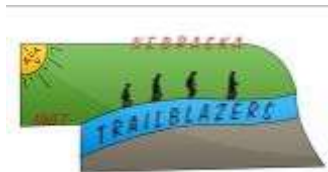


Footsteps

Fun, Fitness, Friendship

Volume XXIII Number 1

January/February 2022



The Prez Sez...

Hello NWFT club members,

Greetings and best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year!

Also, a reminder that 2022 NWFT membership dues are due by the annual dinner meeting. Dues are \$10 for individuals, and \$15 for family memberships. Monies for 2022 membership dues can be included along with your dinner reservation request.

Payments can be sent to the below address: NWFT
PO Box 8147
Omaha, NE 68108

Also coming up in January, will be our next walking event. We will have a group walk, which will take place at Westroads Mall on Saturday January 22nd with a start time of 9:00 a.m. Plan to be there a few minutes early to sign the waiver. Cost is \$3. We will meet between JC Penney and Dick's on the northeast corner of the mall by the children's play area. This walk will be a perfect opportunity to join our fun group, get some exercise and stay warm indoors from the colder temps!

And be sure to mark your calendars for our next regular club meeting which will take place on Monday February 7th at 7:00 p.m. Our club meetings take place at Morning Star Lutheran Church, located at 331 South 85th Ave in Omaha.

With that I will close out this latest article by wishing you all a safe and healthy Happy New Year!

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy
and Happy Walking,
~Steve

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As we begin our year of 2022, there are a few club events coming up that you will want to add to your calendars.

However first I would like to start out the new year by announcing the results of our recent Club Officer Elections for 2022. Please note the current roster of our newly elected 2022 club officers:

- President- Steve Burkland
- Vice President- Lori Sue Anderson
- Treasurer - Jill Champley
- Secretary- Dave Brown

Congratulations to those who have been elected to our board for the new year! I am looking forward to working with you all during the coming year.

And coming up, don't forget to join us for our annual dinner meeting, which is taking place on Saturday, January 15th at Legends Bar and Grill, located at 6920 Pacific Street. Social at 05:30, with an Italian buffet dinner at 6:00, followed by our club meeting at 7:00. Cost for members will be \$15, and non-members will be \$20. Soft drinks, tea and coffee are included, with a cash bar available.

Reservations for the dinner will need to be received by no later than January 5th.



For the latest on events and news visit our website:
<http://www.netrailblazers.club/>



Sandy speaks

Last month, I gave you information on the new Chadron State College YRE. Let me tell you about the other two new events in Northwest Nebraska.

The White River Trail

Soon to be part of The Great American Rail-Trail, the White River Trail runs along a former Chicago and North Western Railroad line, with stunning views of tree-covered buttes in the Pine Ridge area. This crushed rock trail connects Crawford, NE to Fort Robinson State Park. This is an out-and-back walk that can be started either at Fort Robinson or at Crawford City Park.

Western Nebraska's premier state park, Fort Robinson, has more than 22,000 acres of exquisite Pine Ridge scenery, exceptional lodging, loads of fun-time activities, scenic camping and the park's own buffalo and longhorn herds. It is a park filled with history, from the surrender of Crazy Horse, the garrisoning of the Buffalo Soldiers and its use as a German prisoner-of-war camp. There is a day use fee charged if you park at Fort Robinson State Park.

Established in 1886 as the Fremont Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad pushed west, Crawford grew from the need to support the soldiers at nearby Fort Robinson with supplies and entertainment. The town was named after Lt. Emmett Crawford, who had been stationed at the fort, but was killed in Mexico during the Indian Wars. Crawford is located in the scenic Pine Ridge area of Nebraska and is known as the "Big Game Capital of Nebraska". The City Park is home to the Old West Trail Rodeo which takes place on the 4th of July and celebrated its 75th year in 2021. Parking is free in the park.

Agate Fossil Bed National Monument

This semi-remote park offers the opportunity to explore two trails that lead to fossil dig sites. The park is surrounded by prairie grasslands offering the opportunity to view Pronghorn Antelope and other wildlife. The visitor center has a diorama showcasing mounted skeletons that represent the Miocene Epoch mammals that were found in this area.

The Fossil beds trail is paved and fairly level. It takes you up to and around the two primary excavation sites for the fossils you saw in the visitor center.

The Bone Cabin (on 10 K route)

About midway between the visitor center and Fossil Hills is an unpaved one-mile side trail that leads west to Harold J. Cook's homestead cabin. Restored to what it looked like in 1910, while Harold and his wife Eleanor still lived there, the "Bone" cabin was used after 1914 as the temporary residence for scientists who worked the fossil quarries. The American Museum of Natural History's lead excavator, Albert "Bill" Thomson, lived there whenever conducting field work in the bone bed in the late 1910s

and early 1920s.

