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RESOURCE

A Monthly Publication of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

December 2018

The Nebraska Lottery put a newspaper supplement in daily newspapers this weekend entitled, "25 years of fun!" There were 230,000 copies sent out in the Omaha World Herald and 120,000 copies in other dailies. If you didn't get a chance to see a printed copy, here is a link to the World Herald online version of the supplement:

https://www.omaha.com/sponsored/the-nebraska-lottery-years-of-fun/collection_1ff5256c-d20d-580b-bbf8-a0f6f4edd733.html

We had over 600 people attend our annual holiday open house at the Ferguson House on Sunday, December 9th. It is always fun to share our office and the history of the building and the Ferguson family with the public. The public has started renting the Ferguson House for their having holiday parties. Our first floor is set up to accommodate parties, weddings, anniversaries, retirements, and more.

I attended the annual Nebraska Prescribed Fire Conference in Kearney earlier this month and accepted the organization of the year award from the Nebraska Prescribed Fire Council. There is a photo below. I love that they put a meadowlark on a drip torch.

Last week I traveled to Kearney again to give a talk to the Weed Superintendents at the Nebraska Association of



Pete Ricketts, Governor Board of Trustees

District I

Ryan K. McIntosh - Syracuse

James Hellbusch - Columbus

John Orr - Blair

District II

Gerry Lauritzen - Omaha

Paul Dunn - Omaha

Robert Krohn - Omaha

District III

County Officials state conference. It is always good to visit folks that are fighting invasive species across the state.

The Grants Committee is heading into the home stretch and their rankings will be released in mid-January for the 111 new grants we received this year. The full board will review that list in February and then a final decision will be made at the April 4th board meeting.

I see there are still a few fields of corn and soybeans unharvested as I travel across the State. Hopefully farmers will get a chance to get those remnants harvested before Mother Nature drops any more ears or pods.

I enjoyed going to several Husker football and volleyball games this year, including a trip to Chicago to see our overtime loss to Northwestern in football. The Husker women almost won the National title again this year. They weren't expected to win it last year when they did and this year they started the year even a darker horse, but they prevailed and came within three points of a National Championship Saturday night. Going into the title game, Nebraska was rated #6 and Stanford was rated #1 (which they had been most of the season). The scores were 28-26, 22-25, 25-16, 15-25 and 15-12. The game lasted more than 2.5 hours. Finishing #2 is very respectful, but to know they were ever so close is a bitter pill to swallow. Look out next year, I think both programs will rock and roll.

Happy Holidays!

Mark A. Brohman
Executive Director

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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

PO Box 94913

Lincoln, NE 68509-4913

web site:

environmentaltrust.org



Christmas at the Ferguson House

More than 600 Attend Ferguson House Holiday Tours

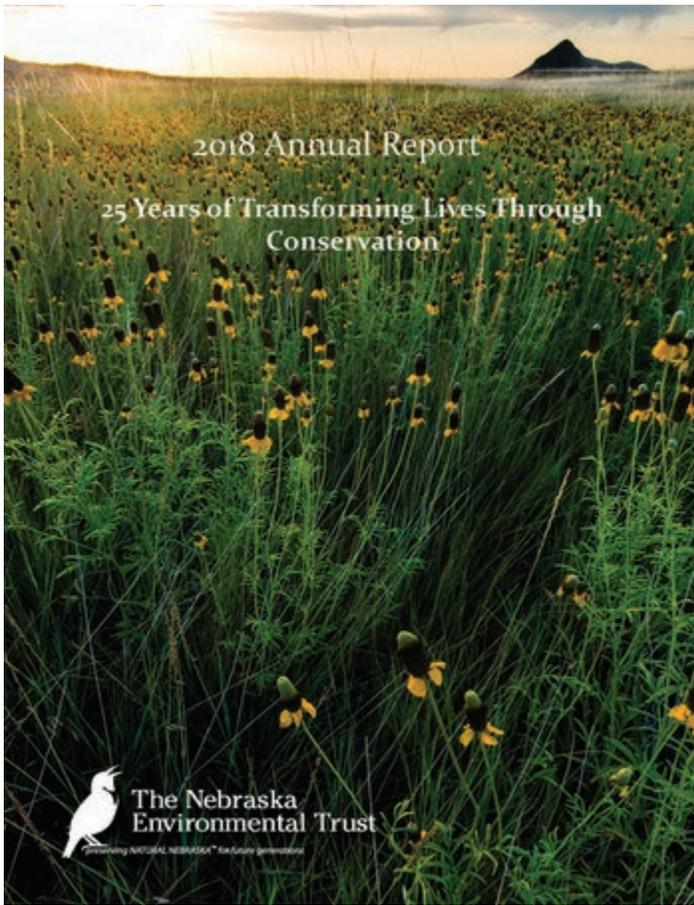
The Nebraska Environmental Trust hosted a holiday open house at the historic Ferguson House on Sunday, December 9th. More than 600 people attended the event, which marked a record attendance since the annual event first started in 2003.

