

PRAIRIE PLAINS

QUARTERLY

Volume 3, Number 1: January - March, 2005



CELEBRATING THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE FOR 25 YEARS.

PRAIRIE PLAINS

RESOURCE INSTITUTE

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PPRI MISSION

**MAINTAINING AND RESTORING NEBRASKA ECOSYSTEMS:
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION, RESEARCH, STEWARDSHIP,
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.**

Prairie Plains Resource Institute (PPRI), is an educational land trust incorporated in 1980 as a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt membership organization. The mission of PPRI is being carried out through four major efforts: **Ecological Restoration, Prairie Preserves, Education** and the **Platte River Corridor Initiative**.

PPRI Board of Directors: Colleen Babcock (Pres.), Dennis Ferguson, David Meyer (Treas.), Jack Potts, Mike Stewart (Secy.), and Charles L. Whitney, all from Aurora; Steve Rothenberger from Kearney; Carl Roberts from Columbus; Cliff Dill (V.P.) from Lincoln; Dolores Johnson from Schuyler; Mitzi Fox from Albion; Wayne Mollhoff from Ashland. There are presently four permanent staff members: William S. Whitney, Executive Director; Jan Whitney, Education and Publication Director; Mike Bullerman, Restoration Ecologist and Land Steward; and Amy Jones, Development Coordinator and Office Manager; and one temporary Restoration & Stewardship Technician, Steve Anderson.

Prairie Plains Quarterly (formerly the annual *Prairie Plains Journal*) is a publication of **Prairie Plains Resource Institute (PPRI)**, an educational land trust incorporated in 1980 as a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt membership organization. Its pages highlight the activities and accomplishments of PPRI, and may also include poetry, essays, and other writings related to prairie and Great Plains natural history, ecological restoration, resource use and management, and culture.

Contribute to the mission of Prairie Plains Resource Institute by becoming a member. Members receive seasonal publications and gain opportunities to participate in unique educational, recreational, and volunteer activities in diverse Nebraska landscapes. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES ARE:

\$25-34	BLUESTEM	\$100-499	PRAIRIE FALCON
\$35-49	GOLDENROD	\$500-999	BISON
\$50-99	BOBOLINK	\$1000+	GOLDEN EAGLE

CONTENTS

Third Annual New Year's Day Hike at Griffith's	4
PPRI Annual Meeting of Members, January 8, 2005	5
The Griffith Prairie - Cedar Attack III	10
Marie Ratzlaff Prairie Preserve Hamilton County Tallgrass Prairie Remnant and Historic Landmark	12
Ranch Scenes, Prairie Planting & Burning	14
February and March Bader Park Tours	16
In Memoriam, Dr. Marvin A. Bichel	16
PPRI's "Network of Campuses"	19
PPRI's Four Major Project Efforts	20

Prairie Plains Quarterly credits

Cover photo by Amy Jones:

New Year's Day on the Griffith Preserve, background of fire-killed cedars.

L-R: Elaine Phillips, Bill & Shirley Snyder; Raymond Kusek, Jr., Tony Curtis, Erin Whitney with Brady, Lane & Amanda Phillips, Cale Jones, Colleen Babcock, Ted Phillips, Lynda Ochsner, Bill & Jan Whitney, John Jasnowski.

Other photos by PPRI staff unless indicated otherwise.

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Above, the New Year's Day group hiking the Griffith Prairie hills. Below, appreciating the quiet solace of the Platte River in winter.

Quarter One, 2005 A Year to Celebrate

This year marks the Silver Anniversary of Prairie Plains Resource Institute. It would have been difficult to envision this benchmark when PPRI began. At that time we had only an idea that it *might* be possible to have a prairie preserve in Hamilton County, an annual youth education program, significant prairie restoration projects, or a major greenway project along a stream or river. But early efforts to lead educational tours and pick mere handfuls of prairie seed for tiny experimental plantings have led to much greater things, as we will continue to reveal in these pages and in future issues of *Prairie Plains Quarterly*.

