

32nd Natural Areas Conference

Changing Natural Landscapes: Ecological and Human Dimensions

Advanced Registration and Preliminary Program

**September 21-24, 2005
Lincoln, Nebraska**

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

Front cover photo

Sanctuary – Nebraska Sandhills by photographer Michael Forsberg

Late October light washes a rain-soaked hillside in Cherry County in the Nebraska Sandhills. Rapidly moving cold fronts mark October in the Sandhills, along with wind, rain, snow, and, in fleeting moments, heavenly gold light as sharp as a razor's edge.

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The 2005 Natural Areas Conference is co-hosted by the Natural Areas Association and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Great Plains Studies, with participation and support of the National Park Service, United States Forest Service and other federal agencies, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Natural Resources, Grassland Foundation, Audubon Nebraska, State of Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, and other state and private educational institutions.

Conference Contacts

General Questions about the 32nd Natural Areas Conference can be directed to the Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 402/472-3082, cgps@unl.edu

Program – questions about the program or speakers, please contact James Stubbendieck, Program Chair, 402/472-3082, cgps@unl.edu

Silent/Live Auction – questions about donating to the auctions, please contact Conference Chair Gary Willson, 402/472-5047, gwillson2@unl.edu

Exhibits – questions about exhibiting, please contact Exhibits Chair Jim Merchant, 402/472-7531, jmerchant1@unl.edu

Sponsorship – if you are interested in providing support for the 32nd Natural Areas Conference, please contact Conference Chair Gary Willson, 402/472-5047, gwillson2@unl.edu

Visit the conference website at www.unl.edu/plains for up-to-date information on the conference.

The Natural Areas Association (NAA) and the Center for Great Plains Studies (CGPS) are pleased to host the 32nd annual conference in Lincoln, Nebraska. This year's theme, Changing Natural Landscapes: Ecological and Human Dimensions, will focus on both the ecological and human dimensions of our changing natural areas. Presentations, field trips, and social events will explore the ever-changing natural landscapes both as they affect and are affected by human activities.

Welcome to the Great Plains Reception

The opening reception of the conference will be held Wednesday evening, September 21, at the University of Nebraska State Museum in the Morrill Hall Building. The spectacular Elephant Hall features skeletons and mounts of modern and ancient elephants, including one of the world's largest mammoth skeletons. Join us for appetizers and a cash bar set in the world's premier collection of fossil elephants, extinct rhinos, giant camels, and ancient horses, many of which were collected in Nebraska.

Annual Banquet

Join us at the annual banquet on Friday evening, September 23, at The Cornhusker Marriott. Our banquet speaker will be nationally recognized environmental photographer Michael Forsberg. The evening's events include presentation of NAA's top awards, the George B. Fell Award and the Natural Areas Association Stewardship Award, the raffle, and the silent and live auctions.

Silent and Live Auctions

A highlight of the Friday evening banquet is the tradition of silent and live auctions with the proceeds benefitting the Natural Areas Association. We need your donations! Consider giving items – books, artwork, nature-themed objects – to be auctioned off. Contact Conference Chair Gary Willson at 402/472-5047 or gwillson2@unl.edu for donation information.

NAA Breakfast Forum

All conference attendees are invited to the Natural Areas Association's Annual Breakfast Forum on Saturday, September 24, 7:30 to 8:30 am. A continental breakfast will be served. During this time, the Board and members of the NAA will present the status of State Natural Areas Programs, elect the new officers to the Association, receive an overview of projects and issues the NAA are working on, and get a look at next year's exciting conference in Flagstaff. Whether you are an NAA member or not, please plan to attend to have an inside look at this dynamic organization and a refreshing start to the final sessions of the Conference.

Exhibits

The exhibit hall will be located in the Grand Ballroom. Exhibit hall hours are Thursday, September 22, 9:00 am to 7:00 pm; Friday, September 23, 9:00 am to 5:30 pm; and Saturday, September 24, 8:00 am to 10:30 am. A special Exhibits Reception (in conjunction with the Poster Session) will be held on Thursday, September 22, 5:00 to 7:00 pm. If you are interested in exhibiting, please contact Exhibits Chair Jim Merchant at 402/472-7531 or jmerchant1@unl.edu.

