

# The PRAIRIE PROMOTER

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## Grassroots Conservation at Work

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### What a Long, Fun Trip It's Been – 20 Years of TPE

by Tom Brock

The Prairie Enthusiasts has had a complex history. It was begun in the mid 1970s informally by a group of prairie hobbyists in Green County, Wisconsin. It can probably be dated from a controlled burn conducted by 10 people at Muralt Prairie on April 13, 1975. (Ochsner, John. The Prairie Promoter Vol. 8, no. 1, Spring 1995, pp. 304.) The dramatic response of the prairie plants to that burn was convincing evidence of the value of management efforts. The Green County Board of Supervisors was sufficiently impressed that the county purchased the Muralt Prairie, which was soon after designated a State Natural Area. *(Continued on page 6)*



We didn't have the best equipment in the early days but lots of enthusiasm!

### TPE 2007 Banquet and Conference Recap

By Evanne Hunt

Please don't shoot that dog ...

Like all great storytellers, banquet speaker Kenny Salwey had everyone on the edge of their seats – thinking exactly the same thing. Self-styled “river rat” and noted author, Kenny Salwey, told



wonderful, thought-provoking stories of his life in Buffalo Country, Wisconsin. It was a great ending to a full day of informative conference sessions, a wonderful dinner, and hours of camaraderie with friends and fellow prairie enthusiasts.

150 people attended the conference and 109 attended the banquet. The raffle and silent auction raised \$2016 and \$968, respectively, for chapters and central operations.

The Fundraising and Endowment Committee convinced 15 members to Bump Up their membership to a higher level! The campaign is not over, so contact your chapter representative on the committee to learn about the many good reasons for increasing your membership level. *(Conference continued on page 2)*

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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 to local chapter editorial volunteers or e-mail submissions to [jenkinma@uwplatt.edu](mailto:jenkinma@uwplatt.edu). Use MS Word and do not format. Letters and articles may be edited for length or style. Computer disks, art, and photographs will be returned. Deadlines for submission of material are March 4 (Spring issue); May 25 (Summer issue); August 25 (Fall issue); and November 25 (Winter issue).*

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*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.*

### Conference continued.....

A popular presentation was "How to Evaluate a Prairie Remnants" by Deborah Konkel who described how you can inventory an area -- recording the type and frequency of prairie plants -- and use the coefficient of conservation to "score" the quality of the prairie, then develop a management plan.

UW-Stout was a great facility. Attendees appreciated the convenient presentation rooms and the spacious auction and raffle room. The sitting areas on either side of the Great Hall were used continuously to relax and catch up with old friends.

The evening banquet started with a report by Renae Mitchell, TPE Executive Director, who gave everyone a preview of the income and expense pie charts and land management and protection graphs to be included in the Annual Report. She also mentioned that the summer issue of the Prairie Promoter would be dedicated to a photo retrospective celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an organization. Please send her old photos and share the stories behind them.

### Banquet Awards and Recognition

Rich Henderson presented **The Prairie Enthusiast of the Year** award to Tom and Kathie Brock. Given by the Board of Directors, the award recognizes the Brocks' outstanding dedication to prairie and oak savanna conservation (see accompanying article). Rich also called for a round of applause to recognize Jim and Rumi O'Brien and Jack Kussmaul for their exceptional leadership during the Annual Appeal.

Jack was also recognized for his support and land protection work by Southwest Chapter president Jesse Bennett. The Empire Sauk Volunteer of the Year was Denny Connor. He logged an incredible 300 hours of volunteer work! Jim, Rumi, Jack and Denny are a great inspiration to all prairie enthusiasts!

### President Evanne Hunt welcomes conference participants.



IN THIS ISSUE	
Long, Fun Trip -20 Year History of TPE	Pages 1 & 6
TPE Banquet and Conference	Pages 1, 2 & 11
From the Desk of the Director	Page 3
Wish list, Case Studies, Match Funds	Pages 4 & 12
<b>SAVE THE DATES</b>	Page 5
Land Protection Articles	Pgs 5,11 & 12
Articles by Jim Rachuy	Pgs 7 & 10
Land Management Articles	Pgs 7,8 & 9
Chapter News	Pgs 13 -15

## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR (Overlooking Elderberry Prairie)

By Renae Mitchell [tpedirector@idcnet.com](mailto:tpedirector@idcnet.com) 262-4734-2956

In Chippewa Customs by Frances Densmore, 1929, Smithsonian Institution, I was reading how aster novae-angliae (New England aster) root was dried, powdered and smoked in a pipe to attract game. The smell of the smoke was said to be like that of a deer's hoof. Aster puniceus (swamp aster) root tendrils were smoked to attract game. Artemisia gnaphalodes (white mugwort) was used as a fumigant for those who cleansed the dead and in the lodges during cases of contagious diseases. Winter is waning and burn season is just around the corner - I wonder if you've ever detected some of these interesting plant smells as the dried material ignites?

In this issue of the Prairie Promoter, Tom Brock has provided the first of several retrospective articles celebrating our more than 20 years of history! Speaking of historical things, Gene Woehler graciously donated some great items for our library which will be available to members from our new office in Madison (see wish list) including: *Proceedings of the North American Prairie Conferences* 1986-2002. Books include: The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Wildflowers, Konza Prairie, A Tall Grass Natural History, The Leguminous Plants of Wisconsin, The Grasses of Wisconsin, Gray's Manual of Botany, Orchids of Minnesota, The Prairie World, North American Prairie and Prairie Plants and Their Environment. THANKS GENE!

2007 promises to be a breakthrough year for The Prairie Enthusiasts! We have formed committees from our membership and would like to have all chapters and all of the many talents of our membership represented, so please consider joining one of them! Just let me know of your interest and I'll get you the details.

Our talented new **Outreach and Education Committee** has big plans for developing interesting and informative

audio-visual case studies of various TPE private and public prairie and savanna restorations (See Article).

We have also found caring Prairie Enthusiast members willing to help out with what sometimes seems like the toughest challenge non-profits face - fundraising! I am working with our **Endowment and Fundraising Committee** to develop short and long-term goals.

**Only 7% of TPE's total income comes from memberships.** One of our first creative fundraising projects is the new **BUMP UP** campaign to help provide stable support by finding 100 members to commit to renewing at their next higher level for the next three years. You can join the fun by filling out one of the forms in this newsletter! THANK YOU!

Currently, The Prairie Enthusiasts committees include:

**Land Stewardship:** *Develops Stewardship policies and reviews management plans.* Chair Rich Henderson, Wayne Huhnke, John Ochsner, Gary Eldred, Jim Rachuy, Jim Rogala, Jaime Edwards.