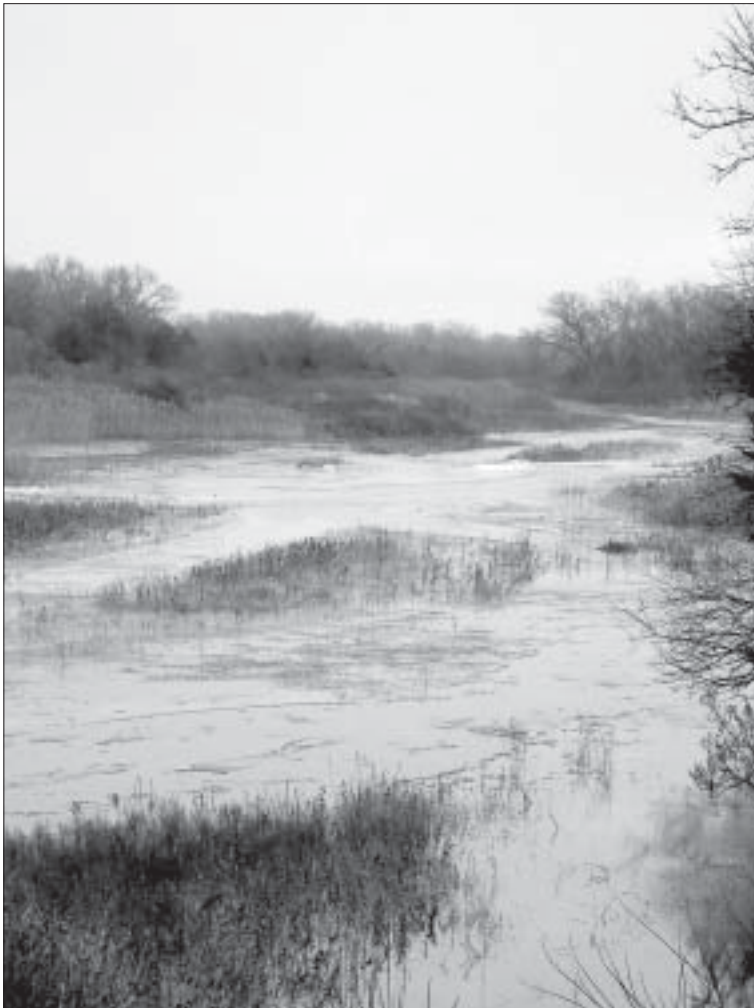
Third Annual New Year's Day Hike at Griffith's

New Year's Day is traditionally a pretty lazy holiday of eating more holiday leftovers and watching TV football. We've improved on that by adding the Annual New Year's Day Hike at the Griffith Prairie and Farm near Marquette. Judging from the smiling faces despite chilling temperatures and mist, this issue's cover photo confirms that it's a worthwhile adventure to hike from the farmstead to the lookout point, then to the river and back. The total distance of the loop is more than two miles.





Cale Jones and companion, Jack, exploring the hills. Below, The Platte River at Griffith Prairie.



PPRI Annual Meeting of Members January 8, 2005



Historic Overview of 25 Years, Future Direction, and “Why Prairie Plains?”

Address by Bill Whitney, Executive Director

I was informed by my daughter, Laura, that everyone was coming today for Fayne's food. I added that of course they're also coming to see Michael Forsberg and his incredible photography - and to buy multiple copies of his new book. Therefore, to get to the food and special program I will make my address brief so you can mill about and enjoy the displays and socialize.

There's lots of trivia I could get into in an overview of 25 years, like when I stayed up all night pasting up the first *Prairie Plains Journal* in 1981, or endless darkroom hours developing a year's worth of films for a *Journal* that was always behind schedule. Or tales from more than 200 Bader Park hikes since 2002. I could relate to no one's pleasure my

feeble attempts to prepare for past meetings, something for which I might become legendary, or my uneasy steps in learning how to budget and do the necessary organizational things. Much of what has happened in the life of PPRI for the past 25 years is for the most part anecdotal, and it can perhaps be chronicled in



Carl Roberts from the Lyman-Richey Sand & Gravel Company in Columbus offers comments upon being recognized as a new Prairie Plains board member.

an amusing way in years to come. It would be fun, for example, for the SOAR staff to get together sometime to recall all the kids and stories from 13 years of SOAR.

