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# RESOURCE

A Monthly Publication of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

## August 2016

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### Executive Director Corner

The Trust board held its third quarter board meeting at Fort Robinson, near Crawford, NE, August 8th and 9th. The board also had an opportunity to visit several Trust projects during two field trips including a bird banding demonstration, the Northern Cheyenne easement and memorial, a wildlife guzzler, a trip through Sowbelly Canyon including viewing the Voeller easement and a restoration project in Coffee Park, visiting the Fischer easement, seeing the Crow Butte Uranium mining operation, seeing a tree thinning and habitat improvement project in the forest on the edge of Fort Robinson. A big thank you to those helping make the field trips a big success and the Fort Robinson staff who provided a great venue for our meetings.

Marilyn and I have been very busy the last few weeks talking to potential grant applicants and reviewing their projects. With the deadline looming on September 6th, applicants are busy getting their applications together for submission. We have already seen some very interesting projects and I can't wait to see the full list.

The Trust staff is preparing for the fall rush of events. We will have a booth at the State Fair in Grand Island from August 26th through September 5th, at the World O' Water



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### **Pete Ricketts, Governor** **Board of Trustees**

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Henry "Rick" Brandt - Roca

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#### **District III**

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#### **Agency Directors**

festival at the Pappio-Missouri River NRD September 10th, and the Outdoor Expo at Ponca State Park September 17th and 18th. Stop by one of these events and say hi.

The contractors are putting the finishing touches on the new cedar shingle roof and copper gutters on the carriage house that is adjacent to the Ferguson House, where the Trust has its offices. The next time you are in Lincoln, check it out.

Last month Colleen Burden passed away. Colleen had been an employee at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for 23 years. Many of you will remember Colleen as the lady in the wheelchair that greeted you when you entered the Lincoln office or answered the switchboard when you called the headquarters. Marilyn, Pam and I all worked with Colleen for many years. I was even her supervisor for five years. She always had a smile and did her best to brighten your day. I attended a memorial service on Sunday September 14th at her and her husband Jim's bed and breakfast (Westview) just north of Lincoln. My sympathy goes out to Jim and their children. It was a privilege to know and work with Colleen.

Have a safe harvest and get ready for some football and volleyball. Go Big Red!

Mark A. Brohman  
Executive Director

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### **Grants Deadline Is Coming Up!**

The Trust office has been busy with phone calls and meetings with lots of inquiries on the upcoming deadline and how proposals may be submitted.

Jim Douglas, Nebraska Game  
and Parks Commission

Greg Ibach, Nebraska  
Department of Agriculture

Jim Macy, Nebraska  
Department of Environmental  
Quality

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

Courtney Phillips, Nebraska  
Department of Health and  
Human Services

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### **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

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The Nebraska  
Environmental Trust

700 S 16th Street  
PO Box 94913  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4913

Before submitting a proposal, applicants can always contact the Trust and discuss their concept with staff or ask for assistance in meeting application requirements. Our deadline for the submission of General and Recognition Grants is Tuesday, September 6, 2016.

There are two options for submission of a completed application:

**Electronic submission** - The Trust will accept submission of an application using our electronic application form. The electronic submission must be received by the Trust by midnight CDT on the application deadline date (September 6th, 2016) and a hard copy of the application must be received by the Trust no later than 5.00 p.m. CDT **Friday September 9th, 2016 following the deadline date.**

The electronic submission must be complete and include all information required in a hard copy submission. Completed applications can be e-mailed to the [Grants Administrator](#). The electronic form is available for download on the Trust's website. Click on link [here](#).

**Hard-copy submission** - The Trust will also accept traditional submissions of applications. One copy of the completed application must be **postmarked** on or before the application deadline date, September 6, 2016. Hard copy submissions should be mailed to: The Nebraska Environmental Trust, P.O. Box 94913, Lincoln, NE 68509-4913.

