



THE PRAIRIE PROMOTER

VOL 14, NO.1 Spring 2001

Celebrating thirteen years of prairie conservation in the Upper Midwest

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL BANQUET VOTED A SUCCESS

Nearly 175 prairie-minded folks joined The Prairie Enthusiasts for our 13th Annual Banquet on Friday, March 2 in Eau Claire. We welcomed many who are not currently members, but who elected to extend their stay after the Plants Out of Place conference. All in all, folks represented six states -- Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and of course, Wisconsin. With the banquet in Eau Claire, we saw many West Central, Coulee Region, and Empire-Sauk chapter members. We missed some of the Northwest Illinois, Prairie Bluff and Southwest chapter folks who could not work the longer trek into their schedule -- hope to see you next year!

Because the banquet and conference were two separate days, we held part of the Silent Auction on Friday evening. Every item was delightful, and even with limited time for pondering purchases, the attendees parted with \$666 before leaving.

After dinner, Marilyn Kanne opened the festivities. She thanked the folks from West Central who helped organize the activities, and then -- because walking even a short while in another's moccasins tells a lot about them -- she relayed the chapter's gratitude to Gary Eldred and Rich Henderson for leading the previous 12 years' efforts. Of course she had to first pull their legs by presenting them each with a large can of Bush's beans before allowing Gary and Rich to know we had gift bags filled with unique Chippewa Valley foodstuffs for them.

Chuck Bomar emceed the chapter presentations. Each chapter briefly highlighted their efforts from the past year. Coulee Region honored Perot State Park for their management of Brady's Bluff and the unique goat prairie in the park; Phil Palzkill accepted the award. Southwest presented the Volunteer of the Year award to Walter Mirk, who has served on the board and as the newsletter editor for years. West Central proposed a

new award: a Recognition of Service to the organization itself and awarded it to Alice Mirk for her gracious and generous service as our corporate treasurer, membership person, and doer-of-good-things while helping our chapter get established. Unfortunately, other priorities prevented Walter and Alice from attending this year (the first time we've not seen them), so Gary accepted both awards on their behalf.

After a brief intermission to complete the auction bids and grab dessert from the dessert buffet, Harvey Halvorsen and Ray Forsgren tantalized us with images and sounds of birds of the grasslands and prairie. Being an educator, Harvey had to sneak in a few grassland habitat facts, too, of course, on the premise that it is within specific habitats that one can sight specific species. But Harvey redeemed himself by playing Those Low-Down Prairie Mosquito Blues on the harmonica. And we all loved his solution to the free-ranging cat problem!

The evening was made extra special by extending a tradition -- even though Gail and Gary Adams could not be present, they sent their pretty dried prairie centerpieces to grace our tables. In addition, Bretta Chaplinski arranged several large displays of local ecotypes for the podium.

Yes, a good time was had by all. We wish you could each have been there, but we're looking forward to seeing you next year in La Crosse!

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The Prairie Enthusiasts is a grass roots organization of volunteers which is solely committed to the protection, management, and restoration of native prairies and savannas in the Upper Midwest. To date, The Prairie Enthusiasts has protected over 2,000 acres that harbor at least 5 state or federally protected species requisitions, easements, and management agreements. The Prairie Enthusiasts has a stewardship program which provides active management to ensure the ongoing health of protected sites.

The Prairie Enthusiasts is actively involved in planting prairie on it's properties and on other conservation lands and has assisted both public agencies and private groups in these efforts. Thus far, more than 150 acres have been planted with seeds of prairie plants from local sources.

In addition, The Prairie Enthusiasts develop educational materials and provide presentations on prairie and savanna ecology, conservation, and management for both children and adults.

The Prairie Enthusiasts was incorporated in Wisconsin in 1987 as a private nonprofit, tax exempt corporation under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible.

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The *Prairie Promoter* is a quarterly publication of The Prairie Enthusiasts. No part of this periodical may be reproduced without permission. We welcome submissions of letters, articles, announcements, art work, and photographs which are relevant to prairie and savanna ecosystems. Material should be typed. Writers who use computers can e-mail their submissions to ajmtp@mwf.net using MS word or text files. Please do not format. Letters and articles may be edited for length or style. Computer disks, art, and photographs will be returned. Deadlines for submission of material are: February 25 (Spring issue); May 25 (Summer issue); August 25 (Fall issue); and November 25 (Winter issue).

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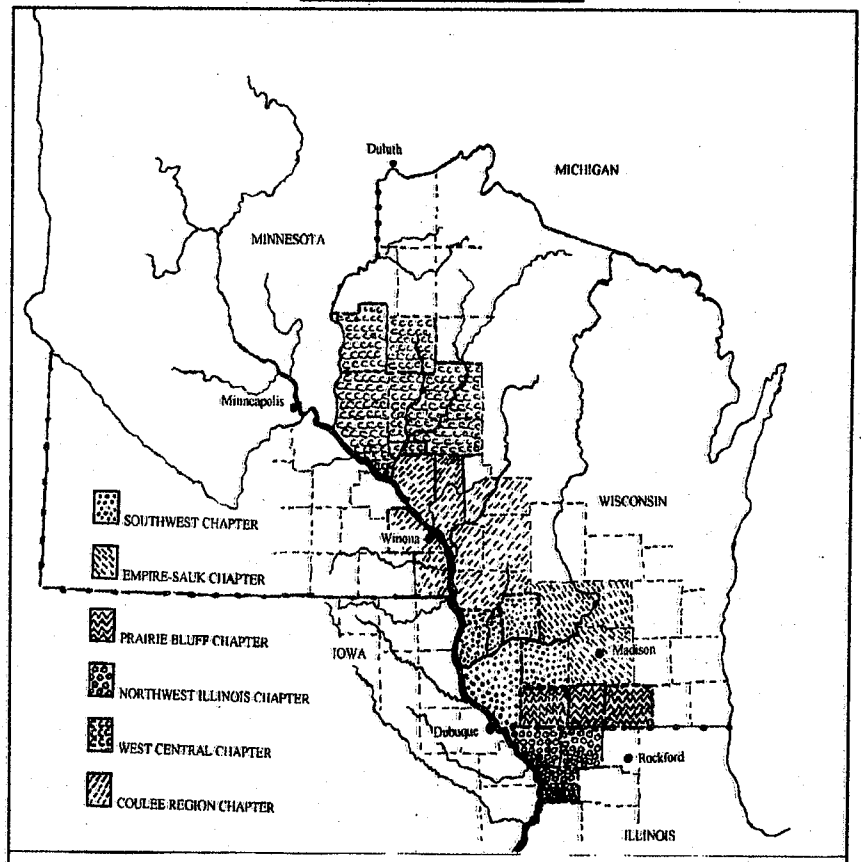
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TPE CHAPTER AREAS



President's Message

It may not seem like it, but rest assured that spring is just around the corner, even though ice and snow dominate the landscape. The days are getting longer and the sun is warmer. As the seasons change and spring renews the promise of hope and regeneration, so do hundreds of Prairie Enthusiasts eagerly await spring and that promise.

As I have written before, the prairie movement and The Prairie Enthusiasts have grown far beyond what I could have ever foreseen! It has been an honor to have served with some of the most dedicated and committed people I have ever met. Our shared dreams have educated thousands of people and protected hundreds of acres of prairie and savanna remnants. The story of TPE's growth has been nothing short of miraculous, but it has also been a double-edged sword. For several years we have been struggling to keep the momentum going with volunteers alone while continuing to grow, when there is so much to do just to maintain TPE as it is! If we want to continue to actively grow, to develop more chapters, to increase membership, to preserve more prairies and savannas, to educate more people, and to raise more money, we will have to hire staff.

