



www.theprairieenthusiasts.org

The PRAIRIE PROMOTER

VOL 23, NO. 1 Spring 2010

Grassroots Conservation at Work

2010 Conference and Banquet

On Saturday, February 27, the Prairie Bluff chapter of The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE) hosted the annual conference and all-chapter banquet. Both events were held at The Peppercorn at Historic Ludlow Mansion in Monroe, Wisconsin. The beautiful weather brought 143 people to the day-long conference and 113 people to the evening banquet.

The conference theme, "Celebrating our past and our prairies," started with a round-table discussion of the early days of TPE. On the panel were Gary Eldred, John Ochsner, and Jonathan Wilde.

The TPE Auction and Raffle room included 132 items. Thanks to generous bidding, the raffle and silent auction brought in \$ 1,655.00 and \$2,940.00 respectively, for chapters and central operations.

The evening banquet included the presentation of the TPE Prairie Enthusiasts of the Year award to Jesse Bennett and Jaye Maxfield. President Evanne Hunt lauded Jesse and Jaye's deep commitment to land conservation, contributing hundreds of hours of time, both professionally and as a volunteer for the SW chapter (see article on page 5).

Finalists in the first annual TPE photo contest each received \$100. Ted Cochrane was the popular winner, as determined by balloting during the day. His photo will be used on the cover of TPE's 2009 Annual Report. (See article and photos on pages 6 and 15).

The evening concluded with after-dinner speaker Steven Apfelbaum. Steve talked about his 30-year restoration of Stone Prairie Farm in Juda, Wisconsin, the subject of his book, "Nature's Second Chance: Restoring the Ecology of Stone Prairie Farm."



Participants at the 2010 Annual Conference and All-Chapter Banquet. Photo by Evanne Hunt.

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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 articles, announcements, artwork and photographs that are relevant to prairie and savanna ecosystems. Mail or email submissions to local chapter editorial volunteers or to The Prairie Promoter editor. Copy any text into the body of the email. Send photos (jpeg or bmp) as attachments. 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 26 (Spring issue); May 22 (Summer issue); August 21 (Fall issue); and November 20 (Winter issue).

If you would prefer to receive electronic notification of the newsletter please email Victoria at TPE@theprairieenthusiasts.org.

President's Message

by Evanne Hunt

The Spring issue of The Prairie Promoter is always exciting because, well, it heralds the end of winter and winter work parties.

I, for one, will not miss those grueling work days on the goat prairies. I don't mind the half-mile hike to the prairie – it's the hike back to the car. I'm usually exhausted.

The Spring issue is also exciting because it contains the field trip flier! It is the time of year when we get to visit the prairies and oak savannas to see the fruits of our labor.

This year, I plan to make a special effort to bring a friend or neighbor on each field trip. I will try to get local school children interested. I'm going to contact our township and city leaders to remind them of these local examples of biodiversity, carbon sequestering, natural water filtration systems and rare ecosystems that TPE maintains and protects.

Our guided field trips, led by passionate prairie enthusiasts, through the prairies and oak savannas we love so much, are the best advertising we have.

Please join me in a grass-roots marketing campaign to make The Prairie Enthusiasts the most recognized name in conservation.

Digging in the Driftless: Our Patchwork Prairie

By Denise Thornton

This article first appeared on the author's blog, digginginthedriftless.wordpress.com and has been edited for style and length.

If geography is destiny, then, last month, I had both defined a little more clearly for me. On February 4, Rich Henderson of the Empire Sauk Chapter spoke as part of the University of Wisconsin-Arboretum's Winter Enrichment Lecture Series. He shared his insights about the past, present and future ecology of prairies in Wisconsin, based on 34 years of experience in natural area inventory, assessment and management.

Our land sits on the western edge of the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, a rugged, agriculturally daunting region in southwest Wisconsin unique for its large number of prairie remnants, high concentration of rare plants and animals (including grasslands birds), extensive surrogate grassland and spring-fed streams interwoven with the farming landscape. A partnership of non-profit organizations and government agencies are

working together to conserve these rare and important natural resources.

The prairie heritage area is situated within the borders of the newly formed Southwest Wisconsin Grassland and Stream Conservation Area. This group helps organizations and individuals develop conservation strategies that can maintain both working farms and healthy grasslands, savannas, and streams.

Today less than one tenth of one percent of Wisconsin's prairie and savanna remains: prairie and savanna that covered the state before the pioneers arrived. Though settlers put an end to wild fires and plowed under vast tracts of prairie plants, many native species have maintained a tenuous toe-hold around the edges of civilization.

Accident and the whims of fortune have preserved some tiny pockets of prairie until now, but luck is fast running out for many of these irreplaceable ecological oases. In his presentation, Henderson said that many of the prairie remnants he identified 30 years ago are now lost forever, overgrown with trees and overrun by non-native species.



Expanding a prairie remnant called the Glade with the help of The Prairie Enthusiasts last winter. Photo by Denise Thornton.

Two tiny pockets of remnant prairie are hidden on our land, with another just over the fence. Henderson and other prairie experts have walked our land with us and helped us understand how best to protect our remnants, which I think of as jewel boxes. Woods separate these tiny treasures from each other; for six years we have worked to restore and expand them — ultimately into a small savanna system.

Last month, Henderson reminded me that our little pieces of prairie are part of a bigger picture – a patchwork that makes a world of difference to birds and insects hanging on for dear life.

More than 2,000 species of insects need prairies to survive. The red-tailed leafhopper only feeds on prairie dropseed. Caterpillars of the regal fritillary butterfly only feed on violets, especially prairie violet and birdsfoot violet. These plants can all still be found in the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area.

Some insects, like the regal fritillary, need a lot of elbow room. But the red-tailed leaf hopper requires only a small space to eke out an insect living. A patch of prairie the size of a small yard can be enough, but unfortunately certain insects are trapped in these small islands of livable habitat.

Due to many insects' limited mobility, Henderson said "We will get more success for our effort if we work on restoration near existing remnants."

That comment energized me. I sat up straight and felt more alive. My husband and I have poured ourselves into restoring our bits of prairie and savanna, but with such small pieces (less than two prairie remnant acres total), I have wondered whether our effort made a difference.

Then, Henderson described a plan to create an area big enough for the regal fritillary by stitching together, preserving and expanding tiny pockets such as ours into a larger whole, and I understood what kind of a difference we can make. Our small project will help complete the patchwork being created by the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area and Southwest Wisconsin Grassland and Stream Conservation Area. This collection of tiny scraps of land could ultimately provide 12,000 protected acres interspersed throughout an area of almost 500,000 acres. That seems like a worthwhile goal.

Our little pieces of prairie will become part of an oasis of diversity in the newly-broadened efforts to restore the rich prairie heritage of Southwestern Wisconsin.



The Glade as of last summer. This was a wide spot in a truck trail when the Thorntons identified hoary puccoon growing there. Photo by Denise Thornton.

Research Review: Water Scarcity in a Changing Climate

By Mary Spivey

Models suggest that a changing global climate could lead to more regional drought events. Will drought, in combination with the established increase in carbon dioxide (CO₂) and nitrogen (N) levels, have any effect on plant productivity?

The initial BioCON experiment (described in *The Prairie Promoter*, vol. 22, no. 2, Summer 2009, p. 4-5) studied the interactions between three factors: increasing N and atmospheric CO₂ and decreasing plant diversity. Taking advantage of the infrastructure already in place, a new experiment investigating the interaction of water, CO₂ and N on prairie plant productivity was added to BioCON in 2007.

