

Prairie plains Link



Johnathon Matlock

May 30th was a beautiful wedding day for Mitch and Sarah (Meyer) Lyon - at least by the time the ceremony took place at 5:00 p.m.! It was the first wedding held at Griffith Prairie, on the hilltop just north of the Education Center. Our best wishes to the newlywed Prairie Plains members!

monthly newsletter
of



May, 2010



Known as "The Man" by his co-workers because of his uncanny ability to do the work of several men and do it well, Mike Bullerman has now been with Prairie Plains for TEN YEARS! He heads up our restoration program so is responsible for securing restoration contracts as well as seed harvesting, processing, sorting and planting. Add to that all land stewardship activities such as burning and fencing . . . and all of it involving lots of equipment to maintain. Mike's also the GIS specialist and the one-man custom mapping service department of Prairie Plains. Kudos to you, Mike - You're The Man!



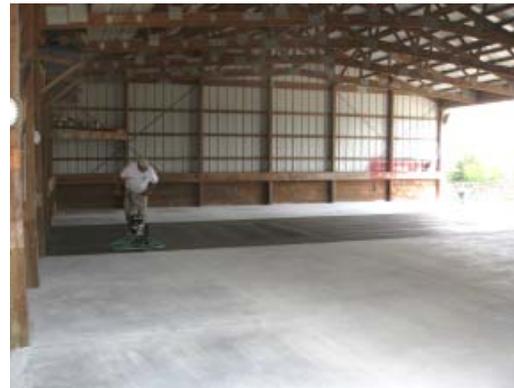
Adele Phillips

Above, right: Adele Phillips, Prairie Plains intern as of April, has had her hands very full assisting with fence building at Griffith Prairie throughout May. (More about Adele in the June-July Link.) In the background, middle school students from Harvard, Nebraska enjoying their first visit to the prairie on May 13th. They now plan to make it an annual event.

Left: Adele and the rest of the staff have been harvesting a bumper crop of Prairie Violet (*Viola pedatifida*) seed capsules - along with an abundance of sedges - for future prairie and wetland restorations.



The Bader Park Earlybird hikes on May 1 & 8 were well attended. Left to right: The youngest participants, Carver Hauptman (at the scope) and Miles Rerucha checking out the bluebirds on the fence along the wet meadow. Miles was excited about adding a Western Meadowlark to his life list that morning. In addition to avian life, we enjoyed the new glossy leaves and tendrils of wild grape along the woodland trail, and Yellow Star-grass in the meadow. At the end of the May 8 walk we were entertained by a Western Kingbird atop a utility pole attempting to gulp down a huge dragonfly. He succeeded after a several-minute struggle. No telephoto lenses were on board, unfortunately!



Thanks to support from the Hamilton Community Foundation, we were able to make a huge improvement in the blue Morton building at Griffith Farm where much of our seed processing takes place. On the left, the "before" shot showing the uneven dirt floor and corral fence that had to be torn out; on the right, the "after" - Jim Willis from Willis General Contracting finishing the surface of the last section of new concrete floor.

The next *Prairie Plains Link* will be the combined June-July summer issue highlighting the 2010 Ranch Trek, SOAR, ONP summer education programs, the restoration update, more about intern Adele Phillips and a spotlight on longtime member Chris Helzer.

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Maintaining and restoring
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education, research,
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Sandy Creek had a perfect day May 6th for their annual outing...this time including Griffith Prairie!

THANK YOU to:

- Mert Griffith for spring cleanup assistance at Griffith Prairie & Farm;
- Larry Lewandowski for a donation of fence posts;
- Scott & Cale Jones for all the mowing, trimming & tree-cutting;
- to the Meyer & Lyon families and friends for pre-wedding site preparation; and
- to Mitch & Sarah Lyon for choosing Griffith Prairie as their wedding site and for including Prairie Plains in their gift registry.