

# The PRAIRIE PROMOTER

VOL 24, NO. 4 WINTER 2011

*Grassroots Conservation at Work*

## Unimin Corporation, Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota, Many Rivers Chapter Restore Habitat for Pollinators

By Scott Seigfreid

At one time, native prairies dotted the landscape of the Minnesota River Basin, providing ideal habitat for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators. The Many Rivers Chapter of The Prairie Enthusiasts, MN DNR Division of Wildlife, with coordinating support from Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota (CMM) and Unimin Corporation (UC) have teamed up to replace 8.5 acres of highly diverse native wildflowers and grasses to create quality habitat and forage for local pollinators.

### Why Pollinators?

Bees, butterflies and other animals pollinate more than two-thirds of the world's crop species. The Xerces Society reports



*Photo courtesy of Scott Seigfreid*

*(l to r) Brooke Hacker (Conservation Marketplace Minnesota), Doug Losee (Environmental Affairs, Unimin), Grey Lusty (Plant Manager, Unimin), Many Rivers Chapter members: Jim Vonderharr, Randy Schindle and Henry Panowitsch on the Vonderharr site.*

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that more than one-third of managed honey bee colonies have died in the last three years and some native bumblebee species are on the brink of extinction. The cause may be from a combination of pesticides, parasites, viruses, land use alterations and / or climate change. Providing good quality habitat is a good, straightforward way to attract and increase native populations, as well as benefit managed honeybees. Highly-diverse native plantings with blooming wildflowers during the entire growing season, in addition to insecticide-free buffers, are vital to enhance pollinator habitat.

### Background

Conservation professionals from CMM, via a grant-funded project of the Minnesota River Board, have been working with local partners, such as the Many Rivers Chapter of TPE, to identify and partner with landowners who are willing

*See MRC on page 3*

## TPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## President's Message

JACK KUSSMAUL

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Northwest Illinois 815.947.2287	Rickie Rachuy rr.lonetree@frontier.net
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SW Wisconsin 608.794.2724	Jesse Bennett jesse@driftlesslandstewardship.com
The Prairie Promoter Editor	Dana Bolwerk editor@theprairieenthusiasts.org

In October, I had the opportunity to spend three days at the Land Trust Alliance Rally in Milwaukee. This is the annual conference held by the Land Trust Alliance, the national umbrella group that provides support for land trusts across the country. The fact that the national conference was held in Milwaukee this year made it easy to attend. Two other TPE directors, Evanne Hunt and Tori Graham, were also in attendance.

We spent the three days attending programs on subjects such as preparing for accreditation, leadership practices and strategic planning. I had the opportunity to chat and compare notes with land trust leaders from as far away as Alaska and Hawaii in the west, to Nova Scotia in the east. There was an incredible energy having 1,100 land trust leaders gathered in one place to share war stories and tales of what has worked for them and what has not. The speakers were informative and inspiring. I returned with a pile of notes and lots of good intentions, some of which I may actually follow through on.

On a lighter note, I was staying at a hotel that housed not only Rally attendees, but also a Fred Astaire Dance Contest. It was not difficult, in the lobby, to tell which people were the land trust people and which were the Fred Astaire people. The land trust people were not the ones attired in sequins or elegant black coats with long tails.

At the general sessions and dinners, awards were given. Evanne and I were seated together when an award was presented to a woman from the San Francisco Bay area. She was recognized as a great fundraiser, having led a drive that raised \$320,000,000 for a Bay Area conservancy. Evanne observed that we don't really want \$320,000,000. (I am not sure, but this may have just been sour grapes). Representatives from all the land trusts that have achieved accreditation were brought onto the stage. I was envious and hope that someday TPE may be among that select group.

Accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission means that the land trust has met the highest standards of fiscal management, governance, sustainability and land protection. To date, only one land trust in Wisconsin, out of about 60 in existence, has achieved this. Others are preparing and have applied. We, at TPE, are working hard on policies and procedures that will help us reach the required standard. I hope that someday a representative of our organization will be present at the National Rally and be called to the stage in recognition of having achieved this honor. For this, I would gladly travel to a Rally wherever it might be held.

*TPE 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. The Prairie Promoter is a quarterly publication of The Prairie Enthusiasts. No part of this periodical may be reproduced without permission. We welcome articles, announcements, artwork and photographs relevant to prairie and savanna ecosystems. Mail or e-mail submissions to local chapter editorial volunteers or to The Prairie Promoter editor. Copy any text into the body of the e-mail. 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 March 2 (Spring issue); May 18 (Summer issue); Aug. 17 (Fall issue); and Nov. 16 (Winter issue). If you would like to receive electronic notification of the newsletter, please e-mail Victoria Oberle at TPE@theprairieenthusiasts.org.*

# TPE Conference Looking for Poster Presentations

By Kathy Stahl

There is something new coming to February's TPE Conference. In addition to the many experienced and knowledgeable speakers at the conference, attendees are being invited to submit an abstract for the poster presentation. The posters will exhibit prairie- and savanna-related research, restoration and/or management projects from around the Midwest region.

Possible topics include but are not limited to the following:

- Case studies for restoration or rehabilitation of prairie and savanna
- Remnant vs. restored prairie and savanna
- Landscape and habitat needs for prairie and savanna wildlife
- The role of fire in Midwestern natural communities
- Assessing and planning for prairie and savanna conservation
- Protecting and managing prairie and savanna
- Controlling and managing the spread of invasive species
- Significance of prairie and savanna systems in the Upper Midwest
- The educational, aesthetic, and other values provided by prairie and savanna
- Ecosystems services provided by prairie and savanna
- Basic research in prairie and savanna ecology or species

Posters will be displayed for the whole day of the conference (Feb. 25, 2012). The authors of the posters will be available during the late afternoon social hour to discuss their work with conference participants.

To be considered for the poster presentation, send an abstract of no more than 250 words to Amanda Little, [littlea@uwstout.edu](mailto:littlea@uwstout.edu), by midnight on Friday, Dec. 30, 2011. Abstract authors will be notified of acceptance to the conference poster exhibit by Jan. 15, 2011. The posters are to be a maximum of 46" x 46" per poster. For the abstract submission, please include the following information:

Author Name(s):

Affiliation(s) (if more than one institution, please indicate institutions using superscripts on authors' names):

Primary presenter:

Primary presenter e-mail address:

Presentation title:

Presentation abstract (250 word limit):

Contact Amanda Little at [littlea@uwstout.edu](mailto:littlea@uwstout.edu) or 715.232.1148, if you have any questions about the abstract submission or the poster presentation.

