



50TH ANNIVERSARY

RSVP Today!

Join alumni and current members of the UNL Crew for a weekend of food, fun, and camaraderie in Lincoln, this fall, as we dedicate a new training facility and honor the outstanding accomplishments of Nebraska rowers. Ring up your old teammates and bring your family.

SEPT 24-25

RSVP @ huskeralum.org/FONR-Reunion

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NEWSLETTER may 2021

The Voice of the University of Nebraska- Lincoln Rowing Alumni Community

Pawnee Lake Move First Step to Sustainability



FONR works with Campus Recreation and Nebraska Game & Parks to address crew's top concern.

Responding to feedback from current and recent former rowers, who said that the long commute to Branched Oak Lake was one of the biggest sustainability hurdles for rowing at the University of Nebraska, FONR worked with Campus Recreation and Nebraska Game & Parks to address the challenge.

We are excited to announce that the University has signed a lease with Nebraska Game & Parks for a new rowing facility at Pawnee Lake. In addition to lake access the new home of Nebraska rowing includes fenced, secure shell storage, parking, and access to a former concession building that will serve as a temporary shell house and restroom facility for the team until money can be raised for additional improvements.



University of Nebraska Rec. Dept. - Rowing Team
Pawnee Lake Rowing Center
Friends of Nebraska Rowing
Lake Plan
Scale: 1" = 700' @ 1"

On April 6th Nebraska Crew moved shells into the existing building and the first practice at Pawnee Lake took place April 8th.

FONR and Campus Recreation have already knocked out some major milestones during the COVID-19 hiatus.. Here's what we have accomplished so far, and what's still on our "to do" list:

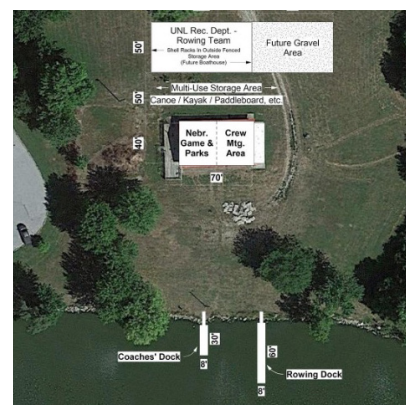


Completed

- Secured 1.2 acre site and building
- Obtained state, federal and UNL approvals.
- Leveled & skimmed land for boat pen.
- Moved shells into secure storage area
- 1st Practice at Pawnee Lake

In Progress

- Construct temporary boat pen
- Remodel Crew Huddle building
- Install docks
- Raise \$ to expand facilities
- New launches, equipment and shellhouse



For 50th Anniversary Details Contact: Hanna Peterson hpeterson@huskeralum.org

Welcome

We are reaching out to everyone who has been a part of Nebraska Rowing over the past 50 years to create connections and context for the names on our roster. If you have not done so already, please consider becoming a 'Registered Member' of FONR.

This will ensure you receive an invitation to the 50th Anniversary Celebration in September, Updates on the new Rowing Facility at Pawnee Lake and news from the Nebraska Crew Community. Registration is free and only take a few minutes:

<https://www.nebraskacrew.com/fonr/index.html>

A Legacy Worth Celebrating

It's been 50 years since Allan Maybee stalked the registration lines looking for the tallest, strongest cornfed Huskers he could find and convinced them that what their landlocked, land grant university needed was a rowing team.

The nascent crew scoured the country for equipment donations and took over a maintenance shed on 16th Street via squatter's rights. They built an indoor rowing tank using lots of concrete leftover from the construction of the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

From those humble beginnings, Nebraska rowers have ascended to the pinnacle of the sport, competing and officiating at the highest levels. Husker rowers have medaled in the Olympic Games, coached rowing at the collegiate level, rowed across the Atlantic Ocean, planned and presided over international competitions and even run the U.S. Rowing Association.

