



9<sup>th</sup> Annual Nebraska Natural Legacy Conference  
October 9 – 10, 2019  
Gering Civic Center, Gering, NE



**AGENDA**

\*\*All abstracts and summaries are available at [NebraskaNaturalLegacy.com](http://NebraskaNaturalLegacy.com)\*\*

**Wednesday, October 9, 2019**

- 8:30 – 9:00 Registration, coffee, tea, pastries, fruit
- 9:00 – 9:30 Welcome Program by Alicia Hardin (NGPC) and Melissa Panella (NGPC)
- 9:30 – 10:15 **Keynote Presentation: Importance of Pattern and Process for Generational Sustainability of Rangelands and Wildlife**, by Dr. Sam Fuhlendorf (Oklahoma State Univ.) and Dr. Dirac Twidwell (UNL)
- 10:15 – 10:35 Break
- 10:35 – 11:55 Morning Programs

**Genetics and Bats Session**

Moderator – Colleen Rothe-Groleau (NGPC)

- 10:35 Conservation Genetics and Management of the Black Hills Redbelly Snake, *Storeria occipitomaculata pahasapae***,  
*Jessie Clark\* (Black Hills State Univ.) and Brian Smith (Black Hills State Univ.)*
- 10:55 Preserving the Genetics of Fragments of Fragments: Prairie Transplants**,  
*Tom Bragg\* (UNO) and Barbi Hayes\* (Hayes Environmental)*
- 11:15 <sup>+</sup>Bats of Nebraska: Species, Threats, and Current Research**,  
*Laura Connelly\* (UNO)*  
*<sup>+</sup>Session encompasses two sessions*
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*Laura Connelly\* (UNO)*  
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**Avian Ecology Session**

Moderator – Stephen Brenner (NGPC)

- 10:35 Factors Affecting Sandhills Ranchers' Willingness to Engage in Conservation Practices**,  
*Matthew Gruntorad\* (UNL), Katherine Graham (UNL), Nicole Arcilla (Crane Trust), and Christopher Chizinski (UNL)*
- 10:55 Establishing a Prairie-Chicken Lek**,  
*Dan Leuenberger\* (Nebraska Master Naturalist)*
- 11:15 Development of a Long-Term Monitoring Program for Waterfowl in the Rainwater Basin Region**,  
*Dana Varner\* (Rainwater Basin Joint Venture)*
- 11:35 Distribution, Abundance, and Habitat Associations of Chuck-will's-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*) and Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferous*) in Eastern Nebraska**,  
*Stephen Brenner\* (NGPC) and Joel Jorgensen (NGPC)*

\* denotes presenter

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12:00 – 1:30 Lunch Buffet

**Nebraska Natural Legacy Conservation Award Presentation**

1:35 – 2:55 Afternoon Program A

**Environmental Education Session**

Moderator – Alie Mayes (NGPC)

**1:35 +Let's Go Birding Together: Partnering with Non-Traditional Audiences in Education & Conservation,**

*Jason St. Sauver\* (Audubon Nebraska)*

*+Session encompasses two sessions*

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**2:15 Civic Nebraska Field Guides to School Campuses and Native Prairies,**

*Kent Day\* (Civic Nebraska), Chris Madden (UNO), Hannah Cornwell (UNO), and Nico Lindell (UNO)*

**2:35 Linking Science Standards and Environmental Education,**

*Lindsay Rogers\* (NGPC)*

2:55 – 3:15 Break

3:15 – 4:35 Afternoon Program B

**Citizen Science Session**

Moderator – Alie Mayes (NGPC)

**3:15 Citizen Scientists of Nebraska: A Network Focused on Increasing and Improving Citizen Science in Nebraska and Beyond,**

*Alie Mayes\* (NGPC) and*

*Louise Lynch-O'Brien\* (UNL)*

**3:35 The Nebraska Bumble Bee Atlas,**

*Katie Lamke\* (Xerces Society), Rich Hatfield (Xerces Society), Jennifer Hopwood (Xerces Society), Rae Powers (Xerces Society), and Doug Golick (UNL)*

**Tree Invasions and Technology Session**

Moderator – Jen Corman (NGPC)

**1:35 Outcomes of Grassland Conservation in Nebraska's Biologically Unique Landscapes,**

*Dillon Fogarty\* (UNL), Dirac Twidwell (UNL),*

*Caleb Roberts (UNL), Daniel Uden (UNL),*

*Victoria Donovan (UNL), and Craig Allen (UNL)*

**1:55 Outcomes and Lessons from Cost-Share Restoration Projects in Nebraska,**

*Hugh Ellerman\* (UNL), Craig Allen (UNL),*

*and Dirac Twidwell (UNL)*

**2:15 Screening for Vegetation Transitions,**

*Daniel Uden\* (UNL), Dirac Twidwell (UNL),*

*Craig Allen (UNL), Matthew Jones (Univ. of Montana),*

*David Naugle Univ. of Montana),*

*Jeremy Maestas (NRCS), and*

*Brady Allred (Univ. of Montana)*

**2:35 Effects of Regime Shift on the Endangered American Burying Beetle in Nebraska's Loess Canyons,**

*Alison Ludwig\* (UNL), Daniel Uden (UNL),*

*and Dirac Twidwell (UNL)*

**Landscape Scale Management Session**

Moderator – Colleen Rothe-Groleau (NGPC)