Poster Session

The posters will be displayed in the Atrium starting at 1:00 pm Thursday, September 22. Authors will be present with their posters during the Poster Session on Thursday evening, 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

NAA Membership

A reduced registration fee for the Natural Areas Conference is just one benefit of joining the Natural Areas Association. Members receive the quarterly *Natural Areas Journal*, the newsletter *Natural Areas News* and can take advantage of NAA-sponsored regional workshops and receive special publications. New individual members can join NAA via the conference registration form and save \$15 off the \$30 annual membership dues. Join now!

Tentative Conference Agenda

Sunday, September 18 - Tuesday, September 20

Pre-conference field trips to Niobrara Valley Preserve and Konza Prairie

Tuesday, September 20

8:00 am - 5:00 pm NAA Board of Directors and Committee Meetings

Wednesday, September 21

10:00 am Registration opens (The Cornhusker Marriott Main Lobby)

2:30 - 5:30 pm Welcome and Plenary Session

The Dynamic Vegetation of the Great Plains - James Stubbendieck

Natural Areas, Regions, and Two Centuries of Environmental

Change on the Great Plains - David Wishart

Keynote Address

How We Will Realize the Promise of the Plains - Richard Manning

5:30 pm Dinner on your own

7:00 - 9:00 pm Welcome to the Great Plains Reception

(University of Nebraska State Museum, Morrill Hall)

Thursday, September 22

7:30 - 8:30 am Continental Breakfast

7:30 am Registration opens (Atrium, Burnham Yates Conference Center)

8:30 am - 12:00 pm Symposia and contributed paper sessions

9:00 am - 7:00 pm Exhibit Hall open

12:00 - 1:30 pm Lunch on your own

1:30 - 5:00 pm Symposia and contributed paper sessions

5:00 - 7:00 pm Poster Session and Exhibits Reception

Dinner on your own

Friday, September 23

Breakfast on your own

7:30 am Registration opens (Atrium, Burnham Yates Conference Center)

7:30 am - 5:00 pm Field Trips

9:00 am - 5:30 pm Exhibit Hall open

6:00 - 10:00 pm Banquet, Awards Ceremony, Live and Silent Auctions

Banquet Speaker - Michael Forsberg

Sandhills on My Mind - a Photographer's Journey

Saturday, September 24

7:30 am Registration opens (Atrium, Burnham Yates Conference Center)

7:30 - 8:30 am NAA Breakfast Forum

8:00 - 10:30 am Exhibit Hall open

8:30 am - 12:00 pm Symposia and contributed paper sessions

12:00 - 2:00 pm Luncheon

Luncheon Speaker - John Janovy, Jr.

All functions are in The Cornhusker Marriott & Burnham Yates Conference Center unless otherwise noted. The conference packets will include the final agenda and event locations.

Speakers

Michael Forsberg grew up in Nebraska and is dedicated to working extensively in the prairies of the Great Plains. Forsberg is widely recognized for his extraordinary photographic work on sandhill cranes. *On Ancient Wings*, his first book, is the result of a five-year personal project on sandhill cranes. His honors include the 2004 Conservation Education Award from the Wildlife Society; Highly Commended recognition from the BBC's International Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition in 2003; and an Award of Excellence in the Science/Natural History category of the 58th Annual Pictures of the Year competition. His image of Nine-Mile Prairie was selected by the U.S. Postal Service for an international postage stamp. His work has appeared in publications including *National Geographic*, *Audubon*, *Natural History*, and *National Wildlife* and in books published by National Geographic and Smithsonian, among others.

John Janovy, Jr. is the Paula and D. B. Varner Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences. His specialty is parasitology. He has been on the UNL faculty since the mid-1960s and is the author more than 80 scientific papers and thirteen books, including *Keith County Journal*, *Ten Minute Ecologist*, *Foundations of Parasitology*, and *Teaching in Eden*. He is a past winner of the University of Nebraska Distinguished Teaching Award, and the Outstanding Research and Creativity Award as well as the American Society of Parasitologists; Clark P. Read Mentorship Award. He has also been Interim Director of the University of Nebraska State Museum and Director of UNL's Cedar Point Biological Station.

