

**SOUTHWEST  
WISCONSIN  
PRAIRIE  
ENTHUSIASTS  
(S.W.W.P.E.)**

**SWWPE NEWSLETTER #3**

**EARLY SUMMER 1988**

## PROGRESS IN PROPAGATING

On 5/15/88, Officers Gary Eldred, Gail and Gary Adams, attended the dedication of the Buthenoff Prairie in Green Co. At this time seven other Prairie remnants were viewed in Dane Co. Iowa and Green Co's. The one in Green Co. on the Hans Sulzer property was reported to be beyond imagination in its spring bloom. The Keynote speaker at the dedication was internationally known botanist Hugh Illtus, Prof. at the U.W. The purchase of this Prairie was made by The Green County Conservation League with the help of the Wis. Prairie Enthusiasts of Green Co. Total size of this Prairie is 20 acres.

Surveying has been completed on the Thomas Wetland property on Ct G south of Muscoda. Paul Chaffer did the work for us at a total cost of \$200.00. There will be a need for 1,300 ft. of new fence to be installed on the west boundary. Hopefully the fencing will be done within the next couple of weeks. Anyone interested in helping, contact George Brown at 375-5270.

## PRAIRIE PROFILE OF THE MONTH

Judy Carlson a resident of rural Millville is a woman of boundless energy and enthusiasm. She is married to Dale Carlson an art teacher at West Grant Schools and has two small and active sons. Judy has been producing hydroponic lettuce for a number of years now and has recently gone into the commercial flower business. She is also an accomplished horticulturist with a passion for prairies. Judy is experimenting with new and different ways to raise prairie plants from seeds. On any given day her refrigerator is stuffed with strange mixtures of soils and seed in various stages of stratification. Judy has kindly offered to take our

collected seed that we need to develop into seedlings for our prairie orchards that we are developing. In return, we have promised Judy that when the time comes, we will help her re-pot the thousands of seedlings she will have on hand, So be prepared for a re-potting pot luck get together sometime in August. Keep up the good work Judy!!!

## SPRING BURNING

Spring burning was something new for the group this year. A total of 5 sites were burned in townships scattered over central Grant Co. Only half of each site was burned so that prairie dependent insect species would be available to repopulate from the unburned to the burned side. An additional two sites were found to be in dire need of brush cutting. With the help of the Brown's, the Adam's and Gary Eldred several hundred red cedar were removed from a prairie remnant on the Fiest property in Liberty twp on Sleepy Hollow Rd. S.E. of Stitzer. On another site on the Larry Kreul farm on Ct G lots of brush was cut and many large aspen trees girdled to allow sun to reach the plants. This effort was accomplished by the Brown's and Gary Eldred. This particular site was on Badger Rd. a half a mile west of Ct G. It is a small site but it has four rare species; purple cone flower, wild quinine, marbleseed and hill's thistle.

## A BURNING WORKSHOP!

George and Susan Brown and Gary Eldred attended a prescribed burning training school in Beloit. Our president reported that the two day school was very informative and was a big reason for the success of the burning season in Grant County undertaken by the SWWPE members.

## THINGS FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

Brush cutting is being lined up for later this summer, in fact the end of June. Anyone interested please contact Gary Eldred at 375-5271. Remember that without brush and tree removal some of those prairie remnants that are tiny to start with will continue to diminish and we will lose quality and diversity of species. Besides it's a great way to lose weight and completely free of charge!

## SEED COLLECTING

In this issue of the newsletter you will find a printed set of labels. When you collect a bag of seed simply fill out one of the labels, enclose it with the seed and drop it off at the Eldred home or mail it to him in order that he can distribute it appropriately.