**Land Protection:** *Develops policies such as criteria for protection and reviews chapter generated land projects and management agreements for TPE land ownership, leases and conservation easements.* Chair Jack Kussmaul, Chris Kirkpatrick, Harvey Halvorson, Ron Panzer, Rich Henderson, Jaime Edwards, Jim Rachuy.

**Finance:** *Developed an Investment Policy and oversees financial management and accounting.* Chair Scott Fulton, Karen Agee, Scott Sauer, Jon Trevor, Nick Faessler, Rich and Kathy Henderson. We could use help developing the revised treasurer's handbook.

**Fundraising and Endowments:** *Develops and executes plans for monetary and non-monetary support.* Chair Richard Oberle, Susan Weigel, Bonnie Maffitt, Dave Stute, Carol Benish, Earl Mihlbauer, George and Careen Johnston. We need names of potential donors please!

**Outreach and Education:** *Develops membership services, outreach to new members and the general public, educational presentations and projects, oversees website and newsletter.* Chair Vacant, Ginny Gaynor, Jeff Fredrick, Susan Goode, Joel Dunnette, Victoria Oberle, Mary Jenkins Penn, Jim Rogala, Caroljean Coventree. We need more committee members to write, create materials, help with web info and lend ideas!

## A New Office for TPE & other Wishes!

**222 S. Hamilton St.** We have a great opportunity to share office space with Madison Audubon, right near the capitol building. It includes a copier and conference room, for the low price of \$200 a month! Unfortunately, we did not budget for this. Would someone be willing to underwrite our first six months so we can take advantage of both networking and work space?

**GPS Unit & Digital Camera** - We need a good GPS unit that can pull in at least 8 satellites in our remote prairie areas for baseline documentation and research.

**A Laptop computer** - capable of running GIS software.

**Portable DVD player & TV** - for giving presentations.

## Send Us Your Land Management Story

By Virginia Gaynor

In celebration of our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, TPE is compiling a set of land management stories. Collectively the stories will showcase what our members are doing on private and public lands—both remnants and reconstructions, large sites and small, by their own labor and contracted labor. We need your help, either on the committee or with submission of stories.

We invite you to reflect on your experience, let the creative juices flow and write down your story. Quick, before field season starts! We'll select from the stories for various TPE publications and the website.

**Stories are due May 15, 2007. Submission guidelines are posted on TPE website, or available by contacting Ginny Gaynor, 715-246-2746, [ginnygaynor@pressenter.com](mailto:ginnygaynor@pressenter.com).**

### Submission Guidelines

1. All submissions are due May 15, 2007.
2. Maximum length is 2 pages (1" margins, font size 12). 1-1/2 pages preferred so we can add pictures.
3. Please title your essay or story.
4. Include your name, address, phone, and email contact information for our use only.

5. Before & after photos. Digital or scanned are best.
6. Content. We are *not* looking for a detailed description of your land management plan. We want a personal touch, preferably written in first person. Think of it as an essay, story, or letter. Below are some topics to get you thinking, but don't let these limit you.
  - a. How did you get interested in prairies and savannas?
  - b. What does your site look like?
  - c. What is your approach to managing the site? (not details of management)
  - d. What is an interesting management challenge you faced and how did you approach it?
  - e. Has anything surprising or unexpected happened during the course of management? (to you or to the land)
  - f. What keeps you motivated to continue?
  - g. Is your project an overwhelming chore or a labor of love?
  - h. Has working on the land changed you or your life in any way?
  - i. Have you had any philosophical epiphanies along your restoration journey?
  - j. How has aging, shifting priorities, time constraints, or changes in health affected your management over the years.
7. Types of sites/projects:
  - k. Reconstructions – small or large, urban or rural
  - l. Managing private remnants – prairie, savanna, woodland, wetland
  - m. Managing public remnants (TPE group projects)
  - n. Establishing or managing a public demonstration area
  - o. Establishing seed nursery for TPE projects
  - p. Other
8. Submit essay or story to Ginny Gaynor.
  - q. **Email submission is preferred.** Attach text as a Word Document. Email to: [ginnygaynor@pressenter.com](mailto:ginnygaynor@pressenter.com).
  - r. **If you do not use email, you can mail your typed manuscript to:** Ginny Gaynor  
767 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue, New Richmond, WI 54017
9. When you submit a story, you are agreeing to let TPE use it in their publications and on the TPE website but we will not publicly release your contact info. Only your name and the town and state you live in will appear with your story.

Thank You!

## Prairie Enthusiasts give Conservation Easement on fourteen lake front lots in Walworth County Wisconsin.

The lots which lie along the northern shore of North Lake still retain some of their pre-European settlement vegetation, including a hill prairie and stands of native nut trees. They contain about 425 feet of shoreline. This Conservation Easement was donated by Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz of Elkhorn, WI and Wilmette, Illinois to the Lauderdale Lakes Conservancy. Their very generous donation continues their long term commitment to environmental causes. Charlotte and Bernard are life members of The Prairie Enthusiasts and the co-authors of "*Prairie Directory of North America.*" The donation of this Easement assures that this property will remain in its beautiful natural state in perpetuity.

Portions of the land have been classified by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission as Primary Environmental Corridor. Primary Environmental Corridors contain the best remaining woodlands and wetlands, wildlife habitats, undeveloped shore lands and flood lands in southeastern Wisconsin. Conservation Easements are deed restrictions with special State of Wisconsin standing. The Prairie Enthusiasts is one of many land trusts nationwide that accepts conservation easements.

## Volunteers Wanted throughout WI for Invasive Beetle Research

Dr. Kate Bradley at Michigan Technological University will be doing a statewide survey of every county in Wisconsin during the month of July. She is searching the state for a non-native beetle, known as *Rhinocyllus conicus*, which lays its eggs on native and non-native thistles. Specifically, she is looking for populations of three thistle species to collect evidence of this little beetle. These include Hill's Thistle (*Cirsium hillii*), Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans*), and Bull Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*).

If you know where she might find populations (stands) of these species, please contact her at [klbradle@mtu.edu](mailto:klbradle@mtu.edu) or call 906-370-4409. Directions to specific sites would help her plan her route and make the sampling efforts much more efficient. If you have any interest in assisting with field work, she would love to have you!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SAVE THE DATES:

#### Schurch-Thomson Prairie Dedication, June 9th 1:00-3:30 pm

South of Blue Mounds in Iowa County.

