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# RESOURCE

A Monthly Publication of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

## November 2016

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### Executive Director Corner

The Trust held the third quarter board meeting on November 3rd at the Ferguson House. Dr. Tom Williams attended his first board meeting after being appointed the chief medical officer at the Department of Health and Human Services on November 1st.

The Grants Committee is busy meeting and ranking the 130 applications we received this year. The six member committee has put in a lot of time reading hundreds of pages of applications. Their duties will wrap up in early January.

I want to thank all of our technical reviewers for their time reviewing the grants and providing valuable input to the Trust. Reviewers serve a vital role in our process and their expertise is appreciated.

The Husker's volleyball team remains on fire, still ranked #1 with a record of 25-1 and 16-1 in the Big Ten (the highest rated conference in the country). A repeat of last year's National Championship would be nice, but we have three more conference games before the NCAA Tournament starting December 1st. The football team hit a tough stretch and dropped two games after a 7-0 start. After a win last week they are hanging in the top 20 and can finish the season with a respectable 10-2 record



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#### **District III**

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#### **Agency Directors**

and grab a good bowl game if they can take care of Maryland and Iowa. Go Big Red!

Harvest season is wrapping up and we are definitely seeing the weather change and becoming a little more winter-like weather. Travel safe.

Mark A. Brohman  
Executive Director



**Celebrating The Record Jackpot Roll!**

### **Lottery News - Record Sales Generate Increased Proceeds for Lottery Beneficiaries**

A historic Powerball® jackpot, new approaches to Scratch games, and innovative promotions combined to generate a record \$179.5 million in Nebraska Lottery sales during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2016. This is the highest fiscal year sales since the Lottery began operations in 1993.

In addition to record sales, proceeds transferred to the Nebraska Environmental Trust and other beneficiaries totaled \$42.8 million during the fiscal year, setting another

Jim Douglas, Nebraska Game  
and Parks Commission

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### **Trust Staff**

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Executive Director

Marilyn Tabor  
Grants Administrator

Sheila Johnson  
Public Information Officer

Pam Deines  
Administrative Secretary

Allison La Duke  
Grants Assistant

The Nebraska  
Environmental Trust  
700 S 16th Street  
PO Box 94913

record. Over \$617 million in proceeds have been used since 1993 for the environment, education, the Nebraska State Fair, and compulsive gambler's assistance.

Additional proceeds for the beneficiary funds are anticipated in the future due to a recent change to the Lottery's three in-state Lotto games. The Nebraska Pick 5, Pick 3, and MyDaY games have transitioned from holding drawing six days a week to holding daily drawings. This change, which went into effect Nov. 6, could provide an additional \$360,000 a year in proceeds.

For more information about the Nebraska Lottery, visit [nelottery.com](http://nelottery.com).

The Nebraska Environmental Trust is funded by the Nebraska Lottery. The Lottery has transferred \$260,980,815 to the Trust since its inception in 1992 for all these projects. More than 2,000 projects have benefited from environmental work done in all 93 counties of Nebraska.



**Holiday Tours of Historic Ferguson House (pictured above)**

**Christmas Open House on December 11, Sunday**

Lincoln, NE 68509-4913

web site:

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

The Nebraska Environmental Trust will host a holiday open house at the historic Ferguson House (office of the Nebraska Environmental Trust) on Sunday, December 11th. The public is invited to visit and tour the 105 year-old Renaissance Revival home from 1 to 5 p.m. Also open on December 11th is the neighboring Kennard House. There is no charge to experience these historic treasures decorated for the holiday season.

Considered to be one of the finest examples of Second Renaissance Revival architecture in the area, the Ferguson House was built between 1909 and 1911 by William Henry and Myrtle Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson helped introduce winter wheat and alfalfa to Nebraska and was owner of Yankee Hill Brick and co-owner of Capital Beach Amusement Park, President of Beatrice Foods and owner of Woodlawn Dairy. The State of Nebraska acquired the property from the Ferguson family in 1961 and the property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The house is a well-known landmark in Lincoln located across from the Nebraska State Capitol. The staff of the Nebraska Environmental Trust currently occupy the second floor of the Ferguson House. The first floor living and dining rooms are available to rent for meetings and events.