What I would like to do with this time, however, is to go back to the beginning in 1980. The ideas about Prairie Plains Resource Institute were quite simple and reflected a personal interest in – and discovery of – the local prairies of Hamilton County. In 1979 I was going around to all these little pastures and hay meadows taking pictures and collecting seeds. I was also spending quite a bit of time at Wilma Aalborg's land on Lincoln Creek at the east edge of Aurora. The plan was to create a good prairie education area near home even if we had to plant the prairie from scratch; to protect a few local county sites as historic and natural landmarks for education and recreation; and to create linear areas along Lincoln Creek – a greenway that tied together areas for wildlife, parks and camps, along the watershed. We also had the desire to do hands on work with

the land, and to connect to agricultural land owners. These ideas – planting a prairie along Lincoln Creek, trying to protect unique land areas from change, getting school groups outside to interesting areas, promoting a greenway from Streeter Park to the Aalborg land – were the seeds of today's four PPRI project areas: prairie restoration, preserves, education and the Platte Corridor Initiative.

The vehicle to promote these concepts was not envisioned as some already existing organization, especially one from far away. We thought that if people could be involved locally in activities on the land through a rural-based land trust, a cultural connection to nature and our place could be made that didn't exist before. The purpose of such an organization would be to create those connections – to help people learn about their place, be comfortable



Longtime member and friend Don Vetter from The Grain Place in Marquette and Development Coordinator Amy Jones enjoying the social time.

in it, even excited by it. We shouldn't look to the redwoods or the Alaskan wilderness for our inspiration, because that's not where we are. We need to discover it in the place we live and with the people with whom we live. That's where this organization came from and the answer to "Why Prairie Plains?" In April 1980 PPRI was incorporated.

What followed can be divided into roughly three eras of PPRI. The first was from 1980 to about 1991. It included the early work of seed collecting, planting, burning, acquiring a few properties (Aalborg, Pearl Harbor, Ratzlaff) and taking school groups and others out to places like Bader Memorial Park or Lincoln Creek. It included lots of field time in Old Green, the 1969 Ford pickup with the shingle



Happy to be here - one of our more recent members, Laurie Phelps, left, and one of the very first, Gloria Eckerson.

covering the hole in the floor. The budgets were small, a few thousand dollars. Members were between 100-200. We published a book on Bader Park called *Microcosm of the Platte, A Guide To Bader Memorial Park Natural Area*, and nine *Prairie Plains Journal* issues. Somehow we survived, always got the prairies burned and had some great times with people out on the land. The greenway ideas didn't take much form during this stage, but we began to think about the Platte River – what its future would be if it continued to be driven by water lawsuits and fighting.

The second era ran from about 1991 to 1998. In 1991 there was real staff money to do restoration work along the Platte. Prairie Plains became a full time job for me; by 1993 a halftime job for Jan. SOAR began, we became a more active participant in the larger natural

resource professional community in the state, and many new ideas began to sprout about land management, ecological restoration, education and the social interactions of conservation. This paralleled a general shift in the direction of many state and federal agencies as more comprehensive environmental awareness grew at all levels. In the early 1990s we were offered more land. The Olson Nature Preserve in Boone County is where the concept of a community preserve crystallized - an area to benefit the land and the people together. With yet another gift we received a beautiful ranch in the west.

The third era brought the need to develop the organization away from the founders – to build board capacity, find new sources of money and create new programs. In 1999 we received major funding for restoration on a much larger scale of 400 or more acres per year, and to work on a socially-based conservation concept for the Platte River. We also added to the land base with the Pokorny Prairie and the Griffith Prairie and Farm. As this period ends we have a stronger board and some new faces. Staff and program functions are more defined and we have a strategic plan.



Laura was right about the food. Eagerly anticipating the "Creative Cuisine" of Fayne Petersen are members Joe Ford, Colleen Babcock (board president), Marianne Meyer and David Meyer (board Treasurer).

This brings us to the beginning of a fourth era – addressing fund development and executing the plan. We need to keep doing what we have always done, but will be even more inclusive of people. There will be more events on the properties, new educational programs, and more activity in our home community of Aurora and the communities near our preserves.

Recognition of the Field Staff

Mike Bullerman and Steve Anderson



Steve



Mike

- Planted hundreds of acres of prairie under tough weather conditions and distance.
- Cut, piled and burned trees on the Griffith land.
- Burned Mert's pasture (at night, too, with showers of sparks), PPRI properties: Griffith, Pokorny, Ratzlaff, and Platte River Trust lands in exchange for seed harvesting.
- Fixed fenced in preparation for the grazing at Griffith's.
- Harvested and processed mass quantities of prairie seed from June through October. This involved many miles of travel, sometimes backbreaking labor, dealing with weather and equipment management.
- Cut trees and shrubs – large stands - out of the fence lines at Ratzlaff and Pokorny Prairies in preparation for fencing those 40-acre sites. Steve also used his dad's tractor and shredder and skid steer.

