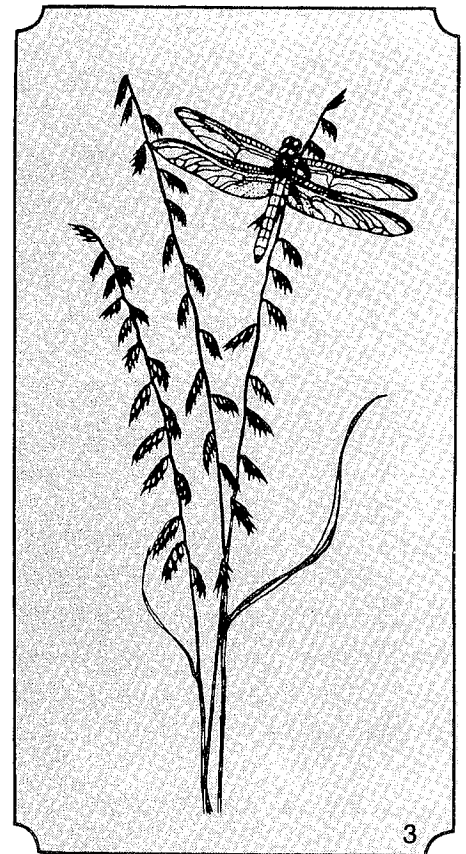
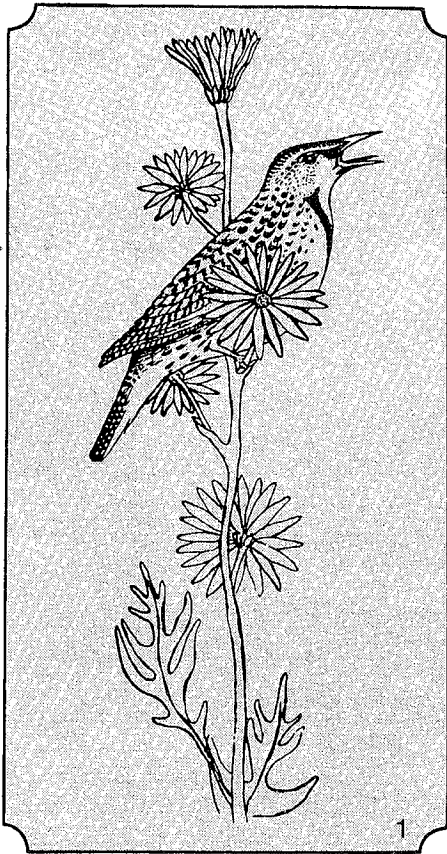
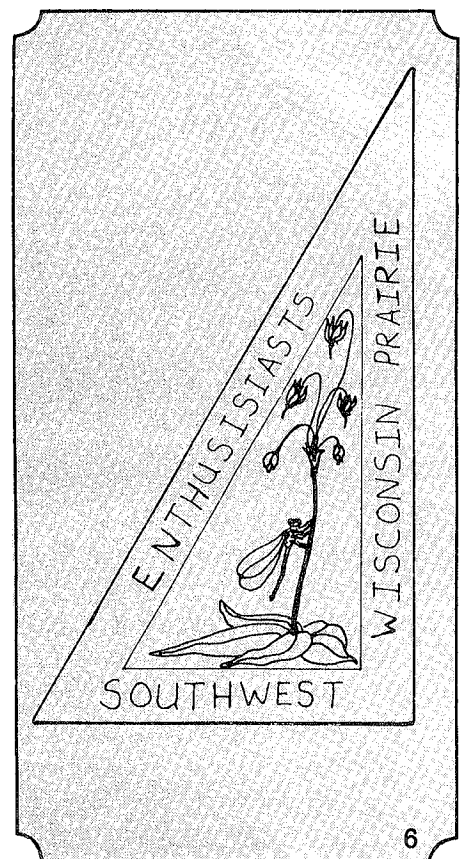