It's a remarkable legacy, and one we'd like to share with friends young and, well, . . . seasoned. Friends of Nebraska Rowing has been around, informally, for years. Last year we finally made it official. This year we'd like to invite you to join us for a post-pandemic weekend of camaraderie, nostalgia and some pretty exciting show-and-tell.

Alumni Spotlight: George Pagano

Rowing has been such a huge part of my life and I think of each level that I competed and remember so much of it fondly. I miss it dearly, but mostly I miss the camaraderie from UNL rowing. All the laughs, fun travels, and friends that I made are what made the experience so memorable. Before joining the rowing team at Nebraska, I was not sure if I would join the club team as I felt that I would leave my high school rowing career behind and just be a college student. The competitor in me and the lover of the sport, however, knew that I could not do that.

Rowing is a sport that highlights technique and efficiency and those are things every team and boat strive to be the best at. There is something beautiful and truly awesome about testing one's mental and physical abilities in the sport of rowing, pushing beyond the pain of lactic acid and exhaustion to continue on long after you know others would quit.

At Nebraska there is the great combination of both competitiveness and team camaraderie. While on the team during winter workouts, I wanted to win every workout and in turn I knew that they wanted to beat me. This friendly competition made us the best team we could be. At the same time, sharing the same feelings of a tough workout or tough race made us even closer as friends. Many rowers will agree that often even when not practicing rowers will continue to talk about rowing once leaving the boathouse. Discussing race strategy, rowing drills, or

how well a practice did or did not go are frequent chats in order for that team to get better. These discussions are some of my fondest memories when I look back at my time at UNL.

The mental toughness of rowing at UNL is what carried over to help me and Caitlin Miller row across the Atlantic Ocean in 2015. We went through the monotony of stroke after stroke of trying to get to Antigua from the Canary Islands. Leaning on each other for support and encouragement was crucial in getting across. And funny enough, while I was warned about potentially having hallucinations at night, the only "hallucination" I did have was feeling that I was at Branched Oak Lake for an early morning practice. On early morning shifts as the sun was

just about to rise, I would often feel as if I could see the silhouettes of the trees surrounding me similar to the lake when leaving the dock for an early morning practice at UNL. This hallucination was actually quite relaxing and made me feel much more at ease.



Campus Tours

Come "home" to Nebraska and catch up on all the changes to the UNL campus. (Golf cart tours courtesy of the Nebraska Alumni Association).

3-6 PM

Boathouse Reception

Meet student athletes and reminisce with fellow alums over Valentino's pizza and Fairbury hot dogs. Learn about Campus Boathouse renovation plans. Special presentation to follow.

6:30 PM



Pawnee Lake

Relive glory days with a fun row and learn about our vision for the new rowing facility. Mary Ellen's "Food for the Soul" will be serving Coffee & Breakfast items in the Morning followed by the best BBQ Lincoln has to offer for Lunch.

8-NOON AM

Banquet

Join us at the AKRS Champions Club for an elegant buffet, great socializing and plenty of "fun and games." Our formal program features a Keynote Address by Amanda Kraus, Chief Executive Officer of US Rowing.

6-10 PM

Merchandise

Support the crew!



bonfire.com/50-years-of-nebraska-rowing

Accommodations

FONR has reserved a block of King and Double Queen rooms at the Country Inn & Suites by Radisson Airport Lincoln, NE.

Call 402-474-2080 and ask for the \$69 UNL Crew - 50 Years of Rowing rate.

Book early so we can reserve more rooms if needed.

Cost

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| Reception | \$10 |
| Banquet | \$60 |

Looking Back/Moving Forward



When rowing, we look at where we've been, peeking over our shoulder or relying on our coxswains to visualize path forward. As Friends of Nebraska Rowing (FONR) passes the one-year mark, we look back at many accomplishments and continue to plan ahead to sustain and grow our sport in Lincoln. We make this commitment while looking at where we have been, recognizing that the present is not where we want to be and visualizing a path forward past obstacles and toward goals. This is our second newsletter installment and we hope to grow the number of Alumni that support our goals or "Pillars of Success" for 2021.