Contact: [tpedirector@idcnet.com](mailto:tpedirector@idcnet.com)

#### The Prairie Enthusiasts Annual Membership Meeting and Picnic.

**July 15<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)** This year it will be hosted by the Coulee Region Chapter at the intriguing Holland Sand Prairie in Holmen, WI . Exit onto HWY 35, by La Crosse north off of I-90, then exit onto McHugh Road, north of Holmen. Go west for approx. 3/4 mi., on left are Town Hall & picnic shelters.

**Next year's Banquet & Conference will be in La Crosse!** Contact: [jrogala@usgs.gov](mailto:jrogala@usgs.gov)

### New Book on Carnivorous Plants

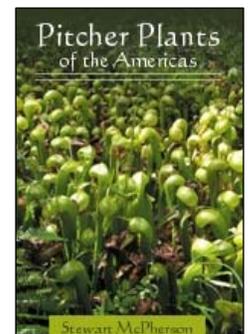
By Trish Newcomb

In his new book, *Pitcher Plants of the Americas*, released in late December, Stewart McPherson shares his fascination of these alluring and beautiful plants and provides for the very first time published images of several species



and varieties in their natural habitat. Descriptions and photographs of 30 currently unnamed and largely undocumented variants of *Sarracenia* (found in about half of North America) are also unique in their presentation. The book contains over 250 spectacular full-color photographs, and is the most extensive review of the pitcher plants of North and South America ever presented in a single book. It provides a detailed overview of the systematics, biology, ecology, biogeography, conservation, and horticulture of the five genera of American pitcher plants.

*Pitcher Plants of the Americas* is available from book retailers. For more information visit [mwpubco.com/PitcherPlants.htm](http://mwpubco.com/PitcherPlants.htm).



# What a Long, Fun Trip It's Been – 20 Years of TPE

(Continued from page 1)

TPE was first formalized as the Wisconsin Prairie Enthusiasts (WPE) in 1986 (Robin Rodrigue and Steve Apfelbaum; *Restoration and Management Notes*, Winter 1986, pages 91-92). An organizational meeting was held 22 January 1987 at the VFW Hall in Monroe, Wisconsin, with representatives from Dane, Green, and Rock Counties, Wisconsin and Stephenson County, Illinois. The meeting was chaired by Steve Apfelbaum and the original headquarters was Apfelbaum's house in Juda, Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Prairie Enthusiasts issued its first newsletter, a two-page stapled document, in early March 1987. In it the purpose of WPE was "defined as organizing local efforts to preserve our native landscapes and to pass this information on through education and hands-on experience through work-days." Work-days were set for the first Saturday of every month at Muralt Prairie and included "brushing, cutting, girdling, burning, seed collection, seed planting, etc."

WPE had its first burn school in April 1987 at Monroe, taught by Dr. Andrea Koonce of the UW-Stevens Point. A total of 18 persons attended, some from as far away as Madison and Chicago. The Wisconsin Prairie Enthusiasts held the first banquet on March 4, 1989, at the Monticello House, in Monticello, Wisconsin. Professor Hugh Iltis from the University of Wisconsin-Madison gave a talk entitled "The Prairies and Forests of Siberia". Over 60 people were in attendance.

Among the key people in the early days of the Green County effort was Gary Eldred. Around 1987 he moved to Boscobel in Grant County to work at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Wilson State Nursery, where as a sideline he was able to start a nursery of prairie species. Gathering together a group of like-minded individuals (including George and Susan Brown, Alice and Walter Mirk, and Gary and Gail Adams), the Southwest Wisconsin Prairie Enthusiasts was established, incorporated with the State of Wisconsin on July 14, 1987 (Department of Financial Institutions records). The first issue of the SWPE newsletter was issued in August 1987.

In 1988 SWPE purchased its first property, the Thomas Wet Prairie, in Castle Rock Township, Grant County. This prairie was dedicated in 1989 with a ceremony involving former governor Tony Earl. In 1989 an SWPE logo was selected after a contest of the members. The logo chosen was created by Gary Eldred.

Both WPE and SWPE continued to issue newsletters. The second banquet, organized by SWPE, was held jointly by both groups. It took place at the Dodge Point Country Club on March 24, 1990 with 107 attendees. In addition to members

from both organizations, there were visitors from northern Illinois and eastern Iowa. As a fund raiser a brisk auction was held, which included two prints by wildlife artist Jonathan Wilde. The banquet speaker was Dean Roosa, state ecologist from the Iowa DNR.

SWPE and WPE originally operated as separate organizations and December 30, 1987 the Wisconsin Prairie Enthusiasts completed its own incorporation. Both SWPE and WPE obtained nonprofit status from the federal government. WPE continued to be active independently through 1991-92, although some of its members attended SWPE annual meetings and picnics. Much of the technical support for WPE came from Applied Ecological Services (AES), a company established by Steve Apfelbaum.

The SWPE began to attract interest from other parts of the state. In the fall of 1991 a new group was started centered on Dane County. This group became The Prairie Oak Chapter on November 20, 1991 (later called the South Central Chapter and now called the Empire-Sauk Chapter). In 1992 SWPE merged with WPE and turned into a statewide organization called "The Prairie Enthusiasts". The official incorporation as The Prairie Enthusiasts was May 11, 1993, at which time SWPE became the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter and WPE became the Prairie Bluff Chapter. The first chapter outside Wisconsin, the Northwest Illinois chapter, was added in 1994. Other chapters and organizations soon joined as illustrated in the chart below.

Chapter name	Date formed	Counties (Wisconsin unless stated otherwise)
Southwest Wisconsin	1987	Grant, Crawford, Richland, Iowa
Empire-Sauk	1991	Columbia, Dane, Sauk
Prairie Bluff	1993	Green, Lafayette, Rock
Northwest Illinois	1994	JoDavie, Carroll, Stephenson, all Illinois
Coulee Region	1997	Buffalo, Jackson, LaCrosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, Vernon
Southeast Wisconsin (pending)	1999	Dodge, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha
Prairie Smoke	2002	Dodge, Fillmore, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Steele, Wabasha, Winona, all Minnesota
Chippewa Savannas*	2003	Eau Claire, Chippewa, Barron, Dunn, Pepin
St. Croix Valley*	2003	Pierce, Polk, St. Croix in Wisconsin; Washington in Minnesota
Winnebagoland (pending)	2003	Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Outagamie, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago

\*Originally established as part of the West Central Chapter in 1996.

