



The PRAIRIE PROMOTER

VOL 25, NO. 2 SUMMER 2012

Grassroots Conservation at Work

TPE Names Kirkpatrick as Executive Director

Greetings! I am pleased to introduce myself as Chris Kirkpatrick, the new Executive Director for The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE). For those of you who don't know me, I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know a little bit about my background.

For the past 10 years, I have worked for the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JDCF) in northwest Illinois as their Director of Land Protection. At the JDCF, I expanded their land protection program extensively, working on nearly 20 projects protecting more than 2,000 acres. I have also managed the grant writing program for their stewardship, protection, education, and capacity programs, which has resulted in several millions of dollars in grant funding for the various programs. Earlier this year, the JDCF received Accreditation through



TPE Executive Director Kirkpatrick

the Land Trust Alliance's Accreditation Commission; a process I was an integral part to its success.

I have also been involved with TPE for many years. I served as the secretary for our Board of Directors from 2004-06. Since then, I have continued to serve on TPE's Land Protection Committee and assisted in developing and advancing its land protection policies and procedures.

Besides these organizational experiences, I am a true prairie enthusiast. My educational background includes a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Dubuque (Iowa) in environmental science and biology. My senior research focused on using GIS mapping software to analyze restoration of Mississippi River bluffland hill prairies and oak savannas. This progressed into personally restoring 20 acres in the Dubuque area. Since then, I have provided technical advice and written management plans for thousands of acres, which has helped me become proficient in ecological restoration of habitats in the upper Midwest with an emphasis on plant and bird identification.

Looking to the future, I see TPE growing into a stronger and sustainable land trust. Through Gathering Water's LEAP program, we will ensure, in perpetuity, the protection and management of some very special and rare native fire-dependent communities in the upper Midwest. With the development of a strategic plan and fundraising plan this year, they will give us guides to advance TPE to be one of the largest and strongest land trusts in the region. I am excited to begin working with all of you in your local chapters to advance the mission of TPE in each of our unique ways.

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President's Message

JACK KUSSMAUL

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Although we are, already, halfway through 2012, I want to take a moment to reflect on all that we accomplished in 2011.

Membership

TPE membership grew from 1079 to 1154 – a 7 percent increase. By the time this is published, we will have an executive director. Committees, such as Land Protection, Fundraising & Endowment, and Education & Outreach seem charged with energy and ideas to make us an even better organization.

Land Holdings/Accreditation

Our land holdings grew and we began working with Gathering Waters and The Land Trust Alliance to become a better governed and more sustainable organization. We had a day long assessment of the organization, facilitated by Gathering Waters and The Land Trust Alliance in October. As a result of this these organizations concluded that we were suitable candidates for the Leadership Excellence and Achievement Program (LEAP). This is a program through which we will receive assistance, both financial and mentoring, to help us on the road to accreditation.

We did have two acquisitions at the end of 2011; both were accomplished by the Empire-Sauk Chapter. The first was the purchase of the 40-acre Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairie. The second was the donation of a 140-acre conservation easement on the Steege-Euclide property. At the beginning of the year, we had several applications for Knowles-Nelson State Stewardship Funds filed with the State of Wisconsin. Normally, awards would have been made early in the year, but a change in administration meant a change in the program and all applicants were required to submit new applications under a new set of rules. Awards that would normally have been made in 2011 are now delayed until 2012.

Fundraising

In addition to normal contributions, we received two large gifts which, together, exceeded \$175,000. For this we can thank Scott Fulton, Karen Agee and Joan Thomson. The Legacy program is underway, encouraging people to include TPE in their estate plans.

We continue to work to meet all of the standards that will be required to achieve accreditation. The accreditation committee meets monthly and has made great progress in adopting policies required to ensure compliance with ethical standards and good governance. Perhaps our most difficult challenge will be to meet the minimum endowment require-

See President on page 3

TPE was incorporated in Wisconsin in 1987 as a private nonprofit, tax exempt corporation under section [501(c)3] of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible. The Prairie Promoter is a quarterly publication of The Prairie Enthusiasts. No part of this periodical may be reproduced without permission. We welcome articles, announcements, artwork and photographs relevant to prairie and savanna ecosystems. Mail or e-mail submissions to local chapter editorial volunteers or to The Prairie Promoter editor. Copy any text into the body of the e-mail. Send photos (.jpeg or .bmp) as attachments. Letters and articles may be edited for length or style. Computer disks, art, and photographs will be returned. Deadlines for submission of material are March 2 (Spring issue); May 18 (Summer issue); Aug. 17 (Fall issue); and Nov. 16 (Winter issue). If you would like to receive electronic notification of the newsletter, please e-mail Victoria Oberle at TPE@theprairieenthusiasts.org.

Plans Being Finalized for Annual Membership Picnic

Many Rivers Chapter eager to host fellow enthusiasts on July 15

By Deanna Pomije

Come one, come all to the wild, wild, west Many Rivers Chapter Annual Membership Picnic to be held on Sunday, July 15, 2012, with events starting at 10 a.m. Mark your calendars; summers get busy and you don't want to miss this!

The setting is a refurbished, quaint farmstead nestled in a small valley, adjacent to the mighty Maple River just north of Good Thunder, Minn. It is surrounded by restored prairie, some within walking distance. The proud owner, Henry Panowitsch, has put much sweat equity into restoring the farmstead and the adjacent prairies, which are located at 55487 161 Street Lane, Good Thunder MN 56037.

Come enjoy a true Minnesota potluck. Enjoy conversation with other prairie-minded Midwesterners. Listen in and learn more about our organization at the board meeting or stay for the annual membership meeting after lunch.

Take a walk on the wild side through Big Blue, Wild Bergamont, Side Oats Grama, Butterfly Weed or even a prairie remnant with the elusive Prairie Plantain. Tours, informal and otherwise, will be held throughout the day.