The TPE board has discussed these issues many times, but is now taking another step in that direction. Rich Henderson has developed a plan for committees: one to hire an executive director and one to help us raise funds needed to pay for that person's salary.

Another vital mechanism for raising these funds is our Blazing Star membership. Monies generated by this \$200 annual membership will be used exclusively to fund the executive director. If we can't raise funds to hire an executive director, our ability to preserve prairie and savanna remnants will be severely restricted, if not extinguished altogether! It is my fondest hope that you will consider supporting our shared interests and love for nature by reviewing your membership at the Blazing Star level.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering Waters Conservancy River Alliance of Wisconsin 2001 Wisconsin Statewide Conference

The conference will be held in Oshkosh at the Pioneer Resort and Marina on April 20th through April 22nd. Pre-conference activities include both professional seminars and fields trips around the area. On the evening of Friday April 20, a dinner and legislative panel discussion is planned, and invited guests include Governor Scott McCallum, Scott R. Jensen and Chuck Chvala, together with the Secretary of the DNR, Darrell Bazzell. On Saturday and Sunday, there are five tracks of workshops, with six workshops in each track. The workshop tracks are: land protection; river protection; community based conservation; communications and outreach; and fundraising and capacity building. For more information on this conference, contact Gathering Waters Conservancy at 211 South Paterson St, Suite 180, Madison WI 53703, or call 608-251-9131.

Upland Garden Club 3rd Annual Plant Sale

The Upland Garden Club's annual plant sale will be held Saturday, May 19, from 8am to 11am in the Ley Pavilion at Harris Park in Dodgeville, WI. Plants offered for sale include annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, rock garden and house plants.

Chapter Web Page Updates

In case you're not aware of it, each chapter has its own web page at The Prairie Enthusiasts website, www.prairie.pressenter.com. Most of these pages are nearly a year old (at least), and in need of updating. It's current policy that each chapter updates its own page, but recognizing that not everyone is familiar with web page writing, Scott Sauer and Evanne Hunt can be of some service. However, any text, schedules, or pictures must be presented in digital form, and preferably through e-mail. Hopefully, each chapter can find someone within their membership with access to a computer, e-mail, and some scanning equipment. Scott can be contacted at sauers@dnr.state.wi.us and Evanne at eahunt@pressenter.com. For more information on how to access the server, contact Evanne.

Web pages are a great way to keep people updated on chapter activities, and to share chapter highlights with other prairie enthusiasts. Please take advantage of this resource to stay in touch!

- Scott Sauer

BOOK REVIEWS

The Destruction of the Bison

Andrew C. Isenberg, Cambridge University Press,
198 pp

Reviewed by Walter Mirk

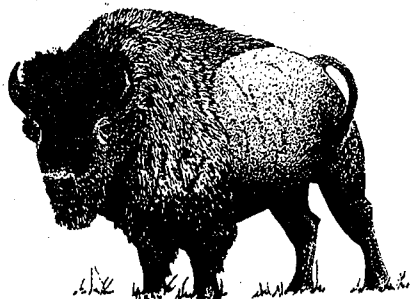
Andrew C. Isenberg opens *The Destruction of the Bison* with a focused, yet very informative chapter that describes the Great Plains, North America's largest biome. This highly volatile, complex, and dynamic environment is explored with special emphasis given to climate, vegetation, and the other myriad elements which increased or suppressed bison numbers. He concentrates his attention on the semiarid (shortgrass) western plains and subhumid (mixed-grass) central plains because it was only in those areas where the bison were concentrated in large numbers (up to 30 million head).

Isenberg next turns his attention to the Plains Indians and their pre-colombian relationship with the bison and with the Great Plains environment. He then traces the transformation of their land use and culture in response to the encroaching Euroamericans who brought with them diseases, commerce, horses, and other exotic biota. This transformation marked the beginning of the end for the bison and for the Plains Indians. The market hunters and cattle ranchers who followed delivered the coup de grace.

In essence, Isenberg makes a powerful and well-reasoned argument that the cultural and ecological encounter between Euroamericans and Indians in the Great Plains was the central cause of the near extinction of the bison. He certainly recognizes the irony that early twentieth century nostalgia for this cultural conflict became the impetus for the preservation of the bison. This part of the tale is also told in riveting detail.

Andrew Isenberg has produced an impressive scholarly work that sheds new light on what heretofore had been a simple story of human greed. The story that emerges is far more complex and at least as disturbing. Isenberg's ability to synthesize information from numerous disciplines makes him well suited to narrate a story that is closely reasoned, coherent, carefully documented, and highly instructive.

I highly recommend this book. You can be assured that I will be reading it again (and again) and that it serves as a valuable reference.



Snakes of Wisconsin

Rebecca Christofel and Robert Hays. DNR publication
26pp \$3.00

Reviewed by Walter Mirk

"Snakes of Wisconsin" is an excellent publication and a very user-friendly field guide. This booklet contains superlative photographs of twenty of the twenty-one snakes that occur within Wisconsin (there is no photograph of the Chicago garter snake that looks quite similar to the common garter snake) that makes identification as easy as possible. Each photograph is accompanied by a range map and the species' status (i.e., common, protected, special concern, threatened, or endangered), along with information about diet and habitat.

"Snakes of Wisconsin" also provides information about the general biology and behavior of snakes, their skin, breeding, vision, feeding aids and feeding behaviors, locomotion, and defense. In addition, information is provided about venomous snake bites (only two species of venomous snakes occur in Wisconsin: one is endangered, one is protected, and both have a relatively restricted range). Finally, the reader will learn some basics about the value of snakes in nature and that 55% of Wisconsin's 21 snakes face an uncertain future.

"Snakes of Wisconsin" should go a long way toward helping people to understand and appreciate these fascinating animals. More importantly, this booklet should convince any sensitive person of the importance of protecting them. The booklet is well worth the \$3.00 cost (which includes mailing)! You can obtain a copy from: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Endangered Resources, PO Box 7921 Madison, WI 53707. Refer to BER publication PUB-ER 100 00.



THE REMNANTS WE SAVE

Heather's Prairie by Gary Adams

THE SITE HISTORY

This 15 to 20 acre pasture prairie was discovered by Gary Eldred around 1990, when he was conducting a roadside inventory of prairie remnants in Grant County. He saw a few cream baptisias growing in a large open pasture and took a walk to see what else he might find. As you know, prairie enthusiasts are always curious as to what is just out of sight. Walking west a few hundred yards and bearing to the right, he came to a fence, behind which was a somewhat brushy, ragged looking pasture. This area was behind a cornfield and could not be seen from the road. Taking a casual look over the fence, he saw a few prairie species and upon walking through it, was astounded to see a great variety of plants. It was randomly inventoried a couple of times early on and Andrew Williams inventoried it extensively in 1993 and counted well over 100 native plant species. This property is named in memory of Dan and Laurie Neuroth's daughter, Heather. It has been in the Neuroth family for three generations or so, has a history of grazing and even was used as a hog lot in the past.

