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The PRAIRIE PROMOTER

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Grassroots Conservation at Work

Regal Fritillaries Rebound at Mounds View Grassland

by Rich Henderson, Empire Sauk Chapter

The regal fritillary butterfly population seems to have dramatically increased across TPE's Mounds View Grassland preserve this year. The 2009 surveys found 95 regals--two at the A to Z unit, 21 at the Shea Prairie unit and 72 at the Schurch-Thomson and Underwood prairies. This is approximately double the running yearly average of regals that have been periodically counted over the past several years.

The regal fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*), a state-endangered species now very rare throughout its range east of the Mississippi River, had not been seen on site prior to the start of restoration work at the Mounds View complex 10 years ago. They were, however, known to be present in the prairie pastures of the neighboring Williams brothers' farm. As we gradually began clearing trees and brush from the remnant prairie sod, planting new prairie and periodically burning areas at Mounds View, the regals immediately appeared and have been gradually increasing, with 2009 being the best year ever.

This population upswing gives us cause to hope. As we continue to clear more remnant sod and convert more former cropland to prairie, we hope that someday this 530-acre prairie preserve will become home to thousands of regal fritillary butterflies and many other rare and declining prairie-associated species in need of a home.

Amy Staffen, Jan Kettle and our AmeriCorps member, Meaghan Proctor, conducted the 2009 surveys with the help of five student interns.



Regal fritillary butterfly. Photo © Richard Oberle

IN THIS ISSUE

Regal Fritillary Resurgence	Page 1
President's Message	Pages 2-3
Borah Creek Prairie	Page 3
Tools and Techniques	Pages 3-4
Invader Crusaders	Page 4
Purple Milkweed Resource	Page 4
Planned Giving	Page 4
New Board Member	Page 5
Announcements	Pages 5-6
Chapter News	Page 6-9
New Members	Page 10
Bump-Ups	Page 10
Donors	Pages 10-11

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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 or email submissions to local chapter editorial volunteers or to The Prairie Promoter editor. Copy any text into the body of the email. Send photos (jpeg or bmp) as attachments. Letters and articles may be edited for length or style. Computer disks, art, and photographs will be returned. Deadlines for submission of material are February 27 (Spring issue); May 22 (Summer issue); August 21 (Fall issue); and November 28 (Winter issue).

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

President's Message: Protecting our Land Trusts

by Evanne Hunt

I'm not a collector. I'm a "tosser." When we moved my parents from my two-story childhood home to a senior-friendly single-level townhouse, I wanted to get rid of a lot of stuff.

One of the items was an old straw hat. It was bent and a little worn. When I asked my mom if I could throw it away (as I was heading for the garbage bin), she exclaimed, "No! My brother brought that back from Japan for me. There is gold hidden in the rim."

My uncle was an Army dentist during WWII. After the war, he was stationed in post-war Japan. Apparently, he sent some of the gold used for fillings back to the States hidden in the rim of a Japanese peasant's hat!

I was reminded of that story as the TPE Board of Directors discussed joining the Land Trust Alliance's Conservation Defense Insurance Program.

This program covers the cost of enforcing and defending land easements. Most people who place an easement on their property understand its value. Violations typically occur with the second, third or fourth owner of a property with an easement in place. Just as I undervalued the hat because I did not know its story, so these subsequent property owners disregard the natural value of their land. Old or poorly-written easements are easily forgotten, misunderstood, or ignored. And, as the Land Trust Alliance reminds us, "as property values rise, incentives to disrupt or void easements grow as well ..."

Federal law requires land trusts to have the resources to monitor and defend conservation easements, if a tax deduction is taken. The IRS also asks for documentation of the amount of time and money a land trust spends in monitoring and defending its easements.

The Land Trust Alliance estimates that litigation costs would range from \$70,000 to \$100,000 for a typical trial in a typical jurisdiction, \$35,000 for summary judgment motions and \$150,000 for appeal. The TPE Legal Defense Fund is growing, but not fast enough for these costs.

