

RESOURCE

A Monthly Publication of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

June 2021

Executive Director Corner

I can't believe June is more than half over and the 4th of July is just around the corner. We will start accepting grant applications for the 2022 grant cycle on July 1, 2021. Application must be made on-line. If you have any questions about your application or want to visit with myself or Holly Adams, our Grants Administrator, please contact us. We are also very happy to review draft applications or discuss budgets. Our next board meeting will be from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, August 3rd in Lincoln. The location is yet to be determined.

The Legislature ended early this session, but will be back in September to address redistricting and there will be lots of activity. The Governor's race has seen a couple entries, but everyone is watching to see if former Governor Dave Heineman will enter the race. He has stated a decision may not be made until this fall.

We lost another giant in the conservation and science world. Dr. Paul Johnsgard passed away May 28, 2021, at the age of 89. He was a scientist, author, artist, photographer and more. He authored more than 100 books on birds, ecology, natural history and other subjects, and he published hundreds of articles and



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papers. He taught more than 40 years. I was fortunate to take Ornithology as an undergraduate from Dr. Johnsgard and came to call him a friend. His memorial was this past weekend and included tributes from former students, photographers, artists, family and colleagues. The world famous Jane Goodall sent her regards and the well-known wildlife photographer Tom Mangelsen relayed some great memories of Dr. Johnsgard. I could never call him "Paul", it was always "Dr. Johnsgard" because he was a rock star in the biological world. One of my favorite memories was when he had dyed a mount of a male house sparrow purple and included it on a lab quiz in Ornithology. Everyone except me, guessed purple martin. As a ranch kid, I had a lot of experience with house sparrows growing up and was not fooled.

The College World Series is underway and unfortunately the Huskers had a tough regional, being paired against the number one ranked Arkansas team. Arkansas defeated the Huskers in two of three games to advance and then they were upset and didn't make it to Omaha. The Huskers might have a good team next year after winning the BIG10 title this year. Husker volleyball fans are excited that Lexi Sun has decided to come back for a fifth season and Lauren Stivrins is still considering it. Jazz Sweet and Hayley Densberger are graduating and leaving. Nebraska has recruited three of the best volleyball players in the country. Three former Huskers have been named to the US Olympic Volleyball team: Jordon Larson, Kelsey Robinson and Justine Wong-Orantes. The Husker football team seems to be picking up some good recruits, so keep your fingers crossed.

Travel safe,

Rodney Christen - Steinauer

Quentin Bowen - Humboldt

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Holly Adams
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Sheila Johnson
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Pam Deines
Grants Assistant

Sandra Weaver
Administrative Secretary

*Mark A. Brohman,
Executive Director*

Grants Portal Opens Up July 1st

Grantees are reminded the NET online portal for grant submissions this year will open up on July 1, 2021. Grant submissions will be accepted till the grants deadline on September 7, 2021.

For any further information, you may contact the Trust office at 402-471-5409.



NET Welcomes Sandra Weaver as Administrative Secretary

The Nebraska Environmental Trust would like to welcome Sandra Weaver as a team member of the

The Nebraska
Environmental Trust

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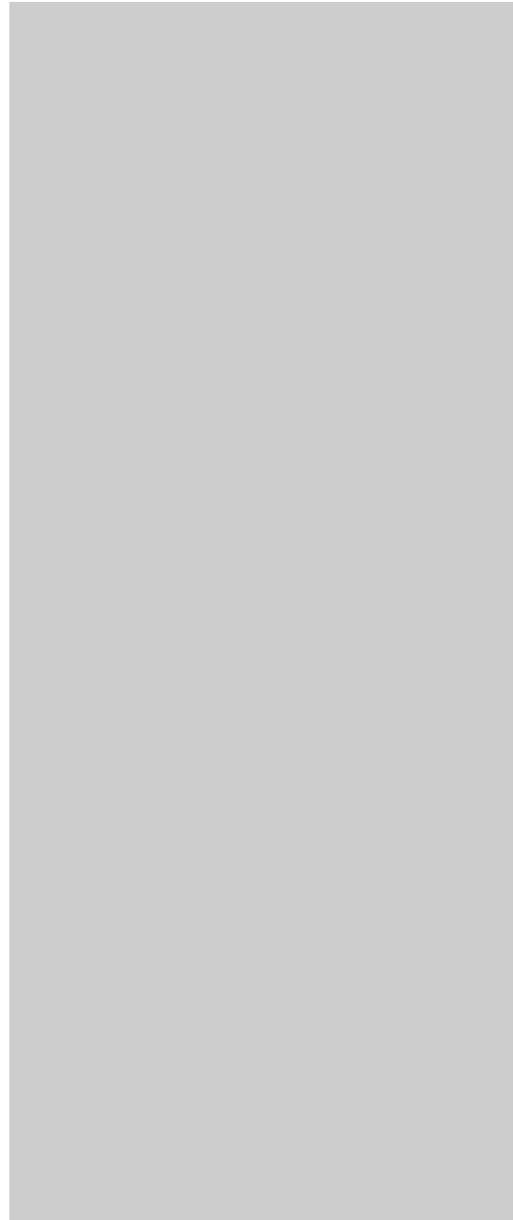
web site:

