

Fencing & Grazing at Griffith Prairie

Grazing, along with prescribed burning, is an important management tool on Griffith Prairie to enhance native plant diversity and vigor and reduce unwanted species. Now that cedars are under control on the property, our goal is to create a long-term grazing plan for the land that will enhance wildlife species conservation, native seed production and educational and recreational uses of the preserve. Part of this long term plan is improving the fences. We had a great start this year with our volunteer fence building project, having completed the west and north fence on one grazing unit. There will be more to do next year, and volunteers are most welcome! Thanks again to all this summer's helpers.



Cattle enjoying Griffith Prairie. In the background, the site for the next Cedar Attack!



Original Sands Family Barn

The Barn Report

Wednesday evenings this summer have been devoted to dismantling, cleaning, and stacking the tiles from the original Sands Barn foundation. A cold front that blew in brought out a record turnout of volunteer workers on Aug. 29.

The barn roof was moved onto Griffith Prairie in February, but we also plan to use the tiles any way we can in the construction of the Education Center. There was also lumber stored in the barn that will be used where possible.



Above, l-r, Bill Whitney, Dale Carlson, Jerry Jacobs and Joe Ford take apart the tile foundation; below, Ernie Ochsner cleaning tile, and below left, Larry Sands and Cale Jones stacking the tiles.



Continued from June-July Link

Gratefully acknowledging our SOAR '07 financial contributors*

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*Blue indicates Prairie Plains membership

Special thanks to all of our presenters; to the Reeves Family for allowing us to visit their land; to the parents and grandparents who allowed their kids to SOAR, and an extra tip of the SOAR hat to those who pitched in extra for snacks.



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SOAR scenes captured by Amy Jones

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Nebraska Humanities Council

Sponsor of NHC Speakers Bureau Storyteller Matthew "Sitting Bear" Jones

soar Spotlight: Jordan Jensen



As noted in the last *Prairie Plains Link*, Jordan's remote control airplane flyover at Griffith's was a hit at SOAR this year. Jordan is one of several young adults that have gone through the ranks as SOAR campers, then peer leaders, and then an extra mile as presenters. His comments: "I wanted to do something for the kids that would combine the work I am doing at Wichita State as an aerospace student with the nature aspect of SOAR. I was able to modify a camera that some of my friends and I had been working on so that I could transmit live images from a model airplane to a TV on the ground. This allowed me to give the SOAR campers a unique view of the prairie that they had been romping through for the last two days. I love seeing kids discover new things, and I hope to continue to use the skills I am learning in college to help children like the SOAR campers make

new discoveries every day in their lives."

In addition to the air show, Jordan took over the Irrigation Station in Week Two. He's already thinking about what he'll do for SOAR next summer.

Approaching Events

Keep watching prairieplains.org for events details



Sunday, September 9
9:00 a.m.
FamFest hike at Griffith Prairie followed by brunch



Saturday, September 22
9:00 a.m.
Bader Park Natural Area Hike



Saturday, September 22
7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
ONP Enchanted Evening including storyteller Matthew "Sitting Bear" Jones



Saturday, October 13
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Harvest Festival at Lincoln Creek Prairie & Trail N Stree & McCullough Lane in Aurora

For more information contact Paul Hosford: aaarts@megavision.com

Thank You

- to member and volunteer Steve Winter, who has been harvesting seed for us this summer;
- to this month's Wednesday evening barn tile workers Dale Carlson, Joe Ford, Jerry Jacobs, Cale Jones, Ernie & Lynda Ochsner and Larry & Ryan Sands;
- and belated thanks to Scott Schaefer, Caitlin Muldoon, Charlie Skavdahl, Joe Nunn and the many other Sioux County folks that helped make the Saturday night (June 9) festivities at the ranch a great success.

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newsletter of



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First Annual Restoration Tour
August 23



Restoration tour visiting "Deepwell West" near Phillips and listening to comments by Gerry Steinauer, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission botanist and author of *A Guide to Prairie and Wetland Restoration in Eastern Nebraska*.



Bush Island WRP site - this first year, a field of foxtail, but the natives were spotted alive and well, hidden below.

It was a perfect day for our first restoration tour - the first cool weather after a long siege of heat and humidity. So the small crowd that gathered from several different agencies was especially exuberant as we boarded the SOAR bus. We visited the Deepwell Basin East and West sites and Springer Basin west of Aurora, the Bush Island Wetland Reserve Program site just north of Griffith's, and the tree clearings and plantings at Bader Park and Griffith's. The group also enjoyed time at The Barn and Griffith Prairie.



Maps produced by Mike Bullerman on our full-sized plotter (made possible by Lana Flagtvet) are very useful tools for education in the field. Assisting Bill Whitney (right) is Tim Tunnell with The Nature Conservancy Platte Habitat Partnership.

Below, far left, Sullivant's milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*) at Deepwell East; center, enjoying a moment on Griffith Prairie just outside the Barn; below, a milestone - this group's catered lunch was our first meal in the Barn (Education Center).

