



THE PRAIRIE PROMOTER

VOL. 8, NO. 3

FALL 1995

"We create landscapes according to our morality, humanity and culture, and these landscapes then determine our fate."

Prairies of region face an invisible enemy

Native prairies of the Midwest that survived the developer's bulldozer and the farmer's plow appear to face a new threat in the form of invisible pollutants.

The pollutants are nitrogen-based compounds—some from farm fertilizer, some from feed lot waste, some from auto exhaust and some from industrial emissions.

Most work on atmospheric pollutants has focused on acids that can poison soil and kill plant life. But these compounds have just the opposite effect: they nurture and promote growth of foreign plants that crowd out native plants. The result on fragile prairie plants can be deadly.

The findings come from work done at the Cedar Creek Natural History Area, a research site north of the Twin Cities area. The University of Minnesota runs the site.

Because the soil in marginal areas, like prairies, is so poor in nitrogen, plants that evolved in those areas became efficient users of whatever nutrients were available. But the nutrients also turned the plants into slow growers.

Any increased levels of nitrogen in the soil don't particularly help native plants. Instead, they make it possible for faster-growing, nonnative plants to invade. As nitrogen levels rise, the slower-growing plants get shaded out and the faster-growing plants predominate.

Scientists have understood this dynamic for some time. What researchers at Cedar Creek discovered, however, is that the current rate at which nitrogen-based compounds naturally settle out of the atmosphere is high enough to reduce the diversity of plant life in prairie settings. The discovery suggests that unless the nitrogen rate is decreased, native plants will be driven out of areas like bogs, grasslands and sand barrens.

David Tilman, director of the Cedar Creek site, said he was "shocked, honestly, to see this effect. I had thought that the major effect of atmospheric deposition came from acidification of soils. This is not an acid rain effect. We're merely talking about having extra fertilizer falling from the sky."

Tilman noted that just in the last 50 years, the amount of nitrogen-based compounds deposited on the earth has more than doubled. This change is almost entirely the result of human activity: increased use of chemical fertilizers in farming, evaporation of ammonia from livestock yards and the burning of fossil fuels.

To measure the changes, Cedar Creek has monitored 25 acres of grasslands and oak savanna for the past 10 years. Currently in the upper Midwest, Tilman said, the rate at which nitrogen compounds fall to earth is roughly 1 gram per square meter. It doesn't sound like much, but it represents an average gain of 20% in available nitrogen in the soil.

At that level, he said, "We have detected highly significant changes in the abundance of plant species in this plant community and a loss of biodiversity with the composition changing toward nonnative plants."

To get a sense of the long-term impact of nitrogen deposition, Cedar Creek added nitrogen to some plots to increase the effect and found that the trend toward nonnative plants accelerated.

This change is cause for concern for more than just admirers of prairie flowers and grasses. Research has shown, Tilman said, that as areas lose diversity in plant species, "they become less stable." There is greater year-to-year fluctuation in the kinds of plants that grow there and plants become less efficient at filtering out nutrients from the soil.

—Reprinted, with permission, from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Friday, June 9, 1995

Special thanks to Tim Hammerly for submitting this article

Alert!

Earlier this year, Assembly Republicans proposed statutory language in an amendment to the state budget which would have weakened protection of endangered species. The amendment would have made the taking of a wild animal or plant federally listed as threatened or endangered permissible if "the taking is not the purpose of, but will be only incidental to, the carry out of a lawful activity and the taking is necessary for the construction, operation or maintenance of a transportation facility that is located on public property. For the taking of a wild animal or wild plant that is endangered or threatened species but that is not on the federal list, no permit is needed under this section" (Wis. Stat. 29.415 (6m)). This would have eliminated any potential problems caused by the nasty little Purple Milkweed plants growing on the highway right-of-way (see *Asclepias purpuracens* article).

Fortunately for us and the colony of *A. purpuracens*, the Wisconsin Senate removed these changes. However, this fall may see another attempt to weaken the endangered species law.

