



THE PRAIRIE PROMOTER

www.theprairieenthusiasts.org

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Grassroots Conservation at Work

President's Message

By Evanne Hunt

In an effort to strengthen communication between TPE members and the Board of Directors, I have been writing an additional 'President's Letter' in the months between Prairie Promoters. We send these letters via email to reduce costs. If you have not received these emails and would like to, contact Victoria Oberle, TPE Membership Director (TPE@tds.net). Alternatively, you can read the letters on the website (ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org).

The topic of the last letter was a summary of the July 15 Board Meeting. The Board meets every two months in a teleconference. All TPE members are welcome to listen. You cannot vote, but are encouraged to ask questions and offer opinions. TPE pays for the number of connections, so please consult with your chapter president before participating.

Attending a Board meeting is a great way to learn firsthand about the organization. Information gleaned from Board meetings can then be shared at chapter meetings, where you can discuss how Board decisions affect your chapter and how you and your chapter can help the organization.

Letters to the President are also welcome! Let me know if there is a topic you would like addressed or explained in greater detail. You can email me at eahunt@PressEnter.com or call 715/381-1291.

Four Prairie Enthusiasts Receive Leopold Restoration Awards

By Amy Staffen

Russ Hefty, Rich Henderson, Jim Sime and Rose Sime are recipients of the Leopold Restoration Awards for 2007. Named after pioneering University of Wisconsin conservationist Aldo Leopold, the Leopold Restoration Awards annually recognize excellence in ecological restoration that positively affects the habitats for plant and animal communities. Friends of the Arboretum (FOA), in partnership with the Aldo Leopold Foundation, administer this prestigious awards program.

Russ Hefty will receive the Henry C. Greene Award for innovative approaches in restoration. Russ is Conservation Resource Supervisor in the Madison Parks Division, and is being recognized for professional initiatives such as the pragmatic, low budget, and highly successful project to improve the vegetation of Madison's Cherokee Marsh and the Yahara River. As an active member of TPE's Empire-Sauk Chapter, Russ also leads field trips and work parties.

Rich Henderson will receive the John T. Curtis Award for career excellence in ecological restoration. Rich is being recognized for a lifetime of dedication to protecting and restoring Wisconsin's native prairies and oak savannas through his volunteer work with TPE, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, and through his professional work with

(Leopold Restoration Awards continued on page 2)

(Leopold Restoration Awards continued)

the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Award judges recognized that he has had a significant impact on the theory, practice, and public awareness surrounding restoration of these native communities. Rich is TPE's current Vice President, and an active member of the Empire-Sauk Chapter.

Jim and Rose Sime will receive the John Nolen award for excellence in ecological restoration practices. This husband-and-wife team are being recognized for their Herculean efforts to protect and restore four tracts of Snowbottom State Natural Area, as well as for their exceptional volunteer work with TPE, TNC, and other conservation groups. As active members of the Southwest Chapter of TPE, Jim and Rose are frequent participants at work parties and field trips.

Award recipients will be recognized at the Leopold Restoration Awards dinner at the UW-Madison Arboretum Visitor Center on October 11, 2007. For more information, see www.uwarboretum.org.

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THANK YOU, ADVANTAGE C&P!

A big "Thank You" is in order for Dick Schultz and the staff at Advantage Copying and Printing in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. Last year, when TPE was in need of a new printer vender, we went to Advantage and Mr. Schultz could not have been more helpful and considerate. They are a great business for TPE to work with, now and in the future. Thanks Dick!

TPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Membership Coordinator	Victoria Oberle
Restoration Ecologist	Amy Staffen

TPE was incorporated in Wisconsin in 1987 as a private nonprofit, tax exempt corporation under section [501(c) 3] of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible.

If you would prefer to receive electronic notification of the newsletter please email Victoria at TPE@TDS.net.

The Prairie Promoter is a quarterly publication of The Prairie Enthusiasts. No part of this periodical may be reproduced without permission. We welcome submissions of articles, announcements, artwork and photographs that are relevant to prairie and savanna ecosystems. Mail to local chapter editorial volunteers or e-mail submissions to tpeAstaffen@tds.net. Use MS Word and do not format. Letters and articles may be edited for length or style. Computer disks, art, and photographs will be returned. Deadlines for submission of material are March 4 (Spring issue); May 25 (Summer issue); August 25 (Fall issue); and November 25 (Winter issue).

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TPE Editor	vacant

TPE Executive Director Leaves

By Evanne Hunt, President

I want to thank our Executive Director, Renae Mitchell, for her service to TPE. Under Renae's leadership, TPE has made great strides in professionalizing our organization. Renae has accepted a faculty position at the George Williams campus of Aurora University in Williams Bay, Wisconsin.

The Board of Directors met August 20 to discuss a transition plan. While we agreed that TPE needs and greatly benefits from an executive director, we will first address infrastructure needs suggested by Renae.

The Executive Committee started a search for a part-time administrative assistant. This individual will assume many important, but time-consuming clerical tasks.

The Board also decided to explore hiring a development director. A development director's principal responsibility is to create numerous, efficient, and compelling opportunities for donors to support TPE and to make the experience of giving satisfying and rewarding.

Our goal in filling these positions is to set up the next executive director for success. Renae showed us what it takes to make TPE a stronger organization and the Board is committed that objective.

From The Desk of the **Director** **(Overlooking Elderberry Prairie)**

By Renae Mitchell

Dear Fellow Prairie Enthusiasts,

While I remain a member and supporter of The Prairie Enthusiasts, I wanted to let you all know that I am no longer your executive director because I accepted a faculty position as an Assistant Professor in Recreation Administration and Outdoor Leadership at the beautiful George Williams campus of Aurora University in Williams Bay, on the shores of Geneva Lake, close to my home in Whitewater.

I have very much enjoyed working with you, and appreciate all the support you've shown throughout the two and a half years I served as your executive director. I am proud of the accomplishments and improvements we've made over this period. I am especially delighted that we have protected so many important prairie and oak savanna sites, and made great strides in professionalizing our organizational administration. President Evanne Hunt and your hard-working board of directors will continue to provide leadership, and I know many others are stepping up to help with various tasks.

I will miss working with each of you. I plan to attend some field trips and other TPE events in the future, once I am settled in at the University. I think The Prairie Enthusiasts is a fantastic grassroots organization, so I will continue to promote you and your important work to my students and to any prairie lovers I meet. Thanks again for being the special people you are and for all you do for the natural environment!

