

Little Sioux Valley Conservation Association
PO Box 74
Peterson IA 51047

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Bison Burger



August 16 5:00-7:30pm

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SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL LIST

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Check out our webpage www.prairieheritagecenter.org

Sign up for the Little Sioux Wandering E-Newsletter. If you would like to receive the Little Sioux Wanderings, please send your name and mailing address or email address to Naturalist, 4931 Yellow Ave, Peterson IA 51047.

SUMMER/FALL 2022

Little Sioux Wanderings

A newsletter from the O'Brien County Conservation Board in partnership with the Little Sioux Valley Conservation Board



OVERVIEW:

- From the desk of the Director
- Welcome
- Summer Blooms
- Things to Do
- Upcoming Events



Remembrance of Fred Tanner

Fred will be remembered as a great contributor to the Prairie Heritage Center with the hand crafted oak furniture in the Rotunda. He created the display tables, benches and youth stools.

Looking to Donate to Prairie Heritage Center

Volunteers are always welcome to help at the Prairie Heritage Center on Saturday's and Sunday's from 1-4pm. Whether it's one time or many we would love to have you here!

Donations of books, fishing tackle, supplies for open range nights (clay targets, etc.).

Thank you for the Donation of:

Little Sioux Valley: Concrete at the Mill Creek Concession Stand & Playground border timbers

Pheasants Forever: Food plot seed

O'Brien County Sportsman Club: Trees at Mill Creek

Prairie Heritage Center Weekend Volunteers:

- Mary & Molly Hicks
- Janet Van Engen
- Bonnie Wallinga
- Sue Hass
- Ken Orthmann
- Patty Vollink
- Lynn Burmakow
- Dave Schroeder
- Dorothy Wegner
- Lynn Graesing

Thank You!

Donation of Books:

- Lyle & Kathy Luedke
- ### Campground Hosts:
- Bob Ruden
 - LuCinda Siekamn
 - Kim Remillard

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR:



It has been a rebuilding year within O'Brien County Conservation Board. Three new board members in the last 15 months and an entirely new staff in the last 12 months, there have been a lot of changes to say the least. Even with all of the turnover, changes, training time and having to learn everything about every park, we are still doing some great things and making some amazing improvements. You may have already noticed the cabin upgrades to the Mill Creek 12 person cabins, a new playground at Dog Creek Park and a new patio area in front of the snack shack at Mill Creek Park or additional concrete living space on the campsites at Douma Park.

I would like to take a minute to go over some of our future goals. In the near future you will see a new piece of playground equipment at Mill Creek Park and another new playground at Dog Creek in the south campground. We will also be adding tent camping sites at Dog Creek and Douma along with exploring how we could add more camping pads in all 3 of our main campgrounds.

The Prairie Heritage Center redesign project is well underway, we are in the schematic design stage, currently working with the design team to develop as many interactive displays as possible. Our goal is to turn each visit into several different experiences, adding as much interactive learning as we can fit into our space. We are hoping to have the final designs in the next few months, we are very excited about these potential additions!

We have also been adding additional programming! Our new Naturalist, Hannah, has done a great job picking up the reigns and running with the environmental education program. We have added programs in the parks such as fishing, paddling, nature hike and games, the first 3 Saturdays of each month through camping season. We started an open range night at Crosbie Wildlife and Nature Youth Center that will run from June through September. This event offers trap shooting, .22 target shooting and archery it is open to all ages but as always priority is given to youth shooters.

This year has been a challenge for everyone involved with O'Brien County Conservation. We are all working together to build on the legacy that was started with past staff and past board members.

The O'Brien County Conservation Board does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age or handicap. If anyone believes that he or she has been subjected to such a discrimination, he or she may file a complaint with either the O'Brien County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240

WELCOME OUR NEW NATURALIST

Hannah Hernandez started in June as our new naturalist. She graduated in spring of 2021 from Iowa State University with a degree in Animal Ecology. Hannah is originally from Des Moines and is excited to trade in the busy city for the countryside of O'Brien County. She is excited to get to know the community and provide programming for all ages.

