



Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway Newsletter

April 2018

"World Class Natural Wonders"

DOCUMENT LINKS

[March Mtg Minutes](#)

[April Agenda](#)

[Feb Treasurer Report](#)

[2018 Meeting Schedule](#)

YOUR SJSB OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Terri Licking, Ashby

Vice President: Bill Burdett, Cairo

Secretary: Twila Phillips, Mullen

Treasurer: Charity Adams, Mullen

Historian: Terri Licking, Thedford

Directors: Linda Lacy, Ashby
Karen Nepl, Grand Island
Kevin Howard, Alliance
Mitch Glidden, Mullen

SHARE YOUR EVENTS!!

We would love to hear

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Mother Nature continues to play April Fool's with us - snow and cold, near record breaking cold temps, makes for extra stress during calving. It is with deep regrets we report there will be no Wings Over 2 Bird Viewing and Adventure Conference April 12 to 14. Charity Adams needs to be commended for her hard work coordinating and overseeing all aspects. It was going to be an amazing new event for our byway, but alas, like they say 'You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make them drink'. We had many interested, but with only two committed does not allow us to proceed. We will discuss the use of the Nebraska Environmental Trust grant funding that was going towards this conference at our April 11th meeting in Broken Bow. We will be meeting at the Visitor Center, Rick Maas has set things up for us. Several of us will meet at 10:00 to review scholarships (Come, help appreciated). Two of our graduating seniors from the high schools on our byway will be awarded \$250 each. Lunch will be at noon, with meeting to begin at 1:00 p.m. C.T. April 8th at the Alda Community Center TRAN (Tractor Ride Across Nebraska) will have a meeting. TRAN was on our byway a few years ago, June 6 to 8 they will be on our byway again - this time from Dunning to Mullen. I will be going to Alda to learn the latest. The Great Plains Symposium at Kearney will have our presence, as we are a sponsor. Hopefully by then, April 17th, spring will be here and Mother Nature will quit fooling around with winter - but I will not bet money on that. Til next month, stay warm, safe travels to you all and I'll be seeing you on our Byway! Terri



P.S. - Please RSVP to me by April 9th if you are planning to join us for lunch - twlicking@ymail.com.

Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge Invites You to Participate in Migratory Bird Day May 12, 2018

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge invites you to participate on **Migratory Bird Day** on **Saturday May 12th 2018**. This is in conjunction with Nebraska Game and Parks celebrating events during migratory Bird Month in the State of Nebraska.

Crescent Lake NWR invites you to tour the Prairie Ranch Community in Garden County. The Refuge sits halfway between Highways 26, and Highway 2, with the

what is happening in
YOUR community! Visit
the SJSB website and
click on the "Events"
tab. At the top, click to
add your event by filling
in the information. It's
that simple to get your
event publicized! If you
need assistance or
questions, contact any
SJSB officer.

BYWAY EVENTS:

April 11
Monthly SJSB Mtg
SJSB Visitor Center, B
Bow

April 12-15
"Wings Over 2" Birding
Festival
Mullen

CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF REGISTRATIONS

April 18-20
Great Plains Symposium
Kearney, Neb.

[More Information](#)

May 2018
Brochure Swap

May 9
Monthly SJSB Mtg
Trotter Garden Shoppe,
Litchfield

June 6-9
Tractor Relay Across NE
Dunning to Mullen

June 13
Monthly SJSB Mtg
Alliance

July 11
Monthly SJSB Mtg
Stable Productions
Exotic Animal Ranch,

main north south roads connected though the refuge. These roads allow an opportunity for several drive options crossing from Hwy 2-26, or a U back to the same highway.

Bird and other wildlife activity is often the best around sunrise or sunset (5:33 am and 7:59 pm on the 12th). Planning a start time from the highway increases viewing opportunities. Song birds often continue to sing until 9 am.

The refuge Headquarters will be staffed from 6:00 am to 2:00 pm on the 12th. You can see displays in the visitor center and see bird carvings, and wildlife and sandhills photography. Rest rooms are available at all hours, water during staffed hours.

Directions south off of Highway 2

The 390 Ln (turns to Rd 155) just off the east edge of Antioch heading south starts with alkali ponds great for shorebirds and waterfowl viewing. Antelope can also be seen in these flatter rolling sandhills. The Hills eventually turn to more choppy sands habitat used by lark and vesper sparrows. Mule deer also use these rougher hills.

Road 396 Trl is just east of Lakeside (turns to Rd 181) and wanders south through the most ponds and meadows providing plenty of opportunities for waterfowl and shorebirds, including curlew and sandpipers. The larger meadow habitats are the home of eastern meadowlarks and bobolinks.

For More Information Contact: Marlin French, Refuge Biologist
308 762/4893

SJSB UPDATES....

Calling all byway members!! The SJSB is making plans to participate with an actual site location for the [2018 Junk Jaunt](#) to be held on Sept. 28-30. More information will be coming out soon - but in the meantime as you do your spring cleaning set aside those items that could possibly be donated to help support the promotional efforts of the Byway and the SJSB Visitor Center in Broken Bow.

Also... The Visitor Center is still in need of old and newer photos depicting the history of sites along the Byway including fairgrounds/rodeo facilities, villages, downtown buildings, etc., cattle breeds and their evolution, farmsteads and farming practices/farm implements, ranches, corrals and "working cattle" situations, Native American history, the railroad/stockyards/depots, and the list goes on. The barn will be opening the last weekend of May, so these items are needed as soon as possible. If you have a photo(s) you would be willing to share, please submit either the physical photo or a high resolution (300 dpi or higher) jpeg to the Custer Economic Development office in Broken Bow (P.O. Box 2, Broken Bow, NE 68822) or email to: [Custer Economic Development-custerdevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:CusterEconomicDevelopment-custerdevelopment@gmail.com). Thank you for your help in making our new display informative and attractive!!

**Explore Nebraska's Hidden Gems
Nebraska Passport Program**

Seneca

Aug 8
Monthly SJSB Mtg
Cedar Hills Vineyard,
Ravenna

Aug 24-Sept 3
NE State Fair, Grand
Island

Sept. 12
Monthly SJSB Mtg
Double R Guest Ranch,
Mullen

Sept. 28-30
Nebraska Junk Jaunt

Oct 10
Monthly SJSB Mtg
Secret Gardens, Merna

Oct. 12-14
Follow the Rails Van
Tour

Nov. 4
Monthly SJSB Mtg
Ansley State Bank

Dec. 12
Cairo

January 2019
SJSB Annual Conference

The [Nebraska Passport Program](#) helps travelers discover Nebraska's hidden gems, including: museums, parks, restaurants, wineries, retail stores, and more.



How the Passport Works

- At each Passport stop participants visit they receive a stamp, either in a Nebraska Passport booklet or a digital stamp on the Nebraska Passport App. It is acceptable for an individual to collect stamps in both the booklet and the app and submit all their stamps for prizes.
- The 2018 Nebraska Passport App update will be available for both iPhones and Androids on May 1, 2018; simply search for "Nebraska Passport" in your app store.
- Stamps can be collected from May 1 to September 30.
- Participants then turn in their stamps and receive prizes.
- There is no fee to participate in the Nebraska Passport program. There is no purchase necessary to receive Passport stamps at the Passport stops.

The Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway is excited to have two sites included in the Passport Program this year!

**Knight Museum and Sandhills Center - Alliance
Wave Pizza Co. - Grand Island**