Using special plastic-walled enclosures designed to shield test plots from 40% of the annual growing-season rainfall, plants are forced into drought-like conditions. Measuring the biomass produced by these plots reveals how plants may react in an environment that is dry, as well as carbon and nitrogen rich.

Two years of data show an obvious trend: plants with ambient water as well as increased CO₂ and N are more productive than plants restricted in one or more of these factors. What are not clear, or testable, at this time, are the possible interactions between these variables. BioCON data shows that plants exposed to increased CO₂ are more productive, plants provided additional N are more productive, and plants with ample water are more productive. Unknown at present is any interplay across the three-way combination of factors. With this in mind, the first red bar represents biomass not statistically different from the ambient water bar beside it, and is more likely the result of experimental “noise.”

Research into the interactions between these three factors will continue. The results will contribute to our overall knowledge of ecosystem processes, enabling us to better predict and prepare for the future.

Postage Stamps Matter: The Importance of Small Prairies

By Charles R. Bomar

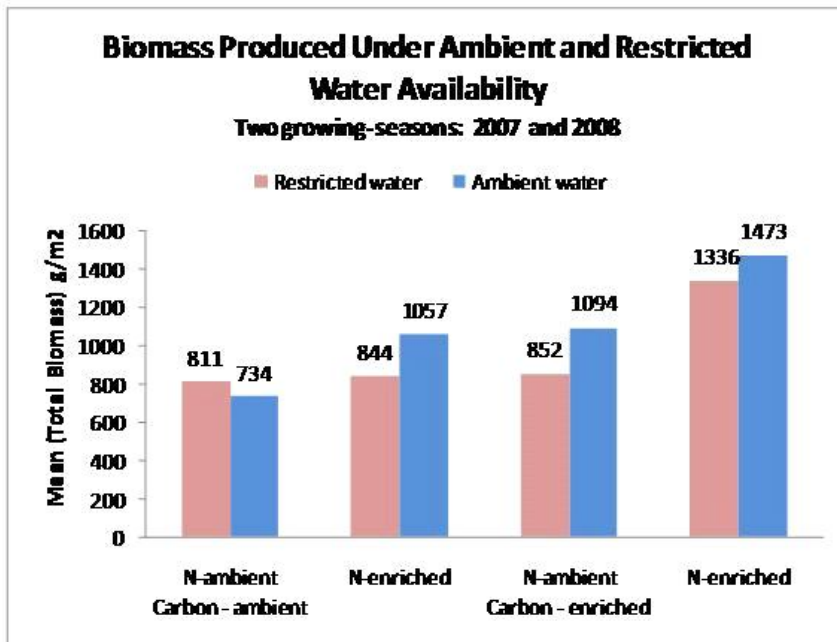
This article first appeared in Ecological Restoration Vol. 27, No. 4, 2009 and is reprinted here with the permission of the publisher.

Ten years ago, I started a small prairie in my front yard. I thought it might be a nice buffer of natural landscape to help my neighbors not notice my unkempt yard. It’s not much of a site, really a township roadside, probably less than 50 square meters of very sandy, nutrient-poor soil. A postage stamp by all accounts. I am constrained in size; I don’t want it to be too obvious I am encroaching on my neighbor. I planted it with a variety of locally collected seeds and a few starter plants donated by my local prairie nuts. Much to my dismay, June of the first year produced an infestation of crown vetch. Ten years later, the plant still reminds me of its once dominant

past, likely from dormant seeds and seed dispersal from mice and birds that rummage in the lot down the street. Besides crown vetch, I continue to weed the foxtail, black medic, and other “undesirables,” but for the most part, my prairie patch has started to develop its own identity.

Undertaking the collection of local seeds and their random dispersal through my little

patch has been a continual process. Each year, I scout out new sources of seeds in the township. Some seeds germinate and grow, most don’t; some plants stay for a year or two, and some have been there since the beginning of the restoration. The plants that do prosper are the plants that are likely most adapted to the miserable soil of the site. Oddly enough, I have provided refuge for sideoats grama and sand violets—two relatively uncommon plants in my area that have flourished. But these temporary inhabitants are likely to be pushed out by an even more rambunctious local ecotype of little bluestem. Most, if not all, of my seeds have come from less than 40



kilometers away from my home in western Wisconsin, most from a single plant here or a patch there. I have the luxury of living in a rural community that still has a few high quality remnant prairies.

Three years ago, I collected a few seeds of ox-eye sunflowers from just down the street on the edge of an oak-covered hillside. Two years ago, I had a few plants bloom and add a new cast of yellow to my neighborhood. Last summer, I was quite pleased when numerous separate patches bloomed. One day in July, I recognized a few red aphids, then a few more, and then many, many more. And then it happened...ladybird beetles everywhere. There were two-spotted, five-spotted, seven-spotted, and even a few without spots. In total, I counted 11 or 12 different species of ladybird beetles. More importantly, only a few of the many beetles I observed were Eurasian ladybirds that sadly have infested so many households in the Midwest. In time, I also observed many ladybird larvae milling about the ox-eyes, consuming aphids just as their parents did. After ten years, my little postage stamp of a prairie restoration had offered its first revelation; it had made its first step toward becoming a dynamic microcosm.

I also observed predacious behavior of bluet damselflies plucking individual aphids off stems, milkweed bugs and tachinid flies sucking up the honeydew left behind. It was good to know one damselfly could eat three aphids in 15 minutes.

As an entomologist, I found it difficult not to collect, assess, and analyze the data. How many aphids, how many per stem or per plant, rate of growth, number consumed, and so on? Eventually I recognized that even as a scientist, it was all right for me to not collect data and just let it happen; to enjoy it. It was a struggle to not develop a hypothesis and generate some statistically significant data providing proof that this little microcosm matters. I continue to hear from professionals in the field that it's really not a worthwhile restoration unless it's at least two to four hectares in size. I beg to differ. While I will likely never get bison or elk to graze my prairie, the whitetail deer continue to seek out and consume my butterfly milkweed just as it blooms, as if it were put there just for them. The two pounds of bigfoot morels I picked and dined on this spring also seem to think this is a pretty good spot.

This dynamic series of events gives hope and value to every little prairie patch across the prairie ecosystem. As William Cronon points out in his essay on wilderness, "The tree in the garden could have easily sprung from the same seed as the tree in the forest," (Cronon 1995, 19). By corollary, the seeds in my prairie come from a long line of prairie plants, each representing a link to a local ecotype of a great prairie that once was. Furthermore, it is likely the series of events I observed in my patch has been repeated on the same types of plants by the same species of insects for thousands of years in the very same spot. As

I roam the county roads, I see unique prairie plants that are survivors of a not-so-long-lost sea of prairie and oak savanna. The reality that numerous native inhabitants are still present provides hope that there is still time and that restoration is still a worthwhile endeavor, no matter how small the effort.

Reference

Cronon, W. 1995. The trouble with wilderness; or, getting back to the wrong nature. Pages 69–90 in W. Cronon (ed), *Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.

2010 Prairie Enthusiasts of the Year

Jesse Bennett and Jaye Maxfield were awarded the 2010 Prairie Enthusiasts of the Year Award at TPE's annual banquet held Saturday, February 27, in Monroe, Wisconsin. Jesse and Jaye's deep commitment to the conservation of our fire-dependent ecosystems is reflected in the business they started. Driftless Land Stewardship focuses on the recovery and restoration of prairie, savanna and oak woodlands.