Schedule for the day at the Farm:

10 a.m. Board Meeting OR Prairie Tours

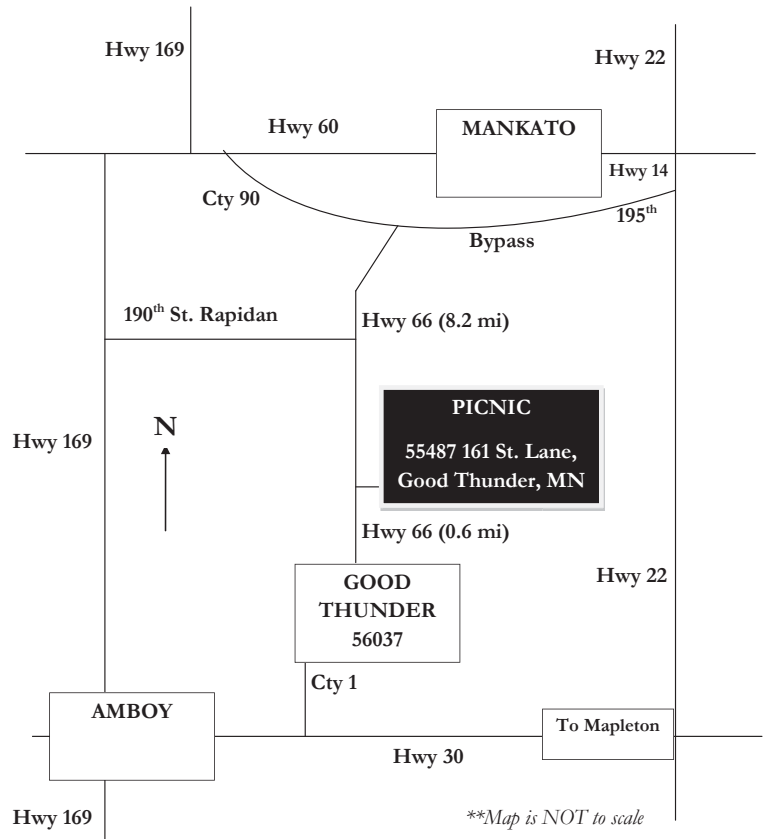
Noon Potluck Lunch

1 p.m. Annual Membership Meeting

2 p.m. and beyond Prairie tours and socializing

Attendees are asked to bring a chair, potluck food item, comfortable summer attire, sunscreen, hat, insect repellent, good walking shoes, prairie stories and a hearty appetite. A tent and rustic bathroom facilities will be on-site. The Many Rivers Chapter will provide meat, buns, plates, silverware and beverages.

Please RSVP to Deanna Pomije at pomijelynn@hotmail.com or 920.373.6196 by July 6 with the number attending and which potluck item you'd wish to bring (as much as we love pork 'n beans, we find five dishes is sometimes a little overwhelming). Those traveling great distances need not bring a food item; the local chapter will try to bring extra food for everyone. We look forward to seeing many of our fellow enthusiasts.



This photo of the Schurch-Thomson Prairie by Erik Preston was a finalist in the 2012 TPE Photo Contest.

Summer 2012

President

continued from page 2

ments to ensure that we have adequate funds set aside to guarantee that we can adequately maintain the properties we have. To date this has been handled quite well with our strong volunteer bases. As our holdings increase faster than this base, however, we may need to rely more on paid contractors sometime in the future.

There are always surprises along the way, but I am confident that 2012 will see us bring further lands under protection and will see us continue to move toward accreditation. Without the help of all of you volunteers and contributors, this would not be possible. You are doing a great job. Thanks to you, TPE has an exciting future.

New Discovery in Southwest Wisconsin: Lined Snake Population

By Corey Raimond

In September 2011, I set out to explore a prairie in Iowa County, Wisc., in the hopes of finding certain plants and maybe catching a glimpse of an Upland Sandpiper before its long journey to Argentina. Although I accomplished neither, it still ended up being one of my best days in the field.

My first views of the prairie did not disappoint. The chunks of rock scattered over the ground showed the land had never been plowed. There were many high-quality prairie plants like Marble Seed and Violet Wood Sorrel (which was still blooming). The prairie looked nearly identical to a spot in Green County, Wisc., where I had found Plains Garter Snakes (a prairie species on the decline). The rocks give the snakes places to hide and stay cool, while not actively foraging. In search of snakes, I started checking under rocks (carefully replacing them to their original positions) and after just 15 minutes I had found one! I went down to take a picture but stopped dead in my tracks. It dawned on me ... this was not a Plains Garter Snake; but what was it? I scanned my memory until I was able to convince myself of the unthinkable: It was a Lined Snake (*Tropidoclonion lineatum*). A new state record!

This find was unthinkable for several reasons: First, it was nowhere near Wisconsin's border. I had gone on several journeys to the far southern corners of the state hoping for new finds with no luck. Second, this must be a native relict population that had somehow gone undetected for hundreds of years. Most of the time, if new species are found in a state, it is the result of a human introduction or a human-induced range expansion. Third, of all the herps (reptiles and amphibians) that were "on the radar" for possibly being found in Wisconsin, the Lined Snake was not anywhere near the top of the list. Fourth, this is the 2010s and everyone knows that everything has already been discovered in the U.S., especially vertebrates. The last time a new reptile or amphibian species was found in Wisconsin was in the 1970s.

This find has been published in *Herpetological Review* and represents a range expansion of 95 km (59 miles) as the crow flies from the nearest known population in northwest Illinois. The northwest Illinois populations were only discovered within the last 10 years.

DNR staff returned to the site on Oct. 5 and found seven more Lined Snakes, including two young-of-year. The Lined Snake was quickly designated as State Special Concern to protect the species and is now being tracked by the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory Program.

The Lined Snake is a small species native to the Great Plains region. Its main range extends from Nebraska, south into Texas with several disjunct populations in Illinois and Iowa. There is one known population in southwest



Photo by Corey Raimond

A lined snake sits on a rock in Iowa County, Wisconsin. It is part of a population that was recently discovered by TPE member Rich Henderson.

Minnesota. The great mystery, now, is: Are there more populations of Lined Snakes in southwest Wisconsin or northwest Illinois waiting to be found? Because of the lack of records and the prairie specialization of this species, anyone who spends time in prairies should be on the lookout for this snake.

However snake seekers will have their work cut out for them. The Lined Snake is fossorial (digs underground), secretive and likely the smallest snake in Wisconsin. Adult snakes are only 20 to 38 cm (8 to 15 in) in length. They prefer to hide under rocks, leaves and other debris, to escape predators and find their prey, which includes earthworms and soft-bodied insects. Anyone who turns over cover objects in search of snakes should carefully replace them to their original position. Cover objects that are not replaced to their original position become unusable to snakes and other animals who seek very specific microclimates.

Lined Snakes resemble Garter Snakes (*Thamnophis*) in having a light line down the center of the back. Lined Snakes differ from a Garter Snake in 1) their smaller size 2) their smaller head (scarcely larger than rest of body) and, most noticeably, 3) a belly with two rows of black "half moons." The only other Wisconsin snakes with this belly pattern are Queen Snakes (*Regina septemvittata*) and northern Water Snakes (*Nerodia sipedon*) which both live near permanent sources of water and are substantially larger with heads wider than their bodies.

If you think you have found a Lined Snake, please report it to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources—Bureau of Endangered Resources. You can fill out a rare animal field report (Form 1700-048) found online or contact DNR staff Rich Staffen (Richard.Staffen@Wisconsin.gov or 608.266.4340).

