

PRAIRIE PLAINS LINK



The annual New Year's Day hike brought out thirty cold-defying humans and four dogs. We strolled on the trail through prairie bluffs and the lowlands along the river, the photographers in the group going off-trail now and then to capture the wintry landscape from various angles. Afterwards, we gathered in the Education Center for coffee and hot chocolate - and a bonus of the Jasnowskis' own incredible dried peaches and pears. It was a splendid time!



NEWSLETTER
January, 2019

Education Center Progress: Staff members plus volunteer Larry Molczyk (pictured) have been working steadily on the building's interior, priming drywall in the upper level, and



Thanks, Larry!

applying a finish on support columns below - as well as completing door and window trim and installing wainscot. Last winter Joel Hansen contributed a trailer full of 100-year-old recycled lumber carefully dismantled from outbuildings on his farmstead north of Wayne, NE. Our wainscot, which will panel the bottom of the walls, is being created from this lumber, plus wide recycled barn siding and wood from the original Sands barn haymow. These latter boards are being milled for top rails and baseboards. Oiling these milled pieces is bringing out the beautiful character of the wood.

It's not too late for resolutions.

So we'd like to suggest one for 2019: Resolve to visit at least a few of the eight Prairie Plains land preserves by participating in our planned events, or by exploring on your own. Detailed descriptions of all of them, including GPS coordinates, can be found at www.prairieplains.org/preserves. Please call with any questions you may have before you visit: 402-694-5535. An exception to independent exploration is the Guadalcanal Memorial Prairie (a.k.a. Sioux County Ranch). The time to see that preserve is at the Sioux County Ranch Trek, held annually the second Saturday in June.

Every year there are more outdoor education/recreation opportunities in the Lone Tree Corridor of the Platte, which includes two Prairie Plains properties - Sherman Ranch and Gjerloff Prairie - as well as Bader Park and the Dark Island Trail. Watch our website and social media (and this newsletter) to stay informed of all the offerings!

Gerald and Margaret, the sole survivors of Howard Juhl's bison herd at Pearl Harbor Survivors Preserve in Buffalo County, were spotted by Terry and Susan Wilner while cutting cedar trees there. Thanks to the Wilners for sharing the photo, and for their ongoing stewardship of the PHS Preserve.



APPROACHING EVENTS

Saturday, February 2, 10:00 - 12:00 - Winter Explore Day at Bader Park:

We welcome families with kids of all ages to join us for this free event. We'll be hiking the trails along the Platte River with a focus on birds, signs of animal life and how animals survive the winter. Kids will also have a chance to help build a winter survival shelter out of found, natural materials. Topping things off - hot dogs and s'mores around a campfire for lunch!

Saturday, February 23, 7:00 a.m. - Bader Park Tour/Hike: Opening the 2019 Bader Park tour program with a focus on migratory waterfowl.



Restoration Director Mike Bullerman has been occupied this month getting seed orders out the door - 355 acres' worth to ten different projects (private, non-profit, state & federal), including one new contact and six long-time cooperators. Prairie Plains has an agreement with the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission (NGPC) whereby NGPC is entitled to 25% of the seed we harvest on public land. That included 1,360 gallons of grass seed we harvested from Deep Well Wildlife Management Area (WMA) from a 2000 Prairie Plains planting.

The photos: Gerry Steinauer (NGPC Heritage Program Botanist), Kent Pfeiffer (Northern Prairies Land Trust) and Chance Brueggemann (NGPC, Indian Cave State Park) processed seed at our shop on January 16. The seed was harvested during summer and fall 2018 to be used to enhance bluff prairies at Indian Cave State Park. Next, Jeff Gustafson loading bags of seed mix destined for three different WMAs. Thanks to The Grain Place for donating the bags!

AWARD: The Nebraska Land Improvement Contractors Association's first annual Stewardship Award was presented to Prairie Plains Resource Institute at NLICA's 60th Convention, held January 16 in Kearney. Receiving the award on behalf of the Institute were founders Bill and Jan Whitney. Prairie Plains was chosen "for creating a positive environmental impact through the conservation of soil and water." THANK YOU, NLICA!

PRAIRIE PLAINS LINK
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Preserving, restoring and maintaining Nebraska native prairies -
Creating opportunities for education, research, stewardship and place-based community development.

Prairie Plains Resource Institute is an educational land trust incorporated in 1980 as a non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt membership organization based in Aurora, Nebraska.

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Contact:
402-694-5535
ppri@hamilton.net
1307 L St. Aurora NE 68818

