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The PRAIRIE PROMOTER

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Grassroots Conservation at Work

2009 IPAW Conference and TPE Banquet

On Saturday, February 21, The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE) and the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin (IPAW) held a joint event in Madison at the Crowne Plaza. Despite Saturday's snowstorm, over 256 people attended the day-long conference and 128 attended the evening banquet.

The conference theme, "Invasive Plants of Grasslands: Identification, Monitoring and Control," provided three tracks: species-specific control; techniques, equipment, tools, and control strategies; and policy, funding, outreach, and prevention strategies.

The TPE Auction and Raffle room included 119 items to tempt everyone. Thanks to generous bidding, the raffle and silent auction brought in \$1,497 and \$2,514 respectively, for chapters and central operations.

The evening banquet included the presentation of the TPE Prairie Enthusiasts of the Year award to Jim and Rumi O'Brien. President Evanne Hunt and Empire Sauk Chapter president Rich Henderson lauded Jim and Rumi's deep commitment to land conservation, contributing both their time and money (see accompanying article).

The evening concluded with Christopher Powers portraying James Duane Doty, who established Madison as the state capital. Mr. Powers presented a lively, humorous, and unique history lesson.

Many people worked hard to make this conference a success, including Amy Staffen and Tom Boos from IPAW and Carol Winge from TPE. Karin and Ed Strenski staffed the TPE sales table. Auction and raffle volunteers included Carol Benish, Karen Agee, Jean Anderson, Linda Faessler, Jack Kussmaul, Linda Lynch,

Peter Thomford, and Karen Wollenburg. Staffing the TPE membership and Bump Up table were volunteers Richard and Victoria Oberle.

Thank you to our many conference volunteers: Kate Barrett, Sarah Carter, David Cordray, Jerry Doll, John Exo, Megan Goplin, Pattie Haack, Evanne Hunt, Tom Hunt, Kelly Kearns, Deb Weidert, Dan Weidert, Darcy Kind, Courtney LeClair, Vijai Pandian, Mark Renz, Jeff Saatkamp, Nancy Schlimgen, Michael Vahldieck, Marsha Vomastic, and Anne Walker.

Our sponsors also helped make this event possible. We gratefully acknowledge Advantage Copying & Printing, Biologic Environmental Consulting, Integrated Restorations, and Michler and Brown, LLC.

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

2009 Prairie Enthusiasts of the Year

By Richard Henderson

Jim and Rumi O'Brien were awarded the 2009 Prairie Enthusiasts of the Year Award at the annual banquet held Saturday, February 21, in Madison.

Jim and Rumi have a deep commitment to land conservation, contributing both time and money. They joined TPE in 2006, and hit the ground running, making a significant donation to the purchase of Shea Prairie in Iowa Co. (the start of TPE's Mounds View Grassland). They have since become stalwart volunteers for hands-on land management work with the Empire-Sauk Chapter. They hardly miss a work party, and Rumi can always be counted to bring great treats for all. They are both tireless workers. Pound for pound, Rumi is as hard a worker as I've ever encountered, and Jim does a mean caper throw into burn piles.

In 2008, they contributed 325 hours towards seed collecting, cleaning, and planting, brush and tree removal, and weed control, while also volunteering with other conservation groups, including the Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy, where Jim also serves as president, and Dane County Parks. Jim also serves on the Board of the Driftless Area Land Conservancy.

Jim and Rumi have continued to support TPE financially with major donations to our annual appeals, and helping us buy another addition to the Mounds View Grassland.



Remembering a Conservation Leader and Educator

By Rich Henderson

On February 20, 2009, Wisconsin's conservation community lost a great naturalist and educator, Dr. John W. Thomson. John passed away peacefully at his rural home south of Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin, at the age of 95, surrounded by Olive, his wife and partner in conservation and environmental education for more than 72 years, and several members of their family. John and Olive raised five children, Dennis, Douglas, Norman, Roderic, and Elizabeth, and have seven grandchildren. I'd like to share with you some of the contributions to conservation and environmental education that Dr. Thomson made during the course of his life.

John and Olive have long been enthusiastic supporters of The Prairie Enthusiasts and our mission (life members since 1993), and mentors to many people now active in conservation. They were certainly a major influence in my life. Their commitment to conservation has also been passed on to their children, as exemplified by their son Dennis and his wife Joan Schurch Thomson who established the 160-acre Schurch-Thomson Prairie preserve, which they have entrusted to TPE for care and maintenance.

Born in Scotland, John came to this country when he was eight years old. He lived in New York City and graduated from Columbia University with a degree in botany. In 1935, he came to the University of Wisconsin in Madison to study with Norman C. Fassett, who was a plant geographer, taxonomist, teacher, conservationist and pioneer in preserving habitat for the rich native flora of Wisconsin. Fassett, along with Henry C. Greene, were Wisconsin's original prairie enthusiasts (see "A Botanist Remembers" in this issue of *The Prairie Promoter*).

Soon to be Dr. John Thomson, he began his career at Wisconsin as a graduate student in the Botany Department, helping with the first restoration experiments on Curtis Prairie in the UW-Madison Arboretum in 1935. Influenced by Aldo Leopold and Norman Fassett, John ended up doing his Masters and Doctoral theses on the prairie vegetation of the central sands region of Wisconsin; work that was eventually incorporated into John T. Curtis' *Vegetation of Wisconsin* (1959). While at the University, John also met and married (in 1937) Olive Sherman, herself a botany student and lover of nature who grew up on the shore of Lake Koshkonong.



Photo courtesy of Olive Thomson.

After receiving his doctorate in 1939, John returned to New York with Olive to be a naturalist with the American Museum of Natural History and teach at Brooklyn College. They returned to Wisconsin where John taught at UW-Superior for a short time. Then in 1944, he took a position with the UW-Madison's Department of Botany. He soon became the primary instructor of the University's plant taxonomy courses, teaching more than 5,000 students over the course of his 40-year career at UW.

Through these courses, Dr. Thomson influenced thousands of students to appreciate the natural world and, in many cases, to enter careers in conservation. Many of his former students have made and are still making use of the taxonomic knowledge and enthusiasm for nature he passed on. They are working and volunteering as botanists, horticulturalists, conservationists, ecologists, foresters and naturalists throughout the United States and the world. In 1974, I was fortunate enough to be one of those taxonomy students. I remember his lectures being informative and enjoyable – filled with anecdotes gained from his years of travel, study and field observations. I can still picture Dr. Thomson, during the course of a lecture on the milkweeds, abruptly jumping on top of the lecture bench to demonstrate how an insect would have to position its legs in order to inadvertently hook and extract a pair of pollen sacks and then pull the sacks into a slot on another flower in order for pollination to occur. For 20 years, he was an advisor of undergraduate students in a College of Letters and Sciences major called Biological Aspects of Conservation. I was privileged to be one of those students.

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Over his 45-year career, Dr. Thomson became a world renowned authority on lichens, publishing nearly 100 articles, monographs and books (five). In the 1950s and sixties, he made 14 expeditions to the Arctic to study and collect lichens. He ended up amassing one of the most comprehensive collections of lichens in the world and identified an estimated 100,000 specimens during the course of his career. In 1992, Dr. Thomson was awarded the Acharius Medal by the International Association of Lichenology in recognition of his outstanding contributions to lichenology. He also served as president of the American Bryological Society.

Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Thomson chaired the UW-Madison Arboretum Committee and served as President of the Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters (WASAL). He founded the Wisconsin Junior Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters, which promotes scientific endeavors of school children. In the mid 1960s, he chaired a committee of WASAL that analyzed Wisconsin's natural areas protection program and made recommendations to the Governor for needed legislative changes. Many of these were implemented, most notably the creation of a professional staff within state government to administer a scientific areas program (now known as the State Natural Areas program). Wisconsin was among the first states to do so.

John and Olive were founding members of the Botanical Club of Wisconsin and active in the Citizen's Natural Resources Association. Together they received the 1985 Gulf Oil Conservation Award (a national award) for their dedication to conservation education and improvement of the environment.

Dr. Thomson served on the board of the Wisconsin chapter of The Nature Conservancy from 1983-1990. He also served for many years on the Conservancy's Land Stewardship and Science Advisory Committee. John and Olive also established a fund with the Conservancy for land acquisition in the Military Ridge Area west of Mt. Horeb. The Conservancy's Thomson Memorial Prairie is named in honor of their deceased son Douglas.

John was known for his warmth, generosity and willingness to share his knowledge of plants and nature with amateurs and professionals alike. For many summers, he taught botany classes at Lake Itasca Biological Station in Minnesota. Over the years, he and Olive led many field trips for The Nature Conservancy and other conservation groups. I attended every one I could for they were always informative and entertaining.

In 1999, The Prairie Enthusiasts honored John and Olive at the annual TPE banquet with an award for their lifelong commitment to conservation of our native

ecosystems. They received a well-deserved standing ovation.

John is going to be missed by many and long remembered. He and Olive built a conservation legacy that very few can equal. Rest well, John; you made a difference.

Note: TPE has established a fund to accept donations in honor of Dr. John Thomson's memory. We are working with Olive and her family on the precise use of the funds. An idea at this time is the funding of a perpetual student internship with TPE in John's name. If you wish to contribute, send donations to TPE John Thomson Memorial Fund at TPE, PO Box 1148, Madison WI 53701.

A Botanist Remembers

Following are some of Dr. John Thomson's reminiscences that he presented to a gathering of the Friends of the Arboretum (University of Wisconsin-Madison) at their annual breakfast meeting in 1982, at about the time of his retirement.

In the fall of 1935, I came to the University of Wisconsin as a teaching assistant in the Botany Department, fresh from undergraduate studies in botany and zoology at Columbia University and intending to work with Prof. Norman Fassett on the analysis of peat bogs and the stories their pollen layers told. Wisconsin's Botany Department was well known at that time for such scientific investigations. But Prof. Fassett was a man of contagious enthusiasms. He had a special love for the prairies, and he spent considerable time in his taxonomy courses infecting his students with a love of prairies and their plants and animals. His enthusiasm led us on several trips to prairie remnants that memorable autumn to collect the materials for experiments to determine what might be the best way to cover a large part of the new UW Arboretum with prairie. At the Arboretum, we had set up plots that were tilled, burned and left alone to serve as controls. On these, we planned to scatter seed, to rake in seed, even to try scattering prairie hay over some, and in others to plant sods taken from remnant prairies scheduled for destruction. I look through my old photo album of that long ago autumn, and I see Elton Bussewitz, Douglas Wade (well-known today as a professional naturalist and stimulator of many prairie activities) and Fassett collecting seed and plants at Black Hawk Lookout across the Wisconsin River from Prairie du Sac. I see Roger Reeve and Edna Myers and myself collecting seeds of the grama grasses (*Bouteloua*) on the prairie-covered bluffs at Potosi. And I see Fassett, Edna, Roger and another student named Charles McGraw (later director of the Hayes Arboretum) gathering material along a railroad

right-of-way near Plainfield. Not in the album, but burned in my memory nevertheless, is a November trip to get burlap bags of hay for the hay-spreading experiments from bluffs near Hudson in extreme western Wisconsin, where *Artemisia frigida* and *Erigeron glabellus* could be collected and added to the prairie trials. That was really a memorable experience. Cold, wet and shivering from a storm that blew up while we were collecting, we trooped into the hotel to enjoy our supper. Toward the close of the meal, Fassett announced that, in view of the weather we had faced, we could add to our meal the choice of a dessert or a cognac. We all chose the latter!

Among the photographs, there are also a few showing a CCC crew at work on a sand prairie below the bluffs near Spring Green. The crew was a willing group, partly no doubt because the trip provided them with an interesting ride away from the camp at Madison. Indeed the trip was an outing of which the crew took full advantage. The CCC trucks were under strict government regulations limiting their speed to 35 miles an hour. Enforcement was by a governor on the motor. Moreover, the times of departure and arrival plus the distance traveled on each trip were logged, enabling someone in the bureaucracy to check and double check our movements. Alas, the administration did not realize that our driver had formerly been engaged in the business of rum running from Canada to New England and knew how to circumvent governors. This enabled us to stop at a tavern on the return route for 5 cent beers (provided by the graduate student in charge of the collecting party), then to complete the run home at a speed which would bring us back to Madison on the schedule called for by the timesheets.

And that's how some of the materials for the Arboretum prairie experiments were acquired. Yet casual as the collection process was in some ways, these experiments set the stage for the extensive use of sods in the expanded efforts at restoration of Curtis Prairie carried out under the supervision of Theodore Sperry during the late 1930s.

Looking back, I must pay tribute to the enthusiasm and drive of those early visionaries, Fassett, E.M. Gilbert, Aldo Leopold, Joseph W. Jackson, A.F. Gallistel, G.W. Longenecker and Maurice McCaffrey. They did share a vision of making the Arboretum a place of experimentation with native plants and plantings, and a place to try to recreate examples of the Wisconsin landscape the early settlers saw. Just as remarkably, these aims have been continued as several generations of Arboretum Committee members have come and gone, each hewing in turn to the original ideals.

Given the durability of these ideals, it is interesting to consider how they developed in the first place and how they were passed on. We students were required by Fassett not only to attend the seminars in wildlife management, but to present the results of our botanical researches in those seminars just as the wildlife students did. It should be remembered that the ecology taught in the botany courses by Fassett and the wildlife ecology taught by Leopold constituted all the ecology taught at Wisconsin at that time. Much of Leopold's knowledge of plant ecology, I am sure, came from these seminars and from collaborations with Fassett and his students. His planting of prairie plants around his Sand County "shack" suggests the influence this contact had on him. And certainly he had a great influence on us. One day while walking with him on the campus I asked him how he managed such felicitous selections of words in his essays. He remarked, "You remember, John, that you used a certain ecological term in your seminar yesterday. It was unfamiliar to me so I made a special note of it and of the way you used it. I shall make it mine by using it as soon as possible in exactly the meaning you used." And sure enough he did - in the very next seminar.

If You Unbuild It, They Will Come: The Magic of Clearing Prairies

By Amy Staffen, TPE Restoration Manager

It doesn't seem that long ago that I was first introduced to Schurch-Thomson Prairie (then Nittany Noll) by Kristin Westad... It was the year 2000, and we were working for The Nature Conservancy at the time. There were tall trees and thick brush EVERYWHERE, but also a significant number of prairie plants. Even then, we could sense the magic of this place; it seemed to glow with potential. We were there to look for rare plants. Crawling on hands and knees under the prickly ash, through the multiflora rose and Rubus, around the cherry trees, we scrambled for hours: "Ouch!" one would cry, followed by "I found a Hill's thistle!" Grunting and cursing would be the reply, then "Oh, here's a prairie turnip!" We emerged later with scratched arms and faces, twigs in our hair, sweat glistening on our brows, and pants torn and filthy, with about five Hill's thistles and three prairie turnips to report. Despite that, we were impressed. "What a cool place! Wouldn't it be great to get rid of all of this brush?" we mused.

