



www.theprairieenthusiasts.org

# The PRAIRIE PROMOTER

VOL 22, NO. 4 Winter 2009

*Grassroots Conservation at Work*

## President's Message: 2010 Here We Come

By Evanne Hunt

At TPE, we have so many irons in the fire, we can hardly get through the Board meetings!

We will end the year with a healthy bank balance: As of October 31, our total cash on hand is \$397,682.67 and our endowment portfolios are up 14.8-16.6% year-to-date; the S&P 500 is up 14.7%. Our total assets are \$5,289,539.89.

In October, we hired Dani Stolley as Development Director. Her 10+ years of fundraising experience will bring a whole new level of professionalism to The Prairie Enthusiasts. Be sure to read her letter in this issue.

Dani and the Fundraising & Endowment Committee are working together to update our fundraising strategy. With a successful Annual Appeal underway, they are preparing to announce new programs, such as planned giving, at the All-Chapter Banquet in February.

The 2010 budget process has begun at both the chapter level and the corporate level. This exercise is important at all levels to ensure we spend money in the right places and on the right things.

The Board is discussing becoming an accredited land trust. The accreditation process evaluates how an organization is managed and how well it adheres to nationally accepted land trust standards and practices. There are 78 accredited land trusts from across the country, but only one in Wisconsin, the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust. It is a time-consuming process, but it will demonstrate to grant-makers and our donors our ability to operate in an ethical, legal and technically sound manner.



*Borah Creek Prairie (see pages 8 and 10).  
Photo by Linda Lynch*

### IN THIS ISSUE

<b>President's Message</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>Seed Collecting Update</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>New Development Director</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>Tax Exempt Prairies in MN</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>Announcements</b>	<b>Pages 3-4</b>
<b>Chapter News</b>	<b>Pages 4-9</b>
<b>New Members</b>	<b>Page 9</b>
<b>Bump-Ups</b>	<b>Page 9</b>
<b>Borah Creek Fundraising</b>	<b>Page 10</b>
<b>2009 Annual Appeal</b>	<b>Pages 10-11</b>
<b>Donors</b>	<b>Pages 11</b>

## TPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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STAFF	
Business Manager	Carol Winge
Membership Coordinator	Victoria Oberle
Development Director	Dani Stolley

*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.*

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*The Prairie Promoter is a quarterly publication of The Prairie Enthusiasts. No part of this periodical may be reproduced without permission. We welcome submissions of articles, announcements, artwork and photographs that are relevant to prairie and savanna ecosystems. Mail or email submissions to local chapter editorial volunteers or to The Prairie Promoter editor. Copy any text into the body of the email. Send photos (jpeg or bmp) as attachments. Letters and articles may be edited for length or style. Computer disks, art, and photographs will be returned. Deadlines for submission of material are February 27 (Spring issue); May 22 (Summer issue); August 21 (Fall issue); and November 20 (Winter issue).*

*If you would prefer to receive electronic notification of the newsletter please email Victoria at [TPE@theprairieenthusiasts.org](mailto:TPE@theprairieenthusiasts.org).*

## TPE Seed Collecting

By Rich Henderson

As chair of TPE's Land Management Committee, I was recently asked what TPE seed collecting is all about - what we do, where we do it, why we do it, where the seed goes, etc. At this time, TPE does not have a stated seed collecting policy that spells out approved seed collecting practices and purposes. Although site management plans generally address the issues of if and what collecting may be done on a given site, we have no overall policy.

The inquiry made me realize that I do not know the full extent of the seed collecting being done by the various chapters and for what purposes. Maybe a survey to the chapters is in order? Short of doing that, here is what I do know about TPE seed collecting.

1) Some chapters do no seed collecting.

2) Some chapters move seed around within a site to restore cleared areas or to accelerate the spread of a prairie remnant into adjacent old fields. They may collect seed from other prairie remnants to use in their restoration work, but they don't quantify what they collect.

3) Some chapters collect seed to use in plantings not tied to remnant expansion. These sites tend to have educational value, such as plantings in parks or at schools.

4) In the past, chapters have collected seed to sell as a fundraiser.

