

# RESOURCE

A Monthly Publication of the Nebraska Environmental Trust

**December 2017**

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## **Executive Director Corner**

The holiday season is upon us and we are about to turn the page and enter a new year. By the way, 2018 will be the 25th Anniversary of the Trust. We had a very successful Christmas open house this past Sunday with almost 600 people touring the Ferguson House. This was the largest crowd we have accommodated.

The Grants Committee met this week and completed their ratings of the 112 grant applications. The Committee will meet one more time in January to finalize their recommendations to the full board. The 2018 Grants Committee Recommendations for Funding Placed in Rank Order will be released shortly after that final meeting.

Below is a photo showing current renovations on the back porch of the Ferguson House. The foundation of the porch has been sinking for years. The foundation is being replaced and then the walls and windows will be rebuilt. The project also includes replacing 17 windows and doing some tuck-pointing on the carriage house. Although the project is scheduled to last one year, we are hoping it is completed early and we can regain the use of our full parking lot.

We have a new board member; see the article in this newsletter. Steve Wellman was named by Governor Pete



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## **Pete Ricketts, Governor Board of Trustees**

### **District I**

Ryan K. McIntosh - Syracuse

James Hellbusch - Columbus

John Orr - Blair

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### **District II**

Gerry Lauritzen - Omaha

Paul Dunn - Omaha

Robert Krohn - Omaha

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### **District III**

Sherry Vinton - Whitman

Rodney Christen - Steinauer

Quentin Bowen - Humboldt

Ricketts to head the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Steve operates a farm near Syracuse and we welcome him to the Trust Board.

Tonight we will see if the Husker's volleyball team can beat Penn State for a second time this season and play Saturday night for the National Championship. Even if they don't get by the Lions tonight, it has been an incredible run for Coach Cook and his team. Remember, it was supposed to be a rebuilding year for the Huskers. A lot of Husker football fans got an early Christmas present when we learned Scott Frost was hired to be the next head football coach at Nebraska. Just a side story, Scott's grandfather operated Woodlawn Dairy on the northwest edge of Lincoln for Mr. Ferguson, the man who built the Ferguson House. The Ferguson House is now the home of the Nebraska Environmental Trust. But I digress; the Huskers are hoping a new coach and some new recruits can turn the program around. I can only imagine the attendance at the Spring Game, it could be a sell-out. The Huskers will not be in a bowl game this year, but you can still root for Frost's former team, University of Central Florida (UCF) in the Peach Bowl and they may need the extra fans as they will take on Auburn. Auburn successfully defeated two number one teams this season and ended up ranked #7. Frost and his coaching staff will coach UCF in the bowl game before leaving for good for Nebraska.

Have a Happy Holiday Season.

Safe travels,

Mark A. Brohman  
Executive Director

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#### **Agency Directors**

Jim Douglas, Nebraska Game  
and Parks Commission

Steve Wellman, Nebraska  
Department of Agriculture

Jim Macy, Nebraska  
Department of Environmental  
Quality

Jeff Fassett, P.E., Nebraska  
Department of Natural  
Resources

Dr. Tom Williams, Nebraska  
Department of Health and  
Human Services

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#### **Trust Staff**

Mark A. Brohman  
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



*The back porch construction is in full swing*

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**Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays From All of Us!**



*Celebrating the Festivities at the Ferguson House*

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**Arbor Day Foundation and The Nebraska Environmental Trust Unveil Fuelwood Energy Plant Visitor Gallery at Lied Lodge and Conference Center**

The Arbor Day Foundation announced the completion of educational exhibits located in the Visitor Gallery of the Fuelwood Energy Plant located on the grounds of Lied Lodge & Conference Center at Arbor Day Farm. The exhibits will explain and interpret the process used in the plant for turning trees into energy as well as highlight the importance of biomass. Visitors can also watch as woodchips are moved through the Fuelwood Energy Plant and converted to steam that provides hot water (for lodging

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

rooms, kitchen and indoor pool) and room heating and air conditioning for 120,000 square feet at Lied Lodge Conference Center. The exhibit was funded by The Nebraska Environmental Trust as part of Lied Lodge's \$9.5 million dollar renewal.

The funds provided by The Nebraska Environmental Trust was used as support for the renewed signage, demonstration, amplification and refurbishment of the space around the gallery to fully reflect the innovations that have happened in biomass and other renewable energies since it was first complete. A key feature at the Lied Lodge Fuelwood Energy Plant is a viewing gallery, easily accessible from the Conference Center and from which visitors can observe the operation of the 4,224-square-foot plant.

"We are thankful to The Nebraska Environmental Trust for having the vision to fund an exhibit that will educate and inspire the tens of thousands of guests that visit us each year at Lied Lodge," said Doug Farrar, vice president, Lied Lodge and Arbor Day Farm. "Because of their generosity, visitors of all ages have a unique educational opportunity to learn about sustainable energy sources based on the efficient use of wood as a renewable energy source."

