



Platte River & bittersweet along Griffith Prairie north border.

It's already time for the Year in Review! Here's a summary of 2013:

Education: It was an outstanding year for all annual educational programs and events, including SOAR, ONP Summer Enrichment camps, Bader Park walking tours, area school group outings, Griffith Prairie Fun Run, and Guadalcanal Memorial Prairie Ranch Weekend. The Youth Naturalist Program, for students in grades 7-12, made its debut in June, and will continue to offer older students the opportunity to learn about and work in Platte corridor ecosystems in years to come. There was also significant progress made on the Education Center, documented in *Prairie Plains Link* and at prairieplains.org.

Prairie & Wetland Restoration: This year's plantings (November 2012-May 2013) of local ecotype, high diversity seed mixes added 900 acres to the prairie/wetland restoration program, including 24 additional sites. Since the first Prairie Plains planting in 1979, we have planted 9,400 acres, including 177 sites in 48 counties. We will surpass 10,000 acres by May 2014.

The Fall 2013 combine harvest was significantly improved by the addition of another grain cart, a combine trailer, and additional drying equipment (seed must be dried before being mixed and stored). Modifications to the grain carts and drying equipment (tubes & fans) made it possible to dry seed in the carts, vastly improving processing efficiency. In the past, seed was handled multiple times – from combine to hand-made boxes on trailers, to



Amazing seed diversity - working with over 70 species in the greenhouse now.

unloading by hand onto tarps outside and in the seed barn. These piles of seeds required frequent turning, and we had to be on guard about the weather for the outside piles. Having the drying system in the grain carts means the seed can be unloaded once, into the seed barn, after the seed is already (mostly) dry.

Over 70 different species of native prairie and wetland plant seedlings were grown in the greenhouse. There were 2,700+ of these transplanted to nine different sites: Koziol WMA near St. Paul (a pilot Pollinator Habitat Program through Pheasants and Quail Forever, involving St. Paul third grade students as planters); Fremont Middle School outdoor classroom; the Aurora Public Prairie Learning Environment (APPLE), planted by AHS range management students; Edgerton Explorit Center's prairie garden; The Leadership Center in Aurora; Indian Cave State Park; a private landowner site; a Platte River WRP project near Griffith Prairie and the new Griffith property restoration, which kicked off the first annual volunteer day for transplanting seedlings.



NEWSLETTER
November, 2013



The Youth Naturalist Program made its debut in 2013, offering SOAR camper alumni and other older students the opportunity to learn about local native ecosystems.

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The “Ribbons of Prairie” long-term vision for restoring native prairie and wetlands along stream corridors continued to develop. Its concepts were promoted in the Lone Tree Corridor Working Group, which is focused on the future of the Platte corridor between Grand Island and Clarks. Director Bill Whitney presented “Ribbons” key concepts at a “Conservation Jam” hosted by the Center for Great Plains Studies and The Nature Conservancy in Lincoln in February, and at the World Conference on Ecological Restoration, sponsored by the Society for Ecological Restoration, held in Madison, Wisconsin in October.

Other: One more notable event of 2013 was the move of our headquarters back around the corner into its original space at 1307 L Street, a place we've owned since 1997. No regrets!

January Events

New Year's Day Hike
Griffith Prairie
Wednesday, January 1, 2014
1:00 p.m.

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

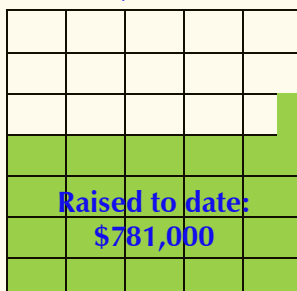
Prairie Plains House Band
Tickets \$40

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

Charles L. Whitney Education Center Fund-raising Progress



Goal: \$1.3 million



We're almost two-thirds of the way to our (revised) goal of \$1.3 million! Thanks to our loyal members, friends, corporations and foundations, we're getting there. Here's how:

Amount raised as of 11/30/13:

PPRI Members	\$370,300
Heuermann Foundation	30,000
Hamilton Community Foundation	
Barn Move	10,500
Windows	15,000
Proctor & Gamble	5,000
Peter Kiewit Foundation Challenge	50,000
Anonymous Foundation	5,000
Farr Foundation	25,000
Mather Foundation	10,000
In-kind donations	10,500
Unrestricted donations and surplus restoration revenue committed in 2013	<u>250,000</u>
Total raised	\$781,000

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MISSION:

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

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Please note the enclosed year-end contribution opportunity - and thanks in advance!