5) A few chapters do a great deal of seed collecting from multiple sources such as remnants, older plantings and established production beds or seed orchards. These chapters generally make an effort to keep track of the species they collect, how much of each species is collected and the locations from which they are collected (the genetic source). They may even put a retail value on the seed. The purpose of such record keeping is to document accomplishments for members and donors. Such documentation is also used in providing in-kind match to grants. Seed from such large-scale collecting, many hundreds of pounds, goes to various TPE-sponsored restoration projects, especially on our larger preserves such as Hanley Savanna and Mounds View Grassland, as well as those of our conservation partners.

As we grow, TPE may need to develop a policy to guide seed collecting efforts as well as the uses to which we put the seed, for example, addressing the genetic source of the seed, avoiding over-collecting of remnants (especially of short-lived species that depend on reproduction via seed), setting priorities for seed use, etc. If you have an interest or expertise in this area, contact your local chapter representative on the TPE Land Management Committee.

# Hello, Prairie Enthusiasts!

By Dani Stolley

You may have noticed that TPE has added a new staff member recently – yours truly!

TPE is poised to grow as an organization and I'm excited to be part of that growth as your new development director. A life-long resident of Oshkosh, Wis., I've made the preservation, conservation and restoration of my local bioregion a personal and career priority for almost 20 years. After transferring back home from the University of Miami, I was the first graduate of the University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh's Environmental Studies Program (1997) where I also studied English.

I'm currently working with the City of Oshkosh to develop the city's first community sustainability plan while at the same time pursuing a master's degree in environmental studies from Green Mountain College. My goals and interests have always focused on the natural world and I can think of nothing more fulfilling, over the course of my life, than forging meaningful, rewarding and mutually beneficial relationships between the people of the Upper Midwest and the land where they live, work and play.

My husband, Dylan, and I own a commercial and fine art studio in Oshkosh called Stolley Studio, Ltd. When I'm not fundraising or advocating on behalf of sustainability, I enjoy spending time outside with friends, family and my two yellow labs, Manwich and Falco. Although I love travelling to new lands and cultures, I feel particularly at home around the 15,000 lakes, rivers and streams of the badger state. I'm really looking forward to



Dani Stolley. Photo by Dylan Stolley

learning more about prairie, oak savanna and fire-dependent ecosystems and their inhabitants.

Please call me or send an email with ideas, thoughts, concerns or suggestions you have concerning TPE fundraising and development—I look forward to hearing from you! And thanks for bringing me aboard—I am eager to roll up my sleeves and start making a difference!

Dani

## Native Prairies Tax Exempt in Minnesota

Minnesota landowners can reduce their property taxes by enrolling qualifying acreage in the Native Prairie Tax Exemption Program. The program, administered by Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources, aims to protect rare remnants of prairie land remaining in the state. To qualify, land must:

- Have never been plowed.
- Not be used as pasture (haying allowed).
- Be at least five acres.
- Be mostly prairie vegetation (species of interest include side oats gamma, pasque flower, yellow coneflower, big bluestem, and purple coneflower).

Qualifying acreage is completely exempt from property assessment for tax purposes. Landowners only need to apply one time. The permit will roll over from year to year as long as the land is kept in native prairie.

To learn more visit the Minnesota DNR's website:  
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/prairierestoration/taxexemption.html>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Want to Learn About Native Insects?

The Iowa Native Plant Society has recently started an Iowa Insects Mailing Lists. The mailing list is aimed at novice entomologists who want to learn more about insect ecology and identification. Although the list focuses on

Iowa insects, state borders mean very little to these overlooked members of the prairie community. To learn more or to join the mailing list, please visit:

<http://www.cgrer.uiowa.edu/herbarium/InsectMaList.htm>

## 2010 Conference and Banquet The Prairie Enthusiasts: Our Roots Run Deep

*Save the Date: February 27, 2010*

Our organization's roots date back to the 1970s when the people who would become our founding members formed a grassroots network to identify, protect, restore, and manage the fire-dependent ecosystems that they found in prairies across southern Wisconsin.

Who were these people? What were they up to 35 years ago? How were they first introduced to prairies? Where did they go and what did they see? Why did this select group develop a passion for the prairie when others did not?

