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# RESOURCE

A Monthly Publication of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

## September 2017

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### Executive Director Corner

Well the State Fair set an attendance record this year for the most visitors since moving to Grand Island. I know I was out there for five different days and the first Saturday had over 63,000 visitors and I think 50,000 stopped by the Trust booth. I asked a lot of trivia questions and gave out a lot of fans, frisbees, note pads and sticky notes. It was gratifying getting a lot of “thank you for the projects you guys fund” comments. People would see the sign thanking the Trust for helping fund the waterfall exhibit and aquarium and they would tell me they were really glad the Game and Parks decided to have a presence at the new Fair and thanks for helping fund the exhibit. All of the staff took turns manning the booth.

Sheila covered World of Water and I covered Heron Haven’s Wetland Festival last weekend in Omaha. Both events were loaded with lots of kids and young families. This week, Sheila and I are covering Husker Harvest Days and this weekend I’ll be headed to the Ponca Outdoor Expo held at Ponca State Park. If you get to the Expo, stop by our booth, we’ll be in the main lodge.

We welcome a new board member that you can learn more about in the article below. I had a brief chance to visit with Ryan on the phone and can’t wait to have him join us at the next board meeting. We still have one opening to fill on our



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### **Pete Ricketts, Governor** **Board of Trustees**

#### **District I**

Ryan K. McIntosh - Syracuse

James Hellbusch - Columbus

Kevin Peterson - Osceola

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#### **District II**

Gerry Lauritzen - Omaha

Paul Dunn - Omaha

Robert Krohn - Omaha

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#### **District III**

Sherry Vinton - Whitman

Rodney Christen - Steinauer

Quentin Bowen - Humboldt

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board, but Kevin Peterson will continue to serve until that appointment is made.

Husker football and volleyball are moving along. The football team almost mounted an impossible comeback in Oregon, but I'm so glad they didn't collapse like a wet paper bag. The volleyball team started the season with a couple of losses but beat a powerful UCLA team twice last weekend. I think both the volleyball and football teams could go up or down this year, so hold on to your seats, it might be a bumpy fall season.

Have a safe harvest and try to get out and wet a line before it gets cold.

Mark A. Brohman  
Executive Director



*Ryan K. McIntosh*

### **New Board Member Appointed to The Trust**

A new member has been appointed to the Trust Board by

#### **Agency Directors**

Jim Douglas, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Greg Ibach, Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Jim Macy, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality

Jeff Fassett, P.E., Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

Dr. Tom Williams, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

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#### **Trust Staff**

Mark A. Brohman  
Executive Director

Marilyn Tabor  
Grants Administrator

Sheila Johnson  
Public Information Officer

Pam Deines  
Administrative Secretary

Allison La Duke  
Grants Assistant

The Nebraska  
Environmental Trust  
700 S 16th Street

Governor Pete Ricketts. Ryan K. McIntosh replaced Henry "Rick" Brandt commencing September 7, 2017.

Ryan is a Captain in the Nebraska Army National Guard and worked full-time with the National Guard between graduating from college and beginning law school. Ryan is Airborne qualified and has completed numerous airborne jumps while as a Detachment Leader in an Airborne Infantry company. He also serves as Legislative Chairman for the Nebraska National Guard Association and has drafted veteran legislation and testified in several legislative hearings on behalf of the National Guard Association and the Nebraska Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mr. McIntosh said, "I am honored to be appointed to this position by Governor Ricketts. I look forward to this opportunity to continue my work in wildlife habitat and conservation projects and I hope my background in Natural Resources and Water Law will allow me to be a great addition to the Board."

Ryan works with the Mattson Ricketts Law firm. Ryan's practice areas are municipal law, estate planning, real estate transactions, and agriculture and natural resources law. Ryan enjoys golf, hunting and being outdoors whenever he can.

Ryan grew up outside of Unadilla and graduated from Syracuse High School. Ryan is married to Leslie (Watermeier) who grew up on a farm outside of Syracuse. They have three children, Oliver, Reagan and Calvin.

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### **Nebraska Environmental Trust Invites Comments on 2018 Applications!**

The Nebraska Environmental Trust entered the 2018 grant cycle on September 5, 2017 receiving 112 new

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Lincoln, NE 68509-4913

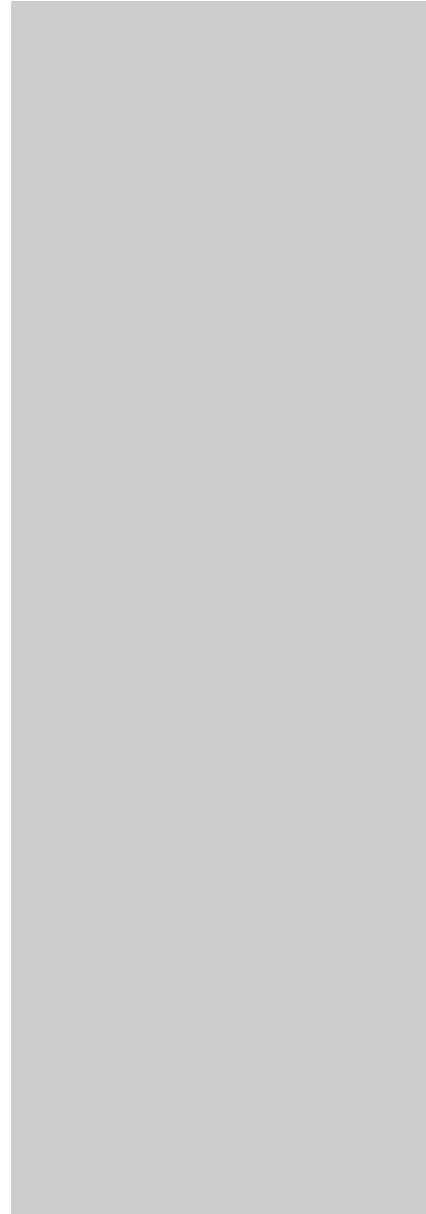
web site:  
[environmentaltrust.org](http://environmentaltrust.org)

applications and 39 carry-over projects requesting a total of \$42,320,516 in grants. Last year the Trust received 130 new applications and 52 carry-over projects. The Trust has completed 24 grant cycles and will announce the results of the 25th round of award recommendations in February 2018.