The Land Trust Alliance insurance program covers the costs of enforcing and defending easements. Although the deadline is July 1, 2010, the Board felt there are benefits to joining now. First, early commitment encourages the organizers of the program and encourages other organizations to join. It also encourages TPE to initiate an easement monitoring process to achieve accreditation, which entitles us to an \$11 annual discount against the \$60 annual premium per easement.

TPE has enrolled our nine easement properties in the program. We can add additional properties without penalty as late as the inception of the actual program (sometime between 1/31/11 and 12/31/13).

This program gives the board the confidence that TPE can protect the land for which we are responsible without jeopardizing the financial security of the organization.

Learn more about the Conservation Defense Insurance Program on the Land Trust Alliance website (<http://www.landtrustalliance.org>) or from any board member.

SNA 591: Borah Creek Prairie

by Jesse Bennett, SW Chapter

The Southwest Wisconsin Chapter first became interested in Borah Creek Prairie 10 years ago. During the drought of 1998, a chapter member scouted the region looking for green, drought-tolerant prairie vegetation among the parched agricultural landscape and discovered this ecological gem.

Though overgrazed, the site became known for its rich flora, most notably the federally endangered Prairie Bush Clover, as well as its avian fauna. For twenty years, prairie enthusiasts managed a portion of the property, known as Heather's Prairie, in honor of Heather Neuroth.

In 2006, the Neuroth family decided to sell the property. TPE and the Driftless Area Land Conservancy attempted to negotiate a purchase. When negotiations failed, it appeared that the prairie would be lost.

Unwilling to accept defeat, the SW Chapter enlisted the help of the Mississippi Valley Conservancy. With their support, the aid of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, and a bargain sale from new owner Merrill Oster, the three land trusts gained title to 138 acres of

prairie pasture and a conservation easement on 252 acres of surrounding cropland. Heather's Prairie and surrounding grassland habitat is now permanently protected as the Borah Creek Prairie State Natural Area (SNA 591, designated in 2009).

Perhaps as impressive as the protection of this ecologically significant property, the cooperation of these three southwest Wisconsin land trusts has laid the groundwork for future collaboration.

Now that the paperwork is complete, the time has come to pay for the property and ensure its perpetual management. The three land trusts are planning a fundraising drive as well as a formal dedication ceremony and regular natural area management work parties. Please support this project; additional information is forthcoming. Now is an exciting time to be a Prairie Enthusiast!

To celebrate this important acquisition, the three organizations will host a hike on September 20 at 1:00 p.m. Watch for more details on the event or contact Linda Lynch at 608-924-1637 or wondrelfarms@mhtc.net.



Jesse Bennett releases beetles onto Borah Creek Prairie. Photo by Jaye Maxfield.

Tools and Techniques: Classical Biocontrol

by Jesse Bennett,
SW Chapter

“Nonnative insects eating plants at new prairie preserve”: it sounds all too

familiar. But, in this instance, the non-natives are a welcome addition, having

been introduced to help land managers deal with an otherwise unmanageable invasive plant infestation.

When people transport a species from the area in which it evolved to a new location, we often do so without transporting the predators, parasites, and pathogens which naturally control its population. Freed from these natural controls, a non-native species can thrive and become invasive. In classical biological control (biocontrol), a co-evolved organism is introduced to help regulate the pest species.

At the time of purchase, the Borah Creek Prairie (see story, page 3) suffered from an extremely severe spotted knapweed infestation. The cost of herbicide, estimated at around \$100,000, compounded by the potential for harming native species, ruled out traditional control practices. Fortunately for land managers, readily available classical biocontrol agents have proven highly effective at controlling spotted knapweed.



Non-native beetles used to control invasive spotted knapweed. Photo by Jaye Maxfield.

On August 9th, under blood-red skies and accompanied by surreal cloud-to-cloud lightning, Jaye Maxfield and I released two biocontrol agents across the preserve. At each of four sites we introduced 100 root weevils (*Cyphocleonus achates*) and 200 seedhead weevils (*Larinus minutus/obtusus*). Driftless Land Stewardship LLC secured the necessary federal and state permits and provided the insects at cost to the SW Chapter. We expect the insects to become naturalized and, slowly but surely, bring the spotted knapweed under control.

