



THE PRAIRIE PROMOTER

VOL 15, NO.3 Fall 2002

Preserving and Protecting Our Prairie Heritage

Prairies Jubilee! **Saturday, September 21**

Prairies Jubilee! is Madison Audubon Society's annual prairie open house, hosted by Goose Pond Sanctuary and the UW-Madison Arlington Agricultural Research Station. This year's event will be held on Saturday, September 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., rain or shine.

Maybe you've wanted to learn more about Goose Pond and the largest restoration of tallgrass prairie in Wisconsin, maintained by Madison Audubon Society. Or perhaps you're already a Goose Pond admirer. Everyone is invited to attend Prairies Jubilee! Admission is free.

Educational talks and mini-tours will focus on Wisconsin prairie and wetland ecology. Prairie plants and seeds will be offered for sale, and experts will offer advice on prairie restoration. Conservation and agricultural experts will provide information on their work.

Horse-drawn wagon rides will be available and offer a pioneer's-eye view of the landscape. Special free activities for kids make Prairies Jubilee! a family affair.

Prairies Jubilee! begins at the Arlington Research Station Public Events Building where ample free parking is available. To prevent disturbance to wildlife, no parking will be allowed at Goose Pond. Free shuttle buses will operate between the Public Events Building and Goose Pond beginning at 11:00 a.m. and concluding at 4:30 p.m.

A field trip by bicycle to Goose Pond Sanctuary's restored tallgrass prairie and other nearby sites will depart from the Public Events Building at 9:00 a.m. and return by 11:00 a.m. Bring your own helmet and bicycle.

For more information about Prairies Jubilee! call the Madison Audubon Society office at 608-255-2473.

Directions to Prairies Jubilee!

From Madison, take U.S. Hwy. 51 North approximately 15 miles, into Columbia County. Look for Arlington Agricultural Research Station and sign for Prairies Jubilee! Turn west at sign (Badger Lane). All parking is at Arlington Research Station Public Events Building, one mile from U.S. 51.

NEWS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING JULY 21, 2002

The Prairie Enthusiasts' annual meeting and potluck took place on July 21, 2002 at the Palisades Park in Savanna, Illinois near the bluffs of the Mississippi River. In spite of the heat, the event was attended by almost forty members who represented five of the seven TPE chapters.

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Eldred. After the treasurer's report, which listed properties owned and conservation easements held by TPE, chapter representatives told of their various activities. The Empire-Sauk chapter has been busy cutting, weeding and burning on eight properties and anticipates managing a property near Black Earth, Wisconsin. The Coulee Region chapter's successful conference in the spring has enabled them to make a generous donation to the Director's fund. The Prairie Bluff chapter has planted a 2-acre buffer next to Briggs Wetland and Rob Ballard also showed members a sample of their "Parsnip Predator," a special shovel that destroys wild parsnip and thus will help restore native plants. The Southwest chapter has completed the purchase of Ellenboro Prairie and is working with US Fish and Wildlife Service in managing several other prairies.

The Northwest Illinois chapter, which hosted the meeting, is conducting a Grassland Habitat Selection Study and hopes to get funding for a habitat study of the Waukarusa River in Carroll County, Illinois.

The meeting concluded with the election of new officers. Rich Henderson of the Empire-Sauk chapter was elected President, Jim Rachuy of the Northwest Illinois chapter is Vice President and Chuck Wemstrom, also of Northwest Illinois, will be Secretary. Kathy Henderson was reelected Treasurer.

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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 1,417 acres that harbor at least five state or federally protected species through acquisitions, 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 its 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.

TPE Board of Directors

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Rich Henderson, *Empire Sauk Chapter*

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Chuck Wemstrom *Northwest Illinois Chapter*

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Barb Christie, *Coulee Region Chapter*

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Andrea Mueller, *Prairie Smoke Chapter*

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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, artwork and photographs which are relevant to prairie and savanna ecosystems. Material should be typed. Writers who use computers can e-mail their submissions to aimtpe@mwt.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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President's Message

If you were at the annual meeting in July, or read about the meeting in this issue of the *Prairie Promoter*, you know by now that TPE has all new officers. Because of the board's relatively new term limit policy and a policy of the Vice-President becoming President, I now have the honor of being President for awhile. This is a major change for TPE, and I hope one that brings continued success. Gary Eldred has been our President from the beginning and has become synonymous with TPE. We owe him a great deal for having taken on this task. Thank you Gary for the 10 years you put in as TPE's first president, and the 5 plus years before that in which you put in as president of the Southwest Wisconsin Prairie Enthusiasts. As a founding member of both organizations, Gary played a key role in our development and growth, and in our success in preserving natural areas. He has done many things for our organization as we grew from 3 to 7 chapters, but I think his greatest and likely most lasting efforts have been in land protection.

I have always admired Gary's willingness and ability to work with landowners. His talent and persistence over the long-haul has resulted in TPE protecting, through acquisition, Vale Prairie, Bushclover Prairie, Thomas Wet Prairie, Ittis Savanna and Ellenboro Prairie. His landowner work has also paved the way for The Nature Conservancy in protecting the Hogback Prairie in Crawford County, Green County's purchase of Muralt Bluff Prairie and the US Fish & Wildlife Service acquiring easements on two prairie remnants in Grant County. And there are many more contacts he is still nurturing that are likely to bear fruit in the future. Gary's personal commitment to saving prairie and savannas for future generations to experience and enjoy is second to none. Thank you Gary for all you have done. We look forward to you now having even more time for landowner contact and fund raising.

I'm pleased to announce that another initiative begun under Gary's leadership is also beginning to bear fruit. Our fundraising campaign to expand TPE's capacity to protect, manage, and restore prairies and savannas is off to a good start. As of the end of August, over 100 returns have come in. This is an excellent start, but we still need many more to meet our goal. If you have not yet sent in your return envelope with a donation, or a Blazingstar membership, please consider doing so. If you have sent in a return, thank you. Your gift will make difference.

As we all know, there are very few remnants of the region's original prairies and savannas still surviving on the landscape. What you may not know is that The Prairie Enthusiasts organization is the last

hope for many, if not most, of these sites. State and federal agencies do not have enough people available to address this conservation need in an adequate manner. The Nature Conservancy in recent years has changed focus away from small tracts, and away from Midwest prairie and savanna ecosystems in general. Small land trusts are few and far between, and they rarely deal with land management, especially on private lands. This leaves The Prairie Enthusiasts as the primary conservation group in our area focused on the endangered prairies and savannas, but to be successful in meeting this challenge we need to grow. With your help, we can do it.

Rich Henderson

BOOK REVIEWS

New Book Celebrates the Sunflower Family

The Sunflower Family in the Upper Midwest

By Dr. Thomas Antonio and Susanne Masi

In the late eighties, Dr. Thomas Antonio, then at the Chicago Botanic Garden, began to search regional databases to answer plant questions from volunteers. Little did he know that his explorations would take him and co-author Susanne Masi on an odyssey across six midwest states, culminating in an expansive full-color book detailing the sunflower family, a group that accounts for about 80 percent of this region's autumn-blooming wildflowers.