**3:15 Management of Nebraska's Biologically Unique Landscapes at the Landscape Scale,**

*Kyle Schumacher\* (Northern Prairies Land Trust),*

*Cassidy Wessel (NGPC), and*

*Scott Wessel (NGPC)*

**3:35 It's Here, Now What? Conservation and Climate Change in the Middle Niobrara BUL,**

*Jen Corman\* (Northern Prairies Land Trust),*

*Melissa Panella (NGPC), Katherine Crawley (NGPC), and Sam Wilson (NGPC)*

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**Citizen Science Session cont.**

Moderator – Alie Mayes (NGPC)

- 3:55 Audubon’s Climate Watch Community Science Project,**  
*Anne Winkel\* (Audubon Nebraska)*
- 4:15 Monarchs, Milkweeds, and More,**  
*Cody Dreier\* (NGPC)*

**Landscape Scale Management Session cont.**

Moderator – Colleen Rothe-Groleau (NGPC)

- 3:55 Large-Scale Resilience Management in Nebraska and Beyond: Outcomes and Successes for Wildlife, Wildfire Prevention, and Water,**  
*Caleb Roberts\* (UNL), Dirac Twidwell (UNL), Daniel Uden (UNL), Dillon Fogarty (UNL), and Craig Allen (UNL)*
- 4:15 USDA Conservation Programs and the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project,**  
*Jenny Prenosil\* (Pheasants Forever Inc., and Quail Forever)*

4:35 – 5:55 Poster Session, Cash bar available

6:00 – 7:30 Evening Reception and Meal

**Evening Presentation: The Wildcat Hills,** by Grant Reiner (Platte Basin Timelapse)

**Thursday, October 10, 2019**

9:00 – 9:30 Registration, coffee, tea, pastries, fruit

9:30 – 9:35 Morning Program Welcome, Melissa Panella (NGPC) and Sarah Nevison (NGPC)

9:35 – 10:15 Morning Programs

**Plant Communities and Water Management Session**

Moderator – Colin Croft (Master Naturalist)

- 9:35 Sandsage Prairie: Ecology and Biodiversity of the “Cinderella Sandhills”,**  
*James Locklear\* (Lauritzen Gardens)*
- 9:55 The Lost History of Eastern Redcedar Management for Cedar-Apple Rust in Nebraska,**  
*Conor Barnes\* (UNL) and Dirac Twidwell (UNL)*

**Sheep and Otters, and Light Pollution Session**

Moderator – Will Inselman (NGPC)

- 9:35 Reproductive Success, Survival, and Cause-Specific Mortality of Bighorn Sheep in Nebraska,**  
*Emily Moberg\* (South Dakota State Univ.), Jonathan Jenks (South Dakota State Univ.), Will Inselman (NGPC), and Todd Nordeen (NGPC)*
- 9:55 Disease Prevalence in Domestic Sheep in Western Nebraska: Implications for Bighorn Sheep Conservation, Domestic Sheep Fitness, and Coexistence,**  
*Laura McHale\* (South Dakota State Univ.) and Jonathan Jenks (South Dakota State Univ.)*

10:15 – 10:35 Break

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10:35 – 11:15 Morning Programs Resume

**Plant Communities and Water**

**Management Session cont.**

Moderator – Colin Croft (Master Naturalist)

**10:35 Vegetation Community Composition within Bison Wallows in a Lowland Tallgrass Prairie,**  
*Andrew Caven\* (Crane Trust), Joshua Wiese (Crane Trust), Aurora Fowler (Nova Southeastern Univ.), and Dustin Ranglack (UNK)*

**10:55 Water Management in Western Nebraska,**  
*John Berge\* (North Platte NRD)*

**Sheep and Otters, and Light Pollution**

**Session cont.**

Moderator – Will Inselman (NGPC)

**10:35 Characteristics of a River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*) Maternal Den and Preliminary Results from an Off-Channel Habitat Use Study in the Central Platte River Valley, NE,**  
*Jenna Malzahn\* (Crane Trust), Andrew Caven (Crane Trust), and Joshua Wiese (Crane Trust)*

**10:55 Bright Ideas for Nebraska's Wildlife,**  
*Michael Bernhardt\* (NGPC)*

11:15 – 11:35 Reconvene for Afternoon Announcements

**Best Student Presentation Award**

11:35 – 12:15 Lunch To Go

12:15 Optional Field Tours Depart

**\*\*Please sign up for tours at the registration table\*\***

**1. Bighorn Sheep Viewing**

Tour Coordinator – Will Inselman (NGPC)

*Travel to Williams Gap WMA located approximately 15 miles SE of Gering, NE. Maps and information will be provided prior to leaving the conference center. Please remember to bring cameras and binoculars/spotting scopes. This tour will be led by Will Inselman (NGPC), Devan Oligmueller (NGPC), and graduate student Emily Moberg (SDSU).*

**2. Wildcat Hills SRA Immersion**

Tour Coordinator – Colleen Rothe-Groleau (NGPC)

*Travel to the Wildcat Hills State Recreation Area, 10 miles south of Gering, NE. Please remember to wear appropriate hiking shoes and bring water. This tour will be led by Amanda Filipi (NGPC).*

**3. North Platte River Habitat Protection and Restorations**

Tour Coordinator – Tim Horst (DU)

*Travel to Ducks Unlimited projects on private land, partner lands, and Ducks Unlimited/Wetlands American Trust owned properties in the North Platte River Valley. Maps and information will be provided prior to leaving the conference center. Muck type boots and binoculars suggested, but not required. This tour will be led by Tim Horst (Ducks Unlimited).*

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