

THE PRAIRIE PROMOTER

VOL. 9, NO. 4

WINTER 1996

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

Banquet 1997

Date: Saturday, March 1, 1997

Place: Dane County Expo Center meeting rooms, Madison, WI (see map on page 2). Take the Rimrock Road exit (exit 262) off the South Beltline (Hwy 12 & 18) and follow the signs (main gate entrance is off Rimrock Rd.). Parking is included in registration. There is 8,600 sq. ft. of elbow room in the banquet room.

Dinner: Sit down dinner (at round tables) with a choice of roast beef slices w/ glazed onion and Worcestershire gravy OR chicken cordon bleu (stuffed w/ ham and Jarlsburg cheese) lightly breaded and topped with wine sauce. Dinners include tossed salad, green beans Almandine, boiled potatoes, New York cheesecake and coffee/tea. A vegetarian option is available for \$2 extra.

Time: Start at 4:00 p.m. with registration, cash bar, raffle, and silent auction. Dinner begins at 5:30 and the evening should conclude by 8:30 or 9:00.

Speaker: To be announced.

Raffle/auction: One hundred and fifty raffle and auction items will be on hand.

Tickets: Preregistration is required. Use the form on this page. Tickets (includes parking) are \$19.00 for members and \$22 for nonmembers.

Overnight lodging: Some places and rates are listed below. Make reservations now. Rooms are already filling up for March 1st. See map (page 2) for locations.

Super 8 Motel	608-258-8882	\$ 65 per couple
Sheraton Hotel	608-251-2300	\$124 " "
Exel-Grand Hotel	1-800-574-3935	\$ 86 " "
Edgewood Motel	1-800-732-8492	\$ 40 " "
Motel 6	608-221-0415	\$ 38 " "
Day's Inn	608-223-1800	\$ 73 " "

These prices include tax.

Remember that our annual banquet is not only a wonderful opportunity to mingle with other "prairie people", but it is also a fund raiser for prairie conservation. So, get those reservations in and spread the word. Hope to see you there.

Banquet volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to help at the Prairie Banquet on March 1. Some specific tasks and positions for which people are needed are: (1) audio/visual equipment assistance (assist speaker); (2) clerks for raffle ticket redemption and auction item payment; (3) raffle ticket drawing and posting and computer entry of winning numbers; (4) raffle ticket sales; (5) raffle/auction item layout and organization; (6) live auction assistance; and (7) guest registration. Call Rich Henderson 608-845-7065.

Donation items needed for 9th annual banquet raffle and auction

It's time to start thinking about items for the Prairie Banquet raffle and auction. If you have something you would like to contribute or if you have ideas or leads about businesses that might be interested in contributing gift certificates or merchandise, contact the appropriate donation coordinator listed below. Don't wait! The absolute deadline for having items registered with the coordinators is February 19. Donated items must be delivered to the donation coordinators prior to the banquet day or be brought to the banquet facility between 12 noon and 2:00 p.m., March 1.

GENERAL: Rich Henderson, 608-845-7065

CHAPTERS

Southwest WI: Sue Linder, 608-375-2668
 Empire-Sauk: Rich Henderson, 608-845-7065
 Prairie Bluff: Reynold Zeller, 608-938-4848
 Northwest IL: Grace Storch, 815-777-9691
 West Central WI: Chuck Bomar, 715-232-8133

TPE ANNUAL BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

Ticket Price: \$19 per member \$22 per non-member

Name	Meal Choice	Price
_____	Chicken Beef	_____
_____	Chicken Beef	_____
_____	Chicken Beef	_____
_____	Chicken Beef	_____

If a vegetarian meal is desired, make a note and add \$2 to price

Total enclosed: _____

Please check affiliation (members only):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Southwest WI | <input type="checkbox"/> Empire Sauk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Bluff | <input type="checkbox"/> Northwest Illinois |
| <input type="checkbox"/> West Central WI | <input type="checkbox"/> General Membership |

Please send checks (made out to The Prairie Enthusiasts) and reservations **by February 21** to:

Edie Weber
 310 King Arthurs Ct.
 Cross Plains, WI 53528

President's message

At long last, I finished cutting, splitting and stacking my winter supply of firewood. What a job! I then moved on to the more enjoyable task of making and installing new bird feeders. I'll admit to getting carried away during this process: I staked out dozens of cuttings of red cedar, sumac, hazelnut, aspen, blackberry, goldenrod, bergamot and yellow coneflower to provide a natural looking cover for my feeder visitors. They love it. I finished my winter preparations by scrubbing and deodorizing my many mouse-traps. If you have ever lived in an old farmhouse, you know there comes a time when deer mice exceed the limits of hospitality. For me, this happens when I find my dogs' dry food stuffed in my shoes, in my laundry, under sofa cushions and hidden in the stove's broiler. Believe me, the smell of roasting beef mingled with the smell of roasting dog food does not stimulate the appetite.

As another winter season settles in, I'm sorely tempted to head south as quickly as I can pack my bags. On the other hand, a full plate of prairie activities holds me in place and will probably make the winter pass by quickly.

A primary focus is planning and preparing for TPE's annual banquet (see story on front page). Funding and items for door prizes, raffle and auction need to be solicited; donated items need to be cataloged; a guest speaker needs to be lined up; volunteers need to be recruited; facilities must be rented; menus need to be arranged; and, announcements need to be written, printed and mailed. At the very same time, TPE needs to prepare for its participation in the Garden Expo at the Dane County Forum, a venture which also requires time, effort and volunteers (see page 8).

TPE has also been asked to participate in a committee which will be organizing the 1997 Oak Savanna Conference, scheduled to be held in Madison in mid to late summer. Other organizations and agencies involved in this large and significant undertaking include Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Natural Areas Association, Natural Resources Foundation, Wisconsin Wildlife Society, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and The Nature

(See **PRESIDENT**, page 3, col. 1)

THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Gary Eldred, President
Edie Goth, Secretary

Rich Henderson, Vice-President
Alice Mirk, Treasurer

Directors:

Reynold Zeller
Kathy Kirk

Walter Mirk
John Rutherford

Barbara Rutherford

PRAIRIE BLUFF CHAPTER *Serving Rock, Green and Lafayette counties*

Rob Baller, President
608-365-2065
Dorothy Gessert, V.-President
608-897-4479

Peg Stiles, Secretary
608-325-4370
Fred Faessler, Treasurer
608-325-9374

EMPIRE-SAUK CHAPTER *Serving Sauk, Columbia and Dane counties*

Rich Henderson, President
608-845-7065
Scott Weber, V.-President
608-346-0179

Charlotte Hallam, Secretary
608-833-3268
Jim Welsh, Treasurer
608-256-5941

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER *Serving Grant, Crawford, Richland & Iowa counties*

Gary Eldred, President
608-375-5271
Gary Adams, V.-President
608-624-5797

Sue Linder, Secretary
608-375-2668
Don Hagar, Treasurer
608-647-6628

NORTHWEST ILLINOIS *Serving Jo Daviess, Carroll & Stephenson counties*

Jim Rachuy, President
815-947-2287
Grace Storch, V.-President
815-777-9691

Judith Wehrle, Secretary
815-777-9015
John Rutherford, Treasurer
815-594-2591

WEST CENTRAL *Serving Barron, Chippewa, Polk, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pierce, Pepin and St. Croix counties*