# Alien Chronicles

By Jim Rauchy, NIPE

Of the long list of invasive European plants now growing in America, garlic mustard (*Alliania petiolata*) is among the worst. Since its garden introduction in the 1860's it has totally displace thousands of acres of forest understory all across the continent.

Now research has shown that garlic mustard is also poisoning the forest trees. Many forest plants (trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses) rely on beneficial relationships with soil fungi. The plant provides energy with its leaves and the fungi provides nutrients with its long, mychorrhizal roots. Garlic mustard prevents this exchange by poisoning the arbuscular fungi upon which the plant depends.

The effect is easily demonstrated. Seedlings grown in sterilized soil from garlic mustard infested areas show just ten percent of normal growth. Adding extracts of garlic mustard to clean soil produces the same result. This means that just removing the weed doesn't help. The poison is still in the soil.

Which phytochemicals are to blame is, as yet, unknown. No matter. Steps to control this weed are required now. Other research is nearing completion on the use of biological controls (European insects) for garlic mustard. Let's hope these efforts produce good results and soon.

## **Blackhawk Technical College's Prairie** By David Schmidtke, BTC Basic Skills Instructor

In the early 70's, Blackhawk Technical College purchased a large parcel of agricultural property halfway between Janesville and Beloit Wisconsin to develop a new consolidated campus. The property was mixed with some cropland, hilly wooded areas, and a ridge which had been pastured. The pastured area had never been cultivated and still had most of the native prairie vegetation. In the early years of the school, a few people had been aware of the prairie remnant and had used it for classes and had worked to beat back encroaching invasive plants now that it wasn't pastured or burned. In 1984, Rob Baller became aware of it. He used the prairie patch for a college thesis. He also worked with the prairie from 1984 through 1993 using it to teach classes and with the help of volunteers, burning a couple portions of the prairie and cutting back brush. During this time period, he did an inventory and listed 71 different prairie plants.

In 2004, TPE member Chris Wellington, Dean of BTC's Monroe Campus and Nancy Lightfield, Dean of BTC's Center for Transportation Studies received permission from Dr. Larson, BTC's President, to go ahead and work to restore it. They presented a session about the prairie at a faculty inservice in April of 2005. Rob Baller, President of The Prairie Enthusiasts' Prairie Bluff Chapter assisted with the history and background of the prairie and actively helped get the restoration back in progress.

From October 2005 through November 2006 brush was cut and burned five times and the prairie was burned in sections. We had instructors, administrative & clerical staff, students, and volunteers from The Prairie Bluff chapter of The Prairie Enthusiast, including executive director Renae Mitchell helping burn with equipment provided by the Ben Meadows company. The burns went well and a few weeks later, new growth was coming up. Currently, the best prairie plants are on the sandy ridge along Blackhawk Technical College's southern boundary.

We have started a process that will take many years and never be completed because the prairie will always need to be assisted by periodic burns and control of invasive plants. Those of us who have been working on the project feel the results we've seen justify the effort.



Pasque Flower in Blackhawk Tech prairie. These are the first to bloom in April in Janesville.



Dr Larson, Blackhawk Technical Colleges' President, with drip torch. April 8, 2006

# The Prairie Enthusiasts Assist Landowner in Protecting Rare Orchid

## *Reed Canary Grass Control in Sensitive Habitat*

By Amy Staffen, Restoration Manager, The Prairie Enthusiasts

The federally threatened eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*; 'EPFO') formerly occurred in 13 states and southern Ontario in a broad swathe ranging from the eastern Great Plains to the Atlantic. It occurs in tallgrass silt-loam or sand prairies, sedge meadows, fens, and occasionally sphagnum bogs. This rare orchid has declined more than 70 percent throughout its range, due mainly to conversion of habitat to cropland and pasture.

On the John van Altena property in Rock County, EPFO occurs in wet and wet-mesic prairie habitat that is being encroached upon by reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and woody species. In spring and summer 2006, The Prairie Enthusiasts endeavored to assist the landowner in his long-term efforts to rescue this population of EPFOs with funding from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Private Stewardship Grant. The general management strategy for the van Altena property was to use fire combined with selective herbicide treatments of reed canary grass in conjunction with tree and brush removal and interseeding of native prairie species. The results of the burning plus herbicide treatments in 2006 were tremendously encouraging! . During the annual EPFO count in July, which is coordinated by the landowner and WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), volunteers and DATCP personnel counted a *record number* of flowering and non-flowering orchids!

### Materials and Methods

In 2005, Craig Annen of Michler & Brown, LLC was hired to help TPE and the landowner create a management plan. In early spring prescribed fire was used as site preparation for subsequent herbicide application for several reasons: To remove excessive thatch that conceals both the reed canary grass and non-target vegetation; to stress the already-growing reed canary grass in the first of numerous assaults; to promote growth of native vegetation, creating competition pressure for the stressed reed canary grass; to suppress invading brush; and to stimulate germination of the reed canary grass seed bank, allowing for more complete site control. This approach also increases site accessibility, which in turn increases the efficiency of conducting herbicide applications.

Great consideration was given to selecting an herbicide that would pose minimal risk of inflicting collateral damage on EPFO and other desirable prairie species, as well as on the soil mycorrhizal fungi and pollinator hawkmoths that are vital to

the orchid's reproduction and vigor. Sethoxydim was the herbicide of choice and extra precautions were taken to prevent the herbicide from coming into contact with EPFO by covering them with plastic buckets during herbicide applications. Also, an herbicide application rate at the lower end of the recommended range was used [1.5% (equivalent to 2 fluid ounces of undiluted herbicide per gallon of spray mix)]. As an additional precaution, crop oil concentrates were not added to sethoxydim spray mixtures to enhance uptake, as these additives can cause damage to nontarget species. Instead, a high-grade nonionic surfactant-penetrant blend approved for use in sensitive habitats [LI-700<sup>®</sup> at a rate of 0.5 percent by volume (20 mL/gal spray mix)] was used to promote sethoxydim uptake. A conditioning agent (ReQuest<sup>®</sup>) was also added to tank mixtures at a rate of 0.25 percent by volume (10 mL/gal spray mix) to reduce the effects of hard water cations on herbicide performance. A cone nozzle was used to discourage herbicide drift. Sethoxydim was not applied in areas with standing water or to areas with water levels within 45 cm of the soil surface because sethoxydim is easily transported in groundwater. Conveniently, piezometers had been installed in the past throughout the property for studying the effect of water levels on EPFO populations. This allowed for an additional level of precision in avoiding groundwater contamination by monitoring water levels at the time of treatment.

