



From the Coordinator...

Monthly Report for the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance for the Month of July 2006

Rodney L. Verhoeff, Coordinator

UPCOMING EVENTS !

This is the busy time at the LPRCA for events. Having just finished our annual Airboat tour on July 14th, we are now preparing final details for the annual Water Quality Open Golf Tournament on August 22nd. This year as with last, the event will be held at Quarry Oaks, which sits on the banks of the Lower Platte River near South Bend. We also have the LPRCA River Summit scheduled for September 19th at the Swanson Retreat Center located at Camp Carol Joy Holling. This event will feature a variety of short sessions, two panel discussions, and presentations from two renowned people - Joel Sartore, Nat'l Geographic photographer, and Ernie Niemi, environmental economist with ECONorthwest. Registration forms will be coming out soon. Details on the events are listed below:

- **LPRCA WATER QUALITY OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT** * Tuesday, August 22nd, 2006 * Quarry Oaks Golf Course * near South Bend. Practice/Registration 11:00 to 11:45 am * Lunch on-your own * Load up carts at Noon * Tee-off 12:30 pm. Scramble format * 4-person teams * \$65/person includes all fees, carts, practice balls, awards, prizes, and burger/brat buffet. **THERE IS STILL ROOM AND TIME TO SIGN UP!** Join us for this annual event where you can play a relaxing round of golf on one of the area's premiere courses. Don't forget that this event is for a good cause - the Lower Platte River Corridor and we will have demos, displays, and trivia. It's so much fun, you won't know you're learnin'.
- **LPRCA RIVER SUMMIT** * Tuesday, September 19th, 2006 * Swanson Retreat Center * Located at Camp Carol Joy Holling just south of Ashland * Noon to 7:30 pm * Lunch banquet at noon with photo journal presentation by Joel Sartore, photographer with Nat'l Geographic * Evening Dinner Banquet and presentation by Ernie Niemi of ECONorthwest, an economic consulting firm out of Eugene, Oregon. Ernie specializes in relating the value of water/ivers to local economies. He has been a frequent presenter for several meetings and conferences in Nebraska lately, so he is familiar with our issues. Between these two meals/presentations are a series of concurrent sessions and two panel discussions - one on water use and one on land use. Space is limited at the event, so please sign up early when the registration forms are sent out.

GREETINGS FROM THE COORDINATOR

Summer went by in a flash and we are moving towards the fall season. We received nearly three inches of rain in north Lincoln recently, which helped us from burning up. However, we could still use more especially along the Lower Platte River where Lincoln gets its water supply. Lincoln was set to be put on mandatory water restrictions up until we received the much needed rain. Some people in Lincoln still don't realize their water supply comes from the Platte River. A big rain in Lincoln doesn't necessarily help recharge the alluvium aquifer that supplies Lincoln its water. There are a multitude of things that homeowners in cities can do to conserve water such as: collecting rain water in rain barrels; watering during cooler times of the day; water for shorter time periods and not every day; don't shower for a few weeks (just seeing if anyone reads this); and use drought tolerant grasses and plantings. It's interesting how the excitement builds when we have a dry spell, but yet this subsides when we get a little rain. We need to consider the long-term implications.

What's New?

LPRCA launches new website design

With a tremendous amount of help from the LPNNRD's Troy Thompson, we have launched the redesigned LPRCA website. **You can check it out at www.lowerplatte.org.** Intended to be more informational, easier to navigate, and more up to date, the new design incorporates the "8 Reasons to Protect the Lower Platte River" as identified in the LPRCA's mission. We are still adding to the site, but check back frequently for updates, links, and information on our programs, projects, and events.



Programs & Projects

Airboat Tour – Held on July 14th, 2006

This year's tour proved to be as enjoyable and exciting as previous tours. With nearly 60 participants and 18 boats, we toured the segment of the Platte from Louisville to Sokol Camp (near Hwy 64). We covered topics from T&S species to the RR expansion to water quality sampling techniques. There really is a lot of things you can see from the river that you wouldn't by driving across the I-80 Bridge - - the place where most people experience the river. As the LPRCA continues to work on removal of river obstructions, I was reminded of the importance of this program as several boats received some damage from hidden obstructions near the Hwy 92 Bridge.



