



The PRAIRIE PROMOTER

VOL 25, NO. 1 SPRING 2012

Grassroots Conservation at Work

Major Donations Enable TPE to Grow, Enhance Mission

By Rich Henderson

Year-round, members are generous with their time, talent and treasure in gifts to our organization. Our membership is grateful for each and every donation we receive and there were three recently that particularly stood out.

Agee, Fulton Donate \$100,000

At the end of 2011, Karen Agee and Scott Fulton, active volunteers with The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE), made a generous donation of \$100,000 to TPE. This gift is much appreciated by the organization, as it will make a big difference in our ability to grow and accomplish our mission.

Since she was a UW-Madison student and land management intern with The Nature Conservancy in 1982, Agee demonstrated a strong commitment to the conservation of native ecosystems. She later worked for the WI DNR Bureau



After the sale of their business, TPE members Karen Agee and Scott Fulton donated \$100,000 to TPE.

Photo courtesy of Agee, Fulton.

of Endangered Resources, then in Massachusetts, where she worked for the New England Wild Flower Society's rare plant conservation program. In 2001, she and her husband (Fulton) returned to Wisconsin to start a biotech tools company and both took interest in TPE. They became active volunteers with the Empire-Sauk Chapter, helping with weed/brush control,

See Donations on page 4

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The Prairie Enthusiasts' Annual Conference and Banquet on Feb. 25 at UW-Stout in Menomonie, Wisc., brought more than 200 participants and speakers together to share and discuss topics pertinent to prairie restoration. For complete coverage and additional photos, turn to pages 6 and 7.

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President's Message

JACK KUSSMAUL

The Prairie Enthusiasts lost one of its best with the death of Earl Mihlbauer on Dec. 4, 2011. I first met Earl after I joined the Board in 2006. Earl was already active and a leading member of the Fundraising and Endowment Committee.

I got to know him really well in the last couple of years. We roomed together at the conference in Platteville last February. He wanted me to know that, when I became President in July, he would be there to help in any way he could. When I asked him soon after if I could put his name down as coordinator of the LEAP Program if we were accepted into it, he readily agreed. (As it turned out, we had to wait another year until we were accepted, so this job never fell onto his shoulders.)

In early September, he invited me to his property in the Castle Rock area, about which I had heard so much. He had a lot of ideas for making TPE a stronger organization that he wanted to go over with me. We toured the property, situated on the bluffs overlooking a rather pristine valley. It was easy to understand why he loved it. He told me how he had been diagnosed with cancer more than 10 years ago and had decided to retire from work and live life the way it should be lived. We sat out and cooked steaks over the campfire. We discussed his ideas. Everything was on a positive, upbeat and optimistic note.

As 2011 was drawing to a close, the Fundraising and Endowment Committee had lost several members and was at the verge of no longer having a critical mass. Earl came up with a plan to bring it back to life, which the committee approved. I was directed, as President, to appoint the Vice President of TPE to the committee, thus becoming one of the duties of that office. I was also directed to appoint the chairs of four chapters to the committee, leaving the chair an escape clause. He or she could delegate this to someone in that chapter. The plan was creative and completely Earl. While it did not work out completely as planned, it was generally successful and, as a result, we have a newly reinvigorated committee.

It was only at the funeral that I learned more about the full life Earl had lived, featuring such ventures as treks in the Andes and the Himalayas. I wish I had had time to have known him better. He was fascinating and a great guy. We will all miss you Earl. A whole lot.

In remembrance ...

EARL MIHLBAUER
1940 - 2011



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Mihlbauer, Benish Honored with TPE of the Year Award

First time in history of award two individuals are recognized

By Evanne Hunt

For the first time in The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE) history, two individuals were honored with TPE's Prairie Enthusiast of the Year Award. On Saturday, Feb. 25, Earl Mihlbauer and Carol Benish received the 2012 award at the TPE annual banquet, which followed the annual conference.

When Earl Mihlbauer passed away in December 2011, TPE lost one of its most vocal and strongest advocates. Mihlbauer was a leader on the Fundraising & Endowment Committee, a tireless volunteer at work days and keen strategist on the board of directors. (see the President's Message on page 2 for a personal tribute).

Carol Benish epitomizes the member who, despite

physical limitations, generously gives her time, creativity, money, and support to TPE.

Benish has also been a member of the Fundraising & Endowment Committee since its inception in 2006. She led the very successful "Bump Up" campaign, which encouraged members to renew their membership at a higher level. She also initiated the Remembrance Day campaign, which encourages members to make a donation to TPE in remembrance of a deceased family member or friend or in honor of someone who was instrumental in their lives. Benish served as TPE auction and raffle coordinator for more than seven years, enlarging the event and streamlining the process. She is active in the St. Croix Valley chapter, where she serves as treasurer, fundraiser, and mentor.

Thank you, Shirley Ellis

By Mark Martin and Jerry Martin

We were saddened by news of the passing of Shirley Ellis, a long-time volunteer at Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairie, Faville Grove Sanctuary, and other locations in south central Wisconsin.

We were touched by her obituary, which read:

"Shirley had great reverence for the natural world. She was an avid gardener, who taught herself botany and habitat restoration, which led to her becoming a pioneer in Wisconsin's conservation movement. Since the '80s Shirley located, identified and monitored rare plant and bird species. She volunteered for many hours over many years in habitat restoration work at numerous preserves and parks, including Lulu Lake Nature Preserve, Faville Grove Sanctuary, Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairie, Dorothy Carnes Park, and Zeloski Marsh. She participated in wildlife monitoring activities, such as Rose Lake Crane Counts, Cornell University's Project Feederwatch, area frog and toad surveys, Christmas bird counts, and water quality monitoring at Koshkonong Creek. After she retired, Shirley's conservation efforts became a full-time endeavor. She was recognized and relied upon by many conservation groups for her work as an accomplished naturalist. Shirley applied her knowledge to her own property, as well, laboring for years to carefully restore its original native vegetation.

"Shirley was recognized by area conservation groups...(with) a Certificate of Appreciation by Madison Audubon Society for her many hours of volunteer work at Faville Grove Sanctuary. ...In 2011, shortly before her death, Shirley received a letter of appreciation for her work identifying and monitoring prairie bush clover at Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairie. Her labor laid the foundation for the prairie's recent official designation as a Nature Preserve."

In 2003, Shirley discovered five Prairie Bush Clover



photo courtesy of Mark Martin

Shirley Ellis flagging Prairie Bush Clover plants at Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairie on Sept. 2, 2010.

plants at Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairie and she was excited to see their numbers increase. Her finding of the Prairie Bush Clover helped secure \$138,000 in federal funds to assist The Prairie Enthusiasts in acquiring Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairie, which is now a State Natural Area.

Those who wish to honor her memory in a material way may send donations to:

Shirley Ellis Conservation Trust
c/o Johnson Bank
200 W. Sherman Ave.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538
Phone: 920.568.5650

Donations

continued from page 1

seed collecting, butterfly monitoring and prescribed burns. They also helped organize a banquet/conference and serve on chapter and central committees. Agee has held the positions of chapter treasurer, central board secretary, and supervisor of the Empire-Sauk Chapter volunteer coordinator.