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Shea Prairie (north prairie opening) before and after 2008 logging

This scenario was replayed at Shea Prairie and A to Z Farm in subsequent years.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of Rich Henderson, and the hard work of many TPE volunteers and professional contractors, along with funding from numerous sources,* this wish has come true. Fast forward to the year 2008. This prairie is now completely clear of trees and brush, and is festooned with hundreds of native prairie species. Last summer, my interns and I counted 986 Hill's thistles and 467 prairie turnips in the same area where Kristin and I had searched eight years earlier!! In 2007, we found federally endangered prairie bushclovers for the first time. The Prairie Enthusiasts now own Schurch-Thomson and Shea Prairies and A to Z Farm, thanks to many people, organizations and grants**, which together create the 530-acre Mounds View Grassland complex in Brigham Township, Iowa County, Wisconsin.

We have witnessed an astounding resurgence of prairie plants (over 200 at Schurch-Thomson!) and the arrival of associated rare animals, like the state endangered regal fritillary butterfly and grasshopper sparrows, following the tree and brush removal at both Schurch-Thomson and Shea Prairies over the years. Now that A to Z is being cleared, we are eager to see what pops up there as well. Each of these three sites is significant in itself; together as a complex of continuous grassland habitat, they're dynamite!

Why the flowery reminiscences? To commemorate the significance of a recent crowning achievement: As of this year, initial tree and brush clearing is DONE at Shea and Schurch-Thomson Prairies! <insert fireworks and marching band here>

A significant amount of tree and brush removal has been completed at A to Z Farm as well, and in August many more trees will be harvested there by a commercial logger and sold for pulpwood.

The grassland birds should be dazzled when they return this spring! I hope to be similarly dazzled as more prairie magic unfolds before my eyes in the coming field season. Congratulations to the many people who contributed to these accomplishments!

**Funding sources from 2003 to present: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP); Wisconsin's Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) and Pheasant/Turkey Stamp Programs; Wildlife Conservation Society.*

***Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, Joan and Denny Schurch Thomson, Pheasants Forever (Iowa and Dane County Chapters), John and Diane Shea, Jim and Rumi O'Brien, The Nature Conservancy, Max and Shelly Lagally, Gary and Pam Gates, and others.*

New Addition to Schurch-Thomson Prairie

By Rich Henderson

At the end of 2008, 33 acres of grassland and a bit of remnant prairie were added to the Schurch-Thomson Prairie (a unit of TPE's Mounds View Grassland) in Iowa County, Wisconsin. This was a critical addition to the preserve, and we are most grateful to Allen Ripp for selling it to TPE rather than for rural home development. Allen had frequent offers from speculators to buy the land for housing, but he and his children wished it to remain open land, and for that we are most thankful.

This purchase was also made possible by a grant from the Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, a generous donation from David Marshall and Wendy Weisensel of a conservation easement on 72 acres of remnant and restored prairie, which provided match to the Stewardship grant, and donations from Jim and Rumi O'Brien, Dane County Pheasants Forever, and an anonymous donor.

The new addition sits along a ridge with a great view of Blue Mounds. But more important to our conservation mission, it is adjacent to and overlooks the Schurch-Thomson Prairie Preserve and has critical open grassland habitat. It is home to declining grassland birds such as bobolinks, meadowlarks, Henlow's sparrows, dickcissels, upland sandpipers and northern harriers. The Wisconsin State Wildlife Action Plan lists these as Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the state and recognizes Mounds View Grassland, and the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, of which it is a part, as an important habitat area for these species. Our Mounds View Grassland is also site #32 in the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail Guide – Southern Savanna Region (http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/publications/GWBNT/southern_savanna.pdf).



Photo: Addition to the Schurch-Thomson Prairie unit of Mounds View Grassland courtesy of Rich Henderson.

Nearly all of the addition's 33 acres are enrolled in the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) with a cover of smooth brome grass. Our plan is to keep it enrolled in CRP to generate income for management and property taxes. In the short term, we will maintain the brome grass cover and control weeds. The long-term plan is to gradually restore the entire site to native prairie.

The site does have a small degraded prairie remnant. This remnant happens to be at the entrance to Schurch-Thomson Prairie. We plan to control weeds on this spot and add plant species that have likely been lost over the years due to lack of fire and other management.

Fire Effects on Restoring and Maintaining an Oak Savanna

Mary A. Spivey, Community Education Coordinator,
Cedar Creek Ecosystem Reserve, East Bethel, MN

Background

Oak savannas in the northern Midwest were once a common ecotone, or transition zone, between tall-grass prairie and deciduous forest. Frequent fires spilling over from the prairie maintained the savanna structure. With the advent of colonization in the mid-1800s, land-use changes and fire suppression resulted in most savannas either vanishing under the till or becoming more of a forest, with increased tree canopy cover and denser, shrub-based understory. Studies to determine the best methods to restore forest to savanna suggest prescribed burning as a key restoration and, once the savanna is established, a maintenance tool.

Studies at the Cedar Creek Ecosystem Reserve in East Bethel, MN, indicate burning two out of every three years over a ten year period is best for *maintaining* a savanna consisting of a scattered overstory of trees and understory of mixed forbs and grasses. In order to reach this stage, however, other factors must be considered during the *restoration* process.

A savanna contains a continuous herbaceous layer of mainly grasses and some forbs, under a discontinuous layer of trees. The overstory provides 25-50% cover. A woodlands, on the other hand, contains an herbaceous layer of grasses, forbs and woody plants under an overstory that can provide up to 80% coverage. Many restoration projects begin with a former savanna that has succeeded into woodlands. A clear difference between the forest and the desired savanna lies in the increased overstory cover present in the woodlands. The question to be answered before restoring such an area to savanna is to what extent fire frequency and mean tree canopy cover influence variability in plant functional group cover. In other words, once the fire burns through, how will tree canopy cover affect the plant community in the understory?

Prescribed burns used to maintain savanna are typically low-intensity fires intended to suppress understory shrubs and trees while encouraging grasses and forbs. These hot, fast fires sweep an area and, while effective at changing understory structure, are not suited for altering the overstory.

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A higher-intensity, hotter and slower fire is required to burn through the thick bark found on older trees.

So how do both tree canopy cover and fire frequency affect understory plant community structure?