SITE'S PRESENT STATUS

For having been grazed over the years, there are an amazing array of species surviving on the thinner soils without much weedy competition. The weedy, more coarse aliens are quite dominant on the heavier soil and in the gullies, although the most common woody weed is our old friend the sumac. We have been cutting the stems of multiflora rose and treating them with Garlon for a couple of years and now have this exotic invader under control. We will be working on the sumac in the future.

LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

Take highway 18 west from Fennimore to Pine Road, go south to Graham Road, turn left (east) and go a short distance to Mount Ridge Road, turn right (south) and travel to fire No. 12109. If you want to visit this property, be sure to ask Dan for permission.

The site is dissected by a small north/south creek that runs all year. There are a number of wetland species along this stream. The land slopes up on both sides of the creek, so there are east facing slopes and west facing slopes. In addition, each slope is cut by several gullies and there are small areas that actually face all four directions of the compass. In addition to the creek, a large gully on the west side has a small spring issuing from it and a gully on the east has a good seep. There are also some rock outcrops on the west side.

SITE QUALITY

With such a diversity here, there was bound to be some rare species and the outstanding one is the federally threatened Prairie Bush Clover, with a count of 297 plants in July 1993. They have been counted since but I don't have the census figures. Other rare plants include Hill's thistle, quinine, marbleseed, and wooly milkweed. There also many of my favorite flower, downy gentian. A couple of the more common species, compass plant and New Jersey tea, are missing. Pale purple coneflower is found in several places along the nearby roads but none have shown up here. Upland plover also have been seen here.

SITE NEEDS

As with many remnants, alien contamination and native woody species, sumac and prickly ash, are a continuing problem. Most of the sumac is on fairly flat slopes and can be handled with a tractor and Bush Hog or something like it. Some have grown beyond mower size and need to be hand cut. If by chance we can get enough fuel for a burn, I am sure it would change the looks of this remnant considerably, and maybe some previously undocumented species would emerge.

THE MIGHTY JUNIPER

By John Steinke

How do I elevate the lowly "red cedar" to the heights of the burr oak in the minds of the prairie enthusiasts? First to establish what we are talking about, *Juniperus virginiana* is usually the species referred to as "red cedar", but *Juniperus communis* almost always is included under this handle. Both species have fruits that are fleshy and blue, look the same from a distance and will grow almost anywhere. I refer to these two species as "juniper" just for the clean break from "white cedar," *Thuja occidentalis*, which is a much different plant.

We the People are the reason that juniper has become a problem for almost all who love the prairie, not the juniper. We have tamed the fires that restricted this tree to remote arid sites that lacked enough vegetation to sustain a good fire. This is a very controllable native species. It is also a survivor. In very poor growing conditions, nature will "bonsai" it, leaving a shrub that is older than any billowing burr oak to be found in the open oak setting, or it may grow out of pure outwash sand or gravel taking years to penetrate and stabilize but eventually growing into a fine tree, with much to offer other life forms.

Other life forms is how this article got started and where I am now headed. The juniper and I became good friends because of my interest in fungi. These sand/gravel outwash areas often are overlooked as sites for fungi, so many of the finds in these areas are rare or even new. No one completely understands the role juniper plays in the concentration of these unusual fungi but some contributing factors may be: the suppression of vegetation in the

area (more available water); the heavy needle duff that is laid down helps retain water once acquired; and, last but by no means least, juniper is not known to have a lot of fungi as natural partners, so these rare decomposers may not be subjected to much competition from entrenched species of fungi. Many of these rare fungi can be found in these same areas without juniper, but never in the same numbers with the same regularity.

In my closing argument for juniper, I believe a mature juniper is as important as a mature oak in a prairie. No one can argue that species diversity will be reduced by allowing a juniper to remain on a site. An argument can be mounted for plant diversity being reduced on a prairie when juniper is present, **but only if present in large numbers**. If juniper can produce an environment to increase the diversity of fungi on the prairie, it will present the opportunity for rare plants to survive, if planted or seeded, and contribute to, not reduce the diversity of a prairie.

Would you cut down the last mature oak on your prairie? The Mighty Juniper deserves the same respect. With its passing goes all the life forms that depended on it. The Juniper will not be the one that let's these life forms slip away on your prairie, or even into extinction - it will be you and I.

Editors note:

John Steinke is also an enthusiastic member of the Wisconsin Mycological Society



The One That (Almost) Got Away: A Cautionary Tale

by Mary Lee Croatt

It was a gorgeous sunny and cool autumn day. We had done everything right to prepare for our work. I visited my three country neighbors in the valley to tell them of our project. I even made a personal visit to the sheriff's office in Viroqua. "It'll just be a brush pile burn", I informed them. Our Prairie Enthusiasts chapter president had lined up volunteers. I had phoned them a week before, "Please bring your loppers. Wear work boots, long sleeves, a neck scarf, a cap, and work gloves", I suggested. The day before, Lloyd had taken the brush cutter to the site and mowed a wide swath around the proposed burn site. Things were definitely under control. Everyone met at our shed to caravan to the area where a 30 year old pine plantation had been felled by the electric company crew several years before.

We had hired an Amish man that same winter to skid the logs with his team of horses down this steep decline to the road below. The frozen earth offered the best protection against soil disturbance, which means erosion and weeds. We were trying to do what is best for land restoration on this 30-45 degree incline. We still had pine limbs and slash whose shade precluded any possibility of prairie plants emerging. Earlier this spring, we had a brush pile burn, but there was much more to burn. The current group consisted of Lloyd and me, a Wild Ones friend from Milwaukee, four Prairie Enthusiasts, two with burn experience and two without it. We carried two water packs, some extra gallons of water, two rakes, loppers, one chain saw, four

loppers, one chain saw, four flappers, and a book of matches. Confidence and exuberance ran high. The group set to work, dragging and piling branches and boughs in a huge pile away from the electric lines above. Before long we were ready. Lloyd, the landowner, lit the match. Shortly thereafter, we had a blaze before us.

And then it happened. Wind gusts blew and fanned the flames. A spark flew across the mowed margin into clumps of Indian grass and big bluestem in the goat prairie above. Whoosh, almost instantly a sea of flames spread up the steep 45 degree embankment and to the right and left. It was obviously out of control. We had a wall of fire above us. I slapped my flappers furiously. I scrambled upward as fast as my legs could move, breathless. I could feel my heart hammer in my chest. My mind was quickly going over our options as I and the group worked intensely. I thought: "It's out of control. It's ok if our property burns, but, my God, I can't let it burn my neighbor's property. This was the neighbor whose father had complained to the police and others about our fires." I saw my dear husband working on the slope above me. I remembered that Aldo Leopold died fighting a runaway burn. I prayed, "Please, God, don't let Lloyd have a heart attack over this. I don't want it to end like this for us."

Craig Annen, our experienced crew member, is young, lean, agile, and quick. He loped up the hill like a deer, spraying flames with his water pack. Sweating and red faced, he was the hero of the day. Fortunately, we had mowed a wide area a month earlier to control

prickly ash along our upper property line. The fire stopped here because there was no fuel to feed it. It was along the left that we needed to stop the runaway fire from spreading to a pile of slash and pine trees and our neighbor's property. With flappers slapping, rakes scratching fuel away from the flames, and water spraying, we overcame the inferno.

