

RESOURCE

A Monthly Publication of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

October 2018

Executive Director Corner

The last month has been very busy at the Trust. We have been getting grants distributed to technical reviewers, preparing for the Grant Committee meetings and the next quarterly board meeting, attending dedications and events, and hosting events at the Ferguson House.

Marilyn set up the Trust booth at the Lower Platte South Natural Resources' wetland open house at the Marsh Wren Saline Wetland on September 13th. Over 100 people attended the event hosted by the Saline Wetlands Conservation Partnership. Allison and I also attended and had a chance to visit with partners and the general public about the project and the surrounding saline wetlands.

Marilyn and I had the great pleasure of attending the two day Nebraska Natural Legacy Conference in Ainsworth last month. We got to hear about a lot of exciting natural resource projects across Nebraska, many using Trust funds. The next day we helped The Nature Conservancy dedicate their new educational buildings at their Niobrara Preserve.



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I had the honor of attending Mike Fritz's retirement gathering. Mike had worked for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission since 1987. His departure will leave a big hole as his knowledge is very broad. He is both a botanist as well as a zoologist and recognized as an expert in many fields by fellow biologists.

Other events included the tree dedication event noted in the story below, the Great Plains Trail Network's 30th anniversary, NGPC's Wildlife Division's annual meeting, the Nebraska Recycling Council's annual luncheon and awards ceremony, and the City of Fremont's solar array dedication.

The Huskers Volleyball team is currently ranked 5th in the country and just recently suffered their third loss of the season. Who would have imagined the football team to be 0-6 in mid-October? I attended the Northwestern game and couldn't believe the stands were almost 50% red, which was very obvious against the home color of purple. One Northwestern fan commented after the Husker overtime loss, "Nebraska has to be the best 0-6 team in the country." We could just as easily be 4-2 right now. I think a majority of the fans still believe Coach Scott Frost is the right man for the job, but it sure is a painful journey. I'll be sitting in the stands again this week, hoping to see my first Husker victory of the Frost era. Don't lose the faith!

Have a safe harvest and Go Big Red!

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Grace Chapel Tree Planting Ceremony

Near South Church and Childcare Benefit from New Trees

An urban church and childcare center received trees that will make a difference for the neighborhood and the church and provide a far better play space for children at the Center, thanks to funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET).

Grace Chapel began renovating the 130-year-old church at 16th and A St. in Lincoln 16 months ago. Previously Trinity United Methodist, the building had been vacant for several years. The childcare center adjacent to the church surrounds a west-facing garden courtyard that is too hot for use most of the summer.

Pastor Ben Loos said the new trees will provide “much-needed shade and beauty so the garden can be better

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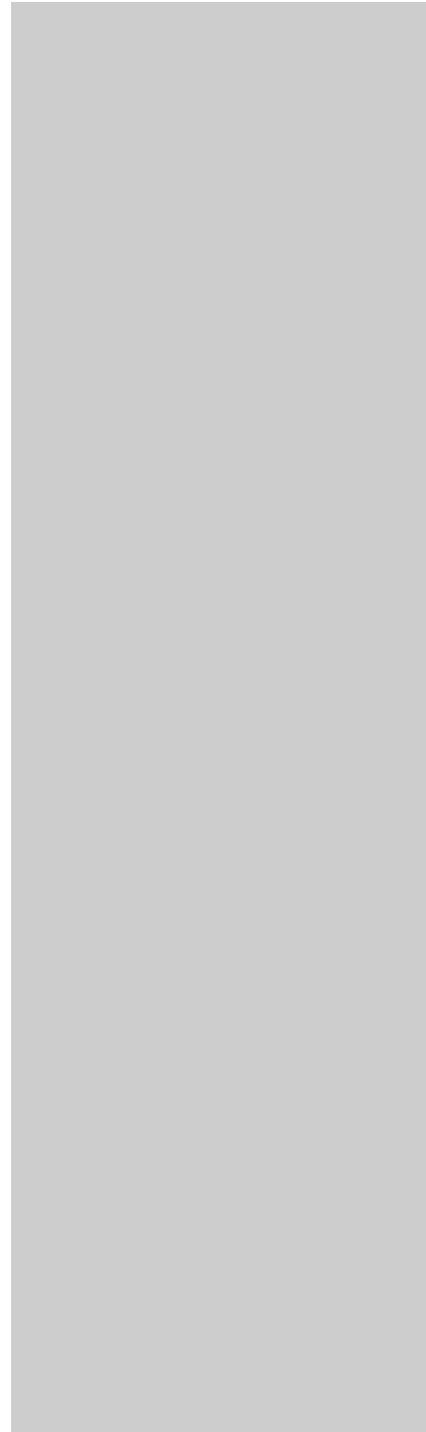
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used for education and recreation and make the interior spaces far more comfortable and connected to the gardens.” Currently the surrounding structure is almost entirely glassed in and is difficult to keep cool during the summer.