We hope to find some answers to these questions when our chapter, the Prairie Bluff Chapter, hosts the Prairie Enthusiasts' 2010 conference & banquet on Saturday, February 27, 2010, at the Peppercorn Ludlow Mansion in Monroe, Wisconsin. We are putting together a roundtable discussion to open the conference, featuring founding members Gary Eldred and John Ochsner, a couple of Albany boys who, along with others in southern Wisconsin, years ago found out that all our natural areas had not disappeared, but that brush and invasives were taking over due to lack of fire. We will focus on their first adventure with prescribed fire one Saturday in April of 1975, when they put a match to Muralt Bluff Prairie in Green County. What happened next? Well, come to the conference and hear them tell it.

### CHIPPEWA SAVANNAS CHAPTER

No information submitted.

### COULEE REGION CHAPTER

Please check chapter newsletter for announcements.

### EMPIRE – SAUK CHAPTER

## Board Meetings

**Wednesday January 13, 7 p.m.**, at Tom and Kathie Brock's house. All members welcome.

## Big Buck on the Prairie

By Rich Henderson

As with most of our preserves, deer hunting is allowed in the Mounds View Grassland Preserve in eastern Iowa County. We encourage hunting as a tool to keep the deer herd in check. Left unchecked, deer can damage some of the rarer prairie plants we are attempting to establish, such as lilies and gentians. For the safety of both hunters and volunteers conducting management work on site, we use a reservation/permit system during the gun season.

Deer hunters often dismiss grasslands as unproductive hunting areas due to the challenge presented by the open lands and a perceived lack of deer habitat. Consequently, requests to hunt at the Mounds View Grassland have not been overwhelming. A core group of hunters does keep coming back, however, because they have found that the preserve supports a healthy deer population. They also have come to appreciate the rolling, open landscape and they have learned that such landscapes regularly produce large bucks.



*Photo by Rich Henderson*

In testimony of this fact, in late October of this year, one of our hunters, Paul A. Mittelsteadt of Fond du Lac, came across a recently deceased 11-point buck (see photo) while scouting the property. I happened to be at the preserve at the time, so Paul sought me out, with some excitement, to show me his remarkable find. The cause of death was not readily discernable as scavengers were starting to make use of the carcass. It may have died from injury, illness, age or an undetected arrow wound. To make a long story short, arrangements were eventually made with a DNR warden to allow Paul to salvage the rack. The spread of the antlers was just shy of two feet, a most impressive animal and proof that there are indeed big bucks on the prairie.

## Seed Collecting & Cleaning in 2009

Seed collecting by the Empire-Sauk Chapter was good this year. Volunteers and interns managed to collect an estimated 500 pounds of clean seed in 2009. We appreciate the 50 volunteers who spent 550 hours collecting and processing seed. Tom and Kathie Brock head up the seed collection and processing at Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie and Pleasant Valley Conservancy, where they collected more than 200 pounds of clean seed from 162 prairie and savanna species. Efforts elsewhere within the chapter, and with some help from the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter at their Hollandale seed orchard, brought in nearly 300 pounds of clean seed from 119 species.

Outstanding seed collectors and cleaners this year included Erik Goplin, Rich and Kathy Henderson, Jan Kettle, Jim and Rumi O'Brien, Todd Casanova, Richard Oberle, Eric Preston and Peter Thomford. Also this year, a group of volunteers (Pat Trochlell, Tom Bernthal and Harriet Irwin) focused on collecting wetland species for the wet areas of our preserves in the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area. Eric Preston, our new volunteer coordinator of seed collecting, spent the season learning the ropes as to what species we collect and from where. Next year, he will be able to take an active role in matching volunteers up with seed collecting needs and opportunities.

The seed our chapter collected and processed this year is worth an estimated \$140,000 (retail value). Approximately \$89,000 worth (119 species and 283 pounds) was collected for the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area projects (including Mounds View Grassland complex, Goplin Grassland, Erbe Grassland, and Nature Conservancy preserves) and Kalscheur Savanna. In addition, seed collected from and for Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie and Pleasant Valley Conservancy was worth many additional tens of thousands of dollars. All of the seed collected by the chapter will be used at TPE restoration projects or those of our conservation partners. We use the seed to augment degraded remnants and to plant buffer lands around high quality prairie remnants to increase critical habitat for a wide range of rare and declining prairie and savanna plants and animals.