With warmest regards,
Renae Prell-Mitchell

Schurch, Thomson, Arneson and Zauner: Four Families Making a Difference

By Rich Henderson

In the last issue of the Prairie Promoter (Summer 2007, Vol. 20, No. 2) there was a brief note about the upcoming dedication ceremony for Schurch-Thomson Prairie and A to Z Farm in Iowa County, Wisconsin. Here is a complete report on the event.

On a beautiful early June day, one hundred friends, neighbors and supporters of The Prairie Enthusiasts, the Schurch and Thomson families, and the Arneson and Zauner families turned out to celebrate the dedication of the Schurch-Thomson Prairie and the A-Z Farm Grassland. The event was held at the Schurch-Thomson barn, with plenty of refreshments provided by TPE volunteers. TPE president, Evanne Hunt, was on hand from Hudson, Wisconsin, to serve as Master of Ceremonies.

The highlight of the day was the presentation of a picture of the preserve to Dennis and Joan Thomson in recognition of their family's generous gift to TPE and future generations. This was followed by a heartfelt and very moving acceptance speech given by Dennis Thomson on behalf of the Schurch and Thomson families. His speech carried such meaning and emotion that we have included it here for the benefit of all those who were unable to attend.

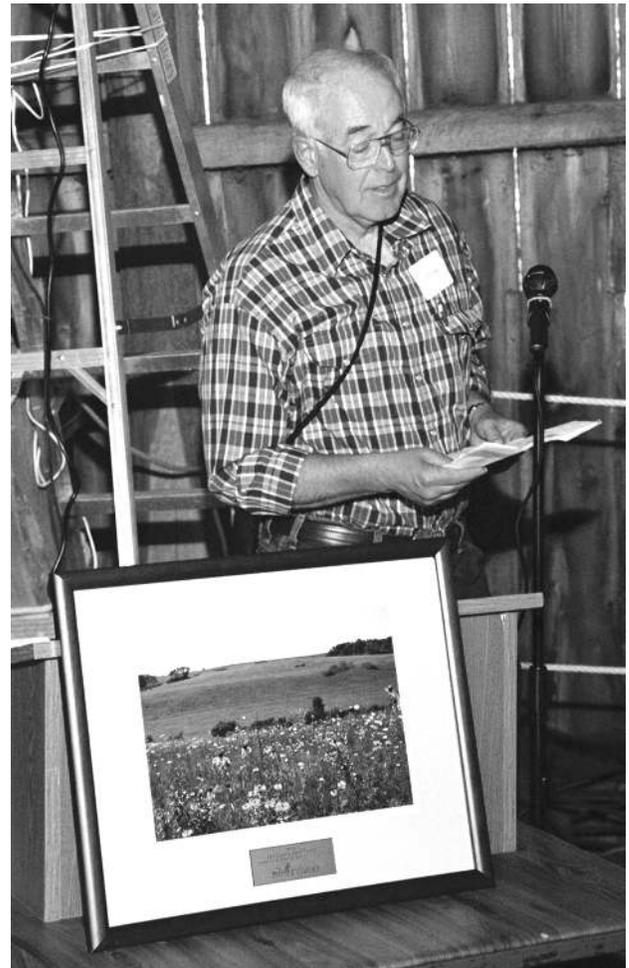
"Thank you, Rich, and thank you all for sharing this wonderful day and celebration with us.

On the occasion of this dedication there are just a few thoughts Joan and I would like to share with you. Mostly, they are some recollections of significant events that have led to today.

It was about 35 years ago, two years after Joan and I had moved to Pennsylvania, that her parents, Alfred and Velma Schurch, telephoned to tell us that the Reilly Farm might be for sale. Might we be interested? Secretly, Joan and I thought they were probably trying to entice us to move back to Wisconsin. At that time, southwest Wisconsin was still tops in our hearts and, as young and naive faculty at Penn State University, we certainly were not thinking about becoming long-term residents of Pennsylvania.

Not yet having invested in a home and thinking that this farm property would be a wonderful place to live--if we ever were to return to Wisconsin--fortunately, we were able to buy the Reilly Farm. For reasons of privacy, we then designated it "Nittany Knoll Farm," a name that linked it to the valley in central Pennsylvania in which we live.

With the help of Velma and Al, and then my parents John and Olive Thomson--who we imagine all of you know well, the tillable land was rented (and some years later placed in the Conservation



Dennis Thomson delivers moving speech during dedication ceremony.
Photo by Dennis Connor.

Reserve Program). During various visits to Wisconsin, we managed to complete a number of cleanup and renovation tasks.

Sometime early in this process, while exploring the property, my ecologically-oriented parents discovered that we hadn't simply bought an old farm but, rather, had managed to acquire a biological treasure. There in the furthestmost, never-tilled pasture slopes and fields were priceless prairie remnants.

It was then that our family's stewardship and conservation values kicked in, and we made sure that those areas, at the very least, would remain undisturbed. Some people might argue that our preservation strategy was benign neglect. But in defense, I must say that it was during those years that Joan's and my family foci were the activities of our growing children, Erik and Heather, and the renovation and preservation of what had become our rural farm property in Pennsylvania. Now for more than 30 years, "Hemlock Hollow Farm" has been our family's home, and for Heather and Erik, Halfmoon Township in central Pennsylvania is to them what Brigham and Springdale Townships in southwestern Wisconsin were to Joan and me.

Sometime, I think it was nearly two decades ago, the prairie

remnants at Nittany Knoll captured the attention of Rich Henderson and others of you Prairie Enthusiasts. Thanks to your devoted attention and hard work, our benign neglect has since been transformed into intelligent and truly impressive stewardship and renovation. You've accomplished so much that every visit we make is heartwarming.

In closing, Joan and I want to share three thoughts. Each relates to the passing of the stewardship and preservation torch for this now designated "Schurch-Thomson Prairie" from our family to you who make The Prairie Enthusiasts the admirable organization it is.

First, to and for our children Heather and Erik (and his wife Sarah), we want this gift to be a demonstration of our combined families' values; those values relating to our love of the land and preservation of its heritage and natural beauty.

Second, Joan and I want to honor our parents, Velma and Al Schurch, and Olive and John Thomson. Our accomplishments are their successes, for they raised us well and right!

And, last but not least, we recognize and appreciate the dedication and hard work contributed by those of you who are The Prairie Enthusiasts. We now entrust to you, a hopefully enduring organization, the stewardship and preservation responsibility to protect this precious little piece of our unique and fragile spaceship Earth.

As you know, Joan and I have established a trust to ensure our continued financial support. Thank you and carry on!"