### Execution of the Management Plan

The site was burned on several days between April 10-16, 2006, timed to precede EPFO emergence. Sethoxydim was applied to reed canary grass on May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006 (prior to reed canary grass anthesis) and a follow-up application was made on August 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006 (when reed canary grass actively exports carbohydrates to its rhizomes for winter survival). To discourage subsequent reed canary grass invasions, seeds of 39 native species (27 forbs and 12 graminoids and sedges) were collected on-site and frost-interseeded into treated areas in late October.

A third application of sethoxydim will be made in spring 2007 following another early spring burn. The landowner is carefully mapping the reed canary grass and EPFOs using Global Positioning System and Geographic Information System software. Tree and brush control will be conducted during winter months when vegetation is dormant and soils are frozen; non-persistent herbicides will be used to treat cut stumps. Long-term vigor of this orchid population can only be assessed over the course of many years, as this species is known for dramatic fluctuations in response to a variety of factors including soil saturation, pollinators, mycorrhizal fungi, and other unknowns. We are grateful to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Private Stewardship Grant Program (Grant No. 30181-6-G033) for the necessary funding for this work. *Damaging or removing this federally protected orchid is a federal crime, punishable by jail time and significant fines. The property described in this article is privately owned; visits allowed by appointment only.*



**The Prairie Enthusiasts have come a long way in 20 years in terms of knowledge, experience and equipment!** The Prairie Enthusiasts Work Party at A to Z Farms" Invasive tree and brush removal, January 14, 2007  
Photographer: Amy Staffen, The Prairie Enthusiasts

## New Site for Rare Orchid

By Jim Sime

I was looking over a site on our Snow Bottom property where we had opened up the area between some open grown oaks; it was the last day in September. We have high hopes for this ridge since it already had some little bluestem, birds'-foot violet, arrow leafed violet, jack pine and various other natives. In 2004 the first year after removing the brush a few downy phlox showed up. The next year was more exciting when two clusters of the rare One-flowered broom-rape (*Orobanche uniflora*) were found nearby. On the last day of September this year, I spotted a different lady's-tresses orchid (*Spiranthes* sp.) then a second blossoming spike nearby. I always have high hopes that plants that I don't recognize are something rare. This time I was lucky. This was a second Wisconsin site for the extremely rare Oval Lady's-tresses (*Spiranthes ovalis*). *Spiranthes* are tricky to differentiate in pressed specimens but living plants are easier with more readily observed characteristics. This *Spiranthes* was very tall, about 18 inches with a tight coil of buds and tiny 5mm pure white flowers with a 3mm lip occupying the top third of the spike. It had healthy grass-like leaves sheathing the lower stem. Lip size, shape, and color are the keys to differentiating these small beautiful fall orchids. I use some rough field marks for identification. Book matches are about 3mm wide and can serve as a gauge for flower and lip size. Choose a well developed individual flower in the lower third of the flowering spike for your measurements.

I would urge all enthusiasts to pay particular attention to your cherty limy savanna woodlands in early October for possible additional sites for *S. ovalis*. Check out your prickly-ash patches, it seems to have similar requirements.

- **Great Plains lady's tresses** (*S. magnicamporum*). our most common prairie species, has flowers 7-12

mm long, leaves withered when flowering, lip 7-12 mm curving downward, with some pale yellow underneath and usually with a very sweet vanilla odor. It occupies less acid sites. It's most distinct character however is its lateral sepals which arch outward then upward and over the main flower tube appearing like cow horns. This is a dead give away separating it from the other large flowered *Spiranthes*.

- **Nodding lady's-tresses** (*S. cernua*) often confused with the Great Plains lady's tresses have a similar sized flower and lip. It occupies wetter, more acid sites and its grass-like leaves persist during flowering but the key is these lateral sepals which are directed forward close along the main tube, not curved upward except slightly at the tips. The whole aspect of the flower is with everything directed forward and slightly down (nodding).
- **Hooded lady's-tresses** (*S. romanzoffiana*) another of these larger flowered tresses, lip 9-12 mm, has these laterals fused with the dorsal petal and sepals forming a hood or upper lip which gives it a two lipped appearance. The clincher however for this species is its relatively large fiddle-shaped lip.
- **Yellow lady's-tresses** (*S. ochroleuca*) not yet found in Wisconsin has a large cream yellow lip 7-10 mm.
- **Case's lady's-tresses** (*S. casei*) a sort of medium sized flower, has a slightly shorter lip of 6-7 mm that arches downward and back toward the spike. It has broader not grass-like leaves that persist during flowering.

The following small flowered *Spiranthes* have lips smaller than 6 mm. These small lips have distinctive colors which clinch their identification:

- **Shining or Wide leaved lady's-tresses** (*S. lucida*) lip has a bright yellow floor. It has been found in Wisconsin recently along the Michigan border in Marinette Co.
- **Slender lady's-tresses** (*S. lacera*) with its flowers in a single lazy spiraling rank have a small lip 4-6 mm with a green floor (sometimes only a spot).
- **The Little lady's-tresses** (*S. tuberosa*) have a 3-4 mm lip with a pure white floor and persisting leaves that are oval with a distinct petiole. This is an early blooming eastern species not yet found in Wisconsin.
- **Oval lady's-tresses** (*S. ovalis*) also known as October lady's-tresses also have a small 4-5 mm white lip. The extremely late blooming period makes for easy initial identification. Flower and lip measurements and robust leaves that sheath the base of the stem confirm the identification. *Ovalis* is from the supposed oval shape of the flower spike.

Pictures of these and of all Wisconsin species can be accessed at the database and websites developed by Merel Black at <http://wisplants.uwsp.edu/index.html>.

# Birding by Barcode

By Jim Rachuy

Using a method called “genetic barcoding,” scientists have recently discovered fifteen new bird species in North American. All of these are subgroups within established species that are otherwise nearly indistinguishable. Nearly all have had “races” or “subspecies” described previously.

## North American bird taxa with multiple species.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Northern Fulmar	Fulmaris glacialis
Solitary Sandpiper	Tringa solitaria
Western Screech Owl	Megascops kennicottii
Warbling Vireo	Vireo gilvus
Mexican Jay	Aphelocoma ultramarina
Western Scrub Jay	Aphelocoma californica
Common Raven	Corvus corax
Mountain Chickadee	Poecile gambeli
Bushtit	Psaltriparus minimus
Winter Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes
Marsh Wren	Cistothorus palustris
Hermit Thrush	Catharus guttatus
Bewick’s Wren	Thyomanes bewickii
Curve-billed Thrasher	Toxostoma curvirostre
Eastern Meadowlark	Sturnella magna

Using the same genetic barcoding technique, they have also discovered fourteen instances of multiple species with essential identical genomes.