BOOK REVIEW BY JIM SIME

H.S. Pepoon: Pioneer Conservationist of Northwest Illinois, Essays on Ecology 1904-1933

By Cory Ritterbusch

"I am a botanist but have sidelines of birds and beetles, beasts and butterflies, and all the wild folk of woodland and orchard, swamps and lakes. All these beguile my hours. I also use my imagination." –H.S. Pepoon, 1940

In this 200-page book, Wisconsin restorationist Corey Ritterbusch compiled a collection of H.S. Pepoon's essays and memorabilia from the early 1900s. These essays by one of the country's leading botanists of the time include plant lists, sketches and hand-drawn maps of northwest Illinois. Ritterbusch's Preface, Forward and Biography add considerably to our understanding of this historic period, as does the Introduction by William Handel of the Illinois Natural History Survey.

In 1876, at the age of 16, Pepoon recorded 355 species occurring on his family's 226-acre farm in rural Jo Daviess County, Ill. This sort of homeplace botanizing remains, today, as the core activity of many members of The Prairie Enthusiasts and our other land trust organizations. Pepoon's degree in natural history and subsequent doctorate degree gave him tremendous insight in recognizing natural systems, their associations and connections. He taught botany at Lake View High School (Chicago) for 38 years, leading field trips

and adult classes until the month before he died in 1944 at the age 81. His book, "Annotated Flora of the Chicago Region" (1927), was the precursor of today's foundation reference "Plants of the Chicago Region" (Swink and Wilhelm). Of particular interest is the opportunity to look back at the records of the thousands of plants Pepoon observed while botanizing 2,500 square miles in northwest Illinois. For example, his 20 recorded foot trips in 1919 in the vicinity of Warren, Ill., accounted for the identification of 605 species. Of the 262 miles he logged, 46 were along the Illinois Central ROW between Freeport and East Dubuque.

Pepoon's personal gem was the Apple River Canyon. It was just inside the driftless area near his boyhood home. In 1905, he found a disjunct population of the Arctic Primrose here. In 1932, the State of Illinois purchased the initial 157 acres for the Apple River Canyon State Park.

Pepoon's pleas that, "choice remnants of the vanishing flora" be preserved are still our battle cry a century later. His ghost is probably peering over our shoulders when we are about our preservation business.

Other pieces by Pepoon include: "Destruction of a Farm Flora" (1904), "Ecological Survey of the Driftless Area" (1909), "Cliff Flora of Jo Daviess County" (1909), and "Flora of the ROW of the Illinois Central Railway" (1927).

This book is available from Badger Hill Farms, 701 West Hope St, Shullsburg, WI 53586

1987: A Big First Year for The Prairie Enthusiasts

By Tom Mitchell

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

Saturday, May 16: Prairie in Spring (public program and walking tours) hosted by the University of Wisconsin – Madison Arboretum to Greene Prairie. Meet at Grady Tract (beltline) parking lot 9 a.m.

May 16-17: The first Sport, Gun and Travel Show is held at the Green County Fairgrounds in Monroe. It is a well-attended show with 100 exhibitors; teepees and tents of Yellowstone Flint & Cap's mini-rendezvous; a shoot-off between Marshall Bluff bow hunters and the black powder boys; a "Big Buck" contest; and a raffle of a handmade canoe. The canoe weighs 54 pounds, is 17 feet long and took 80 hours to build by members of the Wisconsin Prairie Enthusiasts, led by Steve Apfelbaum, of Juda; John Ochsner, of Albany; and Ken Wilson, a North Carolina college senior who visited here during the summer seed collecting season; along with volunteers Rob Dunlavey, Nick Faessler, Betsy Keller, Merrit Milks, Robin Rodrigue and Chuck Sams. All proceeds of

the GCCL event go toward land acquisition to restore and preserve prairie and wetlands.

June 17: A rare specimen of Wild Petunia (*Ruella humilis*) was collected by Robert Baller at a weedy, dry prairie in Rock County (north of Beloit). He also noted a small population of the federally threatened Prairie Bush Clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*). Baller, a new member of the Wisconsin Prairie Enthusiasts, was cited in *The Niche*, a newsletter of the Wisconsin Bureau of Endangered Resources. He is a recent graduate of UW-Stevens Point and has joined the staff of Applied Ecological Services Inc. as a wildlife biologist. He is involved in seed harvesting and searching new areas for inventory. Prairie Bush Clover was thought to be extinct in Wisconsin until DNR botanist Bill Tans found a small colony in southern Rock County in 1969.

Sources: Newsletters of the Wisconsin Prairie Enthusiasts Ltd; The First 65 Years ... 1929-1994 The Green County Conservation League by Wes Pellett, 1995; Rudy's Hill by M.C. Elmer, 1987, Monroe Evening Times and other newspaper articles and photos.

Using Aerial Photography to Track Changes on Your Land

By Jim Rogala

How has your property changed over time? Unless you've lived on your land for a long time (and have a good memory), you may be unaware of the changes that have occurred on your property over time. We can speculate about some of those changes based on the age of your trees or how the land has been converted from one use to another. Knowing more about such changes can be particularly important for those of us interested in prairies and savannas. Fortunately, we can clarify many of these issues through the use of historical aerial photos.

Digital images of aerial photos from the 1930s are available for Wisconsin on the Internet at: <http://maps.sco.wisc.edu/WHAIFinder/>. The website is provided by the University of Wisconsin and has a user-friendly interface to locate and view/download the photos. Note that, for downloading, the highest resolution image (XL, 600 dpi) is rather large in size (20 megabytes); I find the 300 dpi image sufficient in most cases. Similar data can be attained for Illinois (<http://moulin.isgs.uiuc.edu/ILHAP/webapp/ILHAP.html>) and Minnesota (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/landview.html>), in addition to other Internet maps tools.