Our seed orchards continued to prove their worth. In 2009, 155 pounds of

seed came from three TPE seed orchards. The Underwood Orchard produced an estimated \$10,600 worth of seed (40 pounds). The seed orchard run by Erik Goplin produced an estimated \$26,300 worth of seed (99 pounds). The Hollandale Orchard (established by the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter) produced an estimated \$2,700 worth of seed (16 pounds).

## Are You Mechanically Inclined?

The Empire-Sauk Chapter is looking for a volunteer or two to take charge of the maintenance and repair of field equipment. This includes, but is not limited to, drip torches, water backpack cans, backpack herbicide sprayers, hand tools, brush-cutters, chainsaws, mowers, tractors, a truck, ATVs, propane torches, fire-pump units and seeders. The workshop at the Schurch-Thomson barn is up and ready to be used for equipment maintenance and repair. Most equipment will likely be stored at the barn when not in active use. However, maintenance work can be done at other locations. If you wish to help, please contact Rich Henderson at 608-845-7065 or [tpe.rhenderson@tds.net](mailto:tpe.rhenderson@tds.net).

## NORTHWEST ILLINOIS CHAPTER

Please check chapter website ( [www.nipes.org](http://www.nipes.org) ) for announcements.

## PRAIRIE BLUFF CHAPTER

### Woolly Milkweed

By Tom Mitchell

Recently our chapter has been involved with rare plant conservation. A few years ago, chapter member



*The only woolly milkweed with four seed pods in 2009. Photo by Gary Felder.*

Gary Felder found a thriving population of woolly milkweed (*Asclepius lanuginosa*) on private property between New Glarus and Hollandale. Mr. Felder, who specializes in Town of York prairies in the northwest corner of Green County, had been visiting the dry prairie for seven years. The plants did not appear until after the property was burned for the first time in 2007. That year, Mr. Felder counted 14

pods; the next year he counted nine; and this year, he counted

43 pods from over 370 plants in the 15 populations he is monitoring. The prairie was burned for a second time during the spring of 2009.

After learning of these milkweed populations, TPE's Rich Henderson put us in contact with Marlin Bowles, a plant conservation biologist at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois. Mr. Bowles focuses on the restoration and management ecology of endangered plants: the woolly milkweed is listed as endangered in Illinois and threatened in Iowa and Wisconsin. Mr. Bowles requested seeds from different populations from the Green County site.

It appears that small populations are clonal, will not reproduce, and may have rare pollinators, leading to decreasing numbers of plants. So, one rainy day in early October Mr. Felder and I delivered 196 seeds from eight different populations to the western suburbs of Chicago, and toured the Morton Arboretum. Mr. Bowles will share the seeds with the Chicago Botanic Garden, a research institution which recently opened a new Plant Conservation Science Center. Staff at the Chicago Botanic Garden plan to propagate the seeds and eventually introduce these Wisconsin milkweeds into small populations in Illinois and Iowa, in hopes of increasing genetic diversity and plant numbers.

This same Marlin Bowles propagated another rare milkweed, Mead's milkweed, some years ago from Illinois seed. The plant was then reintroduced on a few Wisconsin prairies by Mr. Henderson and Gary Eldred. They planted 24 at Vale Prairie on May 12, 2001. Three of these plants were counted in 2009 but none have produced a flower.

Mr. Bowles intends to visit Green County during summer 2010 to obtain leafy material for a genetic study.

Mr. Felder counted between 21 and 67 seeds per pod in 2009. He moved some seed to different populations on site, left some to nature, and moved some to new sites in the area. He plans to continue to study individual plants to monitor their annual pod production. He has learned from state plant experts that woolly milkweed was last seen in Green County in 1936; that the UW Herbarium's specimen location map for woolly milkweed does not include Green County; and that this is the largest population ever recorded in Wisconsin.

highlight of the evening was a seed exchange as members traded local genotypes they gathered for local genotypes gathered by others. Among seeds traded were white and purple prairie clover, butterfly weed, Goat's rue, lupine, and various grasses. Following that, a generous smörgåsbord's of members' appetizers and a Prairie Sands birthday cake made by president, Karen Wollenberg, shown here on the right among bags of seeds. The seed exchange was so successful, the chapter plans to continue the tradition.