Schurch-Thomson Prairie is a 160-acre farm acquired by Joan and Dennis Thomson in 1972, with the thought that they might some day move back to the community where they grew up. Dennis's botanist parents, John and Olive Thomson, soon discovered that the property supported remnant prairie. In the spring of this year, Joan and Dennis sold the entire 160 acres, with house and barn, to TPE at half the fair market value. They then used the funds to establish a permanent endowment for the restoration and management of the Schurch-Thomson Prairie and the Mounds View Grassland Preserve as a whole, of which Schurch-Thomson Prairie is a significant part. Dennis and Joan have made an extremely generous gift to TPE and the citizens of Wisconsin that will be appreciated for many generations to come.

We are all very grateful to the entire Schurch Thomson family for this commitment to conservation. *For details about the site, its significance, and TPE's plans for the future, see the Sites We Save article in this issue of the Prairie Promoter.*

A to Z Farm Industries was a dairy farm partnership between Hilton Arneson and John Zauner. Unfortunately, when Hilton passed away in 2005, the farm was unable to stay in operation. Rather than seeing it become subdivided with houses, both Hilton's family and John Zauner supported it going to conservation purposes instead, and they worked

with The Nature Conservancy to accomplish this. Using grants from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund, the Conservancy acquired the farm. They then sold 10 acres with the house and farm buildings to a private individual, and, early this year, donated the remaining 276 acres to TPE to be part of our Mounds View Grassland preserve, which now encompasses 500 acres within the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area. TPE is grateful to the Arneson family, John Zauner, The Nature Conservancy and the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund for making this possible.

A to Z Farm includes 180 acres of cropland that will remain in production until planted to prairie and grassland bird habitat gradually over the next twenty years. Approximately 50 acres of pasture, much of it unplowed prairie sod, will be kept in grazing, for the near future at least. There are several other areas of better quality remnant prairie pasture that will be restored to good health as soon as possible. The entire valley bottom of the farm is one big groundwater discharge area with wetland vegetation, springs and seeps that form the start of a cold water stream. The farm already supports rare species such as Hill's thistle (*Cirsium hillii*), pomme-de-prairie (*Psoralea esculenta*) regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*), and a large population of marbled snail (*Onosmodium molle*). With management and restoration, the farm has good potential to provide diverse and critical habitat to a wide array of declining prairie species.

The Sites We Save

By Rich Henderson

Name: Schurch-Thomson Prairie

Status: Protected TPE preserve.

Site Stewardship: Empire-Sauk Chapter

Location: Iowa County, Wisconsin. Brigham Township. Five miles south by southwest of Blue Mounds at the end of Reilly Road off of County F.

Description & Significance: The Schurch-Thomson Prairie is 160 acres of remnant prairie, smooth brome grassland, old field, young woodland and overgrown oak savanna. It is one of three contiguous properties owned by TPE that make up the 500-acre Mounds View Grassland preserve.

This preserve is located within the unglaciated, ridge and valley landscape of southwest Wisconsin. It lies within what was once a large prairie expanse that extended north to the historic Military Ridge, covering many thousands of acres. The property is traversed by a valley that runs from

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(The Sites We Save continued)

the southeast to the northwest, where a coldwater stream cuts through a corner of the site. There is a groundwater discharge seep that feeds into the stream there as well. The total topographic relief is 200 feet.



Schurch - Thomson Prairie.
Photo by Amy Staffen.

Schurch-Thomson Prairie is significant at a local level for its remnant prairie vegetation and associated rare insects, and as wildlife habitat. At the state level, the site is also significant as it lies within the 50,000-acre Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area (MRPHA). The MRPHA has been identified by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as one of the best opportunities in the state for prairie/grassland conservation on a landscape scale. The MRPHA currently supports critical habitat for many grassland-dependent birds and remnant-dependant insects that have been in decline in recent decades, many of which make use of the Schurch-Thomson Prairie. The Mounds View Grassland complex harbors one of the three most significant concentrations of prairie sod and grassland bird habitat within the MRPHA.

Most of the preserve's side slopes are too rocky and thin soiled to have been tilled. Thus, they support original prairie sod which ranges from dry to dry-mesic in soil moisture. The valley bottom and the ridge tops have deeper dry-mesic to wet-mesic soils that were tilled for crops at one time; these soils are now, for the most part, planted in smooth brome grass. Young trees cover 14 acres on both plowed and unplowed prairie sod. Oaks (mostly bur with a few black), cover 25 acres of the unplowed sod; some of these are estimated to be at least 150 years old.

The remnant prairie and savanna/woodland are in varying stages of degradation due to both brush invasion and past livestock grazing. However, a diverse native flora is still present. Over 200 native plants species have been found so far, and prairie and savanna vegetation is making a fast

recovery in response to intensive management and restoration efforts. This year, the federally-listed prairie bushclover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*) was found for the first time at Schurch-Thomson Prairie (see article in this issue). The site has good populations of the state-threatened Hill's thistle (*Cirsium hillii*), and special concern species Richardson's sedge (*Carex richardsonii*) and pomme-de-prairie (*Psoralea esculenta*). The north-facing remnant supports an amazingly large display of shooting stars (*Dodecatheon meadia*). Other interesting species found in good numbers include prairie buttercup (*Ranunculus rhomboideus*), cream false indigo (*Baptisia bracteata*), valerian (*Valeriana ciliata*), hoary puccoon (*Lithospermum canescens*), alumroot (*Heuchera richardsonii*), prairie smoke (*Geum triflorum*), Illinois tick-trefoil (*Desmodium illinoense*), prairie gentian (*Gentiana puberulenta*), and prairie violets.

Complete biological surveys have not yet been made of the property, but we do know that coyote and badger den on site. A bull snake was reportedly seen in 1995. Fox, milk, and DeKay snakes are common. At least seven prairie-restricted insects are present, including the state-endangered red-tailed leafhopper (*Aflexia rubranura*), which only lives on prairie dropseed grass. The state-threatened regal fritillary butterfly moved onto the property four years ago as trees and brush were removed and fire was reintroduced, and they have been increasing in numbers each year since. Preliminary surveys of birds have found 53 species during the breeding season and 20 species during the winter. Two are state-threatened (Henslow's sparrow & Bell's vireo). Six are special concern (grasshopper sparrow, short-eared owl, upland **Making a** sandpiper, northern harrier, red-headed woodpecker and dickcissel). Another eight birds are on the Wisconsin DNR's list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Wisconsin (bobwhite quail, woodcock, willow flycatcher, brown thrasher, bobolink, eastern meadowlark and field sparrow).

