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Newsletter for Whiterock Conservancy

A Non-Profit Land Trust

Introducing Tim Bogle

Tim began work at Whiterock Conservancy in December, 2012 as our Director of Development and Communications. He's hit the ground running and is working at ways to increase awareness of Whiterock Conservancy and develop a sustained base of annual support. Please stop in our office to say 'hi' or chat about current fishing conditions with Tim. He can also be reached by phone (712) 684-2697 x115 and at this email address:

development@whiterockconservancy.org



From Tim:

I was born and raised in Burbank, California. Attended California State University, Northridge with a degree in Geography. I've worked in the nonprofit

sector my entire career – coming out of college, I started my career with the Bob Hope Hollywood USO Club in Hollywood as the Center Director and culminated my 11-year career with the USO as the Director of Operations for the USO of Greater Los Angeles Area. I have more than 20 years of nonprofit development experience with an emphasis on generating and increasing support for local and national nonprofit organizations.

A few years ago, I decided I wanted to make a change in the direction of my nonprofit career. I wanted to combine my professional career with my love of nature and my growing concern for the need to preserve unique habitats and nature for my children and future generations to enjoy. As a result, prior to joining Whiterock Conservancy – I was the Associate Director of Philanthropy for The Nature Conservancy in the state of Nevada. My experience working for the Conservancy truly underpinned my passion for conservation and my desire to help make a difference.

When not in the office, I enjoy fly fishing, hiking, camping, travel, classic movies and reading. I met my sweetheart at the USO and have been married to Patti for 26 wonderful years. We have three children – twin sons, Ken and Tim, age 22 and a daughter, Aubrie, age 17. Rounding out the Bogle family are Bella, our 4-year-old miniature Dachshund and Baylie, our eight-month-old American Fox Hound.

I look forward to Patti joining me in Coon Rapids following Aubrie's graduation from high school this year.



1390 Highway 141
Coon Rapids, IA 50058
(712) 684-2697

www.whiterockconservancy.org

Phone extensions:

x111 Sandi Yoder, Interim Exec. Dir.
x112 Guest Services
x114 Chris Troendle, Land Manager
x115 Tim Bogle, Dir. of Development
x117 April Schultes, Office Manager

Pre-K Classes Visit Us!

Experiencing the land using your five senses was the theme for two pre-K classes that walked the trails at Whiterock Conservancy. The students, teachers and parents felt the roughness and smoothness of a rock, touched both soft and scratchy native plants, smelled a clump of moist soil sticking to corn stalk roots, watched ducks on the pond, counted rungs on a fence, listened to the birds and to the wind. What's left? Oh yes, we finished the walk at the Bur Oak Visitor's Center where we enjoyed a cold cup of sweet apple cider!



If you have a class or youth group who wants to come join us at Whiterock Conservancy, simply give us a call at (712) 684- 2697 and we'll help make arrangements for a fun filled outdoor walk or indoor presentation of your choosing.

Leopold Center Grant Report Now Available Online!

Can grazing and conservation land management be mutually beneficial? Our research shows how grazing and land management can be employed to create successful land use management plans incorporating both conservation and grazing goals. **Read about our successful program for grazing on reconstructed prairie!** <http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/grants/e2010-19>

Geology at Whiterock Conservancy - Part 3: Coal

The most successful mine in Whiterock Valley was the Pierce Mine, run by Clark Pierce and his son Clarence. This mine was located in the lower reaches of Whiterock Valley, on the south side of the river on land still owned by the Pierces. (Clark's great-grandson Darwin is a part-time Whiterock employee.)

The Pierces had extensive experience with earlier family attempts at coal mining in the area, and opened the Pierce mine in 1932 or 1933. To dig the 80 foot shaft they used half a case of dynamite. Coal was mined by hand-digging out the clay under the 25-inch coal seam, and setting spikes. Thanks to humidity and ceiling rafters that levered the weight of the soil onto the coal seam, the coal would fall overnight onto the spikes, which would break the coal into manageable pieces. The clay tailings were used to refill previously mined tunnels, and the coal was carted out and lifted up the shaft using horse power.

