



Monthly newsletter of



November, 2007

Cause for Celebration

The scene above could be likened to the traditional fall cornucopia - in this case, our Thanksgiving "Curvette of plenty." These seeds carry the potential of transforming 600 Nebraska acres into beautiful, high diversity prairie restorations - providing wildlife habitat, building soil, conserving and purifying water, and preserving local native plant species. The challenge now is to process the individual piles of hand-harvested seed through a hammermill to break apart the seedheads, then make the seed mixes of forbs and combined grasses. We are still seeking more acres on which to plant our high diversity seed mixes.

Progress and 2008 Planned Activity at the Center

Rough-in plumbing was recently installed in the kitchen, restroom and mechanical room areas of the Charles L. Whitney Education Center in progress. This was followed by a layer of foamboard insulation and radiant floor heat tubing, all in final preparation for a concrete pour. Next stages in the Center progress: 1) Meet our phase one fundraising goal of \$125,000, and in so doing meet the Kiewit \$50,000 challenge grant requirement. We have raised \$26,600 toward this goal already. 2) Place pre-stressed concrete panels over the restrooms to create an emergency storm shelter. 3) Install the floor joists and subflooring between the two levels. 4) Frame and enclose the south end of the barn and finish enclosing the entire lower level. 5) Complete the septic tank and drain field installation, electrical and drywall components in the lower level. 6) Complete the kitchen and restroom, installing fixtures and appliances. In addition, when weather allows improve the Prairie Plains entry road through the farmstead and to the Center, and do the final building grade work.



Griffith Prairie is *Awesome* - Mowed Trails Make it Fun

Mike Bullerman has mowed a series of trails at Griffith Prairie that make it even more inviting to explore the scenic Platte River bluffs land. View a map of the entire property and trail system on our website at prairieplains.org. Click on "trail map" on the home page under "Take a hike." During the winter the best places to enter the property for a stroll are the two gates along the west road, the south gate located right at the bottom of the big hill and the green steel gate at the north end. For now able visitors will have to climb over the green gate, but can easily open the south wire gate in case it is closed.

Approaching Events

Please join us for the 27th Annual Winter Bird Hike at Bader Park on December 15, 9:00 a.m. Refreshments following on site at the park



SAVE THIS DATE: Annual Meeting of Members Saturday, January 12 in Marquette.

GIFT IDEAS

MAPS - for hunters, fishermen, farmers and other landowners - anyone interested in a bird's-eye view of the land. We can download recent aerial photography and combine it with existing map information (including your GPS data) and add text and symbols to create a custom map of a favorite hunting spot, fishing hole or vacation destination. See a sample map on our website prairieplains.org; on the home page click on "trail map" under "Take a hike." Give us a call at 402-694-5535 or email Mike at prc_ppri@hamilton.net for more information.

CALENDARS - Already offered as a premium for end-of-year contributions, the 2008 Prairie Plains calendar is now also available for purchase. The calendar features photos of our events and properties, and notes key Prairie Plains events throughout the year.



MEMBERSHIPS - Introduce a friend to Prairie Plains with a gift membership. A \$75 membership gift will include the new 2008 calendar.

Prairie Plains Link is a publication of



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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.

Learn more and **BECOME A MEMBER** at www.prairieplains.org

THANK YOU
to Gerhard Assenmacher for donating a Canon digital camera - and to all members who have sent in year-end contributions and gift memberships.

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