Through their efforts, many landowners have become informed about the plight of our fire-dependent ecosystems and the need to care for them. As president of the Southwest Wisconsin chapter, Jesse worked with the Driftless Area Land Conservancy and the Mississippi Valley Conservancy on the purchase of Borah Creek Prairie. Jaye and Jesse continue to be caring stewards of Eldred Prairie.



Evanne Hunt presents Jesse Bennett and Jaye Maxfield with their award. Photo by Rose Sime.

Fantastic Photography: 1st Annual TPE Photo Contest

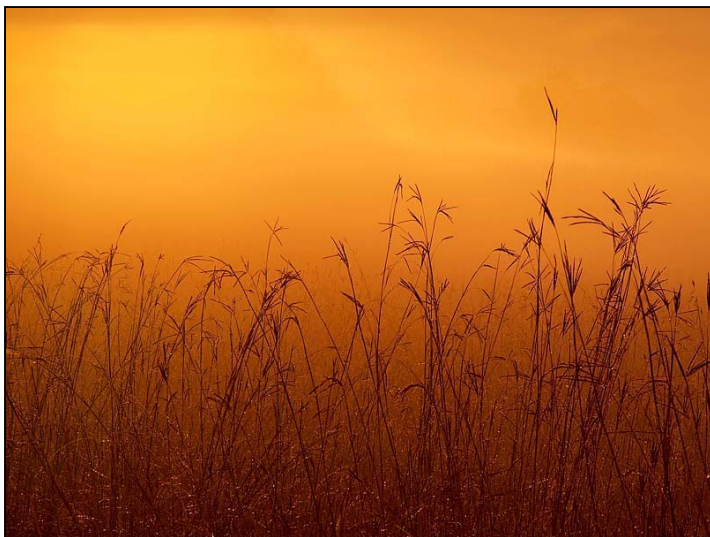
By Burt Levy

Judging from the number of entries, I would say that the first TPE photo contest was a great success. Fifty entrants submitted 135 photos that were created with 248 MB of digital information.

Subject matter was as varied as a mature prairie. There were folks working on prairies and kids contemplating prairies; images of fire and beautiful ghostlike smoldering post fire scenes; there were snakes and birds and insects that call the prairie home; and, of course, there were the plants that form the backbone of the prairie, photographed in close-up and sweeping views. The most often photographed insect was the butterfly, the most often photographed plant was butterfly weed, and the most often photographed plant with insects was, of course, butterfly weed with butterflies. All of the photos were a joy to look at and we thank everyone who contributed.

Five finalists each received a \$100 award. They were *Big Blue Stems* by Ted Cochrane, *Prairie Fire* by Kathy Henderson, *Hillside With Rattlesnake-master and Young Blazing Star* by Steve Hubner, *Autumn Meadowhawk Dragonfly on Wild Bergamot* by Gary Shackelford, and *Sunrise Through Ground Fog* by Scott Weber (see photos below and on page 15). Attendees of the TPE Conference voted Ted Cochrane's *Big Blue Stems* as their favorite photo. It is a truly compelling photo of a very unusual view of Big Bluestem. Keep an eye out for it on the cover of the 2009 TPE Annual Report.

Plans are underway for the 2011 photo contest. We will have a more streamlined entry form and, hopefully, a way to automatically confirm that we have received your entries and update you with additional contest information. We're also exploring ways that we can display the photos for our members to see while preventing their being "borrowed" from our website. So, keep your cameras handy, your eyes alert and your minds open to capture some more fantastic prairie images.



Clockwise from upper left: *Sunrise Through Ground Fog* by Scott Weber, *Prairie Fire* by Kathy Henderson, *Big Blue Stems* by Ted Cochrane, and *Autumn Meadowhawk Dragonfly on Wild Bergamot* by Gary Shackelford.

Planned Giving: The Prairie Legacy Circle

By Carol Winge

The Prairie Legacy Circle is our new planned giving program that integrates the personal, financial and estate planning goals of donors with their desire to bestow current or future financial charitable gifts. Some planned gift options are made by a designation in a will or trust. Others, like charitable gift annuities, require additional planning and are designed to create present or future income streams for the donor or other beneficiaries, tax savings for the donor and a legacy gift for the charity.

Planned giving is attractive to donors for many reasons. It may allow you to make larger gifts than you can from your current assets. It may also let you receive a stream of income for life, earn higher investment yield or reduce your capital gains or estate taxes. Planned gifts often appeal to people who want to benefit a charitable organization but aren't certain which of their assets they will need during their lifetimes.

Through planned gifts—like bequests, life insurance policies, securities, gift annuities, charitable trusts, gifts of real estate or other tangible property and even retirement plans—people can support charitable organizations they care about while satisfying important financial concerns. In today's world, planned gifts can also serve as excellent estate planning tools.

Gifts through wills and estate plans provide a strong and ever-growing source of support for all aspects of The Prairie Enthusiasts. Unrestricted gifts are flexible and allocated wherever the need is greatest in the organization. Or you may wish to designate your bequest to one of the several TPE Endowment Funds where it will provide lasting support for our prairies.

An endowed gift is a gift that the organization holds in perpetuity. The gift is invested and a portion of its annual return is used to support the fund that the gift is provided for. The principal maintains its value over time, so a donor can be sure the gift will continue.

The Prairie Enthusiasts currently sponsors five endowed funds.

- Operations Endowment. Interest from this fund provides one half of our yearly operating expenses. Goal is \$1 million.
- Easement Monitoring and Management Endowment. Interest from this fund pays for the perpetual monitoring and maintenance of sites we protect through ownership, conservation easements or management agreements. Goal is at least \$15,000 for every easement that we hold and enforce. Total goal: \$2 million.

- Legal Defense Fund. This money ensures our ability to prosecute any violations of conservation easements. Goal is \$200,000.
- Land Acquisition Fund. This “cash-on-hand” will allow us to quickly acquire original remnants that have been determined to be of high quality and are in danger of destruction or loss. Goal is \$500,000.
- Land Management Trust. This pays for the perpetual maintenance of the sites we protect. Goal is \$1 million.

Planned Giving provides a gift that lasts more than a lifetime. This program will ensure that the organization will continue to grow to preserve and protect the land assets for many generations to come.

Your gift will be a lasting legacy that will ensure the management and preservation of our prairies in perpetuity.

To learn more about Planned Giving options, consult your attorney, financial planner, life insurance agent or other advisor who can assist you with your plans. Watch our website, www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org, and [The Prairie Promoter](#) for more information about this program.

John Thomson Memorial Fund to Support Interns

By Rich Henderson

A year ago, the conservation community lost a great leader in natural area preservation and environmental education: Dr. John Thomson (see [The Prairie Promoter](#), vol. 22, no. 1, Spring 2009). I'm pleased to announce that the John Thomson memorial fund set up by The Prairie Enthusiasts has been officially designated as an endowment dedicated to support student interns.

As this fund grows, its earnings will be used in perpetuity to support paid student interns within TPE. Students in these positions will help with the restoration, management, inventory and biological monitoring of natural areas. Based on feedback from students over the past few years, internships with TPE are great opportunities for hands-on education about natural history, ecology and natural area management.

If you wish to contribute to the John Thomson Memorial Internship Endowment, please send donations to:

TPE
P.O. Box 1148
Madison, WI 53701-1148

Be sure to include a note stipulating that the contribution is for the Internship Endowment.

