



# The Prairie Enthusiasts

## “*Conservation in a Working Landscape*”

### Annual Prairie Conference and All-Chapter Banquet

Saturday, February 26, 2011

UW-Platteville Campus, Ullsvik Hall, Platteville, WI

**Co-Hosted by the Southwest Chapter of TPE and Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited!**

The theme for this year’s conference and banquet is “*Conservation in a Working Landscape.*” The conference will feature general session speakers as well as concurrent sessions on a variety of topics that illustrate that conservation and restoration of prairie ecosystems occurs within working landscapes. **The conference will open with a general session featuring Dr. Curt Meine, Senior Fellow with the Aldo Leopold Foundation and author of, “Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work”.** Leopold’s “Land Ethic” is as relevant today as when he first wrote it over a half-century ago and it is therefore fitting that one of the most authoritative biographer’s of Aldo Leopold will lead our opening session, given this year’s conference theme.

From stream restoration projects and landowner sentiments on prairie chicken conservation to prairies and property taxes, biodiversity, and new (or old?) uses for goats, we hope this year’s concurrent sessions will have something for every enthusiast. Back again this year is the **raffle and silent auction**, important sources of funding for our chapters. There will be ample time to see and catch up with old and new friends during informal meetings throughout the day, a **social mixer**, and the **annual TPE all-chapter Banquet**.

**Our conference will conclude with a general session address from Gary Zimmer, President of Midwestern Bio-Ag.** Agricultural lands now largely occupy the historic range of prairies and now the conservation and restoration of prairie ecosystems occurs within these working landscapes. Gary Zimmer has been an invited speaker throughout the country (as well as internationally) on “bio-logical” agriculture and he’ll present his thoughts on best farming practices that stress working with nature, not against it.

**We are pleased to announce our banquet speaker, Michael Forsberg, noted conservation photographer.** Mike’s images, which focus largely on North America’s grassland ecosystems, have appeared in such publications as *Audubon*, *National Geographic*, *National Wildlife*, and *Natural History*. Mike has received the Conservation Education Award from The Wildlife Society and was also the recipient of the North American Nature Photographer’s Association Mission Award in 2009. Mike recently published the beautiful book, *Great Plains: America’s Lingerin Wild*. Mike and his family live in Nebraska. To see examples of Mike’s work, visit his website at: [www.michaelforsberg.com](http://www.michaelforsberg.com). In short, Mike’s presentation is sure to be visually stunning!

#### **TPE Photo Contest**

Finalists from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual TPE Photo Contest will be on display during the conference. Attendees will vote for their favorite photo and the winner will be used for the cover of the next annual report. Full details and contest rules are available on our website, [www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org](http://www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org).

#### **Raffle and Auction Notes**

Once again attendees can participate in the annual Raffle and Silent Auction. This is a fundraiser for our Chapters. Raffle and auction items are available all day.

#### **Vendor and Chapter Displays**

Vendor and Chapter displays will be open all day.

#### **TPE Sales Items**

TPE will have a sales table offering tote bags, t-shirts, hats, books, our ever-popular Parsnip Predator, and other items. Buy on site and save the shipping and handling charge!