“In December, the company Scott started was sold and suddenly we found it possible to have one of our dreams come true: Make a substantial cash donation to this organization which we love,” Agee said. “We truly believe in the mission of TPE and the people in it. We love that TPE is volunteer-driven, from policy creation to seed collecting. We love that the contributions from the many volunteers, of time, talent, and energy – large or small – are highly valued by the organization. We have great appreciation and respect for the people who put so much into caring for the land through TPE. We have found our lives greatly enriched by this community of people and the natural lands we work together to protect, restore, and share.

“Our goal for the donation is that it be used to develop and implement effective ways to increase both the active TPE membership and the overall level of volunteer activities of all kinds,” she continued. “We believe that these grass-roots activities are highly local, so the focus will be on our Empire-Sauk Chapter, most likely through the hiring of a professional volunteer coordinator. However, we also hope the donation can result in tools, such as our volunteer database, and materials for outreach and education that will be used throughout the organization.”

Paul E. Stry Foundation Grant to TPE

At the end of 2011, the Paul E. Stry Foundation (La Crosse, Wisc.), made a \$7,000 contribution to TPE to help restore degraded wetland and prairie on 40 acres near TPE’s Mounds View Grassland preserve located in eastern Iowa County, Wisc. The parcel was acquired by the WI Department of Transportation (DOT) in 2011 as a wetland mitigation site. It contains five acres of former peat wetlands drained by drainage tiles, 25 acres of degraded and over-grown dry prairie and 10 acres of old field and cropland. The site is adjacent to the Shea Prairie unit of the Mounds View Grassland, which is cared for by the Empire-Sauk Chapter. In exchange for TPE taking on the responsibilities of restoring the wetland and uplands, DOT will be transferring title of the 40 acres to TPE in 2012.

The Stry Foundation grant will be combined with funds from Alliant Energy (via The Nature Conservancy) and the USFWS Private Lands Program. Use of TPE equipment, time from TPE volunteers and Wisconsin Waterfowl Association (WWA) personnel will all be used to collect, buy, and plant wetland and prairie seed; remove trees and brush; control invasive weeds; conduct ground water monitoring and plant, frog, snake, bird, and insect surveys and monitoring; remove drain tiles; and conduct prescribed burns.

A small corner of the former wetland still has spring seeps and some, albeit altered, native fen vegetation, but

most of the wetland has been completely destroyed by the drain tiles and cropping that took place. Removal of the tiles began in late February under the direction of Peter Ziegler with the WWA. Workers found a strong supply of ground water re-emerging as the tiles were pulled, giving hope that the wetland has a chance of making a good, if slow, comeback.

Easement on West Dane Conservancy

At the end of 2011, the West Dane Conservancy, LLC (Doug Steege & Kristine Euclide) granted a conservation easement on 139 acres to TPE. The newly-protected land is on the Dane-Iowa County line southwest of Mazomanie. Steege & Euclide have owned the property for more than 30 years and, for the past 15 years, have been working to restore the site’s original prairie and savanna landscape and vegetation. Since 2004, TPE volunteers have provided some physical assistance and advice on the restoration and management of the site and we are now happy to assist in its permanent protection.



Courtesy Photo

Doug Steege and Kristine Euclide pose with daughter, Julia.

The West Dane Conservancy lies within the un-glaciated (driftless area) of southwest Wisconsin. The bedrock consists of layers of sandstone and dolomite. Historically, the southern two-thirds of the site was part of a large treeless prairie and the northern one-third was open, dry savanna. Today, the site contains approximately 50 acres of old crop fields being restored back to prairie, approximately 30 acres of unplowed original prairie sod under restoration management, and more than 50 acres of overgrown oak savanna that the landowners are restoring. The Blue Mounds Creek East Branch runs through the southern tip of the property with adjoining groundwater-fed wetlands and a major spring flows out of the base of the hill on the west side of the property.

Comprehensive biological surveys have yet to be done over much of the site, but it appears that the areas of remnant prairie sod have the greatest conservation significance followed by the areas of overgrown oak savanna. So far, 140 native plant species have been identified on the site, including good populations of Marbleseed and Prairie Turnip, a large population of Hill’s Thistle (state threatened), and a significant population – possibly the largest in the state – of the state endangered Pink Milkwort (*Polygala incarnata*). Several animal Species of Greatest Conservation Need are known to use the site, including Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlarks, Red-Headed Woodpeckers, Yellow-Bellied (blue) Racer Snakes, and Bullsnares. Timber Rattlesnakes have been observed in the past, but it is not known if they are still present.

Member Profile: Chris Hughes

By Randy Schindle

If you are at a Many Rivers Chapter meeting and somebody introduces himself as Joe Mauer, of the Minnesota Twins, it is probably Chris Hughes. Yes, he is a baseball fanatic and it is best not to call him when the Twins are playing.

Hughes works for the Board of Water and Soil Resources for the State of Minnesota but, like many of us who went into outdoor careers, he bemoans the fact that we seem to get outside less and less in our job duties. He solved this problem a few years ago when he purchased 31 acres of land, 27 of which are remnant prairie.

Since the land purchase, Hughes has put the remnant into the Prairie Bank Program and is in the process of upgrading and managing his native prairie. His projects have included



Photo courtesy of Randy Schindle
Chris Hughes

tree removal, exotic species control and controlled burning. An outbreak of sweet clover was attacked by haying and controlled burning.

Outstanding botanical features of his property include populations of Small White Lady Slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*), tuberous Indian-plaintain (*Arnoglossum plantagineum*) and Sullivant's Milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*), and more rare plants continue to show up after the controlled burns.

Hughes recently joined the Education Committee of The Prairie Enthusiasts and promises to be a valuable member with his insight and innovative ideas. He is also an instructor in the Master Naturalist program.

Hughes is looking forward to retirement so he can devote more time to environmental causes and, of course, baseball.

1987: A Big First Year for The Prairie Enthusiasts

By Tom Mitchell

(Note: This is the first in a four-part historical glimpse at the first year of The Prairie Enthusiasts)

“The meeting of the Wisconsin Prairie Enthusiasts on January 22, 1987, at the VFW Hall in Monroe was well received with representatives from Green County and surrounding counties: Dane and Rock Counties, Wisconsin, and Stephenson County, Illinois. The meeting was very enthusiastic, with people staying to talk to others This is the place to come and share ideas about our environment.”

March 6-7: Wisconsin Prairie Enthusiasts (WPE) Steve Apfelbaum, Chuck Sams and Fred Faessler attend a fire school at Spring Green. They are now certified by the Nature Conservancy and UW-Stevens Point for burning and were among more than 40 people who burned the Albany wetland.
By Steve Apfelbaum

WPE burned nearly 70 acres of a wetland in Spring, 1987. In July, Merritt Milks and I hiked through the Blumer wetlands located north of Albany on County E. The results of the burn were remarkable and many wonderful surprises were found. The most noteworthy was a single individual of the federally threatened white fringed prairie orchid (Habenaria leucophaea), in a diverse mesic prairie remnant. It also contained numerous gentians. Another surprise occurred in the historic burr oak savanna along the east edge of the wetland where hundreds of starry campion plants flowered; prior to the burn only a few plants had been found. A regionally rare plant stone seed (Onosmodium hispidissimum) also emerged from the woodland soil. The property contains mesic and wet prairie remnants of natural area quality and of
Spring 2012

significance. One evening two weeks after the burn, sandhill cranes were observed feeding on the fire-blackened landscape. With fire management, we will guarantee their continued use of this wonderful Green County wetland.

