

Platte River Prairies Field Day – June 26, 2015

The Nature Conservancy's Derr House

AGENDA

9am – 9:15am

Introduction of the day's sessions and orientation to the site.

9:15am – 10:30 Sessions

Prairie gardening for pollinators – Ben Vogt

Plant Identification – Gerry Steinauer

Grassland bird hike – Evan Barrientos

Managing prairies for ecological resilience – Chris Helzer

10:45am-Noon

The Status of Nebraska's Amphibians Turtles and Reptiles: What's Happening? – Dennis Ferraro

Stream fish and wetland ecology – Keith Koupal and Joe Thiessen

Plant Identification – Gerry Steinauer

Prairie Restoration – Nelson Winkel

12pm – 12:45pm – Lunch (bring your own)

12:45-2pm

The Status of Nebraska's Amphibians Turtles and Reptiles: What's Happening? – Dennis Ferraro

Stream fish and wetland ecology – Keith Koupal and Joe Thiessen

Prairie Restoration – Nelson Winkel

Insects of the Prairie – Chris Helzer

2:15-3:30

Prairie gardening for pollinators – Ben Vogt, Monarch Gardens

Managing prairies for ecological resilience – Chris Helzer

Plant Identification – Gerry Steinauer

Ethnobotany – Kim Tri

Session Descriptions

Prairie gardening for pollinators – Ben Vogt (Monarch Gardens)

Discussion about how to create urban/suburban landscapes with native plants and provide benefits to Nebraska pollinators.

Plant Identification – Gerry Steinauer (Nebraska Game and Parks)

Learn how to identify prairie plants with the state botanist of Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Grassland bird hike – Evan Barrientos (The Nature Conservancy)

See, hear, and learn about birds that nest in prairies.

Managing prairies for ecological resilience – Chris Helzer (The Nature Conservancy)

See and discuss examples of fire and grazing management aimed at maintaining diverse ecological communities that can withstand climate change and other impacts.

The Status of Nebraska's Amphibians, Turtles and Reptiles: What's Happening? – Dennis Ferraro (UNL)

See live animals and learn about their lives and status in Nebraska.

Stream fish and wetland ecology – Keith Koupal and Joe Thiessen (Nebraska Game and Parks)

Visit a local stream with a diverse aquatic community and see/learn about the species there.

Prairie Restoration – Nelson Winkel (The Nature Conservancy)

Learn the methods of seed harvest, seed storage, and planting of prairie seeds and see the results on the ground.

Insects of the Prairie – Chris Helzer (The Nature Conservancy)

Catch and learn about prairie invertebrates and their lives and ecological roles.

Ethnobotany – Kim Tri (The Nature Conservancy)

Learn about the food values and medicinal uses of various prairie plants.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Derr House is located 2 miles south of the Wood River exit off of Interstate 80 (Exit 300). Turn south immediately after the highway curves to the east and you'll be there.

Some snacks and cold drinks will be provided, but please bring your own lunch, sunscreen, bug spray, drinking water, and whatever else you need for a day in the field. You are welcome to come for part or all of the day as your schedule allows.

For more 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>