nebraska
8:30 social, 9:00 meeting,
11:30 lunch, then outing to
Education Center

Prairie Plains Fundraiser
Saturday, January 25, 2014
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

UNL East Campus Union
Lincoln

All Nebraska Banquet
Live & silent auction
Prairie Plains House Band
Tickets \$40

Details about auction
items will be posted soon
at prairieplains.org

More info: 402-694-5535
contactppri@hamilton.net



**Charles L. Whitney
Education Center**



Goal: \$1.3 million

	\$357,500 to go			

December saw steady progress on interior framing at the Center - as well as funds raised.

THANK YOU - to everyone for all the year-end contributions!
Thanks also to Rob & Tammy Roberts / Mid Nebraska Land Developers for their in-kind contribution of earth work at the Center; and to Scott & Cale Jones for construction labor.

Mark your calendars with these 2014 Prairie Plains main events:

- January 18 - Annual Meeting of Members, 9:00 a.m., at Marquette Community Center (details on front page).
- January 25 - Prairie Plains Fundraiser, UNL East Campus Union, Lincoln, 5:00-9:00 (details on front page).
- June 7 - Griffith Prairie Fun Run, 9:00 a.m.
- June 14-15 - Sioux County Ranch Trek
- June 16-19 and 23-26 - Big Bend SOAR
- July 7-11 and July 14-18 - SOAR Aurora

Downy Gentian photo by Sarah Bailey - just one of many quality items to be auctioned at the Prairie Plains Fundraiser on January 25.



Brady
For over 13 years, this outdoor enthusiast explored all Prairie Plains properties; supervised prescribed burns, plantings and seed-collecting missions; escorted the Sands barn roof on its trip to Griffith Prairie and even led our traditional New Year's Day hikes. In fact, he came to us from the Sioux County Ranch, and made the annual pilgrimage there almost every June. He kept our director in good condition, leading his several-mile runs nearly every day. Brady crossed the finish line on December 26th, a longer run than most of his kind are allowed. We are grateful we had the good fortune to accompany him on his adventurous course, and will be missing him.



PRAIRIE PLAINS LINK
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Prairie Plains
RESOURCE INSTITUTE

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MISSION:
Maintaining and restoring Nebraska ecosystems -
Creating opportunities for education, research, stewardship and community development.

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Photography by Prairie Plains staff unless noted otherwise.

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