



Mike Bullerman witnessed this thermal inversion on the horizon behind the Charles L. Whitney Education Center in late November. The optical phenomenon occurs when rays of light are bent as they pass through air layers of different temperatures. On this calm morning, a layer of warmer air came to rest over colder dense air, creating a refracting lens that produced a mirage - the horizon line normally falls well below the peek of the barn roof (top right photo). The inversion resulted in a horizon line appearing above the top of the building (top left photo).



You are invited to the
2021 Prairie Plains Annual Meeting of Members
Saturday, January 16, 2021
10 - 11 a.m.

This year's meeting will be conducted via ZOOM.
To participate, please go to www.prairieplains.org/meeting.

We recommend signing in around 9:50 a.m.
A brief business meeting will be followed by
a video walkthrough of the Charles L. Whitney Education Center.



Join the Prairie Acre Club Today!
The Prairie Acre Club is a membership option that allows you to choose a parcel of Gjerloff Prairie to call your own. Bill and Shirley Snyder visited their acre recently and shared why they joined the club:

“The Prairie Acre Club is a fun way for us to appreciate and support all the great work of Prairie Plains. We’re big fans of SOAR, and are grateful that Gjerloff Prairie exists for the kids, the community and for the future!

Our acre overlooks the Platte River and we look forward to visiting it throughout the year to see how it changes with the seasons. We encourage you to go online and select your acre today - we’d love to have you as our neighbor!”

Claim your acre at www.prairieplains.org/join.



Prairie restoration is quite a process. And a part of that process is processing seed. Almost every seed we hand collect from May through November must go through the hammer mill to break up pods, stems and leaves, allowing the seeds to break free. Top left: Canada milkvetch (*Astragalus canadensis*) stems prior to processing. Top middle: Mike and Jared work together to feed the seed through the mill. Top right: Processed milkvetch suitable for planting.



In 2017 Traver DeMaranville allowed us to use his hay rack for a SOAR tour of Sherman Ranch (photo left). The activity was a huge success, and Traver told us we could store the hay rack at Gjerloff for future use. The undercarriage of the rack was in perfect condition, but we knew the wooden structure needed some repairs before being used again.



Fast forward to fall 2020, when the Aurora High School Construction Technology class, taught by Scott Jones, offered to rebuild the structure. With Traver's permission, we jumped on the opportunity, and the result is pictured here. The rebuilt wagon includes a built-in bench all the way around and

gates on both long sides for easy access. Now we can't wait to give prairie tours to people of all ages when the weather warms and conditions are safe! Pictured left to right: Quinten Smith, Kyle Sullivan, Landon Geiler and Chris Bassett.

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO MADE A YEAR-END DONATION TO PRAIRIE PLAINS -

We couldn't do this important work without you!

Best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season!

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Grasslands are disappearing. At Prairie Plains we restore and protect grasslands and invite you to visit the prairie and help us care for these wild places.

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Learn more and become a member:

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