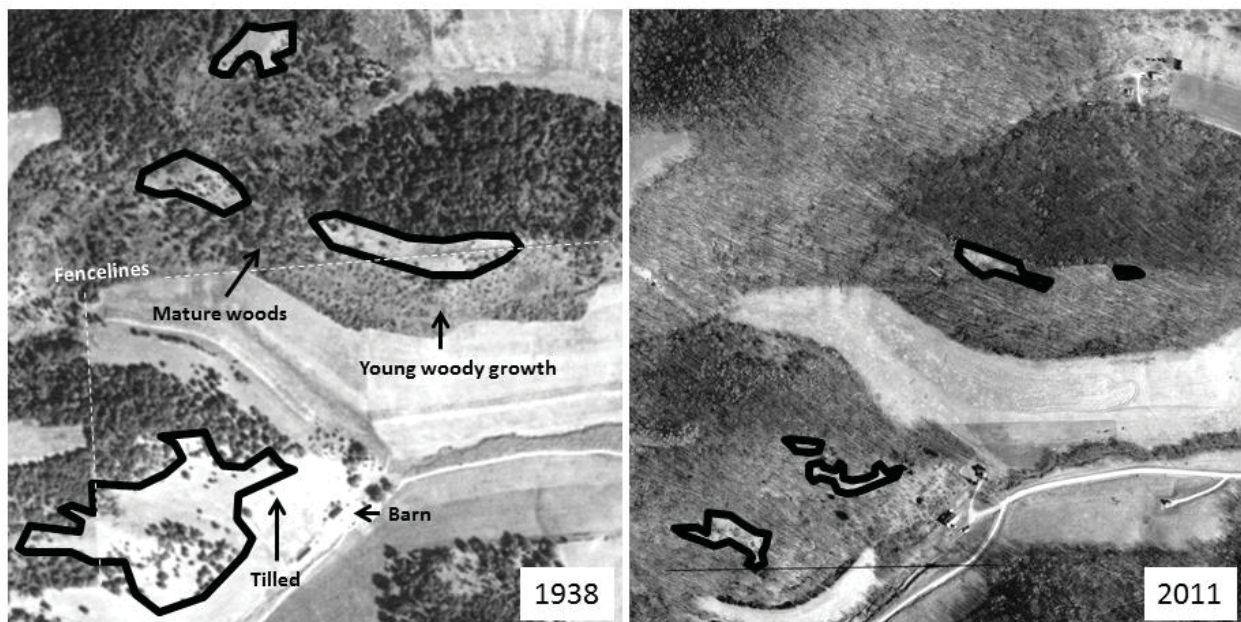
Here's an example of how I used these photographs. I downloaded the 1938 photo image of my property and brought it into a GIS by creating a "World" file. I could then overlay that image with various data, such as present day photos. I could also add outlines of the existing remnants, as well as the openings in untilled soils in the 1938 photos (see the black lines on the photos below). Tom Brock has done the same type of GIS "analysis" for the Pleasant Valley Conservancy, as described on their website (<http://pleasant-valleyconservancy.org/history.html>).

Generally, I can identify many of the large open-growth trees in the 1938 photos as the oldest trees on my property (150+ years). Areas of smaller trees in the 1938 photos are now the approximately 100-year-old cohorts in mature oak/hickory woods, mixed with approximately 60-year-old cohorts filling in the openings. The areas with younger woody growth in the center of the 1938 photo ended along a fence line, suggesting grazing of the south-facing slope.

Of more interest to me were the changes to the openings, all of which are on south-facing slopes. In 1938, there were four open areas totaling about 12 acres that likely were prairie. The southernmost opening was the largest and, I imagine, the openness was a result of intense grazing due to the proximity of the barn and, also, because the openness ends on top at the neighboring fence line. The lower extent of this same area appears to be tilled in 1938, thus the loss of all remnants in that area occurred before 1938.

The other opening that still contains remnants has been reduced to just the ends of the ridge line. There is also a large aspen clone in the middle of the section that was devoid of any trees in 1938. The other two 1938 openings are now covered with woody vegetation. There is still some evidence as to what those areas used to be, with stunted long-lived prairie plants scattered in these areas. For example, I found a six-inch-high leadplant underneath an oak canopy just this last fall.

Understanding the encroachment of woody plants into the openings can aid in management planning. Of the 12 acres of prairie in 1938, only about 2.2 acres remain. There are additional areas of degraded savanna, but only a small fraction of the once larger openings remain. Reopening these recently lost or degraded areas may bring some pleasant surprises.



Mueller Prairie Restoration Underway

By Rich Henderson

Nearly two years ago, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) purchased 40 acres adjacent to the Shea Prairie unit of TPE's Mound View Grassland preserve in eastern Iowa County (managed by the Empire-Sauk Chapter). The 40 acres were purchased from Rick Mueller as a wetland mitigation site to offset a wetland lost in a highway construction project. (Details were outlined in the Stry Foundation Grant article in the Spring 2012 edition of *The Prairie Promoter*).

The Mueller tract was purchased because it has five acres of drained wetland, the restoration and permanent protection of which will provide the mitigation. The plan is for the site to be transferred to TPE and, in exchange, TPE is to conduct the restoration work, both upland and wetland.

Although transfer of title to TPE has not yet occurred, we have already made great progress in the site's restoration. In 2011, volunteers and interns collected baseline vegetation data across the drained wetland, and volunteers conducted baseline plant, bird, reptile and frog surveys across the entire site. Ken Wade volunteered his professional hydrologist's time to put six groundwater monitoring wells in the drained wetland. In late February, under the direction of Peter Ziegler of the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association,

several thousand feet of drain tile were pulled out, a very large amount for the size of the area. The wetland quickly recharged and is remaining hydrated. On March 10, five volunteers planted 140 pounds of wetland and wet prairie seed with an estimated value of \$25,000, across the five-acre peatland. Thanks to contract work from Driftless Land Stewardship and Michler and Brown, the site was cleared in late winter and early spring of all trees and brush except for a few key thickets left for Bell's Vireos and other bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need that require such habitat in otherwise open habitats.

On May 13, a dozen volunteers spread prairie grass seed in the spots cleared of trees and dense brush on the prairie slopes above the wetland, and they planted 1,000 plugs of wetland plants in the wettest areas of the wetland restoration. It was a tough job, but well done!

The site is already showing great signs of recovery. Seven species of frogs and toads have already found the newly re-hydrated wetland, many tadpoles are present. Six species of shorebirds visited the site this spring. In addition, blue-winged teal, mallard ducks, two pair of Canada geese, and a pair of sandhill cranes are all making use the wetland. Also, at least two species of dragonflies have found the new wetland this spring. Drifts of Shooting Stars and many other flowers are blooming on the cleared prairie slopes. Thank you to all who are helping to make this recovery and expansion of the Mounds View Grassland possible. We are making a difference.

Photo courtesy of Rich Henderson

Interns at Mounds View Grassland & Pleasant Valley Conservancy

By Rich Henderson

This summer, student interns will once again be helping on TPE sites managed by the Empire-Sauk Chapter and the Savanna Oak Foundation for a 12-week period. This is our sixth season of hosting interns.