As part of the grant application process, the Trust invites members of the public to review the proposed grants and provide written comments about the projects. A summary of each proposal will be available soon on the Trust's web site [www.environmentaltrust.org](http://www.environmentaltrust.org). Comments on the grant applications will be accepted until April 4, 2018 at the Nebraska Environmental Trust, 700 S 16th Street, PO Box 94913, Lincoln, NE 68509-4913 or via e-mail to [marilyn.tabor@nebraska.gov](mailto:marilyn.tabor@nebraska.gov).

The Nebraska Legislature created the Nebraska Environmental Trust in 1992. Using revenue from the Nebraska Lottery, the Trust has provided over \$275 million in grants to more than 2,000 projects across the state. Anyone – citizens, organizations, communities, farmers and businesses – can apply for funding to protect habitat, improve water quality and establish recycling programs in Nebraska.

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*Fertig Prairie*

### **Local Wachiska Audubon Society Protects Prairie**

Wachiska Audubon President Gary Fehr announced recently that Wachiska has completed the purchase of the 45 acre Fertig Prairie west of Schuyler, Nebraska. “The purchase is part of our chapter’s 25 year program to protect native tallgrass prairies in each county in southeastern Nebraska”, said Fehr. “This prairie is a valuable one due to the stewardship of the Fertig family over many years. It has a wide variety of tallgrass plant species as well as insects and other animals. We plan to continue to make prairies like this one available for education as the Fertig family has done”.

“We were fortunate to receive grants from the Nebraska Environmental Trust, the Woollam Foundation, the Cooper Foundation, and the Lower Platte North NRD. Their generosity allowed this purchase to happen”, said Fehr.

As with the other prairies that they own, Wachiska will leave Fertig Prairie open all year for students, hikers, researchers, and birdwatchers. Visitors are welcome. Wachiska holds half day educational events, called Prairie

Discovery Days, on their prairies each September for fourth grade classes from nearby schools.

To learn more about Wachiska Audubon's prairie program, Fehr encourages people to contact Wachiska Audubon's office in Lincoln or check their web site at: [www.WachiskaAudubon.org](http://www.WachiskaAudubon.org).

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### **Mayor Cuts Ribbon For New Hazardous Materials Collection Center**

Mayor Chris Beutler joined local public and environmental health officials to celebrate the opening of Lincoln's new Hazardous Materials Collection Center (HMCC), 5101 N 48th Street.

The permanent facility for the disposal of hazardous materials will serve Lincoln and Lancaster County residents as well as qualifying small businesses, such as home based operations, nonprofits, churches, and others that produce less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month.

"For the first time, residents of our City and County will have the ability to dispose of their most toxic and hazardous household products and waste all year long," Mayor Beutler said. "Small businesses will have a lower-cost option for hazardous waste disposal. And we will now be closer to reaching one of our Taking Charge goals of diverting at least 100-thousand pounds of toxic material from the landfill annually. With this Center, we will reduce health risks from poisoning and spills and we'll reduce the risk of environmental contamination of our water, land and air."

The HMCC will accept household hazardous waste by

appointment only on the first Wednesday and the third Saturday of each month. The first collection date will be Wednesday, October 4. Residents can schedule appointments at [lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov) (keyword: household) or by calling 402-441-8021. Residents will be asked to identify the types and amounts of waste they plan to bring. Small businesses can call 402-441-8002 to see if they qualify for disposal services.

The cost to design, build and equip the HMCC was \$1.58 million, which included \$430,000 from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) and \$400,000 in grants from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET). Mayor Beutler thanked the funding partners for their investment. The ribbon-cutting event was attended by Jim Macy, NDEQ Director; Mark Brohman, NET Executive Director; and Charlotte Burke, LLCHD Interim Health Director.

With the opening of the new facility, fewer household hazardous waste mobile collection events will be offered. The new HMCC will accept the same materials collected at the mobile events. That includes items that contain mercury (CFLs, thermometers), pesticides, household cleaning products, paint thinners, stains, oil-based paint, pool cleaning chemicals and mixed or old gasoline. A complete list of accepted items is available at [lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov) (keyword: household).

The HMCC does not accept latex paint, motor oil, fertilizers, gas grill cylinders, medicines and pharmaceutical waste, electronics and batteries. For information on recycling these and other materials, check the "Waste Reduction and Recycling Guide" at [lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov) (keyword: recycle guide).



*Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the Facility*

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### **Upcoming Events**

- Husker Harvest Days - September 12-14, 2017, Grand Island, NE.
  - 13th Annual Missouri River Outdoor Expo - Saturday/ Sunday, September 16-17, 2017, Ponca State Park, NE.
  - 4th Quarter Board Meeting, Thursday, November 2, 2017 - Ferguson House
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