

## PRAIRIE PLAINS LINK



Winter Explore Day hikers at Gjerloff Prairie on March 12 enjoyed a brisk hike along the Platte River bluffs with Greenhouse Manager/Naturalist Educator Sarah Bailey. Photo by Hannah Clark.

## GO BIG GIVE

MAY 5 • 24 HOURS TO CLICK & GIVE

It's that time again! Last year we maximized our fundraising efforts by asking folks to donate to the mission of Prairie Plains in the spring. We had great

success, thanks to your generosity, so we're doing it again. **GO BIG GIVE** is a fundraising campaign presented by the Heartland United Way and the Grand Island Community Foundation. Visit [gobiggive.org](http://gobiggive.org) on or before May 5, search Prairie Plains and donate. **MAIL IN A CHECK** - If you're more comfortable using the enclosed envelope, that works too. **THANK YOU!** The great thing about donating to a small organization is that every donation makes a big impact!



NEWSLETTER  
March/April 2022



### SATURDAYS at GJERLOFF PRAIRIE MAY 7 - JUNE 11, 2022

MAY 7 Spring Wildflower Hike with Sarah Bailey  
MAY 14 Trail History Hike with Bill Bolte  
MAY 21 Nature Photography with Gerry Steinauer

MAY 28 Platte River Ecology Hike with Bill Whitney  
JUNE 4 Prairie Plains Fun Run & Walk  
JUNE 11 Prairie Insect Investigation with Sarah Bailey

Hikes and events start at 9:00am  
Meet at the Education Center at Gjerloff Prairie

2206 North M Rd  
Marquette, NE 68854

See event details for each Saturday  
on the Prairie Plains Facebook page



CHARLES L. WHITNEY  
EDUCATION CENTER

Join us on Saturday mornings in May and June for guided hikes at Gjerloff Prairie followed by refreshments at the Charles L. Whitney Education Center. All ages are welcome, no registration necessary and hikes are free of charge. The Fun Run/Walk on June 4 is \$25 per participant and includes a t-shirt. It's also a Nebraska Wildflower Week event - native prairie plants will be marked along the trail. Register for the Fun Run/Walk online at [www.prairieplains.org/events](http://www.prairieplains.org/events). Email [hello@prairieplains.org](mailto:hello@prairieplains.org) with questions and find details on our Facebook page.



## Let's Get Kids Outside!

Connecting kids with nature is the highlight of our year. It provides a fresh perspective of the importance of having wild places to explore and reminds us that the best way to appreciate something is to jump right in with an open, curious mind.

**Summer Orientation About Rivers (SOAR)** serves 3rd through 6th graders with a blend of hands-on experiences and academic-based instruction. It's certainly our cornerstone program and sets the standard for all of our educational offerings.

**The Youth Naturalist Program (YNP)** is for 6th through 8th graders and is a SOAR-like experience for an older, smaller group. Participants get to dive deeper into the topics of each session and the final day of YNP is spent kayaking - a new experience for many of our attendees.

**Young Nebraska Ecologists (YNE)** is for 9th through 12th graders. In this unique program, students study prairie and Platte River ecology and travel to experience and study other ecosystems in Nebraska. Students interact with professionals with careers in ecological science, natural resources, conservation and science communication and learn outdoor recreation skills such as backpacking.

Prairie Plains is dedicated to creating quality, meaningful educational programs. We strive to connect students to the Nebraska landscape in a way that impacts their thinking about their role in the future of the area. Register your camper today at [prairieplains.org/education](http://prairieplains.org/education). If you don't have a camper to register for one of these programs, please consider a donation to support them. (Donate at [prairieplains.org/get-involved](http://prairieplains.org/get-involved) or use the enclosed envelope.) Together we can continue to foster a love of the prairie and the Platte River and an appreciation for being outside.

PRAIRIE PLAINS LINK  
is a publication of



Connecting people and prairies since 1980.

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Contact:

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1307 L St. Aurora NE 68818

April 6, 2022

## Reconnecting People and Prairie



In March we had the pleasure of meeting Thomas Christopher, horticulturalist and host of "Growing Greener," a weekly radio show and podcast offering "a different perspective on how to make your personal landscape healthier, more beautiful, more sustainable, and more fun." Tom visited Gjerloff Prairie and the Charles L. Whitney Education Center with Education Center architect Lee Schriever after a trip to the Platte River to view the Sandhill Crane migration. We enjoyed a great tour of the building and a fun conversation, and Tom was kind enough to schedule an interview for his podcast series to discuss the work of Prairie Plains Resource Institute. **Go to [prairieplains.org](http://prairieplains.org) and click the big gold button to listen to the 30-minute recording.** And feel free to share with anyone you think would be interested in learning more about Prairie Plains!

**A big THANK YOU to our crew of volunteers who worked Saturdays in April to clean up Lincoln Creek Prairie and Trail in Aurora! Led by Prairie Plains founder Bill Whitney, the group cleaned up weed trees, shrubs and fallen branches that were encroaching on the existing prairie and mowed areas.**