In a departure from the past, we will not be participating in the Prairie Partners' traveling crew of interns that spend one day per week at each of the five partner sites. Instead, due to increasing need, there will be two intern crews working solely on TPE preserves for the summer. One crew, supported by the Savanna Oak Foundation (Tom & Kathie Brock), will work at Pleasant Valley Conservancy and Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie. Members of the Foundation crew are Sarah Berry, a senior at Carleton College, and Dan Lynch, a junior at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

The other crew will be stationed at Mounds View Grassland, working out of the Schurch-Thomson Prairie barn. This crew will also do some work at Erbe Grassland, Kalscheur Savanna and Powell Prairie. The crew will be di-

rected by supervisor, Justin Nooker, who is from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Justin has been an intern and intern supervisor with Madison Audubon Society at Faville Grove for the past two summers. He will be leading three interns: Natalie Haynes, a senior at Brigham Young University and native of Michigan; Clinton Nienhaus, a senior at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota; and Kurt Hacker, a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

The two crews may team up on an occasional joint project in order to broaden their experience and take on tasks that require a larger group.

If you would like to work alongside the interns and share your experience and knowledge with them from time to time, contact Rich Henderson (845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net).

Field & Stream Magazine Honors Schindle as Hero for A Day

Seigfreid nominated for Hero of Conservation; finalists named in July

By Scott Seigfreid

Editor's Note: Many Rivers Chapter member Scott Seigfreid was nominated as a Field & Stream Magazine Hero of Conservation (he then nominated Randy Schindle as a Hero for A Day). For the nomination, the Chapter received a \$500 grant from Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., which has been designated for fire gear. Seigfreid will find out in July if he is one of the six Heroes of Conservation finalists. Stay tuned!

On a cloudy and damp Saturday (May 5), the Many Rivers Chapter of TPE hosted Field & Stream Magazine's TV host Kelly Gotch along with local media reporters to spend a morning working on our Kutz prairie project near Judson, Minn.

As wet as the prior several days had been, our membership showed up in full force to honor our member, Randy Schindle as Field & Stream Magazine's Hero for A Day. Now in its second year, the Hero for A Day program, in collaboration with Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., connects volunteers with hands-on conservation workdays across the country, serving as a unique opportunity for readers to take action in sustaining and protecting fish, wildlife and habitat their area. Field & Stream conducts 10 of these projects throughout the spring and, later, reports on them in the magazine and website.

We made the event a fun day, which included brush removal, prairie tours, talks about the importance of restor-

ing and maintaining these remnants by MN DNR Plant Ecologist Fred Harris, and the benefits to wildlife in prairie restoration by area DNR Wildlife Manager Joe Stangel. Lunch was served and gift bags from Toyota were distributed to those in attendance.

Some of the highlights of the event included installing bluebird houses that children/grandchildren of Many Rivers Chapter members built, finding a six-point buck skull with the rack attached, and we discovered a new population of Tuberous Indian Plantain (*Cacalia plantaginea*) on the property. The cool weather made for some interesting photography, as several sluggish Green Darner Dragonflies were able to be photographed while perched on Gary Rathman's hat. A good time was had by all as the skies opened up at 1:30 and dumped another two inches of rain on southern Minnesota.

The video clip filmed at the Kutz prairie site will be posted on the Field & Stream website around June 15 at the Heroes of Conservation link.

Hero for A Day (www.fieldandstream.com/hero-for-a-day) is an extension of Field & Stream's Heroes of Conservation (www.fieldandstream.com/heroes) initiative, now in its seventh year, which profiles three exceptional conservation volunteers each month and awards them a \$500 grant from Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A., Inc. Six finalists will be awarded \$5,000 grants at the Heroes of Conservation award Gala in October, and the 2012 Conservation Hero of the Year will win a new Toyota Tundra.



Main photo: MN DNR Plant Ecologist (and new TPE member) Fred Harris talks about the importance of our work in preserving prairies.

Inset: Green Darner Dragonfly on Gary Rathman's Hat

Photos by Scott Seigfreid

One-Day Standards, Practice Training for Land Trust Baseline Documentation Available

Monitor, steward and enforce your conservation easements for perpetuity. Baseline documentation is the key to making this possible. A one-day seminar titled Baseline Documentation: The Blueprint for Success will be held July 19, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Waters of Minocqua in Minocqua, Wisc. This is the same location as the 2012 Wisconsin Land Trust Retreat hosted by Gathering Waters.

With thanks for the generous support from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, this training is being offered for \$45 per person. This cost will cover continental breakfast, lunch, and a copy of the Standards and Practices Curriculum workbook "Conservation Easement Drafting and Documentation". Registration is available online at <http://www.lta.org/blueprint> and closes on Tuesday, July 10.

The Land Trust Standards and Practices (<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/training/sp>) require every easement must have a baseline documentation report signed at closing. Baseline reports establish the condition of the property at the date the assessment was donated or purchased. A good baseline report is an essential reference document that sets the stage for proper monitoring and defense of your conservation easements in the future.

In the seminar, you will learn what every good baseline report should contain, how you can create this documentation, how to ensure your baseline can be admissible as evidence in court, and what to do if you haven't been creating baselines at the time of acquisition.

The instructor for this training is Judy Anderson of Community Consultants. Judy coaches organizations and teaches courses on organizational development, community-based outreach and fundraising, conservation easement drafting and stewardship, public lands design, and community-based inclusive conservation.

Having a baseline documentation report for each easement is now a membership requirement for Gathering Waters Conservancy (<http://gatheringwaters.org/land-trust-services/our-member-land-trusts/>). Please consider joining both the training and the Wisconsin Land Trust Retreat (July 19 to 21). Learn more about the 2012 Wisconsin Land Trust Retreat at <http://www.gatheringwaters.org/about-us/our-events/2012-land-trust-staff-board-retreat>.

For content questions, contact MaryKay O'Donnell at 269.352.7032 or mkodonnell@lta.org. Registration questions can be directed to Scott Still at 970.245.5811 or registration@lta.org.

This photo of a Prairie Gentian by Kathy Henderson was a finalist in the 2012 TPE Photo Contest.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcement from the Education & Outreach Committee

The Committee has Board approval to begin implementing six projects from now until the end of 2013. These projects cover many of the goals identified in the TPE Board's 2009 Strategic Planning session.

While the committee will lead the projects, we need and welcome your help. If you are interested in assisting or would like more information, contact any of the committee members: Evanne Hunt, Jim Rogala, Jeff Ralston, Chris Hughes, Glen Fisher, Joan Thomson, and Scott Fulton.

Detailed descriptions of the projects below are available on the TPE website under "Committees":

- Prairie Day (all-chapter)
- Field Trip Leader Checklist
- Website Enhancements
- Landowner Informational Brochures
(conservation easements, tax incentives, etc.)
- Brochure/Media Kit for every TPE Prairie Site
- Document TPE History

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. The equipment includes, but is not limited to, drip torches, water backpack cans, backpack herbicide sprayers, hand tools, brush-cutters, chainsaws, mowers, tractors, a truck, ATVs, propane torches, fire-pump units, and seeders. The workshop at the Schurch-Thomson barn is set up for equipment maintenance and repair. The 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).