History: Dennis & Joan Thomson acquired the property from William J. Jones, a bachelor farmer, in 1972. Prior to that time, the farm had been a dairy operation and the remnants exposed to grazing by cows. In 1987, the cropland (97 acres) was enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and planted to smooth brome. In 1995, 31 acres were enrolled in the state Managed Forest Law (MFL) program, with the goal of eventual oak and walnut harvests. In 1999, the Thomsons entered into a ten-year management agreement with TPE. From 2001 to present, invading trees and brush were removed from the remnant prairies by TPE volunteers and paid contract crews supported by grants from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Wisconsin DNR. In recent years, volunteers and paid contractors have battled heroically to limit the dominance of wild parsnip, sweet clover and spotted knapweed. A regular regime of rotating

fires has been in place since 2002. In 2007, the Thomsons generously gifted half the property value to The Prairie Enthusiasts. TPE, using a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund grant, purchased the other half, and the Thomsons set up a land management endowment for the property with those proceeds.

Needs & Management: Even with the significant work that has been done over the past eight years, the Schurch-Thomson Preserve is still very much a work in progress. Several acres of land not enrolled in MFL still need to be cleared of trees and brush, areas cleared in the past are in need of a second round of treatment, and invasive weeds are not yet fully under control. The management plan calls for conversion of CRP brome fields and old field to prairie, along with the areas cleared of trees and brush. All the clearing and restoration work requires a great deal of follow up mowing and frequent burning, as well as endless seed collecting, processing and planting. Once the 30 acres of MFL land come out of enrollment, they will be restored to prairie and oak savanna.

Sound natural area management calls for monitoring of rare species and biological surveys so that informed land management decisions can be made. We are doing, and plan to do, these activities at Schurch-Thomson Prairie. But, with limited funds, we will be relying heavily on volunteers.

The property comes with a 100-year-old house, a well, a barn and a milk house. We plan to remove the house but keep the barn, milk house and well to use for equipment maintenance and storage, and seed cleaning and storage. These facilities will require substantial repair and remodeling. Improvements are also needed to facilitate the limited public use that comes with state grants, good neighbor relations and public education. These include a parking lot, an interpretive kiosk, fencing, gates and posting of property boundaries.

With the help of land management grants, income from the CRP land, income from the land management endowment, and the dedication of our many TPE volunteers, we are confident in reaching our goal of restoring a rich and diverse prairie and savanna ecosystem of regional importance at Schurch-Thomson Prairie.

Rare Plant Makes an Appearance

By Rich Henderson

In early August, TPE volunteer Jan Ketelle found two specimens of the federally-listed prairie bushclover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*) while hunting down weeds at TPE's new Schurch-Thomson Prairie in eastern Iowa County, Wisconsin. Four days later, Amy Staffen, TPE

Restoration Manager found another specimen while leading the summer intern crew. (Rumor has it that she did a dance in the excitement of the moment.) The story gets better: Three days after Amy's find, intern Eric Reith found three more plants!!

This is a most remarkable discovery, for this rare Midwestern endemic had gone hitherto undetected at Schurch-Thomson Prairie. Small populations of this species are known to be on two nearby sites, but it had not been seen at Schurch-Thomson during 30 years of surveys done by various botanists.

It is plausible that TPE's recent management (brush clearing, invasive plant removal, and frequent prescribed fire), which started five years ago, has allowed the species to come back from a seed bank that has been lying dormant for decades. Long seed dormancy among legumes is well documented. All six specimens were large, flowering individuals, and well separated from each other. No young or small, non-flowering plants were evident, lending credence to the notion that these are new arrivals. Hopefully a strong population will eventually develop on this site.

This is the second example of prairie bushclover making an appearance on sites after several years of management by TPE. The other occurred at Smith Drumlin Prairie in eastern Dane County. The restoration work on both sites has been funded in part by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Wisconsin DNR grants.

These discoveries underscore the conservation importance of small prairie remnants, even degraded ones, and the difficulty of assessing the significance of a given site until work is put into it. It is also another example of the benefits derived from funding management on private lands.

Summer 2007 Interns

By Tom Brock

This past summer, the Empire-Sauk Chapter participated in a very successful intern program organized through the Madison Audubon Society. Other chapters may be interested in this approach to managing restoration activity.

Pleasant Valley Conservancy has been participating in this intern program for the past five years. This year,

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(Summer 2007 Interns continued)

due to a reorganization, an opportunity arose for The Prairie Enthusiasts to participate. There were five interns working together as a team at five different sites. On Mondays, the interns were at The Prairie Enthusiasts Mounds View Grassland complex. On Tuesday they were at Pleasant Valley Conservancy and Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie, both TPE sites. Wednesdays they worked at Holy Wisdom Monastery, where a large prairie restoration project is underway. Thursdays they were at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Lakeshore Nature Preserve, and Fridays at Madison Audubon Society's Goose Pond Sanctuary.



2007 Interns (L to R): Stephanie Judge, Chelsea Statz, Samatha Nagy, Andy Kellner, Eric Rieth.
Photo by Tom Brock.

At each site, the interns worked closely with the site manager and with knowledgeable restorationists. Duties included weed digging and pulling, species censuses, brush cutting, mowing, seed collecting and other restoration-related activities. At some sites, the interns had the opportunity to use power tools and herbicides. At one site they used a tractor and cutter to mow first-year large prairie installations. At all sites, the site manager or a knowledgeable colleague provided in-the-field instruction.

The Empire-Sauk Chapter funded its portion of the intern cost from various land management grants and with support from the Savanna Oak Foundation. Accounting was done by Madison Audubon Society, and each partner was billed once a month for their share of the cost. This was a 12-week program running from late May until mid-August. The interns were all UW-Madison

undergraduate students majoring in restoration-related disciplines (wildlife ecology, conservation biology, landscape architecture, horticulture).

Other chapters might consider similar programs. They are not restricted to UW-Madison students. In fact, in several previous years, we had one or two students from UW-Stevens Point. Any of the UW campuses (or even non-state schools) should be eligible.

We have greatly enjoyed having our interns, and plan to continue this program into the foreseeable future. For further information, contact me at tdbrock@charter.net or call 608/238-5050.

The Catch of the Day

By Jim Rachuy, President
Northwest Illinois Prairie Enthusiasts

During the spring bird count in western JoDaviess County, two almond-shaped eyes peered back at Rickie Rachuy through her binoculars. "What is that beautiful little creature?" she wondered. As it turned out, this was the catch of the day—and not even a bird. What Rickie saw was a Franklin's ground squirrel (*Spermophilus franklinii*), the very rare, larger cousin of the thirteen-lined ground squirrel (*S. tridecemlineatus*). The general reaction of the other birdwatchers was, "Franklin's ground squirrel—what's that?" It seems that most have forgotten that this species was ever a part of the tallgrass prairie biome.