The Study

A prescribed burn program has been in place at CCESR since 1962. In 1995, 26 study sites were established within 23 different prescribed fire management units. The fire regimes employed at each unit ranged from complete fire exclusion to near-annual at

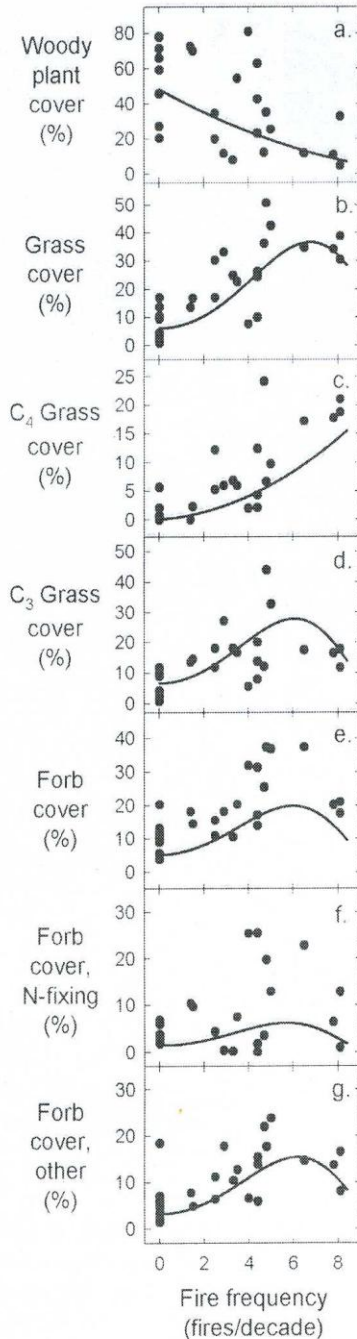


Fig. 3. Fire frequency effects on cover for the woody plants, grass, and forb functional groups. Symbols indicate observed mean cover for each group at each plot. Regression lines indicate expected cover values at the sample point level, based on modeling of square-root transformed cover data.

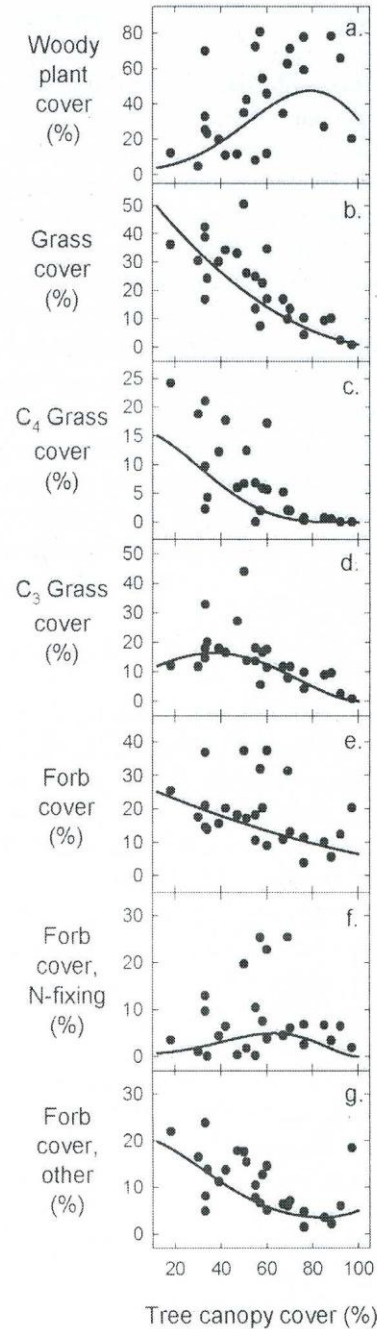


Fig. 4. Tree canopy cover effects on cover for the woody plants, grass, and forb functional groups. Symbols indicate observed mean cover for each group at each plot. Regression lines indicate expected cover values at the sample point level, based on modeling of square-root transformed cover data.

eight fires per decade. Each study site consisted of four parallel 50-m transects spaced 25-m apart. Each transect was sampled for plant functional group cover at 10-m intervals using a 0.5m² quadrat. Sampling occurred between June and August, when plant cover was maximized. In all, 624 points were sampled. Tree canopy cover, an indirect measure of understory light availability, was measured using a plant canopy analyzer. Results of the sampling are found in Figure 3 and 4. (Peterson and Reich 2007).

Note: the statistics used to analyze the data involved a multilevel model taking into account the interactive effect between fire frequency and tree canopy cover.

Woody Plants

Woody plant cover and fire frequency were negatively correlated, meaning that as fire frequency increased, woody plant cover decreased. Prescribed fires kill nearly all above-ground woody stems less than 2-3cm in diameter. Over time, this would significantly reduce the amount number of understory shrubs, trees and vines. Note also that at all fire frequencies, understory woody plant cover was highest at 50-80% tree canopy cover. This is most likely due to reduced competition and greater soil and water availability.

Grasses

In this study, grasses were also sub-divided into C4 and C3-grasses. Overall, grass cover correlates positively with fire frequency and negatively with tree canopy cover.

The C4-grasses face a competitive disadvantage in low-light situations, as shown by the correlation with tree canopy cover. With increased fire frequency, shading from woody plants and herbaceous litter is removed and these grasses show a positive correlation with this variable.

The C3-grasses had the highest coverage in partially shaded savanna environments. Known as the “cool season” grasses for their early-season growth pattern, the partial shading may decrease the evaporative demand, improve water use efficiency, and reduce competition for soil resources from the C4-grasses.

Forbs

The graphs show that moderate to high fire frequency was important for promoting high forb coverage. Overall, the tree canopy cover did not significantly affect forbs as a group, but did affect the two subgroups, nitrogen-fixing forbs and other forbs. Notice

how tree canopy cover positively correlates with the nitrogen-fixing forbs but negatively with the other forbs. An interesting sidebar is that in open, less-shaded areas, nitrogen-fixing forbs decrease, possibly due to herbivory by deer and insects. The higher cover of N-fixing forbs in shaded areas accompanies a high cover of *Amphicarpa bracteata* which may be less palatable. In either case, higher tree canopy cover and nitrogen-fixing forbs may explain the increased nitrogen availability in these systems. The lower percentage of forbs in highly shaded areas makes sense because these plants are native to tall-grass prairie systems and thrive in high-light situations.

Fire Frequency and Tree Canopy Cover

Finally, fire frequency and tree canopy cover were negatively correlated. Data ranged from 97% cover at a site with no fire, to a low of 18% coverage on a site with 5 fires per decade.

Tying it all together...

The data from this study shows that tree canopy cover, independent of fire frequency, does affect the composition of plant functional groups in the lower herbaceous layer. Even if fire is used to remove woody growth, the desired savanna understory of predominantly grasses and forbs cannot compete. Therefore, if the desired end-game is a savanna with an understory as described above, mean tree canopy should probably be reduced to 30%. While this overstory percentage can be achieved using fire alone, the process can be very long-term. Mechanical removal, girdling and herbicides, or any combination thereof, can be used to thin trees and bring the understory to the desired percentage. As it is clear that fire is integral to savanna maintenance, any mechanical treatment should be used in conjunction with, and not in place of, a fire regime.

Papers used in this article:

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Stalking the Sweet Grass

By Jim Sime

If you can identify a dandelion you can identify Sweet Grass, also known as Vanilla Grass. *Hierochloa hirta* (hieros--holy, chloe-- grass, hirta--rough) formerly *Hierochloa odorata*. It may be somewhat rare in our area though the sparsity of collections may be due to lack of search by amateurs. The Wisconsin distribution (maps, photos, descriptions etc. at www.wisplants.uwsp.edu) indicates many counties where it is yet to be collected. This is surprising since its use by Native Americans is widespread across the northern US and Canada.

Timing is the key for amateurs in locating and identifying this grass. It is northern, circumboreal and the earliest flowering grass. In our area this means the last week in April or the first weeks in May.