Another insidious set of bills (AB 521 and SB 298) slithering their way toward formal introduction should prove to be the darlings of moneyed special interests. These bills would greatly alter the concept of "taking" of private property for public use under Amendment 5 of the U.S. Constitution and Article XI, Section 2 of the Wisconsin Constitution.

Property owners would not only be able to sue government without first making an administrative claim, they would also be able to fabricate claims and do so repeatedly for successive proposals for the same piece of property! While a new category of claims against government is created, there is no provision for any funds from which to pay those claims. It seems an ideal way to undermine those regulations which protect our air, water and quality of life from despoilers and exploiters. Just watch who lines up in support of this legislation!

Be alert for these bills and contact your legislators to register your opposition.

President's message

Another fall is approaching and I watch in silent melancholy as our summer birds stage for their migrations to points south. They add so much sound and life to our landscape that it's always difficult for me to know I won't hear their songs again until next spring. On the other hand, there are always the demands of The Prairie Enthusiasts to keep me stimulated. If the coming season is anything like those in the past, there will be little time to miss my feathered friends.

The Prairie Enthusiasts has had another production summer. All four chapters have been very active: conducting inventories, seed collecting, arranging work parties, hikes, tours and picnics, and, of course, meetings, many meetings—16 a year for me!

In the coming year, TPE will strive to improve its ability to provide more services and information to its chapters. There is an increasing need to learn more about the range of options beyond outright purchase for preserving and protecting land. Leases and easements and their advantages and limitations will be explored with the help of skilled land trust organizations. Work is nearly finished on a document on how to establish a TPE chapter. It's brief, simple and it will make the job of starting a chapter easier. A completely new and improved version of *The Prairie Primer* (the original was published by the UW-Wisconsin Extension and is out of print) will be out in the near future, with all new drawings and text. It will be available to the chapters for distribution/sale.

I stumbled onto a little jewel in August and would like to share it with you. The Wisconsin DNR published a report called *Wisconsin's Biodiversity as a Management Issue* in May 1995. The report covers northern forests, southern forests, oak and pine barrens, oak savannas, grasslands, wetlands and aquatic systems. TPE Vice-President Rich Henderson has done an excellent job in coauthoring the section on prairies. Rich and Dave Samples' description of the status of prairies in Wisconsin makes for very interesting but deeply sobering reading. Rich's chapter on savannas is also an outstanding piece of work.

To obtain a copy, contact:

Violet Lehmann
Wisconsin DNR
Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

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The results are in!

I received 35 responses to the Land Use Questionnaire published in the summer newsletter. That represents a return of about 8%, which is normal for this sort of thing. I think you will enjoy reading about the results. Indeed, some of the responses were quite surprising.

Why is it important for there to be natural (or artificial) areas? With respect to natural areas, the clear consensus was that "all life forms are valuable and necessary" and "without nature there is no future." Quality of life and esthetics were each cited as most important by one person.

For artificial areas, the answers were not so clear. Most agreed that "cultural diversity is as important as biodiversity." Whether that means anything or has something to do with the question I am not sure.

Many said "humans can't survive without civilization." But humans can survive without civilization. The difference is that with civilization, we can "ensure that the weak as well as the strong survive." Only one person recorded that as most significant. One honest soul admitted an addiction to television.

What percentage of the landscape should be kept in a substantially natural condition? This was clearly a difficult question for many people. Some left it blank. Nonetheless, there does emerge a consensus that around half the land should be kept in a natural state. This is, of course, very unlike the real world, which might suggest that The Prairie Enthusiasts should be working on large-scale restoration projects.

Who should own (or manage) the natural areas? Opinion was clearly divided here. A majority said (to both

(See RESULTS, page 3, col. 1)

questions) "private citizens" and "local environmental organizations." A minority of about one-third said (to both questions) "state" and "federal government." Interestingly, those with the majority opinion owned, on average, 12 times as much land as the minority.

What should be the size of a natural (or artificial) area? According to all but two people, the average natural area should be at least 1,000 acres. This was, for me, the most surprising result of the survey. Of course, "megasite" is now a hot phrase in land management, and "The Last Great Places" is a catchy slogan. But I thought The Prairie Enthusiasts were here to do the grunt work, to protect one acre here, to restore one acre there, to make a place where we could all live rather than just visit.

