

THANK YOU'S

Annual Meeting:

- Espressions for providing coffee (always a valued perk at our events!);
- Chris Helzer for the informative and beautiful slide presentation;
- Outstanding Service Award recipients Colleen Babcock and Cliff Dill.

Fundraiser Banquet:

- Gerry Steinauer and Randy Ruppert for all their work in organizing the event;
- The UNL East Campus Union staff for excellent service;
- Dick Turpin for an outstanding job keeping the crowd entertained and bidding;
- Scott, Cale and Cameron Jones for numerous tasks, as always;
- Bill Clemente for photography service;
- The auction donors:

- Luke & Lori Jacobsen at Range West Grass-Fed Beef (rangewestbeef.com)
- Grain Place Foods (grainplacefoods.com)
- Four Winds Natural Healing Center (fourwindshc.com)
- Randy Ruppert and Railworks Tracks Systems (railworks.com)
- Jim Richardson (jimrichardsonphotography.com)
- Cliff & Jeanne Dill / D & D Images (danddimages.com)
- Gerhard Assenmacher (photosbygerhard.com)
- Joel Sartore (joelsartore.com)
- Ernest Ochsner (ernestochsner.com)
- Chéz Fayne / Creative Cuisine Catering (chezfayne.com)
- The Nature Conservancy (nature.org)
- Pheasants Forever (pheasantsforever.org)
- Kelly Kindscher (See kbs.ku.edu/people/staff)
- Jane Marie
- Gerry Steinauer
- Bill Lock

- Everyone who attended.

AND

- Steve Rothenberger and Mike Stewart for all their years of service on the board;
- Steve Winter, Bill Snyder and Bill Saeger for their willingness to serve as new members on the board;
- Steve Winter for seeds, seed processing help, and photos.

Cameron and Cale Jones showing off our new "Prairies Made by Hand" shirts featuring the Prairie Plains logo on the front and the big colorful "fruit crate art" design on the back. Available in navy blue - worn by Cameron on the left; prairie dust - on left hanger; metro blue (short-sleeved only) - on right hanger; and royal blue (long-sleeved only) - worn by Cale on the right. Sizes S, M, L, & XL. Long-sleeved: \$ 20.00 tax included Short-sleeved \$ 15.00 tax included (Please add \$2 shipping/handling) Order by calling 402-694-5535 or email amy at amyppri@hamilton.net



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Celebrating 30 Years!

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

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

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 Photos by Prairie Plains staff members unless noted otherwise.

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EARLYBIRD HIKES AT BADER PARK - 7:00 a.m.
 Saturday, Feb. 27
 Saturday, March 6



The traditional New Year's Day hike at Griffith Prairie became the first New Year's Day sledding party. Sixteen hikers/sledders endured the cold to ride the slopes or just enjoy the scenery. Above, a toboggan almost disappears in a cloud of snow; below, Adele Phillips rejoices at setting the record distance sled run.



newsletter of



January, 2010

The images to the left and below-right pretty much sum up the first month of our 30th year - exuberant



celebration in the midst of some cold and slippery slopes! The sledding party kicked off the year on a high note, the annual meeting on the 16th was upbeat and optimistic, and the highly anticipated first Prairie Plains fundraiser banquet and auction on the 23rd was successful beyond expectation, with 150 people in attendance raising \$7,000. Thank you, everyone, for your participation! Look inside for details.

Meanwhile, back at the farm . . . Behind the scenes of all the celebrating and big events, many hours have been devoted to preparing seeds and seed mixes for this year's plantings. Left, then down across: Steve Winter at the hammermill processing a batch of eastern Nebraska seed he collected, donated and delivered (all hand-collected seed material is broken up in the hammermill for ease of mixing and planting); seed is poured onto the floor to be mixed; Mike Bullerman working on seed mixes in barrels ready for planting; a wet-mesic high diversity seed collection; and a fraction of the sedges yet to be processed. There is plenty of room on our 2010 restoration slate for more plantings . . . so spread the word!



Presentation of Charles L. Whitney Outstanding Service Awards, left to right: Jan Whitney, Mitzi Fox (2009 award recipient), 2010 award recipients Colleen Babcock and Cliff Dill, Bill Whitney.

involved from the beginning with the Education Center - from the time when it was only a grand idea - and Cliff has considerable sweat equity in the building.

As zoology professor at Nebraska Wesleyan University in the 1970s, Cliff Dill encouraged his students Bill Whitney and Jan Hubbell to pursue their interest in natural science. Bill attended the University of Minnesota's Itasca biology station, having heard of it from Cliff - an experience which planted the earliest seeds of SOAR. Years later, Cliff jumped in with enthusiasm as a presenter for SOAR's first year and several summers following.

Another substantial contribution Cliff has made is the development (and periodic maintenance) of the membership database used in the office. He and his wife, Jeanne, have also provided many photos for the Institute archives, and have shared their photography talent at our meetings and at SOAR. Cliff served on the board for nine years, from 2001-2009, and was president in 2006-2007.

Colleen has participated faithfully in numerous volunteer work days, with a special affinity for planting. She wrote about one of her favorite prairie planting experiences for the 2001-02 *Prairie Plains Journal*, which can be found under publications at prairieplains.org. She is a regular on the Ranch Trek, Griffith Prairie hikes, Bader Park birding hikes - and is a goodwill ambassador for Prairie Plains wherever she goes. She served on the board for 16 years - from 1993 to 2008 - including service as secretary, vice president and president - and as emcee for many annual meetings.

It was with pleasure and gratitude that the Outstanding Service Award was presented by Bill and Jan Whitney, together with 2009 recipient Mitzi Fox, to Colleen Babcock and Cliff Dill.

Left to right: Two more who have given generously of their time, talent and resources - retiring board members Steve Rothenberger (12 years on board), and Mike Stewart (9 years); new board members Bill Snyder and Steve Winter visiting with past board member/president David Meyer; new board member Bill Saeger about to enjoy the delicious fare served up by Chéz Fayne.



2010 Annual Meeting of Members

Surprisingly pleasant weather on January 16th allowed for an excellent turnout for the annual meeting. We welcomed three new members to the board: Steve Winter (Lincoln), Bill Saeger (Fremont) and Bill Snyder (Auburn); applauded a solid financial report; debuted our new "Prairies Made by Hand" design for T-shirts and other items (see back page); reflected back on 2009 events in pictures; and as always, enjoyed a wonderful meal together. Two highlights of the meeting were Chris Helzer's slide program showcasing the biodiversity of two Prairie Plains preserves - Lincoln Creek Prairie and Griffith Prairie; and the presentation of Charles L. Whitney Outstanding Service to PPRI Awards to Colleen Babcock and Cliff Dill.

Both award recipients have a lengthy record of service to the Institute. They have also been



Prairie Plains Fundraiser Banquet & 30th Anniversary Celebration Kickoff January 23, 2010 University of Nebraska East Campus Union

Top left and clockwise: Gerry Steinauer, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission botanist and longstanding Prairie Plains member, was chief organizer of the event; Prairie Plains apprentice Cale Jones assisted with auction items; entertainer-auctioneer Dick Turpin kept the crowd bidding (and in stitches); event participants enjoyed looking over auction items and informative exhibits (two photos); buffet lineup for the delicious Nebraska dinner that featured bison and local produce prepared by the East Campus Union staff; a cross section of the crowd enjoying the evening; the talented young Myles Jasnowski provided just the right soulful sound background; and National Geographic Photographer Jim Richardson topped off the evening with his breathtaking images of the natural world.