Color Variation in Rough Blazing Star

By Murray Hostetter

On an outing to the Fish Lake Wildlife Area located just south of Grantsburg, Wisconsin, my wife and I were delighted to find that much of the area covered with the purple blooms of rough blazing star. At one point during our tour, we noticed that the sea of purple was interrupted by a patch of white. Closer inspection revealed that the plants with the white blooms were the same species of *Liatris* as the ones with purple flowers. In the same vicinity we found plants with blossoms that were intermediate between the pure white and the predominating purple.

It seems evident that our observations involve a gene mutation at a single locus, that the gene for purple is cumulative rather than dominant, that pure purple and pure white are homozygous, and that the intermediate color is heterozygous.

Every mutation has a specific rate or frequency of occurrence, so it can be assumed that this variation in color would occur on some regular or predictable basis. However with the exception of this small patch, we did not observe even the slightest variation in color over hundreds of acres. This degree of uniformity can only be maintained by selective pressures that eventually eliminate color variations. My guess is that the white blooms have some sort of pollination issue. I would appreciate any comments or explanations regarding this observation.

One year later (August 2009), we returned to the Fish Lake Wildlife area and found the park almost devoid of *Liatris*. The area where we found the white blooming plants had no *Liatris* of any color. This decimated population was probably due to drought earlier in the year that was most severe in northwest Wisconsin. Hopefully 2010 will provide more favorable conditions.



Rough blazing star. Photo by Murray Hostetter

We look forward to visiting the site for many years to come, not only to see what happens to the *Liatris* but to be charmed by everything else, both plant and animal that this spectacular ecosystem has to offer.

Tools and Techniques: Offer to Help

By Tom Wedel

Twenty-odd years ago, I went to a prairie conference at Northeastern Illinois University. At the time, our family knew next to nothing about prairies. One session dealt with prairie restoration and the removal of unwanted species. When the session leader talked about the manpower that it took to be effective, I raised my hand to report that in our case there was only my wife and me to do this chore. Across the room, a stranger called out that his group would help. I later learned the stranger's name was Gary Eldred and that he belonged to an organization in Wisconsin called The Prairie Enthusiasts.

My wife and I became members of the Prairie Bluff Chapter the next day. We've never been able to help with TPE projects, as our own land (398 acres), and our restoration and reclamation goals keep us well occupied. Aside from prairie plantings and prairie and savanna restoration, there is always the problem of invasives to be dealt with, which takes more time than the planting and restoration, and certainly gives us more grief.

We never did ask anyone to come help us, except for the second time we burned our first prairie planting. But the TPE conferences I attended along the way were of great use in our education. At one, in Madison, we found out about U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the services they offer. We have benefited greatly from them. Which brings me to the point of this article.

Article continued on page 18

ANNOUNCEMENTS

4th Nelson Institute Earth Day Conference

April 20-21, 2010

The first Earth Day, on April 22, 1970, inspired 20 million people to participate in environmental teach-ins across the United States. Earth Day at 40: Valuing Wisconsin's Environmental Traditions, Past, Present and Future, held at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison, Wisconsin, will revisit the popular movement that launched an era of environmental reform, survey a broad range of current environmental issues, and envision a more sustainable future.

Confirmed speakers include environmental advocate Robert F. Kennedy Jr., author Margaret Atwood, S.C. Johnson chairman and CEO Fisk Johnson, Wilderness Society president William Meadows, and environmental justice scholar Dorceta Taylor.

The celebration includes a special concert, "ECOTONES – A Musical Ecology of Wisconsin," at 8 p.m. April 20 in Madison's Overture Center for the Arts. The performance, featuring contemporary compositions about Wisconsin's environment by UW-Madison musicians, is free and open to the public.

For more information about the conference and to register, please visit: www.nelson.wisc.edu/earthday40

22nd North American Prairie Conference

Save the Date: August 1-5, 2010

Experience Iowa prairies, the Cedar Falls metro area, and the Tallgrass Prairie Center at the 22nd North American Prairie Conference, held at the University of Northern Iowa. In keeping with the conference theme, "Restoring a National Treasure," there will be opportunities to observe prairie restorations and reconstructions. Participants will be able to discuss the latest prairie research, explore remnant and restored prairies on field trips, and view local and national exhibits. We anticipate a large gathering of

prairie enthusiasts and hope you will be among them. Please check the NAPC web site (www.napc2010.org) often for updates.

Abstracts for poster and paper presentations will be accepted until May 14, 2010. There are also numerous sponsorship, vendor, and exhibit opportunities. For questions or more information please contact Ryan Welch at 319-273-3828 or rwelch@uni.edu.

Remembrance Day

The Prairie Enthusiasts Endowment and Fundraising Committee invite you to participate in our first annual "Remembrance Day" celebration to be held on Thursday, April 22, 2010 in conjunction with Earth Day (see donation form on page 19). One of our favorite comfort messages when a loved one dies is: "*When someone you treasure becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure.*" In that spirit, we proclaim Thursday, April 22, 2010 Remembrance Day and invite you to make a donation to The Prairie Enthusiasts in memory of any loved one lost or an event to be honored and remembered such as an anniversary or birthday.

A brief program recognizing all Remembrance Day donations will be held at our 2011 Annual Banquet. At the program, the name of every person or event remembered will be read.

Please mail donations to:

TPE
PO Box 1148
Madison, WI 53701

Include a note specifying the name of the individual or event in whose honor you are making this Remembrance Day donation, as well as a brief remembrance, if desired.

Seen a Badger?

Researchers at UW-Milwaukee are working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to study the badger population in the state. Their goal is to determine the badger's status as a Species of



EMPIRE – SAUK CHAPTER

Chapter Meetings

Tuesday, May 11, 7 p.m. at Meagan Yost’s, N2532 Goose Pond Rd, Poynette. All members welcome.

Tuesday, July 13, 6 p.m., annual meeting and pot-luck picnic at Bluestem Farm, S5920 Lehman Rd, Baraboo. All members welcome.

Handrick named Volunteer of the Year

This year’s Empire-Sauk Chapter Volunteer of the Year award goes to Pat Handrick. Although he was unable to attend, the chapter recognized Pat at The Prairie Enthusiasts banquet in Monroe on February 27. In appreciation for all he does, the chapter will give Pat a copy of “Prairie Plants of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum” by Cochrane, Elliot, and Lipke.



Pat Handrick. Photo by Kathy Henderson.

For more than 15 years, Pat has been a stalwart volunteer with the Empire-Sauk Chapter, especially on prescribed burns where he rarely misses an opportunity to lend a hand. Pat currently heads the Kalscheur Savanna stewardship committee and serves on the Mounds View Grassland stewardship committee. Over the years, he has helped extensively with seed collecting and planting, and with control of trees, brush and weeds. He also supported the development of the new kiosks at Mounds View and has often played a major role in soliciting contributions for land protection at both Mounds View and Erbe Grasslands. The chapter leadership team thanks Pat for all he does and for his deep commitment to the cause.

Greatest Conservation Need in Wisconsin, and to identify conservation and management strategies to ensure this species’ persistence.

If you have seen a badger or signs of a badger, please contact badger@uwm.edu or 414-229-4245. If you spot a dead badger, please either contact Dr. Emily Latch at latch@uwm.edu or 414-229-4245 or collect a small sample of tissue and a few hairs from the animal. The ‘drier’ bits of tissue, such as the ear, last best. Ship the samples to:

Emily Latch
3209 N. Maryland Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53211.

Ideally, the tissue samples should be shipped frozen or dried and mailed at room temp.