For artificial areas, we divided into two camps. A bare majority thought cities could cover up to 10 square miles. A significant minority thought cities could cover 100-800 square miles. This difference may be correlated with where we live, but I have no way of knowing.

Where should the natural areas be located? Nearly everyone agreed that natural areas should be "along natural corridors" and "in rural areas." Three people thought natural areas would best be located around metropolitan areas.

Which types of areas should be protected first? You might guess the answer to this question—and you might be wrong. Those people who would protect prairies and savannas first could only manage a tie with those who would protect wetlands, lakes and streams first. Who said The Prairie Enthusiasts are only interested in prairies? There was one person who would protect forests above all else.

What should be the average distance between four-lane, limited-access freeways? Several people ducked this question with "it depends." Phooey! The federal policy is to put every citizen within 50 miles of an interstate. Phooey again! Your response, on average, was to put everyone within 100 miles. Phooey a third time!

What types of areas should be restored first? It was nearly unanimous that "lands adjacent to existing natural areas" should be restored first. Two people wanted to start in the city slums. Another two wanted to start on their own land.

What percentage of the land should be held in the soil bank? The response to this set of three questions was, frankly, pitiful. I have two facts that I would ask you to juxtapose. (1) A full half of the original prairie soil is now sitting at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico. (2) The remaining half is what supports the farming community which fills your gullet. Think about it.

How should space for natural areas be acquired? We are all in substantial accord here. "Conservation easements" and "land purchases" are the ways to go. The question remains, for those who prefer purchasing land, "Where do we get the money?"

How many acres do you and your family own? The reported values ranged from 0-3,000 acres. The sum was 7,982; the average was about 230 acres.

What percentage of the land that you and your family own should be (or is) kept in a natural state? Whereas, you report that only 50% of land in general should be kept natural, you say that 65% of the land that you or your family own should be kept natural. On the other hand, if you exclude those owning less than 200 acres, the expectation drops to 25%. The percentage of owned land already in a natural state is 32%, that is, 2,575 acres.

What portion of the natural areas should be forest? About one-third said that the ratio of forest to prairie should be as it was 200 years ago. The rest were evenly divided between 0, 50 and 100 years ago. This would seem to indicate that prairie enthusiasts should be interested in savanna restoration projects.

By when should (or will) society have answers to the above questions? Your answers sharply divide here into two opinions. A large majority were pessimistic, that is, predicted that the answers would not be forthcoming for at least 500 years. A minority of 10 people, in contrast, thought the answers could be had within 50 years or less. In a way, we already have the answers. Take a look out the window.

—Jim Rachuy

Banquet committee

All those interested in serving on the planning committee for our 1996 annual banquet and fund raiser should contact Rich Henderson, 608-845-7065. Items that need to be planned for are: (1) banquet place, date, meals and registration; (2) evening program agenda; (3) speaker arrangements; (4) raffle/auction arrangements; and, (5) dessert donations. Any suggestion as to a place would be welcomed. We need room to comfortably seat 250 people **and** an equal amount of floor space for raffle, auction, sales, displays and mingling.

Beginnings?

I have worked with the staff of Norskedalen Nature and Heritage Center as a volunteer to create a restoration management plan for a small (40 acres) parcel of their property. The project centers around an idea I have been developing with the encouragement of Brian Pruka, a professional conservationist in the Madison area. A landscape scale prairie-oak savanna-oak woods continuum restoration is underway. No purchasing is necessary, and there is remnant prairie and degraded savanna in the parcel, as well as in surrounding acres. As an at-large member, I feel local folks would benefit from acquaintance and partnership working on this and on other prairies in this region of Wisconsin. I would also like to form a West Central Chapter of TPE. I have talked to the staff of Norskedalen and they feel that we could begin to meet unofficially at the nature center if a group is formed.

As of today, the agenda at the Norskedalen restoration is as follows:

Saturday, Oct. 14: Seed collection day, prairie walk, discussion. All light work, no strain.