- Were great ambassadors for PPRI wherever they went and with whomever they met.
- Took lots of excellent photos documenting the fieldwork.
- Managed vehicles and equipment.
- Always did what was needed. We have asked quite a bit from them and they are always aware that there's way more to do.

Presentation of the Charles L. Whitney Award for Outstanding Service

Presentation by Bill Whitney

In 1968 I went to the Platte River with a couple of friends after a Legion midget baseball game to spear carp with pitchforks down at the Gjerloff Landing. I remember just before coming to the top of the hill leading to the river the driver, Rick Miller, hit a huge raccoon, which we got out and looked for but couldn't find. Little was I to know at the time this spot would have greater significance for me. It was across the road from a farmhouse where shortly thereafter Gene and Gwen Griffith would reside.

Sometimes you just know a farmer by the name on his mailbox. You can sound to people like you know someone when you say, "oh it's by the Griffith Place."

That mailbox was how I knew Eugene Griffith for many years. The name on the mailbox didn't really paint much of a picture about him, however, from reputable sources I was able to learn that he was a "good guy" and "really friendly." I never knew what he



Eugene "Mert" Griffith receives the Charles L. Whitney Award for Outstanding Service to Prairie Plains Resource Institute.

looked like or met him until he walked into a Soil Conservation Service prescribed burning workshop in Hampton in 1990 that Orvin Bontrager and I attended. I also learned his nickname, Mert, some convoluted twist of Griffin being close to Griffith and Mert evolving from Merve (i.e. Mere Griffin/ Mert Griffith). He may have to fill us in on that one. It took me a while to go from the more formal nickname Gene to Mert, but according to Mert that's what everyone calls him, except maybe his wife Gwen who may use something closer to his full proper name when he's in some kind of trouble. Anyhow, Mert wanted to burn his pasture and Orvin and I wanted to help him.

The next year John Sampson, a Soil Conservation Service employee, and Mert planned his fire, and it was a great one on April 10, 1991. Huge stands of cedar trees exploded into flame on the steep slopes of his bluff prairie. I still remember the deafening sound and dark black smoke. When it was over the pasture looked very different. From that point on Mert burned about every three years and stored our pumper, Old Nelly, in his quonset. He was also generous in letting us pick seeds on the pasture and hosting the SOAR kids every year.

In 2001 PPRI received a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for Platte River land. Mert came into the office and offered his bluff property for sale to PPRI. We will be making the final payment for this land on April 1st. As they say, the rest is history. But lots of people don't know what Mert has been doing for us the past few years. Here's a list of why he's so important to PPRI.

The "Mert List"

1. Long time member and PPRI advocate.
2. Gave a donation for the purchase of Little Red (PPRI's first nice pickup) in 1995.
3. Helped get a local landowner group together to promote burning and cedar control.
4. Building and facility maintenance and improvements.
5. Equipment maintenance, repair & modification/fabrication.
6. Equipment loans (ATV, tools, trailer, etc.).
7. Farmyard upkeep.
8. Prescribed burn help, especially with fire break mowing.

9. Cedar cutting, piling and burning with his tractor and loader.
10. Grass harvest help driving the combine.
11. Offered his bluff land as preserve.
12. Donated a 10' E-Zee flow fertilizer spreader for seeding.
13. SOAR presenter on corn and farming, grew Indian corn and delivered to the school.
14. Lots of good advice.

We can't thank him enough, but as a show of our appreciation it is my pleasure to present to Mert Griffith the 2005 Charles L. Whitney Award for Outstanding Service.

A Special Annual Meeting Presentation by Michael Forsberg

This year we were especially honored to have world renowned photographer Michael Forsberg present a beautiful program featuring photographs from his new book, *On Ancient Wings, the Sandhill Cranes of North America*.

At right,, Michael Forsberg telling of his travels and adventures in creating his book *On Ancient Wings*. Below, signing a book for Howard Holland, one of many Aurorans who joined the meeting for the Forsberg presentation.