Harvey Halvorsen, President
715-684-2914
Chuck Bomar, Secretary/Treasurer
715-232-8133

Jim Faust, V.-President
715-962-3852

EDITORIAL STAFF

NORTHWEST ILLINOIS CHAPTER

Rickie Rachuy
11219 E. Stockton Rd.
Stockton, IL 61085
815-947-2287

PRAIRIE BLUFF CHAPTER

Robert Baller
Box 533
Beloit, WI 53511-3753
608-365-2065

EMPIRE-SAUK CHAPTER

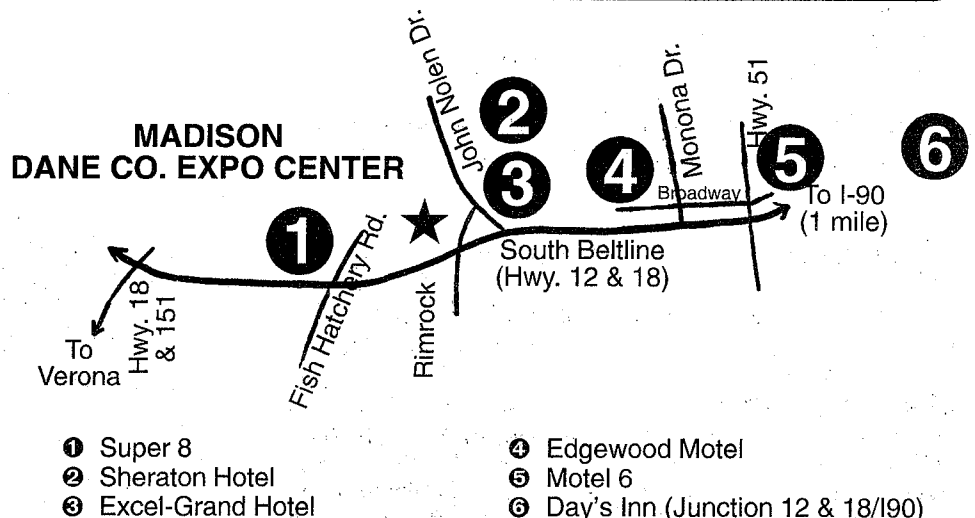
Jim Welsh
480 N. Baldwin Street, #5
Madison, WI 53703
608-256-5941

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

Walter Mirk
10052 County Highway C
Woodman, WI 53827
608-988-4760

WEST CENTRAL CHAPTER

Robert Pike
1642 Hwy. 64 East
New Richland, WI 54017
715-246-5975



Illinois's Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie: a model for partnership and restoration

"... I started with surprise and delight. I was in the midst of a prairie! A world of grass and flowers stretched around me, rising and falling in gentle undulations, as if an enchanter had struck the ocean swell, and it was at rest forever... We passed whole acres of blossoms all bearing one hue, as purple, perhaps, or masses of yellow or rose; and then again a carpet of every color intermixed, or narrow bands, as if a rainbow had fallen upon the verdant slopes. When the sun flooded this mosaic floor with light, and the summer breeze stirred among their leaves the iridescent glow was as beautiful and wondrous beyond anything I had ever conceived..."

—Eliza Steele, near Joliet, IL in 1840
from *Summer Journey in the West*

The extraordinary landscape that startled west-bound pioneers as they traveled through Illinois—what was then tallgrass prairie—has given to cattle grazing, agriculture, cities, towns and suburbs, strip malls, industrial development, highways, railroads and military facilities. What might Eliza Steele find to rhapsodize about in this landscape today? Especially if she found herself

40 miles southwest of Chicago at the Joliet Arsenal, a former U.S. Army ammunition plant and Superfund site, pockmarked with burn pits, abandoned TNT-storage bunkers and rusted railroad cars? Plenty, as it turns out.

On February 10, 1996, President Bill Clinton signed legislation designating a 19,165-acre parcel of the Joliet Arsenal as the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, authorizing the first "National Tallgrass Prairie" at the same time. The Midewin (Mid-AY-win) includes 300 acres of native prairie (grazed, but never plowed), 6,000 acres of degraded "grassland" and 10,000 acres currently in row crops that will be restored to tallgrass prairie. Thus, the Midewin—a Potawatomi term for "healing society"—is poised to become a model of ecosystem restoration. Equally important, the Midewin is a proven model for grassroots partnership as environmental groups strive to preserve the ecological integrity of sites located on shuttered or soon-to-close military facilities.

The Midewin story begins in 1993 when the Army declared the 23,500-acre Joliet Arsenal excess federal land. (The site also includes 200 miles of roads, 166 miles of railroads, 1,462

buildings, 392 ammunition bunkers or "igloos," 37 miles of chain-link fence and three late-woodland-period Native American burial mounds.) Open land is at a premium in Illinois, which ranks 47th among the 50 states in the amount of open space per capita. With the land grab on, a flurry of development proposals followed.

Under the leadership of former Congressman George Sangmeister, a 24-member citizens group unanimously voted on a concept plan of its own. The plan called for the establishment of the Midewin via a federal-to-federal land transfer from the Army to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). But it also called for the conversion of 2,800 acres of old munitions production areas (the Superfund sites) into two large industrial parks, the development of a 982-acre National Veterans Cemetery and a site for a 455-acre landfill for Will County. That concept plan was the basis for the legislation signed into law.

"We got our 19,165 acres for prairie—and in only two and a half years—because we supported a bill that gives the remainder to somebody else," says Marianne Hahn, president, Thorn Creek Audubon Society, which founded the Midewin Tallgrass Prairie Alliance, an advisory coalition of 40 conservation and environmental groups. "Cooperation and the support of local people are keys to the success of an initiative like this."

"The Midewin was made possible through partnerships between hundreds of people and organizations," adds Joyce O'Keefe, associate director, Openlands Project, a member of the citizens group (which also included local businesses, farmers, livestock operators, and government representatives) that devised the plan. "The idea of restoring a prairie on this scale was so exciting to everyone and worth really working for. The Midewin is Illinois's most important conservation initiative of the 20th century."

Tallgrass prairie once covered nearly all of Illinois. According to the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory, only 1/100 of 1 percent remains. Some preserved parcels are part of the 40,000-acre Prairie Parklands Macrosite—a constellation

(See **MIDEWIN**, page 4, col. 1)

PRESIDENT (continued from page 2)

Conservancy.

Watch your spring issue of *The Prairie Promoter* for further details. By that time, we'll know how much help we'll need. I hope you'll consider volunteering in this effort.