Saturday, Oct. 21: More of the same, except a moderate hike, instead of the light one.

Saturday, Nov. 11: Grass seed collection only, a hike and discussion of grass lore.

Saturday, Nov. 18: Seed collection and bluff hike, wear sturdy shoes, strenuous after a certain point, but not the majority of the hike. The view is worth it.

Saturday, Dec. 9 (rain check Dec. 15): Prescribed burn and seed scattering on one of the days, the other will be a slide showing related to prairie and savanna. Minimum of four persons present to burn.

Interested individuals should contact me:

Chris Matson
W5585 County MM Lot 207
La Crosse, WI 54601

Directions to Norskedalen: From Rt. 14 in Coon Valley, follow CTH PI 3 miles northeast to left turn on CTH I. Follow signs, look for large pine plantations. Entrance to center is Ophus Road (gravel).

Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid

One of Wisconsin's wet-prairie species is the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid, *Platanthera leucophaea*. This is the sister species to the Western Prairie Fringed Orchid which is found west of the Mississippi River. Slight variations in the reproductive structures and pollination biology separate the two species known collectively as White Fringed Orchid.



This orchid is one of the spectacles of nature with large, showy, white flowers which exude a tantalizing nectar for their night-flying moth pollinators. As with other orchids, it takes a number of years for the plants to build up resources for flowering. Their biological needs include a moist prairie environment, a fungal component (*Rhizoctonia*) to assist with nutrient acquisition, and hawk-moth pollination at flowering. In drought years, fewer plants and flowers are observed and may not even appear above ground. The plants apparently cannot sustain themselves without the *Rhizoctonia* fungus which is not always available. Due to sparseness of distribution of both the plants and their pollinators, few natural pollinations seem to be occurring. In general, the plant is difficult to track from year to year which makes an evaluation of its status problematic.

The upshot is that the species could be vanishing from our state. The Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory lists

34 sites at which Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid was observed in the past. The species was seen in 14 different sites during the 1980's and 1990's. During the first six years of the 1990's, a total of 542 Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid individuals were observed at 11 Wisconsin sites. Certainly not all observations are known to me and some sites may not have been searched adequately. However, even if the number were doubled or tripled, I find this situation worrisome.

Talking to Marlin Bowles, who has worked extensively with the species, and to Jeff Hapeman, who is studying the genus, reveals some of the difficulties the orchid labors under. 1. Weather patterns and resulting moisture have varied greatly in recent years. Additionally, during conversion to agriculture, habitats were ditched which drained away necessary water. 2. Several of its habitats suffer from lack of fire or equivalent control of woody invaders. The species appears to be present and flowers in greater numbers after a burn.

So is the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid doomed in Wisconsin? Maybe so, but do we resign ourselves without a fight? A cooperative effort to beef up the orchid's habitat quality is in order. Several actions can be taken: Careful, annual censusing of the known orchid sites; intense, consistent management to get brush under control; "regular" burns; and hand-pollinating, which is being done at one site. Marlin Bowles is writing the species' recovery plan which will provide additional valuable suggestions. It will take a key person to coordinate this effort with the varied ownership of this species. Since many neighbors of the orchid sites are already cooperating with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's Endangered Species Program to prevent pesticide injury, they might be willing to extend additional protective efforts for the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid.

—Ursula Petersen

Asclepias purpuracens

Asclepias purpuracens, commonly known as Purple Milkweed, was a plant I hadn't seen until a few years ago. While driving a back country road, I spotted a "different looking" milkweed growing out of nearly solid limestone, an environment created when a road crew removed all topsoil. I took some photographs and later, through the process of elimination, was able to properly identify it.

Here in Crawford County, where there are a considerable number of oak woodlands and roads which front oak woodlands, I have been fortunate to see quite a few of these beautiful milkweeds. Unfortunately, the county's largest population of *A. purpuracens* occurs on a sloping right-of-way scheduled for destruction in the name of highway improvement. Part of this highway right-of-way was graded in 1993 and in 1994, several plants were still growing—just out of reach of the crew's equipment. The rest of the population is unlikely to "escape" in this manner.