The Sunflower Family in the Upper Midwest covers a remarkably varied group of plants that range from thistles and dandelions to asters and goldenrods. Said Antonio, "There are wonderful stories in the book, lots of interesting tidbits, not just scientific descriptions." The book gets up-close and personal with each plant; detailed photos point out unique features to make identification easier.

The range maps accompanying each species often reveal major differences between seemingly similar plants that may grow side by side in Chicago Wilderness.

The book's entry for the golden ragwort shows it to be a member of one of the largest genera in the world: "The more than 1,200 named species of *Senecio* include tropical trees, small herbs in Arctic and Alpine regions and shrubs in New Zealand."

To photograph their subjects, the authors often followed leads from colleagues, at times driving hundreds of miles to find rare species surviving in only a few small areas.

Preserving these plants in their natural habitats is critical. Said Masi, "Sunflowers are not just isolated, interesting plants — they're part of a system. You can't just plant them in a garden to preserve them. The more you drive around this area, the more you see their habitat disappearing. Fortunately, many are still found in protected preserves."

Antonio is currently curator of collections at the Chicago Park District's Garfield Park Conservatory. Masi is research botanist at the Chicago Botanic Garden. To order a copy of *Sunflower Family* for \$48, go to the publisher's Web site,

www.indianaacademyofscience.org. Books are also available at the Chicago Botanic Garden, (847) 835-8336.

Prairie Directory of North America.

**Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz.
Lawndale Enterprises, 2001. 354 pp. \$19.95.**

Reviewed by Walter Mirk

When *Prairie Directory of North America* arrived in TPE's post office box, I couldn't wait to get home and pour over it. I mean that quite literally. I dipped into it numerous times while making the 15 mile trip home.

Upon arriving home intact, I immediately called Charlotte Adelman for a number of reasons: first, I wanted to explain that the book just arrived - about six weeks after she posted it to me, and unfortunately much too late for a review to appear in the summer issue of *The Prairie Promoter*; second, I wanted to learn why she and her husband, co-author Bernard Schwartz, undertook the herculean task of publishing such a comprehensive directory; third, I wanted to thank them for producing this highly useful book.

I'm glad that I called. Charlotte is a charming, intelligent and passionate prairie enthusiast who is also a TPE life member. Her prairie enthusiasm can be traced back to when she was five years old and it has never waned. Her response to my asking her to identify her favorite prairie remnant is revealing. She identified the 5.3 acre James Woodworth Prairie Preserve (p. 59) as her personal favorite due to the fact that she has long been active in stewardship there and because this beautiful fragment, surrounded by an intensely urban landscape, still persists after 8,000 years. That level of enthusiasm never fails deeply to impress me.

Charlotte explained that she was writing a book about prairies and began to develop an appendix listing prairie remnants that readers could visit. She had difficulty in deciding which sites to include and which to exclude. After talking with Bernard, they resolved the problem by deciding to publish this directory. Her only regret is that she and Bernard have found, to their

dismay, more typographical errors than they find acceptable.

By and large, the typographical errors do nothing to detract from the essential utility of this book. I note that Gibraltar State Natural area (p.277) is in Columbia County, Wisconsin, not Crawford County (the next county listed), but other errors were quite minor and innocuous. One must realize that proof-reading material of this sort is extremely difficult. I would much rather proof-read narrative text!

What Charlotte and Bernard have accomplished is the publication of a single comprehensive and easy to use source for finding prairie remnants in 32 states in the U.S. (by county or parish) and four Canadian provinces. I suspect that many prairie enthusiasts have numerous books, pamphlets and other publications which offer bits and pieces of information about where prairie remnants are located. Trying to utilize a plethora of sources to plan a prairie-centered holiday, road trip or bike trip is a frustrating and time consuming experience indeed. Charlotte and Bernard have liberated us with publication of this book.

While many of the more knowledgeable readers may be tempted to get to the heart of the matter and start identifying prairies they want to visit, I urge all readers not to by-pass "United States Prairies and Savannas" which begins on page 15. It offers as clear, coherent and concise a description of the North American grassland ecosystem as I've seen. It suggests that the authors have formidable narrative skills that leave me wanting more.

While I received a complimentary copy of the book, I sent \$19.95 to Lawndale Enterprises, P.O. Box 561, Wilmette Illinois 60091-0561. I think this is a bargain and I urge you to do likewise. Buy this book because: it is highly useful and "user-friendly"; because the authors are nice people and true prairie enthusiasts; and, you'll be sorry if it becomes out of print. I doubt you will find second hand copies, as this is a keeper! Buy it before your next prairie-centered outing!

PRAIRIE AND SAVANNA ATLAS REPRINTED

This is the second printing of the *Atlas of the Wisconsin Prairie and Savanna Flora* by T. S. Cochrane and H.H. Illits, first printed in 2000 as Wisconsin DNR Technical Bulletin 191. The volume covers the common and many of the not-so-common prairie and savanna plants of Wisconsin. For each of 341 species (additional species and infraspecific taxa are discussed as mentioned) the following information is given: scientific name, common name(s), overall distribution, Wisconsin range, habitats and rarity status in the states. Dot maps

are provided for each species as well as an extensive introduction, bibliographies and appendices.

Only a limited number of copies are available, and they are being sold for \$20 each. For more information contact Ted Cochrane, (Dept. of Botany Herbarium, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Birge Hall, 430 Lincoln Drive, Madison, WI 53706-1381; telephone 608-262-2792; e-mail tscochra@facstaff.wisc.edu)

Environmental Crisis in San Diego County, CA - A Call for Help

Square Foot Pledge.

A little help from a lot of people can stop construction of an International Airport in the heart of the Ramona Grasslands (near San Diego, California), an environmental treasure and home to nearly a dozen endangered and threatened species. One species of plant, Parish's brittlescale, is found only in the Ramona Grasslands and one other place.

This International Airport would destroy native grasslands, vernal pools and riparian willow woodlands. It would jeopardize migrating raptors and waterfowl, and many more habitats and species in areas surrounding the airport. We've created the "One Million Owners Project" to make the land difficult for the government to condemn and to stop this airport.

The San Diego Regional Airport Authority has identified the Ramona Grasslands as a potential site for a new International Airport. This airport would replace San Diego's existing airport, with expansion plans to make it comparable to the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The Ramona Grasslands are one of the last remaining areas near the City of San Diego with a large, relatively level open space. Urban growth has already built over other large open space areas near the city. For the agencies that build airports, paving over the last remaining habitats for endangered species is just part of the cost of doing business.

The environmental costs for this International Airport would go far beyond the Ramona Grasslands. International airports are built in rural areas so that urban development will expand outward from that area. An International Airport will result in urban sprawl for 60 miles and more all around Ramona. San Diego County has more endangered species than any other county in the continental U.S. We also have a greater diversity of all species than any other part of the continental U.S. This county is considered a "Biological Hot Spot" - saving the bulk of San Diego County's species will be a huge step toward preserving the world's diversity of plants and animals. The county-wide impact due to an International Airport in Ramona would jeopardize thousands of species, many that are already endangered. (Learn about the ecological treasures of

the Ramona Grasslands at The Nature Conservancy's website, http://www.tnccalifornia.org/our_proj/san_diego_county/.

