

# RESOURCE

A Monthly Publication of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

## July 2021

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### Executive Director Corner

The Trust has been busy setting up new grants and providing documents for the auditors. Tomorrow, Thursday July 22, 2021, at 1:00pm at the Ferguson House, we will hold a board meeting to review the two audits that the board asked for earlier this year from the State of Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts and a Performance Audit by the Department of Administrative Services. The third quarter board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, beginning at 10am at the Ferguson House. Normally the third quarter meeting is a two day meeting, but this year it will be one day.

We began accepting grant applications for the 2022 grant cycle on July 1, 2021. Application must be made online. If you have any questions about your application or want to visit with myself or Holly Adams, our Grants Administrator, please contact us. There may be some changes made at the third quarter board meeting concerning 2022 grants, so stay tuned for updates.

The Huskers have hired a new Athletic Director. Trev Alberts has been serving as the AD for UNO and has a Husker football pedigree, professional football experience and spent some time as a sports analyst on television. The Husker baseball, volleyball and football programs have been getting some impressive recruits



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Pete Ricketts, Governor  
Board of Trustees

### District I

Jeff Kanger (Chair) - Lincoln

James Hellbusch - Columbus

John Orr - Blair

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### District II

Felix B. Davidson - Valley

Paul Dunn - Omaha

Mark Quandahl - Omaha

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### District III

Josh Andersen - Edgar

lately. We will have to see how these recruits pan out. The first football game is less than six weeks away.

Travel safe,

*Mark A. Brohman,  
Executive Director*

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**Nebraska Environmental Trust Board  
Special Meeting, Thursday, July 22,2021  
1:00 pm CST**

The Ferguson House  
700 South 16th St  
Lincoln NE 68508

1. Call to order and Public Meeting Compliance
  2. Roll Call and Quorum
  3. Minutes of April 8, 2021 Board Meeting
  4. Discussion of, Potential Action On, Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Performance Review Audit
  5. Discussion of, Potential Action On, Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts Financial Audit
  6. Public Comment and Good of The Order
  7. Adjourn
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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  
Environment & Energy

Tom Riley P.E., Director, Nebraska  
Department of Natural Resources

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

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Trust Staff

Mark A. Brohman  
Executive Director

Holly Adams  
Grants Administrator

Sheila Johnson  
Public Information Officer

Pam Deines  
Grants Assistant

Sandra Weaver  
Administrative Secretary

## Grants Portal Opens Up July 1st

Grantees are reminded the NET online portal for grant submissions this year opened 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.



*Katy Ayers stands by the first MycHotel deployed in Central Community College Columbus' Pollinator Garden*

## The Bee MycHotel project

The Bee MycHotel project is an ongoing effort in Nebraska to create sustainable nesting habitat for native pollinating bees and wasps grown from a novel fungal bio-material. The initial goals of the project were

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Environmental Trust

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web site:

<https://environmentaltrust.nebraska.gov>

1) to determine if the MycHotels attract solitary bees and wasps and 2) to identify any differences between traditional bee hotels and Bee MycHotels.

This project was funded through the Public Information and Education (PIE) Grant administered through the Nebraska Academy of Sciences.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, certain aspects of this project including the timeline had to be adjusted to allow for safety guidelines. Because an emergency declaration for COVID-19 was announced on March, 13 2020, the Bee MycHotel project came to a temporary stand still.

Once socially distanced interactions were permitted, the team began to grow the first generation of MycHotels. Permissions necessary to place them at sites off campus were not granted due to COVID restrictions, therefore only one MycHotel was able to be deployed during 2020. However, this provided time for virtual community outreach, time to improve upon the initial prototype, and to create a streamlined process for production of MycHotels. Although production and deployment of Bee MycHotels was temporarily stunted, virtual outreach and science communication never ceased.

The team prepared a presentation for the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, MycHotels were presented at Conservation Nebraska's virtual presentation series, a poster was designed for the North American Congress for Conservation Biology (NACCB) conference, and Bee MycHotels were virtually presented at CCC's annual Pollinator Festival to students, faculty and staff. During the 2020 Nebraska State Fair, MycHotels were displayed with a poster explanation.

Furthermore, The Bee MycHotel project was presented at the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education virtual conference and was also

submitted for entry and accepted into the Lemelson-MIT Student Prize competition. A presentation was prepared for Grand Island, NE's annual Groundwater Festival that is shown to all 5th graders in Grand Island Public Schools. Finally, there has been ongoing work with 22 students in the Growing Pathways to STEM (GPS) program at Central Community College (CCC). These are National Science Foundation scholars from underrepresented or minority groups with financial need that are on scholarship at CCC; they are the primary source of volunteer labor needed for completion of this project. Overall, it is estimated the number of people impacted by our community outreach to be just over 9,000 individuals.

The main obstacles the team faced implementing this project were the COVID-19 pandemic and a limitation of personal funds with which to purchase materials to be reimbursed by this grant. Additional funding to this project was provided by Project GPS (\$3000; fungal spawn, poster production, traditional bee hotels, and other minor costs for materials). Given the COVID-19 pandemic and financial issues previously expressed, Nebraska Mushroom LLC offered delayed payment for the Molds until stimulus checks were received.



*MyCHotel Nesting Block Air Drying*

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**2021 Calendar:**

- Thursday, July 22, 2021 - NET Board Special Meeting, 1:00pm, Ferguson House, 700 S 16th St., Lincoln NE.
  - Tuesday, August 3, 2021 - 3rd Quarter Board Meeting, Ferguson House, 700 S 16th St., Lincoln NE.
  - Tuesday, September 7, 2021 - Grants Deadline
  - Thursday, November 4, 2021 - 4th Quarter Board Meeting, Ferguson House, 700 S 16th St., Lincoln NE.
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