THAT'S IT — no glumes, lemmas, scales, awns or any other scientific terms. If it's a grass and it sends up flower spikes around May Day it's Sweet Grass. Pennsylvania Sedge is also blooming but "sedges have edges".

When you locate a May Day flowering grass, confirm its identity by pulling a shoot and noting the fragrance or the taste of the freshly exposed end. Coumarin a component of "Vanilla", is the active ingredient here.

The most likely places for you to search are the full sun margins of wet meadows or bogs, that edge where it changes from water saturated in spring to dry later on. Be alert for other sites. I found a solid patch 15 to 20 ft. across on a dry (?) saddle associated with strawberries, Penn sedge, Little Bluestem. etc.

The flowering spike, about 2 ft tall, stands pretty much straight up. Sterile shoots have long narrow (8 x 0.5 in) rather lax blades. They are quite shiny on the upper surface and are dull on the underside. This, combined with a handsome pinkish tan fall color, makes for a very desirable low grass.

These basal leaves, since they retain their odor when dried, had widespread use by native people as a perfume and sacred smoke. They were made into braids or woven into small baskets which would be consistent components of a medicine bag. Smoke from burning Sweet Grass is used as an incense in numerous purifying rites by all North American tribes. A band of Chippewa in danger of starving used Sweet Grass purification before going again to hunt. The Cheyenne believe its smoke is necessary for the well being and renewal of their people and link population decline of Sweet Grass to the loss of "The Old Ways".

I would be interested in hearing from anyone who locates a population (jrsime@itis.com). I would also be pleased to show the plants to you if you are in the Madison or Montfort area.



The Making of a Prairie Enthusiast

By Megan Goplin

How is a Prairie Enthusiast made? I developed my love of prairies through family influence, a beautiful homeland to explore, and an inspiring summer internship.

As a member of the Blue Mounds ‘Goplin Clan,’ I’m actually a third-generation Prairie Enthusiast. Growing up as a Goplin instilled certain values in me, the most profound of which is a love for nature. My dad brought up my sister and me as hunters, fishermen and hikers, exploring our land, my grandpa’s ‘back forty,’ and Brigham County Park. It was not until I began my summer internship with The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE), however, that I came to truly appreciate my family’s love of the natural world and the efforts they have made to protect it.

My grandparents, Eddie and Cheryle Goplin, have endless stories associated with their Blue Mounds farm. My dad and his siblings remember seeing the ‘strangest’ plants on their land: seeds with long awns that twisted through shirt pockets (needle grass) and hundreds of ‘crocuses’ in the early spring (Pasque flower). Evidently through a combination of luck and safe farming practices, prairie that once dominated southwestern Wisconsin survived on grandpa’s farm while disappearing elsewhere from the landscape.

The family’s wonder and amusement over prairies translated into action with my Uncle Erik. Living adjacent to The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC) 476-acre Thomson Memorial Prairie sparked Erik’s initial interest in devoting time to the cause of prairie restoration. After ten years of volunteering for TNC and TPE, Erik has made significant contributions to local prairie restoration efforts, most notably by creating his own native plant nursery. In 2007, Erik was awarded the TPE Volunteer of the Year Award (Empire-Sauk Chapter) for volunteering over 220 hours and donating over 100 pounds of prairie seed from his plant nursery (valued at about \$31,500). Erik and his wife Nancy recently placed 30 acres of their land in a conservation easement, a notable addition to regional grassland restoration initiatives.

It was Erik’s initial interest that inspired the rest of the family to become curious about prairies. Intensive

restoration work began on Eddie and Cheryle’s farm in 2003. Their 96-acre open grassland is home to countless species of rare birds, including bobolinks, upland sandpipers, Henslow’s sparrows and dickcissels. In 2001, they signed a management agreement with TPE to ensure long-term care of this significant natural habitat. Eddie now devotes much of his time to managing his grasslands (mowing wild parsnip, pulling spotted knapweed, and removing invading brush, for example). Because of the huge time and effort he commits to managing his prairie as well as volunteering with The Prairie Enthusiasts, Eddie was given the first Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area Landowner Recognition Award this year.

The family tradition doesn’t stop there; my cousin Jacob, Erik and Nancy’s son, will graduate from UW-Stevens Point next year with a degree in Natural Resources. The ‘prairie bug’ has caught my dad, Tim, as well, thanks to my experiences in the field this summer with TPE; my dad and I have begun to construct a management plan for my family’s land as well.

This summer, I spent three months restoring native prairies as an intern for The Prairie Enthusiasts. I’ve learned that the prairies remaining on my family’s properties were once part of an extensive treeless grassland covering many thousands of acres. They lie within the 50,000-acre Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, which has been identified by experts as one of the best opportunities in the state for prairie/grassland conservation on a landscape scale, providing critical habitat for many rare grassland plants, birds and insects. Having grown up amid the beauty and wonder of this landscape, I feel an innate love and compassion for not only the land, but for the diverse populations of plants, animals, and people that have come to live on it and love it as I have.

As a third generation Prairie Enthusiast, I feel honored to have the wisdom and encouragement of my family as the cornerstone for my future in conservation. With all that I have learned and have yet to learn, I look forward to passing on the prairie wisdom, whether to other family members, friends, or strangers, in humble hopes that I will carry on the Goplin tradition of stewardship for the natural world.

Megan Goplin’s internship was funded by a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Society to support conservation in the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area. Megan hails from Blue Mounds, and will be a junior this fall at the UW-Madison.



The Vanishing Present

a Book Review by Jim Sime

The Vanishing Present: Wisconsin's Changing Lands, Waters, and Wildlife is a must-read book for all lovers of natural places. It is a series of 32 topics written by 50 of the current movers and shakers in the conservation field, many of whom are Prairie Enthusiasts.

The book compiles in one place their expert interpretations and the research that supports them. It has those anecdotes, researches and references that we need to make our points about preserving the diversity of our lakes, streams, forests and prairies. The human impacts on their flora, fauna are all spelled out. It is aptly edited by UW-Madison Botany Professor Don Waller and Wright State's Thomas Rooney. They also introduce and set the tone for each of the six sections.

This work is a careful interpretation of where we are, where we've been and hopefully gives insight to where we are going, a proper extension of the work of Wisconsin ecological giants Muir and Leopold. This is a modern attempt to get us to "think like a mountain" and see like a lichen. The current, sometimes gut-wrenching, condition of our various ecosystems is fully exposed with plenty of citations backing up the conclusions. It is a call to direct our actions to influence the future of our surroundings. We are reminded of our ingrained, almost mystical, attachment to some "special place" and its relation to each of the other special places. We are all taking actions that make us feel good about our surroundings and here are many more potential projects to enhance our opportunities to feel good, with lots of ammunition to help us along.

A portion of the proceeds from the book goes to the Bureau of Endangered Resources, WDNR for support of its research fund.

Waller, D. M, and T. P. Rooney, eds. 2008. The Vanishing Present: Wisconsin's Changing Lands, Waters, and Wildlife. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2009 TPE Annual Picnic and Membership Meeting

The Northwest Illinois Chapter of The Prairie Enthusiasts will host the annual picnic and meeting of the membership this year at Hanley Savanna in rural Hanover, Illinois, on Sunday, July 19.