March 19: Rich Henderson, John Ochsner, George and Kay Barry, Steve Apfelbaum, Dick Newsome and Kelly Kearns hold positions on the newly formed WPE Education Committee. Under fundraising: membership dues, fees, contributions, burning \$40 to \$75/acre after expenses to WPE

March 23: Several WPE members presented a proposal to the Monroe Parks and Recreation Board to provide voluntary management services for prairie remnants at the Forest-Prairie Park and adjacent airport properties. The Board decided to dedicate the Park for wildlife and wildflowers... and supported a program for short-term management of the existing remnants and adopted long-term goals of restoring a majority of area to native prairie ecosystem.

April 5: The Southwestern Prairie Enthusiasts is having their meeting April 5 at 1:30 p.m. at the Boscobel Hotel. They will discuss projects, ways to raise money, and natural areas in Crawford and Grant Counties. They will also have a slide show and discussion on selling seed they have collected. For more information contact Alice Mirk at Mt. Hope, Wis.

Prescribed Burning Workshop for Resource Conservation volunteers April 11-12, 1987, sponsored by The Fire Science Center and Wisconsin Prairie Enthusiasts was held at Olympic Flame restaurant in Monroe. The instructor was Dr. Andrea L. Koonce.

2012 TPE Annual Conference and Banquet

More than 200 attendees kick-off 25th anniversary of organization

By Evanne Hunt

On Saturday, Feb. 25, the Chippewa Savannas and St. Croix Valley chapters hosted The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE) annual conference and all-chapter banquet. Both events were held at UW-Stout in Menomonie, Wisc. The unseasonably mild weather brought 230 people to the day-long conference and 118 people to the evening banquet.

Conference

The conference theme, “TPE at 25: The Journey to Prairie Preservation,” celebrates the 25th anniversary of the incorporation of The Prairie Enthusiasts on July 1, 1987. This celebration will continue throughout 2012.

TPE was very pleased to have Stephen Packard, founding director of the Chicago area programs of the National Audubon Society, give the keynote speech, “The History and Future of Nature”. His work on oak savannas clarified ideas about how the composition and dynamics of this plant community led some to say he “rediscovered” this ecosystem.

The conference consisted of three subject tracks: Animal, Technical and Planting a Prairie. Presenters in the Animal track gave talks on snails, birding, the Karner Blue butterfly, and dragonflies and damselflies. Presenters in the Technical track gave talks on herbicides, converting grass fields, prairie management and measuring successful restorations.

The Planting a Prairie track was specially designed for beginners and non-members. It was a workshop, led by people with more than 25 years of restoration experience, which provided step-by-step instructions on analyzing a site, selecting appropriate plants and planning for maintenance. At times, this session was standing room only!



Female Karner Blue

For the first time, we also had a poster session. Organized by Dr. Amanda Little, 13 posters described prairie and savanna-related research, restoration and management projects.



photo courtesy of Evanne Hunt

Dr. Doug Tallamy presents “Treasures Among Our Natives” on Feb. 25 during the TPE Banquet.

Banquet

The evening banquet included the presentation of the TPE Prairie Enthusiast of the Year award. For the first time, the award was given to two people – Earl Muhlbauer and Carol Benish (*see article on page 7*).

We were very excited to have Dr. Doug Tallamy give the banquet talk. His presentation, “Treasures Among Our Natives,” described the fascinating ways birds, caterpillars, butterflies and moths interact with the native plants they depend on.

Photo Contest

Conference attendees had the chance to select the 2012 TPE Photo Contest winner. Five finalists were selected by a committee prior to Conference weekend with each finalist receiving a \$100 prize.

Photos by the finalists will be incorporated into *The Prairie Promoter* throughout the year and can be found on the TPE website at www.theprairieenthusiasts.org.

Thank You!

Many thanks to our presenters who donated not only their time, but generously shared their decades of experience! We could not have had a successful conference without you!

Thank you, also, to our sponsors whose support, generosity and loyalty is appreciated every day.



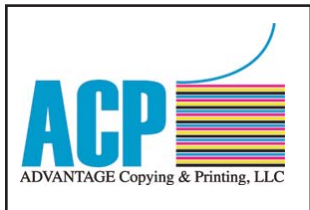
courtesy photo

Attendees register at the TPE Annual Conference and Banquet. Silent auction opportunities were also available.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you to all the volunteers from both chapters who made our attendees feel welcome, provided support to our vendors and exhibitors, sold raffle tickets and merchandise, and ensured a well-organized conference.

2012 TPE Conference & Banquet Sponsors

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Photos from the Annual Conference

Dr. Stephen Packard gives his keynote speech, "The History and Future of Nature," which covered the composition and dynamics of the oak savannas ecosystem.



photo courtesy of Kathy Stahl
Chippewa Savannas member Bill Hogseth speaks to TPE Conference attendees about the unique prairies of their chapter's region.



photos courtesy of
Evanne Hunt



St. Croix Valley members Jamie Bolwerk (l) and Rob Cahalan (r) review information from the day during the Conference reception.

Hamel Wins 2012 Photo Contest

Winner determined by peers at Annual Conference

By Scott Seigfreid

The winner of the 2012 TPE Photo Contest was Shelly Hamel with a photo of a female Karner Blue perched on a Lead Plant. This Photo will be used as the cover shot for the 2011 TPE annual report.

Thank you to all who entered the contest. Judging this contest was not easy – all 52 of the photos submitted by the 18 entrants were potential winners. Keryl Moore and myself ended our several-hour review of the photos bug-eyed and unable to drink another cup of coffee, but we somehow narrowed the field down to the five semifinalists. Attendees at the February TPE Annual Meeting voted for the winning photo. Hamel's photo is featured in this issue of *The Prairie Promoter* and be sure to look for these semi-finalists photos in 2012 issues of *The Prairie Promoter*:

Blue Flag Iris: Katherine Brock

Prairie Gentian: Kathy Henderson

Fall Monarch: Joann Lynch

Schurch Thomsen Prairie: Erik Preston



Photo courtesy of Shelly Hamel via Scott Seigfreid

“Female Karner Blue perched on a Lead Plant” won TPE’s 2012 photo contest.

Citizen Science: Effective Monitoring of Endangered Butterflies, Habitat Requires YOUR Help



Regal Fritillary

File Photo

By Rich Henderson

Monitoring a state-endangered butterfly

Become a Regal Fritillary monitor volunteer and do some science, while enjoying nature and supporting an endangered species! The summer of 2012 will be our third season in a long-term program to monitor Regal Fritillary presence on remnant and restored prairies in the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area in eastern Iowa County and western Dane County.

The Regal Fritillary is listed as a Federal Species of Concern. Once widespread, it has nearly disappeared east of the Mississippi River. In Wisconsin, it is listed as Endangered due to low or declining populations and is considered critically imperiled because of its vulnerability to extinction in the state. Occurrences have been documented in 14 counties in Wisconsin through the Natural Heritage Inventory program, but currently there are only three or four areas where potentially viable populations still exist.

To maintain the open prairie habitat these butterflies require, the land must be managed through controlled burns, mowing and/or mechanical clearing of woody growth, all of which have the potential to positively or negatively impact Regal Fritillary populations. The monitoring program will improve our understanding of how they respond to management of prairie remnants and creation of new habitat.

Training is provided for those interested in volunteering, but organizers are asking for volunteers to commit to helping out for several years. This year, the monitoring program will be from approximately June 25 to July 31 with each monitoring team making three visits to their site spaced a week or more apart. The training program has an evening and a field component. Training opportunities will start in May. Contact Ruth Kearley (rekearley@gmail.com or 608.729.4050) to sign-up or learn more.