Read more about the beetles' life cycle in the St. Croix Valley Chapter News. Prairie Enthusiasts there are using these co-evolved species to control spotted knapweed at their Blueberry Hill site (see page 9).

2009 Invader Crusader Award Winners

Prairie Enthusiasts Bill Moore and Peter Layton were both recognized as Invader Crusaders this summer. This annual award, presented by the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species, honors individuals for their work fighting harmful invasive species in the state of Wisconsin. For more information visit the council's website: invasivespecies.wi.gov.

Purple Milkweed Success

Tom and Kathie Brock's restored oak savanna boasts two dozen clusters of purple milkweed (*Asclepias purpurascens*). Twelve of these clusters appeared on their own after the Brocks began restoration efforts. During the

last ten years, Tom and Kathie collected seeds from these naturally-occurring plants, raised more and transplanted them back to the Pleasant Valley Conservancy (see field trip announcement on page 5).

Detailed descriptions of the plants' ecology and the Brock's technique for propagating this State Endangered species appear in this month's issue of the University of Wisconsin

Arboretum's journal, Ecological Restoration. The article is available online.

<http://er.uwpress.org/cgi/content/abstract/27/3/269>

Planned Giving: One Family's Story

By Evanne Hunt

For Jim and Rumi O'Brien, the idea of a conservation legacy was fairly easy. "We like the fact that TPE members are out in the field working and contribute sweat equity," says Jim.

Jim and Rumi have used a provision of the Pension Protection Act of 2007 to make several substantial donations to TPE. The provision allows for direct transfer from an IRA account to a designated charity—and allows pre-tax annuity funds to escape taxation.

Estate planning also provided an opportunity to help TPE. The O'Briens did this by designating the organization as a secondary beneficiary on several annuities. Jim points out that other forms of property—real estate, for example—can be deeded in Wisconsin simply through a transfer-on-death provision currently in the statutes. Automobiles and boats are two forms of personal property which can be deeded under this statute.

The TPE Endowment and Fundraising Committee is creating a planned giving program that will integrate donors' desire to give with their overall financial, tax and estate planning goals. A planned gift creates a special connection between the donor and TPE, both now, and for years to come.

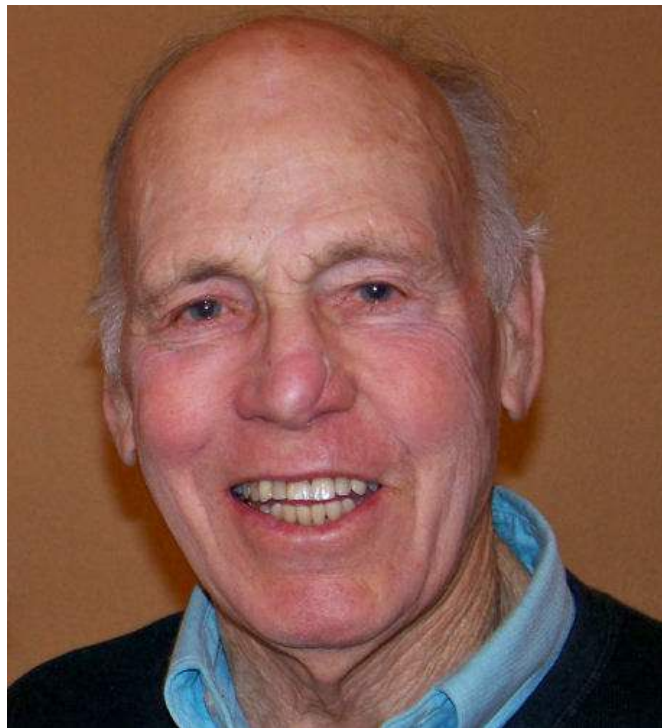
Details on the planned giving program will appear in a future issue of *The Prairie Promoter*.

New Board Member

The Prairie Enthusiasts, Inc. appointed Brad Glass to serve on its board of directors at its August 11, 2009, board meeting. Brad will serve in the at-large board position, a three year term.