■ **PRAIRIE PRESERVES**

The Griffith Prairie - Cedar Attack III

Another successful Cedar Attack took place on the Griffith Prairie February 12. Approximately .7 acre of large and thickly growing cedars were cut and piled. Cedar Attack is people working hard together, getting equip-

ment running, kids having fun in the snow and exploring the surrounding land in the winter, counting the tree rings, and later recounting the stories. This year the group also enjoyed a hot lunch in the Blue Barn before making a final valiant effort to cut a few more trees.





Photo by Jerry Jacobs

Above, a weary lumberjack, Harry Eckerson, resting with Annie. Right, a before photo taken looking east; below, the aftermath looking west.



2005 Cedar Attackers

Steve Anderson
Mike Bullerman
Ella Eckerson
Harry Eckerson
J. Joe Ford
Mert Griffith
Joel Hanson
Michael Huebert
Mark Humpert, Brooke Levey
and their son, Noah
Jerry Jacobs
Scott, Amy, Cale & Cameron Jones
Larry, Angie, Breanna & Alex
Lewandowski
Ernie & Lynda Ochsner
Mary Schroer
Jim Senn
Ivan Soper
Jon Soper
Gerry Steinauer
Mike Stewart
Tom & Marilyn Tabor
Eric Volden
Bill & Jan Whitney
Canine assistants: Annie, Brady, Jack
& Maggie

No Rest for Chain Saws

The hum of the saws could be heard throughout the first quarter at Griffith's. In addition to Mert Griffith's tractor and loader assistance for piling trees, John Cates offered his skid steer and grapple for a day. The view is much clearer into the prairie now from the road going down to the river.



■ **PRAIRIE PRESERVES**

Marie Ratzlaff Prairie Preserve

Hamilton County Tallgrass Prairie Remnant and Historic Landmark

by Bill Whitney

The Marie Ratzlaff Prairie Preserve was acquired in the spring of 1989, becoming the third PPRI land preserve. It has a special place in our history for a number of reasons. First, the donors, Neal and Izen Ratzlaff, were amongst our earliest members and supporters. Neal was



Neal and Izen Ratzlaff at the annual meeting.

originally from Henderson, southeast of Aurora about 17 miles.

In the early 1980s Mel and Connie Friesen, who farm west of Henderson, told us about a prairie hay meadow near Stockham in southeast Hamilton County. I was impressed with the 30-acre prairie and told Neal about it. He was intrigued with it, too - especially with the fact that the owner was a certain Marie Ratzlaff, not closely related but with the same name as his mother.

A PPRI mission is to preserve prairies like this in eastern Nebraska, but at the time we weren't sure just how to do that. It was inevitable that when this prairie changed hands it would be con-



A spring burn in 1993 tended by Neal Ratzlaff, Bill Whitney, Brent Lathrop and Eric Volden.

verted to cropland - and we'd lose an interesting natural and historic landmark for Hamilton County.

It happened in June, 1988 - the land was to be auctioned off after the passing of its



Visitors exploring the Marie Ratzlaff Prairie Preserve after the dedication ceremony in 1989.

owner. Neal called early in the week to say he was going to bid, but we held little hope he could get it. I left for work knowing that the prairie was gone. From Jan's "Twenty Years!" entry in *Prairie Plains Journal* No. 15:

We'll never forget the day of the land auction in June of 1988. Bill and Ernie [Ochsner] were off in a blue funk, painting a big house in Seward, commiserating over the probable loss of the 30-acre prairie gem . . . Then I got the call from Neal. He had won the bid and would be turning the land over to PPRI. The big news was quickly relayed to the painters. Their drive home that day may have been one of those that Ernie referred to when they felt the "destined success of dreams being dreamed."

On the first Saturday in June, 1989, the prairie was formally dedicated with words from Neal and me, and Willa Cather's words sung by John Jasnowski. About 50 local people attended. It was a wonderful historic event.

Ratzlaff Prairie has been the site of many PPRI stewardship and restoration activities such

as tree cutting, prairie burning and seed harvesting. It has served as an outdoor classroom for Heartland Schools (Henderson/Bradshaw) students for many years, and is a frequent SOAR destination. SOAR visits to Ratzlaff Prairie



Jason Johnson "bringing back the great American prairie" in 2001.



Heartland Schools teachers Marc Regier and Sharon Bishop have used Ratzlaff Prairie for many years in a joint English and science study.

are usually combined with nearby historic Farmers Valley Cemetery sessions.