Pillar One – Pawnee Project – Creating a permanent lake-front practice facility for Nebraska Crew

Pillar Two – Spring 2021 Rowing – Assisting the current Athletes on their quest for watertime with the University Covid-Protocol

Pillar Three – 50th Anniversary Banquet – Holding the largest celebration of Nebraska Rowing, relaunching Crew for another 50 years.

Pillar Four – Campus Boathouse Project – Improving the on-campus training facility, changing the focus as we move shell-storage to Pawnee Lake.

Pillar Five – Fundraising Program – Using FONR as a multiplier for fundraising, including 'Glow Big Red', yearly appeals, capital campaigns, and matching needs with donors.

Pillar Six – Alumni Engagement – Using newsletters, town hall meetings and alumni events, we would like to reunite alumni with their rowing roots and create relationships between the students and Alumni.

Pillar Seven – Strategic Master Plan – Network the Alumni within their career expertise to implement a long-term plan that will provide an increasingly competitive rowing experience for our Student Athletes.

Athlete Spotlight: Katie Orr

I began rowing at the Rochester Rowing Club in my junior year of high school. From that moment on, I have fallen in love with the sport even more. After graduating high school and leaving to attend UNL, I knew I wanted to continue with the sport. I found my family and home in Crew Club.

A year ago, when we were all sent home, the worst part was not seeing my best friends/teammates every day. Lucky for us, technology was in our favor and we stayed connected with zoom calls and virtual movie nights. With this year's challenges, we are continuing to push and support each other through rowing and school. I look forward to more normalcy at our new home at Pawnee Lake.



Katie Orr, on right

Town Halls

FONR will be hosting "Virtual Town Hall" style sessions to connect with friends and Alumni of Nebraska Crew. Both the link to the Zoom session and the form to submit questions will be linked to this page:

<https://www.nebraskacrew.com/fonr/townhall.html>

We anticipate a 15 minute presentation, followed by 10-15 minutes of question/answer. The sessions will be recorded and published in case you have a conflict.

SATURDAY, MAY 22ND, 9 A.M. CENTRAL TIME

TOPIC: Friends of Nebraska Rowing

- » Organization, By Laws, Board and Committees
- » Interaction with the University, Foundation and Team
- » Major initiatives & how to become involved.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12TH, 9 A.M. CENTRAL TIME

TOPIC: 50th Anniversary of Nebraska Crew

- » Planned Events for the September 24th-25th weekend & how to help/volunteer.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12TH, 9 A.M. CENTRAL TIME

TOPIC: The Pawnee Plan

- » Status of the new home for Nebraska Rowing
- » Facility Stages & Timeline
- » Fundraising Goals

Crew Foundation Donations

You rowed for more than yourself. You pulled for the others in your boat, because you knew they were relying on you, needed you, to finish the race. It was more about the name on the front of the boat "Nebraska" than any one individual. We learned valuable lessons. And now we are in a position to pay it forward. Please consider making a tax-deductible gift to the "University of Nebraska - Lincoln Crew Club Development Fund" through the University of Nebraska Foundation.

Coach's Corner . . .

FONR is thrilled to relate that the Nebraska Crew has hired a full-time coach. Eric Jensen began coaching the team this spring and will continue in the fall. He asked us to pass this along:

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to coach the Nebraska Crew. My wife is an alum, so when we moved to Lincoln I knew the University and that I wanted some small role in supporting the Rowing Club. That the student athletes, FONR and the University all have entrusted me to have such a central role as the coach is quite an honor.

In my past coaching life, I started the rowing

club at Pacific University in Oregon which became a varsity sport within 6 years. I have also worked with crews at Oregon Tech and some junior programs. It feels good that my past experience will so directly relate to this transitional period of growth in the Nebraska Crew.

It is a very exciting time for rowing at UNL. It has been great to see how many people are actively involved in getting this program to a new level. Student athletes, alumni, University employees and local government employees are really working together as a crew should. I can't imagine it going better than it is. I am happy to be aboard.