Brad and his wife Barbara live between Dodgeville and Spring Green in Wisconsin. He has been a member of The Prairie Enthusiasts since the late 1980's. He has extensive experience and involvement in conservation. The organization welcomes his background and expertise.

Brad graduated from Princeton 1953 and Michigan Law School in 1959. He practiced law in Chicago and Northbrook, Ill. beginning in 1959; and in Dodgeville, Wis. beginning in 1986. He retired in 2004. He served in the Illinois Legislature as State Representative (1971-1972) and as a State Senator (1973-1978). He and his wife operated Little Valley Farm, a native plant nursery, on their property in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County, Wis. Brad helped organize and served on the board of the Driftless Area Land Conservancy headquartered in Dodgeville, Wis. He was a member of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board for 6 years and he is currently a member of the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.



New, at-large board member, Brad Glass.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pleasant Valley Conservancy Field Day

October 10, 2009

Come learn about Wisconsin oak woodlands, prescribed fire, wildlife, and other management activities at Tom and Kathie Brock's Pleasant Valley Conservancy. A guided tour of the property will start promptly at 9:30 a.m. Experts in the history and management of oak woodlands in Wisconsin will address the tour group at pre-planned stops along the route. Please dress appropriately.

To register, send a check for \$10.00, payable to the American Forest Foundation to:

The Prairie Enthusiasts
c/o Conservation Forestry Field Tour
PO Box 1148
Madison WI 53701-1148

Please also enclose your name, address (with city, state, zip code and county), a daytime phone number, your email address, the number of acres you own, and whether you are a member of Tree Farm, Forest Stewardship, Wisconsin Family Forests or the Prairie Enthusiasts.

Registrations must be received by October 2. Call Carol at 608-577-0584 after that date to find out if space is still available.

This field day is presented by the American Forest Foundation, in partnership with the Wisconsin DNR, Aldo Leopold Foundation, TPE, Ben Meadows, and Wisconsin Family Forests.

Membership Committee Openings

Have ideas on how to increase membership and retain current members? Join the Membership Committee -- all TPE members are eligible and we require only a one-year commitment.

The team will evaluate current trends, benefits, and needs of TPE membership, then develop and implement a new strategy to attract and retain members.

CHIPPEWA SAVANNAS CHAPTER

Chapter Reinstated

submitted by Bill Hogseth

After several years of dormancy, the Chippewa Savannas Chapter was recently reinstated and is already gaining momentum. The chapter's primary mission is to restore, manage and research remnant native prairies, savannas, barrens and other fire-dependent ecosystems.

The chapter encompasses Dunn, Eau Claire and Pepin counties – which include many large complexes of remnant prairies, savannas and barrens. With river terraces and high rugged bluffs, the Chippewa Valley is an ecological goldmine. It contains more rare species (125) than any other area of a comparable size in the entire state of Wisconsin and also includes a quarter of Wisconsin's total acreage of remaining prairies. This is an exciting place for a prairie enthusiast to work.

Several important sites within the Chippewa Valley have already been identified for future ecosystem restoration projects. The Chippewa Savannas Chapter is working in partnership with Xcel Energy to help maintain and rehabilitate several prairie remnants, owned by the company, that contain rare and declining species.

Volunteering with Chippewa Savannas is a great opportunity to learn about the techniques of restoration and to get hands-on experience with prairie and savanna ecology. We are eagerly looking for volunteers with diverse skills ranging from ecological stewardship, event planning and graphic design, to education and so on. Please contact Bill Hogseth, Chair of Chippewa Savannas, to learn more about the chapter's upcoming work parties, field trips, meetings and events.

Bill Hogseth can be reached at 715-664-8002 or billhogseth@gmail.com.

COULEE REGION CHAPTER

Please check chapter newsletter for announcements.

EMPIRE – SAUK CHAPTER

Board Meetings

Thursday, September 10, 7:00 p.m. at Rich and Kathy Henderson's home at 2845 Timber Lane, Verona. All members are welcome.

Your experience with other organizations and committees is needed. This is a great opportunity to meet and work with TPE members from other chapters and with board members. If you are interested, please email Carol Winge at CarolWinge@yahoo.com and include why you want to be on the committee.