EMPIRE-SAUK CHAPTER

Chapter Elections

Nominations are being sought to fill the position of chapter treasurer for a two-year term. The election will be held at the annual meeting of the chapter membership on Tuesday, July 10. We hope you are able to attend the meeting and help us fill this position.

O'Briens Donate \$10,000 to Chapter Projects

This spring, Jim and Rumi O'Brien generously donated \$10,000 toward TPE activities headed up by the Empire-Sauk Chapter. Jim and Rumi have been long-time TPE members, active in land management, and are financial supporters of several land protection projects. Their donation will be put toward land management and land protection. Thank you, Jim and Rumi, for your generous support. You are helping TPE make a difference on the landscape and in endangered resources conservation.

Chapter Picnic, Meeting Announced

The Empire-Sauk Chapter will host its Annual Potluck Picnic and Meeting of the Membership on Tuesday, July 10 at 6 p.m. at Pleasure Valley Conservancy in Dane County. Attendees are asked to bring a dish to share, eating utensils and hiking shoes. Following the meal and a brief meeting, we will hike the preserve's diverse woodlands, savannas, prairies and wetlands in scenic, rugged terrain. Pleasure Valley Conservancy is owned and managed by Pat Trochlell and Ken Wade and is permanently protected by conservation easements held by TPE. This past spring, Ken and Pat eased another 78 acres to TPE, bringing the total protected acres to 209. This will be a great opportunity to talk with like-minded people, learn what our chapter is working on and see a great nature preserve.

Schedule

6 p.m. - Potluck picnic

6:45 p.m. - Brief meeting, review highlights of past year, answer questions, elect chapter treasurer.

7:15 p.m. - Hike the preserve

Directions: From Blue Mounds, take County F north for 2 miles. Turn left (west) onto Moyer Road. Proceed 0.3 miles to first driveway on the left, and follow it 0.2 miles to the Wade/Trochlell residence.

An Early and Short Burn Season

A record early spring made for a record early burn season. What is normally a five- to six-week season, peaking in early to mid-April, was telescoped down into a three-week period that was nearly complete by late March. We were not able to get to a couple sites before they greened up too much. Even so, we still managed to burn 95 percent of what we had planned to. Thanks to dedicated volunteers, multiple burn bosses and mechanized equipment, we completed 52 burns on 20 properties for a total of 500 acres. This was accomplished by 66 volunteers putting in 945 hours.

Thank you to all the volunteers. Special thanks to the Brocks, Hendersons, Connors and Oberles for generously letting their trucks be used as pack horses for the pumper units and towing trailers.

Summer Help Needed with Land Management

As always, help is needed through the summer to collect seed; cut or pull sweet clover, parsnip, knapweed and other weeds; tend the seed orchards; and other miscellaneous tasks. This summer, we will be working at Underwood Prairie, Schurch-Thomson Prairie, Shea Prairie, the Ripp Prairies, Kalscheur Savanna, Kolties Prairies, Smith/Egre Drumlins, Mazomanie Bluff, Schluckebier Sand Prairie, Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie, Pleasant Valley Conservancy and other sites. If you wish to be on the chapter contact lists to help with these activities, please contact us at volunteers@theprairieenthusiasts.org.

Tractor Challenge Clarification

The article in the last *Prairie Promoter* about our successful tractor challenge fundraising left some readers a bit confused. To clarify, there are no plans for another tractor. The second tractor, the one we were fundraising for, has been paid off thanks to generous donations from Ursula & Gerd Muehllehner, Laurie Yahr & Rich Kahl, Madison Community Foundation, Jackie & Wayne Pauly, Kathy & Rich Henderson, Richard Oberle, David Gunnulson, Cap Gun Collective LLC, Nancy McGill and Barbara Voelker. In less than eight months, we raised enough money 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. Thank you all for an extremely successful campaign.

CHIPPEWA SAVANNAS CHAPTER

No report submitted

COULEE REGION CHAPTER

On Saturday, April 14, 2012, the International Crane Foundation (ICF) in Baraboo, Wisc., sponsored the 37th Annual Midwest Crane Count, which occurred across the Upper Midwest. The count is used to monitor the general population trend of Sandhill Cranes and to promote awareness of cranes and wetland conservation.

Crane Counters tally cranes by seeing or hearing cranes at sites assigned by their Crane Count County Coordinator. The counters also collect information on the cranes' behaviors and habitats. Crane Counters arrive at their designated site by 5:15 a.m., start counting at 5:30 a.m. and wrap-up their efforts at 7:30 a.m.

The County Coordinators collected the Crane Counters' data at the end of the count and forwarded it to the ICF, where it was combined with crane numbers from across the

Midwest. All counters receive passes to visit ICF's Visitor Center in Baraboo, where cranes representing the entire world's species can be seen.

Over the years, many Prairie Enthusiasts have volunteered as Crane Counters. Currently, three TPE Coulee Region Chapter members serve as Crane Count Coordinators for counties in our area. If you are interested in becoming a participant at a future Crane Count, please contact your respective County Coordinator. Coordinators for the Coulee Region include:

Buffalo County

Michelle Marron 608.248.3031, mmdz@mwt.net

Jackson County

Judy Allen 608.488.4154, knothole@centurytel.net

La Crosse County

Sue Fletcher 608.796.9820, jiren@centurytel.net

Monroe County

Don Nelson 608.435.6203, don094@centurytel.net

Trempealeau County

Kathy Bibby 608.582.2322, pasquedvm@aol.com

Vernon County

Ben Johnston 608.625.2960, ben.johnston@wisconsin.gov

Additional information about the Coulee Region Chapter can be found in their newsletter and at their chapter page online at <http://www.theprairieenthusiasts.org/chapter/coulee/coulee.htm>.

GLACIAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER

Field Trip in Search of Pasque Flowers

Early this spring, the Glacial Prairie Chapter Board of Directors planned a field trip to coincide with the bloom period of the Pasque Flowers in the Kettle Moraine. We thought it would be a wonderful hike and getting-to-know-you activity for members. That was before, of course, Mother Nature threw us a curve ball and sent us June weather in March that resulted in a very early bloom period for those same flowers. Undaunted, we gathered with our expert Mark Verhagen in Palmyra on April 14 and spent a delightful day crisscrossing trails in the Kettle Moraine area and found a few late bloomers among the Pasque Flowers, but also found Kitten Tails and a host of more common prairie and savanna plants.

On the Scuppernon Prairie, the largest prairie restoration east of the Mississippi River, we were lucky to find not only abundant bird life but, on a sandy area, emerging shoots of prairie plants, such as Lupine, and, among the nearby wet tussocks, a particularly vibrant specimen of Marsh Marigold in full bloom.

It was a fine day to get to know one another and rediscover our passion for prairies and all things related. We plan on more such field trips in the near future.