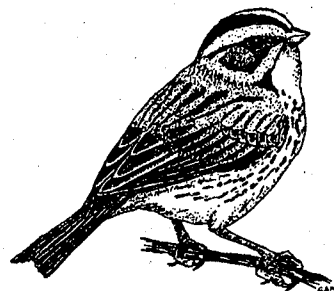
Relief! Specifically where did we go wrong? From the start we were doomed for many reasons. Absentmindedly we did not burn a firebreak ahead of time, assuming the fire would be contained, we lit the brushpile on the wind side rather than downwind, we should have checked our nozzle on the water pack. It sputtered, because it did not have the correct spray attachment. We should have carried much more water to the site before lighting a match. Our only water source was the river in the valley below us. We should have had more than two rakes available to rake away the dry vegetation that acted as fuel. We would all be more secure if there would have been a cell-phone available to call for help if necessary.

As I looked around, I saw one person with badly scratched arms from prickly ash and raspberry canes. Others, rosy cheeked, looked none the worse for the experience. Was it complacency or lack of thoroughness that failed us? I've had instant replays in my mind and shudder when I imagine how it could have played out.

I have reservations about sharing this story in print. My adult children may start badgering me about my incompetence. My country neighbors may become

anxious about my burning activities. My Town Chairman may deny me a burn permit. My Prairie Enthusiasts organization may bar me from practice. It is humbling for me to admit that my complacency may actually have put others in danger. That is my regret and, bottom line, my concern for future safe burns. I am sharing this as a lesson for others in the field of land restoration, so that they may learn by my mistakes. Sharing my story is the only way I know how to make lemonade out of this lemon of a fear-filled experience.

The next day my Wild Ones friend and I hiked the hill to revisit the burn site. We carried in more brush and made another 2 large piles. It will be safe to burn anytime before spring because there is no surrounding dry vegetation to spread fire elsewhere. Our brush pile burn turned into a three acre prairie burn, which is actually a good thing for the land. In December, Lloyd and I seeded it to add to the plant diversity. More than that, it was a major experiential outdoor classroom. We now have renewed resolve to check and double check our supplies and especially our casual thinking on doing a future burn.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COULEE REGION CHAPTER

MEETINGS

Sat.,	May 5	Chapter meeting at 10am, Stry Prairie field trip.
Sat.,	Jun. 23	Chapter meeting at the Urb/Caron farm, followed by a field trip to the Armen Bartz restoration project. Call 608-648-3681 for details.

EVENTS

Sat.,	Mar. 24	Prairie burns scheduled for the Croatt property at 11am, and the Kickapoo Reserve at 3pm. For further information call 608-634-2110
Sat.,	Mar. 31	Prairie burn scheduled for noon at the Dairyland Power Cooperative Prairie. Call 608-788-1417 for more details.
Sat.,	Apr. 7	Prairie burns scheduled for Sugar Creek Bible Camp at 10:30am (call 608-648-3883 for details), and noon at Helen Davis' property (call 608-634-2110 for details).
Sat.,	Apr. 21	Prairie burn scheduled at the Peggy Backup property at noon. Call 651-565-3794 for details. Alternate site will be Sugar Creek Bible Camp.
Sat.,	Apr. 28	Prairie burn scheduled at the Croatt property at 11am. Call 608-634-2110 for details.
Sun.,	Apr. 29	Prairie burn scheduled at the Davis property at noon. Call 608-634-2110 for details.
Thu.,	May 19	Valley Stewardship Spring Celebration, Gays Mills. Coulee Region Chapter will have an education booth.

EMPIRE-SAUK CHAPTER

WORK DAYS for information on ESC chapter work days and events see the chapter web site or watch out for the flyer in the mail.

MEETINGS

Tues.,	May 22	Chapter meeting at 7pm at the Potter preserve in Sauk county. For more details contact Rich Henderson at 608-847-7065.
Tues.,	Jul. 10	Potluck and annual meeting at the Faville Grove Preserve in Jefferson county. For more details contact

Rich Henderson at 608-847-7065.

PRAIRIE BLUFF CHAPTER

MEETINGS

Tues.,	Apr. 3	Chapter meeting at 7:15pm at the Bank of Brodhead, 806, East Exchange, Brodhead.
Tues.,	May 1	Chapter meeting at the Marshall Bluff Bowhunters Clubhouse, N7326 Marshall Bluff Rd., Monticello. There will be a kittertail hike at 6:30pm, followed by the meeting at 7:30pm.
Tues.,	Jun. 5	Chapter meeting at Honey Creek Park, 4 th Avenue West, Monroe at 7:15pm. Bring a sack lunch.

EVENTS

Sat.,	Mar. 31	Garlic Mustard pull at Abrahams Woods, 9:30am. Meet at the Oliver Road parking lot.
Sat.,	Apr. 7	A prairie workshop sponsored by the Rock County Conservationists will be held at 9am, in room 131 at the Milton High School, Milton WI.

The Prairie Bluff Chapter is also sponsoring a Pasque Flower hike this spring on Murault Prairie. The date will be set when the pasque flowers are at peak. For more information, call John Ochsner at 608-862-3816.

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

MEETINGS

Sun.,	Apr. 15	Chapter meeting at 1pm at the home of Sue Linder, 206 Adams Street, Boscobel, WI 53805.
Sun.,	May 20	Chapter meeting at 1pm at the home of Sue Linder, 206 Adams Street, Boscobel, WI 53805.
Sun.,	Jun. 18	Chapter meeting at 1pm at the home of Sue Linder, 206 Adams Street, Boscobel, WI 53805.

EVENTS

Sun.,	Apr. 1	Prairie Burn at 10am at Kalscheur's Savanna.
Sun.,	Apr. 8	Brush cutting at Heather's Prairie at 10am.
Sat.,	Apr. 14	Brush cutting at Vale Prairie at 10am.
Sat.,	Mar. 10	Work party at Heather's Prairie starting at 10am.
Sat.,	Apr. 21	Prairie burn at Bush Clover Prairie at 10am.
Sat.,	May 5	Brush clearing at the Dodgeville

		interchange. Meet at 10am at the home of David Lowe, 205 Merrimac Street, Dodgeville.
Sun.,	May 6	Brush cutting at Heather's Prairie at 10am.
Sun.,	May 13	Brush cutting at Vale Prairie at 10am.
Sat.,	Jun. 2	Brush Cutting at Bush Clover Prairie at 10am.
Sun.,	Jun.3	Brush clearing at the Dodgeville interchange. Meet at 10am at the home of David Lowe, 205 Merrimac Street, Dodgeville.
Sun.,	Jun. 10	Fencing at Heather's Prairie at 10am.
Directions to Vale: For information call Gary Eldred at 608-375-5271. Directions to Heather's Prairie: For information call Gary Adams at 608-624-5797. Directions to Bush Clover Prairie: For information, Gary Eldred at 608-375-5271. Directions to Kalscheur's Savanna For information call David Lowe at 608-935-9586.		
GENERAL CALENDAR		
Fri., to Sun.	Apr. 20-22	Gathering Waters Conservancy 2001 Wisconsin State Wide Conference. See announcement on page 2 of newsletter.
Thu.,	May 10	Teleconference board meeting of the TPE Board at 7pm. For details on joining in the teleconference, call Kathy Kirk at 608-527-2686
Sat.,	May 19	Upland Garden Club annual plant sale. See announcement on page 2 of newsletter.

COULEE REGION CHAPTER

Exciting News

The Coulee Region Chapter received a \$2000 donation from the STRY Foundation for the purchase of equipment.