A. purpuracens ranges from North Carolina, west to Minnesota and Arkansas. In Wisconsin, where it is listed as endangered, it occurs most frequently in the southern counties. It grows two to four feet tall, has a smooth stem and leaves that taper gradually to a point and has a downy pod. The flowers, which bloom from June to August, range in color from pink to purple.

The Common Milkweed, *A. syriaca*, could easily be mistaken for *A. purpuracens* unless you are aware that the former plant has the following distinguishing characteristics: a warty pod; more oval or oblong leaves which are finely haired on the underside (as is the upper part of the main stem); and, a flower, which has a dusty look and

Cream Gentian salvage

A large population of Cream Gentian plants is about to be destroyed at the Payne and Dolan plant between Verona and Madison. Your help is needed to dig up the young plants. Most will be transplanted to county and city conservation parks, and there should be some left over for volunteers to take home. The salvage will take place on Friday, October 13 at 4:30 p.m. Contact Russ Hefty at 233-8513 for details.

A day on the savanna

Terry Morgan, an outdoor writer and naturalist from Cuba City, recently joined a SWC work party at the newly acquired Kalscheur Savanna. You should look for his article in the September-October 1995 issue of *Southwest Wisconsin Outdoors*. The paper sells for \$1.25, and can be ordered by writing to:

Southwest Wisconsin Outdoors
Box 177
Fennimore, WI 53809

The publication is also sold on newsstands in Southwest Wisconsin.

a wide range of colors (green, red, brown and white) which vary in combination from one individual plant to another.



Asclepias purpuracens - Purple Milkweed

Proposal for community-based conservation coordinator

Community Conservation Consultants proposes to hire an ecologist for three years as a conservation advisor to private landowners in 15 townships of the Blue Mounds Region of Wisconsin.

This project will demonstrate how private protection of biodiversity (native animals, plants and ecosystems) can be substantially increased by working closely with landowners within a small territory. A small enough territory allows a conservation advisor to become known among landowners as someone they can trust and respect, as someone who will provide fair advice that takes primary consideration of their personal needs as landowners and then secondarily, to the degree feasible, accommodates the needs of biodiversity on their land.

This project is based upon the premise that many, if not most, private landowners are amenable to protecting biodiversity on their property, but their ability to participate in its protection is limited due to:

- 1) lack of information about biodiversity and how to protect it;
- 2) lack of economic rewards for protecting biodiversity;
- 3) lack of local autonomy and coordination in biodiversity protection efforts.

The Community-Based Conservation Coordinator (CBCC) will assist landowners to meet these needs. In essence, the CBCC will serve as an "extension ecologist," promoting ecologically-sound wildland management much as an agricultural extension agent promotes agriculturally-sound farmland management.

The Blue Mounds region is an excellent pilot site for the CBCC concept because it is high in biodiversity and because approximately 95% of the region is privately-owned. Many of the region's newest landowners are former urban residents who bought their land in part to enjoy its wild, natural or scenic qualities.

The northern half of the project area has significant savanna recovery potential, while the southern half has numerous prairie remnants. The southern half also has a lot of area that is covered by grasses and pasture and thus provides good habitat for prairie birds such as the Upland Sandpiper, Bobolink and Henslow's Sparrow.

We expect the success of this project will motivate Blue Mounds residents to independently seek long-term funding for their CBCC. We also expect the success of the CBCC project to spur other communities to seek funding for their own CBCC.

For more information contact:

Brian Pruka
1805 Carver St.
Madison, WI 53713
608-255-6763

PLEASE NOTE: The newsletter deadlines have been changed. They are as follows:
February 15 - Spring Issue May 15 - Summer Issue August 15 - Fall Issue November 15 - Winter Issue

CHAPTER NEWS

NORTHWEST ILLINOIS CHAPTER

Lone tree easement

The Northwest Illinois Chapter, with an endorsement from the board of directors, has agreed to accept a conservation easement on approximately 70 acres of land near Stockton, Illinois. The easement states that the owner may not "introduce, remove or harm any plants or animals" on the site. That authority will be transferred to the easement holder, The Prairie Enthusiasts.