For more information about collecting tissue samples, the project in general, and badger ecology, please visit: <http://www.badgerresearch.uwm.edu>

CHIPPEWA SAVANNAS CHAPTER

Chapter Update

The Chippewa Savannas Chapter is building capacity and gaining ground. Our chapter is still less than one year old, so we are focusing on laying a strong foundation for future efforts.

We are raising funds to acquire land management equipment. We are very excited to have recently purchased chainsaws as well as prescribed fire equipment including drip torches, water backcans, helmets, goggles, and safety clothing. This equipment will be put to use on prairies and savannas throughout the Chippewa Valley. We are thankful for a generous donation from Xcel Energy that has assisted with these recent purchases.

Our chapter is beginning restoration activities at the Tyrone Property (near Rock Falls, WI) located in the Lower Chippewa River watershed. Several sites throughout the property create a large complex of prairie and savanna habitats that contain endangered and threatened species. Our efforts will rehabilitate these very important places.

More and more members are getting involved in prairie and savanna restoration. Our members are holding training workshops, restoration work parties, and field trips. All TPE members are welcome to join us on all events hosted by Chippewa Savannas Chapter. (See events details insert for more details).

COULEE REGION CHAPTER

Please check chapter newsletter for announcements.

Spring Burn Season is upon Us

We have nearly 50 burns scheduled for this spring. If you wish to help but have not yet contacted us, please contact Empire-Sauk Chapter burn volunteer coordinator, Kathy Cartwright (608-839-5148 or kjcartwright@verizon.net). Experience and training is desired but not a prerequisite at this time. Novices will be paired up with experienced people. Personal protective Nomex clothing is highly recommended but not required at this time.

Wish List for Schurch-Thomson Barn

By Rich Henderson

The renovation and remodeling of the barn at Schurch-Thomson Prairie is now 95 percent complete. In 2009, 513 volunteer hours were put into improvements in and around the barn. Richard Oberle, Denny Connor, Kathy Henderson, and I contributed more than 80 percent of the time, with the remainder coming from another 15 volunteers. Thank you to all the volunteers and those individuals who contributed to the purchase of supplies and materials.

We still need a few items to make this barn fully functional for equipment storage, maintenance and repair; seed cleaning and storage; and as a headquarters for student interns and other work crews. If you have any of the following items to donate, please contact Rich Henderson at 608-845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net.

- Trouble lights (on retractable coil) (2-3)
- Vehicle service ramp set (sturdy enough for pick-up trucks)
- Creeper (crawler) for working under vehicles
- Oil absorbent granules (2-3 bags)
- Fire extinguishers - multi-purpose dry chemical (at least 8 lbs.) (2-3)
- Snow shovels (2-3)
- Leaf blower
- Sturdy folding tables (6 or 8 ft. long)
- Folding chairs
- Fixed tables (heavy duty)
- Door snakes (at least 36") (2)
- Chest of small drawers for nuts, bolts, screws, etc.
- Tool chest w/ drawers (heavy duty - medium size)
- Grinding wheel/stone (mounted/fixed)
- Electric welder
- Hand tools for workshop
- Impact drill
- Saws - all w/ metal saw blades
- Tin snips
- Wrench sets - fixed crescent, adjustable crescent, and Allen

- Screw driver set
- Pliers set
- Easy-out (extractor) set
- Tap & dye set
- Metal files
- Ball-peen hammers
- Sledge hammers
- Air chisel & hammer for air compressor

Big Thanks to Raffle/Auction Donors!

By Peter Thomford

A big thank you goes out to the following members of the Empire-Sauk chapter who donated items valued at \$3,200 to the raffle/auction that was held at the TPE Conference and Banquet on Saturday, February 27th:

Karen Agee, Tom Brock, Ted Cochrane, Kate Fitzmier (Eagle Optics), Frank Hassler, Rich and Kathy Henderson, Pattie Haack, Jim and Marcia Hess, Susan Kenney and Gerry Clausen, Jan Ketelle, Lois Komai, Earl Muhlbauer, Michler & Brown LLC, Richard Oberle, Neil Pohl (Atlas Improv Co.), Dennis Presser and Ann Thering.

These members donated an excellent collection of paintings, books, photographs, drawings, gift baskets, quilts, chocolates, posters, work days and theater tickets, to name just a few items.

The raffle/auction has historically been a very successful way for our chapter to raise funds (see "2010 Chapter and Banquet" on page 1 for more details). We are truly grateful for our members' generous support..

Volunteer Coordinator (Part-time)

The Empire-Sauk Chapter of The Prairie Enthusiasts is currently seeking a Volunteer Coordinator. Duties will include volunteer recruitment, coordinating projects with site managers, notification of weekly work parties and burns, and providing leadership and direction to the volunteers. We seek a person with experience recruiting and motivating volunteers, a passion for conservation and land management/protection, proven organizational skills, and strong oral and written communication skills. Job will involve some work evenings and weekends, and travel in Dane and surrounding counties. Position averages 15 hours/week over the year. \$15/hour. Detailed position description at www.theprairieenthusiasts.org.

Send letter of interest and resume to kjcartwright@verizon.net or mail to:

K. Cartwright
304 Forreton Drive
Cottage Grove, WI 53527

NORTHWEST ILLINOIS CHAPTER

Please check chapter website (www.nipes.org) for announcements.

OBITUARY: James R. Lewis

This obituary first appeared in The Journal-Standard based out of Freeport, Ill., on December 7, 2009 and is reprinted here under a creative commons license.

Minneapolis, Minn. -

James R. "Jim" Lewis, 86, resident of Hanover, Illinois, passed away of natural causes, surrounded by his loving family on Saturday, Oct. 31, 2009, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He was preceded in death by his parents, John B. Hanley and Leah Lewis; stepfather, George Lewis; and brother, Burr Lewis.

Jim is survived by his longtime companion, Penelope Merlo; brother, Glenn Lewis; children, Stephanie Brody (Ernest), Sherry Lewis (Jim Logan), Cilla Garvan (Steve), Lark Lewis and Hanley Lewis (Denise Prince); and grandchildren. Tanya Brody (Matt Gurnsey), Raina Brody and Kelsey Thompson.

Born March 12, 1923, Jim was a descendant of Civil War general John Buford.

He grew up in South Minneapolis and graduated from Minneapolis West High School. After a stint at Carleton College, Jim joined the U.S. Army during World War II, where he served on Liberty ships liaising with the U.S. Navy and served partly in the Philippines. He continued his service through the Korean War and was honorably discharged with the rank of captain.

Jim received an MBA from Harvard Business School and held distinguished sales and executive positions with 3M, Supervised Investors Services, and Ameritech International, among others. He ended his career in Chicago, following earlier stays in Pennsylvania, Maine, Washington, D.C., Maryland and Massachusetts.

Jim retired to a small farm in Hanover, Illinois for many years, where he was a leader in the community. A passionate conservationist, he donated much of his land to the Illinois Nature Conservancy to become part of the 1,200-acre Hanover Bluffs Complex. This land is located within the Illinois Driftless Area and is called 'Manitomie' by the Meskwaki, "the land of God."

There were three major conservation projects that Jim was involved with:

1. Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve: Jim and his neighbor to the south together sold and donated 451 acres of Mississippi River blufflands to the State of Illinois, the Department of Conservation at that time, which became the Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve. This area is particularly known for its rare loess hill prairies. A nature

preserve is Illinois' most highly protected designation for land.

2. Lewis Woods Project: Jim donated 115.5 acres to The Nature Conservancy. This was the land which connected his "upper" and "lower" farms and is adjacent to the Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve. Much of this oak woodland has recently been added to the preserve.