**Photo above shows the Conservation Garden pond at the Lauritzen Gardens taken by Larry Fasnacht.**

### **More than a Pretty Place: Omaha's Lauritzen Gardens Fosters Environmental Stewardship**

Lauritzen Gardens is an urban oasis, encompassing 100 acres of riverfront hills just minutes from downtown Omaha. The garden is one of Nebraska's most highly visited attractions, welcoming 222,402 guests in 2015. Renowned for its beautiful gardens and plant displays, Lauritzen Gardens is also committed to environmental stewardship.

The conservation program at Lauritzen Gardens is dedicated to the conservation of plants, the advancement of conservation principles, and the stewardship of the region's biological diversity. The recently-opened Conservation Discovery Garden, funded in large part by a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust, visually weaves this mission into the landscape of Lauritzen Gardens.

The interpretive concept of this beautiful and innovative garden is that of a "conservation walk" along which visitors encounter demonstrations of conservation practices including stormwater management, rainwater harvesting, and landscaping with native plants. These practices are on vivid display through landscape features including a series of bioretention ponds, an above-ground rainwater storage silo, and a woodland restoration area.

The garden features are supported by interpretive signage that identifies (1) the conservation challenge (e.g., stormwater pollution), (2) solutions being demonstrated in the Conservation Discovery Garden, and (3) actions that can be taken by individuals to address the challenge. The

Lauritzen Gardens website also has a page devoted to the Conservation Discovery Garden that provides additional information as well as ideas for personal implementation through links to conservation agencies and organizations and other web-based materials.

The Conservation Discovery Garden was profiled at the 9th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens in St. Louis in 2015. Attended by participants from over 40 nations, the congress was focused on leveraging the vibrant global network of botanic gardens to think big about engaging the public in biodiversity issues. In his presentation, "A Conservation Walk: Conveying Conservation Messaging through a Garden Landscape," Lauritzen Gardens director of conservation Jim Locklear described the innovative design and interpretive concept for the new garden.

One of the unanticipated values of the Conservation Discovery Garden is aesthetic rather than educational. As visitors make their way up the paved walkway they are also rewarded with a beautiful view back into the garden and across the Missouri River valley to the east.

The Conservation Discovery Garden has become an integral part of the visitor experience at Lauritzen Gardens.

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### **Nebraska Statewide Arboretum**

Sustainable Landscape Workshops - 2016

#### **Dates and Locations**

November 29 (Tue) - Scottsbluff - Public Library

November 30 (Wed) - North Platte - Public Library

December 1 (Thur) - Grand Island - Public Library

December 7 (Wed) - Columbus - Central Community College

December 8 (Thur) - Lincoln - Jane Snyder Trail Center  
December 9 (Fri) - Omaha - Douglas Co. Extension Office

**Daily Schedule:**

**1-4 pm -- For Landscape Professionals, Land Managers, Grant Recipients & General Public**

**5-7 pm -- A condensed version of the afternoon session targeted to homeowners and anyone that can't attend during the day.**

**Preliminary Agenda:**

- (10-15 min) Overview of why sustainability matters and what constitutes a sustainable landscape touching on such things as resource conservation, biodiversity, native plants, soil health, habitat, pollinators and beneficial insects, stormwater management, water conservation and maintenance/management.
- (30 min) Hands-on Activity: the Importance of Soil!
- (45-90 min) Local Perspectives and Project Highlights: Brief presentations from local professionals and individuals making a difference in their communities. Includes moderated discussion and Q&A.
- (10-15 min) Funding opportunities and technical resources available from various sources including NSA.

The workshop is free and open to the public. Please RSVP to Justin Evertson – [jeverson1@unl.edu](mailto:jeverson1@unl.edu).

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**Upcoming Events**

- December 11, 2016 (Sunday) - Christmas Open House at the Ferguson House, Lincoln NE
- February 9, 2017 (Thursday) - 1st Quarter Board Meeting, Ferguson House, Lincoln NE.

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