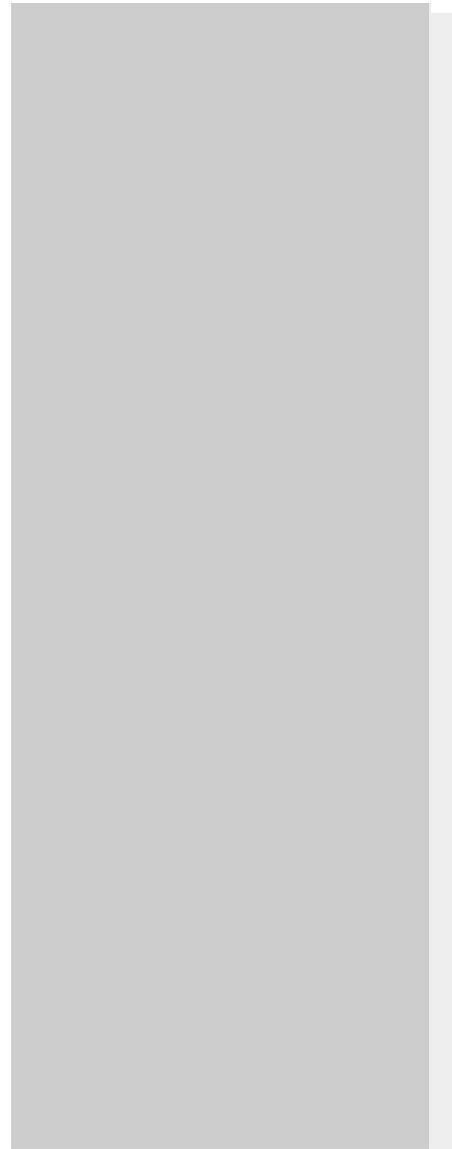
The Fuelwood Energy Plant Visitor Gallery project completes phase three of the renewal of Lied Lodge. Built by the Arbor Day Foundation in 1993, Lied Lodge & Conference Center is a full-service meeting facility situated at Arbor Day Farm, a 260-acre National Historic Landmark and the original estate of J. Sterling Morton, the Founder of Arbor Day in 1872.



*Fuel Wood Gallery*



*Trust and Arbor Day Foundation members at the Vine Cutting Ceremony*





*Steve Wellman, Newest Member to the Trust Board - Courtesy Photo*

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### **Steve Wellman Appointed To Trust Board**

Steve Wellman became the 27th Director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture in December 2017, after being appointed by Governor Pete Ricketts. Wellman brings a broad range of experience to the position having farmed in Nebraska for more than 30 years and also serving on various agricultural organizations and advisory committees at the federal, state and local level. He will serve as one of the five agency heads on the Nebraska Environmental Trust Board.

Wellman owns and operates a fourth generation family farm near Syracuse, Nebraska. His diversified family farm produces soybeans, corn, wheat, alfalfa and cattle.

As Director, Wellman oversees all programs of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. His efforts include work on agriculture policy issues at both the state and national levels.

Wellman has been a leader in the Nebraska Soybean Association (NSA) and the American Soybean Association (ASA). He served on the ASA Board of Directors from 2006-2015 and was elected ASA President in 2012 and Chairman in 2013. He served on the NSA Board of Directors from 1998-2006 and was elected NSA president 2002-2003 and NSA chairman 2004-2005.

Wellman has also served on the USDA/USTR Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Grains, Feeds, Oilseeds and Planting Seeds from 2011-2015, the Commodities Futures Trading Commission Agricultural Advisory Committee from 2013-2015 and the CME Group Agricultural Markets Advisory Council from 2013-2015. He has been involved with agriculture advisory committees for Gov. Ricketts and President Donald Trump.

Wellman has been active in promoting Nebraska agriculture products domestically and internationally, accompanying the Governor on a trade mission to Europe in 2015. Trade missions have been a key component of the governor's efforts to expand markets for and grow Nebraska agriculture.

An alumnus of the University of Nebraska's College of Technical Agriculture, Wellman received a degree in production agriculture in 1981. He is a member of the American Farm Bureau, Nebraska Farm Bureau, Nebraska Cattlemen, Nebraska Corn Growers Association, Ag Builders of Nebraska and Outstanding Farmers of America. Wellman and his wife, Susan, have two adult children.

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## **2018 Prescribed Burn Workshops**

Nebraska Pheasants Forever recently announced the schedule for their 2018 prescribed fire training workshops. This series of 13 basic and advanced workshops are being held across the state to provide training to landowners, land managers, resource professionals, volunteer fire departments, and others interested in the safe and effective use of prescribed fire.