## North American bird taxa with the same barcode.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Similarity
Snow Goose Ross’s Goose	Chen caerulescens Chen rossii	99.8%
Black Duck Mallard Mottled Duck	Anas rubripes Anas platyrhynchos Anas fulvigula	99.4%
Blue-winged Teal Cinnamon Teal	Anas discors Anas cyanoptera	100%
King Eider Common Eider	Somateria spectabilis Somateria mollissima	99.7%
Sharp-tailed Grouse Greater Prairie Chicken Lesser Prairie Chicken	Tympanuchus phasianellus Tympanuchus cupido  Tympanuchus pallidicinctus	99.7%
Western Grebe Clark’s Grebe	Aechmophorus occidentalis Aechmophorus clarkii	99.7%
Laughing Gull Franklin’s Gull	Larus atricilla Larus pipixcan	99.3%
California Gull Herring Gull Thayer’s Gull Iceland Gull	Larus californicus Larus argentatus Larus thayeri Larus glaucoides	99.8%

Lesser Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus	
Western Gull	Larus occidentalis	
Glaucous-winged Gull	Larus glaucescens	
Glaucous Gull	Larus hyperboreus	
Red-naped Sapsucker Red-breasted Sapsucker	Sphyrapicus nuchalis Sphyrapicus ruber	99.4%
Black-billed Magpie Yellow-billed Magpie	Pica hudsonia Pica nuttalli	99.6%
American Crow Northwestern Crow	Corvus brachyrhynchos Corvus caurinus	99.5%
Townsend’s Warbler Hermit Warbler	Dendroica townsendi Dendroica occidentalis	99.5%
Golden-crowned Sparrow White-crowned Sparrow	Zonotrichia atricapilla Zonotrichia leucophrys	99.7%
Dark-eyed Junco Yellow-eyed Junco	Junco hyemalis Junco phaeonotus	99.7%
Common Redpoll Hoary Redpoll	Carduelis flammea Carduelis hornemanni	99.9%
Great-tailed Grackle Boat-tailed Grackle	Quiscalis mexicanus Quiscalis major	99.8%

For North America the “official” list of bird species is maintained by the [American Ornithologists Union](#). If you want to see the data, go to [Barcode of Life Data Systems](#) (at <http://www.barcodinglife.org>).

Mark Stoeckle, a barcode researcher at Rockefeller University, predicts that “DNA barcoding will distinguish at least 1,000 potential new species.” They hope to collect a worldwide inventory of barcodes for the birds by 2011 and for 500,000 species of all kinds by 2014.

Genetic barcodes promise to become an important tool in science, commerce, and conservation. For example, barcodes can be used to:

- identify species from bits and pieces—as in forensics, paleontology, or food inspection,
- decipher ecological food webs by analyzing stomach contents, fecal matter, or den debris,
- monitor international trade for endangered plants, regulated fish stocks, or invasive species,
- assist ecologists by identifying roots sampled from specific soil layers or types,
- design biodiverse nature preserves by identifying multiple populations within target species,
- inventory the species growing in your lawn from the analysis of grass clippings, or even to
- certify foodstuffs like that mystery “hotdog.”

Already today, with barcode in hand, all that’s needed to confirm the survival of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker is a feather, a dropping, or shell fragment. And within ten years, every birdwatcher in America will be able to determine that—with a portable, handheld barcoder.

# New Conservation Easement held by TPE

By Rich Henderson



In February, TPE (Empire-Sauk Chapter project) acquired a conservation easement on 30 acres of grassland in western Dane County, Wisconsin. It was purchased from Erik and Nancy Goplin with the help of grants from the State of Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund program (administered by the Wisconsin DNR), the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program, and a donation from the Goplins. The Goplins also made a significant donation towards the purchase of the Erbe Road Grassland (see Erbe Road article in this issue). We are indebted to them for making both these land protection projects possible.

The easement protects a critical piece of grassland habitat that connects two disjointed pieces of The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) 324-acre Thomson Memorial Prairie along County F, south of Blue Mounds. The easement land consists of former pasture with original, but highly degraded, unplowed prairie sod and former cropland. The management goal is to recover and restore prairie through burning and inter-seeding. Erik has already established significant prairie seed production beds and plans to create more. He generously shares this seed with several TPE projects in the area.

The Goplin Easement protects wildlife habitat significant at both local and state levels. It lies within the 50,000-acre Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area (MRPHA). MRPHA has been identified as one of the best opportunities in Wisconsin for prairie/grassland conservation on a landscape scale. There is a formal

partnership of over a dozen public and private conservation organizations and agencies, including TPE, focusing resources on the MRPHA in an attempt to maintain and restore prairie and grassland habitat within a matrix of working farmland. The MRPHA supports critical habitat for many grassland-dependent birds that have been in decline in recent decades, such as western meadowlarks, grasshopper sparrows, Henslow's sparrows, dickcissels, bobolinks, northern harriers, and upland sandpipers. It is also home to a major concentration of the state-endangered regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*), which requires large tracts of prairie sod, and many other rare and endangered prairie insects and plants.

The TNC land adjoining the Goplin Easement supports high-quality remnant prairie and two state-endangered prairie-specialist insects, the red-tailed leafhopper and the regal fritillary, along with significant grassland bird habitat. Although there are currently few native prairie plant species present on the Goplin Easement, prairie violets are evident. This is significant because they are the required host plant for the larvae of the regal fritillary, thus it is likely that regals will move onto the property as prairie restoration establishes nectar plants to attract and hold the adult butterflies. The easement land is already supporting grassland birds, such as eastern meadowlark, dickcissel, bobolink, grasshopper sparrow, upland sandpiper, pheasant, and gray partridge. With restoration and management, the property's 30 acres will provide critical habitat for many area-sensitive grassland birds and many other rare and declining prairie species. Thank you Erik and Nancy for your commitment to conservation!

## Brocks are 2007 Prairie Enthusiasts of the Year

Tom and Kathie Brock of Dane County, WI, have been given the TPE award for 2007 for their many years of exemplary dedication to prairie and oak savanna conservation. Their love for these fire-dependant ecosystems and their commitment of time and resources to restoration, management, and protection has been most remarkable, along with their boundless enthusiasm to educate and share with others.