Richard Manning is the author of seven books, including *Against the Grain*, *Food's Frontier*, *Inside Passage*, *One Round River*, *Grassland*, *A Good House* and *Last Stand*. His eighth book, a project with the Rocke-

efeller Foundation, is in publication. Manning is also a freelance magazine writer with essays and articles published in *Harper's*, *Wired*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *American Scholar*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *The New York Times*, *Audubon*, *Outside*, *E Magazine*, *High Country News*, and *Northern Lights*. He was a newspaper editor and reporter for 15 years, working at newspapers in Montana and southern Idaho. His honors include the Mansfield Center's Lud Browman Award for science writing, the Richard Margolis award for environmental writing, the Montana Audubon Society Award for environmental reporting, and the Montana Wilderness Association Award for writing. Manning is a three-time winner of the C.B. Blethen Award for investigative journalism.

James Stubbendieck is the Director of the Center for Great Plains Studies and Professor of Grassland Ecology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He conducts research on vegetation dynamics, responses of vegetation to prescribed fire, and the ecology and propagation of blowout penstemon, the only species of plant in Nebraska on the Federal Endangered Species List. He teaches senior/graduate level courses in ecology and taxonomy. A native Nebraskan, he has written 11 books, including *North American Wildland Plants*, and more than 100 scientific articles.

David Wishart came to Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1967 for one year and stayed. He is now Chair of the Department of Anthropology and Geography at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Wishart's specializations are historical geography, the dispossession of indigenous peoples, and the Great Plains region. His publications include *An Unspeakable Sadness: The Dispossession of the Nebraska Indians* (1994), which won the J.B. Jackson Prize for best scholarly book with appeal to the general public in North American Geography, and the *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains* (2004).

Pre-Conference Field Trips

Niobrara Valley Preserve and Eastern Sandhills, Nebraska

We will depart from Lincoln on Sunday, passing through extensive Nebraska Sandhills Prairie areas before arriving at The Nature Conservancy's 24,000+ ha Niobrara Valley Preserve where we will spend the night. The middle Niobrara Valley, often described as the "biological crossroads" of the Great Plains, is located at the boundary between the northern and southern mixed-grass prairie ecoregions. This stretch of the Niobrara River contains a unique mixture of three woodland types (northern boreal, western ponderosa pine, and eastern deciduous). The Niobrara Valley also contains mixed-grass prairie, tallgrass prairie, and sandhills prairie. The diverse plant communities host an equally impressive assemblage of plant and animal species (581 vascular plants, 213 birds, 86 bryophytes [mosses], 86 lichens, and 85 butterflies). Monday morning will consist of a driving field trip through a 3,000 ha bison pasture where we will observe the effects of bison and fire on the prairie as well as local flora and fauna. The afternoon will consist of a 3-mile walk up a steep, ponderosa pine-covered escarpment to a vantage point from which we can observe miles of river and valley floor before returning for a catered evening meal. Experts will discuss and answer questions about the plants and animals of the region, management objectives and lessons learned, and geology of the region. Tuesday we return to Lincoln via Valentine National Wildlife Refuge.

Capacity: 18

Depart: Sunday, September 18 (8:30 am)

Return: Tuesday, September 20 (5:00 pm)

Difficulty: moderate to strenuous

Fee: \$250 (includes two nights lodging and most meals)

Notes: Box lunch will be provided on Sunday only; most other meals will be self-prepared (groceries provided), but Tuesday lunch will be "on your own." Wear layered

clothing; hiking boots or good walking shoes are recommended. Participants must bring sleeping bags or bedding for bunks/mattresses provided at the Preserve.

Konza Prairie Biological Station, Manhattan, Kansas

Konza Prairie Biological Station (KPBS) is a 3,487 ha native tallgrass prairie preserve owned by The Nature Conservancy and Kansas State University (KSU) and operated as field research station by the KSU Division of Biology. The station is dedicated to a three-fold mission of long-term ecological research (LTER), education, and prairie conservation. KPBS is a unique outdoor laboratory that provides opportunities for the study of tallgrass prairie ecosystems and for basic biological research on a wide range of taxa and processes. The relatively steep topography and rocky soils characteristic of the region protected this land from cultivation. KPBS has a watershed-level fire-frequency experimental design that includes replicated unburned and annual, 2-, 4-, and 10-year frequencies of prescribed spring fire. Overlaid on this design is a grazing experiment with blocks of watersheds designated as ungrazed, grazed by native ungulates (*Bos bison*), and watersheds grazed by domestic cattle (*Bos taurus*). Fire treatments have been maintained in the southernmost watersheds since 1971 and throughout the rest of Konza Prairie since 1979. Bison were reintroduced to Konza Prairie in 1987 and experimental cattle herds in 1992. The trip will include a hike along the LTER project and a journey along the main trail through the bison areas

Capacity: 18

Depart: Monday, September 19 (8:30 am)

Return: Tuesday, September 20 (5:00 pm)

Difficulty: moderate

Fee: \$150

Notes: Box lunch will be provided on Monday only; other meals and overnight accommodations will be on your own. Good walking shoes are recommended.