The site, tentatively named Stockton Prairie, will become part of the Stockton Nature Area. Other area landowners will be encouraged to participate in the larger project. The immediate area includes other small prairies, wetlands and a large wooded nature preserve.

The land includes 10 acres of degraded mesic prairie, 15 acres of prairie restoration, five acres of wetlands, five acres of woodlands and 35 acres of old field and pasture. The pasture lays along a high ridge which the owner wishes to protect from development. The chapter plans to restore the ridge and fields to prairie. The paperwork should be done by the middle of October.

SOUTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

Inventory update

During the past summer South Central Chapter members have visited several sites in Sauk and Dane counties for inventory, but the majority of inventory work has involved entering site information onto a database compatible with both DOS/Windows and Macintosh computers. Individuals who have conducted inventories this past summer need to provide their information to the inventory committee soon.

This fall the committee will be working with Dane County to enter the location and attributes of prairie remnants into a geographical database that will include both natural and human-made physical elements as well as political and economic features. Access to the database will be provided to the South Central Chapter. The inventory committee is planning several meetings this fall and winter to review the status of our inventory efforts including updating known and potential locations of prairie stands and the adequacy of information about each.

Members who are interested in attending these meetings should contact John Harrington at 233-2483 evenings. As always, anyone who has information on remnants or suspected remnants in Sauk, Columbia or Dane Counties should contact the committee.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(After each work party announcement is a reference word. Please check individual stories for more information about other events.)

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

SEED COLLECTION AND WORK PARTIES

- Saturday, Sept. 23** Seed collection on Avoca, 9 a.m. (depending on permit), 608-375-5271
- Saturday, Sept. 30** Seed collection, 10 a.m., meet at Dick's parking lot, Boscobel, 608-988-4760
- Saturday, Oct. 7** Seed collection, 9 a.m., Vale Prairie (VALE) 608-375-5271
- Saturday, Oct. 14** Seed collection, 10 a.m., meet at Dick's parking lot, Boscobel, 608-988-4760
- Sunday, Oct. 22** Seed collection, 10 a.m., meet at Dick's parking lot, Boscobel, 608-624-5797
- Saturday, Oct. 28** Seed collection, 10 a.m., meet at Dick's parking lot, Boscobel, 608-375-5271
- Sunday, Nov. 5** Work party/seed collection, 10 a.m., Kalscheur Savanna, 608-624-5797, (KALSCHEUR)
- Saturday, Nov. 18** Work party/seed collection, Bush Clover (BUSH CLOVER), 10 a.m., 608-375-5271
- Sunday, Nov. 26** Work party/ seed collection, 10 a.m., Vale Prairie 608-375-5271, (VALE)
- Saturday, Dec. 9** Work party/seed collection, Kalscheur Savanna 608-845-3816, (KALSCHEUR)

MEETINGS

- Sunday, Oct. 15** SW Chapter meeting, Linder residence, 375-2668
- Sunday, Nov. 19** SW Chapter meeting, Eldred residence, 375-5271
- Sunday, Dec. 17** SW Chapter meeting, Linder residence, 375-2668

PRAIRIE BLUFF CHAPTER

- Saturday, Sept. 19** PB Chapter meeting, Turner Hall, Rathskeller, Monroe, 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Sept. 24** Record tree tour of Dane County, 9:30 a.m. at Nevin Fish Hatchery, 608-862-3816
- Tuesday, Oct. 17** PB Chapter meeting, Turner Hall, Rathskeller, Monroe, 7:30 p.m., election of chapter officers
- Tuesday, Nov. 21** PB Chapter meeting, Turner Hall, Rathskeller Monroe, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 19** PB Chapter meeting and potluck at Marshall Bluff Bowhunters Clubhouse. A short business meeting short business meeting will be held followed by food and festivities, 7:00 p.m.