The basic idea of the One Million Owners Project is to have many thousands of people buy a piece of land that would be needed for the airport. Each person would own an interest in the land as tenants in common with the other thousands of owners. It will be very difficult and expensive to condemn that land from several thousand owners. For as little as \$1 anyone can buy an interest in the land, so every child and adult can afford to own a piece of the Ramona Grasslands and help stop the airport. You can help with this "One Million Owners Project" by pledging to buy an interest in the Ramona Grasslands. Pledges can be as little as \$1, but we hope you will pledge what you comfortably can afford. Send your pledge by e-mail to pledges@noairport.org. Include the following information:

Full name (legal name for recording on title)

Mailing address

Phone number (optional)

E-mail address (we need to contact you for signing the final deed. E-mails will be the easiest way.)

Amount you are pledging.

If you like, you can pledge for each member of your family, including children and your relatives out of state. Remember, the more people who are recorded as owners, the harder it will be for the government to condemn the land. We need the name, address and other information for each person.

At the Ramona Fair we got several pledges for \$50, \$100, \$500 and even two pledges for \$1,000. We appreciate these large pledges, but each person should only pledge what you can afford. We also appreciate \$1 pledges very much.

Pledge funds will be kept in a trust account until used to purchase the land. Please mail your pledge (checks - not cash) made out to Iron Mountain Conservancy. Mail checks to Stop the Airport, c/o Iron Mountain Conservancy, 1039 D Street, Suite 9, Ramona, CA 92065. Iron Mountain Conservancy is a non-profit corporation [501(c)(3)] and member of the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), and is temporarily holding funds in trust for the Ramona Citizens Against the Airport.

Please visit our website at www.noairport.org for the latest information on the Ramona International Airport. You can see newspaper articles on the proposed International Airport at www.ramonasentinel.com (Ramona Sentinel), <http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/sandiego/> (San Diego Union-Tribune archives - search for "Ramona airport protest"),

NEW INITIATIVE IN CONSERVATION **BIOLOGY**

There is an exciting effort underway in the United States to reinvent the way in which we use cemeteries. This effort is aimed at using burial sites to help heal and restore native landscape. The result is the "memorial nature preserve," a creative blending OF modern conservation biology and land protection with the age-old cultural institution of the cemetery.

Memorial nature preserves also have the potential to provide a major new revenue source for land protection—adding thousands of acres of prairie, savanna and woodlands. They can also help reduce the environmental impact of the ecologically damaging and expensive burial process we have institutionalized over the last century.

Memorial Ecosystems Inc. is leading this effort. MEI currently operates the Ramsey Creek Memorial Nature Preserve in Westminster, South Carolina. Ramsey Creek is a 35-acre site that opened in 1998. "Green burial" at Ramsey Creek means a coffin made of green material, no embalming, no vault and no headstone unless it is inconspicuous, native rock from the same geological strata as the park. Burial sites are tracked using geographic information systems technology. Revenue from burials goes to restoring, protecting and maintaining the native habitat of the preserve. MEI has already won a conservation award from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources for their work at Ramsey Creek.

However, MEI's long-range goal is much more ambitious—they hope to protect, restore and permanently endow 1 million acres over the coming decades. These preserves will focus on restoration, protection, buffer areas to more sensitive lands, and urban green space. MEI is in the process of creating an advisory board, and Carl Leopold (Aldo's son) has already joined the board.

The preserve is both a place of burial and rebirth—a space that protects and enhances native plants and wildlife, can be used for education and research, and provides a sacred space for contemplation. It is an alternative way to honor loved ones who have died, and it gives people the chance to know that in their death they left behind at least one piece of earth in better shape.

A small group of people is working to establish an MEI site in southern Wisconsin. If you want to learn more or have questions or suggestions, please contact Joy Stewart at 4606 Leo Drive, Madison, WI 53716 (608-222-0534) or e-mail at joylarry@charter.net.

To Save A Prairie

by Chuck Cecil

(reprinted with permission of *American Profile* magazine).

For more than 20 years, wildlife photographer Jim Brandenburg has traveled the globe, preserving on film those special moments in nature that touch the heart and capture the imagination.

Now, as one of the world's premier natural history photographers, Brandenburg, 56, is working to preserve a piece of that natural world—contributing money from sales of his photographic work to save one of the last vestiges of native tallgrass prairie in America.

Just north of Luverne, Minnesota, on a high ridge near Brandenburg's greatgrandfather's homestead, the Brandenburg Prairie Foundation has set aside 360 acres of prairie that have never been tilled. In the coming years, the land—along with additional acreage as it is purchased—will be restored to its original grandeur.

The foundation receives its funding from the Brandenburg Gallery on Luverne's busy Main Street where Brandenburg's photographs and books are sold. All profits are plowed back into the foundation, which was formed in 1999 to promote, preserve and restore native prairie in southwest Minnesota.

"It wouldn't have been possible without him," says Dave Smith, Brandenburg's long time friend, foundation treasurer and executive director of the Luverne Chamber of Commerce. "His fame, reputation and devotion to prairie restoration give the project credibility when we talk with people about what we hope to do".

Tallgrass prairie once covered more than 100,000 square miles in North America—an area larger than Texas and New Mexico combined—with hundreds of wildflower and grass varieties growing up to eight feet tall. Less than one percent of the prairie remains, although efforts such as Brandenburg's are under way in many states to re-establish the ecosystem in smaller pieces to give us a glimpse of what once was.

The first parcel of native prairie in Luverne was acquired last year in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It will undergo a 15-year restoration, including the eventual addition of buffalo on the land.

A second project is to restore 11 acres owned by the Luverne Public Schools. Starting next year and continuing each year thereafter, first-graders will be assigned a 20-by-20-foot garden on part of the land until each grade has a plot. Students will select, plant and care for a native grass or flower throughout their twelve years of school. As seniors, they will harvest and replant the seeds on the 11-acre outdoor prairie classroom.

Both projects excite Brandenburg, who lives in Ely, Minnesota, as much as when he lived among—and made his famous photographic essay on—wolves. One poignant photo is of a curious grey wolf peeking with one eye from behind a tree.

Brandenburg recalls that as a youngster he was a dreamer. "I wasn't a very good student either," he admits. He has since learned that he had, and still has, attention deficit disorder (ADD). It is, he says, "my gift". He tells young people in lectures and commencement speeches that ADD allows him to view his surroundings in different, creative ways.

In his youth, Brandenburg hunted and trapped until one day when he was about 14, he bought a \$3 plastic camera on sale at the local drug store. "It changed my life." His first wildlife picture was taken with that little Argus camera. He coaxed a red fox into range by hiding behind a rock and imitating the sound of a mouse. That grainy black and white is still one of his favorites, and is featured in one of his books.

After college, Brandenburg became a photographer for the Worthington (Minn.) Daily Globe. In 1978, he became a contract photographer for the National Geographic Society and has 18 society magazine photo essays under his belt.

On his wall of honors and awards is the World Achievement Award from the United Nations Environmental Programme, presented in 1991 in recognition of Brandenburg's "use of nature photography to raise public awareness of the environment."