Surveying prairie violets

The caterpillars of the state-endangered Regal Fritillary butterfly eat only violet species in open habitat. We need volunteers to help with surveys to find where these violets are located and estimate their abundance on our preserves that host Regal Fritillaries.

This information is crucial to determine how the violets (Prairie, Birds-Foot, Marsh and Common Wood) respond to management, such as burning, mowing and grazing so we know how to best focus our efforts. The surveys will be done in May, when the violets are in bloom, on lands TPE manages within the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area of western Dane and eastern Iowa counties. If you are interested in becoming a violet monitor trained in quantitative survey methods, contact Ruth Kearley at rekearley@gmail.com or 608.729.4050. This project is made possible by a Citizen Based Monitoring Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.



Birds-Foot Violet (Viola Pedata)

Photo courtesy of Kathy Henderson

Leave a Lasting Legacy

By Carol Winge

Leaving a legacy in the form of a planned gift, bequest (cash or stock), retirement assets, life insurance, charitable gift annuity or a gift of property is one of the most powerful and lasting gestures to ensure your memory and your passion for prairies remain alive forever.

I was recently contacted by a member to get information she needed to provide for The Prairie Enthusiasts in her estate planning. She asked me if I thought that prairies would be valuable in the future. I believe as we continue to develop land and watch our public land shrink, TPE and its mission will become more valuable than ever to preserve prairies and oak savanna that will otherwise disappear for future generations. We need to act today to ensure the future of these treasures.

She responded that she felt that way, as well, and that is why she is providing for TPE in her estate planning. Her love of the prairies will be preserved in perpetuity through her planned giving.

Wills and bequests are two of the more common gifts, however, there are numerous planned giving vehicles, any of which you will want to discuss with your attorney or financial planner.

The Prairie Enthusiasts initiated its "Prairie Legacy Society" program in 2011. Those donors, supporters, members and other enthusiasts who have or will include TPE in their estate planning, or include TPE as a recipient of a will, bequest or other planned gift and notify us of this gift by June 30, 2012 will be recognized as Charter Members of the Prairie Legacy Society. Be sure to let us know of your intention to provide for TPE by sending a note to the TPE office: TPE, Attn: Prairie Legacy Society, P.O. Box 1148, Madison, WI 53701-1148.

Are You Mechanically Inclined?

The Empire-Sauk Chapter is looking for a volunteer, or two, to be in charge of the maintenance and repair of field equipment. This includes, but is not limited to, drip torches, water backpack cans, backpack 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 where most equipment is stored when not in active use, however, maintenance work may be done at other locations.

If you wish to help, please contact Rich Henderson (608.845.7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net).

Many Rivers Chapter Plans Annual Membership Picnic

The Many Rivers Chapter will be hosting TPE's Annual Membership Meeting & Picnic at the Henry Panowitsch farm site near Good Thunder Minnesota on Sunday, July 15, 2012.

The Chapter will provide meat & buns, two side dishes, plates & silverware, and beverages. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish to share. Please RSVP Deanna Pomije, picnic chair, at pomijelynn@hotmail.com by July 6 to make the committee's job of planning easier.

Our group will lead several tours of the site and a prairie remnant that is owned by one of our members, Al & Mary Berner. The Berner site is a steep, south-facing slope that may present a problem for those with limited mobility.

Camping is available at Rapidan dam on the Blue Earth River or Minneopa State Park on the Minnesota River. Reservations for the State Park are available online at the MN DNR website under "parks". Directions and more details will appear in the Summer *Prairie Promoter*.

Wisconsin Badger Genetics Project Starts Three-Year Campaign

By Mark and Sue Foote-Martin

The Department of Natural Resources and the UW-Madison Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology recently teamed up for the first-ever study of American badger ecology in Wisconsin. The three-year study will focus on southwestern Wisconsin in the Southwest Wisconsin Grassland and Stream Conservation Area, and Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area. Researchers will trap and implant radio transmitters to track their movements throughout the year.

Please report any badger observations from the past few years and contact the researchers if you find an active den or vehicle kill.

Wisconsin residents can also show their support for conservation by purchasing a DNR Endangered Resources "badger license plate", which features photos of a badger, Eastern Meadowlark, Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly and Prairie Sunflower with an Oak Savanna background.

License plate purchase includes a one-time \$15 issuance fee and an annual \$25 donation to the Endangered Resources Program, which is added to the cost of the annual vehicle registration (fee varies by vehicle type). To get a plate, go online to <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/support/erplate.htm>, call the WI DOT, Special Plates Unit (608.266.3041), or e-mail special-plates.dmv@dot.wi.gov.

The donation portion of the fee may be deductible if you itemize your income tax returns. Endangered resources license plates can feature regular numbers or a personalized message.

EMPIRE-SAUK CHAPTER

Tractor Challenge a Success!

We have paid for the tractor ... and more! Thanks to generous donations from Ursula & Gerd Muehllehner, Laurie Yahr & Rich Kahl, Madison Community Foundation, Jackie & Wayne Pauly, Kathy & Rich Henderson, David Gunnulson, Cap Gun Collective LLC, Nancy McGill, and Barbara Voelker, we have raised, in less than eight months, enough money to cover not only the \$9,000 required to earn the \$10,000 tractor challenge grant, but also enough funds to cover repair and maintenance on the tractor for years to come! The challenge grant came from anonymous donors who wished to increase our land management capabilities.

But we're not done, yet! A second tractor is needed for land management on preserves managed by the Empire-Sauk Chapter, especially one with 4-wheel drive and large enough engine, to safely negotiate the rough topography of our preserves and to adequately take care of the 700 acres of TPE land that the Chapter is responsible for managing. Our current tractor has served us well, but it can no longer do it all. There are peak weed-control periods when a second tractor is needed to keep up with the mowing and there are certain jobs that require more power and agility than our current 55 HP, 2-wheel drive tractor can muster.

Empire-Sauk Volunteer of the Year



Photo courtesy of Tom Brock

E-S Volunteer of the Year, Casanova

Todd Casanova is the Empire-Sauk Chapter's 2011 Volunteer of the Year and he will be presented with his own personal Parsnip Predator and a TPE t-shirt.

Over the past several years, Todd has steadily increased his participation in land management activities with the Chapter. In 2011, he contributed several hundred hours to a variety of

land management tasks, including prescribed burns, weed and brush control, fence removal, seed orchard maintenance, and growing seedling plugs for both out planting and the seed orchards at TPE's Mounds View Grassland preserve.

However, his greatest contributions were in seed collecting and cleaning. Casanova was the lead volunteer in the collection and cleaning of 478 lbs of seed from 115 species for restoration work in the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area. He has made it his personal mission to collect seed from as many native local populations of as many species as he could find for restoring wetland, prairies, and savannas.

Dane County, Private Donations Secure Prairie

The Dane County Conservation Fund has given \$52,000 to TPE to cover the costs of acquiring the Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairie. This will be used to pay off the remaining principle and interest on the loan TPE took from the National Conservation Fund to purchase the preserve in November 2011. We are most grateful to Dane County for making this investment in conservation for future generations to experience and enjoy.

TPE also received \$6,720 in donations from private individuals to help cover miscellaneous acquisition and improvement costs at the preserve, such as legal fees, loan interest, appraisal costs, title insurance, and eventually a parking area, entrance gate, kiosk, and other interpretative materials. Thank you to all who made this possible.

