



NEWS RELEASE – March 6, 2017

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National Prairie Day Founded by the Missouri Prairie Foundation

The Missouri Prairie Foundation invites all to recognize and celebrate prairies in Missouri and throughout the nation.

In its 50th Anniversary year, the Missouri Prairie Foundation (MPF) is pleased to have founded National Prairie Day as the first Saturday in June, to enhance public awareness of what prairie is, educate about its value, and motivate all who learn about prairie to be inspired to support prairie conservation, restoration, and enjoyment.

“All are invited to join us in celebration of the 2nd Annual National Prairie Day, to be observed this year on June 3,” said Carol Davit, Executive Director of the Missouri Prairie Foundation. “National Prairie Day provides a day of focus across the United States to inspire learning, appreciation, exploration of our national prairie legacy, and success of national, regional, statewide, and local prairie conservation efforts from coast to coast.”

MPF will celebrate National Prairie Day by hosting its free, 8th annual Prairie BioBlitz at its Stillwell Prairie near Nevada in Vernon County, MO with professional biologist leaders, a potluck dinner and tent camping on the prairie. For details on the event, visit moprairie.org.

Today—from the tallgrass prairie east of the Rockies, and westward through mid and short grass prairies that stretched to the Pacific coast—our native grassland legacy has been dramatically reduced to scattered remnants of its once vast 160 - million acres domain across North America.

These remnants, from pocket prairies with their beauty and diversity of plants, insects, birds, and other grassland wildlife to the larger tracts that support cattle ranching, antelope, bison and other large animals, remain vitally important to us for their contributions to water quality, soil health, carbon storage, protection in drought and pollinator habitat. Because one-third of all our food crops are pollinated by insects, protecting native pollinator habitat is crucial to food security.

In Missouri National Prairie Day will be celebrated at the 8th annual prairie BioBlitz on MPF's Linden's Prairie in Lawrence County with biologist leaders, a potluck dinner, and camping on the prairie. Watch for details at <http://moprairie.org/>.

Learn more about National Prairie Day and how you can be a part of this special day across the nation at <http://nationalprairieday.org/>.

#nationalprairieday