This year they will be conducting 7 basic workshops that will provide a solid foundation on the fundamentals of planning and conducting a prescribed fire. These workshops are great for those with little to no experience and serves as a refresher to more experienced fire practitioners. The remaining 6 are the advanced workshops where they will take an in depth look into a specific aspect of planning or implementing a prescribed fire. These advanced topics will build upon the fundamentals learned in the basic workshops; however, prior attendance of a basic workshop is not required.

Pheasants Forever is proud to continue to offer these workshops all across the state in partnership with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and the Nebraska Environmental Trust. Since 2008, Pheasants Forever along with its partners have held a total of 108 workshops reaching 2,415 people with the goal to increase our capacity, use, and public awareness of prescribed fire as a cost effective land management tool.

To register for one of these workshops visit their website at <http://nebraskapf.com/store/>

# Prescribed Fire Training Workshops

A series of workshops will be held around the state to provide guidance and instruction for completing safe and effective prescribed fires. These workshops are for landowners, resource professionals, volunteer fire departments and others interested in burning. No prior burn experience is necessary to participate.



**Basic Workshops**

DATE	LOCATION	TITLE AND DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS	TIME
January 5th 2018	Scottsbluff	Prescribed Fire Basics – Learn why, when and how to plan and execute a safe and effective prescribed fire.	North Platte RFD 345541 School Road • Scottsbluff	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM MST
January 17th 2018	Allamore	Prescribed Fire Basics – Learn why, when and how to plan and execute a safe and effective prescribed fire.	Allamore Public Library 1719 Commercial Ave. #101 • Allamore	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM MST
January 26th 2018	McCook	Prescribed Fire Basics – Learn why, when and how to plan and execute a safe and effective prescribed fire.	4th Building – West Willow Fairgrounds 1400 W. 10th Street • McCook	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM CST
January 30th 2018	Grand Island	Prescribed Fire Basics – Learn why, when and how to plan and execute a safe and effective prescribed fire.	Hall County Extension–CPC, 3323 2nd St • Grand Island	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM MST
January 30th 2018	Beatrice	Prescribed Fire Basics – Learn why, when and how to plan and execute a safe and effective prescribed fire.	LifeLong Learning Center 601 East 24th Street • Beatrice	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM CST
January 31st 2018	Lincoln	Prescribed Fire Basics – Learn why, when and how to plan and execute a safe and effective prescribed fire.	Lancaster County UEL Extension 444 Cherry Creek Road • Lincoln	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM CST
February 7th 2018	Broken Bow	Prescribed Fire Basics – Learn why, when and how to plan and execute a safe and effective prescribed fire.	Yvonne Memorial Building 412 S. 1st Ave. • Broken Bow	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM CST

**Advanced Topics**

December 14th 2017	Broken Bow	Smoke Effects and Management – Smoke is an important part of every prescribed fire. How do we manage smoke safely and effectively? We'll discuss smoke management tactics, as well as the ecological benefits of smoke.	Turnbowed Oaks 800 East S Street • Broken Bow	8:00 PM – 9:00 PM CST
January 16th 2018	Waycross	TSD – Check NebraskaPF.com or our Facebook page for updates.	Clubhouse Lounge 108 W. Environmental Street • Waycross	6:30 PM – 9:00 PM DET
January 17th 2018	Waycross	Making Fire Work for You – The growing area allows to burn can greatly reduce the workload. Come learn about making the most of your land to achieve your management goal.	Waycross Community College 2200 Oak Street • Waycross	10:00 AM – 3:00 PM DET
January 18th 2018	Waycross	Using Prescribed Fire for CIP Management – This seminar will provide a step-by-step guide to use prescribed fire as a tool for integrated wildlife management in your CIP plan.	Mid Platte College 1204 Broadway • Waycross	8:30 PM – 9:30 PM MST
February 15th 2018	Waycross	Constructing your Prescribed Burn Plan – Learn the critical components of a prescribed burn plan and how to develop your plan to maximize safety and effectiveness during your prescribed fire.	Allamore County Extension–UPL 1002 North Street Suite 102 • Waycross	8:30 PM – 9:30 PM CST
April 4th 2018	Talamba	Integrated Wildlife Management Using Fire – Learn how you can integrate wildlife management into your prescribed fire plan through a prescribed fire plan.	First Northeast Basin of Nebraska 408 South 10th Street • Talamba	12:00 PM – 3:00 PM CST

**Registration fee of \$10 includes meal and training materials. Visit [www.NebraskaPF.com](http://www.NebraskaPF.com) or call 308-896-8395 for more information and to register.**



## Upcoming Events

- 23rd Annual Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Informational Seminar - Thursday, February 1, 2018, Hotel Grand Conference Center, 2305 S. Locust, Grand Island, NE, 8:30 am. (visit: [www.rwbjv.org](http://www.rwbjv.org))
- 1st Quarter Board Meeting - Tuesday, February 6, 2018, Ferguson House, Lincoln NE, 1:30 pm.
- 25 Years of Preservation Work - The Nebraska Environmental Trust, March 19-24, 2018, Rotunda, State Capitol Building

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