As his photo and writing career winds down, Brandenburg is finding life's circle is closing. "Though my work has taken me all over the world, I still feel the pull of home-the urge to explore what is left of the American prairie and to play a role in its restoration."

For more information about Jim Brandenburg, his photographic work and prairie foundation, log onto www.jimbrandenburg.com.



SHOULD WE LET NATURE TAKE IT'S COURSE?

Many times over the years, I've had spirited, even heated, discussions about my own and TPE's efforts to preserve and restore fire-dependent ecosystems. Some people believe these efforts are an undue interference with natural processes. A little over a year ago I had one of the more intelligent discussions of this sort with a friend and neighbor who is also a local historian. Ever thorough, he painstakingly researched the natural context in which the first inhabitants of the area

lived. He also raised questions about whether one should restore that context or whether it might be better to let nature take its course. Ultimately I referred the matter to Rich Henderson and a lively correspondence ensued around two issues: whether we should let nature take its course; and what is natural. What follows is an excerpt from one of Rich's letters which addresses the issue of letting nature take its course. In the next issue, another excerpt will appear which expands on this theme and addresses the question of what is natural. Ed.

[Some people may argue that we should let nature take its course rather than restore fire-dependent communities by removing some types of woody vegetation and reintroducing fire.] This approach has great appeal. It conveys a sense of peace and harmony with Nature, along with reverence, appreciation and respect. Letting Nature take its course would certainly absolve us of any responsibility for the consequences that might arise. No matter what happens, we would have a clear conscience. But as appealing as this idea might be, I believe it has major shortcomings. The most profound would be the eventual loss of a full two thirds or more of Wisconsin's rich natural heritage, a heritage housed within the prairies, sedge meadows, savannas and oak woodlands of southern and western Wisconsin, and the sandy pine barrens of the north. But, there are other shortcomings as well.

First, for Nature to truly take its course we humans would have to be out of the picture, or at most rare visitors leaving no evidence of our passage. Human presence causes change and has been doing so since we first started making tools and using fire. When humans arrived in North America some 12,000 plus years ago, we altered Nature's course in the New World so dramatically that it would take hundreds of thousands, if not a couple of million years, for it to get back on course. Newly arrived humans eliminated many species of large mammals, and, with the use of fire, we created a massive central grassland that had never before existed on such a grand scale. We also caused the creation of oak savannas and oak woodlands on a large scale in the east. For nature to get back on course after these changes, we would have to vacate vast areas of North America. Then we would have to wait a couple million years or so for evolution to bring back the rich array of megafauna that was so critical to maintaining the diversity of life and the ecosystems once present here. We might be able to accelerate this recovery process by bringing in large mammals from Africa or Asia, but that would be human intervention.

Second, is it always wise to let Nature take its course? If not, how do we decide when? For example, disease and illness are Mother Nature's way of controlling us, yet we try to intervene. We also manipulate the land, soil and insects to produce crops. Doesn't it seem hypocritical to be willing to let Nature take its course in some situations but not in others? Is our desire to experience and enjoy prairies, savannas

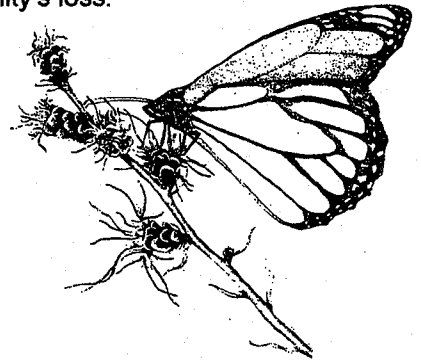
and oak woods less deserving than our desire to eat and stay alive?

Third, some philosophers view humans as part of Nature, and thus our actions are, by definition, part of Nature. Now, this thinking can lead to rather undesirable consequences when taken to the extreme. For example, there is a great difference between the effects on the land of small bands of hunter-gathers compared to large cities of industrialized people. But some would argue that both scenarios are examples of Nature taking its course in the purest sense. If one subscribes to this philosophy, then the issue comes down to humans deciding what kind of world we wish to live in. Whichever we choose, it will be Nature taking its course.

To some, letting Nature take its course simply means hands-off management. This seems reasonable. But in fact, it is still a management decision made by humans. The sad truth is that the option of truly letting Nature take its course is no longer available to us. The natural world is now so fragmented and reduced by modern civilization that many ecological processes such as lightening-set fire, predation by large predators, and grazing /browsing by large herbivores can no longer play themselves out. Many key species, such as passenger pigeons, mammoths, giant beavers, etc. are now extinct. Many species of plants, insects and diseases have arrived from other continents, leaving their natural controls behind, and are now raising havoc on this continent. Some examples are Dutch elm disease, chestnut blight, purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, common buckthorn, Tartarian honeysuckle and Asian longhorn beetles to name just a few. The bottom line is this. Because of the actions we humans took, starting thousands of years ago right up to historic times, we are now stuck with the responsibility of deciding nature's course. It is a responsibility we can not evade. Some might say it is an "original sin" that began when we picked up the first stone and burning stick. Consequently, our in-actions now carry as much or more impact as our actions. The best we can do is to hang on to as much of the diversity of life still remaining on this planet as we can. If there is any solace, it comes from knowing that our past actions have fostered diversity and speciation over time, along with the extinctions. Unfortunately, our most recent actions are now tipping the balance excessively towards extinction and simplification. To stop this slide, not only do we have to become more cognizant of our actions and their consequences, but we have to act.

Due to the major climate change of 6,000 years ago and early humans, we are blessed in southern Wisconsin with a natural heritage rich in a wide array of interesting ecosystems and the diverse life they support. I personally feel a deep moral obligation to pass this heritage on to future generations for them to experience and enjoy. There is an old saying that applies well to

this situation, "a place for everything and everything in its place." If we do not make a place for the fire dependent ecosystems, the world will become a far less interesting and a far less enjoyable place to live in. It would be humanity's loss.



A Prairie Refuge, September 16, 2001

The four of us walked separately, quietly at sunset among the tall grasses. Each of us paused occasionally, lost in our own thoughts, still numbed by the events of a few days earlier. The quiet sanity of the prairie beckoned. The big bluestem waved gently in the autumn breeze. The prairie insects went quietly about their tasks. The prairie was an ancient refuge from the madness of our own species.



by Steve Nelsen

Harold Korlin used his ATV to haul a couple of camping trailer-loads of attendees of the Wisconsin Mycological Society Picnic up over the hill behind John Steinke's farm. The groups were going to see the kittentails that Pam Watson had found on Harold's property north of highway NN in Waukesha County this spring. I hadn't seen the species for a few years, so I looked up some stuff on it. Kittentail is in the snapdragon family (*Scophulariaceae*), and blooms in May with tiny yellow-green flowers in a tight inflorescence on an unbranched stem, has little leaves up the stem and a rosette of big leaves at the base. As John pointed out, it looks rather like a plantain, but is bigger. The flower head elongates after blooming, leaving larger separation between the green seed-pods, which is the way that we found it.