Harold J. Cook's history is fascinating. He grew up on the 04 Ranch (which became part of the Agate Springs Ranch) in western Nebraska and became interested in the fossils, when, as a child, he helped paleontologists dig there. He became a distinguished paleontologist. His father was a good friend to Red Cloud, and often invited the Lakota to come down and hunt on his ranch, after they were confined to the Pine Ridge. Cook's memoir includes accounts of Red Cloud and his band, as well as various incidents related to attempts to homestead in the Sandhills region after the Kinkaid Act was passed in 1904. His memoir *Tales of the 04 Ranch* was written as a sequel to his father's memoir, *Fifty Years on the Old Frontier*, 1923. The Cooks were direct descendants of British sea captain and explorer James Cook.

The Federal Government acquired land from the Cooks and established Agate Fossil Beds National Monument on the site of the old 04 ranch in 1997.

To visit more fossils, you can take a short drive further west on the River Road to the **Daemonelix Trail**. (Watch for the parking area on the north side of the road). Not part of the Volkswalk, this trail is shorter, made of crushed gravel, and takes you past several in-situ Daemonelix fossils. This one mile trail features exhibits of the spiral corkscrew fossil of the Paleocaster, an ancient land beaver that lived here in the Miocene.

All three of the walks in Northwest Nebraska are available via the online start box or at the physical start box at the Chadron Chamber of Commerce. White River is about 20 miles from Chadron and Agate Fossil Bed is about 65 miles from Chadron.

Chadron State College and White River are year round events. Agate Fossil Beds is a seasonal event.

~Sandy

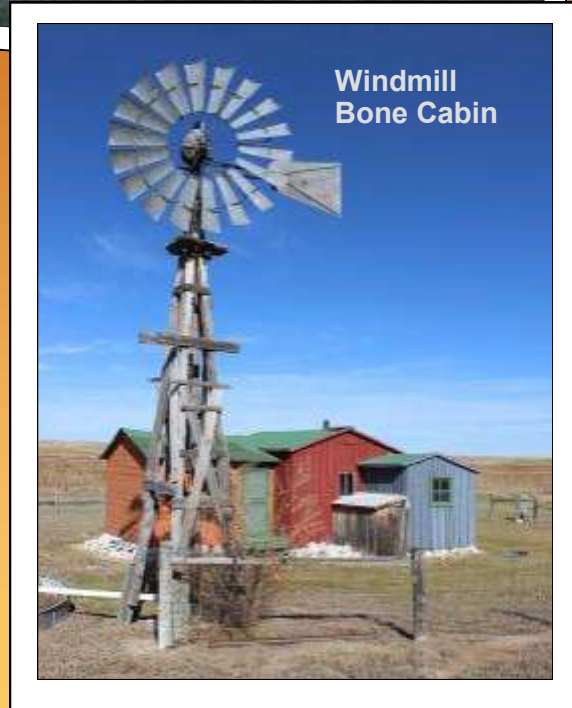
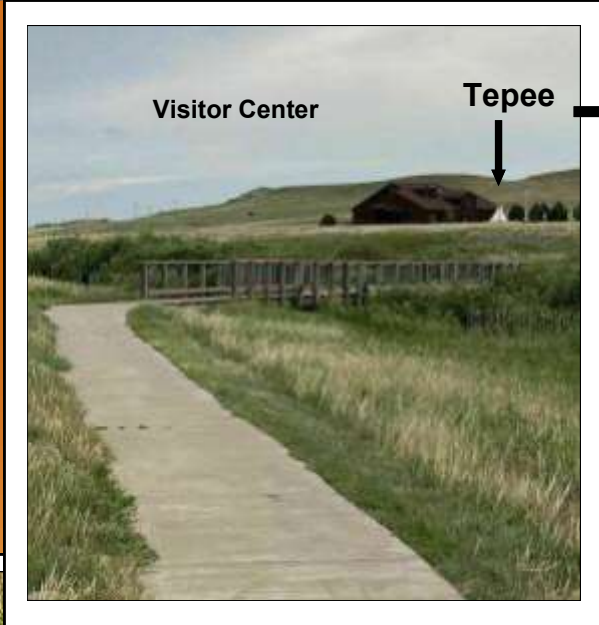