Hanley Savanna is located southwest of the village of Hanover. It is adjacent to DNR and Nature Conservancy properties, as well as Lost Mound Unit, the former Savanna Army Depot.

It is approximately 7.2 miles south of the intersection of U.S. Route 20 and Illinois Route 84. Go south on Rt. 84 from Rt. 20. Shortly after you enter the village of Hanover, turn right onto Fulton St., just before the Apple River. Keep to the left and follow Fulton to Hanover Hill Road. Turn left at Whitton Road. The parking area will be on your left.

The shelter is located near the demonstration garden, maintained by the Conservation Guardians of Northwest Illinois. Please bring a dish to pass and a chair. Tours will be offered.

Hanley Savanna encompasses approximately 150 acres. It includes prairies planted over the past few years. The first area of Hanley is a sand prairie, planted in 2003. In 2004, a dry mesic prairie was planted. The next area planted, in 2005, was a mesic prairie. In 2006, we planted a mesic to wet prairie, and in 2007, a mesic prairie. It also contains oak savanna and oak woodlands.

Watch for more information on the website and in the mail. We look forward to welcoming all TPE members to the picnic and Hanley Savanna!

New Web Site on Oak Savanna Restoration

By Tom Brock

As part of work I am doing for a book on oak savanna restoration, I have created a new website: <http://oaksavannas.org>. I would appreciate any comments and corrections.

I am especially interested in obtaining time analyses of oak savanna restoration. I am looking for restorations of five acres or larger with person hours per acre measurements. Please email comments to me at tdbrock@wisc.edu. Thank you.

The Illinois Prescribed Fire Council

A Symposium on Fire – Its History and Future Role
in Shaping Ecosystems
May 7-8, 2009 – The Field Museum, Chicago



Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Stephen J. Pyne
*Professor,
Human Dimensions
Faculty, School of Life
Sciences
Arizona State
University*

*Author of more than 20 books, including Fire in America,
Fire: A Brief History, and Year of the Fires.*

Dr. Pyne will give two presentations. On Thursday night, May 7th (open to the public): “The Long Burn: A History of Humanity, Fire and Earth.”

Dr. Pyne presents a look at earth’s fire history and how people have interacted with fire to make the world we know today and what that ancient alliance suggests for the future.

On Friday, May 8th, as keynote speaker at the Symposium: “The Saga Continues: America’s Great Cultural Revolution on Fire and Its Aftermath.”

Dr. Pyne examines the last 50 years of reformation in fire policy and practice; what has been accomplished, and what has not; how we think about fire and how we might change those understandings. The overview includes a survey of contemporary issues and end with some forecasts for the future.

Stephen J. Pyne is a professor in the Human Dimensions Faculty, School of Life Sciences, Arizona State University. Dr. Pyne began his fire career as a smokechaser at the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park, and eventually spent 18 seasons with the National Park Service. At Arizona State University he teaches courses on fire, the history of exploration, environmental history, and nonfiction writing. He is the author of over 20 books, including fire histories of America, Canada, Australia, Europe (including Russia), and the earth overall. He is currently working on a new project – a fire history of Mexico. More information on this symposium can be found at

<http://www.fsi.uiuc.edu/content/outreach/fire%20council/>

Midwest SER Announces First Chapter Meeting

The first Annual Chapter Meeting of the Midwest-Great Lakes Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) will be held at Marian College in Indianapolis, Indiana on April 24 to April 25, 2009.

We invite all interested parties to submit an abstract for an oral presentation or poster. Our goal is to provide a forum on a diversity of ecological restoration topics and we welcome abstracts from all individuals, institutions, and disciplines involved in ecological restoration.

Please see the Call for Abstracts and more information regarding abstract submission at

<http://www.ser.org/content/SERMWGL.asp>

Prairie Chicken Festival A Celebration of Grasslands

Central Wisconsin



Earth Day Weekend
April 17 - 19, 2009

Activities for all ages throughout Central Wisconsin! Featuring Greater Prairie chicken viewing, birding tours, children’s crafts, wildlife talks and demonstrations, nature art and book sales, and Saturday’s Wisconsin Literary Bash.

Reservations required for Greater Prairie chicken viewing and birding tours. A nominal wristband fee grants entry to all featured locations.

715-343-6215

www.prairiechickenfestival.org

Presented by: Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. and Wisconsin Center for the Book




WISCONSIN CENTER FOR THE BOOK

Crutches Wanted!

You are all familiar with the standard Parsnip Predator, but did you know there was a Henderson model?

The **Henderson** has a special arm support fashioned from a crutch. The Prairie Bluff chapter has scoured clean their counties searching for used crutches. There are no more! They need your help.

Keep your eyes open as you visit garage sales, flea markets, thrift stores. If you see a crutch as pictured below, please buy it and send to Nick Faessler, W1156 Stateline Rd., Juda, WI 53550. If you have questions, contact Nick at 608-897-4993 or nfaessler@wildblue.net.



COULEE REGION CHAPTER

Please check chapter newsletter for announcements.

Work Begins on the Rockland Showcase Prairie

by Jim Rogala

After a presentation by Jayne Collins (WI-DNR; TPE member) at our 2008 September Coulee Region Chapter meeting, we agreed to pursue the possibility of creating a “showcase” prairie in Rockland. The site is the location where Bob Lee begins his railroad remnant hikes along the La Crosse River State Trail. The selected area is about a third of an acre, with area to expand if needed.

Jim Rogala worked with Jayne to develop a plan to do this. The plan was presented and accepted at the November chapter meeting.

The idea is to have a single location with a lot of plant diversity where examples of plant species found over the miles of bike trail could be easily viewed. Along with the prairie itself, we could have educational

materials and information about TPE available. There is already a kiosk at the site that could be used to some extent.

With much optimism prior to the November meeting, Jim had gained permission (you must have written permission from the DNR!) to collect seeds at a few locations along the bike trail. Although not a great diversity in seeds could be obtained that late in the year, seed from compass plant, prairie cinquefoil, thimbleweed, rough blazingstar, white wild indigo, and stiff and showy goldenrod was collected. The seed was interseeded into the future site of the showcase prairie in November.

Seed collection and planting will continue this next year, along with mowing in spring. Plans for adding materials to the kiosk also continue. We hope the showcase promotes interest in prairies by trail users, and acts as a resource for prairie hikers.

EMPIRE – SAUK CHAPTER

Chapter Volunteer of the Year

The Empire-Sauk Chapter’s Volunteer of the Year award enthusiastically goes to Peter Thomford.



On February 21, at The Prairie Enthusiasts banquet (Crowne Plaza Hotel in Madison), the chapter recognized Peter for his commitment to prairie conservation. In appreciation for all he does, chapter president Rich Henderson presented Peter with a copy of “Wildflowers of Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest.”

For the past four years, Peter has been a dependable regular at work parties doing tree and brush removal, weed control, seed collecting, prescribed burns and more; putting in at least 100 hours a year and occasionally even bringing along his adult son, Erik. For the past year and a half, Peter has also served on the chapter's leadership team. Last year when Shirley Ellis, site steward for the Smith-Egre Drumlin Prairies, became too ill to continue as steward, Peter gladly took on that task. He also stepped forward to organize the Empire-Sauk Chapter's donated raffle and silent auction items for this year's banquet, for which Rich Henderson was most grateful.