Spring Burn Season

We have nearly 50 burns scheduled for this spring. If you wish to help, please contact Empire-Sauk Chapter volunteer coordinator, Ann Calhoun (volunteers@theprairieenthusiasts.org). Experience and training are not required at this time. Novices will be paired up with veterans. Personal protective fire resistant (Nomex) clothing is highly recommended, but not required.

CHIPPEWA SAVANNAS CHAPTER

During the recent TPE Conference, the Chippewa-Savanna was pleased to recognize Bill Hogseth with the Chapter "WOW" award. In addition to re-establishing the TPE chapter in Eau Claire, Dunn and Pepin Counties, Bill has been a knowledgeable leader of field trips and work days, a guiding spirit in how best to use our chapter resources, an educator and an appreciative fan of all the chapter members' contributions.

On May 6, the Chapter will host an open-air train ride into the remote areas of the Tiffany Bottoms of the Lower Chippewa River. The Tiffany Wildlife Area is known for its native prairies and excellent birding. An ornithologist will be on the train, as well several local prairie experts to share their knowledge about the region's ecology, natural history and habitat management. Participants will have a chance to venture out on foot and explore the various habitats. Tiffany Bottoms is the largest and most important intact floodplain forest in Wisconsin as it attracts nearly every species of bird found in Wisconsin, including nesting Woodland Warblers, Flycatchers and Woodpeckers. Interior swamps offer Night Herons, Bitterns, Egrets and more. To sign up, contact Agnes Welsch at aawelsch@gmail.com.

On May 24, there will be Grassland Bird Monitoring Training at Simply Dunn in Downsville. Attendees will learn how to identify grassland birds and how to participate in avian surveys along the Lower Chippewa River. In June and July, experienced birders will lead a walk into the Dunnville Wildlife Area to listen to and survey for a diverse variety of birds. No prior experience is necessary. To register, contact Angie Sommers at angie@beavercreekreserve.org.

COULEE REGION CHAPTER

No report submitted

GLACIAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER

The Glacial Prairie Chapter (GPC) held its first event of the new year on Feb. 18 at the Southern Unit Kettle Moraine State Forest Headquarters in Eagle, Wisc. The headquarters building provided a wonderful venue, surrounded by some of the most spectacular scenery in our corner of the state, much of it remnant savanna.

David Lowe, an archeologist and owner of Prairie Hawk Restorations in Dodgeville, gave a presentation on his research of rock art in Southwest Wisconsin and its connections to prairies. The audience was captivated by his slides of petroglyphs and pictographs, and was particularly intrigued by a petroglyph of a hunting scene that showed big blue stem, a stag and a pregnant doe! The presentation was followed by lunch of homemade bison chili, vegetarian chili, fresh baked whole grain bread and homemade pies and other snacks, juice and coffee. The membership voted it a great success and many folks hung around to chat with David during and after lunch.

Future events planned by GPC include a Pasque Flower Hike in March, as well as visits to prairie and savanna remnants, a showing of the movie Green Fire, visits to prairie plantings in the coming months and a picnic in the summer. There is also the possibility of some work parties and seed collecting, which are great ways to teach new members plant identification! The goal is to have an event each month through October or early November so members have a calendar choice around the chapter area.

MANY RIVERS CHAPTER

The Many Rivers Chapter hosted their annual winter meeting and social gathering on Jan. 28, at the downtown Mankato Buffalo Wild Wings. Thirty-three members attended and voted to purchase a Wanner model four piston pump with a 55 gallon tank, hose reel, and five-and-a-half horsepower Honda motor for prescribed burns. We also agreed to purchase two backpack pumps, a drip torch, and four radio holsters.

Member Jim Vonderharr has created an annual, "Conservationist of the Year" award, for which we designed a plaque to be awarded annually to a business or individual in our region who practices outstanding conservation and stewardship measures using native plantings to benefit the environment.

Twelve members attended the TPE Annual Conference and Banquet in Menomonie. We were paying close attention to all the details of how this was organized as to better prepare for the 2013 conference to be hosted by our Chapter at Minnesota State University-Mankato on March 16, 2013. This year's event will be tough to top.

The Many Rivers Chapter was invited to apply for a donation from a local philanthropic foundation and received a \$15,000 gift for the purchase of a new Polaris 6 x 6 and trailer. The generosity of our local community never ceases to amaze us, and we are forever grateful. The new pump unit has already been delivered to be mounted on the Ranger at Vetter Sales and Service in Kasota, Minn.

We will again sponsor the Minnesota Master Naturalist classes "Prairies & Potholes" in cooperation with the University of Minnesota and the MN DNR. The 10-week seminar will be on Monday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Gustavus Adolphus Arboretum in St. Peter, Minn. Cost is \$200 and scholarships are available. Contact Scott Seigfreid at scottsl@hickorytech.net for more information.

Burning season has arrived and we are ready to roll as soon as the weather allows. We would like to wish everyone a safe and successful season.

NORTHWEST ILLINOIS CHAPTER

The Northwest Illinois Prairie Enthusiasts welcomed Mark Maidak, of rural Savanna, Ill., as their new executive director at the August 2011 chapter board meeting.

Maidak's education includes undergraduate degrees in economics and accounting from Augustana College in Rock Island and a graduate degree in business from Harvard University. After spending several years in corporate America, Maidak pursued his "Green Acres" dream and bought farm property near Savanna, Ill., and moved there in the early 1990s to begin farming. Wanting to control erosion and take advantage of several sign-ups under the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), he has worked to convert 80 acres of his most environmentally sensitive cropland to CRP lands in recent years. An avid no-till farmer, Maidak currently plants and harvests 200 acres of corn and soybeans annually with his own equipment.

Prior to joining NIPE in 2011, Maidak concluded a 15-year career with the University of Illinois Extension with his most recent position as the County Extension Director covering Jo Daviess and Carroll Counties in Northwest Illinois. During his tenure, he led several efforts in collaborative environmental stewardship programming and staffing with a number of area organizations. He also created an award-winning partnership with the Jo-Carroll Solid Waste Agency, which enabled the local extension to offer numerous recycling collection programs through the years in such categories as electronics, batteries, large appliances, latex paints, used oil and household hazardous waste that diverted many tons of materials out of landfills.

Since joining NIPE, Maidak has seen the passion members have related to prairie establishment and maintenance. He has already been able to participate alongside members in prairie burns, numerous seed picking days, and in the processing of the 1,006 lbs of 2011 harvested prairie seed from chapter prairies. We look forward to Maidak's continued service with our chapter and the future contributions he will make to strengthen the organization.

PRAIRIE BLUFF CHAPTER



Photo courtesy of Nick Faessler

Fred Faessler, Chris Roberts, John Ochsner and Steve Hubner take a break after loading a trailer with basswood logs at Iltis Savanna

At Iltis Savanna, our management plan is to thin out the young, overgrown woodland and restore the oak savanna that is so evident in the 1930 aerial photos. This winter, at the suggestion of the county forester and chapter member Fred Faessler, we began a basswood harvest that resulted in 47 logs taken to a sawmill in Dodgeville. A count of growth rings showed the oldest and largest basswood at 42 years (most were 30 to 35-years-old). Last summer's straight-wind storms took down three of the oldest red oaks at Iltis, including one with 210 growth rings.