3. Hanover Bluffs Easements Project: Jim sold, at a bargain price, the 109 acre "lower" farm to the Northwest Illinois Prairie Enthusiasts. Now known as Hanley Savanna, after Jim's father, this land has been restored to tall grass prairie and oak savanna. With subsequent additions, Hanley Savanna is now 160 acres.

As part of this project, Jim also sold, at a bargain price, a conservation easement on his 88.9-acre "upper" farm to the Northwest Illinois Prairie Enthusiasts. This oak woodland was thereby protected in perpetuity from development. The land is privately owned and still much like it was.

Jim was an avid boater and sailor throughout his life and loved spending time on his sailboat on the upper Great Lakes. Jim, Captain, Dad, Popsie, Geep, the Great Dadoo ... we love you very much. "They that go down to the sea in ships and occupy their business in great waters; these men see the works of the Lord and His wonders in the deep." Psalm 107, 23

Jim will be buried in Chippiannock Cemetery in Rock Island, Illinois. Online condolences and tributes may be given to the family at:

www.lawjonesfuneralhome.com.

Those wishing to send a remembrance to honor Jim may send a donation to:

- Northwest Illinois Prairie Enthusiasts
- (www.nipes.org)
- 11219 E. Stockton Road, Stockton IL 61085
- Nature Conservancy (Illinois)
- (www.nature.org/Illinois)

PRAIRIE BLUFF CHAPTER

2009 in Review

An end-of-the-year task for each chapter of The Prairie Enthusiasts is to compile a summary of our annual volunteer hours. This is an opportunity to assess our performance against the organization's aims in (1) inventory and protection, (2) management and restoration, and (3) education and outreach.

First, inventory and protection - it's not easy to find new prairie sites after 35 years. All of us have driven our country roads countless times, at all seasons, searching roadsides and hillsides for those telltale signs of native

vegetation: pasque flowers in April showing up after the snowmelt, cream wild indigo in a pasture in May, or the rusty streaks of little bluestem on a fall landscape.

While deer hunting in November, a member came across a rocky patch of ground in the Town of Washington, contacted the landowner and showed him the special features of his property. During a second visit we made arrangements to remove the weeds and brush and give it a burn. It's small, less than an acre between crop fields and overgrown pasture, with dropseed, puccoon, flax-leaved aster and outcrops of St. Peter Sandstone.

Our chapter protects four sites through outright ownership. In addition, we assist with the protection of three city/school park prairies, two remnant cemetery prairies, plus various state, county or university-owned parcels.

Management and restoration workdays were held at least once a week at our prairies: Vale, Iltis, Butenhoff. We assisted Rock County Conservationists at Magnolia Bluff and Scotch Hill Cemetery, Green-Rock Audubon Society at Forest Prairie Park, and UW-Arboretum with Abraham's Woods and Oliver Prairie; and our members attended DNR workdays at both Stauffacher Prairie and Lawrence Prairie.

Our members are putting in many more hours at other projects, like Dower and York Prairies. We pulled weeds, collected seeds, and generally kept up with the chores at a couple dozen sites. We conducted 13 prescribed fires covering 89 acres, and accumulated 258 hours by 42 members and friends. We installed a new fuel pump and fuel tank in the fire truck, attended chapter and board of director meetings, and planned the 2010 annual TPE conference and banquet.

One focus for 2009 was weed management of leafy spurge, a nasty invasive that we began to treat in what will likely be a multi-year effort at three sites.

At Butenhoff Prairie we cut and treated at least a hundred cherry resprouts. At Vale Prairie it was honeysuckle, prickly ash, cherry, olive and sumac. At Iltis Savanna we started to thin out the cedars and oversee the oak openings. We took part in two rare plant monitoring efforts, both involving milkweeds.

We purchased a used 4-wheel drive pickup truck last year, which we now use as our primary fire suppression vehicle with its 150-gallon water pumper unit. We added rakes, a Pulaski, and a leaf blower (for savanna firebreaks) to our equipment inventory. Thanks to a loan from a friend/member in Lafayette County, we tested out a type of brush mower that we plan to acquire this year.

Education and outreach activities present an opportunity to share our prairie pride with the public. We led eight TPE field trips to prairies, savannas and woodlands in 2009, which were attended by nearly 200 people, mostly folks who live quite near the sites. One couple commented that they had driven past the prairie for years but had never stopped to take a look. One

educational highlight was Memorial Day at Green's Prairie Cemetery, a remembrance of the seven Civil War veterans buried in the settlers cemetery in Town of York, a deep soil acre of tallgrass prairie with about a hundred tombstones and nearly as many native grasses and forbs including wild quinine, rattlesnake master, robin's plantain, and a hybrid of compass plant and rosin weed. It was less than three weeks after the annual prescribed fire to remove old growth, and 68 visitors came to hear music and a dramatic presentation, see Civil War exhibits, and hear biographical sketches of the veterans and their families who are buried there.

We participated in an Earth Day event at the University of Wisconsin Rock County campus; and we helped with a prescribed fire at the main Blackhawk Technical College campus. We added about a dozen new chapter members. We talked about our lands and activities to a gardening club in Monroe. And we provided venues for both a high school student's senior project and a youth offender's community service. We led a cemetery tour for a state legislator who had been contacted by a veteran's group concerned with our management practices. Our Parsnip Predators continue to sell in all seasons, a revenue stream for both our chapter and the TPE general fund.

Our chapter's volunteer hours for 2009 added up to slightly less than 2,000 hours, which is approximately the equivalent of one person working 40-hour weeks for one year, less a two-week vacation. And a final SOS: we are looking for volunteers near Beloit in Rock County to help with stewardship at Briggs Wetlands.

PRAIRIE SANDS CHAPTER

Chapter Update

The Prairie Sands Chapter is partnering with the Waushara County Ice Age Trail to continue preliminary development of a small planted prairie along a portion of trail at Bohn Lake State Ice Age Trail Area. Although small, this prairie is located at a highly visible section of the 0.7 mile handicapped accessible trail segment, and an adjacent 40-acre field is also available for potential prairie restoration. DNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation management plans identify the goal of converting the existing canopy to an oak barrens setting and convert open fields to grassland prairie in support of Karner blue butterfly habitat. Chapter goals include spotted knapweed removal, additional seeding particularly of Karner blue butterfly nectaring species, and coordinating a student work group from the Almond-Bancroft school system. Work begins in spring.

PRAIRIE SMOKE CHAPTER

No information submitted

ST. CROIX VALLEY CHAPTER

Spring Burn Season Begins

If you are not already on the prescribed burn crew list, please contact Evanne immediately at 715-381-1291 or eahunt@presenter.com. Experience and training is desired but not a prerequisite. Novices will be paired up with experienced people.

Thanks to our Raffle/Auction Donors!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the auction and raffle:

Barb and Harold Bend
Carol Benish
Evanne Hunt
Wayne Huhnke
Jeannie Kant
Maple Leaf Orchard
Buck Malick
Mike Miller and Susan Goode
Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Services (MOSES)
Ed Pemberton

These members donated an excellent collection of books, a native plant gift certificate, homemade food, fused glass, pottery, bird feeders, and household decorations.

Donations

A \$300 donation to our chapter was made possible by Jon and Mette Belisle through a grant from the St. Croix Valley Foundation. The 3M Foundation has donated another \$500 to TPE in recognition of the commitment to the community and for the outstanding service of Keith Relyea and Patrick Fleming through their volunteer hours. LandCraft Seed and Services donated \$300 in services on tree and brush clearing at Alexander Prairie.