VALE

Drive to Albany. Rt. 59 crosses Sugar River. One or two blocks w. of Sugar River, go right on Sugar River Hwy. Go one block. Left onto Mineral. Follow Mineral for .1 mile to North Taylor. Go straight on Purington Rd. for 3.7 miles. Right on Schneeberger for .2 miles. Go left on farm lane w/trees on left and cropland on right. Farm lane swings right behind row of trees—park on left after this corner.

KALSCHEUR

From Hollandale (SW Iowa Co.) go south from Hwy. 39 on Co. Rd. K about 2 miles south. Site is on left (east) side of road. Look for parked cars along road.

CURTIS

UW Arboretum Curtis Prairie, Madison. Meet at the McKay Center parking lot.

GREENE

UW Arboretum Greene Prairie, Madison. Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Seminole Highway and the Beltline frontage road.

NELSON

Governor Nelson State Park. Meet at the park office at Hwy. M and Oncken Road, north of Middleton.

KOCH

Meet on Hwy. K, ¼ mile west of the intersection of K and Hwy. 12 outside of Ashton Corners. Leader: Rich Henderson, 845-7065.

KOLTES

Meet on Bong Road, ½ mile east of Hwy. 113 between Madison and Waunakee. Leader: Paul West, 233-5807.

SOUTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

SEED COLLECTING AND WORK PARTIES

- Monday, Sept. 18** Seed collecting, 5 p.m.-dark, Gov. Nelson State (NELSON)
- Wednesday, Sept. 20** Seed collecting, 5 p.m.-dark, Greene Prairie (GREENE)
- Thursday, Sept. 21** Seed collection, 5 p.m.-dark, Koltes Prairie (Koltes)
- Friday, Sept. 22** Seed collecting, 5 p.m. to dark, Curtis Prairie (CURTIS)
- Monday, Sept. 25** Seed collecting, 5 p.m. to dark, Greene Prairie (GREENE)
- Tuesday, Sept. 26** Seed collecting, 5 p.m. to dark, Gov. Nelson State (NELSON)
- Monday, Oct. 2** Seed collecting, 5 p.m. to dark, Koltes Prairie (KOLTES)
- Tuesday, Oct. 3** Seed collecting, 5 p.m.-dark, Curtis Prairie (CURTIS)
- Thursday, Oct. 5** Seed collecting, 5 p.m.-dark, Gov. Nelson State (NELSON)
- Friday, Oct. 6** Seed collecting, 5 p.m.-dark, Greene Prairie (GREENE)
- Tuesday, Oct. 10** Seed collecting, 5 p.m.-dark, Gov. Nelson State (NELSON)
- Wednesday, Oct. 11** Seed collecting, 5 p.m.-dark, Greene Prairie (GREENE)
- Thursday, Oct. 12** Seed collecting, 5 p.m.-dark, Koltes Prairie (KOLTES)
- Friday, Oct. 13** Cream Gentian salvage, 4:30 p.m. (see story, page 4)
- Friday, Oct. 13** Seed collecting, 5 p.m.-dark, Curtis Prairie (CURTIS)
- Monday, Oct. 16** Seed collecting, 5 p.m.-dark, Gov. Nelson State (NELSON)
- Tuesday, Oct. 17** Seed collecting, 5 p.m.-dark, Greene Prairie (GREENE)
- Wednesday, Oct. 18** Seed collecting, 5 p.m.-dark, Koltes Prairie (KOLTES)
- Thursday, Oct. 19** Seed collecting, 5 p.m.-dark, Gov. Nelson State (NELSON)
- Friday, Oct. 20** Seed collecting, 5 p.m.-dark, Greene Prairie (GREENE)
- Monday, Oct. 23** Seed collecting, 5 p.m.-dark, Koltes Prairie (KOLTES)
- Tuesday, Oct. 24** Seed collecting, 5 p.m.-dark, Gov. Nelson State (NELSON)
- Wednesday, Oct. 25** Seed collecting, 5 p.m.-dark, Curtis Prairie (CURTIS)
- Thursday, Oct. 26** Seed collecting, 5 p.m.-dark, Gov. Nelson State (NELSON)
- Friday, Oct. 27** Seed collecting, 5 p.m.-dark, Greene Prairie (GREENE)
- Sunday, Oct. 29** Work Party, 9 a.m.-noon, Koltes Prairie (KOLTES)
- Saturday, Nov. 4** Work Party, 9 a.m.-noon, Koch Prairie, (KOCH)
- Sunday, Nov. 12** Work party, 9 a.m.-noon, Koltes Prairie (KOLTES)
- Saturday, Nov. 18** Work party, 9 a.m.-noon, Koltes Prairie (KOLTES)
- Saturday, Dec. 2** Work party, 9 a.m.-noon, Koch Prairie (KOCH)