An exciting TPE project is the development of a new publication about the tallgrass prairie which offers basic information about its history, ecology, flora and fauna and how to plant one. The inspiration for this project originated with countless requests from members who want to know how to reconstruct a prairie on their "back forty" or in their backyard. This project has been in the works for over a year and a half and we anticipate it will be available during the first quarter of 1997. This effort represents the very best of the dedicated volunteerism which is endemic to TPE. The diverse array of people who have contributed mightily include: Jim Rachuy, Donald Hagar, John Harrington, Virginia Kline, Wayne Pauly, Mark Martin, Scott Weber, Rich Henderson, Mark Leach, Becky Spenceley, Patricia McSweeney, Sue Linder and Walter and Alice Mirk. Wisconsin Power and Light has generously agreed to underwrite the publication of this work.

Years ago my involvement with prairies was seasonal. However, the interest in and growth of prairie conservation has led to a year-round involvement. That's fine with me! Providing people with information about prairie and the opportunity to become intimately involved in its conservation is a dream come true.

Your wild neighbors

If I could choose one word that best describes Jerry Dahlen, a biology teacher at Verona High School, I think I would use the word patient. You have to be when you're trying to restore a damaged oak savanna to its natural condition.

It's not that Dahlen doesn't have enough hobbies to keep him busy. "I spend a lot of time maintaining the buildings and grounds of our small farm," Dahlen says. "And I breed beagles and bantam chickens."

"I'm also interested in native plants and animals," notes Dahlen. "Back in the eighties, I started visiting properties near my home in New Glarus, looking to find some land that still had lots of native species and could be managed back to a healthy ecosystem. The savanna at Mount Pleasant interested me the most. It has a diversity of wildflowers, many beautiful open grown bur and white oaks, and a spectacular view."

Dahlen didn't own the Mount Pleasant Savanna, but he was excited about the savanna's potential, so he began talking with the owner about savanna restoration.

"My first big effort began in 1991, after I got the okay from the landowner to conduct a biological study of the site," said Dahlen. Dahlen applied for and received a small education grant to do a biological inventory of the Mount Pleasant site. The grant provided funds to allow his students to inventory the site as part of their biology coursework. "Some of the students didn't have much interest in savanna after spending a half day with heat or mosquitoes, but others got real interested."

Among their findings was a 274-year old bur oak tree. They determined its age by using an increment borer which removes a tiny core of wood out of the trunk. It's like sticking a sharp straw into the trunk and pulling out a thin wooden dowel. You can count the bands along the edge of the dowel to determine the tree's age.

As I write this article I'm looking at the 47-page report, written by Dahlen and his students, that includes the bur oak age data. The report clearly illustrates the potential for restoring the Mount Pleasant site to a healthy savanna.

It's one thing to write about what can be restored, however. It's quite another to actually do it.

And Dahlen is doing it, slowly but surely. Recovering

a savanna that has become an overgrown woodlot requires a lot of sweat labor. Some trees and many shrubs and briars need to be cut and cleared. Nonnative and aggressive native species that have become unnaturally abundant need to be removed. And prescribed fires must be organized and conducted to keep the savanna open.

These are not one-person jobs. Since 1991, Dahlen has organized work parties where his students and other interested people are invited to enjoy a morning of clearing brush, removing an aggressive species and viewing the beautiful vista from the top of Mount Pleasant.

"Several former students who worked on the savanna have come back to see how the recovery is progressing," notes Dahlen. "They have a sense of being connected to a piece of land, which is a rare thing for most young people these days. I think it will be even more meaningful to them if they are able to visit this site years from now."

The savanna has also become more meaningful to its owners. "The owners were a bit cautious, as any of us would be, when I first asked to do something on their land," says Dahlen. "But now that they have seen how fires and brushing have opened up the woods, they have become excited. They remembered how the woods around here used to be more open. They like the fact that it is easier to take a walk in their woods. They like the idea that the open woods will benefit many game animals. The increase in wildflowers adds a lot of beauty, and I think they enjoy that too."

What does Dahlen hope for the future? Continued progress in savanna recovery, of course, and continued meaningful outdoor experiences for his students. And pasqueflowers.

"I'd like to see pasque flowers return to the ridge top," Dahlen says. "I am told they used to grow right where I'm standing," says Dahlen, standing about ten feet back from the bluff edge under a low-sweeping bur oak branch. "I'd like to sit up here in the early spring, with the pasque flowers blooming and a view of the countryside."

If pasque flowers are capable of honoring one man's patience, you can be sure they will return to Mount Pleasant Savanna.

—Brian Pruka, Blue Mounds Conservation Project

This article appeared in the *Mt. Horeb Mail* on Oct. 31, 1996

MIDEWIN (continued from page 3)

of public, private and corporate lands managed to protect diversity situated at the confluence of the Des Plaines and Kankakee Rivers, which forms the Illinois River. The Midewin, now a keystone in that macrosite, adds a large prairie complex that includes dolomite prairies, one of the rarest natural communities in North America, in addition to "grasslands," savanna, wetlands and seeps, upland forests and three streams.

"All we need to do to restore the dolomite prairies is remove the cows, start a prescribed fire program, and control the invasive, exotic plants," says Larry Stritch, project director, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Project, a program of the USFS, which administers the Midewin in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (I-DNR). The "grasslands", which Stritch defines as prairie dominated by brome, are posing a new

set of restoration conundrums. "In the last 50 years, the birds have been adapting to the normative grasses," he says. "The bobolinks, of which we have the highest breeding population in the state, are choosing brome hayfields over native prairie." The grasshopper sparrow and Henstow's sparrow—which breed on the Midewin along with bobolinks—are among the nation's fastest-declining songbirds. The Midewin also harbors Illinois largest breeding population of upland sandpipers. So that these birds remain undisturbed, the USFS will first restore the acreage now in row crops and leave the "grassland" alone. "We have to demonstrate that these birds will adapt back to restored prairie before we'll restore the grassland," Stritch says.

The Midewin is also home to 16 endangered and threatened species, including the Blanding's turtle. Bison are

(See **MIDEWIN**, page 7, col. 1)

DNR's native plant seed farm saga

Whenever I'm asked about the fate of the DNR's Native Plant Seed Farm, I can't avoid politics. As is often the case, what gets done is secondary to who gets to do it and why. Costs and benefits, the actual needs of the nursery operations, hours of staff research, and even preservation of the prairie remnants themselves got lost behind of clouds of greed, power, paranoia, ignorance, indecision and an agency ever more under fire to place resource preservation secondary to short term political gain.

At present, the Seed Farm looks relatively stable. After a three year hiatus, 16 acres of new plantings were completed this spring, and, after enduring the quirks and foibles of an old combine, the DNR now has a new 12 foot Flail-Vac seed stripper, which saves lots of time harvesting and cleaning grass seed. There are still several problems with the program that have not been resolved, such as long term staffing, but overall this is good news considering that the Seed Farm looked dead two years ago.

The concept of a state nursery for the production of prairie species goes back to the early 1970s when the Scientific Areas Preservation Council (now the Natural Areas Preservation Council) concluded that the widespread planting of non-local varieties was threatening the integrity of the state's last virgin prairie remnants. High prices and low supplies have been the major obstacles to the purchase of local ecotypes. Some plants were grown at the Wilson State Tree Nursery in Boscobel in the early 1980s, but in 1986 a larger, more ambitious plan for a state prairie seed nursery was developed, and seed collection began in 1988.