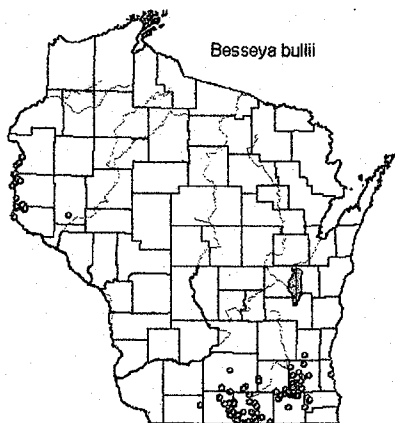
The Latin designation was originally *Gymnandra bullii* Eaton (1840), named after George Bull, who was a botanical assistant to Douglas Houghton, the leader of

the First Michigan Survey in 1838 and 1839. According to Edward Voss, the author of the three volume *Flora of Michigan*, no First Survey types are known to exist. The same plant was independently named *Synthyris houghtonia* (Bentham, 1846), after the same Houghton, who collected it in southern Minnesota on the Schoolcraft expedition to find the source of the Mississippi in 1832. It was transferred to *Wulfenia houghtonia* (Benth.) Greene (1894) [*Wulfenia* is a similar European genus], and separately to *Synthyris bullii* (Eaton) Heller (1900). Voss and other newer books that I have call it *Besseyia bullii* (Eaton) Rydberg (Rydberg transferred a more western species, *S. rubri*, to *Besseyia* in 1903, but apparently not *bullii* at that time; the date is no longer part of the citation that modern books give, and I lack it for *B. bullii*). I include this tedious litany of names to show that it is not only mycologists who appear to like to change the names of plants as often as possible. I am not surprised to see that vascular plant people appear to show similar behavior.



Kittentail grows in dry prairies and thin oak woods, from southwestern Ohio to Southeastern Minnesota and south to eastern Iowa, so it has a relatively restricted range. Voss notes that it "ranges rather locally", meaning that it does not occur in most suitable places in its range, so it is a rather unusual find. Fassett lists its range in Wisconsin as the southern tier of counties and

Pierce to Polk County, but the UW Herbarium site (wiscinfo.doit.wisc.edu/herbarium) produces the distribution map shown. Curtis's *Vegetation of Wisconsin* lists kittentail as reaching a maximum



prevalence (that is, it occurs in the largest fraction of sites studied) in *oak openings*, which he uses as the technical designation of a plant community that is dominated by grasses (often mesic, but also drier and wetter), but has a scattering of large trees, usually bur oak. He estimates that there was 5-1/2 million acres of *oak opening* in Wisconsin in the early 1800s but that it made the best farm land, and says that beyond question, *oak opening* with an intact groundlayer is the rarest plant community in Wisconsin today. Only 19 sites were considered undisturbed enough to be included in Curtis's book. Sites in Kettle Moraine State Forest and Scuppernon Scientific Area in Waukesha County were listed as typical examples. Kittentail was found on only 3 of these 19 sites, but *oak openings* were still the community in which kittentail was most prevalent. Kittentail also occurs on the John Muir Trail in Walworth County and at Murault Prairie in Green County. Another plant community that Curtis distinguishes is *cedar glade*, open grassland with scattered red cedars dominating the tree community, on steep hillsides of thin loess over limestone or quartzite bedrock (in the driftless area), or gravelly glacial moraine. The "lake district" of the Kettle Moraine in Waukesha County is listed as a typical place where this tiny community (estimated at only a few thousand acres total) occurs, and a 61% overlap of groundlayer species with *oak openings* is noted. There certainly were red cedars near the kittentails on Harold's hillside, and I'm not sure whether Curtis would have called it an *oak opening* or a *cedar glade*.



THE REMNANTS WE SAVE

Iltis Savanna

Site History

The 1965 aerial photographs show the Iltis savanna was an open pastured bluff top with many huge open-grown bur and white oak trees scattered over the 21.5 acres which the Southwest Chapter purchased in 2000. Because of the close proximity to the farm buildings, the area was heavily grazed for many years and native vegetation diversity suffered. Fortunately, all of the original oak still survive and many native prairie plants can be found.

Present Status

Much of the site has become heavily wooded and many of the old oaks suffer shading from younger and taller elms, basswood and walnut. The understory has been taken over by garlic mustard. In spite of this, many native savanna species still persist and will respond to restoration. Another challenge is the site of an old farm dump area located next to a small limestone quarry. It is likely that stone from the quarry was used for the barn and house foundation nearly a century ago.

Location

The Iltis Savanna is located in Green County Wisconsin between Albany and Monticello, south of the former Hwy. 39. The 21.5 acres abuts the northeast corner of the famous Muralt Prairie. The site is perched atop a high bluff that provides an inspiring view of the rolling landscape for miles.

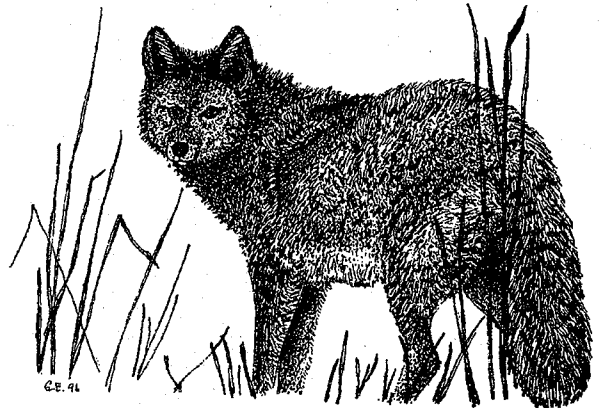
Site Quality

The site was no doubt a very beautiful savanna at one time, but decades of grazing has caused the loss of many native species. In spite of that some very nice areas remain, including a thin soiled open prairie area that faces northwest. This area is mostly native grasses, but it does have a population of over 50 Hill's thistle plants, a state threatened species. In the more heavily shaded areas many savanna species still remain and will probably increase as the site is restored. Overall the species list is not as great as some other sites, but the area's importance should not be underestimated. With the 60 acre Muralt Prairie next door, prairie and savanna intermix can occur, providing habitat for those native species that need both habitats at different times in their life cycles.

Site Needs

It will take decades to restore this jewel. Weedy invaders such as garlic mustard and sweet clover will be difficult to eradicate. Many tree species also need to be

removed, and that will have to be done one by one. The old dump area will take much time and effort to clean up and seed down with prairie species. There is also a five acre old field that will need to be prepared and seeded with local genotypes. As the more shaded woody areas are cleared we expect more native species to revive, but along with that will come a new wave of blackberries, prickly ash, cherry and sumac. We believe, however, that our restoration efforts will be very worthwhile.



ASK THE EXPERTS

Question:

I see occasional wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) chewed by some kind of borer or feeding insect. It seems to occur on the edges of patches or where plants are sparse. What is this insect and is it a potential bio-control?

Answers:

Kelly Kearns, Plant Conservation Program Manager, Endangered Resources Program, Wisconsin DNR writes:

"Several people have reported large patches of parsnip apparently wiped out by some kind of insect this year. A first step is to find out what the insects are. Les Ferge (retired lepidopterist) and Phil Pellitteri (Extension Entomologist - Madison) would be willing to do ID's on any insects found. Bernd Blossey, the bio-control researcher at Cornell who is coordinating work on loosestrife and garlic mustard insects, is also interested in making identifications. He prefers a live specimen on the plant.