## SWWPE STATUS

We are now a formal Bona Fide non-profit organization. Even the IRS has acknowledged us. Talking of fund raising, the Prairie Video should be wrapped up and ready to go, along with our president's three piece suit, to a few corporate offices by the end of July. However, we still need to encourage people to pay their membership dues if they have not already done so. Dues are \$10 per individual, \$15 for a family membership. Paid up members so far are:

Ruth Bierwith  
Gary & Gail Adams  
Hank Maslach  
Catherine Eckert  
Mary Bremmer  
Gary Eldred  
Pat & Bill Heidenreich  
Bill Tans  
Steve Stahlman  
Steve Curley  
Ruth Bauer  
Alice & Walter Mirk

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

President Gary Eldred  
 V. President Ruth Bierwith  
 Sec./Treas. Gail Adams  
 Board Members Gary Adams,  
 Mary Bremer, Geo. Brown, Susan  
 Brown, Steve Curley, Hank Mas-  
 lach, Congratulations folks!!!!

## TALKING OF ANOTHER BRAINSTORM

Our president, Gary, has been in touch with TV stations in Madison regarding public announcements, for free on the tube! Plans are in the works to produce short scenes and sounds of the prairies to solicit funding for our group. More on this in the next issue!

## A NEW IDEA: RECIPE OF THE MONTH, PICK AND EAT AN ALIEN

*Common Burdock*  
 Also edible summer, autumn

**Habitat:** roadsides, vacant lots, disturbed sites; introduced from Europe and Asia. **Identification:** *biennial herb* to 1.8 m (6 ft) high; stems upright, often branched, usually smooth. *Leaves* alternate, *basal leaves large*, 30 - 50 cm (12-20 in) long, 20 - 30 cm (8 - 12 in) wide, widest near base, *deeply lobed at base*, with conspicuous hollow stalk; upper-stem leaves smaller and not lobed at base, *Flowering heads produced during second year along upper stems* or in branched elongated clusters; heads 1.7 - 2.8 cm. (0.7 - 1.1 in) across, outer branches spine-tipped; *flowers pink to purple*. Seeds small, hard nutlets 4 - 6 mm (0.2 in) long. **Harvest:** Dig roots of first-year plants during summer, later if necessary. Pick first-year basal leafstalks and young flower stalks of second year.

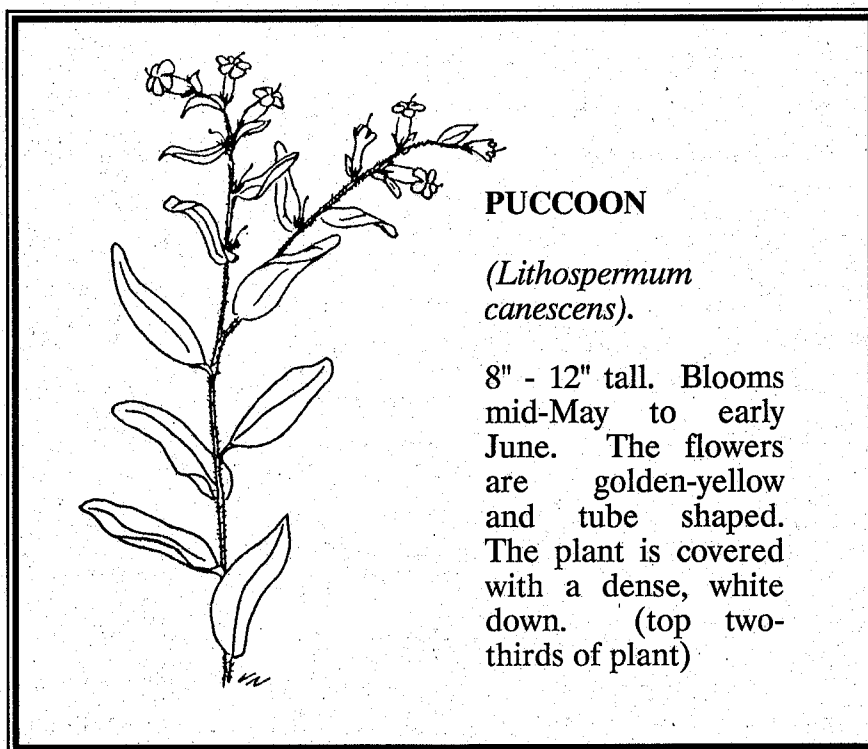
**Preparation:** Peel roots, slice 1/2 in thick and boil 20 min. with pinch of baking soda. Change water and boil until tender. Serve with butter and seasonings, or mash pieces and make fried patties. Peel flower stalk, removing all green rind. Eat like celery, slice into salad, or boil until tender. Good in casseroles and many other recipes. Simmer pieces of cooked flower stalk in maple syrup to make candy. Eat peeled leafstalks raw or boiled, but since they are hollow, there's not much left after peeling. **Related edible species:** Just as good, great burdock (*A. lappa*) is larger, with larger burrs on solid leafstalks. **Poisonous look-alikes:** Leaves resemble rhubarb leaves but flowers are greatly different.