Guests were able to tour all the floors of the historical home and experience the house in its full splendor with all the Christmas decorations. The event is held annually in the 1st week of December every year.

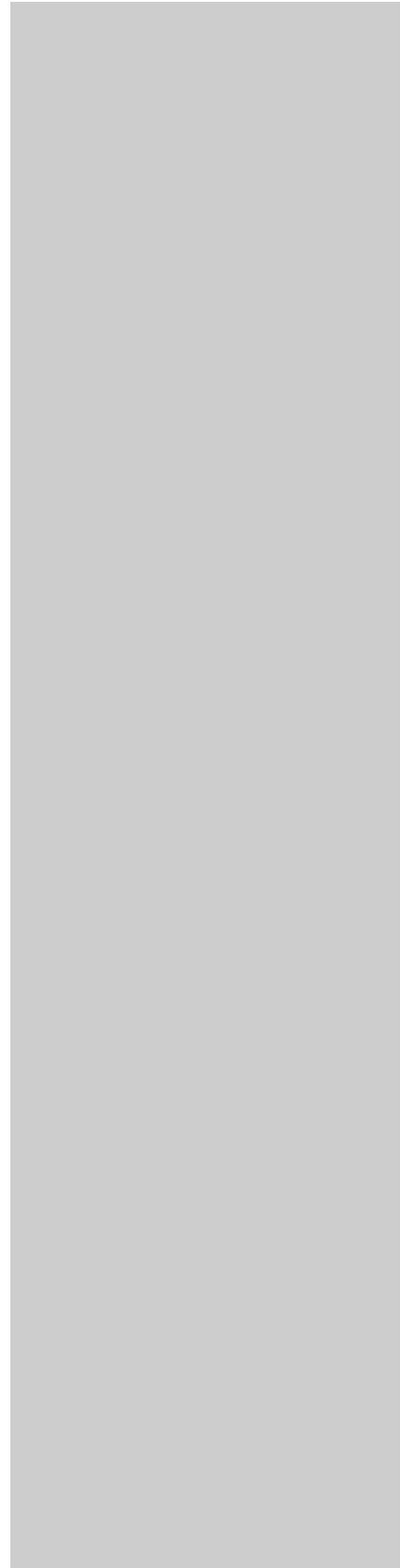
The first floor is available to rent for smaller events throughout the year. You may contact Allison La Duke, Events Coordinator at 402-471-5417 for pricing and availability.

2018 Nebraska Environmental Trust Annual Report

The Nebraska Environmental Trust Annual Report is currently available. You may click on the following link to view the [2018 Annual Report](#). Look for your copy in the mail in January, if you have a subscription with us.



Little Steps. Big Impact.



Students monitoring ozone levels as part of their research project.

Students Conduct Ground-Level Ozone Research

Hundreds of 4th and 5th grade students from across the Omaha metro area are now equipped with in-depth knowledge about ground-level ozone and its effects on the air we breathe. The *Little Steps Big Impact* air quality awareness campaign is a project of the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency and is supported by the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

Using six hand-held, lab-grade ozone meters purchased by the Nebraska Ethanol Board, students tested the number of particulates in the air in various locations around their schools, such as the carpool line in the parking lot, the bus stop, and other high traffic locations. The students then compared those levels with areas that have less exposure to vehicle emissions, such as the playground or behind the school.

Partners from the Douglas County Health Department and the City of Omaha's Environmental Quality Division shared their expertise with each of the classes and engaged the students in conversations about health impacts, ways they could help improve air quality, and how good air quality helps the whole community.

A special classroom collaboration between students from Bryan High School and the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) used the ozone monitors to measure levels near the high school. Together, the students developed communications plans to inform visitors, students and staff about how vehicle emissions affect air quality and the importance of maintaining idle-free zones around facilities. The project finale was a symposium at UNO where the students created posters to demonstrate their research, outcomes and future initiatives.

When each grade school class completed the air quality program, the participants received a Little Steps Big Impact backpack. The Little Steps Big Impact program added four new schools in 2018 and expects the outreach to grow in 2019.

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas from the Staff of the Environmental Trust



From left to right: Allison La Duke - Grants Assistant, Sheila Johnson - Public Information Officer, Pam Deines - Administrative Secretary, Mark Brohman - Executive Director, Marilyn Tabor - Grants Administrator

Upcoming Events

Jan 3, 2019 (Thursday) - Grants Committee Meeting,
Ferguson House, Lincoln NE, 2-5 pm.

Jan 9, 2019 (Wednesday) - Grants Committee Meeting,
Ferguson House, Lincoln NE, 2-5 pm.

February 5, 2019 (Tuesday) - 1st Quarter Board Meeting

February 7, 2019 (Thursday) - Rainwater Basin Joint
Venture 24th Annual Informational Seminar, Ramada
Midtown, Grand Island.