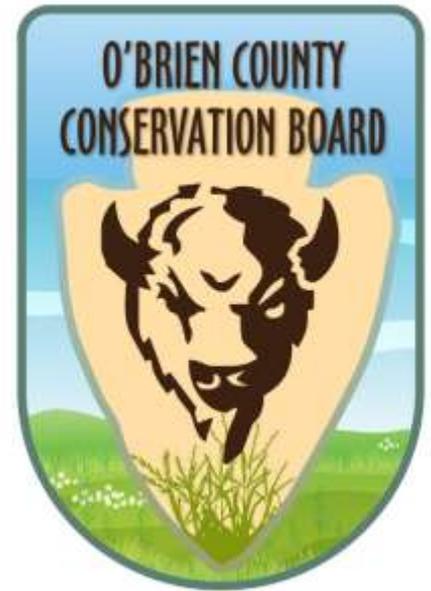


WELCOME OUR NEW OFFICE MANAGER

Sarah Fiddelke joined our team as Office Manager in May of 2022. She has a biology degree from Dordt College and lives in Sutherland with her husband and 4 children. As a long time resident of O'Brien County, she is excited to see and experience the changes the O'Brien County Conservation Board are providing to citizens and land areas. Serving the youth, public and the land of O'Brien County is a passion.

NEW LOGO!

A new logo for the O'Brien County Conservation Office will be showing up in the county in the next few weeks. Look for this awesome design on our trucks, park entrances, and conservation land access points.



VISIT THE PRAIRIE HERITAGE CENTER

Hours: Tuesday-Friday | 9am-4pm

Saturday and Sunday | 1pm-4pm

Phone: (712)-295-7200

www.prairieheritagecenter.org

occb@obriencounty.org

SUMMER BLOOMS ON THE PRAIRIE!

Written by: Mark Wilson

The summer months are the perfect time to explore the wild, remnant prairies in O'Brien County! Visit our remnant prairies at McCormack Prairie Area and the hills of Dog Creek Park to see the wild and native flowers in full bloom. On the prairie, amongst the grasses, you see them full of Pale Purple Coneflowers (*Echinacea pallida*), Wild Prairie Rose (*Rosa* sp.) and Purple Prairie Clover (*Dalea purpurea*). As you meander and explore you'll find the orange blooms of Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and conservative violet flowers of Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*). Our high quality remnant prairies, these hillsides and other area's that have never been tilled or heavily disturbed, may hold hundreds of different species of plants, not to mention the insects, snakes, lizards, birds and small mammals that you likely won't see any where else!



As you explore and wander the prairie, walk lightly and slowly, or sit in the shade of a nearby bur oak tree to truly experience the serenity and respite our natural areas can offer. Look closely to see (and hear) the multitude and variety of life that these special places afford. It will be important to pack water, bug spray, and guide books to get ready for your trip. You can borrow some guide books from the Free Little Library outside of the Prairie Heritage Center. Remember to Leave No Trace! Leave only footprints and take only pictures!

FREE LITTLE LIBRARY

Visit the new Free Little Library at Paullina Lake. Located right by the road, across from the concession stand. Books are a variety of topics and can be borrowed and then returned when finished.



O'Brien County Conservation Board | 712-295-7200 | occb@obriencounty.org

Tom Knoz

Jack Wallinga

Greg Burmakow

Dan Verrips

Kathy Luedke

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month

THINGS TO DO



Meet Timmy

Timmy is a painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta*) who has lived in captivity for the last 6 years. His new home is at the Prairie Heritage Center. Timmy enjoys people when they come, as he swims right up to you in his tank. He loves to eat dried mealworms and bask under the heat lamp.

Watch the Calves

Bison calf #1 was born May 14.
Bison calf #2 was born May 22.
When visiting the bison make sure to stay back from the fence as the mothers are very protective of the calves.



A bison calf weighs 30-70lb when born and will develop horns and shoulder hump around 2 months of age.

Storybook Walk

Venture out to the Prairie Heritage Center this summer to enjoy a storybook walk on the Prairie. The book can be found along the Waterman Wildlife Addition North Trail (at the bottom of the lookout tower).

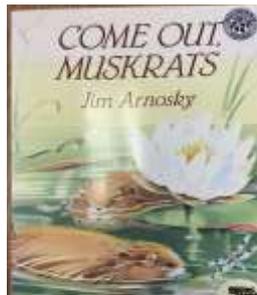
What is a storybook walk? It is an opportunity to read a children's book while walking on a trail. Activities are spaced throughout the story to keep your feet moving along the story.