SOUTH CENTRAL CHAPTER CONTINUED

1995 seed collecting starts soon!

Please take this time to mark the dates, times and locations (see Calendar of Events) for seed collecting on your calendar. This year we hope to collect enough seed for 20 acres of restoration at Gov. Nelson State Park. Ten of those acres will be planted in early November and the rest will be over-seeded in existing restorations the following spring. We also hope to add many new faces to the collecting team of 20 people last year! The collection times run from 5:00 p.m. until dark (call to make other arrangements if you will be late).

I am also out collecting on most other weeknights and some weekend days at various other locations. Please call to find out where I will be on those days. We don't collect if it is raining more than a light sprinkle. I will provide the bags, buckets and pruners . . . you provide the vigor! We also take donations of seed from those of you who have that "secret" collecting spot, or backyard prairie of local genotype.

Seed collecting is a great way to become directly involved in our restoration projects. It offers a sense of accomplishment and a chance to get onto the prairies at one of the most exhilarating times of the year. I hope to see you all this year! Call me at 233-5658 for more details.
—Dan Weidert

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

Hot fun in the summertime

As we all know, this summer was the hottest on record and as a result, only the most committed enthusiasts helped with our management activities. There were a couple of days when work ended early, because it was just too darn hot. In spite of the heat, an awful lot of work was accomplished and all three sites which received SWC's attention (Kalscheur, Bush Clover and Vale Prairies) look really nice! I'd like to give a big thank you to those who gave of their valuable time: Gary Adams, Don Hagar, Steve Hubner, Jesse Bennett, Jay Maxfield, Jan Ketelle, John Oschner, Rich Henderson, Brian Pruksa, Sue Linder, Terry Morgan, Walter Mirk, Alice Mirk and Ron Niemann, Mary Sabota, Margaret Niemann, Betty Hupe, Barb Martin, Steve Eldred.

If I forgot to mention someone, give me a call and I'll be more than happy to give you credit for your efforts!

With fall just around the corner, there will be a lot of seed to be collected and with the weather becoming more pleasant, I hope you will consider helping us out (see list of dates and places in the Calendar of Events).

For those who haven't had their fill of brush and tree cutting, there are also several more work parties listed!

Rare plants located

Gary Eldred found a small population of the state-endangered Woolly Milkweed (*Asclepias lanuginosa*). A "pasture prairie" east of Mineral Point is the home of a tiny population of four plants! Even more exciting (and unusual) is that one plant has a seed pod and it seems to have seed in it! We'll certainly keep our eyes on this site and hope more plants show up in the future.

EDITORIAL POLICY (Approved by The Prairie Enthusiasts' Board July 18, 1993)

1. Articles of general interest must be relevant to prairie/savanna ecosystems. Material received will be prioritized as follows: original material; essays, art, (poetry, photography, drawings); reprinted material.
2. Securing reprint rights is the responsibility of the individual who submits the material.
3. The calendar of events will be limited to items relevant to prairie/savanna ecosystems.
4. Deadlines for submission of material are as follows:
February 15 - Spring Issue May 15 - Summer Issue August 15 - Fall Issue November 15 - Winter Issue
5. Publication dates: April 1 - Spring Issue July 1 - Summer Issue October 1 - Fall Issue January 1 - Winter Issue

THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS
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- Restoration projects
- Site management activities (burning, brush cutting, etc.)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



For further information, contact:
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