## ST. CROIX VALLEY CHAPTER

### ATV Purchase

Plans have been finalized to purchase an ATV (Polaris 400 side-by-side), a trailer capable of carrying at least 2,000 lbs, and a water tank with a portion of a Turkey Stamp grant.

This new model of Polaris will fit in the bed of a pick-up truck, has a roll-cage, and will be easier to drive than your typical ATV. We expect to purchase the rig early next year when it becomes available.

### Thank You Volunteers!

Thank you to the volunteers at our October 31 and November 14 work parties. You contributed over 90 hours of labor at the Foster Conservation Area and Alexander Prairie.

- Dick Alexander (landowner)
- Isaiah Burish (UW-River Falls student)
- Bobbi Christenson (UW-River Falls student)
- Susan Goode
- Dustin Hart (UW-River Falls student)
- Wendy Hill
- Wayne Huhnke
- Evanne Hunt

## PRAIRIE SMOKE CHAPTER

No information submitted

## PRAIRIE SANDS CHAPTER

### Chapter Update

Prairie Sands Chapter held its first annual meeting at Karen and Fred Wollenberg's house in September. The

Matt Knoll (UW-River Falls student)  
Colin Langan (UW-River Falls student)  
Doug Lassen  
Bob Lorenzen  
Dave Middleton  
Mike Miller  
Travis Mork (UW-River Falls student)  
Mike Perry  
Keith Relyea  
Angie Sechler

Thank you to the volunteers on the November 7 prescribed burn at the Covelli/Hansen/Ross Prairie. About five acres of mixed prairie remnant and old field brome grass was burned. This was an excellent burn considering the wet fall.

Harold Bend  
Kurt Blanchett  
Joe Covellii (landowner)  
Patrick Fleming  
Wayne Huhnke  
Evanne Hunt  
John Mckay  
Mike Miller  
Mike Perry  
Bill Ramsden

## Future Work Parties

If you have never been to a TPE work party, please consider joining us. We cut brush using hand-held saws, loppers, pruners, and chain saws during the winter when the native plants are dormant. We have plenty of equipment so you do not need to bring your own.

Wear work gloves, sturdy boots, and clothing that can get dirty or singed by fire embers. You are welcome to bring your own snacks and water, but the work party leader will bring beverages and hot dogs.

**December 19** - Annual Solstice party at Foster Hill oak savanna

**January 2** - New Years Eve Party at Alexander Prairie

**January 16** - Covelli/Hansen Prairie to cut and burn girdled aspen trees

**January 30** - Foster Cemetery

**February 13** - Alexander Prairie

**February 27** - Foster Hill

**March 13** - Site to be determined

**March 20** - Multiple sites preparing fire breaks

**April** - Prescribed burning season; multiple dates and locations depending upon weather

Check the website for details and directions. Call the contact; if the weather becomes dangerously cold, the work day will be canceled.

A seed of an idea...

## The Prairie Enthusiasts First Annual Photo Contest

In 2006 TPE put together a traveling exhibition of members' photos that was a great success. The quality of the photography and breadth of subject matter that pertained to prairie was quite stunning.

With that in mind, we were wondering what our members have been pointing their cameras at since then. A few ideas were kicked around and the concept of a TPE photo contest which will feature our members' work was developed.

Full details are available at our website but here are a few basics:

All photos will need to be submitted by email in digital format. Maximum 3 entries per member.

Subject matter may include anything that includes prairie plants; animals, insects or amphibians that are native to prairie areas; or activities that are taking place on a prairie.

A finalist group of submitted photos will be selected by a professional photographer. The finalists will be displayed at our conference in February. The membership can then vote for their favorite photo which will be used on the cover of the 2009 TPE Annual Report.

All photographers who have a photo selected as a finalist will receive \$100.

Copyright remains with the submitting photographer.

Submittal deadline is February 1, 2010.