Winter 2011

## MRC

*continued from page 1*

to establish and maintain new, high-quality pollinator habitat on their land. Once priority, shovel-ready projects have been identified, CMM connects sponsoring corporations or foundations in Minnesota with the project. Guidance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Xerces Society help develop native habitat for pollinators. The sites must be at least one-half acre in size and be maintained for a minimum of five years.

### Proposed Project Details

The site, which is owned by Many Rivers Chapter members Jim & Kathryn Vonderharr, is located just north of Mankato, Minn., in the Kasota Prairie area. The site was selected for the fact that the entire area was once Tallgrass prairie; remnants remain on the Vonderharr site, which made it an optimal location to establish pollinator habitat. The Vonderharrs maintain two beehives on their rural property, located on a bluff above the Minnesota River Valley on the northern border of Blue Earth County. An inventory of the site was taken last fall and the area with the largest concentrations of native plants was flagged. A spring burn was conducted and two applications of Glyphosate were applied through the summer. A fall burn was conducted to remove trash from the site in prep for a fall dormant seeding.

The Many Rivers Chapter collected local ecotype seed from the surrounding area to enhance the purchased seed package. A total of 37 species of forbs and 10 species of grasses were seeded by the MN DNR on Nov. 2. This will make for a very diverse prairie and ideal pollinator habitat.

Contributors to the project will be acknowledged in a brief documentary to be produced next year by two film production interns from Minnesota State University. The mini documentary will be part of a larger effort to promote CMM. Also, the project story and photos from the site will be distributed to the local press. On the day of the MN DNR seeding, Unimin Corporation Area Manager Grey Lusty, and Unimin Environmental Affairs Manager Doug Losee were on-hand to view the site prep and seeding process.

The Many Rivers Chapter hopes to have more cooperative projects in the future with Unimin Corporation and also the CMM, and will continue to assist the Vonderharrs with maintenance and follow-up spot spraying on their new planting.



*Photo courtesy of Scott Seigfreid  
Many Rivers Chapter member  
Randy Schindle (MN DNR)  
seeding with a Viccon seeder.*

# Member Profile: Jim “Flapper” Lynch, Many Rivers Chapter

By Randy Schindle

It always amazes me the diverse group of people who are part of the Many Rivers Prairie Enthusiasts Chapter. Our members run the gamut from farmers to college professors, liberals to conservatives, and just about any other group in which you can place people.

Jim “Flapper” Lynch was difficult for me to categorize at first.

I often classify people into such groups as, “I couldn’t ride 50 miles in a car with them” and other categories – some flattering and some ... well, not so. After meeting Jim “Flapper” Lynch, I had to create a new category: “People who make me giggle at inappropriate times and places.” If you choose



Jim “Flapper” Lynch

to view Jim’s website, you may find out why I had to create a new list.

Nobody knows where Jim got the nickname Flapper, but it was long before he became proficient with a fire swatter. Jim is a talented engraver and a former member of the popular Mankato, MN area band, The East Side Pharaohs. There is speculation that there may have been a hippy phase in his former life.

Jim was well into his prairie restoration efforts before I met him. Despite his attempts to buy out all of the local supply of thistle control herbicides and extinguishing an escaped fire from a prairie burn vendor, he has remained undaunted.

Jim has plans to convert another piece of his homestead to a native planting. As we were discussing his new project, he uttered the words that many of us have said as the prairie addiction takes hold, “Stop the madness!”

If you are into subtle humor and interested in a narrative of his prairie establishment efforts, visit Jim’s website at <http://www.hickorytech.net/~flapper/index.html>. I strongly suggest the Mark Trail and the Dettmer Museum of Engraving sites for a chuckle or two.

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## Seed collecting extravaganza 2011!

By Tom and Kathie Brock

For the past five years, we have been running an all-day seed collecting “party” at Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie and Pleasant Valley Conservancy (both State Natural Areas). This popular volunteer activity is held the second Sunday of October, which is a time when a lot of plant species are ready to collect. We start in the morning at Pleasant Valley Conservancy, serve lunch at our cabin, and then move to Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie for the afternoon. The success depends somewhat on weather (one year when it rained, we had only eight participants). This year, the weather was especially fine and we had 19 people in the morning and 21 in the afternoon. In addition to a lot of our “regular” volunteers, we had eight UW-Madison students from the Wildlife Ecology club. Thanks to them and to all who helped!

We collected 18 species of seeds at Pleasant Valley and 17 species at Black Earth Rettenmund. Species that were especially prolific this year included: Round-Headed Bush Clover, Rattlesnake Master, Cream Gentian, Yellow Coneflower, Indian Grass, Lousewort, Blue Vervain, Boneset, Kuhnia, Prairie Thimbleweed and Rose Hips. A few less common species we collected were Sweet Indian Plantain, Great St. John’s Wort, Green Milkweed, Wood Lily, Upland Boneset (*Eupatorium sessilifolium*), and Dwarf Liatris.

The seeds were all dried in our barn and then cleaned carefully by our Savanna Oak Foundation crew (Amanda, Marci, and Susan). They will now be combined with other seeds collected this year to make seed mixes for planting into various areas, ranging from dry prairie to mesic areas, wet marsh edges to forests and oak savannas. This year, most of the seeds will go into a large number of fairly small areas at either Black Earth Rettenmund or Pleasant Valley, where we have been applying herbicide to eradicate invasives, such as Sumac, Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Woodland Sunflower and the like. The new seeds will hopefully fill the void or replace the invasives.

For a complete species list, see the post at Tom’s Blog: <http://pvcblog.blogspot.com/2011/10/seed-collecting-popular-activity.html>.



Indian Grass

# NIPE Restoration Efforts Growing - in Acres and Memberships

*By John Day*

*Article was originally submitted to the Freeport Journal Standard in Freeport, Ill.*

Take a ride down any of the dusty back roads in northwest Illinois and you'll find prairies tucked between the seemingly endless broad expanse of cornfields. Crossing the countryside on a somewhat unfamiliar road, you will occasionally see a vast prairie that spreads itself across the horizon. Few, if any, of the prairies you will come across were here 20 years ago, outside of the rare prairie remnant. Illinois is called the "Prairie State," yet there remain only about 1 percent of its once magnificent tall grass prairies

But, here in northwest Illinois, there is a small, but dedicated, group that has adopted as its mission the restoration and reclamation of prairie and savanna lands. That group is the Northwest Illinois Prairie Enthusiasts, otherwise known as NIPE, and we have been involved in the planting and restoration of the many prairies – small or large – that you may stumble upon as you wander through our area.

What has driven the members of NIPE to become part of such an undertaking?