Chapter Presence at Delafield Market

Throughout this summer Glacial Prairie Chapter members will be present at the farmers market once a month in Delafield. With children's activities, brochures and signs, members will be ready to answer questions about prairies and savannas and solicit new members for TPE. We hope this stirs interest in our organization and stimulates people to ask questions about our rare, fire-dependent communities.

MANY RIVERS CHAPTER

The Many Rivers Chapter will be hosting the Annual Membership Picnic on July 15. See page 3 for more details.

NORTHWEST ILLINOIS CHAPTER

Hortus Vergilianus



Photo courtesy of Jim Rachuy

The Greenhouse at Twin Ponds

From time to time, it is incumbent upon small organizations like ours to pay tribute to the indispensable work of our volunteers. I wish to introduce you to a friend and fellow prairie nut, Mr. William (Bill) Hunt of Massbach, Ill. and Vail, Colo.

Bill has been a life member of the Northwest Illinois Chapter since 2002. At Twin Ponds, his farm near Massbach, he has worked to help Nature in many interesting ways, including research on hazelnut oil, grape varieties, prairie restoration, rare plant horticulture, cellulosic alcohol and (would you believe) flamingo community health.

His real passions, of course, run more to horses and hounds. In his own words, "What I am is a transplanted apartment dweller who wanted to live out the dream of Virgil's Georgics." Not a stoic 19th-century farm life, mind you, but a bucolic, epicurean romp with Nature. What fun.

For us, his thoughtful advice, financial support, and genuine enthusiasm have been most helpful. Thanks Bill.

For other news and seed collection schedule please visit our website at www.nipes.org.

PRAIRIE BLUFF CHAPTER

We had an early start and an early finish to an unusual Spring 2012 fire season. When the chapter met in January to discuss the schedule, President Chris Roberts suggested that our first priority was our own Iltis Savanna, so we set the season opener for Saturday, April 7. As it turned out, we did our first burn at Iltis on March 11, and the season was over by April 2. Our burn bosses and crews conducted 13 prescribed fires, burning a total of 262 acres of prairie and savanna. As usual, we did not accomplish all that we had on our list, so those unburned sites will be among the priorities for our Fall 2012 burn season.

We've been busy with TPE Field Trips – popular and informative visits in April to showcase the beautiful spring flora at Abraham's Woods, Magnolia Bluff and Ten Eyck's Woods. We had a group of wildflower fans from southern Wisconsin who joined us at both Abe's Woods and Magnolia Bluff on consecutive weekends. At Ten Eyck's we had geological and ecosystem experts who added to the understanding of this wooded bluff overlooking Sugar River. All field trippers were curious and lively, and combined with the group leaders' knowledge, made for a well-spent afternoon. Hats off to John Ochsner, Chris Roberts, Fred Faessler and Nate Gingerich.

It was a sudden season, too, for garlic mustard, so we started early and are still pulling. The robust size of this year's crop has resulted in a large compost pile at Ochsner gardens. It is also a chance to experience the rich bird life – first, woodpeckers and herons, now the warblers – at Abe's Woods, while puzzling out the 10 sedges that occur there, including an impressive population of *C. sprengei* on a sandstone ledge.

We would also like to thank our spring partners: Rock County Conservationists, Friends of the Badger State Trail, Town of New Glarus, Green County Land and Water Conservation, UW-Arboretum, Wisconsin DNR, and Green-Rock Audubon Society.



PRAIRIE SANDS CHAPTER

The Prairie Sands Chapter participated in 'No Child Left Inside' activities this spring in partnership with three other groups: Muirland Bird Club, Ice Age Trail Alliance and the John Muir Legacy Group. Because the Prairie Sands Chapter covers a large seven-county area, partnering with other similarly-minded groups is essential. The chapter encourages other groups to contact Ann Woldt, chapter president, with opportunities for additional partnerships: annralph@centurytel.net.

PRAIRIE SMOKE CHAPTER

Prairie Smoke Chapter City Prairie project

In an effort to promote prairies and showcase their usefulness and beauty, Prairie Smoke Chapter volunteers are helping to maintain and enhance some of the current reconstructed prairies within the city of Rochester, Minn. These areas range in size from a few square feet to an acre or more. The city planted them some time ago, but now does not have the budget or staff necessary to maintain all of them optimally. Our volunteers worried that complaints about weeds might lead to destruction of these prairies and replacement by conventional sod.

With the guidance of City Forester Jacob Ryg, we chose a small, centrally located prairie near a popular river trail that was easily accessible and highly visible to many citizens. Non-native plants were removed, and regionally sourced native forbs donated by local members were planted. The city was wonderfully cooperative, donating mulch and watering the newly-planted area for us.

We will also promote these little gems and educate neighbors and passersby as to their value, both informally and with handouts and advertised talks.

When the showcased prairies are doing well, Prairie Smoke board members will approach the City Park Board and Council to have Rochester designated as a Prairie City.

Ultimately, the goal is to encourage a few neighbors to become interested and involved in the care and upkeep of “their” prairie and start to care for it, at least by notifying the city if something changes (new or rampant invasives, vandalism, etc).

Our chapter feels that people will not value prairies if they never see them. By focusing not just on large remote areas, but smaller places right where people live, prairies may become less abstract and more “I can do that!” common. In this way, birds, insects and the many other creatures (including people!), that need these ecosystems will also benefit.

Crystal Springs Hatchery Tour

The Prairie Smoke Chapter of The Prairie Enthusiasts enjoyed a tour of the Crystal Springs State Fish Hatchery, on Jan. 15. Winter is a great time to tour the hatchery, as eggs are hatching and fish are going on feed. This opportunity was special, as the hatchery is not open weekends, except by appointment.

The main emphasis of the tour was on water quality and the basics of fish production. Forty-five people got to see the whole process from the trays of eggs to the huge breeder trout. We saw how the eggs are graded and sorted, how the fry are fed and learned how tricky it can be to raise quality fish. The hatchery has native plantings to control erosion and reduce maintenance costs. This is important because the various species of trout raised there are dependent on good water quality before and after release.

We thank our board member and hatchery volunteer

Chuck Kernler for being our tour guide and sharing with us the fascinating world of raising fish. He was patient, insightful and very knowledgeable, helping to make it a great trip!



Prairie Smoke Chapter members tour the Crystal Springs State Fish Hatchery.

Photo courtesy of Ruthann Yaeger

ST. CROIX VALLEY CHAPTER

New Management Strategy Planned

The St. Croix Valley Chapter has actively managed several native prairie and oak savanna remnants in the River Falls (Wisc.) area. After 10+ years, the large trees have been removed from the sites and our process can now transition to long-term management of invasive species.