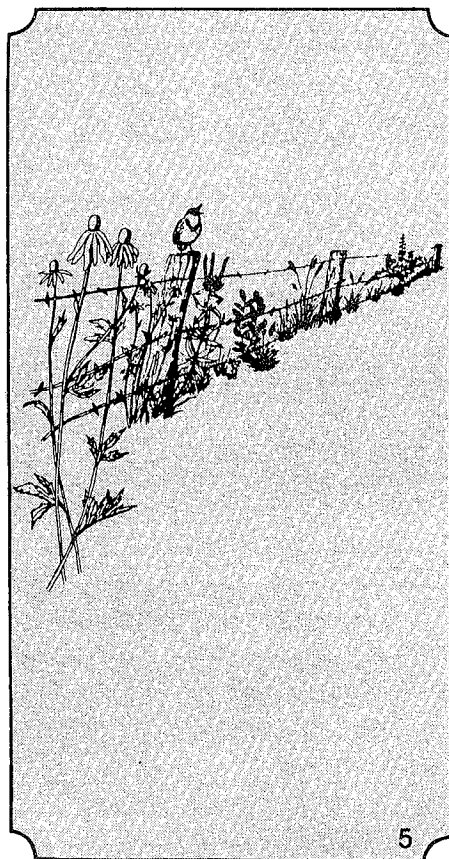
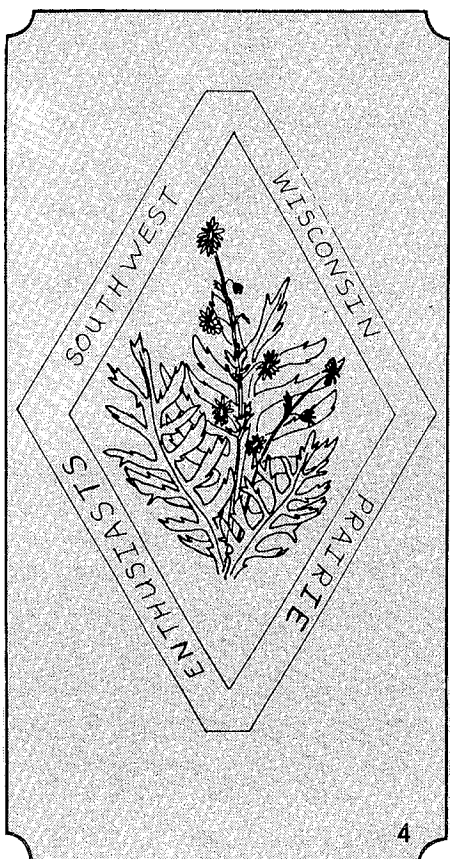


SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS (S.W.W.P.E.)



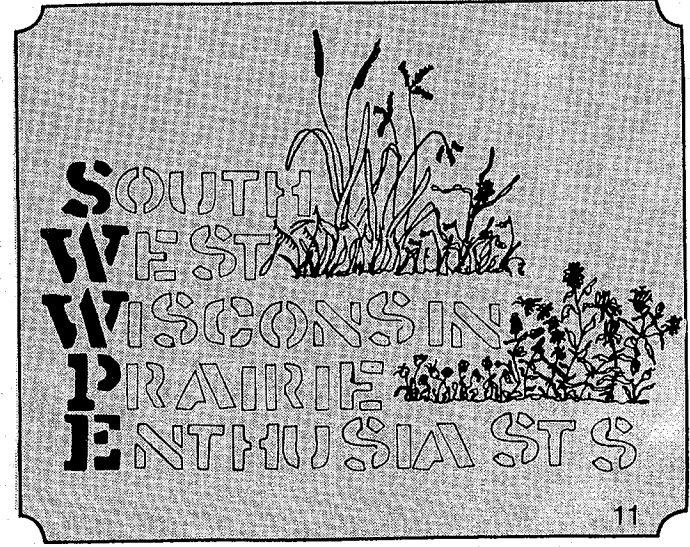
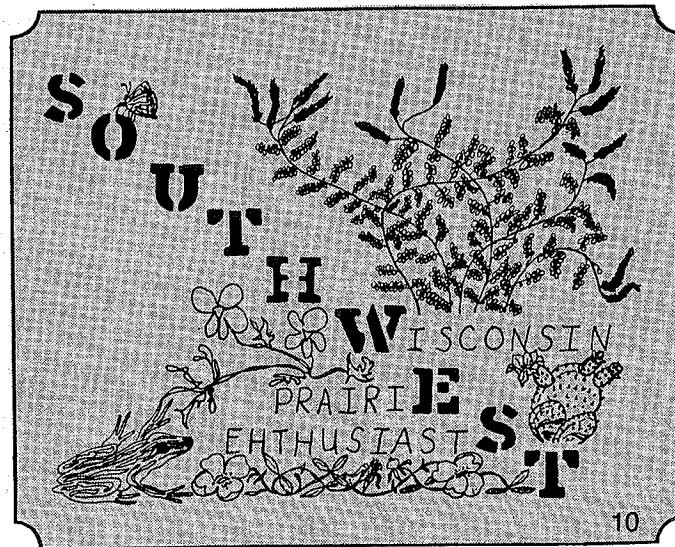
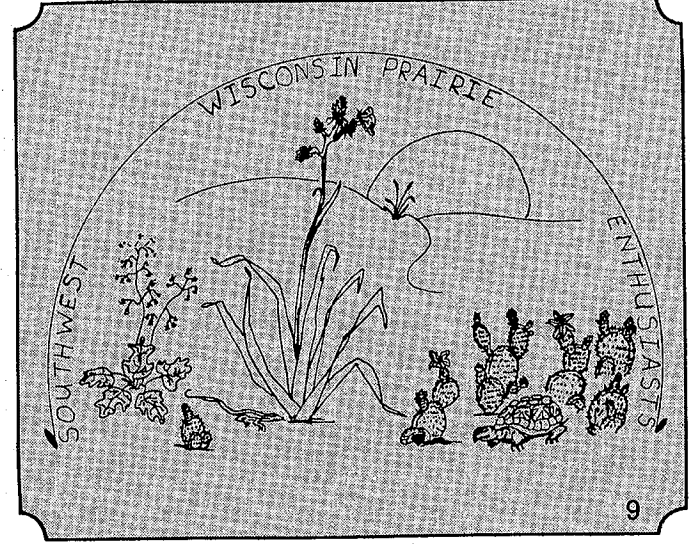
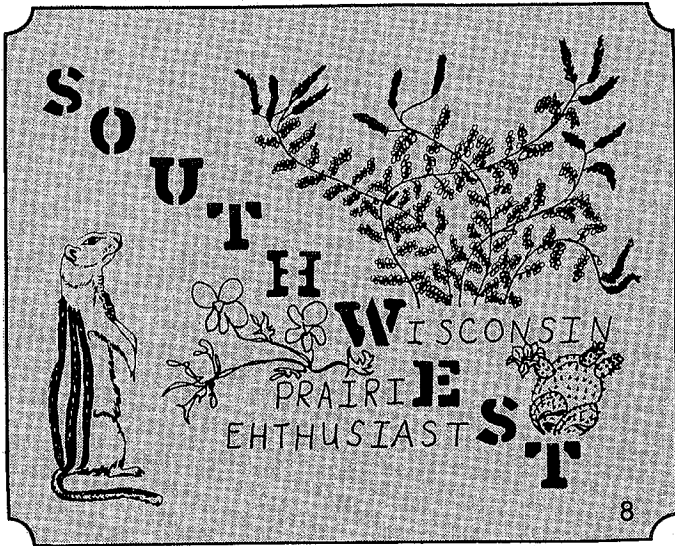
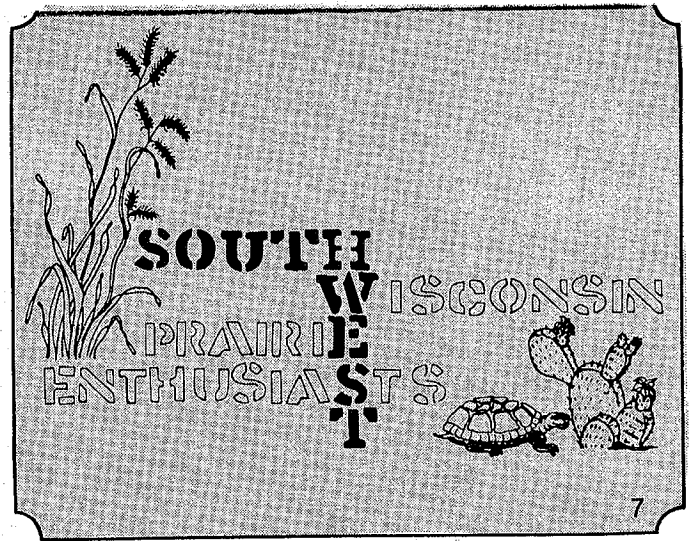
LOGO ENTRANTS (More Inside)



15 entries for logo competition

Fifteen entries in the Logo Competition from four competitors helped make the contest a success. Many attractive entries were submitted and judging will be difficult!