Conference Field Trips

Conference field trips will occur on Friday, September 23. Field trip costs are included in the conference registration fee; however, additional fees are required on five trips as indicated. Box lunches will be provided on most field trips – please check individual field trip information. All field trips depart from the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel and will run regardless of weather. Return times are approximate. Field trips with low participation may be cancelled. On-site registration for field trips will be accepted on a space-available basis only. Space is limited so register early to assure your trip choice!

Note: websites relevant to individual field trips may be found on the conference website: www.unl.edu/plains

Full-Day Field Trips

Field Trip 1

Protecting and Managing Natural Areas in an Urban Context

Preservation and management of natural areas requires a concerted effort among the managers, regulatory agencies, and staff at all levels of government, elected officials, and citizens. This tour highlights Lincoln area's unique blend of forest, prairie, and salt marsh and the attempts by local citizens, planners, managers and elected officials to preserve, protect, and manage them. Tour includes handouts, discussion of local planning tools, citizen input and education, and on-site inspection of several projects.

Capacity: 35

Schedule: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Difficulty: easy

Notes: Box lunch provided. Walking shoes are recommended.

Field Trip 2

High-Diversity Grassland and Wetland Restoration (Reconstruction) in Central Nebraska

The Prairie Plains Resource Institute (PPRI)

founded high-diversity prairie and wetland restoration (reconstruction) in Nebraska in the early 1980s. Under their tutelage, the movement has expanded to include numerous other groups, including The Nature Conservancy. The groups now plant about 200-400 ha of high-diversity prairie each year. This trip will visit a variety of high-diversity restoration sites (many with seed mixtures of over 200 species) in central Nebraska, and will include in-depth discussions of harvest and planting techniques, post-restoration management (fire and grazing), and monitoring systems. Sites will include the Conservancy's Central Platte River projects and some nearby PPRI projects. The sites are about 2 hours west of Lincoln; during the bus ride, the guides will lead discussions about restoration issues in Nebraska.

Capacity: 20

Schedule: 7:30 am to 5:30 pm

Difficulty: moderate

Notes: Box lunch and water provided.

Participants should bring sunscreen, long pants and comfortable shoes, and other supplies for a long day of walking outside.

Field Trip 3

Prairie and Forest Management in Landscapes of the Central Missouri River Valley

The landscapes along the central Missouri River Valley include some views that would seem both familiar and surprising to Lewis and Clark, who first passed through on their historic journey in late spring, 1804. On the one hand, some remarkably intact forest and prairie ecosystems persist, owing primarily to the steep topography of the river bluffs and their unsuitability for farming. On the other hand, the ecosystems have undergone some dramatic human-induced changes, including fire suppression with associated tree invasion, alien species introductions and spread, urbanization, logging, and habitat fragmentation. We will explore both forest and prairie environments, along with key

management and habitat restoration challenges, in the bluffs bordering the Missouri River Valley. In addition, we'll have a lunch stop in a renovated, riverfront area of downtown Omaha, a site that illustrates the way many cities are enhancing the access and human recreational use of river areas. We'll use the lunch stop to discuss the Missouri River corridor and impacts of human engineering approaches to the river/floodplain complex. Key prairie management methods (involving fire and mechanical tree removal) will be illustrated at Hitchcock Nature Center, near Crescent, Iowa. At Fontenelle Forest, bordering Bellevue, Nebraska, we'll see secondary forest communities as well as examples of oak-savannah restoration and invasive plant control efforts. Fontenelle will also illustrate an on-going management issue with excessive deer herbivory. Both sites will include the long-time perspectives of site managers Chad Graeve at Hitchcock and Gary Garabrandt at Fontenelle. Omaha is approximately an hour from Lincoln and both field sites are within 20 minutes of downtown Omaha. Participants should prepare for short hikes at both field sites. Lunch will be provided. Background reading packets will be available for participants.