As less and less land remains in its natural state, the number of native plants that can be found diminishes rapidly. As native plants and grasses decrease, so do populations of song birds; frogs and other amphibians begin to disappear, as well. Mammals like the Bushy Tail Weasel become endangered. The need for the restoration of prairie lands has become imperative if we expect to see a world around us that is filled with indigenous plants, animals, birds and all other forms of wildlife.

Many of the prairies you find in this area were planted by NIPE. We have also provided the seed for others to plant on lands both private and public, as the effort to re-introduce native plant species to our area becomes more essential in land restoration projects.

In the past, with few prairie remnants having been available as a source for seeds, we found and harvested native plants along the sides of country roads. They were in patches and clumps, somehow surviving in grazing pastures or on the edges of crop fields. All the seeds would ultimately be planted in small restorations, grow and spread into larger prairies and become a seed source for our restoration projects.

And, when all of the work is done, we stand on the edge of the prairie and see land that is once again whole. Native prairie as it was 10,000 years ago soon after the great glacier melted; looking as pristine as it did when the first Europeans arrived.

For all of us who love the prairie, it is the simple pleasure of watching bees hover back and forth between the Lavender Bee Balm and pale Purple Cone Flowers. Seeing Red Wing Blackbirds sit atop seven-foot-tall compass plants and watching swallows take wing over the prairie, performing aerial acrobatics, much like fighter pilots, as they pursue

the bugs that skim over the tops of native plants. We take pleasure in seeing the dragonfly skirt over the low wet spots of the prairie or when we find the hatchlings in the bluebird boxes we mount on posts along the firebreaks that surround the prairie.

Over the years, the work done by NIPE has grown from a few dedicated people helping one another to restore native plantings on small, privately-owned properties, to a major restoration project at Lost Mound in what was once the Savanna Army Depot. We have provided large quantities of prairie seed for the Jo Davies Conservation Foundation projects at Caspar Mounds and Wapello in Hanover and also assisted private landowners with large restoration projects throughout the area. We have developed a seeding package that is ideal for attracting bees to the meadow or pastures.

NIPE has restored, owns and manages a massive prairie at Hanley-Savanna that spreads across more than 200 acres. Here, you can find the Meadowlark, Bluebirds, Bobolink, King Snake and the Blue Racer. The Bald Eagle is often seen soaring overhead and there is the infrequent sighting of the Red Fox.

Most importantly, the prairies we have re-established have become a major source of seed for new restoration projects throughout the area. We're just as happy to help with a small backyard prairie garden as we are restoring a prairie tens of acres of land. Even now, in the midst of the autumn burn season, we look back on a great year filled with numerous achievements. We also look forward to next year when we'll be back on the prairie again.

This has been an aide memoir for all of us who love the prairie and the natural world. We take the time here to thank all of our members, volunteers and supporters. Here's hoping that sometime soon we'll see you on the prairie.



*Photo courtesy of Kathy Henderson*

*NIPE Seed Collecting*

# Calling All Photographers!

## *Third annual TPE photo contest underway*

TPE members are encouraged to submit photos for TPE third annual photo contest, in conjunction with our Annual Conference.

Images can portray all things prairie, so be creative! Subject matter may include anything that includes plants, animals, insects or amphibians that are native to prairie areas or, activities that are taking place on a prairie.

Photos may be submitted to Scott Seigfreid at manyriverschapter@gmail.com. Full details will be available on the TPE website by Jan. 1, 2012. A few details to keep in mind:

- All photos will need to be submitted in digital format. Maximum three entries per member.
- A finalist group of submitted photos will be selected by a professional photographer. The finalists will be displayed at the TPE annual conference on Feb. 25, 2012 where members will vote for their favorite. The winning photo will be used on the cover of the 2011 TPE Annual Report.
- All photographers who have a photo selected as a finalist image will receive \$100 and a fine print suitable for framing.
- Copyright remains with the photographer.

Submittal deadline is Feb.1, 2012. You must be a TPE member to participate.

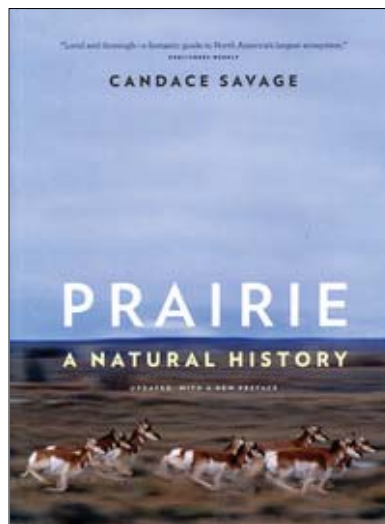


*The 2011 winning photo was "Prairie Dropseed in Autumn," by Gary Shackelford. It was taken in Kohler, Wisc.*

## Book Reviews

### *Two TPE members share their recommended winter reading*

*Submitted by Evanne Hunt*



### **“Prairie: A Natural History”**

*by Candace Savage*

I loved this book! “Prairie” is not just a book for the poet, but also for those who appreciate a more technical explanation.

I expected a history of the prairies, from their formation by glaciers, to discovery by early explorers, but I did not expect

the details of each glacial age. Savage describes the plants and animals present in each age and weaves early American Indian stories into the narrative; for example, how Bear Butte in Montana came to be.

The chapter on grasses was especially eye-opening. Savage describes grasses "as partially nocturnal; they do most of their growing at night or in the early hours of the morning." The stomata (tiny, mouth-shaped valves on the leaves) close in the blazing heat of the day to conserve water and absorb solar energy. At night, they open to release water vapor and breath in carbon dioxide. The energy stored during the day combines with the carbon dioxide to manufacture the sugars it needs to grow. Amazing adaptation!

Savage brings the same amazing detail to the chapters on prairie insects: the recently extinct Rocky Mountain locust, whose swarms could rise to 10,000 feet; and the specialization of the black-and-yellow bumblebee (*Bombus nevadensis*), which feeds exclusively on wild bergamot.

I especially loved learning details about some common fish, birds or mammals. Badgers and coyotes have been observed teaming up to catch ground squirrels when food is scarce: "As the badger pursues its prey by burrowing underground, a coyote stands guard up top, ready to pounce on any rodent that makes a run for it."

# Prairie Notes from the Pioneers

## *Personal accounts of 19th century Green County*

Submitted by Tom Mitchell

\*The following passages that mention prairies and fires were found in the two earliest histories of Green County, Wisconsin. More excerpts can be found at:  
<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/WI.HistGreen1884>.