Several finalists have been chosen to appear in this issue of the newsletter. The winning entry will be selected by your vote. We hope you will take the time to examine the entries and cast your vote. Not only will your effort help us select a logo winner, but it will let us know that you read our newsletter. Your participation will give us much needed moral support.



LOGO BALLOT

S.W.W.P.E. LOGO CONTEST

Please enter my vote for Logo Entrant Number _____ as the official S.W.W.P.E. Logo
Your Choice

Return ballots to:

Alice Mirk

Update on S.W.W.P.E. projects

*Cuba City High School project

After S.W.W.P.E. members spent spring and fall weekends collecting 55 pounds of prairie seed for an anticipated fall of 1988 planting, word was received that due to unforeseen circumstances the site was not ready for a fall planting. The project has been rescheduled for the fall of 1989.

*New project! - Wisconsin Historical Society and S.W.W.P.E.

The Wisconsin Historical Society and S.W.W.P.E. have started a joint project that should prove very exciting. Mark Knipping, Director of the Pendarvis Historical Site in Mineral Point, has asked the S.W.W.P.E. to assist him in a six-acre prairie restoration on the old Merry Christmas Mine Site in Mineral Point. Ron Grasshoff, supervisor of a Community Action Program crew, will be working with Mark to do all the site preparation, and the bulk of the seed collection. S.W.W.P.E. will act as advisors and possibly be involved in some seed collection.

In November William Brandt and Gary Eldred joined Mark, Ron and Ron's crew of five on a field trip to Muralt's Prairie in Green County. Muralt's will be used as a basic blueprint for the Mineral Point restoration project.

Prairie Fires

A curving, leaping line of light,
A crackling roar from hot, red lungs
A wild flush on skies of night,
a force that gnaws with hot red tongues,
That leaves a smoking blackened sod
A fiery furnace where buffalo trod.

—Hamlin Garlin

Buffalo Dusk

The buffaloes are gone.
And those who saw the buffaloes are gone.
Those who saw the buffaloes by thousands
and how they pawed the prairie sod
into dust with their hoofs,
their great heads down
pawing on in great pageant
of dusk.

Those who saw the buffalo are gone.

Prairie planting—an alternative to herbicide spraying

Counties in Iowa are considering the use of native prairie plants to control weeds and brush along roadsides. A December 8, 1988, Dubuque Telegraph Herald article outlines several reasons counties are exploring native plantings as an alternative to current herbicide spraying or mowing programs.

The proposed changes in roadside management are prompted by several advantages natural prairie plants offer.

—Native prairie plants establish a ground cover that gives noxious weeds and brush competition.

—Native plantings significantly reduce the need for herbicide application along roadsides.

—Prairie plants are ideally suited to roadside use because they adapt to a wide range of soil types and climate.

—A native prairie plant environment contains many grasses and wildflowers that bloom all summer, providing an aesthetically pleasing alternative to the scorched weeds left by spraying.

—Native plantings provide natural wildlife habitat.

—Prairie plantings decrease the threats to groundwater created by herbicide spraying. Promoters of native prairie roadsides emphasize the low cost of maintenance once the plantings have been established. Economic and environmental benefits of native prairie plantings question the validity of current herbicide and spraying programs.

Making the offer again!