In 1992, after a failed partnership with the Department of Corrections to use a prison farm land and labor, the DNR planted seed on state lands near Poynette and along the Wisconsin River in Sauk County. With new acreage available and a big inventory of clean seed harvested from State Natural Areas and other remnants throughout the state, things were looking up.

Then things get complicated because the issues are not as clear cut as each party wishes they were. Believing that potential surpluses of cheap seed from a state nursery would find their way into the private market, several nurseries lobbied their legislators and DNR officials to abandon the program. When reassured that the seed would only be used for projects on state lands, growers then argued that the seed could be produced more cheaply in the private sector, in spite of the fact that bids from local nurseries were on average seven or more times the cost of seed the DNR was and is purchasing from growers in other states.

In mid 1993, the program began to collapse. The Seed Farm was under orders to privatize, although all field preparation, herbiciding, and mowing was already contracted out to local farmers. DNR administration halted further planting and development which resulted in several losses. Two acres of forb production in Sauk County were lost in a land trade with an adjacent landowner, and six more acres were lost through lack of time and equipment to maintain the plantings. In addition, over thirty acres of land that had been herbicided and tilled in preparation for planting in 1994 were abandoned, and several beds of forbs at the Wilson Nursery in Boscobel were also condemned. All unplanted seed was put in storage.

To resolve the conflict with private nurseries, the DNR

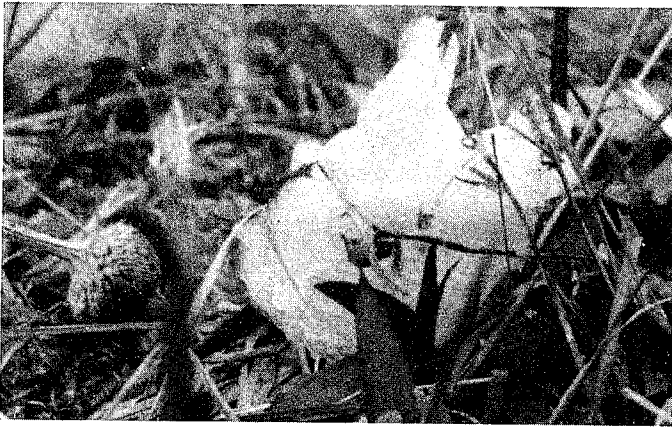
scheduled formal meetings with all interested parties in spring of 1994. What resulted, as one farmer who attended the first meeting put it, was a "turf war" not only between DNR and private nurseries, but also between nurseries themselves and potential newcomers to the prairie seed business. Some wanted the state to abandon everything, restrict bids to local growers, or wait until the price of seed comes down as supply meets demand. But after twenty years of bids with no appreciable drop in price and continued supply problems with local seed, DNR staff wanted a better guarantee, such as a contract with one or more growers.

There are two major reasons why a creative solution to privatize the Seed Farm never materialized: a few nursery owners were very effective at securing the ear of the administration to the virtual exclusion of all other parties and opinions, and the state purchasing process was so complex that it discouraged participation. Unless public and private demand for seed declines, which is not the current trend, the price of seed will not come down unless there is more competition from growers who already own the land and equipment and are looking for more profitable crops. The agricultural sector represents the biggest threat to the current crop of nurseries and was a dragon that had to be chased back into its den. With or without a contract, the dragon will be back.

A common misconception evident at the meetings was that the state is restoring "prairie" with its full diversity, and neither the horticulturists nor the ag sector is up to the task. Diversity won't happen unless the state is willing and able to put a lot more money into its plantings, which is not likely in this political climate. DNR Wildlife Bureau wants the structure of the prairie for wildlife, and DOT wants quick establishment and color. A dozen or so species could fill this bill, and all could be grown by anyone familiar with crop production. Many growers who won on price were certified seed growers who switched from domestic crops to natives as the market expanded. They concentrated on a few easy to grow species that agencies on tight budgets could afford. If some nurseries assert that only ecologists can produce prairie species as some did, they ignore the makeup of the industry as a whole. The nursery industry has defined prairie for the consumer by what is available for sale, not by the actual composition of our remnants, and this applies both to the horticulturists and the ecologists.

Back to the story. In January of 1995, the DNR issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) after other contract options were rejected. Over 100 RFPs were mailed out but only seven proposals were received. The proposals were scored on a variety of criteria, and an intent to award a contract was sent to the highest scoring vendor. The grower would plant seed issued by the DNR according to foundation seed guidelines so that genotype purity could be assured. The grower would agree to sell the seed to the state at prices negotiated before the signing of a contract, and the state would have first crack at any seed produced.

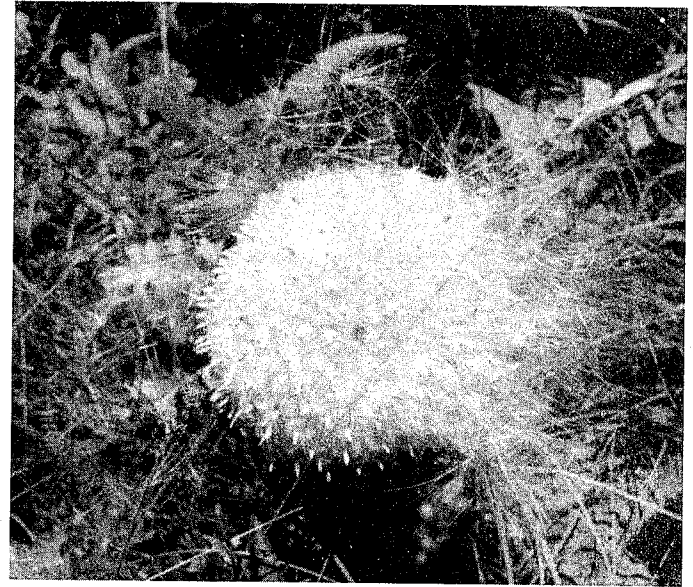
But what happened was this: a few nurseries who felt that they deserved the contract filed appeals. Lawyers were hired and files subpoenaed. Eventually an unwritten rule of purchasing was invoked: if someone makes a big enough



Frostweed (*Helianthemum canadense*)

Photo by Kay Bongers

Kay writes: The frost which formed around frostweed stems reminds me of cotton candy. It has smooth sides, is rounded with circular lines as though the frost formed around something rotating. In this area (Mazomanie) conditions seem to be "right" about November 1 through 10.



Hills thistle (*Cirsium hillii*)

Photo by Kay Bongers

SEED (continued from page 4)

fuss, some bureaucrat will capitulate. In this case, it was the secretary of the Department of Administration (DOA) who told the DNR to do something else, even though no purchasing guidelines had been violated. Apparently nursery owners convinced the DOA that the company which had the top scoring proposal was unqualified even though the company had extensive resources and experience in seed production as well as personnel familiar with native seed production, including former employees of state and private nurseries. The only thing worse than the state growing its own seed was awarding a contract to a competitor.