A new book will be posted monthly as we move through the summer. We hope you'll come out often to share in this amazing literacy and nature experience.

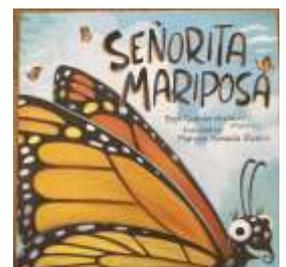
July



August



September



UPCOMING EVENTS



Bison Stampede 5K Trail Run

August 6

Registration from 6:30am-7:15am

Race begins at 7:30am

Registration fee: Donations Welcome

T-shirt provided by Little Sioux Valley

Conservation Association

Pre-registration is encouraged by July 23.

Race is sponsored by the Little Sioux Valley Conservation Association.

The race will be run on the trails around the center and on adjacent property. Be prepared for uneven surfaces.



Bison Burger Picnic & Lawn Concert

August 16 5:00-7:30pm

Enjoy bison burgers complete with all the picnic trimmings. Bring your lawn chair for an outdoor concert with the Itty Bitty Boji Band.

4931 Yellow Ave-1 mile north of Hwy 10 on Yellow Ave

Donations will be accepted and all funds raised will be going towards projects at the Prairie Heritage Center.

Open Range Nights-Youth

Located at the Crosbie Wildlife and Youth Education Center

4270 Roosevelt Ave Paullina.

Youth are able to shot trap, .22 and archery.

6-8pm for the following dates: 7/26, 8/9, 8/23, 9/13 and 9/27.



UPCOMING EVENTS



- **Wednesday, August 3rd, Prairie Heritage Center at 8:00 A.M.– Birding Camp–** *Come and learn about birds in the day camp for youth. Ages 7-10 are welcome.*
- **Tuesday, August 16th, Home School Nature Program-Prairie Heritage Center at 1:00 P.M.– Journey of Water–** *Come along on the amazing journey of water. Learn what the water cycle is and how it works!*
- **Tuesday, September 6th, Prairie Heritage Center at 6:00 P.M.– Raptor identification–** *Come to the Prairie Heritage Center to learn about the annual raptor migration! During this event you will learn raptor identification tips.*
- **Thursday, September 8th, Sanborn Community Garden at 5:00 P.M.– Monarch tagging–** *Migration is underway! Help us with this citizen science project to tag butterflies as they pass through O'Brien County on their long journey to Mexico.*
- **Thursday, September 22nd, Mill Creek Park at 5:00 P.M.– Treasure hunt–** *Learn to use a gps and find geocaches at Mill Creek!*
- **Friday, October 7th, Mill Creek Park at 5:00 P.M.– Dutch oven cooking–** *Put your tasting skills to the test! Experience what it takes to make food over hot coals. All food will be provided.*
- **Saturday, October 8th Mill Creek Park at 5:30-7:30 P.M.– Family fall fest–** *Join us for pumpkin decorating, crafts, trick or treating at the campground and games at mill creek. All ages are invited to attend this event!*
- **Thursday, October 13th Prairie Heritage Center at 6:00 P.M.– DIY home décor–** *Upcycle and enhance your living spaces with recycled materials found around your home!*
- **Saturday, November 5th Prairie Heritage Center from 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.– National Bison Day** *Celebrate National Bison Day with us! Take part in this come-and-go celebration of our nation mammal and the icon of the tallgrass prairie. There will be crafts, games and activities that the whole family will enjoy.*
- **Tuesday, November 22nd Prairie Heritage Center at 6:00 P.M. – Geminid meteor shower hike–** *Come along this night hike where we will learn about nocturnal animals and get a glimpse of the Geminid meteor shower.*

Staff:

Travis Scott: Director Joe Feekes & Chris VanBeek: Park Technicians

Mark Wilson: Ranger

Hannah Hernandez: Naturalist

Sarah Fiddelke: Office Manager

Environmental Protection Agency: 712-336-1840

Conservation Officers: John Sells: 712-260-1019

Joe Yarkosky: 712-260-1004

TIP (Turn In Poachers): 1-800-532-2020