In 2001 we seeded a 10-acre north addition to the preserve, memorable for the seed sowing photo of Jason Johnson who we tragically lost later that summer. There is to be a dedication marker placed on this restoration site in the near future.

Presently the Marie Ratzlaff Prairie Preserve has a new fence and stock well to enable grazing, thereby keeping smooth brome and reed canary grass in check. We will be



SOAR campers investigating seeds in 2004.

■ PRAIRIE PRESERVES

(Ratzlaff Prairie, Continued)

clearing the persistent and gradually spreading sumac and other woody plants to more manageable levels with volunteer work parties (Sumac Attack!).

We encourage everyone to visit the Marie Ratzlaff Prairie. It is such a beautiful part of Hamilton County, with diverse tallgrass flora and fauna to enjoy. Access is easy - just go approximately six miles south from I-80 Exit 338 (Hampton)!

Two scenes from a February trip to Guadalupe Memorial Prairie (Sioux County Ranch)



One of the Keim's first calves of the season



Young bison loafing on the meadow on a mild winter day.

■ RESTORATION

Planting at Ponca State Park



More prairie restoration at Ponca State Park. Clockwise from above left, massive forb and grass pile, flock of wild turkey on the planting site, Steve and Mike getting the seeders and ATVs ready. Below, the new Ponca interpretive sign. To date PPRI has planted more than 300 acres in the park or adjacent wildlife management area.



Season of Fire



Above, Mert Griffith and Steve Anderson making modifications to the pumper trailer. Below, Kent Pfeiffer of the Platte River Trust igniting the Pokorny Prairie.



Below, Kent in front of a head fire at Mormon Island. PPRI has been helping burn Trust properties in exchange for seed harvesting.



Bader Park Cedar Burning

PPRI staff Mike Bullerman, Steve Anderson and Bill Whitney assisted the Platte PEER Group (PEER = People, Education, Environment & Recreation) with burning cedar tree piles. Approximately 30 acres of cedars were cleared and piled on the north pasture of Bader Park in November. With the additional help of a dozer and an operator contributed by Merrick County, 33 piles were burned. This was phase two of the project in preparation for a volunteer high diversity prairie seeding in April.



A dozer continually pushed the burning masses together until the piles were completely burned.



Cedars were burned with snow on the ground, preventing fires and embers from spreading through dried prairie grass.

■ **EDUCATION**

Bader Park Tours Feb. 26 & March 5



The Platte River waterfowl migration was the focus of two Bader Memorial Park hikes in February and March. The first 7:00 a.m. outing was followed by a breakfast prepared by Fayne Petersen at Creative Cuisine Catering in Marquette. Twenty-two hikers, a beautiful morning on the river and wonderful food made the event a great success. Although fewer attended the second week's hike, the weather again cooperated - an unusual occurrence in March - and scenery and wildlife provided enjoyment for all present.

Future Bader Memorial Park Outings

- all at 9:00 a.m. -

July 2

September 17

October 22 followed by lunch

December 17

Bird count followed by lunch

In Memoriam

Dr. Marvin A. Bichel

Dr. Bichel, Professor Emeritus of Biology at Nebraska Wesleyan University, died on January 20 at the age of 86. He was one of the first to join Prairie Plains Resource Institute - a vote of confidence for his two former students and advisees. He was also an enthusiastic SOAR supporter. "Dr. Marv," as he was known to us, was an avid botanist and professor who loved his work and his students. He taught at NWU from 1965 to 1988, when he retired to his native Wakefield.

Dr. Bichel was a veteran of World War II, and earned the Silver Star as an artillery scout in Europe. After the war, he earned his master's degree from the University of Wyoming, and a PhD in Botany from UN-L.

NWU recognized Dr. Bichel in 1990 by naming its 5500-specimen botanical herbarium in his honor. A memorial fund has also been established in his name. Contributions may be sent to:

Dr. Marvin Bichel Memorial Fund
University Advancement Office
Nebraska Wesleyan University
5000 Saint Paul Avenue
Lincoln, Nebraska 68504



Dr. Bichel with Nebraska Wesleyan University botany students. From *Archways: The Nebraska Wesleyan University Magazine*, Spring, 2005.

AUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2004

Assets

Current Assets	
Cash	\$ 100,952
Investments	14,800
Accounts receivable	26,794
Prepaid insurance	5,960
Total current assets	148,506
Property and Equipment	
Land	1,290,157
Buildings	45,233
Land management equipment	236,235
Vehicles and trailers	30,251
Office equipment	41,831
Total property and equipment	1,643,707
Less accumulated depreciation	143,881
Net property and equipment	1,499,826
	\$ 1,648,332
Liabilities and net assets	
Current liabilities	
Current installments of long-term debt	\$ 108,000
Accounts payable	5,011
Accrued interest payable	4,050
Other current liabilities	1,158
Total current liabilities	118,219
Long-term debt, excluding current installments	118,219
Net assets	
Unrestricted	998,846
Temporarily restricted	531,267
Total net assets	1,530,113
	\$ 1,648,332

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2004

Changes in unrestricted net assets:	
Unrestricted revenues and gains	
Contributions	\$ 41,382
Farm revenue	34,296
Investment income	1,457
Gain on disposition of assets	-
Miscellaneous	3,268
Total unrestricted revenues and gains	80,403
Net assets released from restriction	650,654
Total unrestricted revenues, gains and support	731,057
Expenses	
Program services	259,824
General administration	52,099
Development and fundraising	12,969
Total expenses	324,892
Increase in unrestricted net assets	406,165
Changes in temporarily restricted net assets	
Restricted contributions	591,422
Net assets released from restriction	(650,654)
Decrease in temporarily restricted net assets	(59,232)
Increase in net assets	346,933
Net assets at beginning of year	1,183,180
Net assets at end of year	1,530,113

Thank You for Your Support!!!

PPRI Receives

Cooper Foundation Grant

We are pleased to announce that PPRI received a \$35,000 grant from the Cooper Foundation in Lincoln, Nebraska. Funds are being used in 2005 for fund development, and will support staff activities including grant writing, membership growth, fundraising events and outreach.

SOAR Request

In late March we mailed a request for SOAR support to local businesses, organizations, and PPRI members. We wish to thank everyone who responded to the request. An update will appear in the next Prairie Plains Quarterly.

GIFTS AND PROGRAM SUPPORTS

Prairie Plains Resource Institute (PPRI) is a nonprofit, tax-exempt Nebraska conservation land trust corporation. Your Support is necessary in carrying out PPRI's operations and mission goals. The Institute can assist in planning your contributions for your benefit. Contributions may have potential income, capital gain, estate, and gift tax advantages, and can even be structured to provide income for yourself and others. Donors may also direct the use of their gifts to specific PPRI projects.

GIFTS OF SUPPORT CAN BE MADE IN MANY WAYS INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

OUTRIGHT GIFTS Cash, real property, personal property, or securities. Gifts may be accepted in any amount at any time. Gifts of appreciated property may also be advantageous to the donor.

TESTAMENTARY GIFTS Created by bequests contained in your last will or codicil. Bequests may be absolute or conditional or may provide some financial security for a surviving beneficiary.

INTERVIVOUS TRUSTS AS GIFTS

LIFE ESTATE RESERVATION

LIFE INSURANCE GIFTS Many forms are available to benefit a donor.

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THANK YOU to

The Grain Place
for sponsoring the Michael Forsberg
presentation at the
PPRI Annual Meeting.

Lyle Weedin -
for donation of an E-ZEE Flow
fertilizer spreader (seeder)

Doug & Pat Anderson -
for use of tractor and skid steer

John Cates - for use of skid steer

PPRI Wish List Update

laptop computer for field use (at least a
Pentium 3/ Windows 98, 3.5" floppy
drive, CD drive, serial port)

heavy duty riding mower

picnic tables

chainsaw sharpener

steel and wooden posts

4-wheeler ATV (large preferred)

Skid steer (i.e., Bobcat)

Good farmyard tractor with loader,
grapple and 3-point hitch with PTO

The PPRI "Network of Campuses"

Sioux County Ranch

Guadalupe Memorial Prairie

4944-acre needle and thread/blackroot sedge northern high plains grassland with meadows, buttes and the Niobrara River headwaters.