With no contract and nothing resolved, the DNR tried to harvest as much seed as possible from the current nursery acreage. In spring of 1996, the private sector tried again to convince the DNR to abandon all efforts and hand over all the seed in storage with no strings attached. But when some higher ups realized how much money would be lost, the seed farm was given a new chance. Not only was seed left unharvested for lack of time and equipment, but much of the seed to be used for planting production fields was losing viability in storage. Most of this seed was hand harvested from State Natural Areas (SNA) and had a retail value of \$130,000. To avoid further losses, the DNR was allowed to plant as much of this seed as it could use and the rest was handed out to private nurseries. In addition, permits were given to nurseries to harvest seed on state lands, as long as they collected small amounts of specific species. With no enforcement possible, some nurseries complained that others had stripped all the seed at some popular remnants.

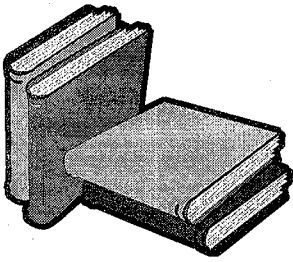
One of the purposes of the seed farm was to lessen the need to harvest from State Natural Areas, but instead there has been an unprecedented use of SNAs for intensive seed harvest for the past six years, with no end in sight now that they are being used to support private production as well as the state farm. With adequate seed sources of all but

the rarest plans already present on private lands or non-SNA state lands, such use is beyond the scope of their original in purpose: research and education. Use of SNAs for seed harvest of this magnitude with no assessment of its impact could jeopardize the future of some of our best remnants. Part of this can be blamed on the seed certification program now being implemented, which makes it easier and cheaper for nurseries to grow certifiable local seed if it comes from SNAs.

Most of the seed in storage was collected in the southeast part of the state, which has been the focus of major restoration efforts, particularly in the Horicon area. While bureaucrats and others whined, the DNR planted thousands of acres with non-local seed. It's easy to blame the Wildlife Bureau, but blaming them exclusively is unfair, given that they must plant as much as quickly and cheaply as possible. This benefits not only game birds, but our increasingly rare non-game grassland birds, who can't wait while we argue over who grows the seed and where it comes from.

So what does the future hold? The state will likely produce its own seed of quick to establish species until it becomes cost effective to purchase all local seed by bid. Wildlife managers will play a more active role harvesting their own seed from existing plantings. With the new Flail-Vac, cheap, efficient grass seed harvest will be possible. Any attempt at a truly diverse prairie restoration effort with a full complement of species will have to wait for a source of money vastly greater than is available now, unless there is more volunteer effort to provide seed. As demand increases, both legal and illegal collection from state lands will also increase, and some of our best remnants will suffer. Although young, the native plant market is big business. Reputations are on the line as nurseries fight for market share. Predictably, when money is involved, saving the resource becomes secondary to its exploitation.

—Scott Weber



The Forgotten Pollinators

by Stephen L. Buchmann and Gary Paul Nabhan (Island Press)

Imagine yourself as a native North American whose ancestors have reaped the riches of the land for millennia. In the 16th century, European immigrants began appearing in the land and consuming the wealth which was once yours to share with your neighbors. The newcomers are not aggressive, but their numbers are overwhelming; eating and raising the next generation becomes difficult or impossible. The natives in question were the myriad bees and other pollinators which assured seed set in America's flowers before the honeybee came. This is one of the stories

told in *The Forgotten Pollinators*, a book of stories about plants and their matchmakers written to raise awareness of the unstable condition of the world's plant/pollinator relationships. The authors tell their stories simply enough to be understood by anyone. The book doesn't focus on prairies, but what can be learned from it needs to be applied to our understanding of prairies and savannas as well as to forests, farms and suburbs.

The book provides a brief background on pollination biology, including discussions of how various insects, birds and mammals interact with their plants, then goes on to discuss how those same pollinators' populations have been declining from human-induced changes. There are sad tales of the living dead—seemingly healthy plant populations which are setting few or no seeds because their pollinators are no longer around. Endangered cacti in the Sonoran Desert are unpollinated because tomato hornworms there have been almost sprayed out of existence. Other plants may have similar problems; plant/pollinator relationships are some of the least studied and least understood in nature.

One of the most interesting facts to emerge from the book was that honeybees are basically a weed species, causing many of the same problems that other weeds have caused. Honeybees have long been credited with bringing most of our food to the table but may in fact be responsible for pollinating only 5% of all crops worldwide. In addition, honeybee populations in this country are in decline and are not likely to completely recover, so they will pollinate fewer plants than in past decades. The bright side? There are many wild pollinators still waiting in the wings, and should be able to rebuild their populations if we care enough to give them pesticide-free, nectar filled habitats.

—Muffy Barrett

Deer depredation

I read Gary Eldred's article 'Deer Browsing Affects Forb Seed Production' in the last issue with much interest. I have the same problem, but with different species in my location.

Deer depredation on a fairly large population of spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohioensis*) is saddening. Virtually none of the plants were allowed to flower, with the uppermost portion of the plants being browsed off. In addition, of eight small lupine (*Lupinus perennis*) plants I had discovered in mid-June, only one currently survived. The young plants had been plucked from the ground with no respect for my efforts to introduce lupine to my prairie. I had gathered and individually planted the seed in 1995. I was not happy!

Still another problem occurs in an area I have been planning on planting to prairie this Fall. Extensive deer travel through the worked up soil has left tracks heavy enough to kill germinating seed if this traffic were to continue. It makes me wonder if my efforts to plant will be a waste of time and money, but I can't quit now.

Fortunately the upcoming deer hunting seasons offer relief. The value of hunting to control an excess deer herd and the damage they cause cannot be promoted enough. Another benefit to a successful hunt is the venison you get. Venison can be prepared into a multitude of tasty recipes. The low fat content of this red meat offers a nice alternative food for today's health conscious diets

Save a prairie where you live. Eat venison. Soon!

—Marty Grell

MIDWIN (continued from page 4)

in the Midwin's future because of the site's size, the chain-link fence and the proximity of the Chicago bison meat market. "There are three commercial bison farms within an hour's drive of the Midwin," Strich says, "so we're looking at converting some of the cattle leases on the site to bison leases."

In November, the transfer of the Midwin from the Army to the USFS will occur. Shortly thereafter, the USFS will hold public meetings to collect citizen input regarding use of the Midwin. The nation's first National Tallgrass Prairie will open to the public in three to five years. Prairie restorations will be done largely by volunteers.

"The Midwin offers the opportunity to recruit thousands of Chicago metro area volunteers to carry out stewardship activities," Strich says. "The area will provide societal needs for outdoor recreation, spirituality and a sense of place

within an increasingly urbanized landscape. But it is also a place to restore critically imperiled ecosystems. While there are many little prairie preserves throughout eastern Illinois, what we have to offer is scale: Our primary goal is to restore the landscape-scale processes that have been missing from the Midwestern landscape."

Several decades hence, perhaps a descendent of Eliza Steele will visit the Midwin. If she is any bit the poet and perceptive individual Eliza was, no doubt her rhapsodic description of the tall grasses and flowers will include praise for the forethought, consensus and commitment that made the Midwin's restoration "as beautiful and wondrous beyond anything I had ever conceived."