Speaking of nationally known wildlife artists, Jonathan Wilde of Dayton, Wis., has also offered his superb talents to help us on our mission to preserve the last fragment of prairie we have left. Jonathan has offered a very limited number of artist's proofs of the Aldo Leopold commemorative print for a \$100 donation. There are only two or three of these prints available, so don't spend too much time procrastinating. By the way, this print is signed by the

Muscoda Garden Club project

The Muscoda Garden Club and S.W.W.P.E. entered into a cooperative venture to plant 15 acres of city park land in native prairie species. Muscoda city officials have applied for a \$15,000 grant to purchase seed and hire a contractor to do the planting. Riverdale High School teacher, Dave Timm, expressed strong interest in having his biology classes involved in the project. Riverdale 4th grade teacher, Veda Fauver, has also expressed strong interest in having her students involved in seed collection. Gary Eldred, S.W.W.P.E. member, has been appointed official coordinator of the project by the Garden Club. S.W.W.P.E. members will work with Veda locating and collecting seed.

S.W.W.P.E. begins roadside planting

The concept of planting native prairie species on appropriate sites along state highways is beginning to come to life.

Last November, four members of S.W.W.P.E., George Brown, William Brandt, Cathrine Eckert and Gary Eldred, started the first project. After securing planting permits from the Department of Transportation, our small but enthusiastic group took on the project. The idea was to plant small plots with just a few seeds placed in each plot. First, a 1½ square foot of sod was scraped free of all grass and weeds. Next, a small 5-inch by 5-inch square of soil was spaded and loosened. Then a biodegradable piece of material (old carpeting), 1½ feet square with a hole cut in the center, was placed over the bare soil. Finally, three or four seeds were placed through the hole into the loosened soil.

We hope the carpet will keep the weed competition down, help hold the moisture, and raise soil temperatures quickly in spring to promote earlier plant growth.

A total of 50 sites were planted in a plot about 15 feet wide by 40 feet long. Species planted include Compass Plant, Prairie Dock, Rattlesnake Master and Blazing Star. The site is located on the east side of Hwy. 61 just south of the Hickory Gröve Golf Course between Boscobel and Fennimore. We hope to use these sites as seed orchards and as focal points for raising public awareness of the beauty of native

Seed collection sites catalogued

After many, many hours, over 165 seed collection sites have been catalogued, crossed checked for accuracy of location, and filed for quick reference. Most of the sites are not prairie remnants but simply stands of prairie species with good seed production qualities. This cataloging will make the task of seed collection more productive and efficient (barring another drought year like the summer of 1988).

More than 23 species are on our list including nearly 20 Pale Purple Coneflower sites and 30 Wild Quinine sites. In coming years the list will need to be expanded so the diversity of species collected will continue to expand. Notes on the amount of seed collected and the condition of the prairie plants on the site will be monitored for future reference and seed production potential.

Roadside prairies planned

(Excerpted from the EE News:
Winter 1988 Edition)

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation plans to restore 1,300 acres of prairie along a 42-mile stretch of the new U.S. Highway 51 freeway between Portage and Wausau. Mature plantings will provide colorful scenery for tourists and reduce roadside maintenance to almost nothing.

Once the prairie plantings have matured, it will be impervious to erosion, a problem which has plagued the Central Sands area of Wisconsin since the prairies were wiped out in the past century. The Department of Natural Resources estimates that only about 2,000 acres of prairie remain in the state out of an original two million that existed in the 1830's.

The Department of Transportation states, "Today there is a new appreciation of the long-stemmed, deeply rooted prairie plants that enrich soil, prevent erosion, provide

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, March 16, 7:30 p.m.

Bi-monthly meeting S.W.W.P.E.
Boscobel Bowling & Rec. Center
Boscobel, Wis.