The new trees provided by the Free Trees for Fall ReTree Planting program include a catalpa, Kentucky coffeetree, redbud and chinkapin oak. The trees will greatly expand tree diversity in the area, which like other areas faces loss from emerald ash borer and other challenges.

Staff and children from the childcare and the church celebrated the planting Sept. 24 with tree-related activities. They were joined by NET Director Mark Brohman and Public Information Officer Sheila Johnson. Brohman knows well the challenges of street plantings but also the difference an inviting landscape can make in an urban setting since NET is housed in the Ferguson House just a few blocks north of the church.

One inviting aspect of this particular grant, Loos said, is that planting just a few trees will make a real difference in this small setting. Many public landscape grants are for much larger projects that subsequently demand far more planning, expense and management than the church could take on at the same time as renovation efforts.





Kids with their decorative "cookies" (thin tree discs)

Leadership Academy Seeks Applicants for 2019 Class

The Nebraska Water Leaders Academy is seeking applicants who are interested in developing their leadership skills and learning about the vital role of natural resources and water issues play in the economic sustainability of the state. The year-long program begins in January 2019. The deadline for applications is Dec. 1, 2018.

The Academy seeks candidates who are directly involved in water issues as well as those who have a general interest in learning more about the state's natural resources. Past participants have included attorneys, consultants, individuals from ag-related industries, municipalities and governmental agencies.

In partnership with the University of Nebraska Lincoln and supported by the Nebraska Environmental Trust, academy programs are presented by leading academic scholars, top policy makers and acknowledged experts.

The program consists of six, 1-1/2 day sessions at locations across the state and includes intense classroom and field trip experiences. More than 120 men and women have graduated from the Academy since its inception in 2009. Class size is limited to 20.

Applications for Class IX of the Academy are available now online at www.waterleadersacademy.org or call 402-476-0162 for more information.

A program of The Water Futures Partnership-Nebraska, a 501(c) 3 organization, the Academy receives funding from private individuals and organizations as well as major gifts from Diamond Plastics Corporation and the Nebraska Environmental Trust.



Participants work in groups to develop solutions for complex water issues.

Upcoming Events

4th Quarter Board Meeting - Thursday, November 1, 2018,
Ferguson House, Lincoln NE. (1:30 pm to 4:30 pm)

Grants Committee Meeting - Thursday, November 1, 2018,
Ferguson House, Lincoln NE. (9:30 am)

Grants Committee Meeting - Thursday, November 15,
2018, Ferguson House, Lincoln NE. (9:30am)

Grants Committee Meeting - Thursday, November 29,
2018, Ferguson House, Lincoln NE. (9:30am)

Christmas Open House - Sunday, December 9, 2018,
Ferguson House, Lincoln NE. (1:00 pm - 5:00 pm)

Grants Committee Meeting - Thursday, December 13,
2018, Ferguson House, Lincoln NE. (9:30am)