### **“History of Green County, Wisconsin,”**

by Helen M. Bingham, 1877

*"Mr. Jonas Shook remembers seeing an Indian burying ground north of Dayton in 1837, and in '41 Messrs. John B. Perry and brother, Thos. Gillett, and others opened some mounds on 'lost prairie,' a little east of the village of Exeter, and found bones that it seemed to them must have belonged to a race of giants. The mounds were in two rows, one row on each side of the opening or prairie, with twenty-five mounds in one row and twenty-six in the other."*

*"Many more came in 1845 than had come before, and the work of breaking prairie was carried on with such energy that the decaying vegetation on the overturned sod produced malarial fever. In some neighborhoods, almost every person was sick, and some died who might have recovered under proper care. Men sometimes went both to Monroe and to Exeter for a physician, and were unable to get one in either place.... One man, who as a physician, was never heard of in Decatur after the summer and fall of 1846, made between two and three thousand dollars by his practice along the Sugar River at that time."*

*"The most striking peculiarities of the surface in (Mt. Pleasant) are the mounds bordering 'long hollow, a long valley which extends from Mt. Pleasant far into Washington."*

*"It is believed that the only natural cranberry marsh in southern Wisconsin is in Jordan. It is not large, but since its discovery, cranberry vines have appeared spontaneously in several other places in the town, and there is little doubt that the culture of cranberries in Jordan might be made, and will sometime, be made profitable."*

*"The first settlers of Green County never tired of extolling the beauty of its prairies. Sometimes, when they watched the play of the sunlight on the long grassy billows before them, something of its brightness entered their own hopes; and, with unusual confidence in the world's progress, they remarked to each other, sometime, though it won't be in our day, these prairies will all be in farms."*

*"The colony (New Glarus) numbered at that time (1846) 125 persons. There were twenty houses, of which thirteen were*

*in the village. One hundred and nine acres had been broken, seven hundred bushels of corn and "more than enough potatoes" had been raised. The livestock owned by individuals consisted of two horses, ninety-seven head of cattle, including 18 oxen, one hundred and ninety-one pigs, and nine sheep. Fowls were still owned in common. A few orchards had been set out. A few garden vegetables, 'as peas, chicory, cabbages, and tobacco, also pumpkins were planted by way of trial.' Fortunately, the experiment succeeded; especially in peas and pumpkins. The ground was thought too new for wheat, and there was complaint that the potatoes were not so good as in Switzerland. There were as yet but few fences, and the crops were much injured by the swine as well as by field mice. The prairie fires destroyed hay stacks and fences, and some of the colonists lost their hair in saving their hay-covered houses.*

*Published extracts from Mr. Steiff's letters show that the people were well, but on account of the hard work they had done, very ragged; also that there was a general desire for a minister and a school."*

*"In 1841 (in Jefferson) a school house was built on Mr. Rittenhouse's farm. Mr. Chadwick, fearing his children might lose their way on the prairie, ran a furrow from his house to the school house with his breaking plow, which was drawn by five yoke of oxen and which made a furrow twenty inches wide. On this furrow the children walked until the snakes, pleased with the soft ground, took up their abode there, and then they walked in the high grass by its side."*

### **“History of Green County, Wisconsin,”**

Union Publishing Company, 1884, primarily written by C.W. Butterfield and edited by George A. Ogle.

*"The entire county is rolling or undulating, and fully one-half is covered with timber, which ... is mostly openings, that were originally very beautiful and valued as choice farming lands. In the northwestern part, the surface is broken; and this is the roughest portion of the county.*

*In the central, western, northern, eastern, and south-eastern parts extensive prairies exist. Originally the southwestern part of the county was covered with heavy forests, abounding in black walnut, oak, maple, basswood and ash of the choicest quality for manufacturing purposes.... Nearly all the timber found in other parts of the county is burr oak and only useful for fuel."*

*"One of the great advantages of Green County is the extent and distribution of timber – timber and prairie, prairie and timber, everywhere."*

# Jewels of Autumn

## *Prairies close out the calendar year with a few surprises*

By Scott Seigfreid

As we enter into the time of the year when we watch the life of the prairie fade into the hues of fall, there is a little secret that the prairie has in store for those who search out her treasure. Many of us are frequent visitors to the prairie during the growing season when the majority of the forbs bloom; after that ends, the visitors slow down.

To most, it is a mere field of grass. To those of us that understand what makes up that mere field of grass with its complexity above and below ground, it is a treasure chest. The last of the Gray Goldenrod rises to its splendor; the Smooth Blue Asters have survived the first frost of the season and flourished from it.

By September, the Indian Grass is golden, its seed heads full and flapping in the wind like a flag in its glory. The Big Bluestem in its purple luster, waving goodbye to the warm season, which gave it the majestic height it achieved in such a short time. The clumps of soft, yellow Rough Dropseed and its tiny white seeds make a combination that an artist's palate finds tough to duplicate.

All of my senses are on high alert: The textures of the dried seed heads that are showing off the season's bounty, Butterflyweed seeds floating on the wind, and the Purple Prairie Clover is soft to the touch in its fluffy cottony state.

The course sharpness of the Rattlesnake Master poking through my leather gloves fills my nostrils with a sweet smell like no other.

As I move through the tallgrass searching for seed to collect, my eyes feast upon a stunning purple Downy Gentian (*Gentiana puberulenta*) that pops out of the nearly all-golden dormant background. The contrast is spectacular and a sight I look forward to every September and October. The vivid colors are hard to express in words, another treasure of the Minnesota River Valley.

Moving down through the prairie to a gravel-based sedge meadow, I spot the first of many Great Plains Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes magnicamporum*). The small white Orchids stand about six inches tall and sparkle like diamonds against a fading back-drop. Their leaves are withered by the time they flower, and the rows of small white tight flowers spiral upward as pollinators of all sorts working them over for that final drink of nectar before winter.

These are just a few of the jewels in Mother Nature's treasure chest that keep me coming to the prairie when most others have put the season behind them. If all who refer to the prairie as a "mere field of grass" knew the treasure the prairies hold, these fields would be very busy place. Thank goodness they don't.



**Downy Gentian (*Gentiana puberulenta*)**

Photo courtesy of Scott Seigfreid

# TPE Acquires Smith Drumlin Prairie

## *Smith family entrusts 40 acres for permanent protection*



*Photo courtesy of Rich Henderson*

*Smith Drumlin Prairie is 40 acres in eastern Dane County, Wisc., that is now under TPE management via the Glenn Smith family.*

*By Rich Henderson*

On the day before Thanksgiving, Glenn Smith, long-time TPE member and supporter, permanently protected his drumlin prairies with the sale of 40 acres to TPE. The land is located two miles west-southwest of Cambridge in eastern Dane County, Wisc., ¼ mile off-road (legal access is from Clearview Road). The 40 acres contain two dry, upland remnant prairies and grasslands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The acquisition of this preserve was made possible by a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service grant for protection of rare species habitat, and a loan from the Conservation Fund. The Federal grant covered 75 percent of the purchase price. TPE has grant applications pending to cover for the remaining cost.