Reprinted with permission of *The Prairie Reader*, P.O. Box 8277, St. Paul, MN 55108. Subscription rates: \$18 individuals; \$25 institutions, corporations, agencies and libraries.

The Prairie Reader

This quarterly publication is a real gem! Editor Camilla LeFevre is a prairie enthusiast and professional writer who has described this publication as her charitable contribution to prairie conservation. As editor of *The Prairie Promoter*, I can assure you that the subscription rate (\$18 for individuals; \$25 for institutions, corporations, agencies and libraries) indicates that *The Prairie Reader* is truly a labor of love. More importantly, *The Prairie Reader* successfully fulfills Camille's original (and expanding) vision: to provide a forum and information exchange for all prairie enthusiasts throughout the prairie region.

Camille's professionalism and dedication results in an eminently readable publication which is informative, interesting and intelligently written. The content is as diverse and appealing as the prairies themselves. I have delighted in articles about the proposed Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat Preservation Area and Illinois's Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (see page 3) in addition to thoughtful book reviews and articles about planting suburban prairie and Minneapolis Parks Department's struggle to win public support for converting tracts of park land to prairie.

Departments, such as "Field Notes" keep readers informed of what various prairie organizations are doing, while "Ask the Experts" gives subscribers a chance to obtain information about planting and maintaining prairies. "Prairie Watch" is a random selection of prairies to visit. In short, this publication is a "must read" for all enthusiasts!

Send your check to *The Prairie Reader*, P.O. Box 8277, St. Paul, MN 55108.

—Walter Mirk

\$25.00 was donated to TPE by Barbara Mortensen to celebrate the marriage of Edith Goth to Harland Weber.

Toward harmony with nature

The Wild Ones' Fox Valley Chapter is offering a native landscaping conference on Saturday, January 18, 1997 at the Oshkosh Convention Center. The keynote speaker will be teacher/naturalist Lorrie Otto. The conference will offer concurrent sessions, opportunities for networking and entertainment. Registration begins at 7:45 a.m. and costs \$18 for Wild Ones members, \$20 for nonmembers. Buffet costs an additional \$8.50. Make checks payable to Wild Ones and mail to: Kathy Swederske, 2920 CTH FF, Omro, WI 54963

Stewardship Grant finally in!

After many years the books can finally be closed on the Kalscheur Oak Savanna, which is managed by the Southwest WI Chapter. In September the Prairie Enthusiasts received a \$9,900 check from the Wisconsin State Stewardship Fund, a fund set up by the state legislature to split the costs of acquisition and management of qualifying natural areas with private conservation groups that meet certain criteria. To make a long story short, we applied for a grant from this source to cover half the costs of acquiring the Kalscheur savanna, and we got it! After the central PE board is reimbursed for land survey, appraisal, title insurance and title fee costs that it covered temporarily, there will be approximately \$8,500 left over from the grant (thanks to the generosity of Jim Kalscheur of UW Provisions). This remaining money is being put into a permanent stewardship endowment. The earnings from this endowment will be available to the Southwest WI Chapter to use in management of the Kalscheur Oak Savanna. Our thanks go to Jim Kalscheur, the Natural Lands Institute, and the WI Stewardship Fund for making the protection and management of this site possible.

The anatomy of your mailing label

You may have noticed that, beginning with the June newsletter, there is an additional line on your mailing label. The first line is now the due date for renewing your membership with TPE!

If you have a series number which is all fives, it means you are either receiving a complimentary copy as a landowner or friend of TPE; if the series number consists of sixes, you are a lifetime member. In either case, you don't have to concern yourself with renewal dates.

For those with a "real" date I would encourage you to renew your membership a month ahead of time. I send out renewal notices two weeks before the renewal month, but if you renew earlier, I will give you a full year's credit, **and** you save TPE a stamp, a special (and fairly expensive) renewal envelope and a little of my time. (A purely selfish point, I admit, it just gives me more time to work on our own savanna restoration project.)

Many times I get little notes attached to membership applications/renewals. I do try to answer them or at least pass them on to chapter presidents or experts who would know the answers. If you don't get a response please feel free to call the chapter representative nearest you. Happy holidays!

—Alice Mirk

Volunteers needed to staff Prairie Enthusiasts display at the Garden Expo

The PE display, in an all new format, will once again be at the Friends of WHA-TV Garden Expo. The Expo will be February 15 & 16, Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 10-4, in Madison at the Dane County Expo Center. We need people to staff the display for shifts of two to three hours. Duties include handing out brochures and banquet flyers and answering questions about prairies, savannas and The Prairie Enthusiasts. Over 4,500 people attended the Expo last year. This is great exposure for our organization. If you wish to help call Rich Henderson (845-7065).

Native landscaping conference

The University of Wisconsin Madison Arboretum's Native Landscaping Conference will be held at the UW's Memorial Union on March 15, 1997. The keynote speaker will be David Northington, Director of the National Wildflower Research Center. The conference will offer concurrent sessions, exhibits and networking on topics related to native landscaping. For more information, call Cheryl Haberman at 608-262-9925.

CHAPTER NEWS

EMPIRE-SAUK CHAPTER

New protection committee chair

At the November 5th board meeting, John Mecikalski was elected chair of the chapter's protection committee. He is replacing Edie Weber (formerly Goth) who is resigning from the position after serving in that capacity since our chapter's formation in 1992. Even though Edie is resigning from our chapter board, she plans to finish out her term as one of our chapter's two representatives to the The Prairie Enthusiasts board where she holds the position of secretary. Edie has also offered to continue providing help and advice to the protection committee. Thank you, Edie, for your past help in land owner contact and negotiations. Your knowledge and experience with land transactions has been, and will continue to be, very helpful to our work.

John is currently our chapter's volunteer coordinator and will continue in that capacity as he takes on the coordination of the protection committee. He will be leading a major new push in landowner contacts that we hope to accomplish in the next two years. John's efforts will be helped by two new protection volunteers, Ursula Petersen and Brian Hotz. Ursula and Brian bring a wealth of experience and knowledge about landowner contacts and land protection options. As prairie remnants succumb to houses and trees at ever increasing rates, landowner contact has become absolutely critical to our mission. If you wish to help, contact John Mecikalski (608) 849-8358.

Thanks to all!

Thanks to all who helped to make this restoration season one of the most successful ever! As a result of your efforts, over sixteen acres of prairie were planted and an acre of oak savanna were brushed at Governor Nelson State Park. The following people and organizations donated over 300 person hours removing brush, collecting or donating seed, and seeding areas:

Mike Anderson, Brian Barganz, Muffy Barrett, Kay Bongers, Dave Bouche, Boy Scouts of America, Stephanie Bremer, Katharine Coffey, Guerdon Coombs, Tanis Cuff, DNR Native Seed Nursery, Don D' Alessio, Victoria Jean Daley, Mike Dern, Dan Ditschett, Ed Emmenegger, Beverly Epp, Susie Ewing, Hildy Feen, Maureen Fitzgibbon, Shannon Francis, Girl Scouts of America, Sharla Hanson, John Harrington, Julie Hayward, Anita Heiser, Rich Henderson, Joel Hyzer, Karen Juno, Brenna Knaebe, Kim Koster, Vicki Lee-Springman, Madison Audubon, Sue Marks, Amy McDaniel, Jason Melvin, Middleton High School, Kathy Mullaney, Chris Munson, Kari Rieck, Anson Russell, Scott Sauer, Nancy Schlimgen, Jay Stampen, Mike Shucha, Josh Sulmon, Sun Prairie Middle School, UW-Landscape Architecture 666 Class, Catherine Van Susteren, Matt Vander Woude, Jim Venden, Scott Weber, Deb Weidert, Bob Weitzel, Deb Weitzel, Paul West, Tim West, Maggie Whitehead, Tom Woit, Debbie Yugo, Laurie Zubke.