Annual Elections

At a recent chapter meeting chapter officers were elected as follows:

President	Barbara Christie
Vice-President	Russell Pope
Secretary-Treasurer	Helen Davis
Membership	CeCe Caron
Historian	Anna Motivans
Editor	Carmeen Johnston

EMPIRE SAUK CHAPTER

Burn season is upon us

The Empire-Sauk Chapter, including the Bluff Lands Project partnership, has 35 prescribed burns planned for this spring in Sauk, Columbia, and Dane Counties. If you would like to help and did not receive a burn volunteer sign-up form, contact volunteer coordinator John Mecikalski (849-8358). We will begin as soon as conditions become dry enough.

Thank you to Garden Expo volunteers

-- Rich Henderson

The Prairie Enthusiasts display was staffed at this year's WHA TV Garden Expo in Madison (Feb. 9-11) by Rich Henderson, Lois Komai, Susan Magee, Amy McDaniel, John Mecikalski, and Scott Sauer. They handed out thousands of TPE brochures and answered seemingly endless questions about prairies. Occasionally their powers of persuasion were put to the test. One visitor, with a fond attachment to red cedar trees, was baffled by our desire to remove them. He recalled how the hills along highway 14 between Madison and Mazomanie used to be unsightly, treeless balds, and that now they are pleasing to the eye, cedar covered hills. After a brief explanation about the biological desert under the cedars and the biological richness of the prairie they replaced, he seemed to be give some thought to his aesthetic perceptions, but still was still not completely sold. Some conversions just take time. Most encounters, however, were far more supportive. Over 10,000 people attended this year's Expo, giving us good exposure.

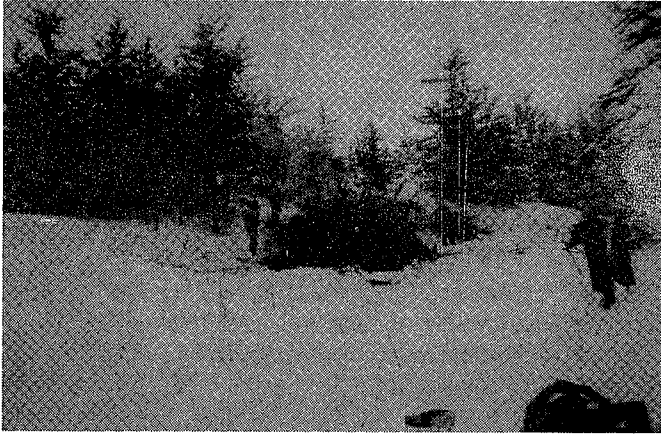
Get involved, save a prairie

Empire-Sauk Chapter needs people to work on landowner contact, educational and display materials, and fund raising. Chairs of both the development and education committees are open at this time. Contact Rich Henderson (845-7065).

Winter Work Parties a Great Success

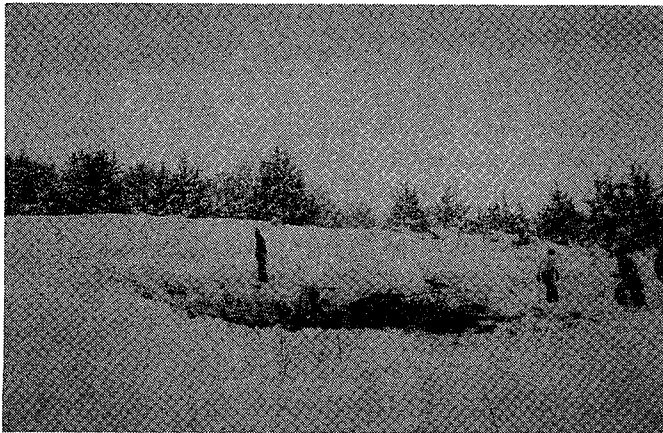
- Scott Sauer

The Empire Sauk Chapter set an ambitious schedule of work parties for the past winter. Sixteen work parties were scheduled, and 14 came off on schedule. The recent mild winters had us hoping for a good snow fall, and December's snows more than accommodated us. In fact, two work parties were canceled due to deep snow and extreme cold. Other work parties were challenging due to weather. The solstice work party stands out in mind, where four of us trudged through deep powder and found a work site sheltered from the sub-zero wind chill. Our brush pile was more than a convenience on that day.



MAZOMANIE BLUFF PRAIRIE – BEFORE

The 14 work parties were spread across six sites, all in Dane County: Mazomanie (School section) Bluff; Ripp (McChesney Rd) Prairie; Ripp (Madigan Rd) Prairie; Savanna Hill Farm; Walking Iron County Park; and Indian Lake County Park.. Fifty-five volunteers contributed 432 hours of volunteer labor – a tremendous figure. This winter's work parties marked a number of partnership projects with Dane County Parks and the Ice Age Trail. The Dane County Conservation League also advertised the February 4th Indian Lake work party to their membership, and special thanks to the DCCL members who came out; Jack Bond, Lowell Carter; Dennis Connor, Wayne Fosdal, Don Hammes, B.J. and Fred Panke, Donald Sprang, and Phil Terry. Thanks also to Carla Wright for the use of her saw, and to Dan Wallace for the donuts.



MAZOMANIE BLUFF PRAIRIE – AFTER

Other volunteers this winter were Muffy Barrett, Diane Berry, Kay Bongers, Kathy and Tom Brock, Darin Burleigh, Ted Cochrane, Guerdon Coombs, Richard Erland, Don Ferber, Dave Gjestson, Pat Handrick, Russ Hefty, Ian, Sara, Kathy and, of course, Rich Henderson, Sarah Johnson, Tony Karls, Laura Kearney, Jan Ketelle, Lois Komai, Dave Lucy, William Mann, Rosy Meinholz, Earl Mehlbauer, Olaf Olson, Wayne Pauly, Lance Potter, Laura and Steve Richter, Scott Sauer, Jim Sime, Susan Slapnick, Jeri and John Springstead, Scott Stokes, Steve Stokes, Ben Sulman, Josh Sulman, Glen Teschendorf, David Waskowski, Dan and Deb Weidert, Jim Welsh, and Meagan Yost. Our collective thanks to everyone, and special thanks to Jan Ketelle, who traveled almost every weekend, sometimes twice, from the wilds of Iowa County to help us out in western Dane County. We always welcome her company.

As warmer weather returns, come and see the gains made this winter on these sites by our dedicated volunteers.

NORTHWEST IL CHAPTER

Hanover Bluffs Project

Jim Rachuy

The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE) have received grant funding from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, through the Driftless Area Partnership, to help protect an important natural area located in southwest JoDaviess County.

The development rights to three tracts on Hanover Bluffs will be transferred from the landowners to the Natural Land Institute (NLI). A land management agreement between the owners and The Prairie Enthusiasts will be created for each tract.

The conservation easements will be perpetual and will disallow activities detrimental to the natural resources of the sites. The management agreements will be for ten years and will identify site specific land management goals and restoration practices to be accomplished. A stewardship fund will be created to help implement the land management agreements and administer the conservation easements.

The project area covers 265 acres and is bound on the north by Hanover Hill Road, on the east by IDNR land, on the south by Hanover Bluffs Nature Preserve, and on the west by Stewardship Park and the Lost Mound National Wildlife Refuge (the Savanna Army Depot).

In addition to TPE and NLI, other organizations contributing to the project include The Nature Conservancy, the Blufflands Alliance and, of course, the Natural Area Guardians. The project should be completed in about 18 months.

