



**Friday is RIVER DAY!** on the Platte at Bader Park. Top left & clockwise: Before heading for the river, we enjoyed learning about birds from ornithologist Gary Lingle, shown here removing a Hairy Woodpecker from his mist net; Then - on to the the river for Tube Races (2 photos); the herding part of Fish Find and checking out the catches (2 photos); the water cycle relay race called Raindrop Relay, where a "raindrop" must be relayed from cloud to mountain to stream to river to ocean and "evaporate" back into the clouds; and Outrageous Obstacles, which included frog flippin' and some other new and challenging tasks this year (2 photos). (See also "SOAR River Day" on YouTube.com!)



## SOAR Afternoons



Just a few examples of afternoon action: Top left and clockwise - Grand Island artist Nancy Fairbanks taught us how to make fish with clay and the results were wonderful (3 photos); Amy Jones made a great emcee and game show host, shown here grilling peer leader Brittney Hoffmann in "Are You Smarter Than a SOAR Camper?;" Each group's web weaving ability was tested based on fly-catching ability; and of course, the Microbe Show!

## Keeping SOAR in Flight - Gratefully acknowledging our 2009 contributors:

Foundations: The Bernard K. and Norma F. Heuermann Foundation

Hamilton Community Foundation - James M. Cox Children's Fund

Community Organizations: Angels Among Us, Aurora Lions Club, Optimist Club of Aurora, RHO Master.

[Blue indicates Prairie Plains members]

Businesses: Aurora COOP, Aurora Mall, Aurora Veterinary Clinic, Bank of Marquette, CF Industries, Cornwell, Inc., [Cornerstone Bank](#), [Dohman, Akerlund & Eddy](#), Easy Lawn, [Espressions Coffee Shop](#), [Grain Place Foods](#), Hamilton Telephone Co., [Heritage Bank](#), Higby-McQuiston Mortuary, International Sensor Systems, J & B Industrial Services, Inc., [Leach Insurance Center](#), P&G Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation (Iams), Petersen Construction, [Pinnacle Bank](#), Potts & Levering, Powell & Associates, Principal Financial Group, Sullivan Companion Animal Clinic, T.O. Haas Tire Co., Whitney, Newman Mersch & Otto.

Individuals: [Gerhard Assenmacher \(Niwt, CO\)](#), [Nick Bertram \(Great Bend, KS\)](#), [Rick & Kathy Brown \(Grand Island\)](#), [Roger & Julie Christenson \(Aurora\)](#), [Jim Cyr \(Aurora\)](#), [Linda Davis \(Aurora\)](#), [J. Joe and Ann Ford \(Aurora\)](#), [Nancy Haag \(Grand Island\)](#), [Rick & Heidi Hammond \(Clarks\)](#), [Margaret Hansen \(Wayne\)](#), [Roger Holling \(Aurora\)](#), [Bill & Marlene Mersch \(Aurora\)](#), [Larry Meyer \(Silver Creek\)](#), [Steve & Jeannie Miller \(Bennington\)](#), [Jason & Kathryn Parks \(Omaha\)](#), [Gary & Jean Pokorny \(El Cerrito, CA\)](#), [Neal Ratzlaff \(Omaha\)](#), [Steve Rothenberger \(Kearney\)](#), [Angie Sack \(Marquette\)](#), [Geraldine Sader \(Aurora\)](#); [Mary Helen Shortridge \(Bethesda, MD\)](#); [Jim & Sara Shull \(Omaha\)](#), [Norm & Donna Smith \(Albion\)](#), [M/M Vern Stewart \(Crofton\)](#), [Shane & Rhoda Thorell \(Aurora\)](#), [Noni Troester \(Hampton\)](#), [David Vetter \(Marquette\)](#), [Robert & Genevieve Willis \(Aurora\)](#), [Sherry Yarnell \(Orland, CO\)](#) and [Joyce Zook \(Salem, OR\)](#).

Other contributors:

The Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District, and everyone who purchased items from the peer leaders during our spring fund-raiser.

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- Bill Saeger and Desiree Teahon, teachers from Fremont and Aurora who shadowed SOAR and were also valuable assistants;
- David Vetter and staff at Grain Place Foods for the tour of the plant (and for the popcorn!);
- Members of St. John's Lutheran Church, our outstanding Kronborg hosts - including those pictured below and Pastor Brian Krause, Luke & Lori Jacobsen, Julia Madsen, Deb Nissen, Barb Handrup and others;
- Cathie English, Aurora High School English teacher and her students (several of them being peer leaders) for their work on skits about the early 20th century Christmas preparations on the Gjerloff Family's farm;
- Fayne Petersen, for her cookies made from Grain Place Foods products; and
- All parents and grandparents who allowed their kids to SOAR - with extra thanks to those who contributed to the snack fund!



A few who went "all out" for SOAR: David Vetter & staff at Grain Place Foods; In Kronborg - some of our aebleskiver chefs; song leader Judy Sullivan; dance leader Deryl Nissen; and Ardean Andersen and Steve Jacobsen, who led tours of the grounds and church.