The ground squirrel that Rickie spotted was on a steep sandy bank, immediately above a large sedge meadow. The short-term threat to this individual's colony is agriculture on adjacent fields and perhaps grazing. The long-term threat is loss of habitat, though the State of Illinois is currently considering protection of this site. What can Prairie Enthusiasts do to help this rare mammal? Although this sighting did not occur on a TPE preserve, it's important that TPE volunteers learn to recognize this species, understand its ecology, and work to protect its habitat.

Franklin's ground squirrel is about the size of a gray squirrel (14-16 inches), more slender (12-35 ounces), but without the bushy tail. Its fur is short, gray on the head and tail, brown on the back, and buff on the belly. It also has a very distinctive white eye ring.

ST. CROIX VALLEY CHAPTER

3M Provides Grant to TPE on Behalf of 3M Volunteer Keith Relyea

The 3M Foundation has donated \$200 to TPE, in recognition of Keith Relyea's commitment to the community and for his outstanding service.

Keith has donated more than 32 hours to TPE. As a volunteer, he has cleared brush and worked on prescribed burns at Foster Pioneer Cemetery in River Falls and Blueberry Hill in Bayport.

"3M employees and retirees donate many thousands of hours to their communities each year," said Alex Cirillo, staff Vice President, 3M Community Affairs. "We are pleased to recognize and support their commitment to helping others."

As part of the 3M Volunteer Match, the 3M Foundation will donate \$200 to eligible non-profit organizations for which a 3M employee and retiree volunteers 25 hours or more per calendar year. For more information on this program, please contact 3M Community Affairs at 651/733-0144.

3M Community Giving consists of product donations and cash grants by 3M and the 3M Foundation and bolstered by employee and retiree volunteerism. Since 2000, Volunteer Matches totaling over \$2.1 million have gone to over 2,400 schools or non-profit organizations in 50 states plus the District of Columbia.

Upcoming Field Trips

Remember to call the trip contact for any last minute changes, questions, or suggestions on what to bring.

Crex Meadows

September 29 (Saturday)

Grantsburg, WI

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Difficulty: Easy Walking

Description: Crex Meadows is a 50-square-mile wildlife area. It is a combination of restored prairie, oak savanna, prairie potholes and wetlands. It is a gathering place for birds like trumpeter swans, sand hill cranes, snipes, sharp-tail grouse and osprey. A network of gravel roads, which are helpful for viewing wildlife, connects the wetlands. Restoration through controlled burns has been used

Behaviorally, these critters are secretive, marginally sociable, and more often heard (a quick, musical series of whistles) than seen. They spend nearly all of their time underground, hibernating from late fall through winter and aestivating in summer.

A Franklin's ground squirrel burrow consists of 2-10 small entrance holes, dug into a slope or berm. The tunnels go deep (up to eight feet). Plant food comprises the majority of their diet, with fruits, seeds, and grains being preferred; insects make up the remainder of their diet. The entire colony of 10-20 individuals may move to a new burrow in late summer. Populations run in a 4-5 year cycle, rising to 4-5 per acre on good sites.

The original distribution for this species closely followed that of the tallgrass prairie. Millions were shot in the late 19th century for 10 cents a pelt. Rarely seen today, they can be found in areas with a tall, dense mix of grasses and forbs, including prairie edges, oak savannas, and brush prairie habitats. They tend to prefer sites with well drained soil, often near water.

An Illinois census in 2001, found 49 individuals in 16 counties. In February 2004, the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board voted to list Franklin's ground squirrel as Threatened. As of this year, the Franklin's ground squirrel is listed as 'present' in only six Illinois counties. Two attempts at reintroduction failed (both in Illinois). In Wisconsin, the Franklin's ground squirrel is listed as a species of Special Concern and is considered imperiled because of rarity (with few remaining occurrences). Indiana and Missouri have listed it as 'Endangered,' and Iowa as 'Rare.'

Why is this species still declining? Likely causes are loss of habitat, mowing and spraying (especially along railways), and the continued use of traps and poisons. The only remedies would seem to be reintroduction into large-scale prairie or savanna restorations, with dispersal corridors, and reduction of human disturbance.

For more information:

Huebschman J.J.; C. Warwick, Ed. Distribution, Abundance, and Habitat Associations of Franklin's Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus franklinii* Sabine 1822), Illinois Natural History Survey (Pub. B38-1). Champaign, Illinois. January, 2007 (\$10.00).

(St Croix Valley Chapter continued on page 10)

(St Croix Chapter continued)

since the early sixties. About 3,500 acres are burned by prescription every year.

Directions: Meet at the DQ parking lot in Somerset, WI at 8:00 a.m.

Contact: Keith Solimar at 612/802-4400 (cell) or 715/749-3606

How to Make a Site Management Plan

October 13 (Saturday)

Bass Lake, New Richmond, WI

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Difficulty: Easy walking

Description: The Simon property was recently acquired by the Western Wisconsin Land Trust (WWLT) and is managed by TPE. This is a great opportunity to learn the ABCs of reviving a remnant prairie and developing a management plan. The trip will be lead by Harvey Halverson from the DNR, or Rick Remington or Britta Lee from WWLT. Come prepared to take notes, help with the plan, and walk the land. Lunch will be served by Bob and Carol Benish at 1380 Frog Pond Lane.

Directions: From Boardman, go west on 140th Ave. about 2+ miles to Frog Pond Lane. We will meet on 140th Ave.

Contact: Carol Benish at 715/381-0441

Where have we been and where are going with Foster Cemetery?

Date and time: To be determined; some date in October. This will be a two-session trip. The first will be indoors. We will review the history of the Foster Cemetery Conservation Area. The next session will be a walk in the fall colors for an on-site inspection of the goals for the winter work season.

Contact: Barb Bend at bbend@hughes.net.

Watch for a postcard this fall or check the website for details.

COULEE REGION CHAPTER

Kickapoo Reserve Prairie: A Growing Success Story

By Greg Nessler

The future of nearly 9,000 acres of Vernon County farmland and forest was left in limbo with the cancellation

of the Kickapoo River flood control project in 1973. It wasn't until 2000 that negotiations among local, state, and federal agencies settled the issue by creating the Kickapoo Valley Reserve (KVR). Today, the KVR provides a wide variety of recreational and educational opportunities that attract thousands of visitors annually. Members of several advocacy groups, including The Prairie Enthusiasts, have worked closely with KVR's professional staff to maintain and enhance this unique natural and historic site.

