

RESOURCE

A Monthly Publication of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

March 2018

Executive Director Corner

We had a little excitement on the floor of the Legislature last week as Senator Friesen from Henderson offered an amendment to take \$50,000 from the Trust and put it in the Community Garden bill, LB 808. LB 808 deals with the Community Gardens Act and creating the Community Food Production Water Fund and a grant program operated by the Department of Agriculture. The bill had an extended discussion on the floor, but has not been advanced from General File at this time. It is a priority bill of the Agriculture Committee. Senator Schumacher did a good job of reminding the Legislature that it is unconstitutional to “take” funds from the Trust. Senator Watermeier and other Senators also spoke up for the Trust.

The Legislature is more than 75% over for this second session of the 105th Legislature. There were 468 bills introduced. This is a 60-day session and it will end on April 18th. The Legislature will concentrate on the budget bills and priority bills for the last days of this session.

One of our newest board members, John Orr will have his confirmation hearing in the Natural Resources Committee this Thursday, March 22nd. Mr. Orr is the last of the new NET board members appointed in 2017 to get confirmed by the Legislature.



Pete Ricketts, Governor Board of Trustees

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Governor Charley Thone passed away recently. I knew the Governor, but not real well. Several friends of mine were good friends of his and they have related fond stories of him to me and I have read some wonderful stories about him that I had not heard before. My deepest condolences to Ruthie and all of his family and friends.

I hope to see some of you at our Grantee Seminars being held in Lincoln and Grand Island next month (see more information below). The Grantee Seminars allow NET staff to visit with grant recipients and explain our grant requirements and answer questions they might have concerning their grants.

The Husker men's basketball team missed the big dance (NCAA Tournament) and then were eliminated in the first round of the NIT Tournament. The Husker women's basketball team made it to the big tournament, but also lost in the first round. Nebraska Wesleyan made Nebraska proud by winning the NCAA Division III men's basketball title. The Spring Football Game will be here on April 21st and we'll get a look at Frost, his assistant coaches and the players. Both the UNL baseball and softball teams have shown flashes, but it is hard to tell if either team is for real this season.

Mark A. Brohman
Executive Director

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The Nebraska
Environmental Trust
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Visitors at the Exhibition



Displays at the Rotunda



Omaha B-Cycle Exhibit

NET's 25th Anniversary Celebrations

The Trust has organized an exhibition in conjunction with its 25th Anniversary Celebrations at the Rotunda, First Floor of the Nebraska State Capitol Building. A few of our

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grantees are participating in this exhibit that will end this Friday, March 23, 2018. You are invited to visit the exhibition at your convenience during State Capitol hours. There is plenty of useful information on some of our grants, partners and some neat give-aways.

We look forward to seeing you!

Public Information and Education (PIE) Grant Report

Public Information and Education mini-grants support the presentation and dissemination of information and perspectives that will stimulate enhanced environmental stewardship in any category eligible for Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) funding. These categories are habitat, surface and ground water, waste management, air quality, and soil management. The grant expands dialogue on important current conservation topics and provides information on emerging or highly useful conservation methods. All Nebraska individuals, private organizations, and public entities are eligible to apply for these funds.

Nine applications were received for the 2018 first quarter. The applicants included the Nebraska Wildlife Federation – Nebraska’s Climate Future for Civic and Business Leaders; College of Saint Mary – Native American Art and the Emerald Ash Borer; Lincoln Earth Day 2018; Keep Omaha Beautiful – Only Rain Down the Storm Drain; Nebraskans for Civic Reform – Campus Field Guide; Cook Grow Sew, LLC – Soil Life Education; What is Hidden Beneath our Feet; Audubon’s Nebraska Crane Festival; Willa Cather Foundation – Pollinator Workshop; and Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools – Spark Summer Learning. Recipients were the Lincoln Earth Day 2018, Keep Omaha Beautiful, Nebraskans for Civic Reform, and Audubon Nebraska.

Second quarter 2018 applications are due April 13, 2018.

Grant forms and information can be found on our website, www.neacadsci.org. Click on NAS and then click on Grants and Scholarships.

Sandhills Task Force Uses NET Grants To Complete Wetland/Grassland Partnership

The Sandhills Task Force completed 14 projects in 2017 using funds from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The names of the two NET grants used are the Sandhills Wetland/Grassland Conservation Partnerships and the Sandhills Wetland/Grassland Conservation Partnerships II.

The 14 projects were completed on 24,600 acres of private land. The Sandhills Task Force used \$64,368.80 of NET funds and leveraged an additional \$391,437.58 from partners and other grants; so, for every NET dollar invested, an additional \$7 was invested from other sources. Other partners include ranchers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, Board of Education Lands and Funds, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through two grants.

Eight projects were eastern red cedar clearing projects, five projects were livestock water and fencing projects, and one was a stream restoration repair project. Below are some before and after photos taken by Chad Christiansen, US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Biologist, of a cedar clearing project in the eastern Sandhills. For this project, cedars were cleared from upland Sandhills pastures and an unused cedar windbreak was also removed to reduce

the local seed source. Cedars are encroaching across the Sandhills at an exponential rate. The encroachment is impairing wildlife and bird habitat on the native rangeland, reducing the amount of forage available for cattle, increasing wildfire danger, and more so it is one of the biggest threats to the Sandhills ecosystem. By removing the cedars, we are increasing the health, vigor, and productivity of the rangeland which is beneficial to not only the rancher, but also the wildlife, birds, insects, and pollinators that make their home on the prairie.

For more information, feel free to contact Shelly Kelly, STF Program Director, at shelly@sandhillstaskforce.org.



After Photo



Before Photo

Grantee Seminars Coming Up In April!

It's that time of the year where the Trust will be holding our Grantee Seminars for grantees that have received grants this cycle. The seminars will be held in Lincoln and Grand Island. If you have received an invitation letter and have not RSVP'd, please do so as soon as possible, so we can make catering arrangements for the appropriate numbers and indicate if you need a vegetarian meal. You may contact Allison La Duke, Grants Assistant at 402-471-5417 for any further questions on these seminars.

Please click on the link below for the agenda of the seminars.

[Grantee Seminars in Lincoln](#)

[Grantee Seminar in Grand Island](#)

Upcoming Events

- 25 Years of Preservation Work - The Nebraska

Environmental Trust, March 19-24, 2018, Rotunda,
State Capitol Building, Lincoln NE.

- Audubon's Nebraska Crane Festival, March 22-25,
2018, Kearney NE.
- 2nd Quarter Board Meeting, Thursday, April 5th,
2018, 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm, Ferguson House, Lincoln
NE.
- Weatherfest, Saturday, April 7th, 2018, 9:00am -
2:00pm, Innovation Campus, UNL, Lincoln NE.
- Grantee Seminar Lincoln, April 9, 2018, 10:00am -
1:00 pm, Ferguson House, Lincoln NE.
- Grantee Seminar Lincoln, April 11, 2018, 10:00am
- 1:00 pm, Ferguson House, Lincoln NE.
- Grantee Seminar Grand Island, April 13, 2018,
10:00am - 1:00 pm, Central Platte NRD Office,
Grand Island, NE.
- Earth Day Omaha, Saturday, April 21st, 2018,
Elmwood Park, Omaha NE.
- Eastern Red Cedar Meeting, April 25th, 2018,
12:30 pm - 5:00 pm, Halsey National Forest,
Halsey NE.

- Lincoln Earth Day, Saturday, April 28th, 2018,
Union Plaza Park, Lincoln NE.
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