<https://environmentaltrust.nebraska.gov>

NET staff. Sandra brings with her vast experience and knowledge. She worked for the Nebraska Board of Engineers for 18 years and retired in July 2020. Sandra has decided to go back to the work force and the Trust is excited to have her onboard with the many skills she has and expertise.

She was employed by the Furnas County Assessor's Office from 1975 to 2000 as a Clerk Assessor and then Deputy Assessor. She then moved to Lincoln and became a Secretary for the Nebraska Department of Education in 2001. A year later, Sandra began her position in the Board of Engineers and Architects as an administrative assistant. She was reclassified as the Board's business manager in 2016. Sandra grew up in Furnas County near Beaver City, and received her degree in business administration and management from Central Community College.

As the business manager, her duties included expenditures and annual financial reports, analyzed accuracy of records and compliance of transactions with established policies and procedures, and assisted in preparation of the biennial budget. Please wish Sandra a warm welcome when you see her.





Beyond School Bells - TMC mini cart and detached drawers showcased alongside The Greenery container farm. (above)

Beyond School Bells (BSB) Nebraska Youth Conservation Initiative

Beyond School Bells (BSB) Nebraska Youth Conservation Initiative has been afforded the opportunity to engage youth outdoors and in conservation education in many ways over the last year with funding provided for by the Nebraska Environmental Trust. A key piece of the original initiative was to take two groups of youth across the state to experience Nebraska's breadth of geography and biodiversity, however, covid-19 prevented all travel and so the initiative had to adapt. Instead, Beyond School Bells helped to connect students with conservation where they were by connecting them to experts in their own communities, working to create and provide curriculum that could be delivered online with activities enacted at home, developing mobile learning spaces like the Think Make Create environmental education (TMCe2) lab, and through environmental projects such as the Tree-a-thon and Freight Farms container farm: The Greenery. Each of these projects has evolved over the course of the last year with the Tree-a-thon being the first to adapt by connecting NRDs

with afterschool programs to deliver tree seedlings for students to celebrate Arbor day with by planting at home in the early stages of the pandemic.

With the understanding of greater safety from covid-19 outdoors, in 2021 BSB was able to adapt this project once again to provide over forty saplings to seven communities where students could gather safely outdoors and celebrate Arbor Day by planting together. This same understanding was used as an additional incentive for after school programs across the State to take students outside and experience nature. This was the primary focus of the TMCe2 donated to the Clyde Malone Center in Lincoln as well as TMC Environmental Education upgrades which were given to eight additional after school programs to engage students in outdoor activities and curriculum such as the "Environmental Scavenger Hunt".

The most recent project to kick-off due in part to the partnership of the Nebraska Environmental Trust has been the Freight Farms "The Greenery" which is a former shipping container outfitted with high-tech growing systems equivalent to a 2.5 acre farm. The unit will be used to showcase new and innovative techniques to growing food and will be run by high school and college students at The Bay in Lincoln. Although unforeseen and unwelcome, the pandemic did create opportunity for BSB to adapt the reach of the Nebraska Youth Conservation Initiative to connect more and more students with conservation ideas in their own backyards so that they can soon begin to explore conservation across the state once again.



TMC mini cart and detached drawers showcased alongside The Greenery container farm.



Inside view of The Greenery container farm with 120 LED boards.

2021 Calendar:

- Tuesday, August 3, 2021 - 3rd Quarter Board Meeting - TBD
- Tuesday, September 7, 2021 - Grants Deadline

- Thursday, November 4, 2021 - 4th Quarter Board Meeting - TBD