On April 28, 2007, a crew of volunteers from TPE's Coulee Region Chapter (CRC) and a KVR staff member successfully completed a prescribed burn and interseeding on a four-acre site. This was the most recent initiative in the ongoing Kickapoo Reserve Prairie project that started seven years ago, when the Coulee Region Chapter was eagerly seeking a prairie planting project to 'hang its hat on.' This site is near the old dam site along the Kickapoo River within the KVR boundary, and is owned by the State of Wisconsin. The site is characterized by a steep slope, and is dominated by smooth brome.

I took on the role of project steward in 2000, albeit with reluctance. First, at that time, the KVR Board would not allow herbicides to be used on the site. Second, the site's slope was highly erodible, preventing proper site preparation through cultivation. Third, this area had been graded with heavy equipment during dam work, after which practically every invasive plant known in the area invaded, including spotted knapweed, bird's-foot trefoil, wild parsnip, and reed canary grass. (Sweet clover also appeared after the first few burns.) In all honesty, I expected the entire project to be an abysmal failure.

Our initial burn took place in the fall of 2000; we also removed some brush and elms. We interseeded the site in March of 2001 to take advantage of the still-bare soil to ensure good seed-to-soil contact; we also hoped that some late-season freezing and thawing would help incorporate the seeds into the soil. We sowed approximately 21 pounds of native grass and 6.5 pounds of native forb seed, representing 46 different species. All seed was donated by chapter members and the WDNR.

The next crucial step was to request that KVR mow the site for three full years to limit weed seed production and to allow sunlight down to where our sown prairie seeds needed it. A burn was attempted in the fourth year, but it was spotty due to lack of fuel following the mowing. This presented a dilemma: We needed sufficient fuel to build up for an effective burn, but we couldn't let the weeds take over. So, during the next couple of years, high spot-mowing was required. Despite our efforts, I was not pleased with what I was seeing. I thought that maybe it

was time to dust off the old “I told ‘ya so” speech. Prairie seeds are supposed to be tough, however, so I decided to give it another year.

While poking around during the next year, I started to see some grass clumps. “Could it be?” I gasped. “We have... INDIAN GRASS!” A few clumps here and there, and a few forbs too! The next year, even more began to appear -- not everywhere, but in enough places to foster hope. It was time to get a good, hot fire in there, and the later in spring the better.

During the spring of 2006, it finally happened. We were able to get a good, complete burn in early May. That year, more native grass and a few more forbs began to fill in some areas that had been nothing more than weeds for decades. However, something was still missing: color. Following the 2007 spring burn, CRC tried to remedy that problem by sowing stratified forb seed into at least several dozen areas where we thought they would have the best chance to survive the competition. Including the initial seeding, we have now put over ten pounds of forbs onto this four-acre site.

So, can we call this planting a success yet? I guess it depends on your definition. There are still plenty of weeds to contend with, and some areas with no response to interseeding. One thing that is “fer sure and fer cert’in” is that there are native plants on this site that would not be there without our efforts. Based on our early results, I’ve learned that prairie seeds are tough, and that they can survive under even difficult conditions. Its now up to the prairie plants themselves. All we can do now is what TPE members do best: hope.

I want to give a big thank you to the following people who participated in our latest burn and seeding: Andrea and Mike Benco, Barb Christie, George Johnston, Ben Johnston (of KVR), Don Nelson, Jim Rogala and Jean Stramel. Also, a special thanks goes out to Mary Lee and Lloyd Croatt and Barb Christie who, along with myself, donated the forb seed for this project.

EMPIRE - SAUK CHAPTER

Summer Report on Land Stewardship

By Rich Henderson

Eighteen volunteers put in approximately 450 hours this summer on land management activities. Thank you all for pitching in. The primary activities were control of sweet-clover and wild parsnip via cutting or pulling, but

work was also done on pulling and spraying of spotted knapweed, spraying of leafy spurge, mowing/cutting of sumac and berry canes, and collecting and planting of prairie seed. We also continued the maintenance and expansion of the seed orchard at Underwood Prairie and began renovations on the barn and well at Schurch-Thomson Prairie.

We were also fortunate to have several grants again this year. This allowed us to stay on top of the weeds and have a crew of five student interns one day a week at Mounds View Grassland and a day a week at either Pleasant Valley Conservancy or Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie. This crew was shared with Madison Audubon, Holy Wisdom, and UW BioCore. It was a great group of students. It was so successful for us that we will try to get funding to do it again next year (see story by Tom Brock for more details).

We worked at 15 sites this year, but the bulk of the effort went into the Mounds View Grassland complex (Underwood, Schurch-Thomson, Shea and A to Z). We also worked at Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie, Mazomanie (School Section) Bluff, Koltjes Prairie, the two Ripp Prairies, Smith/Egre Drumlin Prairies, Schluckebier Prairie, Kalscheur Oak Savanna, Voss Prairie, Erbe Grassland and the Goodman Campus Restoration.

Coordinator of Seed Collecting and Planting Sought

The Empire-Sauk Chapter’s efforts in prairie seed collecting and planting are slipping and may be reduced to a trickle if no one can be found to get things moving again. We very much need a person or two to step forward to get our seed collecting and processing program up and running in earnest. We could use both an overall coordinator, as well as local leaders focused on specific sites. If you are interested in helping, please contact Rich Henderson (608/845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net).

Help Needed in Seed Collecting and Cleaning

Help is needed this fall to collect and clean seed. Major activity areas will be Underwood & Schurch-Thomson prairies and nearby sites south of Blue Mounds, Ripp & Koltjes prairies, and Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie. If you wish to be on the contact lists to help with these activities, please contact Rich Henderson (608/845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net).

(Empire-Sauk Chapter continued on page 12)

(Empire-Sauk Chapter continued)

Fall Work Party Plans

This fall, the Empire-Sauk Chapter will continue its efforts at restoring prairie remnants. Volunteers are needed at a dozen sites to clear trees and brush. We now have several grants to help with the work. But these grants require match of in-kind volunteer time to earn the grant money. So, for every hour of volunteer time that you put in, we receive from 3-7 hours of paid contract labor. This fall and winter, we will be working at the Underwood, Shea, A to Z and Schurch-Thomson prairies south of Blue Mounds, Ripp Prairies north of Waunakee, Mazomanie Bluff, Schluckebier Prairie west of Prairie du Sac, Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie, Walking Iron County Park near Mazomanie, Savanna Hill north of Cross Plains, Kalscheur Savanna south of Hollandale and Smith Drumlin Prairies near Cambridge. Be on the lookout for fliers, e-mails and other notifications of work parties. Bring friends.