Another project the Prairie Bluff chapter has completed is the improvement of our easement from County FF downhill along the fenceline to Butenhoff Prairie. The easement (one of two to the hard-to-reach 20 acres) was secured by the Green County Conservation League, which purchased the property in 1988. All the land surrounding Butenhoff was formerly in Conservation Reserve Programs (CRP), but high corn prices have taken land out of these programs and back into crop production. The family trust that owns the land through which our easement passes, has rented the land to a neighbor, who assisted in a workday where we cut the trees and the neighbor used a skid loader to pile them up as the brush had prevented us from using our 15-foot easement.

The Prairie Bluff Chapter also is partnering with the Friends of the Badger State Trail to manage a small prairie remnant at mile 13 of the bicycle trail that runs from Freeport, Ill., through Monroe to Madison, Wisc. A trailhead is in the works for Monroe near Twining Park.



PRAIRIE SMOKE CHAPTER

No report submitted

ST. CROIX VALLEY CHAPTER

The St. Croix Valley Chapter recognizes Wayne Huhnke as our volunteer of the year. Huhnke has been an active member of the St. Croix Valley Chapter since our formation in 1996. As land management chair, Huhnke contributes hundreds of hours each year in the pursuit of prairie and oak savanna restoration in the River Falls and Hudson Valley Terrace Area.



Courtesy photo

Wayne Huhnke

Huhnke provides educational resources and training to new TPE volunteers and supervises the burning crews. Under his tutelage, TPE volunteers and college students have learned plant identification skills and invasive plant management techniques, brushing, brush piling techniques, and how not to break an ankle while traversing steep coulee slopes.

Huhnke provides the hot dogs and growlers of Rush River Ale for the volunteers, which we much appreciate. Wayne would say, it is "all in a day's work", but his ability to get volunteers out ultimately provides the "in-kind" match for grants. Huhnke has been successful with getting state wildlife grant funds, turkey stamp funds, and NAWCA funds for prairie restoration efforts in the St. Croix Valley and has been site steward for the Foster Cemetery Reserve in River Falls for more than 20 years.

PRAIRIE SANDS CHAPTER

On Tuesday, March 27, at 6:30 p.m., the Prairie Sands Chapter, in partnership with Wisconsin Friends of John Muir and several graduates of the Land Ethics Leadership class at the Aldo Leopold Center, Baraboo, will present a showing of "Green Fire". This is a full-length, high-definition documentary film about the legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold and his environmental legacy.

This free event will be held at the UW Extension Building at 480 Underwood Ave., Montello, WI 53949.

SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN CHAPTER

No report submitted

2011 Annual Appeal Exceeds Goals

By Carol Winge

Thank you to everyone who responded to our 2011 Annual Appeal Campaign. This is the biggest fundraiser we do in the year that supports operations. Without your help, we could not continue to do the good work of the organization.

The Fundraising and Endowment Committee had two goals for this campaign: To raise \$30,000 and to receive \$5,000 from first-time givers. This \$5,000 would be matched dollar-for-dollar. We are delighted to report that we not only reached, but exceeded, both goals. To-date we have raised a total of \$30,457.74. Of that total, \$5,217.74 was donated by first-time donors.

Also included in the campaign was a chapter challenge. The highest percentage of chapter members who responded to the annual appeal would receive a donation of four to six items for their use at the 2012 silent auction. The Glacial Prairie Chapter won.

Following is the list of people who responded so generously to our 2011 Annual Appeal. Thank you doesn't begin to express how grateful we are for your support!

Phil & Kathy Aaker	William Damm	Andrew Gulya
Craig & Jean Anderson	Dick & Jane Dana	Robert Gurke, Jr.
David & Karen Bakken	Mike Davis	Harvey Halvorsen
Mark & Donna Baller	Kathryn Dejak	David & Shelley Hamel
Janet Battista	Ward & Debra Dieter,	Douglas C. Hancock
Chuck Bauer & Chuck Beckwith	<i>in memory of Earl Mihlbauer</i>	Alexandra Handlos
Carol & Bob Benish	Joe & Betty Downs	Roger & Diane Hanson
Sandy Bennett	Bruce & Christine Duemler	Carol Hardin
Dale Beske & Dorothy Gertsch	Dick & Val Dunagan	John & Cate Harrington
Gary & Cindi Birch	Rick Durbin	Ruth Hartman
Mary Marti Borstad	Jennie Elkins	Paul & Bernadette Hayes
Sally Bowers & Howard Fenton	Mike Engel & Hannah Spaul,	Charles Heide
John Brennan & Regina Voss Brennan	<i>in appreciation of Earl Mihlbauer</i>	Rich & Kathy Henderson
Kathie & Tom Brock	John & Karin Exo,	Rollie Henkes
Willis Brown	<i>in memory of Earl Mihlbauer</i>	Brende Hofer & Dennis Steadman,
Coleen Burns	Ida Faessler	<i>in memory of Earl Mihlbauer</i>
Peter & Marsha Cannon	Nick & Linda Faessler	Judy & Alan Hoffman
Cece Caron & Tom Erb	Sharon & Craig Fandel	William Hogseth & Crystal Halvorson
Kathleen Carlyle	Mary Flisram	Evanne Hunt
Glenn & Diane Chamliiss	David Ford & Melinda Knutson	Jeff Jahns & Jill Metcoff
Andy Chikowski	Joan Forsythe	Dorothy Jeffries
Margaret & Florian Chollet	Michael Foy & Carrie Norman	Mark Jeffries
Brian & Jill Cipra	Thomas Frederick & Christine Albert	Duane Johnson
Patrick & Barbara Clare	Deborah Frosch	George & Marilyn Johnson
Jean Clark	Thomas Ganfield	Maynard & Kris Johnson
Barbara & Ted Cochrane	Gary & Pam Gates	Ron Johnson
Dennis & Nancy Connor,	Ned & Carol Gatzke	George & Carmeen Johnston
<i>in memory of Earl Mihlbauer</i>	Bob & Jackie Geimer	Ann Kalvig
James Considine	Dorothy Gessert	Jan Ketelle
Mike & Cindy Crawford	Tom Gianoli	Gregory & Janel Kidd
Lloyd & Mary Lee Croatt	Nathan Gingerich	Richard King
Curtis & Kristine Cvikota	Barbara & Brad Glass	Deah & Paul Kinion
James & Joyce Czajkowski	Steve Glass	Ann Kleckner
Betsy D'Angelo, <i>in memory of Cara</i>	Mary & Richard Goehring	Anne Koeppe
<i>Catarina D'Angelo</i>	Gerald Goth	Gary Konkol
Greg Dahl & Sharon Schwab	Victoria Graham	Mike Kraszewski
Jerry Dahlen	Pete Greenheck	Sarah Kraszewski