The sale was a bitter-sweet decision for Glenn. The property has been part of his family's farm for generations where his mother, Phyllis Smith, collected pasque flowers in her youth. Glenn is very attached to the land and its prairies, and we are most grateful to him for deciding to permanently protect his land with TPE so that future generations will have a chance to see and experience the original landscape of eastern Dane County and the many rare species supported by this newest of TPE preserves.

The site contains two linear, parallel, drumlin hills formed by the passing of the last glacier more than 11,000 years ago. Such hills are a common feature between Madison and Milwaukee, and they once were covered with prairie and savanna. In the 1840s, Smith Drumlin was part of a 7,000-acre treeless prairie. Today, its hills are still covered with their original prairie sod, approximately 13 acres worth, and the remnants are surrounded by cropland (28 acres) enrolled in CRP planted to smooth brome. The drumlins are composed of glacial till, including deposits of sand and gravel, making for a blend of dry, dry-mesic, and even a few pockets

of mesic prairie of varying soil pH. This diversity results in the presence of more than 100 native prairie plant species.

The preserve's remnants were grazed by livestock until the early 1950s, therefore, they are not pristine. However, after 60 years of rest, the driest portions are now once again high-quality prairie, and the more mesic areas are recovering with native residual populations of more mesic species making a comeback, such as Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), Compass Plant (*Silphium laciniatum*), Rosinweed (*Silphium intgerifolium*), and Prairie Lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*). The site is well-known for its massive displays of both Dwarf and Rough Blazing Star (*Liatris cylindracea* & *L. aspera*). In 2006, 14 plants of the federally threatened and state endangered Prairie Bushclover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*) were discovered on the site by TPE volunteer Shirley Ellis. The population has since grown to 116 plants as of last count in September 2010. In 2005, the state threatened Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*) was introduced to the site using seed from the last surviving native population still remaining in Dane County.

In addition to supporting uncommon prairie plants, Smith Drumlin is used by grassland birds listed in Wisconsin as Species of Greatest Conservation Need, such as the Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, and Bobolink. The site is also home to uncommon prairie-restricted insects, including eight species of Prairie Plant-Hoppers and Leaf-Hoppers, as well as *Memnonia panzeri*, a Wisconsin Species of Greatest Conservation Need that feeds exclusively on prairie dropseed.

In 2000, TPE – via the Empire-Sauk Chapter – entered into an informal management agreement with the Smith family to restore and care for their prairie remnants. For 12 years, volunteers have been clearing trees and brush, controlling weeds, collecting and planting seed, and conducting prescribed burns on a regular basis. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Private Lands Office has also provided grants during that time to clear trees and brush. Prior to TPE involvement, the Dane County Environmental Council recognized the Smith family with a certificate of appreciation in 1984 for having kept their prairie remnant intact. On two occasions, once in the late 1980s and again in 1992, WI DNR wildlife managers burned the western most prairie remnant.

The long-term management goals for Smith Drumlin Prairie are to restore the site, as much as feasible, back to the original prairie ecosystem that was present 170 years ago, to provide critical habitat for rare and declining species, and to provide opportunity for people to experience and enjoy the area's prairie heritage. If you would like to help with the continuing management and restoration of the site, or to contribute financial support to such work, please contact Rich Henderson (608.845.7065 or [tpe.rhenderson@tds.net](mailto:tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **TPE 2011 Annual Appeal Still Underway**

*By Dani Stolley, TPE Development Director*

Autumn leaves have fallen, the wind is blowing, snow's coming and, in the distance, I hear chainsaws – must be late fall for The Prairie Enthusiasts!

Seasonal changes and the upcoming holidays also signal another annual ritual: Annual Appeal!

Our 2011 goal is to raise \$30,000 and increase member participation by 20% so that we have 225 members donating this year. As of press time (Dec. 5), we've raised almost \$11,800 with 140 gifts.

We're getting there, but we still need your help! Your participation in the 2011 Annual Appeal is absolutely crucial for two reasons.

First, two of our long-time members and donors have issued a Match/Challenge. Meaning, every first-time gift received this year will be matched – dollar-for-dollar – up to \$5000! And any amount counts toward the Challenge, so even \$10 will go twice as far this year! We've already received more than \$2500 in NEW gifts, but we need another \$2500 in new gifts to realize the \$5000 challenge gift.

Second, the Fundraising and Endowment Committee issued a Chapter Challenge, whereby the chapter with the highest percentage of its current membership (as of Oct. 1) participating in the Appeal, wins a bounty of silent auction and raffle items for their use at the 2012 Annual Conference & Banquet at UW-Stout on Feb. 25, 2012. As this is a percentage challenge and not a dollar amount challenge, you smaller chapters have an advantage if you get all your members participating!

As an extra incentive to get that gift in, we will be following up on this year's Appeal via telephone. Don't feel like talking to yours truly? Then send in that gift TODAY! My feelings won't be hurt!

If you've never given before, now is the time to do it! Your first-time gift will go twice as far and you'll be helping your own chapter this year by winning a tractor load of great raffle items! Get your gift in and help grow The Prairie Enthusiasts! Thank you!

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### **Take Advantage of Charitable IRA Rollover**

*By Carol Winge*

Last year's tax law extended the "charitable IRA rollover" rule through the end of 2011. Taxpayers who are 70½ or older may make tax-free distributions of to \$100,000 directly to a charity from their IRA. The rollover fulfills the required minimum distribution (RMD) rule, and the rollover amount is not included in taxable income.

If you or someone in your family could qualify to make a charitable IRA rollover, give it some consideration. Contact your tax attorney to learn more about making a gift through charitable IRA rollover.

*The Prairie Promoter*

### **State's First Badger Ecology Study Begins in Southwest Wisconsin**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Bureau of Science Services and Professor Tim Van Deelen of UW-Madison Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology have teamed up for the first-ever study of American badger ecology in Wisconsin. The three-year study will focus on southwestern Wisconsin, specifically parts of counties that contain the Southwest Wisconsin Grassland and Stream Conservation Area and the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area.

Researchers have been placing traps at burrow openings and have successfully caught two male badgers so far. Both were trapped in Iowa County, on land owned by The Prairie Enthusiasts. Researchers developed a technique to surgically implant radio transmitters in the backs of badgers to track their movements throughout the year. The intent is to learn more about the habitat use, movements, home range, diet, population structure and reproduction of badgers.