– Eric Jensen



Volunteer!

<https://nebraskacrew.com/fonr/volunteer.html>

When you joined UN-L Crew you became part of a miraculous story. That story continues today and we need your help to write the next chapter.

Your donations are administered by the Campus Recreation Department, in consultation with the Friends of Nebraska Rowing Board. You may also designate your gift to a specific purpose, if you wish.

You may mail your gift directly to the University of Nebraska Foundation 1010 Lincoln Mall, Suite 300, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68508. Make checks payable to "University of Nebraska Foundation" and add in the memo line or an accompanying

note: "Fund # 01015580 University of Nebraska - Lincoln Crew Club Development Fund" or donate directly online at: <https://nufoundation.org/fund/01015580/>

You may also contact our Rowing Team Advisors at the Foundation to make a gift by phone or to learn about other ways to make a gift. Joye Fehring can be reached at joye.fehring@nufoundation.org or 402-875-0611 and Connie Pejsar can be reached at connie.pejsar@nufoundation.org or 402-432-1198.

A Nice Healthy Glow (Big Red)



Thanks to everyone who supported the crew during Glow Big Red, UNL's annual "24-Hours of Giving" campaign. We started strong with a Challenge grant from Jerry Huber and Ellen Jirovsky that put us over the \$3,000 mark and it didn't stop until we raised over \$10,350. (triple the amount raised by any other student group. The FONR board proved to be a multiplier helping each donation have twice the impact.

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|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Aaron & Aoy Jirovsky | Jameson Family |
| Allan Maybee | Jerianne Scheer |
| Amy Jacobsen | Jerry Huber |
| Ashton Krueger | Joye & Marty Fehring |
| Behn Family | Justin Miller |
| Billy Coghill | Kasey Hesse |
| Brad Jones | Katie Orr |
| Brad & Darlyn Kuhn | Korsman Family |
| Brady Hubbard | Lisa & Mark Stormberg |
| Bryce Fowler | Lisa Rohde |
| Carol Bryan Easley | Mary |
| Cate Dolezal | Matt Kush |
| Catherine Saarela | Michele G |
| Connie & Steve Pejsar | Mike and Mary Beth Wusk |
| Dan Kelly | Nabila Kearney |
| Daniel Keis | Peter Zandbergen |
| David Drews | Rhonda Orr |
| David Ulferts | Ron Vokoun |
| Diane and Dustin Lewis | Ryan Klatt |
| Don Kohtz | Sarah (Wootton) Rider |
| Eben Kohtz | Sarah Cronin |
| Ellen Havlovic Jirovsky | Starboard |
| Ellie Maguire | Star Pressure |
| Eric Jensen | Tess Jisa |
| Frank Dolezal | The Texas Pothiers |
| Gator & Squid | Thomas Kearney |
| Herman Dolezal | Timothy Fowler |
| Holly Poole | Tina Kearney |
| Jake Carnes | William Brush |

Current FONR Board

Any FONR member is eligible (and encouraged) to serve.

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| MARK STORMBERG | CONNIE PEJSAR |
| President | NU Foundation |
| STAN CAMPBELL | BRAD KUHN |
| Dir. of Campus Recreation | Communications |
| JERRY HUBER | ELLEN HAVLOVICJIROVSKY |
| Vice President | Banquet/Events |
| FRANK DOLEZAL | PETER ZANDBERGEN |
| Secretary | Of Counsel |
| DAVID VOLKMAN | COACH |
| Treasurer | ERIC JENSEN |
| ALLAN MAYBEE | STUDENT LIAISONS |
| UNL Crew Founder | EBEN KOHTZ |
| BILL BRUSH | TIM POTHIER |
| First Crew Coach | |
| LISA ROHDE | |
| Olympic Silver Medalist '84 | |
| JOYE FEHRINGER | EMERITUS |
| NU Foundation | MATT KUSH |