## EARLY SUMMER SPECIES TO BE COLLECTED

### DRY

Purple prairie clover (purple)  
 Tickseed (yellow)  
 Thimbleweed (white)  
 Leadplant (violet)  
 Whorled milkweed (white)

White Prairie clover (white)  
 Little bluestem (green)  
 Needlegrass (tan)  
 Indiangrass (green)  
 Big bluestem (green)  
 Rosinweed (yellow)  
 Compass plant (yellow)  
 Prairie dock (yellow)  
**MESIC**  
 Sideoats grama (green)  
 Junegrass (tan)  
 Prairie dropseed (green)  
 Spiderwort (blue)  
 Bergamot (lavender)  
 Thimbleweed (white)  
 Whorled milkweed (white)  
 Purple prairie clover (purple)  
 White prairie clover (white)  
 New Jersey tea (green)  
 Rattlesnake master (white)  
 Yellow coneflower (yellow)  
 Canada tick-trefoil (purple)  
 Leadplant (violet)  
 Blackeyed susan (yellow)  
 Bergamot (lavender)  
 Spiderwort (blue)  
 Switchgrass (green)  
 Prairie dropseed (green)  
 Little bluestem (green)  
 Tickseed (yellow)  
 Prairie willow (green)  
 Needlegrass (tan)  
 Indiangrass (green)  
 Big bluestem (green)  
 Rosinweed (yellow)  
 Compassplant (yellow)  
 Prairie dock (yellow)



## PUCCOON

*(Lithospermum canescens).*

8" - 12" tall. Blooms mid-May to early June. The flowers are golden-yellow and tube shaped. The plant is covered with a dense, white down. (top two-thirds of plant)

# FORM FOR SEED COLLECTING

Type of seed \_\_\_\_\_  
Location coll, \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount coll, \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Coll. \_\_\_\_\_  
n. people/time \_\_\_\_\_

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# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
WORK ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK ONE:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 INDIVIDUAL  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 FAMILY  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 CONTRIBUTOR  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 LIFE  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$400 CORPORATE MEMBERS

\*MEMBERSHIPS RUN FROM APRIL 1ST TO APRIL 1ST

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS AND RETURN WITH THIS FORM TO:**

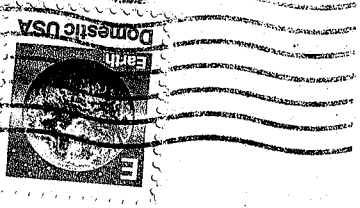
SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS  
c/o GARY ELDRED  
1492 SLEEPY HOLLOW TRAIL  
BOSCOBEL, WI 53805

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS IN WHICH YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP SWWPE:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| _____ seed collection                                      | _____ participate in group visits to prairie sites |
| _____ writing newsletter articles                          | _____ help contact and solicit donation for SWWPE  |
| _____ restoration projects                                 | _____ other areas _____                            |
| _____ member of SWWPE board                                | _____ _____  |
| _____ help with contacting member through mail or by phone | _____ please elaborate                             |

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!**

Gary & Gail Adams  
RR 2 Box 63  
Soldiers Grove WI. 54655



SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS (SWPE)  
c/o GARY ELDRED  
1492 Sleepy Hollow Trail  
Boscobel, WI 53805