For additional details and a photo submittal form go to:

[www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org](http://www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org)

## SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN CHAPTER

### Work Parties

**December 13**, noon- 3 p.m., Bush Clover Prairie

**January 9**, noon – 3 p.m., Storms Hill Prairie

**January 17**, noon – 3 p.m., Bush Clover Prairie

### Chapter Meetings

**December 13**, 4 p.m., Jeff Huebschman's barn in Lancaster

**January 17**, 4 p.m., Jeff Huebschman's barn in Lancaster

**February 21**, 4 p.m., Jeff Huebschman's barn in Lancaster

### Chapter News

On Sunday, September 20, a dedicated group of individuals met at the Borah Creek Prairie to get acquainted and experience the unique property recently purchased by Mississippi Valley Conservancy. It was an overcast day, but members from Mississippi Valley Conservancy, TPE, and the Driftless Area Land Conservancy had a great opportunity to meet each other as well as our neighbors Dan and Laurie Neuroth and Mike and Deb Reinsbach. Each organization gave a brief overview of their involvement in the property and why they believe this type of cooperative effort is so important. We were especially pleased that students from UW-Platteville's Reclamation Club were able to be there as well. They have become a valuable asset at many of the SW Chapter's work parties, including Borah Creek.

The Borah Creek Prairie is reported to be the largest habitat of federally endangered prairie bush clover in the



Photo by Linda Lynch

state of Wisconsin on private land. The prairie also has other rare species including, the state-threatened woolly milkweed, prairie indian plantain, hill's thistle, wild quinine, pale-purple coneflower and the state special concern marbled seed and prairie turnip. It has been designated as a state natural area (SNA 591).

The Borah Creek Prairie had been privately owned but managed in part by TPE's Southwest Chapter. Mississippi Valley Land Conservancy's purchase saved this incredible remnant from cultivation. These two organizations are working together to secure funds to continue restoration and maintenance efforts and have received donations from many of their respective members (see page 10).

Keep your eye on *The Prairie Promoter* for another event planned for fall of 2010 when Mississippi Valley Conservancy officially donates the property to TPE.

### Building Enthusiasm

By Rose Sime, Chapter President

I have recently been reading Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder by Richard Louv. The author links the absence of nature in children's lives to the rise in obesity, attention disorders and depression. He shows that direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy development, both physically and emotionally.

More importantly to us as Prairie Enthusiasts, Louv writes about the future of the stewardship ethic, particularly the issue of where we will find the next generation of environmentalists, conservationists and land stewards. In 1978, Thomas Tanner, a professor of environmental studies at Iowa State University, polled staff members regarding their interest in the natural world. As Louv reports, he found, "Far and away the most frequently cited influence was childhood experience of natural, rural, or other relatively pristine habitats". Several studies since then, support the idea that childhood experiences in nature are significant indicators for adult activism on behalf of the environment.

Today our youth, from the very young to those still in their thirties and forties, have more contact with technological systems than with natural systems. Children and adults need more quality contact with the land, not only for their own health but also to develop an interest in protecting nature as adults.

In September of 2008, the Southwest Chapter began reaching out to students at UW Platteville. We are pleased to say that the average age at our work parties is approaching 40 due to the regular attendance of five students. Sometimes up to a dozen show up! Prior to this, the average age of our work parties was approximately 70. It's amazing to see these students' enthusiasm and their desire to put in a good day's work! We get so much more



accomplished when they show up! They have helped us remove trees, clear fence lines, string fence wire and collect seeds at Eldred Prairie. They especially love burning brush piles and look forward to helping with a spring burn. The students have also helped at Borah Creek Prairie (see photo, page 1): clearing a fence line and monitoring the Prairie Bush Clover at that site.

In early November, we were delighted to have 11 UW Madison students come out to Borah Creek to help with fencing and removing invasives. Abbie Church from Mississippi Valley Conservancy arranged this with a club at the Memorial Union that does volunteer work during semester breaks or vacations. This prairie weekend was a wonderful way for the students to experience something entirely different. They loved being out in the country doing environmental work. Most of them had never done anything like it before! We plan to encourage them to join us in the future to help develop their love of nature.