Chadron State College

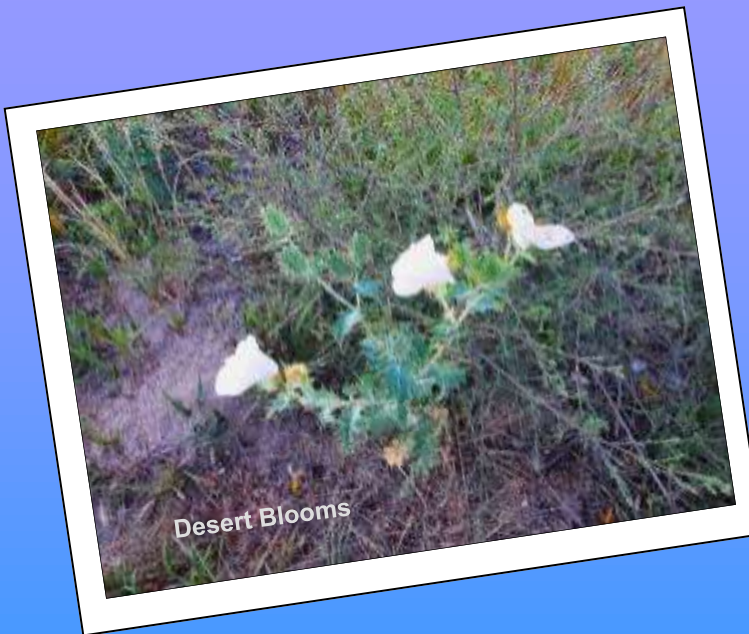
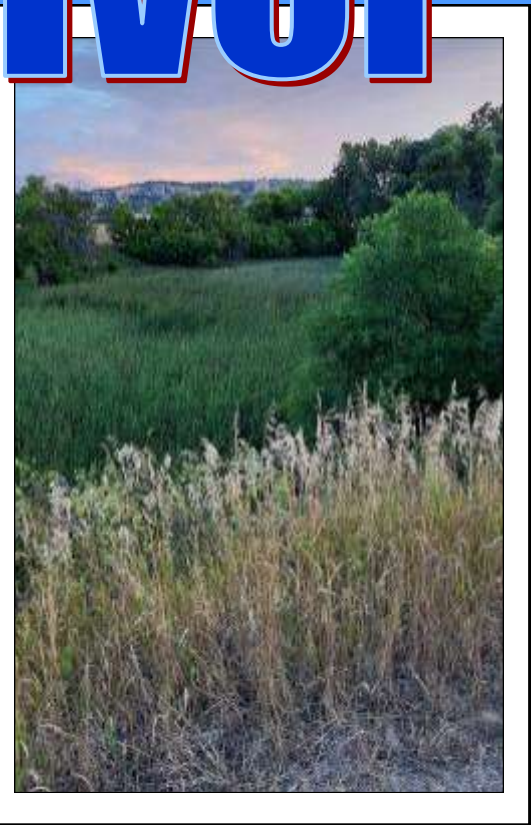


Photos courtesy of Sandy Spaulding

Agate Fossil Beds



White River



Deer on the trail

Bluffs View

Desert Blooms

Photos courtesy of Sandy Spaulding

White River



Photos courtesy of Sandy Spaulding

Lights Walk

Urban Abbey Start Point



December Meeting Organ Grinder!

Betty, Jerry & Giselle



Steve takes a turn



Photos courtesy of Lee Frantz



Mark your calendars: Upcoming Events!!

January

- 1 New Year's Day Kickoff, West Des Moines Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn
- 1 New Year's Day Walk Inside Mall, Blain MN Lake County Wanderers
- 12 East Towne Inside Mall Walk, Madison WI Madison Area Volkssport Assoc
- 26 East Towne Inside Mall Walk, Madison WI Madison Area Volkssport Assoc

February

- 9 East Towne Inside Mall Walk, Madison WI Madison Area Volkssport Assoc
- 12 East Towne Inside Mall Walk, Madison WI Madison Area Volkssport Assoc
- 12 Skywalk, Des Moines IA Greater Des Moines Volkssport Assn
- 12 Nerdstrand Big Woods State Park Winter Fun (Snowshoe)..... NorthStar Trail Travelers
- 23 East Towne Inside Mall Walk, Madison WI Madison Area Volkssport Assoc
- 27 Eagles Walk, Lawrence KS Sunflower Sod Stompers

March

- 5 Valley View and Soup, Council Bluffs IA Nebraska Trailblazers
- 5 Mall Walk, Maplewood MN Lake County Wanderers
- 12 St. Paul YMCA Skyways Walk..... Twin Cities Volkssport

April

- 2 Bockfest, Omaha NE Nebraska Trailblazers
- 23 High Ground Trail, Neosho MO Dogwood Trailblazers
- 30 Snail Lake Walk, Shoreview MN..... Twin Cities Volkssport



NWFT Officers

President
Steve Burkland

Vice President
Lori Sue Anderson

Secretary
Dave Brown

Treasurer
Jill Champley

Speaker Schedule

February 7 Ollie the Trolley

March 7 Nebraska Passport



Meeting News

Our next meetings will be February 7 and March 7 at Morning Star Lutheran Church, 331 S 85th St., Omaha, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the chapel area (masks are required). with a short program before the business meeting. Just a reminder that the club meetings are the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. with some exceptions: no meetings in January, July or August, and it is the 2nd Monday in September. Don't forget that at each meeting, we have a drawing for a \$10 door prize. Contrary to popular belief, you don't have to be a club member to win this.

Changes to Club Dues

Information on the club dues structure for 2022 is as follows:

- All club members in 2021 who wish to be club members in 2022 will pay \$10 individual or \$15 family due by the annual banquet in January 2022.
- Anyone who joins later in 2022 will have their membership pro-rated so that it expires 12/31/22.

Renewal is \$10 for a single membership and \$15 for a family membership.

Please send renewals to: NWFT
PO Box 8147
Omaha NE 68108

Send in Your Newsletter Info

To place info/articles/photos in the next newsletter: email netrailblazers@gmail.com or mail to NWFT, PO Box 8147, Omaha NE 68108