Capacity: 20

Schedule: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Difficulty: moderate

Additional Fee: \$5.00 (Fontenelle Forest admission)

Notes: Box lunch provided. Participants should bring sunscreen and wear long pants and comfortable shoes.

Field Trip 4

Ethnobotanical and Ethnozoological Resources of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

Participants will travel about one hour from Lincoln to downtown Omaha. In the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (LECL) teaching garden, interpreters and resource specialists will make a presentation on the ethnobotanical resources of the Missouri

River area of Omaha during the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Inside the headquarters building for the National Park Service Midwest Regional Office and LECL, the group will hear a presentation regarding the environmental, social, and economic impacts of the Expedition, especially on American Indian populations. Following a one hour lunch (11:30-12:30), the group will drive about one hour to Nebraska City to visit the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Center, where they'll tour the Center and receive a presentation on the ethnozoological resources of the area during the Expedition.

Capacity: 30

Schedule: 8:15 am to 5:00 pm

Difficulty: easy

Additional Fee: \$5.00 (Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Center admission)

Notes: Box lunch provided. Participants should bring comfortable shoes.

Field Trip 5

Conservation and Research Programs at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo

Participants will travel approximately one hour to Omaha's award-winning Henry Doorly Zoo. There, participants will visit the Bill and Berniece Grewcock Center for Conservation and Research to learn about the zoo's scientific programs and receive "behind the scenes" tours of two of the zoo's most impressive facilities, the Lied Jungle and the Desert Dome. Conservation and research programs at Henry Doorly Zoo include activities such as captive breeding of black-footed ferrets for reintroduction and research in assisted reproduction, including "test tube gorillas." The Lied Jungle is the world's largest indoor rainforest building, with exhibits arranged by biogeographic region, depicting forests of Africa, Southeast Asia, and South America. The Desert Dome is the world's largest indoor desert exhibit, housed within the world's largest glazed geodesic dome. The Dome is also arranged geographically, with different sections recreating the Namib Desert of southwestern Africa, the Great

Sandy Desert of Australia, and the Sonoran Desert of the American Southwest. Zoo staff will describe the design and operation of these award-winning facilities. After lunch at the Treetops Restaurant (not included in fee), free time will be available to allow viewing of other areas of the zoo.

Capacity: 30

Schedule: 9:00 am to 4:15 pm

Difficulty: easy

Additional Fee: \$10.25 (zoo admission)

Notes: Lunch not included; participants eat on their own in Treetops Restaurant at zoo. Participants should bring comfortable shoes.

Field Trip 6

Rock Glen Prairies

Participants will travel about 75 minutes from Lincoln to visit and hike Rock Glen Wildlife Management Area (WMA) located in Jefferson County, Nebraska. Rock Glen is a 230 ha complex of tallgrass prairie and oak woodland on sandstone-derived soils. Extensive eastern redcedar clearing has recently been conducted on the property. We will discuss cedar clearing, prescribed fire and planned grazing as management tools on the WMA. Birding and botanizing will be part of the trip. In the afternoon, we will visit several prairies on adjacent private lands that are being managed with Landowner Incentive Program funds. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's and Northern Prairies Land Trust's approach to managing prairies on private lands in Jefferson County will be discussed.

Capacity: 30

Schedule: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Difficulty: moderate-strenuous

Notes: Box lunch provided. Hiking boots and water bottles are recommended.

Field Trip 7

Seed Sources for Prairie Restoration: Choices and Tradeoffs

The field trip will visit with two successful but very different native prairie seed producers. Stock Seed Farms is a 49-year-old company

with a 600 ha facility near Lincoln that specializes in warm season grasses and native prairie forbs. They are one of the largest producers of native grass seed in North America. Prairie Plains Resource Institute (PPRI) has operated for 25 years as a non-profit organization dedicated to ecosystem restoration. They specialize in very high diversity prairie seed mixtures and restoration projects for eastern Nebraska. After visiting the Stock Seed Farm in the morning, we will travel to the Audubon Society's Spring Creek Prairie southwest of Lincoln where we will meet with staff from PPRI, discuss their approach to native seed production and prairie restoration, and tour some of the restoration projects at Spring Creek. We hope the field trip will encourage discussion of the economic, ecological, and philosophical tradeoffs involved in different approaches to seed production for native prairie plantings.