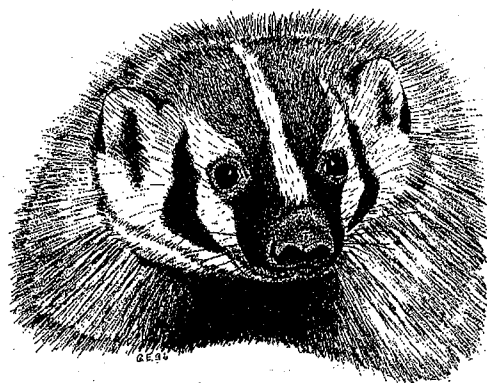
Every year the work becomes more enjoyable and

rewarding as more of you get involved. It is personally rewarding to see the progress and to meet the new people who want to get involved in this grass-roots level of prairie restoration . . . after all, that is the very essence of our organization. Please join us next year!

—Dan Weidert

Education Committee

If you have an interest in helping out in the development of posters, displays, slide shows, brochures, and other education and information materials, contact Rich Henderson (845-7065). The Empire-Sauk Chapter's education committee is in need of enthusiastic, if not talented, volunteers.



PRAIRIE BLUFF CHAPTER



Wisconsin's largest black oak (at Albany) provided the perfect backdrop for the Sept. 28 Green County Big Tree Tour official group photo. The tour was so much fun that one of the participants (right, front) did a cartwheel! With the recent removal of a large, dead limb from this tree (courtesy of Whitney Tree Service in Juda) a limited number of Wisconsin Record Black Oak artifacts will be available at the March 1 TPE annual banquet.

SW Chapter begins prairie seed production

After 11 years of setbacks and mistakes by the State of Wisconsin in its attempts to establish a prairie seed farm (see related story on page 5), TPE's Southwest Chapter is moving ahead with its own large scale seed orchards. Because we believe it's extremely important to restore native grasslands on large areas of state property such as parks and hunting and fishing areas, the SW Chapter is attempting to produce prairie seed which will be donated to the State of Wisconsin. Due to the dedication and commitment of prairie enthusiasts Steve Hubner of Darlington and David Lowe of Barneveld, we believe this project will succeed. This statement is a summary of what follows!

Last summer, seven acres were planted near Hollandale and 14 acres were planted in Lafayette Co. In the first week of November, the SW Chapter entered into a land use contract with David Sullivan, a buffalo rancher near Lancaster. We have already planted 7 acres by hand and will be planting another 93 acres over the next several years. Hand planting anything but small plots of prairie seed can become very tiring and time consuming: David Lowe, Steve Hubner and I worked three long days and spread over 3,000 lbs. of seed/sand mix to plant the first seven acres.

By now you probably realize where this narrative is leading! We **do not** want to plant an additional 93 acres of seed by hand! Hence the official beginning of a Truax no till fund drive (TNTFD). This type of seed planter can cost upwards of \$12,000 and we're turning to our membership to make tax deductible contributions to this project. The planter will be needed not only to plant seed orchards, but also to replant them at some time in the future. There will also be an ongoing need for planting the seed we produce on public property. I keep thinking of Steve's comments about how great it would be to donate seed to school prairie plantings and have seed to plant on county and township roads after road construction projects were completed (assuming county or township permission and cooperation).

I've worked in a state tree nursery for 16 years and I've been involved with prairie conservation and management for 20 years, so we enter into this project with little or no illusions about the difficulties we face. The important thing is that we are willing to face them together and will not accept defeat by anything less than overwhelming odds! Although seeing our dreams become reality may take years, we are moving forward. At this time, we have obtained \$3,500 in pledges and I've spoken to two conservation organizations that maybe willing to provide matching funds. We are aware that you receive many requests for donations during the holiday season. We hope that you consider a donation which will restore endangered habitat. A myriad of species depend on your generosity. Send your donations to:

Gary's Seeder
c/o SW Prairie Enthusiasts
4192 Sleepy Hollow Trail
Boscobel, WI 53805

Vale restoration update

November 7, 1993, was a cold day with a biting wind. Many of you will have to take my word for this, but some of you will remember this clearly when reminded that on that date we sowed the first seeds into the restoration area at Vale Prairie. There was such a wind that it occurred to some of us that perhaps much of the seed we had carefully collected, stored, cleaned in various ways and to various degrees, and laboriously mixed with sand in advance of this event was blowing off to start miniprairies in the next township, perhaps even in the next county. On Labor Day, 1996, our labor in the cold three years earlier was seen to have paid off handsomely. Rebecca Christoffel and I visited Vale Prairie briefly, and in about 20 minutes in the area planted on that cold windy day, we found quite a few prairie species, several in abundance.

In the area that had been prepared with a tarp so the ground was utterly bare at planting, various goldenrods, especially *Solidago rigida*, were blooming profusely. This species is often common in plantings of this age and its abundance is one measure of the success of this planting. Another such is *Monarda fistulosa*, which is also present in abundance but is now past blooming, so it takes a naturalist to conceive of the sea of lavender visible here a bit earlier. Various asters were also present, just beginning to flower. Vale Prairie supports high populations of several asters and goldenrods, and we sowed these heavily the restoration area.

In this bare ground area, we found the following grasses: *Andropogon scoparius*, *Panicum sp.*, *Sorghastrum nutans*, *Leptoloma cognatum*, *Eragrostis spectabilis*, *Tridens flavus* and *Bouteloua curtipendula*. The forbs we found here were: *Solidago rigida*, *S. speciosa*, *S. canadensis*, *S. nemoralis*, *S. missouriensis*, *Aster azureus*, *A. pilosus*, *A. ericoides*, *A. laevis*, *A. sericeus*, *Liatriis aspera*, *Brickellia eupatorioides*, *Rudbeckia hirta*, *Lactuca sp. (? canadensis)*, *Potentilla arguta*, *Desmodium illinoense*, *Lespedeza capitata*, *Amorpha canescens*, *Monarda fistulosa*, *Linum sulcatum*, *Euphorbia corolla*, and *Penstemon pallidus*.

