

Having trouble reading this email? [View it in your browser.](#)

# RESOURCE

A Monthly Publication of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

## May 2020

---

### Executive Director Corner

The COVID-19 pandemic continues. I don't think any of us imagined the huge impact in our lives this event would have just two months ago. At first it seemed it might be like a severe bout of the flu that would pass through the country, then nursing homes began lockdowns and then the stay-at-home suggestion and business closings began.

Below in this newsletter is information concerning the postponement of the Trust's next board meeting. We had hoped the pandemic would pass and things would return to somewhat normal when we first postponed the April 2<sup>nd</sup> to May 21<sup>st</sup>, but now we realize a normal or even close to normal meeting is out of the question. We will have a web meeting where all board members and staff will be remote and the public can watch the meeting and they are invited to testify during the public hearing on the grants or at the end of the meeting during our public comment period on other matters. You will have to contact the Trust to get the log-in information and the necessary password. If you intend to testify, we would appreciate you letting us know, so we can plan accordingly. If you decide to testify after initially contacting us and you don't have time to contact us again, we will try to accommodate



---

Pete Ricketts, Governor  
Board of Trustees

### District I

Jeff Kanger - Lincoln

James Hellbusch - Columbus

John Orr - Blair

---

### District II

Felix B. Davidson - Valley

Paul Dunn - Omaha

Robert Krohn - Omaha

---

### District III

Sherry Vinton - Whitman

anyone after the registered commenters have had an opportunity to testify during the meeting. You can also submit written comments to the Trust before the meeting as outlined below.

We have been transitioning to an online reporting system for the way we process reimbursements. There have been some delays in payments being processed, but we hope to have this all corrected very soon. We apologize for the inconvenience of our Grantees.

Governor Pete Ricketts, Lincoln's Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird and other Mayors have had daily press conferences and I think this helps citizens stay informed. The Lincoln and Omaha areas may not have plateaued, but hopefully new cases will start dropping dramatically soon. I think most of us have a new appreciation for the term "cabin fever".

There is not a lot of Husker sports news or any sports news for that matter, but there were a couple football players drafted into the NFL, twin brothers Carlos and Khalil Davis. Several former players have signed as free agents. The Husker volleyball and both men's and women's basketball teams lost several current players, but they have all had some impressive additions to their rosters in recent weeks. The big question, will there be college football and volleyball in the fall? No one knows yet, but the early word is that there will be no fans or very limited fans in the stands if there is a season.

Stay safe, practice social distancing and wash your hands often.

Mark A. Brohman  
Executive Director

---

Rodney Christen - Steinauer

Quentin Bowen - Humboldt

---

#### Agency Directors

Jim Douglas, Nebraska Game and  
Parks Commission

Steve Wellman, Nebraska  
Department of Agriculture

Jim Macy, Nebraska Department of  
Environment & Energy

Jesse Bradley (Acting Director),  
Nebraska Department of Natural  
Resources

Dr. Gary Anthone, Nebraska  
Department of Health and Human  
Services

---

#### Trust Staff

Mark A. Brohman  
Executive Director

Marilyn Tabor  
Grants Administrator

Sheila Johnson  
Public Information Officer

Pam Deines  
Administrative Secretary

Allison La Duke  
Grants Assistant

## **Board Meeting Postponed from May 21<sup>st</sup> to June 11<sup>th</sup>**

The second quarter Nebraska Environmental Trust board meeting scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup> has been postponed to Thursday, June 11, at 1:30pm. This will be an entirely virtual meeting, using Zoom. This is assuming that the Governor will be extending the Executive Order allowing virtual meetings beyond May 31, 2020. We will send out Zoom instructions and a password to anyone requesting them.

All interested persons may attend the web meeting and/or testify during the public hearing. Interested persons should provide notice in advance of intent to attend the meeting and/or testify at the hearing by sending an e-mail to [marilyn.tabor@nebraska.gov](mailto:marilyn.tabor@nebraska.gov) no later than 3:00 P.M. CT, June 10, 2020. Instructions to join the web meeting and a password will be e-mailed to persons contacting the Trust. Interested persons may also submit written comments online to [marilyn.tabor@nebraska.gov](mailto:marilyn.tabor@nebraska.gov) prior to the hearing, which will be entered into the hearing record if received no later than 3:00 P.M. CT, June 10, 2020.

We were unable to secure a location to have an “in person” meeting because of the 10 person in a room rule and the 6 foot social distancing rule. We apologize that there is not a location for the public to attend in person, but a web meeting allows anyone from anywhere to observe and/or testify if they wish.