Outreach and Education Committee Openings

We are recruiting TPE members to develop and implement a photography contest. Join the Outreach and Education Committee -- all TPE members are eligible and we require only a one-year commitment.

The team will solicit and judge photos of prairie and oak savanna based on different criterion, such as technical merit. The goal is to display the photos and have the membership vote during the 2010 Annual Banquet. The winning photo will then be used on our 2009 Annual Report cover.

If you are interested, please email Carol Winge at CarolWinge@yahoo.com and include why you want to be on the committee.

New TPE Merchandise Available

Show your prairie enthusiasm with a red, blue, or black t-shirt emblazoned with the TPE logo. T-shirts are now available on the website in sizes medium, large or extra-large. The TPE logo is silk screened in gold color in the upper left of the shirt front. The back of shirt is plain.

A black, heavy brushed twill hat is also available. The back strap has an adjustable buckle so the hat will fit any size head! The TPE logo is embroidered in gold thread.



If you missed out on the first edition, you will be pleased to know the second edition of [Wildflowers of Wisconsin and the Great Lakes Region, A Comprehensive Field Guide](#) by Merel Black and Emmet Judziewicz is also available.

Finally, we also offer the [Field Guide to Wisconsin Sedges, An Introduction to the Genus Carex \(Cyperaceae\)](#) by Andrew Hipp.

<http://www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org/Merchandise.htm>

Fall Work Party Plans

This fall, the Empire-Sauk Chapter will continue its efforts at restoring prairie remnants. Volunteers are needed on a dozen sites to clear trees and brush. We have several grants to help with the work, but these grants require a match of in-kind volunteer time to earn the grant money. So, for every hour of volunteer time that you put in, we receive several 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, Rettenmund Black Earth 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 fun with refreshments (such as homemade cookies) and crisp weather and are 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 volunteer coordinator Lois Komai at 608-238-2503 or lakomai@chorus.net.

Chapter Picnic, Annual Meeting and Elections

The Empire-Sauk Chapter's picnic and annual meeting of the membership was held on the evening of July 9. Approximately 25 people partook of some of the best food ever brought to a potluck picnic. If you weren't there, you really missed out! We also had excellent weather, and Mark and Sue Foot-Martin were great hosts at Madison Audubon's Goose Pond Sanctuary.

Willis Brown was unanimously voted in as the new chapter secretary, replacing Cate Harrington who stepped down after admirably serving for eight years. Rich Henderson was re-elected for another term as chapter president. A review of the chapter's accomplishments over the past year was presented by chapter leadership, and there was discussion from the membership about the chapter's and TPE's future direction.

After the meeting and meal, Mark gave a walking tour of some of the impressive large-scale prairie and wetland restoration work at Goose Pond. The heavy rains of last year and early this year resulted in very large wetlands re-emerging from the seed bank in former corn

fields. These wetlands were replete with an impressive array of waterfowl and shore birds.

Help Needed with Seed Collecting

Help is needed this fall with collecting seed by a combination of individuals collecting on their own at targeted sites and organized group work parties. Eric Preston, a new volunteer with the Empire-Sauk Chapter, has stepped forward to coordinate our seed collecting efforts, matching people with collecting needs. Thank you, Eric, for taking this on! We are still developing a system, and Eric is still learning about seed collecting details, so please be patient.

Major seed collecting areas this fall will be at Underwood, Schurch-Thomson and Shea prairies and nearby sites south of Blue Mounds, at Rettenmund Black Earth Prairie and possibly other locations. If you wish to be on the contact list to help with seed collecting, please contact our chapter volunteer coordinator, Lois Komai, at 608-238-2503 or lakomai@chorus.net. Also, we are still looking for local leaders focused on collecting at specific sites. If interested, contact Rich Henderson at 608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net.

Help Needed with Seed Cleaning

Help is needed this fall with seed cleaning and processing. Most of the work will be at the Schurch-Thomson Prairie barn. If you wish to be on the contact lists to help with these activities, please contact Lois Komai at 608-238-2503 or lakomai@chorus.net. If you wish to help lead and direct seed cleaning, contact Rich Henderson at 608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net.