Just south of this, we had prepared the site differently, so at the time of planting there was already an exciting diversity of prairie plants that had been here all along, but that had been smothered by *Bromus inermis*. We killed this brome grass by spraying it with Roundup early in the spring of 1993. Later, so many prairie plants appeared here that we changed our plan of repeated sprayings designed to deplete the weed seed bank to simply oversowing more prairie seeds here in the fall. On November 7, we sowed seeds of many of these same species right on top of the brown autumn plants. It is impossible to say what resulted from our sowing and what was already here waiting for release from the oppressive cover of brome grass, but four species Rebecca and I found were certainly not here earlier. These do not occur on the Vale remnant, and the Southwest Chapter board decided to introduce these and a few other species only on the restoration area far from the remnant itself. The four species we found were *Silphium laciniatum* and *S. integrifolium*, both introduced by seeds planted individually by a select cadre on that cold day, *Ratibida pinnata*, sowed in the sandy seed mix, and the single plant of *Ceanothus americanus* I had started on my porch and set out in late fall of 1995. Many of the species present in the bare ground area are also present here; other

(Continued on next page)

notables are *Helianthus occidentalis*, *Zizia aurea* and *Anemone cylindrica*.

Think of the diversity of insects feeding on the nectar and pollen this floral abundance provides! And think, too, of many others that feed on the foliage or seeds, or live in the stems or roots.

We were pleased by both of these plantings, by how they look now and by the prospect of their continuing to look better as years go by. The two plantings are different and the line of demarcation between them is clear. This might prompt you to ask which one is better, which site preparation technique was preferable. Which is the right way to proceed the next time?

I'd say neither is better. A preparation of any site must take into account various conditions present so there is no prescribed path to take. In short, there is no right way. And to think in these terms seems unfortunate in the context of restoring ecosystems, as by doing so we greatly limit our prospects. Since our goal in restoration is to create and maintain biologically diverse communities rife with native flora and fauna, it's great that the two plantings differ. We are better off with the diversity of site preparation techniques and diversity of results than we would be if we were to use only one, the best, the right way.

I suspect the line of demarcation between these plantings will be sharp for years to come, though each planting will change each year. This is a good thing. This line highlights our success in terms of diversity, though in the future we might try to disguise the edges of new plantings so our hand in the creation of the landscape would be less apparent.

Our plantings look great and will please you if you go take a look at them. They'll look different each time you visit over the next years, so plan to visit more than once. In viewing the plants, don't miss the opportunity to view the variety of insects that also define this as prairie.

—Andrew Williams

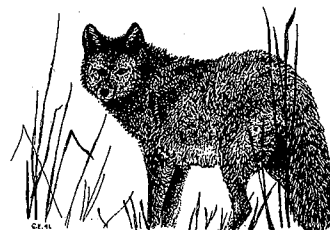
SW Chapter Board needs director

Recently two directors have retired and I'd like to take a few lines to thank them. Alice Mirk has served on the board for 10 years, and has made many, many valuable contributions. Without her involvement in the beginning The Prairie Enthusiasts might not have come to life. I'd also like to thank Ron Leys for his time donated to our chapter and helping with prairie conservation by volunteering as a director. Thank you, Alice and Ron.

David Lowe has filled one of the vacancies. The SW Chapter's Board of Directors is seeking a member who would be willing to fill the remaining vacancy. If so, please contact Gary Eldred at 608-375-5271, 4192 Sleepy Hollow Trail, Boscobel, WI 53805.

Thank you

Last week I spent the afternoon working in the local print shop. I volunteered to help Susan Linder put together our winter issue of *The Prairie Promoter*. In the process I became aware of her top-notch computer skills. After I got back home I started to think about her and Walter Mirk's efforts at producing our newsletter. I've gotten **many** positive comments on the *Promoter* and I always pass them on to Sue and Walter, but I thought I'd take a minute and let everyone know how much I appreciate the time and effort they put into it. I'm sure they would feel great if they were to hear from you also.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

	EMPIRE-SAUK CHAPTER
Tues., Jan. 7	ES chapter board meeting, TNC office, 633 West Main St., Madison
	SOUTHWEST CHAPTER WORK PARTIES
Sun., Dec. 29	Work party, Kalscheur, 10 a.m., 608-375-5271
Sat., Jan. 11	Work party, Bush Clover 10 a.m., 608-375-5271
Sun., Jan. 26	Work party, Bush Clover, 10 a.m., 608-375-5271
Sat., Feb. 15	Work party, Kalscheur, 10 a.m., 608-375-5271
Sun., Feb. 23	Work party, Kalscheur, 10 a.m., 608-375-5271
Sat., Mar. 8	Work party, Kalscheur, 10 a.m., 608-375-5271
	MEETINGS
Sun., Jan. 19	SW Chapter meeting, Hagar residence, 1:00 p.m.

	SOUTHWEST CHAPTER MEETINGS
Sun., Feb. 16	SW Chapter meeting, Linder residence, 1:00 p.m.
Sun., Mar. 16	SW Chapter meeting, Linder residence, 1:00 p.m.
	PRAIRIE BLUFF CHAPTER
Sat., Jan. 21	PB chapter meeting, Monroe Public Library, 2nd floor meeting room. Presentation on the Marbleseed Prairie purchase project will be given at 7 p.m. A short business meeting will follow. 608-862-3816
Sat. Feb. 1	Jordan Prairie Potluck at John Ocshner residence. Bring a dish to pass and slides or photos of your '96 prairie activities. 6 p.m., 608-862-3816
Tues., Feb. 18	PB chapter meeting, Monroe Public Library, 2nd floor meeting room. John Bauman to speak about his backyard prairie restoration, 7 p.m.
Tues., Mar. 18	PB chapter meeting at Turner Hall Rathskeller, Monroe, 7 p.m.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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
GARY ELDRED
4192 SLEEPY HOLLOW TR.
BOSCOBEL, WI 53805

A Non-Profit
Organization
THIRD CLASS
BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 10
Boscobel, WI 53805

THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS - MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____ County _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

PLEASE CHECK CHAPTER YOU WISH TO JOIN, OR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP:

- Southwest Chapter**
Serving Grant, Crawford, Richland & Iowa Counties
- Northwest Illinois Chapter**
Serving JoDaviss, Carroll & Stephenson Counties
- West Central Chapter** - Serving Barron, Chippewa, Polk, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pierce, Pepin, St. Croix Counties
- General Membership** (outside of chapter areas)
- Empire-Sauk Chapter**
Serving Sauk, Columbia & Dane Counties
- Prairie Bluff Chapter**
Serving Green, Rock & Lafayette Counties

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

- \$10 STUDENT
- \$50 SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP
- \$15 INDIVIDUAL
- \$200 INDIVIDUAL LIFE
- \$25 CONTRIBUTOR

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

The Prairie Enthusiasts
 c/o Alice Mirk
 10052 County Hwy. C
 Woodman, WI 53827
 608-988-4760

Can we provide your name and address to:
 YES _____ NO _____
 Other environmental organizations _____
 Other Prairie Enthusiasts in your area _____

PLEASE CHECK AREAS OF INTEREST:

- Writing newsletter articles
- Organize field trips
- Grant writing
- Seed collection
- Prairie information - specify: _____
- Develop educational material
- Plan social activities (banquet, picnic, etc.)
- Fund raiser
- Restoration projects
- Site management activities (burning, brush cutting, etc.)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



For further information, contact:

Gary Eldred
4192 Sleepy Hollow Tr.
Boscobel, WI 53805