Fall/winter work parties are rather fun with refreshments (home-made cookies) and crisp weather; they're also a good source of outdoor winter exercise. You always leave with a sense of accomplishment after clearing trees and brush.

If you wish to help with work on these sites, and you are uncertain as to whether or not you are on the e-mail or phone notification lists, please contact Rich Henderson (608/845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net).

Donations to Empire-Sauk Chapter (February-July 2007)

The following donations were made to the Empire-Sauk Chapter from February through July 2007. These are donations made in addition to membership dues.

\$40	Laura Brown & Mark Shahan	Unrestricted
\$80	Ken Wade	Land management equipment
\$94	Erik & Nancy Goplin	Unrestricted
\$100	Premier Cooperative	Schurch-Thomson Prairie dedication
\$100	John & Olive Thomson	Schurch-Thomson Prairie dedication
\$500	CUNA Mutual Group Foundation	Unrestricted (in recognition of Pat Handrick's volunteerism)
\$3,000	Schurch-Thomson Prairie Trust	Shea Prairie purchase

Thank you to all donors. Your contributions help to locate, protect and care for the remnant prairies, sedge meadows, savannas and open oak woodlands of our area.

Are You Mechanically Inclined?

The Empire-Sauk Chapter is looking for a volunteer or two to be in charge of the maintenance and repair of field equipment. This includes, but is not limited to, drip torches, water backpack cans, backpack herbicide sprayers, hand tools, brush-cutters, chainsaws, mowers, propane torches, fire-pump units and seeders. Plans are to eventually develop a workshop at the Schurch-Thomson barn, after its renovation, as this is where most equipment will likely be stored when not in active use. However, maintenance work may certainly be done at other locations. If you wish to help, please contact Rich Henderson (608/845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net).

Chapter Picnic & Meeting Well Attended

Nearly 30 people attended the Empire-Sauk Chapter's picnic and annual meeting of the membership on July 11. We had beautiful weather and a great setting provided by Tom and Kathie Brock at their Pleasant Valley Conservancy headquarters. A review of the chapter's accomplishments over the past year was provided by chapter president Rich Henderson. Secretary Cate Harrington and President Rich Henderson were both unanimously re-elected to another term each of two years. After the meeting and meal, the Brocks, as stewards of the Pleasant Valley Conservancy, gave a walking tour up to the ridge top and back, with impressive views and great discussion about savanna restoration and management. The Brocks and their Savanna Oak Foundation have recently partnered with TPE to provide permanent protection to the Conservancy by conveying title to 37 acres and a conservation easement on another 106 acres to TPE. The site is now also a dedicated State Natural Area.

Future Chapter Board meetings

An Empire-Sauk Chapter board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 18, at 6:45 p.m. at TPE's office at 222 S. Hamilton, Madison. All members are welcome.

NORTHWEST ILLINOIS CHAPTER

Annual Chapter Election Results

The NIPE Board of Directors held its annual election in July. The new NIPE directors are John Day, Paul Hansen, Jim Rachuy (President), Rickie Rachuy (Secretary), Ed Strenski (Vice President), Karin Strenski (Treasurer), and Chuck Wemstrom. Congratulations to you all, and many thanks for your continuing efforts on behalf of TPE.

Fall Activities

NIPE has finalized the list of prairie restoration projects for 2007. This fall we will seed the last field at Hanley Savanna (35 acres). We'll also provide seed for Strenski Prairie on Pilot Knob (5 acres), for Pool Court at the Galena Territory (5 acres), and for the Wapello Land and Water Reserve (60 acres; an archeological site owned by the JoDaviss Conservation Foundation).

In preparation for the seed-picking season, NIPE has added four new drying tables (we now have 10), acquired a Special Use Permit for picking on Federal land, and hired six people to help pick seed. With all the good growing weather, 2007 should be a banner year.

2007 SEED COLLECTION SCHEDULE

For directions to the collection sites call Jim Rachuy at 815/947-2287

Date	Meeting Place	Time
Saturday, September 8	Lone Tree Farm	12:30 pm
Wednesday, September 12	Hanley Savanna	12:30 pm
Saturday, September 15	Lone Tree Farm	12:30 pm
Wednesday, September 19	Hanley Savanna	12:30 pm
Saturday, September 22	Lone Tree Farm	12:30 pm
Sunday, September 23	Blackjack Prairie	1:30 pm
Wednesday, September 26	Rare Plant Nursery	12:30 pm
Saturday, September 29	Lone Tree Farm	12:30 pm
Monday, October 1	Twin Bridges	12:30 pm
Wednesday, October 3	Hanley Savanna	12:30 pm
Saturday, October 6	Lone Tree Farm	12:30 pm
Monday, October 8	Elmville Prairie	1:30 pm
Wednesday, October 10	Hanley Savanna	12:30 pm
Saturday, October 13	Lone Tree Farm	9:00 am
Monday, October 15	Galena Territory	1:30 pm
Wednesday, October 17	Lone Tree Farm	12:30 pm
Saturday, October 20	Lone Tree Farm	9:00 am

Materials To Bring

- 5 gallon bucket, with handle, to carry seed
- belt or strap to carry bucket while you pick
- pair of gloves to protect the hands
- boots or high shoes to ward off the chiggers
- garden shears to clip seed from tough stalks
- bottle of water for refreshment
- enough energy to walk about a mile

Special Associated Events Planned at Lone Tree Farm

- September 15: 1st Annual Seed Pickin' Hootenanny*
- October 13: Annual Seed Thrashing Party & Chili Lunch
- October 20: Final seed thrashing and mixing

*1st Annual Seed Pickin' Hootenanny Saturday, September 15, 1:30 p.m.

Come pick seed and HOOT with us! Music and beverages (around 3:30) immediately following seed picking. A picnic will follow the music, w/ brats, beer and pop provided by Natural Area Guardians. Bring a dish to share. Please RSVP by September 5 for this event. Call or email Jim Mantey at jimsgarage@mchsi.com or 815/858-2574.

PRAIRIE BLUFF CHAPTER

Prairie Bluffers attack water cress



Watercress removal work party.
Photo by Rob Baller.

