

Platte River Prairies Field Day - June 13, 2014

The Nature Conservancy's Derr House

AGENDA

8am-9am Early Morning Bird Hike with Clem Klaphake

9am – 10:15 Sessions

Bird Identification (Clem Klaphake)
Wetland Plant Identification (Gerry Steinauer)
Grass Identification (David Sutherland)
Prairie Restoration (Nelson Winkel)
Managing Prairies for Heterogeneity (Chris Helzer)

10:30-11:45

Small mammals and insects (Lance Meinke and Mike Schrad)
Wetland plant identification (Gerry Steinauer)
Invasive species identification and control (Nelson Winkel)
Prairie Gardening (Mardell Jasnowski/Karen Hamburger)
Wildflower identification and prairie ecology (Chris Helzer)

11:45-12:30 – Lunch (bring your own)

12:30-1:45

Small mammals and insects (Lance Meinke and Mike Schrad)
Grass identification (David Sutherland)
Wildflower identification and prairie ecology (Chris Helzer)
Prairie Restoration (Nelson Winkel)

2:00-3:15

How to identify plants with the Flora of Nebraska book (Gerry Steinauer)
Invasive species identification and control (Nelson Winkel)
Prairie Gardening (Mardell Jasnowski/Karen Hamburger)
Managing Prairies for Heterogeneity (Chris Helzer)

3:30-4:00

Tour of Seed Barn/Prairie Seed Nursery Plots (TNC Staff)
Prairie ecology hike (Chris Helzer)

For directions to the site, go to:

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/nebraska/placesweprotect/ea-stern-nebraska-platte-river-native-prairie-nature-trail.xml>

Session Descriptions

Grass Identification - Dave Sutherland (Retired UNO Professor)

Learn how to identify prairie grasses, even without flowers or seed heads. 30 minute indoor presentation, 30 minute hike.

Wetland Plant Identification - Gerry Steinauer (Nebraska Game and Parks Botanist)

Learn to identify plants in wetlands. One hour hike.

Wildflower Identification and Ecology – Chris Helzer (The Nature Conservancy)

Learn how to identify prairie wildflowers, along with why they're important and how they fit into the broader prairie community. One hour hike.

Bird Identification – Clem Klaphake (Nebraska Master Naturalist)

Learn to identify birds by sight and sound. Grassland, wetland, shrubland, and riparian woodland species will be included as time permits. One hour hike.

Prairie Restoration – Nelson Winkel (The Nature Conservancy)

Hike through prairies seeded with between 160 and 220 plant species. Discuss restoration techniques and measures of success. One hour hike.

Managing Prairies for Heterogeneity – Chris Helzer (The Nature Conservancy)

Discuss a wide variety of ways to increase wildlife habitat quality and plant diversity while looking at on-the-ground examples of prescribed fire, haying, grazing. One hour hike.

How to Identify Plants with the *Flora of Nebraska* Book - Gerry Steinauer (Nebraska Game and Parks)

Identifying plants with a plant key such as the Flora of Nebraska can sometimes seem overwhelming. Learn some tricks to using the Flora effectively. Indoor Session.

Small Mammals and Insects – Mike Schrad (Nebraska Master Naturalist) and Lance Meinke (UNL Entomologist)

See, catch, and learn about some of the smaller animals in the prairie and discuss their habitat needs.

Invasive Plant Identification and Control- Nelson Winkel (The Nature Conservancy)

Nelson Winkel, TNC's land manager, will lead a field discussion about invasive species in which participants are encouraged to share ideas and strategies. Invasive grasses, forbs, and trees will all be discussed, along with control techniques. One hour hike.

Prairie Gardening – Mardell Jasnowski (TNC) and Karen Hamburger (Nebraska Master Naturalist)

Learn tricks and techniques for creating your own native prairie garden at home or elsewhere. Tent session.