Coordinator Sought for Seed Cleaning and Planting

The Empire-Sauk Chapter has a pressing need to plant wetland, prairie and savanna seed on hundreds of acres over the next several years in our efforts to recover degraded remnants and expand critical habitat for many rare and endangered plants and animals. Eric Preston has stepped forward to coordinate seed collecting, but we still need someone to get our seed cleaning and processing program going in earnest. Our seed processing facility at the Schurch-Thomson Prairie barn, south of Blue Mounds, is partially up and running. If you are interested in this leadership role, or have ideas as to who might be willing, please contact Rich Henderson at 608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net.

Are You Mechanically Inclined?

The Empire-Sauk Chapter is looking for a volunteer or two to take 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, tractors, a truck, ATVs, propane torches, fire-pump units and seeders. The workshop at the Schurch-Thomson barn is up and ready to be used for equipment maintenance and repair. Most equipment will likely be stored at the barn when not in active use. However, maintenance work can be done at other locations. If you wish to help, please contact Rich Henderson at 608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net.

NORTHWEST ILLINOIS CHAPTER

Please check chapter website (www.nipes.org) for announcements.

PRAIRIE BLUFF CHAPTER

Chapter to Host 2010 Banquet and Conference

Circle the date on your calendar: Saturday, February 27, 2010, our chapter will host the annual Prairie Enthusiasts conference and banquet in Monroe, Wisconsin. Our committee is planning an event focused on local prairies, their flora and fauna and the early history of our organization in Rock, Green and Lafayette counties.

Chapter News

By Tom Mitchell

Our hikes were well attended this past spring and summer, and we have two more planned for the upcoming fall months. Another event we helped to plan, a Memorial Day celebration at Green's Prairie Cemetery, drew almost 70 folks to hear music, a dramatic reading, a display of Civil War weaponry and biographies of the Civil War veterans who are buried in the pioneer cemetery. Together with the cemetery association, we hope to make this an annual event. In addition to Civil War veterans, veterans of the War of 1812 and the Black Hawk War (1832) are also interred there. Besides its cultural history, this one-acre deep-soil prairie in the Town of York is also

home to a thriving array of native grasses and wildflowers.

Our restoration efforts in recent months have been focused on weeds, especially leafy spurge, but also the usual suspects: sweet clovers, parsnip, queen anne's lace and a newcomer, the annual Japanese hedge parsley. We've collected dozens of species, but seed collecting really hits high gear in the next few months. Nick Faessler has repaired our burn truck in anticipation of an active fall burn season.

During 2009, we have featured the Dower Prairie in Lafayette County between Gratiot and Darlington. The prairie is privately owned but managed by chapter member Steve Hubner, who has single-handedly headed up restoration work. This dry mesic prairie truly offers new visual treats during each month of the growing season.

PRAIRIE SMOKE CHAPTER

No information submitted

PRAIRIE SANDS CHAPTER

Chapter Update

This spring, the Prairie Sands Chapter continued its work party efforts at the Mekan Discovery Center, where there is a small prairie owned and managed by the DNR. Three chapter work parties have concentrated on removing small pines along the perimeter. These pines encroach on habitat that includes a small population of Karner Blue butterflies. The DNR has already applied Milestone to effectively wipe out fields of spotted knapweed. The two groups will continue to work together to bring this small prairie back to life. It will be used, among other things, for environmental educational programs conducted by a new lessee of the property -- the Renewable World Foundation of Neshkoro.

Other members helped remove garlic mustard and build and repair trails at John Muir park.

In May, chapter member Gene Berlowski conducted a walk to his restoration prairie just in time to catch the first flight of Karner Blues. In July, Laurel and Alan Bennet hosted a walk at Prairiehill Farm, their 25-year effort at restoring 100 acres of prairie and burr oak savanna.

Prairie Sands will celebrate its first birthday at the home of chapter president, Karen Wollenburg, on September 16 at 6:30 p.m. Anyone who would like to join us for cake should call Karen at 608-429-4169.

Beetles on Blueberry Hill

On July 29, chapter land manager Wayne Huhnke released 400 spotted knapweed beetles at Blueberry Hill.