2011 Annual Appeal Donors (continued)

Kimberly Kreitinger & Eric Preston	Randy Nyboer	Emily Stanley
Ann Kroncke	Richard Oberle	Rob & Barb Stanley
Valerie Kubal	Victoria Oberle	Sandy Stark
William Kuenzi	Michael & Sylvia O'Brien	Joe Stecker-Kochanski
Nick & Mary Kunz	Henry Panowitsch	Doug Steege & Kris Euclide
Jack Kusssmaul	Tom Pehowski	Margaret Stiles
John & Mary Kay Lammers	Ed & Seliesa Pembleton	Bob Stodola
Kenneth Lange	Jim Peterson	M. Dian Strenski
Jan Lavacek & Carole Sullivan	Dennis Presser & Laurie Larson	Denise Sullivan & Bernard Schmelzer
Barbara LeDuc	Bill Ramsden & Doreen Lynch	Kathleen Sulzer
Susan Lehnhardt & Steven Apfelbaum	Peg Rasch & Dave Stute	Lee & Jacqui Swanson
Jim Lesniak & Shelly Armstrong	James Rasmussen	William & Nancy Tans
Micaela Levine	Robert & Marcia Redalen	Stanley Temple
Ruth & Thomas Little	Ruth Reilly	Glenn Teschendorf & Mary Anne
Dawn Littleton & Brian Lind	Sue Reindollar	Derheimer
Robert & Lynne Lorenzen	Michael & Jim Reinsbach	Todd Tessmer
Judith Lovaas	Keith Relyea & Jeanne Kant	Ann Thering & Dave Eide
David Lovell & Irene Wren	Ron Reynolds	Kate Thomas & Jimi Way
David Lucey	Paul & Linda Rode	Peter Thomford
David & Helen MacGregor	Keith Rodli & Katharine Grant	Meredith Thomsen
Tod Maclay	Keith & Eunice Roe	John (GOF) & Mary Thomson
Greta & John Magill	Dan Roemer	Denise Thornton & Douglas Hansmann
Richard Magyar	Paul Roemer	Laureen Thorstad
Brandon Mann & Ann Calhoun	Mario & Amelia Rojas	Mary Lou Underwood
Bruce & Ruth Marion	Ted Ross	Peter Vanderloo
Dave Marshall & Wendy Weisensel	Mary Rothenmaier	Elise Van Ginkel
Mark & Sue Martin	Bob Russell	Gail & Willi Van Haren
Peter & Karen Mattson	Irv Sather	Steve Ventura & Margaret Krome
Kay McClelland	Scott Sauer	Barbara Voelker
Terry Mcenany	Michael & Connie Schad	Daniel Wallace
Nancy McGill	Daniel Schicker	Robert & Susan Wallen
Everett Mclean,	Jonathan Schultz	Kenneth & Beverly Waller
<i>in honor of Jack Kusssmaul</i>	Martin & Myrna Schultz	Tim Walsh & Agnes Chwae
Robert & Deborah McWilliams	Robert & Anita Seemann	William Wartmann
Trish McWilliams	Scott Seigfreid	Thomas & Eva Wedel
Howard & Nancy Mead	Penny & Gary Shackelford	Robert Weihrouch & Pattie Haack
John Mecikalski	Marge & Donald Shere	Bruce West
Kathy & Michael Meehan	Thomas & Bonnie Sherman	Paula West Kaplan
Curt Meine	John Shillinglaw	Kristin Westad
Jim & Naoko Meyer	Shooting Star Native Seeds	Susan & Joseph Wieseler
Sig Midelfort	Jim Shurts	Robert & Jennifer Winding
Michael & Sondra Mihelbergel	George B. Simon	Eugene Woehler
Mike Miller & Susan Goode	Hugh & John Simon	Ralph & Ann Woldt
Mississippi Valley Conservancy	Arlene Siss	Paul & Kathi Woods
William Moore	Lee & Margaret Skold	Marilyn Workman
Bill & Ginny Nelson	Ron & Paulette Smith	Tim Yanacheck
Don & Denise Nelson	Rider Sporn & Glen Rosen	Meagan Yost
Laura & Greg Nessler	Amy & Richard Staffen	Gary Zamzow & Elizabeth Frawley
Tricia & Dick Nienow	Katherine Stahl & Lee Boland	

TPE Board Considering Executive Director Position

Winge to step-down in July

By Caroljean Coventree

At a recent Board meeting, how to replace Carol Winge generated significant discussion. Carol has been an exemplary employee and TPE member. She has worked for TPE as our business manager, but that statement doesn't really tell the whole story. Winge was paid for 28 hours a week and worked nearly 50. She has decided to leave her job in July to pursue time with her family and the TPE Board wants to take this opportunity to hire full-time staff to manage the organization.

A number of options surfaced as to how to meet this need and TPE will, sometime in the next year, transition from a business manager to having a full-time Executive Director with an administrative assistant. Here's a snapshot of the rationale:

Part of TPE's mission is land protection. If TPE is to be successful at land protection, we must maintain the standards set for land trusts in monitoring and managing the lands under our protection. Accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance is our industry standard. Wisconsin now has four such accredited land trusts and TPE has begun the process to become accredited, as well. Having an executive director is a prerequisite for accreditation. Also, as accreditation becomes more common, we can safely assume that both public and private donors/funders will require accreditation.

Additionally, Winge strongly recommends our hiring an executive director from her unique position of having worked with almost everyone in the organization. She noted that TPE needs someone in this position to form the relationships necessary to cultivate large donor gifts from individuals and corporations. Having greater resources will help us pursue all aspects of our mission.

Finally, an executive director can focus and fa-

cilitate our educational mission. We have longed for beautiful brochures to help educate the public about prairies, oak savannas, their flora and fauna, and the labor TPE volunteers perform to maintain these valuable ecosystems. The executive director will not only be able to create the educational materials we need, but can also act as our ambassador at educational events and programs, providing a consistent and clear message.

Transitions mean change. The Board is still creating this process, but seems to have a clear sense of where we need to move. After decades of experience, we are ready for the leadership and momentum an executive director can provide.

Announcement from the Fundraising and Endowment Committee

As the Fundraising and Endowment Committee begins to plan fundraising activities for 2012, we want you to be aware of a new initiative that will take place in 2013. Anyone who donates gifts to the organization during the year 2012 that total \$1,000 or more, will be invited to a Donor Appreciation Reception. The Reception will be held in conjunction with our 2013 Annual Conference on Friday, March 15, 2013. This reception will be privately funded—no dues or donations will be used to support it.

Watch *The Prairie Promoter* for more information plans are completed. Plan now for your 2012 gift(s) to support The Prairie Enthusiasts. You won't want to miss this inaugural Donor Appreciation Reception.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The following people have joined TPE during the period Nov. 19, 2011 through Feb. 29, 2012:

Christopher Aeschliman, River Falls, WI
Paul Alhen, Rochester, MN
Thomas Baumberger, Arena, WI
Steve Betchkal, Eau Claire, WI
Ashley Brenke, Ceylon, MN
Cindy Burtley, Grafton, WI
Kenneth Cameron, Belleville, WI
Catherine Cooper, Barneveld, WI
Tom Cullen, Platteville, WI
Duane Deutmeyer, Dodgeville, WI
David Ellringer, Eau Claire, WI
Ellen Esch, Northfield, MN
Ron Gamble, Dexter, MI
Dan Gartzke & Tracey Schwalbe, New Glarus, WI

Elizabeth George, Madison, WI
Lucy Gibson, Madison, WI
Ronald Gibson, Madison, WI
Karin Grimlund, Rushford, MN
Brooke Hacker, Eagle Lake, MN
Ted Harris, Lafayette, IN
Scott Kudelka, Mankato, MN
Jeff Lorch, Madison, WI
Harriet Mason, Saint Peter, MN
Melissa Mathies, Mankato, MN
Patrick McCoy, Menomonie, WI
Terry Miller, Stoughton, WI
Janice Morlock, St. Paul, MN
David Mudgett, Franklin, WI

