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RESOURCE

A Monthly Publication of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

March 2016

Executive Director Corner

The April board meeting is just around the corner and the final rank order list will be approved and the successful grant applicants will be announced. We again will be hosting Grantee Seminars on April 11, 14 and 15, for those successful applicants to sign their contract and learn about required paperwork, including quarterly reports.

The Legislative session is over 2/3rd completed. The clock is ticking and there is a lot of work yet to be done. This is a 60 day session, so it will be over April 20th. The Trust is fortunate that there is no active legislation directly impacting the Trust still on the table.

Unfortunately we lost another conservation giant recently. Walt Bagley passed away February 29th. He served in WWII and Korea, taught forestry at UNL for 30 years, was a founding member of Wachiska Audubon Society, and helped establish the Nebraska State Arboretum and Wilderness Park. In 1992, he donated his 145 acre Prairie Pines farm to the University of Nebraska Foundation to be used by UNL and the public. Prairie Pines (112th and Adams streets) near Lincoln has prairie, woodlands and crop ground. Community Crops currently operates a farmer training program on the site. Walt and his wife planted over 200 species of trees on their farm as well as many native prairie grasses and forbs. The Bagleys created the first conservation easement in



Pete Ricketts,
Governor

Board of Trustees

District I

Henry "Rick" Brandt -
Roca

James Hellbusch -
Columbus

Kevin Peterson -
Osceola

District II

Gerry Lauritzen - Omaha

Paul Dunn - Omaha

Robert Krohn - Omaha

District III

Sherry Vinton - Whitman

Rodney Christen -

Nebraska.

The Trust received a nice award from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum on March 4th. You can read about the award in this newsletter. A big thanks to the two board members (Paul Dunn and Rick Brandt) that attended the awards ceremony with staff.

Enjoy the spring-like weather, but don't forget, we have had snow in May in Nebraska...

Mark Brohman
Executive Director



Grantee Seminar Time!

It's that time of the year again where we are preparing to have our grantee seminars at two

different locations to welcome our new grant recipients as well as visit with some of our existing grant recipients. Please RSVP if you have not done so as the grants contracts will be distributed at the Grantee Seminars. You may call Allison La Duke at 402-471-5417 for any questions or RSVPs.

We will be holding three sessions in total, two in Lincoln and one in Grand Island. The seminars will be held on April 11 and 14th in Lincoln and April 15th in Grand Island. Please see the agenda attached for details:

[2016 Grantee Seminar Agenda](#)

Nebraska Environmental Trust Receives Award from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum

The Nebraska Environmental Trust was recognized for

Steinauer

Gloria Erickson -
Holdrege

Agency Directors

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

Trust Staff

Mark A. Brohman
Executive Director

Marilyn Tabor
Grants Administrator

Sheila Johnson
Public Information Officer

Lori Moore
Administrative Secretary

Allison La Duke

statewide community improvement efforts at an Awards Reception March 4 in Lincoln.

The Trust received the **President's Citation Award** from the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA) for its support and funding of water, habitat and environmental projects across the state. To date, more than \$250 million has been awarded to more than 1,900 projects across the state since 1994.

NSA Board President Wanda Kelly presented the award to Mark Brohman and other NET representatives, noting the incredible statewide impact of programs NET has funded through NSA, including the Nebraska Green Space Stewardship Initiative, Trees for Nebraska Towns, Waterwise Landscapes, Sustainable Schoolyards Partnership and a new pollinator habitat initiative.

Kelly said, "The Environmental Trust has a remarkable history of enabling environmental conservation across the state and NSA is extremely proud to have been a partner in that effort."

"Nebraska is incredibly fortunate to have a resource like the Nebraska Environmental Trust and we should never take it for granted." Kelly said.

For more information about the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, visit: plantnebraska.org.

Grants Assistant

The Nebraska
Environmental Trust

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

web site:

environmentaltrust.org



NET Board And Staff Members Receiving the Award

Nebraska Environmental Trust Provides Funding for Creek Cleanout

Residents of Thayer County will always remember the evening of May 6th, 2016, when a portion of the county received a drenching rainstorm of up to 13 inches in a six hour period. Considerable damage from flooding occurred in low lying areas, including fencing, crop damage, homes and out buildings and over 200 head of cattle perished.

A 15 mile stretch of Spring Creek, which runs from south of Deshler to the Little Blue River at Hebron received high priority for assistance from the Twin Valley Weed Management Area (TVWMA) this spring, in which they earmarked \$140,000 of funding that they received from a grant from Nebraska Environmental Trust. The Little Blue NRD hosted an informational meeting, in which 40 landowners that border this tributary, along with the officials of Hebron and Deshler were invited to attend. They were requested to sign an agreement to allow TVWMA personnel to cross their property and clean out the creek.

“There is presently a tremendous amount of downed timber

and log jams in the creek channel impeding water flow”, says Merle Illian, TVWMA Project Coordinator. “We are basically addressing the situation in three different phases; 1) removing thick vegetation along the river perimeter with skid loaders and shears; 2) a crew of chain saw operators are cutting trees within the creek channel and hanging trees that may fall into the creek in the near future; and 3) will have two excavators coming down the channel removing the timber and placing it on the banks edge. Any sightings of phragmites or salt cedar is also being recorded and will be sprayed later this fall.”

“This project has been a tremendous group effort with Little Blue NRD, Thayer County Weed District, and the City of Deshler providing in-kind labor and financing”, says Illian. “In addition, the landowners are putting financial assistance and labor into stacking the tree piles and burning them. There have been numerous landowners express their appreciation to the NET program and the assistance that has been provided.”



Frahm Construction clearing creek channel of downed timber.



Kudrna Tree Service cutting locust trees along the tributary.



Little Blue NRD employees Kent Thompson and Roger Biltoft cutting trees that are over hanging the creek.

Upcoming Events

- March 17 - 20, 2016 (Thursday - Sunday) - The 46th Annual Audubon Nebraska's Crane Festival, Kearney NE.
- April 7, 2016 (Thursday), 1:30 pm - 2nd Quarter Board Meeting, Ferguson House, Lincoln NE.
- April 16, 2016 (Saturday) - Earth Day Omaha,

Omaha NE.

- April 22, 2016 (Tuesday) - Wesleyan Earth Day
- April 23, 2016 (Saturday) - Lincoln Earth Day.
- May 10, 2016 (Tuesday) - 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival, Grand Island NE.
- May 13 - 14, 2016 (Friday - Saturday) - Spring Into Spring at Lauritzen Gardens, Omaha NE.
- June 4, 2016 (Saturday) - Waterfest and Public Works Day

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