

# Prairie State Park's



# Tallgrass Tribune

Spring 2014

Missouri State Parks

## Prairie State Park's Mission Statement

To preserve and interpret the largest remaining example of original tallgrass prairie in Missouri. The park further provides healthy outdoor recreation for all visitors. The park is dedicated to sustaining a large tallgrass prairie in its native form for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

## Prairie State Park welcomes a new employee

David Meeker joined Prairie State Park as its park maintenance worker in January. He joins us after working at Weston Bend State Park where he worked seasonally and was also a member of the State Parks Youth Corps.

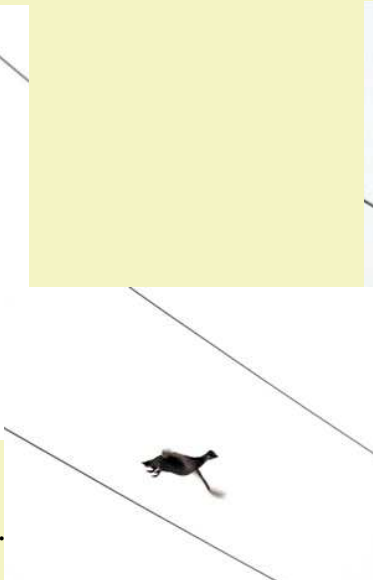
Meeker graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management. He and his fiancé Nicole are living in Nevada, Mo. Please help us welcome Meeker to Prairie State Park and the area.

## What bird is that on the wire?

On the way to work Feb. 8, a bird was noticed sitting on a power line. That's not unusual. Red-tailed hawks do it all the time. Only this time it wasn't a hawk. Staff at Prairie State Park was able to get photographs of some unusual greater prairie chicken behavior.



He stayed put for a few snapshots chortle as he took flight. He was People trailhead along Central Rd..



and then took off. He seemed to just west of the Path of the Sky

~Mystery item ~  
**Short-eared owl**

**Jerry Decker** correctly identified the mystery item as a short-eared owl and that it is a winter visitor to Prairie State Park.

This owl is different from most other owls in that it is not strictly nocturnal! In fact, it is one of the most diurnal of all owls. What is diurnal? It means they are active during the daylight hours. The best chance to see these owls is right at dusk as the light is waning. They do not hunt much after the sun sets.

This one was out during the day and the staff was lucky enough to get this picture.



Look at the intensity of the eyes! This is a photo from 2011 taken here in the park. The eyes say it all.

What wildflower is this?



Send your answer to [prairie.state.park@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:prairie.state.park@dnr.mo.gov) and the person with the first correct answer will be listed in the next newsletter.

## Calendar of Events

~All activities will begin at the nature center~

**March 1, 10 a.m.**

### Bison Hike

Take a hike and learn how well bison are adapted to this seemingly unforgiving landscape. Be prepared for a two-mile hike by bringing snacks, water and binoculars.

**March 14, 9:30 a.m.-noon (HS)**

### Polymer Clay Trade Beads

You will make trade beads to take home and learn how Native Americans used them.

**March 17 -21, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.**

### Spring Break Spectacular!

Spring break programs will be offered all week! Come out and see what we have for you. It could be snakes, bison, elk, the Osage, prairie chickens or more.

**April 5, 10 a.m.**

### Bison Hike

Bison will be calving soon. Maybe you will see some! Come out and take a walk on the prairie. Be prepared for a two-mile hike by bringing snacks, water and binoculars.

**April 19, 9 a.m. -3 p.m.**

### Earth Day Fair

Learn how we can help make this a better planet. Wildheart will perform music. Games and activities will be held throughout the day.

**May 3, 10 a.m.**

### Bison Hike

There should be several bison babies by now and you should be able to get some good looks at them. Be prepared for a two-mile hike by bringing snacks, water and binoculars.

**May 23, 9:30 a.m. - noon (HS)**

### Archery and Atlatls

You will learn about weapons the Native Americans used prior to European settlement. Learn to shoot a bow and throw an atlatl.

**May 23, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

### Introduction to Archery

Learn the basics of shooting a bow. Kevin Badgley of the Missouri Department of Conservation will teach you about safely shooting a bow.

**HS denotes a homeschool program**

Check out our Facebook page for photos, interactive posts, information on upcoming programs and events.

Give us a "like".

<https://www.facebook.com/PrairieStatePark>

# Hey Kids!

## Make a Stained Glass Butterfly



### Directions:

1. Color the picture with rich, vibrant colors.
2. Cut out image. (Cut on rectangular border.)
3. Place coloring page on several sheets of newspaper.
4. Dip a cotton ball in a small amount of oil. Rub oil-dipped cotton ball over coloring page, saturating paper thoroughly.
5. Allow picture to dry until all oil is absorbed into paper, then hang in window to display.

Stained glass butterfly from:

[http://www.theholidayzone.com/spring/Stained\\_Glass\\_Butterflies.pdf](http://www.theholidayzone.com/spring/Stained_Glass_Butterflies.pdf)

## First Day Bison Hike

Prairie State Park's First Day Bison Hike on New Year's Day was a success. The hike brought out 55 on a cold winter's day. Hikers of all ages ventured out to the park to see this amazing animal. The bison were cooperative and within a mile or so of the nature center.

The hikers were divided into two groups and were taken on a journey to discover not only the bison, but the prairie winter as well. They saw animal signs like turtle shells, burrows, droppings (also known as scat), feathers and trails as well as meadowlarks and deer. There is a great deal to see when you take the time and keep your eyes open.

Part of the trail was in a burned area, so staff talked about why the prairie is burned to preserve it. Fire keeps woody vegetation in check, stimulates new plant growth, and gives seeds a better chance to germinate. Seeds need bare soil, sunlight and water. Burning clears the path for more sun to reach the soil and leaves bare patches at the same time.

### Spring Homeschool Programs 2014

#### **Polymer Clay Trade Beads      March 14, 9:30 a.m.– Noon**

Learn about North American Indian trade beads and make and take home your own replicas from polymer clay. Cyndi Cogbill will be our guest instructor for this program.

#### **Earth Day Fair      April 19, 9 a.m. to 3 m.**

Celebrate Earth Day and learn what you can do to help save our planet. Games and interactive activities will be presented and the music group Wildheart will perform. **No registration fee required.**

#### **Archery and Atlatls      May 23, 9:30 a.m. –Noon**

Learn about the weapons the Native Americans used. You will learn archery and how to throw an atlatl. Kevin Badgley will be our instructor.

### **PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!**

Complete the form for **each program** (copy as needed). Please register **every person** that will attend.

**Each family must pre-register for each program with a \$4 deposit (per family).** The money will be returned upon your participation in the program. Unclaimed funds will become a donation to the park.

You may mail in your registration anytime after you receive this notice. You must **pay by cash or check for each session separately** (i.e., three checks for three programs). Checks will be held until the date of the program. **Make checks payable to State of Missouri/DNR.** No telephone or email registrations will be taken.

#### **PROGRAM REGISTRATION deadline is March 7, 2014!**

After that date, call to see if there are openings for the programs.

You are enrolled **unless your deposit is returned to you.** **If you cannot attend a program, please notify the park;** supplies are purchased for nearly every program. In case of inclement weather, call 417-843-6711 to check status of the programs. In most cases, we cannot reschedule the program. Your fee for that program will become a donation.

PROGRAM (Circle correct one)    Tradebeads    Archery/Atlatls

CHECK \_\_\_\_\_ CASH \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL NUMBER ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN'S NAMES and AGES \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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