Peter has also been a regular attendee on TPE hikes and field trips, expanding his knowledge and appreciation of our endangered prairies and savannas. The chapter leadership team thanks Peter for all he does and for his deep commitment to the cause.

Chapter Annual Picnic July 9th

Mark your calendars for the evening of July 9 (Thursday). The Empire-Sauk Chapter will hold our Annual Potluck Picnic and Meeting of the Membership at Madison Audubon's Goose Pond.

Following the meal and a very brief meeting and report of the Chapter's activities, we will be led on a hike by Mark Martin of two prairie restorations totaling 110 acres! One restoration is in the fourth growing year and one is in the second year. Thirty-five species flowered the year of establishment in the youngest restoration. Both restorations were planted with a high diversity of species and a good amount of seed. Visitors will be able to view a large stand of old-field thistles (a not-so-common native prairie thistle).

Look for further details on the Empire-Sauk Chapter page of the TPE web site, the next Prairie Promoter, and e-mail notices. Please don't miss the gathering. It will be a great opportunity to meet & talk with people, and see a great conservation project.

AmeriCorps Stewardship Assistant Hired

By Amy Staffen, TPE Restoration Manager

Using funding from a Wildlife Conservation Society grant, The Prairie Enthusiasts recently hired Meaghan Proctor to serve as Stewardship Assistant. This six-month (March-September), full-time position is administered by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, and funded additionally through the

AmeriCorps Program. Meaghan will assist TPE's Restoration Manager in the management of protected preserves and prairie remnants within the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area (Dane and Iowa Counties, Wisconsin). She will also assist in the development of outreach materials, in leading educational activities, and in coordinating volunteers and interns.

Meaghan is nearing completion of a Master's Degree in conservation genetics at the University of Wisconsin-Steven's Point. She has extensive experience in field research, including studies on Mt. Graham red squirrel, black-footed ferret, prairie dogs, bats, and grassland birds. She has even worked as a raptor rehabilitator and caretaker of orphaned small mammals. This summer, she will learn how to manage the habitat for the creatures she has studied so extensively.

I anticipate an exciting exchange of knowledge and skills between Meaghan and TPE staff and volunteers this season!

Spring Burn Season is Upon Us

We have approximately 40 burns scheduled for this spring. If you wish to help on these and have not yet informed us of your interest, please contact Empire-Sauk Chapter burn volunteer coordinator Kathy Cartwright (608-839-5148 or kjcartwright@verizon.net).

Experience and training is desired but is not a prerequisite at this time. Novices will be paired with experienced people. Personal protective Nomex clothing is highly recommended but not required at this time.

Wish List for Schurch-Thomson Barn

By Rich Henderson

The renovation and remodeling of the barn at Schurch-Thomson Prairie is nearing completion. The barn is now bird-proof (as long as the doors are kept shut) thanks to my son Ian, wife Kathy and Erik Goplin. The exposed window openings in the foundation walls were filled with cement by Denny Connor and Richard Oberle. The doors are now secure, thanks to Erik Goplin. Most of the electrical wiring and lighting is in place, thanks to Richard Oberle. The heated workshop area is now enclosed, thanks to Denny Connor. Finally, approximately half of the loft floor has been covered up to keep dirt and dust from filtering through to the lower level, thanks to yours truly. Thank you to all who contributed toward the purchase of supplies and materials.

continued on page 16

There are a few items we need to make this barn truly functional for equipment storage, maintenance and repair, seed cleaning and storage, and as a headquarters for student interns and other work crews.

If you have any of the following items you would like to donate, please contact me (Rich Henderson, 608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net).

2-3 Trouble lights (on retractable coil)
2-3 Trickle chargers (for continuous hookup over winter)
Vehicle service ramp set (sturdy enough for pick-up trucks)
Creeper (crawler) for working under vehicles
Oil absorbent granules (2-3 bags)
Shop Vac (at least 12 gal/5.5 hp)
2-3 Fire extinguishers – multi-purpose dry chemical (at least 8 lb)
2-3 Snow shovels
Lawn mowers (riding & push)
Leaf blower
Sturdy folding tables (6 or 8 ft. long)
Folding chairs
Fixed tables (heavy duty)
2 Door snakes (at least 36")
Paper towel dispenser (for rolls) and a supply of rolls
Chest of small drawers for storing nuts, bolts, screws, etc.
Tool chest w/drawers (heavy duty – medium size)
Refrigerator
Grinding wheel/stone (mounted/fixed)
Electric welder
Hand tools for workshop (impact drill; electric drill; drill attachments; drill bits for metal; set of screw driver heads--regular, Philips, star, square; Allen wrench heads; saw-all w/metal saw blades; tin snips; wrench sets--fixed crescent, adjustable crescent and Allen; screw driver set; pliers set; chisels and punches for metal; easy-out (extractor) set; tap & dye set; metal files; ball-peen hammers; sledge hammers; air chisel & hammer for air compressor; electric chainsaw sharpener)

NORTHWEST ILLINOIS CHAPTER

No information submitted

PRAIRIE BLUFF CHAPTER

Our chapter resumed weekly workdays in September and has continued through the fall and winter at our preserves, Butenhoff, Vale, and Iltis in Green County. Invasive brush has been targeted for removal: cherry resprouts, honeysuckle, buckthorn, and cedar trees. We are developing weed management plans and burn priorities for the spring-summer season.

Members of our chapter volunteered to assist Matt Zine's DNR/BER crew with workdays in January at Lawrence Prairie in Rock County and in February at Stauffacher Prairie in Green County. Despite very cold temperatures, we were warmed by the exercise, camaraderie and burning brushpiles.

Members have also assisted the Rock County Conservationists at workdays at Magnolia Bluff County Park and Newark Road Prairie, both in Rock County.

Two new officers were elected at our February meeting held in Brodhead. Chris Roberts was elected President, Tom Mitchell was elected Secretary. Many thanks to Rob Baller and Peg Bredeson, former officers, for their many years of service. Rob has taken a full time position as community coordinator for the Rock County Parks Division; he has also agreed to announce our 2009 workdays on the county's calendar of events website for circulation among the various "friends" groups.

An update from the last issue of The Prairie Promoter on Green's Prairie Cemetery, located in Town of York north of Postville in Green County: the cemetery association has met and made plans for the future of this pioneer burial ground. (The earliest settlers from York and Primrose in Dane County are interred here, along with seven veterans of the Civil War). Brush clearing is an on-going activity; seed that was collected at a workday with some 20 homeschoolers has been put back into bare spots; and fence-mending is planned for spring. We hope to participate in a cemetery walk on Memorial Day to celebrate its cultural and natural history with biographies of the Civil War veterans.

PRAIRIE SMOKE CHAPTER

No information submitted

PRAIRIE SANDS CHAPTER

No information submitted

ST. CROIX VALLEY CHAPTER

Simon Prairie is Transformed

Simon Prairie, a 5-acre prairie near Bass Lake in St. Croix County is managed by TPE. Thanks to a \$10,000 NAWCA grant to the title holder, the West Wisconsin Land Trust (WWLT), we were able to hire Landcraft Seed and Services to clear the many large trees and brush clumps. Landcraft completely transformed the prairie!



Troy Meacham, owner of Landcraft Seed, said "The site now has just enough bur oaks to give it a classic prairie/savanna look." Troy and his crew were able to centrally locate the burn pile so there is only one area damaged by the fire and he made one neighbor really happy by salvaging a truckload of firewood for him.