"The next steps are to learn more about them, and then see if they can be mass reared and released. Because they're already in the state we don't need any federal or DATCP permits to do either research, rearing or moving, and would be a great grad student project."

Rich Henderson, of the Wisconsin DNR Research Center, writes,

"If this is the same species I have come across, I think it is a stem boring moth. I tried rearing adults out of pupae last year, but was unsuccessful. Some professional guidance from UW Entomology or Les Ferge [retired lepidopterist] in how to rear them might be helpful.

"I have seen this stem borer attacking parsnip populations for over 20 years now, and, unfortunately, have not yet seen a case I would call effective control of parsnip (i.e., over 95% reduction in seed production). The best I've seen is 50% reduction. Once we learn what it is and learn more about its biology, we may be able to somehow enhance its effectiveness."

Editor's note: Borer moths reared from larvae by DNR Forester, Craig Hollingsworth, were identified from a photo by Eric Metzler as *Depressaria pastinacella* (Duponchel, 1838) (Elachistidae). The larvae bore into several umbelliferous plants but won't kill them all. It's possible that the remaining plants send out chemicals to attract larval parasites, thus protecting themselves. A larger larva further down in the stalks from the aforementioned borer is likely a *Papaipema noctuid* moth.

Contacts:

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District Outreach Specialist

Insect Diagnostician
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1630 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706
Phone: (608)262-6510
FAX: (608)262-3322
Email: pellitte@plantpath.wisc.edu
County/Unit: Entomology

To answer both parts of this question, we consulted information provided by the Wisconsin DNR and The Nature Conservancy. What follows is taken from two sources:

Wisconsin Manual of Control : Recommendations for Ecologically Invasive Plants, (Randy Hoffman and Kelly Kearns, eds.) at
www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/invasive/manual_TOC.htm

Weed Control Methods Handbook: Tools and Techniques for Use in Natural Areas by Mandy Tu, Callie Hurd, and John M. Randall, at
www.tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/handbook.html.

Vinegar Gives Weeds a Bitter, and Deadly, Sting

Federal researchers say vinegar can be used as a weed killer.

In a study released this spring, researchers tested vinegar's effect on common lamb's quarters, giant foxtail, pigweed and Canada thistle in the field and in a greenhouse. A 5% concentration of vinegar, similar to that found in household vinegar, killed top growth on Canada thistle within a day and a 20% concentration of vinegar worked in two hours. The weaker solution was effective on young weeds up to two weeks old. Older, more mature plants required 15% to 20% concentrations. Wear protective gear and take other precautions because it is acidic.

When applied to the weed foliage, the acid in the vinegar acts as a contact herbicide that kills the plants but does not persist in the soil or cause water or other pollution. Vinegar in higher concentration is available from:

Bradfield Industries
417-882-1442
610A E Battlefield #203
Springfield, Missouri 65807

For more information, go to USDA's research service online: www.barc.usda.gov/anri/sasl/sasl.html

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COULEE REGION CHAPTER

MEETINGS

Sat.	Nov. 2	Chapter board meeting at 10am, at U.W. La Crosse, Room 332, Cartwright Center. Topic to be announced.
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EVENTS

Sat.	Oct. 12	Brushing at Sugar Creek Bible Camp. Details will be sent via e-mail to all chapter members one week prior to work party.
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SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

EVENTS

Sun.	Sep.22	Work party at Heather's Prairie at 10am. Call Gary Adams at 608-624-5797 for details.
Sun.	Sep.29	Work party at Bush Clover Prairie at 10am. Call Gary Eldred at 608-375-5271 for details.
Sat.	Oct.5	Work party at Vales Prairie. Call Gary Eldred at 608-375-5271 for details.
Sun.	Oct.20	Work party at Heather's Prairie at 10am. Call Gary Adams at 608-624-5797 for details.
Sat.	Oct.26	Work party at Bush Clover Prairie at 10am. Call Gary Eldred at 608-375-5271 for details.
Sat.	Nov.2	Work party at Vales Prairie. Call Gary Eldred at 608-375-5271 for details.
Sun.	Nov.10	Work party at Heather's Prairie at 10am. Call Gary Adams at 608-624-5797 for details.
Sat.	Nov.23	Work party at Bush Clover Prairie at 10am. Call Gary Eldred at 608-375-5271 for details.
Sat.	Dec.7	Work party at Bush Clover Prairie at 10am. Call Gary Eldred at 608-375-5271 for details.
Sat.	Dec.14	Work party at Heather's Prairie at 10am. Call Gary Adams at 608-624-5797 for details.

PRAIRIE BLUFF CHAPTER

MEETINGS

Tue.	Oct. 1	Chapter meeting at Marshall Bluff Clubhouse at 7pm. N7326 Marshall Bluff Road, Monticello.
Tue.	Nov.1 2	Chapter meeting at Bank of Brodhead, 806 Exchange Street, BrodHead at 7pm.
Tue.	Dec.3	Chapter meeting at Marshall Bluff Club House, Monticello at 6:30pm.

Work party coordinators for Prairie Bluff Chapter are John Ochsner at 862-3816 and Fred Faessler at 325-9374 or 862-1389.

COULEE REGION CHAPTER

Chapter Outreach

The Coulee Region's participation in two outreach programs in June and July was deemed a success. We were at GardenFest in LaCrosse in June and at Farm Progress Days in Richland County in July. We had many people who stopped to view our exhibits and express an interest in prairies and were happy to take home some of our handouts. Both venues provided us great exposure in our quest to spread the word about prairies.

Chapter Picnic

Another success was the chapter picnic on June 30 at Croatt's prairie. We had many members on hand plus several visitors. One couple who were present at the picnic later became chapter members. Croatt's have almost 80 acres of prairie they are restoring or reclaiming so it was great to see all they have done. Many of us got to cross the Kickapoo River in a tractor/trailer driven by Lloyd Croatt so we could view their lowland prairies. Riding instead of walking on that hot day was much appreciated. As you can imagine there was even some splashing going on as we crossed the river. It was great to be able to visit with prairie friends and share a great potluck meal on a hot summer day.

Visit Planned

Another opportunity to visit a member's prairie will be on October 5. Be there at 1 pm. for this Saturday afternoon tour when Greg Nessler will host a tour of his Red Buffalo Prairie. See the Field Trips mailing for directions to his prairie.

