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# RESOURCE

A Monthly Publication of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

## September 2018

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### Executive Director Corner

Well another grant deadline has come and gone. We received 111 grant applications for \$33M compared to 112 for \$42M last year. As always, there are some very interesting applications. You can go on our website and read the 200 word summaries of all 111 applications. Now projects will be reviewed by technical experts and then the Grants Committee will begin scoring applications in November and December.

The last few weeks have been very busy for the Trust staff as we had a booth at the State Fair, Heron Haven's Wetland Festival, Papio-Missouri River NRD's World of Water Festival, Marsh Wren Open House and the Ponca Outdoor Expo. It is always good to meet so many new people and talk about the Trust and the many great projects we partner with across the State. We also get to see partners and catch up with them and their projects.

The Huskers Volleyball team is currently ranked 3rd in the country and is looking very strong again. John Cook knows how to put together a perennial powerhouse. I don't



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### Pete Ricketts, Governor Board of Trustees

#### District I

Ryan K. McIntosh - Syracuse

James Hellbusch - Columbus

John Orr - Blair

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#### District II

Gerry Lauritzen - Omaha

Paul Dunn - Omaha

Robert Krohn - Omaha

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#### District III

think a majority of fans have given up on Coach Scott Frost and know it will take a few years for his recruits to get into a majority of the starting roles. I had hoped we would be 3-0 or at least 2-1 now, instead of 0-2, but I have at least seen a bit more fire on the field and flashes of greatness. I still feel good about the future of Husker football. We have the tough part of our schedule ahead of us, but don't give up the faith.

Have a safe harvest and Go Big Red!

Mark A. Brohman

Executive Director

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### **Nebraska Environmental Trust Invites Comments on 2019 Grant Applications**

The Nebraska Environmental Trust entered the 2019 grant cycle on September 4, 2018 receiving 111 new applications and 32 carry-over projects requesting a total of \$33,687,862 in grants. Last year the Trust received 112 new applications and 39 carry-over projects. The Trust has completed 25 grant cycles and will announce the results of the 26th round of award recommendations in February 2019.

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 3, 2019, at the Nebraska Environmental Trust, 700 S 16th Street, PO Box

Sherry Vinton - Whitman

Rodney Christen - Steinauer

Quentin Bowen - Humboldt

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#### **Agency Directors**

Jim Douglas, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Steve Wellman, Nebraska Department of Agriculture

Jim Macy, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality

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

[Vacant],

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

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*Students attending the Monarch education program.*

### **Save Our Monarchs Foundation**

Save Our Monarchs Foundation, a grassroots non-profit organization with offices in Minnesota and Nebraska, visited Lexington Middle School on Monday, September 10th to provide Monarch education to the 7th grade science class. Students at the school have been growing Milkweed at their school garden to help support the Monarchs and now they will be rearing Monarchs in their classrooms. Save Our Monarchs has helped to install and provide seeds for over 4000 school pollinator gardens in the US and Mexico.

Save Our Monarchs, in collaboration with the Nebraska Environmental Trust, provided students with 50 young Monarch caterpillars to raise. Over the next month,

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students will learn more about the life-cycle, migration, and biology of the monarch butterfly. At the end of the month, Save Our Monarchs will return to Lexington Middle School to host a Monarch citizen science tagging event. All of the Monarchs that they reared will be tagged and released to improve citizen science efforts in the tracking their great migration to Mexico.



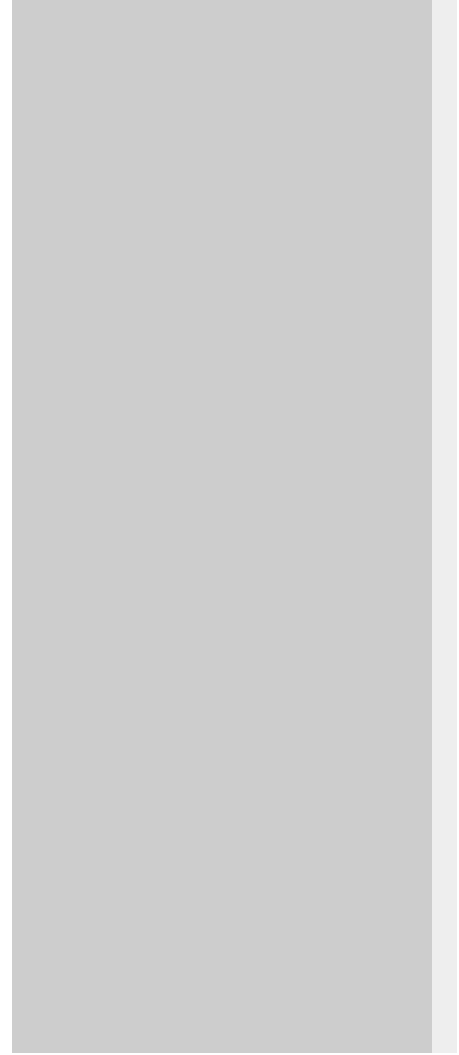
### **Compressed Natural Gas Station in North Platte**

