

PRAIRIE PLAINS LINK



A Season of Wonder - The prairie has been especially breathtaking this fall, with incredible color and an abundance of wildlife. Hikes at Gjerloff Prairie to observe the monarch migration (below left and center) and at Bader Park to enjoy the sunset (below right) provided people of all ages an opportunity to take in mild temperatures and beautiful scenery.



**NEWSLETTER
September/October 2022**



Wayne State College Students Connect With Pokorny Prairie

Prairie Plains board member and Wayne State College biology professor Mark Hammer introduced members of his Great Plains Flora class to the Frank L. and Lillian Pokorny Memorial Prairie near Schuyler, Nebraska, in early September. While there the group was introduced to the methodology of conducting a plant inventory and set pit-fall traps as a way to investigate invertebrate populations on the property. (Photos left and center below, courtesy of Mark Hammer.) Then in early October, Mark returned to Pokorny with a student to help Sarah Bailey install native prairie seedlings to enhance plant diversity in the restored prairie on the property. (Photo bottom right.) The south 20 acres of the preserve is native prairie while the north 20 acres is restored cropland planted with our high-diversity local-ecotype seed mix in the spring of 2003.

Learn more about Pokorny Prairie at prairieplains.org/preserves/pokorny-memorial-prairie.html.



Small Plants, Big Benefits

Over 2,600 native prairie seedlings grown in the Prairie Plains greenhouse were installed into existing restorations this fall. Clockwise from right: Dedicated volunteers (and parents of Sarah) Barb and Britt Bailey plant seedlings in a 2013 restoration at Gjerloff Prairie; Lincoln Parks and Rec staff joined Sarah Bailey and Amy Jones to install 1,000 seedlings at Honvlez Prairie near Denton, Nebraska; 1,000 Missouri violet (*Viola missouriensis*) seedlings were planted in a Platte River meadow near Kearney, Nebraska, for the Platte River Recovery and Implementation Program (PRRIP); Greenhouse manager Sarah Bailey prepares to install seedlings at Sherman Ranch.



Bringing in the seed - Our prairie restoration crew has been out and about collecting local ecotype seed to be planted this winter on the ground and in the greenhouse. Clockwise from right: Grass and forb seed pours into the hopper of the Gleaner combine; Hand collected seed piles quickly fill the barn floor. The piles will all be processed through a hammermill before being mixed for planting; The crew uses 5 gallon buckets hooked to caribiners on their belts when hand collecting seed - in this case, Sullivant's Milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*); A bundle of Prairie sandreed (*Calamovilfa longifolia*).



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