Capacity: 20

Schedule: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Difficulty: easy

Notes: Box lunch provided.

Field Trip 8

Platte River Canoe Trip

You will have the opportunity to paddle the eastern Platte, a braided, sandy-bottomed Great Plains river. Numerous sandbars provide nesting habitat for the state- and federally-listed least tern and piping plover, while the channel provides a home for the endangered pallid sturgeon and 40 other fish species. Learn about the ecology, historic changes, and conservation issues of this classic Great Plains river. The trip will culminate at Two Rivers State Recreation Area, which contains some of the best examples of riparian forest in eastern Nebraska.

Capacity: 15

Schedule: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Difficulty: moderate

Notes: Box lunch provided; bring hat, sunscreen, dry change of clothes/footwear, and clothing that you don't mind getting wet.

Half-Day Field Trips

Field Trip 9

Agroecosystems:

Their Role in Conservation

The Midwest landscape has been dramatically transformed from its original prairie ecosystem by intensive agriculture. In southeastern Nebraska, less than 4% of the original habitat remaining. Preservation of natural areas in this highly disturbed landscape will not be enough to achieve conservation goals. What role does agriculture play in conservation? Can we create functioning agroecosystems that achieve production and environmental goals? Some effort has been made in applying conservation practices such as windbreaks and riparian buffer strips to address resource concerns like water quality, soil erosion, and wildlife habitat in these heavily altered landscapes. How can we improve these practices and create integrated conservation systems? The purpose of this interactive field trip is to explore and discuss opportunities and constraints in developing functioning agroecosystems. This tour will visit several sites to view conservation practices being applied to patch, matrix, and corridor elements in the landscape. In addition, simple GIS assessments prepared for the tour area will be used to foster an exchange of ideas. The tour will include a visit to the Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City, about one hour from Lincoln, which showcases a variety of innovative conservation measures.

Capacity: 20

Schedule: 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Difficulty: easy

Notes: Box lunch will be eaten at noon in the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel while a pre-tour slideshow is presented by the tour guides; trip departs at 12:30 pm.

Field Trip 10

Spring Creek Prairie: Ecological and Human Dimensions

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, lo-

cated 20 miles from Lincoln, could be a case study for the conference theme of ecological and human dimensions of changing natural landscapes. Few ecosystems have been altered as quickly as that of the tallgrass prairie. This 260 ha property, managed to optimize a variety of native species, has been marked by humans throughout history: Native Americans, military personnel and settlers moving west on the Nebraska City–Ft. Kearney Cutoff to the Oregon Trail, almost 100 years of ranching history, and the present staff and visitors of a nature center. All of these interactions have had a profound influence on the ecology of this area. During this trip the group will spend time in various areas of the prairie, visit the wagon trail ruts, and discuss human impacts on this area.

Capacity: 40

Schedule: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Difficulty: moderate

Additional fee: \$3.00

Notes: Bottled water available for purchase at site. Wear good walking shoes.

Field Trip 11

Managing the Nation's Second Oldest Restored Tallgrass Prairie at Homestead National Monument of America

Homestead National Monument of America is a National Park Service site that was established to “retain for posterity a proper memorial emblematical of the hardships of the pioneer life.” The monument is located near Beatrice, NE (about one hour from Lincoln), on the site of the first homestead claim filed in the United States. When the monument was established in 1936 the land was suffering the effects of the Dust Bowl. To control the erosion and better interpret the Homestead Act of 1862, it was decided to restore the cropland to its native vegetation, tallgrass prairie. Restoration work started in 1939, making it second in age only to the Curtis Prairie in Madison, Wisconsin. During the visit participants will be introduced to the Homestead Act of 1862 and then given a short presentation on the history and man-

agement of the restored prairie, followed by a ranger-led walk throughout the prairie.

Capacity: 30

Schedule: 7:30 am to 12:15 pm

Difficulty: easy

Notes: Facilities are handicap accessible.

Walk will be about 1 mile on flat hard-packed surface.

Field Trip 12

Eastern Nebraska Saline Wetlands: The Last of the Least

Nebraska's Eastern Saline Wetlands are located in and around Lincoln and support the most imperiled natural community in the state. The endangered Salt Creek tiger beetle is found only in these wetlands. Specialized plants, such as saltwort, are common. We will make stops at several natural wetlands to discuss their ecology and conservation needs. For comparisons, recently restored wetland sites will be visited.