We had seven Eveready® bunnies tugging invasive water cress out of the Briggs Wetland artesian stream on
(Prairie Bluff Chapter continued on page 14)

(Prairie Bluff Chapter continued)

Saturday, August 4. Fine work, all! The fast running, two-foot-wide stream breathes free of watercress for about 100 yards now. All work was done with rakes, pitchforks, and hands. The stream kept us cool, as did the clouds and merciful 77-degree temperature. We had a great potluck lunch afterwards, feasting on turkey dogs, several kinds of heirloom tomatoes, and spicy mustard at Sonja Darlington's in Beloit. Thank you, Sonja!

Volunteer Profile

By Rob Baller and Nick Faessler



Peg Bredeson.

Photo by Rob Baller.

Peg Bredeson came to The Prairie Enthusiasts at least a decade ago. She was director of the Beloit (WI) Public Library and a veteran of bird de-netting at the Sand Bluff Bird Banding Station in Winnebago Co. (IL). This was but a hint of Peg's love and pursuit of nature knowledge. When there is a flower or butterfly unfamiliar, she is the first with a book at the ready. Her attention to detail and her literary background earned her the post of Secretary for our Prairie Bluff Chapter many years ago.

Peg is now retired from the Library, and is a regular on TPE work crews, always there for prescribed burns and brushing parties. She devotes her days to pulling garlic mustard, severing wild parsnip, clearing oak savanna,

drawing superb, anatomically correct pencil renditions of dragonflies and butterflies, and assisting our humble chapter in remembering what it discussed at the last meeting. She is quick with a smile and supreme in enthusiasm.

While it is difficult to single out any one person from our clan for recognition, we nonetheless hold out for display the affable Peg Bredeson. We thank her for what she does and what she brings to our organization!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Newest Preserve: Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie

It's official!! The Prairie Enthusiasts is now the proud owner of Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie, a State Natural Area and one of the highest quality prairie remnants in southern Wisconsin. TPE has been managing the prairie for the past five years under an agreement with The Nature Conservancy. In mid-August, the Conservancy transferred title to TPE.

Watch for a complete feature article in the Winter 2007 Prairie Promoter on this important prairie, its biological significance, its fascinating history, and the role that dedicated conservationists, including TPE members Tom and Kathie Brock, played in the site's protection and restoration.

Engineering Challenge

The Empire-Sauk Chapter needs someone to design and direct the construction of two bridges on TPE preserves in eastern Iowa County, Wisconsin. These bridges will be crossing small, but high-banked, streams. They need to be functional for human foot-travel and ATVs used in land management.

Donated materials are available, including a number of very large utility poles and a good supply of 2-inch thick cedar planks. Additional supplies may be purchased or sought through donations.

The tasks include (1) drafting a design that meets DNR

specifications, (2) submitting the drawings and stream crossing applications to the DNR, and (3) lining up the materials and directing volunteers in the construction. If you are willing to help in one or more of these tasks, please contact Rich Henderson (608/845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net).

TPE at Farm Technology Days in September

By Nick Faessler

Farm Technology Days (FTD) is the largest agriculture show in Wisconsin, featuring over 400 exhibitors. It highlights the latest in agricultural interests, equipment, supplies and techniques. The show travels throughout the state and draws 100,000 people each day. This year, FTD is being held on September 18-20 in Green County just east of Albany on the Plain View Stock Farm. For more information, see www.wifarmtechnologydays.com. Call Nick Faessler for directions (see below).

The Prairie Bluff Chapter will staff an educational booth in the Conservation Tent to promote knowledge of TPE and fire dependant ecosystems. This provides a laid-back, informal setting to expose a large audience, including many area farmers, to some of our natural areas in Wisconsin. We are planning a hike to Muralt Bluff Prairie State Natural Area (<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna/sna139.htm>) to show interested parties what a typical Green County prairie looks like.

Volunteers get FREE admission! TPE needs volunteers to help at the FTD booth (various shifts) or on the hike. This is your chance to speak with prospective members about our great organization and about the work that we do. Contact Nick Faessler (faessler@wekz.net or 608/897-4993) to sign up.

Oak Savannas – Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow (Adult Lecture)

Wednesday, November 7, 2007, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Aldo Leopold Nature Center, Madison

Join Rich Henderson, Research Ecologist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, to learn about this ancient battleground between the prairies of the west and the deciduous forests of the east. You'll discover how Wisconsinites have been interacting with and affecting the distribution of oak savannas for centuries, and what we can do in the present to protect and preserve this fascinating

ecosystem. This program is co-presented by the Friends of Edna Taylor Conservation Park.

Admission: FREE (donations accepted). For more information, go to <http://www.naturenet.com/alnc/public.html> or call 608/221-0404.

Black River State Forest Master Plan

An integrated team of WDNR Forestry, Wildlife, and Endangered Resources staff is currently developing a range of alternatives for the future management of barrens and other natural communities in the Black River State Forest. Public review and input for these alternatives will likely be available sometime in December 2007 or January 2008. Information about the property, planning process, and public input can be found at the following link:

http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/master_planning/BlackRiver/black-cominvolve.htm

Contact information:

Pat Murphy, WDNR
1300 W. Clairemont Ave.
Eau Claire, WI 54702
715/839-3760

PatriciaD.Murphy@Wisconsin.gov

Do Not Mow Signs Available

\$10 each, plus \$1.50/sign for shipping.
Help protect remnants and prairie plantings!

These “No Mow” signs are 6” by 9”, and made of heavy, sturdy aluminum that will last 20 years or more - if no one mows them over! They have holes on the top and bottom so they can easily be mounted to a fencepost with wire. We recommend talking with your township or county road department to make sure they will honor these signs. Checks should be made payable to TPE and sent to The Prairie Enthusiasts, “No Mow Signs,” P.O. Box 1148, Madison, WI 53701.

THANK YOU’S

Special thanks to the following individuals for contributions to the central Madison office:

- Evanne Hunt, digital camera
- Renae Mitchell, office desk
- Eric Tarman-Ramchek, flat screen computer monitor

THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS

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The Prairie Enthusiasts needs you to bump up your membership to a higher level to enhance our member and volunteer services and continue our mission of protection, restoration and education. We ask that you pledge to continue at this level for three years so that we know we can count on your support!

*Thank you,
Your TPE Endowment & Fundraising Committee*

I/We name(s) _____ will bump up from a current membership level of _____ to the _____ level. Enclosed is a check for the difference of \$ _____ for 2007.

The Prairie Enthusiasts Membership Levels:

- \$15 Student, \$25 Individual, \$40 Family,
- \$100 Shooting Star, \$200 Blazing Star, \$500 Compass Plant,
- \$1,000 Monarch, \$5,000 Benefactor

Please send form and check to:

The Prairie Enthusiasts, P.O. Box 1148, Madison, WI 53701