

PRAIRIE PLAINS LINK



Sarah Bailey

April 20th - Sunset, Guadalcanal Memorial Prairie (Sioux County Ranch). Sarah Bailey and Jeff Gustafson visited the ranch prior to attending the Nebraska Wildland Fire Academy's Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior class held at Fort Robinson State Park near Crawford.

Happy Birthday, Prairie Plains!

As of April 29th, we are 32 years old. THANK YOU, loyal members, for your generous support through all these years of saving and restoring prairie, getting kids outside to enjoy and learn about their native landscape - and "celebrating the land and its people." There is much left to do, and we're forging ahead with the "Ribbons of Prairie" vision of restoring the Great Plains. Please share this mission with others, and remember to refer to our website, prairieplains.org for all the details.



Sarah Bailey

Take a hike! It's a great time to get out and move, get some fresh air and take in the wildflower show going on in the prairies. At Griffith Prairie, the showy vetchling (*Lathyrus polymorphus*) has been spectacular!



Sarah Bailey



NEWSLETTER - April, 2012



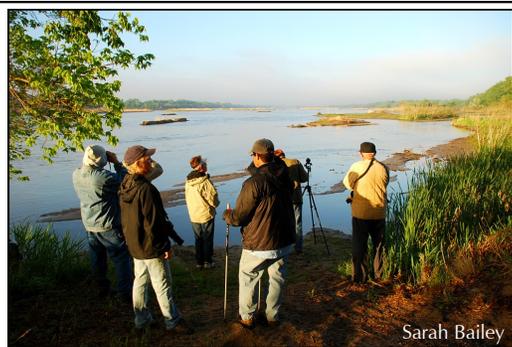
Mike Bullerman

Prairie Area for State Fairgrounds

One of our April plantings was a small site on the Nebraska state fairgrounds in Grand Island (seen above as bare ground in background). We donated the seed, seedlings and planting labor for this outdoor learning area (note sponsors on sign). Below, Jeff & Sarah with the 47 cone-tainers of seedlings; left, one of the seedlings (*Carex bicknellii*) showing healthy root development .



Mike Bullerman



Sarah Bailey



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Sarah Bailey

Earlybird Hikes at Bader Park have been excellent this spring. These scenes are from the April 28th outing. From left, clockwise, Eastern Bluebird (there are bluebird boxes maintained on the fence in the meadow); the Platte just west of the Chapman bridge; American Coot..



Robert K. Gerloff

Aug. 6, 1922 - Feb. 8, 2012

*A fond farewell to another
Prairie Plains Champion*

We recently received word of the passing of long-time Prairie Plains member and friend, Robert Gerloff, in Hamilton, Montana. He and his brother, Jerry, grew up on a farm near Aurora, Nebraska and were key - as directors of the Albert and Julie Eriksen Fund of the Hamilton Community Foundation - to our early work in Bader Park. Julie (Gjerloff) Eriksen was their aunt; the Fund supported the establishment of the Bader Park Natural Area and later, the management and interpretive programs carried out by Prairie Plains.

Robert Gerloff (originally Gjerloff) was an accomplished research microbiologist for the Rocky Mountain Institute (part of the National Institute of Health) in Hamilton, Montana, where he also spent his retirement years.

To learn more about the Gjerloff Family, see "A Personal History of Griffith Prairie & Farm" in the 2008 June/July *Link* supplement, at prairieplains.org under publications.



Jan Whitney

Prescribed burns continued through April at Griffith & Ratzlaff Prairies, Bader Park and Lincoln Creek. Here, Bill Whitney tends the burn on a strip of prairie on the Lincoln Creek oxbow at the eastern edge of Aurora. This is the site he planted in 1979, his first experiment in prairie restoration. The burn was long overdue, and we look forward to following the response - especially the butterfly milkweed!

Out & About: Sarah Bailey presented the program at the annual UNL Wildlife Club Banquet on April 14th in Lincoln - "A Restorative Vision for The Great Plains."

THANKS to Kent Pfeiffer, Todd Reichardt and Cale & Cameron Jones for assistance with prescribed burning.



Amy Jones

**4-20-06: Cale Jones
Post-burn, Lincoln Creek Prairie**



Amy Jones

**4-20-12: Cale Jones
Post-burn, Lincoln Creek Prairie**

The apprentice has lost none of his passion for the work of Prairie Plains in these six years. Also note how much later in the season it appears to be in this year's image!

EVENTS

Friday-Saturday, May 18-19
Lauritzen Gardens "Spring into Spring" Festival & Plant Sale (we'll be there!) - Details at lauritzengardens.org
Saturday, June 9th: Sioux County ranch tour & prime rib cookout (Call 402-694-5535 for details).

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

Link Editor & Layout
Jan Whitney

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Fun Run/Walk June 2nd



Griffith Prairie

Details & registration form at www.prairieplains.org