



# NCRPC NEWS

North Central Regional  
Planning Commission

www.ncrpc.org  
April 2005

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## Upcoming Events

**April 28**  
Board Work/Study Session, 2 p.m.

**May 26**  
Board Work/Study Session, 2 p.m.

**June 30**  
Executive Board Meeting, 2 p.m.

**July 28**  
Board Work/Study Session, 2 p.m.  
Kansas Secretary of Agriculture, Adrian Polansky, will attend and discuss biosciences.

## Note This...

If you prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please send your contact information to lthielen@nckcn.com. Feedback is always welcome.

## BANQUET FOCUSES ON BIOSCIENCES, SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTALISM

Dr. Patrick Moore, President and CEO of Greenspirit LTD, challenged thinking relative to the global environmental movement during his keynote address at the North Central Regional Planning Commission annual banquet on March 10 in Clay Center.

A founding member of Greenpeace, Moore explained to the approximately 125 banquet attendees that he eventually left that organization because he decided he wanted to be "for" something for the first time in his life rather than wake up everyday "against" something.

Moore, who founded a consultancy called Greenspirit in 1991, spent time addressing the subject of environmentalism for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and also touched on the importance of technology and biosciences.

An example discussed was "Golden Rice," which contains the genes that



Dr. Patrick Moore addresses the audience during the keynote address at the Methodist Family Life Center in Clay Center on March 10.

make daffodils yellow, infusing the rice with beta-carotene, the precursor to Vitamin A. Moore said this genetically altered rice has the potential to save millions of children in Asia and Africa from losing their eyesight each year from Vitamin A deficiency. Greenpeace activists strongly oppose the planting of Golden Rice, a view that Moore said misses the point.

"No one can say what the risk of a rice plant with Vitamin A is," he said. "But we do know what the risk of not

planting the engineered rice is; a half million blind kids a year." He also urged everyone to question information presented in news stories, to better weigh issues pertaining to cause and ef-

fect, and not just accept everything as fact. He said it's important to bring into question the real motivation behind some of the issues presented in the news.

"His overall presentation provided a very good perspective covering the linkages that exist between the world's energy resources and agricultural production," John Cyr, Executive Director, said.

For more information on Dr. Moore or Greenspirit, see his website at [www.greenspirit.com](http://www.greenspirit.com).

## HOME TOWN COMPETITIVENESS IN PROGRESS

Representatives from 13 counties have taken part in Home Town Competitiveness (HTC) workshops at the Planning Commission since summer 2004.

The HTC model, specifically designed with Great Plains rural communities in mind, focuses on four strategic areas including mobilizing local leaders, energiz-

ing entrepreneurship, capturing wealth transfer, and attracting young people.

"Interest has been strong and we have been encouraged by the local initiatives that have taken root following each workshop," Don Macke, co-director of the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, said.

The HTC program is a col-

laborative effort of the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, The Heartland Center for Leadership Development and the Nebraska Community Foundation.

"This is all about a development agenda that can create fundamental change," Macke said.

For more information, see [www.ruraloasis.org](http://www.ruraloasis.org).



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## MEET THE STAFF

Sherry Angell joined the staff as a regional bioterrorism coordinator in 2003 when the NCRPC began working with the North Central Kansas Public Health Initiative by providing support services in public health emergency preparedness and response planning to 13 county health departments. Preparedness activities include ongoing refinement of local and regional plans, continuous communication with various community partners, staff training and development, and exercises where plans are implemented following mock attacks. Sherry, a Registered Nurse, received her associate degree in nursing from Garden City Community College and has been involved with public health for 16 years in various capacities. Prior to NCRPC, she most recently was the assistant administrator for Cloud and Mitchell County Health Departments and the bioterrorism coordinator for both agencies.

## COTTAGE FULFILLS COUPLE'S DREAMS

With the public's increasing interest in nature-based tourism and a renewed interest in a "simpler way of life," Pat and David Lynch were inspired to purchase and remodel a 102-year-old cottage located on 3 acres along the Solomon River one mile south of the city limits of Simpson.

Pat Lynch says they were enticed to begin their business for several reasons.

"For me it was the need for relief from a high pressure job, the urge to share the peace and beauty of the Solomon Valley with others, and a passion to live the dream of making a living doing something I truly enjoy," she said.

The business opened in November 2003 and packages carriage rides with a stay in the country cottage with meals provided by Trappers Bar & Grill of Simpson. The cottage can accommodate up to seven guests.

Lodging is offered to business travelers, travelers with pets, hunters, fishermen, wedding parties, honeymooners, and those returning to the area for class



One of the many attractions of this business is the unique corncrib gazebo enclosing a seven-person hot tub.

reunions, and local motel overflow. The Cottage is an excellent site for a private, get-away-from-it-all retreat. When guests stay at The Cottage they get the entire house and the three wooded acres it sits on.

Other amenities include a fully equipped kitchen and outdoor grill, a regionally famous restaurant within one mile, an easy to find location, river fishing on the property, whole house sound system, large hot tub in corn crib gazebo, dog pens and horse stable, game cleaning room. In addition, the property is less

than a 30-minute drive from Glen Elder Lake Reservoir and Jamestown State fishing lake and has access to approximately 13,000 acres of Kansas Walk-in Hunting Areas in Mitchell-Cloud-Ottawa Counties.

To entice guests to relax during their stay, a hammock is stretched be-

tween the trees on the edge of the river.

Horse drawn carriage rides are also available for special commercial events, community events, weddings, and private parties.

This start-up business was funded with loans from the 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank of Beloit, Farmway Credit Union of Beloit, the North Central Regional Planning Commission Revolving Loan Fund Program, and a significant investment by the owners.

For a virtual tour or for more information see their website at [www.thecottageontheriver.com](http://www.thecottageontheriver.com).