Thank You Volunteers

Chapter project hours for 2009 (692 hours) were more than double that of 2008 (304 hours)! These hours are worth approximately \$8,604 and enabled us to meet our in-kind labor match requirement for grants from the DNR. These hours represent 14 work parties (530 hours) and four prescribed burns (187 hours). Thanks to all our volunteers!

R.V. Alexander
Tori Ament
Neil Anderson
John Arthur
Andrew Baner
Barb Bend
Harold Bend
Tryston Beyrer
Kurt Blanchett
David Blatz
Isaiah Burish
Holly Cahalan
Rob Cahalan
Bobbi Christenson
Nolan Craner
Pamela Deerwood
Gina DeRosa
Patrick Fleming
Tyler Flynn
Grant Gausman
Susan Goode
Katherine Grant
Harvey Halvorsen
Heather Halvorsen
Tim Halvorson
Luke Hamann
Taylor Hanson
Dustin Hart
Judy Heberlein
Ruth Hilfiker
Wendy Hill
Bill Hogseth
Wayne Huhnke
Evanne Hunt
Chelsea Huppert
Mickey Johnson
Matt Knoll
John Koch

Carol Kojis
Jim Kojis
Jill Kramer
Colin Langan
Burt Levy
Mike Lombardi
Bob Lorenzen
Buck Malick
John McKay
Rob McManus
Dave Middleton
Mike Miller
Travis Mork
Myron Mortell
Bryce Neinmyer
Crystal Nelson
Jim Nelson
Nicole Nelson
Katie Oja
John Pedersen
Mike Perry
Mary Putzer
Bill Ramsden
Mike Ray
Keith Relyea
Keith Rodli
Bill Sauerer
Angie Sechler
Tyler Smothers
Keith Solimar
Breanna Somee
Emily Swenson
Kyle Swenson
Aaron Taylor
Andy Ulrich
Joan Ulrich
Amie Wrisky

SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Chapter Meetings

Sunday, March 21st, Jeff Huebschman's barn in Fennimore

UW Platteville Students Recognized

By Rose Sime

It was with great delight that the Southwest Chapter recognized the Reclamation Club from UW Platteville for their devotion to and assistance in maintaining native prairies in Southwest Wisconsin. For the past two years many students from the club have come out to Eldred Prairie and Borah Creek Prairie to help with cutting and burning brush and trees, fencing, seed collecting and invasive species management. Three students were in attendance to receive the recognition.

In addition, the SW Volunteer of the Year was presented to Tiffany Thompson, the former president of the Reclamation Club, who skillfully encouraged so many of the club members to give time from their busy lives to get out on the prairie. We are most grateful to Tiffany and the Club for their hard work!



Hillside With Rattlesnake-master and Young Blazing Star *by Steve Hubner. See article on page 6.*



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The following people have joined TPE in the period December 3, 2009 – February 28, 2010.

Stan Balducci, Mechanicsville, VA
Carol Bendorf, Stitzer, WI
Nathan Bubenzer, Madison, WI
Nancy Gloe, Brookfield, WI
Tim Goplin, Blue Mounds, WI
Carol Hardin, Hudson, WI
Dale Heusinkveld, Preston, MN
Jean Hoffman, Somerset, WI
Duane & Barb Johnson, Joliet, IL
Nicole Johnson, LaCrosse, WI

Jason Leigh, Rochester, MN
Pamela Maher, Eau Claire, WI
Brent Marxhausen, Lanesboro, MN
Mike Perry, Ellsworth, WI
Steven Ressler & Debra Ryun, Balsam Lake, WI
Dale & Suzanne Rohlfing, Rochester, MN
Mary Viereg, Wheaton, IL
Kenneth & Beverly Waller, Durand, IL
Ruth Yarborough, Madison, WI

2009 ANNUAL APPEAL

Thank you for supporting the 2009 Annual Appeal. Together we raised \$29,493 from 240 members. These gifts above and beyond your membership dues are truly generous and appreciated. We wish to gratefully acknowledge the donors to the Annual Appeal for the period December 3, 2009-February 28, 2010:

Craig & Jean Anderson, *in honor of Beck Anderson, the future generation*

Vance Baker

Julia Bathon, *in honor of Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help*

Dale Beske & Dorothy Gertsch

Sally Bowers & Howard Fenton

John Brennan & Regina Voss Brennan

Robert Canter & Colleen Reinke

Kathryn Cartwright

Curtis & Kristine Cvikota

William Damm

Jeanne Eloranta

Nick & Linda Faessler

Patricia Fahrenkrug & Mike Anderson

Paul Francuch

GINNY Gaynor

Bob & Jackie Geimer

Nathan Gingerich

Barbara & Brad Glass

Steve Glass

Andrew Gulya

David Gunnulson

Doug Hansmann & Denise Thornton

Connie Hardacre

Dick & Joan Harmet

Rich & Kathy Henderson

Jeff & Erin Huebschman

Evanne Hunt

Ron Johnson

George & Carmeen Johnston

Jan Ketelle

Richard & Sally Keyel

Inger Lamb

Kathryn Lammers

Judith & John Lovaas

Kevin Magee, *in memory of Susan Connell-Magee*

Craig Maier

Greta & John McGill

Buck Malick

Bruce & Ruth Marion

Johnny Micheel

Earl Muhlbauer

Mike Miller & Susan Goode

Gerd Muehlechner

Don & Carol Nelson

Laura & Greg Nessler

Pat Nyberg

Richard & Victoria Oberle

Bill & Carol J. Owens

Stan Oxenreider

Dennis Presser

Bill Ramsden & Doreen Lynch

Paul & Linda Rode

Bob Russell, *in memory of Julienne Simpson*

Irv Sather

Larry & Gisela Severeid

Rob & Barb Stanley, *in honor of Richard & Victoria Oberle*

Bob Stodola

Elaine Strassburg

Denise Sullivan

William & Nancy Tans

Glenn Teschendorf & Mary Anne Derheimer

Peter Thomford

Olive Thomson, *in honor of Richard & Kathy Henderson*

Marilyn & Marc Thwaites, *in memory of John Thomson; in honor of Rich Henderson*

Bobette Traul, *in memory of Don G. Traul, M.D.*

Peter Van Beek

Steve Ventura & Margaret Krome

Robert Weihrouch & Pattie Haack, *in memory of Walter T. Weihrouch*
Charles Wellington
Paula West Kaplan

Jonathon Wilde
Roger Williams
Paul & Kathi Woods
Meagan Yost

JOHN THOMSON MEMORIAL FUND

At the February 26, 2010 TPE Board of Directors meeting, the board established an endowment in memory of Dr. John Thomson (see John Thomson Memorial Fund to Support Interns article on page 4). To date \$3,760 in donations have been received. Donors to this fund during the period December 3, 2009-February 28, 2010 are:

Edward & Kathleen Glover, *in memory of John Thomson*
Mound View Garden Club
Dennis & Joan Thomson, *in memory of John Thomson*

Sara Weiss, *in honor of Olive Thomson and in memory of John Thomson*

BORAH CREEK MAINTENANCE

Continued response to the special appeal for donations for Borah Creek restoration and maintenance total \$6,215.00 as of February 28, 2010. The donors for the period December 3, 2009 through February 28, 2010 are:

Jeff & Erin Huebschman
James & Rumi O'Brien

Peter Thomford

THANK YOU, DONORS!