Nipe Highlights and Chapter Accomplishments

Jim Rachuy, President

It has been a good year for TPE here in Illinois. The year's highlights include:

- Eighth Annual Burn School and burn season—many thanks to the Guardians;
- Ecological study of the Galena River—to be completed by June, 2001;
- Set up shop in the Lonetree buildings—equipment storage, seed processing, etc.;
- Purchased equipment—display board, ATV, seeder, combine, hammer mill, mixer, etc.;
- Prairie Festival—a great success, we even made \$300;
- Picked and sowed 216 pounds of prairie seed—49 species, retail \$35,000, 5 sites;
- Increased the designated conservation acres at Lonetree from 65 to 80;
- Facilitated purchase of Falling Down Prairie by IDNR—105 acres, \$231,000;
- Acquired \$525,000 to purchase conservation easements on Hanover Bluffs;
- Put Stewardship Park on the Army's itinerary (they are sooo sloooowww).

Next month NIPE will submit two research proposals to Conservation 2000. The first will correlate habitat selection by grassland birds with plant composition and structure. The goal is to determine how better to use CRP lands for the conservation of these species. The other study will use infrared cameras to monitor directly predation events at the nests of grassland birds. By measuring the relative impact for each of the various predators, we hope to find better ways to reduce nest predation.

Our March meeting was held jointly with the Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges (FUMRR) and the Friends of the Depot (FOD). It was a great opportunity to discuss the many things we all have in common. In particular, we discussed the Stewardship Park project. Creating and operating a 300 acre park will be difficult and we'll need a lot of Help from our Friends (pun intended).

I don't get to talk to all of you as much as I would like. If you have any questions about these activities or have suggestions about what we should be doing, please do not hesitate to call me at 815-947-2287.

Prairie Purchase

Through a combination of serendipity and tenacity, another prairie remnant has been saved in the

driftless area of Illinois. The 105 acre tract known as 'Falling Down Prairie' because of its steep terrain (and the many tumbles taken by eager seed pickers) became available for purchase last year.

The tract of bluff top contained three hill prairies (goat prairies to northerners), much overgrown with red cedar, but otherwise intact. Unfortunately, one prairie met its demise when a local quarry operator went prospecting. Finding nothing of value, the site was abandoned, and subsequent erosion took its toll.

When the land passed to the owner's estate, a little detective work and a few phone calls united willing seller with willing purchaser. Our white knight, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, quickly closed the deal. With time and some loving care, we hope the scar will heal and our corner of the state will have another jewel to add to its growing collection.

A special 'Thank You' to David Clutter of The Natural Land Institute and to Randy Nyboer of IDNR for a job well done.

PRAIRIE BLUFF CHAPTER

General Chapter News

Ren Zeller

Rob Baller, Beloit, was re-elected chapter chairperson at the February meeting held at the Norseman in Argyle. John Ochsner, Albany, remains Vice-chair and Peg Bredeson, Beloit, is the new secretary. John Bauman remains as Treasurer and membership coordinator, and Kathy Kirk, New Glarus, and Ren Zeller, Monticello, have accepted another two-year term as representatives to the TPE Board of Directors.

Al Byla, biologist with the South Central Region of the WI DNR was a guest speaker at the same meeting and discussed the removal of a beaver dam on Racoon Creek at Briggs Wetland. Racoon Creek is a natural brook trout fishery and although the dam creates habitat for other species, such as an impoundment favorable to ducks, chapter members feel the brook trout fishery is of greater value, and agree with the DNR that it should be removed.

The removal will be done by DNR personnel and monitored by chapter members. A grant has been received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which will be used to eradicate some invasive buckthorn on a small portion of the wetland.

Chapter members discussed the possibility of creating, at a nominal cost, a companion guide to Montesian Gardens prairie restoration plot, Briggs Wetland, and other remnants that will serve to identify forbes and grasses for the public.

Beaver Dam Soon to be Shrapnel

RS Baller

The Prairie Bluff Chapter has voted permission

for DNR fish biologist Algis Byla to detonate a large beaver dam within the purview of Briggs Wetland. Byla and cohorts intend to restore a native brook trout fishery to a 5-mile stretch of the spring-fed stream. Presently no waterway in Rock County harbors the extirpated trout species. The dam excision is deemed essential for rehabilitating the stream to a cold, free-flowing system, and hopefully creating a closer facsimile of pre-settlement aquatic ecology. Prairie streams probably held fewer stands of woody beaver food than now, and dams were uncommon.

The mud and stick structure bridges the sand-bottomed "east fork" of the creek, which serpentine over the west end of Briggs. The dam appears unoccupied since last year. Upstream of the impoundment the water is 30 ft wide and 6 ft. deep; downstream it is 8 ft. wide (on its best days) and 1 foot deep.

The abandoned dam shall be blasted to smithereens in the ensuing weeks. Several Prairie Bluffers hope to be around with facemasks and cameras during the event. The DNR fish people may also assist with de-brushing sandbar willow from the bank later this year.

Buckthorn Quietus Served

RS Baller

Briggs Wetland, Elysium of artesian water and spongy hamlet to little marsh creatures, has been liberated from an oppressive, 2-acre, buckthorn citadel.

The irascible *Rhamnus*, occupying the far NW corner of Briggs, was demolished by Applied Ecological Services, Inc. in February 2001. The crusade came at the direction of the Prairie Bluff Chapter, whose sacerdotal duties administer the 24-acre, ecumenical Briggs. Only days before the Wisconsin DNR had sent 5 sturdy Natural Areas Crew minions to the site, clearing about ½ acre of the insouciant buckthorn in 2 days (and leaving 2 monstrous piles). Then followed AES, Inc., mercenaried by the Prairie Bluff Chapter. The AES team leveled the offending 1½ acres in less than 3 days, including a loose congregation of native invaders alloyed within the *Rhamnus* main core (mainly box elder, mulberry, and small elm). Fortunately, the mesic ground was frozen and the bodies were hoisted onto the piles via tractor with front bucket and claw. The immensity of these leviathan heaps cannot be overstated. They will make volcanic pyres when ignited, after drying, next year.

At Prairie Bluff direction AES also deforested a half-acre of sandbar willow (*Salix interior*), formerly partitioning the artesian stream from the neighboring alfalfa field on the south side. There now lays exposed and naked a shy cadre of uncommon willows previously sanctioned by UW Herbarium sedge-master Ted Cochrane. These survivors owe their stay to Ted, who, along with several others of august distinction, donated their time to cataloguing the botanical wonders of

Briggs.

All stumps in the slaughter areas were ablated to 6" and treated with Garlon herbicide. The crusade was remunerated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, through a grant to the Prairie Bluff Chapter. All Prairie Bluffers great and small bow in grateful obeisance to USF&WS biologist Kurt Waterstradt for bestowing the \$3,000 grant for native grassland restoration. The *Rhamnus* purge cost \$2,200; the remaining \$800 will purchase indigenous seed for convalescing the hayfield into buffer this spring.

Heron Bayer Aspirin

RSBaller

Since antebellum 1998 the Town of Beloit has endeavored to promote 20 apprehensive acres to the rank of subdivision. The town-owned parcel resides between Walters Road and the west bank of the Rock River, a few miles upstream, as the fish swims, from that incorporated nemesis, the city of Beloit. The town commenced supplications before developers two years ago but did not receive prodigious enough proposals for their desires. Owing to solemn public duty, the 5 supervisors plus administrator proceeded to develop the parcel internally.

The subdivision was titled: Heron Bay. Antecedent to future growth, it adjoined several hundred acres of semi-retired farmland presently curing for urbanization, as per the town's 1997 Master Plan.