The Brocks have been TPE members for 10 years, helping with management at several sites. They are the site stewards of Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie, a WI State Natural Area managed by TPE, where they lead monthly work parties, and donate additional time and money to its management.

(Continued on page 12)

### **AWARD** *continued*

The Brocks are active volunteers in TPE's prescribed burn program, and volunteer their truck to carry one of TPE's pumper units. Tom serves on the Empire-Sauk Chapter board. Tom has also compiled a history of TPE and has produced several complete bound sets of the Prairie Promoter for our archives and the State Historical Society.

Tom and Kathie have established the 140-acre Pleasant Valley Conservancy (PVC) and the Savanna Oak Foundation, which supports restoration/management at PVC and conservation education projects. For the past 10 years, they have spent countless hours restoring prairie, oak savanna, sedge meadow at PVC, to the point that it is now a one of the best savanna restorations in the Midwest, and soon to become a WI State Natural Area. In December 2006, the Brock's provided permanent protection to their Pleasant Valley Conservancy by donating a combination of title and conservation easement to TPE, along with an endowment for management in perpetuity through their Savanna Oak Foundation. We hope this generous act will generate WI State Stewardship program credits that TPE will be able to use in protecting additional lands.

## **Matching Funds Donations**

by TPE Finance Committee Member Carol Benish

Matching fund donations have been very important to The Prairie Enthusiasts. In 2006 we received the following: \$500 each from CUNA Mutual Dollars for Doers for volunteer work by Richard Oberle and Pat Handrick, a \$25 WE Energies matching grant for the Southeast Chapter from Noel Cartright and a \$300 IBM Foundation matching funds from Greg Lamp for the Prairie Smoke chapter. All are very helpful - thanks!

Don't miss an opportunity to leverage your donation to TPE through an employer's charitable giving program. These programs vary by company, but usually it only takes a few steps to make your donation increase. Some companies reward volunteer hours with donations too.

Retired persons should also check to see if your previous employer will make donations on your behalf. 3M has this program but I am sure that are many more. So please take a few moments and check out what your employer or previous employer offers.

Most Human Resources Departments can help you with this process. Renae will fill out and return any forms they require. Donation forms should be mailed to: The Prairie Enthusiasts, PO Box 620556, Middleton, WI 53562.

## **Erbe Road Grassland Protected by TPE**

By Rich Henderson



In late February, TPE (Empire-Sauk Chapter project) purchased 63 acres in western Dane County, Wisconsin, from Richard and Carol Losenegger. The purchase was made possible with grants from the State of Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund program (administered by the Wisconsin DNR) and the Dane County Conservation Fund Grant Program, a donation from Erik & Nancy Goplin, a donation from the Dane County Chapter of Pheasants Forever, and a bargain sale from the Loseneggers. The new preserve consists of former pasture, with degraded original prairie sod, and active cropland planted mostly to hay and small grains. For now, the preserve is called the Erbe Road Grassland until a final decision is made as to what to name it.

The conservation significance of the preserve is its grassland/prairie habitat, its potential for recovery/restoration of prairie and endangered species habitat, the buffering it provides to nearby high-quality prairie, and its location within the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area (see Goplin Easement article in this issue). Erbe Road Grassland adjoins 100 acres of good quality prairie, prairie pasture sod, and CRP grasslands owned by Ed & Cheryl Goplin. The Goplin land supports state-endangered regal fritillary butterflies and red-tailed leafhoppers, along with a wide range of grassland birds. TPE has a management agreement with the Goplins, and has been assisting them with restoration for several years. The Erbe Road Grassland has some degraded prairie vegetation, including violets which are required by regal fritillary butterflies. We expect the regals will move onto the preserve as we begin restoration and management. The preserve is already supporting grassland birds such as eastern meadowlark, dickcissel, bobolink, Henslow's sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, upland sandpiper, pheasant, and gray partridge. With restoration and management, the property's 63 acres will provide even more habitat for area-sensitive grassland birds and many other rare and declining prairie species. (*Continued page 13*)

Continued from page 12.....

Erbe Road Grassland is open to the public for low impact use such as hiking, bird watching, and limited hunting of deer, turkey, and pheasant. TPE is committed to paying property taxes at the agricultural use rate. If you would like to serve on the land management committee for this preserve, contact Rich Henderson (845-7065 or tpe.rhenderson@tds.net).

Ketelle, Jim & Rumi O'Brien, Ted Cochrane, Peter Thomford, Wayne Pauly, and Earl Mihlbauer.

By the way, if you were not at the Steege-Euclide Prairie work party, you missed out on yet another outstanding sit down lunch of potato soup, chili, corn bread, drinks, and deserts that was hosted by Diane Smith and catered by the Luckenbooth Restaurant of Arena ([www.luckenbooth.org](http://www.luckenbooth.org)). Also, Carla Wright served up another great spread, as always, at the Savanna Hill work party. And of course, at nearly all work parties there were homemade cookies and other baked goods (Rumi O'Brien made certain of that), apple cider, and soda.

**EMPIRE – SAUK CHAPTER**

**Calendar of Events**

**The next meeting of the Empire-Sauk Chapter board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8. Meeting location TBD.**

**Winter Work Parties Grow in Popularity**

Volunteer participation at Empire-Sauk winter work parties (December, January, and February) continues to grow. Nearly 600 hours were logged by 50 volunteers at 23 work days this past winter. This is a 60% increase over last year, which was itself a 35% increase over the year before that! These volunteer hours help TPE earn grant dollars that have been awarded to us from the US Fish and Wildlife Services Private Stewardship Grant, WI DNR Landowner Incentive Program, and WI DNR Pheasant Stamp Grants. We have been awarded these grants for 2006/2007 for prairie, grassland, and savanna habitat recovery work, but they require match of either dollars or "in kind" contributions. Your volunteer hours are providing most of that "in-kind" match. Thank you one and all.

If you wish to get involved with TPE's hands-on land-healing activities, be on the lookout for fliers, e-mails, and other notifications of work parties this summer and next fall, or simply check the Empire-Sauk Chapter page of the TPE website ([www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org](http://www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org)) for work party listings. If you are not currently receiving e-mails or postcards and wish to be put on notification lists, contact Empire-Sauk Chapter volunteer coordinator, Kathy Cartwright (608-839-5148 or [kjcartwright@verizon.net](mailto:kjcartwright@verizon.net)). With the challenge grants we currently have in place, every hour you put in can generate from 3 to 8 hours of hired contract work.