EMPIRE-SAUK CHAPTER

A Banner Summer for Land Stewardship

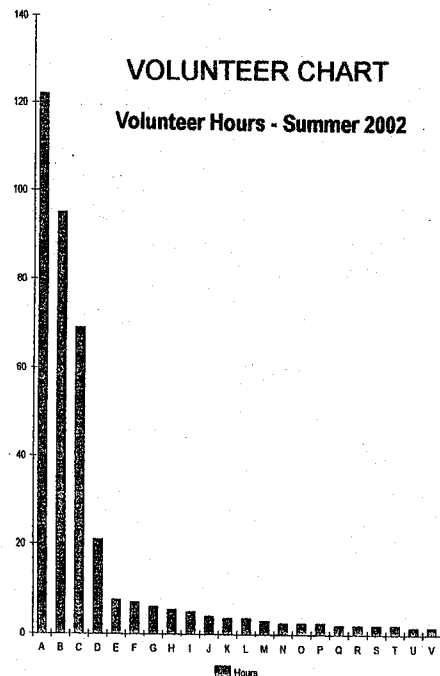
Thanks to 25 volunteers putting in 375 hours of work and our chapter's growing pool of motorized mowers and cutters, the Empire-Sauk Chapter had the most successful summer yet of land stewardship. For the first time we were able to keep up with our growing summer management needs, but just barely. Sweet

cover and wild parsnip control accounted for most of the work this year, but some mowing of sumac and berry canes and collecting of prairie seed was accomplished as well. We worked at Underwood/Nittany Knoll Prairies, Mazomanie (School Section) Bluff, Koltes Prairie, the two Ripp Prairies, Smith/Egre Drumlin Prairies, Vale Prairie, Reddeman Ledge Prairie, Savanna Hill Farm, Hauser Road Prairie Pasture, the Verona Area High School Restoration and the Goodman Campus Restoration. (NOTE: TPE volunteers also contributed much work at TNC's Rettenmund Black Earth Prairie this past summer, but those hours are not reported here).

Special appreciation goes to Meagan Yost, Richard Oberle, Rich Henderson and Ted Cochrane. Meagan continued putting in much work and effort towards the restoration of Reddeman Ledge Prairie. Richard Oberle not only contributed substantial time this past summer, he was also extremely generous in sharing his tractor and mower with TPE efforts at 4 different sites. The use of Richard's tractor allowed us to make great progress in restoring the Underwood/Nittany Knoll Prairie Complex. Rich Henderson coordinated and led most of the work parties, and Ted Cochrane provided consistent and dependable help throughout the summer. Thank you also to Karen Agee, Kay Bongers, Nancy Braker, Denny Connor, Sarah Crittenden, Tanis Cuff, Victoria Dulaney, James Egre, Scott Fulton, Collin Fulton, Pat Handrick, Kathy Henderson, Elizabeth Infante, Martha Jennen-Clough, Laura Kearney, Jan Ketelle, Roger Mayer, Rosie Meinholz, Scott Sauer, Glen Smith and Jerri Springstead for their summer help.

Because we were able to accomplish so much, the end is now in sight for parsnip on most of the sites we manage. The only disappointing aspect of the summer's effort was that 82% of the work was done by only 4 people (see chart of volunteer time). Such a skewed effort is not sustainable. Clearly we need to spread the burden among more people, and our chapter certainly has the capacity to do so. For example, over 100 people put in over 700 hours on prescribed burns last spring. We should be able to get 50 people involved with summer work. If another 25 people had put in just two evenings during the summer, the proportion of work done by the 4 primary volunteers would have dropped from 82% to 50%. If you have any ideas on how to get more people involved, contact Rich Henderson (845-7065).

Spending a summer's evening on a high quality prairie remnant, even while pulling or cutting sweet clover and parsnip, is actually an enjoyable activity. It is less work than a burn, and it is an excellent way to learn more about prairie vegetation and invertebrates, not only in terms of species identification, but also in terms of species composition and associations. Think about giving it a try next year.



Help Needed for Fall Work Parties

This fall the Empire-Sauk Chapter will be continuing its efforts to restore prairie remnants. Volunteers are needed to clear trees and brush from several prairie remnants. Please refer to the flier that was mailed to you in mid-September for dates and times. We will be cutting, and treating with herbicide, brush and trees at the Ripp Prairies north of Waunakee, Underwood/Nittany Knoll south of Blue Mounds, Koltes Prairie southeast of Waunakee and Smith Drumlin Prairies near Cambridge. If there is snow come November/December, we will be cutting and burning red cedar at Mazomanie Bluff, Walking Iron County Park near Mazomanie, Steenbock Hill in Columbia County and Smith Drumlin Prairie.

Help Needed in Fall Seed Collecting and Planting

Help is needed in collecting and planting seed at Smith/Egre Drumlins near Cambridge, Koltes and Ripp Prairies near Waunakee, Underwood & Nittany Knoll Prairies south of Blue Mounds and in Sauk County. Contact Rich Henderson (845-7065).

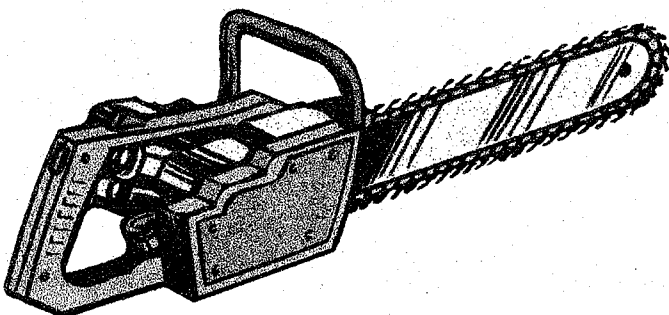
Chainsaw Safety

As we gear up for another red cedar cutting and brush clearing season, safety issues come to mind. There are two opportunities for people to take FISTA chainsaw safety training this fall, and I encourage TPE volunteers to take advantage of this. Accredited safety training currently is not required to operate chainsaws on TPE work parties. However, it is recommended and it will likely be required by next year for insurance reasons. Even the most experienced saw operator, including me, will benefit from such training. I plan on participating. FISTA is an outstanding organization and the course includes usable, valuable information even

for those not intending to operate a chainsaw. Here are the details.

The Aldo Leopold Foundation, through the Woodland School, is offering a chainsaw safety course with FISTA in Sauk County on November 2nd. They are also offering a level 2 course on the 16th. This is for those who have taken level one on the 2nd, or some other time before, and would like to expand your knowledge. The cost for each is \$40 and includes lunch. For more information, visit www.thewoodlandschool.org/. They are also offering other courses relevant to prairies and savannas.

Level 1 FISTA chainsaw safety training is also being offered at this year's Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation Fall Rendezvous on Sunday, September 29th. There is room for 15 participants. There is no fee. Please see Mammoth Tales or the IAPTF web site www.iceagetrail.org for details about the Fall Rendezvous.



Volunteer(s) Needed to Organize and Lead Seed Collecting and Planting

The Empire-Sauk Chapter's efforts in prairie seed collecting and planting have been languishing in recent years. We very much need one to several people to step forward to get things up and running again. We could use both an overall coordinator and multiple leaders focused on specific sites. If you are interested, please contact Rich Henderson (845-7065).

PRAIRIE SMOKE CHAPTER

Prairie Exposed at Prairie Day 2002

by Andrea Mueller

This August 10th The Prairie Smoke Chapter of TPE sponsored the statewide Prairie Day for SE Minnesota. We had a good turn out of more than 70 people of all ages with a wide variety of activities at Chester Woods Park, a 1,330 acre park in Olmsted County.