The mine closed in 1939 because it had become unprofitable. Homeowners were converting from coal to oil furnaces and remaining coal demand called for stoker (finely crushed) coal rather than the coal chunks produced by the Pierces. Today, the only evidence of the Pierce and earlier mines are the occasional small clay slag piles found along the lower slopes of the valley.

~The local coal mining information came from Warren Pierce.

Prescribed Fire – Bringing Life to the Land

~Article and photos submitted by Sandy Grace, Whiterock Conservancy Volunteer

Twice this Fall I participated in prescribed burns at Whiterock Conservancy. The staff and volunteers are an amazing crew; from the trained professionals to novices like myself. Both experiences left me with a sense of appreciation, awe, and accomplishment.

Volunteers are key to Whiterock Conservancy's overall success. The prescribed burns are only one aspect of the contributions made by volunteers. It's a large scale effort by many.

Fire is a technique to rejuvenate lands and has been used by several indigenous cultures for many centuries. In part, prescribed fire also mimics the natural wildfires caused by lightning strikes and other natural causes. These burns enhance the land by:

- Improving the grazing ground for livestock
- Managing vegetation by reducing invasive species and removing woody and less desirable plants (the weeds!)
- Promoting native species which need fire to boost their populations. Fires can scarify dormant seeds, helping the germination process. Smoke may also be a contributor towards better seed germination and for some species, may help seedling growth.
- Reducing competition from other plants making it easier for native or desirable species to grow and spread
- Improving the understory of the oak savannah which in turn controls soil erosion

While prescribed fire helps restore the oak savannahs there is a balance that is needed in regards to the frequency of burns. The land manager must pay close attention to the fuel load (dried plant material) available to conduct a successful burn, the species needed to control, the successful amount and types of regrowth after a burn, and the impact to wildlife each time a burn is conducted.

Each burn at Whiterock starts with a meeting of staff and volunteers. Assignments are made with individual tasks reviewed with each person. Equipment is handed out and checked. Maps and the prescribed fire plan are reviewed as well as safety messages and emergency plans. CB radios, cell phones, and walkie talkies are turned on and tested. When everyone is ready the crews head out to their assigned spot.

Drip fire is first laid down alongside roadways or paths to build a fire break in addition to the previously mowed and cleaned pathways. This eliminates potential fuel sources when the main fire reaches the perimeter.



Photo: Whiterock Conservancy staff members Matt and Jason are creating firebreaks using drip fire.

Prescribed Fire (Continued)

Crew members in ATVs carrying water tanks and others walking with flappers (think of a broom stick with a mud flap at the bottom) ensure the fire lines don't jump a roadway and become trouble. After these breaks are finished, the crews move to start the main fire lines.

Two crews were used. Each team was responsible for a specific area in the burn plan, which is based on the location of buildings, wind direction, and land formations and is designed to keep the crews safe and the fires as contained as possible within the designated area.



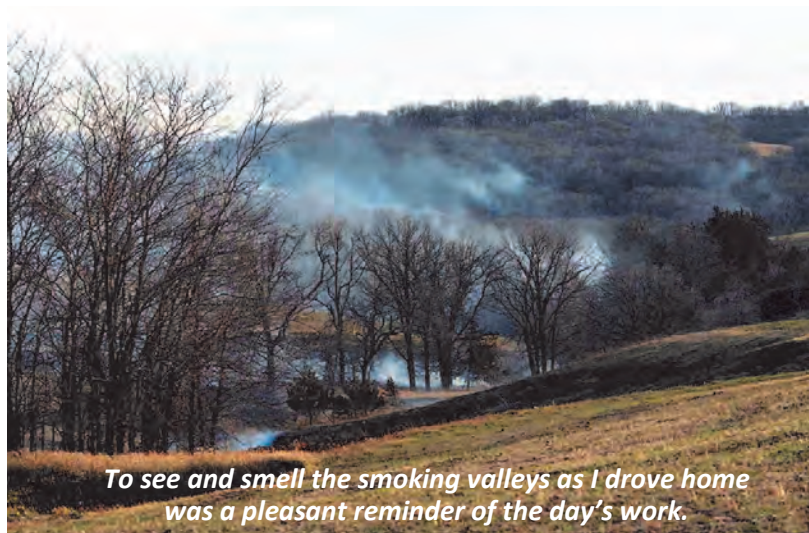
Photo: Volunteers on ATVs equipped with water tanks manage the fire perimeter.