Olson Nature Preserve

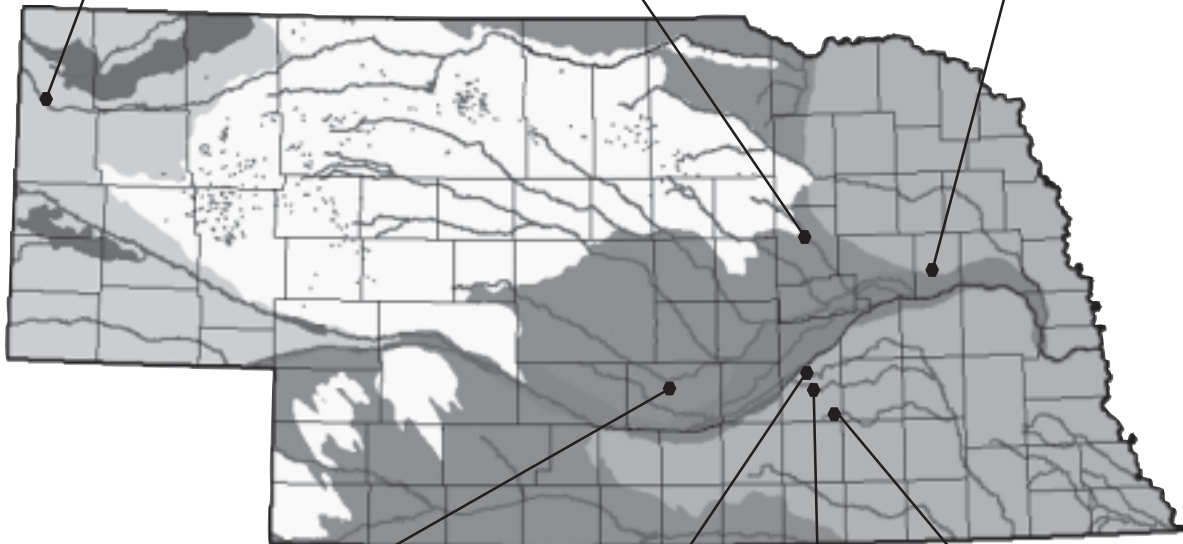
Boone County

112 acres of sandhills, tallgrass prairie, wetlands, and oak forest along Beaver Creek.

Frank L. and Lillian Pokorny Memorial Prairie

Colfax County

20 acres of virgin tallgrass prairie and a 20-acre restoration planted in 2003.



Pearl Harbor Survivors Preserve

Buffalo County

150 acres of Central Nebraska Loess Hills mixed grass prairie, including a 1983 prairie restoration, and farmland.

Griffith Prairie and Farm

Hamilton County

390 acres of scenic Platte River Bluffs prairie, farmland, and farmstead. Site of future PPRI center.

Marie Ratzlaff Prairie Preserve

Hamilton County

30 acres of virgin tallgrass prairie and a 10 acre restoration planted in 2001.

Lincoln Creek Prairie and Trail

Hamilton County

16 acres of tallgrass prairie and prairie restorations planted in the 1980s; including the Lincoln Creek hiking trail.

PPRI's Four Major Project Efforts:



Prairie Restoration

PPRI has been a pioneer of high-diversity prairie and wetland restoration since 1980. Restorations harbor both an abundance and diversity of plant and animal life, and are also a sustainable agricultural resource.



Prairie Preserves

PPRI presently owns seven prairie preserves, totaling more than 5800 acres, a solid foundation on which to build an ever-expanding "network of campuses." See the inside back cover for more details.



Education/SOAR

All PPRI properties and many of its restoration projects are educational sites suitable for lifelong learning.

SOAR - The program which best exemplifies PPRI's educational efforts is SOAR (Summer Orientation About Rivers), an annual nature day camp for elementary school children.

PPRI sites offer educational and work opportunities in many aspects of natural and cultural resources.



Platte River Corridor Initiative

The goal of the Platte River Corridor Initiative is to establish a conservation process founded on public participation and local initiative. Its aims include:

- ◆ Establishing local citizen working groups to deal with their unique resource issues.
- ◆ Planning for long term resource sustainability.
- ◆ Educating citizens about the Platte's ecosystem.
- ◆ Restoring and protecting the Platte Valley's native prairies.

Contribute to the mission of Prairie Plains Resource Institute by becoming a member. Members receive the *Prairie Plains Quarterly* and gain opportunities to participate in unique educational, recreational, and volunteer activities in diverse Nebraska landscapes. PPRI is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Membership Categories are:

\$25-34 Bluestem
\$35-49 Goldenrod
\$50-99 Bobolink

\$100-499 Prairie Falcon
\$500-999 Bison
\$1000+ Golden Eagle

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