Application forms, instructions, and a current calendar are available on the Trust website.

web site:

[environmentaltrust.org](http://environmentaltrust.org)



# BLOOM BOX

**Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Bloom boxes -  
submitted by Rachel Anderson, Community  
Landscape Specialist, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum**

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA) and UNL Department of Entomology are partnering to launch the Pollinator Bloom Box in September as part of their Community as Habitat grant awarded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust. Bloom Box is a custom selection of 25, 50 or 100 pollinator-friendly plants that will be delivered to the doors of gardeners who applied for the program in July. Bob Henrickson, the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum horticulturist, and plant production intern Sarah Masek will curate each Bloom Box using information from participants about the location and environmental conditions of their garden site, as well as their personal garden preferences. The plant palette will consist of up to 26 different species of

regionally native flowers and grasses that provide continual blooms from early spring to autumn. Once planted, the Bloom Box is meant to serve as optimal habitat for bees, flies, moths, butterflies, beetles and other pollinator insects indigenous to the Great Plains that are critical to our food supply and ecosystems.

Along with receiving plants picked by a professional, participants will also get a Plants for Pollinators garden sign and educational materials about the pollinators of their region and how to sustain them through habitat-wise design, installation, and aftercare. Additionally, they will be able to apply for a rebate that reimburses half the cost of the Bloom Box—a cost-share opportunity made possible through NET funds. Through the Bloom Box, NSA and the UNL Department of Entomology hope to reach seasoned and novice gardeners alike to help them sustain pollinators in their community.

For more info: visit, [plantnebraska.org/initiatives](http://plantnebraska.org/initiatives) or <https://www.facebook.com/NeArb/>



**Fort Robinson's Bird Banding - Angela Dwyer,  
Grassland Wildlife Coordinator, Bird Conservancy of  
the Rockies**

The NET August Board meeting was recently held at Fort Robinson State Park, just south of Chadron, NE, in the northwest corner of the state. Bird Conservancy of the Rockies had the opportunity to demonstrate bird banding in a station set-up at Fort Robinson near Solider Creek, to introduce the public and NET board members to this unique opportunity.

Through a collaborative effort with long-time partners, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Amanda Filipi of NGPC and Amber Schiltz with Bird Conservancy demonstrated the process of mist-netting to catch migratory song birds for education and conservation. Similar banding stations are positioned throughout the U.S. to document migration timing, species occurrence and can address concerns in population shifts over time. In addition, it provides an opportunity to engage children and families and talk to them about bird conservation. Eleven members of the board and their families, along with 17 other public visitors came to the demonstration during our stay at Fort Robinson.

Although the site at Fort Robinson was a demo site, they operate two permanent stations in western Nebraska. For the last five years, bird banding stations held at Wildcat Hills Nature Center and Chadron State Park in western Nebraska have engaged over 3,800 students and adults in learning about bird ecology, migration, native species, and the banding process. Both school groups and the general public are invited to see the bird banding process up close by observing birds in hand, collecting data, and learning about Nebraska's diversity of birds. These stations also provide a first-hand example of career opportunities in natural resources.

The banding stations are open this year from August 29 through October 14. The stations are open to the public anytime a field trip is not being held. The Public is also

invited out during the open house style “Public Days”; September 3-5 at Chadron State Park and September 10 at Wildcat Hills Recreation Area. The bird banding stations provide an intimate experience with nature and the scientific process, inspiring children and families to connect with nature. As one 2015 3rd grade student wrote, “Thank you so much for having us over for the bird banding. It was so much fun to be with real birds up close.”

For more information about the bird banding stations in the Nebraska Panhandle, please contact Amber Schiltz, Nebraska Wildlife Education Coordinator at [amber.schiltz@birdconservancy.org](mailto:amber.schiltz@birdconservancy.org) or [\(308\)783-1019](tel:3087831019).



### Upcoming Events

- August 26-September 5, 2016 - Nebraska State Fair, Grand Island, NE
- September 6, 2016 (Tuesday) - Grant Application Deadline
- September 10, 2016 (Saturday) - World O' Water, Omaha, NE
- September 13-15, 2016 (Tuesday - Thursday) - Husker Harvest Days
- September 16-18, 2016 (Friday-Sunday) - Ponca Outdoor Expo, Ponca State Park, NE

- November 3, 2016 (Thursday) - 4th Quarter Board Meeting

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This email was sent to [sheila.johnson@nebraska.gov](mailto:sheila.johnson@nebraska.gov) using GovDelivery, on behalf of: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission · 2200 N. 33rd St. · Lincoln, NE 68522 · 402-471-0641