KALM Energy, LLC and the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) have collaborated with Clean Energy, Inc. to install a fast fill compressed natural gas (CNG) station located beside the Flying “J” Travel center in North Platte, NE. Clean Energy already had installed a liquefied natural station (LNG) at the travel center and intended to convert it to a C/LNG station at about the same time as KALM was awarded the NET grant to build their station. North Platte is too small to support two stations so Clean Energy and KALM approached the NET board and received approval to work together to upgrade the existing station. The state of the art C/LNG station has 2 fast fill CNG dispensers and

easy access for class 8 trucks or passenger vehicles traveling on Interstate 80 or located in surrounding communities.

The new CNG station in western Nebraska has been a vital cog in the regional alternative fuel infrastructure. The station has filled a large mileage gap that existed between Lincoln and Denver as well as other points west on I-80. For example, United Parcel Service runs dedicated CNG vehicles out of their Denver and Omaha locations but before the installation of the new station they were precluded from utilizing CNG because of their tank capacity. Now they can use alternative fuel to deliver to all Nebraska communities!

Filling the CNG void in western Nebraska was instrumental in convincing the federal government to designate I-80 as an alternative fuel corridor. The designation will provide future funding opportunities for alternative fuel investment and without the new station we might have been ignored. Suffice it to say the generous grant that NET provided has had a dramatic impact on both the environment and the economy of western Nebraska!





**Sept. 22 proclaimed National Hunting and Fishing Day in Nebraska - Courtesy of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission**

Nebraska Lt. Gov. Mike Foley honored the state's hunters and anglers on Monday during a ceremony in which he proclaimed Sept. 22 National Hunting and Fishing Day in Nebraska.

For more than four decades, National Hunting and Fishing Day has recognized America's hunters and anglers for their leadership in fish and wildlife conservation. National Hunting and Fishing Day, celebrated the fourth Saturday of

every September, remains an effective grassroots effort to promote the outdoor sports and conservation.

In Nebraska, these ventures are promoted through the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's partnerships that work to pass along the state's outdoor heritage, providing funding for conservation efforts. Programs such as mentored youth hunts, family fishing events and \$8 youth permits introduce young people to these fulfilling activities.

Nebraska's 289,000 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through spending more than \$780 million annually while engaged in their pursuits. In addition, hunting and fishing support more than 12,085 jobs in Nebraska and generate more than \$81 million in state and local taxes.

"Hunters and anglers are invaluable to conservation in Nebraska, and they also are a powerful force in the state's economy," said Scott Smathers, executive director of the Nebraska Sportsmen's Foundation. "We're honored that Gov. Pete Ricketts and Lt. Gov. Mike Foley recognize the value of hunting and fishing in Nebraska."

Visit [OutdoorNebraska.org](http://OutdoorNebraska.org) to find out more about hunting and fishing opportunities in Nebraska. Visit [nhfd.org](http://nhfd.org) to learn more about National Hunting and Fishing Day.





*Lt. Governor Mike Foley, Senator Bruce Bostelman and members of conservation groups attending proclamation ceremony.*

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### **Marsh Wren Open House**

Partners (including City of Lincoln, Nebraska Environmental Trust, Lower Platte South NRD, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and Nebraska Chapter of Pheasants Forever, Inc.) of the Saline Wetlands Conservation Partnership sponsored an “Open House” at the Marsh Wren Community Wetland Area on September 12th.

The event featured the Marsh Wren Conservation Project including a saline water distribution system, identification of saline and prairie plants, bird viewing (28 species identified during event), Platte Basin Timelapse project, Nebraska’s Natural Legacy Program, and Monarch tagging among others. Approximately 120 persons attended the Open House.



*Marsh Wren Courtesy of The Flatwater Group*

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### **Upcoming Events**

4th Quarter Board Meeting - Thursday, November 1, 2018,  
Ferguson House, Lincoln NE. (1:00 pm to 4:30 pm)

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

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