

PRAIRIE PLAINS LINK



Sarah Bailey

Overlooking the Platte from the dry loess bluffs of Griffith Prairie. Note the May *Link's* top shot for comparison.



Amy Jones

October 4th: Amy Jones, Bill Whitney and Bill & Shirley Snyder reflecting on the work they accomplished on the east side of the Center.

Center of Attention

That's what the Education Center (Barn) has been in the past several weeks. Bill Whitney and Amy Jones, along with volunteers Bill and Shirley Snyder, have nearly completed siding the exterior, using recycled barn siding acquired from Marty Hesting in Esbon, Kansas.

Next up is finishing the screened-in porch on the



NEWSLETTER
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Amy Jones

northeast corner, followed by the completion of at least one working bathroom over the winter. The interior wall framing will continue as well. All this progress brings us one step closer to opening the Center up for events - and we have a long list of possibilities there!

**The Charles L. Whitney Education Center in progress:
Showing off the recycled barn siding on the south entrance side (left) and north (right).**



WSWhitney



WSWhitney



Sarah Bailey



Sarah Bailey



Sarah Bailey

We had to bend the rules a bit to harvest grass seed at Lincoln Creek Prairie - but with the drought's effects on yields, we had to get what we could, wherever we could! We also hand-harvested a good number of forbs at Lincoln Creek - in both the native prairie and restoration sites. At right, Jeff's daughter, Lucy (with Laura Rubeck), assisted with the goldenrod harvest.

2012 HARVEST: This year's experience epitomized the necessity of having many seed sources scattered across a broad geographic area - AND in having working partnerships with other conservation organizations. In the midst of the most severely drought-stricken region of the state, there was a small area in Clay and Fillmore counties that actually had "average" rainfall. That area included Ducks Unlimited's Verona Complex and the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission's Redhead WMA - sites/groups that we have been in partnership with in prairie and wetland restoration work. Verona and Redhead yielded the bulk of our grass seed and wetland species this year; we harvested a total of 55 acres yielding about 600 acres worth of seed. (We also ran the combine through Lincoln Creek Prairie - note photos above - and the 15-acre restoration planted at Griffith in 2009, yielding mostly Canada wildrye). Once again, we express our thanks to DU and Game & Parks, and acknowledge our pretty amazing luck!



Coming soon to NET: Follow acclaimed Nebraska photographer Michael Forsberg as he examines what wildness remains in the 11 states that comprise the Great Plains, exploring the places and creatures that remain after 150 years of settlement. "Great Plains: America's Lingering Wild," airing Sunday, Nov. 25, at 8:30 p.m. CT, repeating Wednesday, Nov. 28 at 7 p.m. CT on NET1 and NET-HD, is based on Forsberg's book of the same name. The film, funded in part by the Nebraska Humanities Council, the Nebraska Environmental Trust, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment and the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, is a co-production of NET Television and Michael Forsberg Photography.

Winter Bird Hike
Bader Park
Saturday, Dec. 15th, 9:00 a.m.
Social following in Bader House

Enjoying a fall morning on the Platte at Bader Park, October 13th.

Sarah Bailey

Out & About:
 Jeff Gustafson and Sarah Bailey from Prairie Plains attended the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission's Nebraska Natural Legacy Conference on October 24-25 in North Platte. The seminar addressed current research and habitat management techniques and gave participants the opportunity to discuss conservation practices with others in their field.

THANK YOU to Bill & Shirley Snyder, Cale Jones and Ernie Ochsner for work on the Education Center, and to Harry Eckerson for lending us scaffolding.

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

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