We thank everyone who made a donation to The Prairie Enthusiasts this winter (December 3, 2009-February 28, 2010). These gifts above and beyond membership dues are truly generous and appreciated.

\$1000 - \$5000

Xcel Energy
Hugh Iltis & Sharyn Wisniewski, *Land Management in Green County*
Inger Lamb, *Pioneer Matching Gift Program*

\$500-\$999

Scott Sauer

\$100 - \$499

Jon & Metta Belisle
Patrick & Madeleine Fleming
William Hogseth & Crystal Halvorson
Jan Ketelle
Phil Kohlmetz, *in honor of Olive Thomson; in memory of John Thomson; in honor of Dale Kohlmetz & Brittany Hummel*
Roma Lenehan, *in honor of Tom & Kathie Brock*

Ron Martin, *in honor of Gary Birch, Karla Leithoff & Mike Grisar/Tim Muehlfeld*
Harold & Shirley Miller
Alice Sieczkowski
Dennis & Joan Thomson, *in memory of Aldro M. Johnson*
Michael Vahldieck & Julie Horner
Daniel Wallace, *in memory of Rudolph Kussmaul*
Neil & Ellen Wenberg

THANK YOU, DONORS!

Anonymous
Richard BJORLO
Brian & Jill Cipra
Diane Derouen & Glenn Chambliss
Jim Elleson
Peter Fox & Nikki Sveum
Ned & Carol Gatzke
Tom Gianoli
Timothy & Susan Gossman
Russell Hefty

Barbara Huberty
Bethany Hummel
Maynard & Kris Johnson
Paula Jamrock, *in honor of Dale Kohlmetz & Brittany Hummel*
Jack & Barbara Kohlmetz, *in honor of Dale Kohlmetz & Brittany Hummel*
Mike Kraszewski
Brent Marxhausen
Mike McGrath & Steph Jakim

Tom Niemiec
Jim Peterson
Louis & Bonnie Pody
Dale & Suzanne Rohlfing
Marvin Rupp
Mike & Roxanne Schlasner
Dani Stolley
Pat & Glenn Tabor
Steve Wagner

“2010 Conference and Banquet” cont. from page 1

Many people worked hard to make this conference a success, especially the Prairie Bluff conference committee: Tom Mitchell, Jenny Mitchell, Mindy Rienstra, Nick Faessler and Jean Blum; and Carol Winge, TPE business manager.

Additional volunteers for the day included Rob Baller, Jean Blum, Peg Bredesen, Pat Daniels, Sonja Darlington, Fred Faessler, Linda Faessler, Dorothy Gessert, Aaron Kubichka, Richard Oberle, Victoria Oberle, John Ochsner and Chris Roberts.

A special thank you to the Silent Auction/Raffle Chair, Carol Benish, and the chapter coordinators: Jessica Bolwahn, Coulee; Peter Thomford, Empire-Sauk; Ed Strenski, NIPE; Mindy Rienstra, Prairie Bluff; Shelley Hamel, Prairie Sands; Merel Black, Southwest; and Carol Benish, St. Croix Valley.

Our sponsors also helped make this event possible. We gratefully acknowledge our Partner Level sponsors Driftless Land Stewardship and Xcel Energy; our Friends Level sponsors Biologic Environmental Consulting, Integrated Restorations and the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Additional support came from Advantage Copying & Printing, Blackhawk Technical College (Monroe campus) and Radio Shack. Table centerpieces for the banquet were made and donated by John Ochsner.

“Tools and Techniques” continued from page 8

Some years ago, a mutual friend introduced my wife and me to Mehmet and Melike Ekizoglu. Mehmet was here at the behest of the Turkish government, for whom he works, to study at the University of Illinois for two years. Both Mehmet and our mutual friend were hunters in Turkey.

Over their two summers here we had the Ekizoglu's as guests at our farm several times. Mehmet was intrigued with our attempts to return the land to its pre-settlement condition, i.e., before the plow and the cow. In Champaign, he joined the Pheasants Forever and wrote articles for them. He and our mutual friend are regular contributors to a Turkish hunting magazine, so this was not a new venture for him.

At Mehmet's suggestion, I began writing a series of teaching articles for his magazine, outlining what we were attempting to do on our farm. I have written six so far, covering all aspects of the restoration process. All I can read of my articles is my byline, as the magazine is printed in Turkish; but, the pictures are pretty.

When Mehmet returned to Turkey, he took the ideas he had gotten here back with him. He contacted other hunters and, with his contacts within the government, acquired control of a large tract of government land and raised money to start restoration there. Deforestation has been a major problem there, and grazing by goats ensures that no tree has a chance.

Later, he turned his attention to the river that runs through his home village. He has since attended riverine conferences in Amsterdam and Bulgaria to learn how to deal with this river's problems.

His latest venture is a web site affiliated with the National Wildlife Federation. You can access it at:

http://www.nwf.org/conservationDirectory/group_detail.cfm?orgid=12939

None of this would have happened if I had not had that chance encounter with Gary Eldred, representing you, The Prairie Enthusiasts.

REMEMBRANCE DAY DONATION FORM



The Prairie Enthusiasts Endowment and Fundraising Committee

1st Annual Remembrance Day

Thursday, April 22, 2010

(Held in Conjunction with Earth Day)

The Prairie Enthusiasts Endowment and Fundraising Committee invite you to participate in our first annual “Remembrance Day” Celebration to be held on Thursday, April 22, 2010 in conjunction with Earth Day. While we know that donations are always received from our members and friends, we want to designate one day a year, *Earth Day*, as a day when we commemorate our loved ones or significant moments in our lives through a donation to TPE. One of our favorite comfort messages when one has lost a loved one is, “*When someone you treasure becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure.*” In that spirit, we proclaim Thursday, April 22, 2010 **Remembrance Day** and invite you to give a donation to the Prairie Enthusiasts in memory of any loved one lost or an event to be honored and remembered such as an anniversary, birthday or significant event. What better way to acknowledge significant people and events meaningful to you than by giving a donation to TPE on Earth Day, a day focusing on improving our environment.

At our 2011 Annual Banquet all donations received designating Remembrance Day will be recognized during a brief program. At the program, the name of every person or event remembered will be read.

1ST ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE DAY DONATION

Please fill out the information below and return it together with your donation to TPE, PO Box 1148, Madison, WI 53701. Gifts in any amount are appropriate and will be greatly appreciated. Be sure to designate the gift as your “Remembrance Day” donation.

Gift Amount: \$ _____

In Memory or Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Address: _____

Please **PRINT** all information carefully.

If there is a special memory about this person or event that you would like included in the reading of names please include a separate note with that information. Please keep the information brief.

**The Prairie Enthusiasts
PO BOX 1148
MADISON WI 53701**

www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Dodgeville, WI Permit No. 133
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Please note your membership renewal date is printed above your address. If you feel the renewal date is in error, help us keep our records accurate by emailing Victoria Oberle, membership coordinator at TPE@theprairieenthusiasts.org. Thank you.

If your membership has expired, tear off this back page, note changes below, and send in your check today!

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____

The Prairie Enthusiasts Membership Levels:

\$100 Shooting Star (recommended level)
\$5,000 Bur Oak Benefactor, \$1,000 Monarch, \$500 Compass Plant, \$200 Blazing Star
\$40 Family, \$25 Individual, \$15 Student

Please send form and check to:

The Prairie Enthusiasts, P.O. Box 1148, Madison, WI 53701-1148