Regarding the Zoom meeting, this has the most broad, and easiest access, no matter the platform (laptop, desktop, Windows, Apple, iOS, Android, Chromebook, Linux). Zoom does have an audio only option using a telephone line, but it would be best if participants could

The Nebraska  
Environmental Trust

700 S 16th Street

PO Box 94913

Lincoln, NE 68509-4913

web site:

<https://environmentaltrust.nebraska.gov>

have a video connection with the biggest screen possible. The best and easiest set up is probably a laptop, and a headset. Earbuds with a microphone from your cell phone also work. If you have any questions, call the Trust office (402-471-5409) or e-mail [marilyn.tabor@nebraska.gov](mailto:marilyn.tabor@nebraska.gov)

---

**Monarch Foundation teams up with OPPD and the Nebraska Environmental Trust to give away pollinator plants in the Omaha area**

In continuing efforts to help the declining Monarch butterfly population, the Save Our Monarchs Foundation (SOM), through a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET), is providing online instruction on Monarch butterflies for youth and their parents and delivering pollinator plant plugs to families interested in creating pollinator gardens at home.

As part of its partnership with the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD), and their 'Prairies in Progress' program to restore district properties to pollinator habitat, SOM had planned to provide classroom instruction to schools throughout the district's footprint this spring, as well as planting pollinator gardens at schoolyards. Given the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent school closings, the foundation has decided to provide the classroom program free of charge online through its YouTube channel. These short, instructional videos are accessible to the public, and provide information on Monarchs, their migration, lifecycle, and needs, along with tips for how to help. Instead of planting gardens in schoolyards, SOM is soliciting requests for plugs from

students interested in creating pollinator gardens in their own yards.

Habitat for Monarchs makes excellent habitat for other vital and diminishing species, including native bees and migratory birds. Such habitat consists of bio-diverse landscapes that contain milkweed (the Monarch caterpillar's only food source) and other native nectar and pollen sources that SOM is providing to the public free of charge. "Gardening for Monarchs and other pollinators is a perfect quarantine activity that the whole family can enjoy, all while helping provide much needed breeding habitat for the soon-to-arrive Monarchs on their journey north," said Jenn Duerr, Outreach Coordinator for SOM.

**In order to receive one (1) milkweed and four (4) native nectar plants delivered free of charge, students and their parents can send contact information to [jenn@saveourmonarchs.org](mailto:jenn@saveourmonarchs.org), or call the foundation at 402-646-9025. Plants will be available for delivery after May 19<sup>th</sup>.**

These efforts are part of SOM's Corridors for Pollinators (CFP) program, which works with utility companies and other right-of-way holders to manage properties as pollinator habitat while also taking care of business and regulatory needs. To date the program has helped restore or enhance over 15,000 acres since beginning in 2015, and this year will provide over 4,000 pollinator plant plugs to help establish quality pollinator habitat throughout the state. "The scientific research is in, we need more habitat," says Ward Johnson, Executive Director of the foundation. The group is working on the eastern migratory flyway that extends from the 100th parallel running through Nebraska to the eastern seaboard of Canada, the US and Mexico. Randall Gilbert, the group's program director, says "We are not scientists. We are concerned citizens and activists

focused on getting Monarch and other pollinator plants in the ground and increasing habitat. We are unceasingly passionate about this work.”

*To learn more about The Save Our Monarchs Foundation, visit*

[www.saveourmonarch.org](http://www.saveourmonarch.org)

*To learn more about OPPD's habitat program, visit*

<https://oppdthewire.com/pollinator-habitats-expansion-oppd/>

*Save Our Monarchs contact: Randall Gilbert, 402-646-9025*

---

### **King Lake Flood Victims rebuild their lives with help from the Habitat for Humanity of Omaha ReStore Deconstruction Program**

Habitat for Humanity Omaha and their Omaha ReStore Deconstruction Program put NET grant dollars to use this past year supporting King Lake Flood Victims rebuild their losses. Through a partnership with their donors they purchased several complete kitchen sets from local Omaha ReStore that had been acquired from the Deconstruction Program. The kitchens were purchased by Habitat donors from the Omaha ReStores to benefit the homeowners in King Lake area. Habitat's partner contractors delivered the deconstructed kitchens directly to the victims homes as they rebuilt.



---

### **Upcoming Events**

- June 11, 2020 (Thursday) - 2nd Quarter Board Meeting, 1:30pm
-