Weather Channel Segment I recently participated in an airboat tour of the upper portion of the Lower Platte River near Columbus as part of a Weather Channel segment on drought in Nebraska. Dr. Heidi Cullen, climate expert with the Weather Channel, is touring various areas of Nebraska and looking at the drought impact. I was asked by Dr. Ken Dewey of the UNL High Plains Regional Climate Center to participate one of the days they were filming. Unable to launch from the Platte due to lack of water, we took off from the Loup River. We stopped at the confluence of the Platte and Loup Rivers, at which, I was interviewed for the segment. Whether or not I make the cut is to be seen, but I enjoyed the experience and the possibility of getting some national recognition for the Lower Platte River. An HBO documentary crew was also filming the filming of the segment and following Heidi as she made her rounds. Below are a few photos:



Lower Platte River CORRIDOR ALLIANCE

Summer Tour 2006

Itinerary & Schedule

JULY 14TH, 2006

★ STOP 0 Meet at the LPRCA Hwy 92 boat ramp for a 9:00 a.m. check-in. Refreshments served. **BATHROOMS AVAILABLE.** Presentations by the LPRCA, Inland Construction and NE CDEC, of the history on the River Obstruction Removal Project and the upcoming tour stops. The CDEC will talk about ongoing river projects to measure water quality and quantity. Leave 10:15 a.m. and head upstream for a another river view 1:00 hrs. (1.5 hrs)

★ STOP 1 Arrive at a weather near the 1.800 bridge at 1:00 p.m. Presentations by NODC on the expansion of 1.800 and the environmental considerations for the project. BEOP on their expansion of the old river along the Platte River. Leave 2:30 a.m. for Sokol Camp. (1.5 hrs)

★ STOP 2 Arrive at Sokol Camp 12:15 p.m. **BATHROOMS AVAILABLE.** Presentations by Douglas and Barry Counties on their updated Comprehensive Plan and the impacts to the River; a representative of the 1.800 Innovation Zone Commission; and about their efforts; and a representative from the NE SA Hydrologic Conference will give an overview of their activities. LPRCA - HQ at 1:00 p.m. Leave 1:45 p.m. for Verne's Island area. (1.5 hrs)

★ STOP 3 Arrive at Verne's Island area at 2:15 p.m. Presentations by the LPRCA on the Cumulative Impact Study; and the Environmental Capacity Study; NCEC group on their recent activities. Head downstream at 2:45 p.m. for Schuman Park. (2.0 hrs)

★ STOP 4 Arrive at Schuman Park at 5:00 p.m. **BATHROOMS AVAILABLE.** Presentations by the LPRCA on the educational program they offer; a representative of the Nebraska Alliance for Conservation and Environmental Education (NACEE) on what they do to promote environmental education throughout the state; and a representative from the Nebraska Land Trust talking about Conservation easements along the Platte River. Head downstream for the LPRCA Hwy 92 boat ramp at 5:45 p.m. (2.0 hrs)

★ STOP 5 Arrive at the LPRCA Hwy 92 boat ramp at approximately 6:00-6:15 p.m. Tour as completed. **THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING - WE HOPE YOU LEARNED A LITTLE ABOUT THE LOWER PLATTE RIVER!**

Contact Verne
Verne's Island
402-476-7722 * cell 402-429-0334
vverne@lpsnrd.org
www.lowerplatte.org

Upcoming/Recent Meetings & Events

PMRNRD Board of Directors Meeting – Thursday, Aug 10th, 2006 * 8:00 p.m. * Nat. Res. Center 8901 S. 154th St. * Omaha

LPNRND Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, Aug 14th, 2006 * 7:00 p.m. * 511 Commercial Park Rd in Wahoo

LPSNRD Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, Aug 23rd, 2006 * 6:00 p.m. * 3125 Portia Street in Lincoln.

LPRCA Quarterly Meeting – Wed, Sept 6th, 2006 * 10:00 a.m. * LPNRRD in Wahoo.