

# ⌘ Prairie plains Link ⌘

monthly newsletter of



October, 2007

## The Charles L. Whitney Education Center

The Prairie Plains Board of Directors has voted unanimously to name the Education Center (Barn) at Griffith Prairie for the late Charles L. Whitney, Jr., father of Prairie Plains cofounder and director Bill Whitney.

Charles practiced law in Aurora for 61 years, until three weeks before his death this July. He incorporated Prairie Plains Resource Institute in 1980, and contributed his legal services to the organization for the rest of his life.

A tribute to Charles was published in the June-July *Prairie Plains Link*.



## Challenge Grant from Peter Kiewit Foundation awarded

A \$50,000 challenge grant has been awarded to Prairie Plains for the Charles L. Whitney Education Center. The funds will be made available to the Institute when a minimum of \$64,000 match is raised by the end of 2008. We are increasing our next



**Native grass seed harvest at Pokorny Prairie in Colfax County.**

All time, effort and resources were necessarily devoted to the prairie harvest in October. Using combine, seed-stripper and hands & buckets, we've collected in 16 east-central Nebraska counties. The results: a record quantity and quality of seed. Still needed: more acres to plant !



**Amy Jones packing down seed collected at Springer Basin.**



**Mike Bullerman spotted this American Bittern while working at Springer Basin southwest of Aurora.**

fundraising goal to \$125,000, which will enable us to meet the Kiewit challenge, complete the first phase of construction on the Center and start on the second phase. Phase one includes finishing the lower level so it can be used for program purposes. Phase two will include upper level construction.

### “Education in a Barn” included in October *PRAIRIE FIRE*

Spreading across the Nebraska plains like wildfire is the recently sparked newspaper, *PRAIRIE FIRE*. Published by W. Don Nelson in Lincoln, the paper aspires to be “the Progressive Voice of the Great Plains” for “those who hunger for thoughtful public discourse on matters of societal importance.”

The article about the Charles L. Whitney Education Center was written by Bill Whitney and includes two photos of the barn. We are grateful to have been included in *PRAIRIE FIRE* and highly recommend our readers to check out this hot new publication at:

[www.prairiefirenewspaper.com](http://www.prairiefirenewspaper.com)

### THANK YOU



Jack Winter running the seed stripper at Nine Mile Prairie (nine miles from UNL).

- to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for allowing us to harvest seed at Springer Basin WPA and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for allowing us to harvest at Deepwell Basin WMA ;
- to Randy Rupert for seeds from whorled milkweed and black-eyed Susan;
- to Roger Doerr for consultation about fund-raising;
- to Nicholas and Angie Schnell from Four Winds Natural Healing Center in Omaha, who held a benefit for Prairie Plains that brought in 13 new members (see [fourwindsnhc.com](http://fourwindsnhc.com));
- to Steve & Jack Winter for seed harvesting in Lancaster County;
- and once again to *PRAIRIE FIRE* for including Prairie Plains in the October issue.

The moon had just risen over Pokorny Prairie as Mike and Bill were leaving at the end of one long October day of harvesting.



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

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Burying beetle discovered at Griffith Prairie.



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