*All members and friends invited

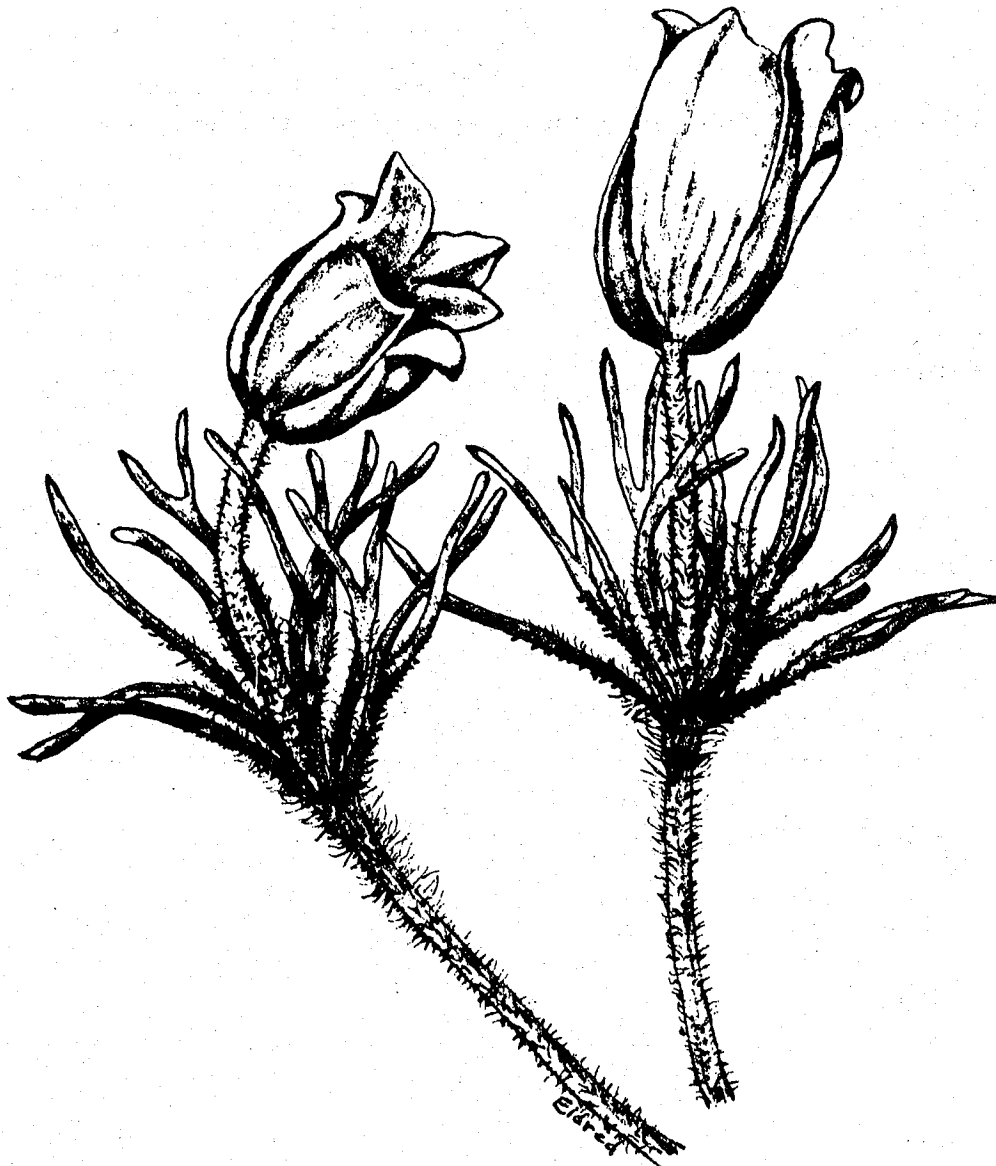
Tuesday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.

Annual meeting S.W.W.P.E.
Boscobel Bowling & Rec. Center
Boscobel, Wis.

*Election of officers and directors

—All members and non-members
welcome

PLANT OF THE MONTH



PASQUE FLOWER - ANEMONE PATENS - A member of the buttercup family, this delicate plant is one of the first harbingers of spring. The five to seven large petal-like sepals may be white or blue-violet. The plant itself is covered with silky hair; the leaves are deeply cut and the flowers appear before the leaves. Growing from 6-16 inches, this plant

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 1 to April 1

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

**SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS
Gail Adams
Box 63
Soldiers Grove, WI 54655**

PLEASE CHECK ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS IN WHICH YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP S.W.W.P.E.:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seed Collection | <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in group visits to prairie sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing newsletter articles | <input type="checkbox"/> Help contact and solicit donations for S.W.W.P.E. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Other areas _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member of S.W.W.P.E. board | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with contacting members through mail or by phone | Please elaborate |

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS (S.W.W.P.E.)
c/o GARY ELDRED
1492 Sleepy Hollow Trail
Boscobel, WI 53805

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