The two species, *Cyphocleonus achates* and *Larinus*



obtusus, were obtained from Biological Control of Weeds, Inc. in Bozeman, Montana.

The Knapweed Root Weevil, *Cyphocleonus achates* (20 mm in length), lays approximately 100 eggs at the base of the spotted knapweed plants. The developing larvae mine the central taproot, damaging the weed's vascular tissue and cause root-gall formation.

The Blunt Knapweed Flower Weevil, *Larinus obtusus* (5 mm in length), lays about 75 eggs inside the flower seed heads. Three days later the larvae emerge, eating their way out. The larva can consume the entire content of immature knapweed seed heads. They can also cause gall-like structures in the seed head depleting the plant's resources even further. They destroy nearly one-hundred percent of the seeds in infected seed heads. Adults feed on the leaves, stems, and florets but prefer flower heads when available.

The root boring weevil, *Cyphocleonus achates*, was first released in the United States in 1987. The seedhead weevil, *Larinus obtusus*, a native of Europe, was introduced in 1993.

The same species of beetle were also released this summer at Borah Creek Prairie by members of the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter (see article, page 3).

More information on these biocontrols can be found at the Cornell University Biologic Control website (<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/ent/biocontrol/weedfeeders/wdfdrtoc.html>).

Chapter News

On Thursday, July 16, Mississippi Valley Conservancy staff and volunteers from TPE's SW Chapter met at the new Borah Creek Prairie for a work party. Most of the day was spent pulling sweet clover and parsnip, but it was not all work. We enjoyed the rock outcroppings and saw fledgling bobolinks trying out their skills. This remarkable property is a great addition to the lands being protected in Wisconsin.

Members of the three partnering organizations (Mississippi Valley Conservancy, The Prairie Enthusiasts, and Driftless Area Land Conservancy) will be invited to experience the property and get to know each other on Sunday, September 20 at 1 p.m. Watch for more information. If you have questions, please contact Linda Lynch at (608) 924-1637 or wondrelfarms@mhtc.net.



During the current economic times, everyone is cutting corners to save money. Jim Sime promises to share the details of his corner-cutting chainsaw with volunteers at one of his restoration projects. Photo by Denny Connor.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The following people have joined since June 1, 2009.

Jon Allen, Rochester, MN
J.D. Armstrong, Eau Claire, WI
Jan Axelson, Madison, WI
Melanie Baumgart, Eau Claire, WI
C Beckett and F Sandner, Blue
Mounds, WI
Robert Chambers, River Falls, WI
Evan Eifler, Oconomowoc, WI
Jay and Diane Fernholz, Holmen, WI
Tom and Mary Jon Hauge, Prairie Du
Sac, WI
Steve Hogseth, Eau Claire, WI
Kent and Cheryl Holen, Houston, MN

Madonna and Murray Hostetter,
Boyceville, WI
John Huffaker and Charlene Torchia,
Maiden Rock, WI
Rick Jirsa, Fort Atkinson, WI
Shey Lowman, Leaf River, IL
Matt and Carissa McFarlane, Eau
Claire, WI
Dewey Moore and Shelley Roberts,
Ferryville, WI
Gerd Muehllehner, North Freedom,
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John Van Altena and Connie
Brouillette, Milton, WI
Carrie Van Lanen-Raygo,
Madison, WI
Paul and Joy Zedler, Oregon, WI

BUMP-UP CAMPAIGN

Thank you to everyone who BUMPED UP their membership to a higher level during this same period!

To Blazing Star

Mark Leach

To Shooting Star

Gary Eldred
Lynn Keller & Jim Weber
Clarence Malick

To Family

Barb Barzen
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Shooting star (Dodecatheon media) at Schurch-Thomson Prairie. Photo by Rich Henderson.

**The Prairie Enthusiasts
PO BOX 1148
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Please note your membership renewal date is printed above your address. If you feel the renewal date is in error, help us keep our records accurate by emailing Victoria Oberle, membership coordinator at TPE@theprairieenthusiasts.org. Thank you.

If your membership has expired, tear off this back page, note changes below, and send in your check today!

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