Befuddled residents spontaneously emerged and combusted at the normally vacuous town meetings during spring 1999. Objectors portended despicable interferences to the 35-acre Rock River Prairie – State Natural Area, which lay adjacent to the subdivision. They sang dirges for the migratory wildlife, and issued last rites to a homeless and maligned 3-acre oak savanna remnant by the river. But the sizable, lamenting audiences failed utterly in convincing their board to waylay Heron Bay, or bend any minutest curvature into the iron rails of the canonical Master Plan.

At an annual town meeting in April 1999, opponents made a desperate plunge at repealing the town's Village Powers, invoking a strategically prepared, all-powerful citizen's vote that would ensconce the subdivision from the Town Board and into the hands of the benevolent residents. The repeal, however, would have also precipitated meddlesome reductions in town government, and exorcised two of the supervisors. The repeal failed by a rubicund, majority vote.

Subsequent public hearings were conducted by the required approval agencies: Rock County, and the city of Beloit (whose extra-territorial rights grope 3 miles beyond the city's bloating limits). Attendees jostled officials into reducing the plat from 36 to 24 lots. Town apologists proposed a conservation easement for the savanna-clad lots by the river, but the Rock County Plan

Commissioners declined the entreaty, and required a public-owned conservation reserve there. The county would not allow sale of private lots within 300 feet of the water's edge.

The town board recoiled, and sued the county for excessive restrictions.

By mid-1999 residents Belle Zyla and Marvin Prothero enlisted Milwaukee attorney Joe Cincotta to challenge their overlord's procedures. Their civil "intervention" suit conceded towns held statutory authority to compose roads, sewers, industrial playgrounds, and shelter for the poor and decrepit, but not to internally construct opulent housing. The board was acting as though it were composed of private realtors, granting themselves permission to build on land acquired through tax revenues. The applicant and the approval agency had become one and the same. The potential damage to the State Natural Area, the shoreline, and the savanna waif, were cited as examples of what happens when government behaves as a private developer rather than as a protector of the public trust. The suit also alleged that the state constitution constrains government behavior with something called the "Public Purpose Doctrine". According to this doctrine, government must serve a public purpose normally outside the private sector. The Public Purpose Doctrine would not allow the town to internally construct Heron Bay.

The case was verbalized before the court in December 1999. The trial was combated in LaFayette County (rather than Rock) by request of the town. LaFayette Circuit Court Judge William D. Johnston presided. No decision was reached that day.

Judge Johnston unfurled his ruling in February, 2000, and concluded... "that the Town of Beloit Heron Bay Subdivision Plat is null and void. It is the judgment of this court that in preparing, reviewing and approving the Heron Bay Subdivision Plat the Town of Beloit acted beyond its authority because the subdivision plat did not serve a public purpose.

"It is the further judgment of this court that the Town of Beloit shall be enjoined from acting as a subdivider, developer or private real estate vendor with respect to the Town of Beloit owned property known as the Heron Bay Subdivision property." (p. 12)

The Town board voted to rebuff Judge Johnston in early April. According to the local paper, town attorney Ken Forbeck opined the legal fees were thus far less than \$26,000. The appeal should bother them no more than \$3,000 (loosely paraphrased from Beloit Daily News, April 4, 2000)

Detractors cogitated on the town's appeal. How could the town's expenses only be \$3,000 when barrister Cincotta's remuneration for the other side was projected at \$15,000?

The answer came in early June when the town optioned the 20 acres to Wight Management Group

(WMG) of Barrington, Illinois. WMG would buy the site for \$161,000 and subdivide in a manner similar to Heron Bay. (Apparently WMC acquired the Heron Bay plat and retrofitted it.) The firm agreed to pay another \$35,000 for tying into the sewer pipe. (The town installed a \$700,000 sewer line along Walters Road in late 1999, despite the lawsuit.) By selling Heron Bay, the supervisors could dispense with the contentious parcel and avoid the judge's ruling. At the same meeting, the wise town magistrates considered and declined a bid from the Green-Rock Audubon Society, who offered to buy the land for conservation purposes for \$165,000.

By mid-summer, Joe Cincotta rejoined the town for conducting essentially the same activity as before, which did not serve a public purpose. His legal *Claims* argued that the *Option* contracted away the town's zoning authority, and pre-approved the subdivision plat. And, the process of reaching the agreement involved open meetings violations.

The 90-day *Option* to WMC quietly expired in September, 2000. WMC did not renew.

Resuming its duel with the citizens and Judge Johnston, the town fired off Appeal No. 00-1231 to the State Court of Appeals, District IV, in mid-September.

Joe "David" Cincotta loaded his slingshot on behalf of the locals and GRAS, and Rock County Corporate Counsel Eugene Dumas likewise picked up a stone, since the suit was originally against the county.

Meanwhile, in distant but unsurprising quarters, Alliant Energy has declared it will award a bid to SkyGen Energy for erecting a \$350 million natural-gas-fired power plant on Alliant-owned lands (formerly Wisconsin Power & Light) just north of Heron Bay. The pronouncement came in December 2000. The new plant will supplement the monolithic Rock River Generating Station on Townline Road in the town of Beloit.

Town supervisors have expressed no reservations towards promoting a new subdivision next to a bigger and better "energy campus".

The appellate duel of Heron Bay will be heard Monday, February 26, 2001, in the supreme court's hearing room in Madison. The outcome will probably arrive after *Promoter* goes to press.

The implications are far reaching for Wisconsin law, as apparently other municipalities occasionally craft their developments outside the blessings of the statutes. Should the town prevail, the citizens will appeal to the supreme court. Should the town lose, the ruling may affirm that the Heron Bay lands must be applied to a public purpose as described by statutes, i.e. a park (an addition to the Rock River Prairie) or an industrial buffer (Alliant Energy).

The financial weight of this civil war is borne by private donations. Please contact the author at 608-368-0901 if you know of anyone who will donate to the defense fund. The town residents will thank you for it,

and so will the poor, fettered denizens of the Rock River Prairie.

The York Grasslands

By Gary Felder

If you are among the many people who have been increasingly dismayed by the housing developments that seem to pop up around here like toadstools after a rain, I would like to share some exciting and encouraging news with you. In mid-January, I received a phone call from a Green County landowner I have known for several years and who happens to have a wonderful prairie remnant on his farm. He was calling to let me know that despite his appreciation for the prairie, the time had come for him to sell and realtors were promising him top dollar. I immediately began calling everyone who could possibly be of assistance, from private citizens to The Nature Conservancy. After a couple of anxious weeks, I received a phone call from the Bureau of Endangered Resources (B.E.R.) inviting me to a meeting at the DNR Research Center in Monona and requesting that I bring along any information I had that was relevant to the area in question.

I arrived at the meeting armed with aerial photos, surveyors' maps, and species lists. Imagine my amazement when, after my informal presentation and the ensuing discussion, the B.E.R. representatives proposed to buy not only the parcel going up for sale, but also several other nearby remnants and buffer zone fields totaling 500 acres!!

As it turns out, the B.E.R. has known about this area and has been doing plant and bird species surveys in it for some time. They were indeed aware of its significance, both historically (the last tidbit of the formerly huge expanse known to settlers as Green's Prairie) and biologically (home to both state threatened and federally endangered species, including prairie bushclover, regal fritillaries, and upland sandpipers). The news of the impending sale of an important remnant was all it took to get the ball rolling.

