

Projects at Work



Recent City Hikes at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center

From Susan Pohlen



L: Grapevine Garden Club Hike

B: Copy of check from Club who donated \$150 to Clear Creek projects



Program for third graders at Beck Elementary. Topic was Impact of Urbanization on Eco-regions. Marian Kester, Veronica Ruangskul, Susan Pohlen



Large home school group (43) were divided into two groups

TMNs in these photos are Dave Ford and Marian Kester. Thursday, March 24th

Home school group, Clear Creek, February 26th



Projects at Work, cont'd

2015 Class Project Workdays in March

From Brenda Maston, photos
Denise Remfert

Before we leap into March, just an update about the Prairie Walk with Bill Freiheit and Dorothy Thetford. These 2 gurus shared their knowledge of wildflowers and grasses growing at Clear Creek, pointing out species as Toni Benjamin marked and documented a list of 13.



Bill Freiheit



Dorothy Thetford



Becky Bertoni, Bill Freiheit,
Toni Benjamin

Becky Bertoni and I followed along and tried to absorb the vast amounts of information they had to share. I would like to thank each of them for taking the time to walk the Prairie Trail and their patience with our questions. I personally love the hands-on experience. The following is a list of the 13 plants we hope will be planted into the Pocket Prairie Garden.:

Silver Bluestem	Englemans Daisy	Blue-Eyed Grass
Prairie Parsley	Little Bluestem	Purple Top Grass
Switch Grass	Indian Paintbrush	Mexican Hat
Yellow Pucoon	Gallardia	Basket Flower
Liatrix		

On a rainy Thursday, March 10th, there was a scheduled meeting in the greenhouse. Braving the elements were Mary Cissell, Toni Benjamin, Becky Bertoni, John Robertson, Denise Remfert and myself. During the morning hours your author and the first 3 aforementioned, planted more seeds and watered the seedling trays and transplants. The new log book is working out well for documenting the care of the plants. I would like to thank everyone who is volunteering their time to check and water plants for our project.

Becky, Toni and John remained for the really fun part of digging in the rain. Denise later joined in on the wet trip. The new transplants are:

Silver Bluestem	Englemans Daisy	Little Bluestem	Purple Top Grass
Switch Grass	Indian Paintbrush		

Thank you 4 brave souls for digging these species out of prairie and transplanting them for our pocket garden.

Projects at Work, cont'd



Toni Benjamin and Becky Bertoni



John Robertson

Time to spring forward to March 23 work day. Much better turn-out . Attending were Bruce Babcock, Denise Remfert, Kaye Jackson, Brenda Maston, Nicole Swanstrom, Sheri Bratton, and Becky Bertoni. Thank you Class of 2015! We are having success with the germination of seeds planted earlier in the year. Many of the seedlings have now been transplanted into larger containers. Depending on the success of their growth between now and May 3, planting day into the pocket garden, the Class of 2015 will use these plants for their introduction to prairie life at Clear Creek. Our class will also purchase some plants from Native Plant sources. And now I would like to thank all those who have donated plants for the success of the Class Project and the greenhouse: Theresa Page, Dorothy Thetford, Toni Benjamin, Denise Remfert. Donations will be accepted by the greenhouse for the Class of 2015 Project and the Greenhouse effort at Clear Creek. We are making great strides to showcase a little piece of prairie. Many of the volunteers give time to watering, documenting, and taking pictures of our progress. Thank you Nicole Swanstrom, Toni Benjamin, Mary Cissell, and Denise Remfert. Jonathan Smith gave our class attendees a demonstration of proper watering techniques. Without the proper care none of our seeds would ever germinate or prosper. A special thanks to you , Jonathan. As a conclusion, I will leave you with some action *photos taken by Denise Remfert.*



Bruce Babcock, Kaye Jackson



Nicole Swanstrom



Jonathan Smith, Brenda Maston

Honey Lover

By Bob Ross

The year was 1914 and the armies of the world were setting forth “the war to end all wars”, World War I. In the midst of the tragedies and carnage of war, where 17 million were killed, there was a wonderful story that was a true story. Eventually, each of you will recognize what this story is about.

Harry Colebourn, a Canadian veterinarian, waved goodbye to his family, boarded a train and embarked on a 1,500 mile rail journey across Canada to a military training camp near Quebec. Colebourn had orders to join the Canadian Army Veterinary Corps with his duties to tend horses on the Western Front in World War I.

When the train pulled into the station at White River, Ontario, Colebourn stepped off the train to stretch his legs. As he was walking around on the platform, he noticed a man with a bear cub tethered to a bench. Colebourn assumed the man was a hunter and the cub was left without a mother. Being a lover of animals, Colebourn went over to the man and began a conversation with the hunter. Within a few minutes, and knowing the train would soon be pulling away from the station, Colebourn purchased the bear cub for \$20. He picked up the female cub in his arms and boarded the train to continue the trip.

Once on the train, the bear cub began to immediately entertain both Colebourn and his fellow soldiers. For posterity, Colebourn made an entry in his personal diary: “August 24, 1914, bought bear for \$20”. He also decided to name the cub after his hometown of Winnipeg and giving her the nickname Winnie.

When they arrived at the training camp, Winnie loved to do two things: 1) climb up the tent poles and 2) hold between her paws small bottles of condensed milk that were given to her by the soldiers. She brought a lot of frivolity to the soldiers because she was a natural born entertainer.

When Colebourn’s regiment, the Second Canadian Infantry Brigade, was readied to sail to Britain, there was no question as to whether or not Winnie would also sail. She sailed on board the ship across the Atlantic Ocean as the Brigade’s mascot. Once they arrived in Britain, they set up camp on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, England. Winnie loved her new life and surroundings, waking all the soldiers each morning by climbing up and hanging from various tent poles.

When it was time for Colebourn’s regiment to leave for the front line, he couldn’t bring himself to take Winnie with him because she might get killed or injured. He took a day’s leave and drove Winnie to the London Zoo where he reluctantly left her with the promise that he would come back and get her at the end of the war. Colebourn was sure the war would be over by Christmas.

World War I Armistice was declared on November 11, 1918, more than four years after taking Winnie to the London Zoo. Colebourn felt it would be too cruel to uproot Winnie from her home in London. He did go to visit her and discovered she had become the star attraction of the zoo. After returning to Winnipeg, Colebourn often talked about Winnie with his family and would pull out photographs of the young cub.