Helen Myers, Millville, MN
Gary Nelson, Black Earth, WI
Jerry Newman, Monroe, WI
Randy Palmer, Altoona, WI
Rick Remington, Menomonie, WI
Charles Ruemping, Byron, MN
Nathan Runke, Rochester, MN
Patricia Ryan, Dresser, WI
Mary Sanderson, DeForest, WI

Rick Schulte, DeForest, WI
Louise Spiczka, Plymouth, MN
Jeffrey & Patleen Straub, Waubun, MN
Bill Stroud, Madison, WI
John van der Linden, Spirit Lake, IA
Joan Voigt, Wautoma, WI
Tom Weigt, Mankato, MN
Stephen Winter, Winona, MN
Margarita Zamora, Verona, WI

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

To:

Ronald Gibson
Linda Mathies
Gary Nelson

From:

Lucy Gibson
Corinne Ort
Dennis & Nancy Connor

THANK YOU DONORS

We thank everyone who made a donation to The Prairie Enthusiasts during the period Nov. 19, 2011 through Feb. 29, 2012. These gifts above and beyond membership dues are truly generous and appreciated.

\$5000 or more _____

Scott Fulton & Karen Agee
Jack Kussmaul, *LEAP Grant Challenge*
Jerry Martin, *in honor of Shirley Ellis-Smith Drumlin*
The Paul E. Stry Foundation, *Mounds View-Mueller Addition*

\$1000 - \$4999 _____

Anonymous, *in honor of Jan Ketelle's work on the prairies*
Patrick & Madeleine Fleming
Jack Kussmaul
Max & Shelley Lagally, *in memory of Ralph Lagally, brother, for acquisition or management of Smith Drumlin Prairie*
Niccollet County Historical Society
David & Kristee Richards, *in honor of Marcia Richards*

\$500 - \$999 _____

Jim & Mary Danforth, *in honor of Eric Preston, Kim Kreitinger & Anders Preston*
Nick & Linda Faessler, *LEAP Grant Challenge*
Jack Kussmaul, *in memory of Earl Mhlbauer*
Richard Oberle
Jeff Ralston, *LEAP Grant Challenge*
Scott Seigfreid
Gary Werner & Melanie Lord

\$100 - \$499

Jim Bonilla & Carolyn O'Grady
Stephen & Susan Carpenter, *in memory of Earl Mihlbauer*
Citizens Natural Resources
Rich & Kathy Henderson, *LEAP Grant Challenge*
Rich & Kathy Henderson, *in memory of Bertha Henderson*
Evanne Hunt
Chris Hughes
Jan Ketelle, *in memory of Earl Mihlbauer*
Roma Lenehan, *in honor of Tom & Kathie Brock*
Aldo Leopold Foundation, *in memory of Earl Mihlbauer*
Jim & Jo-Ann Lynch
Kevin Magee
Monroe Garden Club
Dick Nienow
NIPE, *LEAP Grant Challenge*
Richard Oberle, *in memory of Earl Mihlbauer*
Paul O'Leary & Julia Borodin
Henry Panowitsch

Jackie & Wayne Pauly
Jim & Ulrike Rachuy, *LEAP Grant Challenge*
Hans Rinke, *in honor of Dennis & Joan Thomson*
Paul & Linda Rode
Jim & Diane Rogala, *LEAP Grant Challenge*
Scott Sauer
St. Croix Valley Foundation, Jon & Metta Belisle
The John W. and Janice M. Schleisman Trust,
in memory of Earl Mihlbauer
Erik Thomson & Sarah Weiss, *in honor of Olive Thomson*
Bobette Traul
Peggy & Jon Traver, *in memory of Earl Mihlbauer*
Michael Vahldieck & Julie Horner
WI DNR, *in memory of Bertha Henderson*
WI Technical College System Foundation, Inc.,
in memory of Earl Mihlbauer
Xcel Energy

Under \$100

Jamie Bolwerk
Sally Bowers & Howard Fenton
Laura Brown & Mark Shahan
Patrick Caffrey & Peg Zappen
Abbie & Brad Church
Jean Clark
Gary Eldred
Robert & Cathleen Hansen
MJ Hatfield
William Hogseth & Crystal Halvorson
Hal Kantrud
Lynn Keller & Jim Weber
Scott Kudelka
William & Eloise Kuenzi
Chris Mann
John & Marie Mariani
Nancy McGill, *Tractor Challenge Grant*
Richard & Joanne Meinert
Helen Myers
Richard & Shirley Newson
Kent Prather & Julie Haas
Dean & Catherine Rebuffoni
Rider Sporn & Glen Rosen
Nancy Stoudemire,
in honor of Jack Kussmaul
Ed & Karin Strenski,
LEAP Grant Challenge

George & Josie Vania
Bruce West
Margarita Zamora

In Memory of Earl Mihlbauer
Wendy Albrecht
Carol & Bob Benish
Kay Bongers
Kenneth & Patsy Carlson
Robert Curtis, DVM
Tom Ellenbecker
Paul & Jill Fedor and Family
David Hildebrand
Thomas Jensen & Marilyn Wells
Fred & Joanne Klett
Dennis & Sharon Ladwig
Suzann Lewison
Mark & Sue Martin
Tim & Kim Meyer and Family
James & Ardith Nelson
August Pieper
Jack & Elizabeth Reed
Steve Richter & Laura Cominetti
Robert & Marcella Schultz
John & Lila Waldman
Carla Wright



The Prairie Enthusiasts Endowment and Fundraising Committee

3rd Annual Remembrance Day

Sunday, April 22, 2012

(Held in Conjunction with Earth Day)

One of our favorite comfort messages when one has lost a loved one is, “*When someone you treasure becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure.*” In that spirit, The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE) Endowment and Fundraising Committee proclaim Sunday, April 22, 2012, **Remembrance Day** and invite you to give a donation to TPE in memory of any loved one lost or an event to be honored and remembered, such as an anniversary, birthday or significant event. What better way to acknowledge significant people and events meaningful to you than by giving a donation to TPE on Earth Day, a day focusing on improving our environment.

At our 2013 Annual Banquet, all donations received designating Remembrance Day will be recognized during a brief program. At the program, the name of every person or event remembered will be acknowledged.

3rd ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE DAY DONATION

Please fill out the information below and return it together with your donation to TPE, Attn: Remembrance Day, P.O. Box 1148, Madison, WI 53701. Gifts in any amount are appropriate and will be greatly appreciated. Be sure to designate the gift as your “Remembrance Day” donation.

Gift Amount: \$ _____

____ In Memory of _____

____ In Honor of: _____

For: _____

Given by: _____

Address: _____

Please **PRINT** all information carefully.

If there is a special memory about this person or event that you would like included in the reading of names, please feel free to include that information. Please keep the information brief.

The Prairie Enthusiasts
PO BOX 1148
MADISON WI 53701

www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org

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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 e-mailing Victoria Oberle, membership coordinator at TPE@theprairieenthusiasts.org. You can also renew online at www.theprairieenthusiasts.org. Thank you.

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

Name: _____

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The Prairie Enthusiasts Membership Levels:

\$100 Shooting Star (recommended level)

\$5,000 Bur Oak Benefactor, \$1,000 Monarch, \$500 Compass Plant, \$200 Blazing Star

\$65 Pasque Flower, \$40 Big Blue Stem, \$25 Little Blue Stem, \$15 Student

Please send form and check to:

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