



# 2024 Nebraska Natural Legacy Conference

North Platte, Nebraska

October 8 – 10, 2024



## AGENDA

### Tuesday, October 8th

**Location: Harbor Lights, 711 N Lake Rd, North Platte, NE**

- 1:00 – 1:30 Registration opens
- 1:30 – 1:40 Welcome
- 1:40 – 2:30 Regional Conservation Session – TJ Walker, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- 2:30 – 5:00 Field Trip – Canal and Hatchery (carpooling)
  - 1) 2:30 – 3: 50 **Tour CNPPID's Tri-County Supply Canal** (2422 S. Confluence Rd., North Platte, NE 69101)
  - 2) 3:50 – 5:00 **Fish Hatchery** (444 E State Farm Rd, North Platte, NE 69101)
- 5:00 – 6:00 Break
- 6:00 – 9:00 Catered Dinner and Evening Social at **Harbor Lights**

### Wednesday, October 9th

**Location: Lincoln County Fairgrounds, 5015 Rodeo Rd, North Platte, NE**

- 8:00 – 8:45 Registration, Ag Activities Center Building
- 8:45 – 9:00 Welcome
- 9:00 – 10:00 Keynote Speaker – Jen Newmark, Western Conservation Coordinator for the Wildlife Management Institute.

10:00 – Noon Morning Concurrent Sessions

<b>Ag Activities Center</b> <b>T &amp; E Species Session</b>	
<b>10:05</b>	<b>Survival of adult and hatch-year piping plovers (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>) at off-river sites in the lower Platte River system, Nebraska.</b> Elsa Forsberg, NGPC
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Recovery Strategies for the Salt Creek Tiger Beetle: Collaboration and Innovation.</b> Shaun Dunn, NGPC

<b>Centennial Hall Building</b> <b>Seeds Session</b>	
<b>10:05</b>	<b>Effects of seed origin and exposure to insect herbivory on root responses differ between two plant species commonly used in grassland restoration.</b> Jordan Carfield & Dr. Jayne Jonas, UNK
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Collecting acorns and growing out Nebraska's Dwarf Chinkapin Oaks.</b> Justin Evertson, Bob Henrickson, and Brad Kindler NE Forest Service

**Break 10:55 – 11:10**

<b>Ag Activities Center</b> <b>Pollinators Session</b>	
<b>11:10</b>	<b>NENHP Listed and other Unique Lepidoptera of the Loess Hills and South Central and Southwest Nebraska.</b> Neil Dankert, Master Naturalist
<b>11:35</b>	<b>Wild Bee Species Abundance and Floral Preference on University of Nebraska-Lincoln Campus.</b> Paige Myers, Dr. Autumn Smart & Dr. Judy Wu-Smart UNL

<b>Centennial Hall Building</b> <b>Herps Session</b>	
<b>11:10</b>	<b>Herp Surveys in Loess Canyons.</b> Colleen Rothe-Groleau, NGPC
<b>11:35</b>	<b>Scales and Tales: Highlights of Nebraska Reptile Month.</b> Monica Macoubrie, NGPC

**Lunch 12:00 – 1:00 pm**

1:00 – 5:30 Afternoon Field Tour of the Loess Canyons. Meet at 1:00 PM outside of the Ag Activities Center to load onto busses. This tour is done in conjunction with Dusty Trails.

5:30 – 6:30 Break

6:30 – 9:00 Catered Dinner & Social at **Harbor Lights (711 N Lake Rd, North Platte, NE)**  
**Conservation and Education Award Presentations**

**Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Location: Lincoln County Fairgrounds, 5015 Rodeo Rd, North Platte, NE**

8:00 – 8:30 Registration, Ag Activities Center Building

8:30 – 12:05 Concurrent Sessions:

<b>Ag Activities Center</b> <b>Mammals Session</b>	
<b>8:30</b>	<b>Ensuring genetic diversity within a conservation bison herd.</b> Josh Wiese, Crane Trust
<b>8:55</b>	<b>North American Bat Monitoring Program – Nebraska Update.</b> Derek Krueger, NGPC
<b>9:20</b>	<b>Comparing Pre and Post White-nose Syndrome Distributions of Three Bat Species in Eastern Nebraska.</b> Han Li, UNO

<b>Centennial Hall Building</b> <b>Grassland &amp; Rangeland Ecology</b>	
<b>8:30</b>	<b>Impacts of encroaching smooth sumac (<i>Rhus glabra</i>) on herbaceous Sandhills species and environment.</b> Lillie Hoffart, UNL
<b>8:55</b>	<b>Effects of wildfire on grazed semi-arid grasslands.</b> Megan ten Bensel, UNK
<b>9:20</b>	<b>Using spring and fall grazing to benefit at-risk butterflies.</b> Gerry Steinauer, NGPC

9:45	<b>Acoustic Bat Monitoring Along the Central Platte River in Nebraska.</b> Jonathan Wentz, Headwaters
------	--

9:45	<b>University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Barta Brothers Ranch: 25 Years of Range Ecology Research and Future Directions of the Site.</b> Jacob Harvey, UNL Barta Brothers Ranch
------	---

**10:10 – 10:25 AM Break & Poster Session**

<b>Ag Activities Center</b> <b>Birds &amp; Fish Session</b>	
10:25	<b>Lake Ogallala and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Undesirable Fish.</b> Alexandria Keiler-Klein & Melissa Wuellner UNK, and Keith Koupal, NGPC
10:50	<b>Factors associated with off-channel roosting and early roost departure by Sandhill Cranes in the Central Platte River Valley.</b> Bethany Ostrom, Crane Trust
11:15	<b>Differences in bird abundance between lands enrolled in the Grassland Conservation Reserve Program and grasslands in western Nebraska during 2022–2023.</b> Jason Bruggeman and Anne Bartuszevige, Playa Lakes Joint Venture
11:40	<b>Migratory Movements and Connectivity of Neotropical Warblers in Nebraska using light-level geolocators.</b> Stephen Brenner, Audubon Great Plains

<b>Centennial Hall Building</b> <b>Riparian Communities Session</b>	
10:25	<b>Collaborative Conservation for Ecological Resilience in the Platte River Basin.</b> Melissa Mosier, Audubon Great Plains & Brett Roberg, NGPC
10:50	<b>Understanding River Connections and Building Partnerships around the North Platte Chokepoint.</b> Ashley Gramza, Playa Lakes Joint Venture & Melissa Mosier, Audubon Great Plains
11:15	<b>Vegetative community response to wet meadow restoration.</b> Abraham Kanz, Crane Trust
11:40	<b>In the Country of the Kaw: Biodiversity and Environmental History of Nebraska’s Quiet Quarter.</b> Jim Locklear, Lauritzen Gardens

**12:05 – 1:00 Conference wrap-up & boxed lunches**