It was gratifying to learn of their interest in the area, as I have been working to get some degree of protection for this area for several years. In fact, in 1997, the Green County Conservation League had become involved in efforts to preserve this area by purchasing a high quality, forty-acre prairie remnant dubbed Marbleseed Prairie after one of the site's intriguing native forbs. Under the B.E.R.'s plan, ten other prairie remnants totaling approximately 220 acres will not only be enjoying the same protection status that the marbleseed enjoys, but also be connected to it and each other by buffer zones, an important element for the continuing health of the resident wildlife. Through direct purchase and conservation easements, the B.E.R. and local conservationists will protect as much land as

possible, exceeding the original 500 acres now in the works.

This article describes the beginnings of a program to protect the grasslands of York Township from encroaching development, a program which is continuing to develop even as you read this. Thanks to the support and commitment of the B.E.R., a plan which has so far been only a dream will become a reality. As parcels of land are prioritized and landowners are approached, we shall hope that they are sympathetic to the goals of this project. With the assistance of the B.E.R., and the continued availability of Stewardship funds, the citizens and conservation groups of Green County have a wonderful opportunity to become involved and create a conservation showcase in southern Wisconsin that will preserve for generations to come the remains of this region's former dominant ecosystem-the prairie.

WEST CENTRAL CHAPTER

In December, 1999 our chapter leadership met to clarify our chapter goals. After much debate, we agreed that preserving prairies and educating the public about them were equally important. One of the other outcomes of that evening was agreement to host the 2001 TPE banquet, and to wrap a full educational conference around it. We wanted the spring gathering to be an educational event for our members and the public.

That was 15 months ago. On March 2 and 3, we enjoyed hosting about 175 at the banquet and over 300 at the conference. Many who participated are "old prairie friends," but we also welcomed many others to their first encounter with The Prairie Enthusiasts. From the feedback sheets and the personal notes we received, we know many of you not only learned something but also enjoyed networking with other like-minded folks.

While every concurrent session had participants who thoroughly enjoyed the content, some of you also provided us with constructive criticism for how future events of this type could better meet your needs. We appreciate hearing both from you.

The highlight most certainly was our keynote address by Paul Gruchow. As he walked away from the podium, there was silence as we collectively took a deep breath. Then we gave Paul a standing ovation for challenging us to think about "What Prairies Might Teach Us." Paul autographed all the copies of his books which were for sale, and has graciously agreed to autograph any which are ordered through our chapter by April 15.

The books available are:

Necessity of Open Spaces \$14.00 plus \$6.00 S&H

Boundary Waters: The Grace of the Wild \$14.00 plus \$6.00 S&H
Grass Roots - The Universe at Home \$14.00 plus \$6.00 S&H
Journal of a Prairie Day \$13.00 plus \$6.00 S&H

All orders must be prepaid and checks made out to The Prairie Enthusiasts and sent to:

Carol Benish
854 Wyldwood Lane
Hudson, WI. 54016

April 15th is the absolute deadline. Please note that after all the orders have been received, I will order all the books and send them on to Paul Gruchow for his autograph. I will then send the books out to each of you after Paul has returned them. Please be patient. Any questions call me at 715-381-0441 or e-mail me at cbenish@presssenter.com.

We learned a lot from planning and hosting the spring gathering, including an appreciation for those who have done the work before us. We want to thank our sponsors for their generous support, the session presenters for sharing their time and expertise, the volunteers who helped folks find their way around campus, and the participants for spending the weekend with us.

We encourage all the TPE chapters to take a turn hosting the spring gathering. Each chapter should put their own spin on what kind of an event best reflects their chapter's mission and utilizes their chapter's talents.

For many years Madison and Platteville have been the primary sites because they were most centrally located, but by moving the site from chapter to chapter we can bring the fun "close to home" for each area at least once every few years. And much can be learned as a participant by traveling to another region, hearing what our colleagues there are doing, and seeing what they have accomplished. Yes, it requires dipping into one's pocket for gas, motel, and meals, as well as dedicating a weekend to the endeavor. But the reward is taking a weekend to focus on and enjoy many aspects of this marvelous work of nature we love: the prairie. You'll return home renewed and invigorated, and perhaps with a few new friends as well.

See you in La Crosse in 2002!



THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____ County _____ Home Phone: _____ Work
 Phone: _____ e-mail: _____
 Address _____ Business
 Title/Address: _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

SELECT CHAPTER OR GENERAL MEMBERSHIP:

☐ **Coulee Region Chapter**
 Buffalo, , Houston , Jackson, LaCrosse,
 Monroe, Trempealeau, Vernon, &
 Winona Counties

☐ **Empire Sauk Chapter**
 Columbia, Dane & Sauk Counties.

☐ **Northwest Illinois Chapter**
 Carroll, JoDaviess & Stephenson
 Counties

☐ **Prairie Bluff Chapter**
 Green, Lafayette & Rock Counties

Can we provide your name and address to
 Other environmental organizations Y / N
 Other Prairie Enthusiasts in your area
 Y / N

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

☐ \$250 ANNUAL CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

☐ \$10 STUDENT

☐ \$20 INDIVIDUAL

☐ \$30 CONTRIBUTOR

☐ \$75 SUSTAINING

☐ **Southeast WI Chapter (pending)**
 Dodge, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Kenosha,
 Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan,
 Walworth, Washington, & Waukesha
 Counties.

☐ **Southwest WI Chapter**
 Crawford, Grant, Iowa & Richland Co.

☐ **West Central WI Chapter**
 Barron, Chippewa, Dunn , Eau Claire,
 Pepin, Pierce Polk & St Croix Counties

☐ **General Membership**
 outside chapter areas

☐ Donation

\$ _____

☐ \$30 FAMILY

☐ \$500 IND.LIFE

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

The Prairie Enthusiasts
PO Box 112
Boscobel, WI 53805

I Will Help With:

☐ Site Inventories
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☐ Developing Educational Materials
☐ Seed Collecting/Planting

☐ Planning Social Activities (banquet, picnics)
☐ Fund Raising/Grant Writing
☐ Stewardship (Burning, Brush Cutting)
☐ Communications (newsletter, articles)

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Land Legacy Study

Attention Prairie Enthusiasts! The Wisconsin DNR is asking citizens like you "what kinds of places and what locations should be protected during the next 50 years to meet the state's long-term conservation and recreation needs." The Land Legacy study is attempting to pinpoint lands necessary to protect our native plants, animals and their habitats as well as recreational lands. It's also examining ways to protect these places without buying them outright as well as trying to determine which lands the DNR should focus on and which lands partner groups are more able to deal with. You can let them know what you think at one of these public meetings:

20 March Platteville

Best Western Governor Dodge Motor Inn Hwy 151
608-348-2301

26 March Stevens Point UW-Stevens Point,
University Center 1015 Reserve St., Alumni Room
715-346-4242

27 March Rhinelander DNR Service Center
107 Sutliff Ave
715-365-8900

28 March Ashland

Wisconsin Indian Head Technical College
2100 South Beaser Ave., Main Meeting Room
715-682-4591=20=

You can learn more about the Land Legacy Study at www.dnr.state.wi.us/master_planning/land_legacy/index.html. If you can't attend one of the meetings you can send written feedback to Bob Roden, Wisconsin DNR, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707, or send e-mail comments to 50Ystudy@mail01.dnr.state.wi.us before April 9, 2001.