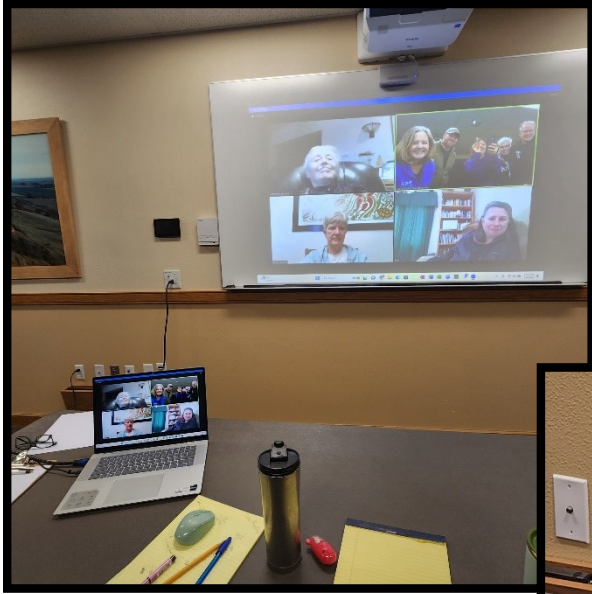


Weekly Wild Wednesday

January 10th, 2024

What a Week of "Winter SNOOOOOWWWIIINNNGGG"



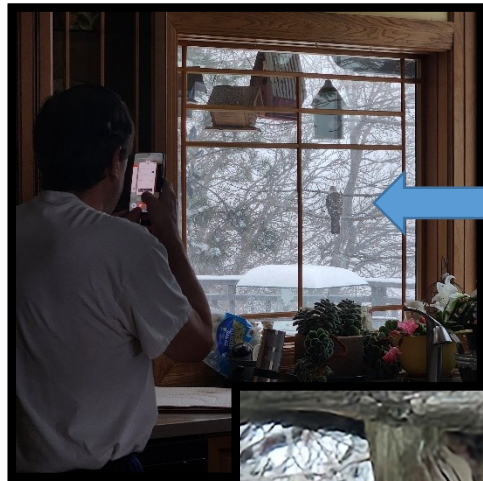
Our Fearless Board got together both in person and on Zoom to COMPLETE the State of the Chapter Year End Report! Yippeeeeeeee! In Person had delicious treats to share thanks to Luis and Cheri! Yummmm!



Back at the Wild Mess in Progress, a ?Coopers? Hawk came, and has been a visitor every single day this week! If you plant Native plants, they will come!



THANK YOU LHWO!!!



WINTER SEED SOWING

SATURDAY,
JANUARY 13TH

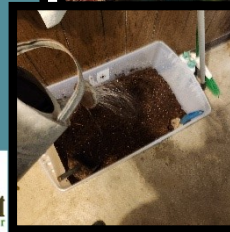
DOROTHY PECAUT
NATURE CENTER

1 - 3 PM
Bring 1-2 empty milk jugs.
We will provide the
instructions, soil, and seeds.
Free!



← **WEATHER PERMITTING**-We will be at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center from 1-3 to help you [Winter Sow](#) your OWN Take Home Mini Greenhouses! **In case the weather keeps you home**, here are some step by step tips so YOU can do this from home!

You will need: A clean gallon jug, Scissors, Permanent marker, Dampened soil, Native seeds, Twist ties or Duct Tape. Optional are a hot glue gun, an exacto knife, a drill, a mug, sprayer.



Step 1. Make four small holes in the bottom of the jug by either using exacto, scissors, burning with hot glue gun, whatever you have that works for you!

Step 2. Rest a marker on the mug, and 'spin mark' your jug so that you leave at least 2 inches of space for the "Hinge" (see above) of the jug. Step 3. Cut, Open and Fill the base of the jug with well dampened soil, lightly tamping down the soil. **Step 4. Not shown-Sow the seeds over the surface of the soil. Less is more!** Step 5. Mist the surface with water. Step 6. Put a label inside. This can be the top of the container, written on with a permanent marker. Also label the outside in several locations! Step 7. Close the jug. You can tuck the top into the bottom slightly. Secure the seam with duct tape or alternately add holes to join the top to the bottom with a twist tie. Step 8. Place the uncovered, (lidless) jug in a shady area that gets moisture from rain or snow. Step 9. Check for moisture now and then if it has not rained or snowed in a while, and spray mist or drip water through the hole if more moisture is needed. Step 10. When seeds start to sprout, make sure they stay moist! You can ether leave them to plant directly in Spring after the last frost, or separate them and up-pot into bigger containers.



Tom got 20 milk jugs planted just in time for the snow.



We will cover sprout care in detail towards Spring!

When Winter sends you 10-12 INCHES of snow, it's time to figure out how to take advantage of the situation from indoors or outdoors! Bird Watching at the feeders, WinterSowing indoors--

← Snow Shoeing at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center! Call 712-258-0838 for Rentals \$10 per day or \$25 for the weekend,

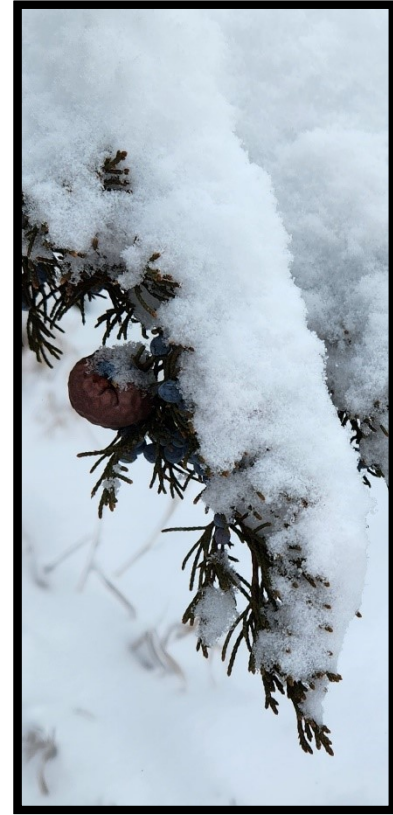
← Cross Country Skiing on groomed trails at Adam's Nature Preserve! Call 605-232-0873 for \$5 daily/weekend rentals!

There is SO much Winter Beauty to see everywhere!

Nature is ALSO Winter Sowing—This *Verbena stricta* bowed it's seed heads and spread it's bounty on the falling snow.

It was soon buried deep in the protective layers!

← Click photo for details!
Grow, Vervain,
GROW!!



← Chris made us LAUGH with his New Year, New Quiz humor! How does he do it? Click photo for link!

And this Wild Bergamot above appeared out of nowhere with the snow to point out the seed heads! A completely missed flower in 2023 in this area!



The Prairie Ecologist

New Year, New Quiz

Chris Helzer
Jan 8


Well, if you're reading this, you've made it to 2024. Great work, everyone. This is the year all our efforts to convince people that prairies are amazing will finally pay off.

Right?

Right.

Also, a new year is as good an excuse as any to test your ecological knowledge with a serious, no-frills nature quiz. Unfortunately, you're reading The Prairie Ecologist blog and that's not the kind of quizzes we have here. Instead, you get this weirdness...

Good luck, and enjoy!



What is happening in this photo?

Wishing you a week filled with "Winter SNOOOOWWIINNNGG!"