Capacity: 14

Schedule: 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Difficulty: easy

Notes: Field clothes desirable, but not mandatory; participants will be provided a box lunch upon return to hotel.

Field Trip 13

Biodiversity Research Collections of the University of Nebraska State Museum

Participants will walk from The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel to the University of Nebraska State Museum. Much of what we understand about our world we owe to the collection and ongoing study of natural specimens. Museum collections of plants, animals, fossils, parasites, and insects are the libraries of Earth's history providing insight into the Earth's past, present, and future. The Museum houses over 13 million objects relating to Anthropology, Botany, Entomology, Geology, Invertebrate Paleontology, Parasitology, Vertebrate Paleontology, and Zoology. These include some of the earliest scientific records of plants and animals on the Great

Plains. Our walking tour will include visiting each division to examine unusual, rare, and interesting materials from the collections. We will especially focus on the importance of collections in conservation, disease research, invasive species, and the history of life on Earth.

Capacity: 15

Schedule: 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

Difficulty: easy

Additional fee: \$4.00 (museum admission)

Notes: Participants will walk from The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel to the west entrance of Nebraska Hall (16th & W streets) and take the lobby elevator to 4th floor, Room W436. The tour will begin at 9:00 am. Each participant will also receive a pass for entry to Morrill Hall (the main State Museum exhibits building) that can be used either on the day of the field trip or on another day. Participants will be provided a box lunch upon return to hotel.

Self-Guided Field Trips

Field Trip 14

Self-Guided Walking Tour of Lincoln

Participants will be provided a map and information on the many sights within easy walking distance of The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, including the Nebraska State Capitol, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, University of Nebraska State Museum, Museum of Nebraska History, Great Plains Art Museum, Lentz Center for Asian Culture, and Lincoln Children's Museum. Some charge a small admission fee.

Note: No registration required.

Field Trip 15

Self-Guided Birding Trips

A map and information on local natural areas and birding sites will be available at the registration desk.

Note: No registration required.

**All field trips leave from
The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel.**

Plan to attend ...

33rd Natural Areas Conference
Stewards of the
Old and New West

September 20-23, 2006
Flagstaff, Arizona

The Natural Areas Association announces a conference on the mountain campus of Northern Arizona University in beautiful Flagstaff, Arizona. The program will include guest speakers and special sessions focused on the conference theme, contributed paper and poster sessions covering a broad range of natural area issues, field trips on the spectacular Colorado Plateau, and opportunities to interact with natural area professionals from North America and beyond.

Effective natural area stewardship requires varied strategies based upon the ecological, social, and political context of the region. Most lands in the eastern and central United States are privately owned and the landscape highly fragmented. In contrast, the Intermountain West is dominated by public lands with many landscapes and ecosystems remaining intact. Natural area protection is a challenge in any region, and in much of the western United States there appears to be a conflict between the Old and New West. Old Westerners – including Native Americans, Hispanics, and Anglos whose ancestors worked the land – tend to favor natural area protection that incorporates traditional land uses. In contrast, New Westerners tend to envision natural area protection as precluding everything but low-impact recreation. Tasks for natural area professionals include listening, understanding, and appreciating differences in perspectives; bringing different stakeholders together on common ground; and developing a mix of stewardship strategies to protect and restore native ecosystems. Rapid human population growth increases the urgency of these tasks.

32nd Natural Areas Conference • September 21-24, 2005, Lincoln, Nebraska

Registration Form

Name (first)		(last)		
Affiliation				
Address				
City	State	Zip	Postal Code	Country
Business phone		Email		

Registration Fees	By Sept. 5	After Sept. 5	
Full Registration			
NAA Member	\$225	\$280	
New Member (includes 1 year membership)	\$245	\$295	
Non-Member	\$260	\$310	
Daily Registration			
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday (CIRCLE DAYS)	\$95 x ____ days	\$110 x ____ days	
Saturday	\$65	\$75	
Student Registration (proof of current student status required)			
Full Registration (includes 1 year membership)	\$125	\$150	
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday (CIRCLE DAYS)	\$40 x ____ days	\$50 x ____ days	
Options — Extra Friday Banquet Ticket(s)		\$35 x ____ tickets	
Pre-Conference Field Trips Fees			
Niobrara Valley		\$250	
Konza Prairie		\$150	
Conference Field Trips Fees			
Field Trip #3 Central Missouri River Valley		\$5	
Field Trip #4 Lewis and Clark		\$5	
Field Trip #5 Henry Doorly Zoo		\$10.25	
Field Trip #10 Spring Creek Prairie		\$3	
Field Trip #13 Nebraska State Museum		\$4	
		TOTAL ENCLOSED	