Jimmy Doyle is the lead WDNR field researcher on the project. If you know of any active badger burrows on your land, and you are in the areas mentioned above, please contact Jimmy Doyle or David Sample (WDNR) at 608.221.6351.

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### **“Like” TPE on Facebook**



If you have a Facebook page, please "Like" TPE. The social network is a great way to advertise our 2012 TPE Conference and Banquet. We will be posting details on the conference as they develop and we recently announced the keynote speaker for the conference! Curious? Better go online and check us out! Facebook and social media are great ways to stay up-to-date with organizational events and introduce your friends and family to TPE.

So, "Like" us and use the "Share" option so that friends in your network can also find out about TPE. <http://www.facebook.com/ThePrairieEnthusiasts>.

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### **Are You Mechanically Inclined?**

The Empire-Sauk Chapter is looking for a volunteer(s) to be in charge of the maintenance and repair of field equipment. This includes, but is not limited to, drip torches, water backpack cans, backpack herbicide sprayers, hand tools, brush-cutters, chainsaws, mowers, tractors, a truck, ATVs, propane torches, fire-pump units and seeders. The workshop at the Schurch-Thomson barn is ready to be used for equipment maintenance and repair. The barn is where most equipment is stored when not in active use, however, maintenance work may certainly be done at other locations.

If you wish to help, please contact Rich Henderson (608.845.7065 or [tpe.rhenderson@tds.net](mailto:tpe.rhenderson@tds.net)).

## EMPIRE-SAUK CHAPTER

### Donations Sought for Annual Raffle/Auction

It is time again to line up items for TPE's annual raffle/auction fund raiser on Feb. 25, 2012. If you wish to contribute items to the Empire-Sauk Chapter, please contact Peter Thomford (thom.pete@mac.com or peter.thomford@covance.com). Proceeds from items donated to the Chapter help with land protection and land management activities within the Chapter's geographic area of operation. All items must be preregistered. See details in the insert for the deadline to register items.

### \$132,000 Worth of Seed Collected for the Military Ridge Area

From late June through mid-November, Empire-Sauk Chapter volunteers and summer interns collected and processed 478 lbs of clean seed from 115 species for use in the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area (MRPHA) in western Dane and eastern Iowa counties. The estimated value of this seed is \$132,500. Leading the effort as volunteers were: Todd Casanova, Ed Goplin Erik Goplin, Kathy & Rich Henderson, Harriet Irwin, Jan Ketelle, Brandon Mann, Richard Oberle, Eric Preston and Peter Thomford. Their efforts are much appreciated and will help expand critical habitat for many threatened and declining prairie species of both upland and wetland settings.

The collected seed, along with some purchased seed of southern Wisconsin origin, will be planted by TPE across 100 acres in the MRPHA this fall and next spring. It will also be used on a wetland restoration project at the pending Mueller addition to TPE's Mounds View Grassland, upland plantings at the Shea and A to Z units of the Mounds View Grassland, and upland plantings at TPE's Erbe Grassland and adjacent land owned by Ed & Cheryl Goplin. The purchase of seed is made possible, in part, by a grant from Alliant Energy (via The Nature Conservancy Wisconsin Field Office) to plant prairie in the MRPHA, and prairie establishment cost share funds from the USDA Conservation Reserve Program.

### Progress in Tractor Challenge Grant

Thanks to generous donations from Ursula & Gerd Muehllehner, Jackie & Wayne Pauly, Kathy & Rich Henderson, David Gunnulson, and Barbara Voelker, we were, as of Nov. 1, 2011, 62 percent of the way in raising \$9,000 to match the \$10,000 challenge grant for acquiring a second tractor! The challenge grant is from an anonymous donor.

The tractor we found is a used 86 HP Case IH with 4-wheel drive. If you are interested in donating, please contact chapter president Rich Henderson at 608.845.7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net. Donations can also be mailed to The Prairie Enthusiasts Attn: Tractor Challenge Grant, P.O. Box 1148, Madison, WI 53701.



*Photo courtesy of Kathy Henderson*

*Birds-Foot Violet (Viola Pedata)*

### Counters of Prairie Violets Needed

Because violet species in open habitat are the only plants that the caterpillars of the state-endangered Regal Fritillary Butterfly will eat, we are asking for volunteers to help with surveys to find where these violets are located and estimate their numbers on our preserves that host Regal Fritillaries. Volunteers are crucial to gathering data as to how the violets (prairie, birds-foot, marsh, and common wood) respond to management, such as burning, mowing, and grazing so we know how to best focus our efforts.

If you are interested in becoming a violet monitor trained in quantitative survey methods, contact Rich Henderson at tpe.rhenderson@tds.net or 608.845.7065. These surveys will be done in May, when the violets are in bloom, on lands TPE manages within the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area of western Dane and eastern Iowa Counties.

### Winter Work Parties

The Empire-Sauk Chapter is seeking volunteers to help clear trees/brush and burn brush piles this winter. Sites under restoration include:

- Mounds View Grassland, which includes Underwood, Shea, A to Z, & Schurch-Thomson Prairies; south of Blue Mounds
- Ripp Prairies; north of Waunakee
- Westport Drumlin/Koltes Prairie; east of Waunakee
- Mazomanie Bluff, Schluckebier Prairie; west of Prairie du Sac
- Rettenmund Black Earth Prairie, Kalscheur Savanna; south of Hollandale
- Smith Drumlin Prairies; near Cambridge

Be on the lookout for fliers, e-mails, and other notifications of work parties and bring some friends! If you wish to help, but are uncertain whether you are on the e-mail or phone notification lists, please contact Ann Calhoun (volunteers@theprairieenthusiasts.org).

## CHIPPEWA SAVANNAS CHAPTER

*No report submitted*

## COULEE REGION CHAPTER

Members of the Coulee Chapter conducted a November burn for Lloyd and Mary Lee Croatt on their native hill prairie. We met a few days before the burn date to scout the sites, while our Amish friend helped to mow and clear firebreaks using the TPE leaf blower. Over the next few days, Lloyd recruited a crew and rounded up more TPE equipment.

When the day of the burn arrived, we reviewed the ignition plan with the crew of nine: a good mix of first-timers and experienced veterans. The first burn was about a quarter acre and had a low fuel load of Goldenrod, Raspberry, and Sumac with some Indian Grass mixed in.