Participants formed lines beside or behind the drip fire staff and kept a wet line between the larger fire area and the firebreaks and roadways. Flappers and extra water

from spray tanks were used on embers where the fire had reached its desired edge. Sparks and runaway or road jumping fires are a great concern.

Brush piles readily became bonfires and watching a line of fire race up a hill is an awesome sight. For one burn we ate lunch in the field as the main fires were still in process. The other burn ended more quickly and it was back to the staging area for food, conversation, and stories about the day's burn. The camaraderie between staff and volunteers, where everyone pitched in to make it a safe experience, and the sense of accomplishment for a good day's work, was evident by the smudges and smiles on every face.

Both prescribed burns went well and were safely and efficiently handled. While I left for the day, a few hardy souls stayed to keep watch throughout the evening and into the night. They made sure no embers or sparks caused unexpected flare-ups or jumps across the fire breaks.



To see and smell the smoking valleys as I drove home was a pleasant reminder of the day's work.

Volunteer Opportunities

Whiterock Conservancy is looking for anyone interested in donating their time to help us manage our lands and buildings. We need assistance with prescribed fire burns, maintenance mowing, soft trail construction, brush management, invasive species removal, gardening, fencing, building repairs, and more. If you or someone you know is interested, please let us know how you'd like to help! **Contact Chris Troendle by phone at (712) 684-2697 ext. 114 or email Chris at landmanager@whiterockconservancy.org.**

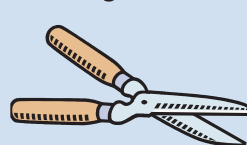
In-Kind Donations

With so many volunteers and our never-ending renovation and landscaping activities, we find ourselves in need of the following:

- Salt and mineral blocks for our buffalo herd or a donation for feed



- Tree and shrub pruning equipment
- Fencing material & equipment



- Welder
- Cutting torch
- Croquet or Bocce games!

These could also be used by visitors and our volunteer crews during breaks and at various get-togethers.

If you can help provide any of the above please contact Chris Troendle by phone at (712)684-2697 ext. 114 or email Chris at

landmanager@whiterockconservancy.org



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YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Whiterock Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit land trust established to protect and steward more than 5,000 acres of irreplaceable Iowa river-valley land. Your gift is extremely important to Whiterock because it provides resources that make an immediate impact - whether you make your commitment annually - a monthly sustaining gift - or honor a loved one with a tribute or memorial gift. Your contributions make our work possible.

Your support enables Whiterock Conservancy to continue building on the success of our restoration and conservation projects. We're working to make a lasting difference for nature and people - for today - and future generations.

Donate online, by calling our office, or mailing back the envelope in our printed newsletter - make a gift today and you can help Whiterock achieve lasting land management results benefiting both nature and people.

Monthly Giving - your monthly gift will help to expand the scope, scale and pace of our restoration and conservation efforts by providing a stable flow of support.

Memorials and Tributes - recognize someone special, commemorate a milestone or celebrate a special occasion, such as an anniversary, retirement, wedding or birthday by making your tribute gift. When you honor the memory of a loved one by making your memorial gift to Whiterock Conservancy, you'll have the satisfaction of knowing your gift will help to provide a lasting legacy for protecting our rare Iowa landscape now and for future generations

Matching Gifts - Many employers will match your donation to the Whiterock Conservancy - meaning your gift has double the impact on our efforts to keep restore and protect vital habitats and unique species from being lost forever.

Thank You for Your Support!

If you prefer to receive your newsletter electronically, please let us know at april@whiterockconservancy.org.



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