At the last chapter meeting, our land manager Wayne Huhnke described oak savanna management techniques pioneered by Tom Brock at the Oak Savanna Foundation (<http://oaksavannas.org>). We will begin using these processes immediately, such as burning more frequently – annually, if conditions are acceptable. Our priority will be to burn in the fall after the plants senesce. We will still burn in the early spring, as we are able, so as not to damage early forbs. We are planning yearly burn classes to train more volunteers and refresh the knowledge of experienced members.

We will also implement Tom’s management techniques for buckthorn control. Buckthorn resprouts are a depressingly large problem at Foster Cemetery and Alexander oak savanna. Starting immediately, we will use backpack sprayers with Garlon to treat a couple of large areas that are thick with small buckthorn resprouts. In summer, we will spritz the upper two to three leaves of the larger plants with Garlon. From mid-October to mid-November, we will treat the basal bark with Garlon. We need a lot of volunteers for these short, directed work events. If you can help, please contact Wayne.

Thanks to Our Burn Crew!

Thank you to everyone who helped burn our project sites this spring – especially to those who burned multiple sites. We burned everything we needed to for a total of 25.08 acres. Twenty-five acres of the steepest, rockiest, oak savanna you will ever have to walk during the hottest spring in 10 years.

Jan Amberson	Bob Lorenzen
Rob Cahalan	Lynn Lorenzen
Joe Covelli	Burt Levy
Susan Goode	Mike Miller
Wayne Huhnke	Myron Mortell
Valerie Kubal	Mike Perry
Doug Lassen	Jyneen Thatcher

SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Join the SW Chapter Board of Directors

Do you have ideas or talents you'd like to share with The Prairie Enthusiasts? Are you motivated to get out and work on our prairies in the southwest corner of Wisconsin? If so, we'd love to have your help. Two of our long-time board members recently resigned and we are looking for fresh faces to help our chapter grow.

We usually meet on the third Saturday of the month for a mid-morning work party, followed by a lunch-hour (or two) meeting either in the field or at a nearby cafe or pub. We're a congenial group that enjoys working and laughing together, while preserving or restoring prairies.

Elections for new members will be during our chapter picnic and meeting on Aug. 12 at Borah Creek Prairie. Please contact Rose Sime (jrsime@chorus.net) if you are interested.

Chapter Picnic to be held at Borah Creek

Mark your calendars: August 12, 2012

Join fellow members of the Southwest Chapter over a potluck picnic at Borah Creek on Sunday, Aug. 12 starting at

noon. Attendees are asked to bring a dish to pass, their own eating utensils and shoes for hiking. Following the meal and a short meeting, we will take a look at the prairie and enjoy the company of the many goats who are grazing on the site. See the results of rotational grazing and what has been done since we acquired the property two years ago.

Schedule for the day

Noon: Potluck Picnic

1 p.m. Short meeting, election of board members

1:45 Prairie tour

Directions: From Fennimore, head west on U.S. Hwy 18. Turn left onto Cemetery Road and right onto Mount Ridge Road for about 3 miles. The access road into Borah Creek Prairie is on the right at 11949 Mount Ridge Road.

Work Party Schedule

The SW Chapter has set the following dates, locations and times for work parties this summer:

June 17 Borah Creek Prairie 10 a.m.

Aug. 18 Sime Bald 10 a.m.

Sept. 15 Eldred Prairie 10 a.m.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The following people have joined TPE during the period March 1, 2012 through May 11, 2012:

Susan Andersen, Monroe, WI
Aaron & Charlene Avery, Middleton, WI
Jill Barland, Eau Claire, WI
Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder, MN
Kevin Doyle, Madison, WI
Stephanie Eastwood, Argyle, WI
Linda Engstrom, Mankato, MN
Janice Fox, Mankato, MN
Fred Harris, St. Paul, MN
Cindy Johnson, Saint Peter, MN
David Liberto, Menomonie, WI
Patrick McCoy, Menomonie, WI

Cory Mitchell, Hudson, WI
Linda Nettesheim, Sun Prairie, WI
Linda Nygren, St. Paul, MN
Jon Rigden, LaCrosse, WI
Charles Roessler, Elysian, MN
Jill Schuettpelz, Madison, WI
Kyle Steele, Albert Lea, MN
Doug & Karna Stock, Mankato, MN
Richard Szydlowski, Plymouth, MN
Bob Tonneson, Mankato, MN
Dan Wilcox, River Falls, WI
Margaret Zoellner, East Troy MI

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

To:

Justin Trewartha
Rick McLaughlin
Jane Schwartz
Melissa Morgan

From:

Mary Trewartha
Coleen Burns
Linda Nygren
Kevin Moore

THANK YOU DONORS

We thank everyone who made a donation to The Prairie Enthusiasts during the period March 1, 2012 through May 11, 2012. These gifts above and beyond membership dues are truly generous and appreciated.

\$5000 or more

James & Rumi O'Brien, *2011 Annual Appeal, Support Executive Director position and Empire-Sauk Chapter*
Laurie Yahl & Rich Kahl, *Tractor Challenge Grant*

\$1000 - \$4999

David & Sarah Aslakson
Bruce & Christine Duemler
Xcel Energy

\$500 - \$999

Charles Roessler

\$100 - \$499

Dan Gartzke & Tracey Schwalbe
Patrick Handrick
Ralph Henry
Jeff & Erin Huebschman,
in honor of Jack Kussmaul's birthday
Susan Kenney
Debbie Konkel

Jack Kussmaul, *in honor of Richard Oberle*
Nicollet Conservation Club
Richard Oberle, *Tractor Challenge Grant*
Keith Relyea & Jeanne Kant
Kristin Westad
Rosalind Woodward

Under \$100

Aaron & Charlene Avery
Carol & Bob Benish, *in honor of Carol Winge*
Richard Bjorlo
Kay Bongers, *in honor of Jan Ketelle*
Peg Bredeson
Robert Canter & Colleen Reinke
Donn D'Alessio & Julie Hayward
Rick Durbin
Nick & Linda Faessler, *in memory of Florence Zantow;*
in honor of Peg Bredeson
Denise Friesen & Steven Gahm
Janice Gary
Tom Gianoli
David Gunnulson, *in memory of Shirley Ellis*

Charles Heide
William & Eloise Kuenzi, *in memory of Betty Felder*
Nick & Mary Kunz
Dewey Moore & Shelley Roberts
Gary & Jean Rathman
Jo Ann Rucker, *in memory of William G. Rucker*
Mike & Roxanne Schlasner
Arlene Dorsey Siss
Pat & Glenn Tabor
Darlene Tymn
Mary Lou Underwood, *in memory of John C. Hanley*
John Van Altena & Connie Brouillette, *in memory of Shirley Ellis*

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: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

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