

☺ Prairie plains Link ☺



Nov. 4: Enjoying a hike through member Joel Hansen's restored prairie near Wayne, Nebraska. Mike Bullerman and Bill Whitney planted approximately 35 acres of lowland on Joel's acreage in 2004, then another tract of almost 100 adjoining acres in 2006. The drought still lingered in the early part of the 2006 growing season, which hindered the quick establishment of many species (certainly not the annual weeds!). The site is similar to many drought year plantings. In a few more growing seasons, and with the introduction of prescribed burning, the prairie will be rich in native grasses and wildflowers. The wait is worth it, because a developing prairie with all of its weedy growth (non-noxious species) is excellent wildlife food and cover. Joel reports huge pheasant populations every year.

monthly newsletter
of



November, 2008

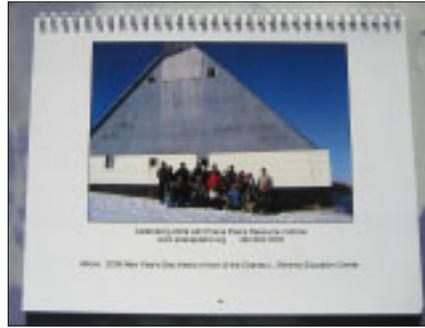
Charles L. Whitney Education Center

November was a busy month at the construction site. Contractors Clint Petersen and Chad Garrett stormed ahead through wind and the approaching cold of winter to finish enclosing the structure. This included framing and sheathing the roof and walls, applying the galvanized flashing on the overhang fascia, installing the south end doors and windows (center) and the large double-hung windows on the lower level (lower right - the openings on the right of the windows are the screened porch). Photos on the left show the removal of the huge barn door, which used to be lowered to fill the enormous barn from floor to peak with hay. The steel pulley assembly and track used to lower the door will be a permanent historic relic of this activity visible in the building's great room. Next steps are to install the four south gable windows and doors on the lower level and roof the south addition. This will be followed by electrical and plumbing work.





This beautiful cedar bench and end tables are a gift to the Charles L. Whitney Education Center from the Gjerloff Family. A memorial plaque will be displayed with the bench.



2009 Prairie Plains Calendar
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Maintaining and restoring
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Creating opportunities for
education, research,
stewardship and
community development.

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November Thank-yous:

- to Gretchen Tredway and other Gjerloff Family members for the cedar bench and tables (see photo above);
- to Eckerson brothers Charlie and Paul for volunteer work on the Center;
- to Curt Twedt for six redbud trees to be planted at Griffith Farm; and
- to everyone who has responded to our year-end donation drive.

Approaching Events



**Winter Bird Hike
at Bader Park**
Saturday, December 13th
9:00 a.m.
Meet at PPRI office in Aurora at
8:30 to carpool
Lunch following
at the Bader Park House
\$5.00; RSVP by 12/12

Annual Meeting of Members

Saturday, January 17th
8:30 a.m. coffee/social
9:00 a.m. meeting
Bremer Community Center
Keynote: **Dr. Kelly Kindscher**
University of Kansas /
Kansas Biological Survey
"A New Vision for Restoration:
Developing a Culture of Harvest
and Use of the Planted Wild."

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