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RESOURCE

A Monthly Publication of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

October 2019

Executive Director Corner

The harvest is underway across the Midwest and the weather changes daily. From highs in the upper 70's to the lows in the teens. We have windy days and calm days, wet days and dry days and parts of the State have already seen significant snowfall.

We have a board meeting coming up November 7th and the Grants Committee will begin meeting to score the 120 grant applications submitted this year. You can go to our website and read the 200 word summaries of the 2020 grants. As always, there are some very interesting grants from a wide variety of applicants.

I attended an informational meeting held by the Nebraska Lottery this week. It is always interesting to hear about the things they are doing and the latest numbers. If you are a fan of the "Trucks for Bucks" \$2 scratch ticket, you will be happy to know they will be giving away seven silver trucks next year to celebrate the silver anniversary of that contest. Remember, for every \$2 ticket you buy, the Trust receives about 18 cents.

I had the pleasure of witnessing the Huskers narrowly defeat Northwestern in football at home after traveling to



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Chicago last year and witnessing an overtime loss. The Minnesota game was a disaster and now we have a bye week. Getting six wins to be bowl eligible may be challenging, but hey, we are going to Dublin Ireland in 2021 to play Illinois. The volleyball team is playing well as they have bounced around the top 5 all season. Currently they sit at 5th with a record of 14-2. College basketball is just around the corner and some are dreaming of baseball already.

Have a safe harvest and Go Big Red!

Mark A. Brohman
Executive Director



Chadron State Park Tree Plant

Chadron State Park Tree Plant was started in 2015 to help replace trees that were lost to the fire in August 2012. Longs Peak Council Boy Scouts and Scouters had just finished 25 years of planting trees at Fort Robinson and we had the plan in place to continue on to another project. We

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wanted to expand the project to involve more people than just Boy Scouts. They asked people from Chadron to help and got that. The Chadron State College Football team helped plant trees one year and they had Job Corp students the last four years.

They applied to the Nebraska Environmental Trust for funding of the project. They were going to plant 3,000 trees a year but as each year went by they were given advice from the Nebraska National Forest personnel that they needed to make changes to how they planted each plant which had to compete with grasses, so they started blocking out a 2 foot square to expose the soil, plant the tree and to add wood chips to hold back the grass and keep moisture around the tree. Also when placing the trees in sheltered places around downed tree logs and old stumps, their survival rate increased. Their next change came with help in advice again in the size of the seedling which increased their survival rate again. They worked with National Wild Turkey Federation and Nebraska National Forest Service to combine funds to mitigate some of the acreage to make a safer area to plant and to clean up the burned area. Weather has blessed the Park with 2 years of increased moisture which helps also.

This being their final year they planted over 12,000 trees with some remarkable results in survival. We would like to thank Longs Peak Council Boy Scouts of America for administrating the grant, Nebraska Environmental Trust, Upper Niobrara White NRD, Nebraska National Forest Service, National Wild Turkey Federation, Chadron Job Corp, Nebraska Game and Parks and Chadron State Park and staff in helping them with their conservation efforts. This project was done by young boys and girls for our future generations.

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Planting trees at Chadron State Park.

Electronic Recycling Day

Clean Community Systems recently hosted an electronics recycling day. The main focus during the event was TVs - LCD, tube or console. They also accepted monitors, keyboards, towers, gaming devices, phones, lap tops, tablets, newer TV's, and lots and lots of cords.

There was no charge for the event and the event was funded in part from a grant received from the Trust.

The picture included below was taken in the morning of the collection day. They filled a semi with 48 pallets of older

TV's. Total pounds was 18,450. Total pounds from electronics was 23,717, for a total day collection of 42,167 pounds.

The event was open to residents from Hall, Adams, Hamilton, Howard and Merrick Counties.



Collection day showing boxes filled with electronic items



Ferguson House in the fall

Ferguson House Christmas Open House and Holiday Tours

The Nebraska Environmental Trust will host a holiday open house at the historic Ferguson House on Sunday, December 8th in conjunction with the Tree Lighting Ceremony at the State Capitol Building.

Also open is the Thomas P. Kennard House located on the east side of the Ferguson House. The public is invited to visit and tour the 108 year-old Renaissance Revival Ferguson House from 1 to 5 p.m. There is no charge to tour the Ferguson House or the Kennard House on that day. There is limited parking behind the Ferguson House, but street parking is available along 16th and H streets.

The Ferguson House was constructed by the Cleveland architectural firm of Searles, Hirsh & Gavin as a private residence for William Henry and Myrtle Ferguson between 1909 and 1911. It is one of the finest examples of Second Renaissance Revival architecture and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Made from brick, concrete and I-beams, the house cost an estimated \$38,000 and featured advanced technology such as a central vacuum system, indoor plumbing and gas and electric power.

Mr. Ferguson helped introduce winter wheat and special varieties of alfalfa to Nebraska and was co-owner of Yankee Hill Brick and Capital Beach Amusement Park, President of Beatrice Foods and owner of Woodlawn Dairy. Myrtle Ferguson resided in the house until her death in 1972.

The state of Nebraska took possession of the property from the Ferguson family then and the property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The house is a well-known landmark in Lincoln located across from the Nebraska State Capitol. The staff of the Nebraska Environmental Trust currently occupies the second floor of the Ferguson House. The first floor living and dining rooms are available to rent for meetings and events. The Ferguson House is located at 700 S 16th Street in

downtown Lincoln. For more information, call 402-471-5417.



Ferguson House Entryway when the family resided there.

Upcoming Events

- November 7, 2019 - 4th Quarter Board Meeting, 1:30 pm, Ferguson House.
 - December 8, 2019 - Ferguson House Christmas Open House
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