Our last endeavor to excite a love of nature in our youth was a trip to Storms Hill and Gary Eldred's prairie planting with Angie Kosin's Biology II class at Iowa Grant HS. They were like gazelles racing up the steep slope but did settle down to learn about the importance of these beautiful relict prairies in SW Wisconsin. A few seemed interested in coming out to volunteer. We hope they will help burn the Storms Hill cedars cut earlier this spring and help clear more brush from the hillside.

Though we haven't touched the very young, we're working in that direction and look forward to classes of children collecting seed at Borah Creek and Eldred prairies. Reaching out to youth not only to educate them about prairies but to excite them on the prairie is my goal as president of the SW Chapter. Louv suggests that through our own enthusiasm we can influence our youth to become stewards who will care for the land in the future!



*Iowa-Grant HS students exploring the mysteries of prairies. Photo by Rose Sime*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The following people have joined since August 25, 2009.

Ciara Ahrens, River Falls, WI  
 Steven Caskey, Stewartville, MN  
 Pete & Fran Demo, Darlington, WI  
 Kirk Elliott, Madison, WI  
 Robert Gurke, Jr., Willowbrook, IL

Anthony & Wendy Hill, River Falls, WI  
 Deah & Paul Kinion, Zumbro Falls, MN  
 Charles Pugh, Platteville, WI  
 Scott Seigfreid, North Mankato, MN  
 Marianne Turek, Hinsdale, IL

## BUMP-UP CAMPAIGN

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

### **To Blazing Star**

Ed & Lois Brick  
 Erik & Nancy Goplin  
 Kathryn Padorr & Raymond Roberts

### **To Shooting Star**

Janet Brandt  
 Mike Engel & Hannah Spaul  
 Carol Fleishauer  
 Judy & Alan Hoffman  
 Ann Kroncke  
 Linda Lynch

### **Russell & Susan Pope**

Jerome E. Simmons  
 Sue Steinmann & Bill Weege

### **To Family**

Steve Bohachek  
 James Keip  
 Anna Motivans  
 Thomas & Shahaireen Pellett  
 Josh Sulman  
 Meredith Thomsen  
 Karen & Martin Voss

## BORAH CREEK MAINTENANCE

In response to a special appeal for donations a total of \$2,615 has been received to support continued restoration and maintenance of Borah Creek as of December 2, 2009. The donors are:

Chuck Bauer  
Tom & Marjie Bennett  
Gary & Cindi Birch  
Merel Black  
Frank Brazelton  
Kathie & Tom Brock  
Willis Brown  
Barbara & Ted Cochrane  
Shirley Ellis  
Carol Fleishauer  
Barbara & Brad Glass  
Sue & Tom Gorski  
Donald Hagar  
Rich & Kathy Henderson  
James & Beverly Holler  
Mark Jeffries  
Susan Kenney  
Ann Kroncke  
Jack Kussmaul

Linda Lynch  
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Prairie Home Estates PHEHCA  
Eugene & Jean Roark  
Marge & Donald Shere  
Tracey & Ann Terrazas  
Ann Thering  
Tim Walsh & Agnes Chwae  
Gary Werner & Melanie Lord  
Laurie Yahr & Rich Kahl  
Tim Yanacheck

## 2009 ANNUAL APPEAL

As of December 2, 2009, the response to our 2009 Annual Appeal totals \$20,848. With our goal set at \$50,000 for this year's annual appeal, we are well on the way. These gifts above and beyond membership dues are truly generous and appreciated. Donors as of December 2, 2009 are:

Anonymous  
Jon Allen  
Craig Annen *in honor of Ron Endres, hardcore enthusiast*  
Deane Army *in memory of James Hale*  
David & Karen Bakken *in memory of Kevin Bakken*  
Jack & Holly Bartholmai *in honor of Laurie Otto*  
Carol & Bob Benish  
Mark & Rebecca Boenish  
Kathie & Tom Brock  
Willis Brown  
Todd Casanova  
Margaret & Florian Chollet *in memory of Dr. John Thomson & Dr. Douglas Thomson*  
Barbara & Ted Cochrane  
Dennis & Nancy Connor  
Kathryn Dejak  
Richard & Betty DeLong  
John & Karin Exo *in honor of Kaye Exo*  
Barbara & Brad Glass  
Sue & Tom Gorski  
Gerald Goth  
George & Betty Hamilton  
Douglas C. Hancock  
John & Cate Harrington  
Rich & Kathy Henderson *in honor of Amy Staffen, Jim & Rumi O'Brien*  
William Hogseth & Crystal Halvorson

