

Recreation department trip evaluates outdoor areas



photo by Bill Graf

Agnes Rainwater

BY ROCHELLE PERRELLA

How would you like to camp out in western Nebraska for five days and receive two hours of college credit for the trip?

It may sound too good to be true, but there is such a program.

Every summer in pre-session, the Recreation Department sponsors a course in recreation study. This year, a group of ten students studied the outdoor recreation re-

sources in western Nebraska, under the guidance of two faculty members, Dr. Agnes Rainwater and Dr. William Murphy.

According to Rainwater, the class was divided into two one-week sessions.

The first week was spent in a classroom on the UNL city campus. This seminar was scheduled to meet from 10:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. The major focus of the classroom activity was on the development and preparation of a means of evaluating recreation resources.

The evaluation methods they developed were then used the second week to rate recreation area services and facilities from several perspectives, including general design, campground design, program information and interpretive services, and the facility's accessibility for disabled people.

Also included in the classroom activity was an orientation of the areas that the class was to visit, Rainwater said.

The schedule for the second week was full. The class left on Monday morning. Their first stop was McPherson National Cemetery in Maxwell, Neb. Next, they moved on to Ash Hollow, west of Ogalalla. The stopping point Monday was Chadron, where they set camp. The class stayed at Chadron in cabins for the entire week and traveled from there to various facilities.

Throughout the week, they visited a number of recreational areas, including Agate Fossil Bed National Monument, Fort Robinson, Toadstool Park, the State

Park near Chadron, and the Fort Niobrara Wildlife Refuge in Valentine.

At each of these sites, the class went on a tour and evaluated its resources. At most places, formal presentations were given by the state or federal recreation person in charge. The students were also able to ask questions.

The class filed out their evaluation forms for each site visited.

The class also carried a wheelchair at all times while viewing the facilities. This helped the students understand the problems of a disabled person from a first-hand perspective, Rainwater said.

While riding in the wheelchair, the students became more aware of the attitudes of people toward the disabled, as well as the accessibility problems that disabled people face everyday, she said.

Many of the students that went on the trip had never camped before, Rainwater said. The week was organized on a teamwork basis. Everyone contributed to the work of cooking, cleaning up, and other chores.

"The week was like living history," Rainwater said.

Besides the planned activities, the students had free time to do activities such as hiking, paddle-boating and horseback riding.

"The week was such a good experience," Rainwater said. There was a pulling together of the group, a real community feeling, she said.

Next year, the Recreation Department plans to have a trip to study the commercial and industrial recreational facilities in the area, Rainwater said.

Two UNL students jog across Nebraska to help the Muscular Dystrophy Assoc.

BY LORI MERRYMAN

Two years ago, a UNL student, inspired while helping handicapped youth in a class, decided he wanted to use his physical capabilities to raise money for the handicapped.

In January he grabbed a partner who liked his idea, and now they are getting ready to run over 450 miles across Nebraska in August.

Bruce Umbarger, 22, of Genoa and Van Joy, 21, of Falls City will combine a run for money and a vacation into a 17-day Trans-Nebraska Love Run for the Muscular Dystrophy Association from Aug. 6 to 22.

The Nebraska run is associated with America's Love Run sponsored by Frank Shorter.

The two students, both avid runners, will start from Pine Bluffs, Wyo., on the west edge of Nebraska, and alternate running to Council Bluffs.

Umbarger, a double major in physical education and science, had been helping teach handicapped youth bowl for a UNL class when he first thought of the statewide run, he said.

"I enjoyed working with the kids so much," he said, "and I felt maybe I could help out more."

He originally planned to run across Nebraska alone, but he and Joy decided in January to do the run together.

The dream of helping the handicapped youth will be combined with a vacation of camping and fishing.

Each plans to average running about 15 miles a day while the other drives a car. Umbarger said they will be running morning and evenings to avoid midday August

heat. They also plan to get ahead of schedule in order to take a couple days off somewhere in western Nebraska.

This summer Umbarger is working for the University

of Nebraska Foundation Seed Division. Joy has spent part of the summer in Ft. Riley, Kan. at a National Guard Camp and the rest working in his father's machine shop in Falls City. Both haven't been able to run together this summer, but don't anticipate any real problems.

"I'm looking forward to see Nebraska at a slower rate," Umbarger said, something you don't do while driving 55 mph down the interstate.

Both Joy and Umbarger run about 55 to 60 miles a week on their own. Umbarger has been running for eight years, and Joy has been running for six years.

Each student will run about 230 miles total during the 17 days. This is not much more than they normally run, Umbarger said.

Even so, when they tell people what they're going to do, most react by telling them they're crazy to attempt such a feat in the heat of August, Joy said.

"You've got to be a little crazy to do something like this," Umbarger said.

Umbarger said he would like to make the run an annual event. Since the two started planning in January, the Muscular Dystrophy Association did not have enough time for a full-scale promotion, and tried to get them to hold off for a year, Joy said.

But not knowing where each other would be in a year, they decided to go ahead this August.

Joy, an environmental health major, will have two days to rest before starting classes at UNL Aug. 24. Umbarger is not attending school this fall, but plans to move to Omaha or near Genoa.

Phidippides Running Center in Lincoln is sponsoring the two runners. Umbarger said donations or pledges can be sent to his home, Route 1, Genoa, 68640 or Joy's home, 2221 Stone, Falls City, 68355.

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Mech Ag Club honored

The University of Nebraska Mechanized Agriculture Club has been recognized by the Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute as runner-up for the title of most outstanding Mech Ag Club in the United States.

Elbert C. Dickey, advisor for the student organization in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources Department of Agriculture Engineering, said the award is based on activities and achievements at the campus, regional and national levels. The club was presented the award at a recent meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers in Orlando, Fla.

Craig Zeisler, a 1981 graduate of the Nebraska Mech Ag program from Naper, served as president of the National Council of Student Mechanization Clubs for 1980-

81. The 1981-82 officers of the National Council include Neal Schlautman, NU junior mech ag student from Howells, as second vice president.

For the second year in a row, the Nebraska Mech Ag Club won third place in the micro-mini tractor pull. Bill Gengenbach, junior mech ag student from Brady, was event coordinator.

The Nebraska club also received the Man-Mile Award for having the largest number of students traveling the most miles to attend the Florida meeting. Bruce Dodson of Maywood and Wally Leander of Cedar Bluffs were recognized as ASAE honor students.