The horse-drawn wagon ride to a beautiful bluff prairie offered an array of different prairie plants and a beautiful view of the valley. This was a time when one could really appreciate the restoration work of the

Chester Woods park staff. The wagon ride was sure to be a great memory for the many children. The early morning birding walk through the fen area led to a rare sighting of a mocking bird and an opportunity to see some interesting native plants. We had a really neat activity for children called *Taste of the Prairie* presented by Kevin Crilly, staff of Chester Woods, where children listened to stories of how prairie plants were used for food while sipping their tasty pink sumac lemonade made from sumac berries, sugar and ice water. I'm telling you that sumac lemonade was awesome. More than 20 people participated in the *Canoe to the Prairie*, and they had a blast. It provided a rare opportunity for families to canoe Chester Woods Lake, created by a dam for flood control purposes, so they were actually canoeing over trees. At their destination was a very nice prairie to walk through with large stands of little blue stem. The afternoon butterfly walk along some wet prairie gave some the opportunity to see how Joe Pye weed and swamp milkweed can really attract these insects. A hike from the southwest area of the park to a large and varied prairie was truly an educational experience for many. Joel Dunnette and Dan Mueller were able to point out a variety of prairie plants and expose prairie to many new faces. The 2002 spring burn had really made a difference there.

Lunch went pretty smoothly considering this was the chapter's first time hosting such an event and having absolutely no idea what our turnout would be. If I had been paying better attention to the attendance, then we might have had a chance to buy a few more hot dogs so Jaime, our chapter VP, could have obtained some nourishment after a hard day's work.

The officers of The Prairie Smoke Chapter greatly appreciate the cooperative efforts of Tom Eckdahl, Kevin Crilly and the other Chester Woods staff for making the day possible, for being great hosts and for all their never ending hard work in restoring the prairie at this wonderful public park.

Fall Burns

Get ready for fall burns. If any member wishes to have a fall burn on their property or wishes to volunteer to help burn, please contact Dan Mueller (507) 867-9229 or e-mail me, andreasaysgonative@att.net. Our chapter does own several bladder bags, torches, swatters, rakes and a water wagon. This equipment is available to members who have had at least one experience assisting in a burn. Chester Woods County Park allows volunteers with or without experience to assist them on their burns. If you would like to get some experience and/or volunteer your time contact Chester Woods at (507) 285-7050. Remember, never lose your respect for fire.

THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____
 Phone _____ e-mail _____

PREFERRED CHAPTER AFFILIATION (please check one)

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ General (member at large) | ☐ Southeast Wisconsin Chapter (pending)
Dodge, Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha |
| ☐ Coulee Region Chapter
Buffalo, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, Vernon (WI) Houston, Winona (MN). | ☐ Southwest Wisconsin Chapter
Crawford, Grant, Iowa and Richland |
| ☐ Empire-Sauk Chapter
Columbia, Dane and Sauk | ☐ West Central Chapter
Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix (WI) and Washington (MN) |
| ☐ Northwest Illinois Chapter
Carroll, Jo Davies and Stephenson | ☐ Winnebago Land Chapter (EC WI)
Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Outagamie, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago. |
| ☐ Prairie Bluff Chapter
Green, Lafayette and Rock | |
| ☐ Prairie Smoke Chapter (SE MN)
Fillmore, Dodge, Mower, Olmsted, Steele, and Wabasha. | |

Membership Level

- ☐ \$10 Student
☐ \$20 Individual

- ☐ \$30 Family
☐ \$75 Sustaining
☐ \$200 Blazing Star

- ☐ \$1,000 Individual Life

- ☐ Seed Collecting/Planting
☐ Stewardship (Brush Cutting/Burning)
☐ Staffing Displays/Speakers Bureau

- ☐ Fund Raising/Grant Writing
☐ Social Activities (banquet/picnics)
☐ Newsletters/Articles

Can we provide your name to other Prairie Enthusiasts in your area? Y / N

Can we provide your name to other conservation organizations? Y / N

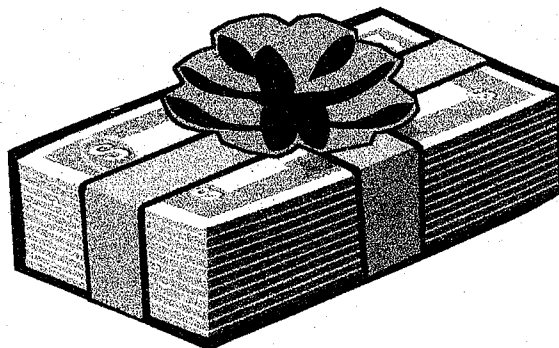
I wish to help with (please check off):

- ☐ Plant/Animal Inventories
☐ Landowner Contacts
☐ Field Trips
☐ Educational materials

Mail and Make Check Payable to: The Prairie Enthusiasts, PO Box 112, Boscobel, WI 53805

WAYS OF GIVING TO TPE

In addition to accepting traditional monetary gifts, The Prairie Enthusiasts can also accept gifts of stock, real estate, easements, equipment and planned gifts through estate planning. Gifts of stock are an excellent way to make a charitable gift without suffering the burden of capital gain taxes, and planned giving enables you to see the legacy of conservation embodied in The Prairie Enthusiasts organization continue into the future. Please contact your local Chapter representatives or Treasurer Kathy Henderson (608-845-7065) for details and to make arrangements.



THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS
PO BOX 112
BOSCOBEL WI 53805
www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org

A Non-Profit
Organization
PRE-SORTED
STANDARD RATE
Permit No. 10
Boscobel WI 53805

THE FINAL WORD

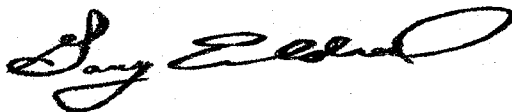
It doesn't seem possible that seventeen years ago, seven of us (George and Susan Brown, Alice and Walter Mirk, Gary and Gail Adams and I) sat around the Mirk's round oak table and fantasized about an organization that would find, purchase and restore prairie remnants in Southwest Wisconsin! It seemed an unlikely thing to happen but having more passion than common sense, we decided to proceed with turning that fantasy into reality.

In subsequent years the passion has taken root and grown beyond all our wildest dreams. TPE has 850 members, seven chapters in three states, eight sites purchased, three sites protected by conservation easements, hundreds of prairie and savanna projects in three states, thousands of acres of prairie remnants protected and managed, and thousands of people educated about the beauty and biological significance of native grassland. I don't think any of the seven of us ever imagined things would have reached this point, but are happy and gratified that they did.

TPE has been so successful in its mission that it now needs to make the transition from an all-volunteer organization to one that has paid, full-time staff. As you know, we are in the process of raising funds for an executive director. I'm happy to announce that thus far TPE members have donated nearly \$20,000 for this crucial need. I am also delighted that TPE now has a potent transition team: Rich Henderson as president; Jim Rachuy as vice-president; and Chuck Wemstrom as secretary. TPE is very fortunate to have the right people in place at the right time.

My commitment to prairie and savanna conservation runs very deep and although my presidency has ended after 17 years, my involvement, support, time and energy will not diminish in the least. Change has come and it is good. We move ahead with steadfast commitment to our passion. Thank you all, but especially Walter, Alice, George, Susan, Gary and Gail.

See you on the Prairies!



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