

Platte River Prairies Field Day – August 21, 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

Stream fish and wetland ecology – Keith Koupal and Joe Thiessen

Grassland bird identification and ecology – Evan Barrientos

Plant Identification – Gerry Steinauer

Prairie management – Chris Helzer

10:45am-Noon

Stream fish and wetland ecology – Keith Koupal and Joe Thiessen

Dragonfly identification and ecology – Clem Klaphake

Prairie Restoration – Bill Whitney

Pollinator identification, ecology, and conservation – Jennifer Hopwood

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

12:45-2pm

Pollinator identification, ecology, and conservation – Jennifer Hopwood

Plant Identification – Gerry Steinauer

Invertebrates that crawl and climb – Bill Beachly

Prairie Management – Chris Helzer

2:15-3:30

Invertebrates that crawl and climb – Bill Beachly

Ethnobotany – Kim Tri

Prairie Restoration – Bill Whitney

Dragonfly identification and ecology – Clem Klaphake

Session Descriptions

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.

Dragonfly identification and ecology – Clem Klaphake (Nebraska Master Naturalist)

Learn how to identify different dragonflies and what they do to live, thrive, and survive.

Invertebrates that crawl and climb – Bill Beachly (Hastings College)

Spiders, beetles, and other crawling/climbing invertebrates are critically important to ecosystems. Learn much more about how they live and affect each other and natural communities.

Pollinator identification, ecology, and conservation – Jennifer Hopwood (Xerces Society)

Everything you want to know about bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.

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.

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 – Bill Whitney (Prairie Plains Resource Institute)

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

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>