Special Dietary Needs

Please indicate any special dietary needs

Conference Field Trip Selection

Please indicate the field trip number of your 1st, 2nd and 3rd preferences from among the trips described on pages 4-9. We will do our best to honor your request. Please note field trips #3, #4, #5, #10 and #13 carry an extra fee.

1st _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

Method of Payment *(check one)*

University of Nebraska Cost Center # _____

Check or money order (payable to the University of Nebraska)

Visa MasterCard

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Cardholder Name _____

Signature _____

Payment must accompany the registration form to qualify for early registration fees.

Please register only one person per form. Send registration form with payment to:

2005 Natural Areas Conference, Center for Great Plains Studies,
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, PO Box 880214, Lincoln, NE 68588-0214

Remember! The deadline for booking your
lodging and for early conference registration is
Monday, September 5, 2005.

Register on-line at
www.unl.edu/plains

General Information

Registration for the conference may be done either online (www.unl.edu/plains) or by mail. Payment may be made by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) or check (payable to the University of Nebraska). Please register only one person per form. Registration confirmation will be sent by email.

Registration Categories

Full registration includes admission to all sessions, planned breaks and social events, field trip (some trips have additional fees), Thursday continental breakfast, Friday banquet, Saturday continental breakfast and luncheon, and conference materials. Box lunches will be provided for most field trips. Please check individual field trip information.

Online registration is encouraged.

Daily registration includes admission to all sessions or field trip, planned breaks and meals, social events, and conference materials for a single day.

Student registration includes the same features as full registration at a reduced rate. Students must provide proof of current student status. Student daily registration for Friday does not include the banquet; students must purchase a separate banquet ticket to attend. As a bonus, the student full registration includes a one-year membership to the Natural Areas Association.

Advance Registration Deadline is September 5, 2005

Cancellations must be submitted in writing and postmarked no later than **September 9, 2005**. A \$35 processing fee will be assessed on all cancellations. No refunds will be honored for cancellations postmarked after September 9. Refunds will be processed after the conference.

Dining

All meals are on your own except for the Thursday continental breakfast, Friday banquet, Saturday continental breakfast and luncheon. A box lunch is provided with most field trips (check individual field trip information). A Downtown Lincoln restaurant guide and map will be included in your conference packet.

Special Needs

Every effort will be made to accommodate the special needs of attendees. For lodging, please contact The Cornhusker Marriott (800/793-7474); for the conference, please contact the Center for Great Plains Studies (402/472-3082).

Accommodations

The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel — expertly blends modern decor, generous meeting space, and high-tech amenities. A block of lodging rooms has been reserved at The Cornhusker Marriott (800/228-9290 or 402/474-7474). To receive the special conference rate of \$82 plus tax (single or double occupancy), the hotel must have your reservation by **Monday, September 5, 2005**. You are responsible for your own lodging arrangements. Please refer to “Natural Areas Association” when reserving your lodging. Directions and printable maps to the hotel can be found on the hotel’s website – www.thecornhusker.com

Parking

Parking is available in the two adjacent covered parking garages, Cornhusker Square Garage and Carriage Park Garage. Daily rate is \$5.50.

Travel

Lincoln is reached via Interstate 80, U.S. Hwy 77, or Interstate 29 by way of Nebraska Hwy 2. The Lincoln Airport is serviced by two major airlines, United and Northwest. Other airline carriers service Eppley Field in Omaha (55 miles east of Lincoln). OMALiNK (www.omalink.com) and Eppley Express (www.eppleyexpress.com) provide daily shuttle service between the Omaha and Lincoln areas.

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Lincoln

1155 Q Street, Hewitt Place
P.O. Box 880214
Lincoln, NE 68588-0214

CENTER FOR GREAT PLAINS STUDIES

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