**Spring Burn Season is Upon Us**

We have approximately 30 burns scheduled for this spring. If you wish to help on these, and have not yet informed us of your interest, please contact Empire-Sauk Chapter volunteer coordinator, Kathy Cartwright (608-839-5148 or [kjcartwright@verizon.net](mailto:kjcartwright@verizon.net)). Experience and training is desired, but is 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.

**Recent Donations to Empire-Sauk (November 2006 – January 2007)**

The following donations were made to the Empire-Sauk Chapter during November, December, and January. These are donations made in addition to membership dues.



Work party crew at Schurch-Thomson December 10, 2006

All 50 winter volunteers deserve recognition for the hard work they put in, but there were a dozen regulars that deserve special mention. Everyone in this core group attended between five and 16 work parties. They include Gary Gates, Jon Sundby, Rich & Kathy Henderson, Denny Connor, Jan

- \$1-49 Steve Richter in honor of Tom Brock's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Mike Anderson & Pat Fahrenkrup
- \$50-99 Dennis Presser
- \$100-499 Meagan Yost
- Jan Ketelle



Thank you all. Your contributions help locate, protect, and care for the remnant prairies, sedge meadows, savannas, and open oak woodlands of our area.

## ST. CROIX VALLEY CHAPTER

### Volunteer Focus—Wayne Huhnke

By Evanne Hunt



Wayne Huhnke has served as land manager for the St. Croix Valley chapter since our inception.

Many years ago, he identified the Foster Pioneer Cemetery in River Falls as a high-quality native oak savanna remnant and worked with city officials to protect it. Not satisfied, he contacted landowners around the cemetery.

He convinced them to let TPE clear brush, cut down cedar trees, and -- unbelievably -- conduct prescribed burns within 100 ft of their homes!

Wayne's vision is a Kinnickinnic River valley canyon of native prairie and oak savanna. Our chapter is well on its way to making that a reality. Wayne's work parties always end with beer and hot dogs roasted over the burning cedar trees and buckthorn. As wonderful as that is, it is his passion for oak savanna that gets us out there in the first place! Thanks, Wayne!

### Chapter Members Attend Prescribed Burn Class

by Evanne Hunt

The St. Croix Valley Chapter was excited to offer its members an opportunity to learn more about prescribed burning techniques, both in a classroom setting and out in the field. This class was specifically designed for novices and assumed no prior fire experience.



TPE member, Bill Ramsden, a burn boss for the Minnesota chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and Kurt Blanchett presented a four hour classroom session October 8 on topics such as preparation of the site, the equipment used, the process of creating a ring fire, fire effects, and factors that influence fire behavior.

On October 28, students had the opportunity to practice at Bill and Doreen's prairie restoration in Afton, Minnesota. According to Ginny Gaynor, "the upfront planning made this a great experience for everyone." After a small practice burn under close supervision by experienced crew members, everyone had the chance to ignite, control, and mop up a real fire.

### Thank You to the Photo Exhibit Team!

by Evanne Hunt

I want to extend a big thank you to Carol Benish, Barb Bend, Burt Levy, and Jan Ambunson for a successful event in Hudson. The team raised \$4000 in donations from St. Croix, Pierce, and Polk county businesses, created a stunning oversized postcard inviting people to an elegant private reception, and mailed the postcard to over 1000 residents.



I want to also thank everyone who helped the evening of the reception: In full tuxedo regalia, Keith Solimar greeted guests directed them to the reception; Karen Solimar managed to find prairie flowers blooming in late September and created ten prairie flower centerpieces for the tables; Harold Bend dispensed locally bottled wine and advice on the best choices; and Elizabeth Gasca kept the hors d'œuvre trays filled.

President Evanne Hunt welcomes conference participants to the Annual Conference at UW-Stout in Menomonie, WI.



## PRAIRIE SMOKE CHAPTER

Congratulations to the following Prairie Smoke Chapter members:

1. Prairie Smoke Chapter member Curt Preuss, who is one of the winners of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) annual photo contest. He took first in the Best Preserve picture category and will have his picture appear in the 2008 Nature Conservancy Calendar. Great job, Curt! Check out the following link to see the incredible picture he took of a Grasshopper Sparrow at Weaver Dunes Preserve in Minnesota. See it in living color at [http://support.nature.org/site/PageServer?pagename=contest\\_ph6](http://support.nature.org/site/PageServer?pagename=contest_ph6)



2. Prairie Smoke Chapter member Greg Lamp, who recently had an article about Buckthorn published in the Meadow Area News (Dec., 27, 2006, Buckthorn. A battle worth fighting).

Anyone interested in reading the full article can send a request to [noodlerun@charter.net](mailto:noodlerun@charter.net). Greg mentions the Prairie Smoke Chapter at the end of the article. Thanks for the publicity, Greg!

3. Prairie Smoke Chapter members Jason Garms and Jaime Edwards, who will be presenting workshops at the upcoming Landowner Habitat Workshop in Zumbrota, Minnesota. Jason will be speaking about Prescribed Burning in a morning session and Jaime will be presenting about NonGame Wildlife in an afternoon session. Thanks for sharing your knowledge, Jason and Jaime!

**THIS IS HOW WE DO IT!**

**You too can**

**BUMP UP, BABY!**

(see attached form on cover)

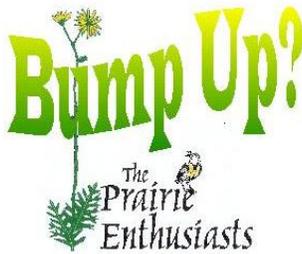


**TPE Endowment and Fundraising  
Committee Members,  
George and Caren Johnston say,  
“Show us the money”  
And get results to help sustain TPE  
over the next three years!**

THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS  
PO BOX 620556  
MIDDLETON WI 53562-0556  
[www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org](http://www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org)

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*The Prairie Enthusiasts needs you to bump up your membership to a higher level so we can enhance our member and volunteer services and continue our mission of protection, restoration and education.*

*We are asking that you pledge to continue at this new level for three years so we know we can count on your support!*

*Thank you, Your TPE Endowment & Fundraising*

committee

I/We *name(s)* \_\_\_\_\_ will bump up from a current membership level of \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ level. Enclosed is a check for the difference of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 2007.

**The Prairie Enthusiasts Membership Levels:**

\$15 Student, \$25 Individual, \$40 Family,  
\$100 Shooting Star, \$200 Blazing Star, \$500 Compass Plant,  
\$1,000 Monarch, \$5,000 Benefactor

**Please send form and check to:**

The Prairie Enthusiasts, P.O. Box 620556, Middleton, WI 53562-0556