William H. Holland *in memory of Carl & Margaret Roethlisberger*  
Evanne Hunt  
Thomas C. Hunt *in memory of Don Shmauz*  
Paul & Carol Jacobsen  
Dorothy Jeffries  
Mark Jeffries  
Maggie Jones & David Linton  
Susan Kenney *in memory of Sterling Big Bear*  
Richard King  
Arlene Kjar  
Lois Komai  
Sarah Kraszewski  
Kimberly Kreitinger & Eric Preston  
Jack Kussmaul  
Rud Kussmaul  
David Ladd *in memory of Scott Ladd*  
Jan Lavacek & Carole Sullivan  
Dawn Littleton & Brian Lind  
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Everett Mclean  
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 Randy Nyboer  
 James & Rumi O'Brien  
 Marcia & Mike O'Connor  
 Pete Oberhauser  
 Richard & Victoria Oberle  
 Dan & Judy Peterson  
 Ann Ramminger & Bob Wernerehl *in memory of Evelyn Batchelor*  
 Peg Rasch & Dave Stute  
 James Rasmussen  
 Sue Reindollar  
 Keith Relyea & Jeanne Kant  
 Jim & Diane Rogala  
 Marge & Donald Shere  
 Jim & Rose Sime *in memory of John Thomson*  
 George B. Simon  
 Susan Slapnick *in memory of Frank Slapnick*  
 Mark Smith *in memory of Alvin & Grace Joyce*  
 Ron & Paulette Smith  
 Amy & Richard Staffen

Wayne Sutter  
 Lee & Jacqui Swanson  
 Glenn Teschendorf & Mary Anne Derheimer  
 Ann Thering & Dave Eide  
 Heather Thomson & Hans Rinke *in memory of John Thomson; in honor of Olive Thomson*  
 Laureen Thorstad  
 Peggy & Jon Traver  
 Robert & Susan Wallen *in memory of Andrew Wallen*  
 William Wartmann *in memory of Joyce F. Wartmann*  
 Thomas & Eva Wedel  
 Richard & Susan Weigel  
 Gary Werner & Melanie Lord *in memory of J.J. & Pat Werner*  
 West Bend Mutual Insurance  
 Phil & Sue Wheeler  
 Susan & Joseph Wieseler  
 Bill & Jayne Wisler  
 Eugene Woehler  
 Ralph & Ann Woldt  
 Laurie Yahr & Rich Kahl

**THANK YOU, DONORS!**

We thank everyone who made a donation to TPE this fall (August 25-December 2). These gifts above and beyond membership dues are truly generous and appreciated.

\$1000 - \$5000

Kimberly Kreitinger & Eric Preston *Acquisition*

\$500-\$1000

Ronald Endres  
 Max & Shelley Lagally

\$100 - \$499

Phil & Kathy Aaker  
 Vance Baker  
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 Mike Engel & Hannah Spaul *in appreciation of Kathy & Rich Henderson*  
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 Kurt & Susan Sroka *TPE Endowment Fund*  
 Laurie Yahr & Rich Kahl

Under \$100

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 Ann Ramminger & Bob Wernerehl  
 Keith Relyea & Jeanne Kant  
 Ron Reynolds  
 Mary Rosenthal

John & Barb Rutherford *in memory of John Thomson*  
 Dani Stolley  
 Sandy Stark  
 Chester & Donna Thomas *in memory of John Thomson*  
 James Welsh  
 Ralph & Ann Woldt  
 Karen & Fred Wollenburg

**The Prairie Enthusiasts  
PO BOX 1148  
MADISON WI 53701**

**[www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org](http://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 emailing Victoria Oberle, membership coordinator at [TPE@theprairieenthusiasts.org](mailto:TPE@theprairieenthusiasts.org). Thank you.*

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

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The Prairie Enthusiasts Membership Levels:

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

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