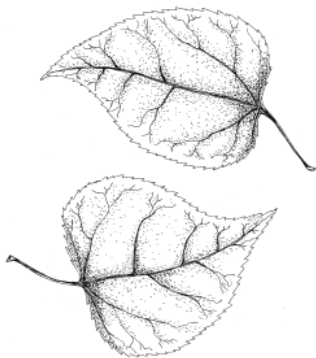
The second burn was to be about two acres on the crown of a hill. The wind had picked up and, after a crew consultation, we postponed that unit until later in the day. We then moved on to a half-acre savanna area. A rock outcrop just above the burn area looked like it could be a tricky obstacle and so we posted water and flapper on both sides above the outcrop. The wind had diminished by the time we finished with the savanna. We returned to the crown of hill and started a back burn on the top and flanks of the site. We worked downhill in 10-yard strips. The fire on the open slope roared, but we were able to keep it under control. With the favorable wind and a heavier fuel load, we were able to accomplish more in the last half hour than the previous three hours! Clean up included checking on some brush piles and a few hollow trees for any lingering fire. Tired and smoky, we enjoyed the soup and hospitality that awaited us at the bottom of the hill.

## GLACIAL PRAIRIE CHAPTER

*No report submitted*

## NORTHWEST ILLINOIS CHAPTER

*No report submitted*



## MANY RIVERS CHAPTER

This fall has been a blur: Members of the Many Rivers Chapter harvested 29 pounds of seed from the Kutz prairie site. The seed was cleaned as it was harvested and recently interseeded into a two-acre area on the property, which was burned this fall in prep for seeding.

Our Troost Pond Prairie Project with the City of Mankato at Rassmusen Woods Nature Area will not be seeded this fall as originally planned due to Reed Canary Grass issues, which we feel we do not have under control at this point. We will try to plow the area next spring to break up the rhizomes and then drag the area to break up the root mass. Several applications of glyphosate will be applied to the area as germination takes place in prep for a fall dormant seeding.

Our chapter helped with the annual prairie seed harvest at Minneopa State Park, sponsored by the Minnesota DNR and the Harry Meyering Center for disabled adults. It was a beautiful day with a great turnout. The seed collected at this event will be used to reseed other areas within the park.

The Jim & Kathryn Vonderharrs prairie pollinator habitat planting is completed.

The Many Rivers Chapter completed four fall burns this season, totaling 23 acres. The Minnesota Historical Society St. Peter Treaty Site maintenance was completed as the brush was cut, stumps treated, and the eight-acre prairie was burned.

The Chapter is preparing for three premieres of the "Green Fire" film released by the Aldo Leopold Foundation in St. Peter, New Ulm and Mankato. We are partnering with the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University –Mankato to bring this film to the public.

We would like to thank all of our dedicated members who make all of these activities possible. Keep up the good work.

## PRAIRIE BLUFF CHAPTER

It was a busy and productive late summer season for the Prairie Bluff Chapter, with the focus on seed collecting for our planting at the former dump site at Iltis Savanna. We have put on the ground a mix of Little Bluestem, Sideoats Grama, Lead Plant, Dropseed, and Blazing Stars – all of which are dominant species found on the dry, rocky hillsides adjacent to the planting.

We concluded another fall burn season with prescribed fire at Butenhoff Prairie, Vale Prairie and Magnolia Bluff Prairie. In addition, we helped the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Gary Birch burn some plantings (by Gary Eldred) along the Highway 151 roadcuts near Mineral Point.

## PRAIRIE SMOKE CHAPTER

*No report submitted*

## ST. CROIX VALLEY CHAPTER

### Fall Work Parties

The St. Croix Valley Chapter will be hosting work parties this winter! The dates were not set as of this newsletter, so check the website for upcoming events. Typical work parties are Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please join us, even if you can only stay for a little while. We also provide hot dogs, buns, beverages and candy for those who help, but feel free to bring your own lunch or snack, if you prefer. While the work warms us up quickly, please dress for the weather as the day starts out cold. If you have loppers, bring them; otherwise the chapter has equipment for everyone.

### Donations/Volunteers Sought for Annual Raffle/Auction

Doug and Robyn Keyport have volunteered as chapter auction and raffle fundraising coordinators for the 2012 TPE Conference. If you wish to contribute items to the St. Croix Valley Chapter, please contact Doug or Robyn at [drkeyport@centurytel.net](mailto:drkeyport@centurytel.net) or 715.262.4540. Proceeds from items donated to the chapter help with land protection and management activities. All items must be pre-registered and more details are available in the banquet & conference insert.

Also, the St. Croix Valley Chapter is looking for volunteers for the day of the conference – Feb. 25, 2012 – to help with raffle ticket sales, TPE merchandise sales, registration, and so forth. More details will be mailed to you. Contact Evanne Hunt for more information ([eahunt@presenter.com](mailto:eahunt@presenter.com)).

### Annual Report of Chapter Activities in 2011

The St. Croix Valley Chapter had a great 2011 and we're already gearing up for 2012!

- As of Nov. 15, our chapter has 102 members. We had 11 new members join this year, making us the fourth largest chapter of TPE.
- In March 2011, our chapter held a fourth prescribed burn workshop. In addition to being a refresher for our chapter members, we invited the public – 10 attended, including boys and girls from the Eagle River Boy Scout District. The weather limited us to only two Spring 2011 burns – Blueberry Hill and Camp St. Croix. Thanks to our volunteers, we had more than enough help! Chapter members also helped each other with prescribed burns on their property.
- Through the winter (Dec. 2010 - March 2011), our chapter continued clearing invasive brush and trees from our project sites at Blueberry Hill (Bayport), Alexander Oak Savanna (River Falls), Foster Cemetery (River Falls), and the private lands adjoining the Foster Cemetery Conservation Area.
- Our chapter continued to bring our message of oak savanna and prairie preservation to the public through public presentations at local community events. We also led six fields trips to restoration sites between the months of April and August 2011.

## PRAIRIE SANDS CHAPTER

The Prairie Sands chapter hosted TPE President Jack Kusmaul for their October potluck and meeting to speak with members and the general public about aspects of land protection. Jack turned a complicated procedure into one more easily understood by people interested in land trusts. The chapter also participated in a November "Tick Talk" hosted by the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association. Tick-borne diseases have exploded in Wisconsin and TPE members were interested in learning the science behind the causes, effects, prevalence and treatment for Lyme Disease, Anaplasmosis/Ehrlichiosis and Babesiosis, and the rare Powassan virus, which has been recently discovered in Wisconsin. The presenter was Diep (Zip) Hoang Johnson, Vectorborne Epidemiologist with the Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Finally, we welcome our member, Jean Clark, to the board of The Prairie Enthusiasts. Her deep interest in prairies includes private stewardship of 10 acres and help with her brother's prairie, which borders a segment of the Ice Age Trail, all located in Waushara County.

## SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN CHAPTER

The Southwest Wisconsin Chapter will be hosting a work party at Eldred Prairie starting from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 17. We will be burning some of the large piles on the northern section of the site and cutting some large trees along the tree line. Be sure to dress in warm, old clothing and wear something in the blaze orange hue as hunters may be out on adjoining properties.

If you have a propane torch that we could use to help start the fires, please bring it along. And, of course, if you are a sawyer, bring your chainsaw to join in the fun.

We will be hosting our monthly meeting after at Doolittle's Pub & Eatery on 135 South Jefferson St. in Lancaster, Wisc. All are welcome to join us for a bite and stay for the meeting.

#### Directions to Eldred Prairie:

- From Fennimore (Hwy 18): Drive south on Hwy 61 to Hwy 129 (Lancaster Hwy 61 bypass) take Lincoln Rd east.
- Site is on the north side of the road, just before Graney Rd.
- From Platteville: Travel northwest on Hwy 129.
- Contact Information: Jesse Bennett 608.778.2832



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The following people have joined TPE during the period Aug. 18 through Nov. 18, 2011:

Jim Bonilla & Carolyn O'Grady, Saint Peter, MN  
Laurel Gamm, New Ulm, MN  
Sandra Grieger-Block, Waunakee, WI  
Eric Johnson & Leah Miller, Avoca, WI  
Gilbert Kaczmarek, Greendale, WI  
Arlene Kelpsich, Wales, WI

Jerome Peichel, Fairfax, MN  
Jerry & Sandy Peterson, Prescott, WI  
James Schultz, Clintonville, WI  
Lynn Steiner, Stillwater, MN  
William Taylor, Madison, WI  
Ry Thompson, Evansville, WI

## GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

*There were no gift memberships during the period Aug. 18 through Nov. 18, 2011:*

## THANK YOU DONORS

We thank everyone who made a donation to The Prairie Enthusiasts during the period Aug. 18 to Nov. 18, 2011. These gifts above and beyond membership dues are truly generous and appreciated.

*\$5000 or more* \_\_\_\_\_

Gerd & Ursula Muehlehner, *Empire-Sauk Chapter tractor purchase*

*\$1000 - \$4999* \_\_\_\_\_

Kathie & Tom Brock  
Jack Kussmal  
Max & Shelley Lagally, *Mounds View Land Management*  
Richard Oberle  
University of Minnesota, *Master Naturalist Program Support*  
Gail & Willi Van Haren

*\$500 - \$999* \_\_\_\_\_

Ida Faessler  
Nick & Linda Faessler  
Kimberly Kreitinger & Eric Preston  
Madison Community Foundation, *Tractor Match Grant*

*\$100 - \$499* \_\_\_\_\_

Phil & Kathy Aaker  
Janet Battista  
Chuck Bauer & Chuck Beckwith  
Sally Bowers & Howard Fenton

Coleen Burns  
Cap Gun Collective LLC  
Cece Caron & Tom Erb  
Barbara & Ted Cochrane

\$100 - \$499 (continued)

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David Gunnulson, *Tractor Match Challenge*  
Douglas C. Hancock  
Patrick Handrick  
Ruth Hartman  
Kenneth Lange  
Susan Lehnhardt  
Kevin Magee, *in memory of Susan Connell-Magee*  
Dave Marshall & Wendy Weisensel  
Mark & Sue Martin  
Robert & Deborah McWilliams  
Bill & Ginny Nelson  
Randy Nyboer  
Gary & Jean Rathman  
Jim & Diane Rogala

Mario & Amelia Rojas  
Scott Seigfreid  
Marge & Donald Shere  
John Shillinglaw  
Lee & Margaret Skold  
Kurt & Susan Sroka  
Doug Steege & Kris Euclide  
Lee & Jacqui Swanson  
Laureen Thorstad  
William Wartmann  
Robert Weihrouch & Pattie Haack  
Kristin Westad  
Marilyn Workman

*Under \$100*

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Craig & Jean Anderson  
David & Karen Bakken  
Carol & Bob Benish  
Mary Marti Borstad  
William Bruins  
Brian & Jill Cipra  
Mike & Cindy Crawford  
Lloyd & Mary Lee Croatt  
James Czajkowski  
Greg Dahl & Sharon Schwab  
Jerry Dahlen  
Mike Davis  
Dick & Val Dunagan  
Rick Durbin  
Gary Eldred  
Sharon Fandel  
Thomas Frederick & Christine Albert  
Deborah Frosch  
Michael Foy & Carrie Norman  
Dorothy Gessert  
Mary & Richard Goehring  
Victoria Graham  
Robert Gurke, Jr.  
Harvey Halvorsen  
David & Shelley Hamel  
Alexandra Handlos  
Carol Hardin  
Katrina Hayes  
Rollie Henkes  
Dorothy Jeffries  
Mark Jeffries

George & Marilyn Johnson  
Maynard & Kris Johnson  
Ann Kalvig  
Richard King  
Anne Koeppe  
Sarah Kraszewski  
Ann Kroncke  
Greg & Annette Krueger  
Valerie Kubal  
William Kuenzi  
John & Mary Kay Lammers  
Jan Lavacek & Carole Sullivan  
Barbara LeDuc  
Ruth & Thomas Little  
Robert & Lynne Lorenzen  
David Lucey  
Brandon Mann  
Terry Mcenany  
Jim & Naoko Meyer  
Don & Denise Nelson  
Michael & Sylvia O'Brien  
Dan & Judy Peterson  
Ruth Reilly  
Keith Relyea & Jeannie Kant  
Ron Reynolds  
Paul Roemer  
Mary Rosenthal  
Michael & Connie Schad  
Daniel Schicker  
Martin & Myrna Schultz  
Robert & Anita Seemann

Penny & Gary Shackelford  
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Jim Shurts  
George B. Simon  
Hugh & John Simon  
Ron & Paulette Smith  
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Margaret Stiles  
Dani Stolley  
M. Dian Strenski  
Denise Sullivan  
Kathleen Sulzer  
Wayne Sutter  
Glenn Teschendorf &  
Mary Anne Derheimer  
Kate Thomas & Jimi Way  
Meredith Thomsen  
Barbara Voelker,  
*Tractor Match Challenge*  
Robert & Susan Wallen  
Thomas & Eva Wedel  
Susan & Joseph Wieseler  
Robert & Jennifer Winding  
Ralph & Ann Woldt

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Prairie Enthusiasts Membership Levels:**

\$100 Shooting Star (recommended level)  
\$5,000 Bur Oak Benefactor, \$1,000 Monarch, \$500 Compass Plant, \$200 Blazing Star  
\$65 Pasque Flower, \$40 Big Blue Stem, \$25 Little Blue Stem, \$15 Student

**Please send form and check to:**

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