In 2006, an inventory indicated an above average species count for the site. Our chapter will do another inventory this year and we expect the number to increase substantially. We need volunteers to monitor the woody re-growth and treat with herbicide and to burn this fall.

Prairie Photography Workshop

On Saturday, June 27, we have a double feature planned at Belwin Conservancy in Afton, MN.

At 8:30 a.m., professional photographer Burt Levy conducts a workshop to help you improve your prairie photographs. At 10:00, we head out onto the Belwin prairie remnants to explore their sand and gravel prairies and to practice taking photos.

Come for the field trip or workshop or both! (The field trip flyer included in this newsletter has more details.)

Questions? Contact Evanne Hunt at 715-381-1291 or eahunt@presenter.com.

SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN CHAPTER

No information submitted

2009 CONFERENCE PICTURES



Nick Faessler delivers Parsnip Predators to Karin Strenski.



Sales were brisk at the TPE table.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The following people have joined since December 3, 2008.

Timothy & Elizabeth Baker, Madison, WI

Gene Berlowski, Berlin, WI

Dan Bohlin, Stitzer, WI

Dale Dean, Hanover, WI

Jeff Durbin, Madison, WI

Stephen Fabos, Blanchardville, WI

Tracy Feldman, Stevens Point, WI

Formecology, LLC, Evansville, WI

Dorothea Fritz, Rochester, MN

Frank Grenzow, New Glarus, WI

Mike Grisham, Hammond, WI

Doug Hansmann & Denise Thornton, Madison, WI

Mike Healy, Madison, WI

David & Judy Heberlein, River Falls, WI

Jeremy Hecht, Fitchburg, WI

Bill Hogseth, Menomonie, WI

Beth Johnson, Verona, WI

Arlene Kjar, Northfield, MN

Lois Komai, Madison, WI

Frances Johnson, Eau Claire, WI

The Karls Family, Blue Mounds, WI

Lafayette County Bluebird Society, Darlington, WI

Scott Leddy, Rushford, MN

Jim Lesniak & Shelly Armstrong, Madison, WI

Alan Lipowitz & Jan Smaby, Peterson, MN

Emily Lubcke & Cory Ritterbusch, Shullsburg, WI

Todd Norwood, Madison, WI

Debbie Reitz, Edgerton, WI

Chris Roberts, Albany, WI

Tonya Schmitt, Hammond, WI

M. Dian Strenski, Mt. Prospect, IL

Meredith Thomsen, LaCrosse, WI

Kurt Westbrook, Poynette, WI

Gary Zamzow & Elizabeth Frawley, Davis, CA

BUMP-UP CAMPAIGN

Thank you to everyone who **BUMPED UP** their membership to a higher level during this same period! Our goal for this three-year campaign is to move 150 of our individual or family members to the Shooting Star Level. As you consider your membership renewal in the coming year, please help us to reach our goal. Thank you.

to Family

Janet & Doug Huebner

Mark Jeffries

Duane & Peggy Marxen

to Shooting Star

Donald & Priscilla Campbell

Helen Davis

Kathryn Dejak

Richard & Pamela German

David & Carolyn Hahn

Douglas C. Hancock

Katrina Hayes

Andrea Hoerr

Mike Kraszewski

Paul & Marilyn Lokken

John & Fawn Shillinglaw

to Blazing Star

William Moore

to Compass Plant

Doug & Sherry Caves

Dawn Littleton & Brian Lind

to Monarch

Gary & Pam Gates

THANK YOU, DONORS!

We thank everyone who supports our organization with their donations. Below is the list of donors for the period December 3, 2008 through March 13, 2009.

\$1000 – \$5000

Curtis & Kristine Cvikota
Rich & Kathy Henderson
Jeff & Erin Huebschman

Max & Shelley Lagally
Bill Ramsden & Doreen Lynch

\$500 – \$999

Nick & Linda Faessler
George & Carmeen Johnston
Kimberly Kreitingner
Inger Lamb
Judith & John Lovaas

Kevin Magee (*in memory of Susan Connell-Magee*)
Irv Sather
Pat Trochlell & Ken Wade (*in memory of Iris Stokes Wade*)

\$100 – \$499

Craig & Jean Anderson (*in honor of Mary Anderson*)
Jon & Metta Belisle
Dale Beske & Dorothy Gertsch
Kay Bongers (*in memory of John Thomson*)
John Brennan & Regina Voss Brennan
Kathryn Cartwright
Barbara & Ted Cochrane
William Damm
Dick Dana
Harold & Regine Deutsch (*in memory of John Thomson*)
Joe & Betty Downs
Harry & Beth Drucker

Emily Earley
Gary Eldred
Mike Engel & Hannah Spaul
Nathan Gingerich
John & Cate Harrington
Eric Howe (*in honor of all the volunteers*)
Leslie Jones
Jan Ketelle
Lois Komai
Jack Kussmaul
Harold & Shirley Miller
Ron Panzer
Peg Rasch & Dave Stute (*in memory of Rebecca Rasch Homaide*)
Keith Rodli & Katharine Grant
Mario & Amelia Rojas

Scott Sauer
Jim & Rose Sime
John Steinke
Sandy Tauferner & Myron Mortell
Heather Thomson (*in honor of Olive and John Thomson*)
Olive & John Thomson (*in honor of Jim and Rumi O'Brien*)
Mary Trewartha
Steve Ventura & Margaret Krome
Eugene Woehler (*in memory of Fredrich Wilhelm Jens (grandfather)*)

Under \$100

Deane & Edith Arny
Mark & Donna Baller
Laura Brown & Mark Shahan
Doug Cieslak
Susan & Howard Cosgrove
Mary Dresser
Jeff Durbin
Rick Durbin
David Eagan (*in memory of Aldo Leopold*)
Mary Eikens
Mark & Ila Fay
Patricia Fahrenkrug & Mike Anderson
Ginny Gaynor
Steve & Jana Gerbitz
Tom Gianoli

Timothy & Susan Gossman
Donald Hagar
Dick & Joan Harmet
Rollie Henkes
William Hogseth & Crystal Halvorson
Thomas C. Hunt
Paula West Kaplan
Burt Levy & Jan Amberson
Ruth & Thomas Little (*in honor of Judy McCleary*)
Greta & John Magill
Richard Magyar
Richard & Joanne Meinert
Bill & Ginny Nelson (*in honor of Rich Henderson*)
Don & Denise Nelson
Laura & Greg Nessler

Tony & Darlene Nowak
Bill & Carol J. Owens
Jackie & Wayne Pauly
Jim Peterson
Marvin Rupp
Sheryl Scott
George A. Simon
Neal & Diane Smith
Gayl Stewart
William & Nancy Tans
Glenn Teschendorf & Mary Anne Derheimer
Erik Thomson & Sarah Weiss (*on behalf of Sarah Weiss and in memory of John Thomson, Grandfather*)
Bobette Traul

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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@tds.net. Thank you.

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

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____

The Prairie Enthusiasts Membership Levels:

**\$100 Shooting Star (recommended level); \$500 Compass Plant, \$200 Blazing Star,
\$40 Family, \$25 Individual, \$15 Student
\$1,000 Monarch, \$5,000 Bur Oak Benefactor**

Please send form and check to:

The Prairie Enthusiasts, PO Box 1148, Madison, WI 53701-1148